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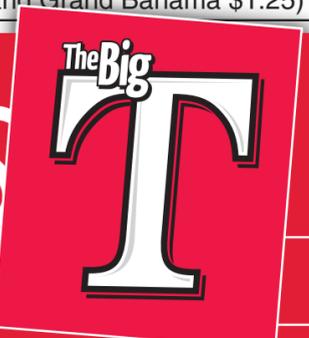
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DEPUTY PM TO QUIT

Symonette will not stand in election

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

DEPUTY Prime Minister Brent Symonette, scion of one of the country's most prestigious political families and a pillar of the FNM for more than 20 years, has announced the end of his career in front-line politics.

At a press conference at FNM Headquarters yesterday, Mr Symonette and Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham told reporters that Mr Symonette would not be seeking re-election in his current St Anne's constituency or any other at the next election.

Mr Symonette said it is time for him to step aside and make way for a new generation of FNMs.

He said: "It is with a spirit of gratitude and great satisfaction that I announce today that the time has come for me to leave the frontlines of politics. I shall not be offering for re-election in St Anne's in the general election this year."

"The FNM is committed to introducing a new brand, a new group of candidates," he said. "I feel it is time, the Prime Minister and I have discussed it, for me to make way for other persons to come forward and contribute to the party in whichever way they can."

Paying tribute to Mr Symonette, Prime Minister Ingraham said in the many different capacities he has served, as minister of tourism, attorney general, minister of foreign affairs and immigration and deputy prime minister,



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham and Deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette side by side yesterday as it was announced that Mr Symonette would end his career in frontline politics after more than 20 years.
Photo: Felipe Major/Tribune Staff

Mr Symonette has made a significant contribution to the country.

He said "Brent has been a valued, competent and effective minister of government" and has given a "long distinguished service to his country in the political arena as well as in other areas of our national life."

While Mr Ingraham admitted he thought he would be the first to leave the political frontline, he said Mr Symonette's decision was not sudden, rather he informed Mr Ingraham some two years ago that he did not intend to seek re-election.

Mr Symonette will stay on as deputy prime minister and

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FULL SLATE OF FNM CANDIDATES UNVEILED

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
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IN the name of progress and "renewal", Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham last night announced the FNM's full slate of candidates which includes a number of new faces.

Following the ratification of the report from the FNM constituency committee at the party's headquarters, Prime Minister Ingraham presented the 38 candidates who will take the FNM into the election.

"We in the party execu-

tive," he said, "believe that we have chosen the best slate of candidates to contest the 2012 general elections, to win re-election to office and to equip us to continue to provide honest accountable and transparent government for the Bahamian people."

"The FNM is going through a period of renewal and change, something that is essential for all organisations," Mr Ingraham said, "and institutions if they are to remain relevant and to best serve their higher purposes."

Along with the 17 new faces introduced to the political scene, Mr Ingraham

announced that 25 per cent of sitting FNM members of parliament will not seek re-election.

Current MPs who will not contest their seats include: Brent Symonette, MP for St Anne's (cabinet minister); Earl Deveaux, MP for Marathon (cabinet minister); Larry Cartwright, MP for Long Island (cabinet minister); Ken Russell, MP for High Rock; Verna Grant, MP for Eight Mile Rock, and Kendal Wright, MP Clifton.

Recognising the MPs for their service, Mr Ingraham

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CHRISTIE: FNM WILL HAVE TOUGH TIME

By LAMECH JOHNSON
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PROGRESSIVE Liberal Party leader Perry Christie says the FNM are "late" in revealing their candidates vying for seats in the general elections and will have a difficult time convincing the people to vote them back into office.

Speaking at a press conference in the hall of the party's headquarters on Farrington Road, the opposition leader said that by contrast his par-

ty's candidates were ratified months and years ago with the exception of five, while the Free National Movement, which just released their slate of candidates yesterday evening, will be faced with great difficulty.

"Well firstly, the Progressive Liberal Party last night, ratified the entire slate of candidates."

"We ended with five last night (Wednesday). But the good news is, except for Perry Gomez, who made a late entrance into the race, all of

our candidates have been in. Some for years. Some for many, many, many months and campaigning."

The former prime minister said that this far into the election season, with them exposing their candidates and views to the Bahamian public, "the Progressive Liberal Party is well ahead."

When describing his selection of candidates, he said that they are "second to none."

"They are an outstanding

See page 7

PORT JOINS CANCER FIGHT

FREEPORT: Race for the Cure was reason enough for The Grand Bahama Port Authority to take their commitment of sponsorship to another level.

In addition to making a financial contribution, GBPA has sponsored three relay teams to compete in the Bahamas Marathon Sunshine Insurance 2012: Susan G Komen Bahamas Race for the Cure Weekend, in the Sunday Marathon event in Nassau.

"Our participation is about finding the cure, and I am sure that being a part of such an event will bring a renewed sense of hope and determined spirit to end breast cancer," said GBPA vice-president, Ginger Moxey. Spearheaded by GBPA director Henry St George, a 12-member employee team agreed to more than two months of 5am

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PLP SAYS DNA 'FULL OF LIES'

By LAMECH JOHNSON
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A PRESS release "full of lies" was how Progressive Liberal Party leader Perry Christie described claims by the Democratic National Alliance of the PLP's "silence" on the recent sale of Atlantis.

During a press conference at the party's head office on Farrington Road, Mr Christie hit back at claims that he was present in the Cabinet room with the Prime Minister and his ministers to discuss the Brookfield purchase of Atlantis.

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TRAINING PLAN FOR TEACHERS

By KHRISNA VIRGIL
kvirgil@tribunemedia.net

PRIME Minister Hubert Ingraham yesterday officially launched the Teachers Aides Job Training initiative which allowed more than 320 people to be placed at various schools, libraries and departments in the Ministry of Education.

The programme is part of the government's \$25 million National Job Readiness and Training initiative which began in September 2011 to create jobs and to increase the labour pool in the tough economy.

See page 2

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LOCAL NEWS

Training plan for teachers

from page one

Yesterday, while addressing the aides at the British Colonial Hilton Hotel, Mr Ingraham told the group they are now very essential entities in the educational arena.

He said: "In your new position as teachers' aides, you have become an important link in the chain that delivers information skills and knowledge to the more than 50,000 students in the 160 or so government-operated schools throughout the Bahamas."

Moving forward, Mr Ingraham pinpointed some of the challenges which have plagued the educational system for years.

According to Mr Ingraham, while the government spends large amounts of money on educating Bahamians, there are not necessarily areas of focus.

"One of the things we will seek to do, beginning in the next budget period, is to target the expenditure in education so that I will have more teachers aides than janitors who sit down from 9am to 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

"And we will delegate to schools more responsibility for their management and get rid of all the unnecessary bureaucracy that exists between education in the schools."

In addition, Mr Ingraham



TEACHERS AIDES at the official launch ceremony of the Ministry of Education Teachers Aides Job and Skills Training Initiative yesterday at the British Colonial Hilton Hotel.

said classroom sizes and the child-to-teacher ratio has continuously been an area of focus.

He said: "Many parents will tell you that one of the main reasons they send their children to private schools, is to get them into smaller class sizes where teachers are able to give personal attention to the students."

With those concerns ahead, Mr Ingraham told the group their roles will be beneficial to the educational system.

"I expect that your performance as an aide to teachers in our classrooms will assist in measurably improving the quality of education provided in government operated schools and hence the learning experience of our children," he said.

Most importantly, the Prime Minister said the aides will be able to provide specialised assistance in their areas of focus.

"We still have far too many students coming out of our

primary schools, entering our junior high schools, who cannot read and write," said Mr Ingraham.

"And we therefore expect this cadre of teachers aides will assist in minimising and reducing the number of such students."

Of the 328 persons placed, 175 were stationed in New Providence, 13 in Eleuthera, 73 in East and West Grand Bahama, 37 in Abaco, 17 in North and Central Andros and 13 in Exuma.

PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham officially opens the Ministry of Education Teachers Aides Job and Training Initiative yesterday. Photos: **Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff**

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PORT JOINS CANCER FIGHT

from page one

mornings of grueling training.

The drive fuelled by an isolated focus, to help save lives and eradicate breast cancer forever.

The history behind the Komen Foundation began when Nancy G Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan G Komen, she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever.

In 1982, that promise became Susan G Komen for the Cure and launched the global breast cancer movement.

Today, Komen for the Cure is the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer

survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find the cures.

Marathon Bahamas is a non-profit organisation, formed in 2009 to organise and execute the official marathon in The Bahamas and related activities. Since its formation, the event has attracted thousands of local and international runners, and is fast becoming one of the popular marathons worldwide.

In July 2010, Marathon Bahamas forged a strategic partnership with Susan G Komen Race for the Cure, the largest global grassroots

organisation dedicated to the eradication of breast cancer.

This alliance changed Marathon Bahamas from being a one-day event to becoming the Sunshine Insurance Race Weekend, inclusive of the Susan G Komen Bahamas Race for the Cure, The Marathon Expo and Marathon Bahamas. Proceeds from the weekend will also benefit national organisations such as The Cancer Society of The Bahamas, The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation, Sister Sister Breast Cancer Support Group and The Bahamas Breast Cancer Initiative.

For more information on the upcoming race, visit www.marathonbahamas.com.

LAING: 'ECONOMY WILL GROW THIS YEAR'

By **KHRISNA VIRGIL**
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DESPITE an economical trying 2011, the Bahamas' economy is expected to experience some growth this year, 2012, consistent with the State Minister of Finance Zhivargo Laing said.

"We forecast that the Bahamian economy will grow about 2.5 to 2.8 per cent this year, 2012, consistent with the IMF. Unemployment is likely to remain in double digits, though some continuing decline from 13.8 per cent is expected. We further expect to sustain out growth trajectory with 2.4 per cent in '013 and 2.3 per cent in '014," he said.

Last year, the economy grew by 2.0 per cent with a slight decline in unemployment to 13.7 per cent, said Mr Laing.

While the past four years were difficult for the economy, Mr Laing said the gov-

ernment was still able to manoeuvre fairly well.

"Given revenue decline of some \$23 million from 2006/2007 and \$114 million from 2007/2008 compared to 2008/2009, we would have had to reduce spending by some between \$23 million and \$114 million. This would have meant either severe layoffs of civil servants, deep cuts in salaries of public officers, or deep cuts in Government services, deep cuts in public sector investments or a combination thereof for at least two years to three years. The impact of this on an already devastated and fragile economy is obvious."

According to Mr Laing, had the government decided to take that route, none of the major projects would have got underway. "If we had decided to hold the line, it would mean that much of what you see that has gone on or is going on now; at the airport, at the harbour, at Arawak Cay, with the utili-

ties and roads, the employment programmes could not and would not be occurring."

On the other hand, Mr Laing said some proactive measures could be taken to ensure the economy continues to thrive. "We could take a long-range view. That would mean laying the foundation for a more resilient, robust and dynamic economy and society in the years to come by strategically spending the necessary significant borrowing we would have to do."

With that foresight, the government, said Mr Laing, undertook "the most dramatic, comprehensive reforms and modernisation seen in our country in generations".

The New Business License Act, the New Securities Act and the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority Act (URCA) were among major legislation that received great attention from both parliamentarians and the public.

HAITI RELIEF CONCERT RESCHEDULED FOR TONIGHT

A HAITI relief concert, organized by The United Association of Haitians in the Bahamas has been rescheduled.

The Haiti Help concert was scheduled to take place at Bahamas Freedom Ministries' Diplomat's Centre on Saturday, January 14.

However, the concert will now take place on Friday, January 13, at the Enoch Beckford Auditorium on Carmichael Road, at 7.30pm.

The concert is a part of the association's ongoing earthquake relief efforts with the Power of Ten organization and is co-ordinated under

the Haiti Direct Aid programme.

The event will be free, but the public is asked to bring any donations they wish to make.

The concert will feature such local artists as Benedict Larmantine, Landlord and Anna Calixte.



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Man charged with stabbing murder

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BY DENISE MAYCOCK
 Tribune Freeport Reporter
 dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT - William Leslie Forbes was charged with murder in Eight Mile Rock Magistrate's Court on Thursday.

Forbes, 36, is accused of the stabbing death of 31-year-old Natacha Mondelus of Hanna Hill, Eight Mile Rock.

A large, hostile crowd gathered in Jones Town around 9.30am as the accused was escorted into court by a heavy police guard for his arraignment.

A barricade was erected and armed police officers were on hand to keep the peace.

Relatives of the victim, who were seated inside the courtroom, became very emotional and left before Forbes's arraignment.

Magistrate Gwendolyn Claude read the charge to



WILLIAM LESLIE FORBES is escorted into court yesterday.

Forbes, who was not required to enter a plea. He was not represented by an attorney.

Magistrate Claude adjourned the matter to April 26, 2012 for a preliminary inquiry. Forbes was denied bail and remanded to Her Majesty's Prison, Fox Hill.

PROJECT POTCAKE TO NEUTER STRAY DOGS

By DANA SMITH
 dsmith@tribunemedia.net

A MASS spay and neuter campaign targeting as many as 2,000 stray dogs a week could be on the cards for New Providence.

Animal rights activists are eagerly awaiting approval from for Project Potcake, a proposal organised in conjunction with American non-profit group Animal Balance.

The organisation sends its own vets to countries with stray animal problems to perform the operations free of charge.

With the stray problem continuing to explode across the country, experts feel breaking the reproductive cycle is the only credible way to tackle the problem.

Lissa McCombe, Bahamas

Humane Society board member, said she is "very excited" about the possibility that Animal Balance could be on the island in August.

"It's going to be 20 vets coming in for four days and they are paying their own way here. The only thing we need to do is raise money for supplies," she said.

"It's going to make an immediate and significant difference in the amount of unwanted animals, therefore making the burden on the Humane Society and other animal groups a lot lighter."

However, Ms McCombe said, the vets can only "bring their expertise" to the Bahamas if it is approved.

"There's only two groups that have to sign off on it, the Minister of Agriculture - who has been very positive - and the Vet Association. The pro-

ject really hangs in the balance of whether the Vet Association votes for or against it on Tuesday."

Laura Kimble, chairman of the Bahamas Alliance for Animal Rights and Kindness (Baark!), is another supporter of Project Potcake.

Ms Kimble said although Baark works "very hard" to spray and neuter strays, they could never cover as many animals as Project Potcake.

"We go around and we'll spend a Saturday picking up dogs in the community, but there's only so much we can do as volunteers," Ms Kimble said.

"Maybe 500 to 1,000 animals over the course of a year, at best. With this project, we can do 2,000 strays in one week."

The project will get Baark "over that little hump so we

can really start decreasing the number," Ms Kimble said. She hopes continuing efforts by Baark will become more effective after the initial mass spray and neuter campaign.

"It's an incredible amount of time and work that Baark has to do, and were so excited that this project could knock out a big part of that," Ms Kimble said.

Although she could not offer a specific number when asked how many strays there are in the Bahamas, she said it is thought there could be anywhere between 30,000 to 60,000.

"It's definitely a huge problem," she said.

Next week Tuesday, the Vet Association will meet to discuss Project Potcake and give their assessment to the Ministry of Agriculture, which has the final say.

CREW MEMBER JUMPED FROM CRUISE SHIP IN SUICIDE BID

By DANA SMITH
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A SUSPECTED suicide, a non-fatal stabbing, four ammunition-related arrests, and a firearm discovery all happened this week, according to police.

The suicide victim, a 25-year-old crew member of the Royal Caribbean Cruise's Monarch of the Sea, was observed jumping from the vessel around 5.30am.

The incident took place six miles from the port of Nassau.

Also on Wednesday, an altercation between two men left one man in hospital with multiple stab wounds.

The men were at Apple Street off Wulff Road shortly before 6pm, when they began to argue.

The 18-year-old victim was taken in a private vehicle to the hospital where he is detained in stable condition.

Police say they are following "significant leads" into this incident.

Three men and a juvenile are currently in police custody in connection with the discovery of a quantity of assorted ammunition.

Southern Division police officers executed a search warrant on a home on Quakoo Street around 3.30am, yesterday.

They found the ammunition and detained three men, ages 47, 30, and 19, as well as a 17-year-old boy, for questioning.

In another incident, a shotgun hidden in the bushes off Carmichael Road was discovered by Grove Police Station officers on Wednesday.

"Acting on information," the officers went to Shrimp Road around 10.30pm, where they discovered the weapon.

So far, no one has been taken into custody in connection

with the find.

Police say they are actively investigating all these incidents and also wish to notify the public that if a police officer asks for a name or address "while in the execution of his duties", failing to provide this information is a crime. Giving a false name is also a crime.

Conviction can lead to a fine of between \$500 and \$1,000, or three months in prison.

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THE DEVIL INSIDE	C	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:50
WAR HORSE	T	1:05	4:05	N/A	7:05	N/A	10:05
THE DARKEST HOUR	T	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:40
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE	T	1:10	3:50	N/A	6:30	N/A	10:00
BU GO	B	1:00	3:20	N/A	6:00	N/A	N/A
WE BOUGHT A ZOO	B	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:20	10:30
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTO	C	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:50	N/A	N/A
ADVENTURES OF TIN TIN	B	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:30	10:35
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS	A	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:30
SHERLOCK HOLMES	T	1:00	3:50	N/A	6:35	N/A	10:00

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THE DEVIL INSIDE	C	1:15	3:45	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:50
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE	T	1:00	4:00	N/A	7:00	N/A	10:30
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON	C	1:05	4:35	N/A	8:45	N/A	N/A
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A marathon weekend to help eliminate cancer

A PROMISE to a dying sister not only brought the words "breast cancer" out of the closet, but launched the Susan G Komen for the Cure organisation to eradicate the killer disease.

A former US Ambassador, currently the World Health Organisation's Goodwill Ambassador for Cancer Control, and herself a cancer survivor, Nancy Goodman Brinker established the Susan G Komen for the Cure organisation in 1982 in memory of her only sister who died of breast cancer at the age of 36.

Since then, the non-profit organisation has raised more than \$1.9 billion for research, education and health services. It is now the world's largest breast cancer charity.

But it was not easy in the beginning. One of the many obstacles faced by Ms Brinker was that "breast cancer" was not talked about in mixed company, and certainly not printed in the hallowed columns of newspapers.

"No one talked openly about the disease," said the Susan G Komen for the Cure organisation, "there were no 800-numbers, no Internet and few, if any, support groups. Few treatment options existed for breast cancer patients and limited resources were committed to the disease. In a matter of years, Brinker broke the silence around breast cancer, and Komen for the Cure is now the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energise science to find the cures. Today, the organisation has invested more than \$1.9 billion in breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment."

Mrs Willie Moss, honorary chairman of the Susan G Komen Bahamas Race for the Cure, speaking at the Rotary Club of Lucaya, urged women to educate themselves about the disease. She said that it was discovered that one in every three women in the Bahamas will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

In fact, research showed that six distinct BRCA1 mutations have been found in cancer families in the Bahamas. About 23 per cent of the unselected cases of breast cancer in the Bahamas was attributed to this particular gene — and of all the countries studied, the Bahamas was the highest with BRCA1.

A few years ago, Dr Judith Hurley, of the Oncology Department of Jackson Memorial Hospital, was introduced to the Bahamas by the Grand Bahama Cancer Society.

Mrs Moss said that as a result of Dr

Hurley's screening of patients it was also discovered that women in the Bahamas developed cancer at a much younger age.

"For example," she said, "34.6 per cent of Bahamian women with breast cancer are under the age of 45 compared with 13.1 per cent of United States women."

Further studies led to the discovery that 53 per cent of Bahamian breast cancer patients inherited the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene. The big question now is: "Why?" And then: "What can be done about it?"

Three years ago, Sunshine Insurance launched the Sunshine Insurance Weekend, joining for the first time last year with the Susan G Komen organisation to include the Susan G Komen Bahamas Race.

This weekend — Saturday and Sunday — is race weekend.

The Bahamas marathon — to raise money for "the cure" — is growing in popularity among international enthusiasts.

According to Brian Moodie, president of Sunshine Insurance, this year 400 international visitors are expected for the two-day event. They will be here for four days and this, said Mr Moodie, will represent about 2,000 hotel room nights to boost our tourist industry. He was appreciative of the great help his organisation received from the Ministry of Tourism and saw the weekend event, growing in size every year, not only as a lucrative tourism builder, but also a means for raising funds for the elimination of breast cancer.

The course for the 26.2 mile-marathon — to be run on Sunday — has been officially measured and accredited as an international marathon course. For example, last year the times of anyone who qualified in the Bahamas Marathon was recognised for the New York marathon that November.

The Saturday morning course — 3.1 miles — starts at 7am from Church Street — St Matthew's church corner — over the new bridge to Paradise Island around the circle and through the tunnel ending by the tennis courts at the old Club Med resort. Sunday's marathon starts at Junkanoo Beach at the western esplanade, to Bay Street over the new Paradise Island Bridge and down the old bridge, around the Montagu, Village Road to the Hilton, the new route around BahMar on Cable Beach, west to Compass Point and back to Arawak Beach, where it ends.

The course has been designed to show visitors the diversity of New Providence as a tourist destination, highlighting downtown's historic buildings, Paradise island and Cable Beach. It also raises money for breast cancer research.

Erosion began a long time ago

EDITOR, The Tribune.

THE popular saying these days is the middle class is being eroded. It is even being said by our "intelligent" folks. Well...to people who are observant...the erosion of the middle class began ages ago and will not reverse until "we" do things differently.

I remember when I got my first lot. In order to obtain a long term loan, I had to join a list at either First Home or Finco and have 20 to 25 per cent down payment in my possession. I was bluntly told that because I was single and a mother and wanted to sign on my own, I'd most likely be one of the last to be called. I recall the interest rate being up to 12 per cent at that time. I was advised to at least put some equity on the lot if I wanted to move up the list.

Putting equity on a lot used to be the Bahamian thing to do. In fact, it was common to hear people boasting proudly about how far they'd built on their lot before they went to the bank. In fact, seasonal workers like construction workers and hotel workers who worked for tips, found it quite difficult to get long term loans or they were told the banks would rate them on only half their wages. Consequently workers in those areas in particular, built their houses "out of pocket."

It was commonplace for men to gather their tradesmen friends, a barrel of Kentucky and a case of Becks and spend the whole weekend either pouring their foundations, blocking up to belt course or putting on their roofs. Some, after being told what their loan payments would be to finish their houses would just finish it "out of pocket" themselves. People used to multiply their loan payments by 12 then the loan term and say even no way dey payin the bank tree times more than dey borry. Remember those days?

I can remember my mother's shock after I'd laid my foundation and finally received my 20 year loan. She was like ... "Missy... you ga be a slave to the bank fa 20 years ya know. Why you doon wait and spend five years building out of pocket," she asked. As was usual back then...I didn't take her advice. Anyway my duplex got built for \$65,000 and I only had to add a few dollars

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

with the rent to make my mortgage payments. That was then. One can hardly find a decent lot for \$65,000 now and I hear say loan terms can now go up to 30 years. Muddo!

Back then, if one had a job and liked it, one could stay there until death or retirement. Not so now or even in the recent past. With Globalisation, mergers and technology just to name a few, no job can be considered long term or taken for granted any more.

Either the banks did not notice the world changing or they had so much loose change that they went on an apparent lending spree. Nearly every female dog and her brudder could get a loan if they had only a piece of a job. Hell, one did not even have to go to the banks anymore. The "bankers" yucked off their stuffy suits and stepped out. Yep, they stepped out to the car shows, the home shows, the health shows or wherever people were gathered. Then...they competed with each other much to the delight of would be borryers.

That's right, borrowers could walk from the car show today and be rolling their new cars tomorrow. No down payment and insurance paid for a year plus...a full tank of gas. YIPPEE!! Add that to their 5 per cent down house/loan package and their borried furniture, their various credit cards. And school fees...a recipe for disaster was simmering slowly.

There was a time when the average middle class Bahamian would, after a few years of being homeowners, finally save or join asues to either properly landscape their properties or add one or two additional rooms aka "adding on." Another year or two they'd save enough to build a front wall. After that a kitchen or bathroom upgrade, etc, each time adding more equity to their homes without adding to their loans.

Today borrowers are borrowing to their maximum. That's right, granite counter tops, marble or porcelain tiles, four-five bedrooms, three 1/2 bathrooms, jacuzzi, great room, media room, two car garages, central air, etc, all one time. See where I'm going with this? Yet they

wonder why they're broke and I een even finish yet Wait.

There used to be a thing called "layaway." Where did it go? It got replaced by another thing called credit card/s. We became "thingsy" so buy now pay later at a minimum of 18 per cent. Instant gratification ya see.

Remember the time when we could get a package from the airlines which was airfare, hotel and car for less than \$300? Not today. Hell it cost almost a grand for two just to leave the island. And we have to leave the island you know because we can't tell our kids they can't have their Easter, mid-term, summer or Christmas vacation. We just don't know how to break it to them.

As for our new expenses...cable and internet. How did we live without them? We can't now right. We're vex but we pay anyway.

Fone cads and cell fones! Wow! Where's the fella who said talk was cheap? Show me him so I could wet him one. He doon live here eh? Man we talk so much we created a whole new industry of street sellers. Some of you may call me old but I can remember when doctors had beepers and drug dealers had the so-called brick cell phones. Not now. Us and our children must have cell phones. We/they must!

Now my niece is telling me I'm not saying anything if I don't have 4G. I een ready she say. Chile please.

Then the mudda of all hobbies/expenses and the Devil himself....Web Shops aka number houses. There's two/three on every corner. Man looka here...you can open accounts with hibiscus dem, lucky dem, the game people dem even the asue people dem. And guess what, you don't have to just wonder what happen in Chicago, Miami, New York or California....you're free to wonder what happen in almost 20 states! 20!

I think by now you get my point.

For most...the new expenses/hobbies came but the wages stayed the same.

The recession brought that simmering pot to a boil.

Think on these things before you ask what happen to the middle class.

CAROLYN ADDERLEY MACAULAY
Nassau,
January, 2012.

Will Bahamians be truly protected?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

THE Chief Justice's "warning" on the government's plan to introduce an amendment to the Bail Act, has cemented the public's opinion that changes have to be made, either to the constitution or to appointments to the offices of judiciary.

Minister Turnquest told the public what was already known, it may not be known by persons who are oblivious, unaffected or profiting from criminal activity, but those who are being affected, reality is what it is.

Quoting the Chief Justice, "Parliament is not supreme. It is subject to the constitution and whatever laws they pass must be able to pass constitutional muster.

"They cannot infringe on rights guaranteed by the constitution which we as members of the judiciary are sworn to uphold."

The question that the government is asking and the answer the judiciary (or the Chief Justice) has to give is hidden in the above quote.

How do you protect the rights of a person on bail who has been charged with multi-

ple offences over an extended period?

How do you protect persons who are going to be called as witnesses if the system is ineffective and those in charge see any change or talk of change as a judicial or constitutional threat?

Is the safety of the criminal to be elevated above that of the law-abiding citizen?

It seems like those seeking political office see The National Security Ministers remarks as an opportunity to get on a soapbox as they attempt to "protect the judiciary" and Messrs Christie and McCartney are making the most of the opportunity.

They are not wise. Their articulations do not address the rights of the majority of persons they are seeking to represent, maybe the opportunity to lay into the government gave them an acute case of short-sightedness.

The public agrees with what the Minister said, but there seems to be something very wrong with some of us who need to make a point at the expense of the majority of Bahamians.

Until we are all affected,

there will be no seeking of answers or adjustments.

Until we experience a "spilling over" where the criminal demographic does not have a particular specificity, we will not be able to see the connectivity, but when this happens it will be too late; and there will not be enough bars, gates or guns, to protect anyone.

EDWARD HUTCHESON

Nassau,
September 26, 2011.

(Since this letter was written the amended Bail Act was passed and a judge can no longer grant bail in certain cases, for example, on charges of murder, armed robbery, rape, attempted murder, possession of firearms designed to discharge explosives, possession of firearms or ammunition intended to endanger life or cause serious injury to property, etc. Magistrates are now telling lawyers that as far as bail goes they can no longer oblige their clients. This is as it should be, both for the safety of the public and the accused — and even for the witnesses. — Ed).

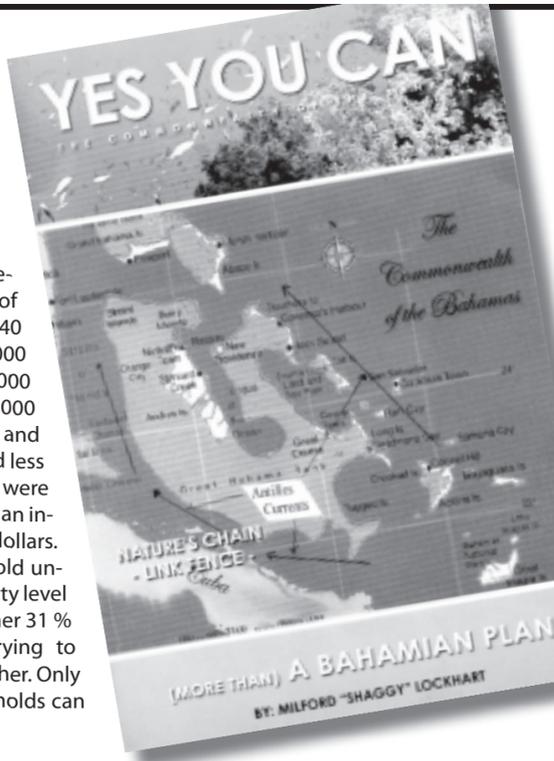
We don't have a crime problem. We have a lack of money problem. There are far too many households making far too little money.

In 2009, we had 7,425 households reporting an income of 5,000 dollars and less, 8,040 reporting more than 5,000 dollars and less than 10,000 dollars, 9,295 more than 10,000 and less than 15,000 dollars and 8,740 more than 15,000 and less than 20,000 dollars. There were 31,285 households making an income of 20,000 to 40,000 dollars. That is 32% of the household under the United States poverty level of 20,458 dollars and another 31 % of 105,000 households trying to make ends wave at each other. Only 10% of this nation's households can comfortably save.

Prime minister Pindling got it right when he said, "When I came to power, 10% owned 90% of production, when I left power 10% still owned 90%, I have fattened frog for snake". Let's use a dog analogy; imagine there are 10 dogs in the world and there are only 10 cans of dog food and one dog has nine cans and the others have to share one. Total chaos!

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Arawak shares offer 'may be illegal'

By **KHRISNA VIRGIL**
kvirgil@tribunemedia.net

THE terms of the government's Arawak Port Development share offer to civil servants could be illegal, according to independent candidate for Garden Hills Paul Moss.

In an effort to boost the Bahamas' transition to a "share-owning society", Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham announced that the government will offer its employees a salary advance to buy shares in the port.

Mr Ingraham said the offer applies to those who have served for more

than five years and will act as an interest-free loan, repayable to the Treasury Department over the course of the next year.

But former PLP member Mr Moss claims the offer does not follow the dictates of the law, as it has not been debated in parliament.

He said: "The Financial Administration and Audit Act of 1973 governs the manner in which a loan ought to be advanced by the government in respect to the Consolidated Fund.

"It states specifically in section 17, subject to the provisions of the

Public Treasury Bills Act and to section 16, no loans should be raised by the government and no guarantees involving a financial liability shall be binding by the government unless entered into with the prior approval of the House of Assembly, signified by a resolution thereof.

"Regulations cannot be made by the PM or the Ministry of Finance by itself. Parliament must approve it. I ask the question: When and where was parliament convened to give this approval?"

"The Minister of Finance

(Prime Minister Ingraham) and those who sit in parliament need to show the public where this meeting took place and where they voted and that this resolution was approved. If not, we cannot be seen to be participating in what is going on."

Mr Moss added that if such proof is not forthcoming, the image of the Auditor General and the Ministry of Finance will be damaged.

"The law says quite clearly that the Auditor General ought to make sure that such advances as this meet the requirement and this must be

done annually and reported to parliament.

"If that is not the case, then we have a situation where the Ministry of Finance and also the Auditor General is not doing their job.

"This has grave consequences because this Act is akin to the Constitution, and certainly the auditor general has a responsibility to ensure that the public's trust in the Treasury is maintained."

Mr Moss urged the Prime Minister to "take a step back and get it correct, if in fact he does want this deal to go through".

DNA: 'RING THE BELL TO START THE ELECTION'

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

FREEPORT - Calling on the government to "ring the bell", DNA leader Branville McCartney says his party is ready for the general election and to become the next government of the Bahamas.

Mr McCartney said the party will run candidates in all 38 constituencies and will name its remaining candidates within "a few days".

"We are ready for this election and asking government to ring the bell," he told the media on Thursday while visiting Grand Bahama.

Mr McCartney was accompanied by a group of supporters, including Roger Rolle and Osman Johnson, the DNA candidates for West Grand Bahama and Pineridge respectively.

He expressed concern about the poor economic state of Grand Bahama, and promised to bring positive investments back to the country.

While in Grand Bahama, Mr McCartney met with executives of the Grand Bahama Port Authority and other business persons on the island.

"Grand Bahama is in the Bahamas. It should be seen as being in the Bahamas and just something that is pushed on the back-burner," he said. "We cannot allow our people to suffer like this anymore."

Mr McCartney said it seems the other two parties only come to Grand Bahama around election time.

Nothing has happened for the island under the PLP or the FNM, he said.

"Driving around especially in the West End area the other day is depressing, it is sad. We should not be living like this. We in the DNA will do all we can to bring positive investments back to the country."

"We know persons who want to invest in this country. The difficulty they are having is the problem of going through the process and prob-



FROM LEFT, Rodger Rolle, DNA candidate for West Grand Bahama and Bimini, attorney Osman Johnson, Pineridge DNA candidate, and party leader Branville McCartney. Photo: Denise Maycock

lems of the existing administration and not trusting the last administration.

"They are waiting for a new administration, the DNA administration.

"I think Bahamian people are sick and tired, and at this stage they are going to show both Hubert Ingraham and Perry Christie that their time is up," McCartney said.

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The Tribune's **TRIVIA WINNER**

Tishrea Grey is the final winner of the Tribune Trivia competition. She amassed December's highest points total by answering the daily teaser questions on The Tribune's Facebook page. And she already has plans for her prize of a return flight to Miami, one night in a hotel and a free car rental. "My sister is expecting," Tishrea told The Tribune, "and she lives in Texas. So I'm going to use my prize to get to Miami on the way there."

Congratulations Tishrea!

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ELECTION 2012 - THE CANDIDATES

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RODNEY MONCUR, DNA



DR B J NOTTAGE, PLP

Bamboo Town Constituency



CRAIG BUTLER, INDEPENDENT



BRANVILLE MCCARTNEY, DNA



CASSIUS STUART, FNM



RENWARD WELLS, PLP

Carmichael Constituency



DARRON CASH, FNM



THEOFANIS COCHINAMOGULOS, DNA



DR DANIEL JOHNSON, PLP



GLEN ROLLE, INDEPENDENT

Centreville Constituency



PERRY CHRISTIE, PLP



ELLA LEWIS, FNM



CELI MOSS, DNA

Elizabeth Constituency



CHARLENE PAUL, DNA



RYAN PINDER, PLP



DR DUANE SANDS, FNM

NICHOLAS JACQUES, DNA

GLENNIS HANNA MARTIN, PLP

PAUL ROLLE, INDEPENDENT

KAREN SHEPHERD, FNM

Englerston Constituency

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LISTS OF CANDIDATES AS PROVIDED TO THE TRIBUNE BY THE MAJOR PARTIES

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ELECTION 2012 - THE CANDIDATES



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FRED MITCHELL, PLP

KENDAL SMITH, DNA



KELPENE CUNNINGHAM, DNA

DR KENDAL MAJOR, PLP

PAUL MOSS, GARDEN HILLS

BRENZIL ROLLE, FNM

WINSOME MILLER, FNM

MERLIN PICKSTOCK, DNA

SHANE GIBSON, PLP



CHARLES MAYNARD, FNM

FARRELL GOFF, DNA

MICHAEL HALKITIS, PLP



KAREN DAVIS, DNA

JEROME FITZGERALD, PLP

HEATHER HUNT, FNM



BEN ALBURY, DNA

RICHARD LIGHTBOURNE, FNM

GRAHAM WEATHERFORD, MONTAGU



JEROME GOMEZ, PLP

HUBERT MINNIS, FNM

CHRISTIE: FNM WILL HAVE TOUGH TIME

from page one

team of men and women and we are standing on them to be as good as their qualifications suggest they are," Mr Christie said.

"And so the choice will be made by the Bahamian people. We want to give them the best opportunity to make the choice in our favour."

Speaking about his party having just disclosed their full lineup of candidates, he said that "with respect to the FNM, for me it is an interesting time in the Bahamas when I'm able to say they are late."

When asked if he thought the governing party's decision to reveal 38 candidates so late into the season will do greater harm than good, his response was: "I think they obviously have a difficulty."

"In this sense," he added, "they have made two decisions to respond to the fact that we have a significant number of new generation candidates and they've had to respond to that."

"And they've therefore had to suffer inviting members of parliament, current members of parliament, to step down."

The Centreville MP explained that they (FNM) were faced with the problem of unpopularity of candidates in particular areas and "they've had to shuffle them." Some had to step down and others had to move to other constituencies.

"There is nothing of a secret about someone who

has represented a constituency for five to 10 years, having to leave that constituency, and going to another constituency," he said.

He maintained that the

FNM's late revelation of candidates was due to the PM not wanting to risk unpopular candidates in certain areas, only to lose at the polls on election day.

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ELECTION 2012 - THE CANDIDATES



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WAYNE MUNROE, DNA



TOMMY TURNQUEST, FNM



CHRISTOPHER MORTIMER, DNA



BASIL MOSS, FNM



DION SMITH, PLP



CARL BETHEL, FNM



KHAALIS ROLLE, PLP



WELLINGTON WOODS, DNA



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ELECTION 2012 - THE CANDIDATES



GREGORY BURROWS, PLP



HUBERT CHIPMAN, FNM



PRINCE SMITH, DNA



DION FOULKES, FNM



MELANIE GRIFFIN, PLP



MAURICE SMITH, DNA



KAREN BUTLER, FNM



LESLIE MILLER, PLP



DARIO TERRELL, DNA

PLP SAYS DNA 'FULL OF LIES'

from page one

Mr Christie denied the allegations, saying "I was not."

He added: "Let me say it again, though, in case slower minds in the DNA need to be repeated. I was not in that room."

Mr Christie's response was prompted by the DNA's assertion on Monday that the PLP "should've made a stink" about the matter, demanded details of the agreement be made public, and fought for the better interests of the Bahamian people.

DNA Chairman Mark Humes went further and said the party believed Mr Christie's relationship with Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham - dubbing the two leaders as "Christie, Ingraham and Co" - "has compromised his ability to effectively lead or oppose."

Mr Christie countered that the DNA and their press release was "full of lies, from start to finish."

He said this attack by Branville McCartney and the DNA was a sign of their leader's desperation.

Mr Christie said: "It had been a rough few weeks for Branville McCartney, whose party has been plagued by infighting, stumbles, accusations and counter-accusations. For weeks and even months, Steve McKinney was part of Branville's inner circle and now Mr McKinney is calling Bran a 'fake and a fraud', 'void of new ideas' and accusing the DNA of cutting secret deals with the FNM."

"With the DNA self-destruction even before it's out of the gate, Bran McCartney is getting desperate. He says he represents change, but his tactic of turning to lies in times of trouble are evidence of the many years he spent learning at Hubert Ingraham's knee."

He continued that Mr McCartney "is not very smart" given that he sought to convince the public that he was not in cahoots with the FNM ... the same FNM, Mr Christie added, that the Bamboo Town MP served with in Cabinet where they "cut education funding, created jobs for foreigners instead of Bahamians, presided over record levels of murder and

violence, cut special deals for insiders and failed to put Bahamians first."

Regarding the PLP fighting for the best interests of the people and demanding that the Brookfield agreement be made public, Mr Christie said he only learned of the deal on the same day as the Bahamian public.

"The Prime Minister informed me five minutes before he informed the press and the public. My response was concern about the security of Bahamian jobs, and it continues to be a matter of serious concern for me."

Ultimately, Mr Christie called on the Prime Minister to make the deal public saying that "the truth is, Bahamians do not trust the FNM to fight for them at the bargaining table. The government assured Bahamians their jobs were secure, but Bahamians are smart. They're asking if those assurances are only good until the elections."

He concluded: "Hubert and Branville, FNM and FNM Lite, listen to me. For the many thousands whose jobs are at stake, and for their families, this is not a game."

FULL SLATE OF FNM CANDIDATES UNVEILED

from page one

expressed his gratitude and appreciation for their contribution.

"Each has given generously in the service of our party and nation," said Mr Ingraham, "each has demonstrated excellent character and is leaving front-line politics with reputation intact as honest, dependable and committed servants of the people."

Mr Ingraham noted that there are six sitting members of parliament who will be seeking election in new constituencies.

They include: Current Carmichael MP Desmond Bannister, who will be running in North Andros; current MP for South Beach Phenton Neymour, who will be running in Exuma and Ragged Island; current MP for Mon-

'I say to all FNMs and supporters: The colour red is coming.'

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham

tagu Loretta Butler Turner, who will be running in Long Island; current Blue Hills MP Sidney Collie, who will be running in MICAL, and current Kennedy MP Kenyatta Gibson, who will be running in Southern Shores.

The Prime Minister predicted that all of these candidates would win their new seats.

He said: "Everyone who moved from one constituency to another will pick up a seat that was held by the PLP."

Mr Ingraham said that the wealth of talent available to

the FNM made the selection process "very difficult."

"It is important," he said, "that those who were not successful in their bid to contest this year's elections on the FNM ticket know that their non-selection says nothing about their fitness to serve, their qualification or ability to represent our party on the national level. In the end, choices had to be made."

In making those choices, the Prime Minister said, the party held "extensive consultation", particularly with constituency association executives.

"We gave great weight to the preferred candidate of the associations, and very markedly of the executives of constituency associations."

Encouraging FNM's to bring out their red, Mr Ingraham said: "I say to all FNMs and supporters: The colour red is coming."

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ELECTION 2012 - THE CANDIDATES

CENTRAL GRAND BAHAMA



NEKO GRANT, FNM



JULIAN RUSSELL, PLP

EAST GRAND BAHAMA

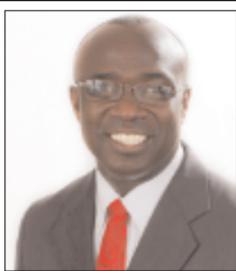


PETER TURNQUEST, FNM



TANISHA TYNES, PLP

MARCO CITY



NORRIS BAIN, FNM



GREGORY MOSS, PLP

DEPUTY PM TO QUIT

from page one
 minister of foreign affairs until the election, and also as deputy leader of the FNM until the next convention, which will be held in the first six months of this year, Mr Ingraham said.
 He will also be one of a team of co-ordinators who will manage the FNM election campaign, he added.
 Mr Symonette thanked the Bahamian people, specifically the constituents of Montagu and St Anne's who elected him to Parliament. He went on to thank the Prime Minister for appointing him to the "notable Cabinet position of deputy prime minister" and his colleagues in the House

of Assembly and the government.
 "It has been a wonderful time during which we, together, have accomplished much for our country. We have delivered accountable government to the Bahamian people and restored the good name of the Bahamas in the world," said Mr Symonette.
 • The opposition PLP has labelled the governing party's changes to its election slate a case of rearranging "deck chairs on the Titanic" and said Deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette is the latest to jump from a sinking ship.
 In a statement issued last night, the PLP claimed Mr Symonette announced he is leaving frontline politics in an

effort to avoid allegations of conflicts of interest and questions about his role in millions of dollars in cost overruns related to government road works.
 The party said that, as minister with responsibility for immigration, Mr Symonette allowed too many work permits to be issued and allowed the impression to develop that citizenship applications were being fast-tracked for political reasons.
 "The record reflects that neither the Prime Minister nor Deputy Prime Minister feel compelled to answer repeated calls from the public for transparency on this and other matters," the statement said.

PINERIDGE



DR MICHAEL DARVILLE, PLP



OSMAN JOHNSSON, DNA



KWASI THOMPSON, FNM

WEST GRAND BAHAMA AND BIMINI



PAKESIA EDGECOMBE, FNM



ROGER ROLLE, DNA

NORTH ABACO



RENARDO CURRY, PLP



HUBERT INGRAHAM, FNM



SONITH LOCKHEART, DNA

CENTRAL AND SOUTH ABACO



EDISON KEY, FNM



GARY SAWYER, PLP



ROSCOE THOMPSON, DNA

NORTH ANDROS AND THE BERRY ISLANDS



DESMOND BANNISTER, FNM



RANDY BUTLER, DNA



PERRY GOMEZ, PLP

CENTRAL AND SOUTH ANDROS



WHITNEY BASTIAN, INDEPENDENT



RONALD BOSFIELD, FNM



WAYNE FORBES FERGUSON, DNA

NORTH ELEUTHERA



THEO NEILY, FNM



CLAY SWEETING, PLP



WILLIAM HUNT, DNA



HOWARD JOHNSON, FNM

CENTRAL AND SOUTH ELEUTHERA

MICAL



SIDNEY COLLIE, FNM



V ALFRED GRAY, PLP

CAT ISLAND, RUM CAY & SAN SALVADOR



SHAWN FRANCIS, DNA



MICHAEL PINTARD, FNM

LONG ISLAND



LORETTA BUTLER-TURNER, FNM



MARIO CARTWRIGHT, DNA



ALEX STORR, PLP

EXUMA AND RAGGED ISLAND



FLOYD ARMBRISTER, DNA



ANTHONY MOSS, PLP



PHENTON NEYMOUR, FNM

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