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Islands in-Da-Sun exhibition
SEE 'THE ARTS' SECTION

Larry Smith's Tough Call
SEE PAGE EIGHT

Uproar at hotel union meeting

Factions clash over legitimacy of nominees

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

A RUCKUS kicked off at Worker's House yesterday morning as nominations were submitted for the Bahamas Hotel Catering and Allied Workers Union's (BHCAWU) upcoming elections.

Supporters and members of Kirk Wilson's Deliverance Team were pitted against those behind Nicole Martin's A Team as BHCAWU president Roy Colebrooke, general secretary Leo Douglas and Director of Labour Harcourt Brown discussed the legitimacy of three nominees behind closed doors.

Mr Douglas and Mr Colebrooke refused to accept nominations from Tyrone Beneby, Philippa Dixon and Raymond Wright running

for the Deliverance Team as they said the nominees are not rightful members of the union according to the Constitution.

When the Director of Labour overseeing the process said Team Deliverance members could still be nominated, Mr Colebrooke told him he was 'sent to supervise' and 'did not have the power to change the constitution', an observer said.

As they held discussions in private, commotion unfolded in the hallway.

An observer said: "There's ruckus inside the hall, people are screaming and carrying on, shouting obscenities, and people from different sides are threatening each other."

"The Redemption team, headed by Sidney Rolle, is

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WENDALL JONES AMONG BUSINESSMEN IN COURT



Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff

JONES COMMUNICATION CEO Wendall Jones is pictured outside of court yesterday. Mr Jones and several other prominent Bahamian businessmen were in Magistrate's Court yesterday to give an update on their efforts to pay off years of delinquent National Insurance contributions.

• SEE STORY ON PAGE THREE

Paul Moss formally tells Christie of his upcoming bid for leadership

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

CLAIMING he feels prompted by 'God Himself' to offer at this time, PLP chief Paul Moss has formally advised party leader Perry Christie of his intentions to challenge him at the upcoming national convention.

In his letter addressed to Mr Christie, and a second to the party's Parliamentary caucus, Mr Moss said that although his decision pits himself directly against Mr Christie, this move was not a challenge of the leader's abilities or a statement of any shortcoming.

"In fact, the truth is



PAUL MOSS

SEE page seven

Pastor of demolished church is 'weighing his legal options'

By **TANEKA THOMPSON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
tthompson@tribunemedia.net

THE pastor whose church was demolished by Arawak Homes after a Supreme Court judgment said he is weighing his legal options.

Reverend Eugene Bastian, of Canaan Baptist Church, believes his church had the legal right to tear down the structure - in accordance with the ruling handed down nearly two weeks ago - and said he was shocked that Arawak Homes razed the church the morning after the judgment was made.

He added that the building was bulldozed before he

SEE page seven

'Breathe Easy' campaign for PMH halfway to \$300,000 goal

\$155,000 has been raised for incubators and ventilators

THE 'Breathe Easy' campaign - aimed at purchasing incubators and ventilators for critically ill newborns at Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) - has managed to raise more than half of its intended goal of \$300,000.

To date, the campaign has raised \$155,000, and organisers have already ordered three ventilators as well as one incubator.

Following their successful drive to raise money for much needed dialysis units for the PMH last year, a group of local companies recently launched the 'Breathe Easy' campaign to buy four ventilators and six

incubators for the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

The organisers include Tribune Media, the Builder's Mall, Tile King,

SEE page seven

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LOCAL NEWS

International Cultural Festival set for October

By LINDSAY THOMPSON

THE stage has been set for the 14th Annual International Cultural Festival (ICF), an event that will showcase the diverse communities in the country, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Brent Symonette said.

Mr Symonette urged Bahamians to support the festival by coming out to see the displays of 25 countries at the Botanical Gardens from October 17-18.

The popular festival returns after a one-year hiatus due to the retirement of its chairman James Catalyn and a debate over whether or not the Botanical Gardens should remain home to the event.

The International Cultural Festival, which is under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, grew out of the idea to recognise United Nations (UN) Day. This year, the Bahamas will join member countries in celebrating the 64th anniversary of the UN.

An integral part of the festival is the partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation, which has embarked on a series of special advertisements of the event. The new ICF chairperson is Janet Johnson, director of communications at the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation.

"As more and more foreign national groups organised themselves it took on a life of its own and by all accounts, from the countless individuals -



DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER and Minister of Foreign Affairs Brent Symonette (centre) announcing plans for the 14th Annual International Cultural Festival to be held October 17-18, 2009. Pictured are ICF chairperson Janet Johnson, director of communications at the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation, and Eric Carey, committee member.

Bahamian and expatriate alike - who pleaded with me to bring it back when it went away last year, this gathering is the most popular event on the annual calendar of events and clearly is worth reviving," Mr Symonette said.

The Deputy Prime Minister said he was also pleased that the members of the ICF have unanimously agreed to donate 10 per cent of their booth earnings to assist with operational expenses and to support pledges to UN-related educational initiatives for Bahamian youth.

For two days, festival patrons can experience the food, culture and heritage of the respective countries. A new addition to the festival is the Miss Universe Designer Fashion Show coordinated by MODE ILES and a glimpse of the Miss Universe National Costume photo gallery.

The Bank of the Bahamas will facilitate the "cashless" festive environment, a "safety

mechanism to allow organisers to gauge the overall fiscal performance of the festival, Mr Symonette said.

Burns House will unveil their Christmas wine collection and the public is welcome to sample the variety of wines and place their orders for the Yuletide season at the Grand Wine and Food Tasting event between 10am and 2pm.

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is lending its prestige to the event.

The Miss Universe Bahamian Designer Fashion Show, which features Androsia and Bahama Hand Print fabrics, as well as eight costumes donated to the festival by some of the Miss Universe contestants, will be held under the aegis of UNESCO.

Another new feature will include the Builders Mall stage perched atop the hill. Commonwealth Building Supplies is giving the festival site "a

much needed makeover" with a fresh lick of paint. Island FM is the official radio station of the festival; Subway is the sponsor of the rake 'n scrape tradition bearers from Long Island, and Echo Water is the official water of the festival.

Mr Symonette commended the volunteers drawn from Rotary, Zonta, Girl Guides, and the Q's service who will be involved in this year's festival. Zonta will again host the UN-themed church service at Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday, October 25 at 9am.

"Patrons are encouraged to come and move around from stall to stall and sample this unique taste of the universe - the cuisine, fine wines, special brews, arts and craft, exciting raffle prizes and the Western Union on-stage cultural entertainment line-up.

"Make the 14th Annual International Cultural Festival 2009 the place to be," Mr Symonette said.

MISS TEEN WORLD JUNIOR BAHAMAS TO COMPETE IN EUROPEAN PAGEANT

JUST a few months after being crowned Miss Teen World Junior Bahamas, Shaquell Demeritte left the Bahamas for Europe on Sunday to compete in the world's most prestigious and largest teen pageant - the Miss Princess of the World, formerly the Miss World Junior Pageant.

During her three-week stay in Europe she will tour various cities, beginning with London in the United Kingdom and ending in Prague, Czech Republic, where the grand finale will take place.

"Precious", as the young beauty queen is commonly called said:

"I cannot wait to promote the Bahamas throughout Europe.

"I know the world knows about us now, and the duty of all beauty ambassadors is to keep the Bahamas current in the minds of the world as a tourist paradise and investment haven.

"I would also like to sign on with one of the casting agencies at the pageant and represent the Bahamas well. I am aiming for the goal, but to make a notable accomplishment among the 60 plus contestants will be good".

The pageant focuses on introducing the best teenage contestants from across the world to scouts of modelling and casting agencies throughout Europe.

The contestants compete in talent, model, swimwear and evening gown segments, and the winner receives \$100,000 in cash and awards.

The event will be broadcast live to millions of viewers on September 28.

Gaynell Rolle, president of the Miss Teen Bahamas Pageant, said: "This is an awesome opportunity for Shaquell and the Bahamas.

"I feel she will do well, she has a good spirit and comes from a supportive family."

Debonaire Boutique has teamed up with the organisation and is sponsoring the Bahamas' representative.



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LOCAL NEWS

Wendall Jones among businessmen back in court over NIB contributions

By NATARIO McKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

JONES Communication CEO Wendall Jones and several other prominent Bahamian businessmen were back in Magistrate's Court yesterday to give an update on their efforts to pay off years of delinquent National Insurance contributions.

Bench warrants were issued yesterday for **Bertha's Go-Go Ribs** owner **Mervin Sweeting**, **Solomon's Mines** Managing Director **Mark Finlayson** as well as **Vaughn Jones of Jones Brothers Morticians** after they failed to appear in Court 11, Nassau Street yesterday.

Back in February, the National Insurance Board NIB brought Jones Communications CEO Wendall Jones and other well-known Bahamian businessmen before the magistrate's court in an attempt to collect more than \$1.2 million in missing

NIB contributions.

Mr Jones pleaded guilty to owing NIB \$430,000 in delinquent payments. Attorney V. Alfred Gray who appeared on behalf of Mr Jones yesterday told the court he has paid \$100,000 of the nearly \$180,000, which represents 40 per cent of the delinquent amount.

Attorney

Heather Maynard, attorney for NIB, said that once Mr Jones has paid the full 40 per cent, NIB would be happy to negotiate to liquidate the balance. Mr Gray said Mr Jones will seek to pay to the balance by November 17.

Mr Gray also appeared on behalf of **Global United CEO Jackson Ritchie** who was charged with failure to pay \$161,079.98 in NIB contributions between May 2007 and June 2008.

Mr Gray said that the NIB

and Mr Ritchie are continuing negotiations with respect to the delinquent contributions.

Mr Ritchie is also expected back in Court 11, Nassau Street on November 17.

Galen Saunders and his father **Henry Saunders** who own **More 94.9 FM** and **Spirit (92.5 FM)** radio stations were also back in court yesterday over failure to pay \$253,262 in NIB contributions.

Ms Maynard said the men have paid \$43,000 so far and are 'working in good faith.' The two men are also expected back in Court 11, on November 17.

Magistrate Sub Swain-LaSalle issued warrant of arrests yesterday for Mervin Sweeting, owner of **Bertha's Go-Go Ribs**.

Mr Gray told the court that on June 29, Sweeting paid NIB \$10,000 and had negotiated to keep his contributions current while paying \$2,000 a month in delin-

quent payments. Mr Gray, however, could offer no explanation as to why Mr Sweeting was not in court yesterday. Magistrate LaSalle noted three warrants had been issued for Mr Sweeting's arrest.

Warrant

"He has a habit of not showing up," Magistrate LaSalle said before issuing the bench warrant.

A bench warrant was also issued for Solomon's Mines Managing Director Mark Finlayson. Finlayson was charged with failure to pay \$377,092.90 in NIB contri-

butions between June 2007 and December 2008. Mr Finlayson was ordered to appear in court yesterday to inform the court what arrangement he worked out with NIB and how much he had paid.

A bench warrant was also issued for Vaughn Jones of Jones Brothers Morticians who failed to appear in court yesterday.

NIB has been taking a nonsense approach to prosecuting delinquent employers since an amnesty the company extended for delinquent employers to come in and settle accounts ended on December 31, 2008.

Man wanted for questioning over housebreakings

FREEPORT – Grand Bahama Police are searching for a man wanted for questioning in connection with a number of house-breaking and stealing allegations.

An all points bulletin has been issued for 23-year-old Carlos Demetrius Nottage of 78 Cabot Drive, Freeport.

Nottage is of dark brown complexion and has dark eyes and plaited hair.

He is about five feet, eight inches tall, of average build and weighs 150-190 pounds.

According to police, Nottage should be considered armed and extremely dangerous. Anyone who has information concerning his whereabouts is asked call the police in Grand Bahama on 350-3106, 352-9774, 373-1112 or 5; 911 or the Crime Tipsters Hotline at 352-1919.

The Bahamas Faith Ministries to hold 'Singles Conference'

BAHAMAS Faith Ministries has announced that its "Singles Conference", set for September 17 - 20, has been postponed until further notice.

Two men caught by police after alleged robbery

TWO men who allegedly robbed a woman while on Solider Road were caught by police after a high-speed chase through the area.

It was shortly after 3pm on Monday when a woman flagged down traffic police, who were patrolling Soldier Road near Haven's Road, and said she was robbed by two men.

She told the officers that one of the robbers wore an undershirt and colourful shorts, and that the other man was shirtless, Asst Supt Walter Evans said.

Moments later police spotted two men fitting the descriptions given by the victim speeding away in a gold-coloured car.

A high-speed chase ensued which eventually ended in a parking lot.

In an attempt to escape, the occupants got out of the car and threw items under the vehicle. Police retrieved the items which are believed to be the cash and jewellery stolen from the woman.

The two men, aged 19 and 21, are in police custody.

WOMAN INJURED IN HOUSE FIRE DIES

THE woman who received devastating second and third degree burns about the body during a house fire on Canaan Lane has died, police said.

Yesterday, press liaison officer Asst Supt Walter Evans identified her as 36-year-old Dellerese Bowe.

Ms Bowe's home was completely destroyed by fire last Thursday around 1am.

Police said her fiancé is reported to have assisted her from her burning home and neighbours drove her by private car to the hospital, where she was fighting for her life in the intensive care unit.

She died in the Princess Margaret Hospital around 9pm on Sunday, Mr Evans said.

Police said they were still investigating the cause of the fire and could not say what led to the blaze.



THE remains of the house on Canaan Lane.

However, head of Fire Services Supt Jeffrey Deleveaux speculated that the fire may have been caused by a candle, as the home did not have electricity.

"We haven't pinned it down yet but we realised that there was no electricity to the building and perhaps it could have been an unattended candle, but we can't say concretely," he told *The Tribune* yesterday.

Mr Deleveaux also said Fire Services had not yet determined the cause of the house fire during which a 10-year-old disabled boy was burnt beyond recognition on Sunday morning in Colony Village.

"In a structural fire everything is destroyed and you're not able to go and immediately pinpoint (and say) this is what happened. It's a slow process," he said.

Downtown police criticised over towing of car from Bay Street

By AVA TURNQUEST

CONFUSED and frustrated by what struck him as an unfair manipulation of traffic laws, a disgruntled citizen has lashed out at downtown police.

Ivoine Ingraham wrote to *The Tribune* to complain about the circumstances surrounding the towing of his car from Bay Street opposite the British Colonial Hilton.

Mr Ingraham said he parked amongst several other cars, all of which were still there when he returned about 30 minutes later. He cannot understand why he was unfairly targeted.

If he broke the law by parking in this area, Mr Ingraham asked why he was not fined.

"If I violated a traffic offence and was supposedly parked in a no parking area, why was I not charged and made to pay a fine?" he asked. "How come no police formalities were done?"

Mr Ingraham had parked in that area to attend a brief meeting in the BOLAM building last week. Due to its proximity to restaurants and businesses, this part of Bay

Street is a popular short-term parking spot.

Seeing his car gone upon his return, Mr Ingraham immediately assumed it had been stolen, and flagged down a passing patrol car.

The officers referred him to the Tourism Police Station.

Mr Ingraham described the officers at the station as disinterested, and said they provided no explanation save directions to the lot where he could find his car.

Number

When he called the number posted on the lot's fence, Mr Ingraham was subjected to what he describes as a "crude, uncouth, cantankerous voice".

After waiting over an hour for someone in authority to show up, Mr Ingraham attempted to pay the one individual he encountered in the lot, however this person could not give him a receipt.

Insisting that he would not pay unless he was given a receipt, Mr Ingraham called the number on the fence again; this time the voice told him that for a receipt, he

would have to drive to Coral Harbour.

Mr Ingraham said that at this point, he decided to "bite the bullet" and created a make-shift receipt, which he asked the attendant to sign.

Frustrated by the ordeal, Ingraham feels that such incidents are destroying the fragile relationship the police tries to maintain with the public.

Pressed for an explanation yesterday, a police source suggested that perhaps the officer responsible for the towing had decided to give Mr Ingraham "a break".

It is not uncommon for officers to waive a ticket, and let the fee for the towing stand as a warning, he said. The source could not explain why no other cars were towed.

Commissioner of Police Reginald Ferguson has urged the public to communicate any concerns or complaints to his office so they can be investigated.

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A world of hurt

President Barack Obama took a bit of a victory lap on Wall Street on Monday, declaring that the economy had been brought back from the abyss and "the storms of the past two years are beginning to break."

The president and his economic team (and the Federal Reserve) deserve credit for moving quickly to prevent a full-blown collapse. A year ago, amid the panic that accompanied the implosion of Lehman Brothers, there were serious fears that the United States was headed toward another Great Depression.

Now, with the financial sector stabilized and economists predicting that the Great Recession is nearing an end, the sighs of relief coming out of Washington and Lower Manhattan are understandable. But this is no time to lose sight of the wreckage all around us. This recession, a full-blown economic horror, has left a gaping hole in the heart of working America that is unlikely to heal for years, if not decades.

Fifteen million Americans are locked in the nightmare of unemployment, nearly 10 percent of the work force. A third have been jobless for more than six months. Thirteen percent of Latinos and 15 percent of blacks are out of work. (Those are some of the official statistics. The reality is much worse.)

Consider this: Some 9.4 million new jobs would have to be created to get us back to the level of employment at the time that the recession began in December 2007. But last month, we lost 216,000 jobs. If the recession technically ends soon and we get to a point where some modest number of jobs are created — say, 100,000 or 150,000 a month — the politicians and the business commentators will celebrate like it's New Year's. But think about how puny that level of job creation really is in an environment that needs nearly 10 million jobs just to get us back to the lean years of the George W. Bush administration.

We're hurtin' and there ain't much healin' on the horizon.

A national survey of jobless workers by a pair of professors at Rutgers University shows just how traumatized the work force has become in this downturn. Two-thirds of respondents said that they had become depressed. More than half said it was the first time they had ever lost a job, and 80 percent said there was little or no chance that they would be able to get their jobs back when the economy improves.

The 1,200 respondents were jobless at some point over the past year, and most —

894 — are still unemployed. More than half said that they had been forced to borrow money from friends or relatives, and a quarter have missed their mortgage or rent payments.

The survey found that affluent, well-educated workers, who had traditionally been able to withstand a downturn in reasonably good shape, were being hit hard this time around.

The professors, Carl Van Horn and Cliff Zukin, described that phenomenon as "a metric of the recession's seismic impact." Of the workers who found themselves unemployed for the first time, more than one in four had been earning \$75,000 or more annually.

"This is not your ordinary dip in the business cycle," said Mr. Van Horn. "Americans believe that this is the Katrina of recessions. Folks are on their rooftops without a boat."

Stunned by the financial and psychological toll of the recession, and seeing little in the way of hopeful signs on the employment landscape, many of the surveyed workers showed signs of discouragement. Three-fifths said that they had experienced feelings of helplessness.

Said one respondent: "I've always worked, so this is very depressing. At age 60, I never believed I would be unemployed unless I chose to be."

Said another: "I fear for my family and my future. We are about to be evicted, and bills are piling. We have sold everything we possibly can to maintain, and are going under with little hope of anything."

At some point the unemployment crisis in America will have to be confronted head-on. Poverty rates are increasing. Tax revenues are plunging. State and local governments are in a terrible fiscal bind. Unemployment benefits for many are running out. Families are doubling up, and the number of homeless children is rising.

It's eerie to me how little attention this crisis is receiving. The poor seem to be completely out of the picture.

If we end up with yet another jobless recovery, there would seem to be little hope for impoverished families in America's big cities, rural areas and, increasingly, suburban neighborhoods as well.

The recession may be ending for some. Tell that to the unemployed.

(By Bob Herbert
c.2009 New York Times News Service)

A desperate bid to escape long arms of justice

EDITOR, The Tribune.

In an exclusive interview given to The Tribune of the Bahamas by the former Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands, which was published on Monday August 31, 2009, the former Premier advocated on behalf of his former government for the Turks and Caicos Islands to become an autonomous State under The Commonwealth of the Bahamas government.

In my humble opinion, this is one of the most ridiculous and hollowed interview ever given by the former government of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

What planet are these former ministers living on? This is clear evidence that the state of minds of these former ministers is of a world far detached from reality. This last desperate attempt on their part to escape the long arms of justice is beyond disgraceful, it is pitiful.

Who in the Turks and Caicos Islands are they so desperately and shamefully lobbying on behalf of? Because, it is unquestionably not the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

When the former government ministers were flying high above the clouds a few years ago, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands were the last things on their minds. The

LETTERS

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only thing that was on their minds was the glamour of Hollywood, Monaco, the South of France; and as for their idea of becoming an autonomous state under the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, that was beneath them. So why now, are they being so pretentious?

There is no question that The Commonwealth of the Bahamas is a lovely country, but that is where it ends. And as for the idea of the Turks and Caicos Islands becoming linked to The Commonwealth of the Bahamas government, the Turks and Caicos Islands has already been there and done that (from 1962 to 1973). So, as far as progressive thinking is concerned, that idea is "so lame, and so yesterday."

As late as the early 90s', Turks and Caicos Islands citizens were looked down upon and treated with disrespect by the citizens and the government of The Commonwealth of the Bahamas, this led to Turks and Caicos islanders and their descendants who lived in the Bahamas being ashamed to acknowledge their heritage in fear of being dishonoured and being deprived of an opportunity, even though we are all one

people and we helped build the Bahamas to what it is today. However, today we hold no animosity in our hearts towards the Bahamas and its citizens, because we are a forgiving and loving people. When a country is not cognoscente of its history, it is bound to repeat the mistakes of the past.

Therefore, let me make it absolutely clear, in my opinion, the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands does not rest in the hands of The Commonwealth of the Bahamas. We as a people of the Turks and Caicos Islands have come this far by faith, perseverance and hard work, and the current state of affairs that we now find ourselves in will soon pass. There is a bright light and a prosperous future at the end of this tunnel that we are now in.

Persons of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the reign of the previous guards are over. Let us continue to keep the faith and stay encouraged, because you too shall soon enter into the Promised Land, and the Turks and Caicos Islands will once again be the envy of the Caribbean, if not the world. "A Belonger that is proud to be called a Turks and Caicos Islander". Thank you.

ALBRAY BUTTERFIELD Jr
September, 2009.

The realities of economic turmoil

EDITOR, The Tribune.

If no one is noticing the people are very frustrated in a high percentage almost overcome with depression as they cannot see through their economic/financial troubles that the US economic recession is causing.

They honestly felt what started in the mid-1990's was not going to stop.

Up to their armpits in debt — struggling last year with the horrific prices for BEC, gas and food and now layoffs and absolutely no good news on the horizon although some commentators are saying that everywhere else, other than the US, are showing economic signs which would bring a smile but it is not coming soon to The Bahamas as the US is still in recession.

Unless you are blind and deaf over the past weeks you have heard the same frustrations in the voice and protests of the American people

against the Obama Health plan as you have heard here on our issues but reality is the US is a service economy and through the obvious scaring of the same folk who totally control the US coming out of Recession on Health Care, my previous estimates of the US recession finishing in the last quarter of 2010 is now lengthened to no earlier than late 2011 at the earliest.

The reality even with the potential television audience from Miss Universe, yes potentially 1.2 billion eyes will see The Bahamas, many for the first time, but many who have absolutely no chance of ever seeing it in reality as they are unable economically to visit so could we appreciate a 1-2 or 3 per cent new visitor

arrival base over the coming 3-4 years? Boy, Sunday August the 23rd, the dice roll!

One thing that economic downturns do bring is that employers find all kinds of new ways to doing business with less, so excelling is going to be a serious issue.

Political hog-wash rhetoric as what I heard from Senator David Thompson never puts jam on the bread, Senator, Grand Bahamians see the mess and the troubles and your loose political rah-rah talk doesn't help, so please stop it.

PATRICIA SAWYER
Nassau,
August 21, 2009.

Sick, disgusted and angry

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Today's story of The Tribune entitled "Call for the Government to improve the horrific state of Dog Pound", made me sick, disgusted and angry.

A few years ago the Reader's Digest carried the following statement:

"You can tell a people by the way they treat their animals and their beaches."
What a people we have become.

SIMMS
Marsh Harbour,
Abaco,
September 3, 2009.

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LOCAL NEWS

GB police concerned over house breakings

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – Grand Bahama police are concerned over the recent spate of house breakings and theft here on the island.

In response to an increase in these types of crimes police are now advising the public not to purchase stolen items as it is a criminal offence that carries the same penalty as stealing.

Asst Supt Wendell Deveaux said the police are seeking the cooperation of the general public to inform the police of persons attempting to sell electronic equipment and items such as cellular phones, flat-screen televisions, laptop computers and video games, as well as jewellery and other goods.

Mr Deveaux said that items being offered below market value are often believed to be stolen. He is also urging residents to ensure that their premises are properly secured before leaving home.

Neighbours should be alert and keep a look out for each others property, he said.

Mr Deveaux said people should call the police if they notice any suspicious persons lurking around their neighbourhood.

He said the police also encourage residents to form crime watch groups and neighbourhood watches in their areas.

Junkanoo bleachers contract signed with Bahamian firm

THE government has signed a \$406,000 contract with C-Cubed Seating on Monday to provide seats for the annual junkanoo parades.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture Charles Maynard said that the original contract of \$460,000 has been reduced to \$406,000.

The contract now includes seats for the Junior Junkanoo, Boxing and New Year's Day Parades; 10,000 seats for New Providence; 2,000 seats for Grand Bahama and 1,000 seats for another Family Island to be named by October of each year, Mr Maynard said.

Seats

"We are very happy that C-Cubed, a Bahamian owned company that employs many Bahamians in the execution of their work every year, has been able to give us what we think is a very fair arrangement where we now get more seats for less money.



Patrick Hanna/BIS

FROM LEFT: Eddie Dames, acting director of Culture; Charles Maynard, Minister of State for the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture; Archie Nairn, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, and Crispin Cleare, president of C-Cubed Seating.

"What we have found out in the last few years is that islands like Abaco, Exuma and Eleuthera have expanded their parades greatly and need more support from central government for the

production of their parades. "We thought that the provision of seats for these parades would give them a jump-start to start to earn their own revenue. We want to start with one island first,

see how that works out and then expand it.

"During the course of the contract we hope that a number of islands (will) benefit from the 1,000 seats," he said.

In Nassau, Mr Maynard said, a few initiatives have been introduced to continue the working relationship with downtown merchants.

These include the access of the bleachers from the back and new seats that facilitate easy break-down and setup.

Compromises

"We've come up with some compromises to ensure that the businesses are not disadvantaged as a result of the setting up and taking down of the bleachers," he explained.

"We've worked with C-Cubed during the last two years to ensure that we could have a better seating arrangement for the general public, the Bay Street merchants and all concerned," Mr Maynard said.

President of C-Cubed Crispin Cleare said over 30 persons will be employed on this project, and safe, comfortable seating will be provided for the annual parades.

ILO monitoring National Training Programme

By LLONELLA GILBERT

THE International Labour Organisation (ILO) and countries throughout the region are monitoring the National Training Programme to see if it should become a model for countries who hope to combine social with labour development, Minister of State for Labour and Social Development Loretta Butler-Turner said.

Speaking at the opening of the programme at the Kendal G L Isaacs Gymnasium on Monday, Mrs Butler-Turner said that the success of the venture does not rest upon the government, social partners or the training institutes.

"It rests upon each of you," she said. "You will have to work hard and study. You will be required to give up some leisure activities, but in the long run it will be worth it."

The government introduced the National Training Programme to help displaced workers learn new trades such as masonry; basic carpentry; landscaping; heavy equipment operating; accounting; diesel mechanics; nail artistry and design; facial care and technology; computer applications, and straw and shell craft.

The training will take place at the College of the Bahamas and the Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute (BTVI).

The programme was created in conjunction and consultation with the Bahamas Christian Council, the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce, the Bahamas Employers Confederation and trade unions.

Mrs Butler-Turner said the government wants to give a "hand-up" to persons who are "progressive thinkers" and who wish to take charge of their future.

"This National Training Programme seeks to give each of



Raymond A Bethel/BIS

the selected participants new or additional skills to regain employment or become entrepreneurs," she said.

The state minister said that depending on the success or failure of the initiative's first run, the government will decide if a "large scale" national training programme should become permanent.

Mrs Butler-Turner said 529 persons were selected for the programme in New Providence and 244 from Grand Bahama.

Khaalis Rolle, chairman of the implementation committee of the National Training Programme, said that the programme is a major opportunity for the participants.

"When you transition out of this programme, the expectation is that you get a good job or become an entrepreneur," Mr Rolle said.

He said if the participants demonstrate commitment and dedication, there is an opportunity for them to start their own business.

Dr Christina Nwosa, associate vice-president of Outreach at COB, encouraged partici-

pants to continuously upgrade their skills.

"Ongoing training is essential and there are distinct benefits to a society from a population which is adequately prepared to meet a changing economic environment," she said.

"Lifelong learning or continuing education produces a more knowledgeable and flexible work force that enables persons

MINISTER OF STATE in the Ministry of Labour and Social Development Loretta Butler-Turner brought remarks at the opening of the National Training Programme on Monday, September 14, 2009 at the Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium.

to realise their individual potential."

Dr Nwosa said other benefits of education include career flexibility, increased skill requirements, personal satisfaction and better wages.

"People who upgrade their work skills and knowledge not only keep up with the latest trends and techniques in their respective areas, but can also receive other benefits such as the training needed to realise additional goals," she said.

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Opponents of martial rape amendment gravely out of touch

By DONNA NICOLLS

I POSED a philosophical question to a wise old lady once: Can love torment? She advised me no, the misunderstanding of love torments. I find her words to be relevant to the current debate about marital rape believing that a perverse misunderstanding of marriage has led to exaggerated claims and misinformation about the risks of outlawing marital rape in the Bahamas.

This misunderstanding is fueling

YOUR SAY

the outrage over the proposed amendment to the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act of 1991 that would remove the impunity given under law to husbands who rape their wives. I could understand the current debate if it were taking place in the 19th century England, when

the presupposition of eternal union with no possibility of divorce, and unconditional consent were foundations of marriage because women were chattel, but in the 21st century Bahamas, those views are simply antiquated and backward.

The real news in this debate is

that religious leaders would have me believe that when my husband and I joined as one in marriage 31 years ago, I signed away my individuality and thereby sacrificed my freedom to choose, my own self-determination and the ownership of my own body. My husband and I are still happily married but there was never any presupposition of consent for either of us to do as we wish when we wish with each other's body. My body is still my own and I consent willingly and freely during each sexual interaction because we have a healthy relationship built on love and respect for each other.

If we were to believe the claims of the Christian community, as voiced most fervently by the Bahamas Christian Council, then we would further be led to believe that the level of dysfunction in marital relations within the Christian community of the Bahamas is disturbingly pervasive, which perhaps it is, considering the high percentage of the population that comes from unwed unions.

If the proposed amendment would bring about a massive influx of vindictive and discontented wives rushing to incarcerate their husbands, then we must have bigger problems than we thought. In this case perhaps the energies of the Christian leadership would be

"Recommendations for consultation are only stall tactics that will deny justice to individuals who suffer from lack of protection under the law. There is a time for consultation, but now is the time for leaders to lead and do the right thing by looking beyond the dogmatic positions of Christian fundamentalists and other fear-mongers interested only in obstructionism."

more productively put to use in pre-emptively restoring proper order to the sacred trust of marital relationships instead of blocking justice for those who have already fallen victim to the violated trust. People in healthy relationships have no fear of the proposed amendment to the law and should be appalled at the scare tactics.

Many opponents are muddying the water making others believe the issue is "complex, complicated, and multi-dimensional" when it is none of the above. This is the simple idea: According to the World Bank the Bahamas has the highest number of rapes per capita in the world; wives are among those suffering and they have inadequate protection under the law.

Are we going to respond in fear based on hypothetical situations and hyperbolae or are we going to drown out the ignorance with pragmatic and principled action? With the Catholic Archdiocese, the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church, the Seventh Day Adventist Church all expressing their support for the proposed amendment, the only thing that is tragically wrong is the bad rap the Christian Council is giving the Christian community.

Recommendations for consultation are only stall tactics that will deny justice to individuals who suffer from lack of protection under the law. There is a time for consultation, but now is the time for leaders to lead and do the right thing by looking beyond the dogmatic positions of Christian fundamentalists and other fear-mongers interested only in obstructionism. Marital rape is a crime under international law, and according to a 2006 United Nations report, over 104 countries around the world have already made it a crime in their domestic law. These countries include our Caribbean neighbors Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago, not to mention the United States, Spain, and even Zimbabwe, much ridiculed as backward and anti-progressive.

There is great need in the Bahamas to promote best practices in healthy relationships and to learn from the successes of many men and women in healthy marriages; but in the meantime, while dysfunction is rampant and women are suffering, we need to have empathy, stop the melodrama and act.

• Donna Nicolls has been an advocate for women and children's rights for over 20 years. She has a masters degree in counselling from the University of the West Indies and serves as a counsellor at the Bahamas Crisis Centre. She is married with two children.

Contact: donna.nicolls@gmail.com



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invites all Persons who would have been licensed by the PUC or licensed under the Broadcasting Act (Telecommunications, Internet, TV, Broadcasting) to attend its

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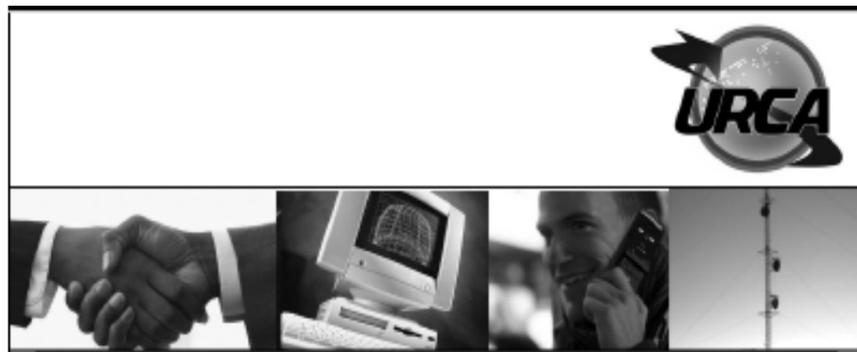
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PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW REGULATORY REGIME NOW IN FORCE

The Communications Act 2009 (Comms Act), which gives Utilities Regulation & Competition Authority (URCA) full powers of regulation and of oversight of the electronic communications sector in The Bahamas, came into force on 1 September 2009.

This date signals the start of the transition to a new regulatory regime. Greater competition will be introduced in the electronic communications sector, to the benefit of the economy and of all persons in The Bahamas.

To facilitate as smooth a transition to the new licensing regime as possible, a number of new documents were published on 1 September 2009 and are available at URCA's website (www.urcabahamas.bs). These include:

- Preliminary Determination covering several Class Operating and Spectrum licences, Exemptions, and Types of Fees
- Individual Operating and Spectrum licences
- Draft Class Operating and Spectrum licences
- Licensing Guidelines
- Fee schedule
- Radio Spectrum Statement (Existing Allocation and Assignment)
- Various forms - Full Details Form and Notice of Objection Form for the transition, and an Application Form for a licence.

Until new URCA regulatory measures are adopted, all existing regulatory measures adopted by the Public Utilities Commission and the Television Regulatory Authority continue in force to the extent that they do not conflict with provisions of the Comms Act, the Utilities Regulation & Competition Authority Act, 2009; the Utilities Tribunal Act, 2009 and any new regulatory measures adopted under these Acts.

The new regime encourages participation by all - the website will also give you an opportunity to learn more about the new regime with updates on Competition Policy, Consultation results and determinations and latest news of the regime. This new regime and the Comms Act coming into force for the electronic communications sector is the beginning of a new day for all persons in The Bahamas.

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LOCAL NEWS

Uproar at hotel union meeting

FROM page one

sitting down, they are not involved in it, but the A team headed by Nicole Martin is screaming at the Deliverance team headed by Kirk Wilson."

Mr Douglas said the nominations are not valid as Mr Beneby and Ms Dixon have been redundant since August last year, and Mr Wright was terminated from his position as an organiser at the union in 2008.

He added: "It clearly states under the Constitution that a member should be deemed non-financial when he or she is 12 weeks, or three months, in arrears of contributions and shall automatically forfeit his or her privileges as a member of the union, so how do you nominate when you find they are not members?"

"The Constitution also says no member shall vote

in the election if he or she is not in good standing in terms of his financial or other obligations to the union."

At the close of nominations Mr Douglas said 12 nominees were put forward by the M Group headed by Tyrone Butler, the A Group headed by Nicole Martin, and the Redemption Team led by Sidney Rolle.

Only nine of Team Deliverance's 12 nominations were accepted, and the nominees in question have been called to discuss their positions at the Attorney General's office, Mr Douglas said.

The union's executive council arranged for nominations to take place yesterday under the direction of Justice Neville Adderley. Elections are set to be held on September 29.

Confusion over the dates of the previous election



MEMBERS of Nicole Martin's A Team outside the Workers House building yesterday.

meant Team Deliverance supporters did not attend and Mr Wilson took court action to have the election declared "null and void", forcing Ms Martin, the union's first woman president, to step down.

The register used for the May 28 elections is expected to be used again when the voting process proceeds, allowing for some 6,000 union members to participate.

'Breathe Easy' campaign for PMH halfway to \$300,000 goal

FROM page one

Doctors Hospital, The Rotary Club of East Nassau and Bahamas Realty.

Companies that have donated money to the campaign so far include Doctors Hospital, Tile King, Kelso Medical Laboratory and Micronet among others.

The incubators bought with the money raised through the campaign will be crucial in keeping premature or otherwise challenged newborns alive, while the ventilators will be used to care for patients in both the adult and neonatal intensive care units.

Share your news

The Tribune wants to hear from people who are making news in their neighbourhoods. Perhaps you are raising funds for a good cause, campaigning for improvements in the area or have won an award. If so, call us on 322-1986 and share your story.

FROM page one

had time to file an appeal against the ruling.

"My lawyer is looking into that and as soon as he would have studied the legal implications we will get together and decide what to do," Mr Bastian told *The Tribune*.

Mr Bastian said he is also in conversations with the owner of the local real estate company which sold him the disputed property.

He added that his church's 50-member congregation, which has moved temporarily services to the Great Commission Church, is coping with the ordeal.

"We are doing fine in the midst of our crisis. We know that God is still in control and we will weather the storm. Hard times do not last but hard people do and so with God being our leader and guide we will prevail," he said.

As shocked residents of the community looked on, Canaan Baptist Church was reduced to rubble by Arawak Homes on September 4 at the end of a two year

Pastor of demolished church is 'weighing his legal options'

court challenge over a land dispute.

After the demolition, spokesman for Arawak Homes said: "Arawak Homes wishes to assure the public that the decision to demolish the structure was only taken after every reasonable effort, over several years, was made to effect a different outcome.

"We also wish to confirm that care was taken to secure all contents which were met in the structure."

Yesterday, an emotional member of the church said she was still shook up about the loss of the building that was the fruit of years of planning.

"Right now it's bringing us a lot of tears. It was just like a human being to us - it took us years to build and it just took them one hour to destroy. This is not what (former Prime Minister) Sir Lynden

(Pindling) had envisioned when he put his name on this subdivision," said the church member, who did not want to be named.

Ultimately, Supreme Court Justice Cheryl Albury found Arawak Homes Limited to be the rightful owner of several lots on Charles Saunders Highway on which the church was built in June, 2006.

The justice also ordered that Mr Bastian, Alvin Rolle and Merline Rolle - who were listed as second and third defendants respectively - by themselves, their servants and or agents "demolish and remove the building or parts of any buildings constructed on the said lots".

Justice Albury also ruled that Arawak Homes had immediate possession of the lots in question.

Paul Moss formally tells Christie of his upcoming bid for leadership

FROM page one

to the contrary, I believe that you achieved much as party leader and as Prime Minister," Mr Moss explained.

"Many of your ideas and initiatives were ahead of their time. I have the utmost respect and affection for you. But, Sir, there has been a shift in the dynamics of this country. I'm certain you must feel it, a new generation is moving on the scene and they are crying out for a leader - a new vision and, in particular, a new economic model that would be anchored in the deliberate empowerment of Bahamians.

"I have come forward at this time because I have heard their cries. I have come forward because I feel the prompting of God Himself. I must hearken to the cries of

my fellow Bahamians and I must be obedient to the voice of God for, as His Word says, 'obedience is better than sacrifice'," Mr Moss said.

Outlining that Mr Christie has served his generation well, Mr Moss said the party's leader has also had the privilege of impacting other generations. However, he said, the time has come for him and others like him to serve their own generation.

"It's time for our party to look ahead and prepare for those who will come after you (Mr Christie) - for the next generation of leaders. In my bid for leadership, I am demonstrating my readiness



PERRY CHRISTIE

to move from the wings to the stage for, I believe, the time is now. While I can not expect to have your support in this race, I do ask for your understanding and your blessing," he said.

Mr Moss also encouraged the party's Parliamentary block to listen to the call of the people and encouraged them to support him in his bid to become leader.

"I believe with all my heart that in order for our party to survive; for it to once again become the Party of choice for the majority of Bahamians, we must make a concerted, considered and deliberate effort to encourage and

advance the next generation of leaders. Bahamians are waiting, crying out for a leader.

"Undoubtedly, the time has come for transition. We are entering into a new season for our country and for our world, and this new season, like every other, requires its own breed of leaders. No one can deny that our fathers excelled in their generation; they built a foundation that is sure, but we can't stop and we can't rest. We must continue to build. We must find a new vision and new energies to propel our party and our country into a brighter future," Mr Moss said.

The leadership candidate advised the party's Parliamentary team that if they wish to discuss his plans any further he was available for them to speak with at any time.

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NOTICE

Deadline for applications for Spring (January) 2010 admission Friday, September 25th, 2009 at 4:00 pm.

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BEC and the construction of the Wilson City power plant

By LARRY SMITH

MARSH HARBOUR, Abaco - Faced with overwhelming disapproval from a standing room-only crowd of Abaconians upset over the bypassing of local interests, Bahamas Electricity Corporation chiefs orchestrating a town meeting last week admitted to a failure of process and promised to learn from their mistakes.

"Things could have been handled better," BEC general manager Kevin Basden told his critics, referring to construction of a 48-megawatt oil-fired power plant on Abaco that proceeded without any local consultation, "and lessons will be learnt from this."

The town meeting was hastily called to address a groundswell of concern about the environmental and other implications of the plant, whose foundations have already been laid on a 25-acre site near Wilson City, about 14 miles south of Marsh Harbour. But in many respects the effort came years too late.

As BEC chairman Fred Gottlieb confirmed at the meeting, the Christie administration decided to build the \$105 million power plant back in 2005, after years of dithering. And the construction contracts were signed by the Ingraham government in December, 2007. But neither government has involved the people of Abaco at any stage of the planning process.

"The existing plant is 30 years old," Gottlieb explained. "It has an installed capacity of 27 mw and peak demand is 24 mw, so the loss of a single engine causes serious load shedding. The present site is too close to residential areas and there is no room for expansion, but Abaco's energy demand is growing by five per cent per annum. I met the letter of intent for the new plant signed by my predecessor and we went ahead with it."



TOUGH CALL
LARRY SMITH

From all accounts, the audience that filled the New Visions church hall to overflow on September 10 was a reasonable cross section of Abaco communities - including black and white Bahamians as well as second homers from a number of settlements.

Many said it was the largest public meeting ever seen on Abaco outside of an election campaign. And whether or not the participants shared strong feelings about the environmental implications of the new plant, there was little doubt as to their anger over the lack of meaningful public consultation on this massive infrastructure project.

In fact, Freeport lawyer Fred Smith - who has taken judicial review of the Baker's Bay development on Guana Cay all the way to the Privy Council - told the meeting he had been hired by a group of local and foreign property owners and would seek to halt the power plant project until due process had been achieved. He defined "due process" as an opportunity for all interested parties to provide input.

"This is the biggest capital expenditure in Abaco's history and there has been no meaningful public consultation," Smith told me after the meeting. "I will be writing to the relevant central and local government agencies for evidence that all approvals and permits have been properly obtained. I don't expect any answers and they will probably continue to do what they are doing, but the project will then be subject to judicial review."

During the meeting he suggested that the project could be

proceeding illegally: "We continue to disrespect the local government institutions that the FNM itself put in place. We don't know if all statutory permits for this power plant have been granted. But it is incumbent on government to ensure that due process is respected - that is the essence of democracy."

Those "relevant agencies" include the BEST Commission, the Department of Environmental Health Services, the town planning department, local government councils, the Ministry of Works, and the Cabinet Office. But Smith's threat led BEC to pre-empt him by halting its own project temporarily. The Ministry of Works confirmed on Monday that the project was on hold while BEC applied for construction permits.

In response to this, one well-placed political source remarked: "Yes, BEC should follow the rules. But how many other government construction projects - from schools to roads - do you know that get permits?"

Well, Tough Call can't speak for all such projects, but I know of at least one that does have the necessary approvals - the Nassau airport redevelopment. The point is - how can BEC spend \$100 million of borrowed money without going through the required legal processes?

After years of virtual silence on its plans for Abaco, BEC and government officials pulled out all the stops for the meeting last week. Representatives from MAN Diesel Canada (which has the overall contract for the plant), KES Environmental Services (which did the envi-

ronmental impact assessment) and the BEST Commission all gave presentations.

Nassau lawyer and Bahamas National Trust council member Pericles Maillis also spoke in support of the project, making it clear he was there in a personal capacity. He had been wrongly identified as a BNT spokesman on the official programme for the meeting.

BEC chairman Fred Gottlieb acknowledged rather testily that the meeting was held in response to a "surprising, sudden opposition" to the power plant generated by misleading propaganda, principally a video published on YouTube. But as Abaconian newspaper publisher Dave Ralph pointed out, this was "the first public disclosure of any consequence by BEC or the government" on this massive project for the island. So what do you expect to happen?

And the lack of disclosure is despite the fact that the decision was made four years ago, that contracts were signed almost two years ago, that financing was approved by parliament in the summer, that construction is already well under way, that the chairman of BEC is a leading Marsh Harbour citizen, and that the prime minister himself represents an Abaco constituency.

In fact, Hubert Ingraham slipped into the meeting incognito wearing a baseball hat, and two senior opposition MPs - Fred Mitchell and Obie Wilchcombe - also attended as observers. One wag noted the presence of "the next leader of the PLP" to much laughter, but it was unclear which one of those gentlemen he was referring to.

Until Tough Call reported on the power plant EIA in this space a couple of weeks ago, there was no substantive information on this project anywhere in the public domain. And for some strange reason, BEC officials were unwilling to answer basic questions for my report, which pointed out their atrocious track record on environmental matters. Many of those questions were answered at the town meeting, however.

For example, the plant's state-of-the-art generators will burn heavy fuel oil so efficiently that cancer-causing particulates will be minimised and more power will be produced per unit of fuel.

Also, the fuel used will contain less than two per cent sulphur, producing emissions that are well within World Bank guidelines. And heavy fuel power plants already operate throughout the Bahamas and Caribbean, as well as in the US and Europe.

Rising cost estimates for the plant over the years were attributed to depreciation of the US dollar and additional costs for the fuel terminal, pipeline and



BEC general manager Kevin Basden

transmission lines. The plant should be operational by next spring, but it is unclear when the new transmission lines will be ready, or what other work needs to be done to decommission the existing power plant and upgrade the local grid, which residents say is in poor repair.

The town meeting featured the usual slew of cranks who took up most of the question and answer time with lengthy non-sequiturs and personal advertisements. These inconsiderate bores can be found at every public meeting in the Bahamas, wasting time and spouting nonsense. They especially love to talk about themselves, and they are a boon to officials because they divert so much time and attention from the real issues.

Cay Mills, a local taxi driver, said he was glad to see that Abaconians were finally getting some payback from central government for their taxes, but noted that "we should have a say in whatever is brought into our district. The cart is before the horse with this town meeting. Abaco people read, are intelligent and want to be part of their own future. We want democracy, not an elected dictatorship."

It was a sentiment that seemed to be shared by many in the audience, and was aptly illustrated by Dave Ralph in a recent editorial. He quoted the prime minister's comments about someone using the wrong colour to paint the House of Assembly: "You shouldn't allow strangers to come in your place and determine the decor. I don't condemn initiative, but uninformed initiative is not to be tolerated."

Well, many folks in Abaco feel the same way about the power plant issue. According to Ralph, "Government and BEC have been negligent about informing Abaco on this project and in requesting local input."

Equally negligent is the fact that there was no public consultation in the EIA process. The power plant assessment - contracted to an unknown

Florida firm with no website - was completed last October but is still under review by the BEST Commission. The EIA for the fuel terminal and pipeline has only just been completed. And no environmental management plan for the plant has been produced, yet construction is well under way.

Pericles Maillis likened these concerns to a storm in a teacup: "I was president of the BNT when the Clifton power plant was being expanded and we don't have acid rain in Nassau. These controversies can only hurt the environmental movement. This plant is not a surprise, it's been years in the making and was no secret."

But who knows what conditions are at Clifton, or at other BEC plants around the country, when there is no public disclosure and we have only the corporation's self-serving statements to rely on?

According to Philip Weech of the BEST Commission, the Wilson City EIA is now under active review with other government agencies, which will determine what needs to be done with the environmental management plan: "Oil tankers in the Bahamas have an enviable safety record," he said, "and there will be no impacts on freshwater resources. Wetlands will be impacted along the pipeline corridor, but we feel that can be safely managed."

Meanwhile, BNT officials told me after the meeting that they would be seeking full involvement in the development of the environmental management plan for the Wilson City plant and any monitoring initiatives that will be put in place. And Abaco's home-grown green activists - Friends of the Environment - said they also want to be involved going forward.

"The number of people that attended the public meeting shows not only that the people of Abaco are concerned about what happens in their community but that they want to be involved in the decisions that affect them," Friends executive director Kristin Williams told me. "We hope that the government and BEC move forward in good faith and provide the information necessary to assure the public that the promises they made are being kept."

This is not the place for a technical discussion of the merits of using heavy oil as opposed to diesel in a power plant. Suffice it to say that - although different spokesmen cited varying figures at the meeting - using diesel fuel would add millions to the annual operating costs, and it is not clear if the environmental benefits would justify that. However, it is clear that heavy fuel oil plants require more maintenance than other types of plants - and again, BEC's track record is not very inspiring.

However, the issue of conventional versus renewable energy, on Abaco in particular, has not been sufficiently explored in my view.

Although BEC is being dragged kicking and screaming (by Earl Deveaux, Fred Gottlieb and others) towards a renewable energy future, a national energy policy that would promote these initiatives is nowhere near being implemented.

A consultative committee chaired by Philip Weech was formed after the election to build on earlier efforts by the Christie administration. A draft report was completed last November, but has only just been posted to the BEST Commission's website (almost a year later) for public comment. And a Chamber of Commerce meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow to discuss this with Utilities Minister Phenton Neymour.

Consultants funded by the Inter-American Development Bank have just been hired to evaluate the economic disaster that BEC is now known to be, and to revamp our existing energy regulatory regime. But at this rate, we will all be dead before any effective energy policy or fossil fuel reductions can be implemented.

There is no doubt that conventional energy must continue to play a big role in power generation in the Bahamas. But as one woman put it at the town meeting: "We should take a stand for renewable energy, which could brand our island and would attract so much attention worldwide and set a legacy of green change. This government could set a huge precedent in that regard."



The following individuals are asked to contact Ms. Arnette Rahming (356-8328) or Ms. Shamara Farquharson (356-8456) at ColinaImperial Insurance Ltd:

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Shirley Street

Tender documents may be collected from:
Portia Smith Student Services Centre
The College of The Bahamas
Oakes Field Campus
Contact: Mrs. Elvina Bastian at 302-4516

Tenders are to be addressed to:
Ms. Cheryl Simms
V. P., Finance
The College of The Bahamas

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'Not only can we get funding for Olympic athletes, but we can also go to PASO...'

By BRENT STUBBS
 Senior Sports Reporter
 bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

WITH so many local associations and federations feeling the financial pinch, Bahamas Olympic Association president Wellington Miller said they may have discovered the answer to their woes.

Coming out of a two-day Solidarity meeting that he and one of his vice presidents, Algernon Cargill, attended in Mexico last month, Miller said they have formed a partnership with all of the associations and federations for the way forward.

At a meeting of the heads of the sporting bodies last week, Miller said they were able to advise them of the fact that there is sufficient money available from both the International Olympic Association (IOA) and the Pan American Sports Organisation (PASO).

"The Solidarity course have \$311 million available to help federations and their athletes," Miller disclosed. "Not only can we get funding for Olympic athletes, but we can also go to PASO, who have \$130 million, for those sports that are not in the Olympics.

"We can get moneys for those organisations to help



BOA PRESIDENT WELLINGTON MILLER

build sports in the Bahamas and to help with their travel when they are sending teams off."

Miller, who still serves as the president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Bahamas, said the only requirement is that the federations and associations must submit their plans.

"Let us know when you're going, where you're going and how much money you need," Miller said.

"They want to spend money on helping the sporting bodies. Once they plan it properly and bring all of their information to us in time, we can send off the request for the moneys. But they will

Bahamas Olympic Association president says they may have discovered the answer to local sporting bodies' financial woes

have to provide us with the receipts of how the money is spent so that we can continue to tap into the funding that is available."

If all of the paperwork is properly done, Miller said they can have funding available for the sporting bodies from both the IOC and PASO within a month's time.

"It's just as easy as that because the moneys are available," he said.

Unfortunately, Miller said the plight of the Bahamas Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation, who is still seeking \$19,500 to send its 11-member team off to Grenada to defend its title at the Central American and Caribbean Championships on September 30, was revealed a little too late for the BOA to seek any funding to assist them.

"We want them to apply to

us in time so we can help them," Miller said. "All they have to do is provide us with all your information, filled out the forms, we will send it off and you will have your money."

"But you can't come a week or a month before you are traveling and expect to get the money. There's a lot of paper work that has to be filed. But it's amazing the amount of money that is available out there. If they plan it right, they won't be carrying anymore."

A lot of the countries, especially in the Caribbean, are tapping into the Solidarity funds that is being offered by the IOC and the Bahamas is going to take advantage of it too.

Miller said not just sports, but the IOC is also providing funding to assist countries with the environment, which

helps to make the atmosphere more conducive for the athletes.

And he said that funding is also available for scholarships in a number of sports related areas that he hopes that Bahamians will also take advantage of.

Today, Miller and Don Cornish, another vice president, will be traveling to Peru, to take part in a two-day seminar on Olympic Tourism.

"That's another avenue of where we can get funding, so we're going to try and see what is available for the Bahamas," he said.

"We are heavy in tourism, so we will see what is available for us to develop our product."

Miller and Cornish, who doubles as president of the Bahamas Volleyball Federation, will return home on Sunday.



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham greets Mark Knowles' wife, Dawn...



SPORTS MINISTER Desmond Bannister greets Mark Knowles...

Photos by Peter Ramsay/BIS

PM proclaims September 13-19 Mark Knowles Week

sporting icon's teacher growing up, said he got goose bumps just sitting in the audience when the ceremony took place.

"It was so disappointing after they went up one set and they couldn't hold on for the win," Knowles said. "It just happened so quickly. But I'm very proud of him, win or lose. He did us proud just being in the final."

Hewitt, an Australian now residing in the Bahamas, said the honour was well deserving for Knowles. "To have played professional tennis on the circuit for 20-plus years is a grind," Hewitt said. "He's had a lot of ups and downs, but to be in the top 10 over 10 years is just amazing."

At the US Open in Flushing Meadows, New York, Hewitt got knocked out of the third round of the men's singles by Switzerland's Roger Federer, whose bid for a six straight title was ruined by 20-year-old Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina in yesterday's final.

While he has dabbled a bit into doubles, the No.32 ranked player in the world, said he has never had an opportunity to play against Knowles.

"But he's a great player. He's definitely put the Bahamas on the map worldwide," Hewitt pointed out. "I think the entire country should really be proud of his accomplishments."

If there was anyone proud of his achievements, it was his family.

His father, Sammy Knowles, said he's finally delighted to see his son receive recognition by the Bahamas Government, which was long overdue.

"It's good that finally somebody decided to recognise him for how he has carried this country on his shoulder for so long," he said. "It's been a long time. I'm happy that the Prime Minister, the Minister of Sports and the coun-



MINISTER of National Security Tommy Turnquest shares a special moment with Mark Knowles...

try have finally recognised his achievements." Vicki Knowles, his most loyal fan, said her son's achievement will definitely go down as one of the greatest.

But as a mother, she noted that there's mixed reaction whenever she's in the stands watching a live match, especially when he comes out with a loss.

"The losses are difficult because you know what he's going through," she said. "It's not a good feeling. But we try to cheer him up whenever it happens."

And Dawn Knowles, his wife who is now his main cheerleader in the stands, said her husband "loves the Bahamas so much and I'm so glad that he's finally being recognised for his accomplishments."

"He's been the voice of the Bahamas for so many years and everywhere he goes around the world, the only thing he talks about is the Bahamas. It's a well deserved recognition for him and I'm happy to be here to share it with him."



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SPORTS

Amateur Athletic Union coming to Bahamas

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
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THE Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) is coming to the Bahamas.

James Parker, the director of sports for the AAU in Orlando, Florida, was in town along with other members to meet with Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Desmond Bannister to discuss the plans for the Bahamas.

"We have decided to make this one of our districts, so next year we will be bringing some teams over here," Parker said. "We want to get more teams and more athletes involved."

"We will bring in some programmes to start some leagues here. We will start with basketball first and then we will go on to baseball, track and field, volleyball and baseball."

Tanya Ferguson, a former basketball player turned referee while she was in the Louisiana area, will be returning home to serve as the Bahamian director.

The local programme will be based out of the College of



SHOWN (l-r) are Amateur Athletic Union members, including Bahamian Tanya Ferguson (fourth from left) with James Parker (fifth from left), director of AAU, and BBF president Lawrence Hepburn, BOA president Wellington Miller and coach Mario Bowleg

the Bahamas.

"We will be doing a lot of regional events, which will be good for the Bahamas," Ferguson said. "We will have a lot of teams from all over the United States and Canada coming here to compete."

The players involved in the programme will be between the ages of 12-17. However, there will also be a pony league for players between the ages of 8-12.

Bahamas Basketball Federation president Lawrence

Hepburn said for years a lot of the coaches in the Bahamas have been longing for the opportunity to expand their programmes.

"A lot of the coaches wanted to go to their programmes, now they will have the opportunity to have them come here," Hepburn stressed. "They will only serve to help us."

"We're looking at employing the services of their coaches coming in to help us with our programme. We will also

have their coaches clinics here and we want to attract some of their tournaments here."

Hepburn said he anticipates only good things coming out of the programme.

"Our federation will be involved, but we will be reaching out to a lot of people," Hepburn stated. "We have some coaches here that are already involved in the AAU programme, but we want to get more on board."

With Ferguson coming home, Hepburn said she will

bring a wealth of experience to the programme. Already, coach Mario Bowleg and Darryl Sears, of Grand Bahama, are involved in the Florida-based programme.

"We want to also reach out to other sporting bodies because AAU is not just basketball," Hepburn pointed out. "AAU is a magnet of many sports, so we're hoping that other federations and associations will use this to get more exposure for their sports."

Bowleg said the programme is definitely needed in the country.

"We have many high school teams leaving here to perform in these AAU tournaments," Bowleg stressed. "What AAU does is it will allow us to have the tournaments come here so that our athletes can get the exposure that they won't get because they can't get to travel."

"It will help, not only the Bahamas student-athletes as it relates to getting scholarships, but it will help the teams coming to enhance the national team programme, especially during the summer period."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

SOCCER CARIBS IN ACTION

THE College of the Bahamas' men and women soccer teams are expected to take their third and final trip this weekend when they are set to face Warner College and Webber College in Tampa, Florida. The Caribs are scheduled to play Warner College on Friday in the women's opener at 4 pm, followed by the men at 6 pm. Then on Sunday, the women are set to open up against Webber University at noon with the men playing at 2 pm.

SOFTBALL BSC MEETING

THE Baptist Sports Council is scheduled to hold a meeting on Friday at 6 pm at McDonald's, Thompson Boulevard, for all churches interested in participating in the 2009 Olympia Morris-Evans Softball Classic.

The Classic is tentatively set to get underway on Saturday, September 26 at the Baillou Hills Sporting Complex. The Classic will comprise of the men, co-ed and 17-and-under divisions.

Also during the meeting, the BSC will disclose plans for the 2009 Nicola Major Track and Field Classic that is slated to take place on Saturday, October 10, at the Thomas A Robinson Track and Field Stadium.



BBF 15/16 National Team - 2nd Place Finish @ PONY Latin American Caribbean Zone Championships (Highest Finish Ever by a Bahamian National Baseball Team) - Team is presently ranked 2nd in the Caribbean - PONY BASEBALL. (On this 16 member Team - Only 5 young men DO NOT attend school abroad)

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Very successful year for BBF

THE Bahamas Baseball Federation continues to meet its mandate of "Higher Education through the Sport of Baseball".

The BBF had a very successful year on the international baseball scene with its historic defeat - (Gurabo) Puerto Rico - 2nd Place World Ranking by 08 PONY Baseball) - BBF 2nd Place Finish @ 15-16 PONY Latin American Tournament.

But the most outstanding accomplishment this year is the overwhelming number of young men whose lives are being impacted in a positive way with baseball.

The BBF membership, its president and his executive team, are extremely proud and excited to announce the 44 young men who have been afforded the opportunity to further their education at various high schools and colleges in the US as a result of baseball.

1) The recent "BBF 7th Annual Andre Rodgers National Baseball Championships", hosted in June 09, was a resounding success on the baseball diamond which continues to afford our talented young men the opportunity to further their baseball dreams and education:

US Colleges Present: Jackson State University (JSU) - (Head Coach - Omar Johnson) / North Carolina Central University (NCCU) (Head Coach - Dr Henry White)

Young men offered collegiate scholarships:

• Desmond Russell - JSU -(Christ School Stand-Out - All Conference/All State) lead the Bahamas senior men's Team: 333 B.A Coach Johnson was an assistant coach on the German National Team and witnessed Desmond's outstanding pitching performance against the US National Team (Held the US to 2 runs after 5 Innings)

• Aneko Knowles - JSU -(Christ School Stand-Out - All Conference) - Member of senior men's national team - Lead the 16-18

National Team (425 BA) Little League Latin American Tournament

• Etienne Farquharson - NCCU - (Graduate of Pensacola Junior College with Academic All-American Honours (3.80) GPA: Received a Baseball Scholarship & Academic Scholarship to attend NCCU - Member of the senior men's national team.

2) The first ever BBF/PONY Baseball 2008 INFORMATIONAL/INSTRUCTIONAL PROSPECT Showcase for High School/College recruiting - (hosted Nov 08) was an overwhelming success with the following young men being afforded opportunities:

• Theodore Trae Sweeting - Christ School - (BBF 2009 Junior Division 13-15 - MVP & Recipient of the Charles Johnson Best Catcher Award)

• Jordon Farquharson - Christ School

• Perez Knowles - Rabun Gap

US High Schools Present: Darlington School, Georgia/Christ School, North Carolina/ Christ Church School, Virginia / Rabun Gap, Georgia

3) BBF Coaches Clinic hosted January of this year, which was organised by fourth vice president Etienne Farquharson and conducted by Troy State University head coach Bobby Pierce was a great success.

• Patrick Knowles Jr - Troy State - 09 graduate from Christ School in Arden, North Carolina (09 All Conference & All State Honors)

• Richard Bain - Palm Beach Community College: Drafted in the 45 Round / 1367 Pick - of the Recent Major League Draft - Made the tough decision to enter Junior College which still allows him an opportunity to be drafted higher over the next two years

(Once players enter a four-year college, they can not be drafted until their Junior (3rd year). Players can be drafted from a Junior College every year of their two-year eligibility)

The president wishes to thank and congratulate the following persons for making this year's 09 entry class so successful:

• Patrick Knowles (Grand Bahama) - YMCA Baseball Academy

• Will Rutherford (Grand Bahama) - GBLL

• Stephanie Higgs (Grand Bahama) - GBABA

• Etienne Farquharson (Inagua) fourth vice president Terran Rodgers (Nassau) - JBLN,

• Theodore R Sweeting (Nassau)

INSIGHT

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



'Not only can we get funding for Olympic athletes...'

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Photos by Peter Ramsay/BIS

BAHAMIAN TENNIS ACE Mark Knowles with Governor General Arthur Dion Hanna (centre) and Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham at Government House...

PM proclaims September 13-19 as *Mark Knowles Week*

By BRENT STUBBS
 Senior Sports Reporter
 bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

Bahamian tennis ace receives citation from Governor General during welcome home dinner reception at Government House

More than two decades after he launched his professional tennis career, Mark Knowles says he never envisioned the response he received from the Bahamas Government.

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham proclaimed September 13-19 Mark Knowles Week at a welcome home dinner reception on Monday night at Government House. And he received a citation from Governor General Arthur D Hanna.

While he would have won all four Grand Slam titles, albeit in two different doubles categories, this year alone Knowles played in three of those finals, winning the mixed doubles at Wimbledon in July with German Anna-Lena Groenefeld.

However, the 38-year-old five-time

Olympian and his Indian men's doubles partner Mahesh Bhupathi lost in both the Australian Open in January and the US Open on Sunday.

"It feels good, especially coming off the heels of the disappointing loss at the US Open," said Knowles, who returned home to a "here's welcome" one day after playing a rain delayed final that had been postponed since Friday.

"It's nice to be here and be honoured by the

government. To have all of these dignitaries, along with my family and friends, is very special."

As the country's most celebrated local and international player continues to look ahead to the future, Knowles said he's even more inspired to have the support of the nation behind him.

"I had a long career and I've accomplished a whole lot, but I still feel that there is still a lot more for me to accomplish," he stressed.

"So I'm just going to go ahead and enjoy this moment."

Among those sharing the moment with Knowles was Emile Knowles, his childhood friend who hit balls with him when he got started at age five, along with former number one singles player in the world, Lleyton Hewitt.

Knowles, who considers himself to be the

SEE page 9

Recession drives 65% cremation increase

'Destabilisation' fears on change to NIB strategy

By **CHESTER ROBARDS**
Business Reporter
crobards@tribunemedia.net

Cheaper option much in vogue, as \$1,300 fee much less than \$5,000 for full burial

Funeral homes have seen a drastic increase in the less expensive cremation option over full burial year-over-year, some experiencing an almost 65 per cent increase, Tribune Business was told yesterday, as official figures indicated a 7 per cent increase in New Providence funeral fees - coupled with the recession - was responsible for the change.

In the Department of Statistics' July consumer price index, New Providence funeral fees increased by 6.6 per cent, while fees in Grand Bahama increased by 7.9 per cent.

Many funeral homes were surprised by the change, some saying they were

"shocked" to hear that funeral expenses had gone up.

Managing director of Cedar Crest Funeral Home, Audley Fraser, said his company had not increased its fees in over three years.

According to him, despite the increased cost of shipping caskets, the company had tried to absorb the expense in order to keep their prices competitive.

However, Mr Fraser suggested the rising cost of burial in Grand Bahama - and the markedly depressed market - may be the reason for that island's almost 8 per cent increase in funeral

expenses.

He and other funeral home personnel agreed that the number of families cremating their deceased loved ones has increased exponentially since 2008.

With the cost of a basic funeral pegged at almost \$5,000, and a direct cremation at about \$1,300, persons were opting out of the costly and rapidly declining burial plots.

"It has increased drastically," said a director at Butlers Funeral Home. "I'm doing a lot of cremations."

She told this paper she was busy working on two full funerals, but that the requests for cremations far out-

weighed that of the traditional funeral and burial.

A Secretary at Restview Memorial Mortuary and Crematorium said his company had seen an almost 65 per cent increase in the number of cremations performed at their crematorium.

"It's cheaper than having a funeral service," he said.

He suggested that there have been a lot more deaths recently as well, blaming the increase on an overall decrease in health throughout New Providence.

"Cremation is the main solution people resort to these days," said the Restview secretary.

* Former finance minister 'rather frightened' at recommendations for more aggressive NIB investments

* Warns of potential asset-liability mismatch, and drain on foreign reserves/pressure on exchange rate if more NIB assets placed as banking system deposits

By **NEIL HARTNELL**
Tribune Business Editor

A FORMER finance minister yesterday said he was "rather frightened" by recommendations suggesting that the National Insurance Board (NIB) be operated as a private pension fund, as this could ultimately destabilise this nation's monetary system and create pressure for a devaluation of the Bahamian dollar.

Both NIB's eighth actuarial review and the 2005 Social Security Reform Commission report have urged a more aggressive stance on NIB's investments, including limiting the proportion of investment assets held in government and public sector securities, but James Smith said such an approach had created the first "financial crisis" he faced when taking over as Central Bank of the Bahamas governor in the 1980s.

NIB traditionally has a multi-million dollar sum on deposit with the Central Bank at the end of each month, the Commission's report noting that this averaged \$91.1 million over the 12 months to December 2004. No interest is earned on this at all.

However, Mr Smith said that soon after taking over as governor, the decision was taken to put these surplus NIB assets to better use by placing them in the commercial bank-

SEE page 4B

Businesses see 15-30% summer sales decreases

By **NEIL HARTNELL**
Tribune Business Editor

THE recession bit even deeper into the Bahamian economy in July-August 2009 with many businesses reporting year-over-year sales drops of 15-30 per cent, a former Bahamas Chamber of Commerce president yesterday confirming that his business had suffered the "most significant" top line decline year-to-date last month - more than 10 per cent.

Dionisio D'Aguilar, president of the Superwash laundromat chain, told Tribune Business he "agreed 100 per cent" that many Bahamian businesses had suffered their worst year-over-year sales performances to date during those two summer months, based on his company's performance and reports he had heard from other companies.

"Sales were down significantly in August," Mr D'Aguilar told Tribune Business. "Overall, my August

sales were down just over 10 per cent. It crashed through the 10 per cent mark for the first time. In previous months, my sales were trending down 6 per cent, 7 per cent, 8 per cent month to month.

"The most significant drop so far was in August, for August 2009 compared to August 2008. A lot of people have made mention of that; that August was probably the worst month yet. And a lawyer friend of mine said today that July was just appalling. I can concur with that - my business was down, no doubt about that."

Assessing the reasons for the summer sales declines, Mr D'Aguilar said many businesses felt large numbers of Bahamians were continuing to shop in Florida, despite the recession and corresponding increase in unemployment/reduction in disposable incomes.

As a result, he suggested that both the Government and private sector organisations



DIONISIO D'AGUILAR

needed to start a full-fledged campaign to encourage Bahamians to shop at home, keeping what money was being generated in the local economy.

"The perception was that the airport was stuffed full of people going to Florida to shop," Mr D'Aguilar said. "People are making their wages here and shooting themselves in the foot. They will argue that prices are too expensive here, but they need to spend in the Bahamas to support local jobs."

* July and August worst year-over-year comparisons for many Bahamian firms, as Superwash's chief confirms top line decline 'crashed through 10% for first time in August'

* Return air fares fall below \$200 to Miami

"Not enough emphasis is being placed by the Government and organisations like the Chamber of Commerce on shopping at home. If people are going to the US to shop, there are fewer dollars in the economy and less money is circulating, which causes even more disruption."

"There should be real emphasis, a real marketing campaign to say consumers need to stay at home and shop. The situation is going to get worse before it gets better."

What is aiding Bahamian travel to the US is the dramatic drop in air fares, as carriers reduce prices to boost load factors at a time when travel is reduced during the tourism season low point. For instance, a return fare to Miami on American Eagle now

costs less than \$200, some \$98 plus \$90 in taxes.

"I haven't flown for under \$200 on American Eagle for a long time," the former Chamber president observed.

Mr D'Aguilar said retailers were among the businesses who had seen the sharpest downturns in July and August, something they believed had not been helped by a shorter Back-to-School season. Architects and engineers were also seeing a shortage of work, with companies who still had liquid assets and the ability to borrow placing all projects on hold.

"All we're hearing is doom and gloom," Mr D'Aguilar said. "We need something big, and maybe this Baha Mar thing is big enough to give people a glimmer of hope, but that's still a long way off."

Judicial Review threat to \$105m power plant

By **NEIL HARTNELL**
Tribune Business Editor

AN attorney will this week write to all government agencies involved in the permitting process for BEC's \$105 million Wilson City power plant to demand that his Abaco-based clients be involved in "meaningful consultation" on the project, with moves for a Supreme Court injunction to follow if construction recommences.

Fred Smith, a Freeport-based partner in the Callenders & Co law firm, also warned that he would launch a Judicial Review challenge in the courts - similar to the one he instigated against Discovery Land Company's Baker's Bay Golf & Ocean Club

Attorney set to demand meaningful consultation on BEC project for clients, and seek possible injunction to stop work

project on Great Guana Cay, which has reached the Privy Council - if BEC attempted to have the necessary construction permits "rubber stamped and retroactively applied" so the power plant could proceed.

Accusing successive governments of failing to heed the warning given by the Guana Cay situation, when it came to following statutory and due process and consulting with all affected parties, Mr Smith said both the Christie and Ingraham administrations had "put the cart before the horse" when it came to the BEC power plant.

Arguing that the Government had delivered "a slap in the face" to democratic institutions and their processes through their handling of the Wilson City project, the Callenders & Co partner said the administration itself had been responsible for generating opposition by its decision to "proceed clandestinely, secretly and without permits".

Informing Tribune Business that he represented a number of Bahamian and foreign homeowners on Abaco, Mr Smith said of his clients: "They are up in arms about

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The information contained is from a third party and The Tribune can not be held responsible for errors and/or omission from the daily report.

SEE page 2B

BUSINESS

Don't sleep on client attention

ZZZZZZZZ. Are you putting your clients, or potential clients, to sleep? Or are they excited to see you and talk with you? Are you losing their attention on calls? Or when you are sitting in front of them? If you have not asked this question, now is a good time to do so. If your client is not involved in the conversation or not asking you questions, then they are not engaged.

Put the car in gear

If your client is not engaged then you're not going anywhere. Just like a car sitting there with the engine running, yet you have not put the car in gear.

I recently read an article where a professional asked a client about sales people. His reply was that "sales people are boring". They basically came in, sat down, asked routine questions like: 'How are you?' (when they really don't care), run on about their business and/or themselves and then ask for business. BORING! Yeah, I would be bored myself.... ZZZZZZZZZ. I'm actually already half asleep.

How to keep a client's attention!

I wrote about this before. Ask questions. Remember my maxim: Why? Why? Why? Why? Who? Who? Who? What? What? GET



Promotional Marketing

by Scott Farrington

THE POINT YET?

Focus the attention on your client and not yourself. Stop boring people to tears. Ask the '5Ws' (discussed in previous article).

Put yourself into your clients shoes and see how it feels. Think about what it feels like to be on the other end of that conversation, in which

someone is just talking about themselves - it is BORING ! That is how buyers feel when salespeople pitch instead of ask questions.

So how do you do this? How do you avoid putting people to sleep? By the way, if you do put people to sleep, I know some people who are sleep deprived and could use your services.

SIMPLE, ask questions, shut up and listen.

OK, article finished. I'm not a sleep therapist.

All of these marketing strategies are certain to keep your business on top during these challenging economic times. Have a productive and

profitable week.

Remember: "THOSE WHO MARKET WILL MAKE IT "

NB: Scott Farrington is president of SunTee EmbroidMe, a promotional and marketing company specialising in uniforms, embroidery, silk screen printing and promotional products. Established over 27 years ago, SunTee EmbroidMe has assisted Bahamian businesses from various industries in marketing themselves. Readers can contact Mr Farrington at SunTee EmbroidMe on East Shirley Street, or by e-mail at scott@sun-tee.com or by telephone at 242-393-3104.

Judicial Review threat to \$105m power plant

FROM page 1B

the lack of consultation through the local government process, or through the permitting processes of central government agencies. This is probably the single largest capital expenditure by government in Abaco."

The Wilson City power plant project was instigated under the former Christie administration, which initially looked at a site at Snake Cay. That was ultimately rejected, due to its proximity to a planned National Park and

environmentally/ecologically sensitive area, Wilson City being chosen as the alternative.

Criticising both governments for their failure to involve Abaconians in the consultative process before construction started, Mr Smith said this had created negative instead of positive energy in the community's attitude towards the Wilson Cay plant.

"Instead, they proceeded clandestinely, secretly, without permits, not giving information.... They put the cart

before the horse," Mr Smith told Tribune Business.

"This all goes back to issues of central government feeling it can do what it wants in the Out Island colonies. It is Nassau treating the Family Islands as if they have no say. It is a central government dictatorship once again.

"Generally, government departments go ahead with their development plans before they get permits. This is something that should not happen. It's a slap in the face to democratic institutions. It demonstrates that statutory

mechanisms for local government permitting, health and safety, the environment, are meaningless. This is a repeat of the Guana Cay fiasco, and I beg the FNM to proceed differently in the future."

Dr Earl Deveaux, minister of the environment, acknowledged in this newspaper yesterday that government departments and utilities often went ahead with their development/construction plans without first obtaining the necessary permits and approvals, unlike private developers, who were required to go through the proper processes and channels.

When asked why the Government appeared not to have learnt anything from the Guana Cay case and public reactions to other controversial developments, Mr Smith replied: "I don't think they're slow learners. They haven't learnt at all."

What is surprising is that the Government would again risk incurring the wrath of Abaconians, a generally well-educated population well aware of their rights and statutory processes, given what had happened with the Guana Cay development.

Pointing out the hypocrisy of requiring private developers to abide by the laws and statutory processes, when government departments were not, Mr Smith said: "The Government is not a law unto itself. Each department, statu-



FRED SMITH

tory authority, BEC and BTC, are statutory corporate institutions that are subject to the law like any private developer."

The Government appears to have anticipated Mr Smith's possible legal challenge to the Wilson City power plant's continued construction, having placed all building on hold until the necessary permits and approvals are obtained.

The Callender's & Co partner said he had been instructed by his clients to write to all the relevant government departments and agencies objecting to the lack of consultation, and request that they now be involved in a

meaningful process.

Failing that, Mr Smith said he would seek a Supreme Court injunction to prevent construction on the Wilson City power plant from proceeding until all the required permits were in place and his clients "had an opportunity to participate in a meaningful consultative process".

"It's a question of the process by which the permits were applied for, considered and approved," Mr Smith said, adding that the issue went beyond the permits themselves.

"If they simply rush to get the permits rubber-stamped and retroactively applied, such permits will be challenged under a Judicial Review," he said. "In the 21st century Bahamas, it is high time that government institutions respected the relevant laws and processes."

Mr Smith said he and his clients would soon have to assess whether work on the Wilson City power plant had stopped, as the Government had said. He told Tribune Business that the last time he went to the site, he was barred from entering, and a row with security guards broke out after he subsequently started taking photos outside the fenced-off site.

To prevent such situations from occurring again, Mr Smith said it was incumbent on all private and public sector developers to "be accountable and transparent, provide the information and interact with a meaningful consultation process".

He added that while BEC's general manager, Kevin Basden, had asserted at last week's Town Meeting that three Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) had been conducted on Wilson City, this was relatively meaningless if local residents were not given an opportunity to comment, and their concerns made a part of the process.

His clients' main concerns, Mr Smith said, were the location of the power plant; whether Bunker C fuel was the correct one and the implications arising from its use; whether government had properly explored wind, solar and other alternative energies; and environmental and health and safety issues.



The National Insurance Board of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

Notice to Vendors

The National Insurance Board (NIB) is preparing to make payments to vendors by direct bank deposits. To facilitate this, the NIB is requesting that vendors provide the necessary banking information. Forms will be distributed to vendors for completion. If you do not receive one, please contact us at one of the following to obtain a copy of the form:

1. APBankinginfo@nib-bahamas.com
2. Telephone No.: (242) 502-1838, or
3. Collect a Form from any New Providence NIB Local Office

The NIB requests the cooperation of all vendors as we seek to provide more efficient service. All information will be treated as strictly confidential.

Career Opportunity

SENIOR TRUST MANAGER

J. P. Morgan is currently seeking applications for a Senior Trust Manager.

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Prospective applicants should have 6+ years of trust experience, with 3+ years in mentoring others. A bachelor's degree or a professional qualification ideally in law with strong analytical skills; knowledge of investment product services, fiduciary and trust regulatory requirements and onshore and offshore jurisdictions; excellent written/verbal communication and creative problem solving skills; and the ability to assess risk in fiduciary and trust matters.

J.P. Morgan Private Bank offers competitive compensation and benefits packages. Interest applications should submit their resume/ curriculum vitae marked "Private and Confidential" to the Human Resources Manager, J.P. Morgan Trust Company (Bahamas) Limited, P.O. Box N-4899, Nassau, Bahamas.

J.P. Morgan Trust Company (Bahamas) Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

INTENT TO CHANGE NAME BY DEED POLL

The Public is hereby advised that I, **ANASTASIA KEMP and or ANASTASIA KEMP MCPHEE of TURTLE DRIVE, OFF CARMICHAEL ROAD, NASSAU, BAHAMAS**, intend to change the name to **ANASTASIA BRIDGEWATER**. 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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A medical supply company which provides a wide range of premium health care products seeks a qualified candidate for the following position:

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Successful candidate must possess the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's or Associates degree in allied Health Science or Business Administration.
- Effective communication and presentation skills (written and oral).
- Proven selling skills
- Effective time-management; planning and organizing skills.
- Computer literacy. Well-versed with Windows, Word Processing (preferably MS Word), Spreadsheets (preferably Excel), Desktop Publishing, and Data Management.
- Self-motivator and good team player.

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BUSINESS

NIB proceeds with \$1.2m prosecutions

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Business Reporter
crobards@tribunemedia.net

THE NATIONAL Insurance Board (NIB) continued with its prosecution of several prominent Bahamian companies owing collectively more than \$1.2 million yesterday, with some of those companies already settling their arrears incrementally over time.

Jones Communications CEO, Wendall Jones, pleaded guilty to owing NIB \$430,000

in delinquent contribution payments. The company has since paid back almost \$100,000 of the \$180,000 needed to meet NIB's settlement threshold.

Attorney for NIB, Heather Maynard, told the court that her company would be happy to negotiate the liquidation of Jones Communications' remaining amount after they have paid off 40 per cent of their arrears - almost \$180,000.

Global United chief execu-

tive, Jackson Ritchie, has been charged with owing NIB \$161,079.98 in unpaid contributions. Mr Ritchie has also entered into negotiations with NIB to make incremental payments on the total amount owed in arrears.

Both Mr Jones and Mr Ritchie are expected back in court to continue settlement arrangements on November 17.

Also expected back in court are owners of the radio stations More 94 FM and Spirit (92.5 FM), Galen and Henry Saunders. They have been charged with owing NIB \$256,262 in outstanding contributions. Ms Maynard revealed that the men had paid \$43,000 thus far of the total amount owed.

Solomon's Mines managing director Mark Finlayson, who was charged with owing NIB \$377,092.90 in contributions between June 2007 and December 2008, and pleaded guilty to the charges, failed to appear in court yesterday. Consequently Magistrate Lasalle issued a bench warrant for his arrest.

Mr Finlayson's staff have also complained that the company has been delinquent in paying salaries for several months this year. He has previously blamed the economic downturn for late pay cheques.

A bench warrant was also issued for the owner of Bertha's Go-Go Ribs, Mervin Sweeting, who has been making payment on his delinquent NIB contribution, but failed to show up for the hearing.

NIB has constantly said it regrets having to take legal action against companies, but maintain it is a last resort to negotiating payment arrange-

ments.

NIB contends that legal action is a last resort for past-due contribution collections, suggesting it is only imposed when "they (employers) fail to take advantage of the relatively generous option of entering into installment agreements to resolve arrears".

As the economic crisis bore down on businesses, however, NIB imposed an amnesty period to delay the application of interest on those installment agreements.

The eighth actuarial review tabled in Parliament alongside the 2008 Annual Report revealed that the future value of NIB's expenditure could exceed reserves in the long term.

However, NIB is confident that changes in administration of the fund will allow for it meet its long term challenges. "Presently, the fund is meeting all its obligation," the report said.



Accountant

Primary Duties:

- Recording of journal entries
- Handling accounts payable functions
- Preparing submission for franchisors
- Preparation of bank reconciliations
- Preparing financial statements
- Establishing & monitoring internal controls

Qualifications:

Applicants should possess Bachelors degree in Accounting, at least 5 years experience, knowledge of retail/food accounting, be proficient in Quickbooks, Excel and other MS Office applications. Must be able to multi-task, work with minimum supervision and possess a high level of integrity and professionalism.

Fax application/resume to 394-4938
Deadline for applications: Sept 25, 2009

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL CALLED MEETING



ALL MEMBERS of
Bahama Islands Resorts & Casinos
Cooperative Credit Union (BIRCCCU) Limited
Are Urged To Attend The
Special Called Meeting

Date:

Saturday, September 19, 2009

Location:

Grounds Of The Credit Union

Time:

10:00 A.M.

Purpose of The Meeting:

To Discuss & Vote On The Proposed Opening
Up Of Our Bond To Allow Your Family To
Become Members Of BIRCCCU Ltd.

DHL JOB DESCRIPTION



POSITION: Commercial Supervisor
JOB FAMILY: Accounting
RCS CODE: L10005
REPORTS TO: Finance Manager
LOCATION: Country Finance Department or Cluster Office

OVERALL PURPOSE:

Position is responsible for managing the Commercial Finance activities for a country or group of countries within the Cluster. Manages Revenue leakage, establishes credit limits and reviews shipments to profile. Supervises the following staff: Billing Analyst, Duties and Vendor Analyst, Accounts Receivable Analyst.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Manage the Accounting Commercial activities for a country or group of countries within the Cluster.
- Supervise Billing, Duties, Accounts Receivable and Vendor Analysts.
- Prepare and analyze statistics and KPIs for the country/cluster.
- Manage customer profiles.
- Establish AR Credit limits.
- Principal contact for Commercial controller.
- Assist with preparation of Customer profitability analysis.
- Handle Billing queries from Billing Center.
- 1st level of approval for Credit notes.
- Special projects and ad hoc reports as required.
- Provide customers analyses, and review customer data base in term of discount, and credit
- Performs other assignments as required.
- Ability to supervise the accounting staff at local station

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- High school diploma and/or minimal of 5 years applicable experience
- Minimum of 4 years of commercial and accounting experience is required.
- Minimum of 2 years supervisory or management experience leading an accounting department.
- A background in commercial credit and accounting required.
- Experience with a major Enterprise Reporting Package (ERP)
- Excellent analytical and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to read and interpret data reports. Ability to understand and perform data analysis.
- PC skills should include the basic suite of MS products, Excel, Access, Word, Office
- Excellent communication skills both written and verbal, this function does a lot of interfacing with internal and external customers and the Shared Service Center

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting/Finance, a related field or equivalent education

Please email resume to;

Romell K. Knowles I

Country Manager

bahamaboi@hotmail.com

Resumes can be dropped off to DHL Bahamas corporate office - East Bay Street, Island Traders Building, Nassau Bahamas.

Please be advised only those applicants whose resumes are taken into consideration will be contacted. **No phone calls will be accepted.**

BUSINESS

Pictured are members of the 2009 FSI Student Award selection committee in advance of the interviews with candidates, the final step in the selection process. Left to right (seated) are Joan Pinder, former chair-School of Business, College of the Bahamas; Karen Lockhart, College of the Bahamas; Kim Bodie, Bahamas Institute of Financial Services; and Anastacia Johnson, Association of International Banks & Trust Companies in The Bahamas. Standing are: Renee Barrow, SG Hambros Bank & Trust; Cyprianna Bethel, Central Bank of the



Bahamas; Nadine Frazier, Insurance Institute of the Bahamas; and Nicole Pratt-Rolle, Society of Trust & Estate Practitioners. Selection Committee members not pictured include: Mario Smith, Bahamas Association of

Compliance Officers, Roger Brown, Bahamas General Insurance Association; Zelma Wilson, Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants; and Jeremy Dyck, CFA Society of the Bahamas.

BFSB gears to launch top graduate choice

THE Bahamas Financial Services Board (BFSB) has launched the process to recognise an outstanding 2009 graduate from within the School of Business, College of the Bahamas.

This initiative has been a joint venture by BFSB, the College of the Bahamas, and the Central Bank of the Bahamas since 2002, with the co-ordinating and selection committees comprising representatives from the three sponsoring agencies, plus the Professional Industry Association Working Group (PIAWG) – a representative body for the various financial services industry-related associations here in the Bahamas.

The Student Award programme is an integral component of BFSB's ongoing Financial Centre Focus (FCF) programme, which addresses issues such as challenges impacting the sustained growth and development of the industry; improvements to the level of service; and attracting and maintaining qualified professionals.

This week, the selection committee will be completing interviews with the finalists, who will be announced shortly. The 2009 Student of the Year will be recognised at BFSB's Annual Industry Excellence Awards Ceremony on October 22.

Again this year, SG Hambros Bank & Trust (Bahamas) has come on board as sponsor of the FSI Student of the Year Award, while Credit Suisse's Nassau branch is supporting the student awards programme as a contributor.

deposits and Treasury Bills that will also need to be renewed."

The Commission again made the point that the NIB Fund had "too great an exposure" to the Bahamian commercial banking system and the Government through its limited investment options, something that impacted its ability to negotiate better rates of return if its funds were not needed.

This "systematically disadvantaged" NIB, as the funds either end up being placed at lower rates or are left sitting idle at the Central Bank. At end-December 31, 2004, NIB had \$83.2 million on deposit at the Central Bank of the Bahamas, earning no interest, with the previous month-end balances for the previous 12 months averaging \$91.1 million.

"If these funds were invested, incremental income of \$4.5 million could have been derived," the report said. "At an average of \$250 per month, that incremental interest income alone could have paid the annual pension of 1,500 pensioners."

The Commission report said NIB was exposed to major country risk due to the fact all its investments were concentrated in the Bahamas, and with \$460 million investments tied to Bahamian Prime, the Fund was exposed to even small changes in interest rates.

NIB, frompage 1B

ing system, the theory being that they would generate better investment returns as bank deposits.

While this may have been the case, Mr Smith explained that apart from creating an asset-liability mismatch between short-term bank deposits and NIB's long-term liabilities, this strategy also expanded the money supply and created an unsustainable credit boom by expanding funds available for lending.

With much of these funds going on imports, it led to an immediate drain on the Bahamas' foreign exchange reserves, imposing pressure on this nation's fixed one:one exchange rate with the US dollar and raising - at least temporarily - the risk of devaluation.

"In fact, in the 1980s when I took over the Central Bank, that was when we had our first financial crisis," Mr Smith, now CFAL's chairman, told Tribune Business yesterday.

"The reserves went down by \$100 million to \$200 million in the first couple of months.

Everyone brought cars in and government revenues went up, but after that we had trouble meeting our foreign commitments."

As a result, Mr Smith said any change in NIB's investment and asset allocation strategies should not be made in isolation, but instead discussed thoroughly with the Ministry of Finance and Central Bank as the managers of this nation's fiscal and monetary affairs respectively. No decision could be taken in a vacuum.

"In our case, when we put [the NIB funds] in the system, it immediately went to imports, so many of your reserves are gone," Mr Smith said. "It could destabilise your monetary system, reduce foreign reserves and put pressure on the exchange rate, which could lead to devaluation."

"I'm really frightened by looking at NIB as a private fund," he added, urging that the Bahamian social security system be viewed from a national development perspective.

Explaining that the Fund was "a safety net for the Government", Mr Smith said hav-

ing a large percentage of the Crown's assets owned by NIB was a distinct advantage if it ever came to a government debt restructuring.

"Government has a huge debt to NIB, and if you run into repayment - say a bond falls due - you can restructure much easier than if you went to a foreign bank," the former minister of state for finance under the Christie administration said.

The lack of diversified investment options in the Bahamian market remained painfully obvious at year-end 2008, with \$651.35 million or 43.5 per cent of NIB's invested assets being held in Bahamas Government Registered Stock.

NIB's eighth actuarial report revealed this was similar to the position attained in 2006, when 56 per cent of NIB's then-\$1.35 billion investment portfolio was held in government securities, such as government-registered stock and Treasury Bills.

According to the report, some 24 per cent of NIB's assets were then invested in short-term securities, such as Certificates of Deposit (CDs)

and Treasury Bills, with 98.6 per cent of all investments concentrated in the Bahamas.

Not surprisingly, the eighth actuarial report concluded: "With such heavy concentration in several areas, the investment portfolio is not well diversified."

"As a result, the overall Fund is relatively high risk with return expectations that do not justify the current level of risk."

"It is therefore recommended that gradual reductions be made to the proportions held in Bahamas Government, quasi-government securities and short-term investments, and that the position held overseas be increased gradually to around 20 per cent."

The eighth actuarial report found that between 2001 and 2006, the NIB enjoyed an average 6 per cent yield on its investments, and a 5.5 per cent yield on its reserves.

But with inflation averaging 2 per cent per annum over that period, the real rate of return on reserves was 3.5 per cent.

And the report by the Social Security Reform Commission, appointed by the former

Christie administration, noted that returns on NIB's reserves, due to declining interest rates, had fallen from 10 per cent in 1983 to below 6 per cent in 2003.

The Commission's report noted the "severe and imprudent mismatch" between the maturity date of NIB's assets and liabilities, with some 35 per cent of investments in low-yielding, short-term Treasury Bills and deposits as at December 2004.

With long-term liabilities being matched by short-term assets, the report warned: "This enormous mismatch places significant long-term risk upon the long-term viability of the National Insurance Fund, as it is presently structured."

At the point the Commission's report was written, in 2005, it said NIB was faced with "re-investment risk", as a result of needing to find new investment opportunities for maturing investments in a market where interest rates were declining.

"Stated another way, only 24 per cent of NIB's investment portfolio has a maturity of 10 years or more, yet it is known that more than 86 per cent of liabilities and commitments extend more than 10 years," the report said.

"In the fiscal year 2004, some \$60 million of investments are due to mature, not including \$350 million of bank

Legal Notice

NOTICE

ISAGAR ENTERPRISES LTD.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that the above-named Company is in dissolution, which commenced on the 14th day of September 2009. The Liquidator is Argosa Corp. Inc., P. O. Box N-7757 Nassau, Bahamas.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

NOTICE

THE CHISWICK RIVERSIDE EXECUTIVES, LP

In Voluntary Liquidation

1. The reason for the winding-up and dissolving is that the Partnership has ceased to carry on business.
2. The Partnership is and will continue to be able to discharge or pay or provide for the payment of all claims, debts, liabilities and obligations in full.
3. The winding-up will commence on the date when the Notice of Dissolution is submitted to the Registrar.
4. The Liquidators are authorized to carry on the business of the Partnership.
5. The names of Liquidators are Kyrene Kelty and Kristina Fox. No. remuneration is proposed to be paid to the Liquidators.
6. The Liquidators are not required to send all Limited Partners a statement of account prepared by or on its instructions in respect of its actions and transactions.

Dated this 11th day of September, 2009.

Kyrene Kelty and Kristina Fox
Liquidators

Legal Notice

NOTICE

DELIGHT FOUNTAIN LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that the above-named Company is in dissolution, which commenced on the 14th day of September 2009. The Liquidator is Argosa Corp. Inc., P. O. Box N-7757 Nassau, Bahamas.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

Legal Notice

NOTICE

ELGIN VENTURES LTD.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that the above-named Company is in dissolution, which commenced on the 14th day of September 2009. The Liquidator is Argosa Corp. Inc., P. O. Box N-7757 Nassau, Bahamas.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

Legal Notice

NOTICE

JARETH VENTURES LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that the above-named Company is in dissolution, which commenced on the 14th day of September 2009. The Liquidator is Argosa Corp. Inc., P. O. Box N-7757 Nassau, Bahamas.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

Legal Notice

NOTICE

YANI INVESTMENT GROUP LTD.

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that the above-named Company is in dissolution, which commenced on the 14th day of September 2009. The Liquidator is Argosa Corp. Inc., P. O. Box N-7757 Nassau, Bahamas.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

Legal Notice

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

(a) PAMSCIAM HOLDINGS LIMITED is in dissolution under the provisions of the International Business Companies Act 200.

(b) The Dissolution of said Company commenced on September 15, 2009 when its Articles of Dissolution were submitted and registered by the Registrar General.

(c) The Liquidator of the said company is Lakeisha Collie of 2nd Terrace West, Centreville, Nassau, Bahamas.

(d) All persons having Claims against the above-named Company are required on or before the 14th day of October 2009 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the Liquidator of the company or, in default thereof, they may be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

LAKEISHA COLLIE

LIQUIDATOR OF THE ABOVE-NAMED COMPANY

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

A medical supply company which provides a wide range of premium health care products seeks a qualified candidate for the following position:

SALES MANAGER

Primary Duties include:

- Spearheading the growth of current bands/products, and introducing new items to the healthcare community, retailers and the general public in Nassau and the Family Islands.
- Supervising and training a small team of sales persons.
- Working with merchandisers to train their staff and promote products.
- Monitoring and tracking sales by category, on a monthly basis.
- Planning and instituting product forecasts.
- Planning and organizing promotions and events for the products.

Successful candidate must possess the following qualifications:

- At least three (3) years experience in similar position.
- The ability to meet the high standards set out by the company and manufacturers.
- Be self-motivated with the ability to work independently.
- Possess good leadership and interpersonal skills.
- Computer literacy. Well-versed with Windows, Word Processing (preferably MS Word), Spreadsheets (preferably Excel), Desktop Publishing, and Data Management.

Competitive salary, commensurate with qualifications, with sales incentives, plus vehicle allowance.

Interested candidates may submit resumes with (three (3) references to: acarey@sunmedicalcompany.com

THE WEATHER REPORT



INSURANCE MANAGEMENT (BAHAMAS) LIMITED. INSURANCE BROKERS & AGENTS

5-DAY FORECAST

TODAY

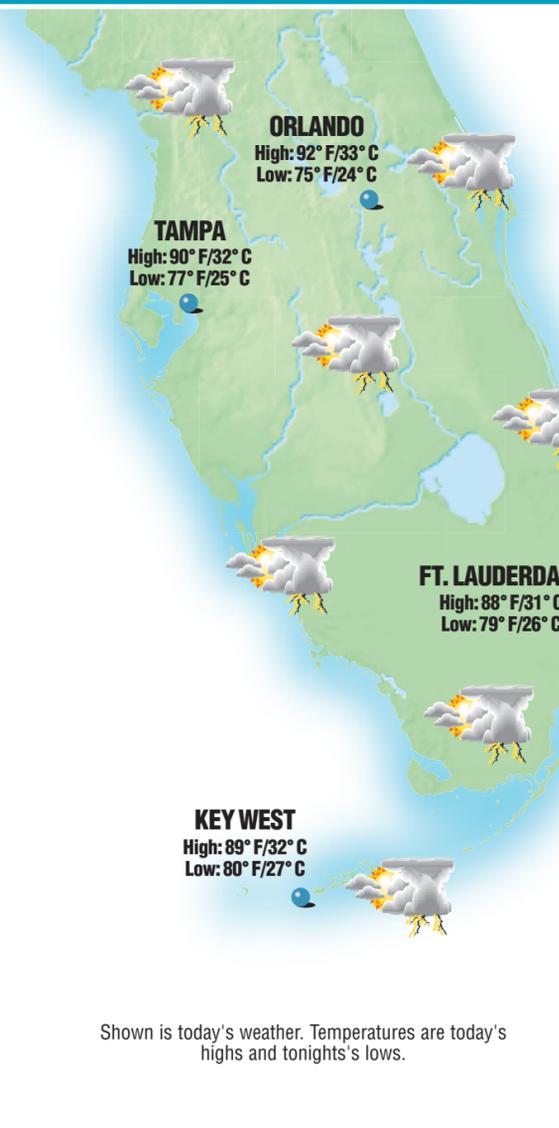
TONIGHT

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

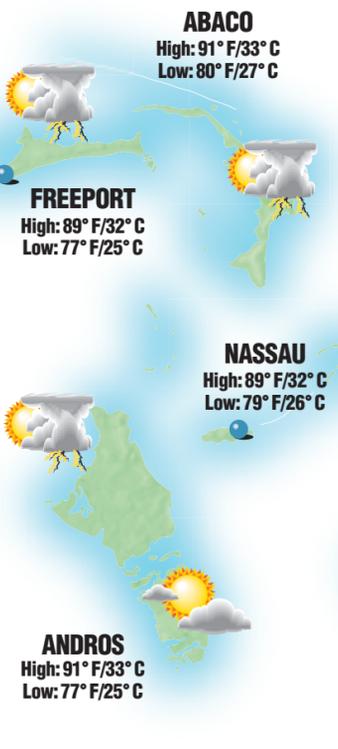
SATURDAY

SUNDAY



City	High	Low	AccuWeather RealFeel
Orlando	92° F/33° C	75° F/24° C	100° F
Tampa	90° F/32° C	77° F/25° C	99°-85° F
West Palm Beach	90° F/32° C	77° F/25° C	99°-85° F
Ft. Lauderdale	88° F/31° C	79° F/26° C	99°-85° F
Miami	91° F/33° C	78° F/26° C	99°-85° F
Key West	89° F/32° C	80° F/27° C	99°-85° F

The exclusive AccuWeather RealFeel Temperature® is an index that combines the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, pressure, and elevation on the human body—everything that effects how warm or cold a person feels. Temperatures reflect the high and the low for the day.



City	High	Low	AccuWeather RealFeel
Abaco	91° F/33° C	80° F/27° C	99°-85° F
Freeport	89° F/32° C	77° F/25° C	99°-85° F
Nassau	89° F/32° C	79° F/26° C	99°-85° F
Eleuthera	90° F/32° C	80° F/27° C	99°-85° F
Cat Island	87° F/31° C	76° F/24° C	99°-85° F
Great Exuma	88° F/31° C	78° F/26° C	99°-85° F
San Salvador	88° F/31° C	76° F/24° C	99°-85° F
Long Island	87° F/31° C	76° F/24° C	99°-85° F
Andros	91° F/33° C	77° F/25° C	99°-85° F

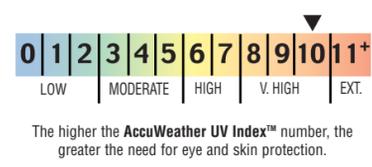
ALMANAC

Statistics are for Nassau through 2 p.m. yesterday

Temperature	High	91° F/33° C
	Low	79° F/26° C
	Normal high	88° F/31° C
	Normal low	75° F/24° C
	Last year's high	90° F/32° C
	Last year's low	78° F/26° C
Precipitation	As of 2 p.m. yesterday	0.33"
	Year to date	29.67"
	Normal year to date	34.86"

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

UV INDEX TODAY



TIDES FOR NASSAU

Time	High	Ht. (ft.)	Low	Ht. (ft.)
Today	5:07 a.m.	3.2	11:20 a.m.	0.3
Thursday	6:02 a.m.	3.4	12:17 p.m.	0.1
Friday	6:53 a.m.	3.6	12:45 a.m.	0.0
Saturday	7:41 a.m.	3.7	1:31 a.m.	0.0

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	6:56 a.m.	Moonrise	4:32 a.m.
Sunset	7:13 p.m.	Moonset	5:42 p.m.
New	Sep. 18	Full	Oct. 4
First	Sep. 26	Last	Oct. 11

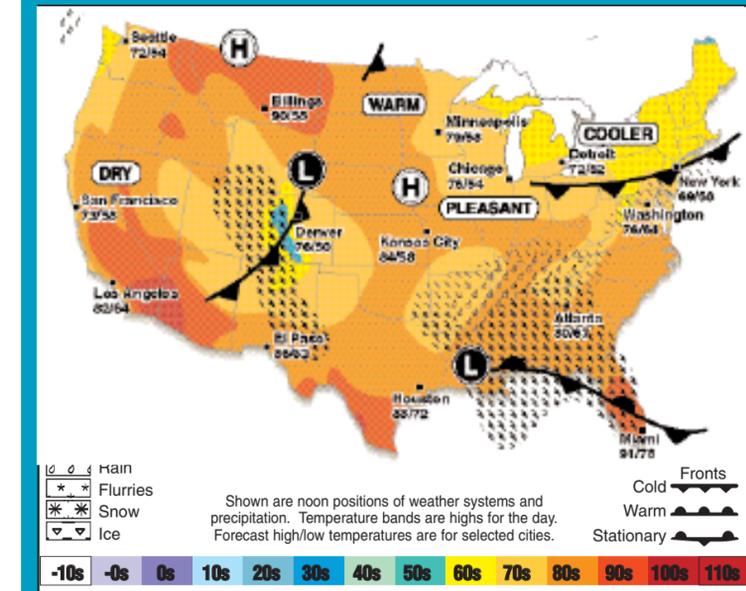
WORLD CITIES

City	Today High F/C	Today Low F/C	Today W	Thursday High F/C	Thursday Low F/C	Thursday W
Acapulco	93/33	79/26	pc	90/32	79/26	pc
Amsterdam	65/18	50/10	pc	65/18	49/9	pc
Ankara, Turkey	73/22	47/8	pc	72/22	45/7	s
Athens	82/27	68/20	s	84/28	70/21	pc
Auckland	64/17	55/12	pc	65/18	52/11	s
Bangkok	89/31	78/25	sh	89/31	78/25	t
Barbados	86/30	78/25	t	87/30	77/25	pc
Barcelona	71/21	61/16	s	69/20	61/16	sh
Beijing	86/30	63/17	s	88/31	61/16	s
Beirut	81/27	76/24	s	80/26	74/23	pc
Belgrade	84/28	63/17	pc	85/29	61/16	r
Berlin	75/23	55/12	s	72/22	54/12	pc
Bermuda	81/27	75/23	sh	82/27	74/23	pc
Bogota	66/18	48/8	r	65/18	43/6	r
Brussels	68/20	54/12	c	70/21	52/11	s
Budapest	83/28	63/17	pc	77/25	59/15	r
Buenos Aires	68/20	52/11	c	66/18	52/11	c
Cairo	96/35	71/21	s	93/33	71/21	s
Calcutta	94/34	85/29	sh	93/33	82/27	sh
Calgary	84/28	48/8	s	78/25	43/6	sh
Cancun	93/33	77/25	s	91/32	76/24	s
Caracas	83/28	73/22	t	84/28	73/22	t
Casablanca	77/25	59/15	s	77/25	58/14	c
Copenhagen	65/18	50/10	s	65/18	49/9	pc
Dublin	61/16	45/7	s	63/17	45/7	pc
Frankfurt	72/22	57/13	pc	75/23	55/12	pc
Geneva	64/17	56/13	sh	68/20	56/13	pc
Halifax	60/15	48/8	pc	64/17	50/10	s
Havana	91/32	73/22	t	88/31	72/22	sh
Helsinki	63/17	46/7	sh	57/13	45/7	pc
Hong Kong	88/31	81/27	t	91/32	82/27	s
Islamabad	103/39	74/23	s	102/38	74/23	s
Istanbul	77/25	64/17	s	78/25	63/17	s
Jerusalem	81/27	62/16	s	75/23	63/17	t
Johannesburg	84/28	53/11	pc	84/28	52/11	pc
Kingston	86/30	75/23	t	88/31	78/25	sh
Lima	70/21	58/14	s	71/21	58/14	pc
London	70/21	54/12	pc	68/20	52/11	pc
Madrid	75/23	50/10	pc	68/20	50/10	t
Manila	90/32	77/25	t	88/31	77/25	sh
Mexico City	75/23	55/12	t	77/25	55/12	t
Monterrey	99/37	73/22	s	91/32	70/21	pc
Montreal	66/18	46/7	s	68/20	50/10	s
Moscow	66/18	48/8	pc	63/17	46/7	sh
Munich	71/21	54/12	pc	72/22	55/12	c
Nairobi	88/31	56/13	pc	88/31	57/13	pc
New Delhi	95/35	77/25	s	97/36	79/26	s
Oslo	63/17	43/6	pc	57/13	45/7	pc
Paris	68/20	57/13	sh	72/22	55/12	r
Prague	75/23	52/11	sh	78/25	53/11	s
Rio de Janeiro	77/25	68/20	s	79/26	70/21	pc
Riyadh	102/38	76/24	s	103/39	76/24	s
Rome	73/22	66/18	t	77/25	64/17	pc
St. Thomas	87/30	79/26	sh	87/30	78/25	pc
San Juan	67/19	50/10	c	65/18	47/8	r
San Salvador	88/31	70/21	t	86/30	73/22	t
Santiago	64/17	48/8	pc	63/17	43/6	pc
Santo Domingo	91/32	73/22	pc	85/29	72/22	sh
Sao Paulo	76/24	60/15	pc	75/23	63/17	pc
Seoul	77/25	57/13	pc	79/26	61/16	s
Stockholm	64/17	45/7	pc	57/13	43/6	pc
Sydney	77/25	59/15	pc	86/30	59/15	pc
Taipei	91/32	82/27	t	93/33	83/28	s
Tokyo	81/27	68/20	s	79/26	66/18	s
Toronto	66/18	54/12	s	66/18	56/13	pc
Trinidad	97/36	73/22	pc	95/35	77/25	pc
Vancouver	68/20	54/12	r	67/19	53/11	pc
Vienna	75/23	62/16	pc	73/22	59/15	sh
Warsaw	74/23	56/13	s	75/23	55/12	pc
Winnipeg	81/27	57/13	pc	76/24	54/12	s

MARINE FORECAST

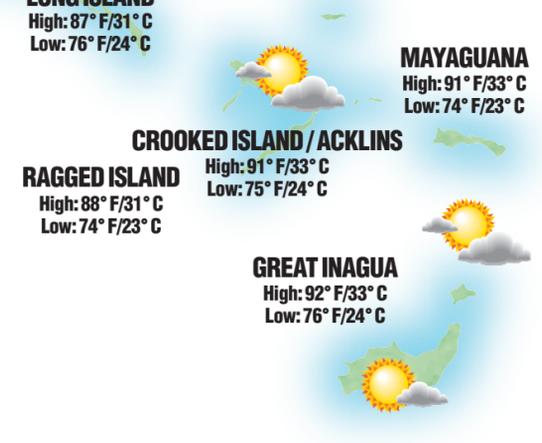
Location	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMPS.
NASSAU	Today: NNE at 4-8 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	85° F
FREEPORT	Today: SSE at 7-14 Knots	1-2 Feet	7 Miles	85° F
ABACO	Today: NE at 6-12 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	86° F
	Thursday: SE at 6-12 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	86° F
	Today: NE at 6-12 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	84° F
	Thursday: SE at 6-12 Knots	2-4 Feet	6 Miles	84° F

TODAY'S U.S. FORECAST



U.S. CITIES

City	Today			Thursday		
	High F/C	Low F/C	W	High F/C	Low F/C	W
Albuquerque	74/23	56/13	t	72/22	55/12	t
Anchorage	58/14	47/8	sh	59/15	47/8	c
Atlanta	80/26	67/19	t	80/26	68/20	t
Atlanta City	72/22	58/14	r	67/19	58/14	r
Baltimore	73/22	61/16	r	70/21	64/17	r
Boston	61/16	49/9	pc	64/17	55/12	c
Buffalo	67/19	52/11	s	68/20	53/11	r
Charleston, SC	88/31	71/21	c	86/30	71/21	c
Chicago	76/24	54/12	s	76/24	50/10	s
Cleveland	70/21	56/13	s	72/22	55/12	c
Dallas	81/27	67/19	t	81/27	67/19	t
Denver	76/24	50/10	pc	82/27	50/10	s
Detroit	72/22	52/11	s	76/24	56/13	pc
Honolulu	89/31	75/23	s	89/31	75/23	s
Houston	88/31	72/22	t	90/32	70/21	t
Indianapolis	78/25	59/15	pc	78/25	57/13	pc
Jacksonville	88/31	72/22	t	87/30	72/22	t
Phoenix	99/37	75/23	s	99/37	78/25	s
Pittsburgh	72/22	56/13	pc	69/20	58/14	r
Portland, OR	76/24	56/13	pc	75/23	53/11	pc
Raleigh-Durham	84/28	65/18	c	80/26	65/18	c
St. Louis	82/27	63/17	pc	81/27	62/16	pc
Salt Lake City	83/28	60/15	pc	87/30	60/15	s
San Antonio	90/32	69/20	pc	90/32	68/20	pc
San Diego	75/23	65/18	pc	77/25	65/18	pc
San Francisco	73/22	58/14	pc	75/23	56/13	pc
Seattle	72/22	54/12	pc	72/22	53/11	pc
Tallahassee	89/31	72/22	t	86/30	71/21	t
Tampa	90/32	77/25	t	89/31	75/23	t
Tucson	94/34	67/19	s	93/33	69/20	s
Washington, DC	76/24	64/17	r	71/21	64/17	r



City	High	Low	AccuWeather RealFeel
Crooked Island/Acklins	91° F/33° C	75° F/24° C	99°-85° F
Ragged Island	88° F/31° C	74° F/23° C	99°-85° F
Mayaguana	91° F/33° C	74° F/23° C	99°-85° F
Great Inagua	92° F/33° C	76° F/24° C	99°-85° F

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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

TASTE

The Tribune Taste



BAKE Chicken, peas n' rice, pork chops and other menu favorites.

Checkmate FOR NEW CHECKERS RESTAURANT

By **REUBEN SHEARER**
Tribune Features Reporter

FINDING a restaurant that offers good ole' tasty Bahamian food at an affordable price is seemingly rare these days. Perhaps you may have overlooked one sit-in dining spot that has been around for 20 years...Checker's Cafe.

The restaurant chain just welcomed another location into the family on Joe Farrington Road last Thursday. The new location offers quality Bahamian food in a comfortably modern and clean environment for you and your family to enjoy meals at a reasonable price of around \$10 per person.

For breakfast, lunch, and dinner, the menu choices are endless. And from what we sampled, the food tastes just like what your gramma would cook on Sunday. From peas n' rice with barbecued ribs and baked chicken, to delicious curry chicken dinners—your nose will be intoxicated with the smells of these freshly cooked Bahamian delights. Dine inside the restaurant, and let the sweet sounds of Bahamian artists serenade your ears, then take in the creative artworks of Rudy Williams plastered on the dining room walls.

But back to the food. White rice, peas n' rice, and bean n' rice are served everyday, and the choices of meat are unpredictable, as they switch things up quite often. Bite into barbecue ribs that are seasoned to the bone, but no too salty—just the right flavour.

What's more is that the menu isn't limited to a specific meal choices, restaurant manager Nadia Sumner told Tribune Taste. For example she explained: If you're tired of rice, you can choose from three choices of hot vegetables.

Side orders are the usual Bahamian options of cheesy macaroni with a kick of spicy flavour, and plantains. The bean soup has the right consistency of dumplings, beans and ham meat, and the chicken soufre has everything you want if you prefer a milder dish.

If you are in the mood for fish try grouper fingers or minced turbot (which by the way is excellent.) Other meat options include pork chops, baked chicken, ribs, steamed ham, stew beef, or oxtail—just to name a few. It can't get more Bahamian than that.

For desert, get your fix of cheese-cake. There are 5 kinds to choose

from—blueberry, pumpkin, mango, guava, pineapple. They say that if you've never had it, you are definitely missing out.

New on the menu is the Family Meal, which serves 4-6 persons, a perfect choice for the "after five customer" exhausted from work, who doesn't want to have to cook a full meal.

The new location is the only restaurant with this option. For \$30.50, you can get a family meal that serves four persons, with rice, three sides, and a choice of meat. At \$45.50, a six-member family can eat rice, four sides, and a choice of meat— or half and half it.

"We made this option open for that father on his way home from work that doesn't want his wife to cook, and that mother who wants her children to have a full nutritious meal, but is too tired to prepare it," Mrs Sumner said.

The drive-thru is opened at nine in the morning for the customer on the run. With their efficient serving strategy, the friendly staff will assist in getting your order out on time.

Mrs Sumner said that so far the crowd has been great and people have been receptive, especially on the weekends. "I think they're just excited for once to have a sit down restaurant with Bahamian food."

"On Saturday a guy brought in a bus load of tourists. All of them came in, sat down, and ate in less than 30 minutes. To be able to have people come in on short notice with no problem is remarkable," she explained.

Store hours for the Joe Farrington Road location are 6:30am to 9pm. At present, the location closes on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 11pm. Mrs Sumner said they are "feeling the area," to see what customers want before finalising a closing time.

"We have no magic oven or prepackaged ingredients to stick in the baker, and in 20 minutes it's ready," said Mrs Sumner. "At the end of the day, we produce freshly cooked Bahamian meals with no preservatives. That's what our customers can expect."



AN appetizing spread of Checkers lunch menu.



CHECKERS friendly staff.

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TASTE

The Tribune

entertainment

things 2DO

1. Renowned Bahamian artist Max Taylor will officially launch his latest collection- Paperwork:1960 - 1992 at a cocktail reception at the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas (NAGB) on Friday, September 18 at 6.30pm. The event is being held under the patronage of Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and Mrs. Delores Ingraham.

RSVP by today at 328-5800/1. On Thursday, September 24, Mr Taylor will hold an exhibition walk-through at the gallery. He will also talk about his early career and his special facility for woodcuts. The cost for this event is \$3.

2. Doctor's Hospital will continue its distinguished free lecture series tomorrow night when psychiatrist Dr Brian Humblestone discusses child obesity. The presentation begins at 6 pm in the hospital's conference room. Free blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol tests will take place between 5-6 pm. Please RSVP as seating is limited at 302-4603.

3. The National Art Gallery of the Bahamas will show the Academy Award winning animated feature Wall-E tomorrow evening. Made in 2008, it is a story about a garbage collecting robot who is left to clean up the mess after the earth is abandoned because it is covered with trash. Wall-E falls in love with a sleek, dangerous robot sent back to earth to see if life is once again sustainable. The movie will air at 8pm.

4. Dolphin Encounter's project Beach in partnership with the Bahamas National Trust will hold a clean-up campaign of Bonefish National Park Cowpen Rd on Saturday. The Bahamas will be one of 120 countries taking part in the 2009 International Coastal Clean-Up Day. Persons wishing to participate should wear long pants and closed in-shoes and bring gloves, insect repellent, sun block and personal water bottles. The Beach Clean-up can also be counted as community service hours. Bring community service forms to be signed. Starts at 9 am. Contact Tanya Moss at 363-7180 or tanyam@dolphinencounters for further details.

5. Roadmasters will hold a special walk to benefit the Aids Foundation on Saturday morning beginning at 4.30 am. It takes place from East Bay Street to Blake Road. Participants can choose from 10 miles or 20 miles, but organisers say it is not a race-walk or run at your own pace. The entry fee is \$20. Call 341-7306 or 427-2391 for further details.

6. Artists from around the country will hold a special concert on Arawak Cay on Saturday in an effort to combat crime. The artists hope to get their message across through music, poetry drama and the visual arts. The event takes place between noon and midnight. Performers will include Ronnie Butler, Kenyatta Taylor, Ricardo Clarke and Sammie Starr. The Fort Charlotte Community Centre, Sea Grape Festival and Mark Cartwright are among those coordinating the event.

HOST Josh Gates with Small Hope Bay Lodge owner Jeff Birch (right) and expert diver Moose.



Andros Island highlighted in quest to find MYTHICAL BEAST

By JEFFARAH GIBSON

THE beauty of Andros will be on display to thousands of international viewers when the Syfy channel features the island on its show Destination Truth this evening.

The idea of this unscripted Syfy channel (previously the SciFi channel) series focuses on Josh Gates and his team of investigators traveling to destinations around the world, uncovering the truths about mythical creatures.

In tonight's episode, investigators explored the blue holes of Andros believed to be the dwelling place of legendary mythical sea monster- the shark jaw octopus tentacle sea monster Lusca.

In addition to extensive footage of the island's natural beauty, some of the island's most famous attractions will also be highlighted as will a segment on making batik and androsia fabric.

Bahamas Production Coordinator Heather Carey, and Peter Douglas, head of the Andros Tourist Office, Community Leader, and "expert" mythologist worked closely with the Destination Truth crew during their five day stay.

According to Ms Carey, this is one of many films shot in the Bahamas, her company is involved in. There are two more underway, one film that was shot in Long Island which will air sometime in October, and one that will be shot in Bimini, air date not yet announced.

"The skinny dip" is the title of the fun film shot in Long Island. "This is a fun film and we have already gotten reactions from people, because they think the film is based on people swimming naked" say Mrs Carey.

"The skinny dip" is a Canadian travel show which will be aired in Canada and all over Europe. This show also highlights and captures the beautiful scenery of the island.

"In this film the beautiful attractions of the island of which some Bahamians have not seen will be shown" she said.

The girl in the film travels through the island and ends up on an adventure which takes her to all the attractions on the island.

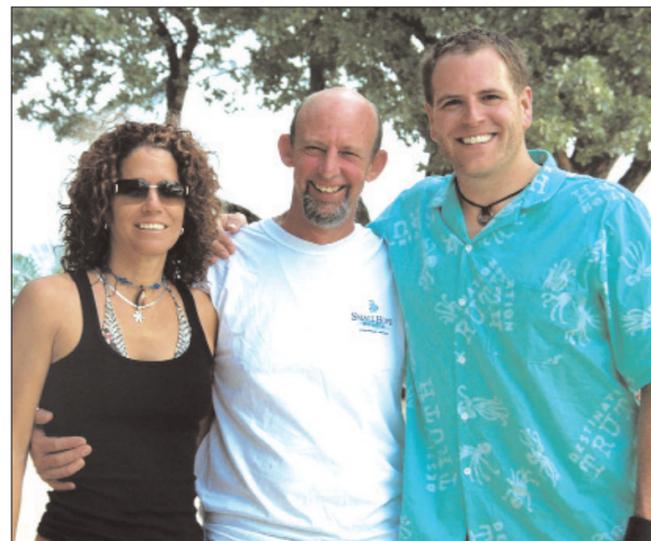
Mrs Carey believes that these films will shine a positive light on the individual islands as well as the rest of the Bahamas. "The most important thing is to highlight the islands of the Bahamas showing the interesting scenes, and appeal to a broader spectrum of tourist."

She also wants the Bahamian people to become more involved with the films. "We want the Bahamian people to be apart of the films as well. They were a little cautious, but in the future we want them to be more comfortable and interactive during filming" she said.

Bahamian cable viewers can watch Destination Truth this evening at 10pm on channel 21.



PETER Douglas and the Syfy Crew.



HEATHER Carey (Production Coordinator), Jeff Birch (Small HOpe Bay Lodge), Josh Gates (host).

Ricardo Clarke makes an impact on Abaco

REGGAE artist Ricardo Clarke performed in Abaco last week visiting several churches and schools to give motivational talks and interviews.

He also gave a free concert in Sandy Point organised by Kingdom Dub Entertainment which was designed to give the island's youth a message of peace and unity.

Ricardo performed alongside fellow artistes Ryan Jupp, Solo, Mr Beeds and DJ Counsellor.

He also spoke at several schools including Forest Heights High School, St Francis High School, where he gave a special presentation to the principal,) SC Bootle High School and JA Pinder Primary School and visited Sandy Point AOG, Change Ministries and the Friendship Tabernacle.



RICARDO CLARKE motivates students during a recent visit to Abaco.

ARTS

President's opinion of Kanye West sparks debate

NEW YORK

PRESIDENT Barack Obama's candid thoughts about Kanye West are provoking a debate over standards of journalism in the Twitter age, according to the Associated Press.

ABC News says it was wrong for its employees to tweet that Obama had called West a "jackass" for the rapper's treatment of country singer Taylor Swift. The network said some of its employees had overheard a conversation between the president and CNBC's John Harwood and didn't realize it was considered off the record. The network apologized to the White House and CNBC.

Harwood had sat down with the president to tape an interview following his appearance on Wall Street on Monday. Although they are competi-

tors, CNBC and ABC share a fiber optic line to save money, and this enabled some ABC employees to listen in on the interview as it was being taped for later use.

Their attention was drawn to chatter about West, who was widely criticized for interrupting Swift as she accepted an award at Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards to say that Beyonce deserved it.

E-mails shot around among ABC employees about Obama's comments, said Jeffrey Schneider, ABC News spokesman. Before anything was reported on ABC's air or Web site, at least three network employees took to Twitter to spread the news.

One was Terry Moran, a former White House correspondent. He logged on to Twitter and typed: "Pres. Obama just called Kanye West a 'jack-

ass' for his outburst at VMAs when Taylor Swift won. Now THAT'S presidential."

When ABC News authorities found out about it, they had the tweets deleted after about an hour, Schneider said. Moran declined a request to comment. But the news was out.

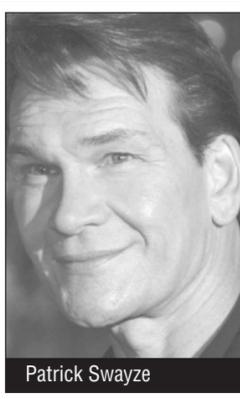
Harwood said there was no explicit agreement with the president that those comments were off the record. But he said it is broadcast tradition that such pre-interview chatter is considered off the record until the formal interview begins. Harwood is holding to that: He would not discuss what the president said before their interview and has no plans to do so on CNBC.

He said he was aware that it was likely someone outside of CNBC was listening to his conversation with the president.



Randy Sager/AP Photo

IN THIS June 17, 2009 file photograph originally provided by ABC News, ABC News' Terry Moran is shown at the Treasury Department in Washington.



Patrick Swayze

'Dirty Dancing' star Patrick Swayze dies at 57

LOS ANGELES

PATRICK Swayze personified a particular kind of masculine grace both on and off screen, from his roles in films like "Dirty Dancing" and "Ghost" to the way he carried himself in his long fight with pancreatic cancer, according to the Associated Press.

Swayze died from the illness on Monday in Los Angeles, his publicist said. He was 57.

"Patrick Swayze passed away peacefully today with family at his side after facing the challenges of his illness for the last 20 months," Annett Wolf said in a statement Monday evening. She declined to give details.

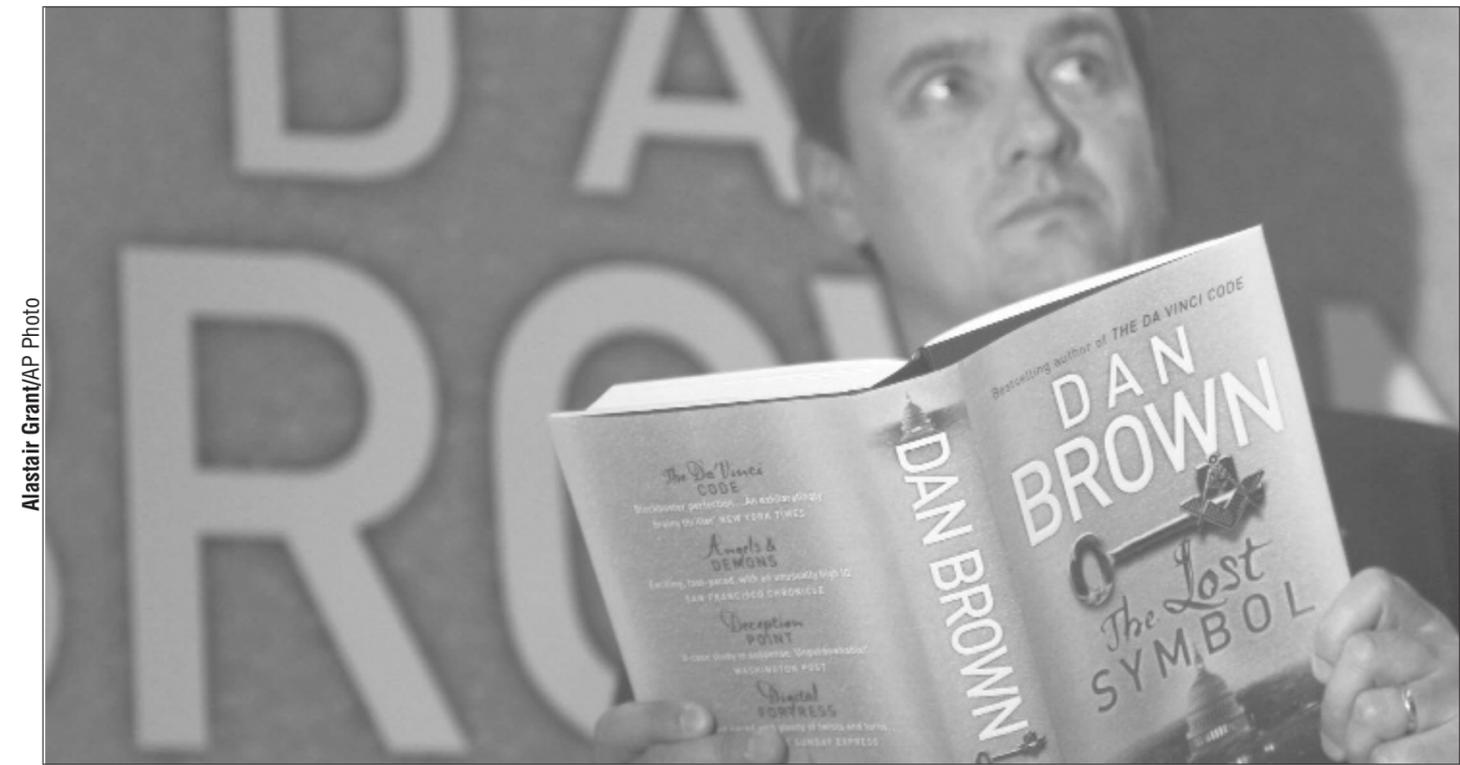
Fans of the actor were saddened to learn in March 2008 that Swayze was suffering from an especially deadly form of cancer. He continued working despite the diagnosis, putting together a memoir with his wife and shooting "The Beast," an A&E drama series for which he had already made the pilot.

Swayze said he chose not to use painkillers while making "The Beast" because they would have taken the edge off his performance. The show drew a respectable 1.3 million viewers when the 13 episodes ran this year, but A&E said it reluctantly decided not to renew it for a second season.

When he first went public with the illness, some reports gave him only weeks to live, but his doctor said his situation was "considerably more optimistic" than that. Swayze acknowledged that time might be running out given the grim nature of the disease.

"I'd say five years is pretty wishful thinking," Swayze told ABC's Barbara Walters in early 2009. "Two years seems likely if you're going to believe statistics. I want to last until they find a cure, which means I'd better get a fire under it."

And that's exactly what he did. In February, Swayze wrote an op-ed piece in the Washington Post titled, "I'm Battling Cancer. How About Some Help, Congress?" in which he urged senators and representatives to vote for the maximum funding for the National Institutes of Health to fight cancer as part of the economic stimulus package.



Alastair Grant/AP Photo

JON HOWELLS, press officer for Waterstone's booksellers, poses for the cameras as he reads a signed copy of US author Dan Brown's new book 'The Lost Symbol' in London Monday Sept. 14, 2009. The book will go on sale to the public worldwide on Tuesday Sept. 15. Howells will spend the night reading the book and give a review as the first copies are sold in London at 0700 Tuesday morning.

Freemasons await Dan Brown novel 'The Lost Symbol'

WASHINGTON

THE LODGE room of the Naval Masonic Hall is a colorful and somewhat inscrutable sight for the nonmember, with its blue walls, Egyptian symbols, checkered floor in the center and high ceiling painted with gold stars, according to the Associated Press.

Countless secrets supposedly have been shared in this and thousands of similar rooms of the Masons around the world. Facts of life have been debated, honors bestowed, rituals enacted. You would need to belong to a lodge to learn what really goes on.

Or you could simply ask. "The emphasis on secrecy is something that disturbs people," says Joseph Crociata, a burly, deep-voiced

man who is a trial attorney by profession but otherwise a Junior Grand Warden at the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the District of Columbia.

"But it's not a problem getting Masons to talk about Masonry. Sometimes, it's a problem getting them to stop."

Despite all the books and Web sites dedicated to Freemasons, the Masonic Order has been defined by mystery, alluring enough to claim Mozart and George Washington as members, dark enough to be feared by the Vatican, Islamic officials, Nazis and Communists. In the United States, candidates in the 19th-century ran for office on anti-Mason platforms and John Quincy Adams declared that "Masonry ought forever to be abolished."

And now arrives Dan Brown.

Six years after Brown intrigued millions of readers, and infuriated scholars and religious officials, with "The Da Vinci Code," he has set his new novel, "The Lost Symbol," in Washington and probed the fraternal order that well suits his passion for secrets, signs and puzzles.

Brown's book, released Tuesday, has an announced first printing of 5 million copies and topped the best-seller lists of Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble online. At Kramerbooks in Washington, about two dozen copies were purchased the morning it went on sale and the store expects to easily sell out its order of 150 books.

In "The Lost Symbol," symbolist Robert Langdon is on a mission to find a Masonic pyramid containing a code that unlocks an ancient secret to "unfathomable power." It's a story

of hidden history in the nation's capital, with Masons the greatest puzzle of all.

Brown's research for "The Da Vinci Code" was highly criticized by some Catholics for suggesting that Jesus and Mary Magdalene conceived a child and for portraying Opus Dei — the conservative religious order — as a murderous, power-hungry sect.

The Mason response could well be milder. Brown goes out of his way in "The Lost Symbol" to present the lodge as essentially benign and misunderstood. Masons are praised for their religious tolerance and their elaborate rituals are seen as no more unusual than those of formal religions. The plot centers in part on an "unfair" anti-Masonic video that "conspiracy theorists would feed on ... like sharks," Langdon says.

"I have enormous respect for the Masons," Brown told The Associated Press during a recent interview. "In the most fundamental terms, with different cultures killing each other over whose version of God is correct, here is a worldwide organization that essentially says, 'We don't care what you call God, or what you think about God, only that you believe in a god and let's all stand together as brothers and look in the same direction.'"

"I think there will be an enormous number of people who will be interested in the Masons after this book (comes out)," Brown said.

West calls Taylor Swift after 'View' appearance

NEW YORK

IT LOOKS like Kanye West has finally given a personal apology to Taylor Swift, according to the Associated Press.

Representatives from "The View" say West called the country sensation after her appearance on Tuesday's show. During the broadcast, the 19-year-old singer said West had yet to contact her to apologize for hijacking her acceptance speech on the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday.

"He has personally reached out or anything but if he wanted to say hi (I would)," said Swift.

After Swift's comments, West called her and the two spoke, according to a statement from "The View."

"After the show he spoke personally to the country music superstar via telephone and has apologized to the 19-year-old singer. She has accepted Mr. West's apology.

The contents of the phone call are to remain private," it read.

It's the latest in the saga that has caused a national uproar. The drama began after Swift beat out Beyonce and other acts to win best female video at the VMAs for her hit "You Belong With Me."

Swift, the first country act to win at the VMAs, was exuberant after her win, but that moment didn't last long as West — known for his awards-show meltdowns — grabbed the microphone and declared that Beyonce's "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)" was one of the "best videos of all time."

A shaken Swift did not finish her speech at that moment, but when Beyonce later won for video of the year, she brought Swift out so that she could have her moment.

When asked about the incident during her appearance on "The View," Swift said: "I'm not gonna say that I wasn't riled by it. I had to perform live five minutes later so I

had to get myself back to the place where I could perform."

However, she said she was gratified by the outpouring of support not only from fans, but also from celebrities and others who offered support immediately after the incident occurred.

"There were a lot of people around me backstage that were saying wonderful, incredible things and just having my back," she said. "I just never imagined that there were that many people looking out for me."

West has taken a drubbing since then. While he issued two apologies on his blog after the incident, he gave another, emotional one on Monday's premiere of "The Jay Leno Show."

"It was rude, period," West said. "... I need to, after this, take some time off and just analyze how I'm going to make it through the rest of this life, how I'm going to improve."



Jason DeCrow/AP Photo

SINGER Kanye West takes the microphone from singer Taylor Swift as she accepts the "Best Female Video" award during the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009 in New York.

TASTE

The Tribune Taste



BAKE Chicken, peas n' rice, pork chops and other menu favorites.

Checkmate FOR NEW CHECKERS RESTAURANT

By **REUBEN SHEARER**
Tribune Features Reporter

FINDING a restaurant that offers good ole' tasty Bahamian food at an affordable price is seemingly rare these days. Perhaps you may have overlooked one sit-in dining spot that has been around for 20 years...Checker's Cafe.

The restaurant chain just welcomed another location into the family on Joe Farrington Road last Thursday. The new location offers quality Bahamian food in a comfortably modern and clean environment for you and your family to enjoy meals at a reasonable price of around \$10 per person.

For breakfast, lunch, and dinner, the menu choices are endless. And from what we sampled, the food tastes just like what your gramma would cook on Sunday. From peas n' rice with barbecued ribs and baked chicken, to delicious curry chicken dinners—your nose will be intoxicated with the smells of these freshly cooked Bahamian delights. Dine inside the restaurant, and let the sweet sounds of Bahamian artists serenade your ears, then take in the creative artworks of Rudy Williams plastered on the dining room walls.

But back to the food. White rice, peas n' rice, and bean n' rice are served everyday, and the choices of meat are unpredictable, as they switch things up quite often. Bite into barbecue ribs that are seasoned to the bone, but no too salty—just the right flavour.

What's more is that the menu isn't limited to a specific meal choices, restaurant manager Nadia Sumner told Tribune Taste. For example she explained: If you're tired of rice, you can choose from three choices of hot vegetables.

Side orders are the usual Bahamian options of cheesy macaroni with a kick of spicy flavour, and plantains. The bean soup has the right consistency of dumplings, beans and ham meat, and the chicken soufre has everything you want if you prefer a milder dish.

If you are in the mood for fish try grouper fingers or minced turbot (which by the way is excellent.) Other meat options include pork chops, baked chicken, ribs, steamed ham, stew beef, or oxtail—just to name a few. It can't get more Bahamian than that.

For desert, get your fix of cheese-cake. There are 5 kinds to choose

from—blueberry, pumpkin, mango, guava, pineapple. They say that if you've never had it, you are definitely missing out.

New on the menu is the Family Meal, which serves 4-6 persons, a perfect choice for the "after five customer" exhausted from work, who doesn't want to have to cook a full meal.

The new location is the only restaurant with this option. For \$30.50, you can get a family meal that serves four persons, with rice, three sides, and a choice of meat. At \$45.50, a six-member family can eat rice, four sides, and a choice of meat— or half and half it.

"We made this option open for that father on his way home from work that doesn't want his wife to cook, and that mother who wants her children to have a full nutritious meal, but is too tired to prepare it," Mrs Sumner said.

The drive-thru is opened at nine in the morning for the customer on the run. With their efficient serving strategy, the friendly staff will assist in getting your order out on time.

Mrs Sumner said that so far the crowd has been great and people have been receptive, especially on the weekends. "I think they're just excited for once to have a sit down restaurant with Bahamian food."

"On Saturday a guy brought in a bus load of tourists. All of them came in, sat down, and ate in less than 30 minutes. To be able to have people come in on short notice with no problem is remarkable," she explained.

Store hours for the Joe Farrington Road location are 6:30am to 9pm. At present, the location closes on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 11pm. Mrs Sumner said they are "feeling the area," to see what customers want before finalising a closing time.

"We have no magic oven or prepackaged ingredients to stick in the baker, and in 20 minutes it's ready," said Mrs Sumner. "At the end of the day, we produce freshly cooked Bahamian meals with no preservatives. That's what our customers can expect."



AN appetizing spread of Checkers lunch menu.



CHECKERS friendly staff.

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