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Volume: 108 No.44

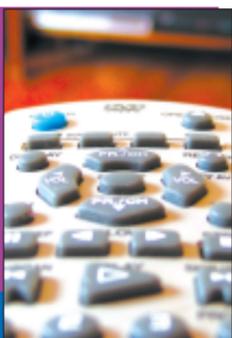
MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2012

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### INSIGHT

# THE GREAT PORN DEBATE

SEE INSIGHT ON PAGE 12B



### MARATHON BAHAMAS

# RUNNERS TAKE ON MARATHON

SEE PAGES 16,17&20



# Man 'out on bail' shot in the face

## Police short of leads in hunt for killer

A 25-YEAR-OLD man, said to be out on bail, was killed when he was shot in the face behind a restaurant off East Street yesterday, according to reports. Police were said to be without many leads into the fatal shooting and would not say what he had been previously charged with. It is understood that the victim's name is Dennis Tynes. Last night, police spokesperson Stephen Dean said not much was known

about the circumstances that led to the country's fifth homicide. Tynes was reportedly shot shortly after 2pm behind Needles Inn, restaurant and bar located on Lincoln Boulevard just off East Street. Supt Dean said the victim died in hospital of his injuries after he was taken there in a private vehicle. Meanwhile, a man is in serious condition in hospital after

See page 15

## HOUSING ACT CHANGES AHEAD?

By AVA TURNQUEST  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
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REVISIONS to the Housing Act may be the next step in the government's bid to ensure the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation can meet debt obligations over the next two decades. As the corporation strug-

gles with a high delinquency rate, BMC Chairman Dr Duane Sands said officials are now considering how they can utilize the Mortgage Insurance Fund without necessitating mass foreclosures. Legislation currently prohibits use of the fund unless vacant possession has been

See page 2

## HUNDREDS JOIN RUN TO HELP FIGHT CANCER



SEVERAL GROUPS participated in Sunshine Insurance's Marathon Bahamas race weekend. On Saturday an estimated 1,400 persons took part in the 5k Susan G Komen Bahamas Race for the Cure. The Komen group has partnered with Marathon Bahamas to raise funds to find a cure for breast cancer. Pictured here are representatives of three participating groups in Saturday's 3.1 mile race — Team Siegel in the pink shirts, represented by former US Ambassador to the Bahamas Ned Siegel, and his wife, Stephanie, herself a cancer survivor. Pictured from left to right are: Philip Cumming, Tribune Controller, Wayne Chee-a-Tow, CEO of Hillside Investments, Robert Carron, Tribune president, Eileen Carron, Tribune publisher, Mrs Siegel, Senator Allyson-Maynard Gibson, and Ms Sparrow Heatley of California, who joined The Tribune team. Photo: Craig Adderley

By DANA SMITH  
dsmith@tribunemedia.net

NEARLY 1,400 people took to the starting line Saturday morning for the Susan G Komen Race for the Cure which is on target to raise almost \$100,000 in donations for cancer research. The race is the world's largest educational fundraiser for breast cancer, a disease which recent research has indicated affects Bahamian women more than any other nationality.

Sharlyn Smith, Marathon Bahamas board member, called breast cancer "a national issue" and told *The Tribune* event organisers kept that fact in mind as they were planning the race. "Breast cancer is a national issue in the Bahamas and that is one of the things we made a point of as we were planning this," she said. "The aim of the race was just to raise awareness of breast cancer and also celebrate survivors of breast cancer and remember those we lost to breast

cancer." Mrs Smith said. "Overall I think we achieved the aim. We raised the awareness and reminded people that this is a real problem for our country." According to published reports, aggressive strains of breast cancer appear in Bahamian women at an unusually early age. Only 12 per cent of American women under 44 years old are diagnosed with breast cancer, while 34 per cent of Bahami-

See page 15

## CHRISTIE, BRAN AGREE TO NATIONAL DEBATE

By LAMECH JOHNSON  
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and CHESTER ROBARDS  
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TWO of the three candidates vying to be the country's next Prime Minister have agreed to participate in a televised public debate ahead of this year's general election. Both Perry Christie, Progressive Liberal Party leader and Branville McCartney, Democratic National Alliance leader, said they are ready to meet their opponents head-to-head on television to debate issues of national importance. While Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham neither rejected nor accepted the idea

## See page 12 NO CANDIDATE PROBLEMS: DNA

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
Tribune Freeport Reporter  
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT - Democratic National Alliance Leader Branville McCartney said his party is facing no difficulties in identifying candidates, claiming they have introduced more candidates than any other party. "We are ready," Mr McCartney said. "We are not having any difficulty finding candidates, we just want to get the right person; we had persons when it was 41 constituencies and we had to make certain adjustments, but we are most ready to move

## See page 12 CALL TO VOTERS IN GRAND BAHAMA

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
Tribune Freeport Reporter  
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT - As the FNM party officially introduced its five standard-bearers on Grand Bahama, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham told FNMs here that it is time to register to vote. A large number of supporters packed the convention centre at the Grand Lucaya Resort in Lucaya on Sunday to hear from the leader of the party and the five candidates. Taking to the stage first was newcomer businessman Peter Turnquest, the candidate for East Grand Bahama. Next was newcomer ZNS

## See page 7

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LOCAL NEWS

# HOUSING ACT CHANGES AHEAD?

from page one

granted, thus necessitating foreclosure.

Dr Sands said: "We cannot default on our debt obligations, which are substantial.

"The government is looking at humane options, and is considering the various options to access the funds in the mortgage insurance fund, which are legal. Right now,

the only way is if we foreclose and obtain vacant possession."

Nearly \$100m worth of bonds are due between the 2020 and 2030 period, and the corporation faces \$35m in bond associated costs for the year ending June 2012, Dr Sands said.

"This does not include any government housing projects, so what we have to do is to be very judicious about spending and expenses and

also ensure that the repayments are optimised.

"If you're spending 35 million just in bond sureties," said Dr Sands, "sinking contributions, and bond interest, then clearly that doesn't leave anything for housing projects, for operating expenses, capital development."

He added: "It becomes critically important that we exercise all options available to ensure that the BMC continues to be a viable solvent entity, to do what we are mandated to do."

Ideally, the corporation should be generating enough revenue on repayments to run its operations as well as the service of bond associated expenses.

es. However, Dr Sands said that despite ongoing fiscal reform the BMC will not be able to meet expenses by 2021 given the current rate of collections.

"We understand the issues," he said, "we understand the complexity of the problems,

the magnitude, and we intend to see to it that they are fixed. It's going to require that we make some tough decisions that will engender discussion, debate, and some people are going to support it and some are not going to like it."



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

The public is advised that the Bahamas Electricity Corporation is continuing collection activities on all electricity accounts with outstanding balances.

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LOCAL NEWS

# Bahamas 'must focus on new products'



By AVA TURNQUEST  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

THE country must focus on generating new tourism products in a bid to remain competitive as more gaming facilities become available around the world.

While the sport has never been a primary thrust for the sector, Minister of Tourism Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace explained that the country could no longer take comfort in being "the only game in town for a vacation."

Mr Vanderpool-Wallace's comments come as Florida lawmakers continue their examination of the Destination Resorts Bill, which would bring three Las Vegas-style casino mega resorts to South Florida - and in direct competition with Bahamian hotels.

"Obviously, we have little to no control over that," he said.

"We recognize that the significant advantage that we had in our part of the world has been eroded through the years, as more and more gaming is available in the US and elsewhere."

Mr Vanderpool-Wallace added: "We need to make certain that we have as many new products available to keep competitive."

The Florida Bills were passed by a senate committee last week despite considerable opposition from tourism giant Disney, as well as the Florida Chamber of Commerce.

Facilities in Miami-Dade and Broward are allowed slot-machine "racinos," but can't have Blackjack and craps tables. If approved, the Bills would allow smaller operations to open full-scale casinos as well.

Last week, Robert Sands, senior vice president at Baha Mar, said the company was monitoring the Bill's progress, which still has a long way to go.

Kerzner International Bahamas' managing director George Markantonis expressed concern about the proposal last year.

He said the establishment of high-end resorts in the

immediate area and on US soil would be a problem not just for Atlantis and Baha Mar, but the entire tourism industry of the Bahamas.

Mr Vanderpool-Wallace said: "Gaming is unique for us, because it has never been the primary motive for people coming to The Bahamas. They come for our outstanding amenities and will continue to do so."

He added: "More competition is inevitable, what we forget is that The Bahamas for a while was the only game in town for vacation."

"Tourism is the most competitive business in the world and there is good evidence to support that as it continues to expand."

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AN ARTIST'S impression of one of the proposed South Florida casino resorts, which has caused concern in the Bahamas about increased competition for tourists.

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JOYFUL NOISE	NEW	1:05	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
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
MI6 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
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JOYFUL NOISE	NEW	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:45
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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## BOY, 11, DIES IN HOUSE FIRE

AN 11-YEAR-OLD boy is dead after an early morning house fire. Shortly before 2am on Saturday, police received reports of a house fire at Lower Bogue, Eleuthera. Upon arrival, police found a fire confined to one bedroom in the five-bedroom home. The fire was extinguished without any damage to other areas of the home.

## MAN SHOT IN LEG

A 32-YEAR-OLD man is in hospital after being shot in his leg. According to police reports, two men were at Elizabeth Street off Kemp Road shortly after 3pm on Friday when they got into an argument that resulted in the victim being shot. He was taken to the hospital by EMS personnel where he is detained in stable condition.

## MARIJUANA ARREST

A 32-YEAR-OLD man of Ragged Island Street is in police custody after he was found in possession of a quantity of suspected marijuana. Last Friday, officers of the mobile division were on patrol at Ragged Island Street shortly before 10am when they observed a male "acting suspiciously". The officers found the suspected drugs after searching the man.

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## Whose interest do union leaders represent?

LOOKING over The Tribune's Labour files a few days ago we came across an interesting statement by hotel managerial union leader Obie Ferguson, who accused Freeport's Our Lucaya Beach resort of "union busting" by planning to lay off 50 managerial staff.

"Now the economy is showing signs of recovery," he told *The Tribune*, "I thought that now would be the time to do what should be done. Workers' rights are as important as profits. We will take the necessary poll and then do what we have to do."

Mr Ferguson made this statement in January last year at a time when in the estimation of every business person on the island — especially in Freeport — the economy was looking even bleaker. And so we do not know how Mr Ferguson measures economic recovery. Maybe he had a glimpse of the hotel's financial statements and from that concluded that the hotel could support what he claimed "had to be done" and still keep its doors open.

At the time, Mr Ferguson was pressing Minister Dion Foulkes for permission for his union, which he said represented more than 100 of the resort's staff, to take a strike vote that would pave the way for disruptive action at the property.

Meanwhile, Nicole Martin, whose union represented the same hotel's line staff, was worried about increases she said were owed to the line staff under their industrial agreement. Earlier, the resort had announced that its Christmas season was not as good as hoped. It had told the union that since 2009 it was not in a financial position to meet those demands.

Earlier, it was acknowledged that the resort's owners, Hutchinson-Whampoa, had been subsidising the hotel's payroll. Prime Minister Ingraham had even praised the company for its supportive attitude towards the hotel and its staff during difficult financial times.

But Mr Ferguson must have had a vision. He saw things differently and thought it was time for some union muscle flexing.

When we read his statement, we could not help but think of the six blind men of Indostan who went to see an elephant. Although blind, and having to rely on touch alone, each had to "satisfy his mind" as to what an elephant looked like.

The first fell against the broad sturdy side of the elephant and decided it "is very like a wall." The second felt the tusk and decided it was like a "spear." And so on down the line — the squirming trunk felt like a snake; the knee felt like a tree; the ear felt like a fan and the sixth was convinced that the swinging tail was "very like a rope".

And so the dispute began, each convinced as to what an elephant looked like and "though each was partly in the right... all were in the wrong!"

As none of them had seen the whole elephant, despite their arguing none of them knew what an elephant really looked like.

And so with these unionists, who although they never see the whole picture and do not know what obligations have to be met before salary increases can be considered, are always convinced that owners can and should meet their demands.

At present, Kerzner International is fighting to meet its financial obligations. It has a good management team that will do everything in its power to maintain staff levels and also meet its debts. Those debt obligations are extremely high. If they are not met, unless some agreement can be arrived at, the Kerzner team could lose its four-year management contract. And so, staff will have to be thankful for their jobs, and turn deaf ears to any demands that their union might tempt them to take during this difficult period. Even if they see every room filled to capacity every day of the year, unions nor staff can assume — like the six blind men of Indostan — that the hotel is making a handsome profit, and that there is any room for staff to make more.

We do not understand some of these union leaders. They complain that Freeport has no business and yet when organisations are trying to attract business, the union decides to demonstrate. For example, what possessed Freeport hotel workers to demonstrate at Grand Lucaya resort on the very day Vision Airlines and the Ministry of Tourism were hosting 80 travel agents and other tourism promoters from the United States? The visitors were invited there for a two-day familiarization trip in the hopes that they would recommend more visitors to fill the hotel. Imagine the very people who would benefit from a hotel full of guests, would decide instead to drive potential business away by demonstrations. Who can have sympathy for such short-sighted people?

And to add insult to injury their union leader had the nerve to pull another demonstration to complain that the 37 workers who scuttled an attempt to get more business for the hotel were fired.

Just where are these people coming from? From an outsider looking in, it seems that some unionists have a different agenda. Are they deliberately leading their members astray?

Who is going to sympathise with any worker who is going to undermine the efforts of people who are trying to bring more business to a resort to secure their jobs?

If workers are serious about their employment, they will think twice before being led astray by union leaders some of whom seem to have politics on their minds rather than the interest of the men and women whose best interests they claim to represent.

# FNM opponents cross bounds of decency

EDITOR, The Tribune.

AS AN objective observer of Bahamian politics, I have never seen a politician who has been as fiercely challenged and opposed as Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham. He is perhaps the most polarising and controversial politician in modern Bahamian history. Prime Minister Ingraham and the Free National Movement (FNM) government have now become the subject of endless ridicule and criticism by Official Opposition Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) supporters and several noted radio talk show hosts from New Providence. The prime minister and his government colleagues are called "The Dictator", "big head", "Da Village Idiot:", "Monavie", "Da Pudgy Pillsbury Dough Boy" and "Uncircumcised Philistine" by their unmerciful political critics. The venom is simply astounding. This appears to happen every week in their Internet dailies. The Ingraham administration is even ridiculed on certain radio talk shows. Prime Minister Ingraham, according to these people, can never do anything right. And even if they were to admit that he has accomplished anything worthwhile for this country, they would be overly cynical about it.

As a regular listener to several radio talk shows, I usually hear the same set of chronic callers voicing their opposition to everything Prime Minister Ingraham has ever done or is proposing to do for this country. According to these chronic callers, the Member of Parliament for North Abaco is bad for The Bahamas. I had even heard one or two of these chronic callers calling for Prime Minister Ingraham and several Cabinet Ministers to be tried before a commission of inquiry and imprisoned at Her Majesty's Fox Hill Prison after the PLP wins the 2012 General Elections. Amazingly, I have also heard one chronic caller telling a popular radio talk show host that the prime minister hates Bahamians. The FNM's political opponents have crossed the bounds of common human decency.

The all too common, worn-out charge by these people is that the prime minister is a biggety tyrant and a totalitarian leader. What strikes me as odd, though, is that these people are calling in to radio stations which are privately owned and operated by Bahamians; something that was unheard of during the 25 years that the legendary Sir Lynden Pindling was the Prime Minister of this country. These chronic callers, some of whom were grown-ups during the

## LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

1970s and 1980s, didn't utter one peep about the then PLP regime's firm grip on the state media, the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas (BCB). Now all of a sudden, everybody is very concerned about democracy in this country with PM Ingraham at the helm. These people had no problem when ZNS was staffed mostly by rabid supporters of the PLP, who were really only interested in disseminating the message of the then government of The Bahamas. The Opposition could hardly ever get a critical word in edgewise on the broadcasting corporation. The former government kept a very close eye on ZNS. Now, thanks to the prudent policies of PM Ingraham, these chronic callers, without fear of repercussion from the government, can call in to the radio talk shows and rant about the prime minister being an unbearable dictator. Ingraham liberalized the airwaves, and he is called a dictator; the former PLP administration controlled ZNS with an iron fist, and it is called the greatest administration in modern Bahamian history by these people. Does this make any sense at all to you, Editor?

Several months ago, the Leader of the Official Opposition the Hon Perry G Christie, gave a live address on crime to the nation on the broadcasting corporation. As a young Bahamian who has been watching ZNS TV since the early to mid-1980s, I cannot recall ever seeing either Sir Cecil Wallace-Whitfield or Sir Kendal Isaacs giving an address to the nation on ZNS TV. I had seen FNM conventions on ZNS, but never have I seen an Opposition Member of Parliament or Leader addressing the nation on ZNS TV as Christie did. I stand to be corrected, though. Sir Lynden would have never allowed his political opponents to use the national airwaves or any radio talk show in order to undermine his government. Further, no radio talk show host would have dared to openly ridicule or defy Sir Lynden or any of his policies. I challenge anyone to prove otherwise. I say this because certain radio talk show hosts have made a cottage industry out of attacking the Ingraham administration.

No true dictator would have allowed an opposing political figure to go on the state-run airwaves in order to criticize his policies. Prime Minister Ingraham did just that. Yet he is labelled a biggety dictator by his unreasonable critics. If Prime Minister Ingraham trims the bloated staff levels in the civil service in order to make the central government more financially sustainable, he would be called uncompassionate and anti-Bahamian. If the nation goes bankrupt because of the massive payroll that the state has to meet each year, he will be blasted for mismanaging the economy. Either way, the

prime minister is a complete failure, as far as his unreasonable critics are concerned.

Ingraham's critics are now gearing up to launch their greatest political assault against him leading up to the 2012 General Elections. I have already heard mutterings by these people that the MP for North Abaco had manoeuvred his way into the leadership position of the FNM in 1991 at the time of Sir Cecil Wallace-Whitfield's death. They are now saying that Sir Cecil nor any of the other leaders of the FNM, for that matter, wanted Ingraham to succeed him (Sir Cecil) as the Leader of the Official Opposition. I find it absolutely incredible that the hierarchy of the FNM would stand idly by as an independent MP and former PLP Cabinet Minister and Chairman would waltz into their party and become their leader without so much as protesting. If this story is true, then why didn't Sir Kendal Isaacs complain about this takeover by Ingraham at the time it occurred? These people want us to believe that somehow Ingraham had managed to hoodwink the leadership of the FNM into giving him the top position of their party. I don't know why these people don't stop trying to insult the intelligence of the Bahamian people. Rather than trying to address the pertinent issues which are affecting The Bahamas, these people want to wallow in muck and mire instead. Clearly, these people are intending to revise Bahamian history. They are counting on the fact that most Bahamians don't read. Sadly, many Bahamians are historically illiterate.

In closing, it is important that FNM and PLPs be civil in their debates. While we may have differing political philosophies, that doesn't give anyone the right to slander another person's name or to spread lies and innuendoes. If you have to lie in order to win an election, then the one fundamental question that must be asked is this: Is it worth it? Of course, the answer is no. I am not willing to sacrifice my conscience on the altar of political expediency. It isn't worth it.

KEVIN EVANS

Freeport,  
Grand Bahama,  
January 2, 2012.

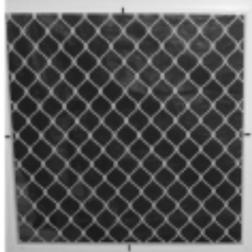
(No, Mr Evans, none of this makes a blind bit of sense. We now agree with Prime Minister Ingraham's response to his opposition's invitation to have a televised public debate with them: "I don't talk foolishness," said Mr Ingraham. "I debate every day.")

(With this present mindset among the opposition, we believe that such debates would be a colossal waste of time. Let each political party put their platforms out there for public debate and let the voter decide which party in their opinion is capable of delivering on that platform. They have already had five years of Perry Christie and another five years of Prime Minister Ingraham. These two administrations should be easy of comparison. — Ed.)

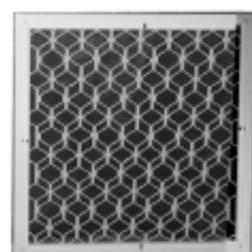
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All completed applications in the form of Project Concept Forms must be received on or before 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012 for consideration.



SENIOR EXECUTIVES of the American Council of Education Fellows Programme paid a courtesy call on Dr Dahl and her team.

## COURTESY CALL BY SENIOR EXECUTIVES

SENIOR executives of the American Council of Education paid a courtesy call on Dr Iva Dahl, manager and consultant at the Bahamas Technical and Vocational

Institute. They toured the BTVI campus, shared ideas and experiences, and engaged in mutually beneficial discussions.

ACE is a premier educa-

tional entity in the US, established in 1965. The council is committed to the development of leaders such as presidents, deans, and department chairs.

# Man in court over shooting in Balls Alley

By LAMECH JOHNSON  
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

A MAN was arraigned in Magistrate's Court Friday afternoon in connection with the country's second homicide for the year.

Levarado Butler, 27, appeared before Deputy Chief Magistrate Carolita Bethell in Court 8 in connection with the Balls Alley shooting death of a 32-year-old father a week ago.

It is alleged that he shot and killed Mario Stuart on Saturday, January 7.

The deceased, a cousin of FNM Bamboo Town candidate Cassius Stuart, was shot in the stomach shortly after 2am in front of his home in Balls Alley. He was taken to hospital in a private vehicle where he later died of his injuries.

The accused was not required to enter a plea to the charge due to the seriousness of the offence. He was told that a Voluntary Bill of Indictment would be served

against him on Monday, March 12. The Bill would fast track the case to the Supreme Court for trial, bypassing a lengthy preliminary inquiry.

Tai Pinder, defence attorney for the accused, claimed that her client had been severely beaten while in police custody at the Central Detective Unit. She said he had to be admitted to the Princess Margaret Hospital for treatment.

She said that her client's medical record and ID bracelet, though named under a different surname, could prove so.

When asked if he spoke up to correct this, he said: "No, man."

Ms Pinder explained that her client's unconscious state

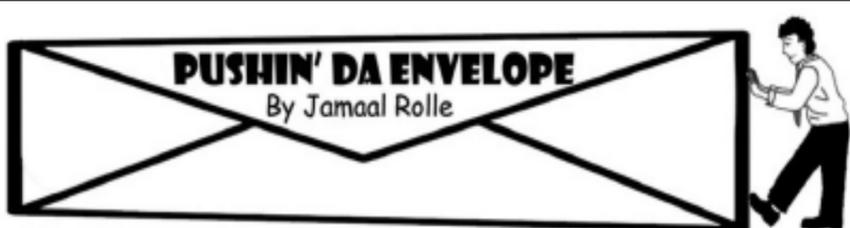
at the time was the reason for the mistake going unnoticed. She further claimed that her client, to whom she was "twice" denied access, had been forced to sign a statement some "three-four hours after he had been discharged from hospital."

Deputy Chief Magistrate Bethell said that she would make a note of the alleged police brutality and recommended that Butler be examined by a physician at Her Majesty's Prison.

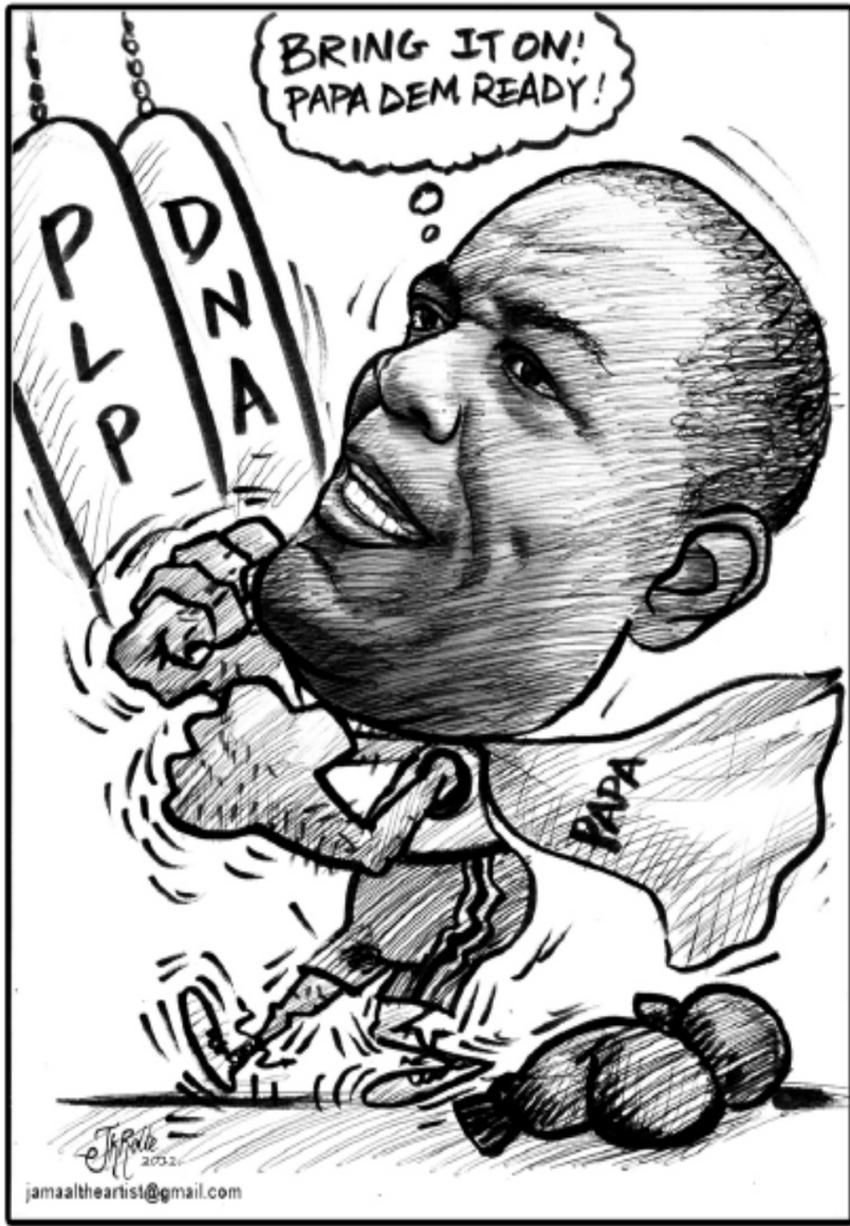
She then told him that he would be remanded, as the court did not have the power to grant bail in these matters. He returns on Monday, March 12 before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez in Court One.

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LOCAL NEWS

# PLP pledge to return police to schools

By CHESTER ROBARDS  
Tribune Senior Reporter  
crobards@tribunemedia.net

POLICE will immediately be put back into public schools to combat violence on campuses, should the Progressive Liberal Party be returned power after the general election, the party announced in a press statement released yesterday.

School policing, they said, should be a permanent part of the public school system

because of the high instances of violence on some campuses in New Providence. The release highlighted the murder of a student on the campus of CC Sweeting.

"The Free National Movement Government knows it was wrong to take police out of government schools," the release said.

"Still, because they put politics before people, it took an unacceptably long time to take steps to undo that wrong even after a student was killed

on the grounds of C C Sweeting's campus."

Frank Smith, PLP candidate for Montagu, said in the release that his party will fully reinstate the School Policing Programme.

"A major plank of this strategy includes safety, security, and rehabilitative services for our students through Urban Renewal 2.0 and an even more detailed approach to school policing," he said.

"Our compendium of crime fighting policies which has as its

foundation, preventative methods, contain a holistic approach to redirecting the energies of our youth and steering them away from the violence which plagues their homes, communities and even schools so that they do not come into contact with the law."

The PLP admitted, however, that even school policing has not been enough to "arrest the rising incidence of violence on school campuses in the country."

Jerome Fitzgerald, PLP

candidate for Marathon, also highlighted the need for safer educational institutions for secondary school students.

"We know that education is a key factor in assisting many young people in this country from getting out of a life where they are challenged," he said. "We need to make sure they're in a protected environment and that they feel safe so they're able to learn as best as possible."

The PLP said it intends to combine three programmes –

Violence Breakers, Fifty Bahamians, and Urban Renewal 2.0 – in order to combat crime and "restore safety and civility to Bahamian communities."

"We again pledge to launch career path academies, all throughout this country, to provide our people with the opportunities to secure 21st century skills, training and retooling to compete and thrive in the boom of a restored Bahamian economy," the party's release said.

# CALL TO VOTERS IN GRAND BAHAMA

from page one

journalist Pakeshia Edgcombe, the candidate for West Grand Bahama. She was followed by Educator Norris Bain, the candidate for Marco City.

Also taking the stage were Kwasi Thompson, MP for Pineridge, and Neko Grant, the candidate for Central Grand Bahama.

The highlight of the evening at 6.30pm came when Mr Ingraham was introduced by Mr Bain's 10-year-old son.

The convention centre erupted in cheers as Prime Minister Ingraham made his way to centre stage, flocked by supporters.

He told supporters that he expects the FNM to win the five seats in Grand Bahama.

He said that the executive committee of the party decided to recommend Peter Turnquest for nomination in East Grand Bahama.

He thanked Senator Frederick McAlpine, and Philcher Grant, who were also up for nomination in East Grand Bahama, for their contributions to the party.

Mr Ingraham also extended thanks to Senator Michael Pintard.

"I want to extend thanks to Michael Pintard who is going to take on a special mission for our party," he said.

The FNM leader also thanked Grand Bahama for supporting the FNM.

"Grand Bahama, you have been good to the FNM and you have also been good to me," he said. "No one can deny the essential role Grand Bahama played in rescuing our country from the bad governance of the PLP."

Mr Ingraham said the PLP government was riddled with scandal. He said it was led by indecisive leadership that put the interest of the Bahamian people last.

"Although the last several years have been a difficult and painful time for the Bahamas, especially for the economy of Grand Bahama,"

Mr Ingraham said Bahamians can trust the FNM government.

He noted that 2008 was the worst recession since the Great Depression.

"This leader, this party you can trust to get the job done. I come to Grand Bahama to ask you for your support of the FNM," he said.

The party leader asked Grand Bahama to support the party's new team of talented individuals.

Mr Ingraham acknowledged persons who have served the party faithfully for many years, including Maurice Moore, CA Smith, and Kenneth Russell, MP for High Rock.

He thanked Mr Russell for his dedication and loyalty to the FNM.

"In 1997, Maurice Moore made way for Kenneth Russell, and now in 2012 Kenneth Russell is making way for Peter Turnquest.

"He (Russell) was a member of my cabinet and I thank him for his many years of service and wish him well in the future," he said.

Mr Ingraham also commended Eight Mile Rock MP Verna Grant for her service to the party.

"Verna Grant was the first and only elected female in the House for Grand Bahama by the FNM.

"She will not be offering this time, and I thank her for



**PRIME MINISTER** Hubert Ingraham in Grand Bahama yesterday announcing the FNM candidates to challenge for local seats.

her dedicated service as an MP in the House of Assembly," he said.

Mr Ingraham said that Zhivargo Laing has left an impressive mark in Marco City and did not ask to be moved from Marco City. He thanked Mr Laing for accepting the nomination for Fort Charlotte.

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GLIKA Christofilis, a member of a well-known Bahamian family, died on Thursday, January 12, in Minnesota at the age of 94.

Born in Marsh Harbour, Abaco, her family moved to Nassau aged two, where she grew up with seven siblings.

Mrs Christofilis worked at a grocery store for 13 years as a cashier and then in the office

## WOMAN DIES, 94

of the Nassau Yacht Club for 37 years. Her niece, Adrian Claire, remembers her as "quite an outstanding lady".

Mrs Christofilis was a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church and for more than 50 years was a member of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire.

Along with four others, she founded a school for children with developmental disabilities which is still in operation.

In 1992, Mrs Christofilis was honoured with the Lady Sassoon Golden Heart Award for her charity work.

After 85 years in the Bahamas, Mrs Christofilis moved to Minnesota several years ago.

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LOCAL NEWS

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**RBC BAHAMAS TEAM** welcomes bankers from around the globe.

RBC Royal Bank welcomed more than 1,800 outstanding RBC employees and their guests to The Bahamas on Friday, providing a welcome boost to the local economy. The RBC group travelled to Nassau aboard the Celebrity Millennium cruise ship as part of an RBC performance convention. The Millennium was chartered by RBC to host its top performing employees from around the world to a convention and Caribbean cruise.

"RBC is already widely admired as a leader in our business community," said Mr Tommy Thompson, Deputy Director General, from The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism. "By bringing this convention to Nassau, RBC is directly helping to fuel our tourism industry. Not only did the participants get to experience our local culture, but we gained worldwide exposure to a new group of travellers, many of whom we hope will return with their families for future visits."

To give the cruise-goers the full Bahamian experience, RBC arranged to have the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Band greet the visitors

at the Prince George Dock. This performance was followed by a "Bahamian Welcome" party in the parking lot of RBC's Main Branch, near Prince George Wharf. At the party, the group then experienced Bahamian food, drinks and the best of our local Bahamian performers.

"Recognition is a very important part of RBC's culture," said Mr Nathaniel Beneby, Jr, Market Head of Retail Banking for RBC in The Bahamas, Cayman and Turks & Caicos. "We reward our employees for outstanding job performance on a consistent basis and are pleased that we can participate in the recognition of employees from around the world with this celebratory event."

"We are delighted that RBC has again chosen Nassau as a stop on its annual convention cruise," said Mr Gevon Moss, project manager of the Downtown Nassau Partnership (DNP). "RBC Royal Bank's Main Branch is one of the oldest buildings on Bay Street and is an integral part of our downtown landscape. As we seek to revitalise the city of Nassau and enhance the appeal of Bay

Street, events like this help to showcase all that downtown has to offer and bolster the success of area businesses."

More than 70,000 RBC employees from around the world participate in RBC's Reward and Recognition programme. The all-expenses paid convention cruise is the top award in the programme. Eight employees from The Bahamas were recognised as top winners and are travelling with their guests on the cruise that left Miami on January 8.

Congratulations to the following RBC employees from The Bahamas, who were recognised as RBC Top Performers in 2011:

- Dorothy Albury, Commercial Financial Services;
- Opichi Mackey, RBC Abaco;
- Marcus Moxey, RBC Main Branch;
- Kirkwood Pinder, Bahamas Service Centre;
- Joyce Riviere, Bahamas Regional Office;
- Patrice Saunders, Human Resources;
- Edward Strachan, Mortgage Centre, RBC FINCO;
- Teresita Stuart, Bahamas Service Centre.

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- Applicants must have a body mass index of more than 30 and have one or more of the following lifestyle conditions: obesity, hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes or ischemic heart disease.
- Applicants must be committed to complete the entire 12 week programme and all of its requirements. Official programme ends on **April 23rd**, however, 4 weeks of wellness-monitoring follows, until **May 14th** when Challenge winners will be announced.
- Applicants must have their own transportation and be present at all required meetings and appointments
- Applicants must be willing to appear in all publicity for the Get Well Bahamas Challenge, including but not limited to television appearances and interviews, photography, print and radio interviews.
- Employees of The National Insurance Board, Body Zone Fitness, Jemi Health & Wellness, and The Counsellors Limited are not eligible to participate.

**APPLICATION FORMS**

Application forms will be available as of **Friday, 30th December**. They may be downloaded from [www.nibdrugplan.com](http://www.nibdrugplan.com) or collected from the Reception Desk at NIB headquarters, Sir Clifford Darling Complex, Bailou Hill Road, The Drug Plan Office at Wuff Road, Jemi Health & Wellness, Body Zone Fitness, & from The Counsellors Ltd. Marketing Firm on 1st Terrace Centreville.

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

All application forms and photos must be returned to The Counsellors Ltd. Marketing Firm, First Terrace Centreville by **Friday, January 20th, 2012**. Please address submissions to: Get Well Bahamas c/o The Counsellors Ltd., Nassau, Bahamas.

**SELECTION PROCESS**

Participants will be selected by Jemi Health & Wellness and Body Zone Fitness. Personal interviews will be conducted with prospective participants before selection of the final 40 participants. NIB will not be responsible for selection of any participants in the Get Well Bahamas Health and Fitness Challenge.

GET WELL BAHAMAS is funded by the Healthy People component of The National Prescription Drug Plan.

LOCAL NEWS

# School renamed in honour of inspirational educator

By CELESTE NIXON  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

PRIME Minister Hubert Ingraham was in Bimini yesterday to officially rename the Bimini All-Age School the Louise McDonald High School.

Recognising the late Mrs McDonald as a dedicated educator of nearly 50 years, Mr Ingraham said she touched the "hearts and lives" of her students, teaching the importance of character and citizenship.

He said: "In her many roles, Mrs McDonald played a pivotal role shared by so many of our dedicated educators through the years - that of nation builder."

The Louise McDonald High School was the second school to be honoured in the month-long renaming schedule for several public schools.

The first renaming ceremony was held last week, when the prime minister flew to Andros to officially rename the Red Bay Primary School the Bertram A Newton Primary School, honouring Rev Bertram Newton.

Greatness often emerges from small communities, Mr Ingraham said. He said it is often one's ambition, character and conviction that determine success in life.

"In the Bahamas, it is the largeness of one's spirit, not the size of the island, cay, or settlement where you are born or live that determines the contributions one can make to the broader Commonwealth of the Bahamas," said Mr Ingraham, "Louise McDonald is such an example."

Mr Ingraham said the Bahamas is in need of more teachers like Mrs McDonald, who are both competent and passionate.

He said: "I am told that Mrs McDonald was truly a woman for all seasons. Wherever she saw a need, she responded. She imparted knowledge even while taking special care to develop the whole person in her charge."

"By her example, Louise McDonald taught us many life lessons in character and citizenship," said Mr Ingraham.

"We owe her and generations of dedicated educators our gratitude."

Three more schools are

slated for rededication in the coming weeks: Cabbage Hill Primary School on Crooked Island which will become the Ulric H Ferguson Primary School, the new Anatol Rodgers High School, and the new T G Glover Primary School.



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All proposals must meet the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Knowledge Management Workshop as provided by the GEF SGP and meet all relevant criteria of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). All proposals should include a detailed budget with cost estimates for all activities. *To obtain a copy of the KM Workshop TOR and other relevant information please visit us at [www.sgpbahamas.org](http://www.sgpbahamas.org) or contact us via Email: [grants@sgpbahamas.org](mailto:grants@sgpbahamas.org) or phone us at 242.394.0440 or fax: 242.394.0441*

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January 24th, 2012 (10 weeks) Tuesday's & Thursday's 6:00-8:00pm  
January 28th, 2012 (10 weeks) Saturday's only 9:00-1:00pm

**Introduction to Computers**  
February 24th, 2012 (5 weeks) Friday's only 6:00-8:00pm

**AutoCAD 2012 Advance**  
March 26th, 2012 (8 weeks) Monday's & Wednesday's 6:00-8:00pm

**Microsoft Word & Excel**  
March 2nd, 2012 (6 weeks) Friday's only 6:00-8:00pm

**Microsoft Projects**  
April 14th, 2012 Saturdays only 9:00-1:00pm

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Conflict Management -	March 12th-13th, 2012
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NB: All Personal Development Courses are two full days



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LOCAL NEWS

# Of Jamaica, Republics and the Commonwealth

## insight

### WORLD VIEW

By SIR RONALD SANDERS

WHAT effect will Jamaica becoming a Republic and leaving the 53-nation Commonwealth have on the rest of the Caribbean countries? Will they follow Jamaica to become Republics and leave the Commonwealth?

Those were the questions put to me by the Editor of an Internet news website just as I had begun to write a Commentary after a two-day seminar at Cambridge University in the UK that grappled with the issue of the Commonwealth and its relevance to its 1.2 billion people after the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Australia last October.

I will return to the outcome of the seminar in my next commentary. Suffice to say for now that *The Round Table*, arguably the oldest journal on Commonwealth matters, is in its 101st year of publication in Britain and the Commonwealth.

Over the decades, the material published in the journal has been both a record of Commonwealth events and a serious contributor to the shape and direction of the now 53-nation organisation.

After each Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference (CHOGM), *The Round Table* has convened a meeting of representatives of Commonwealth non-governmental organisations, ministers, academics and the Commonwealth Secretary-General to assess the outcomes of the Conference. It did so at Cambridge University in the UK on 9 and 10 January with Commonwealth Secretary-General, Kamallesh Sharma and Lord Howells, the British Minister for Commonwealth affairs actively participating.

I attended as a member of the International Advisory Board of *The Round Table* and a member of the Eminent Persons Group that submitted a report to last October's CHOGM in Australia on urgent reform of the Commonwealth.

The question that dominated the two-day meeting in Cambridge is whether, as a result of the Australia CHOGM, the Commonwealth is better or worse placed to serve the needs of the people and to make a meaningful contribution to the international community.

I had meant to write about

the outcome of the seminar but this matter of Jamaica commands immediate attention. So, this week, I give it priority.

The posing of the Editor's question shows how misunderstood the Commonwealth is even by journalists whose breadth of knowledge about world events is considerable. It also underscores the necessity for the Commonwealth to improve significantly its own information and education machinery.

The Editor's question arose because newly-elected Jamaica Prime Minister, Portia Simpson-Miller, in a televised debate on the eve of last month's general election, said quite clearly that she wanted "a Jamaican Queen".

The remark from the leader of the People's National Party (PNP) was not a new sentiment. The former leader of the PNP and former Prime Minister, P J Patterson, had also declared his party's wish to end Jamaica's monarchical status, in which it shares Queen Elizabeth, with 14 other countries as its sovereign.

What was intriguing about the Editor's question was the underlying assumption that if the Jamaican people choose to end Jamaica's monarchical relationship and become a Republic, Jamaica would have to leave the Commonwealth of which the Queen is Head.

This was the same assumption that Ireland made in 1949 when it chose to become a Republic. Having made that choice, Ireland departed from the Commonwealth.

India was set to follow Ireland in becoming a Republic and leaving the Commonwealth, because the government of Independent India (1948) was not about to allow the British Monarch to continue to reign over it. However, mature and sensible heads worked out a solution which was that India would become a Republic and remain in the Common-



wealth, recognising the British monarch as "Head of the Commonwealth" and "a symbol of the voluntary association" of independent countries. While the Queen is the strongest champion of the Commonwealth family of nations, she has no executive authority over the organisation.

Other countries that became independent of Britain and chose to become Republics have continued as members of the Commonwealth on the same basis as India.

Among those countries are three Caribbean ones: Dominica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.

Indeed, more recently, other Republics that were never colonies of Britain have become members of the Commonwealth. These are: Cameroon, Mozambique, and Rwanda.

Republican status is not incompatible with Commonwealth membership, and I am confident that Jamaica would not leave the Commonwealth if it becomes a Republic.

Jamaica derives no disadvantage from its membership of the Commonwealth. Indeed, its membership brings it great benefits, among which are: technical assistance in a range of skill-areas in which it lacks sufficient expertise; advocacy for dealing with issues that affect it such as debt and trade; and help in training people to deal with HIV/AIDS, and mitigating against the harmful effects of climate change.

Additionally, Jamaican professionals, including judges, lawyers, engineers, nurses and teachers belong to Commonwealth organisations that provide them with a vast network of contacts across over 50 nations that help to improve their knowledge and access to resources.

The associated question put to me is also interesting: should Jamaica decide to become a Republic, will it influence governments of the remaining independent Caribbean countries that are still monarchies to do the same? The answer is not necessarily yes.

Two years ago, the government of Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves in St Vincent and the Grenadines received a resounding "no" from the people when the issue was included in a referendum question.

About four years ago, the government of Barbados, under then Prime Minister Owen Arthur, had also declared itself for a Republic with no unanimous support for the idea.

Further, the fact that three Commonwealth Caribbean countries have been Republics for many years has not encouraged other Caribbean states to follow.

Circumstances in each Caribbean country are different. Their governments will each have to weigh carefully the sentiment of the people before they risk a referendum on republican status.

In Jamaica, the matter could be decided easily if the two political parties agree that the time has come to cut the monarchical knot. Such a decision will not affect Jamaica's membership of the Commonwealth, nor will it cause other non-Republic governments in the Commonwealth Caribbean to follow.

Responses and previous commentaries at: [www.sir-ronaldsanders.com](http://www.sir-ronaldsanders.com).

The writer is a consultant and former Caribbean diplomat

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NEWLY-ELECTED Jamaica Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller has said she wants "a Jamaican Queen".

# Bahamas

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Accounting II (6 weeks)  
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QuickBooks (6 weeks)  
Begins Jan 31: Tues/Thrs 6-10pm \$350

**Computers**

Computer Applications I (5 weeks)  
Begins Jan 31: Tues/Thrs 6-10 pm \$350

Computers for Beginners (5 weeks)  
Begins Feb 3 Fri 6-10pm; Sat 9am-1pm \$325

A+ Review/Certification Exam (5 weeks)  
(One Exam Included)  
Begins Feb 3 Fri 6-10pm; Sat 9am-1pm \$480

\*Microsoft Power Point (5 weeks)  
Begins Jan 30 Mon/Tues 6-10pm \$380

\*Microsoft Excel (5 weeks)  
Begins Feb 1 Wed/Thrs 6-10pm \$380

\*Microsoft Word (5 weeks)  
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Acrylic Nails (5 weeks)  
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**Construction**

Electrical Phase I (6 weeks)  
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Begins Feb 3 Fri 6-9:50pm; Sat 9-5pm \$350

Cabinet Making I (5 weeks)  
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Cabinet Making II (5 weeks)  
Begins Mar 9 Fri 6-9:50pm; Sat 9-5pm \$360

Basic Plumbing (5 weeks)  
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**Construction**

Tile Laying: Do-It Yourself (5 weeks)  
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Basic Blueprint Reading & Estimating I (Residential) (5 weeks)  
Begins Feb 3 Fri 6-10:50pm; Sat 9am-4pm \$350

Basic Electrical (4 weeks)  
Begins Feb 3 Fri 6-10:50pm; Sat 9am-4pm \$375

Surveying (6 weeks)  
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**Special Interest**

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Sewing II (6 weeks)  
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Straw Craft I (5 weeks)  
Begins Jan 30 Mon/Tues/Wed/Thrs 6-9pm \$320

Painting (5 weeks)  
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LOCAL NEWS

ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE  
NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION OFFICE

# Managing conflict

By Constable 3011  
MAKELLE PINDER

AT WORK

CONFLICT is a normal and necessary part of healthy relationships. After all, people aren't expected to agree on everything at all times. Therefore, learning how to deal with conflict—rather than avoiding it is crucial.

When conflict is mismanaged, it can harm any relationship. But when handled in a respectful and positive way, conflict provides an opportunity for growth, ultimately strengthening the bond between individuals.

Conflict at home or in the work place can be a major stressor that distracts you from your daily life and routines.

Learning how to manage conflict can help you diffuse problem situations before they escalate, and can save you the frustration and hassle of sorting out an overwhelming fight.

Here are a few tips on "Managing Conflict":

AT HOME

- Acknowledge that conflict is natural and happens all the time.
- Share negative emotions only in person or on the phone.
- Pepper your responses with the phrase, "I understand".
- Take notice when you feel threatened by what someone is saying to you. Try repeating the exact words that someone is saying to you when they are in a lot of emotional pain or when you disagree with them completely.
- Take responsibility for your feelings to avoid blaming others.
- Learn to listen to the two sides of the conflict that you are in as if you were the mediator or the counselor.
- Take a playful attitude towards developing the skill of emotional self-control in high conflict situations. Practice counting from 1-10
- Wait a few days to cool down emotionally when a situation makes you feel wild with intense feelings, such as rage.
- Make a decision to speak with decorum whenever you are angry or frustrated.

- Stress the positive aspects of conflict; just because tension arises, the world is not going to collapse. In fact, if handled well, conflict often leads to innovation.

- Realise that conflict can be handled in a positive way that leads to personal and professional growth, development and productivity.

- Encourage others to bring up conflict and differences. Allowing them to fester inevitably encourages them to erupt later, usually at a most inopportune time.

- Identify the root cause(s) of the conflict. You can't begin to unravel the potential negativity in conflict and look toward progress until you determine the source of the issue.

- Look at the issue from all sides. Inspect the positive and negative factors that each party sees, to fully comprehend what is at stake.

- Devise a complete list of actions to address the issue; ensure that each party believes that he/she has had input in the final product or decision.

- Decide on the step that best addresses and resolves the issue. Again, all parties need to see that they have had input into this step.

- Agree on whatever next steps are necessary to implement the mutually agreed-upon action.

- Review the process that you used to arrive at the final decision, hoping to implement a similar successful plan when negative conflict next arises.

- Be professional at all times, and avoid idle conversations that are not work-related.

- Should you need more information on Managing Conflict or if you have information pertaining to any crime, please do not hesitate to contact the police at '919' or Crime Stoppers at 328-tips (New Providence), 1-300-8476 (Family Island or If you know of Individuals who may be in need of counseling and emotional support please contact the Department of Social Services hotline number at 322-2763.



KYLE HATCHER, Economic Officer at the US Embassy, speaks with the media in Grand Bahama on Thursday.  
Photo: Denise Maycock/Tribune Staff

# FREEPORT COULD GAIN FROM US INVESTMENT

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
Tribune Freeport Reporter  
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT - Kyle Hatcher, Economic Officer at the US Embassy, says a lot of opportunities exist for potential partnerships and investments in Freeport from the United States.

Mr Hatcher was in Grand Bahama on Thursday. He met with officials at the Grand Bahama Port Authority, Grand Bahama Power Company, Freeport Container Port, and other business leaders here in Freeport.

"We really feel like now is a good time for American citizens to take a second look at Freeport, and that will necessitate a little bit of awareness perhaps of businesses in Florida and other regions to come down and see what is already here," he said.

Mr Hatcher believes that Grand Bahama's proximity to the United States and its tax-free advantages are ideal for investment.

"We believe there is good opportunity for people to come down and...see what is available in terms of investment," he said.

Mr Hatcher said several trade missions will take place in Freeport that will provide opportunity for US citizens to engage in.

He said that the Embassy

has several initiatives they hope to roll out this year, and indicated that there are a lot of trade expos held annually in the US.

The economic officer said the International Franchise Expos will be held in New York in June by the National Restaurant Association. He said businesses or government officials in Freeport who are interested can contact the Embassy.

While in Grand Bahama Mr Hatcher also met with various persons about forming partnerships involving outreach on Grand Bahama.

He attended a grant workshop for grant recipients and spoke with teens at an HIV prevention workshop hosted by Red Rose Ball Committee at Canal House.

Mr Hatcher said he also attended mission disaster relief conference held by the Office of Foreign Disaster Citizens, which part of the USCID programme in the United States.

He said they were able to discuss ways to better deliver disaster assistance more effectively in the event of a hurricane.

Mr Hatcher toured the affected areas of Irene and previous hurricanes here on Grand Bahama. He said they have great partners in the Bahamas to deliver assistance and works closely with NEMA.



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## LOCAL NEWS

## from page one

of a debate when The Tribune spoke to him last week, it is widely thought that he is not interested in participating in a televised public debate.

When asked if he would participate in a debate, he said: "I don't talk foolishness. I debate every day."

Mr Christie said he and his candidates are ready to debate the governing party's leader and candidates, as well as Mr McCartney and his team.

"Every candidate in the Progressive Liberal Party, including myself will be will-

## CHRISTIE, BRAN AGREE TO NATIONAL DEBATE

ing to debate" he said.

Mr McCartney, who has called for a debate, said he is only waiting for his opponents to agree to the debate. He added that all of his candidates are also prepared to debate.

However, he suggested the leaders of each political party should lead off the debates, if they were to happen.

For years, many have called for fewer rallies and more national debates similar to those showcased in the United States and neighbouring, Jamaica, which has a similar political makeup to the Bahamas.

The first debate to ever take place in this country came on the eve of the February 16, 2010 by-elections in the Elizabeth Estates constituency.

The debate saw participation from four of five candidates contesting Malcolm Adderley's vacated seat in

early January of that year. PLP's Ryan Pinder, who participated in that debate, went on to win the by-elections with a narrow victory over FNM Senator Dr Duane Sands, who was noticeably absent.

DNA's Rodney Moncur, FNM's Cassius Stuart and PLP's Andre Rollins – all aligned with smaller parties at that time – were the other participants in the debate.

A debate featuring former Prime Minister Christie pitted against the current Prime Minister and Prime Minister-hopeful Branville McCartney would be a significant milestone in politics, as it would be the first of its kind.

Mr Christie touted his long political career and accomplishments as proof that he can stand up to his opponents in a debate. He suggested that in a debate his opponents'

claims that he is a "procrastinator" would be debunked.

"Christie procrastinates?" he asked. "But this is the same Christie where the vision for the stadium came from, because I wanted, as a former national athlete, I wanted to give something back to Bahamians.

"This is the same Christie that negotiated the International Airport, that brought Vancouver services in to manage that airport, negotiated with that."

Mark Humes, DNA Chairman, said a debate is necessary because Bahamians need to make informed decisions on who they should vote for to lead the country. Mr Humes said Mr McCartney is so determined to have a debate that he has even suggested he would sponsor it himself if he has to.

"He has always said he is willing to have a national debate so that the Bahamian public can make a determination on who to elect as a leader," he said.

"He would be willing to debate, but before any of his candidates debate, there should be a debate between the leaders."

Mr Christie said he and his team, with their experience and qualified youth, are ready for the elections.

"The time is now, the elections are approaching," he said.

"The Progressive Liberal Party is fully prepared for those elections. We learned from the Elizabeth by-elections, the entire government came at us, in the Elizabeth by-elections.

"We won the by-elections now they're going to have to deal with us in every one of the 38 constituencies throughout the Bahamas."

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## NO CANDIDATE PROBLEMS: DNA

## from page one

forward with this election."

Mr McCartney said the party has interviewed more than 100-plus potential candidates and has ratified 31 candidates.

He noted that Adrian LaRoda had indicated in a letter that he would not be able to move forward as the candidate for MICAL for personal reasons.

"We certainly now have to look and finalize a candidate for MICAL and we anticipate doing that in short order, and we anticipate having ratified all."

"We have candidates ready to be introduced and we will have a street meeting in Kemp Road next Wednesday at 7pm," Mr McCartney said.

The DNA has named only two candidates for Grand Bahama, but Mr McCartney says he expects to have a full slate of candidates within the next two weeks.

He said support has been extraordinary for the DNA in

Grand Bahama.

"We kick off our campaign in Grand Bahama fully in another week and a half to two weeks, but the official launch was historic and phenomenal and we had thousands there," he said.

"On the ground we feel the support. I have been to Grand Bahama on many occasions, more so than any other island in the Bahamas. We will continue to come to Grand Bahama.

"We look forward to Grand Bahama helping us win this election," Mr McCartney said. "We have no doubt that that will be the case. Grand Bahama has tried the PLP and fired them in 2002, and they put the FNM in, and obviously they did not deliver. The DNA will deliver," Mr McCartney said.

Although the party is running on a platform of Real For One Bahamas, Mr McCartney stressed that its campaign for Grand Bahama is to deal with unemployment and getting

people back to work.

"We have seen loss of jobs, unemployment, and living in Grand Bahama, even if you have a job, the cost of living is astronomical; it should not be that way.

"We need to change that. We are committing to Bahamian people that we will change Grand Bahama for the better."

"We want to get industry, manufacturing and tourism over here. Grand Bahama is the best place in the Bahamas in our view for industry and manufacturing to really flourish."

DNA candidate for Pineridge Osman Johnson said many residents are in a desperate state in Grand Bahama.

He noted that living conditions of some residents in Pineridge is unacceptable.

"They bring into their homes...and they are living with candles and have young children in the homes; young mothers are unable to feed them because they do not

have electricity to cook."

Mr Johnson also claims that some residents are sleeping on the streets and on the beach.

He stressed that the DNA is the viable option for change and will work to attract new investment to the island, new investment in the Bazaar, new investment in a brand new hospital and for the old Princess Hotel. Roger Rolle, DNA candidate for West Grand Bahama, said there is a major potential for tourism-based economy in West End. He said he would look to bring the airport back to commercial status.

He also talked about potential to further find ways to develop the farming industry.

"We are excited about being the viable alternative for voters here in Grand Bahama. We believe we have the will power to work with the Port Authority and other related industries to bring the relief that Grand Bahama so desperately needs," Mr Rolle said.

## Lightbourne MARINE



Optional CALCUTTAS  
Leg 1 & 2  
\$500 per boat  
Boosted by \$5,000 per leg

**AWARDS**  
Leg 1 & 2  
1st & 2nd Total Weight  
Maximum 4 Wahoo  
Heaviest Single Wahoo

Overall Champion  
(Max. 6 Wahoo from both legs)

Prizes include:  
Mercury 10'2" Rigid Inflatable boat with 9.9 Hp engine, Handcrafted Trophies, Wahoo Art, and more!

**5TH ANNUAL WAHOO CHALLENGE**  
NASSAU, BAHAMAS

Entrance Fees \$500 per boat (Max. 4 Anglers)  
\$100 per additional angler. Max. 6 anglers  
Sign up at Lightbourne Marine, East Bay St.  
Tel: 393-5285 or 393-5549  
For rules or more info Email: [rachel@lightbournemarine.com](mailto:rachel@lightbournemarine.com)

Twelve boats weighed over 1,100lbs of Wahoo in the first leg of **Lightbourne Marine's 5th Annual Wahoo Challenge** back on December 10, 2011.

The second leg of the tournament is fast approaching and the fishing reports coming in are hot. You don't have to fish both legs to win the overall. And since the second leg is its own event, new boats are welcome to sign up.

**Captain's Meeting will be held at Green Parrot, East Bay Street, at 6:00pm on Thursday January 26. Participating anglers will receive free appetizers and happy hour specials at the meeting.**

Tournament fishing will take place on Saturday January 28, 2012 at 6:00am. Boats will return to the dock at Green Parrot, Hurricane Hole, on Paradise Island by 4:00pm that same day for weigh-in. So bring your friends and family to check out the action. You can also follow the tournament results and photos on Lightbourne Marine's Facebook page.

**1st Place Prize is a 10' Mercury Inflatable boat with a 9.9hp Outboard Motor. Unique handcrafted trophies for 1st Place, Runner-up, and Single Heaviest Wahoo**

**Discounts on Fishing Tackle for early registration**

**For more information, contact: Rachel Lightbourne at 393-5285/ 393-5549 or email us at [info@lightbournemarine.com](mailto:info@lightbournemarine.com).**



## Dynamic RIB

Exceptional strength and stability — a hassle-free boat for all ages.

LOCAL NEWS

**MAN OUT ON BAIL SHOT IN THE FACE**  
from page one

he was gunned down in a separate incident early yesterday morning.

Earlier the same day, a 26-year-old man was shot multiple times while sitting inside a car at Claridge Road. The victim was parked outside a residence when he was approached by another man shortly before 3am, according to police.

The 26-year-old was taken to hospital in a private vehicle.

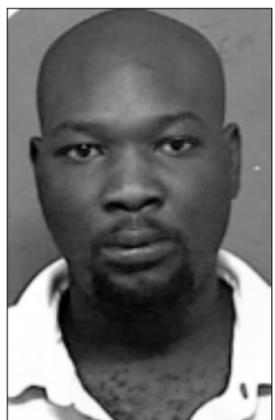
In other crime-related matters, police arrested a 42-year-old man after he was found in possession of a handgun on Saturday. According to police, the Pitt Road resident was on bail for firearm possession at the time.

Mobile patrol officers spotted a man discharging a firearm while in the area of Howard Street off Chippingham Road sometime around 6.30pm.

According to police, the man was seen throwing an object under a nearby vehicle, and upon their search, a handgun was discovered.

Police are appealing to anyone who might have information that could assist in any of these investigations to contact them at 919, the Central Detective Unit at 502-9991 or Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS.

**POLICE HUNT**



POLICE are requesting the public's assistance in locating 34-year-old Valencio Darling, pictured, of Cowpen Road.

Darling is described as being of dark brown complexion, medium build, and 6'2" tall.

Officers of the Southern Division want to question him in connection with possession of dangerous drugs. Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 919, 322-3333; the Southern Police Station at 322-3337; or Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS.

**HANDGUN FIRED**

A MAN who is on bail for firearm possession is again in police custody after leading police on a chase after officers saw him fire a handgun in the park.

Mobile Division officers were on routine patrol on Howard Street off Chippingham around 6.30pm on Saturday, when they saw a 42-year-old man discharge a firearm on the park. Upon seeing police, the man threw the weapon under a nearby vehicle and fled on foot.

Officers gave chase and caught up with the Pitt Road resident and retrieved the weapon from beneath the car.

**THREE ARRESTED**

THREE people were taken into police custody after officers discovered a handgun and a large quantity of ammunition inside an apartment.

Acting on information, officers of the mobile division conducted a search in an apartment located on East Street south of Robinson Road around 2.15pm on Saturday.

It was there they found the illegal items and subsequently took two men, one 30 the other 22-year old, and a 21-year-old woman into custody.

**DRUGS SWOOP**

FOUR men were taken into custody by police following the Southeastern Division's "Operation Restore."

Between the hours of 7.30pm Friday and 12.30am Saturday, officers from the southeastern division and the internal security division arrested three men for possession of dangerous drugs and one man for an outstanding warrant of arrest.

The operation was "in keeping" with the policing plan to "tackle crime."



RUNNERS gather at the start of the 5K race on Saturday morning.

Photo: Derek Smith

**Hundreds join run to help fight cancer**



RUNNERS in the 5K cross the finish line. Photo: Tim Clarke

from page one

an woman are diagnosed at that age or younger.

Mrs Smith cites this fact as a driving reason to raise awareness.

"For some reason Bahamian women get breast cancer a lot earlier than our American counterparts – a recent study said that a part of it is genetic," she said. "Basically half of the women who are diagnosed with breast cancer in the Bahamas are under 50, while in the US it's 60.

"And when we are diagnosed, it's at the later stage. We need to continue to test and encourage testing. We need to start screening and being more conscious of breast cancer and the risk. We need early detection and we need to have women going out there and doing screening a lot sooner than 40."

Mrs Smith claims all of these issues were highlighted at the race and states: "Hopefully we'll just keep the discussion up until we find the cure."

She "doesn't have a final figure" for the number of participants in the race but Franklyn Wilson, chairman of Sunshine Insurance, which is the lead sponsor of the event, stated that it was a "substan-



RUNNERS in the 5K make their way across the bridge to Paradise Island.

Photo: Derek Smith



FIREFIGHTERS support the cause. Photo: Tim Clarke

Mr Wilson also noted that about \$100,000 in donations was given and the money raised will fund breast cancer research in the Bahamas.

The race started at 7am on Church Street and led participants over the western Paradise Island bridge before ending at Atlantis' Royal Towers after a 5k tour (3.1 mile) of the island.



ONE participant eases the pace for a while.

Photo: Tim Clarke



RUNNING, walking, and sometimes even pushing pushchairs, all manner of entrants took on the 5K race and won.



Photos: Tim Clarke

**Saved by the net**

By MIKE LIGHTBOURN

YOU'RE ready to list, but are you ready to sell? Let's say that on the first day your home is for sale, your agent shows it to prospective buyers. They love it, and make an offer on the spot. You were asking \$345,000, and they offer \$325,000. Because of pressing circumstances, they need an answer right away, by 6pm. What do you say?

You don't say, "We just can't give you an answer that soon." These buyers are motivated and prepared to buy your home, with a written offer and a deposit.

So how do you make up your mind so quickly? You must simply decide what your rock-bottom price is before your home is even shown. Be prepared to negotiate on-the-spot by first asking your agent for a "Net" sheet based on your asking price.

The sheet will show what expenses must be paid out of the gross sales price, i.e. closing costs, brokerage fee, the pay-off on your existing mortgage, etc – resulting in the "net" proceeds that you will receive at closing.

Next, ask the agent to figure other net sheets based on receiving 95 per cent or even 90 per cent of the asking

price. This helps you determine the absolute lowest offer you can accept. Once you know that figure, keep it to yourself and be prepared for all possibilities!

Special note: The above assumes that your property is properly priced and not at some "pie in the sky" figure you feel you must achieve.

Remember, if you overprice your property, it will languish on the market and you will discourage any offers. Price it right from the start.

Often the first offer is the best offer.

Mike Lightbourn is president of Coldwell Banker Lightbourn Realty



# Race broadens its horizons



**RUNNERS** on the approach to Go Slow bend headed back east toward the finish line.

Photo: Stephen Hunt/Tribune Staff

By **DANA SMITH**  
 dsmith@tribunemedia.net

**MARATHON** Bahamas 2012 attracted more than a thousand runners, including an increased participation from international marathon runners.

Franklyn Wilson, chairman of Sunshine Insurance which is the lead corporate sponsor of the marathon, stated although he doesn't have "exact numbers," the marathon featured around 1400 runners from 20 different countries – a participation increase of about 25 per cent from last year.

"I was so encouraged when I heard people who have run marathons all over the world comment so vividly about the marathon," he said. "From the time we started (the marathon), we knew standards must reflect worldwide standards so it's not a gimmick. We're talking to people who run marathons all over the world, so these people know what a marathon is."

The increase in participants, Mr Wilson said, is owed to the marathon's "sophisticated marketing team" who travelled internationally to promote the race.

"We just promoted more, promoted the marathon and in turn, promoted the Bahamas. This is a point that I think is worthy of note," Mr Wilson said.

The race, he explained, helps in promoting the Bahamas to tourists. The

marathon's official website offered a more in-depth explanation: "The race courses were designed to showcase many of the focal points of this amazing destination, including quaint and scenic downtown Nassau with its historic buildings, the glitz and glamour of Paradise Island, the business districts, exciting Cable Beach and the life of the residents hugging the northern shore of the Island."

Next year, Mr Wilson hopes the marathon "will continue to benefit from prior years' success" as more people "spread the word" and sign up.

"We're going further and it's just a wonderful feeling," he said. "But the one thing that gives me the greatest pride, is the race this weekend demonstrated a degree of national unity which doesn't happen often enough."

"We do things best when we do things together and it's wonderful feeling to be a part of something where this degree of national unity and cooperation is shown and that is something that is of immense value."

Marathon Bahamas offered four events including a 26.2 mile marathon, a "walker friendly" half marathon, a four member team relay, and the 5k S G Komen Race for the Cure.

The marathon, half marathon and four person relay all started simultaneously at 6am, yesterday. The Komen race started at 7am, Saturday morning.



**DETERMINATION** is etched on a runner's face as she tackles yesterday's half-marathon.

Photo: Derek Smith



**WINNER** of the women's half marathon Jessica Crates warms up before the start of the race.



**WITH A HOST OF** personal goals, and making their way through a variety of Bahamian landmarks, runners tackle the course.

Photos: Derek Smith