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SEE PAGE NINE

New HIV cases set to increase

The Bahamas could see 'worrying rise' if this year's trends continue

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

THE number of new HIV cases in The Bahamas is set to increase, health experts have revealed.

If trends recorded in the early part of this year hold until its end, this year will see a worrying rise, said Dr Perry Gomez, director of the National AIDS Programme.

From January to April 2009 Mr Gomez said 57 more people — 29 men and 28 women — were added to the list of people infected with the virus in The Bahamas.

Meanwhile, during the same period, 42 people with HIV saw their disease progress to the critical AIDS stage of the illness, resulting in 22 deaths during those four months.

"If we multiply 57 times four, we get 228. That would be more than we had last year. We'll have

to see how things pan out," said Dr Gomez.

This potential rise in new HIV cases comes even as the National AIDS Programme has had impressive success in minimising the number of cases which are progressing to the critical AIDS stage of the disease, suggesting that while access to treatment and education in this regard has had an impact, people are still not getting the message about HIV prevention.

Dr Gomez disclosed the latest figures as he, with President of the AIDS Foundation Camille Barnett, and organisers of this year's Red Ribbon Ball appealed to the public to continue to support the annual fundraising gala despite hard economic times.

Tickets are \$200 each for the November 21 event, which has over the past 16 years raised \$700,000 for the AIDS Foundation — a non-governmental

SEE page three

Travolta attorney denies 'deception'

By NATARIO McKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

US ATTORNEY Michael McDermott was back on the witness stand yesterday for more cross-examination in the attempted extortion trial of ex-PLP Senator Pleasant Bridgewater and former ambulance driver Tarino Lightbourne.

Lightbourne and Bridgewater are accused of

attempting to extort \$25 million from American attorney John Travolta. During cross-examination yesterday Mr McDermott, who is an attorney for Mr Travolta, admitted that he had in fact seen a copy of the refusal of transport document at the centre of the alleged extortion plot, prior to a meeting with Lightbourne on January 19.

SEE page eight

MAJOR BLAZE IN 'THE MUD' DESTROYS HOMES



A HOME engulfed in flames in 'The Mud'.

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

A MAJOR fire in Marsh Harbour's Haitian shanty town "the Mud" has displaced at least 39 people whose homes were destroyed by the blaze early Monday morning.

Volunteer fire services struggled to drive six fire engines into the overcrowded ghetto in the heart of Marsh Harbour, Abaco, at around 5am as people and broken-down vehicles blocked the narrow dirt roads.

It took one and a half hours for about 14 firefighters to extinguish the blaze which started in one of the makeshift plywood homes and quickly spread to burn down 12 structures, including at least 19 homes.

Police are investigating the cause of the fire as residents recover from the trauma.

At least 39 legal Haitian and Haitian Bahamian residents of the Mud

SEE page eight

Public are invited to Sir Clement Maynard memorial service

THE family and friends of Sir Clement Maynard have invited the public to attend a memorial service for their father on Saturday, October 10.

As "a national hero" Sir Clement is to receive a state funeral, but the memorial will be "for the people", said Pastor Myles Munroe, who will preside over the service for the former Deputy Prime Minister.

"Today we are talking about a national hero. The memorial service is for the people. There are many who have been impacted by him and those who may not be able to attend the state funeral will have the opportunity to celebrate his life at this memorial," said Mr



SIR CLEMENT MAYNARD

SEE page eight

New tropical storm 'could affect Bahamas'

BAHAMAS Chief Meteorologist Basil Dean yesterday said his department is closely monitoring a newly formed tropical storm that has the potential of affecting the Bahamas.

"Henri" became the eighth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs until November 30, after pick-

ing up strength yesterday afternoon.

While reports coming from the National Hurricane Centre in Miami were that the storm would likely die out soon as it is projected to "run into a front coming down from the north," Mr Dean said the storm

SEE page eight

Beryl Hanna, wife of Governor General, 'is in poor health'

MRS Beryl Hanna, wife of Governor General Arthur Hanna, is reported to be in poor health at the Princess Margaret Hospital.

According to a family friend, Mrs Hanna has had her husband by her side as she is currently being assisted to breath on a hospital ventilator.

Suffering from Alzheimer's disease for some time, the former chairman of the National Commission for the International Year of the Child (1979) has been a fixture in Bahamian politics, standing side-by-side with her husband during the women's

SEE page eight

CORRECTION

SENIOR Justice Anita Allen did not recuse herself from hearing the retrial of Troyniko McNeil on Monday as previously reported, but rather took the matter off her calendar. The prosecution had filed an application to have the case moved to another court. McNeil, 22, who is accused of the November 2007 murder of internationally recognised handbag designer Harl Taylor, remains on remand. It is not yet known who will now hear the retrial, or when it will begin.

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LOCAL NEWS

GREEN-MINDED MOTHER APPEALS TO NASSAU RESIDENTS TO RESTORE A BEAUTY SPOT



Help clean up
MONTAGU
BEACH

By **MEGAN REYNOLDS**
Tribune Staff Reporter
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

AN ENVIRONMENTALLY-conscious mother-of-two is calling on Nassau residents to help clean-up Montagu foreshore this weekend to help restore the coastline to its natural beauty.

Jin Schmid, 30, started the 242 Clean Up when it became clear she would need more help getting rid of the refuse on New Providence's beaches than her sons, aged four and ten, could offer.

This weekend will be the third monthly clean-up of Montagu foreshore Miss Schmid has organised to improve the area where stinking and unsightly garbage accumulates on a daily basis.

She said: "It just started out of my love for the environment, and I want other people to get involved because they live here too."

"I have learned that people just don't care, they have become so complacent, and I'm trying to change that because it could be different if everybody just had a positive attitude about this while thing."

"Stop complaining about it and come out and do something about it!"

Miss Schmid is particularly keen for children to get involved in the clean-up effort so they may become more aware of how important it is to preserve the environment, and provoke a shift in consciousness among the future generations.

She also hopes as the group grows they will be able to tackle larger sites and pick up bigger items littering the coastlines of New Providence. The group will meet at the western end of Montagu foreshore, near the Nassau Yacht Club in East Bay Street, at 7am on Saturday, and will remain in the area for around two hours, or less if more people get involved.

Garbage bags and gloves have been donated to the cause by Miss Schmid's colleagues at the Mosko Group of companies.

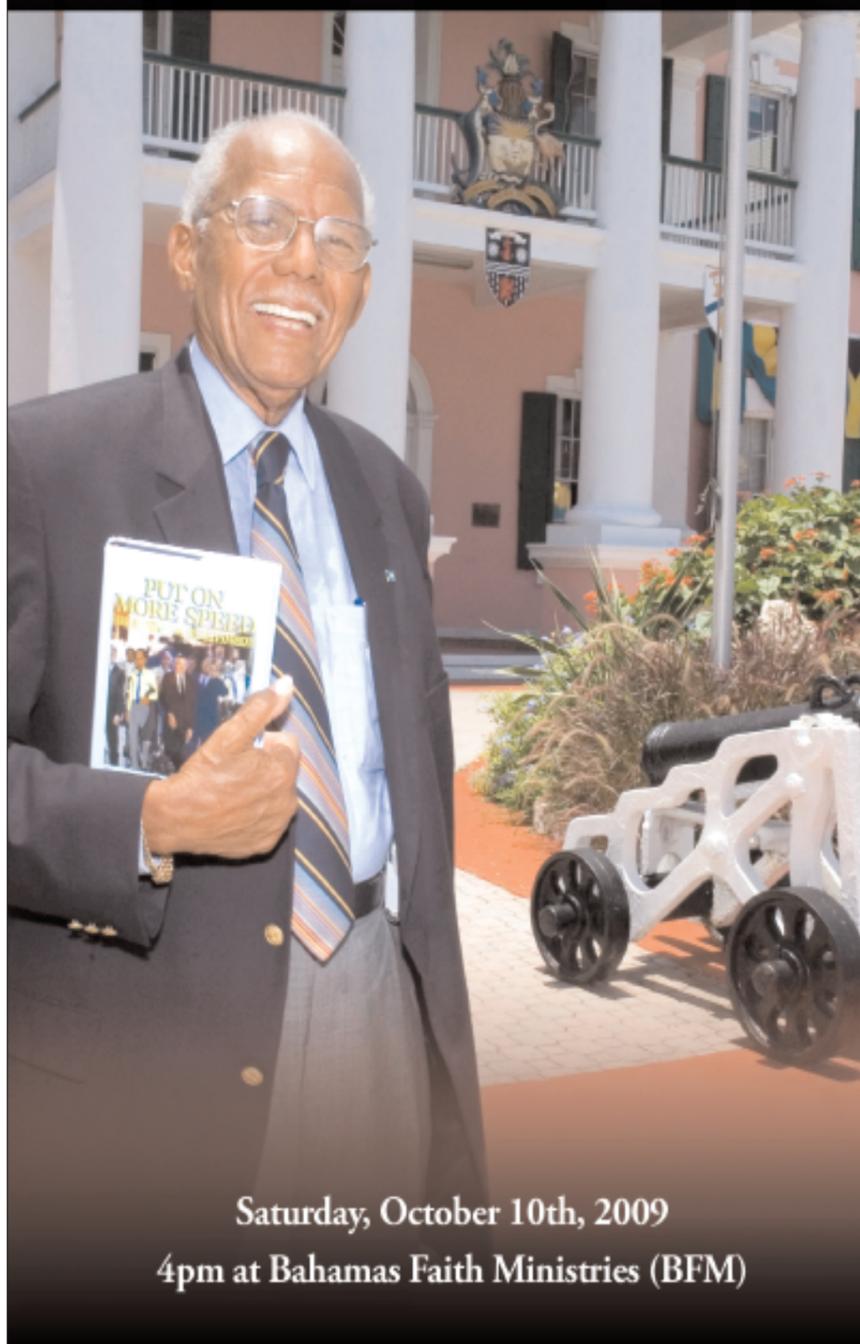
She said: "All you need to bring is yourself, a rake if you have one, a positive attitude, and some grease for your elbows."

For more information log on to www.facebook.com and search for the event, 242 Cleanup: MB Phase III, or email Miss Schmid on jinnerez@gmail.com.



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LOCAL NEWS

New HIV cases set to increase

FROM page one

organisation that assists in providing education, counselling, housing, medication and other basic necessities to people "infected and affected" by the virus.

Sandra Knowles, a director at major sponsor Colina Imperial Insurance Ltd and co-chair of the organising committee for the ball, reminded the public that "need knows no season" and now is not the time to give up on supporting the HIV/AIDS fight.

"We are hoping to raise at least \$50,000...but if we could maintain what we got last year, that would be a miracle and God's blessing," said Mrs Knowles.

Mrs Barnett noted that within the next couple of months the AIDS foundation is embarking on a new outreach initiative which will cost a significant amount of money.

The programme, aimed at providing support to adolescents suffering from HIV/AIDS, is expected to see trained professionals connect with the young people, who often struggled to cope with their healthcare regimes, on a weekly basis.

"The foundations wants to assist these young people to achieve their right to health and right to life. We would like to empower these youths to truly believe they are accepted, safe and well," said Mrs Barnett.

In this regard, Dr Gomez commented on the case of a 20-year-old man born with HIV as a result of his mother being infected who died in the last six weeks, "in short, because of neglect."

"He had no support, he lived alone, aged 20, parents deceased, no help," said Dr Gomez.

Despite advances made by the National AIDS programme and the AIDS foundation, the NAP director said the fight against HIV/AIDS still has a long way to go in The Bahamas and therefore still needs the support of members of the public and corporate donors.

Highlighting this, he noted that although The Bahamas has been described as a model of best practice for reducing mother-to-child HIV transmission, last year saw four babies born with HIV to HIV positive mothers.

"Stigma and discrimination remains a huge problem that keeps people away from care. In the mother-to-child programme we went for a few years with almost no transmission at all from mother to child in people who came for care.

"We normally have one or two (babies born with HIV each year). Last year we had four women who had no ante-natal care, so we had four children born with HIV last year.

"That's the most we've had in ages and so there's still a lot to do with maintaining the programme of awareness and care and making sure that people get in for care," said Dr Gomez, who also noted that The Bahamas' standout reputation for good ante-natal care for HIV/AIDS infected mothers has seen numerous women travel here in recent years from across the region seeking care in the country's public clinics.

Providing a cumulative overview of the impact of HIV/AIDS in the Bahamas since it was first detected in this country, Dr Gomez said that up to the end of 2008 a total of 6,103 people in The Bahamas have contracted AIDS — 3,626 men and 2,477 women. Of these, "4,000 plus" have died already, or 66 per cent, while 2,078 are "alive and living well with AIDS."

Meanwhile, up to the end of 2008 there was also a cumulative total of 5,387 people infected with HIV, 2,678 men and 2,726 women.

That means that there are around 7,400 people living in The Bahamas at the moment who are known to be infected with HIV/AIDS, with a current "one to one" male to female ratio — a change from the historically greater prevalence of HIV/AIDS in men than women.

Dr Gomez noted that there are also "certainly people who have HIV/AIDS and do not know because they have never been tested", meaning that the actual rate may be much higher.

Successful HIV/AIDS treatment makes virus rate appear higher

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

IN AN ironic twist in the fight against HIV/AIDS, success in treating people living with the virus has seen the Bahamas appear to have a higher HIV/AIDS rate than resource-poor countries like Haiti.

According to Perry Gomez, director of the National Aids Programme, the fact that there are now fewer people dying from AIDS in the Bahamas thanks to wider access to medication and awareness has meant there are more people alive to be recorded in the statistics which are shared internationally.

Currently, the Bahamas is documented by the Joint United Nations AIDS Programme (UNAIDS) as having an HIV/AIDS rate among people aged 15 to 49 of three per cent. The same grouping in Haiti has a rate of 2.2 per cent, Cuba, 0.1 per cent rate, Jamaica, 1.6, Trinidad and Tobago, 1.5, and Barbados, 1.2.

"The fact is we have done such a good job of keeping people alive has added to the figures. The fewer people who die, the more you have with AIDS alive. And so when one looks at country data, and this is important for us. You might wonder why our prevalence remains being reported relatively high, higher than some countries that might surprise you."

Dr Gomez said it is "important to understand the nuances of statistics."

"As someone once said, 'There are lies, damn lies and statistics'," joked the official. Over the last three years the number of cases where HIV progressed to AIDS has diminished significantly.

By the end of 2008, 185 new cases of AIDS — the final stage of HIV infection, which sees the body's immune system weakened to the point that it has serious difficulty fighting infections — had been recorded in the Bahamas, compared with 221 in 2007 and 329 in 2006.

The highest ever number of cases in one year of HIV progressing to AIDS — a pro-



SANDRA SMITH, co-chair Red Ribbon Ball Committee; Perry Gomez, director of National AIDS Programme; Camille Barnett, President AIDS Foundation; Sandra Knowles, co-chair Red Ribbon Ball Committee; Inga Bowleg, John Bull.

"The fewer people who die, the more you have with AIDS alive. And so when one looks at country data, and this is important for us."

Perry Gomez, director of National AIDS Programme

gression which is more rapid if HIV positive individuals do not take anti-retroviral drugs — was 382 in 1997, and the rate has decreased year on year ever since.

Of the 185 AIDS cases in 2008, 65 people died and 120 remained alive at the end of the year.

Dr Gomez noted that this ensured that there were fewer people who died of AIDS last year than who lost their lives as victims of murder.

This success in keeping sufferers alive is in contrast to struggling countries like Haiti, where fewer people who contract the virus seek or receive treatment and therefore often

die, removing them from data that is documented by international organisations which monitor the pandemic.

On top of the impact of this success on the rate, Dr Gomez claimed to "totally believe" that international organisations have exaggerated the Bahamas' rate, pegged at around three per cent.

The rate would also be increased by the success of a Know Your Status Campaign which continues to encourage people to get tested for HIV/AIDS.

Mr Gomez revealed that last year the National AIDS programme had been able to get "significant testing done" in the "men who have sex with men" community (MSM) in the Bahamas, a group which is known to be more likely than most not to seek testing or treatment for fear of discrimination.

The introduction of a new "rapid testing" technique, now available at all public clinics in New Providence and about to be launched across Grand Bahama, is expected to make a further impact in this regard, adding to the numbers of people who know their status by making the experience less time consuming.

The testing technique, which is as accurate as traditional methods, enables people to get tested and receive their results in less than half an hour — much quicker than the days in which people would have to wait to get blood test results back from a laboratory.

Father of murder accused claims police refused him access to son

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
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FREEPORT — The father of murder accused Wilfred McPhee Jr told the Supreme Court yesterday that on several occasions the police refused to allow him to see his son, who was taken into custody in October 2007.

McPhee and Edwin Bauld Jr are accused of the murder, kidnapping and robbery of Corporal Eddison Bain.

Wilfred McPhee Sr, an immigration officer now working in Abaco, said he was stationed in Freeport when his son was arrested.

He received news of his son's arrest from his nephew, police officer Reo McPhee.

"I went to Central Police Station around 11am the following morning... to see him and to get information, but I was not allowed to see him," he said.

Mr McPhee said he returned the following day and the day after, but was turned away on both occasions.

He told the court that he was finally allowed to see McPhee on the fourth visit when accompanied by his daughter, who is a police officer.

"It appeared that the police had already completed their investigations," he said.

Mr McPhee said his son was concerned that his right to speak with an attorney had been violated.

The witness said he never received a call from his son while he was in custody.

The body of Corporal Bain was discovered by police in a ditch near the Casuarina

Bridge on October 22, 2007. A large stone was found resting on the side of his face. His hands and feet had been bound.

Sgt Darrell Rolle, lead police investigator, testified earlier that both Bauld and McPhee gave signed statements to police concerning the murder of Corporal Bain.

Mario Gray, who is representing McPhee Jr, 26, suggested during his cross-examination of Inspector Michael Brathwaite that he and other officers denied his client the right to see his family and a lawyer.

Mr Brathwaite denied the assertion. He said McPhee's father, sister, and baby visited him, but he could not recall exactly when.

Inspector Brathwaite also denied Mr Gray's assertion that he had threatened to kill McPhee's family members if they came to the station.

Mr Gray also claimed that his client was abused by police officers.

"I am going to put it to you that you were present when officer Rolle wrapped a towel around his fist and punched McPhee about the head.

"I am also going to put it to you that you saw when officer McSweeney put a towel around a bat and poked McPhee with it," suggested Mr Gray.

Mr Brathwaite denied the assertions.

Last week, McPhee Jr was taken to hospital for evaluation after he claimed to be insane. Officers found him in his holding cell with faeces smeared on his body and on the walls.

Acting Justice Jethro Miller is presiding over the case.

Vernal Collie and Erica Kemp of the Attorney General's Office are the prosecutors. K Brian Hanna represents Bauld.

The trial resumes on Wednesday.

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US leery of direct talks with N Korea

WASHINGTON — North Korea's suggestion that it may return to nuclear negotiations could open the way to its first talks with the Obama administration, but there are warning signs that the North has no intention of fully disarming.

The administration is eager to get North Korea on track toward giving up its nuclear weapons capability even though the White House remains leery of the regime's pattern of progress followed by provocation. The North agreed in 2007 to dismantle its nuclear arms programme but then reversed course. Last April and May it conducted nuclear and missile tests, coupled with a declaration that negotiations were dead, then reversed course again, reaching out to the U.S. after former President Bill Clinton met in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il.

The State Department on Tuesday declined to comment on news reports that Kim told Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Monday that he might be prepared to resume so-called six party negotiations with the U.S., China, Russia, Japan and South Korea. Kim was reported to have said a resumption depended on progress in talks with the U.S.

But a State Department official said Tuesday that the U.S. will not agree to one-on-one talks unless it is given assurances in advance that the outcome will be a deal to resume six-party negotiations.

The official said the U.S. hopes to hear from China on Wednesday whether Kim gave such an assurance in Monday's meeting with Wen, who was in Pyongyang for the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Obama administration has said it is willing to hold one-on-one talks with North Korea so long as it leads to a return to the six-party effort, which Washington sees as a more effective way of applying diplomatic leverage. The last six-party talks were held in December 2008; in April the North Koreans announced they would never return to that format and that they were expanding their nuclear force.

Scott Snyder, director of the Centre

for U.S.-Korea Policy at the Asia Foundation, said it is unclear whether the administration would be wise to go ahead with either one-on-one or multiparty talks.

"Without North Korea's recommitment to complete denuclearization, neither form of dialogue can achieve U.S. objectives," Snyder said.

Bruce Bennett, a North Korea watcher at the RAND Corp. think tank, said it appears the North Koreans are trying to "bait" the Americans into negotiations that have no realistic chance of achieving disarmament.

"I don't think North Korea at this stage is willing to give up its nuclear weapons," Bennett said in an interview. "It would appear the North Korean objective is to be recognised as a nuclear power, not to denuclearize."

In anticipation of a North Korean assurance that the one-on-one talks could lead to the return of six-party negotiations, the administration has been laying the groundwork for a one-on-one dialogue. Richard C. Bush III, an Asia expert at the Brookings Institution and former U.S. government intelligence officer, said the administration may send Stephen Bosworth, its special envoy on North Korea. The purpose, he said, should be to assess the North Korean attitude and to emphasize the importance of denuclearization, but not to negotiate one-on-one.

"But I don't really see much in what Kim Jong Il reportedly said to indicate that the situation has really changed," Bush said, adding that the Koreans' apparent aim is to negotiate over what they perceive to be a hostile U.S. policy, not to negotiate an airtight elimination of their nuclear weapons.

"Until there is credible evidence that North Korea again might be willing to give up its nuclear weapons in a complete and verifiable way, it's not clear that the six-party talks — or any venue, for that matter — is an appropriate way to reach that goal," Bush said.

(This article was written by Robert Burns, AP National Security Writer).

You want a curfew? I'll buy you a ticket to North Korea!

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I read perhaps the scariest headline ever in the Bahamian media on October 5th in *The Tribune* newspaper. It called for an 11pm curfew! The first thing I did was run home and check my passport to ensure that I was still Bahamian and was still in The Bahamas!

The article did want this curfew to be voluntarily implemented by parents and guardians. However, this was only a consolation as the writer said that "...as politicians, worried about getting

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

elects are not inclined to take unusual steps to confront this national nightmare." The fact that someone would voluntarily ask (or beg) to live under a government dictatorship is beyond me. I've lived several places in the Western world and for the faults of my country, I always felt safe in the "big village and community" of the Bahamas. I always felt protected from

draconian laws, excessive police control and loss of human rights that other countries experience.

A curfew would destroy this sense of innocence and freedom in The Bahamas. I relate and sympathise with the writer in how to solve the crime issue, but I can assure you that a curfew is not the way.

ANONYMOUS
CONCERNED
BAHAMIAN
Nassau,
October 5, 2009.

Conditions for students at COB are completely unacceptable

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I write today about conditions at COB; not the recent "industrial" unrest at the College of The Bahamas necessarily. As the public may know, there is a stalled collective agreement negotiation at COB but I am not writing this letter to complain about that.

Given the hardships that so many face in this country today I wouldn't dare complain about the fact that my salary hasn't been increased. The benefits I enjoy as a faculty member at the College are the envy of many. But I am writing to complain and complain bitterly, about the conditions at COB for students.

Currently at COB there is not a single water fountain. Students who want water to drink on campus must pay \$2.75 at Starbucks or leave campus and go to the food store or gas station. You cannot get a tuna sandwich, a stick of gum or a banana to eat! The cafeteria remains closed and instead of allowing small vendors on campus who can sell healthy foods we are trying to find yet another fast food joint to replace Sbarros. In our neglect we force these kids to go to the greasy gob joints across the street. You mean to tell me we can't even maintain a tuck shop on campus?

Many of the fans in the classrooms are broken and the air conditioning units in a number of them don't work properly. Students have too few shaded places to sit and unwind, away from the blazing sun. Students can't buy used books at the university bookstore on a consistent basis, which would significantly reduce their costs. And campus life is as dull and dreary as it was in 1985 when I attended COB. No, in fact it's worse than it was in 1985. At least then there was the occasional Halloween Dance or Miss COB pageant.

Who is to blame? Well, I could easily blame Hodder and her team for dropping the ball.

Awaiting quick action to improve St Cecelia's Park

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I, strongly advise that the minders of the St Cecelia's Park situated on the corner of Fifth Street and Poinciana Avenue provide:

1) A toilet facility (albeit a temporary portable potty), where users of the park can

urinate instead of near the fence or in the hedge.

2) An inadequate garbage bin to deposit litter.

3) Repair/replace swing set, monkey bars and see-saw set.

4) Instal lights to discourage late night vagrants who frequent the park.

Awaiting quick action!

WHITNEY S
MORTIMER-KING
Nassau,
August, 2009.

P.S. While you are at it, fix the west perimeter fence that the park shares with the family residence which sits just west of the park.

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LOCAL NEWS

Man saved by double lung transplant buys ventilator for campaign

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

A MAN whose life was saved by a double-lung transplant has purchased a ventilator for the Princess Margaret Hospital through the Breathe Easy Bahamas campaign.

Jorge Bacardi, 65, of Lyford Cay, understands how vital oxygen is to survival from his own direct experience as he suffered from the hereditary lung condition Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia (PCD) all his life.

The condition meant Mr Bacardi was not able to clear his lungs and allow for their natural repair, and the vital organs deteriorated over time.

In the years before he received the complicated surgery to replace both of his lungs, Mr Bacardi relied on an oxygen machine to aid his breathing while he slept and to help him catch his breath after any over-exertion.

For a man who thrives on an active lifestyle the condition was frustratingly limiting as he grew older, until the successful operation gave him a new lease on life.

Mr Bacardi was on the waiting list to receive new lungs at a Florida hospital for 10 months before he received a call in the middle of the night and was told he had hours to get to the United States to receive the donation.

A 19-year-old named Christopher Mark Gregory had died in New Orleans of a brain aneurysm on March 27, 2008.

He had signed the donor register and his young lungs were flown to the Mayo Clinic while Mr Bacardi and his wife Leslie, 60, chartered a flight from the airport in New Providence to Jacksonville at 1.30am.

Customs and immigration officers met them on the plane to clear their entry to the United States, and a helicopter pulled

up alongside to take them to the hospital.

Mrs Bacardi said: "Lungs are the most delicate organ for transplant and last the least amount of time, so we had to get there within three or four hours or that would be it."

"It's about the most difficult operation there is, from finding a donor to medical procedure, but he has responded remarkably well and now has an active lifestyle again, and he knows how important oxygen is."

Mr and Mrs Bacardi expressed their gratitude by contacting Christopher's family through the donor system, and they corresponded in this way for around a year before they were able to write to each other freely.

The couple went to meet the boy's family in Baltimore, and the family have visited their relatives in Puerto Rico. Mr and Mrs Bacardi are now looking forward to having Christopher's parents, Eric and Grace Gregory,



LESLIE AND JORGE BACARDI enjoy a day out on the boat.

ry, visit them in the Bahamas.

Mrs Bacardi said: "It's an amazing relationship and they are incredible people."

"It's amazing that they were able to take something that is such a huge disaster and tragedy in their lives and turn it into something positive."

"Their son saved five people's lives and gave sight to two people. It's a huge comfort to them."

Mr Bacardi has benefited remarkably from the surgery, as unlike the majority of transplant recipients he experienced no rejection of the organs and does not require the aid of an oxygen machine.

For him, the anti-rejection drugs are working, and while he needs to take some more care than the average person and attend regular check-ups at the Mayo Clinic, he now lives a healthy and active life.

Mrs Bacardi told *The Tribune*: "He's a very strong individual and had an active life for years, but it came to a point where his lung function was very limited and he had to use oxygen."

"He now has a completely new lease on life. He's back in the water sailing and diving, and doing all sorts of activities. Everything is going well, we are



LESLIE AND JORGE BACARDI with Eric and Grace Gregory.

very, very blessed.

The Bacardis donated two dialysis machines during a campaign in 2007, and when they saw *Breathe Easy Bahamas* advertised in the newspaper they again chose to do something to give back to the community.

Breathe Easy Bahamas aims to raise \$300,000 to buy four ventilators and six incubators for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the Princess Margaret Hospital. It has so far raised \$156,055.

Mrs Bacardi said: "We have been blessed beyond belief. We are really, really lucky."

"Buying this ventilator is just a gesture from us to the community for other people who have respiratory problems. When we saw the campaign and we just thought it was perfect."

To make a donation contact Michele Rassin on 302-4707, Mark Roberts on 326-8453 or Thelma Rolle at the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation on 502-7886. Donors may also call *The Tribune* on 502-2394.

Bahamas listed in top half of the best countries to live

ACCORDING to the UN's Human Development Report 2009 the Bahamas ranks of 52nd out of 182 countries.

Each year since 1990 the Human Development Report has published the human development index (HDI) which looks beyond GDP to a broader definition of well-being.

The HDI provides a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy), being educated (measured by adult literacy and gross enrollment in education) and having a decent standard of living (measured by purchasing power parity).

The index is not in any sense a comprehensive measure of human develop-

ment. It does not, for example, include important indicators such as gender or income inequality nor more difficult to measure concepts like respect for human rights and political freedoms.

What it does provide is a broadened prism for viewing human progress and the complex relationship between income and well-being.

According to the report the Bahamas has an emigration rate of 10.8 per cent.

The major continent of destination for migrants from Bahamas is Northern America, where 84.7 per cent of them go.

In Bahamas, there are 31.6 thousand migrants which represent 9.7 per cent of the total population, the report said.

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The Broken Chain

Little did we know that day,
God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death, we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you.
You did not go alone.
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.

You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is still our guide.
And although we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.

—Author: Unknown

Cherished memories held
by his wife Mavis,
four children:
Youlanda, Christopher,
Lindel and Wendy;
Grandchildren:
Chrishanda,
Janai and Jaden.

We Miss You



Mervin Deveaux
April 26, 1932 - October 7, 2007

Christie, Smith and the Hotel Corporation

By LARRY SMITH

WELL, it seems that Perry Christie and George Smith have set themselves up as defenders of the Hotel Corporation of the Bahamas.

This is a big mistake, because it shows that the current leadership of the PLP is rooted in the past and has learnt nothing from the party's 30 years in power — or its electoral defeats since 1992.

Both men are emblematic of a discredited legacy. Smith was Exuma MP when Colombian gangsters used his constituency as a smuggling base. He figured prominently in the 1984 commission of inquiry into drug corruption, and was resurrected as the Hotel Corporation's chairman during the PLP's last term.

Sir Lynden Pindling fired Mr Christie from the PLP cabinet when it was rumoured that he and his fellow cabinet minister, Hubert Ingraham, had planned to resign over drug trafficking. However, Mr Christie soon returned to the fold. He secured his succession to the throne by defending former Hotel Corporation chairman Sir Lynden during the 1993 commission of inquiry into corruption and incompetence.

Christie and Smith portray the Ingraham administration's promise to abolish the Hotel Corporation by the end of this year as a sign that the FNM "is philosophically moving away from the view that there is an advantage to the government having some involvement in the industry."

But the FNM was opposed to the Pindling regime's takeover of the hotel sector from day one. In fact, more than 30 years ago PLP cabinet



minister Paul Adderley said the FNM's position signified "a capitalist, private interest philosophy that is no longer valid."

There was a running battle between the two parties over the financial chicanery at the Hotel Corporation right up until 1992, when the first



Ingraham government set up an inquiry. In 1997 the FNM promised to "transform the Corporation into an agency to support and promote the development of out island resorts."

Although that didn't happen, when the PLP was re-elected in 2007 it pledged the same thing. This marked a recognition by both parties that the Hotel Corporation's track record was the worst of

any state enterprise in the Bahamas.

The Corporation's 1974 enabling legislation gave it the power to "carry out any undertakings needed to achieve its purposes". It was used as a gigantic slush fund for decades, wasting hundreds of millions in public funds. That's why it is so remarkable that Smith and Christie can continue to say with a straight face that the Corporation has "proven beneficial" to the Bahamas and can still play a "constructive role" in tourism.

Let's go back to the summer of 1974 when it all began. The Arab oil embargo had produced a sharp recession in the US, which led to a downturn in travel to the Bahamas. Faced with a loss of tourism jobs for the first time in a generation, the government stepped in to buy three failing hotels on Cable Beach — the Ambassador, Emerald and Balmoral Beach — for a total of \$20 million.

Then Prime Minister Lynden Pindling dressed up the purchase with typical rhetoric. As well as stimulating the economy and providing jobs, he said, "we wanted to develop a major and outstanding touristic facility to cater to the top economic bracket (with) a first class entertainment and convention centre."

But things went downhill from the start. The board was packed with PLP loyalists and failed to produce financial statements for the first few

years. In 1976 more millions were spent to buy the Cable Beach golf course and three hotels in Freeport. And by the end of the decade the Corporation was in "grave financial difficulties" and the subject of heated disputes in parliament.

Although he denied that the government wanted to take over the hotel sector, Pindling nevertheless boasted that the Corporation now had "a good foothold" in the industry. The next step was to replace the rundown Emerald Beach (which was demolished in 1979) with a flagship hotel and convention centre.

The Cable Beach Hotel opened in 1983 following numerous mishaps and mistakes, including the expenditure of \$100 million on a project that everyone on the prime minister down agreed would never be economically viable. The inquiry report devotes many pages to this complex debacle.

"At the outset costs were totally ignored...and a sum of \$7 million was wasted on (the) initial phase...This attitude continued throughout the life of the project, and no proper feasibility study was ever carried out...The tendering process was not properly handled...The hotel could not conceivably support a development cost of \$100 million...But the chairman continued to insist that the project had to go forward regardless of whether it was viable or not."

At different times, the various hotels and casinos owned by the Hotel Corporation were leased out to well-known industry names like Jack Tar, Wyndham, Playboy, Carnival and Canadian-Pacific. But the contracts and their terminations were always highly controversial.

The most egregious case was when the cabinet made a deal with Carnival to run the Cable Beach Hotel while it still had a long-term operating agreement with Wyndham. This unusual "marriage before the divorce" resulted in "disastrous losses" of some \$100 million for the Corporation.

Unfazed, the Corporation continued on its acquisition spree. In 1985 it bought the 20-room Lighthouse Club at Fresh Creek, Andros along with thousands of acres of vacant land on Andros and Eleuthera. The following year it acquired the Freeport Holiday Inn and went on to build a multi-million-dollar headquarters building on Cable Beach, described as "a magnificent monument and landmark."

According to then chairman Paul Adderley, "the Bahamian people, through the Hotel Corporation, ought to be owners of, and initiators of, touristic development in the Bahamas." He later announced with much fanfare a Family Island Development Plan that called for the Hotel Corporation to build small modular resorts on Andros, Eleuthera and Exuma. His grandiose plan went exactly nowhere — except for the little-known Las Palmas Hotel on Andros.

The Las Palmas (now known as the Emerald Palms) is the most fascinating example of the Corporation's crookedness. Built in the 1960s, it was acquired in 1975 by Pindling's chief crony, Everette Bannister, with money from fugitive American swindler Robert Vesco. Las Palmas was the prime minister's base camp whenever he was in his Mangrove Cay constituency. From 1976 to 1984 it was managed by Resorts International as a favour to Pindling, who was given a cottage at the resort.

In 1986 Mangrove Cay resident Benjamin Forbes bought the hotel with a \$600,000 loan from the Bahamas Development Bank, and none of his own money. When Forbes defaulted, the Hotel Corporation (in the person of CEO Balron Bethel) stepped in to buy Las Palmas for \$650,000, plus an extra \$34,000 for Forbes. The Corporation then spent \$1.6 million to renovate the hotel (as well as Pindling's cottage).

By 1992 — even though industry conditions were probably worse than they were in 1974 — the emphasis was on getting out of the hotel business in order to stem the mounting losses.

The hotels were up for sale even before the government changed, but there was little interest until the new Ingraham administration struck an investment deal with Sol Kerzner.

In the mid-90s three hotels in Freeport and two in Nassau were sold off. Las Palmas was not sold until 2000, and the Cable Beach Hotel remained in government hands until it was acquired by Baha Mar in 2005. According to Michael Scott, the current chairman, the Corporation's remaining assets are 7,500 acres on Andros (including the Lighthouse Club) and 3,500 acres in South Eleuthera. And the Lighthouse club costs up to a million a year to run at less than 30 per cent occupancy — half of the Corporation's \$2 million annual budget.

Efforts are ongoing to sell these properties, but the Hotel Corporation Act will be repealed by the end of the year regardless, with any remaining lands conveyed to the government. According to Scott, this is part of "our embrace of new realities in the tourism industry. We are too focused on North American mass tourism and we cannot compete with Cuba on this level. Our market niche — especially in the out islands — is low-density, high-end boutique resorts. We need to look beyond the Hotel Corporation and engage in a lot of creative thinking to promote this paradigm shift."

The view seems to be that there is a need to promote not only financial services and tourism, but investments in the broader sense of the word, in the same way that the UK, Canada and the US have departments that are focused entirely on promoting investments in a world that has become significantly more competitive.

Some experts say that the failure to develop tourism in the out islands is due to a failure to see internal air and sea transportation as infrastructure that needs to be developed. And to do this we need to loosen the constraints on foreign and local investments in these areas. Such development will never happen without the necessary incentives and policy changes.

So the current thinking is not about replacing the Hotel Corporation, but reformulating the role of an investment and development agency to ensure that all of the red tape that investors abhor will be eliminated and prospective investors will be treated as clients to be shepherded through the process. At the same time, it is important to remove any differences in treatment between local and foreign investors.

This change in thinking is long overdue — indeed very survival as a major tourism player may depend on it. Tough call was a writer for the Bahamas News Bureau in the late 1970s and travelled to most islands producing features on tourism. Lately, I have been in a position to travel to the islands again to produce articles. I can say that with the exception of Abaco, things are no different from what they were 30 plus years ago — and worse in some cases.

Let Christie and Smith live in the past — we need to move on.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

My research for this article, and the one published last week, included a request for annual reports from two public bodies — the Hotel Corporation and the Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities Board.

The House of Assembly could not provide a copy of the Hospitals Board 2007 report, which was tabled in December 2008. Government Publications did not have it

and the Board itself (chaired by Dr Kirk Culmer) flatly refused to provide it — hanging up on me to make the point even finer. They referred me to the Minister of Health, Dr Hubert Minnis who promised to ask the House of Assembly for a copy.

That's what is known as a vicious circle.

My experience with the Hotel Corporation was a little more sophisticated.

The chairman, Mike Scott, agreed to provide a copy of the 2007 report, noting that the 2008 report had not yet been laid in the House and so was not a public document.

He later said he could only provide the 2005 report — the 2006 and 2007 reports not having been tabled yet. Here we have a public corporation whose board has approved audited financial reports that have been seen by cabinet long ago and that relate to the spending of taxpayer money, but are still considered secret documents.

These two examples make it glaringly plain to me that a Freedom of Information Act in the Bahamas would be an absolute and idiotic waste of time.

SOUTH RIDING POINT TERMINAL



EARL DEVEAUX

The oil storage terminal at South Riding Point on Grand Bahama is an environmental disaster, sources say — possibly resembling a Siberian oil swamp.

Environment Minister Earl Deveaux told me recently that a team of independent experts will be contracted to investigate the site and prescribe a clean-up programme, which is a condition of the terminal's pending sale. In other words, the government has approved the sale subject to certain conditions.

The 155-acre terminal is a break-bulk point for crude oil destined for the United States. Located 35 miles east of Freeport, it includes a 6.75 million-gallon tank farm connected to an offshore docking facility by two underwater pipelines. The docking facility can accommodate tankers up to 500,000 tons in water 105-feet deep.

The relatively shallow water access to US gulf coast and east coast ports means that the final delivery of crude oil from the North Sea, Middle East, North Africa and other points of origin must be accomplished in smaller, shuttle-size vessels. Grand Bahama's deep-water access makes it ideal for this purpose.

Acquisition of the South Riding Point terminal by the Norwegian company, StatoilHydro, for \$263.2 million is a strategic move designed to strengthen StatoilHydro's marketing and trading position in North America.

The terminal was developed in 1975 by Burmah Oil, a British company, and sold to South Riding Point Holdings in 1985. Canada's World Point Terminal acquired the facility in 1989 and agreed to sell the terminal, along with a 50 per cent interest in Freeport Tug and Towing Services, to StatoilHydro in July.

What do you think?
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LOCAL NEWS

PLP: DEPUTY LEADERSHIP RACE

Former Trade Minister backs Philip 'Brave' Davis

Leslie Miller declares his support on national radio

By PAUL G TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
pturnquest@tribunemedia.net

PHILIP 'Brave' Davis picked up yet another endorsement in his bid for the deputy leadership of the PLP after the former Minister of Trade and Industry Leslie Miller publicly backed him on national radio yesterday.

Noting the serious economic and social challenges that Bahamians are facing, Mr Miller said Mr Davis brings a level of maturity and experience to the table which is badly needed at this time.

"He is always there willing to help you.

"Anytime you are in a problem, the first person you call is Brave.

"And Brave's message of change has connected with young voters and the country understands that today's voters are only concerned about getting the job done and fixing the problems that they face on a daily basis," Mr Miller said.

Addressing the show's host Ortlund H Bodie Jr on his 'Real Talk' programme, Mr Miller said the time for "cotton candy politics" is over.

"You know the kind of politics where they say a lot and not accomplishing a lot. That is finished with," Mr Miller said.

Having already garnered the support of the sitting deputy leader Cynthia Pratt, Mr Davis is seen by many within the party to be the front runner for the position having launched a multi-faceted campaign complete with radio and TV-advertisements, a website, and almost daily e-mail updates.

In the race with Mr Davis is PLP MP for West End and Bimini Obie Wilchcombe who also at one point was rumoured to be the candidate to beat having been credited as one of the most charismatic speakers within the party.

However, since Mr Wilchcombe's launch, PLP Senator Jerome Fitzgerald has also made his intentions know to run for the deputy leadership of the party.

However, having criticized Mr Christie in the past when he said that it would be a mistake for either Mr Christie or Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham to run again for office, Mr Fitzgerald has had to make up a lot of ground with



ENDORSEMENT: Philip 'Brave' Davis, who has received the backing of Leslie Miller (inset)

PLP stalwart councilors who were "put off" by this remark.

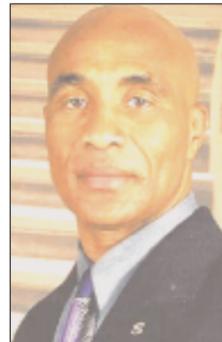
In his visit to the MORE 94.9FM programme yesterday, Mr Miller implored all PLP delegates who will be

voting at the party's forthcoming convention on October 21 to cast their vote for Mr Davis as he is "truly committed" to the uprising of those who are in dire needs.

FNM: CHAIRMANSHIP BATTLE

Ivoine Ingraham: I've received big support from party members

By TANEKA THOMPSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
tthompson@tribunemedia.net



IVOINE INGRAHAM

LONG-standing FNM activist Ivoine Ingraham said he has received overwhelming support from party members since announcing his intent to vie for the chairmanship at the party's upcoming convention.

He added that many FNMs are disgruntled because they feel they are not getting "enough support" from government and are not fully aware of the positive initiatives government has undertaken.

Mr Ingraham said the party needs a unifying force that will put out small fires within constituencies and pacify frustrated supporters.

"The reaction surprisingly has been overwhelming in favour of me. They see a new and innovative approach to the post because in the past not enough focus was given to solidifying the party especially while it is in office. It is incumbent upon the chairman to make the party look good and to ensure that the party's platform is being adhered to," he told *The Tribune*.

Mr Ingraham, the party's chief protocol officer and a self-described second-generation FNM, said if he is elected to the post he would immediately focus on gearing up the party machinery for the next general election.

"All of our past chairmen have done considerable work for the FNM, all of them have their strengths but I bring to the table a level of enthusiasm - I can go the extra mile," he said.

According to Mr Ingraham, when the FNM was in opposition from 2002 to 2007, he was one of the few voices who advanced the party's position and kept the then government's feet to the fire.

"I'm not new to doing what's necessary to fight for the party; I've done it before without the instruction," he said.

Currently Mr Ingraham is the only person to have declared his intent to publicly challenge current FNM chairman Johnley Ferguson at the party's November convention.

However, FNM deputy-chairman Senator Anthony Musgrove and former FNM candidate for the Kennedy constituency Michael Turnquest are rumoured to be possible contenders.

Bahamas urged to stop treating older persons with youthful 'arrogance'

Permanent Secretary in Labour Ministry sends out plea to country

THE World Health Organisation estimates that there are around 600 million persons over the age of 60 worldwide and expects this number to double by 2025.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Social Development Barbara Burrows said the number of people over 60 will reach two billion by 2050 with the majority of them living in developing countries like the Bahamas.

"This means that we in the Bahamas must begin, from today, to face this fact and respond to the challenges to deal with older persons in our society," Mrs Burrows said. "We must not be so youthfully arrogant and view older persons as burdens. Older persons still have significant contributions to make to society and they continue to be productive," she said.

Speaking during a service at Ebenezer Methodist Church to mark the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Older Persons, Mrs Burrows said older persons should be appreciated, respected and included in all facets of society as they still have contributions to make.



OLDER PERSONS celebrate the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Older Persons.

"Many retired individuals can tutor students or help with after school programmes."

ed in all facets of society as they still have contributions to make.

"Many retired individuals can tutor students or help with after school programmes," she said. "Older persons can be mentors to younger persons to help them make healthy choices



PASTOR of Ebenezer Methodist Church Rev Dr Godfrey Bethell told older persons to continue making contributions to society.

and steer them in the right direction."

Mrs Burrows said older persons enjoy helping and being independent and "should be allowed their right to be active in society."

She also warned Bahamians that in their dealings with older people, they

should consider their own future years.

"We cannot think we can abuse and neglect seniors today and society will suddenly become more age tolerant as we age.

"We must set the example of treating older persons properly."



CREDITORS OF BAHAMAS UTILITIES COOPERATIVE CREDIT UNION LIMITED

Bahamas Utilities Cooperative Credit Union Limited a Cooperative registered in accordance with Chapter 314 section 187 of the Cooperative Societies Act 2005.

Notice is hereby given that The Director of Cooperative Societies has been advised:

1. Pursuant to Chapter 314 Section 99 of the Cooperative Societies Act 2005, of the transfer of the Assets & Liabilities from Bahamas Utilities Cooperative Credit Union Limited to National Workers Cooperative Credit Union Limited.

2. By virtue of Section 100 of the Cooperative Societies Act creditors other than members depositors within 90 days of the date and publication of this notice, commencing on the 6th of October, A.D. 2009, having any claim(s) against the above-named Cooperative are hereby duly informed to submit particulars of claims and/or objection(s) to the transfer of assets and liabilities of Bahamas Utilities Cooperative Credit Union Limited to National Workers Cooperative Credit Union Limited, on or before January 6th, A.D.2010.

Claims and objections are to be submitted in writing to the Director of Societies, Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, Levy Building, P. O. Box N-3028, Nassau, The Bahamas.

Dated this 6th day of October, A.D. 2009
Nathaniel A. Adderley
DIRECTOR OF SOCIETIES

British American Financial Breast Cancer Tip

When diagnosed with breast cancer, you can become preoccupied with the cancer so much that certain feelings of helplessness, fear, frustration and self pity, linger and you may become stuck in the process of emotional healing. Get assistance from a support group or therapist to help you move forward.

You can survive breast cancer. Early detection through regular breast self-exams and a regular program of mammogram and physical exams are crucial steps that every woman should employ.



Sharon G. Brown

44

Date of Diagnosis: January 2008

The Tribune observes Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2009



LOCAL NEWS

Travolta attorney denies 'deception'
FROM page one

Mr Ducille suggested to Mr McDermott that from the onset, he had been a deceptive individual and "has carried his deception right through to the witness box." Mr McDermott denied the suggestion. "My suggestion is that you sought to give birth to an extortion," Mr Ducille said.

Mr McDermott replied, "I suggest that you can't handle the truth."

"You watched a Few Good Men eh?" Mr Ducille asked. Mr McDermott denied the suggestion that he had given birth to an extortion plot when asked by Senior Justice Allen to answer the initial question.

Mr Ducille asked Mr McDermott whether the "deal" he had arranged with Lightbourne was real. Mr McDermott said that the deal was real but that no money was to be passed.

"It was a real deal, simply not an enforceable contract," Mr McDermott said. Mr Ducille also suggested that after Mr McDermott had found out about the document regarding Mr Travolta he had travelled to the Bahamas to teach Bridgewater and Lightbourne a lesson.

McDermott said that he came to the Bahamas to find out more about the document and to involve local police in the matter.

"The highest you could put it was that there was a request. No demand was there," Mr Ducille suggested to Mr McDermott. Mr McDermott denied the suggestion.

The trial adjourned early yesterday after a female juror indicated that she was not feeling well shortly before the luncheon adjournment. When the trial resumed at 2.30pm the juror was absent and the foreman indicated that she was still feeling ill.

The trial is expected to continue at 10 o'clock this morning.

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Hand sanitizer distributed at schools after students warned about swine flu risks



FROM page one

Two New Providence schools have been equipped with hand sanitizer and dispensers following an Influenza A (H1N1) awareness seminar. Some scientists believe the second wave of the swine flu epidemic may soon be upon us, but the students at Oakes Field Primary School and the Centre for the Deaf will be prepared. The dispensers were donated by president of Electro Telecom Limited, Paul Smith, who also had them filled and installed in an effort to help the Ministry of Education in the promotion of good hygiene. Education officials, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, held a one day Influenza A (H1N1) planning and preparedness workshop with the aim of recruiting students to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Mr Smith, who was once a student of Oakes Field Primary himself, said he remembers how hard dengue fever hit the Bahamas when he was a child, crippling the school system. He explained that he decided to donate the sanitizer to the schools to help avoid a recurrence of this situation. Patricia Collins, deputy director of Education, thanked Mr Smith for his "generous and thoughtful" gift, which she said would do much to get the message of good hygiene across to the students. She encouraged everyone to place themselves in "prevention mode" in case there is in fact a second wave of swine flu.

PROVIDING MUSIC for the event was the Royal Bahamas Police Force Band, which also gave the students tips on how to avoid conflict.

Blaze in 'The Mud'

Then we'll have three to five hundred people there just looking at you and you can't get anything accomplished." Significant fires strike in the Mud every few years, according to Radio Abaco host Silbert Mills, who said Monday's blaze was one of the larger disasters. Living conditions lend themselves to a serious threat of fires in the Mud as a network of exposed electrical wires run across the ground and from house to house to power several homes with one generator, or tap electricity from the Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC) supply on the edge of the settlement. Mr Mills said: "These big fires will happen every couple of years and this was a big one."

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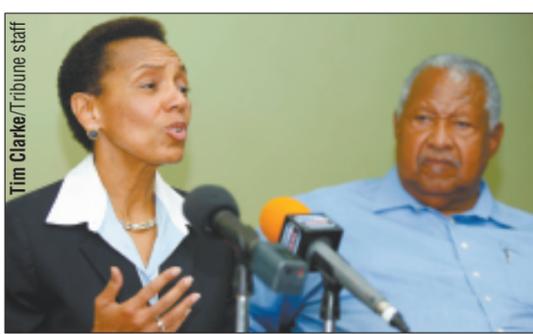
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Beryl Hanna, wife of Governor General, 'is in poor health'

sympathizer. In one of her last interviews on record, Mrs Hanna said she began to work more closely with the PLP shortly after women were granted the right to vote and pushed to ensure that they got registered. With the election of her husband to the post of deputy prime minister, Mrs Hanna worked tirelessly with her commission to protect the children of the Bahamas, even young juvenile offenders. Addressing the issue on November 14, 1979, Mrs Hanna read a proclamation by Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling, which declared the last Thursday in November as the universal Children's Day in commemoration of the International Year of the Child.

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SENATOR Allyson Maynard Gibson, daughter of Sir Clement Maynard, speaks to the media yesterday. Her brother Andrew Maynard looks on.

PUBLIC INVITED TO SIR CLEMENT MAYNARD SERVICE
FROM page one

Munroe. Members of Sir Clement's family, including Senator Allyson Maynard Gibson, accompanied by Mr Munroe and Sir Arthur Foulkes, yesterday held a press conference to announce the event. Mrs Maynard Gibson also took the opportunity to thank the public for their support since Sir Clement died last Friday, around a year and a half after suffering a debilitating stroke. The 81-year-old was a former Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tourism, Public Service, Labour, Works and Government Leader in Parliament. He also became the longest serving cabinet minister in the administration of Sir Lynden Pindling. Mrs Maynard Gibson said: "My family, especially my mother, and brothers want to sincerely thank the Bahamian people for your expressions of love, which have truly brought us comfort during this time."

Sir Arthur reflected on the struggle both he and Sir Clement endured to win rights for Bahamians, saying the deceased politician "played a pivotal role in what we call a progressive move within the country" and "loved this country and our people." Sir Arthur said his peer's death "has been a loss (to him)" and both he and Mr Munroe encouraged the public to honour him for the sacrifices he made to build the country. PLP leader Perry Christie, Sir Arthur Foulkes, along with other government officials, friends and loved ones will offer their reflections during the memorial, set to be held at the Diplomat Centre, Carmichael Road, at 4pm on Saturday. The state funeral is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, October 14, 2009.

FROM page one Tropical storm

was still worth watching. At 5pm yesterday Henri was located at latitude 17.8 north and longitude 54.0 west, around 1,700 miles from Miami. With wind speeds of just over 40 miles per hour, the storm was moving west north west at 18 miles per hour. "The computer models are certainly not in agreement today and so we have a cone of uncertainty," said Mr Dean. "It's moving to the north west, then its safe to say it could turn and maybe affect south east Bahamas sometime on Sunday if it makes that dip. We'll have to watch this very closely," he added.

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THE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES ACT, 2005
(Chapter 31:1)

ORDER, 2009

In Exercise of The powers conferred by Section 86 of The Cooperative Societies Act, 2005, the Director of Societies at the Commissioner of The Bahamas makes the following ORDER:-

To transfer all immovable assets of Bahamas Utilities Cooperative Credit Union Limited to National Workers Cooperative Credit Union Limited such as:

- (a) Property, building and contents thereof;
- (b) Ownership of all vehicles owned by the Society;
- (c) All assets and liabilities prescribed in the August 31st, 2009 special Audited Financial Statement adjusted for advances up to the date of this order.

The prescribed date of transfer of the Bahamas Utilities Cooperative Credit Union Limited to National Workers Cooperative Credit Union Limited will commence pursuant to sections 84, 89 and 100 of this Act.

Made this 6th day of October 2009

Neilmauel A. Jobberley
DIRECTOR OF SOCIETIES



Serena regains No. 1 ranking...

See page 10

PAGE 10 • Favre leads Vikings to victory over Packers...

For the best sporting action ...
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Being MVP of football camp has its perks

IN week four of the National Football League season, Leanne Gibbs and her family had an opportunity to experience their first NFL game in Kansas City, MO, with Chiefs wide receiver Devard Darling.

Winning the MVP of the Devard & Devaughn Darling Football Camp came with great perks. Not only did Leanne have the pleasure of bragging rights for a year, she and her family were treated to a trip to the US by Devard and the As One Foundation.

The young Bahamian athlete and her family visited the practice facility yesterday and had the opportunity to meet Chiefs head coach Todd Haley.

Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Devard Darling played host to the MVP of his summer football camp which is held every year in Freeport, Grand Bahama.

The 13-year-old Gibbs and her family were treated to a Chiefs weekend of fun, October 2-5.

The camp's first female MVP experienced outings with Devard and his family, a meet and greet with Kansas City Chiefs players and coaches, a tour of the practice facility and Arrowhead Stadium.

On gameday, Gibbs and her family were given VIP seating and lunch served at the stadium while watching the game.

"I have attended the Devard & Devaughn Darling Football Camp for two years, but I never thought I could win MVP and actually travel to the United States to watch a game. It seems unreal to me," she said. "My mother encouraged me to come the first year and I had so much fun I couldn't wait to come back this year."

In her first real attempt at the sport, Gibbs said she came away from the camp with a greater understanding of the accompanying skills it takes to become a great athlete.

"I never played football before attending the camp I just wanted to try it. When they said my name for MVP I couldn't believe it, because I knew I wasn't the best player on the field, but this experience shows me sportsmanship is as important as being a good athlete."

The Devard & Devaughn Darling Football Camps are presented annually by the As One Foundation, a non-profit organisation created by Devard Darling in memory of his brother Devaughn.

The purpose of the camp is to encourage young Bahamian athletes to pursue their education and dreams of playing American football.

Campers learn invaluable skills and training in the game and receive free gifts, equipment and a chance to earn the title of Camp MVP.

To learn more about the As One Foundation or the Devard & Devaughn Darling Football Camps, please visit www.asonefoundation.org

Brackettes bite up Lady Sharks

By BRENT STUBBS
 Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

Nothing much changed for the pennant winning Heavy Lift Dorsey Park Boyz as they opened the New Providence Softball Association's best-of-five playoff series on Monday.

In the men's feature contest on the Banker's Field at Baillou Hills Sporting Complex, the Dorsey Park Boyz knocked off the fourth place Robin Hood Hitmen 6-2 to snatch a 1-0 lead in the series which is scheduled to continue tonight.

Also Wednesday night, the women's defending champions Sigma Brackettes will try to go up 2-0 in their series against the Proper Care Pool Lady Sharks.

In a rematch of last year's final, the Brackettes took the upper hand on Monday with a 5-4 decision.

The Dorsey Park Boyz, who completed the regular season with an impeccable 23-1 win-loss record, are already looking past the Hitmen and preparing for the best-of-seven championship series.

"We haven't played in a while so tonight our pitcher was a little off and he gave up couple of runs early in the game," said Heavy Lift second baseman Mario Ford. "But we came back and scored some runs."

"Once we can get our offense together and start scoring runs early and give our pitcher a chance to get into the groove, there's no way that this team can beat us."

Ford, batting third in their line-up, led the offensive attack with a perfect 3-for-3 night, including a one-out two-run home run in the bottom of the third that pushed the Dorsey Park Boyz to a 2-1 lead.

On his towering home run shot to right centerfield that came after he ripped a two-out triple, but was left stranded on base in the first, Ford said he was just sitting, waiting on the pitch from Hitmen's Cardinal Gilbert.

"I just connected and the pitch went," said Ford, who got one of the seven hits off Gilbert. "I hit the pitch and it left the park."

Dorsey Park produced two more runs in the fourth, sparked by Desmond Rolle's RBI single, another one in the fifth from Ford and their final one in the sixth on Prince Huyler's RBI single that knocked in Dumont Charlow from third on his lead off triple.

On the other end of the coin, Dorsey Park Boyz' ace pitcher Edney 'The Heat' Bethel gave a stunning in-the-park home run to Keiron Munroe, who ripped a shot down the right field line for a 1-0 lead in the top of the first.

But after that, Bethel bored down on the mound. Despite giving up an unearned run in the third, he posted a four-hitter, striking out a total of 13

Dorsey Park Boyz knock off Hitmen



Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

SIGMA BRACKETTES' pitcher Ernestine Butler-Stubbs unwinds for a pitch.

See more pictures on page 10

batters the rest of the way.

Although they won, Bethel called it a bad night.

"They couldn't beat us on a bad night, so imagine what happens when we have a good night," said Bethel as he looks ahead to game two tonight.

"We're going to take them out in three. Tonight was just a slow night for us, but we had a long lay off. So now that we are playing again, it's going to be hard for them to beat us."

Robin Hood's third baseman Sherman Ferguson, who scored their second run in the fourth when he got on second on a two-base fielding error and caught a ride home on Adrian Pinder's run-producing triple, said they will definitely bounce back and even the series tonight.

"We just didn't hit the ball. We were right in the game, but we just couldn't pull it off," he said. "We just have to come out and be more aggressive."

Unlike the men's encounter, the ladies' match-up was keenly contested from start to finish.

Here's a summary of how the dra-

matics played out in the end:

Brackettes 5, Lady Sharks 4

Renee 'Sunshine' Davis led off the top of the fifth inning with a walk. She eventually scored Sigma's winning run on a passed ball.

Proper Care Pool had a golden opportunity to at least tie the game in the bottom of the frame. But after Jeannine Wallace got all the way to third on an error, she was unable to score.

Davis finished 0-for-2, but she scored two of the runs for the second place Sigma's. Garranette Curry helped out by going 1-for-2 with a run scored.

For the third place Proper Care Pools, Dawn Forbes was 2-for-4 with two RBIs and Cleo Symonette went 1-for-2 with a RBI.

Ernestine Butler-Stubbs went the distance, tossing a three-hitter for the win for the Brackettes.

Thela Johnson got the starting nod for the Lady Sharks, giving up four hits in suffering the loss before Alex Taylor relieved her in the sixth.

Team Bahamas named

THE Bahamas Softball Federation will host the first Bahamas Cup ECAST Tournament for men and women in New Providence October 29 to November 1.

Teams from Jamaica, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and Turks Island have confirmed they will participate. Confirmation is also expected from Belize and possibly Puerto Rico.

The tournament is a double round robin - all will culminate with the page system to determine the champions - that is the top four teams will advance to the playoffs and by way of eliminations to the championship.

The BSF is using this tournament to showcase the abundance of talented young players, particularly in the men's division, to assist in the selection of the national team that would represent the Bahamas at the CAC Games in Puerto Rico in July, 2010, and the Pan Am Qualifier in Mexico in November, 2010.

The tournament is scheduled to start on October 29 at the Baillou Sporting Complex.

On October 31, a very colourful opening ceremony is being planned with the tournament being officially opened by Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Desmond Bannister.

The feature game is expected to be "the big match up" between the Bahamas and Jamaica in the men's division and the Bahamas and Bermuda in the women's division following the opening ceremonies.

It is reported that the Jamaican team is trying to get renowned triple sprint world record holder Usain Bolt to accompany them to the tournament.

Following Friday's competition, the tournament is expected to continue all day on Saturday.

The playoff round will take place on Saturday night and the medal round on Sunday afternoon with the presentations of awards immediately following the games.

Additionally, the BSF today announced a restructuring of its national team programme as it looks towards two very important games in 2010, namely the CAC and Pan Am Games Qualifier.

The CAC Games will be held in Puerto Rico in July and the Pan Am Games Qualifier in Guatemala in November.

Leading the path to those two major tournaments for the Bahamas will be the hosting and participation in The ECAST Tournament.

In its restructuring progress, the federation has appointed ISF and BSF Hall of Famer and level five international certified coach Bobby "Baylor" Fernander as its director of programmes for both the men and women's squads.

Fernander, the president of the New Providence Softball Association, would be responsible for all aspects of the national teams as they relate to preparation, selection and travel of these teams and make recommendations on the make up of the teams for final approval by the federation.

For participation in the upcoming ECAST Tournament, the federation has announced the following coaches and players. See list of names on page 10

Vixens put away the Lady Hornets

IN the latest New Providence Volleyball Association action at D W Davis gymnasium, a pair of last year's playoff teams recorded early season wins.

The Scottsdale Vixens put away the Lady Hornets in three straight sets 25-19, 25-11 and 25-12.

Kyrstel Rolle was the leading scorer for the game and the Vixens with 10 points. Samantha Kerr led the Hornets

Intruders defeat DaBasement in five sets

with four.

In men's action, the game proved to be an exciting, nail-biting affair.

It took the Intruders five tough sets to beat DaBasement 27-29, 25-16, 22-25, 25-19 and 15-13.

Prince and Arison Wilson led the

intruders with 17 and 16 kills respectively for the win.

lahaundro Thompson and Rony Lexidor led DaBasement with 13 and 12 respectively.

Games are scheduled to continue tonight.

SPORTS



Serena regains No. 1 ranking

Williams sister defeats Russian in 2nd round of China Open

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Serena Williams is headed back to the top.

Williams needed only to win her second-round match at the China Open on Tuesday to reclaim the No. 1 ranking, because the current top-ranked player, Dinara Safina, couldn't get past that early round at the tournament.

Coming in, Williams had to fare better than Safina in Beijing to move to the top of the rankings next week. Safina lost to local wild card entry Zhang Shuai in the second round Monday.

Williams then needed just over one hour for a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Ekaterina Makarova of Russia.

"It feels pretty good. I'm really excited, I guess," Williams said. "I don't want to put too much pressure on myself, but I'm obviously happy to be there because I feel like I've been working so hard all year and just happy to be back."

Safina's loss made No. 226 Zhang the lowest-ranked woman to defeat a No. 1. Julie Coin of France was ranked 188th when she beat then-No. 1 Ana Ivanovic at the 2008 U.S. Open.

"I would like to take some break now. ... I'm very upset with myself," Safina said.

In other action, Maria Sharapova rallied for a 6-3, 6-7 (5), 7-5 win over Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, and Peng Shuai of China upset defending champion Jelena Jankovic 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Fourth-seeded Elena Dementieva of Russia beat Melinda Cizek of the Czech Republic 6-4, 6-3.

In men's play, defending champion Andy Roddick lost to Polish qualifier Lucasz Kubot 6-2, 6-4, and top-seeded Rafael Nadal had a 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 win over Cypriot wild card Marcos Baghdatis.

Williams has spent a total of 72 weeks as No. 1, including from Feb. 2 to Apr. 19 this year. The American said her focus for the rest of the year would be the WTA Tour Championships in Doha at the end of October.

"This is a tough part of the year. It's kind of toward the end and everybody's bodies are starting to ache, you're really fighting and you just do your best," she said.

Sharapova, who last week won the Toray Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo for her first tournament victory since returning from a 10-month injury layoff, recovered from a 5-2 deficit in the final set, winning five games in a row as ninth-ranked Azarenka struggled.

After winning the second-set tiebreaker, Azarenka broke Sharapova three times to take a commanding lead. The tide turned in the eighth game, when Sharapova won a break of her own.

"I knew that if I just kept steady and maybe I got an extra ball back and kept going for it and being aggressive, maybe good things will happen," Sharapova said. "And today they did, and I certainly felt like I stepped it up when I needed to."

"I realized I certainly don't want to be going home. I don't want to be leaving China that soon, so I just went for it. I kept being aggressive and I stayed positive — I think that gets you a long way."

Favre is back!

By DAVE CAMPBELL
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Brett Favre was clearly uncomfortable this week with all the attention on this reunion, trying to downplay the significance of playing the Green Bay Packers and stumbling through denials that his main motivation to unretire last year was revenge.

In the hours before kickoff, though, the game's magnitude dawned on him and spawned nerves he hadn't felt in a long time.

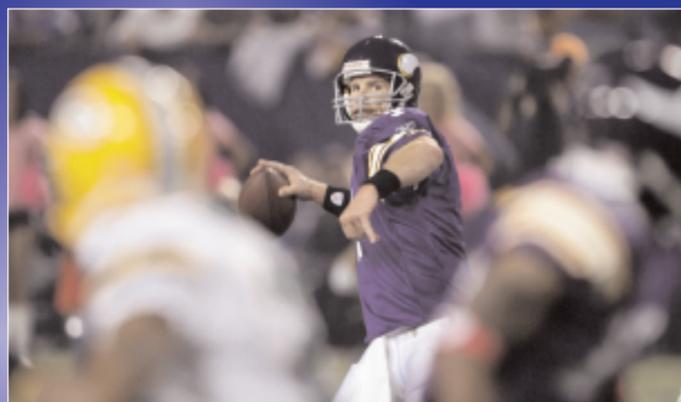
On Monday night, Favre became the first quarterback in history to beat all 32 NFL teams — and the last one sure meant a lot.

Favre's first game against his former team was all fun for the Minnesota Vikings and all frustration for the Packers, as the graying quarterback kept his cool and connected for three touchdown passes and 271 yards in a 30-23 victory.

"I don't know how to explain it. I felt right, but I guess I never thought I'd be in that situation," Favre said.

Favre went 24 for 31, without a turnover.

"Didn't expect him to do that," Packers cornerback Charles Woodson said. "I thought we would play better, but obviously we didn't. And, you know, give him a lot of credit. Played a great game, and apparently he got his wish tonight and stuck it to us pretty good."



AP Photo

BRETT FAVRE became the first quarterback in history to beat all 32 NFL teams with Monday night's win over his former team, Green Bay Packers...

Favre celebrated his first scoring toss with an awkward body bump with kicker Ryan Longwell, also a former Packers teammate, and knocked down Chester Taylor on the next one — showing plenty of emotion on this most emotional night. He stayed poised in the pocket all night, too, and avoided the risky throws that have defined his career almost as much as the success.

"It's why I play the game. It was fun. It never gets old to me, even though I do," Favre said.

The Vikings (4-0) sacked Favre's

replacement, Aaron Rodgers, eight times.

Jared Allen was credited with 4 1/2 of them, a career high, including a safety in the fourth quarter that stretched the lead to 16. Rodgers had his first two turnovers of the season, and Favre turned both of them into vintage touchdown passes in the first half.

"I definitely wanted to get this win for Brett," teammate Adrian Peterson said. "It was a big game for him, even though he downplayed it a lot, but you just knew it. You could see it in his eyes."

Brackettes bite up Lady Sharks



PROPER CARE POOL Lady Sharks' pitcher Thela Johnson in action...



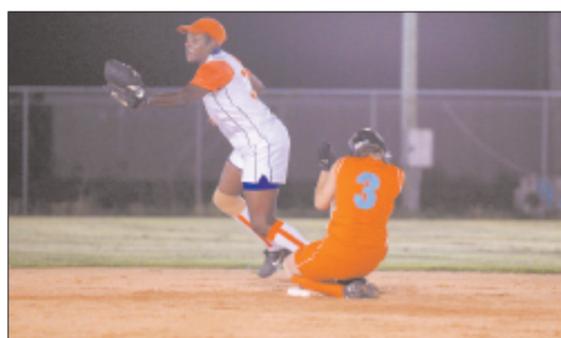
PROPER CARE POOL Lady Sharks Keisha Pratt tries to connect...



SIGMA BRACKETTES' catcher Cassie Smith hits the ball...



LADY SHARKS' pitcher Thela Johnson up to bat against Sigma Brackettes' pitcher Ernestine Butler-Stubbs...



LADY SHARKS' Jeannine Wallace (right) slides safely to third base...

Bahamas Softball Federation Cup ECAST tournament

TEAM BAHAMAS

Women

Head Coach - Stephen "Bishop" Beneby
Coaches - Yvonne Lockhard and Gary Johnson
Pitching Coach - Spurgeon Johnson
Hitting Coaches - Lenny Newton
Neville "Hammer" Cartwright
Players
Mary Edgcombe-Sweeting
Thela Johnson
Shanell Symonette

Nerissa Lockhart
Desiree Taylor
Alex Taylor
Lona Maxis
Candice Smith
Lotoya Brown
Tera Evans
Teshina Pinder
Trekka Bowleg
Vesna Laing
Christine Hanna
Keisha Pratt
Nerissa Seymour
Latoya Johnson
Shavette Taylor
Alvern Hall
Antonia Simmons
Duesha Barr

Men

Head Coach - Erin Adderley
Coaches - Delano Cartwright and Anthony Huyler
Pitching Coach - Leroy Thompson
Hitting Coach - Perry Seymour, Alphonso Pratt and Martin Burrows
Players
Alcott Forbes
Eugene Pratt
Edney Bethell
Christopher Russell
Keron Munroe
Van Johnson

Phil Culmer
Godfrey Burnside Jr
Lynden Richardson
William Rutherford
Rickey Rolle
Alex Rolle
Geron Sands
Garfield Bethell
Sherman Ferguson
Gary Burrows Jr
Jermico Sands
Ken Wood Jr
Hosea Hilton
Cardinal Gilbert
Darren Stevens
Larry Russell Jr
Dumont Charlow
Desmond Rolle

Ronaldo expects to play in World Cup qualifier

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Cristiano Ronaldo believes he will recover from an ankle injury in time for Portugal's World Cup qualifier against Hungary this weekend.

"I've been recovering well, in line with expectations," the Real Madrid winger said late Monday. "Let's see how it goes, but I think I'll be OK by Saturday."

Ronaldo missed his club's first defeat of the Spanish season at Sevilla on Sunday after spraining his right ankle in a Champions League game last week.

Portugal team doctor Henrique Jones said he also believes Ronaldo would be ready to play.

"He has a severe ankle sprain and we'll be taking special care with him, but we think that with the proper treatment he'll be available for Saturday," Jones said.

Portugal is tied for third with Hungary in Group 1, three points behind leader Denmark and two back from Sweden with two rounds to play.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

OLYMPICS

COPENHAGEN (AP) — IOC president Jacques Rogge says the decision to give Rio de Janeiro the 2016 games shows the Olympic movement isn't out to make "big money" on its showcase event.

Rogge said that bringing the Olympics to South America for the first time should end criticism that the IOC chooses host cities based on financial profit. The American broadcast rights for the Rio games are expected to be worth considerably less than if the games had gone to Chicago. Tokyo and Madrid were the other candidates.

The IOC gets more than half its revenue from broadcasting deals, and U.S. deals alone have been worth more than the rest of the world's broadcasters combined.

ATHLETICS

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa's governing party wants champion runner Caster Semenya to compete as a woman regardless of any gender tests.

African National Congress party spokesman Jackson Mthembu said that Semenya had been brought up as a girl and should therefore "continue to run as a woman."

Semenya won the 800 meters at the world championships in August in Berlin. Before the final, track and field's ruling body said it had ordered gender tests.

The ANC has set up a group to support Semenya and says she has been "victimized and subjected to unnecessary public scrutiny."

GYMNASTICS

COPENHAGEN (AP) — A ruling on whether China competed with two underage gymnasts at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney has been pushed back until at least next year.

A disciplinary commission of the International Gymnastics Federation told that group's executive committee, which met Sept. 23-25, that it has yet to finish its investigation.

If the gymnasts were underage, the commission could recommend sanctions to the FIG's executive committee. It won't meet again until the end of February, so no decision can come before then, Gueisbuhler said.

Fangxia and Yang Dong, are suspected of being as young as 14 in Sydney. Gymnasts must turn 16 during an Olympic year to be eligible to compete.

Photos by Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

COB students to hold service for student killed in shootout

COLLEGE of the Bahamas students have announced they will hold a thanksgiving service for Brenton Hector Smith, a student who was killed earlier this year during a shootout between police and armed robbery suspects.

Smith was reportedly taking a short cut home when he came upon several suspects being chased by police after a nearby supermarket was robbed.

A coroner's inquest into the death of Smith, 18, is set to be held, however a date is yet to be announced.

According to the Royal Bahamas Police Force, the results of a ballistics report confirmed that the youth was killed by a police service weapon.

The ceremony will be held on Thursday, October 8, at the Holy Trinity Parish, Stapledon Gardens at 7pm.



BA cuts 1,000 jobs, will shrink Heathrow crews

LONDON

BRITISH AIRWAYS PLC is shedding 1,000 jobs, putting 3,000 more employees on part-time work and reducing the size of cabin crews at Heathrow in an effort to get the troubled airline's finances back in order, a spokesman said Tuesday,

according to Associated Press.

BA spokesman Paul Marston said the company was in "a very serious financial position" and was working hard to turn itself around with an aggressive cost-reduction program. The job losses and part-time work, which he said were voluntary, would be the equivalent of cutting 1,700 positions. He declined to say how much the airline hoped to save from the cuts.

Marston said BA, which expects to see a "significant loss" for the second year running, needed to make changes in order to secure its future in an airline market which is likely to remain grim for some time.

"We do not see any green shoots of recovery just right yet," he said.

UNITE, the British union which represents most of BA's 14,000-member ground crew, said the news was "a bolt from the blue."

"We've been looking for a negotiated solution since the spring," UNITE spokeswoman Pauline Doyle said, adding that the union had proposed millions of dollars of savings to management. "Those proposals we put to the company were thrown back at us."

Marston also announced a companywide freeze on basic pay and said cabin crews operating out of London's Heathrow Airport would be downsized — so that the typical 747 jet flying from London's Heathrow Airport on a long-haul trip would take off carrying 14 members of crew instead of the usual complement of 15.

Marston said customers weren't likely to notice the difference, but Doyle called the change "very concerning."

"They're going to try to get more and more out of fewer and fewer people for less and less money," she said.

BA said the changes — which come into effect in the middle of November — were needed to ensure the company stayed alive.

"Without changes, we will lose more money with every month that passes," a company statement said. "It is essential we make ourselves more efficient if we are to ensure our long-term survival."

The airline added that it was "not altering anything that requires negotiation."

The economic downturn has hit carriers like BA particularly hard as individual travelers and companies balk at paying for a seat in first or business class, particularly on short-haul flights. The airline posted a 94 million pound (\$150 million) quarterly loss in July. Earlier that month, the airline announced plans to raise 600 million pounds to help it plug its deficits and convinced pilots at the airline to agree to a 2.6 percent pay cut.

U.S. airlines have also suffered amid the souring economy, higher fuel prices, and other issues.

Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines Inc., the world's biggest airline operator, said in June that its staff levels would be down more than 8,000 jobs by the end of 2009 compared to spring 2008.

ATLANTIS

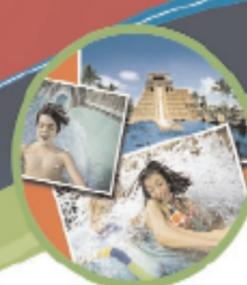
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Bahamas obtains \$178.7m reserve boost from the IMF

By NEIL HARTNELL
 Tribune Business Editor

THE Bahamas has received \$178.7 million in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that can be used to bolster the Central Bank's foreign exchange reserves if needed, it was revealed yesterday.

Although not a bailout, although that is how it will be perceived by some, the Bahamas can convert either all or a portion of these SDRs into foreign currency by selling them to another country that has a surplus of SDRs.

The \$178.7 million allocated to the Bahamas was part of the IMF's \$250 billion SDR allocation to its 186 member countries implemented on August 28, 2009, "as a key part of its initiative to increase central banks' external reserves in the face of the global financial crisis."

"Under this arrangement, the Bahamas was allocated 96.6 million in SDRs (\$151 million), with a further 17.6 million SDR allocation (\$27.7 million) occurring on September 9."

SDRs, while not a currency themselves, are an interest-bearing international reserve asset created by the IMF and based on a basket of currencies. They can be sold to a country that has an SDR surplus in exchange for currency, and can be counted in a nation's foreign exchange reserves even if they have not been drawn down.

That helps to explain why the Bahamas' foreign

SEE page 6B

Broker let clients 'use \$1m of others' assets'

By NEIL HARTNELL
 Tribune Business Editor

A collapsed Bahamian broker/dealer "allowed clients to use other clients' assets in excess of \$1.05 million" to finance securities trading and overdrawn cash balances, the firm's liquidator has found, alleging that its management "took measures to destroy or remove evidence" they failed to properly protect their clients' interests.

Anthony Kikivarakis, the Deloitte & Touche (Bahamas) accountant and

* Caledonia liquidator alleges Bahamas-based firm 'took measures to destroy or remove evidence' of \$25m collapse by deleting all e-mails and cleaning/switching server

* 100% owner of Caledonia's preference shares recovered \$5.909m in assets after firm's collapse into liquidation

* Some \$55.896 million worth of assets, out of a total \$67.035 million, transferred to firm's largest 80 clients, accounting for 89% of its business

partner, in his third report to the Supreme Court on the Caledonia Corporate Management liquidation, said he had uncovered e-mails between management just prior to the bro-

ker/dealer's insolvency that "appear" to describe a process detailing how the company's electronic records were to be deleted.

Adding that he would report his

findings to Caledonia's primary regulator, the Securities Commission of the Bahamas, Mr Kikivarakis alleged:

SEE page 4B

Loan defaults break through \$1bn barrier

By NEIL HARTNELL
 Tribune Business Editor

MORE than \$1 billion worth of private sector loans in the Bahamas are now in arrears, senior banking industry executives conceded yesterday, adding that they had "not started to see any sign" of a slowdown in credit falling into the default or non-performing categories.

Ross McDonald, Royal Bank of Canada's head for the Bahamas and the Caribbean, told Tribune Business that "you can bet" private sector loans in arrears in this nation have already breached the \$1 billion barrier, given that the Central Bank of the Bahamas pegged the total at \$963.1 million at end-August 2009 - more than one month ago.

"I think we're already there," Mr McDonald said of the \$1 billion 'loans in default' mark, adding that there was no sign that the trend of credit moving into either the '31-90 days past due' or 'non-performing' categories was currently showing no signs of slowing.

"I don't have any evidence of that, frankly," Mr McDonald said,

* Bank chiefs see 'no sign' of slowdown in pace of non-performing and arrears loans

* Central Bank pegs troubled loans at \$963m at end-August, accounting for almost 16% of all outstanding loans in Bahamas

* Non-performing loans, at 8.8% of total loan portfolio, increasing fastest with 'most significant growth in delinquencies' seen in mortgages

when asked by Tribune Business whether the Bahamian commercial banking sector was seeing any sign of a slowdown in loan defaults.

"The pattern of loans going into default and moving through to non-accrual, we're not starting to see any sign that it has slowed. The good thing is that all the banks here are well capitalised, and should not have any problem weathering a storm that lasts through 2010."

SEE page 3B

Insurer's 5% top-line drop in line with expectations

By NEIL HARTNELL
 Tribune Business Editor

J. S. Johnson "didn't lose as much business as anticipated" as a result of the recession during the 2009 first half, its managing director told Tribune Business yesterday, the top-line "drop off" coming in at around 5 per cent with new business accounts more than compensating for this.

Marvin Bethell said that while the insurance agency/brokerage, and its 40 per cent owned general insurance carrier affiliate, Insurance Company of the Bahamas (ICB), had "seen some of the impact from the recession", they had been able to weather the downturn well during the 2009 first half.

"I think we were more in line with a 5 per cent drop-off," Mr Bethell said of the BISX-listed company's 2009 first half, a performance well in line with the rest of the Bahamian insurance industry.

"We didn't lose as much business as we might have been anticipating initially, and did pick up some business. It was in line with what we thought, and felt the drop-off might be offset by some of the new business we've acquired."

* J. S. Johnson 'didn't lose as much business as anticipated' in 2009 first half, with fall more than compensated for by new business accounts

* Anticipating tougher fourth quarter

That new business included the Albany and Ginn projects, but their impacts will not be felt in the 2009 second half. "We were fortunate to have had the impact of those," Mr Bethell added. "Now, the situation will have deteriorated a little from earlier in the year."

"We've still got one quarter left, and the indications are that quarter will be slower than some of the others because the tourism industry has not picked up."

Mr Bethell said such trends would impact new construction and real estate sales, which in turn would reduce demand for insurance and insurance products.

SEE page 6B

SuperClubs hits 90% occupancy

By CHESTER ROBARDS
 Business Reporter
crobards@tribunemedia.net

SUPERCLUBS Breezes has beaten both the recession and the traditional September and October season slow with occupancy rates close to 90 per cent, its sales coordinator said yesterday, as it reaps the benefits from focusing on the local market.

Krystine Braithwaite said Breezes' occupancy was recently close to 90 per cent, with most rooms booked to Bahamian groups and couples.

"We haven't had a slow season; we have been booked out," said Ms Braithwaite. "We finished off September

Cable Beach resort's focus on Bahamian market helps it buck recession, and make it chain's best performing property in Caribbean

at almost 90 per cent."

She added that the all-inclusive resort has been full with Bahamian guests, who had kept the resort busy throughout the year. The Bahamian property has been pegged as the 'best-performing Superclubs property in the Caribbean.'

All-inclusives tend to fare better than most in economic downturns, as travellers seek out deals to cut vacation costs.

Ms Braithwaite said the Cable Beach property has launched a \$99 per night (double occupancy) special for locals that will continue until the end of November. She suggested that the target market for the special was mostly groups, but added that a lot of couples have also taken advantage of the deal.

With an average stay of three nights, stopover travel has also been strong for the resort. And, according to Ms Braithwaite, bookings are strong into 2010.

"I would say the marketing for this particular hotel and

SEE page 2B

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BUSINESS

Sheraton names its executive chef

THE Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort has named Devin E. Johnson to the position of executive chef.

In his new role, Chef Johnson will oversee menu planning and food cost management for the six restaurants and lounges on property, as well as supervise the resort's team of 75 culinary and stewarding staff members.

Chef Johnson is a Certified Professional Chef and lecturer with over 18 years of food and beverage experience.

He comes to the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort from the Westin and Sheraton at Our Lucaya Beach and Golf Resort. He began his tenure there as sous chef, and worked his way up to food and beverage manager. He also gained experience at the

Westin Buckhead in Atlanta, where he was executive chef at the 390-room resort and was responsible for overseeing a culinary and stewarding team of 60 staff.

Before joining Our Lucaya, Chef Johnson held executive chef and consultant positions at Point of View Villas in Fresh Creek, Andros Island, and the Caripelago Restaurant on Cable Beach in Nassau.

As a lecturer, Chef Johnson taught food-related courses at the Bahamas Hotel Training College in Nassau, including cake baking and decorating, Caribbean cuisine, gourmet cooking, fine dining, kitchen organisation and menu planning.

Chef Johnson received his education in Culinary Arts,

and was awarded his certification from the Bahamas Hotel Training College in 1992. He also obtained a Professional Chef's Diploma in 1994 at Westminster College in London, England.

Chef Johnson has received several awards for his culinary talents, including gold medals in numerous competitions such as the British Gas Caterability Culinary Arts Competition (1993); Russell Hume British Meat Competition (1994); ACF Approved Team Culinary Classics Competition (2001); and the American Meat Caribbean Chef Competition (2004).

He was also a member of the Bahamas Culinary Olympic Team who captured three Bronze Medals in Germany in 2002.

SuperClubs hits 90% occupancy

FROM page 1B

local business have kept us afloat," she said.

The Wyndham Fortuna Beach Resort in Grand Bahamas is also hoping for the 50 to 60 per cent occupancy it enjoyed last year, according to assistant general manager Gloria Pratt.

She said occupancy levels during September were up to 40 per cent, and online bookings for the resort continue to come in.

Ms Pratt added that the resort had strong European arrivals this year, thanks to the effort of marketing teams and tour operators in those countries.

"Things have been good," said Ms Pratt.

While those properties continue to attract visitors during the slow season, others find closing during weeks from August through to October a more viable approach to the lull in arrivals.

Jackie Carroll, general manager of Old Bahama Bay, said hotel occupancies have been notoriously slow during

this period. She added that there was infrastructural work that needed to be done during this time.

"We decided to close down instead of inconveniencing the few customers we have," she said.

Despite the closure of the resort, Old Bahama Bay's Marina saw an uptick in business during this season. Ms Carroll said the resort's marina saw twice as much business this year over 2008.

According to her, the resort also has several weddings booked for the resort in the winter season. "It seems as though it may work out for us," she said.

Ms Carroll is also hopeful that the new airlift to Grand Bahama organised by the

Government will have a direct impact on room bookings, not just for her resort but for other area resorts.

The Ministry of Tourism and Aviation recently organised direct WestJet service from Canada to Freeport.

"We're hoping it will do well," said Ms Carroll. "We notice that the Canadian business started to pick up before we closed, so it seems as though there is a new interest from the Canadian market."

Old Bahama Bay plans to re-open on October 8 and, like many other resorts, plans to introduce a local rate that slashes room rates up to 50 per cent. Ms Carroll said the resort has traditionally received good Bahamian business.



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52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
1.71	1.03	AML Foods Limited	1.15	1.15	0.00		0.127	0.000	9.1	0.00%
11.80	9.90	Bahamas Property Fund	10.75	10.75	0.00		0.992	0.200	10.8	1.86%
9.30	5.90	Bank of Bahamas	5.90	5.90	0.00		0.244	0.260	24.2	4.41%
0.89	0.63	Benchmark	0.63	0.63	0.00		-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%
3.49	3.15	Bahamas Waste	3.15	3.15	0.00		0.125	0.090	25.2	2.86%
2.37	2.14	Fidelity Bank	2.37	2.37	0.00		0.055	0.040	43.1	1.69%
14.20	9.93	Cable Bahamas	9.93	9.93	0.00		1.406	0.250	7.1	2.52%
2.88	2.72	Colina Holdings	2.72	2.72	0.00		0.249	0.040	10.9	1.47%
7.50	5.26	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	5.40	5.54	0.14	3,700	0.419	0.300	13.2	5.42%
3.85	1.27	Consolidated Water BDRs	3.17	3.19	0.02		0.111	0.052	28.7	1.63%
2.85	1.32	Doctor's Hospital	2.05	2.05	0.00		0.625	0.080	3.3	3.90%
8.20	6.60	Famguard	6.60	6.60	0.00		0.420	0.240	15.7	3.64%
12.50	8.80	Finco	9.30	9.30	0.00		0.322	0.520	28.9	5.59%
11.71	10.00	FirstCaribbean Bank	10.00	10.00	0.00		0.631	0.350	15.8	3.50%
5.53	4.11	Focol (S)	4.11	4.11	0.00		0.332	0.150	12.4	3.65%
1.00	1.00	Focol Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00		0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%
0.45	0.27	Freeport Concrete	0.27	0.27	0.00		0.035	0.000	7.7	0.00%
9.02	5.49	ICD Utilities	5.59	5.59	0.00		0.407	0.500	13.7	8.94%
12.00	9.95	J. S. Johnson	9.98	9.95	-0.03	5,000	0.952	0.640	10.5	6.43%
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate	10.00	10.00	0.00		0.156	0.000	64.1	0.00%

BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing bases)									
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity	
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00		7%	19 October 2017	
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022	
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00		7%	30 May 2013	
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015	

Fidelity Over-The-Counter Securities										
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Weekly Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
14.60	7.92	Bahamas Supermarkets	7.92	8.42	14.00		-2.246	0.000	N/M	0.00%
8.00	6.00	Caribbean Crossings (Pref)	2.00	6.25	4.00		0.000	0.480	N/M	7.80%
0.54	0.20	RND Holdings	0.35	0.40	0.55		0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%

Colina Over-The-Counter Securities										
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Weekly Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
41.00	29.00	ABDAB	30.13	31.59	29.00		4.540	0.000	9.03	0.00%
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.45	0.55	0.55		0.002	0.000	261.90	0.00%

BISX Listed Mutual Funds									
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD%	Last 12 Months	Div \$	Yield %	NAV Date	
1.4038	1.3344	CFAL Bond Fund	1.4038	3.72	5.20			31-Aug-09	
3.0350	2.8952	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	2.8990	-1.39	-4.16			31-Aug-09	
1.4920	1.4129	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.4920	4.06	5.59			25-Sep-09	
3.6090	3.0941	CFAL Global Equity Fund	3.0941	-8.61	-13.59			31-Aug-09	
13.0484	12.3870	Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.1136	3.93	5.87			31-Aug-09	
101.6693	100.0000	CFAL Global Bond Fund	101.6693	1.10	1.67			30-Jun-09	
100.9600	93.1992	CFAL Global Equity Fund	96.7398	0.35	-4.18			30-Jun-09	
1.0000	1.0000	CFAL High Grade Bond Fund	1.0000	0.00	0.00			31-Dec-07	
9.4075	9.0775	Fidelity International Investment Fund	9.3399	2.69	-1.41			31-Jul-09	
1.0707	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.0707	3.38	5.14			31-Aug-09	
1.0364	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.0319	-0.11	2.05			31-Aug-09	
1.0673	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.0673	2.89	4.93			31-Aug-09	

MARKET TERMS									
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX - 19 Dec 02 = 1,000.00					YIELD - last 12 month dividends divided by closing price				
52wk-Hi - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks					Bid \$ - Buying price of Colina and Fidelity				
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks					Ask \$ - Selling price of Colina and Fidelity				
Previous Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily volume					Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price				
Today's Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume					Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week				
Change - Change in closing price from day to day					EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mths				
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today					NAV - Net Asset Value				
Div \$ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months					N/M - Not Meaningful				
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings					FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index. January 1, 1994 = 100				
(S) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/8/2007									
(S1) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/11/2007									
TO TRADE CALL: COLINA 242-502-7010 ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764 FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000 COLONIAL 242-502-7525									

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **OMAWATTIE CHEA KNOWLES of PINE AVENUE, GLENISTON GARDENS, P.O. BOX N-8180, 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 **7th day of October, 2009** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **ALEX BELLOTTE of DUMPING GROUND CORNER, P.O. BOX GT-2423, 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 **30th day of September, 2009** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **ANTHONY ALLONCE of #70 ANGELFISH STREET, 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 **30th day of SEPTEMBER, 2009** to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, P.O.Box N-7147, Freeport, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **JUNIA FELIX of CARMICHAEL ROAD, P.O. BOX CR-55647, 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 **7th day of October, 2009** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **KERVEN FELIX of CARMICHAEL ROAD, P.O. BOX CR-55647, 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 **7th day of October, 2009** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

BUSINESS

BISX-listed firm unveils dividend

CONSOLIDATED Water yesterday announced its Board of Directors had declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.075 per share, representing an increase of 15 per cent from the previous quarterly dividend of \$0.065 per share.

The BISX-listed firm said the dividend was payable on October 31, 2009, to shareholders of record at the close of business October 1, 2009.

Consolidated Water Company develops and operates seawater desalination plants and water distribution systems

in areas of the world where naturally occurring supplies of potable water are scarce or non-existent.

It operates water production and/or distribution facilities in the Cayman Islands, Belize, the British Virgin Islands, the Bahamas and Bermuda.

Loan defaults break through \$1bn barrier

The Central Bank, in its report on monthly economic developments for August 2009, said there was a \$60.6 million, or 6.7 per cent, increase in loans falling into default for the month, taking the total to \$963.1 million or 15.9 per cent of all outstanding loans in the Bahamas.

The Central Bank described "a sustained drift of loans into the short-term and non-performing categories", with loans 31-90 days delinquent increasing by \$26.2 million or 6.5 per cent in August to hit \$427.6 million. The latter figure amounted to 7 per cent of all outstanding private sector loans in the Bahamas, a 0.49 per cent increase during that month.

As for non-performing loans, the more critical category, because these are 90 days past due and stop accruing interest, the Central Bank said these increased by \$34.5 million or 6.9 per cent to \$535.5 million. The latter figure accounted for 8.8 per cent of total loans, a 0.54 per cent rise in August.

"The most significant growth in delinquencies was noted in the mortgage category, registering an advance of \$40.3 million (10.2 per cent) to \$436.4 million, and reflecting gains in the 31-90

day and non-performing segments, of \$28.9 million and \$11.4 million respectively," the Central Bank said.

"Consumer delinquencies expanded by \$14.2 million (5 per cent), comprising accretions in the short-term arrears (\$10.5 million) and non-performing (\$3.7 million) categories.

"Commercial arrears expanded by \$6.2 million. However, as the average age of delinquencies increased, the non-performing portion moved higher by \$19.4 million, overshadowing the \$13.2 million decline in the 31-90 day component."

As a result, Bahamian commercial banks expanded their loan loss provisions by \$5 million or 2.4 per cent to \$210.2 million for the year-to-date. However, due to the fact that mortgages accounted for a significant part of the loan defaults, and these were collateralised by physical assets such as real estate, the provisions rise lagged the decline in loan quality.

The ratios of provisions to loans in arrears and those non-performing fell by 0.9 and 1.7 percentage points respectively, to 21.8 per cent and 39.3 per cent respectively.

When it came to FINCO, Royal Bank's BISX-listed

mortgage lending arm, Mr McDonald said: "We continue to be very well provisioned for, and as things turn around towards the end of 2010, we would expect to see some recovery of those provisions."

"We are conservative, but at the same time optimistic that tourism will come back and the economy will allow us to recover some of the charges we've put through the income statement."

He added: "This is not a financial crisis. This is a business downturn, a recession, call it what you want. People have seen it before, but this is certainly the deepest we've seen, because of the financial crisis, some could argue."

"But you have to do all the things you do in a tough economy - look at costs, the money you're investing, and work with your clients....."

While the loan default situation may be showing some

signs of stabilisation, Mr McDonald said persons would have to "be very optimistic to believe that will become a pattern as well".

Until tourism and foreign direct investment recovered, the Royal Bank head added, unemployment would continue to be a problem, leading to loan defaults.

"Optimistically, we'd love to see some positive signs in the first half of next year, but the realists would probably say it will be towards the end of the year," Mr McDonald said.

INSIGHT

For the stories behind the news, read *Insight* on Mondays

PUBLIC NOTICE

INTENT TO CHANGE NAME BY DEED POLL

The Public is hereby advised that I, **ESTHERLYN VICTORIA HOLLINGSWORTH** of the Island of Jamaica, intend to change my name from **ESTHERLYN VICTORIA HOLLINGSWORTH** to **ESLYN VICTORIA JONES (nee HOLLINGSWORTH)**. If there are any objections to this change of name by Deed Poll, you may write such objections to the Chief Passport Officer, P.O.Box N-742, Nassau, Bahamas no later than thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Design/Build Teams are invited to submit proposals to construct a new bridge carrying the Grand Bahama Highway over the Lucayan Waterway near Freeport, on the island of Grand Bahama.

PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR BRIDGE DESIGN/BUILD CONTRACT

SCOPE OF WORK: The project limits will consist of approximately one half (1/2) mile of roadway, a bridge over the Lucayan Waterway Canal and the extension of the existing seawall bulkheads along both sides of the canal. The intent is for the bridge to span across the Lucayan Waterway with no piers or marine fenders in the Lucayan Waterway.

1. This bridge is intended to be a four (4) lane facility (2 Eastbound and 2 Westbound Lanes).
2. The Sidewalk facility should have two (2) lookout points, spaced approximately fifty (50) feet apart (to overlook the canal).

The work also includes the reconstruction of the approach roadways eastbound and westbound to the bridge and connection to the existing four (4) lane divided Grand Bahama Highway beyond the project limits.

INTERESTED DESIGN/BUILD TEAMS MUST SUBMIT INFORMATION ON THEIR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL COMPETENCE FOR QUALIFICATION, NO LATER THAN

FRIDAY OCTOBER 9TH 2009 TO:

MR. DUDLEY FRANCIS
SENIOR PROJECT ENGINEER
THE GRAND BAHAMA PORT AUTHORITY, LIMITED

Southern Ridge Building
P.O. BOX F-42666
Freeport, Grand Bahama Island
Tel: (242) 350-9156
Fax: (242) 351-8473
E-mail: dfrancis@gbpa.com

BUSINESS

Broker let clients 'use \$1m of others' assets'

FROM page 1B

"There was a discovery of two e-mails that were circulated between certain members of management and an employee, which gives the appearance of management's failure to safeguard and protect [Caledonia's] clients' assets."

"Additionally, the lack of transparency and unavailability of pertinent information made the reconciliation of certain client balances difficult, as it appeared that client instructions via e-mail with regard to the movement of their assets had been deleted."

Mr Kikivarakis also alleged that the beneficial owner of Ingelby Holdings, the entity that owned 100 per cent of Caledonia's preference shares, appeared to have received a preference by recovering \$5.909 million from the Bahamas-based broker/dealer after the February 12, 2008, date when the company was placed into liquidation.

Describing Ingelby Holdings' beneficial owner as either owning, or being affiliated with, five Caledonia clients "who obtained their assets of approximately \$5.909 million after liquidation date", the liquidator said: "The

instructions to transfer the clients' assets were signed by [Caledonia's] former management, during that period, allegedly at the clients' request.

"Demands were made directly to [Caledonia's] managing director [William Jennings] to return the assets, as he was an authorised signatory on some of these accounts. As at the date of this report, the assets have not been returned."

The Deloitte & Touche accountant and partner said he would be meeting with Ingelby Holdings' principal "to discuss various matters relating to the unauthorised return of his assets by the company's former management after the liquidation date."

Caledonia collapsed into liquidation after suffering an almost-\$25 million trading loss, which resulted when Jitney, its Canadian correspondent broker, sold off assets to cover an overdrawn margin loan balance that was not collateralised by the client who had created the 'hole' in question.

That overdrawn balance was in an account operated nominally by a Ron Wyles, whose trading activities were directed by George Georgiou,

a Canadian who has since been charged with securities fraud by the US federal authorities, activities he allegedly directed from the Caledonia account.

Jitney ended up selling off assets belonging to Caledonia clients other than Wyles/Georgiou because they were all pooled in one omnibus account with it, with no segregation. The duo had allegedly been engaged in short-selling, a high-risk trading strategy supposedly collateralised by so-called 'penny stocks', and incurred substantial losses that eventually sunk Caledonia.

In his Supreme Court report, Mr Kikivarakis alleged that Caledonia "allowed clients to use other clients' assets" in their trading activities to cover overdrawn cash balances. These assets totalled \$1.05 million, but some \$468,000 used as collateral for this had been sold by Jitney.

Some \$575,000 had been recovered from former Caledonia clients with overdrawn cash balances in the Jitney account, Mr Kikivarakis said. He added that 12 Caledonia clients had been allowed to operate margin accounts, and while four had "substantial overdrawn balances", only

one did not have sufficient collateral — the Ron Wyles account.

"From a further analysis of the company's records, I identified that clients (who did not operate margin accounts or did not sign margin agreements) were allowed to operate overdrawn account balances in both the company's US dollar and Canadian dollar accounts if they held sufficient assets to cover the overdrawn cash position," Mr Kikivarakis said.

"However, my investigations revealed that [Caledonia] used other clients' assets to fund these overdrawn balances. For example, a client who had not signed a margin agreement would be allowed to purchase securities using another client's cash if his total assets exceeded the cash required to make that purchase in most cases, thus creating an overdrawn cash position."

The Deloitte & Touche partner said that at the February 12, 2008, liquidation date, of 22 Caledonia clients who had an overdrawn US cash balance, only one had a margin agreement with the company. The total overdrawn balance was \$270,517, \$114,172 of which had been

created by clients without a margin agreement.

And, of the 17 Caledonia clients who held overdrawn Canadian dollar cash balances amounting to \$911,481, only six held margin agreements.

"Of these 32 clients who held overdrawn cash positions but had not signed margin agreements, five of them did not have sufficient assets, prior to the sale by Jitney, to cover their overdrawn cash balances," Mr Kikivarakis said. "Their total overdrawn cash balances amounted to \$3,764."

Meanwhile, the liquidator alleged that during the process of closing Caledonia's former head office at 28 Parliament Street and relocating the company's affairs to Deloitte & Touche's Bahamian head office, he had found a January 2, 2008, e-mail circulated among Caledonia's management and an employee with respect to the company's server.

"The e-mail appears to show the process by which [Caledonia's] records were to be deleted," the liquidator alleged. "The procedures included, but were not limited to, removing the company's server and e-mails from [Caledonia's] office and deleting all documents from employee's individual computers in the office, which should have included e-mails."

"In an additional e-mail dated January 3, 2008, the employee to whom the e-mail of January 2, 2008, was addressed responded, informing certain members of the management team that the instructions to remove the company's server and individual e-mails from office computers would be executed on January 14, 2008."

"That e-mail also provided further details of how this would be executed, the cost of the new server and the labour to execute the job."

Mr Kikivarakis said these two e-mails were found in Caledonia's offices in printed format, but no e-mails were located for most employees prior to January 16, 2008. He added that interviews with the company's former staff revealed that they were issued with new e-mail accounts on January 16, 2008, just weeks before the company's collapse.

Caledonia's new server, and Microsoft Exchange e-mail server, appeared for the first time on January 15 and January 16, 2008, respectively. Mr

Kikivarakis said Southworth Consultants, Caledonia's information and technology consultants, told his team they were not aware of how the e-mails had been erased, even though one of the documents found "spoke about the deletion of e-mails and offsite backups at Southworth Consultants".

The liquidator added: "The discovery of the two e-mails, and the fact that there were no electronic e-mails found previous to January 16, 2008, suggests that certain members of management, certain employees and their IT consultants may have been responsible, or at least were aware, of the deletion of e-mails."

Still, progress has been made in returning Caledonia clients' assets. As at July 31, 2009, Mr Kikivarakis said he had issued instructions to transfer \$55.896 million worth of assets, out of a total \$67.035 million, to the 80 Caledonia clients that accounted for an estimated 89 per cent of the company's business.

Initially, Mr Kikivarakis said it was estimated that a total \$81.188 million was due to 220 Caledonia clients as at September 30, 2008. However, this was subsequently revised to \$75.332 million, largely because it was discovered that \$6.27 million worth of assets had been returned to four clients prior to the liquidation.

Out of the \$11.139 million that had not been transferred to Caledonia's 80 most significant clients, as at the July 31, 2009, date, Mr Kikivarakis said some \$5.439 million of this amount was transferred subsequently once instructions were received from the clients. A further \$3.481 million had been returned to another five clients.

As for the remainder, the liquidator said six had yet to provide him with the correct or necessary instructions to transfer \$2.381 million worth of assets; five clients had authorised him to sell \$1.235 million worth of assets and return the cash proceeds to them; and another \$850,440 was being held up because two clients had yet to comply with the Supreme Court's order to pay 2 per cent of their assets into escrow to cover the liquidator's costs.

However, Mr Kikivarakis said \$4.388 million belonged to 126 Caledonia clients who had not given him instructions to transfer their assets.

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NOTICE

NEWFIELD AUSTRALIA INC.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 137 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000, notice is hereby given that the above-named Company has been dissolved and struck off the Register pursuant to a Certificate of Dissolution issued by The Registrar General on the 17th day of September, A.D., 2009.

Dated the 6th day of October, A.D., 2009.

Susan G. Riggs
Liquidator of
NEWFIELD AUSTRALIA INC.

DIVIDEND NOTICE

Premier Commercial Real Estate Investment Corporation Limited

TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Directors of PREMIER COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION LIMITED has resolved to declare a Dividend in the amount of Twenty Cents (\$0.20) per share for all shareholders of record as of the close of business on the 13th, day of October 2009, the same to be payable as of the 13th, day of October 2009.

All payments shall be made through Experta Trust Company (Bahamas) Limited, the Registrar & Transfer Agent, pursuant to the instructions of the relevant shareholders on the files of Experta Trust Company (Bahamas) Limited as the 13th, day of October, 2009.

Ivlyn Cassar
Secretary

NOTICE

CASTEVANIA INC.

In Voluntary Liquidation

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138(4) of the International Business Companies Act. 2000, CASTEVANIA INC. is in dissolution as of September 29, 2009.

International Liquidator Services Inc. situated at 35A Regent Street, P.O. Box 1777, Belize City, Belize is the Liquidator.

LIQUIDATOR

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2009
In The Supreme Court FAM/div/603
Family Division

BETWEEN:

JOHN HENRY BURROWS Petitioner
And
LORMA BURROWS Nee CHAMBERS Respondent

NOTICE OF PETITION

TAKE NOTICE that the Petitioner JOHN HENRY BURROWS has commenced Divorce in the Family Division of the Supreme Court against LORMA BURROWS Nee CHAMBERS

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the event that LORMA BURROWS Nee CHAMBERS desiring to defend the proceedings in the Supreme Court LORMA BURROWS Nee CHAMBERS will be required to enter an Appearance in the Supreme Court by delivering a Memorandum of Appearance to the Registry of the Supreme Court on the Family Side of the Supreme Court which is situate on the Second Floor in the Ansbacher Building, Bank Lane and East Street North in the City of Nassau in the Island of New Providence by delivering the said Memorandum of Appearance at the firm of Wells Legal & Corporate Services, the Ground Floor, Columbus House, East Street and Shirley Streets, Nassau, Bahamas by or on or before the 30th day of October, A.D. 2009.

Dated: This 29th day of September, A. D. 2009.

Stephanie Anne Wells
Wells Legal & Corporate Services
Ground Floor
Columbus House,
Nassau, Bahamas

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2007
IN THE SUPREME COURT CLE/QUI-984
COMMON LAW & EQUITY DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE QUIETING TITLES ACT 1959
AND

IN THE MATTER of ALL THAT all that parcel or lot of land being known as lot Number Sixteen (16) Block Number Nineteen (19) Centreville District, as shown on the Master Plan in the Department of Lands And Surveys in the Island of New Providence.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE Petition of JULIETTE L. RAMSEY

NOTICE

JULIETTE L. RAMSEY the Petitioner claim to be the owner in fee simple in possession of the parcel of land and free from encumbrances. The Petitioner has made application to the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas section 3 of the Quieting Act, 1959 to have their Title to the said land investigated and declared in a certificate of Titles to be granted by the Court in the accordance with the provisions of the act.

Copies of the file plan may be inspected during normal hours at:-

1. The Registry of the Supreme Court; and
2. The Chambers of Ramsey And Associates, Rames Building, 23 Plantol, Nassau, Bahamas

Notice is hereby given that any person or persons having a right of dower or any advise claim not recognized in the Petition shall within thirty (30) days after the publication of the notice herein filed in the registry of the Supreme Court in the city of Nassau aforesaid and service on the Petitioner or the undersigned a statement of such claim in the prescribed Form, verified by an affidavit to be filed therewith. Failure of any such person to file and serve a statement of such claim within thirty days (30) herein will operate as a bar to such claim.

Dated this 17 day of September, A.D., 2009/

RAMSEY AND ASSOCIATES
CHAMBER
Rames Building
23 Plantol Street
Nassau, Bahamas

BUSINESS

CANDIDATE
PROFILES**Kendra Camille
Audrey Culmer**

KENDRA CULMER is a 2005 graduate (Valedictorian) of the Windermere High School in Eleuthera. Kendra attended the College of the Bahamas between 2005-2009, majoring in Accounting, and received a BBA in Accounting with Distinction this year.

While at COB, Kendra was on the President's list for 2006, 2008 and 2009, and on the Dean's List between 2005-2009. Her College activities included serving as managing editor of The Spectrum (school newspaper) and she also provided peer tutoring for Accounting. She is a Youth Leader at the Global Village Methodist Church and a member of the iGive Community Service.

At the COB graduation, Kendra was awarded the Ernst & Young Award for Accounting, the BICA Award for Accounting and the Chamber of Commerce Award for Academic Excellence.

She is preparing for the CPA exam and also intends to pursue an MBA.

Jamere M. McIntosh

A 2005 graduate of St. Georges' High School in Grand Bahama, Jamere obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration in Economics and Finance this year. He also received the College of the Bahamas President's Award 2009, its School of Business Award 2009 and the Livingston Evans Memorial Award for Economics & Finance. In 2007, he received the National Pacesetter Award for Education from the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports & Culture.

While at COB, Jamere was active in the National Society of Leadership and Success, serving as vice-president and president; the economic soci-



KENDRA CULMER



JAMERE McINTOSH



CHRISTINA MURRAY



KEITHRA SHERMAN



KHANDISE SMITH

BFSB unveils finalists for student awards

THE Bahamas Financial Services Board (BFSB) has announced the five finalists for the annual Financial Services Student of the Year award, selected from the 2009 Graduating Class of the College of The Bahamas.

They are:

Kendra C.A. Culmer – BBA Accounting

Jamere M. McIntosh – BBA Economics & Finance;

Christina S. Murray – BBA Finance

Keithra L. Sherman - BBA Marketing

Khandise N. Smith – BBA Bank-

ing & Finance with Foreign Language

The student award is again being sponsored in collaboration with the College of the Bahamas, the Professional Industry Association Working Group and the Central Bank of the Bahamas.

The objective of the programme is to recognise an outstanding graduating student from within the School of Business, College of the Bahamas. This includes all financial services relevant disciplines - economics, banking and finance, accountancy and law; and also extends to com-

puter information systems, marketing and management.

The criterion for initial selection is a GPA of 3.35 or above. Additional criteria include COB and community involvement.

The student award programme is a part of the BFSB's ongoing Financial Centre Focus (FCF) programme, which seeks to integrate the industry with the wider community, and its various initiatives address issues such as the challenges impacting the sustained growth and development of the industry.

Wendy Warren, the BFSB's chief executive and executive director,

said the FCF was designed to attract and maintain qualified professionals in the industry. "In this regard", she said, "particular attention is placed on highlighting the importance of quality human resources to the industry, with initiatives such as the Student Award."

The 2009 Student of the Year will be announced at BFSB's Excellence Awards Ceremony on October 22, when BFSB also will announce the Executive of the Year, Professional of the Year and Achiever of the Year – as well as the Financial Services Development and Promotion Award.

ety, serving as Secretary; and Circle K. He has been active in the Toastmasters Club 969479 from January of this year.

He plans to pursue an MBA in Economics.

Christina S. Murray

A 2004 Graduate (Salutatorian) of S. C. Boote High School in Abaco, Christina obtained her BBA in Finance from the College of the Bahamas this year, also achieving the COB Financial Analyst Award jointly sponsored by the college and the CFA Society of The Bahamas.

During the summers of 2006 and 2007 she was employed by the Bahamas Development Bank and Scotiabank, respectively, and since March 2008 has been employed with Citibank as a documentation processing clerk in the Latin American Investment Bank Division.

Christina intends to pursue an MBA in Finance and an LL.B with a minor in Economics, and is keen to obtain the CFA designation as well

Keithra L. Sherman

Keithra is a 2003 Graduate (Valedictorian/Head Girl) of

the C.R. Walker Senior High School, and received the Department of Education's Northwestern District Most Outstanding Student Award. In 2009, she won the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce's Prestigious Student Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement.

Keithra obtained her BBA in Marketing from the College of the Bahamas this year, along with the Bahamas Fast Ferries Award in Marketing. Between 2004-2009 she was on the President's/Dean's Lists at COB. While at COB she tutored Beginners and

Intermediate Statistics (Levels 201 and 301).

She intends to pursue a Masters degree in the communications/marketing field, with specialisation in public relations.

Khandise N. Smith

A 2003 Graduate of St. Anne's High School, Khandise obtained her Bachelor of Administration in Banking and Finance with Spanish from the College of the Bahamas this year. She also received COB's 2009 School of Business BBA Banking and Finance with Foreign

Language Award.

She was on the President's List in 2005-2006, and on the Dean's List between 2003-2007. She is an Alumnus of the University of the Virgin Islands Summer Institute for Future Global Leaders.

While studying for her degree, Khandise has worked, including internships at UBS, Kerzner International and BTC, and has been employed with Cititrust (Bahamas) since 2007.

Khandise is completing the Series 7 programme, and also is keen to pursue a Graduate degree in due course.

Bahamas obtains \$178.7m reserve boost from the IMF

exchange reserves increased by \$90.21 million in August to end the month at \$803.64 million, compared to \$684.38 million the year before. In addition, excess liquidity in the commercial banking system stood at \$522.63 million at end-August 2009, compared to \$335.34 million the year before.

Bolstering the Bahamas' foreign exchange reserves,

and ensuring banking sector liquidity remains strong, are among the fundamental tenets of the Government's strategy for guiding the Bahamas through these tough economic times.

The Central Bank of the Bahamas, in its monthly economic and financial developments report for 2009, revealed that consumer credit had actually contracted by

\$27.51 million for the first eight months of 2009, a sign that banks are shying away from risky consumer loans and that credit has dried up.

For the first seven months in 2009, Bahamian consumers were repaying more than they were borrowing when it came to consumer loans, a sign that they are attempting to deleverage and reduce debts.

There were \$20.7 million in

credit card net repayments; \$17.9 million in net car loan repayments; \$8.7 million in travel loan repayments; and \$5.6 million in net home improvement loan repayments. The only consumer lending category showing growth was, again, debt consolidation loans, which expanded by \$43.6 million - a slower pace than in 2008.

In comparison, mortgage

lending for the year to August 2009 grew by \$82.96 million, a sharp drop from the \$143.19 million expansion that took place during the first eight months of 2008.

On the fiscal front, the Government's fiscal deficit narrowed by \$8.9 million to \$20.6 million for the first month of its 2009-2010 Budget year. Total spending was 7.3 per cent or \$9.5 million lower at \$120.1 million, due to lower outlays on infrastructure projects.

Revenues fell only marginally by \$0.6 million to \$99.5 million, due to a two-thirds drop in Stamp Tax received from property transactions.

With tourism output contracting due to weak stopover performance, the Central Bank warned that "the prospects for the Bahamian economy will remain subdued for the balance of 2009 and into first half 2010", with the fiscal deficit and government debt-to-GDP ratios projected to further widen.

The Tribune

Real Estate

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Insurer's 5% top-line drop in line with expectations

He added that J. S. Johnson had already seen clients, whose mortgages had been paid off, drop hurricane coverage to just go with fire and the like, while on the motor side Bahamians were hanging on to their existing vehicles or switching to less expensive third-party coverage as opposed to comprehensive policies.

J. S. Johnson generated a 21.8 per cent net income increase to \$4.33 million for the 2009 first half, an improvement driven by rising commissions resulting from the acquisition of new business.

The increase in net profits from the \$3.554 million achieved in the 2008 first half was due to an 18.6 per cent increase in net commissions and fees, which rose from \$8.045 million to \$9.544 million during the six months to June 30, 2009.

This, despite a 3.3 per cent fall in net earned premiums at J. S. Johnson's 40 per cent-owned affiliate, general insurer Insurance Company of the Bahamas (ICB), fed into an 8.6 per cent rise in total income. This grew from \$13.339 million in 2008 to \$14.491 million in the 2009 first half.

Broken down into segments, J. S. Johnson's agency and brokerage business saw net income rise by 12.5 per cent to \$2.533 million for the 2009 first half, compared to \$2.252 million for the year before.

Net commissions and fees rose by 7.1 per cent to \$8.388 million, compared to \$7.783 million the year before. Total income rose by 6.8 per cent to \$8.658 million, compared to \$8.109 million in the 2008 first half.

On the expenses side, the agency and brokerage business also experienced a 4.6 per cent jump in total expenses to \$6.125 million, compared to \$5.857 million in the 2008 first half.

For the business as whole, total expenses increased by 3.8 per cent to \$10.161 million, as opposed to \$9.785 million in 2008, something Mr Bethell attributed to a 5.1 per cent growth in staff costs to \$4.548 million.

The improvements were even more marked on the ICB side, where net income increased year-over-year for the 2009 first half by 37.9 million, growing from \$1.303 million to \$1.797 million. This was largely due to a more than three-fold increase in net commissions and fees to \$1.156 million, compared to \$262,000 in 2008.

ICB's insurance expenses also fell by 10 per cent to \$3.115 million during the 2009 first half, although total expenses rose by 2.7 per cent to \$4.036 million, compared to \$3.298 million in 2008.

THE WEATHER REPORT



INSURANCE MANAGEMENT

(BAHAMAS) LIMITED. INSURANCE BROKERS & AGENTS

5-DAY FORECAST

TODAY

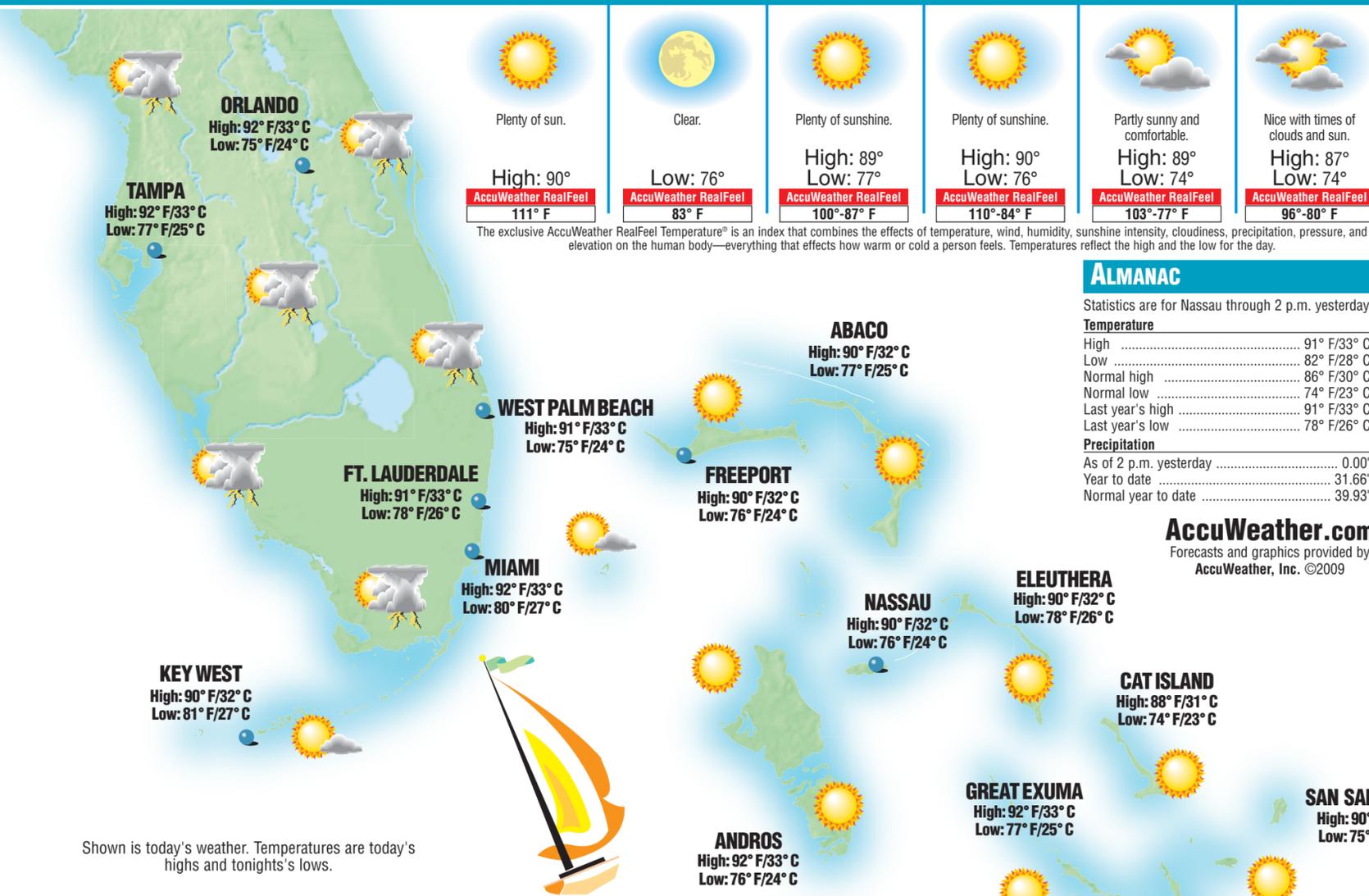
TONIGHT

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



Plenty of sun.

High: 90°
AccuWeather RealFeel
111° F



Clear.

Low: 76°
AccuWeather RealFeel
83° F



Plenty of sunshine.

High: 89°
Low: 77°
AccuWeather RealFeel
100°-87° F



Plenty of sunshine.

High: 90°
Low: 76°
AccuWeather RealFeel
110°-84° F



Partly sunny and comfortable.

High: 89°
Low: 74°
AccuWeather RealFeel
103°-77° F



Nice with times of clouds and sun.

High: 87°
Low: 74°
AccuWeather RealFeel
96°-80° F

ALMANAC

Statistics are for Nassau through 2 p.m. yesterday

Temperature

High	91° F/33° C
Low	82° F/28° C
Normal high	86° F/30° C
Normal low	74° F/23° C
Last year's high	91° F/33° C
Last year's low	78° F/26° C

Precipitation

As of 2 p.m. yesterday	0.00"
Year to date	31.66"
Normal year to date	39.93"

AccuWeather.com
Forecasts and graphics provided by
AccuWeather, Inc. ©2009

UV INDEX TODAY



The higher the AccuWeather UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

TIDES FOR NASSAU

	High	Ht. (ft.)	Low	Ht. (ft.)
Today	9:24 a.m.	3.5	3:02 a.m.	0.3
	9:40 p.m.	2.7	3:51 p.m.	0.6
Thursday	10:12 a.m.	3.4	3:46 a.m.	0.4
	10:29 p.m.	2.6	4:42 p.m.	0.7
Friday	11:05 a.m.	3.3	4:35 a.m.	0.4
	11:26 p.m.	2.6	5:38 p.m.	0.9
Saturday	12:05 p.m.	3.3	5:33 a.m.	0.6
	-----	-----	6:40 p.m.	0.9

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise 7:04 a.m. Moonrise 9:09 p.m.
Sunset 6:50 p.m. Moonset 10:19 a.m.



WORLD CITIES

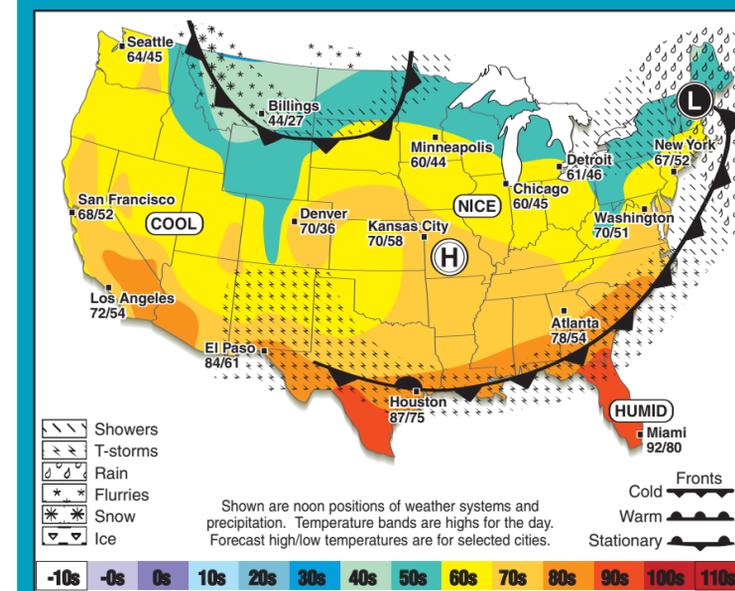
	Today			Thursday		
	High F/C	Low F/C	W	High F/C	Low F/C	W
Acapulco	90/32	75/23	t	90/32	77/25	t
Amsterdam	63/17	52/11	r	59/15	48/8	c
Ankara, Turkey	72/22	37/2	s	70/21	37/2	s
Athens	81/27	62/16	s	79/26	61/16	s
Auckland	59/15	50/10	c	63/17	52/11	r
Bangkok	90/32	76/24	r	90/32	76/24	pc
Barbados	87/30	78/25	t	87/30	78/25	pc
Barcelona	78/25	66/18	s	78/25	61/16	s
Beijing	59/15	50/10	c	64/17	48/8	c
Beirut	77/25	70/21	sh	78/25	70/21	pc
Belgrade	75/23	60/15	pc	84/28	59/15	s
Berlin	66/18	54/12	sh	63/17	46/7	sh
Bermuda	82/27	75/23	t	82/27	73/22	sh
Bogota	68/20	44/6	c	67/19	42/5	sh
Brussels	68/20	50/10	sh	61/16	41/5	r
Budapest	72/22	56/13	pc	77/25	55/12	s
Buenos Aires	63/17	39/3	s	66/18	46/7	pc
Cairo	87/30	68/20	s	89/31	69/20	s
Calcutta	90/32	82/27	r	91/32	80/26	r
Calgary	38/3	21/-6	sf	31/0	9/-12	sf
Cancun	91/32	77/25	pc	89/31	76/24	pc
Caracas	84/28	73/22	t	83/28	73/22	pc
Casablanca	83/28	65/18	s	81/27	60/15	s
Copenhagen	62/16	47/8	sh	49/9	41/5	r
Dublin	55/12	39/3	pc	54/12	43/6	pc
Frankfurt	72/22	61/16	pc	68/20	45/7	sh
Geneva	75/23	56/13	c	61/16	55/12	r
Halifax	58/14	51/10	r	56/13	44/6	r
Havana	93/33	73/22	t	90/32	73/22	s
Helsinki	55/12	40/4	r	50/10	34/1	pc
Hong Kong	86/30	70/21	s	86/30	72/22	s
Islamabad	102/38	63/17	s	101/38	62/16	s
Istanbul	74/23	60/15	s	69/20	61/16	s
Jerusalem	75/23	60/15	s	79/26	60/15	s
Johannesburg	81/27	57/13	s	85/29	57/13	s
Kingston	89/31	80/26	sh	88/31	79/26	r
Lima	76/24	60/15	s	77/25	61/16	pc
London	64/17	48/8	r	61/16	45/7	pc
Madrid	75/23	54/12	t	72/22	50/10	pc
Manila	86/30	75/23	t	85/29	76/24	r
Mexico City	81/27	59/15	t	77/25	57/13	t
Monterrey	95/35	75/23	s	95/35	72/22	pc
Montreal	57/13	47/8	r	55/12	48/8	s
Moscow	48/8	43/6	pc	57/13	48/8	c
Munich	75/23	55/12	pc	71/21	54/12	c
Nairobi	87/30	58/14	t	87/30	58/14	c
New Delhi	93/33	68/20	s	99/37	64/17	s
Oslo	52/11	36/2	s	46/7	32/0	pc
Paris	73/22	57/13	sh	63/17	46/7	sh
Prague	72/22	55/12	pc	74/23	49/9	c
Rio de Janeiro	88/31	73/22	s	82/27	71/21	sh
Riyadh	94/34	67/19	s	94/34	68/20	s
Rome	77/25	61/16	s	77/25	59/15	s
St. Thomas	88/31	80/26	sh	89/31	78/25	s
San Juan	81/27	52/11	t	88/31	54/12	s
San Salvador	87/30	72/22	t	88/31	73/22	t
Sanliago	75/23	50/10	pc	79/26	50/10	s
Santo Domingo	87/30	74/23	sh	86/30	73/22	sh
Sao Paulo	79/26	62/16	t	75/23	60/15	r
Seoul	72/22	46/7	pc	70/21	46/7	pc
Stockholm	54/12	39/3	pc	50/10	34/1	pc
Sydney	63/17	45/7	pc	64/17	44/6	c
Taipei	80/26	71/21	sh	81/27	73/22	c
Tokyo	64/17	63/17	r	64/17	55/12	r
Toronto	56/13	46/7	sh	62/16	51/10	pc
Trinidad	91/32	73/22	t	91/32	70/21	t
Vancouver	60/15	44/6	s	56/13	45/7	pc
Vienna	74/23	62/16	pc	76/24	59/15	pc
Warsaw	64/17	54/12	c	72/22	52/11	c
Winnipeg	50/10	35/1	c	45/7	27/-2	pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice, Prcp-precipitation, Tr-trace

MARINE FORECAST

	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMPS.
NASSAU	Today: E at 3-6 Knots	0-1 Feet	10 Miles	84° F
	Thursday: NE at 3-6 Knots	0-1 Feet	7 Miles	84° F
FREEPORT	Today: E at 4-8 Knots	0-1 Feet	7 Miles	85° F
	Thursday: NNE at 6-12 Knots	0-1 Feet	7 Miles	85° F
ABACO	Today: E at 6-12 Knots	1-3 Feet	7 Miles	83° F
	Thursday: NE at 4-8 Knots	1-3 Feet	7 Miles	83° F

TODAY'S U.S. FORECAST



U.S. CITIES

	Today			Thursday		
	High F/C	Low F/C	W	High F/C	Low F/C	W
Albuquerque	74/23	51/10	t	69/20	45/7	pc
Anchorage	48/8	38/3	sh	50/10	41/5	sh
Atlanta	78/25	54/12	t	80/26	61/16	s
Atlantic City	68/20	49/9	r	70/21	46/7	s
Baltimore	70/21	50/10	r	75/23	52/11	s
Boston	64/17	51/10	r	65/18	50/10	s
Buffalo	58/14	47/8	sh	65/18	51/10	pc
Charleston, SC	86/30	59/15	t	82/27	57/13	s
Chicago	60/15	45/7	s	63/17	49/9	r
Cleveland	62/16	46/7	c	67/19	53/11	pc
Dallas	76/24	71/21	pc	84/28	65/18	t
Denver	70/21	36/2	s	50/10	27/-2	c
Detroit	61/16	46/7	c	62/16	50/10	pc
Honolulu	87/30	76/24	s	87/30	75/23	pc
Houston	87/30	75/23	t	89/31	77/25	t
Indianapolis	64/17	44/6	s	68/20	61/16	r
Jacksonville	93/33	68/20	pc	86/30	67/19	s
Kansas City	70/21	58/14	s	66/18	44/6	r
Las Vegas	80/26	53/11	pc	82/27	58/14	s
Little Rock	74/23	60/15	s	82/27	70/21	t
Los Angeles	72/22	54/12	pc	72/22	56/13	s
Louisville	67/19	47/8	pc	76/24	66/18	c
Memphis	72/22	61/16	s	82/27	71/21	pc
Miami	92/33	80/26	t	90/32	80/26	t
Minneapolis	60/15	44/6	pc	53/11	36/2	sh
Nashville	71/21	47/8	s	81/27	66/18	s
New Orleans	87/30	75/23	t	92/33	76/24	t
New York	67/19	52/11	r	68/20	56/13	s
Honolulu	87/30	76/24	s	87/30	75/23	pc
Houston	87/30	75/23	t	89/31	77/25	t
Philadelphia	68/20	50/10	r	70/21	54/12	s
Phoenix	85/29	64/17	pc	83/28	61/16	pc
Pittsburgh	59/15	43/6	pc	65/18	52/11	pc
Portland, OR	68/20	45/7	s	68/20	46/7	s
Raleigh-Durham	77/25	53/11	pc	78/25	55/12	s
St. Louis	70/21	53/11	s	74/23	59/15	r
Salt Lake City	62/16	40/4	s	57/13	36/2	s
San Antonio	86/30	77/25	t	87/30	75/23	pc
San Diego	68/20	60/15	pc	68/20	60/15	s
San Francisco	68/20	52/11	s	68/20	52/11	s
Seattle	64/17	45/7	s	60/15	44/6	pc
Tallahassee	88/31	70/21	t	89/31	68/20	s
Tampa	92/33	77/25	pc	92/33	77/25	t
Tucson	82/27	59/15	pc	77/25	50/10	pc
Washington, DC	70/21	51/10	r	72/22	55/12	s

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TASTE

The Tribune Taste



PARTICIPANTS get cooking advice and hands-on instructions from Chef Elijah Bowe.



A PARTICIPANT assists Chef Elijah Bowe with preparation for the veal ossobuco.



Learn to cook Mediterranean cuisine

By REUBEN SHEARER
Tribune Features Reporter

GRAYCLIFF Restaurant is offering an encore to its culinary class series by opening its kitchens to interested persons for a four-week cooking course.

The series started last Saturday and it teaches participants some of the culinary secrets and techniques used at Graycliff's five-star restaurant.

The classes are taught in an intimate group setting by Executive Chef Elijah Bowe and his team in the Graycliff kitchen.

With three more sessions left, each week will capture a culinary lesson in a different cuisine.

Last weekend, the participants enjoyed making dishes from the Mediterranean. The five-star dinner was served by Graycliff waiters

and was accompanied by a glass of wine or another beverage of choice.

A Mediterranean seafood salad and herb lamb shank with Greek couscous salad were just some of the appetising delights that they enjoyed. For dessert, they dived into amigdalota, which is made with Greek almond macaroons.

Diane Chea and her husband participated in the culinary series last September. They both took all five classes, and said they can attest to the fact that Chef Bowe is an "informative, pleasant, and great

teacher."

"French day was my favourite because he used cooking techniques I wasn't familiar with," Mrs Chea said.

Her favourite dish was 'Cuchile St Jacques', which she made during French week.

The dish incorporates a variety of seafood - scallops, grouper, and lobster in a cream sauce served with piped mashed potatoes.

Next Saturday's class promises to be just as good as the first session.

The theme is 'A Taste of the Caribbean.'

Snapper cooked in rock salt, coconut rice, and other favourites are said to be on the menu. The two sessions following this will be 'The Spices of India' and the 'Heritage of Thailand'.

For more information, contact Diane Williams at 302-9250.



A DELECTABLE treat- tiramisu.



RAVIOLI Gigante with Mediterranean sauce. It's an Italian dish made in last month's series.

entertainment

'SHAKESPEARE IN PARADISE'

By JEFFARAH GIBSON

THE hotly anticipated 'Shakespeare in Paradise' theatre festival opened on Monday night with a play which takes an in-depth look at how our African heritage and neighbouring countries have all greatly influenced music in the Bahamas.

The play 'Music of the Bahamas' under the direction of Phillip Brown and Nicolette Bethel, was originally written for presentation at the 1991 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, adapted from E Clement Bethel's thesis on the role music plays in Bahamian life and culture.

The story of the play unfolds chronologically, incorporating the different historical influences on Bahamian music through the years, as the cast performs a series of folk melodies.

'Music of the Bahamas' is probably best suited for a mature audience who are able to appreciate how the local music evolved.

And while its purpose is to inform, audience members will be entertained by the lively performance and soon forget that they are being educated in the process.

The play even makes use of a little comedy. Unfortunately, the laughter of the crowd sometimes made one or two of the actors during Monday night's performance lose their momentum, making them break character.

And although it was not a huge distraction from

the performance, the make-up did not help in capturing the feel of the time period in which the play is set - the early to mid-20th century.

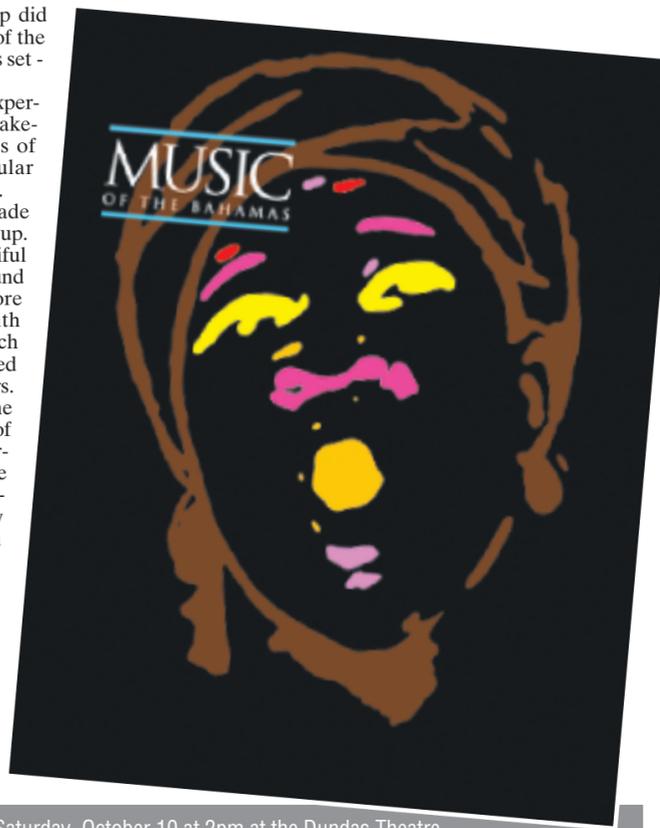
The women had obviously experimented with blush and eye make-up, often wearing two shades of eye-shadow, which is a popular trend in the Bahamas of today.

The costumes, however, made up for any over-use of make-up. The women wore long beautiful Androsia skirts and scarfs around their heads. And the men wore pants which were held up with suspenders and neckties which served as belts. They also boasted rounded hats and penny loafers.

But the best thing about the play are the melodious voices of the actors who harmonised perfectly. A few of the songs were depressing at times, but the voices were so beautiful that they evoked bittersweet feelings in the audience.

'Music of the Bahamas' can definitely be recommended for anyone who has an interest in the country's musical roots and wants to be entertained by talented actors and singers.

Additional showings for 'Music of the Bahamas' will take place on the following dates:



movie REVIEW



Greg Wilson/AP Photo

JESSE EISENBERG, left, and Woody Harrelson are shown in a scene from "Zombieland."

By JASON DONALD

ZOMBIELAND

• **Starring:** Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson, Emma Stone

THE zombie apocalypse premise is the gift that keeps on giving for filmmakers. The movie resurgence in the undead genre that kicked into gear with 2002's '28 Days Later' has shown no signs of flagging, and with this latest effort - played mostly for laughs - it is perhaps at its best yet.

Zombieland starts without so much as taking a breath. There's no convoluted setup, just a droll voice-over from a young student called Columbus (Eisenberg) spoken over a horrific visual lesson on zombie survival.

Columbus fears he may be last person alive in the now zombie infested United States, but being an obsessive compulsive loner by nature, he's handled it better than almost everyone else.

Then he meets the gloriously eccentric Tallahassee (Harrelson), a sort of cowboy/Mad Max hybrid and the two of them set off on a road trip across the ravaged countryside.

Everything about Zombieland works - it's got a sharp script, great comedic set pieces, Eisenberg and Harrelson compliment each other perfectly and, even in its quieter moments, there's an air of constant menace.

It's violent beyond belief at times, but there's enough charm to prevent it ever becoming sour - besides, if the people being slaughtered are already dead, does it really count?

PANDORUM

• **Starring:** Dennis Quaid, Ben Foster

SOME solid B-movie fun is to be had in this claustrophobic sci-fi/horror film.

Quaid and Foster play two crew members on a giant spaceship who wake from suspended animation with no knowledge of who they are or what their mission is.

With Quaid calling the shots from the control room, Foster explores the dark corridors of the ship and discovers they might not be alone.

Pandorum takes a simple idea and runs a long way with it, borrowing liberally from similar movies along the way. But two strong central performances and some neat plot twists keep this consistently entertaining. Foster, an unusual choice for a leading man, gives the film a real edge and the payoff should see everyone leave the theatre satisfied.



• Wednesday, October 7 at 7pm at the Humidor
• Thursday, October 8 at 8pm at the Humidor
• Friday, October 9 at 8pm at the Marley Resort

• Saturday, October 10 at 2pm at the Dundas Theatre
• Monday, October 12 at 3pm at the Dundas Theatre



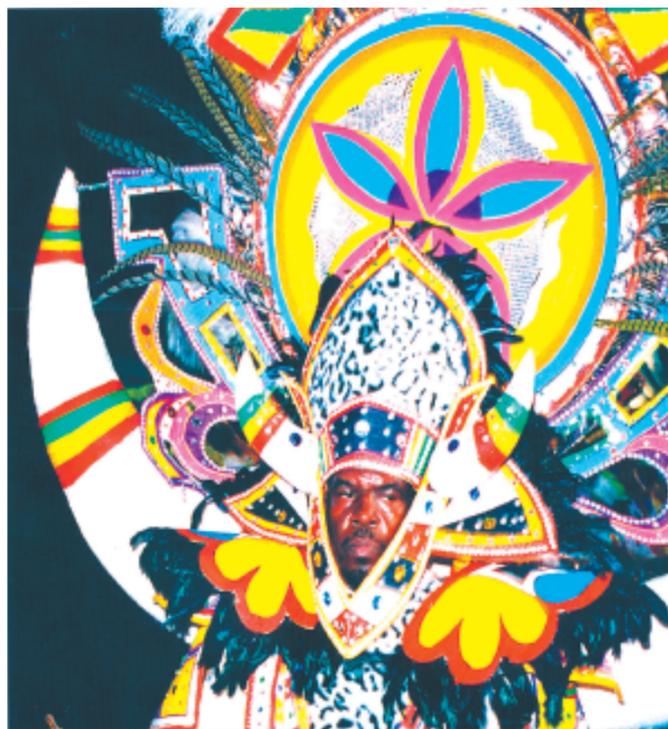
Red Cross releases 2009 Christmas Cards

THE Bahamas Red Cross Society is highlighting the beauty and excitement of the Bahamas with its 2009 selection of Christmas cards.

One of the cards features the flamboyant beauty of the Royal Poinciana in full bloom, and the other shows off the exotic colours reflected in the costume of a Bahamian junkanooer who carries the rhythm of the Christmas and New Year holiday beat throughout the islands.

The photos on both cards were taken by renowned Bahamian photographer Andrew Aitken.

The cards are available for purchase and early mailing at the Red Cross headquarters on John F Kennedy Drive. Proceeds aid the Society's ongoing relief efforts.



things2DO

1. Organisers of the **Shakespeare in Paradise** event will host a special 'Music of the Bahamas' fundraiser at Graycliff's Humidor tonight. The reception will begin at 7pm, with the performance part of the evening starting at 8pm. Tickets are \$95 per person and include a churrascaria selection and a glass of champagne or wine provided by Graycliff. Proceeds will in part go to the E Clement Bethel Friends of the Festival.

2. The schedule for the remaining **Shakespeare in Paradise** performances is as follows:
• Tonight at 8pm: 'Caribbean Voices' and 'One White One Black' at the Dundas. Tickets are \$25.
'Zora' at the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas (NAGB). Tickets are \$25.
• Thursday, October 8: 'The Tempest' at the Dundas for \$25 per person at 11am and 8pm.
'Music of the Bahamas' at the Humi-

dor at 8pm. Tickets are \$25.
• Friday, October 9: 'The Tempest' at 11am and 8pm at the Dundas. 'Zora' at 8pm at NAGB. 'Music of the Bahamas' at 8pm at the Marley Resort. Tickets for all events are \$25 per person. The 'Festival Bar' at the Marley Resort starts at 10pm.
• Saturday, October 10: 'One White One Black' and 'Music of the Bahamas' at 2pm at the Dundas. 'The Tempest' at 8pm at the Dundas. 'Caribbean Voices' at 8pm at Nirvana. Tickets for all events are \$25. A 'Festival Bar' will be open at Nirvana from 10pm.
• Sunday, October 11: 'Zora' at 3pm at the Dundas. 'One White One Black' and 'Love in Two Acts' at 3pm at the Hub. 'The Tempest' at 8pm at the Dundas. Tickets for all performances are \$25. The 'Festival Bar' will be open at the Hub from 10pm.
• Monday, October 12: 'Caribbean Voices' and 'Music of the Bahamas' at 3pm at the Dundas. Tickets are

\$25.
3. The Salvation Army's Erin H Gilmour School for the Blind is excited to invite the public to the gospel concert "Praise On The Seas". The concert will be held on Saturday, October 10, from 7.30pm until 10.30pm onboard the *m/v Legacy* which departs from the west end of Potter's Cay Dock. All proceeds are in aid of the School for the Blind. Local artists to perform include Barack Ministries; Christian Massive; Denzel Rolle and the Church of God Mass Choir; Mighty Beacon; Leon Wilson, and Everette Sands, Jr. Director of Immigration Jack Thompson will be the master of ceremonies. Dishes on the menu for the evening include fish, chicken, peas and rice, conch fritters, macaroni, tossed salad, conch salad, corn on the cob, cheese cake, pound cake, fruit

punch, vita malt, and an assortment of juices. Tickets are available at all Salvation Army churches; the Salvation Army Divisional Headquarters at number 31 on Mackey Street and the Erin H Gilmour School for the Blind. The Erin H Gilmour School is a comprehensive educational facility for blind and visually impaired children. Appropriately trained teachers cater to primary and secondary students who are unable to attend the regular school system.

4. The Wyndham Nassau Beach Resort and Crystal Palace Casino will hold its grand opening celebrations this weekend. Blue Star Technologies, PlayerXT and Joe Jackson's MarAnce Record will present a weekend of international and Bahamian talent in the Crystal Palace Rainforest Theatre. Also in attendance will be representatives from Entertainment Tonight; Access Hollywood; Inside Edition;

BET; NBC, and Telemundo. Events open to the public are:
• Welcoming party on October 9 at 8pm: Meet the talent and the models at Senor Frogs on the Bay;
• Talent audition on October 10 at 7 pm: Bahamian talent will be auditioned by Joe Jackson and Marshall Thompson in the Rainforest Theatre followed by an after party at the 22 Above Nightclub in the Wyndham Resort. Admission is \$5;
• Talent showcase and Blue Star Beauty Pageant and announcement of winners at the Rainforest Theatre on October 11 at 7pm. General admission is \$10, VIP tickets are \$25. Those interested in the events can contact 327-6200.

5. The All-Catholic Basketball Tournament will take place from October 9-12. The event will be held at Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road, at 7.45pm and is in special honour of Vince Ferguson who passed away recently.

ARTS

BAHAMIAN BEAUTY QUEENS ADVANCE IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

By REUBEN SHEARER
Tribune Features Reporter

Dashanique Poitier and Kendra Wilkinson leave their mark on the global pageant circuit, placing in the top 15 in their respective competitions in Europe

THE STAKES are high in most beauty pageants and the Miss Bahamas World Pageant is no exception. At the end of the day only one girl goes home as the 'queen'.

Runners-up are left to find new opportunities and the top three go on to represent the Bahamas in international pageants.

This year, the winning queen was 17-year-old Joanna Brown, a recent high school graduate from Grand Bahama.

Joanna, who left the country last week to continue training for the Miss World Pageant, recently sat down to talk with two of her fellow delegates who placed in the first and second runner-up positions in the pageant.

While the girls Joanna beat out would have loved to take home the crown themselves, they realised early on that their success depended heavily on whether they let their 'defeat' stop them from doing well in the future.

It is this attitude that makes or breaks a queen, Michelle Malcolm, president of the

Belarusian culture and traditions as they toured places like the Belovezhskaya Pushcha and the Braslav lakes.

Though Dashanique hit some snags in her journey to the pageant, she overcame these setbacks with a forward-looking perspective and putting forth her best.

She said: "I was supposed to go to Russia, from New York to Russia, but I didn't have a Russian visa. So I had to overnight in New York, and Ms Malcolm had to get a ticket for me to go to Poland instead of going through Moscow. I was really depressed because I didn't know what to do. I was all around the airport in New York with my three pieces of luggage, lost."

Although she was concerned that she would be the last contestant to arrive, she was surprised to see that it did not matter in the end - The contestant that ultimately won the pageant, Miss Venezuela,

really enjoyed myself."

Ms Malcolm said the lesson learned is that it is not all about the girl who wins. "We always tell our contestants that there's only one crown, and only one girl will win that crown. But don't allow that to stop you from achieving everything that you are destined to achieve or taking advantage of every opportunity that is going to come your way."

As far as the reigning Miss Bahamas World Joanna Brown is concerned, MBO has very high hopes that she will continue the trend of victorious Bahamian beauty queens in November's Miss World competition.

Standing at six-foot, she is very well-spoken, witty and intelligent, and says she's ready to "do (her) thing in South Africa"

"I'm so happy because my colleagues have prepared the way for me to go further than they have. I am so happy for



DASHANIQUE shows off her physique in the Miss Intercontinental Swimsuit Competition.



LEFT to right: MISS Supranational semi-finalist Kendra Wilkinson, Miss Bahamas World Joanna Brown, and Miss Intercontinental semi-finalist Dashanique Poitier.



DASHANIQUE Poitier is announced as a Top 15 finalist in the Miss Intercontinental Pageant in Minsk, Belarus.



BAHAMIAN beauty Kendra Wilkinson is named a Top 15 finalist.

Miss Bahamas Organisation (MBO), said.

This year Ms Malcolm has a lot to be happy about. Not only did two of the runners-up go on to international competitions, but both of them made the cut, putting the Bahamas on the map.

It is a great accomplishment for such a young organisation, which was established just three years ago.

Kendra Wilkinson, Top Model of the Bahamas 2009, and Dashanique Poitier, Miss Bahamas Intercontinental 2009, were among the top 15 stunners in their pageants, which were recently held in Plock, Poland, and in Minsk, Belarus, respectively. Both girls advanced to the final round of their competitions.

Kendra, 20, is famed for her long legs, a winning smile, and a heart of gold, and these are just some of the qualities that helped her to land a spot in the top 15 finalists of the first ever Miss Supranational Pageant recently held in Poland.

At the final event, she captured two honours - the Miss Friendship and Miss Personality awards - earning her prize money totalling \$1,000.

While most in her position would have used their winnings to celebrate their success, Kendra donated a portion of her prize money to purchase school supplies for students in need at Claridge Primary School.

Dashanique, also 20, is no stranger to international pageants. She quickly established herself as one of the favourites for the Miss Intercontinental title.

Arriving in Belarus, Dashanique said the other contestants were very excited to see her:

"When I got there, everyone was like 'oh, Bahamas is here, Bahamas is here.'"

She and her fellow delegates got acquainted with

was the last contestant to arrive.

According to Ms Malcolm, the travel agent failed to tell her that Dashanique needed a transit visa to go through Russia to get to the pageant.

"We purchased her ticket, she was all set, and I was away in Florida that weekend. I got a call from her saying she couldn't get on the plane. We had to purchase her a new ticket to go through another country."

Dashanique still beat out more than 45 women from around the world. Placing in the top 15 made her setbacks worth the effort and stress.

Kendra experienced similar travel woes.

After missing her flight in Poland, she was stuck in a foreign airport where nobody spoke English.

"When you get caught in situations like that it's really good for you to be aware of your surroundings and think quick on your feet."

These setbacks did not keep her down and she quickly put it all behind her. In the preliminaries she established herself early on as one of the favourites for the title.

Competing against 35 contestants from around the world, she not only placed among the 15 finalists.

Kendra said she was surprised that she won Miss Friendship. She was vocal in trying to get the other contestants to understand that they had to be considerate of the each other and the pageant schedule by making proper use of the time they had for personal event preparation.

"Poland is very big, and we did a lot of travelling. Unlike home, where it takes you 10 to 15 minutes to get anywhere, in Poland we were on the coach bus for about three hours sometimes. We had long days and long nights but in the end it paid off, and I

them that they placed top 15. It makes all of us look good and shows the expertise that the organisation has.

"I've been doing a lot of training here on the island and have been keeping up with my diet. I should be going abroad to further my training, and overall it has been really good. I'm proud of myself and I got a lot more discipline with the help from Ms Malcolm," she said.

Since she claimed the crown, Joanna has been working with special needs children in her hometown of Freeport.

"What I've been looking into is funding a part of the Beacon School in Freeport," she said.

"They want to turn the building into a place where special needs kids can make pottery and create jams and jellies and put their crafts and talents to good use."

Joanna left last week for Canada to undergo a rigorous training with world renowned trainer Bobby Ackbalari. "He's an awesome trainer, we communicate daily and started preparation over the phone," she said.

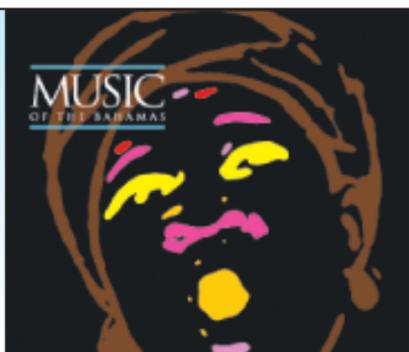
A high-tea event is planned for October 30 by the MBO and the Ministry of Tourism to raise funds for the Beacon School in Grand Bahama.

The event will feature a beat retreat and a fashion show, and will showcase some of Joanna's pageant wardrobe for Miss World.

MBO president Ms Malcolm said she hopes that the public and corporate Bahamas will help support the event.

"If this project is a success it will make a difference in the lives of the kids at the Beacon School," she said.

The Miss World Pageant will be broadcast live from Johannesburg, South Africa, on ZNS TV on December 12, and on the E! Network in the United States.

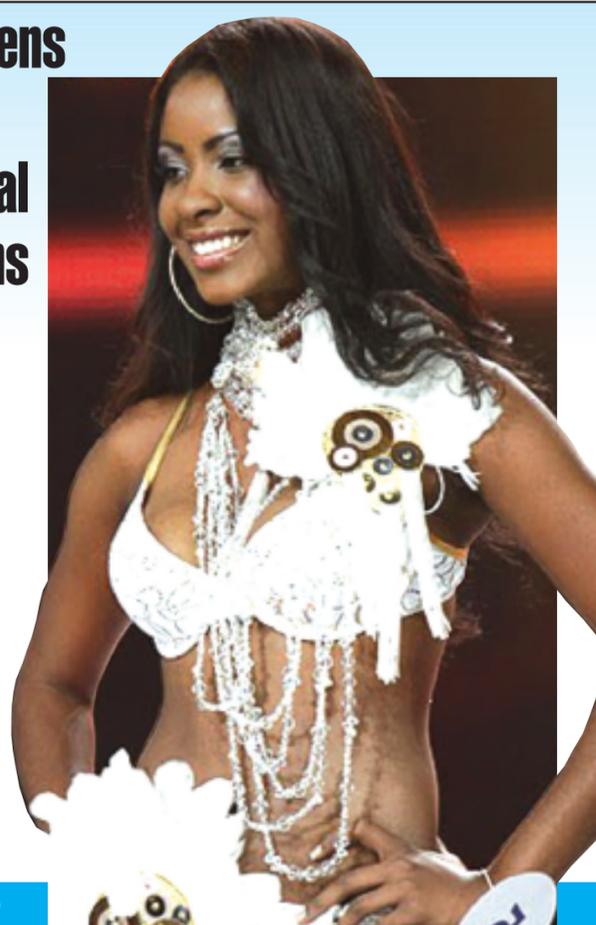


'Shakespeare in Paradise'

See page nine

Beauty queens advance in international competitions

See page 10



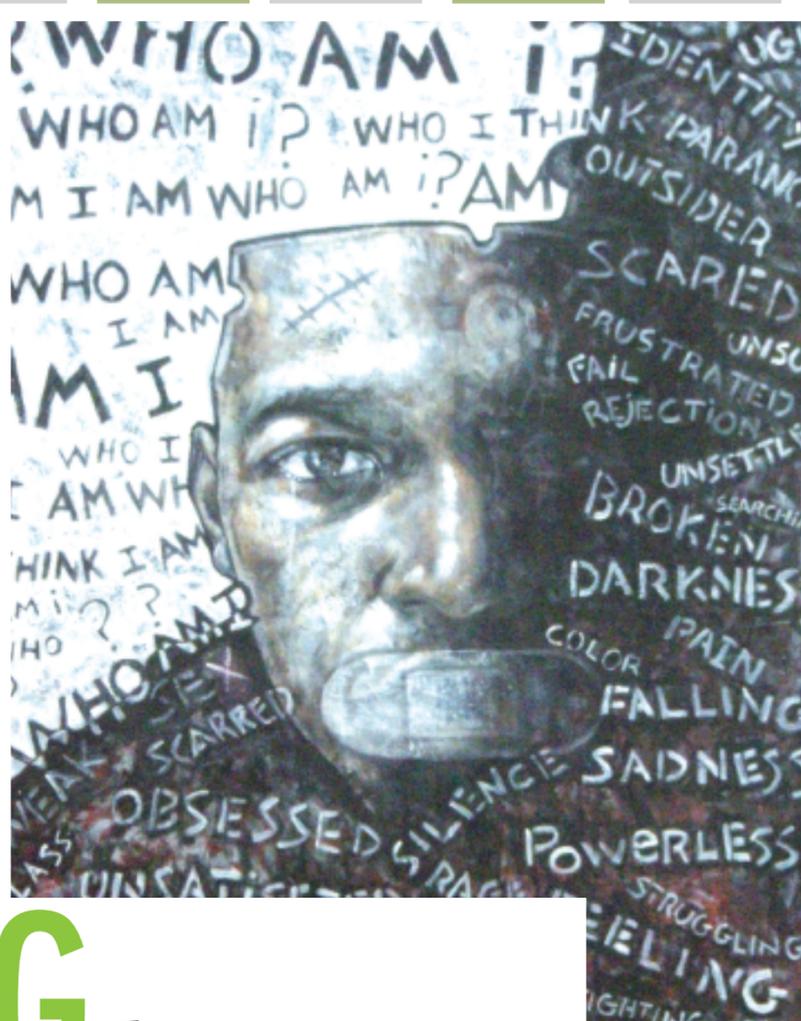
The **Arts**

The Tribune SECTION B •

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2009



'PORTRAIT OF MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER', KHIA POTTIER



A INTROSPECTIVE PIECE ENTITLED, 'WHO AM I'

REDEFINING the **PORTRAIT**

By **REUBEN SHEARER**
Tribune Features Reporter

It's that time of the year again. The Central Bank of the Bahamas has opened its doors to budding Bahamian artists, showcasing the pieces of local talent in a public exhibition that can be seen all this month leading up to October 30 in the bank's lobby.

However, things are a little different this year. The first installment of the art competition and exhibition are pieces from the 'open category', which includes the artwork of persons aged 18 or older not enrolled in high school.

Under the theme "Redefining the Portrait," this year's open category focuses on the classical style of painting a subject from the shoulders up, where the face and its expression is the predominant feature.

Each artist submitted one piece of work in the categories of sculpture, drawing, painting, print, collage, or other pictorial presentation forms.

Tribune Arts viewed some of the entries for the open category yesterday, and there is no doubt about it, this year's competitors came out in full force - each piece is intricately designed and presents a unique vision.

Some artists even incorporated materials like clothing, hats, masks, and plaster to write words in a variety of tones and colours across their pieces.

The painting 'Who Am I' by Jackson Petit is an example of a very personal piece, reflecting human emotions and different life themes. Mr Petit attempted to explain the ideas behind the piece to Tribune Arts.

He said the painting represents the myriad of feelings he experiences as an individual. The predominant colours in the oil-

based piece are red, black and white.

In the self-portrait, the left side of the 26-year-old artist's face is in darkness. Mr Petit created the painting using a photograph he took of himself and by often looking in the mirror to properly translate his features onto the canvas.

"I'm going through the process of finding my identity and finding out who I am - I have a Haitian background. With the text, I was trying to illustrate literally how I am thinking and what I am thinking," he said.

In the painting, there is a chair, which is a symbol of the impoverished state he experienced in his formative years.

"The chair is a piece of furniture that my parents had before. I used that chair to sit in and do my artwork," he said.

From the looks of it, the judges will have a hard time choosing winners for the competition.

For the successful artists, this competition will serve as an introduction to the Bahamian art scene, and the exposure they will get will be invaluable for their future endeavours.

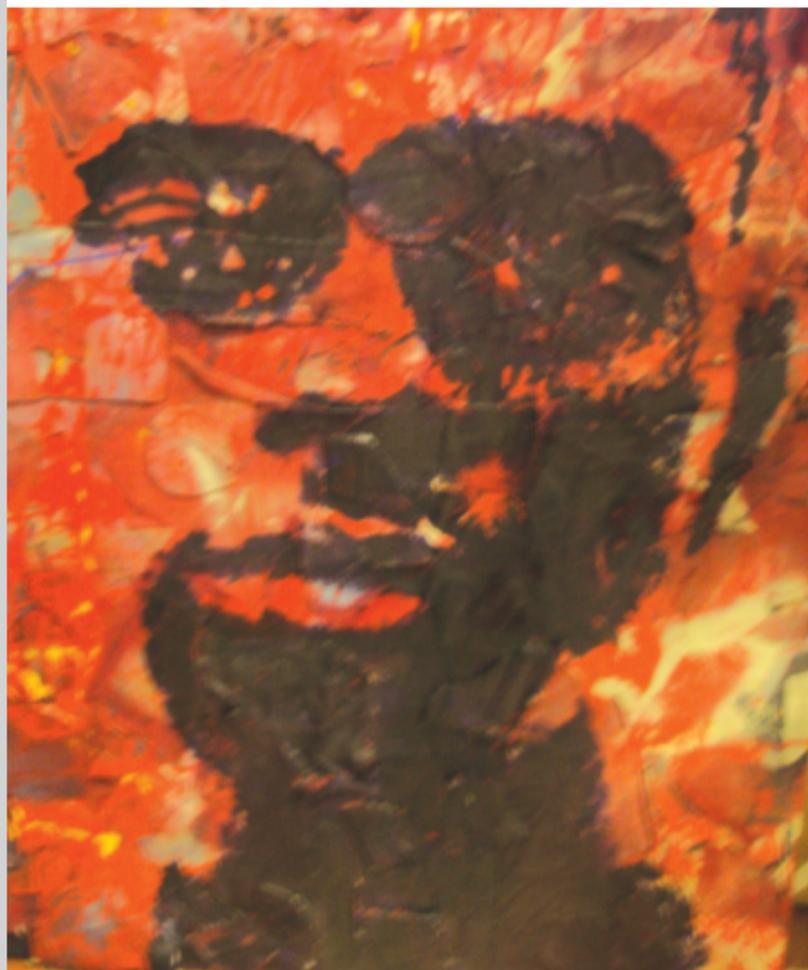
The winner of the open category will receive \$7,000 in cash, and will be welcomed to hold an exhibition next year.

An award presentation for winners of the open category will take place on Friday, October 21 at 6pm.

The public will be able to view art displays from the open category starting today. These first installments are only the beginning of the competition, however.

CBOB gallery curator Heino Schmidt hopes for quality work from the high school and primary school categories in November.

Promoting the exhibition last month, he said: "We want to move with the needs of the art community. One of the needs is a lack of funding, and we're hoping that with sufficient support from participants in the community this exhibition will continue to be a staple in the Bahamian art community."



A SELF-PORTRAIT BY ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS