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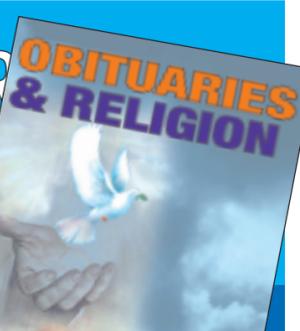
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EMBASSY ESSAY CONTEST
WRITERS OF TOMORROW
SEE PAGES 14-17



Mitchell fury at visa fraud claim

MP accused over Chinese applications

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

PLP MP Fred Mitchell moved quickly to file a lawsuit yesterday after a Wikileaks document claiming the Fox Hill MP pressured Foreign Affairs staff to grant visas to 30 ineligible Chinese nationals was tabled in the Senate.

The document details a conversation between a senior Foreign Affairs official and a former US Embassy consular chief, in which it was claimed

the visa applicants were sponsored by former PLP MP Sidney Stubbs.

The civil servant accused Mr Mitchell, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, of "complicity in visa fraud by pressuring his staff to issue visas to ineligible visa applicants and, specifically, to unqualified Chinese nationals," the embassy official wrote in his cable to the State Department.

The Foreign Affairs staffer

SEE page 10

POLICE EASE THEFT FEARS

By KHRISNA VIRGIL
kvirgil@tribunemedia.net

POLICE moved yesterday to calm visitor fears after two journalists claimed money was stolen from their room at the Nassau Royal Palm Hotel on West Bay Street.

Central Division commanding officer Supt Stephen Dean said despite the victims' claims that the incident was just one in a long list of similar thefts, this is not the case.

He said: "I was expecting

SEE page 10

MORTIMER NAMED DNA DEPUTY LEADER



CHRIS MORTIMER applauds last night. He has been named deputy to Branville McCartney.

By AVA TURNQUEST
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

BAHAMIANS were urged to exact greater personal responsibility in the leadership of the country as the Democratic National Alliance launched its national slate of candidates last night.

The party announced Galleria Cinemas Ltd CEO, and candidate for Nassau Village, Chris Mortimer as the new deputy leader during their "People's Summit" hosted at the Wyndham Nassau Resort ballroom.

DNA Leader Branville McCartney reiterated his party's promises and policies on immigration, electoral reform, Family Island development, the regularization of generational land, and finance sector reform.

Among the listed initiatives, Mr McCartney said his administration would ensure that the post of Prime Minister is limited to two terms. A DNA government would also seek to establish a Code of Conduct Act for public officials, and make amendments to the Public Disclosure Act to ensure accountability

among politicians after they have left service, Mr McCartney said.

The DNA leader also outlined plans for the introduction of a value added tax system and the decentralization of the population in New Providence through expanded training opportunities and job creation in Andros.

Heralding his party's achievement as the first third party to produce a full slate of candidates, Mr McCartney said the milestone is evident of a sweeping change in the

SEE page 10

THE US Embassy has announced the four winners of this year's Martin Luther King Civil Rights Essay Contest.

The purpose of the competition is to encourage students to explore the life of Dr King and reflect on how civil rights and diversity affect their lives today.

More than 90 high school students throughout the Bahamas submitted entries in the sixth annual contest, which focused on the contributions made by American civil rights leaders who were influenced Dr King.

The winners were:

- Cedric Munroe of Doris Johnson Senior High School in New Providence, who wrote on Dr Maya Angelou.
- Benita Delaney of Sunland Baptist Academy in Grand Bahama, who wrote about John R Lewis.
- Devin Major of the Moore's Island All-age School on Moore's Island, Abaco, who wrote about Reverend Jesse Jackson.
- Stevanno Miller of Preston Albury High School in Rock Sound, Eleuthera, who wrote on Reverend Jesse Jackson.

Originally, two winners were going to be chosen to receive the grand prize - a new Apple iPad 2 - and have their winning essays featured in national newspapers, but the Embassy said they had so many top class entries this year, they had to choose four.

• See pages 14-17.

MAN ACCUSED OF MURDERS

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

A MAN accused of a triple shooting that killed two men and injured another was arraigned at a Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Kenneth Knowles, 32, of Pinewood Gardens, appeared before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez, at Court One, Nassau Street, on two charges of murder and one attempted murder.

SEE page 10

REWARD OFFER BY SHIPYARD

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREETPORT: The Grand Bahama Shipyards is offering a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the recovery of \$300,000 worth of equipment stolen from its yard last week.

Rueben Byrd, senior vice
SEE page 10

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LOCAL NEWS



SUPPORTERS cheer on the DNA at last night's rally.

Photos: Felipe Major/Tribune Staff

MORTIMER NAMED DNA DEPUTY LEADER

from page one

cultural mind set of the nation since the party was formed nine months ago.

"We have been divided by mere colours; we've been brainwashed to believe that, because of political ties, we cannot work together to move this nation forward, that somehow one group is smarter than the other, that somehow we cannot co-exist," Mr McCartney said.

"Truly, you don't believe that? It's not too late to shake off that force of complacency that has brought us oppression, insensitivity, ignorance, bitterness and false impression that you don't deserve better, and so, you should not receive better."

If elected to government, Mr McCartney said his administration would regularize the status of children born abroad to Bahamian married women, and limit the issuance of work permits unless there were "no trained Bahamians available or unwilling" to accept the job. Penalties under the Immigra-



CHRIS MORTIMER addresses a jubilant crowd.

tion laws would be increased and the harbouring of illegals would be made an offence, he said.

Within the party's first and second term, Mr McCartney said his administration would expand housing and training facilities at both the College of the Bahamas and the Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute on Andros and Grand Bahama.

The upgrades would be exacted through public and private partnerships, Mr McCartney said, with the development of flagship schools for Film and Creative Arts, and Science and Technology in Grand Bahama, and Marine and Agricultural Science in Andros.

"This gradual population shift and decentralization of the population from New Providence back to the islands will not only go a long way in family island redevelopment, but it will also play a significant role in alleviating the stresses and social chaos that come along with overpopulation," Mr McCartney said.

"Along with job creation, this move will have a drastic impact on incidents of crime in our society."

Mr McCartney also pledged to honour the tripartite agreement within the first 60 days of office by establishing union representation in the training and promotions of Public Service employees, heads of Government meetings and other international forums where worker's rights are affected.

Mr McCartney underscored his administration's commitment to reducing the cost of living and doing business in the county through adherence to recommendations put forth by the National Energy Policy Committee.

"We are one vote away from possessing the Promise Land," he said. "One vote away from Bahamian ownership! One vote away from not being second class citizens in your own country!"

"I say ring the bell Ingraham, ring it loudly, bring it on, we are ready. The DNA is ready. The Bahamas is ready."

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Pictured from left: Top Left. Michael and Bernadette Major and Family; Derek Sturup, Branch Manager, RBC Cable Beach Branch. **Top Right.** Tennille Colebrooke, Assistant Branch Manager, RBC Main Branch; Catherine Coakley, Client Winner; Alicia Thompson, Senior Account Manager, RBC Main Branch. **Bottom Left.** Wendy Wallace, Account Manager, RBC Lyford Cay Branch; Clayzon McDonald, Client Winner; Lindsey Peterson, Branch Manager, RBC Lyford Cay Branch. **Bottom Right.** Deanne Wallace-Whitfield, Branch Manager, RBC JFK Branch; Kristy Bullard, Client Winner; Michelle Barry, Senior Account Manager, RBC JFK Branch.

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LOCAL NEWS

Trial of police officers begins at Supreme Court

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

THE manslaughter and abetment trial of two police officers charged in connection with the death of a father-of-six began yesterday in Supreme Court.

Cpl Donovan Gardiner and Constable Tavares Bowleg, charged with the death of 28-year-old Desmond Key, sat in the prisoner's dock as prosecutor Linda Evans gave her opening statement and called the first witness to give evidence.

Shatia Seymour, an eye-witness on the night of June 17, 2007, told the court her version of what transpired before Key was arrested and detained at the Grove Police Station.

Ms Seymour said her car ran out of gas on Robinson Road near the then-closed Shell Service Station, and her brother-in-law Desmond Key pulled up in his Nissan Maxima to offer help.

She said a police car pulled up shortly after and two officers, one of whom she identified as Tavaris Bowleg, got out and

approached them, asking why they were on the service station's property.

She said Bowleg asked the deceased for his name and chastised him when he did not give a proper answer.

The officer inspected Key's licence plate and disc, and noticing suggestions of forgery, told the deceased he was going to be arrested.

She said Key ran away but then turned back around, to show the officers he "could've gotten away" if he wanted to.

He was handcuffed and placed in the police car before a third off-duty officer arrived on the scene.

Seymour said she was questioned about her relationship to Key and explained he was her brother-in-law.

Key was taken to the nearby Grove Police Station and after managing to restart her car, Seymour told Key's girlfriend of the situation before returning with her to the station, but they were denied access to him.

During cross-examination, attorney Wayne Munroe suggested the incident did not transpire the way Seymour

described.

She disagreed, but when asked admitted that Key appeared to be drunk at the time.

She insisted the deceased did not curse at police.

Ian Cargill, the other defence attorney, questioned Seymour's credibility as a witness on the premise that she lied to the police about her relationship with the deceased.

The witness admitted Key was not her actual brother-in-law but said she considered him as such, as she was in a relationship with his brother.

Seymour said she did not consider this lying.

Mr Cargill disagreed, saying lying to police without reason is always a criminal offence.

When he questioned her version of events, Seymour admitted that "in some ways", the officers carried out the jobs professionally and respectfully.

The trial resumes today at 10am in the Ansbacher House courtroom on Bank Lane before Justice Vera Watkins.

A wise mechanic once said, "If you do only one thing for your car, make sure you change the oil!"

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FRAUD CHARGE SUSPECT BAILED

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

A SOLDIER Road man accused of defrauding a commercial bank of more than \$13,000 was arraigned in Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Lettero Poirier, 32, of Gogle-Eye Road appeared before Magistrate Guillimina Archer in Court 10, Nassau Street on 15 charges of forged document possession, use of said documents and fraud by false pretences.

It is alleged that on five occasions between November 9, 2011 and February 12, 2012, he defrauded First Caribbean International Bank of \$13,300.

It is claimed he used fake FCIB cheques at the Mall at Marathon branch, drawn on the account of D Patric Paton, knowing they were not genuine.

Poirier denied the allegations and pleaded not guilty to the charges.

He was granted \$10,000 bail and returns to court for trial on September 14.

DROWNED TOURIST NAMED

POLICE have identified the female tourist who drowned in Exuma on Monday morning.

Teresa Mische, 63, of Washington DC, was part of a diving team that left the Nassau Yacht Club and headed to the Exuma Cays.

Police say the first mate noticed she was attached to the tug line of the boat unconscious.

He placed her onboard the boat and administered CPR. She was also supplied with oxygen but did not regain consciousness.

She was taken to Norman's Cay and then flown to the Lynden Pindling International Airport on a private plane where her body was collected by a local funeral home.

Police say the US Embassy has been informed of the woman's death.

DELAY IN RULING OVER CHANGE OF PLEA

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

A SUPREME Court judge delayed her change-of-plea ruling in the case of disbarred attorney Ralph Jan Ward, who pleaded guilty to stealing nearly \$2 million from his clients.

The decision by Justice Vera Watkins to postpone her ruling until March 19 came as a result of a ruling in the Court of Appeal on a similar request.

On Monday, February 13, the appellate court ordered a retrial in the case of Angelo Rahming, a man who initially pleaded guilty to killing Troy Seymour in November 2006.

The incident took place during an armed robbery after the deceased picked up a deposit bag for his employer, KFC.

Rahming admitted guilt to the offence in May 2010 before Senior Supreme Court Justice Hartman Longley, only to ask the court if he could withdraw the plea four months later.

He claimed he was intoxicated when he entered his guilty plea, but Senior Justice Longley sentenced Rahming to life in prison for murder and 20 years for armed robbery.

That decision was appealed and the appellate court ordered a retrial of the matter, after the Crown admitted that the judge was unfair in not allowing the accused man to withdraw the plea.

Yesterday, Justice Watkins told the court she wished to review the case and the recent ruling by the higher court before making a decision.

Last July, Ward pleaded guilty to stealing \$1.9 million from eight of his clients, breaching their trust.

Ward was retained by the victims to complete land sales.

Justice Watkins initially delayed his sentencing to allow him to return the money he had stolen.

However, when he reappeared to report on whether he was able to do so, Ward informed the court of his decision to withdraw his guilty plea and enter a not-guilty plea.



RALPH JAN WARD, who pleaded guilty to stealing nearly \$2m from clients but who is seeking to change his plea to not guilty.

Last month, Ward's attorney Murrio Ducille argued that his client had not received proper legal advice before entering his plea.

He said his client had no experience in criminal law, despite his legal training.

Prosecutor Eucal Bonaby contended that withdrawing the plea would be an abuse of the process.

EMBASSY TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS EASIER FOR FAMILY ISLANDERS

By KHRISNA VIRGIL
kvirgil@tribunemedia.net

AMERICAN Embassy Consular Chief John Armstrong said this year, keeping US visa appointments will be much easier for Family Island residents.

Embassy officials say they have noticed that many Family Islanders find it hard to make it to morning interviews because of flight schedules, so they want to make the process more user friendly.

From now on, Mr Armstrong said, Wednesday afternoon will be reserved for interviews with non-New Providence residents.

'They can fly in on the same day and leave. A courier service could then deliver their passports back.'

John Armstrong

He said: "They can fly in on the same day and leave. A courier service could then deliver their passports back."

Mr Armstrong said anyone who needs a Wednesday afternoon appointment because they are travelling

from a Family Island should make this known to embassy officials ahead of time.

Embassy officials say that if the response to the service substantial, more afternoon sessions could be offered.

There is no end date for the new provision.

MAN ACCUSED OVER FAKE BAHAMIAN CURRENCY

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

A MAN accused of possessing fake Bahamian currency notes was arraigned in Magistrate's Court yesterday morning.

Marvin Curtis, 34, of Sunlight Cottage appeared before Magistrate Guillimi-

na Archer in Court 10, Nassau Street in connection with the alleged offence, reportedly committed on Sunday, February 12.

It is alleged that Curtis was in possession of 15 fake Bahamian \$50 notes bearing the serial numbers B629061 and B071194.

The prosecution claims the accused knew the notes were

forged, but purported that they were genuine.

Curtis denied the allegations and pleaded not guilty.

The prosecution offered no objection to bail, and Curtis was granted a \$2,000 bond with one surety.

He returns to Magistrate's Court for trial on September 5, when two witnesses are

expected to give evidence.

Curtis was not represented by an attorney at yesterday's proceeding.

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GHOST RIDER SPIRIT VENGEANCE	NEW	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:50
THE SECRET OF ARRIETTY	NEW	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:30
SAFE HOUSE	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:45
JOURNEY 2	B	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:35
THE WOMAN IN BLACK	T	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:45
CHRONICLE	C	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:40	10:50
MAN ON A LEDGE	C	1:15	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:50
UNDERWORLD	C	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:45
CONTRABAND	C	1:10	3:20	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:45
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GHOST RIDER SPIRIT	NEW	1:15	3:30	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:45
SAFE HOUSE	C	1:00	3:20	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:50
JOURNEY 2	B	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:35
THE WOMAN IN BLACK	T	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:00	8:40	10:45
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How and why the Haitian problem grew

WE have always had Haitians in the Bahamas. Like all Bahamians they came by different routes. Peaceful citizens, they were fully embraced by the locals, and many of them made outstanding contributions to their new country.

For example, the first black man to sit in the House of Assembly — remaining there for 33 years — was Stephen Dillet, a Haitian by birth.

His mother was African, his father a French Army Officer. In Haiti's revolution of 1802, young Stephen and his mother were put on a boat headed for Cuba to find safe haven. However, their boat was captured by a British privateer and taken to Nassau, where the Dillets settled, and Stephen later entered politics. He was also an active Free Mason, having been appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master in 1857. Another account of his life has him settling in the US where he owned slaves, then coming to Nassau where, in addition to being a member of the House, he was the island's coroner and postmaster.

It is recorded that at one time the historic Balcony House on Market Street — now a museum and believed to be the oldest house in the Bahamas dating back to 1788 — was his home.

And so, over the years, Haitians settled in the Bahamas, fully participated in the island's activities, were embraced by other Bahamians — all, at one time or another, themselves immigrants — and were solidly woven into the Bahamas' human fabric. In those days, no one questioned their identity or their right to be here. Today, however, the story has changed. Bahamians whose tendrils once clung to Mother Haiti are terrified to share their now "shameful" secret with their fellow Bahamians.

Over the years, the situation changed. The PLP came on the scene with the late Sir Lynden Pindling promising that no longer would Bahamians be "hewers of wood and drawers of water". Manual labour was not only demeaning, but abhorrent to Bahamian ears — "that's Haitian work!" And so Bahamians left the farms. Slowly Haitians started to fill the gaps. This was a different type of Haitian — they were even unsettling to their Haitian brothers who had quietly settled here and become Bahamians. Haitian-Bahamians feared that the spotlight would also be turned on them. They, like many Bahamians, did not welcome the unskilled who had started to infiltrate the country, and who, as the illegal numbers increased, grew into what is today the "Haitian problem".

On a radio talk show in 2006, Bahamian

Paul Cumberbatch, describing himself as a "small farmer" with more than 200 acres of land, had a serious complaint with then PLP Minister Shane Gibson, who at the time headed Immigration. Mr Cumberbatch said he needed 500 Haitians on his farm, and did not agree that any of those already in the Bahamas should be sent back to Haiti. He felt that all those with jobs — legal or illegal — should be regularised and only the jobless should be returned to Haiti. "When Sir Lynden was prime minister," he said, "no minister could do what Shane (Gibson) is doing now." He said when then deputy prime minister Arthur Hanna, who had Immigration in his portfolio, and later when the late Sir Clement Maynard headed Immigration he was given whatever work permits he needed for his Haitians. Those were peaceful days, he said.

And so this is how Haitian immigration grew into today's social problem — Bahamians refused to work the land — themselves labelling it as "Haitian work." And PLP politicians pandering to the needs of their supporters by giving them permits to bring in unlimited numbers of unskilled workers to replace Bahamians on the farm. These Haitians, according to Mr Cumberbatch, were landed at the Coral Harbour Defence Force base. Some Bahamians, who were able to get unlimited numbers of permits, developed side businesses by farming out their Haitians to other Bahamians who had no political godfathers — at a good price, of course.

Today, Deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette, now in charge of Immigration, is trying to regularise the status of foreigners, among them Haitians. As for work permits, more than half approved were for unskilled jobs such as handymen and housekeepers. Mr Symonette said that the majority of people who received Bahamian citizenship were born in the Bahamas to foreigners and/or lived here all their lives. Many others were women married to Bahamian men. The Opposition's claim that 10,000 people were awarded citizenship was "grossly exaggerated," he said.

"People keep talking about 10,000 citizenships given by the FNM. That's wrong, wrong, wrong," said Haitian Ambassador Antonio Rodrigue.

"During the year," he said, "we had about 500 renounce — so where are those 10,000?" Mr Rodrigue wanted to know.

Bahamian voters have to remember that this is "silly season" when lies abound. To qualify as an intelligent and responsible voter, they will have to be smarter than the liars and themselves search for the truth.

PLP failed to deliver in its time

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I HAVE heard many refer to election time as "silly season". But I only thought it was because the level of propaganda would escalate to extreme proportions. I have seen easily verifiable facts misconstrued and misrepresented by the PLP hoping that the Bahamian people are the same people who they kept in the dark by not opening the airwaves.

But nothing could adequately prepare me for the "blatant lie" told about the number of jobs created between 2002-2007. I am actually stunned that a man could look right in the camera and say that 20,000 jobs were created by the still "shell shocked" PLP. Remember they still have not come to grips yet that they lost the election, when they thought they were doing so well.

The not so unusual behaviour of the PLP is sickening to put it mildly, so much so that they have shamelessly adopted the game plan to say they started everything that the FNM is doing. But they still don't get it. Most Bahamians eyes are wide open.

The admission that they took five years to just talk, meet, plan and further discuss all of these projects that we see today without, not as much as putting one single shovel in the ground, is a testament that they are "just

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

talk" and no action. They literally talked for five years, nothing more and nothing less.

It took five years to discuss the Straw Market, late again. It took five years to discuss BahaMar, no shovel, late again. It took five years to discuss the airport, no shovel, no asphalt, no building, much too late again. Does anyone in the PLP have one ounce of shame?

Isn't it clear that Christie talks and Ingraham delivers? Why are we "stating the obvious"?

The Achilles heel for the PLP is that the Bahamian people, especially the sensible PLPs, can see that New Providence and several family islands have changed right before our very eyes and will never be the same again.

How could we imagine what the residents of the Eastern end of the island feel when they see clean fresh water?

On another note, the financial experts in the PLP came out of the woodwork to scream "bloody murder" when the government wisely opened the share offering for the Arawak Port Development. The scare tactics were done in an effort to prevent the average people like me

from getting a piece of the Bahamian Dream, but shazam, the participation was so overwhelming that it was reported to be oversubscribed three times.

The stunning revelation from all of this is that the regular folk from over the hill realise that the Rt Honourable Hubert Alexander Ingraham was looking out for their best interest. Had this been the PLP, they would have never opened this to the masses. The same few insiders of the PLP would have been rubbing their hands with glee and saying in unison "All for me baby, all for me!"

The oversubscription also said in no uncertain terms that the people are "not checking" for the PLP. This must be disheartening.

No amount of confession on the PLP's behalf for not delivering is going to help them; in fact it will definitely be to the contrary.

To the Bahamians who believe that they must be obligated to the PLP because their grandmother was a PLP, wake up, that era is long gone. Come to the 21st Century. You owe no one anything. Your children and generations yet unborn depend on a man who does, not talk. Think about it.

IVOINE W INGRAHAM
Nassau,
February 4, 2012.

A balanced judiciary?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

THE Nassau Guardian reported on February 4, 2012, that a businessman was fined and given probation after police collectively found 1.5lbs of marijuana on his person and his business storage and conference room last year.

The defendant, Charles Major III, was allowed by the prosecutor to plead guilty to simple possession of drugs as opposed to possession of drugs with intent to supply. My limited knowledge of the drug trade tells me that 1.5lbs of marijuana sells for \$1500.

A package of dope sells for \$5. This means that the defendant collectively had 150 \$5.00 packages. This is comparable to a businessman having 150 half pints of Bacardi Gold in

his possession and telling the police that he intended to drink all of them. I think it is fair to say that Mr Major won himself a stroke of luck.

The magistrate did say that the number of packages in the defendant's possession implied that he was intending to supply others with the drugs. The defence lawyer said that Mr Major came from a prominent family and was actively involved in the sporting community. The prosecution apparently agreed with the defendant's prominence in society and did not charge him with possession with the intent to supply.

I wonder what Corey Clarke must now be saying in prison. He was found with 6.5 ounces of marijuana at a business establishment earlier this year. He also pleaded guilty

to simple possession but this was refused by the prosecution and as such he was given the mandatory sentence of four years on January 17, 2012, by the magistrate for intent to supply.

Justice in the Bahamas, despite efforts by the government in its crime package bills last year, is still not balanced and questionable at best. Will it be fair to say that Mr Clarke does not come from a prominent family? At least no mention was made of this by the defence. We can't expect our citizens to continue to respect and have faith for the law if they continue to witness "others" receiving preferential treatment.

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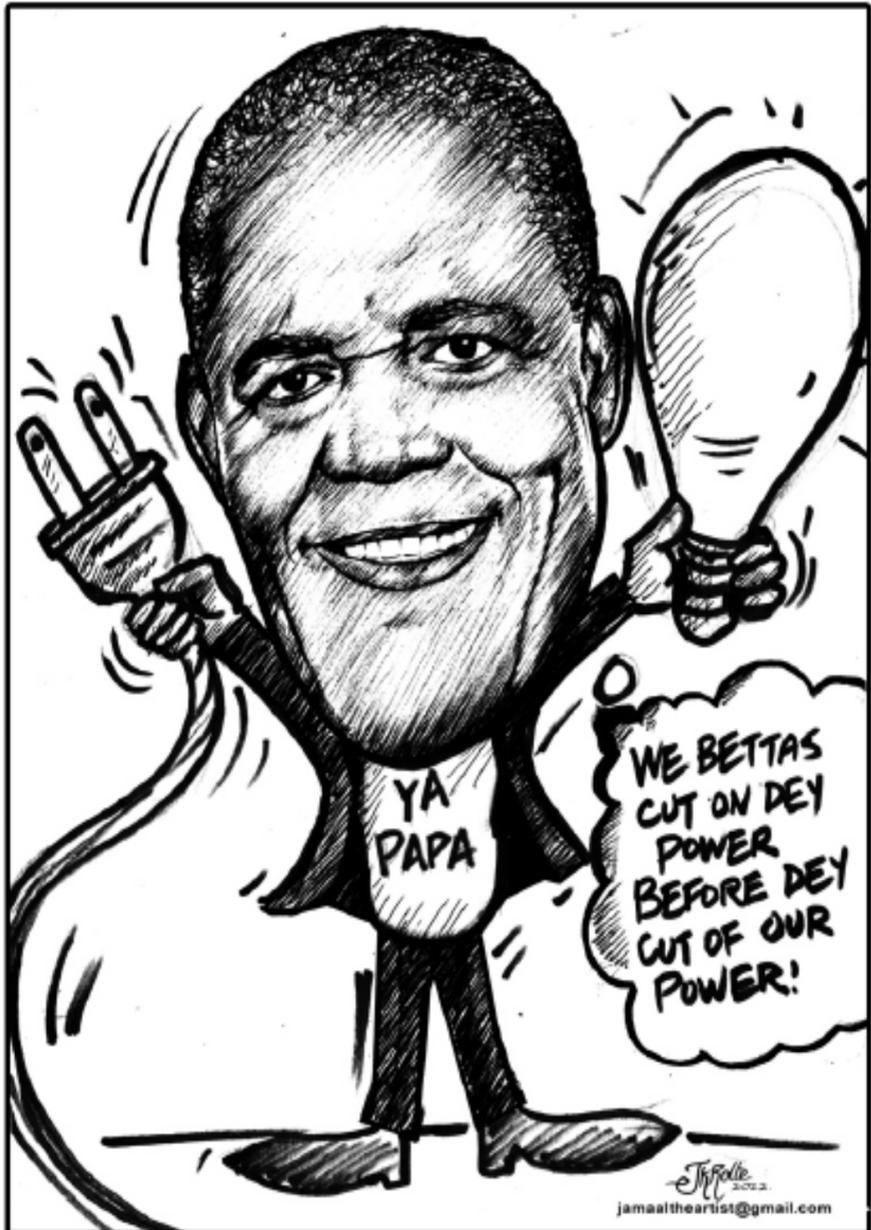
Interested person should deliver resume addressed to the President, Success Center for Extended studies, F4-Dewgard Plaza, Madeira Street Nassau by Friday, February 24, 2012

LOCAL NEWS

PUSHIN' DA ENVELOPE
By Jamaal Rolle



BEC RECONNECTION EXERCISE



Minnis 'more than confident' of Killarney re-election

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

DESPITE the challenges of contesting an expanded constituency, Killarney incumbent Dr Hubert Minnis said yesterday he is "more than confident" he will be re-elected.

Changes in constituency boundaries last year, specifically the elimination of the Clifton seat, significantly increased the size of Killarney.

However, Dr Minnis said he is not worried about losing his seat because his work speaks for itself.

"I've been going out everyday, Monday through Saturday, because there is a larger area to cover. I have a whole lot more constituents and I want to ensure that every area is covered and every house is visited.

"I am confident but not overconfident. That is why I continue to go out personally. I still communicate with my constituents and my office is always open," he said.

"I feel like I have done a lot but there is still more that I could have done. There were obstacles and disappointments but we got through them. Moving forward the only thing I am requesting is more community involvement. We can help ourselves and utilise the resources we have within the community."

Dr Minnis said he is campaigning on accountability and community building.

"I am developing a Killarney plan where all the constituents will have an input. Down the road, they will evaluate me based on this plan and let me know how I have done as their MP. I am also pushing for community building."

"Every community has different issues and concerns. The problems in Gambier won't be the same as problems in South Ocean."

Dr Minnis will be running against Jerome Gomez and Rozanna Prodesta Moore, who represent the PLP and the DNA respectively.

Dr Minnis said he hopes to establish associations in each



'I am developing a Killarney plan where all the constituents will have an input. Down the road, they will evaluate me based on this plan and let me know how I have done as their MP. I am also pushing for community building.'

Hubert Minnis

area and crime watch groups in each community.

Oakes Field, Rock Crusher, Highland Park, Highland Terrace, Vista Marina, Prospect Ridge, Grove West, Skyline Drive East, Skyline Lakes, Perpall Tract West and Stapleton Garden West, were all cut from Killarney when the

boundaries were changed.

Atlantic Drive West, Westridge, Sandy Port, Sea Beach, Tropical Gardens, Gambier Village, Old Fort Bay, Mt Pleasant Village, Lyford Cay, Love Beach, Jacaranda, South Ocean, Charlottesville and Turnberry were all added.

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TO COMMON SHAREHOLDERS

The Board of Directors of Commonwealth Bank Limited has declared an Extraordinary Dividend Payment of 0.05 cents per share, on Common Shares, to all shareholders of record February 22, 2012.

The payment will be made on February 29, 2012, through Bahamas Central Securities Depository, the Registrar & Transfer Agent, in the usual manner.

Charlene A. Bosfield
Corporate Secretary

Leader In Personal Banking Services

LOCAL NEWS

Law firm calls for creation of Bahamas aircraft registry

TWO senior lawyers are calling for the creation of a Bahamas aircraft registry, saying it could lead to a host of related businesses and industries.

They said such a registry would create jobs, fuel economic diversity, potentially boost Family Island business and eventually generate multi-millions of dollars in revenue.

"Discussions of a Bahamas aircraft registry have been going on and off for years," said Callenders & Co senior partner Colin Callender. "The establishment of a registry always seemed to be desirable, but distant."

"Today, there is a heightened sense of readiness and urgency. Thus, we at Callenders & Co are willing to take the lead in driving the process for the creation of a Bahamas aircraft registry, without which we will continue to lose market share to other jurisdictions like Cayman and

Aruba who are equipped to be one-stop-shops for high net worth individuals, and with which we can diversify the economy, create jobs and potentially create an entirely new industry."

One of Callenders' senior associates, Llewellyn Boyer-Cartwright, a 29-year veteran commercial pilot and flight instructor, has married his airline and aviation training with his legal skills.

In January, Mr Boyer-Cartwright became the first Bahamian to be admitted to the Lawyer Pilots Bar Association.

He said the Bahamas is "perfectly situated" to create an aircraft registry.

"Look at the success we have enjoyed with the Bahamas Maritime Registry. There were doubting Thomases when that was first proposed, but the income it has generated not just in fees but in related service industries with businesses like the

Grand Bahama Shipyard and Bradford Marine has been substantial, far surpassing anyone's early expectations," he said.

According to the pilot-turned-lawyer, a registry will serve multiple goals.

"The first thing most people think of is satisfying the needs of high net worth individuals," said Mr Boyer-Cartwright, who joined Bahamasair at 19 and went on to certify on several Boeing models and fly for major international carriers.

"The person who owns a mega-yacht he can now register in the Bahamas is likely to have a private aircraft, most likely a jet, that he'd like to register here as well and he may even own a second or third home. He wants to do all of his business with one firm and within one jurisdiction whose politics and policies, language and culture he understands.

"However, if we are unable

to meet those needs, we are in effect driving business to competing jurisdictions where they can be accommodated and by doing that we are potentially losing out on real estate transactions, vacation spend, indirect revenue and other investment opportunities."

Business from high net worth individuals is only a small part of what both Cal-

enders lawyers think an aircraft registry can bring to the Bahamas.

Mr Boyer-Cartwright said: "A host of other related services unfolds - chartering, leasing, financing, provisioning, repair, airframe mechanics, power plant, avionics technicians.

"I foresee a day when the Bahamas becomes a major regional hub for both airlines

and general aviation and would even go so far as to predict that such a hub could exist on a large Family Island within fast ferry reach of New Providence, opening up hundreds of jobs.

"Not everyone has to be a banker, lawyer or doctor to succeed. This could transform a Family Island from bust to boom and make it the surprise business story of the



COLIN CALLENDER and Llewellyn Boyer-Cartwright urged the creation of a Bahamas aircraft registry. Roland Rose/DP&A

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LOCAL NEWS



Shipping company eases fears over move

FREEPORT – THE management of Mediterranean Shipping Company has moved to assure the public of their commitment to both Grand Bahama and the country following claims the company was set to relocate. For more than a decade, the Mediterranean Shipping

Company, one of the world's leading global shipping lines, has called the Bahamas home and over time has transformed the way thousands of companies throughout the country do business, the management said in a statement.

The success of MSC in Grand Bahama has also translated into success for the Freeport Container Port, which is one of Grand Bahama's largest employers.

Due to the company's success MSC Geneva opted to expand to Nassau in late 2007, allowing Nassau retailers to connect with more than 270 ports worldwide, and ship to five continents under one Bill of Lading, saving the consumer much needed transshipment costs.

"We are committed to the island," said Manuel Ruiz, general manager of MSC Bahamas.

"It is unfortunate that rumours in the marketplace have created a lot of talk about us leaving. This simply is not true and we want to assure our clients and most importantly our investors we are here to stay."

Mr Ruiz noted that the volume of business in the cargo industry has decreased over the last two years, but said that was to be expected with the state of the world economy.

"We have spent the last 11 years growing our company from three staff to over 50," he said.

"At the end of the day, we are part of the community."

"The community is built and developed by the people that live in it, so it is vitally important to us to continue to contribute both from a business and a local community standpoint."

MSC, which is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, has been in the shipping business since 1970.

MSC Bahamas launched a new service between Port Everglades, Florida and Nassau, on October 29, 2007.

AN MSC vessel - the company has been based in the Bahamas for more than a decade.

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LOCAL NEWS



Fundraising ventures to help college

TWO fundraising initiatives for the College of the Bahamas have been announced, including a raffle which will gift a Mercedes Benz to a lucky winner.

Representatives of the District Grand Lodge of the Bahamas, Scottish Constitution (DGL SC), announced the fundraisers in a press conference at Tyreflex Star Motors.

Speaking on behalf of the nine daughter Lodges of DGL, District Grand Master Charles Johnson announced the district's pledge of a \$100,000 endowment fund to COB over the next four years via an annual national raffle and gala ball.

Tyreflex Star Motors agreed to partner with the DGL as a co-sponsor of this year's raffle prize: a 2012 Mercedes Benz C180.

The grand prize drawing will take place March 10 at the DGL's Gala Ball at the Wyndham Cable Beach Resort.

Chairman of the DGL fundraising committee Courtney Strachan said the ball would not only serve as the culmination of DGL's 2012 national raffle campaign but would also serve to introduce the public to an event that is expected to become a cornerstone of the Bahamian social calendar.

Promising a sophisticated fine dining experience accentuated by top-class entertainment and a feast for all the senses, Mr Strachan pointed out a reward for each patron far beyond the various prizes that will be featured during this year's ball – the reward of helping continue the legacy of the nation's premier institution for higher learning.

COB president Dr Betsy Vogel Boze thanked the DGL SC for its decision to assist the college.

Dr Boze said such efforts demonstrate the continued commitment of the fraternal body to the success of COB students, as the college

already benefits from scholarships offered by Lodge St Michael 1634 SC and Lodge St David 1741 SC – both daughter Lodges of DGL.

Speaking on behalf of Tyreflex Star Motors managing director Patrick Knowles, Dellareese Edgecombe said the company is excited to be a part of this year's DGL raffle, especially considering the district's various programmes focused on the mentorship of young men.

Tickets for this year's raffle may be obtained via a \$50 endowment fund contribution at the following ticket sales locations: Andeaus Insurance (Trinity Plaza, West Bay Street and St Alban's Drive); West Bay Pharmacy (Hoffer Plaza, Cable Beach); and Quality Food Store (Galleria Plaza, JFK Drive).

Raffle tickets can also be purchased directly from DGL members or by calling 424-2926 in New Providence or 727-8020 in Grand Bahama.

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LOCAL NEWS

Mitchell fury at visa fraud claim

from page one

claimed Mr Mitchell and Mr Stubbs said the applicants represented several businesses in China – but that in all but one case, a check turned up no record of these companies existing.

Denying the accusations in a statement yesterday, Mr Mitchell said he demands an apology from FNM Senator Dion Foulkes, who tabled the document. He said Mr Foulkes put forward false allegations made by a “disgruntled employee”.

During his speech, Mr Foulkes said come election

day, Bahamians will remember that under the last PLP administration, “a senior consular officer reported to the United States Embassy that ‘visas were being issued to patently ineligible applicants’.”

He said voters will remember “that the officer also alleged that a senior PLP cabinet minister ‘received a portion of whatever fee the Chinese nationals paid for the visa’.”

According to the US Embassy cable, Mr Stubbs invited the 30 Chinese nationals, purported to be high-level managers at large Chinese

corporations, to the Bahamas for business.

However, a search by the Chinese Embassy in the Bahamas, conducted at the request of ministry staff, revealed no record of any of the companies in question with the exception of one – described as a small “mom and pop operation” in China.

Following the staff’s decision to decline the applications on this basis, the civil servant claimed, Mr Mitchell appointed another official who would have authority to overturn denied visa applications, but this provoked a strike at the consular division

when staff members walked off the job.

The document noted the strike was widely reported in the local media but was attributed to administrative issues.

Mr Foulkes told the senate outrages such as the “Chinese visa scandal” will cause the PLP to lose the upcoming election.

He said: “When overseas students and government workers go to the polls to vote, they will remember the shame and scandal which the PLP and Perry Christie brought to this country.

“They will remember the Harachi scandal, where a foreign investor said he gave the PLP \$10 million in exchange for a promise of a bank licence. The PLP never gave him the bank licence and he left the Bahamas. He made other allegations which I will deal with later.”

Mr Foulkes said voters will also remember Mr Christie’s promise to conduct a forensic accounting report and tell the public “exactly how much money Harachi gave him and the PLP”.

He said: “As is the norm with Perry Christie, we never saw the forensic report because he never intended to



FRED MITCHELL MP

do one. Just talk. It isn’t too late for him to fulfil this promise to the Bahamian people.”

Mr Foulkes also accused PLP deputy leader Philip Davis of “telling lies” about people – and advised him to “remember the airport scandal where heavy equipment was grounded by the police because it was purchased from the proceeds of drug trafficking. I believe one of the tractors is still behind the Airport Police Station”.

Mr Foulkes, who will represent the FNM in Yamacraw in the upcoming election, noted that the opposition held a

meeting in that constituency this week.

He said: “My name was called more than the PLP candidate’s name. It is obvious to all that the PLP intends to run a negative campaign. What they said about me was all lies. But I don’t expect anything different from them.

“They are not going to address the issues. I predict that they will continue to lie on FNM candidates because that is what their advisers from the United States have told them to do.”

In his response to Mr Foulkes’ speech, Mr Mitchell said: “Today, well worn stories were repeated by a government minister quoting a disgruntled employee about me as Minister of Foreign Affairs. The stories are totally and absolutely untrue.

“A writ is being filed and this is being issued against that employee for repeating false, malicious allegations.

“The allegations are in every particular untrue, false and misleading. I demand a retraction and apology from the minister from forthwith for repeating these false statements in public if he has any decency.”

POLICE EASE THEFT FEARS

from page one

calls so I double-checked our records. There has been no recent or recurring complaints of breaking and entering.”

The last theft complaints from rooms at the Royal Palm were in 2005 and 2007, according to local press reports.

Mr Dean said police are continuing to investigate the matter.

For the second day, the manager of the resort could not be reached for comment, despite several messages being left. Front desk clerks said he was in a meeting, and

later that he left the resort.

On Tuesday, Californian Sharon Cummings said her visit to Nassau quickly turned into a “nightmare” after \$900 was stolen from a safe in the room she shared with her husband.

She said the couple visit various Caribbean countries and submit articles to Budget Travel Magazine, an authoritative guide to inexpensive lodgings in vacation destinations.

The magazine, owned by world renowned travel expert Arthur Frommer, has a strong online following and the print edition reaches more than 600,000 Americans a month.

Mrs Cummings added that she and her husband are outraged that nothing has been done to tighten security, as this is not the first theft from the hotel room.

“After someone came in here and took our money, the police told us they have on numerous occasions come in and told management that their security system is not up to par,” she claimed.

In 2007, The Tribune reported that a guest of the Royal Palm told police her jewellery and cell phone had been stolen from her room by three men seen walking casually from the hotel.

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FATCA Regulations Released!

FATCA Seminar to Provide Overview of Regulations Released by IRS and US Treasury

On 8 February 2012, the IRS and US Treasury issued the proposed FATCA regulations. With the release of the proposed regulations, most affected entities will be in a position where they can begin to address the operational issues associated with the new regime. If you are unfamiliar with FATCA and the implications of this legislation on your business, or would like to know the latest based on the new regulations, plan to attend this premier event. The proposed regulations will be first discussed in the Bahamas at this seminar. Don't miss it!

Highlights of our discussion:

- The Purpose, Scope and Definitions of FATCA
- Requirement to Deduct and Withhold Tax
- Identification of Payee
- FFI Agreement
- Payments Beneficially Owned by Exempt Owners
- Requirements for Non-Financial Foreign Entities
- Withholdable Payments
- Liability for Withheld Tax, including Adjustments, Credits, and Refunds
- Key points in the Preamble that Should Not be Overlooked

Melinda Schmidt, a Tax Director with KPMG LLP, based in New York will be the guest speaker.

Location:	NASSAU	FREPORT
Date:	Thursday, Feb 23rd	Friday, Feb 24th
Venue:	British Colonial Hilton	Pelican Bay Hotel
Time:	8:30 - 11:30 am	9:00 - 11:00 am
Cost:	\$50 includes continental breakfast	(FATCA session)
CPE Hours	2.5 Hours	

For more information or to RSVP please contact:

Tanya Rahming
Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants
bicabah@gmail.com
326.6619

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LOCAL NEWS

Reward offer by shipyard

from page one

president of operations, is asking the public's assistance in locating three missing fair-water propeller cones, which are made of brass or bronze and weigh 7,000 lbs.

He believes the items were taken by thieves for their scrap metal value which would be anywhere around \$5,000.

"We are assuming that the equipment was stolen for scrap metal. We have contacted the scrap metal companies and we have had no response," said Mr Byrd. The matter has been reported to the Police and investigations are under way, but shipyard officials are also appealing to the public to assist them in locating the propellers.

"We need as much information from the public because somebody has obviously seen this leave the yard or the island. Somebody has had to have seen this and knows something about it," Mr Byrd said.

He stressed that the items belong to their customers and are needed so they can complete their work on the vessels docked at the shipyard.

"We did notify the client and he is very grateful that we have taken action by putting a reward out for this.

"Between all three pieces the value to us and the customers is somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$300,000, and the scrap value is somewhere around \$5,000 – that's it, so it's not worth it," he said.

Mr Byrd said there is a strong possibility someone on the "inside" might be involved as a certain piece of equipment is needed to load the cone propellers.

He noted that each cone can weigh between 1,000lbs to 3,000lbs.

"I would hate to say it, but of course we would (have to) assume that someone inside has something to do with this," he said.

Mr Byrd said the shipyard has experienced thefts over the past year and has been

actively investigating those incidents along with the police.

He noted that before the scrap metal ban they were losing copper, but the incidents had ceased after the government-imposed a ban on copper and scrap metal export.

Mr Byrd said the sudden rise in price for copper and brass is enticing thieves to strike businesses again.

"It will cost the shipyard in excess of \$200,000 if we can not recover the items. To build a new piece, to get it cast and balanced, it would be 16 to 20 weeks," he stated.

He further explained that if work on the cargo vessel is not completed in time and the shipyard could lose millions of dollars if the vessel is contracted for charter service.

Management is deeply concerned about the direct impact that these thefts will



FROM LEFT, Human Resource manager Marilyn Johnson, Mr Rueben Byrd, senior vice-person of operations; and Kenderick Knowles, health, safety and security manager, announce the reward. Photo: Denise Maycock

have on their business, said Mr Byrd.

"The marine industry is a very small industry and any news of failure will hinder the company's progress and will directly affect the economy of Grand Bahama," he said.

The company employs 300 Bahamians and more than 100 subcontractors, and supports many local businesses indirectly.

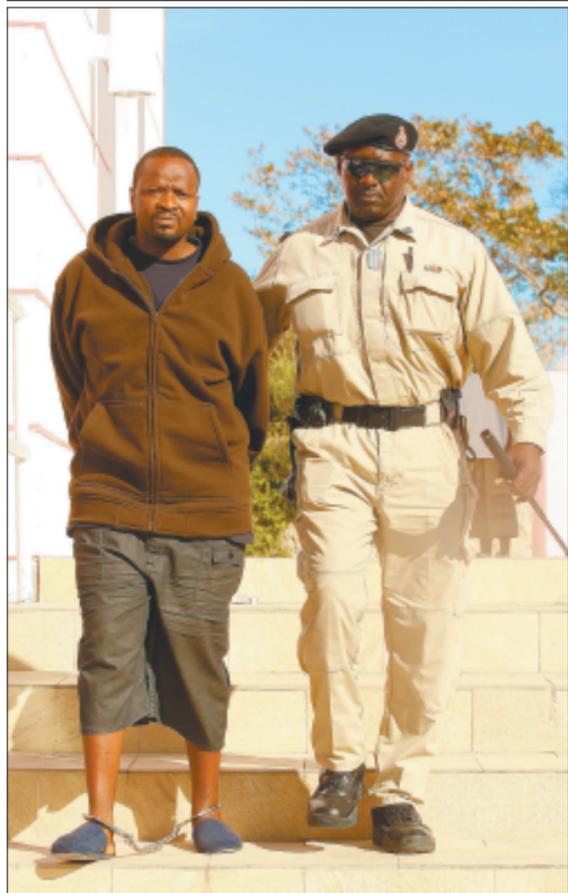
Kendrick Knowles, health, safety, security manager, said they have beefed up security and have installed additional surveillance at the yard.

"This is really a vexing problem to us. This has to stop," he said.

Marilyn Johnson, human resources manager, said they have contacted union officials and have launched an internal investigation.

Mr Byrd said if it is found that an employee is involved, the individual would be suspended, discharged and prosecuted.

Anyone with information or tips can call the Royal Bahamas Commercial Crimes Unit in Grand Bahama at 350-3099.



32-YEAR-OLD Kenneth Knowles at court yesterday. Photo: Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff

MAN ACCUSED OF MURDERS

from page one

It is alleged that on Sunday, February 12, he killed Anthony Miller, 26, and 24-year-old Alexandria Farrington, and tried to kill Olivia Sawyer.

On the day in question, a man armed with a handgun opened fire on a group of people at Mackey Yard after a fight broke out at a party off Fire Trail Road shortly before 2am.

As a result of the argument, Farrington and Miller were shot multiple times and died in hospital. Both were taken by private vehicle.

Sawyer was also injured and hospitalised.

Knowles was not required to enter a plea to the charges

due to their nature. He was told that a Voluntary Bill of Indictment would be served against him on April 17.

Chief Magistrate Gomez explained the Bill would speed up the trial process by sending the matter directly to the Supreme Court.

He was not eligible for bail and was remanded to Her Majesty's Prison. Before he was escorted out of court, defence attorney Stanley Rolle informed the court that his client was on prescribed medication which needed to be continued.

Chief Magistrate Gomez acknowledged Mr Rolle's request that the accused be allowed to continue receiving medication – blood thinners – while behind bars.

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LOCAL NEWS

65% growth for Commonwealth

COMMONWEALTH Bank is reporting another strong year with comprehensive net income of \$51.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2011, and the bank's total assets expanded to a new milestone of \$1.5 billion which represented a growth of 6.5% since December 2010.

"Commonwealth Bank continues to outperform all expectations in the face of a delayed global and national recovery.

"We are extremely pleased with the bank's financial performance over the past year. Net income of \$51.8 represents the second most profitable year in the bank's history, the highest being our 2010 earnings of \$53.8 million.

"This confirms the viability of our business strategy," said William B Sands Jr, executive chairman.

"With the slow economic recovery, Bahamians continue to be faced with significant challenges. Commonwealth Bank shares in the indomitable Bahamian spirit that drives us to overcome all obstacles to success. This underscores our financial performance which we have attained as a result of prudent credit risk management, expense moderation and the bank's commitment to provide superior personal banking services to all Bahamians."

The board of directors of Commonwealth Bank at their February 2012 meeting, declared an extraordi-



WILLIAM B SANDS JR, the executive chairman of Commonwealth Bank, has reported another strong year.

nary common share dividend of five cents per share payable on February 29 to shareholders of record on February 22. The executive chairman said: "Commonwealth Bank has had a long history of sharing our success with our shareholders and we are extremely pleased that during these difficult times we are able to pay an extra-ordinary dividend to ease the burdens being experienced by our shareholders."

The bank reported strong profitability with earnings per share of \$0.47, return on assets of 3.18% and return on equity of 26.9%. The bank continues to maintain strong capital and liquidity ratios well in excess of regulatory requirements. In addition, the bank has not changed its highly conservative approach in

making collective credit impairment allowances against non impaired loans. These underscore the bank's primary objective of ensuring its safety and soundness.

"While we are pleased with the bank's performance in 2011, we recognise the ongoing challenges of our environment. We remain resolute in attaining our vision of producing long-term profitable growth and delivering value to our customers, shareholders and the communities we serve," said executive chairman Sands. "We wish to thank our customers for their loyalty and continued patronage. Also, we would like to acknowledge and thank our dedicated and hard-working staff for their unwavering commitment to service excellence. Our strong results would not be possible without the support from these stakeholders."

Commonwealth Bank is the largest Bahamian bank and the largest Bahamian-owned company listed on BISX. The bank is a market leader in service and convenience, operating eleven branches in New Providence, Abaco and Grand Bahama and employs over 500 staff.

Please visit the bank's website at www.combankltd.com for information on Commonwealth Bank's dividend payment history, other financial reporting information and a full set of audited financial statements which will be published on our website within the time frame established by BISX.



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ATLANTIS PARADISE ISLAND

JOB PROFILE

Director of Slots Operations

The Director of Slots will be responsible for the overall effective management of the slot department. Motivating, developing, recruiting and overseeing training for new and existing team members is among the many exciting aspects of this role. The successful candidate will be responsible for developing and implementing standard operating policies and procedures, ensuring consistency and optimum service levels as well as adherence to gaming regulations and internal controls. He/she will act as a safeguard the company's assets by ensuring proper control procedures are adhered to and be accessible and visible on the casino floor to ensure that the slot experience is being effectively managed and players are provided exceptional service. The director of slots operations will also track revenue and monitor floor and asset productivity on a regular basis. This candidate will bring to the position a strong network of industry colleagues as well as established relationships with slot manufacturers and other vendors that support the casino. He or she must provide expert knowledge of the many products and technology that support slot operations and marketing including but not limited to; new generation slots, slot signage, slot wiring and technology, ACSC, Live View and visualization software, server based gaming, cash and redemption equipment, CAD, etc. and have experience in the strategic placement of gaming equipment on the casino floor. He or she will work with other department heads to lead innovative ways of increasing profitability and floor productivity. They will create and successfully implement business plans, annual operating and capital budget, recommend and lead strategies to improve the guest experience in the Casino and ensure the department remains in compliance with gaming regulations.

The Atlantis Casino is the largest Caribbean casino. It consists of approximately 60,000 square feet of slot machines and table games. The resort has 10 tennis courts, a marina with 63 yacht slips, 11 pools, 14 acre Water Park, salon, and spa, the activities are endless for guests of the Atlantis. The property boasts over 40 restaurants and bars.

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LOCAL NEWS

PLP hits out at low murder conviction rate

By DANA SMITH
dsmith@tribunemedia.net

FEWER than 25 persons have been convicted and sentenced for murder out of the nearly 450 homicides that have taken place since the FNM took office, according to PLP deputy leader Philip "Brave" Davis.

At a press conference yesterday afternoon, Mr Davis claimed the FNM is "utterly incapable" of sending murder cases to trial within a reasonable time period.

"Since the FNM took office, 443 persons have been murdered. Murders have doubled under their watch - doubled," he said.

"This government has secured fewer than 25 sentences for murder in nearly five years. This is a national emergency."

Mr Davis pointed out there are as many as 305 persons out on bail for murder right now. He also accused the government of failing to protect Bahamians by dismantling PLP programmes targeted at expediting convictions and reducing crime.

South Beach PLP candidate, Cleola Hamilton, who also spoke yesterday, stated even she and her family have been victims of an attack by accused men out on bail.

They came to her house and "put a gun in (her) face,"

she said. "I am at the moment now where I fear for my life because they are out on bail, again."

"I don't know when they are going to come and gun me down in my driveway, so this is very close to my heart. I feel that no Bahamian should be going through what I am going through right now - none."

Swift Justice, Urban Renewal, School Policing, and Witness Protection will all be re-implemented by the PLP should they take office this coming election.

Dr Davis claimed these programmes were ended by the FNM solely because they were organised under

the PLP.

"Under the PLP's Swift Justice initiative, for one year not one case was dropped from the judicial calendar for reasons within the control of the Attorney General's office. The Swift Justice Initiative proved that murder trials could be held within 12 months - and when murder trials are held within 12 months, there is no bail," he said.

"It is my view that had the government, once elected, continued the Swift Justice Initiative as was implemented by the PLP, the number 25 would be much, much higher."

Operation Cease Fire is a

new programme that the PLP plans to implement. It will focus on repeat offenders, saturation patrols in high crime areas, and "direct intervention in the cycle of revenge killings with new outreach workers trained in conflict mediation."

The FNM ignored crime during their tenure in office and "scrambled to throw together some legislation" before the upcoming election, Mr Davis said.

"They were worried about politics, not because they suddenly cared. The measures they offered last year were much too little, much too late."

Their campaign thus far has been a "parade of self-congratulation."

"They are slapping themselves on the back when it's a slap in the face to the thousands of Bahamians affected by crime and violent crime."

ENGLERSTON INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE ADDRESSES CONVENTION



ALEX MORLEY addresses the community convention.

SATURDAY'S Englerston community convention, hosted by independent candidate for the area Alex Morley, was attended by about 30 people.

Several proposed projects came out of the convention, including:

- Repairing and upgrading

Englerston Park

- Hosting a basketball tournament/ Englerston Day
- Hosting an Englerston community book drive

Mr Morley gave a keynote speech that focused on African Unity in Englerston and the nation.



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Requirements:

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EVANGELISTIC TEMPLE

**Thanksgiving & Dedication Service
In Celebration of the New Sanctuary
Monday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m.**



Rev. Dr. Gary V. Curry
Senior Pastor



Rev. Dr. Vaughan L. Cash
Senior Pastor-Elect

Evangelistic Temple Assembly of God will be dedicating its new state-of-the-art sanctuary on Monday, February 20, 2012 at 7pm. Located on Collins Avenue & 4th Terrace, Centreville, the church has served the community for more than seventy-six (76) years (1935-present).

Evangelistic Temple originally opened its doors on Kemp Road in 1935. It was called Pentecostal Lighthouse Tabernacle and was the first Assembly of God church ever established in The Bahamas. In 1941, the church was renamed Evangelistic Temple and in 1957 the congregation relocated to Collins Avenue & 4th Terrace, West, Centreville.

Following the service of a number of outstanding Pastors, Evangelistic Temple elected Minister Gary V. Curry as its Pastor in 1978. Pastor Curry, as he is affectionately called by members and his religious colleagues, distinguishes himself as the longest serving Pastor of Evangelistic Temple (1978-present).

Led by Pastor Curry, Evangelistic Temple experienced unprecedented growth during the early 1980s and 1990s. The church noticeably impacted the entire Bahamian community when it opened the doors of Toddlers Academy that eventually birthed Temple Christian Pre and Elementary School in September 1981. A few years later, in 1989, Temple Christian High School was established. Temple Christian School has significantly contributed to and continues to contribute to nation building as it has produced and continues to produce some of the finest men and women who possess strong Christian values, many of whom are outstanding leaders within the society.

Evangelistic Temple's presence within the community continues to positively impact the lives of many, particularly those in need of spiritual rebirth. The membership continues to grow as many positive activities and programs draw people from all walks of life to a richer, more profound relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Because of this unprecedented growth, Evangelistic Temple became increasingly aware of the fact that it had outgrown its existing facilities. This led to the decision to build a new state-of-the-art edifice just east of the current edifice. The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new sanctuary took place on Sunday, April 17, 2005. The new structure commenced in 2006 and after much prayer and fasting it was completed in 2011. On Sunday, December 4, 2011, the new edifice opened its doors and its first service was held amidst jubilant praises to God by the pastors, officers and members of the church.

Today our membership stands at seven hundred and fourteen (714), and the number of serving ministries is fifty-one (51). Evangelistic Temple is grateful to God for His unmerited favour and blessings as it celebrates the completion of its new sanctuary in a special dedicatory service of thanksgiving!

Rev. Dr. Gary V. Curry serves as Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Vaughan L. Cash serves as the Senior Pastor-Elect and Min. Cynthia Rolle serves as the Youth & Children's Pastor.

**The general public is cordially invited to attend this very special event.
To God be all the glory great things He has done and continues to do!**

DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR CIVIL RIGHTS ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Inspired by Maya Angelou

by CEDRIC MUNROE

"It's not a past tense for me. Dr King continues to have an impact on my life, as he does upon the lives of many people in the world. A dream never dies. I'm trying to be that fair person, that kind, generous and courageous person, that loving person that Dr Martin Luther King Jr was and encouraged us to become." – Maya Angelou.

Marguerite Ann Johnson, more commonly known as Dr Maya Angelou, was born on April 4, 1928. She is a known actress, activist, poet, author and an Academy of Achievement inductee.

This "Phenomenal Woman" has inspired many persons. She has inspired me to write poetry of my own, a few of which have won



CEDRIC MUNROE, of Doris Johnson Sr High School, Nassau, grade 12

awards. Dr Angelou fights for civil rights. She advocates equality among all races and same sex marriages, and motivates teen mothers and neglected persons to surmount their struggles.

Maya Angelou has travelled the world teaching

moral values and virtues. She has been the voice for those who don't have the courage to speak. Dr Angelou volunteers her time at high schools around America to divulge her life experiences.

Having been a teenage mother, she knows the cruel pejoratives that premature mothers face. She has dedicated a portion of her autobiography, *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*, to them. Dr Angelou has counselled teen mothers, built their courage and motivated them to aspire for transcendence.

In addition, Dr Angelou has focused on neglect within the black community. After witnessing blacks fighting blacks and committing adultery, she perceives these as "acts of negligence". To this end, Dr Angelou has spent much time educating blacks of the importance of being their brother's keeper. Through her lectures at Wake Forest University, she has encouraged youths to be concerned for the welfare of others.

Furthermore, Dr Angelou is an advocate of same sex marriage. Dr King's teachings are evident in the works of Dr Angelou. In order to erad-

icate this prejudice in society, Dr Angelou has used her poetry to make others tolerant and more accepting of the gay community. She has recited her poem, *Still I Rise*, at same sex conferences across America. Presently, she fights for the rights of gays with the intention of abolishing discrimination against them.

Both Dr King and Dr Angelou have inspired me to be a difference maker. I have made it my goal to make the world a more peaceful place. At my school, I'm the vice president of the Interact Club. We've donated money and labour to the needy, and also comforted the elderly. My student council body and I have implemented a peer-tutoring programme, to work with the academically challenged at my school.

Additionally, as a prefect, I have taken time to talk with my male peers about anger management.

Dr Angelou's words, "You may encounter many defeats but you must never be defeated" serves as my motto. Dr King inspired Dr Maya Angelou, and she has inspired me. Now, I must inspire my peers to personify Dr King's morals.



POET MAYA ANGELOU, who said of Martin Luther King Jr, "A dream never dies".

The winners of the US Embassy's sixth annual Dr Martin Luther King Jr Civil Rights Essay Contest have been announced. Here, and on pages 15-17, we present the essays written by the four winners.

VACANT POSITION
Coordinator, International Patient Program

Qualifications

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**MINISTRY OF FINANCE
CENTRAL BANK OF THE BAHAMAS**

BANKS AND TRUST COMPANIES REGULATION ACT, 2000

NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF SURRENDER OF LICENCE

In exercise of the powers conferred by subsection (2) of section 18A and section 18D of the Banks and Trust Companies Regulation Act, 2000, the Central Bank of The Bahamas approves the surrender of the trust licence of Coubah Secretaries Limited which was granted on the 18th day of December, 2008.

Made this 25th day of January, 2012.

Signed
WENDY CRAIGG
Governor of the Central Bank of The Bahamas

GN 1374

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DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR CIVIL RIGHTS ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

by BENITA DELANEY

MARTIN Luther King Jr once said: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." - (The Quotations page, 1)

Dubbed "one of the most courageous persons the Civil Rights Movement ever produced", John R Lewis decided at a young age that he would be an instrument of change in the American Society. The words of Dr Martin Luther King Jr resonated with John Lewis, fueling his desire to become an activist.

Compelled by observing the social prejudice around him, he did not allow his humble beginnings to deter him from his ambitious dream of becoming a world changer. (US House of Representatives, 1)

Throughout his life, Lewis has made some outstanding contributions in efforts to eradicate injustice. While in college, he organised "sit-in demonstrations at segregated lunch counters". He and his colleagues were humiliated, beleaguered, abused and eventually imprisoned; but nonetheless, their efforts remained relentless in the struggle for equality.

In the 1960s, he became a freedom rider, opposing the discrimination against black people on interstate buses. During these rides, John Lewis jeopardised his safety by sitting in seats reserved for white clients. He was so passionate in his pursuit to help end segregation that he was involved in audacious demonstrations; despite his awareness that the repercussions of his actions could endanger his ability to graduate from American Baptist Theological Seminary. (Academy Of Achievement, 1), (The Martin Luther King, Jr Research and Education Institute, 1)

John Lewis had an integral part in the formation of the Student Nonviolent Co-ordinating Committee. As president, he was responsible for the arrangement of a campaign called 'Mississippi Freedom Summer' which sought to implement voting rights for blacks in the South. (Academy Of Achievement, 1)



BENITA DELANEY, of Sunland Baptist Academy, Freeport, Grand Bahama, grade 12

"Those who love peace must learn to organise as effectively as those who love war." - Martin Luther King Jr. This powerful quote is a very realistic one; fighting for peace does not require physical blows but it is essential that it leaves an impact. In order to leave an impact, we must devise strategies that are so elaborate that they successfully counteract the matter we are against (Good Reads, 1).

I would consider myself a peacemaker in my community. I detest the very thought of violence and disharmony, therefore, I strive to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner.

When I observe tension between two individuals, I usually get feedback from both sides in order to identify the problem and help to find a solution that will bring about reconciliation. I believe wholeheartedly, Proverbs 15:1: "A soft answer turneth away wrath but grievous words stir up anger." (Full Life Study Bible p 944).

My passive personality contributes to my natural instinct to avoid confrontations. I guess you can say I was born to be an advocate for peace.

As a mixed race child, I have learnt to focus on how our differences make us unique, rather than how they separate us. My upbringing has increased my sensitivity toward matters of equality among people. I am infuriated when crude racial remarks are made and always driven to provide a strong defence. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, I believe "we must be the change we wish to see in the world". (Schipul, 1)

A peacemaker who put his safety at risk

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DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR CIVIL RIGHTS ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

'I will make this island a better place'



by DEVIN MAJOR

I TOO have felt the sting of inequality. In times like these, I have derived strength from those who have been at the helm of black struggle.

Dr Martin Luther King and his predecessor Jesse Jackson have been my motivation. At a time when it was dangerous to stand for right, these men made themselves targets to empower black people.

They fixed their eyes on the future, despite the mountain that stood in their way.

Indeed, I am a new student to Moore's Island and many

days I feel, making it from one day to the next is a mountain I must climb. Daily, I go to a school where I am the new girl and I am no one's sister or cousin. To everyone, I am a stranger. This new road I am on is a lonely one but like Dr King and Jesse Jackson, I want to defy the odds.

Yes, I am a victim of teenage pregnancy, but this does not mean that I have to choose that path. Jesse Jackson's example empowers me to soar further than those around me could ever imagine. So, this means refusing the sexual advances of my classmates and enduring the

hardships of being thought of as unpopular.

As a black student, Mr Jackson was enrolled at an all-white school and scared off by an angry mob of whites for his beliefs.

Despite this, Jackson's charge was, "Excellence is doing your best against the odds, as I run for President, I run against the odds."

I too want to rise above the things that challenge me and make myself and my environment better.

Many high school teens celebrate with their classmates when they do wrong. I know these students are behaving in this way because



THE MEMORIAL to Dr Martin Luther King, who has served as an inspiration to following generations in the struggle against inequality.

they are simply bored and have not found their calling

in life. I believe that, if our school had enough after school programmes, more children would begin to use their time and youth for good.

For example, although junkanoo isn't a really big thing in Moore's Island, starting a junkanoo group helped many teenagers to occupy their time.

Because Moore's Island All-age is ostracised from main stream Bahamas and generally does not get the financial support from the Ministry of Education, this reality prodded me to advocate for a Technical Cadet programme.

This programme is desperately needed at my school to create the proper business mindset for our future graduates.

Our high schoolers desperately need this programme, because for most of them Abaco is the world and the core subjects here is not adequately preparing them for the future.

Jackson and Dr King were both men that faced inequalities fiercely. As for me, I will not allow the inadequacies which exist at my school to prevail. I will make this island a better place through the power of the pen and my voice. Moore's Island All-age School will be better because I am prepared to knock until the door is opened.



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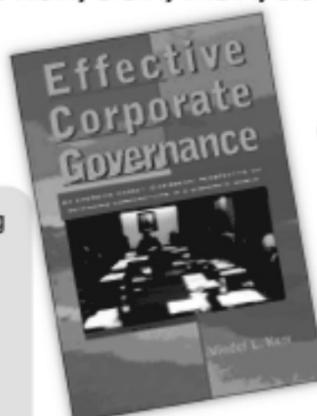
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DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR CIVIL RIGHTS ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

THE entire world owes a debt of gratitude to the Civil Rights Movement and, in particular, Dr Martin Luther King Jr. His sacrifice and the stand he took to empower black people have changed race relations worldwide. Many black Americans experienced firsthand the 'Jim Crow' laws that enforced segregation. The Civil Rights Movement was organised to change the regulations which denied blacks the same rights as other Americans. Dr King made an invaluable contribution to the Civil Rights Movement.



STEVANNO MILLER, of Preston Albury High, Rock Sound, Eleuthera, grade 11.

more democratic voters registered between 1984 and 1986, most of whom were blacks. As a black political leader, he was able to change the thinking of many American voters. In addition to his political career, he encouraged many students in the inner cities to avoid drugs and embrace a good education.

My community is rapidly changing. A number of foreign nationals as well as Bahamians from other islands are taking up residence. There is a need for these persons to adjust and feel accepted. As I have a responsibility to contribute to a more peaceful and non-violent world, I ensure that these persons are made to feel a part of the community.

Therefore, whenever we are on the basketball court, I ensure that those of my age are involved in the game. When there are community events, I interact with them and ask my peers to be kind to them. I also try to be a positive role model. I attend church regularly and take part in a number of community functions. I talk with my peers and encourage them to stay away from gangs.

As a young teenager, I also show respect for myself and persons older than I. Like Dr King and Reverend Jesse Jackson, I am determined to make a difference. What better way to begin by making a positive impact on my peers! One day, I hope I am able to influence someone positively, leaving an everlasting impact on his/her life.

Amongst the numerous Civil Rights leaders in the United States, I am humbled to focus on the Reverend Jesse Jackson. Born in Greenville, South Carolina, in 1941, Jackson worked closely with Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Dr King chose Jackson to form a group of black business and religious leaders in Chicago. The group began a successful programme called Operation Breadbasket, whose sole purpose was to develop greater job opportunities for blacks.

In 1971, Jesse Jackson began another group called People United to Solve Humanity (PUSH). This organisation encouraged large businesses to give jobs to blacks. The group also started educational and job training programmes to enhance the skills of blacks.

Later, Jesse Jackson felt that "Black Power" could be further gained through the ballot box. He travelled the country telling blacks to claim their right to vote. His idea was the more blacks who voted gave them a better chance to elect blacks into positions of power as head councillors, as mayors of cities, and as members of congress. They would get justice more effectively this way.

Martin Luther King Jr and Jesse Jackson shared the same goal, "An equal place for black Americans in the life of the United States". (*A History of the Twentieth Century* page 131).

After Jackson lost his first race for President of the United States, he worked to register new voters. Two million

A teenager drawing inspiration from Jackson and King



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Animal Fun Day



Spreading Compassion into the Community

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Botanical Gardens - Main Entrance Gate

Sunday, February 26th, 2012

12 - 5:30PM

Fun Dog Show ~ Try it out Agility ~ Magician ~ Children's Skits ~ Pet Fortune Teller
~ Carnival Games ~ Pet Portraits ~ Pizza ~ Rotary Hamburger Van ~ Bouncy Fun House
~ Baked Goods ~ Mini-Raffle ~ Refreshments ~ Face Art ~ Plants for Sale ~
Children's Arts & Crafts ~ Pet Adoptions ~ K-9 Unit Demo ~ Various Vendors ~ DJ

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Pedigree

1. Your Name:
2. Pet's Name:
3. Phone Number:
4. Email Address:
5. Check classes you are entering: \$5 per class or 4 for \$15

12pm - 1pm

Try it out Agility Course

1pm - 1.30pm

Best Costume

Best junior handler/owner

Beginner Obedience Class Most/least Obedient!

1.45pm - 2.15pm

Best Kisser

Tennis Ball and Spoon Race

3.15pm - 4.30pm

Waggiest Tails

Best Potcake

Prettiest, Handsomest, and Most Unusual Dogs

Best Trick

Best Owner Dog Look-a-likes

Fastest Retrieve

7. Calculate your entry donation:

Four Classes (\$15 donation) \$ ____

____ classes x \$5 each = \$ ____

8. Payment Options

Enclosed is my check, payable to The Bahamas Humane Society

Additional Donation: \$ ____

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: \$ ____

Please bring completed entry form to the Bahamas Humane Society, Graham Real Estate or Windermere West by Friday February 24th or just bring it to the Dog Show on February 26th 2012. Any Questions? Call Donna or Linda at (242)-323-5138