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# The Tribune

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Volume: 108 No.76

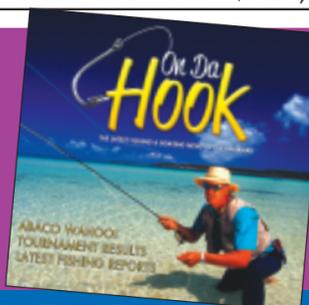
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2012

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# DISCOVER ON DA HOOK

## FISHING SUPPLEMENT INSIDE TODAY

### ALL THINGS BAHAMIAN IN ARTS SHOW - SEE ARTS SECTION



# NOW DNA SEEKS HAITIAN VOTES

## Bran joins PLP in meeting local leaders

By DANA SMITH dsmith@tribunemedia.net

THE DNA has now joined the PLP in the race to secure the "Haitian vote" - just weeks after blasting the FNM government over the same accusation, it was claimed yesterday.

Well-placed sources said party officers held a series of meetings with members of the Haitian-Bahamian community in an effort to "gather voters".

Robertson Dieudonne, of the United Association of Haitians in the Bahamas, confirmed a meeting with DNA leader Branville McCartney took place on February 16 at Metropolitan Church of the Nazarene on East Street.

But rather than an attempt by the DNA to attract voters, he said, the meeting was held to "discuss immigration policy".

The meeting came a little more than a week after Hait-

ian President Michel Martelly's heavily-criticised visit and a week before PLP leader Perry Christie also met with the association at another church.

According to Mr Dieudonne, Mr McCartney "came to discuss his immigration policy and any misunderstandings regarding it".

The former immigration minister also spoke on "comments he would have made in regards to Haitians" to a crowd of around 60, Mr Dieudonne said.

"Most persons were surprised he was there and some persons were a little bothered, but it was a very respectful meeting and I think he left with a lot more information that he came with. We were able to enlighten him with a lot of things he professed not to know."

The conversation was kept "centered" around Baham-

ian President Michel Martelly's heavily-criticised visit and a week before PLP leader Perry Christie also met with the association at another church.

SEE page 12

## ABANDONED DOGS RESCUED



INSPECTOR Valentino Armaly rescues a dog on Monday. A number of dogs were found dumped in a derelict water reserve. Turn to page 2 for the full story. Photo: Felipe Major/Tribune Staff

## ACQUITTED OFFICER 'NOT PRESENT' DURING ATTACK

By LAMECH JOHNSON Tribune Staff Reporter ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

A POLICEMAN acquitted of abetting a colleague in the alleged attack on a prisoner who died months later told a jury he was not present when the incident occurred.

Constable Tavares Bowleg, who was cleared of being connected with the death of 28-year-old Desmond Key, returned to Supreme Court yesterday and told the nine

member jury that he was not present in the cell when Corporal Donovan Gardiner reportedly carried out the attack.

Bowleg was exonerated of his abetment charge on Monday afternoon when Justice Vera Watkins directed the jury to deliver a not guilty verdict.

It is alleged that Gardiner beat father-of-six Mr Key with a baseball bat at the Grove police station on June 17, 2007, while Bowleg

watched.

Mr Key died of his injuries seven months later.

Defence counsel Ian Cargill, Wayne Munroe and prosecutor Linda Evans held discussions with Justice Watkins last Thursday in the absence of the jury.

Justice Watkins returned with a decision based on her consideration of the submissions made by the three attorneys.

SEE page 12

### LATE NEWS

REPORTS were coming in last night of the latest murder in the Bahamas.

The Tribune heard reports of a murder in the Kemp Road area, just off St James Road.

Witnesses say that the man was killed after shots were fired at a passing van. A passenger in the van was also injured.

For more information, see www.tribune242.com.

## SHUTDOWN OF KFC STORES TO END TODAY

By AVA TURNQUEST Tribune Staff Reporter aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

KFC Nassau announced last night that it would reopen its nine locations today.

The company made the announcement on its Facebook page shortly after 8pm after the franchise had been locked in negotiations with the Bahamas Hotel Catering and Allied Workers Union.

Earlier yesterday, union officials said they were prepared to fight the fast-food chain in court if it refuses to pay workers scheduled to work during the shutdown.

SEE page 12

## SUSPECT IN MISSING WOMAN CASE RELEASED

By SANCHESKA BROWN Tribune Staff Reporter sbrown@tribunemedia.net

THE only suspect in the disappearance of 22-year-old Anya Wilmott has been released from custody, police confirmed yesterday.



ANYA WILMOTT

Anya was last seen on Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at Little Feet Academy dropping her daughters off to school before heading to court.

Last Friday, the Central Detective Unit (CDU) announced they had a 30-

SEE page 12

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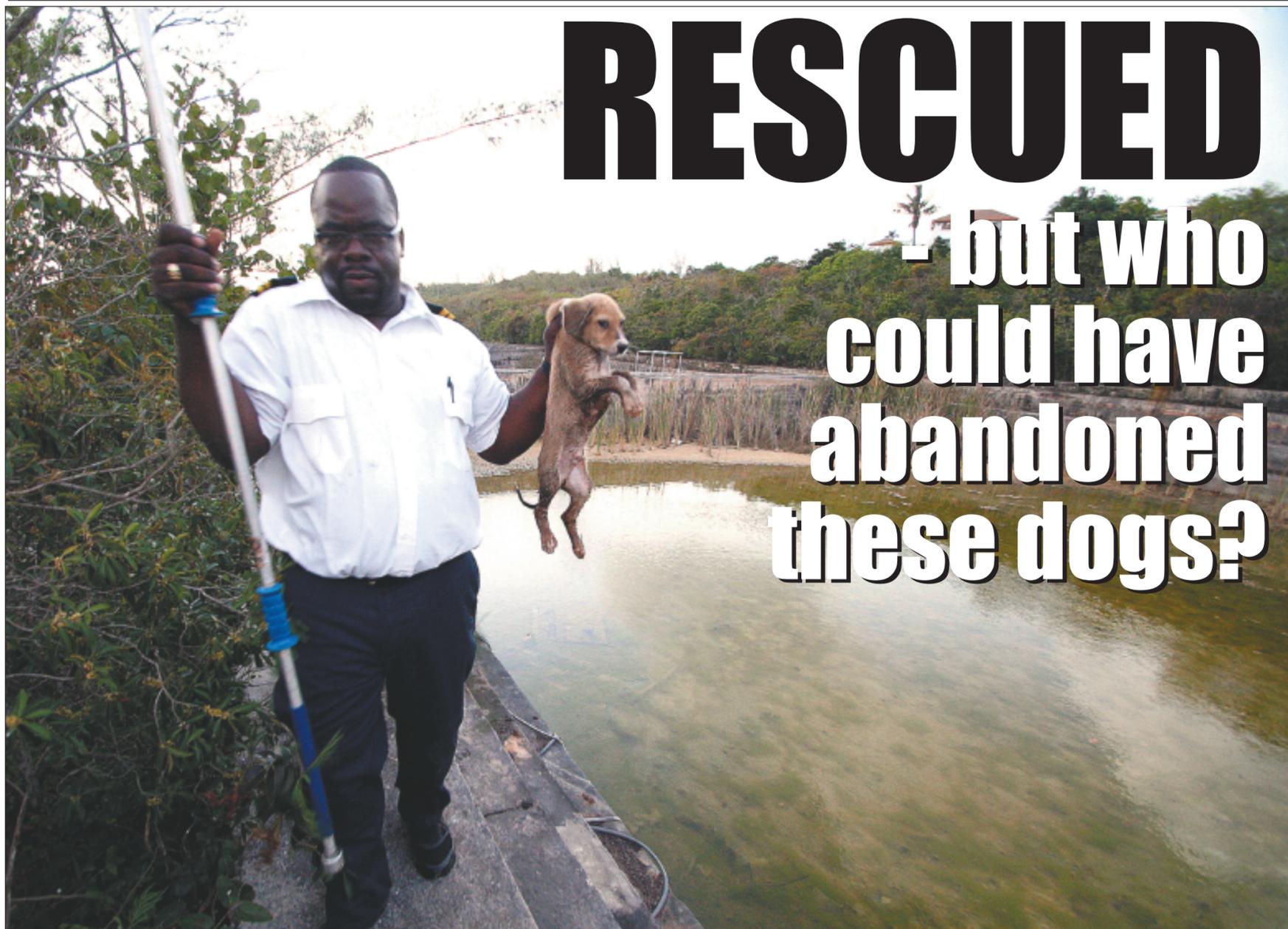
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LOCAL NEWS



# RESCUED

## - but who could have abandoned these dogs?

INSPECTOR VALENTINO ARMALÝ rescues a dog on Monday out of the old water reserve e,

Photos: **Felipe Major/Tribune Staff**

**Fine Threads Side Walk SALE**

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**Mackey St: THIS FRIDAY & SATURDAY**



THE ABANDONED water reserve where the dogs were surviving.

By **KHRISNA VIRGIL**  
 kvirgil@tribunemedia.net

BAHAMAS Humane Society president Kim Aranha spoke out over the state of animal rights in the Bahamas after a number of dogs were discovered dumped in a derelict water reserve.

Mrs Aranha said she has written to key persons in all three political parties to tell them how severe animal abuse and neglect have become, and how urgently the BHS needs support.

So far, no one has answered.

Yesterday, Mrs Aranha asked what sort of people would abandon innocent animals to die, when a humane alternative is available.

“How easy it would be to just bring the animals to the Humane Society? We don’t make you pay, there is no need to throw them away,” she said.

“What kind of monster would do that – put the animals where you believe they will starve to death? How can you truly love anything else and do something like that?” Mrs Aranha asked.

On Monday, a concerned Garden Hill Estates resident called *The Tribune* to report that dogs were being aban-

doned in what look like three huge pools.

She can see the pools from her balcony, and said they are filled with dirty water, garbage, and mangroves.

She and her husband have fought through brush and animal remains to rescue dogs left to starve and die on several occasions before.

“Many nights I am laying in bed and I can hear the dogs and puppies cry because they cannot get out. These people just dump them there and leave.

“Just last week, we rescued some puppies.

“I’ve also seen children while I am on the balcony of my house hailing me as they play down there. Its obvious to see it is not safe,” the woman said.

BHS Animal Cruelty Inspector Valentino Armalý said the woman has called him more than 10 times to come and rescue dogs.

Those calls have led to the rescue of four adult dogs and eight puppies.

“A few of them, I believe, were once well taken care of because we found that after we took them in, they had been neutered,” he said as he rescued the latest round of abandoned puppies on Monday.

### KENNEL CLUB TO HOLD DOG SHOW

THE Bahamas Kennel Club will be holding its annual All Breed Dog Show and Obedience Trials on March 17 and 18 at the old Chalk’s Airline site on Paradise Island.

The show will feature classes in confirmation, obedience and agility.

In particular, the BKC would like to encourage entries for competition in the Junior Showmanship Class for young people six to 18 years old.

Participants will learn about developing their handling skills, good sportsmanship,

dogs and dog shows.

The Bahamas Kennel Club will be offering handling classes on Sunday March 4 and Sunday March 11 at the Retreat on Village Road at 3pm.

Club members will be on hand to give handling tips and register people and dogs for the upcoming show.

For more information about the handling classes call 393-5743. Entry forms can be downloaded at [www.Bahamaskennelclub.org](http://www.Bahamaskennelclub.org) or collected from the Fox Hill Nursery and local veterinarian offices.

**FAMILY GUARDIAN INSURANCE COMPANY**

**SENIOR APPOINTMENT**

Patricia Hermans, 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.

**Lyrone Burrows, BSc., FLMI**  
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LOCAL NEWS

# MURDER CONVICT DISMISSES ATTORNEY DURING RESENTENCING

By LAMECH JOHNSON  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
johnson@tribunemedia.net

MURDER convict Maxo Tido dismissed his attorney Roger Gomez II during his resentencing in Supreme Court yesterday morning.

The remand prisoner said his decision to relieve the attorney of his duties came as a result of Mr Gomez hav-

ing visited him only once since the matter was adjourned on Friday, February 10.

Tido told Senior Justice Jon Isaacs he was upset with the attorney's lack of interest in the case.

On February 10, Mr Gomez appeared before Senior Justice Isaacs and informed the court he did not have the trial transcripts and

would need them to prepare submissions on sentencing.

Jerone Roberts, another attorney who is following the case, offered to give him the documents.

However, Mr Gomez said yesterday he never got the transcripts and so was not in a position to move the matter forward.

Tido, who was sentenced to die in 2006, saw this deci-

sion overturned by the London-based Privy Council in June of 2011.

On March 20, 2006, a jury convicted Tido of murdering 16-year-old Donnell Conover in 2002. Her body was found off Cowpen Road battered and bruised, her skull crushed.

Evidence also revealed that parts of Ms Conover's body were burned after her death.

A month after his conviction, then Senior Justice Anita Allen (now Court of Appeal President) ruled that the crime committed by Tido warranted the death penalty.

The decision came days after the Privy Council ruled that the mandatory death sentence in place until that point in the Bahamas was not constitutional.

In 2009, the Committee for

the Prerogative of Mercy decided the law should take its course, as Tido's case was not one that warranted mercy.

However, Tido appealed to the Privy Council, the highest court of appeal recognised in the Bahamas, which ruled that the killing of Conover did not warrant execution.

Senior Justice Isaacs adjourned the matter March 13.



BISHOP RANDY FRASER pictured at the time of his conviction for having sex with a dependent.

Photo: Felipe Major/Tribune Staff

# Court hears bishop's sex conviction appeal

By LAMECH JOHNSON  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
johnson@tribunemedia.net

BISHOP Randy Fraser's appeal against his unlawful sex conviction continues today in the Court of Appeal.

The hearing will resume with attorney Jiram Mangra comparing the victim's account of the number of times sex took place with the details of a doctor's examination.

Fraser, convicted last November of having sex with

a dependent between July 2005 and February 2006, sat in court as his attorney Mr Mangra said the conviction 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.

During yesterday's hearing, Mr Mangra argued there were a number of inconsistencies in the testimony of the victim, who told the court she and Fraser had sexual rela-

tions as many as 48 times.

He pointed out that in an earlier trial, she said they only had sex 15 times.

However, Justice Stanley John questioned if the number of occasions matter, as there is "ample evidence that sexual encounters took place".

"What she is consistent with is that several incidents of sexual intercourse between the appellant and herself took place between July and February," the justice said.

Appellate Court president

Justice Anita Allen and Justice Abdulai Conteh agreed.

Mr Mangra retorted that the allegations should be proven, which he contends was not the case.

"You really want us to believe a 16-year-old girl would come out in public and make up all of this?" Justice John asked.

Mr Mangra complimented the victim's intelligence, but said "she is no innocent babe" and based on the testimony of her mother, "is very cunning and full of guile."

The case resumes today at 10am.

# PROBE INTO FAKE DRUGS

A COMMITTEE has been formed to investigate claims of counterfeit pharmaceutical drug sales.

In partnership with the Bahamas Pharmacy Council, the Ministry of Health has launched a probe into allegations that the drugs are being imported and distributed by at least one local pharmacy.

Chief Medical Officer Merceline Dahl-Regis will chair the committee, which will be assisted in its investigation by the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO).

A MOH press statement released yesterday read: "The ministry advises that the committee which has been mandated to expedite its work, will conduct investigations, make an assessment, and report to the Minister of Health with appropriate recommendations for action to address any and all adverse findings."

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# END IN SIGHT TO FEUD?

By LAMECH JOHNSON  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
johnson@tribunemedia.net

THE legal feud between two wealthy Israeli brothers over \$100 million could come to an end on March 16.

Rami Weisfisch and Amir Weissfisch have until this date to come up with a settlement agreement proposal, and will return to the Court of Appeal on April 25 to say whether they were successful.

Nicholas Lavender QC, and Brian Moree QC, the attorneys for Rami and Amir respectively, informed Justices Christopher Blackman, Stanley John and Abdulai Conteh of the brothers' deci-

sion to work out a settlement.

The brothers were joint owners of one of the most prominent metal trading firms in London - Metals Resources Group (MRG).

Mr Weisfisch (the brothers spell their surname differently) ran MRG, which became a dominant force in the global cobalt market in 1999 and closed in 2000. His brother Amir was his partner.

Amir took legal action in England in 2006, claiming Rami refused to account to his brother for their partnership profits over an eight-year period.

Last October, Justice Stephen Isaacs - the fourth Supreme Court judge to have

presided over the case, each of the others having recused themselves for various reasons - described the brothers as being "locked in what began as an accounting exercise, but evolved into a pitched battle over the proceeds of a metal trading business accumulated between 1992 and 2000".

Justice Isaacs, who dismissed a recusal application by elder brother Rami, said there appeared to be "many millions of dollars earned by the business over that period, which is to be divided equally" between the two brothers.

Mr Weisfisch appealed that ruling, but has now agreed with his brother to move towards resolution.

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## Changing views on climate change

AMERICANS' belief in global warming is on the rise, along with temperatures and surprising weather changes, according to a new university poll.

The survey by the University of Michigan and Muhlenberg College says 62 per cent of those asked last December think the Earth is getting warmer.

That's up from 55 per cent in the spring of that year and 58 per cent in December 2010. It is the highest proportion in two years.

Nearly half the people who say they believe in global warming base that on personal observations of the weather. Climate researchers say that's reaching the correct conclusion for reasons that aren't quite right.

When asked an open-ended question about why they thought the Earth was warming, one-quarter of those surveyed pointed to temperatures they experience and another quarter cited other weather changes.

One in seven mentioned melting glaciers and polar sea ice, and one in eight noted media coverage.

Only eight per cent mentioned scientific research.

"It seems to be driven by an increased connection that the public is making between what they see in terms of weather conditions and climate change," said Chris Borick, the director Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion.

The poll was conducted from Dec. 4 to Dec 21, after the US experienced a record 14 billion-dollar weather disasters in 2011, including killer tornadoes, an unusual northeastern hurricane, a devastating southwestern drought and floods along major rivers.

At the same time, this poll was done before the official start of winter, so people were not yet affected by what has been a mild season for many regions.

Borick said that after the previous two winters, which were quite snowy, belief in global warming dropped dramatically. So he says the findings from a fresh poll to be conducted in upcoming weeks may

again reflect views based on the latest weather trend.

Climate scientists say daily local weather is not evidence of climate change. But they also say long-term climate change is so dramatic that people recognize and experience it.

"I'm pleased that Americans believe in thermometers," said University of Victoria climate scientist Andrew Weaver. "People feel confident about what they personally experience."

"They mix up the difference between weather and climate. It's not unexpected. It's human nature."

While it is a misconception to think that every short-term extreme weather event — like a flood or drought — is caused by climate change, a warming world does make such events more frequent, Weaver said.

NASA climate scientist Gavin Schmidt called strange daily weather "the visceral experience of climate" for people.

Earlier versions of the Michigan and Muhlenberg survey showed that Americans' belief in global warming peaked in December 2008 with 72 per cent.

In the most recent survey, 78 per cent of Democrats, 55 per cent of independents and 47 per cent of Republicans said they thought there was "solid evidence" of climate change.

Of those who did not believe climate change was occurring, 81 per cent thought that scientists were overstating the evidence for their own interest.

The survey of 887 people has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

The findings are similar to other recent polls, including a 2010 AP-Stanford University Poll showing three out of four Americans thought global temperatures were going up, said Stanford poll chief Jon Krosnick.

That survey, too, indicated local weather affected people's views about climate change.

*This article is by Seth Borenstein of the Associated Press*

# More of us than them?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

THE STATEMENT, there is more of us than them seems to be taking deep roots in the psychic of a number of persons within the Bahamian society.

This statement was reportedly made at a gathering on Fort Charlotte, where a loud crowd of our Creole speaking brothers and sisters were in attendance. The influential Bahamian speaker got up and made the remark, to the consternation of the Bahamians who heard it and are still puzzled to this very day as what it meant.

Amidst the untimely remarks made by Haitian President Michel Martelly, during his recent unannounced (to the Bahamian public) visit to New Providence, confusion reigned as to the implications of his message to the crowd at Joe Farrington Auditorium. From the many flags that were waving it was evident, all were of the nation of Haiti; not a single one was raised in honour of The Bahamas. It is obvious that many present were persons who were granted citizenship, according to the message delivered to them on that occasion.

The apparent lack of allegiance to The Bahamas should not surprise any of us. It is due in part to the process or lack thereof, in how we in this country grant citizenship. The process should be a transparent one with clear and deliberate instructions to be undertaken by the applicant.

They should know and be able to answer some basic historical facts about the country and they should be able to a certain degree speak some basic (at least conversational) English.

There are a number of persons who owe no allegiance to this country and today or

## LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

tomorrow the economy changes for the worst or they get an opportunity to go to the United States and that is where their being Bahamian status will come to a sudden halt.

Many of the talk show hosts were inundated with calls from persons questioning and expressing very passionately, what rights the president of Haiti had in making the remarks which he made.

These questions and comments went on for approximately a full week. One female caller in particular with a Creole sounding accent called one of the radio hosts and said that she did not see anything wrong with what the president had said, because it is more of us than it is of you all.

That is the second time within a short period of time such remarks were made. It causes one to wonder, just how widespread is this trend of thinking in the country.

With this entire episode what really ticked a lot of Bahamians off was the seemingly sneaky and mysterious way the president came into the country. In the past many leaders of other countries came to The Bahamas as private citizens, in most instances they came and left without any fanfare, most Bahamians never even knew that they were in the country. On the other hand whenever they are making state visits it would usually be broadcast for all and sundry to know.

Personally the first time I heard about his coming I was at the traffic light at the junction of Wulff Road and East Street. A long-time Haitian resident was pushing an old shopping cart and he paused

by my car window and made the comment: "Bahamian really want to know how many Haitians are in the Bahamas?" You just wait until the president comes from Haiti. I drove off pondering whether I had missed the news of an upcoming visit by the Haitian President. A few days later I learnt that I was not alone, but the majority of the Bahamian populous was also unaware of the visit.

Lest we forget, it was about 25 to 30 years now since most Bahamian couples generally, and women in particular, started conscientiously practising family planning. On the other hand, the Haitian women have been having multiple births in comparison to the Bahamian women. It has long been speculated that this strategy is a diabolical plot to over-populate the country with their offspring. What would be of interest is the number of births to Haitian vs Bahamian women for the past five years. We would like to see the actual numbers, not the ratio.

It may be advisable for the remainder of The Bahamas, inclusive of New Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco and Exuma to implement some, if not all, of the strategies currently practised by Long Islanders.

The statement it is more of us than it is of them cannot and should not now or in the immediately foreseeable future be taken lightly. Wake up Bahamians before they make it mandatory for you to speak Creole to obtain certain jobs and other positions in The Bahamas.

Thank you for graciously allowing me to share my thought with the country at large.

MICHAEL E TURNER  
Nassau,  
February 20, 2012.

## Stadium opening was a travesty

EDITOR, The Tribune.

**"The desire of power in excess caused angels to fall; the desire of knowledge in excess caused man to fall" - Francis Bacon**

I EXPECT to be ridiculed for what I am about to say; however I am no stranger to ridicule.

My attitude has always been and shall thus remain "they can all go to hell" collectively and individually.

In my view, what transpired at the opening of the Thomas A Robinson stadium was at the least a travesty.

I come from a different era and therefore am totally unaligned with the fiasco which was presented as entertainment. Primarily males who jumped and screamed and made little sense in what was passed on as songs. Every one of them mouthing lines over and over that should best be forgotten. Of course, the naysayers will differ with my views at the crass attempts at entertainment. What a cruel mess!

The purpose of this is not to ridicule the entertainers.

I was shocked that the man Tommy Robinson was totally left out of the proceedings. Of course there were announcers extolling the

virtues of Tommy Robinson over the years. What about Tommy Robinson the man. The man who is yet alive, vibrant and very much alive. One would get the impression from the programme, had passed on to some greater reward.

How is it possible that this great living man was written totally out of the programme?

Why good lord was he not allowed to voice his appreciation to the Bahamian people?

Why? The least that one would have expected to make the evening complete was to see this great Bahamian who has contributed so much and continues to give unselfishly of himself being allowed to voice his appreciation and thanks to the Bahamian people. Alas that was orchestrated not to be.

In this era when there are all kinds of knighthoods being passed around to the likes of Bill Allen, Arlington Butler, Arthur Foulkes, Sol Kerzner and others, why has this icon of Bahamian class, a philanthropy been overlooked, nay excluded? Why? I see him as the "Last Buccaneer" who mouthed these words; "O England is a pleasant place for them that's rich and high, But England is a cruel place for such poor folk as I."

Thus it is with Tommy

Robinson. I know he will continue to press on for as long as he shall live to give of his best to the Bahamas and Bahamians.

Personally, I feel sick at heart not to see another Bahamian such as Mr Harold Munnings being totally neglected, he has given much of himself for the good of this unforgiving country by misguided politicians who have given nothing and truly have nothing to give of themselves.

I therefore urge Thomas Augustus Robinson my friend and brother over the last sixty-five years to personally thank the Bahamian people for sharing their love and support over these many, many years.

Your mother and father will be smiling all over heaven and telling anyone that will listen;

"That's my Boy."  
"When revealed truth has given aim and directions to knowledge, knowledge of all kinds will minister to revealed truth." - John Henry Newman.

"T" is a sad day in this land. The intellectual pygmies are now in charge of the university."

GEORGE A CAPRON  
Nassau,  
February 27, 2012.

## MY MISSION:

Zero (0) murders in the Bahamas in seven (7) years - 2019.



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LOCAL NEWS

**TWO SHOT**

TWO men are in hospital after separate shooting incidents on Monday. According to police, a phone card vendor was robbed and shot in the abdomen by another man armed with a handgun shortly after 7pm. The victim was selling phone cards in the area of East Street and Ridgeland Park East, according to police, who said the gunman escaped with an undetermined amount of cash and phone cards.

The vendor was taken to hospital by ambulance and is in serious condition.

The second shooting occurred less than two hours later in the area of Market Street and Wulff Road.

A 25-year-old man was shot in the arm while walking on Wulff Road, according to police, who said the Black Village resident is now in stable condition at hospital.

**MURDER PROBE**

POLICE are questioning seven Abaco men in connection with a recent murder on the island.

Investigators have identified the 22-year-old Abaco man whose body was found riddled with bullets as Stanley McIntosh of East Bay Street, Marsh Harbour.

According to reports, Mr McIntosh was found near the Solid Gold Bar on Don McKay Boulevard shortly before 5am on Sunday. Investigations continue.

**Food drive and voting drive by DNA**

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
Tribune Freeport Reporter  
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

**FREEPORT** – The Democratic National Alliance has launched an Unemployment Registration and Food Assistance Drive on Grand Bahama to assist those struggling to find work and feed their families.

Over 100 persons have already registered for assistance in the last two days, according to Ewurabena Appiah, public relations officer for the DNA.

Registration is being held at the DNA Headquarters in Freeport in the Millennium Building between 9am and 4pm until Friday, March 2.

Persons wishing to register should bring along a passport, police record, resume and voter's card.

Ms Appiah said unemployment, under-employment and an overall lack of opportunities on Grand Bahama have

left many unable to provide even the most basic necessities for their families.

"The Democratic National Alliance has a comprehensive economic policy focusing on job creation and training opportunities in some of the premier industries; although the party understands that in the interim there is a real need to provide tangible assistance to residents on Grand Bahama Island, who have struggled to keep their heads above water," she said.

She said the drive is going well and persons with various skills are coming in to the register for assistance.

"Persons seem very pleased to have an opportunity like this being afforded to them and they have been very co-operative as far as bringing documents and providing us the relevant information that we need," she said.

"It all boils down to the fact that people need to get back to work, and they want to work and they are willing to take

advantage of any opportunity available to them.

"We have various persons coming to register; we are seeking a lot of persons who are proficient in office work and skilled workers with construction training," she said.

Ms Appiah said the DNA will create a database and liaise with employers looking to place qualified, unemployed potential employees in positions as they become available.

She noted that they are also offering care packages to residents in need.

"Based on the 'Thy Brothers Keeper' programme founded by DNA leader Branville McCartney in the Bamboo Town constituency, the concept allows other Bahamians to support their fellow man at a time that we need it the most," Ms Appiah said.

She said the DNA will hand deliver care packages to each person that registers with them.

**FNM HITS OUT AT 'CAN'T DO' PLP**

THE FNM hit out the PLP yesterday, branding it a party that does nothing but "criticise what they can't do."

The governing party was responding to comments made by the opposition in relation to the opening of the Thomas A Robinson Stadium. A statement from the FNM said the new stadium is a source of pride for all Bahamians.

"While PLP opposition politicians like to sit on the sidelines, denigrate every project they were incapable of producing and engage in divisive politicking, this FNM government has completed and delivered a state-of-the-art sports facility that also creates job opportunities for Bahamians.

"Our youth and athletes have now access to superior conditions to train and compete. Sports-related tourism, as well as contractors and vendors associated with the facility will benefit, as will all Bahamians," the statement said.

"The upward trend in tourism, with an estimated increase of 11 per cent arrivals for the first quarter of this year, goes to show that our efforts have been paying off for the benefit of the people."

**INVENTOR: 'ATTORNEYS RIPPED ME OFF'**

AFTER spending almost \$1,000 in processing fees, a Bahamian inventor claims he was ripped off by American patent attorneys.

Anthony Collie, a taxi driver and builder, said his patents for a hurricane and tornado roof tie should have never been issued in their error-laden state.

The device, for which he obtained three patents, aims to prevent the roofs of buildings and homes from being torn off in high winds. Mr Collie said his patent woes date back to 2002, when he first came up with the idea.

He said: "I built one and sketched it out, the others were more complicated so I could not build them on my own."

He took all of his sketches to a law firm in Baltimore, Maryland, where

attorneys assured him they would compile everything needed for the patents and ensure the documents were in order.

"I told them that my drawings were not the best so they needed to be sent to a professional to make them clearer and sharper," he said.

Almost three years later, he received his first official patent from the United States Patent and Trademark Office dated January 4, 2005. After amending the invention twice, Mr Collie was sent two other patents. However, he now claims none of the information contained in any of the patents is correct – and that including travel costs, he spent \$45,000 on the documents.

He said: "The summary of the invention, its background, the description, even the detailed description is wrong. The

drawings are also missing numbers and sufficient labelling to let people know what is going on."

Because of the costs, Mr Collie said he even had to ask his mother to finish paying for his taxi.

Mr Collie also submitted an idea and signed a contract worth \$13,000 for a round window with a firm that advertises on numerous cable TV channels.

The company, based in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, boasts of being America's largest inventor service firm, he said.

Almost 10 years after his patent woes began, he wants permission from the police to protest outside the US Embassy, after his numerous appeals to the Maryland law office and a letter to President Obama fell on deaf ears.

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Signed: Management

LOCAL NEWS

# Here's to the bootleggers of the Bahamas

By LARRY SMITH

*Here's to the bootleggers of the Bahamas, Who sit on rye kegs, resting feet on beer kegs, Singing 'yes, we want no bananas'.*

— bootlegger's toast

Ever heard of the Bahama Queen?

Not a mailboat, but a flesh and blood woman who, for a few years during the "Roaring Twenties", became an international celebrity as a bootlegger in Nassau.

Gertrude Lythgoe was the only woman to hold a wholesale liquor license here — at a time when women were to be seen and not heard.

Her autobiography has just been republished — along with the memoirs of several other rum-runners — by Flat Hammock Press, which says its mission is to is "to salvage many of the maritime classics of the past and introduce them and the authors to today's readers".

Most of these accounts have long been out of print. But now they have been updated for modern readers with added insight, information and photographs. For example, Lythgoe's brief memoir (available in local bookstores or from Media Enterprises) includes the full series of newspaper articles that made her famous.

In those days, the Bahamas was considered a "land of rascals, rogues and peddlers" (no comments from the peanut gallery, please). And according to the London Daily News, Bay Street was little more than a row of "crazy old liquor stores, unpainted and dilapidated, (that) have given it the nickname of booze



avenue".

As you might imagine, liquor smuggling was big business back then — and it attracted a variety of adventurers, renegades and entrepreneurs to little old Nassau. Gertrude Lythgoe, the newspapers wrote, "stands alone and fearless — a women who would grace any London drawing room...she has commanded the respect and homage of this motley and dubious throng, (and) is known in the trade as 'the queen of the bootleggers'."

Buying and selling liquor was never a crime in the British Empire, but the temperance movement in America managed to pass legislation in 1919, over a presidential veto, banning the sale and consumption of alcohol.

So for 13 long years, the FBI and the US Coast Guard fought a rough and tumble war to stem the flow of illegal liquor from Canada, Mexico, Cuba and the Bahamas.

According to an official Coast Guard history, "Enormous profits were to be made, with stories of 700 per cent or more for the more popular Scotch or Cognac. Probably the only reliable clue to the extent of the trade were the statistics on liquor passing through Nassau en route to the US: 50,000 quarts in 1917 to 10,000,000 in 1922."

Perhaps an even better measure of the demand for alcohol was the fact that American doctors earned \$40

million in 1928 by writing whiskey prescriptions. And the legal exception for sacramental wine was equally abused.

Publisher Robert McKenna says the Prohibition period was "so unbelievable that most Americans do not understand what happened. It was brought about by a well-organized movement and led to a polarised political and social climate. The first heroes of this era were the rum-runners, lawbreakers who were viewed as Robin Hood-like figures".

One was a Florida boat-builder named Bill McCoy, whose liquor could always be relied upon to be the best, or "the real McCoy". A non-drinker himself, McCoy started out by hauling rum from Bimini to Miami. And Tough Call's grandfather — a strict Methodist teetotaler — was on Bimini at the time as an agent for "Pop" Symonette's liquor business. He tasted the liquid that arrived in barrels to make sure it was rum — and then spat it out.

But as the Coast Guard became more effective, the rum runners changed their tactics — stationing their British-registered ships just outside the US three-mile limit, waiting for the well-informed to come to them. McCoy was the popularly accepted "founder" of Rum Row, which was a regular sight all along the eastern seaboard until the US extend-

ed its territorial waters to 12 miles in the mid-1920s.

McCoy's bootlegging exploits were immortalised by Robert Ripley, in his hugely popular syndicated newspaper column "Believe It Or Not", during the 1940s. And from her autobiography, it is clear that Gertrude Lythgoe carried a big torch for him.

She was the daughter of British immigrants to the US and began her career as a secretary in California. Later, she landed a job with a London import-export firm and — when Prohibition was declared — went to Nassau to represent whiskey suppliers. From a rented warehouse on Market Street and a room at the old Lucerne Hotel on Frederick Street she built a thriving business.

The Lucerne was opened in 1913 by Ron Lightbourn's grandfather, Roger Moore Lightbourn. And during the 1920s, it was known as the bootleggers HQ: "All types and nationalities conversed on the front verandah waiting for the ringing of the dinner bell," Gertrude recalled in her memoir. "Many newspaper reporters and feature writers sat by the hour gathering rich material to be woven into fiction."

The characters she knew included champion beer drinker Big Dutch; a representative of an English tobacco firm "who passes directly to his room with a very important and upstage attitude"; Tony, the scion of a wealthy Philadelphia family who spoke seven languages but was rarely sober; a Palm Beach society parasite known as the count; a pompous British army major; and a cowboy called Tex with a weakness for wine, women and song.

At the time — and perhaps appropriately — the Lucerne was run by an American nurse named Dorothy Don-

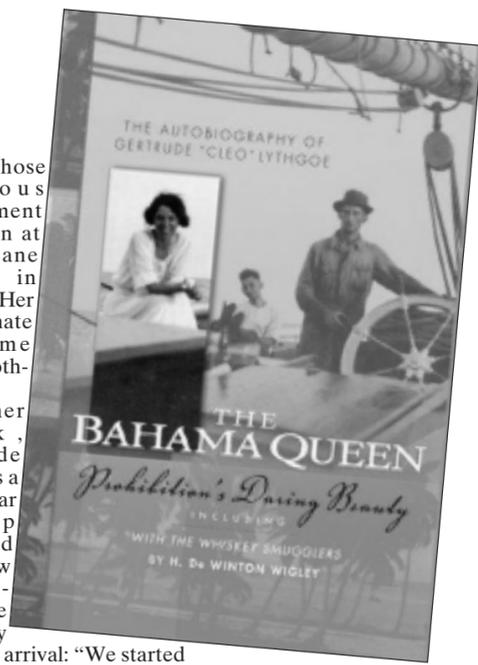
nelle, whose previous engagement had been at an insane asylum in Indiana. Her affectionate nickname was "mother".

In her book, Gertrude describes a typical car trip around New Providence shortly after her arrival: "We started from Bay Street, with its row of little shops, on past the site for the 300-room (Old Colonial) hotel, by the esplanade, Fort Charlotte, past beautiful white beaches until we came to the caves...we then passed a stretch of scrub palm trees, sisal and a few houses...We returned by way of the Queen's Staircase...and passed a prison constructed of native stone containing 101 cells...then we passed the quite modern Bahama General Hospital...(arriving) back at the hotel ready for more daiquiri cocktails and dinner."

Perhaps Gertrude's biggest claim to fame was the journey she undertook with the real McCoy to Rum Row, supervising her own whiskey consignment. It was on the Arethusia, a Gloucester-built schooner that McCoy had bought for \$21,000 but which took in \$100,000 per voyage.

Off the New Jersey coast, as many as 60 ships could be seen at one time on Rum Row.

This floating community was completely lawless, and many crews armed themselves against both government enforcers and fellow smugglers, who would some



times sink a ship and hijack its cargo rather than make the run for fresh supplies. But according to Gertrude, McCoy was ever the perfect gentleman — a man "of the superior business type, he had not time for dissipating or for celebrating when in port", she wrote approvingly.

McCoy retired in the mid-1920s to live on his fortune following a brief prison term, and died in 1948. Gertrude moved to Miami and also lived in New York and Detroit, where she became a pioneer in the car rental business. The Wall Street Journal estimated her worth at millions, but no-one really knew. She died in 1974 at the age of 86.

Meanwhile, the decrepit Lucerne Hotel — site of many a drinking party and "orgy" (as Sir Etienne Dupuch described the goings on there) — was pulled down soon after its owner, Roger Lightbourn, died in 1956. It was replaced by a boring building called Norfolk House.

Nassau as we know it today is largely a creation of the revenue earned from bootlegging. The harbour was dredged in 1923, with the spoil used to create Clifford Park; water was piped from the western well fields to a new tower on Fort Fincastle hill; electricity supply was expanded; roads were tarred and the first sewerage system was installed in 1930.

A nine-hole golf course opened near Fort Charlotte and the new Hotel Colonial was the centre of Nassau's social life. Nearby Paradise Island beach became a major attraction for tourists, many of whom arrived on the first air passenger services from Miami.

But — just as we are experiencing today — there was a seamier side to the prosperity. A government inquiry found that juvenile vagrancy and crime were rampant, accompanied by drinking, bad language and vandalism, leading to the establishment of the Boy's Industrial School in 1928.

When Prohibition ended in 1933, most of the vagabonds and entrepreneurs vanished. But some, like Pop Symonette and George Murphy, parlayed their profits into huge business and political empires. And my grandfather? Well, he stayed on to become a district commissioner at Bimini, and despite meeting a lot of hard drinkers along the way (including Ernest Hemingway), he never touched a drop until the day he died in 1979.

• What do you think? Send comments to [larry@tribunemedia.net](mailto:larry@tribunemedia.net) or visit [www.bahamapundit.com](http://www.bahamapundit.com).

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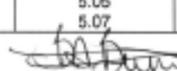
## GOVERNMENT NOTICE

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(AMENDMENT) ( ) REGULATIONS, 2011

The public is advised that prices as shown in the Schedule for DIESEL OIL and LEAD FREE GASOLINE sold by CHEVRON (TEXACO) Bahamas Limited will become effective on Friday, March 2 and Tuesday, March 6 respectively. Also, LEAD FREE GASOLINE and DIESEL OIL sold by ESSO Bahamas Limited will become effective on Tuesday, February 28 and Monday, March 5, 2012 respectively.

### SCHEDULE

ARTICLE	MAXIMUM WHOLESALE SELLING PRICE PER U.S. GALLON		MAXIMUM RETAIL SELLING PRICE PER U.S. GALLON
	MAXIMUM SUPPLIERS' PRICE \$	MAXIMUM DISTRIBUTORS' PRICE \$	
<b>PART A NEW PROVIDENCE</b>			
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TEXACO Bahamas Ltd. LEAD FREE DIESEL OIL	5.01 4.94	5.01 4.94	5.55 5.28
ESSO Bahamas Ltd. LEAD FREE DIESEL OIL	5.04 5.05	5.04 5.05	5.58 5.39
<b>PART C GRAND BAHAMA (NOT FREEPORT)</b>			
INCLUDING SEA FREIGHT			
TEXACO Bahamas Ltd. LEAD FREE DIESEL OIL	4.91 4.82	5.07 4.96	5.59 5.32
ESSO Bahamas Ltd. LEAD FREE DIESEL OIL	4.94 4.93	5.10 5.09	5.62 5.43
<b>PART D ABACO, ANDROS ELEUTHERA</b>			
NOT INCLUDING SEA FREIGHT			
TEXACO Bahamas Ltd. LEAD FREE DIESEL OIL	5.01 4.96	5.22 5.11	5.71 5.45
ESSO Bahamas Ltd. LEAD FREE DIESEL OIL	5.04 5.06	5.25 5.22	5.74 5.56
<b>PART E ALL OTHER FAMILY ISLANDS</b>			
NOT INCLUDING SEA FREIGHT			
TEXACO Bahamas Ltd. LEAD FREE DIESEL OIL	5.02 4.96	5.24 5.11	5.74 5.46
ESSO Bahamas Ltd. LEAD FREE DIESEL OIL	5.05 5.07	5.27 5.22	5.77 5.57

  
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LOCAL NEWS

# Exuma farmers receive tractor donation from BAIC

THE Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation donated a tractor and ancillary farm equipment to Exuma farmers.

"Being able to feed ourselves is a must," said BAIC executive chairman Edison Key. "No longer can we depend on some outside source for our sustenance."

"We fed ourselves before, and at a time when farming was back-breaking."

"Surely we can do it even better now that modern technology has made food pro-

duction so much easier."

Last Thursday, BAIC hosted a meeting between Exuma farmers and top New Providence buyers.

Mr Key commended the Exuma Farmers Association, headed by former police deputy chief John Rolle, "for demonstrating the kind of interest that we need to make Exuma great again in food production."

BAIC is represented in Exuma by domestic investment manager Everette Hart, a former Family Island

administrator.

Also participating were representatives from Super Value food stores, Continental Foods, and the Sandals Resort at Emerald Bay.

Mr Key vowed to do "the best we can, within our means, to assist Exuma farmers and food producers gain a niche in the national and even international markets."

"Exumians have shown us that they are serious about playing a leading role in the national cause towards food security."



THANKS TO BAIC, Exuma farmers have a tractor and equipment. Pictured above (at right), Exuma Farmers Association president John Rolle accepts the keys from BAIC executive chairman Edison Key. Photo: Derek Smith/BIS

# FAMILY ISLAND LISTINGS

## DEVELOPED RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL



**1. CARAVEL BEACH SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 75**  
**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:** Six-Flex Apartment Complex  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** 19,055 sq. ft.  
**LOCATION:** The subject property is located on Bonita Lane and Bluefish Street.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$462,649



**2. MALIBOO REEF ESTATES SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 104**  
**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:** Residential / Duplex  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** 11,866 sq. ft.  
**LOCATION:** The subject property is located Galleon Avenue & Outrigger Court.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$309,000

**3. BAHAMIA NORTH SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 7 Block LN Unit 1**  
**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:** Incomplete Single Storey Apartment structure  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** 0.98 acres  
**LOCATION:** The subject property is located south on Cadwallader Jones Drive.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$91,000

**5. EAST SECTION '2' SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 15**  
**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:** Single Family Residence, 3 beds / 1 bath  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** 0.28 acres  
**LOCATION:** The subject property is located on the northwestern section of Nansen Avenue & Shackleton Lane.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$128,785

**7. GRASMERE, UNIT 1 SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 3 Block 15**  
**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:** Single Family Residence, 3 beds / 2 baths  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** 13,500 sq. ft.  
**LOCATION:** The subject property is located on Glenburn Drive and East Indlaman Road.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$173,000

**10. LINCOLN PARK SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 5 Block 51 Unit 3**  
**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:** Single Family Residence, 3 beds / 2 baths  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** 0.26 acres  
**LOCATION:** The subject property is located on the western side of Churchill Drive.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$128,456

**12. ROYAL BAHAMIAN ESTATES SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 14 Block 3 Section B**  
**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:** Incomplete Single Family residential structure  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** 0.34 acres  
**LOCATION:** The subject property is located on the eastern side of a minor street called Madeira Lane and east of Beach Way Drive.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$67,000

**4. CARGILL CREEK SETTLEMENT - ANDROS**  
**LOT NO. 30**  
**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:** Duplex Apartment Building  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** 21,000 sq. ft.  
**LOCATION:** The subject property is situated on the east side of the Queens Highway.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$188,000

**6. FREEPORT CITY SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 5, Block "J"**  
**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:** Condominium Apartment No. 219 2 beds / 2 baths  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** 1,177 sq. ft.  
**LOCATION:** The subject property is located at Jansel Court Condominium, East Mall Drive and East Atlantic Drive.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$85,000

**8. HAWKSBILL SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 124**  
**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:** Single Family Residence, 1 bed / 1 bath  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** 5,400 sq. ft.  
**LOCATION:** The subject property is located on Abaco Drive.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$70,000

**11. POINCIANA GARDENS SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 53**  
**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:** Duplex Apartment, 2 beds / 2 baths  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** 0.26 acres  
**LOCATION:** The subject property is located on Nelson Road.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$90,000

**13. YEOMAN WOOD SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 26 Block 55 unit 2**  
**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:** Single Family Residence, 3 beds / 2 baths  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** 0.23 acres  
**LOCATION:** The subject property is located on the northwestern side of Fiddlers Green Road and Spinney Road.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$130,260

**1. BAHAMIA NORTH SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 10, Block AN, Unit 2**  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** Duplex, 12,000 sq. ft.  
**LOCATION:** The vacant lot is located at the intersection of Woods Rodgers Drive and Santa Maria Avenue North.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$50,000

**4. GRAND BAHAMA EAST SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 220 Block "E" Section 2**  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** Single Family Lot, 0.23 acres  
**LOCATION:** The vacant lot is located on the northwestern side of Okamus Avenue.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$15,000

**7. HUDSON ESTATES SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 393**  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** Single Family Lot, 7,493 sq. ft.  
**LOCATION:** The vacant lot is located on Nansen Avenue & West of Coral Road.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$34,000

**11. LUCAYAN ESTATES SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 18 Block 112 Unit 12**  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** Single Family Lot, 1.0 acre.  
**LOCATION:** The vacant lot is located on the western side of Rutland Road, a minor unpaved road which connects to Awston Drive.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$9,000

**15. ROYAL PALM BAY SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 23 Block 21**  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** Multi-Family Lot, 17,500 sq. ft.  
**LOCATION:** The vacant property is located on the southern side of Bartlow Road and Fortune Bay Drive.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$55,000

**2. DERBY SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 9 Block 17 Unit 3**  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** Single Family Lot, 0.30 acres  
**LOCATION:** The vacant lot is located on Queens Highway and Dagenham Drive.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$33,000

**5. GRAND BAHAMA EAST SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 152 Block "D" Section 2**  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** Single Family Lot, 0.23 acres  
**LOCATION:** The vacant lot is located on the south side of Kay Avenue West of Drayton Street Intersection.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$15,000

**8. LINCOLN GREEN SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 3 Block 18 Unit 2**  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** Single Family Lot, 20,250 sq. ft.  
**LOCATION:** The vacant lot is located on the southern side of a minor street called Fulton Lane and East Sunrise Highway.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$27,000

**12. LUCAYAN ESTATES SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 10 Block 32 Unit 3**  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** 1.2 acres  
**LOCATION:** The vacant lot is located on the northwestern part of the Clarendon Road and Alnwick Drive East intersection.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$10,500

**16. SUNRISE PARK SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 57**  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** Duplex Lot, 0.29 acres  
**LOCATION:** The vacant lot is located on Gladstone Terrace.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$26,000

**3. DERBY SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 2 Block 4 Unit 2**  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** Multi-family Canal Front Lot, 0.35 acres  
**LOCATION:** The vacant lot is located on the western side of a minor cul-de-sac called Lindsell Road which connects to Lindsell Drive.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$120,000

**6. HOLMES ROCK - GRAND BAHAMA**  
**LOT NO. Tract of Land**  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** Single Family Lot, 0.20 acres  
**LOCATION:** The vacant lot is located on the southern side of Queens Highway and eastern side of PC Plaza.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$20,000

**9. LINCOLN GREEN SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 10 Block 3 Unit 5**  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** Single Family Lot, 0.40 acres  
**LOCATION:** The vacant lot is located near the southern end of Lambeth Place and east of Churchill Drive.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$41,000

**13. MURPHY TOWN - ABACO**  
**LOT NO. Crown Allotment #49**  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** Multi-family 10,000 sq. ft.  
**LOCATION:** The vacant lot is situated on the Great Abaco Harbour Road off the main Murphy Town Road.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$28,000

**10. LINCOLN GREEN SUBDIVISION - FREEPORT**  
**LOT NO. 52, Block 18, Unit 5**  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** Duplex, 14,800 sq. ft.  
**LOCATION:** The vacant lot is located on the northeastern corner of Moor Drive and Moor Close.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$45,000

**14. MURPHY TOWN - ABACO**  
**LOT NO. 27 in Crown Allotment #125**  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** Multi-family 15,000 sq. ft.  
**LOCATION:** The vacant lot is situated off the Front Street of Murphy Town.  
**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$37,500

**17. VACANT LOTS**

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## LOCAL NEWS

# Students meet governor-general



**TEACHERS** and Students from Grand Bahama's Sister Mary Patricia Russell Jr High School are pictured with Governor-General Sir Arthur Foulkes (standing, centre, front row), during a courtesy call, on Saturday, April 25, at Government House.

Photo: Derek Smith/BIS

## SHUTDOWN OF KFC STORES TO END TODAY

from page one

The union will meet with staff to give an update on negotiations today, according to vice president Darren Woods, who said the opening of stores is dependent upon management, and not employees.

Mr Woods said: "The stores didn't close because the union didn't negotiate. The stores closed because KFC wanted to play hardball. The union has always maintained that the stores should have remained open."

"The staff that have showed up to work on those days should be paid. The union has demanded this and we are

prepared to take this matter to court."

Labour relations deteriorated between the two sides following the franchise's cancellation of the company's voluntary recognition of the union.

The nine KFC locations on New Providence have been closed since February 20 when staff were given an ultimatum to accept new terms and conditions of employment or face termination.

Employees continue to report to work each day, according to Mr Woods.

KFC Nassau has stated the nine locations will remain closed until an industrial

agreement is reached, and it is unwilling to pay any employees during the closure period.

The company claims the shutdown was a result of the "illegal strike action" ordered by union bosses on Monday.

The union has maintained the sit-out on Monday was not a strike, and came in response to the abrupt cancellation of union recognition and the subsequent ultimatum placed on staff.

Assistance has been made available to workers through the Department of Social Services, according to Minister of Labour Dion Foulkes, who said that some 300 families have been directly affected by the mass closures.

## ACQUITTED OFFICER 'NOT PRESENT' DURING ATTACK

from page one

She ruled there was not sufficient evidence for a case against Bowleg aiding or abetting the co-accused in assaulting Mr Key and directed the jury to deliver a not guilty verdict.

At yesterday's proceedings, Bowleg swore on the Bible and gave his account of the night in question.

He told the jury he and Constable Kevin Roberts were on patrol when they came upon two cars parked in the road at Robinson off Baillou Hill Road. After inquiring from the drivers - a man and a woman - why they were there, he inspected the man's car and found the licence disc was forged.

He said he went to arrest Key, but Key had run away but turned around just as he had opened the door of the patrol car to give chase.

The constable said Key was swearing and resisting arrest so violently that it took himself, officer Roberts and another off duty policeman to subdue him and place him in the patrol car.

When they arrived at the station, where Corporal Gardiner was the only other offi-

cer present, Roberts was "booking Key in".

"Corporal Gardiner went to the car and came back with some information in the form of a passport."

The officer ran a name check in their database where it was revealed that Key had several outstanding warrants against him, "three were warrants of committal".

"I informed Key of this and he tried to run away. I pursued him, jumped on him and he struggled to get free."

Constable Bowleg said prior to the attempt escape, he had instructed his fellow constable to retrieve the fraudulent licence disc.

After getting Key into the cell, which had been prepared by Gardiner, he went upstairs to prepare a report for his 4pm-12am shift, which he told Mr Munroe was completed by the time of the next incoming guard.

He claimed he was not made aware of the alleged assault on Key until he was interviewed by Insp Kenroy Ferguson in August.

In cross-examination, prosecutor Evans suggested to the officer his testimony was not true and questioned how a

man of his stature, 6ft 2in and 280lbs had struggled with a much shorter and much lighter 120lb man, considering that he had "jumped" Key.

He disagreed and said he had tackled the prisoner's legs before he could get out of the station but had been kicked in the face three times.

He contended there was a struggle between the two to the point that Gardiner had to help subdue Key.

Ms Evans asked the policeman if he recalled his conversation with Constable Roberts after Key was carried back to cell. He replied that the only conversation he remembered concerned the licence disc. However, the prosecutor suggested he was not telling the truth and was being evasive with his "selective memory".

He disagreed saying "it's been five years, I can't recall having a conversation."

Prosecutor Evans queried why counsel Munroe did not query Robert's testimony that the two had a conversation that did not concern the licence disc.

Bowleg responded that he could not recall this being said by Constable Roberts.

The trial resumes tomorrow.

## SUSPECT IN MISSING WOMAN CASE RELEASED

from page one

year-old Garden Hills man in custody in connection with her disappearance.

However, Supt Paul Rolle, Head of CDU, confirmed the suspect has since been released.

"We arrested him on Thursday but had to release him because we could only hold him for 48 hours. We did not have sufficient evidence to hold him. We are following some leads that seem to be developing. We are still investigating and taking another course of action," he said.

"We are mostly concerned with finding her. If she is alive, we need to talk to her. If she is dead, we need to find her body. We have had some tips

but nothing substantial. We are not giving up until we find her."

Anya's mother, Antoinette Newton, said she thinks the police have given up.

"Right now the case is stagnant. The told us they arrested someone but we haven't heard anything official yet. We just don't know what to do anymore. I guess, like us, they are getting discouraged as time goes on," she said.

"We are still hoping she is OK but we are prepared for the worst. Her kids are holding on but most days they are not OK. They miss their mom."

"They constantly watch the door like they are waiting for their mother to come home. They are not sleeping

and it is so hard to explain to them what is going on because they are so young and they just don't understand."

Anya was last seen wearing khaki-coloured slacks, a white button down shirt and black shoes. She was also driving a right-hand Honda Civic.

She is described as being about 5ft 8ins tall, of slim build with shoulder length black hair.

Anyone with information on Anya's whereabouts should contact the police at 911 or 919, the Central Detective Unit at 502, 9991 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 328-TIPS. Her family can be contacted at 467-7533, 464-9221 or 436-8952.

## NOW DNA SEEKS HAITIAN VOTES

from page one

ans of Haitian descent and discussed were the "negative ramifications" of policies concerning Haitians and Bahamians of Haitian descent and "what (Mr McCartney) intends to do if he wins next election," Mr Dieudonne said.

He said Mr McCartney should "focus on key issues" such as children born in the Bahamas to Haitian parents having difficulty getting "entitled documents" such as citizenship and school scholarships.

Earlier this month, the DNA publicly condemned

President Martelly's advice to Bahamians of Haitian descent to band together and support a political party they feel would best protect their interests.

"I told them to organise themselves and identify in this upcoming elections who is on their side," Mr Martelly said. "By being determinate in the elections they may have people taking care of them, this is the democratic way."

The DNA, as well as the PLP, expressed concern over Mr Martelly's comments, claiming they were the result of a "political ploy" by the governing party.

Haitian Ambassador Anto-

nio Rodrigue denied those claims, stating the president was misunderstood and did not intend to interfere in Bahamian politics.

Mr McCartney, as well as representatives for Metropolitan Church, could not be reached for comment.

The FNM has repeatedly denied it invited Mr Martelly to the Bahamas, or encouraged him to tell Haitian-Bahamians who to support.

The PLP has remained silent on the nature of its meeting with the Haitian-Bahamian community since it was uncovered by *The Tribune* last week.

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