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**WOMAN**  
**FASHION WITH A CAUSE**



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**TENNIS**  
**SWEETING BID FOR ATP SUCCESS**



**SEE SPORTS SECTION E**

# Bishop: Demons loose in country

**DEDICATED TO FIGHTING CANCER**

By **AVA TURNQUEST**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
[aturnquest@tribunemedia.net](mailto:aturnquest@tribunemedia.net)

CANCER advocate and survivor Stephanie Siegel will stop at nothing to lower the alarmingly high incidence of breast cancer in the Bahamas. The wife of former US Ambassador to the Bahamas Ned Siegel has dedicated her life to facilitating research, improving access to treatment, and increasing awareness of the disease that affects Bahamian women at the world's highest levels. Sharing her whirlwind cancer battle with The Tribune yesterday, Mrs Siegel underscored the critical need for genetic testing, universal treatment protocols and greater patient responsibility. Nearly 1,400 people took to the starting line Saturday morning for the Susan G Komen Race for the Cure.

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**PLEDGE TO HELP BUSINESSES**

By **DENISE MAYCOCK**  
Tribune Freeport Reporter  
[dmaycock@tribunemedia.net](mailto:dmaycock@tribunemedia.net)

FREEPORT - Acting to remove impediments to businesses, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham has announced the government will move to establish a committee to review the Guide to Customs Duty Exemptions and Procedures in Freeport. He noted that certain procedures required by Bahamas Customs in Freeport have become a concern for some businesses.

"In 1992, the vast majority of licensees in Freeport were foreign. Also, in those pre-FNM days the Prime Minister had to sign off on Bahamians given a licence to operate businesses in Freeport. We discontinued that within days

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**WARNING OVER ILLEGAL FISHING**

By **CELESTE NIXON**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
[cnixon@tribunemedia.net](mailto:cnixon@tribunemedia.net)

AGRICULTURE minister Larry Cartwright claims thousands of Bahamians will be affected by the illegal depletion of crawfish.

Warning that those breaking fisheries laws will be "prosecuted to the full extent of the law", agriculture and marine resources minister

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## Ellis claims that Bahamas is possessed

By **LAMECH JOHNSON** and **SANCHESKA BROWN**  
Tribune Staff Reporters  
[sbrown@tribunemedia.net](mailto:sbrown@tribunemedia.net)

THREE demons are holding the Bahamas hostage and can only be exorcised with prayer, Bishop Neil Ellis, of Mount Tabor Full Gospel Baptist Church, warned last night. The demons were sexual immorality, financial instability and witchcraft. He insisted this information was a revelation from God and nothing to do with him.

The controversial Bishop held Bahamians in suspense yesterday, refusing to reveal the three evils until his church was full. Around 7:30pm, a crowded church accommodated the overflow congregation in its parking lot. There, they watched the action on monitors set up for the occasion. Bishop Ellis had earlier told *The Tribune* how the Lord had "appeared" to him and told him the Bahamas is possessed by three demons, who

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## MINISTRY MISTAKE OVER DEAD FISH

By **CELESTE NIXON**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
[cnixon@tribunemedia.net](mailto:cnixon@tribunemedia.net)

THE Ministry of Agriculture has admitted that due to its failure to take swift action, the mystery surrounding the deaths of hundreds of fish washed ashore in eastern New Providence last week may

never be solved. Director of marine resources Michael Brennan said that because no samples were taken on the actual day the fish were discovered, it is unlikely authorities will ever be certain about what killed them.

At a press conference, he

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A PACKED church listens to Bishop Neil Ellis, as he warns that the Bahamas is being held hostage by the demons of sexual immorality, financial instability and witchcraft. Photo: **Felipe Major/Tribune Staff**

## MAGISTRATE'S ERROR IN CHILD RAPIST CASE



**ANDREW BRIDGEWATER** being escorted outside court.

By **LAMECH JOHNSON**  
[ljohnson@tribunemedia.net](mailto:ljohnson@tribunemedia.net)

SENIOR Justice Jon Isaacs remitted the sentencing of a convicted child rapist, who pleaded guilty to robbery, back to Magistrate's Court on the basis that the Magistrate who referred the matter made a technical error.

Because court six Magistrate Carolyn Vogt-Evans did not convict 38-year-old Andrew Bridgewater of the offence last November, only accepting his plea, Senior Jus-

tice Isaacs said that as regards the law he could do nothing with Bridgewater.

According to the Criminal Procedure Code, a Magistrate referring a matter to the Supreme Court for sentencing must have all pre-conditions met, which includes conviction of the accused.

He said that Magistrate Vogt-Evans did not meet the full requirements. Senior Justice Isaacs then addressed Bridgewater and informed

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LOCAL NEWS

# DEDICATED TO FIGHTING CANCER

from page one

which is on target to raise \$100,000 in donations for cancer research in the country.

The race is the world's largest educational fundraiser for breast cancer, and its Bahamas course is the result of collaborative efforts initiated by Mrs Siegel.

Witnessing her dream realised for the second consecutive year, Mrs Siegel said the powerful message of solidarity was overwhelming.

"The survivors standing up on that stage, you could just feel the thankfulness, you could feel the hope, it's really hope," she said. "Hope for the future that no one else on

this island would suffer the way they suffered because they went through it earlier than the women who will follow."

Mrs Siegel, a board member for the Susan G Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance, said: "I think that holds true for any woman that has been diagnosed, all we want to do is help the next woman in line. If I could help just one woman avoid the pit holes that I myself went through, I would feel accomplished."

After three lumpectomies, a subsequent mastectomy, Mrs Siegel is no stranger to the breast cancer fight. She was first diagnosed on her

55th birthday during a routine mammogram, just months before her husband became a diplomat to The Bahamas in 2007.

The couple had high expectations for their new life in The Bahamas, and the shocking news of not one, but five spots was incredibly disheartening.

"We saw one spot, then all of a sudden the one spot became five spots," she said.

"There were three spots on my left breast and two spots on my right breast. My doctor decided on a lumpectomy on my left breast."

After three lumpectomies, Mrs Siegel's doctors decided that the two spots on her right breast would not have to be removed.

"The first opinion was that it was suspicious and needed to come out, the second opinion said that it didn't need to come out."

She added: "So I learned a really tough lesson, when you get good news and bad news, go with the bad news and run with it."

Less than two months later, Mrs Siegel noticed a spot on her face that would prove to be skin cancer, a find she credits to divine intervention.

"It's a process, finding your doctors, finding the right doctor, making a decision," she said.

"I didn't go to medical school and now after a quick course on breast cancer, now all of a sudden I was faced with a quick course in melanoma."

Determined not to let the disease hamper the former ambassador's transition to his new role, Mrs Siegel travelled with her husband to The Bahamas in November to get established before returning to New York for face surgery.

Despite her prior medical challenges, Mrs Siegel said her first Christmas in The Bahamas was a "magical experience".



STEPHANIE SIEGEL, who took part in the Race for a Cure on Saturday, and is joined below at the finish line by fellow participants. Photos: Craig Adderley



FYP OWNER Mark Roberts with Tribune publisher Eileen Carron, Tribune president Robert Carron and Andrew Bain, of FYP. Photo: Sparrow Heatley

"Every time I'd go back and they'd find something wrong with me what helped me to get on my feet again was knowing that I was coming back (to The Bahamas), and that I wanted to come back here, and that I was coming back to people I felt really cared and really loved me," she said.

"That kept me going. I had a purpose and a reason to come back, to get out of bed every day and I wanted to get dressed and I wanted to get out there, to speak to other women. I wanted them to know that the diagnosis of breast cancer was not a death sentence."

Thinking the worst was now behind them, the couple would receive another blow at Mrs Siegel's follow-up screening in January 2008, invasive breast cancer.

"I couldn't believe how fast it was, I went from breast cancer, to melanoma, to breast cancer in no time," she said.

"You are your own best advocate, you can't do this blindly. This is why I believe in genetic testing, you need to be as armed as you possibly can, you need to have as much information as you can."

"In the end, you're not the doctor but this is your life and the onus is on you."

Mr Siegel's appointment schedule in Washington coincided with that of Nancy Goodman Brinker, founder and CEO of Susan G Komen for the Cure - furthering Mrs Siegel's belief that no incident is happenstance.

"My dream when I was lying in the hotel room after my lumpectomies, because I'd been to many Komen walks



and I knew what it looked like, my vision was to see a sea of women in pink shirts, walking over Paradise Island," she said.

"I wanted that more than anything else I wanted them to be recognized and I wanted the women of this country to recognize these women and know there was life after a diagnosis of breast cancer."

Mr and Mrs Siegel unveiled the Bahamas Breast Cancer Initiative in 2008 and laid the foundations for crucial research into breast cancer in the Bahamas with \$300,000 funding from Susan G Komen.

Studies revealed that around 23 per cent of Bahamian women diagnosed carry the BRCA1 gene mutation, the highest prevalence out of any population in the world. Of these, around half of the women, 48 per cent, were under age 50.

"The Bahamas could actually be a little microcosm for the rest of the world, here you have this small country with a high prevalence of breast cancer, what if you could get to the bottom of what was going on here and then the question would be how findings here would affect the rest of the world. The other driving force was coming upon these findings reinterpret them as quickly as possible and bring those results to the bedside."

"We wanted a change in treatment, if there was a change in treatment that

would be called for because of these findings."

According to published reports, only 12 per cent of American women under 44 years old are diagnosed with breast cancer, while 34 per cent of Bahamian women are diagnosed at that age or younger. As a result, Bahamian women are urged to disregard American breast cancer screening guidelines which state only women aged 50 to 74 should seek testing.

Further research is hindered by the availability and high costs associated with genetic testing, which researchers believe is vital to an in-depth study of breast cancer presentation and treatment in the country.

Mrs Siegel said the most fulfilling part of her journey has been the knowledge that what started as only a vision has transformed into a mission that has facilitated improvements in cancer treatment for the country.

"People sometimes say that must have been the worst time of my life. Who has the opportunity, because of their situation, to turn something that had the propensity to be a bad time in your life into something that is so incredible and so tangible and has influenced so many people."

"This influenced a country that I love, with people that I love."



SOME of the participants added a splash of colour to the 5k. Photo: Sparrow Heatley



TRIBUNE PUBLISHER Eileen Carron with members of Team Tribune who took part in the 5k run. Photo: Sparrow Heatley

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## LOCAL NEWS

# PM's pledge to Grand Bahama

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
Tribune Freeport Reporter  
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said

the FNM government will deepen its programme of reform and modernisation nationally, and advance economic recovery and sustainable economic development

for Grand Bahama.

While on Grand Bahama on Sunday, the FNM leader said Bahamians can trust the FNM to get the job done no matter how hard the task.

"We have a dynamic team which represents some of the best of the Bahamian imagination. We have a team that will advance the FNM's comprehensive vision of national development," Mr Ingraham said.

Prime Minister Ingraham said the PLP government under the indecisive leadership of Perry Christie failed to deliver on their promises to the Bahamian people.

Mr Ingraham said that during a period of time that was described as excellent economically, even booming, the PLP government let the economy of Grand Bahama collapse.

"A hurricane hit this island in 2005 and caused terrible damage and caused a historic hotel to close. Did they come out with guns blazing to your rescue? No they ran for cover, closed their eyes and hoped that you would go away – problems and all," he said.

Mr Ingraham said there were overcrowded classrooms, inadequate operating theatres, pot-holed roads, poor water pressure, rusty water, and a harbour unable to accommodate the newest cruise ships plying the world's ocean.

The FNM Leader said Perry Christie is running on "a record of unkept promises and a failure to deliver."

He stressed that Mr Christie left no discernible footprints on Grand Bahama.

"When the Royal Oasis closed following the hurricane in 2005 they waffled for three years; had no idea what to do. They waffled, wavered and wondered while more than 1,500 employees lost their jobs and never got them back. Indeed it would take the FNM to come to office to finish paying those Royal Oasis

workers what the PLP promised them," said Mr Ingraham.

The FNM leader also stated that many of the investments on Grand Bahama announced under the PLP during their term in office have vanished and floundered.

Mr Ingraham said among those investments were Pegasus, Ginn, and the groundbreaking for a new hotel investment at Midshipman and Seahorse Roads, days before the election.

The prime minister said since returning to office the FNM has brought investment, expansion, and job creation.

He noted that FNM planned and built the new Mary Patricia Junior High School since its return to office.

Additionally, he noted that the FNM built four schools on Grand Bahama - Hugh Campbell and Maurice Moore Primary schools and Jack Hayward and St George High schools - in the 1990's.

Mr Ingraham indicated that the FNM has implemented and upgraded critical care facilities at the Rand Memorial Hospital.

He said the government will open the newly renovated modern state of the art operating theatre and accident and emergency facilities at the Rand on Wednesday.

"We built a multi-million dollar office complex in Grand Bahama; we build critical seawalls for the island's protection from hurricane; we put in new docking facilities in East Grand Bahama," stated

Mr Ingraham.

He also said government, with the Grand Bahama Port Authority, built a new craft centre.

Mr Ingraham said the FNM government has provided safety nets for Bahamians, implementing unemployment benefits under the NIB programme, as well as the introduction of the Prescription Drug benefit.

He added that almost 1,000 persons on Grand Bahama have been hired to work in the government's 52-week programme.

"Indeed, today, it is FNM successes, left in place when we were put in office in 2002, that today are carrying this island's economy, such as the Lucaya Resort, Freeport Container Port, Grand Bahama Shipyard, Bradford Marine, and Polymers International," said Mr Ingraham.

He said under the FNM's watch Ross University has come benefiting many Bahamian through rentals, employment and consumer spending.

"We have a discernible footprint in Grand Bahama and that is why Grand Bahama is FNM country."

Mr Ingraham said he will have more to say in the coming weeks and months about the FNM's efforts here in Grand Bahama in these very difficult times.



A LARGE audience turned out in Grand Bahama to hear Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham speak during his visit to unveil the line-up of FNM candidates to fight for seats in the area.

## OPPOSITION SNIPES AT GRAND BAHAMA PROMISE

By SANCHESKA BROWN  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
sbrown@tribunemedia.net

DESPITE promising to build a better future for Grand Bahamians, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and the FNM will only continue to "wreck, ignore and neglect" the nation's second city, according to the opposition.

Following the announcement of the FNM's election candidates for Grand Bahama last week, the PLP issued a statement claiming Mr Ingraham has lumped the island with "expendable rookies and opportunists".

"Grand Bahama has been ignored for almost five years. The FNM is mistaken if it believes that they can just shuffle a few candidates, present a few new faces and all would be forgotten in Grand Bahama," the statement said.

"Joining a surprising survivor Neko Grant and Deputy House Speaker Kwasi Thompson are three candidates lacking either the depth of vision or depth of conviction to lead Grand Bahama out of its many challenges.



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham speaking in Grand Bahama. Photo: Denise Maycock

"The FNM does have a jobs plan – too bad it's not for Bahamians.

"Bahamians are not fooled by the FNM's attempt to reinvent itself as different. The fact is, Hubert Ingraham won't listen to them anyway," it said.

Under the present government, the PLP said, the rate of unemployed and number of discouraged workers in Grand Bahama increased dramatically.

The party also claims the

FNM failed to invest in Bahamians, raised taxes during a recession, cut millions of dollars from the education budget and always failed to put Bahamians first.

The statement said the PLP intends to completely turn around the Grand Bahama economy – with the help of a few new faces.

"The PLP has put forth an extraordinary slate of candidates that includes a cadre of a new generation of political leaders mixed with the experience of senior members ready to get to work for Grand Bahamians on day one.

"That's quite evident in the PLP's five Grand Bahama candidates: incumbent Obie Wilchcombe, West Grand Bahama and Bimini; Dr Michael Darville, Pineridge; Gregory Moss, Marco City; Tanisha Tynes, East Grand

Bahama; Julian Russell, Central Grand Bahama.

"In addition, the PLP will address the country's high crime rate, unemployment and the poor state of the economy.

"The PLP will put the interests of Grand Bahamians first by implementing our restoration plan to address the problems in Grand Bahama that have been exacerbated by the FNM's failed policies and outright neglect," the statement said.

The FNM's five standard-bearers in Grand Bahama are: former Grand Bahama Chamber of Commerce President Peter Turnquest, East Grand Bahama; Norris Bain, Macro City; Pakesia Parker, West Grand Bahama and Bimini; Kwasi Thompson, Pineridge; Neko Grant, Central Grand Bahama.

## PLP DISMISSES 'OLD AND TIRED' FNM

THE Progressive Liberal Party has dismissed the FNM's attempt of resurrecting their "old" and "tired" script of "leadership and trust" as a worn out distraction ahead of the next general election.

According to PLP Member of Parliament for Fox Hill, Fred Mitchell it is clear that his party has "rattled" Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham's cage, given his response in Grand Bahama.

"We in the PLP have full confidence in Perry Christie to lead a team of distinguished men and women from all walks of life, all generations, socio-economic groups and races in the next general election.

"The PLP is not a biggety one man band that specializes in ad hominem insults, catchy phrases and bad poetry. When will the Prime Minister get the message?" he asked.

Mr Mitchell said that

instead of the Prime Minister offering solutions to the deep problems into which he and his administration have plunged this country, he is determined to play "fast and loose with the truth."

"The PLP is focused on restoring good government to the Bahamas not engaging in silliness with Mr Ingraham. The handwriting is on the wall for him. It is best for Mr Ingraham to pray that the Lord will have mercy on him and those FNM's who helped to create this national chaos wrought by the FNM. We will not be drawn into this false contest on leadership when the issues are crime and unemployment.

"We want to get the people working again. Mr. Ingraham needs to learn how to conduct himself as Prime Minister and stop showboating with insulting misinformation for a deluded FNM audience," he said.

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### TELEPHONES

Switchboard (News, Circulation and Advertising) 322-1986  
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## French downgrade puts onus on Germany

ONE of the defining images of Europe's two-year-old debt crisis is that of the French and German leaders, side by side on a podium presenting their latest strategy for the continent.

But the underlying message of this image — former foes presenting a united front as the 17 countries that use the euro face their biggest crisis since World War II — may now be under threat.

Standard & Poor's downgrade last Friday of France's creditworthiness to AA+ leaves Germany as the only large eurozone economy with a AAA-rating, making it the one country that will have to shoulder the currency union's rescue efforts.

France was the only top-rated country that at least behind the scenes had lobbied for more expansionary policies in the face of a threatening recession. Its fall from the AAA club leaves it up to Luxembourg, Finland or the Netherlands — three other fiscal hard-liners — to challenge Germany.

Of those four, Germany is by far the largest. Its \$267.32 billion contribution to the eurozone rescue fund is more than three times those of the other three combined, moving it into an odd position of dominance.

However, S&P's knockdown could just as easily force the region's biggest economy into even closer European integration as it could create a new moment for German influence on the continent.

At first glance, France's downgrade upgrades the German push for budget cuts and tax increases — the very strategy that S&P criticised.

"We believe that a reform process based on a pillar of fiscal austerity alone risks becoming self-defeating," S&P analysts wrote in their reasoning for the downgrades of France and eight other eurozone countries. Rising unemployment and uncertainty among consumers, they argued, has hurt both tax revenue and growth.

The reaction to the downgrades on Friday was swift — and suggested leaders may not even have read the analysts' report.

Over the weekend, French Premier François Fillon, Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti and Spanish Premier Mariano Rajoy all vowed to cut deficits, and adopt more austerity measures should they prove necessary.

The downgrade "certainly reinforces the relative weakness of France to Germany in the current context", said Simon Tilford, chief economist at the Centre for European Reform in London.

"However, what it also does," Tilford continued, "it isolates Germany."

With every drop in the creditworthiness of its large euro partners, Germany finds itself in a lonelier position. And the

further the crisis moves from small peripheral states like Greece or Portugal, to core countries like Italy and France, the more vulnerable it becomes.

Any increase of the eurozone's bailout fund, which is underpinned by the guarantees of the AAA countries, would primarily come out of German pockets.

The main risk of a more expansionary European Central Bank, would have to be borne by the Bundesbank.

Eurobonds, where debt would be backed by all eurozone countries and is seen by many in Europe as the final solution to the crisis, would automatically mean higher funding costs for Berlin.

But the alternative, a breakup of the euro, would be much more expensive than closer integration, analysts warn. The German economy depends on exports to the rest of Europe and the world, and the eurozone's weaker members have depressed the value of the euro and helped make Germany's goods more competitive.

"If the eurozone were to break up, it would be one of the hardest-hit economies in the end," Tilford said.

Whether Berlin will come to that conclusion, and then push it past a sceptical electorate, is another question, one that may ultimately decide the future of the currency union.

Some argue a weakening of Paris, which has traditionally been a fierce defender of national sovereignty, may even help moving toward closer economic and fiscal union in Europe.

"Pressure on France will increase and that will help find more European solutions," said Zsolt Darvas, a research fellow of Brussels-based think tank Bruegel. "My understanding is that Germany will be more open to a higher level of fiscal integration."

That could lead the way to a more powerful European Commission, pan-European taxes, and once the risk of overspending governments has been mitigated, Eurobonds.

That moment is still far away, and for Tilford, and many others, that interpretation is overly optimistic.

But without a similar step, they concede, it's hard to see how the eurozone can emerge from the crisis.

As for the Franco-German news conferences, that image is likely to stay, if only because Germany, for historical reasons, cannot afford to be seen as the dominant force in Europe.

"I don't think the Germans can afford to allow this front to disappear," said Tilford.

By Gabriele Steubhauser, AP Business Writer.

# Tin gods and bamboo politicians

EDITOR, The Tribune.

IT IS well written in Psalm 110:4 that "The Lord has sworn and will not repent. You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

Throughout recorded history, there have been times when Yahweh speaks to the chosen individual or nation through His prophets and priests. It is, I submit, no different today and He has revealed a message to me to pass on to Bahamians.

There are some who will scoff and howl but the message must be delivered. 2012 will usher in tremendous political; economic and cultural changes in The Bahamas. No man can stop them. The window and door of opportunity will be opened.

As they open, however, there will emerge an innumerable number of rogue political messiahs; tin gods and bamboo politicians' who will seek to capitalise on the long-denied but much anticipated changes which Bahamians have desired.

Rogue because they really don't care about you or me and are merely posturing. "Messiahs" because they come as sheep but are wolves of the highest order. Tin gods because they sound good but are like brass and iron.

Indeed, they are akin to "Bamboo", politically speaking. Over the past several years, we have all witnessed the spectacle of politicians and their selected cronies promising heaven on earth.

EDITOR, The Tribune.

The commissioner of police recently presented his yearly report to the press. The report stated that there have been 276 traffic fatalities in the Bahamas over the last six years. This is an average of 46 fatalities per year. This is way too high and is a senseless loss of life.

Bahamians collectively are not the best law abiding drivers in the world. Just park on the side of the road during a busy school morning near a traffic light and observe the flow of traffic. I am 100 per cent sure you would be amazed at the total disregard that motorists have for our traffic laws.

All motorists should know that when the light turns yellow, you are supposed to slow down, but we without fear, accelerate our speed and eventually run the red light.

This action may seem small, but these acts become chronic and they eventually lead to traffic accidents which are sometimes fatal.

New Providence is an island

## Laugh of the day

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I THOUGHT your article today January 12th under local news "Kinks will be

## LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

By the same token, many of them strut around and pontificate as if they have descended from Mount Olympus.

In the fast-approaching electoral season, the average Bahamian must use discernment and wisdom when supporting or voting for a particular individual or party. If we are to secure our future and that of Bahamians yet unborn the choice is clear.

Do we continue to travel down that same old road which leads to sudden death and destruction or do we look over the giants, and there are many, and focus on the promised land? I am not talking about some pie in the sky wish or nebulous Utopian game. I speak to concrete and meaningful potential goals for us as individuals and as a united people.

All of this bogus and divisive talk about political tribalism may well have a place within the collective conscience of the country but where have we travelled as a result? I do not subscribe to mere debates and platitudes by the various so-called political leaders. The lord has ordained plans for us but there are so few of us who are prepared or capable of seeing much less accepting those plans.

We welcome in excess of four million tourists to our shores each year.

Our per capita income,

## Slow down and live

that is 21x7 square miles and we are severely overpopulated with vehicular traffic.

Additionally, our roads are not built for speed because they are short, and almost always have lots of traffic on them, including pedestrians.

I know the road works are continuing, but if you give yourself a 90-minute head start you should be able to get to your destination safely on time.

If 90 minutes isn't enough time, then leave home earlier. The potential risk of danger through speeding is not worth you getting to work on time or five minutes early.

There are no I-95s in New Providence or a turnpike, where drivers are exposed to high speeds for long periods.

Driving at accelerated speeds is dangerous, unnecessary and quite frankly an act of carelessness.

When you speed, a few seconds later you have to slow down again because an intersection or a stop sign will be right in front of you.

while it declined somewhat in 2011, is still the third highest in the Western Hemisphere. Our marine and agricultural resources have yet to be tapped. Our financial services and banking industries have been in free-fall and cruise control from the time of the untimely death of the late visionary, Sir Stafford Loft-house Sands. We have a cadre of intellectuals who are prepared to think outside of the proverbial box but our erstwhile politicians have deliberately stifled and marginalized them either because they don't wear a certain coloured shirt or are "bound to swear to the dogmas" of no master.

The Lord has great plans to prosper this nation but we have to get back to the ancient landmarks; seek His face and repent. No, dear friends, I am not talking or suggesting that we should wear sackcloth and immerse ourselves in ashes, but simply to do the right thing.

And so, friend, Bahamians and countrymen, within a matter of months, if not weeks, we will have a singular opportunity to look at the promised land of milk and honey. Just how many of us will cross over lies within our grasp. The lazy; the visionless; the trepid; the politically dysfunctional and, certainly, those who adhere to Mammon and Bael will be left behind. To God then, in all of these insipid things, be the glory.

ORTLAND H BODIE Jr  
Nassau,  
January 8, 2012.

Despite the Police Force Traffic Division's continuous campaigns asking the motoring public to slow down, these calls continue to fall on deaf ears.

The police assert that speed plays a significant role in traffic fatalities. Slow down before it is too late.

The victims of traffic accidents are sometimes left devastated from their injuries. I have known of persons who lost a limb, were in a coma and are paralyzed even to this day.

The families are devastated as well because sometimes the injured victim is the bread winner of the family and the children and the spouses suffer the loss of economic stability.

These are real issues Bahamians; but they are completely avoidable. When you speed, remember that your vehicle can cause the same damage as the firing of a gun. Please slow down Bahamians... and live!

DEHAVILLAND MOSS  
Nassau,  
January 8, 2012.

That reminds me of the public toilets on Saunders Beach which were also described as State of the Art and caused some merriment at the time. What is a State of the Art toilet? One of the pictures accompanying the article says "Workers pausing for a moment during construction" perhaps says it all.

PATRICK H THOMSON  
Nassau,  
January 12, 2012.

## Don't stifle debate

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Regarding the Reuters article "Israel moves to outlaw use of Nazi symbols", January 11, 2012:

The Israeli parliamentary initiative to eliminate all signs and symbols of the holocaust from man's consciousness via criminal law seems to contradict the Jewish slogan "we shall never forget".

To fight authoritarian rule with authoritarian measures also seems hypocritical.

Speaking on freedom of

expression, US Chief Justice John G Roberts Jr, recently stated: "Speech is powerful and can inflict great pain. However, we cannot react to that pain by punishing the speaker."

"As a nation, we have chosen a different course — to protect even hurtful speech on public issues to ensure that we do not stifle public debate."

PAUL KOKOSKI  
Canada,  
January 11, 2012.

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## NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **VIOLETTE GEDEUS** of Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **10<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY, 2012** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

## NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **RENOT BELLOT** of Carmichael Road, P.O.Box SB-52580, Nassau, Bahamas is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **10<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY, 2012** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

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Patrice Carroll  
Director -Purchasing  
The Distribution Centre (DC)  
Garden Drive, Paradise Island  
Bahamas  
or via email: patrice.carroll@kerzner.com  
Phone: 242-363-6079

This invitation is open as of January 9 through 13, 2012.

# Three held for armed robbery

By LAMECH JOHNSON  
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

THREE men are detained at Her Majesty's Prison after being arraigned in Magistrate's Court on multiple armed robbery and conspiracy charges.

Drew Albury Burnside, 24; Pedro Williams, 24; and Shannaro Reckley, 19, appeared before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez in Court One at the new Nassau Street court complex.

They were charged in connection with the three armed robberies in Marsh Harbour, Abaco, the most recent of which took place last Wednesday.

It is claimed that while armed with a handgun, the accused men robbed a man of \$1,500 and a cell phone worth \$150 on Christmas Eve.

It is further alleged that the trio, armed with a knife and handgun, robbed another man of a wallet and cell phone, together valued at \$70.

They are also accused of robbing an employee of Picky Dilly's Takeaway of \$120.

The three men face additional charges of conspiring to commit these offenses.

Chief Magistrate Gomez told them they were not required to enter pleas, due to the nature of the charges.

Attorney Alexander Maillis II, representing Burnside and Williams, told the court he had asked that his clients be taken to hospital for treatment and examination while they were detained at the Central Detective Unit.



PICTURED from left to right, Drew Albury Burnside, 24, Pedro Williams, 24 and Shannaro Reckley, 19 escorted out of new Nassau Street Court complex after being arraigned on multiple conspiracy and armed robbery charges.

He said his clients "have suffered brutality" while in police custody, and asked Burnside to lift up his shirt. The accused complied, exposing a blood-stained undershirt.

Mr Maillis also said the case did not need to go before the Supreme Court, as this would be a waste of time and money.

He said submissions would be made to this effect, and asked that all records pertaining to his clients be copied and made available to

him. Mr Maillis also asked the chief magistrate to order that the accused men be examined.

Chief Magistrate Gomez confirmed that he made notes of the complaints, and ordered that the men be examined.

He told them a Voluntary Bill of Indictment would be served against them on March 14.

"You will be remanded into custody until such time," he said.

# ALMOST \$18,000 CONFISCATED OVER FALSE DECLARATION AT AIRPORT

By LAMECH JOHNSON  
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

NEARLY \$18,000 was confiscated from two Canadians in Magistrate's Court yesterday after they pleaded guilty to making a false declaration at the Lynden Pindling Inter-

national Airport.

Jacob Meyer, 24, and Kelly Carey, 22, were arraigned before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez in Court One, Bank Lane, charged with making a false declaration to a US officer and failing to accurately declare the

amount of money in their possession.

This incident took place at the US pre-clearance hall on Sunday, January 15.

The Ontario, Canada, natives told a US officer they were not in possession of funds exceeding \$10,000,

while they were actually carrying \$17,624, \$95 of which was in Canadian currency and the rest in US bills.

Chief Magistrate Gomez did not fine the defendants, but cautioned them and ordered that the \$17,624 be confiscated.

# DELAY FOR CASE OF MAN ACCUSED OF STABBING BROTHER

By LAMECH JOHNSON  
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

THE Supreme Court murder trial of a man accused of his brother's stabbing death on Valentine's Day last year was postponed yesterday morning.

Because a 12-member jury was not empanelled before yesterday's proceedings could take place, Cyril Charles Lockhart, 25, Stapeldon Gardens was told by Senior Justice Isaacs to return to court on Monday, January 23.

Lockhart is accused of killing his brother, Luigi Lockhart, and was charged in Magistrate's Court in connection with that death. Luigi, the 15th homicide victim of 2011, was reportedly stabbed in the chest during an argument at his home.

The Blenheim Road accused, who is currently on bail, nearly had a warrant of arrest issued for him yesterday for not appearing before court began.

His defence attorney, Geoffrey Farquharson, had explained to Senior Justice Isaacs that he had just spoken to his client on the phone who "was telling me of his circumstances. He can't be far from this court," he added. Mr Farquharson assured the magistrate that a warrant of arrest was not necessary, as he was sure his client was nearby.

Senior Justice Isaacs replied: "If he does not make an appearance before this court, before the court rises, an arrest warrant will be

issued for him."

However, no less than five minutes later, the accused walked into court and was instructed to stand before the presiding judge. Having already dismissed the four witnesses expected to testify during trial, he informed Lockhart that his case was adjourned to Monday, January 23, at 10am.

Terry Archer will prosecute the case.

## NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT, 2000  
No. 45 of 2000

**TEMARAN INVESTMENTS GROUP LTD.**

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138 (8) of the International Business Companies Act, No. 45 of 2000, the Dissolution of TEMARAN INVESTMENTS GROUP LTD. has been completed, a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the Company has therefore been struck off the Registrar. The date of completion of the dissolution was November 22nd, 2011

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Marie Ellen Sands



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*I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses. And He walks with me and He talks with me and He tells me I am His own and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.*

**LEFT TO CELEBRATE HER LIFE**  
**CHILDREN: Anne Bowe, Philip Sands, Agnes Miller & Judith Turnquest**  
**(Ellis Sands - predeceased)**  
&  
**A host of family members and friends who loved her dearly.**

The LORD Had Need Of Me

I had to go; my work was done,  
I had to meet My Blessed Saviour  
Before the setting of the sun.  
While I was in this world of sin  
I did the work assigned by Him.  
My Master's servant I have always been  
And now the LORD has called me in.

That child out there so hard to teach  
A loving hand I extended and reached.  
The Technical Block and an upgrade  
Library I wanted to do, but now that  
Task has been left for you.  
Just work together and get it done.  
My assignment is finished; my race has been run.  
The Master's servant I have  
Always been;  
And now the Lord has called me in.



A Tribute to Cynthia Doreen Ferguson  
written by:  
The late Fredrica Faye Brooks  
Teacher, Crooked Island High School

Cynthia Doreen Ferguson

24TH SEPTEMBER, 1950 - 17TH JANUARY, 2010

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LOCAL NEWS

# Continued help for farmers



FRUIT trees for distribution nationwide are being propagated at the North Andros Agro-industrial Park. Pictured during an inspection last weekend are Alphonso Smith, domestic investment manager, general manager Benjamin Rahming, assistant general manager, agriculture, Arnold Dorsett, farm officer, Ayret Lightbourn, and greenhouse technician Roger Rolle.



BAIC assistant general manager (land) Judith Thompson (left) admire produce from a greenhouse at the North Andros Agro-industrial Park. Pictured from left are farming officer Ayret Lightbourn and greenhouse technician Roger Rolle.

**By GLADSTONE THURSTON  
Bahamas Information Services**

BAHAMAS Agricultural and Industrial Corporation has pledged its continued assistance to farmers in North Andros.

This follows election of a new slate of officers to lead the now Big Yard Farmers Company Limited, formerly the North Andros Farmers Association.

Veteran farmer Floyd Newton has been elected president with Neville Clarke as his assistant.

"We wanted to show support for the new administration and again pledge a commitment from BAIC to assist them in anyway we can to allow them to achieve whatever objective they plan for," said assistant general manager (agriculture) Arnold Dorsett.

BAIC executives, led by general manager Benjamin Rahming, met with Mr Newton and his team last weekend. Assistant general manager (land) Judith Thompson was also present.

BAIC is to allow the organisation the benefits of its Business Services and Accounts Departments.

"We want to assist them in ensuring that their books are set up correctly and that they are functioning properly," said Mr Dorsett. "This is an area we have had some concern on."

Mr Newton expressed optimism about the future of farming in North Andros. Other members of this executive team include Angela Newton (secretary), Glen Gaitor (treasurer) and Andrea Rolle (assistant treasurer).

"We have a lot of plans but our main objective is to encourage young Bahamians to become established in farming," he said.

"No country is truly independent except it is able to, not only protect itself, but more importantly feed itself.

"It has been said that farming is hard labour, but with the new technology that BAIC is now introducing in North Andros, it is going to make farming easier and therefore more attractive."

He was concerned that each farmer remains limited to \$9,000 worth of business at the government's packing house.

"That needs to be addressed because the overhead expenses alone for each farmer is \$9,000," he said.

"If The Bahamas is going to feed itself, surely Andros is going to be the catalyst to take the Bahamas to that level. Therefore the \$9,000 ceiling should be addressed."

In response to that concern, BAIC has been hosting conferences in North Andros between farmers and New Providence buyers, seeking additional avenues of trade for farmers.

The Ministry of Tourism, the Bahamas Hotel Association, and the Bahamas Culinary Association were all a part of the last conference in December.

"Marketing is our problem," said Mr Newton. "It is hard to farm and market at the same time. The buyers are trained in marketing. How can we talk to them? We need more commitment from them and the government."



BIG YARD Farmers Company executives met with BAIC last weekend. Pictured from left are assistant general manager (agriculture) Arnold Dorsett, BYC assistant treasurer Andrea Rolle, secretary Angela Newton, president Floyd Newton, vice president Neville Clarke, and Ministry of Agriculture extension officer Stephen Adderley.

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2. Serve as a representative of the School Board.  
3. Lead the Human Resource Function.  
4. Oversee Facilities Management.  
5. Oversee Financial Management.  
6. Direct Community Relations Activities.  
7. Oversee Student Support Services.

**Applicants must:**

- Be a practicing born-again Christian who is willing to subscribe to the Statement of Faith of Temple Christian School.
- Have knowledge of Bahamian education laws, along with policies and procedures of the Ministry of Education.
- Have, among other qualities, managerial, observational, communication and leadership skills and abilities. Being a believer in Christ and a model of good moral character are required characteristics for this position.
- Have earned at least three years of actual teaching or educational administration experience with concentration in administration, supervision, curriculum, finances and personnel management.

Applicants are requested to send resumes to:

**The Chairman  
Board of Directors  
Temple Christian School  
P.O. Box N-1566  
Nassau, Bahamas**

Deadline for application is January 27, 2012

**DOCTORS HOSPITAL**

Distinguished Lecture Series

This Month's Topic  
**ALTERNATIVES TO A HYSTERECTOMY**

**SPEAKER  
DR. PAMELA CARROLL  
OBSTETRICIAN/  
GYNECOLOGIST**

Lecture Date: Thursday, January 19th, 2012 @ 6PM  
Location: Conference Room, Dowdeswell Street

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FEBRUARY 16th, 2012 SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN THE ATHLETE	MARCH 15th, 2012 PROSTATE CANCER: CURRENT TREATMENT OPTIONS
APRIL 19th, 2012 WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND A LOOK AT BARIATRIC SURGERY	MAY 17th, 2012 EMERGENCY CARE - KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE

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## LOCAL NEWS

# Marijuana worth \$500,000 seized

By **SANCHESKA BROWN**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
sbrown@tribunemedia.net

DRUG Enforcement Unit officers seized nearly \$500,000 worth of marijuana during a drug bust in eastern New Providence over the weekend.

Acting on a tip, a team of officers went to a vacant lot in Yamacraw Beach Estates just before 5am on Sunday.

A search of the area turned up 24 bales of marijuana with a combined weight of 495 pounds.

No one has been taken into custody in connection with the find.

• A man being sought by police for nearly three months is now in custody.

Omar Chisholm, 34, was wanted for questioning in connection with a double shooting on Fowler Street off East Bay Street on October 26, 2011.

Police say the Yamacraw Hill Road resident was detained at around 11.15pm in the Baillou Hill Road area.

• A 24-year-old man is in police custody today after the discovery of \$4,000 worth of marijuana.

At 11am on Sunday, Central Division officers were on routine patrol on Navy Lyon



**OMAR CHISHOLM**, who has been arrested after three months on the run from police.

Road when they stopped a 2005 Chevy Lumina occupied by two men in connection with a minor traffic infraction.

A search led to the discovery of the drugs, and the officers attempted to detain the men for questioning, however the driver managed to escape.

The man in custody is helping police with their investigation.

• Police are questioning a 28-year-old man in connection with a shooting on Sunday.

The victim, 26, is in critical

condition after being shot several times at a home on Claridge Road.

The suspect was arrested the same day, at the same home.

• A 61-year-old woman, her 23-year-old daughter and her 34-year-old son are in police custody after ammunition was found in their Royal Palm Street, Culmersville home.

Police went to the area at around 11.30pm on Sunday, responding to reports that gunshots had been fired.

They saw a man on Carlitta Terrace off Royal Palm Street acting suspiciously.

The officers searched the area where they saw the man, and found a shotgun.

They then searched his home and found a number of shotgun shells.

• A 40-year-old Exuma man is in hospital after being stabbed on Sunday.

Police say the victim was walking in Windsor Place off Soldier Road at around 8pm when he was approached by two men who demanded cash.

He resisted the robbers and was stabbed several times.

The Farmer's Hill resident was rushed to hospital by paramedics and is in stable condition.

## MAGISTRATE'S ERROR IN CHILD RAPIST CASE

from page one

him that "unfortunately, the Magistrate did not comply with the pre-conditions.

"Your case is remitted to the Magistrate's Court for the Magistrate to comply with those conditions."

He then requested that the matter be dealt with and put it down for Wednesday, January 18, before Magistrate Vogt-Evans in Court 6.

"On the date, the Magistrate will either hear the matter or put it down to a practi-

cal date to be heard," he added.

Bridgewater had been arraigned before Magistrate Vogt-Evans on November 22, where he pleaded guilty to robbing a 52-year-old woman of a handbag containing \$100 worth of personal items.

The magistrate, after listening and watching the unremorseful attitude and conduct of the accused about his latest offence, told Bridgewater that she would refer the matter to the Supreme Court for sentencing.

However, in yesterday's Supreme Court proceedings, Senior Justice Isaacs, and prosecutor Kevin Farrington both agreed that a revision of the transcripts for that arraignment revealed that the Magistrate had only accepted the "unequivocal plea of guilt" by the accused, but did not go further and declare him convicted of the November 21 robbery offence.

He was remanded to Her Majesty's Prison and will return to the Magistrate's Court tomorrow morning.

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- A University Degree in Accounting, Law or other relevant qualifications
- Minimum of five years' experience in trust services, preferably in banks or financial institutions
- Strong self motivation with good interpersonal and communication skills
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Please send us a full resume, including personal particulars, employment history, present and expected salary and contact phone number to:

**Country Manager**  
P.O. Box N-3019  
Nassau, Bahamas

**Application Deadline: 27 January 2012**

Applicants who are not contacted within one month may consider their applications unsuccessful.

All information provided by applicants will be used strictly in accordance with the employer's personal data policies. Applicants may be considered for other suitable positions within the Bank and its related companies over a one-year period, after which their personal data will be destroyed.



DOCTORS HOSPITAL

Distinguished Lecture Series

This Month's Topic

## ALTERNATIVES TO A HYSTERECTOMY



SPEAKER  
**DR. PAMELA CARROLL**  
OBSTETRICIAN/  
GYNECOLOGIST

#### Lecture Date

Thursday, January 19th,  
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#### Location

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Please join us every third Thursday of the month for our free public health lecture series covering the most relevant health issues affecting the Bahamian society.

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FEBRUARY 16th, 2012

SUDDEN  
CARDIAC DEATH  
IN THE ATHLETE

APRIL 19th, 2012

WEIGHT  
MANAGEMENT  
AND A LOOK AT  
BARIATRIC SURGERY

MARCH 15th, 2012

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This will be a combination of IT Infrastructure, network and application support work.

#### Required Skills:

- BS/BA Degree or commensurate experience.
- Design and deployment of large multi-server Microsoft networks
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- Design and deployment of VMware or Hyper V servers
- Supports and maintain McAfee AV installations and policy or similar products
- Configuring and maintaining Cisco router/routing, switch and related products
- Configuring and maintaining Proxy/Web Filtering and/or related products
- Strong analytical and problem solving skills
- Proven ability to trouble-shoot and resolve performance issues
- Knowledge of Information security frameworks i.e. Sarbanes Oxley, ISO 27001 and 27002 etc.
- Previous Helpdesk experience
- Providing support (installing local telephone sets, establishing extensions, etc.) for VoIP communications (i.e., PBX telephone) and voice mail systems

#### Ideal candidates should also possess the following skills:

- Understanding of the architecture, components and core database engine of Microsoft SQL
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- Exposure to and/or experience with SOA
- Knowledge of UML
- PL/SQL skills
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#### Other Requirements:

- Participate in after-hours network support and preventive maintenance duties
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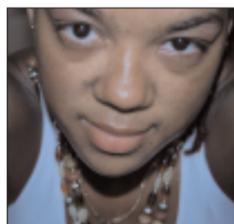
#### Education/Certification/Experience:

- BS or BA degree in Computer Science, Electronics, or Network Engineering is preferred
- MCSE or equivalent experience required
- Formal DBA Training or equivalent experience
- A minimum of 3 years' experience in a Microsoft environment

Interested persons should email an updated copy of their resume to [recruiting.bahamas@ymail.com](mailto:recruiting.bahamas@ymail.com) by **February 3rd, 2012.**

LOCAL NEWS

# The battle for Bamboo



## TALKING SENSE KHALILA NICOLLS

by KHALILA NICOLLS  
khalilanicolls@gmail.com

IT IS hard to believe 10 months have passed since I put pen to paper to discuss the political future of Branville McCartney, member of parliament for Bamboo Town.

When he resigned from the Free National Movement last March, it was unclear if narcissism had simply got the better of him or whether based on sound political strategy Mr McCartney was setting in motion the greatest political upset in modern Bahamian history.

Amidst all the speculation, one thing seemed certain, Mr McCartney had no intention of getting out of front-line politics and every intention to one day be Prime Minister of the Bahamas.

Now, with just a few months left before the yet-to-be-called general election, Mr McCartney has staked his bets and played his hand.

He scoffed at the critics and defied the naysayers, launching the Democratic National Alliance (DNA), now primed to contest 38 of 38 seats in the upcoming general election.

Already, the green machine is making history, for in the history of third parties, the DNA is the first to present a full slate of candidates.

Theoretically, Mr McCartney can declare irrelevant one

**The green machine is already making history, for in the history of third parties, the DNA is the first to present a full slate of candidates.**

of the most popular anti-third party arguments: that it is futile to vote for a third party because it has no chance of forming a majority government.

Theoretically, Mr McCartney could fulfill his dream in the next general election, but he surely should not bet his last dollar on it. In actuality, Mr McCartney's Bamboo Town seat is still not safe, despite the DNA's defiantly strong showing so far.

So what stands in Mr McCartney's way? A Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) determined to unseat the FNM, and an incumbent FNM determined to hold on to the reigns of power. And just to muddy the waters, a dogged Craig Butler, independent candidate, who will

not let 16 months of campaigning in the former Kennedy constituency go to waste.

Into the ring, the PLP has thrown Renward Wells, former leader of the National Democratic Party (NDP), and for the FNM, Cassius Stuart, former leader of the Bahamas Democratic Party (BDM). From all angles, Bamboo Town is shaping up to be an interesting match.

The PLP has the global anti-incumbent momentum working in its favour. The FNM has its historical relationship with the constituency, and the DNA has five years of service from its only sitting member of parliament. Mr Butler, let us say, has youthful exuberance.

The FNM is not backing down, not even a little. Party chairman Carl Bethel reiterated just yesterday, "Bamboo Town is an FNM seat".

"It was won by the FNM in 2007 and it will be again in 2012. It has always essentially been an FNM seat and it still is an FNM seat. We are working to regain the confidence of the voters in Bamboo Town. They trusted us by electing Branville McCartney and he betrayed their trust," said Mr Bethel.

The Bamboo Town Constituency Association of the FNM will no doubt back up Mr Bethel. After all they professed their "considerable



BRANVILLE MCCARTNEY has played his hand with regards to his political future.

personal and collective disappointment" over Mr McCartney's resignation in a generic public statement last year.

But I called the FNM headquarters yesterday, trying to reach the association chairman and no one in the party office could give me a name or a number for anyone on the association. It made me wonder just how organised the FNM's Bamboo Town operation is.

Despite Mr Bethel's show of confidence, I believe Bamboo Town is not the FNM's to take. It is more likely the PLP's to lose. For sure, it will be a bloody fight.

Renward Wells believes Bamboo Town and Mount Moriah, will be the two seats that mean the difference between 27 seats and 34 to 35 seats for the PLP.

Once Bamboo falls, he said, "seat after seat in that southern corridor will fall". According to Mr Wells, the FNM will be lucky to take home even one New Provi-

dence seat.

Time will tell. When Mr McCartney ran in 2007, he was a fresh new face on the campaign trail with a big name behind him. Party leader Hubert Ingraham sent Mr McCartney to Bamboo Town with one instruction: Win it.

Mr McCartney said he assembled his own campaign team and he did as he was told.

With largely the same team at his side, Mr McCartney is now running on the DNA's change mantra with his reputation of five years to bolster his stand.

"I have been there for the last five years. I have represented the constituents well. I think my record will speak for itself," said Mr McCartney.

I hope so. Many would say a five-year record is simply not enough to change the voting record of Bahamians committed historically to the FNM or PLP. Even for those disaffected voters, they are more likely to stay at home than commit political treason.

Some observers say, unless a voter feels personally offended by the party or the party's candidate of choice, they will likely toe the line.

Over the next few months, the FNM and the PLP will no doubt be securing their base - collectively representing upwards to 80 per cent of the constituency, historically speaking.

Mr Wells said his first order of business has been to get all of the PLPs registered. It has been some 15 years since the PLP fielded a candidate in Bamboo Town.

"I want people to know I am there and I am running on the PLP ticket," said Mr Wells.

Next, he plans to go after the independents and let them know "the PLP has plans on day one to carry the country forward".

Seems pretty practical, albeit textbook: secure your base and then collect the independents. The problem for Mr McCartney is a matter of his base. Who is it?

Mr McCartney must believe his five years of service has rendered the FNM's base null and void. That emerging out of the voters who ushered him into the house on the first occasion is Bran's base. On the basis of wishful thinking alone, that would be true.

And even if Mr McCartney is able to split the FNM vote, on what basis will he contend with the PLP apparatus? In terms of message, the PLP is selling the same pot of 'change soup', and as tainted as its operation may be, it too will benefit from

the global anti-incumbent momentum.

There is one major crack in the PLP apparatus, however, and it works in Mr McCartney's favour. In fact, the FNM has the same structural problem. Questions will undoubtedly emerge about party credentials for Mr Wells and Mr Stuart.

One could almost say, neither the FNM nor the PLP actually have a candidate in the race. Mr Stuart has said publicly that his decision to join the FNM was motivated in part by his acceptance of the fact that the only way to get to the House of Assembly is on an FNM or PLP party ticket.

Ideologically, that says very little for his FNM credentials. Furthermore, that reasoning speaks little to any altruistic intent.

In the end, that might not matter much. Already Mr Wells has admitted that Mr Stuart is a "good campaigner".

"He knows how to make do with very little. Being on the FNM ticket, whose money can't be done, Cassius is going to be formidable.

"He is quick on the draw in terms of being able to express himself. He has been through two general elections and one by-election, at least. He knows what he wants to do and how to do it," said Mr Wells.

He does believe however that the campaign will be about the people of Bamboo Town and not the personalities vying for office.

"My position has always been it cannot be about a man. It has to be about a message; it cannot be about personalities. It has to be about principles. It cannot be about idols. It must be about ideas," said Mr Wells.

I am not so sure any of the candidates, except perhaps Craig Butler, can live up to that ideal. With very shallow ideological roots in the PLP and FNM, Mr Wells and Mr Stuart will have to milk all they can in the charisma department. That might just even the playing-field for Mr McCartney.

I think Mr McCartney should be praying that Mr Well's general election inexperience, and the FNM's late start gets the better of them.

One thing is for sure - in 10 months time, it will be very interesting to see where Branville McCartney is. Will he defy the odds again, or will he be confronted with the bitter taste of defeat?

• Pan-African writer and cultural critic Khalila Nicolls is a practising journalist in the Bahamas.

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# Bishop: Demons loose in country

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are the cause for the rising crime levels and immorality.

Bishop Ellis said: "In late November, I went on a sabbatical that lasted 10 days. It was just me and the Lord. It was a great refreshing period for me to get closer to Him.

"The Lord appeared to me and said a number of things. Since then I have implemented a few of these initiatives in the church that are working great. But there was one thing in particular the Lord showed me that was quite troubling.

"He said three demonic spirits have been assigned to the Bahamian people.

"God showed me who they were, what they were, where they came from, how they got here and what their assignments are. He also gave me

a prayer of release and told me to call a service to deal with the demonic spirits.

"The Lord also told me to have the people present to pray the prayer of release."

Bishop Ellis said the only way to rid the Bahamas, and "our people", of these demons was for everyone to say the prayer.

"You have to be present to say the prayer," he said. "I was told for this assignment not to stream it over the Internet and not to put it on my telecast. I am also not going to broadcast it. I will also only do this once. There is no charge for the service and all are welcome."

"Sexual immorality," he told the large crowd, "is the oldest of the three. It's been assigned (to The Bahamas) since the early 1800s. "It has

taken root in the lives and psyche of Bahamians."

The demon's task – sexual immorality – he said was designed to "keep God's plan for you, from you, destabilise the Bahamian family" and "replace God with himself (the demon)".

He said that the demon of sexual immorality was evident in our society when one saw the high level of "promiscuity going on".

Fornication and adultery, he said, are "literally glamorised". Speaking of the "sweet-heart syndrome" – one of the three sub-assignments under the main assignment of the sexual immorality demon – "has striven and now become accepted as our normal way of life".

As for homosexuality and incest, it was "rampant and

ragged in the Bahamas", he said.

Calling up the second demon – financial instability – Bishop Ellis said it was a demon "sent directly from hell primarily to enslave the people of the Bahamas.

"It was designed," he said, "to keep you working, but keep you broke."

"The majority of the people in The Bahamas are one pay cheque away from poverty", he said, adding that there is an agreement between the first two demons. Poverty, caused by demon no 2, "allows demon no 1 to driver persons in poverty to sexual immorality".

The last demon, he said, is widespread throughout the Bahamas, as many are operating in "obeah and voodoo. It has been full blown in our



MEMBERS of the congregation listen as Bishop Ellis preaches, with his image projected on screens to the packed church.

Photo: Felipe Major/Tribune Staff

country and it has been for some time."

The demon of witchcraft, he said, is designed to "manipulate, intimidate, separate, segregate and control", he said. "It is not assigned to kill you. It is designed and assigned to terrorising until it drives you insane."

Bishop Ellis said this "demon" uses confusion as one of its major weapons. "This spirit will try to bring confusion to the home, the marriage and the family.

There are divorced and separated people who love each other, but can't live together. Witchcraft!"

"It enjoys separating people from their friends, their families, their loved ones all in an effort to drive you crazy."

The Bishop contended that the spirit from hell was not originally released to target the Bahamas, but it had been imported sometime around the bootlegging era, and has since been "embedded into the belly our of society".

## WARNING OVER ILLEGAL FISHING

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Larry Cartwright said the continual illegal removal of undersized crawfish will deplete populations, damaging "an essential component" of the Bahamian economy.

At a press conference at the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources yesterday, Mr Cartwright said some 9,000 Bahamians depend on the crawfish industry which "significantly contributes" to the country's economy, however harvesting and selling undersized crawfish prior to them reproducing can have a dramatic affect on resources.

He said: "The practice of harvesting undersized crawfish present a clear and present danger to the crawfish industry. This practice if unchecked will lead to the eventual depletion of the stock."

According to Mr Cartwright, it is estimated that the crawfish industry generates between \$60 and \$70 million annually and has a direct link to tourism, which is often purchased by visitors.

Particularly persons in the Family Islands that work on fishing vessels and in processing plants, as well as buying stations owners are "heavily dependent" on crawfish as their income, he said.

While Mr Cartwright could not provide exact numbers, he said over the last several months a number of persons have been arrested, particularly in the northern Bahamas for harvesting undersized crawfish.

Mr Cartwright added that efforts will be continued to monitor such illegal activity.

"I wish to remind the public that the Fisheries Regulations state that no person shall take, have in his possession or sell any crawfish which measures less than three and a quarter inches from the base of the horn to the end of the jacket or which, if he tail is severed, has a tail measurement of less than five and one half inches, not including any protruding muscle," he said.

Mr Cartwright explained that in order to protect and sustain crawfish populations, laws have been enacted to place a minimum size limit on their harvesting, to ensure at least spawning or reproductive season before crawfish can be legally caught.

He said all food stores, restaurants and other buyers of undersized crawfish should be reminded it is an offence to possess crawfish under the minimum limit.

"All fishers are advised to cease and desist from the practice of taking, buying and processing undersized crawfish forthwith or face prosecution to the fullest extent of the law."

Mr Cartwright assured the public that the Department of Marine Resources and its enforcement partners, the Royal Bahamas Defence Force and the Royal Bahamas Police Force are continually monitoring activities in Bahamian waters and will take all necessary measures to ensure fisheries regulations are enforced.

## MINISTRY MISTAKE OVER DEAD FISH

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said: "At this point in time, when you have an incident like that which resulted from immediate conditions in the water, if you don't get the samples immediately then you're not going to find out what happened."

While Mr Brennan did not elaborate further, *The Tribune* understands some samples were taken at a later date, but they were subsequently frozen, rendering them useless.

Fishermen and onlookers were left stunned when hundreds of fish were washed up dead or dying onto the shores of Montagu beach last Tuesday.

Octopus, parrot fish, grey snappers, and barracuda were among the range of species found dead by fish vendors just after 10am.

Mr Brennan did say that whatever caused the incident "is not going on presently".

He said: "The incident was localised – in all likelihood it is something that happened in a very small area."

Mr Brennan said the pos-

sible causes range from oxygen deprivation, excessive growth of algae, bacteria in the water, to contamination from sewage or some kind of chemical.

He said the ministry is still investigating the matter.

Meanwhile, the local branch of the Nature Conservancy is calling for a protocol to be established to deal with such events.

Director Elinor Phillips said: "What we should take away from this, is that we need to be more prepared.

"There was a lack of knowledge and experience in this case, so we have to make sure we learn a lesson and be prepared for future occurrences."

She said, however, that the government's mistake is understandable given the rarity of such an event.

"These things happen. They weren't prepared. But it's just like marine mammal strandings," said Ms Phillips. "They happened and we were unprepared; now we have a marine mammal network in place.

"Going forward, we need to prepare for the future."

from page one

of coming to office in August, 1992," he said Sunday while in Grand Bahama.

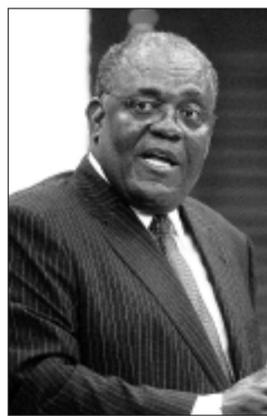
Mr Ingraham said since that time the government is not involved at all in the issuance of business licences to Bahamians by the Grand Bahama Port Authority.

He noted that today the majority of licensees in Freeport are Bahamians.

Mr Ingraham said that as a consequence the local bonded sales economy in Freeport has increased substantially.

The Prime Minister said that efforts of the Bahamas Customs to ensure that it collects revenue due and payable to the public purse and to further provide some reasonable certainty as to the procedure to be followed by licensees in making those payments led to the production of the Guide to Customs Duty Exemptions and Procedures in Freeport, Grand Bahama Island.

He said the Guide has led



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham has pledged to support businesses in Grand Bahama.

to various challenges over the years leaving Customs having to find other ways to ensure that legitimate revenue is collected.

Mr Ingraham said Customs required businesses to produce C-14A declarations for all their bonded purchases in 2011 as a condition to them receiving their annual Over-

the Counter Bond letter from Customs for bonded purchases.

"This Customs requirement has led to complaints from some businesses regarding their ability to do business.

"We want to facilitate businesses here in Freeport and throughout the Bahamas.

"As a consequence of these complaints the recent requirement will be reviewed. I advise that I will move to establish a committee similar to the one that produced the first Guide in Freeport, and will charge that committee to review the guide and make recommendations for its amendments taking into account the current realities that prevail in Freeport. As of Monday you ought to see change in Customs," Mr Ingraham said.

Prime Minister Ingraham said the FNM government is also liaising again with the Grand Bahama Port Authority.

"We are encouraging and supporting efforts that will lead to a resolution of the

problems which have afflicted the company since the sad passing of Edward St George.

"Since I last spoke to you Sir Jack Hayward and I had a chance to talk. Now that he is willing to divorce himself from one, Hannes Babak, we can do business.

"We had a very productive meeting and we are working together to move Grand Bahama forward.

"The Port has some good plans that we wish to encourage and generate economic activity, and the government looks forward to working with the Port to move these and other projects forward," Mr Ingraham said.

He noted that the pace of economic recovery on Grand Bahama needs to quicken and gather steam.

"I want to acknowledge that our party knows that your economy continues to limp. We are working daily to soften the impact for as many people and families as possible," Mr Ingraham said.

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