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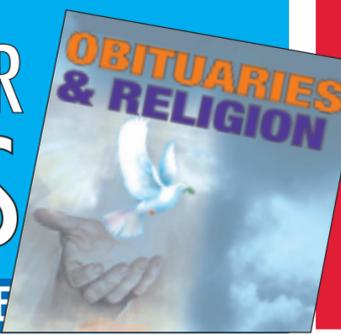


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INSIDE TODAY YOUR SOURCE FOR OBITUARIES NOBODY BEATS THE TRIBUNE



ON SALE EVERY SATURDAY THIS WEEKEND DON'T MISS... PREVIEW ON PAGE 8



Marital rape law veto 'to kill DNA'

KFC ROW ENDS AS DEAL SIGNED

By SANCHESKA BROWN Tribune Staff Reporter sbrown@tribunemedia.net

UNION Executives and KFC Management signed an industrial agreement yesterday signaling an end to five months of contentious negotiations.

Darren Woods, vice-president of the Bahamas Hotel, Catering and Allied Worker's Union (BHCAWU), which represents 300-plus line staff at KFC said employees were able to retain most of the benefits they currently enjoy.

He said: "We were able to more or less hold on to a lot of the benefits. We did not have to give up any, but some of them were reduced with a view of reinstatement in the fifth year of the contract. There were concessions and they have lifespan. We were

SEE page 12

ROADWORK-HIT BUSINESSES 'NEED MORE TIME'

By CELESTE NIXON Tribune Staff Reporter cnixon@tribunemedia.net

ONE week is not a practical amount of time for businesses to collect information and documentation to assess the damage caused by the road improvement project, according to a Coconut Grove Business League representative.

SEE page 12

Bran rejects bid to protect wives from rape

By KHRISNA VIRGIL kvirgil@tribunemedia.net



BRANVILLE McCARTNEY, when asked if a Marital Rape Bill would be passed by a DNA government, said: "When you get married to a person, you are one."

"When at the end of the day, you are sleeping in the same bed as your wife or spouse, you become one in that regard, and rape is very difficult to prove, especially as sexual intercourse is a part of marriage."

Mr Ferguson pointed out that an act should not necessarily be accepted, just because it is hard to prove, but Mr McCartney said: "I

SEE page 2

MAN FOUND SHOT IN HEAD



POLICE OFFICERS remove the body of a male from a track road off Cox Way on Wednesday morning. Photo: Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff

By SANCHESKA BROWN Tribune Staff Reporter sbrown@tribunemedia.net

THE BODY of a man was discovered lying on a dirt road early yesterday morning. He was the country's 26th murder victim.

Information on the homicide is still sketchy but police say the body was found around 7.30am on a dirt road off Cox Way, East Street.

According to reports, police were alerted to the body by a passerby.

When police arrived they found a man, believed to be in his early 20s, who had been shot in his head.

No identity or motive is known at this time.

Inspector Chrislyn Skipings said police are appealing to members of the public who may not have seen their

relative for the past 24 hours to contact them immediately.

Meanwhile police say they are following significant leads into the shooting death of 29-year-old Stefano Murphy.

Murphy became the country's 25th murder victim when he was found dead on March 6 in the Pinewood Gardens area.

Police say he was standing outside a home on St John's Avenue when he was approached by a man and shot several times. He died at the scene.

Police are appealing to anyone who may have relevant information on any of these homicides to contact them by calling 919, the Central Detective Unit on 502-9991 or Crime Stoppers anonymously on 328-TIPS.

Last month, Assistant Commissioner of Police

Anthony Ferguson said police had solved 52 per cent of the murders committed for the year. At that time the murder count stood at 21.

According to crime statistics released by the RBPF, in January homicides decreased by 25 per cent, down to nine from 12 during the same period last year.

However, in February murder statistics increased by 41 per cent, up to 12 from seven during the same period in 2011.

Southwestern and north-eastern New Providence were also identified as the areas where most homicides were committed.

Police believe a handful of the murders were retaliation killings, while the majority were drug related or due to a lack of conflict resolution skills.

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LOCAL NEWS

MARITAL RAPE LAW VETO 'TO KILL DNA'

from page one

don't think it should be illegal. I maintain that. I don't think there should be an Act or law for raping a spouse."

The Bill in the form introduced by the FNM would see a man imprisoned from seven years to life for having sex with his wife without her consent.

Praising her party's support for the Act, Mrs Butler-Turner said the FNM has always been a strong supporter of women's rights and empowerment.

"We are the only party that stood behind it and we tabled it. If no other party wants to support it and the rights of women in this country, then I am sure it will come to their own detriments," she said.

Mr McCartney's position has also stunned staff at the Crisis Centre for Women and women's rights advocate Dr Sandra Dean-Patterson.

Donna Nicolls, volunteer counsellor at the Crisis Centre, said the DNA leader's "uninformed statement" was unfortunate and speaks to his lack of understanding on the issue.

"For somebody who wants to become leader with approx-

imately 50 per cent of women constituting the population, it is very troubling to me.

"I don't think he knows the impact of being in a marriage and then being raped by your husband. We also invite him to have dialogue with us."

Dr Patterson added she was amazed that the DNA leader would take a position that does not support women in a marriage having the same rights as persons who are victims of assault.

Both women agree that Mr McCartney should do more research on the matter before he voices his opinion on the national stage.

A heated national debate was sparked after the amendment was introduced to parliamentarians by Mrs Butler-Turner in July 2009.

At that time, Mrs Butler-Turner noted that the law was outdated. She said that spousal rape had long been outlawed in many other countries.

Since then human rights group, Amnesty International, vowed to back the amendment of the Sexual Offences Act to protect the rights of every Bahamian woman.

'NO COALITION ROLE FOR DNA'

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

DEMOCRATIC National Alliance leader Branville McCartney said the DNA will not join the FNM or PLP to form a coalition if the outcome of the election is not clearly decided.

In fact, the sitting MP for Bamboo Town said the party's intention is to win "big" at the polls on election day with no less than 20 of the 38 seats to be contested.

Mr McCartney made this declaration Tuesday evening at a one-on-one interview with popular television talk show host Erin Ferguson.

Speaking to more than 100 people in the College of the Bahamas' 350-seater Performing Arts Centre, Mr McCartney made it clear that the third party, a number of which were present at the Citizens Review episode taping, would not consider joining the opposition.

"Absolutely not," he said. The party leader said the question was not a new one, having been asked at the party's launch in May last year.

"What happens if there is a coalition? What happens if we have to determine who is

the government? Well, God forbid that because we intend on winning and we intend on winning big.

"We will not. The DNA will not go with the PLP and the DNA will not go with the FNM," he vowed.

The former cabinet minister said the rival parties were "most welcome" to come with the party, but they would have to do so under the DNA's banner.

He did offer an alternative solution: "The party with the most seats in parliament will have to govern as a minority government."

The third party leader was asked for his realistic view on the "odds" of the DNA winning seats, as party leaders throughout the years said they would win all, but did not do so.

"We will win no less than 20 seats," he answered to audience applause.

The man who hopes to be prime minister said the DNA is even more confident in its chances as the party is being talked about by its rivals, who were previously quiet about its existence. "They're now recognising the DNA. They're now talking about the DNA, something they didn't want to do," he said.

Mr McCartney acknowledged that the past year was not easy for the party. However, he claims they have succeeded where other leaders – naming Perry Christie and Prime Minister Hubert Ingham – have "failed miserably" in trying to form a party to contest the general elections.

He contended their failure was not a deterrent for the DNA to try. He added: "Just because something has never been done before does not make it impossible."



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LOCAL NEWS

Bran vows public vote on making gambling legal

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

DNA leader Branville McCartney will call for a referendum on the legalisation of gambling and a national lottery should the DNA win the up-coming general election, stating it's "something we will put to the Bahamian people."

Speaking Tuesday night on *Citizen's Review* with Erin Ferguson, Mr McCartney took an all or nothing approach to the issue, stating "necessary laws" should be put in place to stop the ongoing illegal number houses or they should be legalised and taxed.

He revealed the government could make up to \$100 million in taxes if gambling is legalised for Bahamians.

"It's going on, it is happening everyday, all day – the numbers business, and if it's

illegal then it should not happen. Plain and simple," Mr McCartney said.

"To determine whether or not we're going to make it legal... we're going to put it to the Bahamian people, so that if it is passed, it is regularised and the country, the Bahamian people, will benefit at the end of the day from the proceeds."

Mr McCartney named investments in healthcare, education, and Bahamian youth as items that could benefit from taxes earned from gambling.

"From our understanding, the government, if it's legalised, can make in excess of \$80 or \$100 million a year in taxes," he said.

"(However) if the Bahamian people decide that they don't want it, we'll have to put the necessary laws in place to ensure that it doesn't happen."

When asked why the DNA won't take an official stance on gambling legalisation, rather than "putting it to the Bahamian people," Mr McCartney said it's because of the number of Bahamians who are against it.

"There are a large number of Bahamians who don't believe in it, there are a large number of Bahamians who say it's wrong. There are Bahamians who say it goes against the teachings of the Bible," he said.

"There are Bahamians who are adamantly against it and I think that's why we find many of the leaders are afraid to touch it."

When contacted for comment on the subject, former Minister of State for Finance, James Smith, said he wouldn't advise the government to rely on taxes from gambling as a means to help "balance the

budget," as it has no real economic value.

"The gambling issue is not as straightforward as most people seem to think. There's the economic issue of whether it's a good source of voluntary taxation," he said.

"Gambling as an economic activity doesn't create value it just transfers wealth or savings from one group to another... The point of the matter is, if you have \$1,000 and 10 players, one player will end up with no more than what you brought on. The economic value is pretty much zero – it's more of a moral issue rather than anything else."

Mr Smith stated there are "very large groups" that oppose gambling on moral or religious grounds. "They argue that the practice by itself might have a deleterious affect on the moral fabric."

Former Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Senator Michael Halkitis, had views similar to Mr McCartney, also calling for a referendum.

"I think we should have a legalised and properly regulated national lottery and I support a referendum on the topic," he said. "If you have it properly regulated, of course you can bring it into the formal economy and tax it properly and use those resources to assist the government."

However, in terms of the amount of taxes that could be generated from regulated gambling and lotteries, Mr Halkitis did not agree with Mr McCartney's figures.

"When you're talking about taxation, portion of winnings or the gross intake of the businesses, \$100 million in my mind – based on some of the other numbers I heard, it sounds rather high," he said. "I don't know what tax rate Mr McCartney is thinking of."



BRANVILLE MCCARTNEY speaking on Tuesday night on *Citizen's Review* with Erin Ferguson
Photo: **Peter Ramsay/BIS**



THE AUDIENCE during Branville McCartney's appearance on *Citizen's Review*.

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DNA: WHO WILL PAY FOR ROAD LOSSES?

By **CELESTE NIXON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

QUESTIONING who will pay for the losses caused by the ongoing road works project, the DNA has challenged Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham to clarify his proposed repayment scheme.

At a press conference outside the Democratic National Alliance (DNA) headquarters yesterday, Mt Moriah candidate Wayne Munroe said compensation for those adversely impacted by the New Providence Road Improvement Project (NPRIP) should not come from the public's purse, but rather from those responsible for the delays, poor design plan and disorganisation – the contractor, Jose Cartellone Civiles (JCCC).

He said Mr Ingraham "should be holding JCCC accountable for the damage they have caused and not let them off the hook again at the expense of the Bahamian people."

"The government has taken a cavalier attitude, in our judgment, to cause the Bahamian people to pay for damages caused not by the Bahamas government but by Jose Cartellone," Mr Munroe said.

Speaking at the FNM Carmichael constituency office opening on Tuesday evening, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham announced the government will go door-to-door asking those affected by the ongoing road works to detail their losses before the launch of the repayment scheme.

Businesses on Baillou Hill Road, Market Street and Prince Charles Drive will be the first to be assessed.

Mr Ingraham said over the next two weeks, the government will compile information, including the business-

es' expenses, revenue, profits, accounts receivable and payables during the period 2007 to 2011.

Mr Munroe said he has been advised that Deputy Director of Economic Planning in the Ministry of Finance, Hugh Chase, has been instructed to engage 25 persons, who will be paid \$210 per week, to carry out the assessment of losses to businesses over a two-week period.

He said the qualifications of these persons are unknown

and challenged the Prime Minister to clearly outline the government's repayment scheme.

"It is far from clear that the government intends to compensate all of the persons affected."

"This acting in secret while you have damaged people openly is just wrong," Mr Munroe said.

The DNA are also cautioning business owners not to rush to accept inadequate compensation and sign away their rights to full repayment.

He said: "It is absolutely wrong for a government to use financial hardship as a weapon against its people and we in the DNA are of the view that that is exactly what the Free National Movement government intends to do."

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| THE HUNGER GAMES | NEW | | | | | | |
| 21 JUMP STREET | C | 1:05 | 3:25 | N/A | 6:00 | 8:25 | 10:40 |
| JOHN CARTER | T | 1:00 | 3:50 | N/A | 6:30 | N/A | 10:00 |
| SILENT HOUSE | C | 1:15 | 3:40 | N/A | 6:15 | 8:40 | 10:45 |
| A THOUSAND WORDS | T | 1:10 | 3:35 | N/A | 6:10 | 8:30 | 10:50 |
| THE VOW | T | 1:00 | 3:30 | N/A | 6:05 | 8:30 | 10:40 |
| DR. SEUSS THE LORAX | A | 1:15 | 3:35 | N/A | 6:10 | 8:35 | 10:35 |
| PROJECT X | C | 1:10 | 3:40 | N/A | 6:15 | 8:40 | 10:50 |
| GOOD DEEDS | T | 1:05 | 3:25 | N/A | 6:00 | 8:25 | 10:40 |
| SAFE HOUSE | C | 1:00 | 3:25 | N/A | 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:45 |
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| 21 JUMP STREET | C | 1:00 | 3:30 | N/A | 6:05 | 8:25 | 10:45 |
| DR SEUSS THE LORAX | A | 1:15 | 3:40 | N/A | 6:15 | 8:35 | 10:35 |
| JOHN CARTER | T | 1:00 | 4:40 | N/A | 7:00 | N/A | 10:00 |
| GOOD DEEDS | T | 1:00 | 3:30 | N/A | 6:00 | 8:30 | 10:45 |
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LOCAL NEWS

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR TO TELL HER TALE

HOLOCAUST survivor Rena Finder will give a first-hand account of her horrific experiences and subsequent salvation in Nazi-occupied Germany at the Sheraton tonight.

Ms Finder will be sharing her harrowing story for the first time in the Bahamas as she continues to work to maintain awareness of the Holocaust and genocide.

The plight of Ms Finder and fellow survivors and the bravery of German industrialist Oskar Schindler inspired the Steven Spielberg film Schindler's List.

The Academy Award winning film immortalises the lives of Holocaust survivors employed by Oskar Schindler during World War II.

Mr Schindler used his wealth and influence to save the lives of 1,300 Jewish men, women and children.

Ms Finder will recount her childhood in Poland, the Krakow ghetto, life in the Nazi death camp Auschwitz and ultimately her story of survival in Schindler's factory.

Ms Finder, an only child, remained with her mother and father as enemies of the state for months in the Krakow ghetto, where Jews were tortured while concentration camps were being constructed. Her father was later taken away and never heard from again.

Ms Finder has said that she and her mother were spared because of Mr Schindler.

The film will be screened at 2pm. Ms Finder's first-hand account of her experience as a Holocaust survivor will begin at 6.30pm.



Tido to be sentenced today

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

THE resentencing of murder convict Maxo Tido may finally proceed today when the former death row inmate reappears in the Supreme Court.

The end of this case comes nearly a year after his death sentence was overturned by the Privy Council.

His resentencing, presided over by Senior Justice Jon Isaacs, had been delayed on several occasions since last November.

Absent attorneys, missing documents, and the hiring of two new attorneys were the rea-

sons for the delays up to today.

On Monday, Richard Bootle, appeared for Tido after the inmate had dismissed Roger Gomez II in court on February 28. Tido had not been satisfied with the representation he was receiving.

Mr Bootle had requested additional time to review trial transcripts and other information relating to the case.

Senior Justice Isaacs put the matter down for today.

Tido, who was sentenced to die in 2006, saw this decision overturned by the London-based Privy Council in June of 2011.

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

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

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

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

In 2009, the Committee for the Prerogative of Mercy decided the law should take its course, as Tido's case was not one that warranted mercy.

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

BUS DRIVER HURT IN CRASH

BY DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

around 7.15pm on Tuesday.

According to police reports, the head-on collision involved a white Mitsubishi van which was travelling west on Settler's Way, and a white Ford Clubwagon, which was travelling east.

Firemen and EMS personnel responded to the scene.

Both drivers were injured and were rushed to the Rand Memorial Hospital.

The identity of the other driver was not released.

Photo: Vandyke Hepburn

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LOCAL NEWS

Sandals launches corporate university in Jamaica

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Tribune Senior Reporter
crobards@tribunemedia.net

OCHO RIOS, Jamaica – Sandals launched its corporate university yesterday, promising to bring its landmark learning institution to 20 properties across the Caribbean, including the Bahamas.

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham, who attended the launch in Ocho Rios yesterday, said one of the deficiencies in the Bahamian economy is trained individuals. He insisted that the government of the Bahamas fully endorses the initiatives of Sandals Corporate University.

“We are very appreciative,” said Mr Ingraham. “They have been good and wonderful for the Bahamas.”

Adam Stewart, deputy chairman of Sandals Resorts International, said the corporate university was a natural next step for the Sandals

brand. He said its mission is to expose its Caribbean-wide team to almost every division of the hospitality business in an effort to encourage them to climb the corporate ladder within the company, as well as outside.

“The team members will be exposed to so much more,” said Mr Stewart.

“Your typical hotel employee joins a division like food and beverage and never leaves.

“We going to pull on the strings of the individuals and we want to pull out of people the best, by showing them more.”

The programme will see \$5 million spent over five years

and will be supported by learning institutions such as the Western Hospitality Institute and the Jamaica Foundation for Life Long Learning. Sandals is also in talks with Ryerson University in Canada and Florida International University, which houses



THE LAUNCH of the new Sandals Corporate University in Jamaica yesterday.

es one of the premier hospitality institutes in the US.

It was also revealed yesterday that the corporate university’s courses will be free for Sandals team members. And through its partnerships with noted universities will allow for its team members to put themselves on a path towards masters and doctoral degrees.

According to Mr Stewart, 2,500 employees will be enrolled in the corporate university within the first 12 months of the programme.

Mr Ingraham insisted that Sandals has been a driving force for job training in the Bahamas, having trained people for the government through the job training initiative.

“They are very focused on their people and have been a good edition to tourism,” he said.

Two team leaders in Sandals were chosen from the Bahamas to join a team of trainers who, Mr Stewart said could go on to become the next Sandals executives. He said they will be given a worldwide, world-wind tour of hotel properties in an effort to familiarise them with every aspect of the business.

When the Sandals Corporate University has been fully established on the 20 Sandals properties across the Caribbean, they will be named after Sandals Resorts managing director Merrick Fray.



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham with Sandals chief Butch Stewart in Jamaica.

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Only persons being interviewed for this position will be contacted.

The best of the Ball



DISTRICT Grand Master Charles Johnson and Terez Curry.

MEMBERS of the District Grand Lodge of The Bahamas (Scottish Constitution) dined and danced the night away at the Lodge's first annual gala ball at the Wyndham Cable Beach Resort.

More than just a solitary event, this year's ball represented the culmination of the District Grand Lodge's 2012 National Raffle Campaign, with \$25,000 in ticket proceeds committed towards the first in a series of four annual College of the Bahamas Endowment Fund contributions totalling \$100,000.

For the full photo spread of the gala ball event, check out this Saturday's Big T.

WHO IS THE WORST MINISTER?



IN this week's "A Young Man's View" column, Adrian Gibson begins his two-part review of the FNM's Cabinet, rating the five worst ministers who have served at some point in the last five years. Next week's column will feature his evaluation of the five top performing ministers since 2007.

The Big T columnist argues that whilst there have been a few top-tier ministers, there

have been others who have mismanaged the sky-high expectations of the Bahamian people and thereby have flunked their ministerial tests. According to Mr Gibson, there are at least five ministers—and a few surprising runner-ups—who were not the ideal choice.

He puts the spotlight on those Cabinet ministers who he feels offered only feeble performances and whose

ministerial supervision has been mired in mediocrity.

Guess who made the list. Read this Saturday's Big T and find out.

MARQUIS AT LARGE: IS TOMMY SERIOUS?

MINISTER of National Security Tommy Turnquest wants an apology from an Australian journalist for depicting the Bahamas as "under siege" by crime and violence, but *The Tribune's* weekly columnist John Marquis is asking if Mr Turnquest can really be serious.

With violent death being a

common currency among drug dealers and other criminals, especially in inner-city communities, Mr Marquis is of the opinion that "whatever spin Mr Turnquest tries to put on it, the situation is getting worse, despite the best efforts of police to contain the crime spiral."

"Places like Bain Town and Englerston are full of ruthless

hitmen who would blow you away for a day's pay and never turn a hair. I know because local pastors have told me so."

To read more, buy The Big T, brought to you by *The Tribune*, this Saturday for "Marquis at Large" on how crime is now spreading to all communities throughout New Providence.

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LOCAL NEWS

Prime Minister hits out at 'unruly' PLP

THE PLP are becoming more and more "unruly" as their desperation increases ahead of the general election, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said.

Pointing to an alleged assault in the House of Assembly last week, the fire extinguisher incident in Grand Bahama over the weekend, and claims of voter fraud in North Andros, Mr Ingraham urged FNM supporters not to follow suit.

Speaking at the launch of the party's Carmichael constituency office, Mr Ingraham said: "While we are dealing with the serious issues of criminal violence and anti-social behaviour, the PLP are acting more and more unruly as they get more and more desperate."

"Don't forget that during the BTC debate, senior PLPs demonstrated alongside known criminal elements. If it wasn't for the police, the House of Assembly could have been overrun."

Police in Grand Bahama are still investigating Saturday's incident in which, it is claimed, FNMs in a motor-

cade were sprayed with a fire extinguisher from another vehicle.

Mr Ingraham said: "As many as six people were affected in ways requiring medical attention."

"One such person was the young daughter of our candidate for East Grand Bahama, Peter Turnquest, and another was a lady whose asthma was badly affected and who continues to experience respiratory problems."

"Several others also are experiencing headaches, fatigue and eye and throat discomfort requiring them to take antibiotics and in some instances to remain away from their jobs."

"Let me say a couple of things. First of all, there ain't no fire extinguisher big enough to put out this FNM torch. Keep the fire burning. Crab season or not, if any crabs were involved in that incident, we hope the police catch them."

Mr Ingraham also reminded supporters that when Pineridge MP Kwasi Thompson was trying to make a speech in Parliament, he was

"assaulted by the other side".

PLP St Thomas More representative Frank Smith repeatedly tried to stop Mr Thompson from speaking, covering and moving his microphone.

Mr Thompson claims he was touched several times during the incident.

"Just like when he was in office, (PLP leader Perry) Christie said never a word about such terrible conduct by one of his MPs," Mr Ingraham said.

The prime minister told FNMs not to be provoked into committing political violence.

"We will tolerate absolutely no violence of any sort by our people. We will conduct ourselves in a nonviolent and peaceful manner. Just remember, there's more than one way to catch a crab," he said.

He added: "In North Andros, we're cleaning up the register and making sure some of them crabs don't do the wrong thing. You know when you're searching for crabs, you need a good torch to find them. Well (FNM candidate) Desmond Bannister 'gat a

bright torch and Desmond gonna win North Andros."

The prime minister also slammed the opposition for causing "a major disruption" when they visited the Straw Market last week.

"They caused some vendors to lose sales that day. They could have caused a fight to break out. But they don't care because it's all about their selfish interests," he said.



FLASHBACK to scenes in the House of Assembly last week when Frank Smith intervened during a speech by Kwasi Thompson.

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ACCUSED TEACHER 'HAS NOT FLED COUNTRY'

By KHRISNA VIRGIL
kvirgil@tribunemedia.net

AN ABACO teacher accused of sexually inappropriate behaviour with a female student has not fled the country, police confirmed yesterday.

Supt Stephen Dean said the case has been forwarded to the Attorney General's Office as charges were not brought by police due to lack of evidence, so prosecutors will now decide the way forward.

"Despite reports in one of the local papers that the teacher accused has absconded justice, he has not. He did leave the island because of bad press, but we know where he is," Mr Dean said.

CDU chief Paul Rolle confirmed that a team of officers arrived on the island yesterday morning.

Up to press time, Mr Rolle could not provide an update on the investigation.

The man is the seventh

teacher to be accused of sexually inappropriate behaviour since the Ministry of Education established its Sexual Complaints Unit in 2009, specifically to investigate and uncover child abuse.

The Tribune has learned that a female student of Haitian descent reported that she and the teacher had engaged in sexual acts.

The student reportedly claimed to have text messages proving the relationship.

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LOCAL NEWS

CABLE BEACH ROUNDABOUT DUG UP AGAIN



TRAFFIC came to a halt yesterday at one of the Cable Beach roundabouts as a section was removed and repaved. Workers told The Tribune that the area was too low and had to be lifted and resurfaced. Photos: **Felipe Major/Tribune Staff**

Roadwork-hit businesses 'need more time'

from page one

While the recent announcement of the road works repayment scheme by Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham is encouraging, Ethric Bowe said that given the wide diversity of businesses negatively impacted by the New Providence Road Improvement Project (NPRIP) he believes it will take much longer to assess the losses.

"It's interesting and a welcome change in tone," said

Mr Bowe. "We welcome any positive change and will cooperate with the government." However, practically speaking Mr Bowe said he does not believe it will be enough time for each business to accomplish the "forensic accounting" to accurately evaluate the damage caused by the road works.

He noted that many businesses, particularly small ones, may not have kept proper records that can be put together or accessed in a short

period of time.

On Monday, Prime Minister Ingraham revealed that the government will go door-to-door asking those affected by the ongoing road works to detail their losses ahead of a massive repayment scheme.

Speaking to FNM supporters, Mr Ingraham said through this initiative, the government will compile information, including the businesses' expenses, revenue, profits, accounts receivables and payables during the period 2007 to 2011.

Ministry of Finance employees will visit the businesses throughout New Providence on roads where major roadwork is being done and their connecting side streets, to hand out the surveys.

Mr Ingraham said the surveying is expected to last two

weeks.

The business owners then have one week to complete the surveys, and gather supporting documents, before the Ministry collects them.

Mr Bowe suggested in the interim as a "sign of good faith" the government should convert Market Street and Baillou Road back to how they were, to assist businesses and the general public.

CGBL, which was originally made up of 50 businesses in the Baillou Hill Road and Market Street area, has now merged with business owners on Prince Charles Drive, bringing the number to more than 100.

The group claims to have suffered massive financial consequences after the government converted Baillou Hill Road and Market Street

into one-way thoroughfares and began the New Providence Road Improvement Project (NPRIP).

Businesses were cut off from their customers during the works, sometimes for months at a time.

Earlier this month Mr Bowe claimed he was given assurances by PLP leader Perry Christie that business owners would be compensated if the party is re-elected.

He said this promise is the main reason the league has not moved forward with its legal case against the government.

Mr Bowe said: "We are waiting until after elections to continue our case. We originally won and then the government won their appeal on a technicality."

They were also told by the

DNA, Mr Bowe said, that their problems would go away if they are elected.

He said: "Elements in the DNA are picking up the effort to take this matter to the Inter American Development Bank (IDB). The IDB has protocols for carrying out these projects and the impact on commerce."

"So the way we have been damaged the lawyers believe if we take it to the IDB they will get the government to go forward and release the money."

Last July, the Court of Appeal ruled in favour of the government, six months after the CGBL was awarded damages by Supreme Court Justice Neville Adderley.

When asked if the CGBL had moved forward with filing a complaint with IDB, Mr Bowe said the matter was still to be dealt with by attorneys, however he believed people would prefer to settle out of court.

"If it can be settled out of court, I believe that most people will want to settle," said Mr Bowe.

However, moving forward Mr Bowe said it would be beneficial, in future cases of this kind, for the matter to go before the court to clarify the law and make the government understand that they do not have the right to damage a person's property or business without proper compensation.

KFC ROW ENDS AS DEAL SIGNED

from page one

able to come up with something that was favourable to both sides, where the company was able to get relief and the employees could still maintain, in particular, their current rates of pay, their hours of work, and guaranteed days of work. We agreed to a two-tier system where new employees coming in for a period would be able to work during peak time between lunch and dinner, so that these persons won't be exploited."

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 nine New Providence locations.

Later that evening, Minister of Labour Dion Foulkes certified BHCAWU 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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LOCAL NEWS

Treasure Cay to host fitness weekend

THE Treasure Cay Beach, Marina & Golf Resort will host The 2012 Great Abaco Family Fitness Weekend starting Friday. The three-day event has something for everyone and has already attracted participants from Nassau, Freeport, Abaco, and Florida.

The first event in the series is a 1-mile open water swim. This event will take place in the crystal clear waters of the Treasure Cay beach, rated one of the Top 10 beaches in the world in a reader poll by

Caribbean Travel & Life. This takes place on Friday afternoon at 5pm, and is followed by an awards presentation and welcome reception at the Coco Beach Bar with refreshments provided by Sands Beer.

An energy-boosting pasta buffet will follow for participants, their families, supporters, volunteers, and staff.

The Triathlons will take place on Saturday. There are three triathlons to choose from: a Sprint Triathlon which consists of a 500m swim,

20km bike, and 5km run; an Olympic Triathlon which consists of a 1500m swim, 40km bike, and 10km run; a Junior Triathlon for those under 16 years old, with a 150m swim, 5km bike, and 2km run. Relay teams are welcomed and encouraged to join for any of the triathlons – teams can be 2 or 3 people, all male, all female, or a mixture of both.

Afterward, join the GAFFW for a fun-filled awards ceremony on Saturday night when the Coco Beach Bar will host a

“Bahamian Night” complete with live Bahamian entertainment as presentations for the day’s events will be made.

Sunday morning brings the final event, a 5K/10K Fun Run/Walk. This event is open to all ages and walks of life, and families are encouraged to participate. The run/walk starts at 8am from the Coco Beach Bar parking lot in Treasure Cay. An awards presentation will be held immediately following the event.

There are many prizes to

be won, and many categories in which to compete. The GAFFW would like to thank sponsors and supporters for offering a range of fantastic prizes for the event, including John Bull and Luminox who have provided his and her watches for the top male and female competitors.

Cycles Unlimited and Jamis have also teamed up to provide a Citizen bicycle for the event. The Dolphin Beach Resort has donated a three-night stay.

Other prizes have been fur-

nished by supporters of the event such as Cracker P’s and A Salt Weapon Fishing Char-

ters. Participants’ numbers will be drawn for these and other prizes as well, meaning everyone has a chance to win regardless of their ability.

Each registered participant will also receive a t-shirt and a finisher’s medal.

The beneficiaries of the event are Friends of the Environment, the Rotary Club of Abaco, and the Abaco Swim Club.

GRANT ON OFFER TO HELP SAVE WATER

GROUPS and organisations helping to protect the fresh water resources of the Bahamas could land a grant to help their efforts.

The Royal Bank of Canada yesterday — officially designated as World Water Day 2012 — invited organisations across the Bahamas to apply for a Blue Water Project Community Action Grant. Any not-for-profit organisation that is involved in preserving or conserving the fresh water resources of the Bahamas was encouraged to apply.

“RBC has chosen to focus on water as a global sustainability priority because we believe that access to water will be one of the most significant environmental and economic issues facing the world in the coming decades,” said Nathaniel Beneby, Jr, market head of RBC Retail Banking in The Bahamas, Cayman and Turks and Caicos.

“Lack of access to clean fresh water is considered to be one of the major threats to human health and economic development around the world. More than one billion people worldwide lack access to clean water, and water-related disease and illness are the leading causes of death in the world.”

In response to this threat, RBC has established the RBC Blue Water Project — an innovative, wide-ranging, 10-year, global commitment to help protect the world’s most precious natural resource: fresh water.

Globally, RBC has committed to provide \$50 million over 10 years to organisations that protect watersheds and ensure access to clean drinking water.

Since 2007, RBC has pledged over \$28 million to more than 400 not-for-profit organisations worldwide that protect watersheds or ensure access to clean drinking water.

Two organisations in the Bahamas are already benefiting from the RBC Blue Water Project.

A \$5,000 grant awarded to Andros Conservancy and Trust (ANCAT) in 2011 enabled tons of debris to be removed from several key blue holes in Andros.

In addition, RBC will soon be announcing a significant, multi-year partnership with the Bahamas National Trust.

“On World Water Day, we’re encouraging everyone to think about what we can do collectively to foster a culture of water stewardship,” said Mr Beneby.

“We all play a role conserving this most precious resource, whether by using less water as we do our daily routines or ensuring that we’re protecting our environment for future generations.”

To learn more about the Blue Water Project or to find out how to apply for a Blue Water Community Action Grant, visit <http://bluewater.rbc.com>.



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Presenter

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LOCAL NEWS



BAHAMIAN CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION

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THE CREW of a passing freighter rescues illegal immigrants 20 miles off the Florida coast.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS RESCUED FROM SINKING BOAT

BY DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – Twenty-four illegal immigrants and one Bahamian were brought back to Freeport after being rescued 20 miles off the Florida coast when their vessel

began sinking on Tuesday.

Five children, ranging in age from three to 11 years old, were among the group of Haitians rescued by a passing freighter.

Immigration Department representative Jerome Hutcherson confirmed that the group was rescued before the ves-

sel completely sank, then turned over to the US Coast Guard.

He said they were brought back to Grand Bahama around 8pm on Tuesday.

Mr Hutcherson said the group was flown to New Providence on Wednesday for processing.



24 ILLEGAL HAITIANS are seen boarding a flight to New Providence yesterday for processing. Photo: Vandyke Hepburn

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LOCAL NEWS

PLP claims that FNM is stepping up its efforts to intimidate voters

THE FNM is escalating its efforts to intimidate voters, the opposition PLP has claimed.

In a statement issued yesterday, the party said while on the campaign trail, government members named a voter suspected of registering in the wrong place.

The PLP said: "The case involves a voter who maintains two different residences in two different constituencies. Section 9 of the Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act 2011 allows voters in such a position to choose the constituency in which they would register.

"The matter concerning this particular voter is under adjudication, and the Returning Officer in North Andros presiding over the matter has ordered that his name be kept secret."

The statement said that in publicly naming the individual, the FNM violated the ruling of the Returning Officer – "hitting a new low".

The party called it "a blatant attempt to influence the decision-maker and the Parliamentary Commissioner" by making it clear the outcome the government desires, "even though such an outcome appears to have no support from the law".

Local officials in North Andros are conducting hearings into claims by FNM candidate Desmond Bannister that at least 30 voters from other islands have been flown in by PLP officials to register in that constituency.

The PLP said: "In North Andros, the Prime Minister and the FNM ministers doing his bidding have turned things

into a circus, harming the small community; the Returning Officer has referred to the process as 'divisive'.

"The possible use of the police force to investigate

political opponents, the hyped-up charges of violence and voter fraud, and now the singling out of a voter by name – the FNM is running an intimidation operation

and they've invited the international observers, who will arrive late in the day and with a tiny team, for cover."

The opposition further claimed that the voter in ques-

tion has always had the same living arrangements, but the governing party was happy for him to vote in North Andros while he supported the FNM.



DESMOND BANNISTER, the FNM candidate for North Andros, has claimed that at least 30 voters have been flown from other islands to register in the constituency.



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TIME: 10 AM

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micheala.munnings@royalfidelity.com
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Invitation for Expressions of Interest
From
Event Management Companies / Event Planning Consultants

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS
BAHAMIAN CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION (BCA)
CONSULTANT SELECTION
PROJECT No: BH-M1006

The Government of The Bahamas has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments under the Project *Strengthening the Bahamian Contractors' Association (BCA)*. As the culmination of this project the BCA intends to host a three-day Regional Contractors Conference for about 200 contractors, including many delegates from the major CARICOM countries. This will be the first time in the history of the Caribbean that a gathering of regional contractors has been organized.

Offers are invited from reputed Event Management Companies/Event Planning Consultant for the co-ordinating and managing of this event.

Eligibility Criteria

The company/consultant should meet the following minimum eligibility criteria:

- A minimum experience of five years in the field of event management
- Proven experience executing at least one event with delegate participation of more than 150 delegates with the following components in the event:
 - Registration and database management of delegates
 - Management of Transport logistics
 - Arrangement of Hotel Accommodations and Participant Packages
 - Guest Hospitality Management at Airport, Hotels etc.
 - Co-ordination of Officials, Guest Speakers, Presenters etc.
 - Providing volunteers for on site management and effective supervision
 - Planning and co-ordination with agencies for security, light and sound and infrastructure, signage and visibility, audio/video, caterers, transport, publicity etc.
- Experience with the promotion and publicity of large conferences
- Ability to collaborate with management in the planning and execution of the conference
- Ability to suggest to management other aspects of planning and logistics that should be considered

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: *Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank* (GN-2350-7) and this opportunity is open to all eligible consultants as defined in the policies.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours of 9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m. EST.

Communications with above indicated information must be delivered via direct mail or e-mail to the address indicated below by April 2nd 2012

Bahamian Contractors' Association
Attn. Mrs. Dominique Martin
Suite #41
Caribbean Business Park
Touque Williams-Darling Highway
P.O. Box N-9286
Tel: 356-8850
Fax: 356-8851
E-mail: bca@bahamascontractors.org

LOCAL NEWS



FRED MITCHELL, the PLP candidate for Fox Hill.

**FNM:
'COPYCAT
FRED IS
LATE
AGAIN'**

THE Free National Movement accused Fox Hill MP Fred Mitchell of trying to "copy" Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham in an effort to gain votes.

In a statement, the FNM said the pledge by Mr Mitchell and the PLP to raise minimum wage was both "empty" and "late again".

Speaking at the opening of his constituency office on Monday, Mr Mitchell said he would seek the support of his colleagues to raise the minimum wage from \$150 per week to \$210 per week.

But the FNM noted that minimum wage was first introduced in the Bahamas as a part of Mr Ingraham's recovery and growth agenda.

The statement said: "The PLP made their empty promise after failing to ever introduce a minimum wage in the first place during 25 years in office. The Christie administration also failed to raise the minimum wage during its disastrous and do-nothing five year term.

"The very same opposition that put out job numbers that it claims it created from 2002 to 2007, and that cannot be verified by the Department of Statistics, is bogusly claiming that it will create a certain number of jobs in two years.

"The same PLP that criticised the Ingraham administration's comprehensive infrastructural programme which created over 1,000 jobs and who also failed to build a single school in five years now wants the Bahamian people to believe that it can create jobs."

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A

Fact-Finding Meeting
on Wednesday, 28th March, 2012 at 6:00pm
Fourth Floor, Treasury Department
East Street North opposite the Police Headquarters
Tel: (242) 302-0597/ (242) 323-8844

Chief Executive Officer of CGA-Caribbean will be in attendance



Credit Suisse Trust Limited

is presently considering applications for an

Trust Accountant

The Trust Department is accepting applications for a Trust Accountant:

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Excellent PC Knowledge
- Applicants should possess a degree (or equivalent) in Business Administration, Accounting or minimum of two years experience in a Trust Accounting environment.
- STEP designation would be an asset.

JOB FUNCTIONS:

- Preparation of financial statements for Trusts and managed Companies in compliance with trust accounting policies and procedures
- Bookkeeping of transactions including bank reconciliations, client payments orders and invoicing amounts
- Liaising with trust administration
- Preparation of reports for Group and Senior Management
- Update of Portfolio Performance Review Report with relevant client strategy, quarterly valuations and benchmarks, payment orders
- Preparation of Portfolio Performance Reviews in accordance with Group Directive

PERSONAL QUALITIES:

- Strong organization, communication and interpersonal skills
- Excellent work attitude
- Ability to work under pressure and with minimum supervision
- Team player, enthusiasm, with a positive attitude

BENEFITS PROVIDED INCLUDE:

- Competitive salary and performance bonus
- Pension Plan
- Health and Life Insurance

APPLICATIONS MUST BE IN WRITING.

Persons not meeting the minimum requirements need not apply.

Telephone calls will not be accepted.

Applications should be submitted to:
Human Resources Department
P.O. Box N-4928
Nassau, Bahamas
or via fax: 356-8148

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS: MARCH 26, 2012

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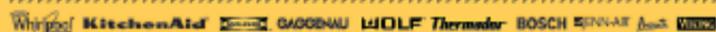
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Man dives into sea to rescue tourist



MINISTER OF TOURISM and Aviation Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, left, presents an award to Mark Sweeting for coming to the rescue of a tourist who fell off Prince George Wharf, while Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism Hyacinth Pratt.

ABACO mechanical engineer and diver Mark Sweeting risked his life to save a distressed tourist who fell into the harbour off Prince George Wharf.

Mr Sweeting, 49, was on his way to visit friends, and parked his boat just minutes before the incident happen.

The male tourist was not conscious during the rescue, and witnesses did not have a rope or floating device, so they formed a human chain

to get both men out of the water.

The Ministry of Tourism rewarded the Abaconian with a certificate of appreciation for his bravery.

Minister of Tourism, Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, presented Mr Sweeting with the certificate and a new phone – as Sweeting's was lost as a result of his quick response to the drowning visitor.

This is not the first time Sweeting has saved someone

from drowning. And his good nature went beyond the actual rescue – he also visited the young man in the hospital.

The hero has had lots of practice in the water, as he swims the marathon from Prince George Wharf to Montagu Beach every year.

Mr Sweeting is the proud son of former Bahamasair pilot, Captain Kenneth Sweeting, and former United Shipping employee, Barbara Sweeting.

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JOB OPPORTUNITY: MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Position Summary: To provide membership services and manage The Bahamas National Trust's membership programme in an efficient, professional and proactive manner, in order to maximize the return for the BNT.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Oversee all membership services and membership outreach activities under the Director of Development
- Assist and coordinate membership booth during BNT sponsored events and other external events that BNT will participate in
- Manage the recruitment and retention of potential and existing BNT members respectively
- Meticulous processing of all Bahamas National Trust memberships
- Serve as liaison for BNT Regional Branches
- Manage and maintain Sage fundraising software
- Implement and execute a plan to ensure that membership numbers are increased
- Recruiting and developing a volunteer programme
- Undertake financial administration of Membership data base to include data entry, renewal letters, monitoring subscription payments
- Create and maintain accurate membership reports and membership statistics as requested
- Schedule and conduct community and corporate presentations
- Any other relevant duties assigned

Qualification and Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree or equivalent experience in a related field preferred
- Excellent inter-personal and communication skills
- High level of enthusiasm, self-motivation and self-discipline
- Ability to work with minimal supervision, work individually or a part of a team
- Attention to detail
- Strong ability to multi task
- Ability to work flexible hours and some weekends as required
- Proficient in Microsoft Suite, Graphic Design experience a plus

To apply: Submit cover letter and resume to the Bahamas National Trust, Attn: Human Resources, hr@bnt.bs by March 30th, 2012.

Bahamas Electricity Corporation

Tender

The Bahamas Electricity Corporation invites Bidders to submit proposals for:

Disposal of the contents of selected containers containing used Copper, Aluminum Wires & Cable Big Pond Compound, Nassau, Bahamas

Bidders are required to collect packages from the Corporation's Administrative Office, Blue Hill & Tucker Roads
Contact: **Ms. Charlene Smith** at telephone **302-1158**

Submissions should be marked as follows:

Mr. Kevin Basden
General Manager
Bahamas Electricity Corporation
Executive Offices – Blue Hill & Tucker Roads
Nassau, Bahamas

Tender No. 780/12
Disposal of the contents of selected containers containing used Copper, Aluminum Wires & Cable Big Pond Compound, Nassau, Bahamas

Bidders are required to attend a Site Visit on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., Big Pond Compound

Deadline for delivery to BEC:
Friday, April 13, 2012
no later than 4:00 p.m.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

For all inquiries please contact
Mr. Kevin Bowleg at telephone **302-1240**

Lignum Institute of Technology

Course Schedule

2012 UPCOMING COURSES

AutoCAD 2012 Advance
April 23rd, 2012 (8 weeks) Monday's & Wednesday's 6:00-8:00pm

Certified International Project Management (CIPM, PMP, CPM)
April 10th, 2012 (10 weeks) Tuesday's & Thursday's 6:00-8:00pm
April 14th, 2012 (10 weeks) Saturday's only 9:00-1:00pm

Introduction to Computers
April 13th, 2012 (5 weeks) Friday's only 6:00-8:00pm

Certified Risk Management (CPRM)
April 16th-20th, 2012 (5 Days) Monday-Friday 9:00-12:00pm

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LOCAL NEWS

BLACKOUT AT YACHT CLUB

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – It appears that the cost of electricity is affecting a major marina facility in the Lucaya area.

The Tribune learned on Wednesday that electricity has been off at the Grand Bahama Yacht Club on Midshipman Road. There is speculation the power might have been disconnected by the Grand Bahama Power Company.

The Tribune contacted the Yacht Club on Wednesday and spoke with Ms Ferguson, a manager who confirmed that they have no power at the facility. When asked the circumstances, she said that The Tribune would have to speak with owner Prebin Olsen, who was not on the property at the time.

The club, which is owned by New Hope Holding Ltd, has a 150-slip marina, which is designated as a port of entry for visiting boaters. According to the company's website, the marina facility features the very best in amenities and services and can accommodate yachts of sizes up to 175 feet.

The high cost of electricity on Grand Bahama has been a major issue affecting residential and commercial customers.

A number of companies in Freeport have expressed concern about the high cost of electricity.

The Fenestration and Glass Services closed its \$20 million investment in Freeport because of the high electricity costs, poor service and reliability of power, saying the cost of power in Freeport was six times that of electricity in the US.

Polymers International Limited, a major plastics manufacturing plant on Queen's Highway, had also expressed concern over a monthly power cost, amounting to some \$500,000. In December 2010, Sir Jack Hayward, principal at the Grand Bahama Port Authority expressed concern that high power cost was hindering investment in Freeport.



CARS splash through the water covering the road following the burst pipe on JFK Drive.



Water pollutes lake after pipe bursts

WORKERS were called out as a pipe burst on JFK Drive yesterday.

The burst led to the road filling with water, forcing drivers to splash their way through.

Workers were called out with pumping equipment to tackle the pipe.

There was also concern over the effects of the leak, with some of the water running off into a nearby lake.



Pictures: **Felipe Major**/
Tribune Staff



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- Must have own transportation

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or FAX: 394-4971

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