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HUGH CAMPBELL 30TH BASKETBALL CLASSIC IN SPORT TODAY WHO ARE THE CHAMPIONS?



OSCAR DRESSES RATED BY THE FASHION POLICE - PAGE B11

Wife accused in banker's murder

TEENAGER LEFT DEAD IN ROAD AFTER SHOOTING

By KHRISNA VIRGIL kvirgil@tribunemedia.net

SCORES of people gathered yesterday on Andros Avenue, minutes after the body of a 19-year-old man was left bullet-riddled and lying on a dirt road.

The victim, who a police source has identified as Renardo Minnis, was known to authorities.

An onlooker, who did not want to be identified, said the victim was known in the community as a drug dealer, "who often worked the streets".

He said: "He was young, but he was out here selling his lil drugs. That boy wasn't humble with it though, he was bold and didn't respect his elders.

"Yesterday he had a lil argument with someone and today they came back and shot him."

Police last night said they could not confirm a motive or if the murder was drug related.

SEE page 9

POLICEMAN ACQUITTED IN TRIAL

By LAMECH JOHNSON Tribune Staff Reporter ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

A POLICEMAN accused of abetting his colleague in the assault of a prisoner who died months later was acquitted in Supreme Court yesterday.

Constable Tavares Bowleg, charged with Corporal Donovan Gardiner in connection with the death of 28-year-old Desmond Key, was acquitted of his abetment charge yesterday afternoon when Justice Vera Watkins directed the nine-member jury to deliver a not guilty verdict.

It is alleged that Gardiner beat father-of-six Desmond Key with a baseball bat at the Grove police station in June 2007 while Bowleg watched.

SEE page 9

Conspiracy charge over man's killing

By CHESTER ROBARDS Tribune Senior Reporter crobards@tribunemedia.net

THE wife of murdered banker Stephen Sherman appeared in court yesterday accused of conspiring to have him killed.

Renaee Knowles-Sherman, 43, was arraigned and charged with conspiracy to commit murder and abetment to murder.

Two other men were arraigned with her on the same matter before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez.

Knowles-Sherman was not required to enter a plea and will be served with a voluntary bill of indictment on May 16.

The two men who were arraigned with her were also not required to enter a plea and will also be served with a voluntary bill of indictment on May 16.

Janaldo Farrington was charged with murdering Mr Sherman. He was also

charged with armed robbery, accused of stealing a mobile phone and cash from Mr Sherman and of robbing a juvenile of cash.

Jermaine Russell was charged with conspiracy to commit murder and abetment to murder.

Another man, Cordero Bethel, 21, of Pinewood Gardens, was arraigned last Thursday for multiple charges of armed robbery and also being involved in the murder of Mr Sherman. During the arraignment he passed out on the tile floor of Court Six.

All of those accused of Mr Sherman's murder were denied bail and were remanded to Her Majesty's Prison.

A crowd of Mr Sherman's family gathered outside the magistrate's court complex on Nassau Street, heckling Knowles-Sherman as she was led into the courthouse.

During her arraignment, Knowles-Sherman sat staring

SEE page 9



THE WIFE of Steven Sherman, Renaee Knowles-Sherman, is led into court yesterday, centre, with shackles on her legs. She is accused of conspiring to kill her husband. Photo: Felipe Major/Tribune Staff

PLP CRITICISM OF STADIUM REJECTED

By SANCHESKA BROWN Tribune Staff Reporter sbrown@tribunemedia.net

MINISTER of Sports Charles Maynard yesterday dismissed claims made by the PLP that the national stadium was not up to par with international standards.

Mr Maynard was responding to Fred Mitchell, the Member of Parliament for Fox Hill, who said the new track and the field may have to be "dug up" at a cost to the Bahamian people to comply with international regula-

SEE page 12

MINISTER HOPEFUL OF KFC PROGRESS

By CELESTE NIXON Tribune Staff Reporter cnixon@tribunemedia.net

LABOUR Minister Dion Foulkes said he is tentatively hopeful about the progress of negotiations between KFC Nassau and union officials.

Following several hours of talks yesterday, Mr Foulkes said some headway had been made, and he believes the dispute - which led to the closure of all nine KFC locations in the capital last week - can be brought to an end.

SEE page 9

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LOCAL NEWS

Champion chef ready to defend national title



TWO OF Dwayne Sinclair's dishes, Island Crack Conch Cannelloni with Lobster and Corn Relish, left, and Bahama Pina Colada Explosion served with Bailey's Tamarind Ice Cream and a Coconut Benne Crumble.



DWAYNE SINCLAIR is pictured putting the finishing touches on his Bahama Pina Colada Explosion.
Photo: **Deandra Ferguson/PS News/Features**

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SENIOR APPOINTMENT

Patricia Hermanns, President & CEO of Family Guardian, has announced the appointment of **Lyrone Burrows** to the position of **Senior Vice President, Operations** for the FamGuard Group of Companies.

Lyrone Burrows joined Family Guardian in 2002 and most recently held the position of Vice President, Investments. In his new role, he will have responsibility for all of the Company's customer service and insurance operations including BahamaHealth Group Operations.

Mr. Burrows holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Barry University, Florida, and the FLMI designation (with distinction).

The Company congratulates Mr. Burrows on his promotion.

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Lyrone Burrows, BSc., FLMI
Senior Vice President, Operations

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DEFENDING All-Island Senior Young Chef champion Dwayne Sinclair emerged as the winner of the competition's 2012 New Providence leg.

After the results were announced, the Temple Christian High School student said he plans to again compete in the national championships, scheduled to be held on March 15 when \$3,300 in scholarships will be at stake.

"The competition again saw a number of new and interesting dishes," said Sharon Ferguson, Ministry of Education home economics officer and co-ordinator for the championships.

The event, now in its 20th year, is sponsored by Mahatma Rice and Robin Hood Flour, both distributed in the Bahamas by Asa H Pritchard Ltd, and is organised by Keith Parker of PS Advertising and Public Relations.

Dwayne won with 709 points, gaining 355 points for his Island Crack Conch Cannelloni with Lobster and Corn Relish and 354 points for his Bahama Pina Colada Explosion, judged "Best Mahatma Rice" and "Best Robin Hood Flour" dishes, respectively.

Chef Ron Johnson of Savory Art said: "Annually, the Junior Chef Competition consistently impresses me and other professionals in the culinary field. It is remarkable to see the display of creativity and skill from high school students.

"I am assured in saying that the variety and types of dishes they concoct are advanced for their level; I can't even remember making these types of dishes at such a young age. Every year the level progresses, as it should.

"Mr Dwayne Sinclair's dishes were truly paramount

in terms of execution, creativity and skill. For a split second, I thought a professional chef was in the kitchen.

"It was amazing how he maximised flavours and complemented them.

"For example, the way he wrapped his cooked rice around the flattened conch (similar to sushi) and presented it quietly put a smile on my face. I look forward to seeing his star rise in the culinary galaxy."

The runner-up was Antonique Williams of CV Bethel Senior High School with 686 points.

She scored 352 for her Sunshine Rice Roll and 334 for Chocolate Strawberry Double Decker.

Third place went to Deja Burrows of Queen's College with 683 points.

Deja's Island Conch and Crawfish Tart with a Mango-Curry Essence scored 351 points.

Her Eleuthera Pineapple and Coconut Mahatma Rice Flan scored 332 points.

The top two go on to the 20th annual Mahatma Rice/Robin Hood Flour National (All Island) Senior Young Chef Championship.

Schools choose their own champion young chefs, who compete on each island or in a district.

Each island or district sends its own champion to compete for the title of Bahamas Champion Young Chef.

This year's final will be hosted at CC Sweeting Senior High School in Nassau.

Judging in New Providence were chefs Carolyn Bowe and Tiffany Barton of the Wyndham Resort; Ron Johnson of Savory Art; private chef Keisha Bonimy; and Eldred Saunders of the Culinary Hospitality Management Institute (CHMI).

LOCAL NEWS

Readers hit out at hypocrisy of Christie over Haitian meeting

READERS of the *Tribune* have lambasted the PLP for its "hypocritical" stance on courting Haitian-Bahamian voters.

This came after the party held a private meeting with Haitian rights advocates last week in a bid to drum up support for their campaign – just weeks after accusing the Free National Movement of manipulating the political process to gain votes from the very same bloc.

PLP leader Perry Christie met with the United Haitian Association in the Bahamas at the Church of the Nazarene on Minnie Street last Thursday.

According to sources, the meeting was staged to mend relations with the Haitian community over party statements criticising Haitian president Michel Martelly – whom the PLP alleged was brought to Nassau to encourage Haitian-Bahamians to vote for the FNM.

'San Souci Reader' said the PLP's behaviour is a perfect example of "the pot calling the kettle black".

"Also, weren't the PLP in Florida recently, just before the Haitian president was here, trying to convince Bahamians living in FL to vote for the PLP?"

"Not only that, didn't they

say that the Bahamian government should provide funds for them to travel and spread their message? Please! They so annoying.

"If I look up 'annoying' in the dictionary, I'd see their picture."

'Jackie' said: "Wow, you have to be kidding me! This is foolishness.

"The leaders today have to do better."

The PLP are "typical hypocrites," according to 'Jack Albury'. "One week they want to hang all Bahamians of Haitian descent and the next they are courting them for their votes."

Besides being citizens and human beings, Haitian-Bahamians "continue to make their contribution to the Bahamas, AND THEY ARE NOT STUPID!" the reader said.

"Occupy Nassau" said the PLP should be ashamed – and lumped the DNA in with them after claims the new party also held a quiet meeting with Haitian-Bahamian leaders.

"Shame, Shame on the PLP and DNA. All over the place holding press conferences accusing the FNM of bringing the Haitian president here to court the Bahamians of Haitian descent to vote for them.

"Now look who's going around at night like Nicodemus trying to get votes. My God, shame on them."

While addressing FNM supporters at the Southern Shores and Tall Pines constituency offices opening last week, Mt Moriah MP Tommy Turnquest said both the PLP and DNA are meeting with Haitian-Bahamians, despite their anti-immigrant stance in public.

He said: "All this meeting with members of the Haitian community is offensive. These people are Bahamian citizens. They are registered voters. Don't we proclaim that we support one Bahamas?"

"Can't the DNA and the PLP meet with born-Bahamians and Bahamians who trace their ancestry in the Bahamas for two or more generations and deliver the same message as they are delivering to Bahamian citizens born of Haitian parents? Why are they seeking to divide us?"

"The FNM only has the same message for all Bahamians. We do believe in One Bahamas. We do not classify citizenship; we do not believe that some Bahamians should be treated differently than others. We believe in equality,

PLP SEEKS OUT HAITIAN VOTES



In our certain and lifestyles section, you can learn all about the new critically acclaimed documentary on **Mr. Martelly**; while our **STYLZ** experts reveal you need to know about the **perfect eye makeup**. Also don't miss a photo to fashion special at home-grown design **Kya Nguyen** and the story about how two athletes with Bahamian roots are becoming shooting stars in the worlds of football and basketball.

THE Progressive Liberal Party leadership held a private meeting with Haitian rights advocates last night in a bid to drum up support for their campaign.

Perry Christie is pictured, left, as he arrived at the meeting last night. This comes just weeks after the party accused the Free National Movement of manipulating the political process to gain votes from Bahamians of Haitian descent.

PLP Leader Perry Christie met with the United Haitian Association in the Bahamas at the Church of the Nazarene on Minnie Street.

UHAB president Pastor Antoine Louis said Mr Christie was scheduled to meet with members at 7.30pm.

SEE page

FLASHBACK to the Tribune's front page photograph showing Perry Christie as he arrived for a private meeting with Haitian leaders. The meeting came only weeks after the PLP accused the FNM of manipulating the political process to gain votes from Bahamians of Haitian descent and in the wake of the Haitian President's visit to the Bahamas.

fairness and equity."

Reader 'Bahamian Face' agreed, advising Haitian-

Bahamians to "vote FNM, it's the only party in this country that welcomes foreigners and

deals with illegal immigrants with human skill and believes in humanity."

PLP BOYCOTTED STADIUM OPENING

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

PLP OFFICIALS confirmed they boycotted the opening of the National Stadium on Saturday, claiming it was an "obscene ceremony geared toward getting votes for the FNM".

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham officially opened the new Thomas A Robinson Stadium over the weekend and only two opposition members showed up – Leader Perry Christie and Deputy Leader Philip 'Brave' Davis.

PLP spokesman on Foreign Affairs, Fred Mitchell, said the PLP did not want to be apart of the "political show" organised by the FNM but they also wanted to ensure they "respected the Chinese government" which funded the facility.

"The PLP was represented at the highest level by our leader and deputy leader. Mr Christie and Mr Davis went the opening out of principle. We wanted to make

sure no insult was perceived by the Chinese.

"The rest of the party however wanted nothing to do with that political show. In a time like this when people are suffering, it is ridiculous to spend that money on a party," he said.

"The Prime Minister and the government set the national priorities. How is \$600,000 a national priority at this time?"

"When Mr Christie negotiated for the stadium, it was in his view that it would be a gift to the next generation of athletes. He wanted to enhance the talent and put the Bahamas on the world stage.

"The FNM took that idea and made it political. The whole thing was a show to get the Prime Minister re-elected."

PLP chairman Bradley Roberts said he hoped Bahamians enjoyed every minute of the stadium opening – pointing out it was their money that paid for it.

"Bahamians might not have chosen to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on a party when so many of our people

are in deep trouble and could use some help. But, as usual, the FNM didn't consult with the people."

Noting that the opening was timed to occur just prior to elections, Mr Roberts said he hopes Bahamians still remember the years of FNM "mismanagement".

He said: "Underneath the big show, the FNM is a party that cannot keep Bahamians safe, a party which never puts Bahamians first and a party which has no clue how to create jobs or invest in people. I think Bahamians know the difference between a party which can put on a big show and a party which knows how to govern."

Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Charles Maynard said the PLP's boycotting of the event was a clear example of their "childish, immature ways".

During his remarks on Saturday, Prime Minister Ingraham recognised the PLP for helping to bring the stadium project to fruition.

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SHIPYARD WORKER ELECTROCUTED IN ACCIDENT

FREEMPORT – A man is said to be in critical condition at the Rand Memorial Hospital after being electrocuted at the Grand Bahama Shipyard.

Sources identified the 35-year-old victim as Ali Isusin, a Romanian resident of Grand Bahama.

The Shipyard employee was reportedly painting an anchor aboard the ship, York Town Express, when he accidentally touched an electric wire.

He was reportedly unresponsive when found.

According to police sources on Grand Bahama, officials from the Shipyard's safety department refused to cooperate with responding officers, insisting no one had called police and that the accident was an industrial matter.

However, according to a statement issued by the Shipyard last night: "The Royal Bahamas Police Force were given full access to the yard and GBS (the Shipyard) has co-operated fully with their investigation, which is a routine in any accident that requires emergency care."

The statement said: "The Grand Bahama Shipyard strives every day to maintain an accident free zone; staff had recently been congratulated for completing 247 days without incident. The management and staff wish our fellow employee a speedy recovery."

ABACO RESIDENTS DEMAND MONITORING OF REEF SYSTEMS

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

FREEMPORT - Concerned residents of Abaco are calling on the developers of Bakers Bay and the Discovery Land Company to recommence their monitoring of the reef systems around Guana Cay.

Environmental group Abaco CARES said proper independent scientific studies need to be done to determine the cause of sustained reef damage.

A statement said: "Abaco CARES was formed by people who care about Abaco – whether it's the environment, the use of harmful petroleum products to run power plants, or protecting the blue holes of Abaco.

"We have a duty to protect the beauty of Abaco because that is the main reason why people come here.

"All of us – locals by birth, Bahamians that have fallen in love with Abaco and moved here, second homeowners who have chosen to invest in Abaco, visitors to our beautiful Abaco, and most important, the resorts of Abaco that employ so many of us – need to take a look at ourselves and see if we are doing all we can to protect the environment of Abaco. If the clean water is gone, our tourists will be gone too."

The group claimed a study has shown that the reefs around Guana Cay are being

damaged by the golf course at Bakers Bay.

"Bakers Bay and Discovery Land Company need to know, so they can honour their word to the Bahamian people," the statement said.

According to the group, consistent scientific monitoring of the reefs is needed to find the exact cause of the problem, and identify a solution.

"This cost money. The monitoring of the reef was stopped, and we are asking Bakers Bay to recommence their monitoring of the reefs, and to use an independent company that is reputable and is agreed on by all involved," the statement said.

The group said it is also important that the developers be transparent about the findings.

"Please keep your promises to your neighbours, the people of Guana Cay and the Bahamian people.

"There are many opinions going around and we feel it is time to take a stand and to have the proper scientific studies done, so that there is the 'scientific proof' that is so needed to see what is causing harm to that portion of the reef.

"We all need to live together and work together for the betterment of our environment and Abaco. Let us begin again by researching a problem that has been identified and find a solution to it.

"If money is needed to

fund this study and Bakers Bay will not fund it, we should all find a way to accomplish this much-needed task," the statement said.

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No union negotiations in election year

AT THE end of January, public service union president John Pinder gave Prime Minister Ingraham 48 hours to come to the table and outline what his government planned to give his union to avoid a strike.

It is only months before a general election and Mr Pinder now thinks he is in the driver's seat. He is prepared to drive a hard bargain — regardless of the fact that the country's economy is under pressure and cannot afford further increments.

But as union and government faced each other — with an election squeezed in between — each knew what the other was thinking. The government needed the union's votes, and the union intended to make them pay blood money for it.

Mr Pinder said that while the union knew that the country was faced with "its financial challenges, so are our members, because the cost of living continues to increase and gas prices continue to increase".

So what's new? Workers in the private sector are experiencing the same hardships, only they do not have the government protection assured the civil service. When their employer can no longer afford to keep them on staff, they are out beating the pavement looking for someone else to take them in.

When the global economic crash came in 2008, all countries — large and small — had to belt tighten to meet the crisis. The first place they started was massive lay offs in the civil service. One only has to turn on the television to see scuffles in the streets between those who have lost their jobs and governments that can no longer afford to employ them.

In the Bahamas, where Mr Ingraham would have been certainly justified to trim the civil service — for years acknowledged by both PLP and FNM to be top heavy — he chose to protect their employment. In this world crisis, it was probably the only civil service that was untouched when it came to a government looking for ways to reduce its deficit.

It is ironic that the civil service union, whose members are secure in their positions, are now taking advantage of an approaching election and threatening the government.

They do not know how lucky they are and how much they owe to the decision of the Ingraham government to protect them. It's the rest of us, without this special protection, who are having to pay their salaries. And now at this crucial moment, when even their leaders acknowledge that government cannot afford it, they want more — and for obvious reasons they want it before the election.

In a recent press briefing, Mr Pinder said that Mr Ingraham admitted that he could not commit to any general increase

for the general public service. "He said the country can't afford it."

But, said Mr Pinder, "we were able to at least get him to add another increment to every person's salary over the three-year period and the industrial agreement should last if we are able to sign off on it."

What surprised us was Mr Pinder's admission of an existing culture in the public service, which despite the country's economic climate, still expected an increase in salaries before an election. It recalled a remark made by then deputy prime minister AD Hanna when giving evidence before the Commission of Inquiry into gambling in the sixties he said that "tiefing" was recognised as part of the perks of a hotel worker's job.

"During an election year, they normally get an increase in salary," Mr Pinder told the press, "not so much to say they are buying an election, but I believe in most of our industrial agreements, right around that year, they normally would have received something."

"While we know the country may be faced with its financial challenges, so are our members, because the cost of living continues to increase and gas prices continue to increase."

The union, said Mr Pinder, will now focus its attention on getting other benefits for its members, many of whom are "right on the poverty line".

"If we could get the government to at least agree to increase the increment that at least the minimum is \$600 that's a good help, since they can't give a general increase."

In addition, Mr Pinder said he hopes that a health insurance to cover catastrophic illnesses can be agreed upon so that members who pay high premiums can increase their savings.

"As early as next week we will see if that decision has changed or if anything can be put in writing for us to sign off on," said Mr Pinder. "He is prepared to put something in writing for us to be committed to or for the government to be committed to in the event there is a change."

Mr Pinder might not see this union practice as "buying an election," but from our point of view it is nothing less than extortion. It is no secret that before elections unions extort wages that the country cannot afford. It is now time for this despicable practice to end.

We suggest that whichever government is returned, serious consideration be given to banning all union negotiations during an election year. Negotiations should either be completed before a government's final term, or wait until after the election has been held.

Haitians will punish the PLP

EDITOR, The Tribune.

IF YOU would have asked me a month ago who I thought would win the general election, I would have told you the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP). Perry G Christie and his so-called new PLP looked poised to topple Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and his newly revamped Free National Movement (FNM) party at the polls.

Based on the mood of the Bahamian electorate in New Providence and Grand Bahama, many political analysts had already predicted a landslide victory for the official opposition party.

I was thinking that the PLP was poised to win at least 25 constituencies.

But the recent turn of events surrounding the granting of citizenship status to hundreds of Haitian Bahamians and the surprising visit of Haitian President Michel Martelly to New Providence have all of a sudden changed the political landscape. All of a sudden now it doesn't appear as if victory for Christie is all that certain.

I say that because of the powerful Haitian vote in New Providence, Grand Bahama and in Abaco. Estimates vary, but according to some Bahamian analysts, there are between 30,000 to 60,000 illegal Haitian immigrants living in The Bahamas.

As to exactly how many Haitian Bahamians living in this country is anyone's guess. To be sure, there are perhaps thousands of Haitians who were born here to illegal Haitian immigrants. Many of these Haitians are classified as stateless. They have no nationality. They have no birth certificate, driver's license, National Insurance card or passport, and they know absolutely nothing about their parents' homeland.

Many Bahamians are all up in arms over the recent revelations about hundreds of Haitians receiving citizenship status by the FNM government between 2007 and 2011 and the recent irresponsible comments by Haitian President Michel Martelly.

According to Foreign Affairs Minister Brent Symonette, about 2,600 legal immigrants were regularised by the Ingraham administration.

Critics of the FNM believe

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

that the Ingraham administration is trying to booster its chances of winning the election by giving these Haitians citizenship status. No one, however, can honestly accuse the FNM of any wrongdoing. Ingraham has done nothing illegal. As the government of The Bahamas, the FNM is well within its right to grant citizenship status to those it deems to be eligible to receive it.

We are all aware that there are thousands of stateless Haitians living in this country. The Bahamas is the only country they know. Critics are charging that giving away citizenship status to so many Haitians will only endear the Ingraham administration to this powerful voting bloc. I think they are right.

But this is not the first government to regularise hundreds of Haitians. Former PLP administrations have done the same thing. As it stands right now, without the overwhelming support of the Haitian bloc, it would be extremely difficult to win an election in this country.

As a master political strategist, Ingraham is well aware of this. Christie should know this also.

We have allowed the illegal Haitian immigration problem to reach crisis proportions. Now all of a sudden, the Haitian community is in the position to flex its political muscle. I spoke to a 34-year-old Haitian Bahamian male recently and he told me that he will never support the PLP.

He told me that he received his Bahamian citizenship under the FNM. He said that the PLP isn't for Haitians, the FNM is. A friend of mine told me the other day that her Haitian Bahamian co-worker told their boss that her people will all support the FNM in the upcoming election. Like the 34-year-old Haitian Bahamian man, the co-worker believes that the PLP is against Haitians.

Many Bahamians don't realise that these people (Haitian Bahamians) listens to the various radio talk shows like them. By listening to these radio talk shows, they are given the impression that some Bahamians, especially critics of the Ingraham admin-

istration, are xenophobic or outright racists. While appreciate the fact that we must protect our national sovereignty and borders, we must be very careful not to treat Haitians as sub-humans. We must be careful not to create an atmosphere of us versus them. We should not seek to create an atmosphere that is similar to South Africa's District nine.

President Martelly told his people at the Church of God Auditorium to form a voting bloc and support the party that looks out for their best interests. Personally, I believe Martelly was wrong to tell Haitian Bahamians to support the party that looks out for their interests. He should have told them to vote for the party that looks out for the interests of all Bahamians, not just Bahamians of Haitian descent. Martelly has taken a lot of flack over those comments. The Haitian Embassy in Nassau and a group called United Haitian Association of The Bahamas have defended the Haitian president by saying that his comments were misunderstood. However, I don't believe his comments were misconstrued by those who heard them.

He explicitly admonished his people to support the party that best serves their interests. You cannot get any clearer than that. Also, critics of the FNM government should not blame Ingraham for the controversial comments of the Haitian president. The prime minister did not write his speech, nor did he encouraged the president to make those comments.

In the final analysis, I believe Ingraham loves The Bahamas. I don't believe any of the silly conspiracies and unfounded rumours circulating throughout New Providence about the FNM government selling out the country to Haitians in order to win the election. Such foolish, irresponsible statements are just as offensive as Martelly's comments and will only drive many more Haitians into the fold of the FNM. I believe the Haitian Bahamian community will punish the PLP at the polls for the comments that are being made by its supporters in the press.

KEVIN EVANS
Freeport,
Grand Bahama,
February 18, 2012.

Shame on public service policy

EDITOR, The Tribune.

RECENTLY, some Public Civil Servants were required to take exams and go on interviews for a couple of dollars. The problem is that some of these persons are almost ready to retire and were there some odd 17-30 plus years, then they have to go through stress just to get a promotion.

They feel this is the only way out as some others never needed to take exams or be interviewed they got promoted because of who they were, and who they knew.

I cry shame on the Public Service Department and feel they should do something better with their time and stop this slavery mentality some of them need to pasture themselves and see what it feels like to be degraded and frustrated, and when you are retired you should take a rest from the Public Service, because some of them frustrated many when they were in the chair in the Public Service. I say to them "Get lost and get a life."

CIVIL SERVANTS
FRUSTRATED
Nassau,
February, 2012.



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Embassy supports exchange scheme to empower women

IN KEEPING with the US Embassy's ongoing efforts to support the empowerment of women and girls, and in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Women's Suffrage Movement in the Bahamas, two Bahamian women were given the opportunity to participate in separate professional exchanges.

Yamacraw MP Melanie Griffin participated in an exchange focused on "Women's Leadership and Political Participation", while Girl Guides Association Family Island district commissioner Keva Nairn participated in a programme focused on "Girl Scouts and Girl Guides: Building and Developing Capacity for Girl-Serving Organisations".

Both exchange opportunities were organised by the US Department of State's Office of International Visitor Leadership Programmes (IVLP).

On Tuesday, February 21, Mrs Griffin and Miss Nairn paid a courtesy visit on the US Chargé d'Affaires John Dinkelman to discuss their experiences in the United States.

Mr Dinkelman affirmed the US Embassy's support for advancing women's issues in the Bahamas and programmes for underserved youth.

Mrs Griffin was selected to participate in the programme because she is a second generation female politician and because of her outstanding contribution to the advancement of women in the Bahamas.

Miss Nairn was selected because of her commitment

to inspire and motivate young people through her work with the Bahamas Girl Guides Association.

During Mrs Griffin's 10-day visit to the United States, she and other women leaders from six Caribbean countries visited Washington DC, the state of New Hampshire, and New York City. They examined how international, national, and local organisations serve, protect, and empower women in all facets of daily life.

"The experience was great and the information gained and networking was invaluable. The programme presented the opportunity for rich exchange of ideas, culture and best practices with women in leadership from sister countries," said Mrs Griffin.

Miss Nairn's three-week programme was designed to explore the skills necessary for cultivating young female leaders and examine methods of helping them develop these skills, such as critical thinking, self-awareness and team-building.

The programme included visits to Washington DC; Portland, Oregon; New York City; and Albany, New York.

Miss Nairn was also afforded the opportunity to participate in the Girl Scouts of the USA's National Convention celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts, which was held in Houston, Texas.

"The programme reaffirmed my purpose in life - to impact positive change in the youth of the Bahamas," Miss Nairn said.



AT THE launch of the scheme are pictured, from left, Keva Nairn, US Chargé d'Affaires John Dinkelman, and Melanie Griffin.

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LOCAL NEWS

SHIPYARD HOSTS FISHING CONTEST

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – The Grand Bahama Shipyard announced plans for its second annual fishing tournament on March 10 at the Grand Bahama Yacht Club.

Ed Pavey, director of technical planning, said funds raised this year will benefit two schools – the Freetown and High Rock Primary Schools – in East Grand Bahama.

He said the shipyard is hoping to raise some \$40,000, tripling funds raised at last year's tournament.

"We want to thank our corporate partners on the island that come through in a phenomenal way to make this tournament better," he said.

Nagee Smith, a 3rd year apprentice welder, said they raised \$13,000 last year which went towards facilitating youth sports programmes at the Eight Mile Rock High School, and in West End.

He said the third and fourth year apprentices are assisting with preparation of the event

at the Yacht Club on Midshipman Road.

The tournament will get underway at 6am with registration at Dock B. Boaters will leave the marina at 7am, and should return no later than 5pm for weigh-in.

A Family Fun Day is also planned and will start at 11am. A Fish-Fry will begin at 4pm, and an Awards ceremony will take place at 7pm. There will be some \$4,000 in cash and other prizes.

Mr Smith said they selected the Freetown and High Rock Primary schools because they wanted to assist institutions in less developed areas of the community.

Mr Pavey said the funds raised will be used to renovate and modernise the playgrounds at the schools, purchase computers, water coolers, and other equipment desperately needed.

Persons interested in participating can pick up registration forms at the Main Gate of the Shipyard, Long's Marine, Butler's Food World, Coral Reef Beach Bar & Grill, GB Yacht Club, Bahamaislandsinfo.com web-

site as well as their Face Book event page.



THE GRAND BAHAMA SHIPYARD will host its second annual fishing tournament at the Grand Bahama Yacht Club on March 10. Executives and apprentices held a press conference on Thursday. Seen seated from left are Sandra Bullard, principal of Freetown Primary; Tournament Chairman Ed Pavey, director of technical planning at GB Shipyard; Nagee Smith, 3rd year apprentice; Thomas Lockhart, Dock Master at GB Yacht Club, and Eudell Roberts, principal of High Rock Primary. Standing are third and fourth year apprentices.

largest aggregate catch (combined weight of all qualifying fish) and individual catches.

The organisers plan to supply each boat with five pounds of bait.

First Place overall will get \$1,000, second place \$600 and third place \$400. With the balance of prize money going for

strated true commitment to Grand Bahama Island, and to the future of this country with their apprentice programme, ensuring jobs for the youth and teaching these young people not only a trade, but also how important it is to give back to the community," he said.

Thomas Lockhart, Dock Master at GBYC, said they are pleased to be able to assist the shipyard by hosting the tournament at their facility.

"The shipyard has demon-

strated true commitment to Grand Bahama Island, and to the future of this country with their apprentice programme, ensuring jobs for the youth and teaching these young people not only a trade, but also how important it is to give back to the community," he said.

Eudell Roberts, Principal of High Rock Primary and Sandra Bullard, Principal and Free Town Primary, were appreciative to the shipyard and their apprentices.

They said the donation will be greatly appreciated by their students.



BARBARA RODGERS-NEWBOLD advocates improving your employees' skills through training.

Train your way to higher performance

Opinion
by **BARBARA RODGERS-NEWBOLD**

BY NOW, most of us have reviewed our last year's performance, recommitted ourselves to new year's resolutions, and started the process of working toward this year's goals.

It's an exciting time of the year, a time of possibilities, because we are still teeming with new ideas, armed with lessons learned from previous mistakes, and optimistic that this year will be better than the previous one.

If you are an astute businessperson, no doubt you have already begun strategising on how to accomplish your goals. From experience, I will venture a guess that primary among those goals for many managers and businesses, is increasing your bottom line; and the decision on how to achieve this is one I believe worth delving into.

For many, it will be cutting costs by eliminating unnecessary spending and reducing overhead expenses, an option one can certainly not ignore in these challenging economic times.

For others, it may be reducing inventory, concentration on collecting overdue receivables, and deferring expansion plans. But, whatever strategy you use to improve your bottom line, there is one

more option you may want to consider that can be just as effective and even more rewarding. That option is increasing your employees' performance and productivity through employee development training.

This is not a novel idea, but one that companies sometimes overlook in deference to the more expedient cost cutting options.

For many managers, training is not always a priority.... but, if an increase in the bottom line is the goal, it should be!

While many employers and employees acknowledge the limited attention sometimes given to training, they will generally concede that the positive effects on performance and productivity can be far reaching. That is not to say that one should ignore the skeptics who scoff at the benefits of training.

Recently, I spoke on the importance of employee development training at a luncheon attended by persons from various professional backgrounds, and was surprised to find that there were still a few persons who viewed training as beneficial only to the employee. My first thought was: "But isn't this one of the primary ways by which companies benefit?"

While training does benefit employees by enhancing their knowledge and skill sets,

it also increases a company's level of in-house expertise and competence, necessary for raising the overall standards of the organisation.

Training involves acquiring knowledge, behaviors, and skills to enhance performance. The decision to provide development training for employees should be regarded as a human capital investment to enhance performance, standards, and bottom line results by increasing employees' capabilities.

Training is especially critical during these challenging economic times, as there is a greater dependency on human resources to provide the capability and ingenuity to survive.

Talk to any of the owners of local businesses and they will tell you how important competence and skills are in working efficiently and reducing costly errors.

I am not advocating that training is a panacea for all your business challenges; but, it is an excellent place to start.

However, there is one precautionary note I will add. Ensure your training is effective.

What do I mean by effective? In order for training to be effective, it must be ongoing, with refresher sessions to reinforce learning and prevent lapses in behavior and performance.

The training should also be applicable to your particular business, timely, and aligned with your organisational goals to make it a worthwhile investment.

Finally, for your training to be effective, management must be supportive. Management can demonstrate their commitment to the training by allocating the necessary resources and even attend training sessions.

So, as you embark on your annual sojourn to achieve even greater results in 2012, why not start by boosting your performance. Consider investing in the people on whom you are relying to make it all happen – your employees.

• *Dr Barbara Rodgers-Newbold is the president of Baranth Enterprises. She is a corporate training consultant and part-time college/university lecturer. She is also the Producer and Host of the Radio Show "The Practice of Leadership." Contact her at baranthenterprises@gmail.com or thepracticeofleadership@gmail.com.*

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LOCAL NEWS

Teenager left dead in road after shooting

from page one

Persons believed to be close friends of the man were forced to restrain an hysterical woman who claimed to be his sister as she shouted: "Oh Lord, my brother!"

Central Detective Unit chief Paul Rolle said Minnis was sitting near a wall, in the Wright's Lane area, near Wulff Road, when he was shot around 11.45 am.

The body was still at the scene by 2pm as police continued their investigations.

Mr Rolle said it was not known if the victim was alone.

He said: "Officers responded (after receiving reports of gunshots) where they discovered a male lying on the ground at the dead end. This male upon examination was determined to have multiple gunshot wounds about the body.

"EMS was contacted and responded to pronounce the male to be deceased. As you'll see, we have officers on the scene right now doing our initial processing."

Police are asking community members to contact them with any information.



FAMILY MEMBERS were overwhelmed with emotions yesterday after the murder of a teenager in the Wright's Lane area, near Wulff Road. Crowds gathered at the scene, and family members wept, some collapsing with emotion. Photos: Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff



MINISTER HOPEFUL OF KFC PROGRESS

from page one

He said: "I do not see any issues that cannot be resolved, it is a matter of both sides understanding the implications."

As the official mediator, Mr Foulkes said he could not disclose the details of the negotiations, which are scheduled to resume today at 8am at his East Hill Street office.

On February 20, tensions between KFC management and the Bahamas Hotel, Catering and Allied Workers Union (BHCAWU) escalated after the fast food chain cancelled its voluntary recognition of the union as the bargaining agent for KFC employees.

Following the announcement, staff staged a sit-down, forcing the closure of the company's New Providence outlets which affected more than 300 employees.

Later that evening, Mr Foulkes certified BHCAWU as the official bargaining agent for KFC staff.

KFC Nassau said all stores will remain closed until a new industrial agreement is reached and employees will not be paid during this time.

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

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

According to a KFC advertisement published in a newspaper yesterday seeking to clarify the circumstances that led to the KFC Nassau closures, KFC said the unions have placed jobs of the KFC employees in danger by failing to get the necessary authorisation to strike.

It said: "This illegal industrial action caused serious financial harm to KFC's business and this reckless approach by the union continues to place all jobs in jeopardy, and puts the survival of the company at risk."

Mr Foulkes said he had not seen the ad, and given his position as mediator, he did not wish to comment.

POLICEMAN ACQUITTED IN TRIAL

from page one

Key died of his injuries seven months later.

The announcement from the jury foreman came days after defence counsel Ian Cargill, Wayne Munroe and prosecutor Linda Evans held discussions with Justice Watkins last Thursday in the absence of the jury.

In yesterday's proceedings, Justice Watkins returned with a decision based on her consideration of the submissions made by the three attorneys.

She ruled there was not sufficient evidence for a case against Bowleg aiding or abetting the co-accused in assaulting Desmond Key on the night of June 17, 2007.

As a result, she directed the jury to return a 9-0 not guilty verdict. However, regarding Gardiner, she indicated there was sufficient evidence for a case against the officer accused of manslaughter.

Gardiner took the stand yesterday afternoon to give his side of the story regarding the night in question.

The policeman said his colleagues for the 4pm-12 midnight shift - Constables Bowleg and Kevin Roberts - had arrived from patrol "with a young man in custody."

He said that Mr Key was not giving the officers any information as to who he was which led to him doing an

"intense search" of the prisoner's car to find identification.

After finding Key's passport in the glove compartment, he brought it back and put it to Key to confirm his identity. After instructing officer Bowleg to run a search of "Desmond Key" in the police's database, the results showed two outstanding warrants of committals for the prisoner.

The warrant, Gardiner explained, ordered the suspect to be taken directly to Her Majesty's Prison if picked up by police.

At this revelation and speaking to the prisoner about it, the officer said Key tried to escape but was subdued by Bowleg though he began cursing and swearing and further resisting.

He said his involvement with Key ended when he wrote a report in the station's diary which is handed to the new officer in charge of the station at the end of each shift.

He denied ever having a baseball bat while in the cell with Key. He further denied hitting the prisoner with the bat in his side or his head. He also added that no superior officer asked him about the night in question until nearly three weeks later.

Prosecutor Evans, in cross-examination, suggested to

Gardiner that he came to the court to deceive the jury and said he was making up the story as he was going along. Gardiner disagreed with this and her other suggestion that Constable Roberts saw him with a bat in his hand or seeing him strike Key with it.

Ms Evans asked the officer if there was any particular reason as to why Key was not

in handcuffs while in the charge room.

He replied that the charge room was an entrance to the cell block and said "we always take off the cuff in case the prisoner has to sign something."

The prosecutor questioned if Key was in the room to sign a statement or "something." He said no and though he

explained it was "the norm, no special reason." Gardiner admitting that Key could not be moved from the station without a physical copy of the warrant, which he claimed was delivered the same day the prisoner was taken to the hospital.

The trial resumes today when Bowleg is expected to take the witness stand.

WIFE ACCUSED IN BANKER'S MURDER

from page one

blankly, only changing her countenance to speak to her lawyer and to scoff at a policeman whose mobile phone began to ring just before the judge entered the courtroom.

She and her co-accused sat with their hands cuffed behind their backs until the magistrate read the charges against them.

Mr Sherman, the county's

18th homicide, was shot to death during a hold up outside his Yamacraw home shortly after 8pm on Friday, February 17. The gunman reportedly got out of a silver coloured Honda to rob Mr Sherman of his cell phone before he shot him and made his escape in the same car.

It is reported that Mr Sherman's niece was also in the car when the attack took place.

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LOCAL NEWS

Bishop Fraser launches appeal against conviction

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

BISHOP Randy Fraser's appeal against his unlawful sex conviction began yesterday in the Court of Appeal. Fraser, convicted last November of having sex with a dependent between July 2005 and February 2006, sat in court as his attorney Jiarang Mangra argued that the con-

viction was "unjust and unreasonable" given the evidence. Prosecutors argued that the minister abused his position of trust by having sexual relations with a 16-year-old girl who he had agreed to counsel. He was originally charged with the offence in the summer of 2006, but was freed a year later after a mistrial. The retrial started in 2008. After several delays, Deputy Chief Magistrate Car-

olita Bethell handed down a guilty verdict and sentenced Fraser to three years at Her Majesty's Prison. Mr Mangra informed the magistrate at the ruling that he intended to file an appeal, and sought to keep his client out of prison until the completion of the hearing. However, appellate court president Justice Anita Allen, with Justices Stanley John and Abdulai Conteh, ruled that

there were no exceptional circumstances that would lead to the bishop being granted bail. Yesterday, Mr Mangra claimed the magistrate had made an error in considering evidence outside the period of the alleged offence. He said any incidents that took place in July 2005 or February 2006 should be excluded. The justices did not agree, though they acknowledged his

position. They asked the attorney if he thought there was evidence to suggest intimacy between the victim and Fraser. He said no. Justice John then brought up the semen found in Fraser's office, and Mr Mangra argued it had no connection to the virtual complainant. The justice asked the attorney if he was suggesting that the victim's testimony did not

have any credibility, despite there being physical evidence to prove some form of sexual act took place. The attorney responded that this evidence alone was not substantial. He then argued that there were a number of "material inconsistencies" in the victim's testimony, bringing her credibility into question. The hearing resumes today at 10am.



PLP CRITICISM OF STADIUM REJECTED

from page one

tions. "This is obviously a fabrication in the PLP's mind. These statements are not true. I saw a press release in regard to these stories and their reasoning is not true," said Mr

Maynard. "In regard to the field, the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) at their own expense will come here to do the inspection and the certification. They haven't done so yet. We have not reached out to them

yet. We are leaving that up to the Sports Authority. When they are ready FIFA will come.

"When it comes to the track, the International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF) has a list of certified firms that come on their behalf to inspect. We are in the process of receiving bids from several firms. When that is completed, they will carry out the inspection. Once again, that is something the Sports Authority deals with. However, I can assure you we are up to standard."

Mr Maynard also refuted claims that the Ministry of Works did not carry out the necessary inspections on the stadium. He brushed off the PLP's comments as "political tactics."

"All the inspections are done. We have been doing that over the past eight months. Everything is up to specs. What needed to be



FIREWORKS to mark the opening of the new national stadium - an occasion marked by Junkanoo-style dancers, celebrity guests and a full house crowd. Photos: **Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff**



adjusted was adjusted. We are compliant. I do not know where the PLP is getting the stuff from," he said. "The 15,000 people that came to the opening saw it was real display of national pride. It is a celebration of

the Bahamas, not anything political. I can assure you we did everything we were supposed to in regard to the stadium."

The Thomas A Robinson Stadium was officially opened on Saturday. It cost \$50 million to build and was officially handed over to the Bahamas government last year. It took the Chinese almost three years to complete. For more pictures, turn to the sport section, page 2E



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