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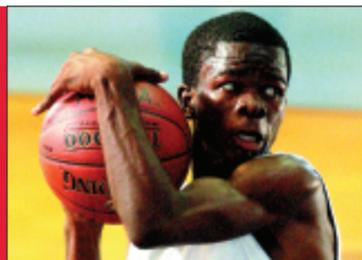
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BASKETBALL BATTLE

TOURNAMENT BEGINS - SEE SPORT



DEALING WITH YOUR PSYCHO EX - SEE WOMAN ON PAGE 12B

KFCs closed in union row

ELECTRICITY CUT OFF AT CITY MARKETS

Doors locked as employees stage protest

By AVA TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

KFC NASSAU outlets were closed yesterday until further notice as outraged employees staged a sit-down protest over the cancellation of its voluntary union recognition.

Workers were given until Thursday to sign a new contract or face termination, according to staff who said they refused to work at the request of former bargaining agent Bahamas Hotel Catering and Allied Workers Union.

Some 300 workers are affected by the sudden move, according to Minister of Labour Dion Foulkes, who confirmed it was the first time a company has rescinded voluntary recognition.

In a press statement last night, KFC Nassau explained

the historic decision to break union ties followed five months of stagnant negotiations over crucial "financial points of contention".

"[Yesterday's] decision means that KFC Nassau will no longer meet, consult or engage with the Union on matters pertaining to the terms and conditions of the company's workers," the release stated.

"As a result of the cancellation KFC Nassau will be dealing directly with its individual employees regarding their terms and conditions of employment."

The labour agreement between the two parties expired on September 24, 2011, and negotiations on a new agreement began in December.

The fast-food chain has argued that its current wage

SEE page 8



A CUSTOMER reads a closure notice on the front door of a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet. The ongoing row between the company and the union escalated yesterday, resulting in branches being closed down as staff took part in a sit-down protest. Photo: Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff

CITY Market stores across New Providence had their electricity cut off yesterday for delinquent accounts, *The Tribune* can confirm.

It was unclear how many stores were cut off, but BEC Chairman Michael Moss last night confirmed the corporation had been in discussions with the supermarket chain, who was "seriously" delinquent on a number of accounts.

However, he maintained he would not have been involved in the decision to disconnect a customer unless there

SEE page 8

FAMILY'S TEARS AT MORGUE

By SANCHESKA BROWN
Tribune Staff Reporter
sbrown@tribunemedia.net

SHIELDED by family members and friends, the distraught wife of the country's 18th murder victim identified his body at the morgue yesterday.

The woman, who refused to speak to the press, was whisked away by loved ones moments after leaving the Princess Margaret Hospital Rand laboratory.

SEE page 8

PLP ANGER AT SUSPENSION

HOLDING a press conference to protest the early suspension of Parliament yesterday, members of the opposition claimed the FNM is "frustrating the democratic process" and blocking the discussion of important matters - particularly the Public Accounts Committee report.

SEE page 2

POLICEMAN ADMITS TESTIMONY PRESSURE

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

A POLICEMAN testifying in the manslaughter and abetment trial of two of his colleagues yesterday admitted he was pressured to give a statement to the Central Detective Unit about the alleged beating of a prisoner.

The admission by Constable Kevin Roberts came as a result of cross examination by defence attorney Ian Cargill, where the officer first con-

ceded his knowledge of the family relation between Key's grandmother and then CDU chief Marvin Dames, who later became the former Deputy Commissioner of Police.

The policeman agreed to the attorney's suggestion that he would've been charged with the offence along with Cpl Donovan Gardiner and Constable Tavares Bowleg if he did not give the statement, which was filed six weeks after the alleged incident took place.

Gardiner, who is charged

with manslaughter, and Constable Bowleg, who is charged with abetment, are accused of brutally beating 28-year-old Desmond Key on June 17, 2007, in a cell at the Grove Police station. Key died in hospital seven months later on January 19, 2008.

In yesterday's proceedings, the disclosure was made during questioning by Mr Cargill after the officer had been questioned by attorney Wayne Munroe for nearly an

SEE page 8



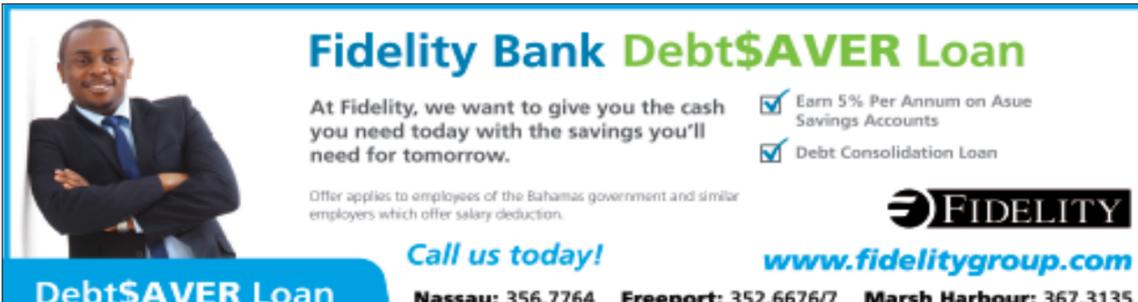
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PLP'S ANGER AT PARLIAMENT SUSPENSION

from page one

Opposition leader Perry Christie said by suspending Parliament, the government is attempting to stop or delay the tabling of the report, which analyses the New Providence Road Improvement Project.

"There is no doubt in my mind the government is trying to avoid, as long as possible, the second interim report of the Public Accounts Committee, arguably one of the most important committees in our Parliament," said Mr Christie.

"We condemn what is happening and urge the government to act responsibly and allow the process to take place."

Threatening to release the report in a public venue if not allowed to table the document in the House of Assembly, chairman of the Public Accounts Committee Dr Bernard Nottage said the report will provide valuable information to the public on the completion, management, allocation of funds and costs of the road project.

He said: "I put the govern-



MEMBERS of the PLP criticise the early suspension of Parliament, arguing that the government was preventing the tabling of a report on the New Providence Road Improvement Project. Photo: Peter Ramsay/BIS

ment on notice, that if it is their intention to cause the report of the committee to die before the end of this session of Parliament, we will not allow that to happen.

"If we can not do it in this building, we will do it in an open parliament of the people, where we will make the presentation and let the chips lie where they may."

Dr Nottage said the road

project has had a serious impact on Bahamians and it is the committee's responsibility to make the public aware of what is going on and how their finances are being allocated.

West End and Bimini MP Obie Wilchcombe said following two sessions of parliament the government has not allowed the opposition to speak out on various issues

including debating the Freedom of Information Act and the Disabilities Act, which members of the opposition expected to discuss weeks ago.

"The government is using the answering of questions as a form of filibustering and we are taking grave exception to it," Mr Wilchcombe said.

Parliament is set to resume March 5.

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LOCAL NEWS

BISHOP'S PLEA OVER INSURANCE BANKRUPTCY

BISHOP Simeon Hall is urging Attorney General John Delaney to bring the CLICO matter before the courts so those left "waylaid" by the bankrupt insurance company can get some relief.

In December, Craig Gomez, the Baker, Tilly, Gomez accountant, made his ninth report to the Supreme Court revealing investors still face an approximate \$18.4 million solvency deficiency.

In his letter to the Attorney General, Bishop Hall said he's praying Mr Delaney

will use his office to help the matter to reach some conclusion.

Bishop Hall said he's amazed how "some cases in our system can be fast-tracked through our courts while others take an eternity".

More than 30,000 clients, including himself, have been "greatly disadvantaged by this financial debacle," Bishop Hall said.

"It is my understanding that the matter is bogged down in our courts.

"I am also informed that the matter of the \$30 million

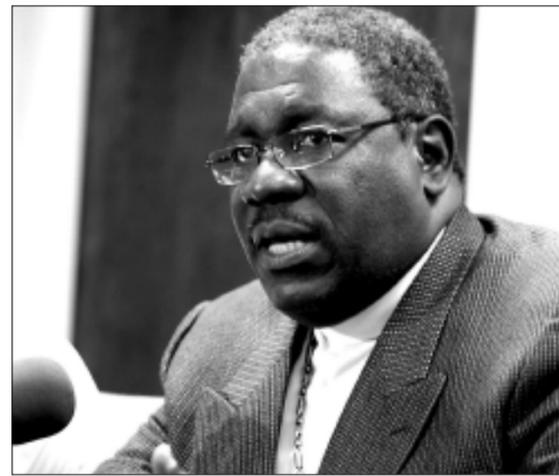
gratuity which the Bahamas government so graciously posted is before you. If this is so, I humbly ask that you expedite this matter so that all who have been waylaid by this might have resolution."

Last year Bishop Hall, a well known pastor and social activist, revealed his plans for retirement had to be postponed for two years as a result of financial challenges stemming from the CLICO collapse.

"I've been preaching for 45 years. I'd hoped to retire two years ago but I was a part of

the CLICO plan. [New Covenant Baptist Church] had an annuity there, a retirement financial plan, but that debacle threw my retirement off," he said. "I can only imagine other persons who have been affected by that incident who are perhaps in awkward positions. As a pastor, I had something to fall back on. What about those who had no recourse?"

"I can only imagine the elderly that have been affected by that. It seems that both governments, both political parties, fell asleep at the wheel."



BISHOP SIMEON HALL has called for action on the CLICO case.



THE ARAWAK CAY port development, as seen from the air.

Port running in two months

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

THE Arawak Cay container port will be operational in less than two months, according to Minister of State for Finance Zhivargo Laing.

During a question-and-answer session in the House of Assembly yesterday, the Marco City MP announced that as of April 1, all customs operations in New Providence will be situated at the 25,000 square foot Nassau Container Port Break Bulk Terminal at Arawak Cay.

Mr Laing said centralising all customs operations in Nassau at the new port is part of the government's efforts to completely "revamp communication and technology capabilities" at the Customs Department.

He said the government has also strengthened the department with additional staff and resources, in an effort to bring it in line with international standards.

Mr Laing said: "We believe that these developments will greatly improve efficiency,

security and revenue collection for the benefit of the Bahamian people."

All ports used for the purposes of landing foreign goods, freight, cargo, containers, freight equipment, bulk materials and/or that exports goods, freight, cargo, containers, freight equipment, or bulk materials now situated at the John Alfred Dock and Union Dock will cease operations and all rights granted to them will be revoked effective midnight March 31.

The Gladstone Freight Terminal will be used as a transit shed, also beginning April 1.

According to Mr Laing, Clifton Pier will be appointed a "sufferance port", but will be subjected to various restrictions.

These include: that the port must be used solely for the loading and unloading of fuels, petroleum products, asphalt and cement; that 24 hours notice must be given to the Customs Department prior to each delivery of fuel; and transportation of custom officers shall be provided by the importing companies.

TWO IN COURT OVER MURDER

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

TWO Bethel Avenue brothers are on remand at Her Majesty's Prison after they were arraigned yesterday in connection with the country's 16th murder of 2012.

Ramond Nottage, 24, and Rashad Nottage, 21, appeared in Magistrate's Court before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez.

It is alleged that the pair caused the death of Akyto Samuel Smith of Faith Gardens on Wednesday, February 15.

Smith's body was found

bound and gagged in the trunk of a car by police on Sir Milo Butler Highway last Wednesday evening.

The Nottage brothers were not required to enter a plea due to the nature of the charge.

Chief Magistrate Gomez told the accused the prosecution will present them with a Voluntary Bill of Indictment on May 16.

He also told the siblings they were ineligible for bail as the Magistrate's Court no longer has discretion to grant bail in serious crime trials.

They were remanded to prison until the end of the trial. Attorney Murrio Ducille is defending the brothers.

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TELEPHONES

Switchboard (News, Circulation and Advertising) 322-1986
Advertising Manager - (242) 502-2352
Circulation Department - (242) 502-2386
Nassau Fax: - (242) 328-2398
Freeport, Grand Bahama: 1-(242)-352-6608
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Republican 'super PACs' buoyed by mega donors

A PAIR of “super” political action committees supporting top Republican presidential candidates spent nearly \$24 million in January, drawing upon major gifts and repeat donations from wealthy business executives, according to financial reports the groups filed Monday with the government.

The super PACs — Mitt Romney-leaning Restore Our Future and Newt Gingrich-supportive Winning Our Future — raised a combined \$17 million last month. That financial strength allowed the groups to hit the airwaves in key primary states with millions of dollars in expensive TV ads.

The groups' fundraising offers a periodic behind-the-scenes glimpse into the identities of the wealthy supporters who will help elect the next president, along with details on how the tens of millions of dollars they donated have been spent this election season.

Restore Our Future, which spent \$14 million last month, has been boosted by more than two dozen repeat donors.

Winning Our Future, which spent \$9.7 million, is largely supported by casino mogul Sheldon Adelson and his wife.

The super PACs, as well as other groups supporting other candidates and the individual campaigns, were required to disclose how much they raised and the identities of their donors in reports filed with the Federal Election Commission by midnight Monday.

Those reports provided a snapshot of fundraising for President Barack Obama's early campaign and for Republican candidates as they battled during important primary elections in January.

During the month, Republican candidates Gingrich and Santorum had briefly surged ahead of front-runner Romney but trailed the former Massachusetts governor in fundraising. Since then, Santorum has climbed remarkably in polls as support eroded just as stunningly for Gingrich following his disappointing showing in Florida.

Restore Our Future has been a boon for Romney, who has benefited greatly from the group's TV ads attacking Gingrich in particular. Such ads were purchased thanks to the financial help of repeat donors, including Marriott International Chairman JW Marriott Jr, who has given the super PAC \$750,000 to date.

The super PAC also reported new donors, including Hewlett-Packard CEO Meg Whitman.

Romney mentored Whitman, recently an unsuccessful candidate for California governor, during the 1980s at Boston-based Bain & Co, the private equity firm Romney headed. Whitman's \$100,000 check to Restore Our Future came days after she joined Romney at a celebration of his victory in the New Hampshire primary.

Restore Our Future counted on continued support from at least 30 repeat donors who have given a combined \$6.6 million in January, according to a review of the reports by The Associated Press.

Meanwhile, Winning Our Future's \$11 million in contributions during the same period came almost exclusively from Adelson, a friend of Gingrich's and a staunch supporter of Israel.

Adelson and his wife, Miriam, each gave \$5 million to the super PAC in January — a move that helped keep Gingrich's struggling campaign alive.

Other Republican-leaning super PACs reported major contributions.

Endorse Liberty, the group supporting Texas Rep Ron Paul, reported roughly \$2.4 million in donations, including \$1.7 from the billionaire founder of PayPal, Peter Thiel, of San Francisco.

Thiel, who runs a hedge fund, is a libertarian who has supported Republican causes and candidates and also has donated to California's marijuana legalisation ballot measure.

Obama's campaign last Friday reported raising a combined \$29.1 million in January among the campaign, the Democratic National Committee and other joint fundraising committees.

The major super PAC backing Obama, Priorities USA Action, has yet to file its January report.

The reports likely will rekindle criticism of the groups, which were made possible under a 2010 Supreme Court ruling in the Citizens United case.

The super PACs must legally remain independent from the candidates they support, but many are staffed with former campaign aides who have intimate knowledge of the campaigns' strategies.

This article is by Jack Gillum
of the Associated Press

Take your Haitian brothers with you

EDITOR, The Tribune.

IN THE pitch of darkness, orchestrated and condoned by those whom we voted into power and trusted to lead us, the President of Haiti swooped into the island of New Providence and delivered to “His People” a subterfuge sociopolitical message of uplift and empowerment.

At the same time delivering a subliminal message on how to organise them into a voting strategy to gain favour and power within a country they now call home.

While many in attendance have in their possession “Bahamian legal documents”, their love, and the blood that flow through their veins is that of Haiti.

Bahamians of many generations that reside on the same island of New Providence, whose traditional Bahamian way of life as they once knew it, has now changed due to our nation's high rise in crime observed as their new neighbour who does not speak English, but, have a Bahamian voters card, prepared themselves to leave out with Haitian flags and paraphernalia waiving in a beautiful Bahamian evening air.

Only to find out the morning after that the barely speaking English, newly made Bahamian neighbour, with a different colour flag on his car along with an estimated Ten Thousand others had flocked to Joe Farrington Road to rally them in support of their President's visit and listen to his message to them in their new country.

While both governing and opposition members who were in attendance tried to put a respectable democratic play in motion, by their disingenuous actions toward many Bahamians in general and many in their constituency in particular, they should all be tried for treason.

Many Bahamians are still trying to excogitate the entire visit of President Joseph Michel “Sweet Micky” Martelly on February 7, 2012.

Our Bahamian political leaders, from mainly the leading political parties should be very careful what message they are sending to the Bahamian people by allowing the way the President of Haiti visited the Bahamas, and the way he exited.

Respectfully, I do not mean those recently “given” or granted Bahamian citizenship, as many in these illegal Haitian communities and their crafty duplicitous religious leaders still do not know who either Sir Stafford Sands or Mr Timothy Gibson is, but yet these crafty duplicitous Haitian leaders when it is convenient desire a bias reformed immigration policy but only in their favour.

In our beloved Bahamas in recent years, it seems to me that we love to quickly call anybody from anywhere a Bahamian, even though their “blood” and loyalty is to honour the nation of their parents' birth, while the majority of the Haitians who now claim the Bahamas were born

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

here illegally, and their loyalty remains to the birth place of their parents.

They take advantage of every opportunity while residing in The Bahamas claiming the title of a “Haitian/ Bahamian”, a word that I did not find in any dictionary.

The last time I checked a female can never be half way pregnant. You are either a Bahamian or a Haitian and don't forget the many other persons of varying nationalities that want to call this beautiful Bahama land home.

As a lover of music from all over the world, I listened to the music of “Sweet Micky” and especially my favourite Haitian band, Tropicana, who just recently performed a few years ago at The Zanzibar on Baillou Hill Road.

Listening to Joseph Michel “Sweet Micky” Martelly music over the years, you will understand his message to the Haitians residing in the Bahamas that attended the function that evening was nothing new to him as his burlesque sociopolitical performances and style has sometimes fueled numerous controversies throughout Haitian communities in his own homeland, so in my opinion he knew what he was doing and what message he came to deliver, but one question remains, how did thousands of Haitians or “paper Bahamians” of Haitian descent in The Bahamas know he was here, and Bahamians did not?

Let me respectfully give both Prime Minister Hubert A Ingraham and Opposition leader Perry G Christie a little free advice from “The Streets or The Hood” and a few Family Island settlements throughout the Bahamas from a new generation of voting Bahamians; to become the next government during this upcoming election, you must convince the voting Bahamian people that your priority as Prime Minister will be to finally repair the ill functioning Department of Immigration.

Instead of borrowing millions to build everything, correct the archaic immigration laws, “Stop Cancel and Review” all citizenship granted in the last eight years, and deport all who do not belong in this country without fear or favour, including those individuals who not only hide behind the religious cloth, while hid-

ing other things and people from the authorities when necessary.

Immediately implement and explain to the Bahamian people your intent to execute a proper immigration policy that will materially reduce the illegal immigrant population and you will be the next government of the Bahamas.

Jobs will come as the world economy shifts through its recovering cycle; crime will go down as the inner cities will be returned to neighbourhoods as people will begin to know each other again.

This will enable us to finally have a real census that will deliver the proper health care to the Bahamian people that paid their National Insurance and not just abuse the Bahamian system.

Remember, the Department of Immigration may be a “Thing”, but it not only “Affects” people, but an entire nation when it fails to carry out its mandate through obvious political interference, lack of funding, and an underpaid staff.

We have had too many Ministers of Immigration some appeared to have made attempts to correct this vexing problem, but there is something in our Bahamas and the Department of Immigration is systematically designed to obstruct corrective action by elected government officials and immigration officers from executing their jobs, or is it by design?

If we can spend six hundred thousand dollars (B\$600,000) to open the new Chinese built national stadium, we can spend those same funds to put a proper strategic Defence Force Base in Inagua to process and return any person caught trying to illegally enter the Bahamas from the south without wasting the taxpayer's money bringing them to Nassau for a photo opportunity.

There were only two things that were disappointing to me about President Joseph Michel “Sweet Micky” Martelly's visit on February 7, 2012, one he did not perform his very beautiful music, and two, he did not bring two or three larger planes like a few Jumbo Jets to take back to Haiti with him not at the expense of the Bahamian taxpayers, at least a thousand or more of his Haitian brothers and sisters who are here in the Bahamas illegally back home to Haiti safely.

ANTHONY U BOSTWICK Jr
Nassau,
February 14, 2012.

You want fries with that?

EDITOR, The Tribune

Re: 13 new ambulances expected by the end of next year. – The Tribune, February 9, 2012

ONE way to reduce the “possible unauthorised use of

ambulances” might be to open a KFC or a McDonald's right at the ambulance depot itself.

KEN W KNOWLES, MD
Nassau,
February 12, 2012.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY / SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

The Nature Conservancy's Northern Caribbean Program is seeking to fill the position of Senior Policy Advisor. The Country Representative/Senior Policy Advisor will help to oversee all aspects of protection, science, stewardship and community relations for his/her Program and function as manager and conservation strategist accountable for operational requirements and maintaining organizational values. S/he may help to provide scientific leadership and support for TNC's conservation planning work, establishes overall conservation priorities for the Program and supplies technical and program support to Conservancy field operations. S/he would also help to ensure that TNC in-country infrastructure and activities meet specific country legal, labor and tax requirements.

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- Knowledge of methods and standards of biodiversity information systems and initiatives
- Motivating team members, setting goals, and leading efforts
- Delivering practical, adaptable products and services to customers
- Knowledge of politics and society with respect to environmental affairs
- Managing time and diverse activities under deadlines while delivering quality results
- Communicating clearly via written, spoken, and graphical means in English and other relevant languages
- Demonstrated experience in fundraising
- Successful experience in developing, directing and managing multiple projects.
- Demonstrated success as an inspirational manager who has successfully motivated staff to achieve and sustain excellence
- Demonstrated leadership and visionary qualities and able to work effectively with and through others in a decentralized and geographically dispersed organization.
- Successful experience in partnership development (partners, community, government, etc) including extensive networking with high-level conservation contacts; political savvy.
- Proven interpersonal, communication, and negotiation skills

Interested persons should apply in writing with full details, including resume and cover letter to bahamas@tnc.org by February 29th, 2012

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LOCAL NEWS



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham addressing the crowds at an FNM rally in Marco City.

PM says FNM support saved tourism in Grand Bahama

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said Grand Bahama's tourism industry would have collapsed in 2010 without the support of the FNM government.

He said the government spent nearly \$8 million to help facilitate Discovery Cruise Line's ferry service between Florida and Grand Bahama.

The Norwegian Sky Cruise Ship – which made 48 calls, bringing 120,000 passengers – was also supported by the government at a cost of half a million dollars, Mr Ingraham said.

He said similar support was also given to Carnival Cruise Lines, Delta, US Air, West Jet out of Canada and more recently, Vision Airline.

Mr Ingraham also revealed that more than \$4 million was spent on direct marketing for the Grand Lucaya Hotel.

And, he noted that by the end of the summer the government will have spent more than \$17 million to keep the Isle of Capri hotel and Trea-

sure Bay casino open.

"And they say we've done nothing for Grand Bahama. This support has saved thousands of jobs in Grand Bahama and gave hundreds of businesses the ability to survive," said Mr Ingraham.

The prime minister said that in these difficult economic times, the FNM has also searched out investors for Grand Bahama.

"We achieved some results, not as much as we wanted to," he said. "I'm not happy about our results, but I did the best I could. And anybody who thinks somebody else can do better – vote for them."

Mr Ingraham said the FNM was able to get Ross University to Grand Bahama, and facilitated First Reserve and then Buckeye in the purchase of BORCO, which is undertaking hundreds of millions of dollars of work in Grand Bahama.

The government was also able to attract Stat Oil, which is carrying out tens of millions worth of work at its plant in East Grand Bahama.

"We saw the expansion of the Grand Bahama Shipyard

which came into being on our previous terms in office and has taken on new employees and is training young cadets.

"We had to legalise the benefits the PLP gave to Ginn so that that stumbling project could have a chance.

"We have had to prop up the Isle of Capri as I told you, to keep hundreds of Bahamians employed. We have gotten new cruise ships and airlifts to Grand Bahama.

"We have overseen the entry of Emera and the new \$80 million power plant investment," Mr Ingraham said.

The government had also undertaken several projects on Grand Bahama such as a \$16 million Government Office Complex, a new Accident and Emergency Department, new operating theatres at the Rand Memorial Hospital, and the Sister Mary Patricia Russell Junior High School, according to Mr Ingraham.

Additionally, he noted that the government is creating jobs for about 1,000 people; has made unemployment benefits available to many; has

put in place a Prescription Drug Programme; has provided millions of dollars in assistance to Grand Bahama; and gave scholarships to many deserving Bahamians.

Mr Ingraham said the FNM revived Grand Bahama's economy before

and will do it again.

"Grand Bahama has come through the worst. Things will begin to get better for you. As the global economy continues to recover and our economy continues to recover, so too will yours here in Grand Bahama," he said.

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KFC
NASSAU

STATUS OF KFC'S LABOUR ISSUES

In an effort to save its business, and the hundreds of jobs that it provides, KFC Nassau has cancelled its voluntary recognition of the Bahamas Hotel Catering & Allied Workers Union (BHCAWU) as the bargaining agent for employees of KFC Nassau.

The BHCAWU no longer represents the interests of KFC Nassau employees, and the company will have no further involvement with this Union. KFC Nassau has long explained its financial situation to the Union, and the need to an agreement that would keep the business viable. Unfortunately, in the five months of negotiations since the expiration of the prior agreement, no resolution has been reached.

KFC Nassau has offered its employees an employment package, effective Monday, 20 February, that maintains the existing wages, as well as the guaranteed 7.5 hour pay per day, in an effort to minimize any effect on employees' take-home pay. Current employees who do not wish to work under these varied terms and conditions will be offered a voluntary severance package. Any new KFC employees will be engaged at a more competitive rate of pay.

The company thanks its employees for their continued guidance and support in helping KFC Nassau to sustain its business operations. The new terms of employment satisfy the three main concerns of all involved; maintaining the current wages of KFC Nassau employees; keeping the guaranteed 7.5 hour paid day; and preserving the jobs of hundreds.

GOVERNMENT TO BUY HOTEL IN \$1.9M DEAL TO EXPAND HOSPITAL

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham announced that the government will buy the old Freeport Inn Hotel for \$1.9 million as part of the expansion and upgrade of the Rand Memorial Hospital.

While in Grand Bahama over the weekend, Mr Ingraham also revealed plans to acquire another jet so that Bahamasair can take over services now being provided by Vision Airlines.

With the addition of a 160-seat Boeing 737-400, he said, Bahamasair will have the capacity to bring 8,800 visitors to Grand Bahama a month.

"It will be nearly 100,000 seats a year coming to Grand Bahama," Mr Ingraham told supporters on Saturday at the opening of the FNM Marco City constituency office in the East Sunrise Shopping Centre.

He said that in addition to reducing travel time from cities like Baltimore, Maryland; Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina; Richmond, Virginia and Louisville, Kentucky, the move will also cut ticket costs by more than 50 per cent,

from \$600 to \$300 round trip.

According to Mr Ingraham, the initiative is expected to be a "life-saver" for the airport and the Grand Lucaya Resort.

"We also expect that this effort could result in the opening of the Reef Resort by next winter, resulting in the creation of hundreds of jobs directly and spin-off jobs indirectly for you here in Grand Bahama," he said.

Mr Ingraham said the government also plans to work with the Grand Bahama Port Authority to aggressively promote the island.

"Working with a functional, more focused Port Authority absent Hannes Babak; the Chamber of Commerce of Grand Bahama and businesses, we will aggressively promote Grand Bahama throughout the world, especially in Asia, Latin America and North America, seeking out offshore medical education and research facilities as well as manufacturing facilities specially suited for Grand Bahama," he said.

The FNM will work with tourism stakeholders to develop new and attractive tourism facilities throughout the island, Mr Ingraham said.

He also said renewed focus will be placed on the second

home market in Grand Bahama, and on maximising the use of Bahamian contractors in the construction of high-end homes.

"We will promote the development of a marine institute here in Grand Bahama for the training of both Bahamian mariners as well as persons in the region; we will promote the creation of a diesel mechanic Institute in Grand Bahama to train Bahamian and regional students; and we will work to cause Grand Bahama to become the attractive alternative energy capital of the Bahamas to reduce energy costs and encourage the development of additional industrial developments on this island," the prime minister said.

"We will make Grand Bahama the manufacturing and industrial giant it was meant to be."

Mr Ingraham said his government will also work to ensure that when the provisions of the Hawksbill Creek Agreement expire, all of Grand Bahama benefits from a new agreement.

"We are not going to negotiate with the Port Authority in public. We will negotiate with them after the next election," he said.

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POLICE, civil servants and public officers were thanked during a church service held recently.

The South Bahamas Conference of Seventh Day Adventists held their 17th annual service of thanksgiving for law enforcement officers, civil servants and public officers on Saturday.

The service was held under the theme "God With Us" at the Centreville Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Minister of National Security Tommy Turnquest is pictured giving an address at the service.



GOVERNOR GENERAL Sir Arthur Foulkes and Lady Foulkes during the service.

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TEENAGE MOTHER BIRTH RATE DOWN 14% IN 40 YEARS

THE BAHAMAS recorded a significant decrease in births to teen mothers over the last four decades, according to a new report.

The Department of Statistics study said births to teenagers have dropped by 14 per cent, per thousand Bahamians.

However, the report also shows births to unwed mothers shot up over the same period by 33 per cent.

In a statement to the press, the department revealed the findings of its Births Report for the Bahamas, which focused on the reproductive trends and patterns of the country over a 40-year period.

It said: "The birth rate to teen mothers 10 to 19 years of age has decreased significantly,

from a high of 32.4 in 1970 to a low of 17.6 births per 1,000 females in 2010.

"Births to unwed mothers escalated during the past 40 years, from 29 per cent in 1970, to a high of 62 per cent in 2009. Births to this cohort of mothers remained the largest annual natural increase to the Bahamian population," it said.

The department's report also revealed that reproductivity among Bahamians has decreased by 13 per cent over the period in question.

"The Bahamas recorded its highest reproductive rates in 1970, when the birth rate peaked at 28.8 or nearly 29 live born children per thousand population. This rate steadily declined to 15.5 in 2010. Women between the

ages of 20 and 29 accounted for the largest proportion of births."

According to the department, women in 1970 were expected to have an average of four live born children throughout their childbearing years.

"Four decades later, with a population more than doubled, the number of children to women has decreased to two during their life time," the report said.

The study concluded that births by foreign women have decreased by 12 per cent since 1970, and that in 2010, "the Bahamas recorded 61 stillbirths (or fetal deaths)" – 56 per cent lower than in 1970.

All the statistics in the report are measured per thousand Bahamians.

CHURCHGOERS HELP WITH URBAN RENEWAL



MEMBERS of the Kirk & Hope Presbyterian working on a fire-ravaged home in Bain and Grants Town.
Photos: Vincent Vaughan Photography

THE Urban Renewal Centre in Bain and Grant's Town got a much-needed helping hand from local and international volunteers.

The group, brought together by St Andrew's Presbyterian Kirk, gave the centre a complete facelift.

Bryn MacPhail, minister of St Andrew's Kirk, said ten volunteers from Hope Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee travelled to Nassau and joined forces with Kirk members for the initiative.

He said: "Its all about relationships and partnerships. Our goal is to strengthen the community. We hope that when people see the partnership between church and community, they see Christ's love."

The volunteers, he said, "transformed both the interior and exterior of the building, providing a fresh coat of paint and beautifying the facade and interior spaces."

St Andrew's Kirk and Hope Presbyterian Church forged a partnership of service just over a year ago.

This "successful" visit prompted plans for three additional visits, in April, July and September, for other community outreach programmes.

Pastor Michael Leirer, Minister of Hope Presbyterian Church, said his members are passionate about



"bringing our mission team to the Bahamas, as Bryn MacPhail has such a great passion and love for community building. The ongoing work by St Andrew's Kirk in Bain and Grant's Town is amazing."

The church committed to ministering in the area more

than a year ago, and Reverend MacPhail meets every week with young people from the community.

The Kirk has also adopted the senior classes of CR Walker High School and provides an after-school tutoring programme at the church every Tuesday.

BAIN AND GRANTS TOWN FIRST TO BENEFIT FROM SCHEME

By BRITTANY KEMP and MICHELLE GREENE

ORIENTATION for the Urban Renewal Second Chance Programme began yesterday evening at the Urban Renewal Centre on Baillou Hill Road.

The programme targets students and adults who have fallen on hard times for various reasons, aiming to provide them with a second chance at success.

The first phase will take place in the Bain and Grants Town constituency.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Education, the programme offers free certified classes once a registration fee of \$20 is paid.

Immediately following the orientation, students received their class schedules for the six-week course.

The classes aim to teach participants how to be more efficient and effective employees. Computer lessons are also included.

Sinclair Nairn, assistant secretary of the Urban Renewal Programme, said she believes this year's orientation was big-

ger, better and stronger than the previous orientation held in 2010.

"Our goal is to become well-known and successful in creating more opportunities for willing persons in need of assistance," she said.

In the future, Nairn said, she sees the programme not only being active in the Bahamas but expanding to other countries.

The Urban Renewal Second Chance Programme is seeking support from caring corporate citizens.

FIVE QUIZZED BY POLICE OVER \$80,000 COCAINE DISCOVERY

By SANCHESKA BROWN
Tribune Staff Reporter
sbrown@tribunemedia.net

FIVE people are being questioned after police discovered \$80,000 worth of cocaine in Nassau Harbour.

Acting on a tip, Drug Enforcement Unit officers conducted a search at Bayshore Marina on East Bay Street, where they found 10 pounds of the narcotic.

Three Bahamian men, ages 56, 45 and 32, along with two Guyanese men, ages 28 and 26, were detained around 5pm on Sunday.

Police are also investigating a shooting that left a man fighting for his life in hospital.

The victim and a woman had just arrived at a home on Lifebuoy Street around 2am yesterday when they were approached by two men in a green Honda.

The men in the car opened fire, hitting the man in the groin and right arm. The woman's arm was grazed by a bullet.

Both were taken to hospital, where the woman was discharged, but the man remains in serious condition.

Police are asking anyone with information regarding this incident to contact them by calling 911, 919, or Crime Stoppers on 328-TIPS.

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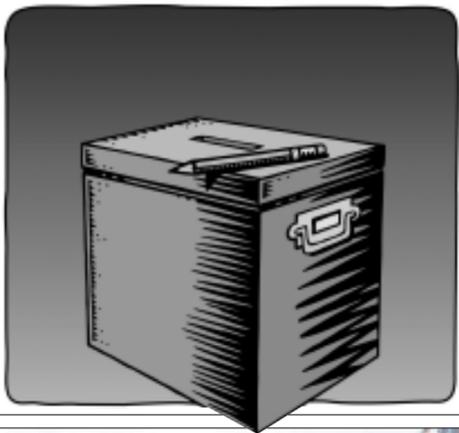
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LOCAL NEWS

MORE LIKELY TO VOTE THIS YEAR?



BAHAMIANS are more likely to vote this year than in previous general elections, according to an online Tribune poll.

The results showed voter apathy need not be a concern in 2012, with 460 saying they are more likely to vote, compared to just 164 who said they are less likely.

There were strong words from the voters who left comments.

'Erasmus Folly' said: "In the real world, in every country, the decision is always simply between the lesser of two evils. Anyone looking for real virtue in politics is an idiot. It doesn't exist."

'Shanfa Yellow' said: "We

should vote for the one who helps build our community. Now because election is coming up the candidates want to come around and give job application, having free breakfast every weekend for their constituency."

'Dave' suggested leadership was the main factor at election time: "I believed then that it

was always about leadership and I still believe now that the issue will be about the leadership.

"Without a good leader there will be problems. The strongest leader will win by plenty."

Don't forget to check out www.tribune242.com for the latest Tribune poll.



LOCKED DOORS at a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet as, below, customers read notices on the doors informing them that the branch has been shut down temporarily while staff took part in a sit-down protest following the breakdown in the relationship between the company and the staff union. Photos: **Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff**

KFCs CLOSED IN UNION ROW

from page one

and benefits package is "two times higher than all other fast food brands".

In an unusual move earlier this month, Restaurants (Bahamas) posted a newspaper advertisement detailing the staff's wage and benefits package compared to its competitors.

Staff salaries were said to be between 79 to 92.5 per cent higher than its fast food industry competitors.

The notice also suggested that KFC employees enjoyed other benefits not provided by its competitors, including pension fund payments, health and welfare benefits, a Christmas bonus, paid birthday, long service payment and an employee aid fund.

While admitting that the cancellation was "drastic", a KFC spokesman explained the decision was the only option to save the Nassau franchise and employee jobs.

KFC Nassau said it is now "forced to unilaterally offer its employees an employment package that maintains their existing wages and a guaranteed 7.5 hour work day". It was also added that a voluntary severance package will be considered for staff that do not want to work under the new terms.

A KFC worker described the move as a "tremendous setback" for long-standing employees whose hard-earned benefits would be slashed.

"Employees are getting nine sick days a year [under

new contract]," he said.

"I've been there 15 years and they want to put me back to two weeks rather than four weeks and they're forcing us to sign these contracts by Thursday."

The employee added: "They might as well pay us out and let us go. We grew old in there, people like me and they treat us like dogs."

By law, a union can only be recognised as a bargaining agent through direct application to the employer, and then if unsuccessful, an application can be made to the labour minister, who would then poll staff.

Mr Foulkes said: "There are no provisions that speak to a revocation if it is given voluntarily. The Industrial Relations Act only speaks to a revocation where the



Minster certifies the recognition. This to my recognition has never happened before."

A formal application by the

BHCAWU was not submitted yesterday; however Mr Foulkes said he understands that the union intends to seek certification.

BHCAWU vice president Darren Woods was unable to comment as union officials were locked in meetings with Mr Foulkes late last night.

ELECTRICITY CUT OFF AT CITY MARKETS

from page one

were national repercussions. Mr Moss said: "I receive a report of all large delinquent accounts, and I do recall seeing at least four of City Market's accounts that had significant balances."

According to *Tribune Business*, the Finlayson family, which owns a 78 per cent stake in City Markets' operating parent, Bahamas Supermarkets, is seeking a joint venture partner that would acquire a majority equity stake in the chain. The Finlaysons, who took over a business driven

into near-bankruptcy by the former BSL Holdings ownership, saw City Market suffer a \$16.587 million net loss prior to extraordinary items for the year to end-June 2011.

The struggling food chain made headlines last year over store closures as well as pension fund and regulatory issues.

City Market now operates at four locations in Nassau; Sea Grapes, South Beach, Harbour Bay and Cable Beach. The Lyford Cay and Rosetta Street stores closed in August, their leases having come to an end. Not long after that the Freeport and

Eight Mile Rock stores closed permanently in September.

Added to its woes is the company's issues with the Securities Commission, which has said it has placed Bahamas Supermarkets under an "enhanced monitoring programme", as the company's failure to file timely accounts and hold an annual general meeting - the last one was in December 2009 for the 2008 financial year - had left investors bereft of information.

Calls placed to officials at the supermarket chain were not returned last night.

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LOCAL NEWS



THE FAMILY of 47-year-old banker Stephen Sherman, who was shot dead on Friday, shed tears outside the morgue yesterday.

Photo: Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff

Family's tears at morgue

from page one

Her husband, Stephen Sherman, 47, was shot to death during a armed robbery outside his Yamacraw residence on Friday.

Greg Sherman, brother of the deceased, told *The Tribune* the family is heartbroken and most of them have not fully accepted or come to terms with his death.

Mr Sherman said: "It hasn't hit us all yet. It's been really rough on his wife. What is

even more distressing is that he leaves behind two young children, a 10-year-old boy and a daughter who is eight. They were his world. I don't think they can understand the magnitude of what has happened.

"We are here for them, and my brothers and sisters will do whatever we can do to ease the burden on my brother's wife and kids.

"My brother had a really big heart. He was a good person. He would take the shirt off his back for you and anyone else. This whole incident is very senseless to us.

"What have we come to as a nation when we can't live together in peace as brothers and sisters. We just seem to be killing up each other.

There is no value on life anymore, \$40 and a cell

phone? Is that what my brother is worth? Something is seriously wrong with that."

Assistant Commissioner of Police Anthony Ferguson said police have arrested a man and are looking for two more in connection with Mr Sherman's death.

Police believe the gunman got out of a silver Honda to rob Mr Sherman of his cell

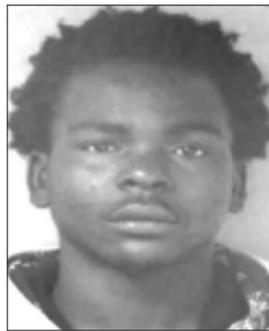
phone before he shot him and made his escape in the same car. It is believed someone else was in the getaway vehicle.

Detectives are questioning a 21-year-old man about the incident, and they have issued wanted bulletins for Jamal Smith and Kenneth Neely.

Smith, 21, alias Slick, of Churchill Subdivision, has a

dark brown complexion, is 5ft 7in tall with a slim build. Neely, 21, alias Swamper, of Resurrection Boulevard, has a similar complexion and physique with a height of 5ft 10ins.

Anyone with information that may assist police with their investigations is asked to contact them at 919, CDU at 502-9991 or Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS.



POLICE are searching for these two men in connection with the crime - Jamal Smith, known as Slick, left, and Kenneth Neely, known as Swamper, right.

POLICEMAN ADMITS TESTIMONY PRESSURE

from page one

hour on what he testified to during the day in question.

Last Friday, Mr Roberts told the court how he saw Cpl Gardiner taunt the prisoner before striking him in the head with the baseball bat. He said Bowleg was standing inside the cell door at the time while Gardiner was inside the cell holding a baseball bat.

Mr Munroe first cross-examined Roberts yesterday and suggested to the policeman that according to his testimony, he and officer Bowleg were in similar positions although the latter was the one being charged with abatement.

The attorney said both had stood there and watched his client - Gardiner - allegedly strike the deceased twice, once in the side and then on the head, and had done nothing. Roberts agreed to the suggestion.

When asked by Mr Munroe, he told the court he was transferred to police headquarters to work in their Information Technology department, headed by Quinn McCartney, who is currently the assistant commissioner of police.

He denied the next submission by counsel that his connection to current ACP Quinn McCartney, who Mr Munroe suggested had family connections to the grandmother of Key, put pressure on him to "give the garbage you said on Friday and in court today".

He replied: "No sir." Mr Cargill, cross-examining next, asked Roberts if he could recall how long his client - Bowleg - had been inside the cell door or to recall when his client left Gardiner with the prisoner.

Roberts admitted he could not say how long his colleague

had been in the cell but said "he left shortly after I did".

The officer said he was asked about the incident by two of his senior officers but could not speak to whether or not they made notes of what he'd told them. He admitted that six weeks after the incident he had been instructed to go to CDU to give a statement on the matter.

Mr Cargill then asked if he knew who was in charge of CDU at the time. Roberts answered "Insp Reginald Ferguson" but said he was unsure if this correct. The attorney corrected him that Marvin Dames was in charge of that division, to which Roberts responded "it is possible".

Cargill asked: "Do you know the connection between Dames and the grandmother of Desmond Key?"

The policeman replied: "She is his aunt."

The attorney, after explaining the investigating officer dealing with the matter still reported to the CDU chief at the end of the day, suggested to Roberts that "you were pressured to give a statement otherwise you would've been charged".

The constable said: "Yes sir."

Cargill asked no further questions.

Prosecutor Linda Evans, given a chance to reexamine Roberts, asked the witness if he had come to court to tell lies or deceive the court and the jury. "No ma'am" he said.

Justice Veer Watkins adjourned the matter to Wednesday morning where Dr Duane Sands and pathologists Dr Caryn Sands are expected to give evidence.

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