WEATHER

TRY OUR DOUBLE McFISH

i'm lovin' it

HIGH 82F
LOW 71F

SUNNY AND A SHOWER

The Tribune

LATEST NEWS ON WWW.TRIBUNE242.COM

THE PEOPLE'S PAPER
BIGGEST AND BEST

Volume: 108 No.86 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2012 PRICE – 75¢ (Abaco and Grand Bahama $1.25)

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT INSIDE TODAY

KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW

GUIDE TO WEEKEND EVENT

ARTS

EXUMA'S HERITAGE FESTIVAL

SEE ARTS SECTION C

'Police to probe DNA and PLP'

Mitchell claims special political unit formed

By KHRISNA VIRGIL
kvirgil@tribunemedia.net

A SPECIAL unit has been created within the police force with the sole purpose of investigating the campaigning practices of the PLP and DNA, Fox Hill MP Fred Mitchell claimed yesterday.

Mr Mitchell said according to his information, several officers from other areas of the force have been reassigned to this "political" police unit.

"There is great reason to believe that police officers have been reassigned to dabble in political matters on behalf of the government," said Mr Mitchell.

"There are consistent and persistent stories by back

SEE page 9

NO ANSWER ON OIL CLAIMS

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter

THE Bahamas Petroleum Company would not respond to claims it has already started exploring for oil in Bahamian waters, and could not say when it would be.

Calls were placed to the company's Nassau office yesterday after Democratic National Alliance (DNA) candidate Ben Albury repeated his allegation that the company is looking for oil despite the national moratorium on petroleum exploration.

But an employee said no one was available for comment, and no one would be for the foreseeable future.

At a press conference outside the Ministry of the Environment, Mr Albury claimed that according to his sources,

SEE page 9

GIRL, 15, SAVES FAMILY FROM HOUSE BLAZE

FIREMEN DOUSE the flames at the scene of a blaze off Mount Royal Avenue, where a 15-year-old girl came to the rescue of her four brothers and sisters, going into the flames to save them. For more, turn to page 2.
Photo: **Felipé Major**/Tribune Staff

FAMILY SAFE AND WELL

POLICE have stopped their search for a Millennium Gardens family of five who disappeared without a trace over the weekend.

According to press liaison officer Insp Chrislyn Skippings, the missing mother and her four children have been in contact with family members and are in good health.

Marsha Hepburn Peters, 34, and her four children – Joel,12, Shamar, 8, Charis, 6, and Zion, 2 – became the subject of a widespread police search after they disappeared on Sunday between 1am and 6am.

Few details were available up to press time Monday night, but senior officers said there was cause to worry for the family who live on Lottie Tynes Boulevard in Millennium Gardens.

Calls were made to the father of the children for comment. He did not want to comment until first meeting with police.

However, police have discontinued their missing bulletin for the five after receiving word that the family is well.

MAN KILLED IN SHOOTING

A MAN was shot dead last night in the Pinewood Gardens area.

Early reports suggest that the man was killed at about 8.40pm in a shooting incident.

The victim was thought to be a man in his late 20s who was standing outside a residence when he was approachd by another man and shot dead.

The shooting occurred in St John's Avenue, off Buttonwood Avenue. Police are investigating.

PRISONER RECAPTURED

By SANCHESKA BROWN
Tribune Staff Reporter
sbrown@tribunemedia.net

A PRISONER who jumped from a patrol car yesterday morning on his way to court is back behind bars, police have confirmed.

Police said around 11.40am officers were driving 20-year-old Lynden Russell to Magistrates court on South Street

SEE page 9

DEADLOCK OVER SALARIES

By DANA SMITH
dsmith@tribunemedia.net

SALARY negotiations between the Bahamas Telecommunications Company and the union representing its workers has reached an impasse, according to a statement released by the union's president yesterday.

The Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union's (BCPOU) new statement comes less than a week after union members warned of possible action if industrial agreement negotiations fail.

The government privatised BTC last April with the sale of 51 per cent of its shares to Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC).

"Since the privatization of BTC, a number of legacy issues have been resolved amicably and the union has successfully negotiated disengagement packages for employees during the down-

SEE page 9

Custom
COMPUTERS LIMITED
Stores at Cable Beach & Harbour Bay
Sales: 242.396.1100
Support: 242.396.1115
www.customcomputers.bs
25th ANNIVERSARY

GIRL, 15, SAVES FAMILY FROM HOUSE BLAZE

A FIREMAN damps down the aftermath of a blaze that could have proven disastrous if it was not for the actions of a 15-year-old girl who dashed into the flames to rescue her four siblings.
Photos: Felipé Major/Tribune Staff

A 15-YEAR-OLD saved her brothers and sisters when a fire ripped through the storage unit where they were sleeping.

The fire broke out in the combined house and storage unit off Mount Royal Avenue yesterday afternoon at about 3pm.

The girl was at the opposite end of the house from where the fire broke out and went into the flames to rescue her four brothers and sisters, including a baby.

Firefighters were called to the scene and extinguished the blaze.

A fire department source confirmed that the girl had gone to the rescue of her siblings.

The cause of the fire was not confirmed at time of going to press.

THE SCENE of the blaze off Mount Royal Avenue yesterday.

The Tribune Limited

NULLIUS ADDICTUS JURARE IN VERBA MAGISTRI
Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master

LEON E. H. DUPUCH, Publisher/Editor 1903-1914

SIR ETIENNE DUPUCH, Kt., O.B.E., K.M., K.C.S.G., (Hon.) LL.D., D.Litt .

Publisher/Editor 1919-1972
Contributing Editor 1972-1991

EILEEN DUPUCH CARRON, C.M.G., M.S., B.A., LL.B.
Publisher/Editor 1972-

Published Daily Monday to Saturday

Shirley Street, P.O. Box N-3207, Nassau, Bahamas
Insurance Management Building., P.O. F-485, Freeport, Grand Bahama

TELEPHONES
Switchboard (News, Circulation and Advertising) 322-1986
Advertising Manager - (242) 502-2352
Circulation Department - (242) 502-2386

Beware of attempted email fraud

THE CROOKS are back again working their trade on the web. After a lull of several months – probably hoping that time will have erased memories— they have returned to their old trick of pretending that prominent Bahamians are stranded in Europe and need special financial help from their friends to get home. Some persons must fall into their trap. One would have thought that if they had not received a response from their pleas, they would have discontinued their dishonest game. But, no, here they are again.

This time, according to the plea for help, Mr Hugh G Sands, CMG, former Caribbean Director and Bahamas Manager for Barclays Bank, from which he retired in 1995 after a distinguished career, is supposedly stranded in Madrid. According to the message under the subject head: "My terrible trip", Mr Sands, was out on a sightseeing trip when he misplaced both his wallet and his cell phone.

According to the plea for help the wallet contained all his valuables. It was also claimed that his passport was being held by the hotel management against the payment of his hotel bill. He apologised to all his friends that he had left the Bahamas without informing them of his "impromptu" trip.

"I am sorry if I am inconveniencing you," the e-mail continued, "but I have only very few people to run to now. I will be indeed very grateful if I can get a loan of 1,550usd from you. This will enable me to sort out hotel bills and get my sorry self back home. I promise to refund it in full as soon as I return. Let me know if you can be of any assistance. Please let me know soonest. Thanks so much."

It was signed Hugh G Sands, CMG, followed by his full Nassau address.

The fact of the matter is that Mr Sands is still in Nassau. Yesterday morning he was busy going about his affairs, while his wife was at home, answering the phone and trying to assure their friends that his "sorry self" had never left Nassau. He was quite secure and did not need their help. Of course, Mr and Mrs Sands are embarrassed by the fraud.

Mr Sands, at one time headmaster of Government High School and meticulous about both the written and spoken word, is probably mortified that such a poorly written and badly punctuated e-mail would go out over his name.

It is hoped that no one fell for the attempted rip-off and that Bahamians will now be aware that the scam artists are back at work. If any of your friends are stranded anywhere without their wallet, check with them first before you try to help. You will quickly find that you are being duped.

• • • •

What is the issue about Bahamas Hot Mix?

This was the question asked by an online reader of Tribune242.com. "Any sensible person realizes that Bahamas Hot Mix is probably the best company in this country in regards to roads, even before Brent (Symonette) was in the House. Let us stop the stupidity and political folly," he wrote.

And said another online reader: "With regards to Bahamas Hot Mix, I personally don't care who owns it as long as the Bahamian people are getting value for money at the best cost. It makes absolutely no sense to award a contract to a contractor who has to purchase the asphalt from Hot Mix anyway. Don't give it to the small man if he has to take it to the big man anyway."

"There are whispers," wrote Rick Lowe in a letter to *The Tribune*, "that a conflict of interest arises for Mr Symonette, Deputy Prime Minister where Bahamas Hot Mix is concerned because his children own a small shareholding in trust."

The controversy arises because Bahamas Hot Mix was one of several Bahamian companies awarded a contract for road works. As Mr Lowe concludes, as long as government's tender rules were followed, there is no room to claim conflict of interest. And he asks — other than Bahamas Hot Mix and Knowles Construction (owned by the son of the late Ervin Knowles, a former PLP cabinet minister)– "how many road builders exist here that can construct asphalt paved highways to internationally recognised standard?"

The hounding of Mr Symonette because members of his family have a small interest in a successful company, is enough to make successful Bahamians shy away from offering as election candidates. This country needs more successful men and women in government. It is too bad if they fail to offer their services because they are hampered by their success. With such a myopic outlook even family members are penalised for being related to a successful parliamentarian.

This is a small country, all hands are needed on deck, especially those who have the best navigational skills — in fact they should be the captains. As long as the rules of conflict of interest are scrupulously followed no company should be blocked from a government contract because a shareholder is a parliamentarian or related to one.

This country deserves the best.

We are all to blame for crime

EDITOR, The Tribune.

LETTERS
letters@tribunemedia.net

I WAS deeply troubled as I listened to former superintendent of police Keith Bell ridicule the Ingraham administration for its performance in fighting crime over the past four-plus years on a popular radio talk show in New Providence.

The former superintendent appeared on the Love 97.5FM talk show Issues of the Day with host Wendell Jones on February 29. He was particularly harsh in his criticism of the Minister of National Security Tommy Turnquest. Bell said that Turnquest has not performed well as minister of national security, and that Prime Minister Ingraham should have removed him from that important post. Bell is not the first person to criticise Turnquest. Many Bahamians have been calling for his head over the past several years.

Unfortunately for Turnquest, his tenure as national security minister has witnessed four murder records in the past five years: 2007, 2009, 2010 and 2011. Bahamians normally gauge the overall performance of a sitting government, its minister of national security and the commissioner of police on how many murders were committed during their time in office. If the murder count is high, then Bahamians would give them a poor grade.

I think Prime Minister Ingraham should have never placed Turnquest in the ministry of national security. He should have made him minister of finance instead. Turnquest had earned a degree in business from the University of Western Ontario Business School. He also worked at a banking institution for over a decade. Therefore, why wasn't he placed at the ministry of finance? In all honesty, Turnquest's performance as national security minister has been mediocre at best. In fact, on a scale of one to 10, I give him a three plus. Sometimes I wonder if the prime minister really expected Turnquest to succeed as minister of national security. That position is not suitable for him at all.

If anything, I think the prime minister should have taken that ministry instead. After all, he has the reputation of being a no-nonsense leader. Nevertheless, despite its challenge during the past four-plus years in office, the government has implemented several initiatives to fight crime. For instance, the ankle bracelet system was introduced by the Free National Movement (FNM) government in order to monitor persons who are out on bail. The government has also pumped millions into the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) in its effort to combat the high crime wave in Nassau. Certainly the government should be commended for some of its initiatives.

Bell, however, said that the policies of the Ingraham administration are responsible for the high crime rate. Unless the former superintendent of police can produce ironclad evidence which proves that the Ingraham administration has been supplying firearms to the thugs who are reeking havoc in Nassau, then I think he should keep his overly simplistic views to himself. The thugs who are committing the murders, rapes, drug-trafficking, auto thefts, house-break-ins and armed robberies are our sons, nephews, cousins, uncles, friends and next door neighbours. Many of them have girlfriends who are benefiting from their criminal exploits.

We know who these criminals are. I know of a young man in high school whose mom used to give him condoms in order to have sexual intercourse with girls at his school. I recently heard that he was arraigned before the courts in Nassau on rape charges. His amoral parents helped to sow the seeds of promiscuity in him while he was a teenager. They reared up a monster who views women only as sexual objects, not human beings who are created in the imago Dei. Of course, I do not know the final outcome of that particular case. But I wouldn't be surprised if he was found guilty. But let's suppose he were found guilty, who do you then blame for his heinous crime, Turnquest, or the young alleged rapist and his amoral parents? It is obviously the latter ones. But I suppose the political opponents of Turnquest would also blame him for the crime.

My point is this, I think it is unfair to place the blame solely at the doorsteps of Tommy Turnquest and the FNM administration for the crime crisis. Everyone of us, from the prime minister to the lazy bum on the street, is responsible for the mess this country finds itself in. Ours is a society where the culture of criminality has been deeply rooted. How many of us play numbers at the web shops or online? How many of us have been guilty of driving our vehicles without insurance coverage or unlicensed? How many of us have disobeyed the traffic signals, or have driven our cars 40 or 50 miles per hour on a 30 miles per hour zone? We as Bahamians love to be dishonest and cut corners. Yet we will be the very ones to ridicule the government for the crime crisis on the radio talk shows or in the letters to the editor.

Keith Bell, in my view, is an average, run-of-the-mill politician who only wants to preach partisan politics by blaming his political opponents for the high crime rate. This country doesn't need anymore politicians like him. Bell and other politicians of his ilk want to exonerate an undisciplined nation, but at the same time castigate an innocent minister who is trying to get blood out of a stone. I don't care if the Progressive Liberal Party were to implement its much touted urban renewal 1.0 or 2.0, The Bahamas will always be a society where crime is endemic so long as we Bahamians remain a disobedient, undisciplined people.

KEVIN EVANS
Freeport, Grand Bahama
March 3, 2012.

Is national stadium the biggest mistake yet?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

MAY I respond to the letter signed under the name Ed Fields, "We The People".

Mr Fields should recognise, I hope, that this National Stadium could easily become the biggest white elephant, hole in the ocean any Bahamas Government has developed – it could be this whole concept of the Sports Tourism Centre at Oakes Field could become an enormously costly millstone around every tax-payers necks.

May I opine that the days of serious interest in Track and Field in The Bahamas have long gone – with the old stadium, which has before we forget an IAFF certified track, over the past many years has been unable to attract even 10 per cent of its potential capacity – imagine now?

These stadia being developed cannot be developed in isolation – that is cannot be developed at a considerable cost with little or no chance that they will ever be utilised to the capacity that will make them viable (will cover costs at the least).

Yes a CARIFTA games will probably fill the Tommy Robinson Stadium but how many times will the Bahamas get the opportunity to host them over 10 years?

Twice at the most so what do you do with the stadium over the empty years?

The People's Republic of China gifted the $40m stadium. To put in place the initial infrastructure we the tax payers are expending a further $45 million .... How much will the Baseball Diamond - Softball Pitch and the remaining roads cost? A further $60 million?

A grand total of Bahamian tax payers' monies will exceed $105 million – at the least the sports authority will have to create a revenue from these facilities exceeding $15-20 million.

I honestly say to all the past Ministers of Sports... you all collectively have made an enormous mistake.

I hope I am wrong as we can ill afford having to maintain such facilities without revenues to meet the upkeep costs.

Mr Fields who holds an executive position at Kerzner could play an important part to make this a success but athletes don't drink alcohol and don't have the money to gamble and it will be them that have to make these facilities feasible.

Will Atlantis discount rooms for the athletes to a price they can afford?

On paper, the Oakes Field Sport Centre project looks great, but in reality, oh, my God, have we made the worst investment ever?

B FERGUSON
Nassau,
March 3, 2012.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **ERICSON SHERLYN SMITH** of #146 Inagua Place, Freeport, Grand Bahama, Bahamas is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **7thday** of **March, 2012** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **KALIME OSTRAL** of McCullough Corner, Nassau, Bahamas is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **14thday** of **March, 2012** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **FREDLYN JACQUES** of Isabella Blvd. Marathon Rd., Nassau, Bahamas is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **14thday** of **March, 2012** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **NATACHA SIDE** of East St. South, Bahamas is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **7thday** of **March, 2012** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

FOR SALE

VENICE BAY SUBDIVISION

LOT NO. 1 Block No. 25
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: Single-family Residence and Six Apartment Complex
PROPERTY SIZE: 10,066 sq. ft.
GROSS FLOOR AREA: 4,745 sq. ft.
LOCATION: Travelling on Carmichael Road, head south on Miller Road, pass the entrance to Bacardi. The property is situated outside the main security entrance to Venice Bay.
APPRAISED VALUE: $697,000

INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD SUBMIT OFFERS INCLUSIVE OF TELEPHONE CONTACT AND POSTAL ADDRESS TO: CB DISTRESSED PROPERTIES, CREDIT RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT, P.O BOX SS-6263, NASSAU, BAHAMAS OR EMAIL US AT: DISTRESSED.PROPERTIES@COMBANKLTD.COM.
SERIOUS ENQUIRIES ONLY. PLEASE CALL 502-6132, 502-6107 OR 502-6109 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.
*** WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS.**

LOCAL NEWS

PM: FNM DELIVERING ON URBAN RENEWAL

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

PRIME Minister Hubert Ingraham last night said the Free National Movement is delivering Bahamians a better new version of Urban Renewal than the upgrade the opposition party is promising.

The FNM leader made the remark at the party's constituency office opening for St Anne's before a large crowd of supporters.

In response to the Progressive Liberal Party's vow of a new and improved "Urban Renewal 2.0", Mr Ingraham said: "We are delivering an Urban Renewal 5.0. We are renewing and transforming the City of Nassau and the whole island of New Providence right before their very eyes.

"They're embarrassed because they claim to love the poor but it is us, the FNM, that are delivering better roads, sidewalks and clean piped water with good water pressure to Bain Town and Grant's Town and Englerston.

"It is us, the FNM who are installing sidewalks along busy thoroughfares so that Bahamian students can walk more safely to and from school all over this island."

The nation's chief, after offering his full support to St Anne's hopeful Hubert Chipman, outlined some of the newly-launched social intervention initiatives like Volunteer Bahamas and the Summer Institute for Boys, to be launched this summer.

"And the straw vendors, hair braiders, taxi cab drivers and all those Bahamians who benefit from business coming out of these developments, would have been seriously short-changed had it not been for the FNM," he said.

Touching on the much debated crime rate, Mr Ingraham said this serious challenge, along with others, will all be dealt with as part of their "National Security Strategy", one of the FNM's two main priorities for the next five years.

"We did not arrive at this state of crime in our country overnight" he said. "That took years. And it will take years to correct the situation. We understand that. We have begun the important ground work."

Mr Ingraham concluded his speech saying the country cannot afford to go backwards and embrace the "reckless, do-nothing, scandal-ridden days of the weakest government in Bahamian history.

"We have the better record! We have the better team! We have the better vision! Vote F-N-M!" he said.

Mr Ingraham urged Bahamians who have not yet registered to do so immediately, as he is getting ready to "reach for that bell."

"Pick up your voters card. Time draweth nigh," he said.

Christie says FNM hiding over economy

By DANA SMITH
dsmith@tribunemedia.net

THE FNM is hiding behind the global recession, hoping Bahamians will not notice how they've bungled the economy, PLP leader Perry Christie said.

He pointed to tax hikes, high unemployment, the increasing national debt, record crime rates and cost overruns on the ongoing road works, as issues that have been "mismanaged" by the government.

Speaking at the party's Carmichael constituency launch on Monday night in support of PLP candidate Dr Daniel Johnson, Mr Christie told constituents he sees himself as the "bridge" between the late Sir Lynden Pindling and "the new generation of PLP leaders."

He said: "We all share a profound belief in the Bahamian people, in what Bahamians can accomplish and what Bahamians can achieve."

Mr Christie said the PLP "pioneered successful, award-winning" anti-crime programmes, created 22,000 jobs, built a "record number" of homes and classrooms, gave $25 million to Bahamian entrepreneurs, and "were the first" to give new homeowners a break on stamp duties.

"When I left office, Bahamian economic growth was out-pacing US economic growth, and the Bahamas was a regional economic leader. Now, the Bahamas is at the bottom of the region," he said.

"Don't let them get away with blaming the global recession – if that was the full story, then our regional competitors would be in the same kind of trouble we're in, and yet they're outgrowing us and outpacing us – look where we are with stopover tourists, Bahamians, and see how much better our regional competitors have fared... the FNM is hiding behind the global recession, hoping you won't notice how badly they've mismanaged the economy."

Turning to the roadworks, Mr Christie said in the middle of a recession the FNM hired foreigners instead of Bahamians "again and again."

"The New Providence roadworks is approaching $100 million in cost overruns. Who is making those millions? A foreign contractor.

"A foreign contractor hired for a major infrastructure project while Bahamian contractors sat on the sidelines," he said.

"A road project which was supposed to be a stimulus for the Bahamian economy was turned into a jobs killer. The same roads dug up again and again – and every time they're dug up, more small businesses close, more jobs are lost. Bahamians are getting poorer and poorer as they add to our national debt.

"Ingraham is asking Parliament to approve tens of millions in new borrowing for a project which was supposed to be finished months ago. Yet this government turned away thousands of young people from their Job Readiness Programme."

He said the upcoming election "should be about big things" such as fighting crime, building the economy, job creation, education and training.

"You don't want to wake up the day after the election and realise the FNM made the election about little things when as a nation we really need to make big decisions," Mr Christie said.

"Isn't it time for a government which believes in Bahamians?"

YOUNG LIBERALS ACCUSE GOVT OVER ROAD PROJECT

FROM LEFT, Phylicia Woods, Keenan Johnson and LaTore Mackey, at the Progressive Young Liberals' press conference.

THE Progressive Young Liberals accused the government yesterday of mismanaging the New Providence Infrastructure Improvement Project, and said the additional money allotted to the scheme could have been used to benefit young Bahamians.

At a press conference at the Ministry of Agriculture's Gladstone Road site, Young Liberals Keenan Johnson, Phylicia Woods, and LaTore Mackey said there can be no acceptable excuse for why the project is now costing the public more than $200 million, with $93 million in cost overruns.

"This is the largest government cost overrun in living memory. This $93 million in overruns equates to almost $4 million per mile of road – this is unbelievable," Mr Johnson said.

The president of the PLP's youth arm said $4 million per mile could have paid for 298 young men to attend the Youth Empowerment and Skills Training (YEAST) programme, or 65 young people to attend the College of the Bahamas for four years.

Mr Johnson said the money could also have created lifelines for many who have lost everything in the recession.

"Many of the closed businesses were owned by young Bahamians who were brave enough to venture into entrepreneurship. The Ranfurly Home, church outreach programmes and other charities whose budgets were cut by the FNM could have benefited from the $4 million in cost overruns of one mile.

"The FNM does not put Bahamians first. They would rather build things instead of people. It is not possible to build a nation by leaving the people behind," he said.

MAN IN HOSPITAL AFTER SHOOTING

A FOX HILL man is in hospital after a shooting incident last night.

The 28-year-old was shot at about 6pm last night.

Preliminary reports indicate that the victim was at Strachan's Corner off East Street when he was approached by a male and was shot multiple times in the body.

The victim was taken to hospital in a private vehicle where he is detained in serious condition.

Police are following significant leads into the matter.

TROPICAL EXTERMINATORS
FOR PEST PROBLEMS
PHONE: 322-2157

POTCAKE SAYS

'The Bahamas' own street philosopher'

University of Huddersfield
Law Degree Programs
(April 2012 Late Enrollment)

Bachelor of Law (LLB)
Master of Law (LLM)

Modular Course Schedule (One Course per Term)
University Lawyers as Tutors
Competitive Tuition Rates
Easy Payment Plan
Access to Online Textbooks and University Library
Online Support and Discussions
User Friendly Virtual Learning Environment
Local Support Classes Available

Only a few days left to catch this intake - Act now. Call Success Center for Extended Studies for enrollment and program details.

Phone: 323-4347 or 323-2448 email: info@esbahamas.com

LOCAL NEWS

Of women and Shakespeare

IT WAS not so long ago that women had few rights in western society. And even today, long after slavery was abolished in most of the world, many countries still treat women like chattel – a term that refers to moveable property.

Until 1882, a woman's property in England was considered to be owned by her husband. In France, it was not possible until 1965 for a married woman to work, open a bank account or dispose of her own property without her husband's consent.

It is only recently, with legal reforms and access to higher education that women have begun to break through the "glass ceiling" of male domination around the world. In the Bahamas, this process began after the Second World War and accelerated in the 1950s as part of a general movement towards greater democracy.

Last week, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Woman's Suffrage Movement, the College of the Bahamas staged a symposium with presentations by relatives of the women who led the movement and pushed for equal rights. It was opened by Janet Bostwick, who in 1977 became the first woman to be elected to the House of Assembly.

She lamented the apparent disinterest in the struggle for women's rights today. "We have become complacent, materialistic and quiet. We have never been more educated, nor have we ever enjoyed greater levels of influence, yet this is hardly reflected in our involvement in seeking social justice and true equality. It is shameful."

Alice Musgrove Rolle is the daughter of Mary Ingraham, who in 1951 (together with Mabel Walker, an American) led the first petition drive for equal rights. "I was eight when I sat on the wall in Hospital Lane asking passers-by to sign the petition," she recalled. "We were motivated back then, but who will fill those shoes today? There are many issues that still need to be addressed."

Juliette Barnwell said her parents – Dr Claudius Walker and his wife Mabel – were instrumental in the fight for women's rights. In the early 50s, she was present at regular meetings held at Dr Walker's Reinhart Hotel on Tin Shop Corner. "My parents believed education was the key to political and social justice. We've made tremendous progress over the years – from teachers and nurses to the most influential jobs in the country, but the fight is not done."

Wallis Carey, the daughter of Eugenia Lockhart, said her mother was always a champion of social justice. "She believed that the majority should not be led by the minority, and it was easy for H M Taylor to persuade her to join the Progressive Liberal Party. As a secretarial student I helped to produce many documents for the movement. It was enjoyable to fight for justice rather than a Mercedes-Benz."

Andrew "Dud" Maynard is the son of Georgiana Symonette and brother of the late politician Sir Clement Maynard. He called on young people not to waste their lives. "Our foremothers made great sacrifices with you in mind, and you have to make an effort to make something of yourselves. My mother was like a general – she carried me everywhere she went so I could learn something instead of getting into foolishness."

Shirley Cooper said her sister, Dame Doris Johnson, brought militancy to the movement when she led a march on the House of Assembly in 1959 and made a fiery speech demanding the right to vote and participate in civil affairs. She later became the first woman appointed to the Senate and the Cabinet. "I went on many marches and attended many meetings with Doris and the talk was always about getting the vote for women."

After years of petitions, demonstrations, meetings and marches, the voting rights act for women was passed in February 1961 and came into effect four months later – in time for the November 1962 general election. And although she did not win the seat, in that election Doris Johnson became the first woman to run for the House of Assembly.

In the United Kingdom, the suffrage movement began in the 1870s and all women over 21 won the right to vote in 1928. The United States passed a constitutional amendment to give women full voting rights in 1920. And in Jamaica women were able to vote in 1944.

Those Tragic Conchy Joes

The memories are foggy at best, but back in the sweet summer of 1969 I took an English Lit exam that included questions about Shakespeare's famous tragedy, *Othello – the Moor of Venice*, which was written in 1603.

My teacher for that exam was the venerable Roger Kelty, who arrived here in the 1960s. He coincidentally sat a few seats away from me at last week's performance in the Dundas Theatre of a stripped-down version of this tale of racial prejudice, jealousy and betrayal, with the alternate title of *Othello or the Tragedy of the Conchy Joe*.

In this twisted adaptation, the non-white character of Othello was played by a former white schoolmate of mine named Craig Pinder, while the malignant Iago was portrayed by a black half-Bahamian actor named Moses Hardwick. And the brown Anglo-African Belinda Owusu played the white, upper class Desdemona.

These three mixed-up characters (reduced from about a dozen in the original version) are isolated on a Bahamian fishing boat, with only a ship-to-shore radio for communication with the rest of the play. But many of the most familiar passages are included, like...

Who steals my purse steals trash; 't is something, nothing;
'T was mine, 't is his, and has been slave to thousands;
But he that filches from me my good name
Robs me of that which not enriches him,
And makes me poor indeed.

This particular Shakespearean tragedy is all about interracial love. Desdemona is the daughter of a wealthy Italian senator who elopes with the Moorish general, Othello. Her father's objections to Othello all have to do with his race and colour, as the relationship with his daughter goes "against all rules of nature".

Shakespeare's portrayal of the Moor could have been based on a celebrated Moroccan ambassador to the court of Queen Elizabeth 1, who spent six months in London a couple of years before the play was written. But it could just as easily have been based on West Africans, who first appeared in London in 1554 and were considered undesirables by the early 1600s.

It doesn't really matter. Othello is an African of one sort or another who has achieved prominence in European society as a military leader, but is never fully accepted. The plot is all about his envious assistant, Iago, scheming to put Othello in his proper place.

But the performance I saw last week sought to present a condensed photo-negative version of this story, with Othello as a conchy joe fisherman in a black Bahamian society. It is not clear whether the analogy works, and without the superstructure of the original play it is not always easy to grasp, but it certainly had a novel appeal for Bahamian audiences.

So I turned to my old English teacher pal for help. Kelty told me that, as a political statement about race and minority groups, the message did not resonate, and perhaps would go undetected without reading the official programme. "But if you were simply looking for a well-acted study in malicious gossip, sexual jealousy and murderous consequences, it seemed to me to have local relevance and entertainment value."

The adaptation performed at the Dundas distilled Shakespeare's three-hour tragedy into about 75 minutes, which arguably made it easier to digest. As Pinder told me, "With all the sub-plots and additional characters missing, the audience can really zone in on the relationships that exist between the protagonist and the other main characters, for a much more intense emotional journey."

However, Roger Kelty – who taught both myself and Pinder in high school – did not consider it wise to tamper with the genius of Shakespeare, a man he regards as one of the most brilliant who ever lived.

"He was lucky to have been born at a time when the English language was not restricted by laws of grammar or spelling (there were no dictionaries until the 18th century) and he was free to give full expression to his wonderfully creative gifts in the use of words. Think of how many of the lines from his poems and plays have passed into everyday language. He is, unquestionably, the most quoted writer of all time."

Shakespeare's writing stays current, Kelty said, because it focuses on the human condition. "His understanding of the human psyche is absolutely amazing; as seen in his realistic portrayal of sexual jealousy, ambition, revenge, and ingratitude in plays which could well be case histories in a modern psychology class. And most miraculous of all, it appears from studying the folios of his plays that he wrote at speed without careful thought or revision."

But enough about Shakespeare. Perhaps the more interesting story here is that this great drama was adapted an directed by a Bahamian and performed successfully by Bahamian actors at regional theatres in Britain before coming to Nassau, where it barely managed to break even with a lot of help from generous sponsors.

"It took a huge collective effort to bring this production to the Bahamas," according to Kim Aranha, the producer who saw the play in England and set about bringing it here. "The total cost was $40,000, including six transatlantic airfares, but about half of this amount had to be covered by sponsors, including myself. The promotional costs alone make productions like this prohibitive without a lot of help."

Nevertheless, about 750 people came to see the play over five performances last week. But Aranha was hugely disappointed with the lack of interest from local schools, including the College of the Bahamas, which didn't even respond to a request for a venue. "Except for Tambealy, none of the schools we invited sent students, something which the cast couldn't understand."

This is unfortunate. Craig Pinder, for example, has managed to achieve some celebrity on the British stage over the past few decades – which he attributes to his early participation in local amateur productions under the tutelage of his father, Bill Pinder, of Blanco Bleach fame.

A graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, he played several characters in the long-running British musical *Les Miserables* in the 1980s, and has racked up small TV parts in between his stage gigs. But theatrical productions can draw only a small audience locally at the best of times.

Othello or the Tragedy of the Conchy Joe was directed and adapted by freelance theatre director Robin Belfield, the product of an English missionary father and a Bahamian mother, in collaboration with Pinder. In the play's production notes, Bellfield offered this rationale for their revision of Shakespeare.

"We created a compact, intense production suitable to tour the UK and make the long trip to the Bahamas," he said. "Othello became a conchy joe – the minority outsider – and the military world of the original was replaced with a fishing-based environment. Historically, Shakespeare's Moor of Venice would have been seen as part of a despised and feared colonial minority from the past."

Aranha, who has some theatre background herself, collaborated with Bellfield's Yellowtale Theatre of Sussex, and Nicolette Bethel's Shakespeare in Paradise group to organise the Nassau production.

• What do you think? Send comments to larry@tribunemedia.net or visit www.bahamapundit.com.

THE PHOENIX INSTITUTE
phoenixinstitutebahamas.com
AN EVENING WITH BILLIONAIRE MICHAEL V. ROBERTS
BUSINESS SUCCESS SEMINAR
HOSTED BY SPENCE FINLAYSON
IF GREATNESS IS POSSIBLE THEN WHY SETTLE FOR MEDIOCRITY
DISCUSSION TOPICS
• THE ART OF LEADERSHIP
• THE POWER OF VISION
• SUCCESS THROUGH A POSITIVE MENTAL ATTITUDE
• TIPS TO BECOMING A SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEUR
$99
PER PERSON
INCLUDES LIGHT REFRESHEMENTS
THURSDAY, MARCH 15TH
7PM - 9PM
THE BRITISH COLONIAL HILTON
DOWNTOWN, NASSAU, BAHAMAS
Contact Us At:
1-242-364-4011
phoenixinstitute@gmail.com
To Reserve Tickets for the Seminar

Legal Notice

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(No. 45 of 2000)

GAURI INVESTMENTS LIMITED
In Voluntary liquidation

"Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138 (4) of the International Business Companies Act (No. 45 of 2000), GAURI INVESTMENTS LIMITED is in Dissolution."

The date of commencement of dissolution is the 14th day of March 2012.

Oliver Pemberton Giles Parker,
of 43/45 La Motte Street,
St. Helier, Jersey JE4 8SD
Liquidator

Internationally Recognized
ASSOCIATE DEGREES
&
DIPLOMA PROGRAMS
available in
Accounting & Finance
Business Administration
Computer Information Sys
Early Childhood Education
Human Resource Mgnt
Legal Studies
Marketing
Medical Assisting
These internationally accredited programs are ideal for persons who wish to advance in their current career, train for a new job or simply qualify for increase pay or job security. Complete a Diploma in 5-6 months or an Associate Degree in 18-24 months. New session begins this month. Call for registration details.
Success Center for Extended Studies
Phone: 323-4347 email: info@esbahamas.com
Enroll this week to qualify for tuition discount.

LOCAL NEWS

Prison superintendent to explain late arrivals at court

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

SUPERINTENDENT of Prisons Dr Elliston Rahming will appear before three judges in two weeks to verify if his agency is at fault for the late arrival of prisoners to court.

In yesterday's appellate court session, a senior police officer in charge of receiving inmates for court said it was not the police's official duty to transport prisoners to court, as they only offer assistance to the prison.

Justice Anita Allen made an order for the prison chief to be summoned on March 28.

The Court of Appeal begins at 10am and prides itself on being punctual. However, there have been occasions where court started well afterwards, yesterday being a prime example.

The appellate court president voiced her displeasure at the tardiness. Her colleagues Justices Christopher Blackman and Stanley John agreed.

Justice Allen said: "This is happening too frequently. We have to summon the Superintendent of the prison to find out what is going on.

"This is the second or third occasion we've had this happen in some two weeks."

Jerone Roberts, one of three attorneys waiting for his client to arrive, gave the court additional insight into the matter.

He said a number of defence attorneys have formed a "loose association" and "met on at least two occasions with the Superintendent who said it is his responsibility to have the prisoners ready in the prison square to be transported."

Mr Roberts said, based on the discussions with Dr Rahming, it is reportedly the "responsibility of the Commissioner of Police to have them transported to court."

Justice Allen then suggested: "Perhaps it might be best to summon both."

Roberts agreed and said it appeared to be a situation where persons were placing blame, but "nobody is in charge to take care of the situation."

Mr Roberts admitted he has seen prisoners in the square sitting around the wall waiting to be brought to Bank Lane.

The court president stood the court down for a 15-minute break and ordered Franklyn Williams, deputy director of public prosecutions, to discover the nature of yesterday's dilemma. The prisoners arrived shortly after.

Assistant Supt Cleophas Cooper, officer in charge of the Central Police Station, told the court the five inmates with appeals had to be walked from Bank Lane to the Charlotte Street, Claughton House, courtroom.

In his explanation to Justice Blackman, ASP Cooper said the prison bus never arrived until after 10am.

"Because of the accident we had, we're now limited with transportation."

He also said the prisoners cannot be taken directly to court without being checked in first at Bank Lane. "It ensures persons on the list are checked out to appear for court," he added.

Justice Allen, based on the explanation, suggested the police were to blame.

ASP Cooper disagreed and said it was not the police's official duty to transport prisoners to court, as they only offer assistance to the prison.

"Once they get here, then we take over and are responsible for getting them back."

Justice Blackman said the prison chief needed to be summoned "in order to improve on the situation."

The appellate court president made the summoning order and Mr Roberts suggested for the Commissioner of Police to be on the order as well.

Justice Allen however said:

'POLICE TO PROBE DNA AND PLP'

from page one

channels of the use of the Special Branch for reasons which do not have to do with the security of the state, but with the politics of the government."

While Carl Bethel, chairman of the governing FNM, said Mr Mitchell's claims are false, a police officer told *The Tribune* last night he was recently assigned to the new unit.

Mr Mitchell said the creation of such a unit would support his party's long-held belief that the government, through the Ministry of National Security, has long used security information in the political arena.

"People have been calling us behind the scenes saying that they have seen the deployment of police officers in areas that they should not be, involved in matters that they should not be concerned about," said Mr Mitchell.

Given an "out of control crime rate", Mr Mitchell said, it is alarming the government would use the police for unrelated matters. "The criticism is directed at the political directorate and that they should resist using the police for things other than what they should be concerned about and that is fighting crime."

The Police Staff Association has also been working in ways it should not be, according to Mr Mitchell.

"From time to time, the president of the Police Staff Association has been intervening in matters dealing with public policy and not matters dealing with policy in the police force."

In early March, the Association's executive chairman Dwight Smith refuted claims by ex-superintendent Keith Bell that the force was too poorly equipped to tackle crime or other challenges with which it has been confronted.

Minister of National Security Tommy Turnquest could not be reached for comment.

DEADLOCK OVER SALARIES

from page one

sizing exercise," BCPOU president Bernard Evans said.

"The next major item on the agenda was the negotiation of a new Industrial Agreement, which expired September 30, 2010. Negotiations between Cable & Wireless and the BCPOU began in earnest in early November 2011. Although we have been able to agree on most of the articles that will form the new agreement, we have reached an impasse on the matter of salary increases in spite of our best effort to negotiate in good faith."

He said the BCPOU "finds it difficult" to accept the management's reported claim that it cannot afford a "reasonable salary increase" because of "the many cost-cutting and efficiency based initiatives that the BTC has undertaken in the past year".

Mr Evans pointed to a Price Waterhouse Coopers report, reportedly undertaken by BTC which reviewed employees salaries.

"(The) report revealed over 90 per cent of BTC's line staff in our bargaining unit are underpaid based on 75th percentile compared with similar companies nationally and regionally," he said.

Mr Evans said CWC gained advantages upon the sale of BTC, including a two per cent fixed management fee of gross revenue, "multiple" contracts for foreign consultants and contractual workers, recognition of $6 million in bonus payments, and the control of about 70 per cent of the net profit over the next two years.

Last week, BTC CEO Geoff Houston reiterated the company's ambition to shape an Industrial Agreement "that is customer and performance driven, and anchored by a market-leading employee proposition".

He said: "The discussions we have been having with our union partners have always been around these themes. So my hope is that while we may differ on the specifics of some parts of the agreement, we all manage to keep in our sights these principles which are critical to succeed against agile and aggressive competition now and in the near future."

The CEO noted that management will continue to negotiate in good faith and do all it can to keep the communications open and up front.

PRISONER RECAPTURED

from page one

when he jumped from the vehicle in the Pitt Road area.

Officers were unable to apprehend the handcuffed suspect who ran in a northerly direction. An island-wide search for Russell began and he was apprehended a few hours later. Russell was on his way to be charged in connection with housebreaking.

Meanwhile, police are still searching for another prisoner who escaped custody while at the Princess Margaret Hospital last month.

Frederick Green, alias Frederick Neely, 29, escaped while seeking medical attention under guard at the hospital on February 21. He allegedly fled the hospital's chest ward through a window around 4am when 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. Green had been remanded to Her Majesty's Prison, Fox Hill, after being charged with the 2009 armed robbery of 18 tourists at Earth Village. He is still awaiting trial.

He was previously 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".

Two months before that, 28-year-old Dorian Armbrister escaped from the Princess Margaret Hospital. 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 healthcare facility by jumping through a bathroom window. He was shot in the buttocks by prison officers on Dowdeswell Street a short time later.

NO ANSWER ON OIL CLAIMS

from page one

BPC is using a Chinese submarine to explore the Bahamian seabed, and may be partnering with 12 Chinese companies in its bid to drill for oil in the Bahamas.

He said: "Our number one industry is tourism, our number three industry is fishing, so we have to very cautious how we proceed with this."

Mr Albury has continued to insist for weeks that BPC has been operating in violation of the moratorium and has hit out at Environment Minister Earl Deveaux, who he said failed to adequately answer his questions. Mr Deveaux has repeatedly said the moratorium remains in place.

When a local BPC employee was asked if anyone was available to comment on Mr Albury's press conference yesterday, she said no one was available.

When asked when someone would be available, she said "Not this week". When asked if next week would be better, she said "No". Asked if the following week would be better, she said "No". Asked if a representative of the company would ever be available for comment, she said: "I don't know."

Yesterday, Mr Albury also placed blame on the PLP, which originally issued the licences to BPC to explore for oil. Those licenses expire next month, and Mr Albury the DNA is trying to gain public support to block their renewal. The party has already launched a petition and has around 150 signatures.

He said: "What we don't understand is why the PLP has been so silent on this issue as Bahamians everywhere are calling for answers. Why have they not stepped forward to defend their decision to grant the original permits for oil exploration?"

"Why have they not stepped forward to defend Bahamas Petroleum Company who is represented by the firm of Deputy Leader of the PLP, (Philip) 'Brave' Davis? Does their silence reflect something that do not want to be made public?"

BPC's website lists Mr Davis' law firm, Davis & Co, among its solicitors.

Holland America Line
SMOOTH & EASY ESCAPES

NIEUW AMSTERDAM
7 DAYS
March 25 – April 1, 2012
Fort Lauderdale/Half Moon Cay, Bahamas/Georgetown, Cayman Islands/Mahogany Bay, Honduras/Costa Maya, Mexico/ Ft. Lauderdale
from $565

ms WESTERDAM
7 DAYS
March 25 – April 1, 2012
Fort Lauderdale/Grand Turk, Turks & Caicos/San Juan, Puerto Rio/Philipsburg, St. Maarteen/Half Moon Cay, Bahamas/Ft. Lauderdale
from $575

ms WESTERDAM
7 DAYS
April 1 – Aprl 8th, 2012
Fort Lauderdale/ Half Moon Cay, Bahamas/Oranjestad, Aruba/ Willemstad, Curacao/ Ft. Lauderdale
from $592

ms EURODAM
7 DAYS
March 31 – April 7, 2012
Fort Lauderdale/ Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos/San Juan, Puerto Rico/St. Thomas, U.S.V.I/Half Moon Cay, Bahamas/Ft. Lauderdale
from $608

ms NOORDAM
7 DAYS
April 1 – Aprl 8, 2012
Fort Lauderdale/ Philipsburg, St. Maarten/Castries,St. Lucia/ Soufriere, St. Lucia/Roseau, Dominica/St. Thomas, U.S.V.I/ Half Moon Cay, Bahamas/ Ft. Lauderdale
from $719

ZUIDERDAM
10 DAYS
March 30 – April 9, 2012
Ft. Lauderdale/Half Moon, Bahamas/Oranjestad, Aruba/Willemstad, Antilles/Gatun Lake, Panama/ Colon, Panama/Puerto Limon, Costa Rica/Ft. Lauderdale
from $966

Prices are cruise only, per person and based on double occupancy interior cabins (category N) an dincludes port charges. Airfare and onboard gratuities are additional. Full payment is due 24hours after booking. Offers are capacity controlled and may be modified; withdrawn or sailing dates may be substituted without prior notice.

Going Places Travel

Cable Beach 327-2081
Mall at Marathon 393-6900
Exuma 336-2703
Carmichael Rd. 341-4646
Shirley Street 322-2931
Freeport 351-9230
Lyford Cay 362-4753
Eleuthera 332-2720

www.going-places.tv

SYRIAN ARMY MOPS UP RESISTANCE

THE SYRIAN army has recaptured most of the northern rebel stronghold of Idlib near the Turkish border, pushing hundreds of military defectors out of a major base they had held for months even as pockets of resistance kept up their fight on Tuesday.

The three-day operation to capture the city followed closely after a similar offensive to dislodge the opposition from another key piece of territory it had controlled, the Baba Amr district in central Homs. The two victories gave President Bashar Assad's regime unmistakable momentum as it tries to crush the armed opposition fighters.

A pledge Tuesday from Syria's staunch ally Russia that Moscow will continue selling weapons to the regime was yet another boost. And a diplomatic bid by UN envoy Kofi Annan to broker a cease-fire failed over the weekend.

Still, international pressure is more intense than ever, with the US considering military options. On Tuesday, the Arab League chief said the regime's killing of civilians amounts to crimes against humanity and he called for an international inquiry.

Activists reported fresh violence in central province of Hama near Homs, the suburbs of Damascus and elsewhere, killing dozens.

FORMER PRESIDENT FORMS PARTY

FORMER Honduran President Manuel Zelaya has registered a political party that will be able to compete in the country's next elections in 2013.

Honduras' Electoral Tribunal says Zelaya's party is called the Liberty and Re-Foundation Party, known as Libre.

The tribunal said Tuesday that Zelaya turned in 62,000 signatures supporting his party, well above the 42,290 signatures required.

Zelaya said the party's presidential candidate in 2013 elections will be his wife, Xiomara Castro.

Zelaya was deposed at gunpoint and taken out of the country in a 2009 coup, an act that isolated Honduras internationally.

He returned to Honduras after Colombia and Venezuela brokered a deal with Honduran authorities.

REPUBLICAN presidential candidate Rick Santorum visits supporters during a rally on Monday in Montgomery, Alabama.

Santorum mocks global warming to win votes

WASHINGTON
Associated Press

RICK SANTORUM seized the lead in the Alabama primary Tuesday night and edged ahead of Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich in Mississippi, deeply conservative Southern crossroads in the struggle for the Republican presidential nomination.

Romney, the faraway frontrunner in the delegate chase, bristled in the hours before the votes were counted, saying Santorum was "at the desperate end of his campaign".

But it was Gingrich with the most to lose as he struggled for political survival in a part of the country he hoped would fuel one more comeback in the unpredictable race to pick an opponent to President Barack Obama.

There were 107 Republican National Convention delegates at stake, 47 in Alabama, 37 in Mississippi, 17 in Hawaii caucuses and six more in caucuses in American Samoa.

In Alabama, with 29 percent of the precincts counted, Santorum was pulling 35 percent of the vote, Gingrich had 30 percent and Romney 28 percent.

Returns from 58 percent of Mississippi's precincts showed Santorum with 33 percent, Gingrich 32 percent and Romney 30.

Each of the three leading contenders faced a different challenge in Alabama and Mississippi, where heavy television advertising was evidence of the states' unaccustomed significance deep in the nominating campaign.

Gingrich struggled for political survival, Romney sought a strong showing to silence his critics and Santorum hoped to emerge at last as the chief conservative rival to the front-runner.

Rep Ron Paul, the fourth contender, made little effort in the states on the day's ballot.

Evangelicals played an outsized role in both primary states, underscoring the challenge to Romney. In Mississippi and Alabama, roughly four in five voters surveyed as they left their polling places said they were born again or evangelical.

Those voters have been reluctant to rally to Romney's side in the primaries and caucuses to date. He won 35 percent of their votes in Mississippi, and 27 percent in Alabama, the polling day surveys indicated. His best previous showing in a heavily contested primary this year was 38 percent in Florida.

More broadly, the exit polls showed an electorate that is conservative, determinedly Republican and profoundly unhappy about the government.

In Mississippi, more than eight in 10 voters said they were dissatisfied or angry with the federal government, while in Alabama, 80 percent said they would definitely vote for the Republican candidate against Obama next fall, no matter who he is.

While Alabama and Mississippi are among the most conservative states in the country and share a long border, the exit polls showed significant differences in the voters' reaction to the candidates.

In Mississippi, Romney had the support of 35 percent of primary voters who earn under $50,000 a year, compared with 27 percent in Alabama. He drew the backing of 38 percent of Mississippi primary voters with no college education, compared with 26 percent in Alabama.

Only about half of all voters in each state said they work fulltime for pay, and they, too, voted differently one state from the other.

Santorum outpolled Romney, 38 percent to 23 percent among that group in Alabama. But Romney prevailed in Mississippi, 35-28.

As has been true in earlier primaries, the economy was the most important issue to voters, and an ability to defeat Obama the most important quality when it came time to pick a candidate.

The exit polls were based on interviews with 1,552 voters as they left 30 randomly selected polling places around Alabama, and with 1,575 Mississippi voters from 30 sites. Each survey had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

The Southern showdown came as new polling showed a decline in Obama's approval ratings — a reversal amid escalating gasoline prices and turbulence in the Middle East.

The day began with Romney leading the delegate competition by far in The Associated Press count, with 454 of the 1,144 needed to win the nomination. Santorum had 217, Gingrich 107 and Paul 47.

That gave the former Massachusetts governor more than his rivals combined. And while Santorum in particular challenges the mathematical projections, Romney is amassing delegates at a rate that puts him on track to clinch control of nomination before the convention next summer.

Romney, campaigning in Missouri, took exception to a television commercial airing in both Southern states and said Santorum "is at the desperate end of his campaign". The commercial was backed by a super PAC that supports the former senator, not by him.

Santorum's camp had earlier issued a memo that dismissed as fuzzy math Romney's claim that he is on track to amass a delegate majority. "Simply put, time is on our side," it said.

Gingrich's aides issued a rebuttal of their own with the polls still open in the primary states. It said the primaries were not yet half over, and the former House speaker "is well positioned to win the GOP nomination".

The large amount of television advertising was testimony to the importance the contenders and their allies attached to the primaries in both Alabama and Mississippi.

All three candidates as well as super PACs supporting each of them ran television commercials. As has been the case all year, Restore Our Future, which backs Romney, spent more than any of the others. The group put down $1.3 million for television ads in Alabama, another $900,000 in Mississippi and more for radio on Christian and other radio stations as well as thousands of pieces of mail designed to help the former Massachusetts governor.

It was only in recent days that Romney seemed to sense a chance in Alabama and Mississippi, and he responded by increasing his television ad expenditures and his plans for campaigning in the states.

Born in Michigan and a longtime resident of Massachusetts, he told one audience the two primaries were "a bit of an away game for him" and drew laughs from another when he said he hoped to go hunting with an Alabama friend "who can actually show me which end of the rifle to shoot".

He generally steered away from criticising his Republican rivals and aimed his rhetoric instead at Obama, whose prospects in both states are as dim next fall as anywhere in the country.

Santorum campaigned against the president and Romney simultaneously as he sought the support of conservatives who have fueled his recent surge.

In Biloxi, Miss, on Monday, he ridiculed the science behind global warming. "The dangers of carbon dioxide? Tell that to a plant, how dangerous carbon dioxide is," he said.

Gingrich spent part of his time pushing back against suggestions — including from his own staff — that he might drop out if he didn't notch a pair of Southern victories. His only two wins so far came in the South Carolina primary on Jan 21, and last week, when he won his political home state of Georgia.

Initial polls showed the former House speaker in a strong position in both states, but he abruptly canceled a campaign trip to Kansas in advance of the state's caucuses late last week to remain in the South.

He used a recorded telephone message from Chuck Norris, the actor and Karate champion, for a last-minute appeal to voters in Alabama.

A Memorial Mass for

Daniel "Dan" Joseph Pinder
Age: 70 of Datura Avenue,
South Beach will be held on
Wednesday, March 14, 2012 @ 5:00 pm
St. Bede's Roman Catholic Church
Sutton Street of Kemp Road
Father Noel Clarke with be Officiating

Precious memories will forever linger on in the hearts of his:
Daughters: Carmelia Pinder-Bowleg, Dedrie Pinder-Moss, Donnette Pinder-Clarke and Monique Pinder-Smith Son: Kim Pinder Four Sons-in-law: Vincent Bowleg, Harrington Moss, Donald Michael Clarke and Stephen Smith Eight Grandchildren: Jadre' Evans, Demuthurio and Shenique Storr, Latonya Pinder, Dionte' and Torano Burnside, Lashante and Shanvente Smith Two Adopted Granddaughters: Cyshea Evans and Vincenette Bowleg Six Great Grandchildren: Demuthuria, Deandra, Demesha and Alisha Storr, Tyesha Sands and Tyler Storr Sister: Dorothy Louise Butterfield Two Brothers: Edward and Thomas Franklyn Pinder Ten Sister-in-Laws: Dolly, Margaret, Margaret-Peggy and Terricita Pinder, Gwendolyn Turnquest, Irma Deveaux , Lillian Miller, Viola, Lynn and Deanna Major Three Brother-in-Laws: John, Lambert and Lance Major Twenty-Three Nieces and Nephews: Stephanie Riley, Anthony and Donnalee Adderley, Angela Stuart, Howard Jr. and Elvis Pinder, Elsie Seymour, Wanda Gomez, Phillip Cooper, Vesta Ferguson and Antonio Campbell, Portia Nottage, Marsha Major, Louis, Wayde and Marvin Butterfield, Tollavanessa, Ricardo and Tamara Pinder, Ian and Niquel Pinder, Lakeisha Jones and Nazmoon Seymour Cousins: Sybil Wright and family, Magnola Rolle and family, Sadiemae Nixon and family, Lillymae Vickers and family. A host of relatives and friends too numerous to mention. In lieu of flowers: Please make donation to St. Bede's Roman Catholic Church.

COSTA RICAN MAN EXTRADICTED TO GUATEMALA

A COSTA RICAN man arrested in last year's fatal shooting of Argentine folk singer Facundo Cabral was expelled to Guatemala on Tuesday for entering Colombia with false documents, authorities said.

Guatemalan authorities want Alejandro Jimenez Gonzalez, 38, in the July killing of Cabral, and Costa Rica asked that he be sent directly to Guatemala. He was flown out of Bogota on a Colombian police plane Tuesday afternoon, a police statement said.

He was arrested Saturday by counternarcotics police in a speedboat that Colombia's navy had tracked from Panama into Colombia's waters, said Colombia's national police chief, Gen. Oscar Naranjo.

"Colombia has no interest in filing charges, but simply to expel him," Costa Rican Attorney General Jorge Chavarria said. "Our intention is that he be extradited directly to Guatemala."

The Colombian police said in a communique that according to information gathered by Costa Rican security agencies that Jimenez could be a link between the Sinaloa cartel headed by Mexican druglord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman and Colombian narco brothers Luis Enrique and Javier Antonio Calle Serna.

Naranjo said Colombian police believe Jimenez arranged to enter Colombia with the help of a pair of the brothers.

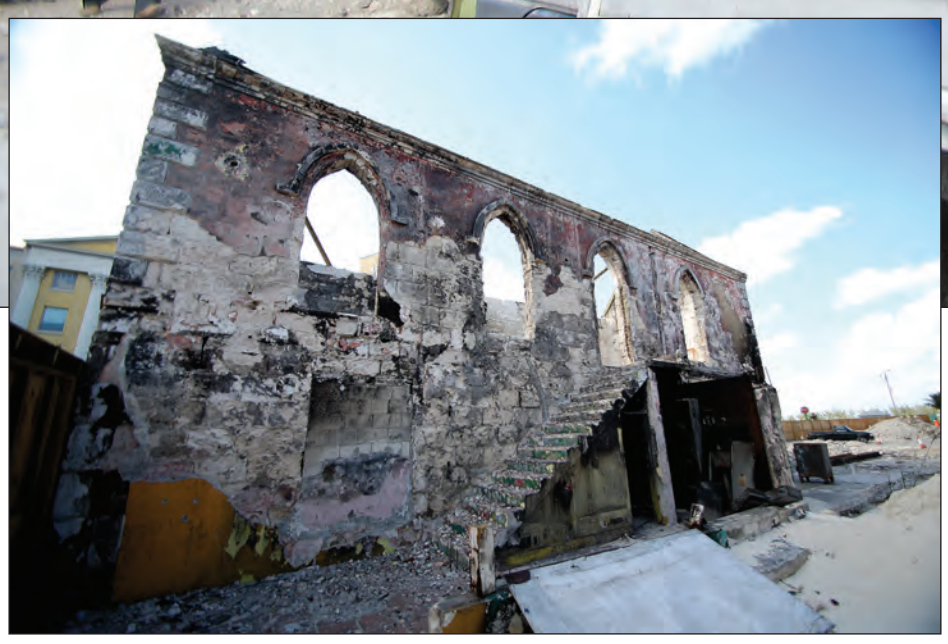
Costa Rican authorities say Jimenez headed a criminal group that launders money in Central America, and they believe Cabral was the unintended victim of an attack related to a rift over stolen drug money. Drug cartels, some from Mexico, have established themselves in Central America and grow and ship drugs in the region.

Costa Rican Security Minister Mario Zamora told RCN radio that Jimenez's arrest is "important because he is someone who plays a major role in the leadership and direction of organised mafias in Central America". Zamora has said Jimenez is wanted in Costa Rica for money laundering and drug trafficking.

Cabral, 74, was gunned down in Guatemala in July after giving a concert in the city of Quetzaltenango, 200 kilometers (120 miles) west of Guatemala City.

Authorities believe the attack was aimed at Cabral's promoter, Nicaraguan businessman Henry Farina, who was driving the singer to the airport. Farina was wounded when their car was ambushed.

Rebuilding after the fire



IN DECEMBER, the Pompey Museum was badly damaged and nearby buildings gutted when a blaze broke out on Bay Street. Reconstruction work is under way now at the scene, as part of developments which will see the creation of a Pompey Park. Our photographer took a peep inside as the clear-up team sets about the hard work of reconstruction. Photos: **Felipé Major**/Tribune Staff

BEST BUY
FURNITURE
Warehouse Clearance
SALE
UP TO 70% OFF
Bedroom Sets
Living Room Sets
Coffee Table Sets
Accessories
Lamps
Dining Tables
Saturday
MARCH 17, 2012 8:30AM - 5:30PM
Mackey St. Behind Albury's Supply