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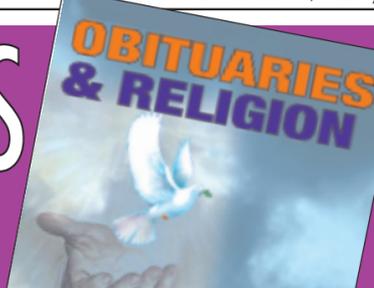
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INSIDE TODAY - NOBODY BEATS THE TRIBUNE



BAHA MAR TO CLOSE CABLE BEACH GOLF COURSE - SEE SPORT

Next stop prison for wanted man

DNA DENIES SOLICITING HAITIAN VOTE

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

THE Democratic National Alliance yesterday denied it has been soliciting "the Haitian vote".

In response to a *Tribune* article, the DNA said it only seeks the votes of the Bahamians, as only Bahamian citizens can vote in the Bahamas.

The party acknowledged in a statement that some of its members met with "some

SEE page 11

WITNESSES TAKE STAND

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

TWO witnesses of the February 2006 killing of businessman Keith Carey outside a local bank took the stand yesterday in the retrial of that case.

SEE page 12

CUSTOMS HALTED

By AVA TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

CUSTOMS and Immigration workers were ordered by union officials to abandon their current shift schedule today amid claims there are no legal parameters governing the existing system.

SEE page 6



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Passer-by spots escaped prisoner on local jitney

By SANCHESKA BROWN
Tribune Staff Reporter
sbrown@tribunemedia.net

A PRISONER who escaped from custody more than a month ago was back behind bars last night after being spotted taking a jitney ride.

Frederick Green, alias Frederick Neeley, 29, was caught by police on a bus at Wulff Road at around 2.30pm.

Police say they received a

tip-off from a man who said he saw someone fitting Green's description getting on to a purple and white jitney on Kemp Road, heading west toward Wulff Road.

Minutes later the bus was intercepted by police on Wulff Road in the area of FYP Hardware Store.

Green was arrested and is being held at the Wulff Road police station until his arraignment.

SEE page 6

MURDERED MAN WAS ON BAIL

By SANCHESKA BROWN
Tribune Staff Reporter
sbrown@tribunemedia.net

A 37-YEAR-OLD man on bail for multiple armed robberies and car thefts became the country's 21st murder victim early yesterday morning.

Jamal Ferguson, alias 'Balty', was shot a number of times as he sat waiting outside a bar around 2am Wednesday.

Police say Ferguson was waiting in a rental vehicle through St James Road, off Kemp Road, in front of the Corner Pocket when a man in a passing vehicle opened fire on him.

Ferguson was shot multiple times about the body including two shots to head. He died at the scene.

Police say they have no

SEE page 11



KFC IS back open after being closed for nine days.

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

KFC staff were back at work yesterday after management and union executives agreed the terms of a new

industrial agreement following four days of negotiations.

Supporting the move, hundreds of excited KFC employees reported to work at the franchise's nine Nassau locations, which opened to the public after an eight-day closure.

Photo: Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff

President of the Bahamas Hotel, Catering and Allied Workers Union (BHCAWU) Nicole Martin said while the negotiation process was challenging, the union and KFC

SEE page 12

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LOCAL NEWS

\$17,500 TO BREAST CANCER FUND



THE Elodie Sully Tomlinson Foundation made a sizable donation of \$17,537 to the PMH Foundation's Caring for Breast Campaign to raise funds for a new mammogram machine for the Princess Margaret Hospital. This donation will go along way in assisting with the purchase of a new mammogram machine for PMH. Pictured from left are Nancy Kelly, PMH Foundation, John Tomlinson, Bonnie Davis, Michele Rassin, Donald Tomlinson; Hilary Hall, Ports International.

Bahamians to join world day of prayer



MEMBERS of the executive committee, Bahamas World Day of Prayer. From left, Annette Poitier, Vernita Davis, Anna-Mae Dorsett (Andros), Sister Annie Thompson, Tiffany Smith (Grand Bahama) Barbara Sawyer, Eileen King (Executive Director, New York).

BAHAMIANS will join more than three million people in prayer and worship as the world observes World Day of Prayer tomorrow.

World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of informed prayer and prayerful action, organised and led by Christian women

who call the faithful together on the first Friday in March each year to observe a common day of prayer and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

The origins of World Day of Prayer date back to the 19th century when Christian women in the USA and Canada initiated a variety of cooperative activities in support of women's involvement in mission, at home and abroad. Efforts for unity continued and in 1922 two separate united days of Prayer, one in Canada and one in the United States, came together with a common date - the first Friday of Lent. In the second half of 1926 the women of North America distributed the worship service to many countries and partners in mission to an enthusiastic response.

This year, participants will say a prayer prepared by Christian women in Malaysia.

Annette Poitier, president of the International Committee of the World Day of Prayer, said: "This is always an exciting day as a great wave of prayer sweeps the world, beginning when the first service is held in the Queen Salote Girls School in Tonga and continuing around the world until the final service takes place, some 35 hours later, in neighbouring Western Samoa. By then, the day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and thousands of services will have been held."

The service in New Providence this year, will be hosted by New Covenant Baptist Church, located on Independence Drive, Nassau, beginning at 7pm. The evening's

guest speaker will be Janet Bostwick, the first female to be elected as a member of Parliament in The Bahamas.

There will also be services in Andros, Eleuthera, Abaco and Grand Bahama.

Although the committees all over the world are made up of women, the service is inclusive of men, women and children - clergy and laity. An offering will be taken to help with the World Day of Prayer and we also ask that collections of one-cent coins be brought for The Fellowship of The Least Coin.

In honour of the origination of the prayer that will be said, Malaysian food will be served following the service and the committee has asked those worshipping to wear clothing with a tropical look.

Malaysia is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country. Throughout its history it has attracted migrants from other parts of Asia and beyond and it is one of the wealthiest and most developed countries in South-East Asia. Women have made important contributions to its social and economic development but, nevertheless, they still face discrimination and violence at all levels of society. Malaysia is now the most popular destination country in Asia for migrant workers and human trafficking has become a sophisticated and organised operation.

Although Malaysia's multi-ethnicity has added to the rich heritage of its land and people, it has also given rise to many problems. In the service those issues of concern are named and the women voice their hope for the future. Justice for all is their hope, and their prayer is "Let Justice Prevail".

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LOCAL NEWS



27-YEAR-OLD Themar Curry appears in court yesterday.

Photo: Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff

Man faces court over 20th murder this year

By **DANA SMITH**
dsmith@tribunemedia.net

AN Abaco man was remanded to Fox Hill Prison yesterday after being arraigned in Magistrates Court in connection with the 20th homicide of the year.

Themar Curry, 27, of Coopers Town, Abaco, appeared before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez in Court 1 on Nassau Street.

It is alleged that Curry is responsible for the death of 22-year-old Stanley McIntosh, whose body was found with gunshot wounds near the Solid Gold Bar on Don McKay Boulevard shortly before 5am on February 26.

Curry was not required to enter a plea to the charge and Chief Magistrate Gomez told the accused the prosecution would present him with a Voluntary Bill of Indictment on May 17 at 10am.

His case will go directly to Supreme Court for trial and there are 23 witnesses lined up to give testimony.

During the arraignment, defence attorney Michael Kemp asked the court to allow for a toxicology examination of Curry and for the matter to be adjourned for two weeks.

"Certain toxicological results from an exam would be proof of a specific intent," he said.

Urine and blood tests would show if Curry had been under the influence of drugs at the time of the incident. This could possibly "assist in the preparation" of the defence, Mr Kemp said.

Mr Kemp told the court that Curry had been in police custody since Sunday and a toxicology test was not done.

He also said Curry had a bruised lip but did not want to make complaints to the doctor because police were in the room with him during a physician's visit.

"He needs to be examined," he said.

In response, police prosecutor Brenda Bain said "it would only be procedure for an officer to be present" during a medical examination of a person in custody.

She also said she objects to any adjournment of the date the Bill of Indictment is to be presented, as toxicology tests

can be completed before this date.

Mr Kemp said he has no objections to the date for the Bill and that the adjournment would only allow for the tests

to be done.

Chief Magistrate Gomez ruled that the Bill date still stands and that Curry was to be "taken immediately" for toxicological tests.

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COUPLE TO FACE COURT IN MURDER TRIAL

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

FREEMPORT - The homicide trial of Coletor Johnson and her boyfriend Ginton Louis is expected to get underway in the Supreme Court on Monday, March 5.

Johnson, 23, of Drake Avenue, and Louis, 32 of Graden Villas, are accused of the hit and run death of 23-year-old Markenson Justin.

Justin was struck by a car last July while walking on Explorer's Way near East Atlantic Drive.

After completing investigations, police classified Justin's death as a homicide.

K Brian Hanna is representing Louis and Paul Whitfield is representing Johnson.

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ACT OF VALOR	C	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:45
GOOD DEEDS	T	1:05	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:40
GOOSE	C	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:50
GHOST RIDER SPIRIT VENGEANCE	C	1:00	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:50
SAFE HOUSE	C	1:15	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:45
JOURNEY 2	B	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:35
THE SECRET WORLD OF ARRIETTY	B	1:05	3:25	N/A	6:05	N/A	N/A
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Romney counts on momentum

REPUBLICAN presidential candidate Mitt Romney takes rekindled momentum into next week's 10-state blitz of primary contests, carried forward on an easy victory in Arizona but a frustratingly narrow win in native-state Michigan in the turbulent race for the nomination to challenge President Barack Obama.

Of the four Republicans still jockeying for the party nomination, Romney has been at or near the top of the field since the state-by-state campaign began in earnest late last summer. By fending off former Pennsylvania Sen Rick Santorum in Michigan, the state where Romney was born and his father once was governor, he took long strides toward restoring the sense of inevitability that once surrounded his bid for the nomination.

He overcame Santorum by a slim margin — 41 per cent to 38 per cent — in the Michigan vote Tuesday by sticking to his core and mainstream Republican message of fixing the economy and reducing unemployment in a nation still recovering from the worst recession in decades.

Because Michigan awards delegates according to results by congressional district instead of through a winner-take-all system, Santorum could end up with more delegates than Romney.

The state hands out two delegates for winning each of its 14 congressional districts. With 26 of the state's 30 delegates decided, Romney and Santorum each have 13.

Results were incomplete in the final two congressional districts as of midday Wednesday. But with 98 per cent of the precincts reporting, Santorum had a slight edge in both. If his lead holds in both districts, Santorum would win a majority of the state's delegates, or 17 to Romney's 13.

Romney won all 29 delegates in Arizona's primary. In the overall race for delegates, Romney leads with 165, including endorsements from Republican National Committee members who automatically attend the convention and can support any candidate they choose. Santorum has 85 delegates, Newt Gingrich has 32 and Ron Paul has 19.

It will take 1,144 delegates to win the Republican nomination for president.

Romney was badly knocked off balance by Santorum, who had employed an increasingly strident right-wing message to assemble unexpected victories across the American heartland in the states of Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Colorado.

By avoiding defeat in Michigan, despite his loud opposition to Obama's successful bailout of the auto industry that heavily

dominates the state's economy, Romney seemed to have retaken the Republican high ground as the candidate best placed to turn the president out of the White House after just one term.

Santorum, the fourth declared Republican candidate to challenge Romney from the right, had become the new favourite of the conservative party base that distrusts Romney for his past moderate positions on hot-button social issues such as abortion, gay rights and government involvement in reforming the nation's health care system.

"We didn't win by a lot but we won by enough, and that's all that counts," Romney told cheering supporters in Michigan on Tuesday night.

"On to the March contests," he said, looking ahead to next week's 10 Super Tuesday races on March 6 that could finally determine who the party nominates at its national convention in late August.

Santorum, who had once held a lead in Michigan, boasted Wednesday that he was walking away with half of Michigan's delegates after coming close to winning what originally looked to be a Romney stronghold.

"We're feeling very good that we sustained ourselves and withstood the attacks, and we think we're going to have a very, very good Super Tuesday," Santorum said on a radio interview programme.

Santorum is focusing on three big prizes among the 10 Super Tuesday states: Ohio, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

Washington state's caucuses are first, on Saturday. Three days later, comes Super Tuesday, with 419 delegates up for grabs. The contests also include Alaska, Georgia, Idaho, Massachusetts, Vermont and Virginia.

He has already begun campaigning in Ohio, and vowed, despite Romney's Michigan victory, to stick with the ultraconservative message that has carried his unlikely candidacy into the top tier against the much better financed and organised operation of the former Massachusetts governor. Romney will campaign Wednesday in Ohio before he flies to North Dakota.

Gingrich and Paul made little effort in either Michigan or Arizona, focusing instead on Super Tuesday contests. Gingrich planned to campaign Wednesday in Georgia, the state he represented in the House of Representatives for 20 years. He could become a factor as he tries to revive and on-again-off-again campaign in the US South. Paul, too, could muddy the waters with his small-government libertarian message.

This article is by Stephen R Hurst of the Associated Press

PLP backs off from Haitian view?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I WAS taken aback after reading a very short article in the February 24 edition of *The Tribune*. The article is entitled "PLP seeks Haitian vote," and it was about a meeting that was reportedly held between Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Leader Perry G Christie and a Haitian-Bahamian organisation called United Haitian Association in The Bahamas (UHAB) at the Church of the Nazarene on Minnie Street.

According to the article, the purpose of the meeting was for the opposition to "drum up support" for its campaign. The article went on to say that the meeting was "staged to mend relations with the Haitian community over party statements criticising Haitian President Michel Martelly."

Let me state from the outset that I am shocked that the PLP is now seeking votes from the Haitian community. The way the opposition and its supporters were carrying on several weeks ago, I thought they were against Haitians. Now the PLP wants their vote? It looks like the PLP is trying to play on both sides of the fence with this issue.

Had that been Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham at that meeting with UHAB representatives, the radio talk shows would have been bombarded with calls from angry natural born Bahamian PLP supporters accusing the prime minister of some sinister plot to regularise more Haitians in order to win the election.

But Christie is allowed to meet with these people and nothing is said by his supporters who were all over the airwaves lambasting the prime minister.

Some of these people talk as if illegal Haitian immigrants started coming to the Bahamas after August 19, 1992. I am not saying that the opposition is wrong for seeking to get the support of the Haitian community.

When one considers the sheer number of legal Haitians living in the Bahamas, it would be political suicide for any party not to court their vote.

Successive governments since the era of the United Bahamian Party (UBP) administration have allowed the Haitian situation to mushroom into what it has become

LETTERS

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today. Therefore, political parties have to now campaign in Haitian communities like The Mud and Pigeon Pea if they want to be successful at the polls. Christie understands this very well.

PM Ingraham and Deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette have both taken a lot of criticism from the PLP for the sudden visit of Martelly in early February.

Martelly's political speech to thousands of Haitian-Bahamians at the Church of God Auditorium on Joe Farthington Road caused quite an uproar among many natural born Bahamians.

As the reader should know by now, Martelly told his people to vote for the party that looks out for their best interests.

There were allegations by the Democratic National Alliance (DNA) and the PLP that the Ingraham administration had orchestrated the whole event in order to win the Haitian vote. In fact, immediately following the departure of Martelly from the Bahamas, the radio talk shows were bombarded with calls from angry Bahamians who were calling for the resignations of Ingraham and Symonette. Many of these callers were PLPs.

In addition to Martelly's visit, there have been persistent accusations by a popular PLP radio talk show host and an internet daily that the FNM had granted citizenship status to thousands of Haitians in order to boost its chances of winning the general election.

The PLP has shrewdly used the Haitian issue to score political brownie points among xenophobic Bahamians. In fact one can rightly argue that the political base of the PLP has been galvanized over this controversial issue. Many Bahamians are upset over the fact that this country seems to be overrun by Haitians.

What makes the Haitian issue even more acute is the lingering recession. With very limited jobs available, many natural born Bahamians, particularly those who are either unemployed or underemployed, are venting out their frustrations on the Hait-

ian community and on the Ingraham administration of the radio talk shows and in the dailies. I think the PLP's mantra for this year's general election is either "Putting Bahamians First" or "We Believe in Bahamians".

By saying that it believes in Bahamians, the PLP has portrayed the Free National Movement (FNM) as a pro-foreigner/anti-Bahamian government.

Now that the opposition has successfully conditioned many Bahamians to believe that the Ingraham administration is pro-Haitian and anti-Bahamian, it is attempting to win the support of the Haitian community — the very people it has pitted its natural born Bahamian supporters against.

I think the PLP is now backtracking from its earlier anti-Haitian rhetoric because reality has finally set in. Christie knows full well that it would be outright difficult for any political party to win an election in this country without the help of the powerful Haitian bloc.

That is why the opposition is now trying to mend relations with these people. It remains to be seen, though, how his xenophobic supporters will react to this latest development.

There are thousands of Haitian Bahamians in this country and I can tell you that the overwhelming majority of them now view the PLP and the DNA as anti-Haitian.

I know of at least three Haitian-Bahamians in Grand Bahama who have vowed to vote against the PLP.

Whatever was said in that meeting between Christie and representatives of the UHAB won't be enough to endear the opposition to the thousands of Haitian Bahamians in this country.

Unfortunately for Christie, the damage has already been done. His supporters have dug too deep a hole for him and his campaign machinery to get out.

After all the hateful things that were said about Haitian Bahamians over the airwaves by his PLP supporters, I cannot see how Christie can persuade them to vote for his party.

KEVIN EVANS
Freeport,
Grand Bahama
February 26, 2012.



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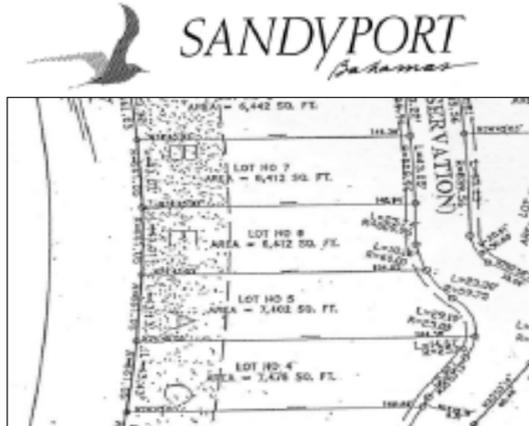
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Bid closing date 27th March, 2012.

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MP hails work on Montagu foreshore

By **DANA SMITH**
 dsmith@tribunemedia.net

MONTAGU MP Loretta Butler-Turner said the still-under-construction Montagu Foreshore is set to become "one of the most amazing recreational areas in New Providence".

The redevelopment project, funded by the government and Kerzner International, was officially launched last year on September 22.

Although it is not yet completed, a notable difference can be seen in the appearance of the area.

The renovations include the addition of groynes or large boulders to stop wash-off of the beach, a complete clean-up of debris and garbage, and a newly paved parking-lot.

Ms Butler-Turner said of the project yesterday that it's not "just a beach restoration" but an overall improvement of the entire area.

"I can recall the days when I, like many families, use to enjoy Montagu beach for recreation."

Around 10 or 15 years ago, she said, many persons living in the east "started agitating for some upgrades."

Although "many MPs said they would make it their objective," she is proud that her goal to begin the transformation of Montagu was accomplished.

"It all started a few years ago when we started seeing improper use of the ramp which is used by the fish vendors. It started out with one or two vendors and then it became a real congested area."

This was just one of many issues with the foreshore, including lack of parking facilities, difficult boat ramp access, and slow traffic flow.

"Unfortunately for us we realised it would cost millions of dollars (to address all the problems)," Ms Butler-Turner said. "But it didn't die, we



FLASHBACK to the start of construction work on Montagu Foreshore.

Photo: **Felipe Major**/Tribune Staff

started looking for other sources."

It was then that the Prime Minister asked Kerzner International if they would be interested in funding the beach restoration, while the Ministry of Works would fund the roadwork and park development.

"Kerzner decided for it to be a gift to the Bahamian people and we're very grateful, not just as a constituency, but as a government for the restorative work that they've done," Ms Butler-Turner said. "It is an unbelievable, beautiful beach and recreation area now."

And more is to come, she said. A "whole new display" of stalls for the fish vendors will be created, and the beach, seaside park and picnic area will all be extended.

A new road junction will also be created to "mitigate against the evening traffic" on East Bay Street.

"It's going to be one of the most amazing recreational areas in New Providence. This

was one of my promises to the people of Montagu and I am so proud that the government and Kerzner made it possible for the people," Ms Butler-Turner said.

"I am very, very proud to be able to say that under this government's administration we have truly made a big difference in Montagu."

She also revealed that during plans for the redevelopment project, a traffic management study was undertaken to confirm the cause of the constant traffic jams.

It determined the gridlock is caused in part by three junctions on the Eastern Road: Fox Hill, Johnson Road, and Blair Estates.

As a result, work is presently being undertaken to create a third lane for Johnson Road and Blair, just like the one created at Fox Hill corner last year.

The blind-corner next to the Baker property on William Street has also been redeveloped to make it safer, Ms Butler-Turner said.



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LOCAL NEWS

Lyford Cay Foundation now accepting applications

LYFORD Cay Foundation Inc and the Canadian Lyford Cay Foundation are now accepting online applications for academic, technical training and vocational scholarships for study at approved institutions in the US, Canada, the UK and the Caribbean.

All applications must be made through the Foundations' website, www.lyfordcayfoundation.org.

Applicants must be Bahamian citizens and pledge to return to the Bahamas upon

completion of their studies.

General academic scholarships are available at undergraduate, graduate and doctorate levels for study in areas considered to be valuable to the economic needs of the Bahamas.

These include agriculture, the arts, economics, education, engineering, environmental studies, financial services, foreign languages, health sciences, hospitality management, pure sciences, quantity surveying, technol-

gy and tourism.

Technical training and vocational scholarships are designed for individuals who wish to earn an associate's degree, certification, specialisation or diploma.

The minimum course of study is six months. Generally, the maximum length of an eligible course is three years, but consideration will also be given to applicants pursuing specific career and occupational programmes that may extend beyond that period.

The approved fields of study for technical scholarships are: agriculture and fisheries; air conditioning and refrigeration; automotive, marine and aviation mechanics; computer service technology; construction and related

trades including electrical, carpentry, plumbing, painting and masonry; health care technology; heavy equipment operations; hospitality, tourism, and culinary arts, and machine shop and welding.

Specialised scholarships also offer opportunities to study agriculture; architecture; the fine, visual and performing arts; arts education; business and economics; general education; engineering; marine and environmental biology; marine construction, marine design, marine manufacturing systems and marine mechanics, as well as theology.

Most Foundation awards are worth from \$7,500 – \$12,500 per year.

Scholarships are renewable

annually, provided that a certain level of performance is maintained. As part of the renewal process, successful applicants are required to show proof of having contributed a minimum of 20 hours each year to volunteer projects and/ or service organisations.

The deadline for online academic scholarship applications is March 31, 2012. Completed applications for technical scholarships must be received online by May 1, 2012.

Independent, non-partisan screening committees comprised of prominent citizens in the fields of education, government and the private sector are responsible for making the final selections. In addition to academic performance, the committee considers an applicant's financial need, personal qualities — including his or her leadership skills and contribution to the community — as well as the calibre and cost of the institution he or she wishes to attend.

The foundations also offer scholarships for study at The College of The Bahamas. These are primarily need-based, and all applications and screening take place through the college.

The Lyford Cay Foundations have awarded more than \$21 million in scholarships to Bahamian citizens since their educational assistance programmes were launched in 1983.

tion to academic performance, the committee considers an applicant's financial need, personal qualities — including his or her leadership skills and contribution to the community — as well as the calibre and cost of the institution he or she wishes to attend.

The foundations also offer scholarships for study at The College of The Bahamas. These are primarily need-based, and all applications and screening take place through the college.

The Lyford Cay Foundations have awarded more than \$21 million in scholarships to Bahamian citizens since their educational assistance programmes were launched in 1983.



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CUSTOMS HALTED OVER WORK SCHEDULE CLAIMS

from page one

However, government officials last night said no formal complaint was filed by the Bahamas Customs Immigration Allied Workers Union (BCIAWU), bargaining agents for both departments.

BCIAWU acting president Sloane Smith advised staff to revert to the schedule set for public servants in General Orders, which outlines a standard work schedule as 9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday.

During a press conference yesterday, Mr Smith charged that the new mandate will remain until employees have a registered document outlining proper shift structure.

The shift system has been a longstanding contentious issue for customs and immigration workers, who feel that there are no guidelines to organize and evenly distribute overtime work.

Labour officials, union rep-

resentatives and staff met with Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham on Saturday to discuss the trade dispute stemming from the 2005 Industrial Agreement, which was negotiated by the Bahamas Public Services Union.

Mr Smith said: "The Prime Minister essentially said [at the meeting] that particular document has no value, that document was used to place the staff on a shift system, so if the document has no value why in fact was the staff placed on a shift system?"

"Further his statement was that customs and immigration staff are governed by General Orders."

Mr Smith added: "We are now asking the Prime Minister to cause the office of the Director of Immigration and the Comptroller of Customs to set up a working schedule replete with appropriate ranks to properly staff the airports, the dock, and the marinas

before 9am, after 5pm, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays."

Last night, Minister of Labour Dion Foulkes and Director of Immigration Jack Thompson both said they could not comment fully on the matter as they were unaware of the shift change ordered by the union.

Mr Foulkes said: "I don't understand it, I don't see what their position is."

"The Prime Minister accepted the fact that the shift system came in to effect under the Progressive Liberal Party. He acknowledged that anybody that works beyond that would be paid pursuant to the employment act."

At Saturday's meeting, Mr Ingraham advised that workers will be compensated for overtime pay as far back as March 31 2010. Union officials are now compiling a report of all eligible persons.

While grateful for the progress, Mr Smith noted that

the issues presented did not have to escalate to the top management level as the union's cries had gone unanswered for two years.

"By the government agreeing that the rate that they used to pay staff for the past two years, by them simply agreeing, their admitting that they were wrong in the first place for the application of the flat rate."

"We are still pleased that the government has conceded that the appropriate rates to be assessed the customs and immigration staff when they work overtime hours are the rates that are associated with your salaries."

According to union officials, it was also promised that workers at the top of their salary scale will receive five weeks vacation; the promotion of guards to the rank of officers; and that Immigration workers would be afforded a shuttle for transport to the airport.

NEXT STOP PRISON FOR WANTED MAN

from page one

The 29-year-old escaped from custody while seeking medical attention at the Princess Margaret Hospital on February 21.

He allegedly fled the hospital's chest ward through a window around 4am after the prison officer assigned to him left to use the bathroom.

After his escape, prison officials maintained that the officer secured Green in restraints before leaving to use the restroom. However, the accused was gone when the officer returned.

Green was remanded to Fox Hill Prison after being charged with the 2009 armed robbery of 18 tourists at Earth Village. He is still awaiting trial.

He was also charged with the 2004 stabbing death of Dale Williams.

However, he was acquitted of the charge after claiming he was defending himself against an attempted rape by a "gay, HIV positive man".

Green is expected to be arraigned in connection with his escape sometime this week.

The last prisoner to escape from PMH was 28-year-old Dorian Armbrister, on December 13.

Armbrister was serving a 27-month sentence for stealing from a shop. Although he was outfitted with leg restraints and on 24-hour guard, he escaped the health care facility by jumping through a bathroom window.

He was shot in the buttocks by prison officers on Dowdswell Street a short time later.

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LOCAL NEWS

Bishop tells congregation not to sell vote for money or political favours

BISHOP Laish Boyd urged Anglicans not to exchange their vote for money or political favours.

Eligible voters should remain honest and critical of the issues, according to Bishop Boyd, who said that Christian participation would elevate the political process.

In a letter to the Bahamas

and the Turks and Caicos Diocese, Bishop Boyd encouraged Bahamians to get registered because each individual vote is vital to achieve a national consensus.

"Let your decisions and behaviour result from an honest look at the issues rather than from what someone paid you or promised you," the let-

ter read. "Too often in our electioneering, money, goods and favours determine outcomes."

It added: "If 'Christians' are not involved in this process, how will the Gospel be able to influence the process?"

"How can we expect to help to bring morals, ethics, right behaviours, right procedure and an elevated standard

if we absent ourselves?"

While many of the country's issues are not the result of one political party, Bishop Boyd said that successive governments have put too much focus on distancing themselves from predecessors rather than taking a collaborative approach for sustainable advancement of the country.

Key issues outlined by Bishop Boyd include: the economy, crime, the judicial system, education, health, bureaucracy, the number of vehicles, public transportation, and constituency boundaries.

"These same issues do not call for a petty, partisan, or mud-slinging approach, but for

a sustained and continuous national effort by the leaders, government and opposition, of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, her agents and agencies, in collaboration with, and supported by, the people," the letter read.

• See today's Religion Section for the full text of Bishop Boyd's letter.

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LOCAL NEWS

Opera comes to Nassau

MUSIC lovers are in for an exquisite delight this weekend, as "Bizet – Broadway Night at the Opera" returns to Nassau.

This unique event immerses the audience in the genius of world-class vocalists, who perform a repertoire of operatic classics and Broadway favourites – not from a stage, but in the very midst of the guests in an intimate, elegant setting.

The effect is positively enchanting and last year's inaugural performance at the

Old Fort Bay Club met with universal acclaim, prompting this much-awaited encore, which was sold out weeks ago.

Pioneered in Montreal, Canada, the event is once again being brought to the Bahamas by the Bizet – Broadway Committee, chaired by Cornelia Nihon, in association with the Nassau Music Society.

In addition to delighting patrons, last year's Bizet – Broadway was deemed a smashing success because it raised \$20,000 to fund partial

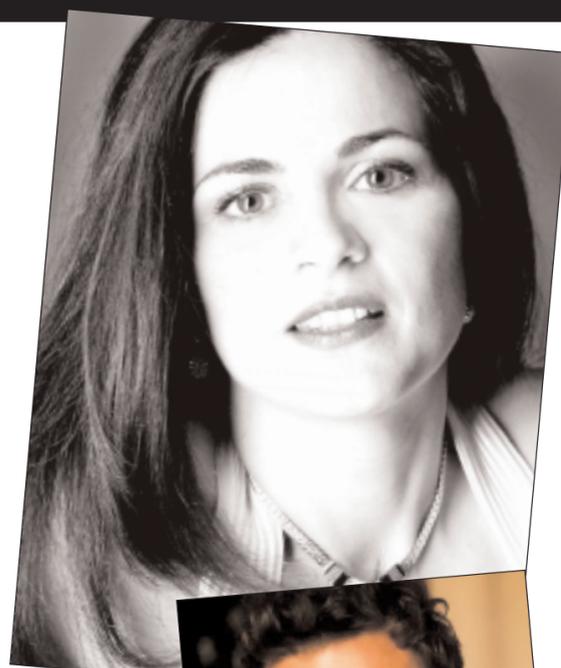
scholarships for young Bahamian singers and brought a top-class voice training coach to Nassau for a week.

More student grants will be offered this year, and Wendy Nielsen from the University of Toronto, recognised as one of Canada's leading voice trainers, will spend March 5-9 with aspiring Bahamian vocalists thanks to the Bizet-Broadway Scholarship Fund.

Saturday evening's black tie event will again be hosted by the Old Fort Bay Club under the patronage of Governor

General Sir Arthur Foulkes, and will begin with a champagne reception donated by Young's Champagne, followed by a three course gourmet dinner.

Meanwhile, four of Canada's best operatic voices will weave their spell. They are, pictured top to bottom:



Gianna Corbisiero - Soprano: Gianna, praised as luminous by *Opera News*, is equally known for her warm vocal timber as well as her exceptional presence on stage.

She has studied at McGill University, the young artist programme at l'Opéra de Montréal and at the Juilliard School of Music in New York. She has since interpreted lead roles in such operas as *La Bohème*, *La Traviata*, *I Pagliacci*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Magic Flute* and *Carmen* in North America, Europe and Asia.

Keith Klassen - Tenor: Keith has emerged to become one of Canada's busiest performers. Since graduating with honours from the Opera Division at the University of Toronto in 2002 he has performed more than 50 roles from the standard operatic repertoire, as well as 35 roles in the realm of new opera.

He has been engaged across Canada as well as in Scotland, Germany, the United States, Ireland and the Czech Republic. *The Star Phoenix* described him as having "...a big ringing voice and great stage presence".

Julie Nesrallah - Mezzo-Soprano: Julie is an extremely versatile singer and actress who dazzles audiences with her rich tone, engaging personality and deeply expressive communicative skills. She is regularly engaged by leading opera companies, symphonies, festivals and chamber music ensembles across North-America and abroad.

On July 1, 2011, She sang "God Save the Queen" for Prince William and Princess Kate during Canada Day festivities in Ottawa on Parliament Hill.

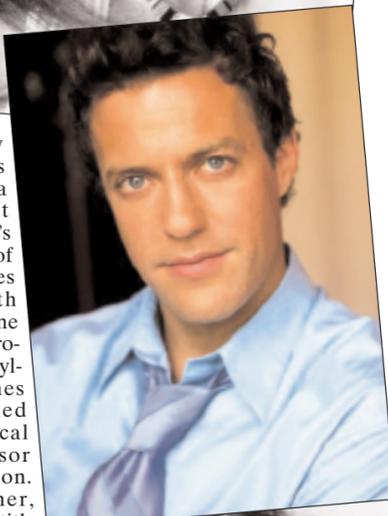
Gordon Bintner - Baritone:

Gordon is currently pursuing a Masters of Music in Opera and Voice at McGill University's Schulich School of Music. He studies voice with renowned baritone and pedagogue, Professor Sandford Sylvan, and coaches with acclaimed pianist and vocal coach, Professor Michael McMahon.

This past summer, Gordon sang the title role in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* at Opera NUOVA in Edmonton. This year, he will sing the title role in Opera McGill's production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.

They are joined by Michael McMahon - Piano: Michael is the preferred partner to many of Canada's finest singers. He has performed regularly throughout Canada, in Europe, Japan and the USA. Following his studies at McGill University, he completed his musical education in Vienna at the Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst and the Franz Schubert Institute, and in Salzburg at the Mozarteum. In addition to his active performing schedule, Michael is a professor at the Schulich School of Music at McGill University.

He arranged the repertoire for this weekend's Bizet – Broadway.



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LOCAL NEWS

DNA DENIES SOLICITING HAITIAN VOTE

from page one

Bahamian leaders of Haitian descent" to discuss the party's immigration policies – which have not been altered since being put forward at a DNA town meeting last year.

According to the statement the article was "very misleading to the Bahamian public, as it suggests an erroneous statement that the party is underhandedly courting the Haitian vote."

Yesterday's *Tribune* reported that 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.

According to well-placed sources, the article said, party officers held a series of meetings with members of the Haitian-Bahamian community to "gather voters". The DNA statement said the meeting was an opportunity to explain the party's immigration platform and initiatives.

It said: "It was a fruitful meeting and the DNA believes that it successfully explained to all in attendance that a DNA-government intends to adhere to the law, present a referendum to modernise the country's regularisation laws and remove political hindrances and corruption from the Department of Immigration.

"At no time did the meeting transform into a plea for votes. Our only focus was to reiterate to the group that the DNA would enforce the laws of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas."

Among the policies discussed were: a review of the status of immigrants that have been in the Bahamas for long periods of time and are productive members of society with a view to regularisation, swift consideration of the applications of persons entitled to apply for residency/citizenship and move to regularise the status of children born abroad to Bahamian women by way of referendum.

MURDERED MAN WAS ON BAIL

from page one

motive for the killing, however sources say Ferguson's murder was retaliation for the shooting death of Lavarado Thurston alias 'Giant'.

Thurston was shot and killed around 2am Saturday, after leaving a nightclub through Cordeux Avenue and Key West Street.

Witnesses say Thurston left the club and was confronted by a man who he had an earlier altercation with. The man shot him and fled the scene.

He became the country's 19th murder victim.

Police are questioning a man in connection with Ferguson's death, *The Tribune* has learned.

Meanwhile, police are still investigating the murder of Renardo Minnis, 19. Minnis was shot and killed around 11.45am Monday morning.

Police have no suspects in the murder.

Anyone with information on any of these murders are asked to contact police 911 or 919 the Central Detective Unit at 502-9991 or Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS.

STATEMENT BY PHILIP 'BRAVE' DAVIS

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Hubert Ingraham has become an increasingly delusional and desperate politician



HON. PHILIP "BRAVE" DAVIS

In an effort to cover up the fact that his FNM administration has been an exceptionally bad government over the past four-plus years, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham has become an increasingly delusional politician who has irresponsibly resorted to personal attacks on his opponents.

As a practicing lawyer, throughout my career I have made every effort to adhere to the dictates of my profession and over the years I have gained tremendous respect among my peers and the public-at-large for representing my clients to the very best of my ability.

Yet Mr. Ingraham has gone beyond shameless demagoguery in trying to score cheap political points by attacking me for representing persons charged with criminal offenses, notwithstanding the fact that one of the tenets of the legal profession is that everyone charged with breaking the law is entitled to legal representation.

As I noted in my address recently at the opening of the Fort Charlotte branch office of PLP candidate Dr. Andre Rollins, I am not ashamed to say I am a noted attorney and when I look in the mirror I see someone with exemplary legal skills that have been noted locally, regionally and internationally.

It is also true that as a result of our shared legal experience, Mr. Ingraham has personally benefited mightily and significantly from my legal skills; yet he spoke spinelessly about these skills.

When did he discover that a lawyer representing persons charged with a criminal offense contributes to a rise in criminal activity?

What is his point here? Is he now advocating that some persons charged with crimes should not have legal representation?

Moreover, why single me out? What about his political colleagues Desmond Bannister, Carl Bethel and Dion Foulkes, who likewise have represented persons charged with criminal offenses?

Mr. Ingraham specifically mentioned Samuel 'Ninety' Knowles. Why choose him from among my many clients?

I have represented persons charged with similar offenses who are Mr. Ingraham's close friends and constituents and were recommended to me by him because of my knowledge in the law. Why doesn't he call their names? Why doesn't he speak about the others?

Samuel Knowles, who is presently serving time in the United States and is appealing his convictions, never confessed to being a drug

smuggler.

On the other hand, *Abner Pinder of Spanish Wells*, a "confessed drug smuggler," is being facilitated by Mr. Ingraham. His name and *confession are recorded in the report of the 1984 Commission of Inquiry.*

Yet, Mr. Pinder was given the rights to operate his own private terminal at the North Eleuthera Airport.

What's more, recently he was sworn in as a Justice of the Peace, with the blessing of Mr. Ingraham.

The truth of the matter is that Mr. Ingraham and the FNM, having held office for 15 of the last 20 years, are ashamed of their scandalous record of running the country almost into the ground, particularly over the last four-plus years.

They have demonstrated that they have no answers to the country's out-of-control crime problem, the outrageously high unemployment rate and the myriad other problems that have been spawned by the FNM's poor governance.

And Mr. Ingraham must shoulder direct responsibility for the sad state our country's finances as a result of his mismanagement of the economy, in his capacity as Minister of Finance.

An argument also could be made by criminals and would-be criminals that Mr. Ingraham is as much a law-breaker as they are. Indeed, he has failed to declare his assets and net worth to the *Public Disclosure Commission, which the law requires him to do. He also failed to table a Midterm Budget when the law requires him to do so as Minister of Finance.*

It is no wonder, therefore, that his government is paralytic when it comes to correcting the problem of crime in the Bahamas. They are lost and are not living up to their primary obligation to protect the Bahamian people!

On the other hand, we in the PLP understand that the state of our economy is directly linked to the high levels of violence and criminal activity. Not until we fix the problems of crime will we find successful solutions to our economic woes.

Only the PLP has presented ideas for reducing violence, for putting Bahamians

first, and for expanding our economy.

Our Bahamian people need get back to work.

Our 21st Century Classrooms project, a public-private partnership, will give the needed stimulus back into our economy.

We will modernize and upgrade our classrooms and schools across the nation, creating jobs now for architects, engineers, green energy experts, those in the construction trades.

And it is part of our plan to revolutionize education in The Bahamas, so that we can attract and build and keep 21st century jobs.

Not just our students need our support; Bahamian workers also need the government's support. Therefore, when elected, the PLP will also announce the Worker Retraining Initiative, an innovative plan to dramatically expand access to retraining programs and work opportunities.

These are just a few of our solutions to getting people back to work.

Meanwhile, civility has been absent from Mr. Ingraham's conduct as he has assumed the persona of "Papa The Clown" *criss-crossing the country making promises he knows his government will not be around to fulfill and dipping into an already-broke Treasury to announce the signing of one project after the other.*

He is hoping that this pre-election ploy will make Bahamians forget that his government's vindictive, reckless and spiteful policies are responsible for the pain and suffering they have had to endure over the past four-plus years.

Without a doubt, there's no question that Mr. Ingraham and FNM have failed us miserably and it is time to vote them out.



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LOCAL NEWS

Witnesses take stand

from page one

Both witnesses, in and out-side of Bank of the Bahamas on Tonique Williams Darling Highway February 27, 2006, testified that they saw a masked gunman hold up and shoot Carey twice on the steps of the bank's entrance.

Prosecutors claim Jamal Ginton was the gunman who shot Carey, as he had been attempting to deposit \$40,000

belonging to the Esso Service Station which he operated.

Ginton, alias "Bumper", was unanimously found guilty of the murder and armed robbery of Carey on April 9, 2009.

He had been charged along with Dwight Knowles and Sean Brown, who were unanimously convicted and sentenced for robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery.

However, Ginton's conviction was squashed in the Court

of Appeal after the higher court ruled that the Senior Justice Jon Isaacs was wrong in law to remove the charges of murder and armed robbery as against the two co-accused from the jury at the close of the case for the defence.

Senior Justice Isaacs at the time had directed the jury not to consider the charge of murder against Knowles and Brown.

That direction was one of 17 grounds of appeal filed by

Ginton's attorney Craig Butler. The appellate court rule in Ginton's favor though they ordered a retrial and remanded him to Her Majesty's Prison. He, however, received bail in the Supreme Court.

During the afternoon session of yesterday's proceedings, an employee of that branch, whose name is being withheld for safety reasons, told the 12 member jury she was stationed at the receptionist desk that Monday morning around 10am.

She saw Carey exiting his vehicle, walking up the steps to the double doors when a red-orange masked man wearing jeans came out of nowhere and held him up at gunpoint.

She said there was a conversation. The gunman pulled the trigger.

"He fell back on the second step and turned over and the gunman shoot him again."

The then customer service helper said Carey had crawled up the steps but slumped over at the top not to move again.

She told prosecutor Darnell Dorsett that upon shooting the businessman a second time, he took Carey's red and black nap sack "that he brought with him every day to the bank".

After realising what occurred, she told security to lock the doors and tried to call police. She also added that the white car she'd noticed after the shooting had vanished.

In cross-examination, Craig Butler asked the witness why she had not reported seeing the white car to the police.

The employee admitted the situation left her in shock, resulting in her not being able to recall everything that she saw when she gave her statement to police at the scene.

She also told the defense attorney that six years was a long time to recall exact parking situations.

The second eye-witness was a teacher who had come to the bank with her mother.

The educator said she was inside her Dodge truck for nearly 10 minutes when she

heard shouting. Looking in her side view mirror, she saw two men, one of bright complexion with his arms up in the air and the other wearing an orange mask pointing his arm at the other man.

She said Carey was on the steps shouting "No! No! No!" in a panicked voice. She then heard gunshots. The gunman, now holding a red and black duffle bag, looked west and east before heading east though she never saw him again despite hearing "screaming tyres".

She ran over to him and began telling him that he was going to be okay "though he did not respond because he was gasping for air".

Michelle Carey, wife of the victim, who testified during the morning session, began breaking down and exited the courtroom.

"I prayed with him but he never responded," the witness continued.

The trial resumes tomorrow morning.

KFC BACK OPEN FOR BUSINESS

from page one

employees are relieved to have the stand-off resolved.

A new industrial agreement will be signed in the next two weeks, she said.

She said: "I think it is fair to say that the negotiations were extremely rough because we were faced with challenges, as far as just not being able to bargain and then of course we were faced with a company wanting to undo everything that has been done over the years.

"It was not the easiest negotiation but we are happy we concluded with an agreement we can live with."

Ms Martin would not reveal the details of the agreement, but said concessions were made for a specified time period.

For example, the company's contribution to the employee pension fund, which until now was funded in full by KFC Nassau, will be paid in part by the staff for the next four years.

"We are happy with the outcome as it is important to solidify benefits but it is also important wherever necessary to make concessions," she said. "It is a difficult balance to strike but I believe we struck it on this occasion."

The union could not agree to certain proposed concessions, Ms Martin revealed, including allowing guaranteed hours to be reduced to four and half hours.

She said guaranteed hours for current staff will remain the same, but the reduced hours provision will be applicable to new employees for a period of four years.

KFC management released statements last week claiming the fast-food chain's closures were a result of "illegal strike action" taken by employees on February 20, and stated that all stores would remain closed until an industrial agreement was reached. It was also announced that employees would not receive salaries during the store closure.

Despite these claims, Ms Martin said no illegal action was taken by KFC employees, who reported to work every day of the store's closure.

According to Ms Martin, the union will intend to seek legal action to receive the money owed to employees.

She said: "We have instructed our lawyers to go ahead with legal action."

Last month, tensions escalated after the fast food chain cancelled its voluntary recognition of the union. Following the announcement, staff staged a sit-down, leading to the closure of the company's New Providence outlets.

Later that evening, Minister of Labour Dion Foulkes certified BHCWU as the official bargaining agent.

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

KFC 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.

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