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Readers' views invited on dog pound conditions
STORY ON PAGE THREE

OBITUARIES and RELIGION
IN TODAY'S TRIBUNE

Bridgewater tells of trial 'ridicule'

Former PLP Senator, ex-ambulance driver open their defence in John Travolta case

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
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PLEASANT BRIDGEWATER

FORMER PLP Senator Pleasant Bridgewater and ex-ambulance driver Tarino Lightbourne proclaimed their innocence in unsworn statements to the jury yesterday as the attempted extortion trial continued.

Bridgewater and Lightbourne are accused of attempting to extort \$25 million from American actor John Travolta.

The pair chose to make unsworn statements from where they stood outside the prisoner's dock. Lightbourne also called one witness in his defence, while Bridgewater said she did not intend to call any witnesses.

"I too have been shocked over some of the evidence that has come from this case," Bridgewater said. "January 22 is a day I will not forget. It was a day when my fairly structured and organised life became a life of deception and a horrible dream," she said.

"I have been ridiculed and ostracised. I have seen my business gone rock bottom," she told the jury. "Since January I have not seen a salary."

Bridgewater told the jury the ordeal has taken an emotional and financial toll on her. She said she has not been able to work, and because of a downturn in her business she has had to lay off some staff.

"As far as I am concerned I thought I was doing what was right as a citizen of the Bahamas and a professional," she said.

Bridgewater said she had known Lightbourne for 10 years and they also worked in close proximity of each other. She recalled that Lightbourne had come to her seeking legal advice after being terminated from his job. She said he had told her that since he had given an interview regarding the death of Jett Travolta, reporters had been calling him constantly.

Bridgewater said he told her he had a document they were

SEE page 14

SIR CLEMENT MAYNARD IS LAID TO REST

Felipe Major/Tribune Staff



THE COFFIN carrying the body of Sir Clement Maynard.

By AVA TURNQUEST

BAY Street stood still yesterday as former Deputy Prime Minister and Parliamentarian Sir Clement Travelyan Maynard made his final procession from Parliament House to Christ Church Cathedral and ultimately Eastern Ceremony where he was laid to rest.

Hundreds of hushed spectators waited on each side of the downtown stretch to witness the state funeral service that commanded the respect of all present.

Residents and visitors stood side by side with the tension only to be broken by the first rap from the Royal Bahamas Police Force Band, sending a visible ripple through the crowds as they marched.

Police Commissioner Reginald Ferguson said: "Despite the sadness, we are more than pleased to show up in large numbers to

SEE page six

Minister of State denies access to reports on Detention Centre

MINISTER of State for Immigration Branville McCartney is denying access to a fact-finding team's reports into the controversial Carmichael Road Detention Centre.

Mr McCartney said he would not give in to *The Tribune's* requests for publication because he disagrees with this newspaper's series of articles into allegations of abuse and mistreatment at the facility.

For months, Mr McCartney - whose 2007 party manifesto pledges greater transparency

and ensuring media access to information - has not followed through with assurances he would release the reports to *The Tribune* or grant a tour of the site.

In June, the junior immigration minister said he could not release the documents until he had discussed the matter with his Cabinet colleagues. Back in March he said he had no problems releasing the reports once he had the "opportunity to pass it by Cabinet".

SEE page six

Fury over Mitchell bid for PLP leadership

By PAUL G TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
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WHAT was intended to be a general foreign affairs update at PLP headquarters exploded into an all-out attack on Fox Hill MP Fred Mitchell after he confirmed to the gathering that he intends to challenge leader Perry Christie at the party's national convention.

Addressing what is being labeled as a "group of young PLP pseudo intellectuals", sources within the party said Mr Mitchell was confronted on what his

SEE page 12

Dr Nottage to announce PLP leadership bid this morning

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

DR BERNARD Nottage will formally announce his bid for the leadership of the Progressive Liberal Party at 11am today from his Bain and Grant's Town constituency office.

Duplicating the dramatic showdown which took place at the party's 1997 convention, both Dr Nottage and former Prime Minister Perry Christie will vie once again for the leadership of the party.

Joining them in this battle will

SEE page 12

Anglican Archdeacon acquitted of assault

ANGLICAN Archdeacon Ivan Ranfurly Brown was acquitted of an assault charge yesterday.

Father Brown, rector of St Agnes Anglican Church, was accused of choking and slapping a 14-year-old girl at a church picnic on Nirvana Beach, on October 13, 2008.

Magistrate Ancella Williams acquitted Father Brown on the grounds that the charge sheet was not properly signed as his attorney Wayne Munroe had contended.



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Jobless mother affected by union squabbles overwhelmed by public response to plight

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A DESPAIRING mother who has been out of work for more than nine months following union in-fighting has been "overwhelmed" by the public response to her plight.

In a story which appeared in *The Tribune*, 29-year-old Krystal Barry told of how she and her daughter's standard of living plunged in the months since she was locked out of her job at the Airport Airline and Allied Workers Union. Director of Labour Harcourt Brown last week called her an "innocent



DONATION: "Rayven Barry (second from right) and her mother Krystal (second from left) receive a donation towards Rayven's travel to the FOCOL tennis tournament in Freeport later this month from Simone Beneby (standing far left) and Wayde Watson (standing on right), Treasurer and President of the Cybots Basketball Club yesterday at *The Tribune*."

bystander" who has been caught up in the middle of union squabbles, which in January 2009 saw former secretary general of the union, Anthony Bain, declare himself president of the AAAWU instead of elected president Nelerene Harding. Ms Barry appealed to the public for help for her tennis champion daughter Rayven, 11, after she revealed she only has a few hundred dollars to sustain them for the foreseeable future. But on the same day, *The Tribune* received numerous calls and emails expressing interest in Ms Barry's plight and offers of assistance for she and Rayven.

While some came to nothing, several generous individuals followed through on their promises to help the young family, and yesterday Ms Barry and her daughter came in to collect donations made on their behalf.

The included seven full bags of groceries from a woman who wished to remain anonymous, a \$100 donation from another unknown individual, and another small donation from Wayde Watson and Simone Beneby of Cybots Basketball Club towards Rayven's future sporting endeavours.

Yesterday Ms Barry expressed her gratitude for the donations, telling *The Tribune* she was "overwhelmed" and "eternally grateful to those individuals who searched their

hearts to assist" but still "distressed" by the whole episode.

"It's like you have to put your personal trials and tribulations on the front of the paper just to get help, and it's hard to realise that you have fallen so far that you have to reach out to the community for donations," she said. Rayven thanked those who "have given me and my mother food to eat."

"I feel really good about it because my mother will not have to go in her wallet and take money out bit by bit," Rayven told *The Tribune*.

"She isn't working and she's having sad times, and whenever she cried I cried," she said.

Ms Barry, who claims she has been denied more than \$26,000 in severance payment for her five years of service at the union, said that while those who have refused to pay out her funds "can be as evil as they like to her" her greatest fear is that her academically and athletically inclined daughter will suffer. Mr Bain has refuted her claims, saying the union owes her "nothing" and she was dismissed for "poor behaviour."

Meanwhile, The Department of Labour says it can't help her until it figures out who the real President of the union is - a development which has been stymied by an injunction obtained by Mr Bain against a June election going ahead.

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LOCAL NEWS

Readers' views invited on conditions at dog pound

Exclusive Tribune reports lead to changes at facility

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
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READERS are invited to voice their concerns about abhorrent conditions at the government dog pound and compile a list of improvements to be monitored by *The Tribune*.

During the first ever media visit to the Canine Control Unit enclosure in the Botanical Gardens, Chippingham, last week, veterinarian Godfrey Springer invited *The Tribune* to compile a list of readers' most pressing concerns to present to his superiors at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Provided that ministry bosses agree to the plan, *The Tribune* will oversee the progress towards these goals on monthly visits to the pound.

However, Bahamas Humane Society president Kim Aranha said improvements began as soon as the gates were opened to *Tribune* reporters on Friday.

In a meeting with Humane Society staff, Dr Springer agreed to allow the Humane Society free access to the pound to select healthy animals fit enough for adoption and relocate them to the non-profit organisation next door.

Animals collected by the Canine Control Unit are usually euthanised within days of being captured, often regardless of the state of their health, to keep stray animals off the streets.

Dr Springer said: "Our duty is to do the right thing, so we are going to try to see how best we can do this."

"We want to work in collaboration with *The Tribune* so the public can come up with five or six issues to put to the director."

"It is our duty to inform, consult and give information, and it is their duty to supply the resources."

"If we can work to improve the organisation and report it to the permanent secretary and director we can look at a way forward."

The nine staff working at the pound require more support, training and education, Dr Springer asserted.

And dog pound supervisor Kirkland Grinton said he would like an additional 15 or 20 staff to help run the unit.

They also require more equipment, ranging from vehicles and traps to animal food, cleaning agents and syringes used on a daily basis, Dr Springer said.

There are building repairs that need to be done, and animals should be tested for diseases to separate the healthy from the ill and fuel research.

But all of this would require funding restricted by the



THIS DOG would have been put down by staff at the government pound, but was rescued by Humane Society staff.

department's budget, Dr Springer said.

In the meantime he said the greatest help to the Canine Control Unit would be more

responsible animal ownership in the community which could be enforced by new legislation.

The Bahamas Humane Society president said: "Their job

is created by irresponsible dog owners in this country.

"Half of the dogs picked up belong to people who can't be bothered to care for them properly, so we are also going to try

to educate people on the importance of responsible animal ownership.

"We are going to try to work

SEE page 12

MINISTRY RELEASES DOG POUND STATEMENT

FOLLOWING a front page story in Monday's Tribune detailing our exclusive look inside the government dog pound, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries released a statement about the facility yesterday.

Several months ago, when a student who visited the facility made allegations of animal cruelty and poor conditions, the ministry said a statement had been prepared and promised to issue it shortly, however this never materialised.

Although it was not confirmed by the ministry, the statement released yesterday appears to be the very one prepared months ago but never released, as it addresses the allegations made by the student, but not concerns raised in the Tribune's recent article; specifically that there is a severe lack of resources at the pound, that staff morale is very low, and conditions are sometimes inhumane.

In addition, certain claims in the ministry's statement - for example that the Humane Society routinely visits the pound to identify dogs suitable for adoption - contradict the content of our interviews with staff.

Creswell G Sturup PERMANENT SECRETARY

ANIMAL Control Unit staff members reported that an unidentified gentleman accompanied by four preadolescent males visited the Animal Control Unit approximately 8.30am - 9am on July 16, 2009 and purporting to be from the Bahamas Humane Society and requesting to be allowed to visit the kennels area of the Animal Control Unit.

The matter as reported was investigated and the following are the results of visit to the Animal Control Unit and enquiries of the staff.

Short term storage of animal carcasses by freezing was adopted by Animal Control Unit due to the interval between refuse collection and the uncertainty of when sick or injured animals may expire. Scheduled euthanasia, by contrast, may be undertaken to coincide with scheduled refuse removal.

The Animal Control Unit is intended to provide a place for the temporary holding of dangerous or savage stray dogs, or ferocious dogs, or other animals seized under the Penal Code or the Dog Licence Act.

Such seized animals are kept under the conditions and for the duration as set out in both governing acts. It is the job of the veterinary officer attached to the Animal Control Unit to determine the health status of the seized animal and routinely examine detained animals.

In co-operation with the Animal Control Unit the staff of the Bahamas Humane Society routinely visits the Animal Control Unit to determine if any detained animals are well enough or of suitable temperament for rescue and subsequent adoption. Such animals are routinely surrendered to the Bahamas Humane Society.

Animals that are determined by a veterinary officer to be too ill or otherwise unsuited are euthanised after the specified holding period of 72 hours.

The only exceptions to this routine are either when the rightful owner claims the captured animal or the animal is identified as an animal considered by the courts or by a peace officer as being material to a matter intended for prosecution or a matter before the courts; in these instances the duration of custody may be extended until the decision is taken to proceed with prosecution or not, or until the matter(s) before the courts are concluded.

The controlled area may at any time house seriously ill or dangerous dogs. The area is not opened for unauthorised access.

Animals die; sick or abandoned animals are more likely to die sooner than later. The presence of a dead animal within the containment area may occur at any time and is not necessarily as a result of abuse or neglect.

The staff of the Animal Control Unit consists of persons who are professional and experienced.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources is confident that the staff perform their tasks competently and professionally.

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ZOMBIELAND	C	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:25	10:40
SURROGATES	C	1:15	3:30	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:50
FAME	B	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:20	10:45
PANDORUM	C	1:00	3:20	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:40
CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEAT	A	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:35
JENNIER'S BODY	A	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:50
I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF	B	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:50
SORORITY ROW	C	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:35	10:45
THE INFORMANT	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	N/A	N/A
THE FINAL DESTINATION	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:40	10:55

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FAME	B	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:30
SURROGATES	C	1:15	3:25	N/A	6:15	8:25	10:45
PANDORUM	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10:40
CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE	A	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:30	N/A
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UN: Record one billion go hungry

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Parents in some of Africa's poorest countries are cutting back on school, clothes and basic medical care just to give their children a meal once a day, experts say. Still, it is not enough.

A record 1 billion people worldwide are hungry and a new report says the number will increase if governments do not spend more on agriculture.

According to the U.N. food agency, which issued the report, 30 countries now require emergency aid, including 20 in Africa.

The trend continues despite a goal set by world leaders nine years ago to cut the number of hungry people in half by 2015.

"It's actually a world emergency that calls for action from both developing and developed countries," said Otiye Igbuzor, the head of international campaigns for ActionAid International.

"We know a child dies every six seconds of malnutrition," he said.

Spiraling food prices have added to hardships, especially in the world's most desperate countries where the poor could barely afford a single daily meal to begin with.

The inflated prices — which caused riots across the globe last year — have stabilized but remain comparatively high, especially in the developing world, Jacques Diouf, director general of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, told AP Television News.

In Somalia, ravaged by violence and anarchy for almost two decades, the monthly expenditure for food and other basic needs for a family of six has risen 85 percent in the past two years, said Grainne Moloney of the Somalia Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit.

On average, such a family spent \$171 in September this year, compared with \$92 for the same amount of food and other needs in March 2007, said Moloney, a nutrition expert for the Horn of Africa nation.

"Families are cutting out the school, cutting out the clothes. A lot of them are going for cheaper cereals," said Moloney, adding that despite those desperate measures, one in five children in Somalia is acutely malnourished.

Igbuzor said the trend can be seen in impoverished countries across Africa.

In Kenya, herders have seen scores of their animals die and crops have withered because of drought. Today, 3.8 million people in Kenya need food aid, up from 2.5 million earlier in the year.

After worldwide gains in the fight against hunger in the 1980s and early 1990s, the number of undernourished people started climbing in 1995, reaching 1.02 billion this year amid escalating food prices and the global financial

meltdown, the FAO said in its Wednesday report.

The long-term trend is due largely to reduced aid and private investments earmarked for agriculture since the mid 1980s, the Rome-based agency said in its State of Food Insecurity report for 2009.

In 1980, 17 percent of aid contributed by donor countries went to agriculture.

That share was down to 3.8 percent in 2006 and only slightly improved in the last three years, Diouf said.

"In the fight against hunger the focus should be on increasing food production," Diouf said. "It's common sense ... that agriculture would be given the priority, but the opposite has happened."

The decline may have been caused by low food prices that discouraged private investment in agriculture and competition for public funds from other aid fields, including emergency relief, said FAO economist David Dawe.

Governments and investors may also have chosen to put their money into other economic sectors because agriculture's share of the economy in some developing countries dropped as people moved to cities and found work in industry.

But agriculture still needs sustained investment to feed people in developing countries, Dawe said.

The world's most populous region, Asia and the Pacific, has the largest number of hungry people — 642 million — followed by Sub-Saharan Africa with 265 million.

Diouf said world leaders are starting to understand that investment in agriculture must be increased.

He cited the goal set by the Group of Eight summit in L'Aquila, Italy, in July to raise \$20 billion to help farmers in poor countries produce more — a shift from previous emphasis on delivering food aid.

However, more investments will be needed to fulfill pledges like the U.N. Millennium Development Goals, which aim to halve the number of those living in hunger and poverty by 2015, the report said.

The FAO says global food output will have to increase by 70 percent to feed a projected population of 9.1 billion in 2050.

To achieve that, poor countries will need \$44 billion in annual agricultural aid, compared with the current \$7.9 billion, to increase access to irrigation systems and modern machinery as well as build roads and train farmers.

(This article is by Tom Maliti and Ariel David of the Associated Press)

Detention Centre: The truth will always come out

EDITOR, The Tribune.

My question is, can the public handle the truth? Every allegation that has been said about the abuse at the Detention Centre has been denied by the Government.

Bahamians believe the tales that the director and minister of state for immigration has put forward to cover abusive officers and inhumane conditions in which detainees have to abide during their time at the centre.

According to Christiane Amanpour "objectivity doesn't mean treating all sides equally. It means giving, each side a hearing." All I ask is to be heard!

After all that has been said, many people reply by saying the detainees are just looking for sympathy and that is good for them because they need to go back home. I want to bring transparency to this ordeal.

For a matter of fact, the detainees are beaten, sexually abused and harassed at the detention centre on a regular basis.

They are forced to endure inhumane conditions that can cause serious medical problems. The medical facility said, to be at the detention centre is true, but it is used to store papers and other garbage instead of it being used for its purpose. A

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

doctor comes in rarely but his orders are not to prescribe any medicinal products. A play ground is available, children are not permitted to play there, and the detainees are fed three times daily. What is given can barely fill a child, so imagine an adult. Visitation is granted which occurs twice every week, during that time the food and clothes brought in are searched twice before reaching the detainee.

After visitation a search is held, by defence force officers. During this search they go in the dorms and turn everything upside down. During that same time a full body cavity search is drawn on the detainees; where both male and female in their respective dorms are asked to take every thing off, including under wear.

How do I know all this you ask? I am an eighteen-year-old Haitian male, born and raised in the Bahamas.

My mother, sister, brothers and me where captured and detained by immigration a month before I had to sit BGCSE.

I was released three weeks later and my sister after four weeks and my mother was deported along with my two

brothers. It was a lifetime experience for me as I too thought it was bogus when claims of abuse were being said about some officers at the detention centre. I witnessed a couple of incidents where detainees were abused. The golden rule is do unto others as you'd have them do unto you. I surely hope Bahamians really believe in the Lord as they claim to be a Christian nation, but to me they have proven that they are not.

I never took anyone for granted unless they gave me a reason to. Every word that some one speaks is not always true, but the Lord will take serious action toward a liar because he hates those who lie.

It is for that reason I stay true to myself and others as I too want one day to enjoy eternal life with the Almighty God.

Haitians are treated terribly in this country only because we are too many here, which is true. Also because we do not have a serious Ambassador who will stand up for us in the midst of our problems. I have given my side, immigration has to be heard, now they can object to what has been said.

LOVENCE LOUIMA
Nassau,
October, 2009.

Branville McCartney, a rising star

EDITOR, The Tribune.

A newcomer on the political landscape by the name Branville McCartney, threw his hat into the political arena as the FNM candidate for the Bamboo Town constituency in the general election of May 2007, which he won hands down. This was no surprise to those of us who followed his service to the Bamboo Town Community before and since being elected as their representative.

Branville McCartney hit the ground running, and for those who have been observing we saw a neophyte politician and MP, blossom into a "Statesman" practically overnight.

• He has taken representation of a constituency and its constituents to a level that I dare say equals the

best, past and present, and surpasses the majority of politicians, past and present.

• His outstanding performance to date, as Minister of State responsible for Immigration; takes Ministerial personal involvement in their portfolios' day-to-day business, to the next level.

• There's a short list of politicians in the frontline today who are of Prime Minister calibre,

and Branville McCartney is at the top of that list!

• I may be a little biased because his father, William "Wilmac" McCartney is one of the finest men I have had the honour and privilege to call friend: Like Father; like Son!

A A MCKINNEY MD,
"AMRA MD"
Nassau,
October, 2009.

Isn't it better in the Bahamas?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Re: Bahamas listed in top half of the best countries to live. — Tribune, October 7, 2009.

We are only ranked at 52nd in the Human Development Report, 2009. Haven't they heard that it's better in The Bahamas?

KEN W
KNOWLES, MD
Nassau,
October 7, 2009.

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To win the questions must be answered correctly.
Answers for the questions can be found using THE HIGHWAY CODE FOR THE BAHAMAS found on the Road Traffic Website at www.bahamas.gov.bs/roadtraffic.

LOCAL NEWS

Wisdom warns against PLP complacency

FORMER PLP cabinet minister Neville Wisdom has warned his party that it should guard against complacency. Mr Wisdom said the fact that the contract between the FNM and the public is breaking down does not mean the PLP will automatically inherit the trust and support of Bahamians.

"That support and trust must be earned," said the former housing minister, who gained notoriety after mistakenly recording himself plotting to block *The Tribune* from airing public housing records. "The PLP must, in clear and concise language and action, demonstrate that we are once again worthy of their confidence and trust."

Mr Wisdom noted that crime, unemployment and illegal immigration are growing, while the health care system is collapsing, and said Bahamians are "almost begging the PLP to give them good reason to once again support and vote for our party." He said PLPs must "offer our egos to the alter of sacrifice and demonstrate our commitment towards the greater good for all Bahamians."

The former minister urged the PLP not to allow its upcoming convention to turn into a mere "election of officers", saying it should rather be treated as an opportunity to display the party's vision and platform for the future development of the country.

American Embassy monitoring robbery of tourists investigation



THE 11 TOURISTS were robbed at the 66 steps (above) a popular historical landmark in Nassau.

By TANEKA THOMPSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
thompson@tribunemedia.net

THE American Embassy is monitoring the investigation into the armed robbery of 11 tourists who were terrorised by two masked gunmen while touring the historical 66 steps.

An official at the embassy said it is routine for local authorities whenever an American citizen is involved in a crime while in foreign territory.

However, because the incident appears to be isolated – and not part of a series of attacks on tourists – the official does not think it will negatively affect the country's crime status.

"As a matter of practice... When an incident involves American citizens, in most cases the police notifies the embassy the next day if they can unless the American citizen notifies the embassy for assistance.

"I know that our American Citizen Services is in contact with the police trying to find out the details and I know it's still being investigated," said Jeff Dubell, the embassy's political, economic and public diplomacy chief.

"We monitor crime and that goes into our decision as to whether an area should or should not be placed in a different crime status. But we do monitor all incidents because we have a responsibility to US citizens abroad so they can make an educated choice," he said.

On Sunday, the group arrived in Nassau on a cruise ship and were on a taxi cab tour

of the capital's historic sites. Their trip became a nightmare when two masked men approached the group on foot as they viewed the 66 steps.

One of the thugs threatened the group with a handgun while the other stole cash and personal items from the visitors at around 11am.

Head of the Central Detective Unit Superintendent Elsworth Moss said police were still searching for the two suspects who fled the area on foot.

BTC privatisation ready to enter due diligence phase

THE Committee for the Privatisation of the Bahamas Telecommunications Company Ltd announced that the process continues to progress with significant interest from prospective parties.

Upon review of the pre-qualification packages submitted in August, the government said it has narrowed down the list of interested parties and has invited a select group of potential buyers to participate in the due diligence phase of the privatisation process.

This phase will provide potential buyers with the opportunity to review business, financial and legal information, as well as meet with key executives prior to submitting an economic bid.

Due diligence will be conducted over the next several weeks and the deadline for bids is currently expected to be the end of November, the committee said in a statement.

"Those who have been invited to this phase were selected by the government based on information submitted evidencing their suitability in accordance with the required pre-qualification criteria. To comply with non-disclosure agreements, the identity of parties invited to participate in the due diligence phase cannot be disclosed prior to the close of the transaction," it said.

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LOCAL NEWS

Sir Clement is laid to rest

FROM page one

demonstrate in a real way our respect for the highest offices that are held in our country.”

The tall wooden ceilings and low hanging lights of the historic Christ Church Cathedral were offset by minimal white floral decorations. This simplicity was central to Sir Maynard’s memory and was reflected also in the programme, featuring only two pictures.

The service highlighted Sir Clement’s social and political achievements, with tributes from his family as well as Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and Leader of the Opposition Perry Christie. It was officiated by eight clergymen, with Rev Stephen Davies as the chief celebrant, and the Right Rev Laish Boyd giving the sermon.

Senator Allyson Maynard-Gibson spoke reverently of childhood memories, as did her brother Dr Peter Maynard, referring to the late leader as “Daddy” and sharing anecdotes that ultimately shaped their lives and that of all their siblings and grandchildren. They each shared at length about the constant environment of love, support and inclusion that saturated their lives.

The music was led by organist Dr Sparkman Ferguson with a special duet from Sir Clement’s son David and granddaughter Tatyanna.

Mr Ingraham gave an official tribute on behalf of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, honoring Sir Maynard as a ‘fallen champion’ and detailed his political career highlighting specific campaigns “It’s Better in The Bahamas”, The Bahamas Host Training Programme, The People-to-People Programme, Goombay Summer and National Tourism Achievement Awards.

“Sir Clement saw to it that the vast advances derived from the economic and social benefits of tourism would endure through the training and opportunities which were provided under his leadership for many Bahamians within the Ministry of Tourism as well as the private sector,” said Prime Minister Ingraham. “It is on the shoulders of men like Sir Clement that we stand today.”

Mr Christie said: “Sir Clement Maynard was one of the iconic personalities that graced parliament. He in a great sense set a standard for members of parliament in how they deal with constituents and what they provide for constituents by using his con-



THE COFFIN carrying the body of Sir Clement Maynard is carried on Bay Street yesterday.

Felipe Major/Tribune staff

stituents to establish facilities for the great benefit of the people he represented.

“He was just one of those extraordinary impactful personalities as a Member of Parliament. He then had the privilege of becoming a Minister of Tourism at a time when it was necessary for tourism to become the principal employer for Bahamians, and he superintended that industry to a point where thousands of Bahamians were employed in relatively lucrative jobs in the industry.

“He had many firsts in that industry because he brought about the recognition that workers must be trained and that people who were working in subsidiary sectors to the tourism industry should also be trained. He was able to take that Ministry of Tourism and so demonstrate its importance to the economy of the Bahamas that it became a model for other Caribbean countries to follow.

“So you can see therefore this lasting and permanent impact he had. He was extraordinarily loyal to the leadership of his party and he became the deputy leader and the deputy prime minister as a crowning result of his long

tenure to our country. He was a tremendous patriot who believed in the Bahamas and who believed in Bahamians.”

After the service, the locally-made pine casket carrying Sir Clement was carried out by official pallbearers and then

placed into the official hearse by a colour party of Police and Defence Force officers for interment.

Minister of State denies access to reports on Detention Centre

FROM page one

“I have no difficulties in releasing them I just want to do it the proper way,” he told *The Tribune* on March, 17 adding that this should happen within the “next week”.

Mr McCartney has maintained that the reports prepared by the group did not validate the allegations made by the detainees, and previously stated that such claims were “completely blown out of proportion”.

A diluted report based on the group’s findings was presented to the media - who were denied access to the original documents - in a press conference held at the Immigration Department earlier this year. At that time Immigration officials refuted the claims outlined in *The Tribune* but did not allow access into the facility for an independent review.

The team - made up of psychologist David Allen, Social Services Director Melony Zonicle, Archdeacon James Palacious, Royal Bahamas Defence Force Senior Lieutenant Frederick Brown and Immigration Director Jack Thompson - toured the holding facility on March, 6 and interviewed the detainees housed

there.

Their reports contain their opinions on the conditions at the facility and recommendations for possible improvements, *The Tribune* understands.

Their tour came after a series of *Tribune* articles exposed alleged abuse, beatings, inhumane conditions and employee misconduct at the Detention Centre.

The detainees who complained of “concentration camp” conditions in February, told *The Tribune* there were several aesthetic improvements to the site since the allegations were published. Dirty old mattresses were replaced with new ones, grimy walls were repainted, blocked toilets were repaired, and washing machines and dryers were installed for detainees to wash their clothes, the detainees claimed.

They also claimed cable televisions have been set up in the men’s and women’s dorms.

Less than two days after the first allegations surfaced in *The Tribune*, Immigration officials denied the claims. They continue to maintain that detainees have not been mistreated or beaten.

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LOCAL NEWS

PASSERS-BY ASSAULT OFFICER WHO STOPPED AT SITE OF ACCIDENT, SAYS POLICE SOURCE

'Policeman attacked at crash scene was helping his trapped colleague'

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

A POLICE officer attacked by passers-by at the scene of a car crash was helping his colleague Alexis Bain, who was trapped in the wreckage, a police source said.

Contrary to police reports claiming WPC Bain was beaten up as she allegedly tried to stop looters from stealing shopping strewn across the road following the accident, *The Tribune* has learned WPC Bain was injured in the crash and Police Constable Jermaine Knowles was attacked as he tried to help her.

PC Knowles heard the crash while driving through the area with his fiancée and three children, and stopped to offer assistance.

WPC Bain's green Honda Accord had collided with a Honda Domani and a

GMC Envoy around 200 yards from the junction with Sea Breeze Road at 9.40pm on Monday.

The policewoman, understood to work for the Central Detective Unit, was trapped in the wreckage, her body lying in the road, her head wedged in the back door.

Conscious

And PC Knowles tried to keep WPC Bain conscious and still while waiting for Emergency Medical Services to attend to her as four men who appeared to know WPC Bain pulled up in a white Toyota Windom and accused PC Knowles of causing the collision.

A source said: "They pulled up and just started to attack him. One of them picked up a bumper which came off the car and hit him in the head with it. They hit him in the head with bottles and rocks, and knocked him unconscious."

PC Knowles's fiancée and three children, aged six, three and two, watched in horror as the Canine Unit officer dragged himself under WPC Bain's car to avoid further battering of his bruised and bloodied face.

He was losing consciousness as observers held back one of the men who lunged at PC Knowles with two large rocks, and pinned down two of the men who were later arrested, according to a police source.

WPC Bain was removed from the mangled wreckage of her car using the 'jaws of life' and taken to Doctor's Hospital by ambulance for treatment, along with PC Knowles who was treated for lacerations and bruises on his head and arms, and two broken toes. He was released from the hospital on Tuesday.

A family of four believed to have been travelling in the Honda Domani were also injured in the wreckage. A young boy broke his hand, his father's

leg was broken and the mother was covered in blood, a witness said.

Another two men injured in the smash were lying in the grass on the roadside, and were taken to Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) with the family in a fleet of ambulances.

One of the injured is in critical condition and being treated in the Intensive Care Unit at PMH.

An eye-witness at the scene of the crash told *The Tribune*: "I can't believe what happened. I've never seen anything like that with so many people around and everybody involved transported to the hospital."

"But the really horrific part is that you don't know if you can stop to help somebody without getting injured and it's sad."

"You render some assistance and might end up losing your life as well. That man was beaten in front of his children. It was horrific."

Murder trial jurors expected to hear summations today

BY DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT - The murder trial of Edwin Bauld Jr and Wilfred McPhee Jr is winding down in the Supreme Court, with jurors expected to hear summations by Acting Justice Jethro Miller today.

Justice Miller, who is presiding over the trial, dismissed jurors on Friday after closing arguments were submitted by the prosecution and defence teams.

He instructed them to return to court today when he will give his summing up of the case. The matter will then be turned over to the jury of six men and six women for deliberation.

Bauld, 26, the son of a police officer, and McPhee, 26, the son of an immigration officer, are accused of the kidnapping, robbery, and murder of Corporal Eddison Bain.

Mr Bain's body was discovered in a shallow ditch near the Casuarina Bridge on October 22, 2007. A large stone was resting on the side of his face. He was also bound at the hands and feet. Pathologist Dr Cornelius Kachali testified the cause of death was the result of blunt force trauma to the head.

The prosecution alleges that Bauld, the cousin of the deceased, came up with the plan to use his girlfriend, Gahnise Campbell, to lure Mr Bain to Island Seas Beach, where he and McPhee accosted and robbed him of his vehicle and ATM bank card.

Bauld and McPhee are accused of stealing Mr Bain's 1999 Honda car and \$4,500 from his Commonwealth Bank account.

Campbell, the ex-girlfriend of Bauld, who was initially charged along with Bauld and McPhee, was a key witness for the prosecution and charges against her were dropped. Police Sergeant Darrell Rolle, the lead police investigator, testified that McPhee and Bauld gave a police statement, accusing the other of killing Mr Bain. Taking the stand in his defence, McPhee claimed he never gave a police statement. However, he admitted he was in on the plan to rob Mr Bain, but he did not kill him. Mr Bain was still alive when he and Bauld left him in the hole, he claimed.

He also claimed that police abused and threatened him while in custody and denied him the right to speak with an attorney.

Unlike McPhee, Bauld chose to remain silent by not taking the stand in his defence. Lawyer Mario Gray represents McPhee, and K Brian Hanna represents Bauld. Vernal Collie, assisted by Erica Kemp, of the Attorney General's Office, are the prosecutors. The parents of Corporal Bain have been present in court since the trial started about three weeks ago.

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Alvin Albert Burnett dies aged 85

ALVIN Albert Burnett, 85, formerly of St Andrew, Jamaica, died at his home in Westridge Estates on Saturday, October 10.

Mr Burnett came to the Bahamas in 2002, to retire following a distinguished career in the civil service of Jamaica as an economist, chief planner and consultant.

Educated at Munro College, Jamaica, and McGill University, Canada, Mr Burnett began his career in 1965, in the Ministry of Finance as an Assistant Secretary.

He served many years as an economist in the Ministry of Finance and was rapidly promoted to the post of senior economist and then became chief planner for the social and sectoral planning division.

This unit became the National Planning Agency in the Office of the Prime Minister in 1972.

Mr Burnett later became director for Agricultural Planning in the National

Retirement in Bahamas followed career in Jamaica civil service as an economist, chief planner, consultant

Planning Agency, and played a pivotal role in the preparation of the sector plan as a member of a team led by noted economist Sr Arthur Lewis.

Consultant

Following his retirement, Mr Burnett became a consultant, and his extensive knowledge was used to ensure the efficient management of the Sugar Industry Authority.

Mr Burnett was an elder and treasurer in the Hope United Presbyterian Church in St Andrew.

Additionally, as a Rotarian and Free Mason he gave generously of his time and resources to the National Literacy Campaign which

evolved into the HART programme.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Elfriede Hanikel-Burnett; one daughter, Dr Caroline Burnett-Garraway of Nassau; and three sons, William of Abu Dhabi, Frederic of Jamaica and Michael of Canada.



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British American FINANCIAL

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48
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The Tribune observes Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2009

LOCAL NEWS



TOUGH CALL
LARRY SMITH

In 2006 government officials reported 39 squatter villages throughout New Providence. As many as 300 people — both Bahamians and immigrants — were said to be living in just one of these, with no sanitary facilities or police presence whatsoever. What is being done to address these issues?

A PILOT study of the Potters Cay area by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development recently provided a snapshot of homelessness in Nassau, focusing renewed attention on this issue.

More than 50 homeless people live in this area, which extends to Okra Hill and St Matthew's graveyard. They are mostly men over 25 years of age, who are mentally ill, drug addicts or repeat offenders. Many have been released from Fox Hill Prison or Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre, and some are homeless by choice.

"They are attracted to Potters Cay, the report says, by the availability of gambling, drugs and prostitution, as well as the

What are we doing about the homeless?

opportunity to earn money from begging and casual labour.

Another attraction for this location — considered the nexus of homelessness on New Providence — is the number of sleeping options.

These range from the tombs at nearby cemeteries, to derelict buildings, vendors' stalls, trailers and boats. But the hub of activity for the homeless is the former fish processing plant on Potters Cay, which was built by the government in 1982 at a cost of \$3.6 million and has become an unmanaged shelter for the underclass.

"The old building appears to be the main area for sleeping, storage and sexual activity," the report says, adding that the surveyors were unable to complete their assessment "because of the faeces, urine, garbage, old furniture, rodents and clothing everywhere. The odour made breathing very difficult."

The police station on Potters Cay closes at midnight so there is no security. And the public toilets are locked at 6 pm, the report says, so they cannot be used by the homeless. Hence the surrounding water is contaminated and there are no facilities for bathing...If this is not properly handled the repercussions will

be devastating for the entire population."

Of course, this is not a uniquely Bahamian problem. Homelessness has been a long-standing problem even in rich countries with fully developed and well-funded social safety nets. But it is a relatively finite problem on New Providence compared to North America, where there are hundreds of thousands of homeless people.

The homeless have not always been the object of charity. In the 16th century, British laws punished vagrants with two years of servitude for the first offence, and death for the second. That was one way to solve the problem. Later, more enlightened lawmakers set up workhouses for those unable to support themselves.

Workhouses

The earliest first hand account of homelessness in England was published by Jack London in 1903. In *The People of the Abyss* he described conditions for those living in the workhouses and streets of the capital of the British Empire, who were estimated to number half a million at the time. They lived in "a chronic condition of misery which is never wiped

out," London wrote.

As in the Bahamas, Britain's street people today are mostly men over 25 with alcohol and drug addictions, or with mental health problems. And over the years the British government has spent hundreds of millions to keep people off the street through outreach and resettlement work, as well as the provision of shelters and permanent housing.

Although some 120,000 people are classified as being legally homeless in the UK, officials estimate that less than 500 people are sleeping rough on any given night — out of a population of over 61 million. And the goal is to drive street sleeping down to zero by 2012. So how do the British do it?

"The success was largely due to a very focused and targeted approach with high-profile central leadership, assertive outreach to get people in, and investment in accommodation, specifically for former rough sleepers," one report said. "The Department of Health was effective in helping to target the most entrenched people with severe mental illness."

In America, the most effective programme operates just across the water in Miami-Dade County. The Community Partnership for the Homeless was set up in 1993 funded by a one per cent tax on food and beverage sales. It also relies on a "holistic approach" to help people get off the streets. Public and private sector investment in this programme has exceeded \$300 million over 15 years.

"Help" includes meals, clothing and temporary housing, as well as training, case management, healthcare, drug treatment and permanent housing assistance. And the number of people living on the streets of Miami has been cut from 8,000 in 1993 to under a thousand today. The programme has been so successful that it is now being applied in cities across the United States.

Meanwhile, here at home the Ministry of Labour and Social Development recently joined with private sector groups to work out approaches to homelessness in Nassau. Those attending the initial meeting last month included the president of the Christian Council, the Commissioner of Police, the Defence Force Commodore, representatives of civic organisations, and public officers.

"Homelessness is a problem that our society needs to tackle urgently before it becomes unmanageable," State Minister for Social Development Loretta Butler-Turner told the meeting. "We want your commitment to work with the government to address homelessness. It is a matter which requires the attention of all of us."

Currently, services for the homeless include soup kitchens operated by churches and charities, and government food subsidies. Recommendations to deal with the problem include determining the number of homeless people on the island, better coordination of food services, provision of temporary shelters, expansion of low-income housing, and job training. Providing accommodation and food are probably not insurmountable issues. Healthcare is the biggest challenge. In a paper for the Organisation of American States produced last year, well-known psychiatrist Dr David Allen offered a Bahamian perspective on the contribution of drug abuse to homelessness and HIV/AIDS infection.

He traced the problem to a national epidemic of crack cocaine unleashed in the 1980s, associated with already high levels of alcohol consumption. That was the period when Colombian drug lords took over several islands in the Bahamas to tranship cocaine to the United States, while our government looked the other

way. "As the acute crack cocaine epidemic started to wane," Dr Allen wrote, "pushers preyed on mentally ill patients, creating bizarre syndromes involving vagrancy, homelessness and sometimes violence. Many addicts had a severe psychiatric illness such as schizophrenia. These are best treated in an inpatient setting."

Although drug treatment is provided by groups like Teen Challenge, The Haven Bahamas Association for Social Health and the Deanery, "the missing pieces in the consortium of services are comprehensive programmes for the chronically addicted woman (the broken woman) and transitional community residences to enhance re-entry into society," according to Dr Allen.

"There are increasing numbers of chronic cocaine users who also use marijuana and alcohol. Cognitively impaired, they tend to be unemployed and go in and out of prison. A major concern is that marijuana has permeated junior and senior high schools, which has serious implications for education and career development," he said.

Drug trafficking has produced a gun culture that is directly responsible for the rise in violent crime we are experiencing today. "The drug problem has a devastating effect on our value system," Dr Allen said. "The already challenged inner city family and community has been impacted severely by violent crime, stealing and the despair that accompanies chronic drug use. Children lack nurture and support...This destruction is tragic."

He called for an international drug policy think tank to share technical expertise and promote a coordinated approach to the problem. He also pointed to the need for better communication between key players like social workers, teachers, law enforcement officers, politicians, medical professionals and drug counselors, as well as the development of training and work skills during treatment. You might not know it, but there already is a national drug plan that seeks to deal with these critical issues. In the early 2000s, the authors of this plan noted that more than 60 per cent of inmates at Fox Hill Prison were there for drug-related offences and a high percentage were infected with HIV/AIDS. Statistics also showed that 75 per cent of women with HIV had a history of drug or alcohol abuse.

A five-year anti-drug plan was formulated in 2004 with the help of international agencies and called for a \$3 million budget. It is now being updated by Captain Godfrey Rolle, the plan's coordinator at the Ministry of National Security. The goals include development of complex interdiction, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services. It is surely a daunting task.

Perhaps the most frightening data relating to the homeless involves the prevalence of HIV/AIDS infection.

A recent Caribbean study confirmed that homeless drug users are at high risk for HIV infection.

And crack cocaine use and risky sexual behaviours, both associated with increased risk of medical and psychiatric complications, have been described as common behaviours among the homeless.

So resettlement support alone will not be enough to help these people back into mainstream society. We need to find cost-effective ways to rehabilitate those suffering from mental illness, drug or alcohol problems. Then we need to develop their basic life skills, and help them reconnect with social networks away from the streets. These are difficult, long-term and costly approaches. That's why many experts believe prevention is the best means of ensuring a lasting and sustainable end to the problem of homelessness. But in the Bahamas, we also have to consider that the problem is not strictly confined to the relatively small world of crazy street people like those living at Potters Cay.

In 2006 government officials reported 39 squatter villages throughout New Providence. As many as 300 people — both Bahamians and immigrants — were said to be living in just one of these, with no sanitary facilities or police presence whatsoever. What is being done to address these issues?

.....
What do you think? Send comments to larry@tribunemedia.net
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NOTICE

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LOCAL NEWS

Online poll: Tighter control of jet-ski rentals is needed

Tribune242.com readers want laws enforced

READERS of our website tribune.242.com are overwhelmingly in favour of stricter enforcement of the laws governing the use and rental of jet-skis.

Less than 10 per cent of those who took yesterday's online poll said they are satisfied with the way the water sports industry is currently regulated.

Of the 92 readers who voted, 61 said the laws need to be better enforced, 23 said jet skis should be banned on Bahamian beaches altogether, while only eight were happy with the status quo.

The question was posed following a dangerous jet ski accident on Goodman's Bay, from which one man was lucky to escape with his life. It was only the latest of many water sports accidents in recent years, which have led to serious injury and even death for locals and tourists alike.

Commenting on the website, Derek Dean said: "Typical of the Bahamas. Laws are likely only the books but nev-



Felipe Major/Tribune staff

LUCKY TO SURVIVE: The man is brought ashore after the accident in Goodman's Bay

er enforced, unless something happens to 'somebody' but almost always when it's too late - one more life unnecessarily taken.

Complain

"We all complain but do nothing about it as an 'undisciplined' people who do what we want, except when we go to South Florida and are afraid to even cross the road for fear of getting a ticket for J-walking."

Another commentator, who identified himself as only "Morons as Jet Ski Operators", wrote: "I used to be a

tourist to the Bahamas and I am now a resident.

"I have seen the morons who are either hopped on booze or drugs roaring around on our local beaches, in addition to behaving like pimps towards the women that they attempt to entice onto their jet-skis.

"I would place an age restriction on the jet-ski operators. Adult men or women aged between 40 and 45 period. Some of these young Bahamian are morons who drive like idiots in traffic and it's no different for them either riding on a wave or on hot asphalt."

NDP opposes the unlicensed sale of real estate

THE National Development Party is supporting the Bahamas Real Estate Association in its position that only licensed members of BREAA should be allowed to sell real estate.

However, the party said it is also very concerned about unscrupulous Bahamian real estate agents and lawyers who knowingly provide clients with invalid or fraudulent land titles. "An NDP government, when elected, will solve this problem once and for all on behalf of the Bahamian people," said the party in a statement.

In addition, the party said, the acute shortage of land surveyors has been allowed

to stagnate the development of land, especially the granting of crown land to Bahamians.

The party also noted that there are "many Bahamians who have yet to be paid for land that was compulsorily acquired by successive governments of the Bahamas over the years. All of these accounts will be settled with the election of an NDP government. We intend to repeal all colonial legislation governing land in the Bahamas along with the much abused Quieting Titles Act of 1959, replacing them with legislation reflecting a 21st century independent and sovereign Bahamas."

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LOCAL NEWS

Ministry continues search for mould-free offices

THE Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports is pressing on with the search for mould-free offices after their intended relocation to the Wyndham Nassau Resort was stalled by the discovery of mould in one of the towers.

Public Service Union John Pinder said the ministry may move to another Wyndham tower now that the potentially dangerous fungus has been discovered growing throughout the sixth floor and on part of the fourth floor in the tower which had been considered for the



JOHN PINDER

relocation. Mould infestation at the ministry's current offices on Thompson Boulevard sparked negotiations with

Baha Mar over the feasibility of moving staff to one of the disused towers for health reasons.

But Mr Pinder, who said he toured the Cable Beach tower with inspectors last week, said staff should not be relocated to another hazardous working environment.

And until a safe site has been identified, he said, they should work in shifts to avoid long hours of exposure to mould in the Thompson Boulevard building.

Mr Pinder the fungus started growing in the Wyndham tower during the three months it was closed, and may be related to a leak under repair.

He said: "I have asked if they

will be able to put them in a different tower, and Dr Hubert Minnis, who was the acting Minister of Education in Carl Bethel's absence, indicated that they would now look at a different tower.

"Until they get that tower I'm pushing for them to put people on flexi-time because I don't want them working for long hours in the present conditions at their office in Thompson Boulevard."

Some types of mould can lead to a variety of health problems. If present in large quantities, mould can be extremely hazardous to humans, causing allergic reactions and respiratory problems.

When contacted about the matter a few weeks ago, vice president of external affairs at Baha Mar, Robert Sands, told *The Tribune* he was unaware of the mould claims and said government and the resort were only at the "exploratory stages" in their discussions about a possible rental agreement.

Contest focuses on climate change



PORTIA SWEETING, BNT director of education

Small island states, the effects of climate change, and environmental protection are the focus of the 2009 essay contest organised by the Inter-American Development Bank and the Bahamas National Trust.

All students are asked to celebrate the 50th anniversary of both organisations by writing an essay about the impact of climate change on the environment and the economy.

The theme is 'Environmental sustainability and conservation in the Bahamas: A Vision for the future.'

With the support of the Ministry of Education, the contest runs to November 20. "As we are both celebrating our 50th anniversary this year, we have joined forces given the nature of our work in sustainability and natural resource conservation," said Roscoe Spencer, IDB representative for the Bahamas.

Parks

The BNT operates 25 national parks throughout the Bahamas, four of which are in New Providence. It also offers educational programmes about ecosystems.

"Our national parks are the subject of many educational programmes," said Portia Sweeting, BNT director of education. "National park visitations and school presentations deliver the conservation message to 1,000 young people each year."

"We are consulting with the Ministry of Education and they are revising their curriculum to include information and activities surrounding the effects of climate change on small island states."

By convincing all students from primary school to senior high to make protecting the environment a priority now, the Department of Education hopes to embed in them an awareness they will take seriously as adults.

"The Ministry of Education supports the BNT and IDB essay competition because through it the high school students will develop a more heightened awareness of the importance of the environment," said Lionel Sands, director of education. "Environmental studies are a part of the curriculum now."

"Then they will understand how to protect the environment and how to use it so we don't lose it."

Junior high winners will receive a laptop computer and iPods. Senior high winners will receive a Mac computer and iPods. A desk-top computer is in store for the winning school.

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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

together.”
 An activist group demanding better conditions at the pound was formed after *The Tribune* reported deplorable conditions witnessed by a 14-year-old visitor. The group now has nearly 600 members.
 A public meeting will be held at the Bahamas Humane Society in Chippingham tonight to discuss concerns about the government dog pound.
 Ms Aranha said: “Our immediate concern is that the animals in there are treated humanely. We will be making sure they have adequate food water and shade.
 “We now have permission to go in there every single day to check on the situation and I can

Readers' views

sider that a very positive step.
 “We can also go in there and actively weed out the dogs we can find homes for and be much more proactive.
 “But this is not just something that is just for the Humane Society, this is the people’s project, and there are a lot of people who care and they should be a part of this change.”
 Ms Aranha encouraged anyone interested in standards at the dog pound to attend the meeting at 6pm tonight. And all readers should send their concerns and priorities for the pound to *The Tribune*, or email mreynolds@tribunemedia.net or pnunvez@tribunemedia.net.

FROM page one

intentions would be at the October 21 convention.
 According to a PLP insider, when Mr Mitchell said he was going to run for the leadership of the party, a segment of those in attendance almost “took his head off”.
 Shouting out “how dare you” challenge Mr Christie and going as far as questioning the MP’s loyalty to the party, it is claimed Mr Mitchell hit back by stating that he wasn’t “born yesterday”.
 “He gave as good as he got,” said a source who witnessed Tuesday night’s proceedings.
 “He told them that anyone who attacked him would be attacked likewise, just as hard.”
 While the heated exchange of words never escalated into any physical altercation, it is believed this incident is a telling sign of what is yet to come in the party as the battle over the lead-



FRED MITCHELL

Fred Mitchell

ership and deputy leadership positions heats up.
 “At the end of the day there were a group who raised hell, but there also were other persons in the room who had to tell them that it was his (Mr Mitchell’s) right to run.
 “If the PLP is a democracy then it has to act like a democracy. But some in there were really nasty, saying that If he ran it was a signal of no confidence in Mr Christie and all kind of foolishness,” the source added.

In the race with Mr Mitchell for the party’s top post will be PLP MP for Bain and Grants Town Dr Bernard Nottage, PLP newcomer Paul Moss, and Mr Christie. In the race for the deputy leadership post there is the PLP MP for West End and Bimini Obie Wilchcombe, PLP MP for Cat Island, San Salvador and Rum Cay Philip ‘Brave’ Davis, and PLP Senator Jerome Fitzgerald.

FROM page one

be PLP newcomer Paul Moss who was the first to announce his intentions to challenge Mr Christie back in September of this year.
 It is also believed the MP for Fox Hill Fred Mitchell will likewise join Mr Moss and Dr Nottage and run against Mr Christie at the party’s October 21 convention.
 During the party’s 1997 convention, Mr Christie was able to secure a victory over Dr Nottage with the assistance of the third candidate, Philip Galanis, who at that time threw his support behind Mr Christie.

However, with this upcoming convention it appears the three candidates who are seeking the post that Mr Christie currently holds have one mission in mind - the removal of the leader. And with less than a week to go before the convention, candidates are already fearful of the transparency of the elections.
 In a letter issued to the chairman of the convention, PLP MP for West End and Bimini Obie Wilchcombe on October 1, Mr Moss outlined that he has written to members of the election committee requesting a number of measures be put in place to ensure the credibility and transparency of the upcoming elections.

“The fact that you, as convention chairman, are yourself a candidate in those elections has been cause for protest from your opponents already,” Mr Moss said, “so, in my opinion, this places on you a heavy responsi-

Dr Nottage to announce PLP leadership bid this morning

bility and obligation to do all you can to ‘shun the very appearance of evil’ in the election process.
 “Though oversight for the elections is outside your formal sphere of influence, I share my requests with you in the hope that you will advance and support them should the occasion present itself.

“I requested as follows, that the complete list of delegates/Stalwart Counselors be given to each candidate in advance of Elections, but certainly no later than October 15 (today); that each candidate be allowed two agents in the voting room at any given time; that the election for Leader be held separately from the election for other positions; that voters be required to show photo identification before being allowed to cast their ballots; that one agent for each candidate signs or initials the blank ballots before they are given to voters; and that a reputable accounting firm be used to count the ballots after voting ends,” Mr Moss said.

In addition to these requests, Mr Moss also requested that he be allowed an opportunity to address stalwarts on the first day of the convention if only for five minutes.

While the former Prime Minister Christie still holds a tremendous amount of support within the hierarchy of the party, there is a growing movement within the organization to replace him

as the country continues to cry out for change. Hearing this call, Dr Nottage, and other challengers such as Mr Moss and Mr Mitchell have put themselves forward as alternatives to the status quo in an attempt to “take the party forward”.

However, unlike Mr Moss and Mr Mitchell, there is a growing criticism of Dr Nottage even though the MP has yet to formally announce.

According to supporters of the incumbent leader, it would be a grave injustice if Dr Nottage were to challenge Mr Christie as it was the leader of the party who recently welcomed the Bain and Grant’s Town MP back into the fold after “years in the wilderness” as the head of the Coalition for Democratic Reform (CDR).

However, strong supporters of the doctor counter with claims that it was in fact Dr Nottage who encouraged former PLP leader Sir Lynden Pindling into allowing Mr Christie to rejoin the party after he was dismissed from the PLP Cabinet in 1984 along with Hubert Ingraham who now sits as the current Prime Minister.

Running as an independent in 1987 Mr Christie won his seat again and was invited back into the PLP in 1990. Serving under Sir Lynden’s leadership since then, Mr Christie won the leadership of the party in 1997 and has remained leader of the PLP ever since.

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LOCAL NEWS

Former Cabinet Minister Loftus Roker backs Davis for PLP deputy

FORMER cabinet minister Loftus Roker has thrown his support behind PLP deputy leadership candidate Philip "Brave" Davis.

Mr Roker, who served in the Pindling administration as minister of immigration and became notorious for his no-nonsense stance on illegal immigration, praised Mr Davis as the bridge to the future for the Progressive Liberal Party.

He said: "I support Brave Davis because he has a long

association with the PLP from a young man and I believe his election as deputy leader would give the party another chance to return to its roots and give hope to the Bahamian people."

Mr Roker, who is still hugely popular with the public, joins deputy prime minister and former Minister of National Security in the Christie administration, Cynthia 'Mother' Pratt, who also endorsed Mr Davis for the deputy leadership position.

Mr Davis has made recon-

necting with the public a cornerstone of his campaign and has told party members they cannot continue to focus on the history of the PLP if they intend to succeed in the future.

So far, Senator Jerome Fitzgerald and former minister of tourism and current MP for West End and Bimini Obie Wilchcombe have announced that they will vie for the post along with Mr Davis at the PLP national convention on October 21.

Bain and Grants Town MP Bernard Nottage is expected to announce that he will challenge party leader Perry Christie for the reigns of the PLP today.



FORMER cabinet minister Loftus Roker with PLP deputy leadership candidate Philip 'Brave' Davis.

Call for programme to highlight Child Protection Act legal changes

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

TWO weeks after the government announced it had brought into force the Child Protection Act, which provides for increased safeguarding of children's rights, the opposition has called for a public education programme to highlight the legal changes this entails.

PLP spokesperson on Social Services and former minister of Social Services Melanie Griffin MP called the Act a "significant piece of social legislation" that is "long overdue" and suggested that Minister of State for Social Development, Loretta Butler-Turner, has not done enough to raise awareness of the Act's provisions.

The Act was brought into force on October 1, 2009.

Some of the important aspects of the legislation include: increased penalties for those who are found guilty of child abuse; mandatory reporting of all forms of abuse of children; a provision for fathers of children born out of wedlock to pursue access to or custody of those children and a provision for mothers of children born out of wedlock to pursue maintenance for those children up to the age of 18.

By ushering in new protection for children, the legislation, which was passed in parliament in 2007 under the former PLP administration, harmonizes Bahamian domestic law as it exists with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child while also bringing under one umbrella several pieces of legislation pertaining to children's rights. The Bahamas ratified the UN convention in 1991.

Mrs Griffin said: "The enforcement of this significant piece of social legislation is long overdue and the government ought to be condemned for failing to see the importance of it to the care and protection of our children and the development and strengthening of families, particularly in view of the level of social decay all around us today."

"After two and a half years of stop-and-review,

the Child Protection Act, 2007 has been brought into force in its entirety, (with) absolutely no amendments as (the government had suggested there would be).

"It is clear that national and international pressure have forced the government's hand in bringing this Act into force, but 13 days after the 'by the way' announcement in Parliament (by Mrs Butler-Turner, of its coming enforcement on October 1, 2009), no substantive announcement has been made giving this matter the kind of attention it deserves."

The former minister, in noting that the Act was brought into force "in its entirety, with no amendments" was referring to comments previously made by Minister Butler-Turner when she was asked why the nearly three year old legislation had not been brought into force by the current government.

Mrs Butler-Turner had answered that among other hindrances to the Act's enforcement - including the fact that the PLP administration did not draft regulations necessary to effectively administer the Act - the government would need significant funding and human resources to effectively enact the law and therefore may need to amend it or "phase it in", given economic challenges.

In this regard, Mrs Griffin called on the government to reveal "what has been done at the Department of Social Services to provide the structure, manpower and the resources needed to effectively enforce the provisions of the CPA."

The former minister noted that the Act was the culmination of 12 years of work by governmental and non-governmental organisations, who she commended for their involvement.

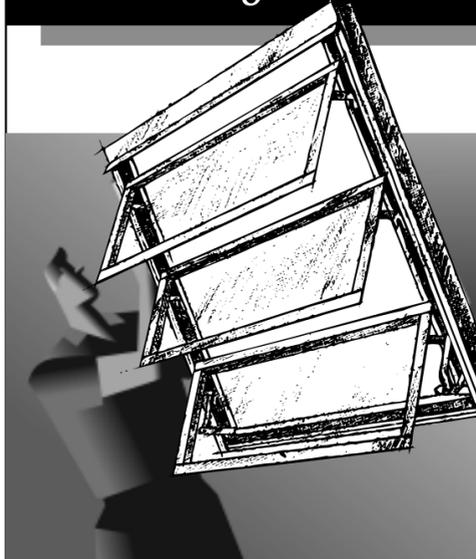
She also paid tribute to children's rights activist and long-standing campaigner for the implementation of the Act, founder of Bahamian Fathers for Children Everywhere, Clever Duncombe.

Messages left for Mrs Butler-Turner and the director of Social Services were not returned yesterday.

Both were said to be attending the funeral of Sir Clement Maynard.

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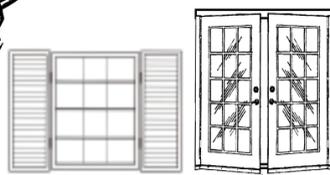
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LOCAL NEWS

Pleasant Bridgewater tells of trial 'ridicule'

FROM page one

interested in and was thinking about getting money from the media for it.

She said she he told Lightbourne he shouldn't speak to the media and admonished him to think about what it would look like for the Bahamas.

Bridgewater said Lightbourne told her he was not trying to hurt the Travoltas but he had a mortgage to pay and a family to take care of.

"He never asked me to speak with Mr Travolta or ask him for any money. He had the phone number, he didn't even have to come to me," Bridgewater said.

Bridgewater also told the jury she had been reluctant to speak with Michael McDermott, an attorney for Mr Travolta. She recalled he had inquired about the document and asked her to e-mail a copy but Lightbourne had instructed her not to do so. She also recalled that Senator Allyson Maynard-Gibson subsequently called her saying that she wanted to speak with her regarding a matter concerning Mr McDermott.

"I said to her from the outset, Allyson if there is anything I am doing illegal I don't want to be a part of it. I only want to assist the Travoltas," she said.

According to Bridgewater, when she had met her former senate colleague, Mrs Maynard-Gibson had told her there was nothing criminal at that stage and that she knew she was a person of integrity.

Bridgewater told the jury she gave Mrs Maynard-Gibson a copy of the document despite her client's instructions because she trusted her.

Although Mrs Maynard-Gibson had testified that she had told Bridgewater that what she was doing was wrong, Bridgewater told the jury that that was not true.

Bridgewater said she considered Mrs Maynard-Gibson to be a trusted friend and parliamentary colleague. She said she did not think she would have had police recording their conversations.

"I trusted her. I thought she

was a sincere person," Bridgewater said.

Bridgewater recalled that on January 22, while at a meeting at Universal Distributors, Freeport, with two potential clients, police came and arrested her. She told the jury that contrary to the evidence of Sergeant Deborah Thompson, she did not tell police she had burned the refusal of transport document because she thought the situation was going to explode.

"I never said that I burned the document because I thought the situation was going to explode. I never thought I would have been arrested," she said. Bridgewater said she had blurted to police that she had burned the document because of they had vigorously interrogated and disrespected her and her parents in their home.

"I never attempted to extort anything from anybody. All my life I have tried to help people," she said. "I'll be the first to say I am no saint but I'm no devil."

"I came from humble beginnings," she said, "All I have I have worked for." Bridgewater credited God, her family and friends with helping her cope with the ordeal.

"But for the grace of God, I could have been in Sandilands or probably worse," she said. "All I was trying to do is what I thought was right for my country and to steer Mr Lightbourne in the right direction," she said. "I maintain my 100 per cent innocence. What Allyson, McDermott and the others did to me, I leave that to God," Bridgewater said.

Following her address to the jury, Bridgewater began to cry and was embraced by Lightbourne as she took her seat.

Facing the jury, Lightbourne said: "On January 2, 2009, I never questioned God before but I questioned and asked why I had to work that morning."

Lightbourne went on to recall that he and EMT Derrex Rolle went to Old Bahama Bay that morning where they found Jett Travolta lying on a bathroom floor with a brown towel around his waist. Lightbourne said he smelled alcohol in air and noticed

people trying to perform what appeared to be CPR on Jett. Lightbourne said Jett had no vital signs and he told Dr Fernandez the boy was dead. According to Lightbourne, Dr Fernandez told him that he knew that but they should just take the boy to the hospital.

Lightbourne said he told the doctor he did not want to be a part of 'any cover up' and he overheard a man say 'do we have an agreement.' He said the man also tapped him on the shoulder and asked him if he agreed.

Lightbourne said there was a discussion about whether to take Jett to the hospital or the airport.

He said that he spoke to Mr Travolta and told them it was their policy that once they were in custody of a patient they had to take them to the hospital. Lightbourne said Mr Rolle told him to get a refusal form which Mr Travolta signed.

Lightbourne told the jury he later made a copy of the document and put the original on file at the Rand Memorial Hospital. He said he kept the document with his collection of celebrity signatures.

Lightbourne recalled being approached at the Rand by two Inside Edition reporters about doing an interview while at the hospital on January 4. He told the jury he contacted his union representative John Curtis to inquire on whether he could do the interview. He said Mr Curtis called BPSU president John Pinder on the matter. Lightbourne said the men wanted to know how much he was being paid and instructed him not to make the hospital look bad.

He also told the jury that he had been contacted by a man claiming to be a representative of Mr Travolta who said that he was willing to pay a substantial sum of money for the document that the media had been inquiring about.

He said that he informed the man that he was going to do an interview with Inside Edition. He added that the man told him to make Mr Travolta look good.

"I was surprised when Ms Bridgewater got locked up

because as far as I am concerned, she didn't do anything wrong," Lightbourne said.

He went on to recall his meeting with Mr McDermott on January 19.

"I didn't feel comfortable. So I asked him, 'Are you recording me?' He said 'No, I don't do things like that,'" Lightbourne said.

He said Mr McDermott kept insisting he did not want anyone to know about their meeting.

"I realised the questions he was saying to me, he was setting me up. So I say if he going to play crazy I going to play crazy, so I told him what he wanted to hear," Lightbourne said.

"I didn't know what extortion was until I came to this court. As far as I know I was selling them a paper with Mr Travolta's signature on it," he said. "In your deliberations find Ms Bridgewater not guilty and find me not guilty," Lightbourne said.

Lightbourne also told the jury that health officials had promised his former co-worker Derrex Rolle a promotion and a pay increase if he re-wrote his report regarding Jett's death. Lightbourne said Mr Rolle came to his home and told him so a week before the start of the trial.

"Send me and Ms Bridgewater home to be with our family and friends," Lightbourne said.

Both attorney Murrio Ducille who is representing Bridgewater, and Carlson Shurland, who is representing Lightbourne, made their opening addresses to the jury yesterday.

"I am using a microscope. I am still looking for a case but I don't see it," Mr Ducille said.

He told the jury: "You are the judges of the facts. Her ladyship is the judge of the law. No one can tell you how to decide in this case."

"This case has been well publicised all over the world, not withstanding that, you deal with the evidence which you have heard."

Mr Ducille told the jury his client had nothing to prove but that it was the prosecution who has to prove her guilt.

"The catalyst of this whole case is Mr McDermott. Ms



FORMER PLP Senator Pleasant Bridgewater

Bridgewater has always led an exemplary life. Her reputation has been seriously damaged and I hope to God she is able to restore it.

"A good reputation is so hard to build and so easy to destroy. "This lady's liberty, her career, her entire life is in your hands. We are not here judging morals, we are dealing with the law and whether there has been a breach in the law."

He noted that Allyson Maynard-Gibson had testified that Bridgewater had told her that her client wanted to give Mr Travolta the first option to purchase the document he had.

"Where is the threat?" Mr Ducille asked. "It is clear to see she has been intorted. She is no extortionist. Mr McDermott is the intortioner." Mr Ducille said.

Mr Shurland tried to hold back tears as he made his opening address.

"I sat here and cried tears for Pleasant. I have known her for a long time," he said. Mr Shurland told the jury that is client was not an extortionist.

"He might be an opportunist but he sure isn't an extortionist. What's wrong with Bahamians seeing opportunities and taking opportunities?" he asked.

"You seen Mr Travolta he came here said what he had to say and hit the road, Jack. At the end of the day this had nothing to do with extorting money from John Travolta.

"This is strictly about deceit and distractions," Mr Shurland

said. Marcus Garvey, manager of the Bahamas Ambulance Services company was called yesterday as a witness for Lightbourne.

He recalled that on January 2, he and EMS Selvin Strachan while in the area of Eight Mile Rock intercepted the ambulance that had been dispatched to Old Bahama Bay that morning. Mr Garvey said he switched places with Lightbourne who had been driving the ambulance carrying Jett's body. He told the court that Jett's body was cold, his pupils were fully dilated and lividity had set in. He said Jett was taken to the Rand Memorial Hospital.

Mr Garvey also told the court that on January 2, he received a telephone call and told the man he was not the person who had access to the refusal of transport form.

"I told him Mr Tarino Lightbourne was responsible for that document and I gave him his telephone contacts," Mr Garvey said. He also testified that reporters from CNN, The New York Times and Star magazine had also called him that day.

During cross examination by lead prosecutor and Director of Public Prosecutions Bernard Turner, Mr Garvey was asked whether he had given an interview to Radaronline.com.

He told the court he had never given an interview to anyone regarding that matter, which is presently before the Public Health Tribunal.

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LOCAL NEWS

Fourteen-island promotional strategy unveiled by Ministry

PLANS TO HIGHLIGHT THE FAMILY ISLANDS

THE Ministry of Tourism has unveiled plans on for a 14-island multi-level promotional strategy that will highlight the Family Islands.

Through its London-based office, the ministry is recruiting 42 filmmakers to produce a short film featuring life on the Family Islands.

Fourteen will be chosen to travel to the Bahamas to produce the short film, which will be distributed to audiences around the world.

The islands are: Abaco, Andros, Eleuthera, Harbour Island, San Salvador, Exuma, Crooked Island, Inagua, Mayaguana, Long Island, Cat Island, Bimini, Grand Bahama and New Providence.

"The Ministry of Tourism is always seeking to use effective media to advance the reputation of our country and enhance our profile as a vacation destination of choice," said director general, Ministry of Tourism, Vernice Walkine.

It is expected that these objectives will be met through this promotion, she said.

The challenge is designed to build "greater aware-



DIRECTOR GENERAL, Ministry of Tourism, Vernice Walkine

ness" of the Bahamas and appreciation of the country's beauty, particularly in the United Kingdom.

She noted that there is a "significant" onshore component and that the project "cannot be successful without the full participation of Bahamians as consummate hosts and great information sources to the filmmakers."

"Here is our chance, as Bahamians, to help UK filmmakers make the best possible film about the islands on which we live,

showing the people of the UK why they should visit our islands," said Ms Walkine.

The price tag for this project will be "modest" according to district sales manager for the ministry's UK office, Giovanni Grant.

"This project will cost the ministry \$250,000 to \$300,000, most of which will be used for travel and accommodations for the filmmakers," he said. "It's a small price to pay for the potential benefits that we will reap."

The movies' idyllic shots of the islands will reside online at the Bahamas' UK website which functions as a 24-hour tourist office to give information and visual images of the Bahamas to Internet users.

"The overall goal of the initiative is to drive traffic to the bahamas.co.uk website, and ultimately to cause prospective travellers to consider one of our islands for their next holiday retreat," said Ms Walkine.

This initiative lines up with the ministry's goal of attracting UK travellers to the Bahamas in 2009 and 2010, she said.

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Mitchell: A stable Haiti vital for the Bahamas

THE long-term stabilisation of Haiti has been and continues to be of crucial interest to the Bahamas, former minister of foreign affairs Fred Mitchell said.

He expressed the hope that CARICOM will soon "endeavour to bring to bear on Haiti a policy and physical presence that nurtures the environmental, economic and social stability that would create the political capital necessary to sustain national growth and deeper regional integration".

Mr Mitchell was speaking after 11 United Nations peacekeepers were killed last week Friday when their surveillance plane crashed into a mountainside in Haiti during a routine patrol. Reports confirmed that no-one survived the crash.

Local officials said the plane went down in a remote area near the village of Pays-Pourri in the district of Ganthier, a farming region area east of Port-au-Prince, the capital. The people on board were Uruguayans and Jordanians.

"At this time I extend condolences on behalf of the opposition PLP in the Bahamas and myself to the UN peacekeeping fraternity; to the native countries of the deceased peace keepers; to their families; and to their comrades in the field," Mr Mitchell said.



A PEACEKEEPER inspects the wreckage of the UN plane that crashed in a remote mountain area known as Pays Pouri, near Haiti's border with the Dominican Republic. (AP)



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FP1021



Campbell-Brown named UNESCO Champion for Sport...

See page 18

Wildcats sweep the Swingers

After the latest pair of games on the New Providence Softball Association (NPSA) schedule, the men's championship series is all set while half of the women's series has been decided. The Pineapple Air Wildcats completed a three-game sweep over the Bommer George Swingers with their third consecutive shutout last night, winning 13-0 in the women's division of the NPSA.

The Wildcats await the winner of the Proper Care Pool Lady Sharks and Sigma Brackettes semifinal matchup. The Lady Sharks lead the series two games to one.

And in the men's division, the Commando Security Truckers also completed a

Truckers roll over Stingrays, advance to face Dorsey Park Boyz in best-of-seven champ series

three game sweep of the Price Waterhouse Stingrays with an 11-4 victory Tuesday night at the Blue Hills Sporting Complex.

The Truckers will advance to face the Heavylift Dorsey Park Boyz in the championship series.



Felipe Major/Tribune staff

PINEAPPLE AIR WILDCATS' Marvelle Miller in action...

Reflecting on the '09 Hall of Famers

THE Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture has announced its Class of 2009 Hall of Fame inductees.

And scanning the list, there's a good cross section of 15 players and administrators from a number of sporting disciplines who are going to be enshrined into the National Hall of Fame on Saturday, October 31.

While all of them are expected to be properly honoured and recognised for their respective achievements during the banquet, let me take this opportunity to mention some of them as we take a brief look back at their careers.

There's former prime minister **Perry Christie**, who prides himself on remembering everybody whenever he gets the opportunity to remind that he was one of the best triple jumpers in the Bahamas, having secured the islands' first international medal in that event.

A member of the Valley Boys junkanoo group, Christie was one of the founding members of the Pioneers Sporting Club. As a track and field athlete, he made two successful trips to Kingston, Jamaica, for the West Indies Federation Games in 1960 and the Central American and Caribbean Games in 1962 where he captured a bronze in the triple jump.

How about **Bradley Cooper**, the strongman who has had some intense battles with former Cuban world record holder Luis Delis, who dominated the Caribbean before he chose to retire in 1990 after he tested positive for banned substances.

In softball, the late **Leon "Apache" Knowles** will receive his honour posthumously. He was the first Bahamian to have been inducted into the International Softball Federation's Hall of Fame back in 1987.

He managed the Bahamas' first men's national team that placed second in the Central American and Caribbean Confederation Tournament.

Knowles will be joined by **Richard "The Lion-Heart" Johnson**, who two decades later in 2007 was also inducted into the ISF's Hall of Fame. Johnson was the premier pitcher in the country for at least two decades.

Dr Timothy Barrett is probably best known for his medical expertise, but he was also remembered for his athletic prowess as one of the premier volleyball players in the country. He also was regarded as one of the top coaches during his era.

Bobby Issacs was one of those vintage all-around players who made a tremendous impact in just about every sport he participated in, but more specifically soccer, lawn tennis, cricket and rugby just to name a few.

And from one of those talented brothers clan, the late **Wentworth "Wenty" Ford** will also be honoured posthumously.

Ford was one of four Bahamians who played in Major League Baseball, having suited up with the Atlanta Braves as pitcher in 1973 before he was killed in an automobile accident

SEE page 18

Farewell

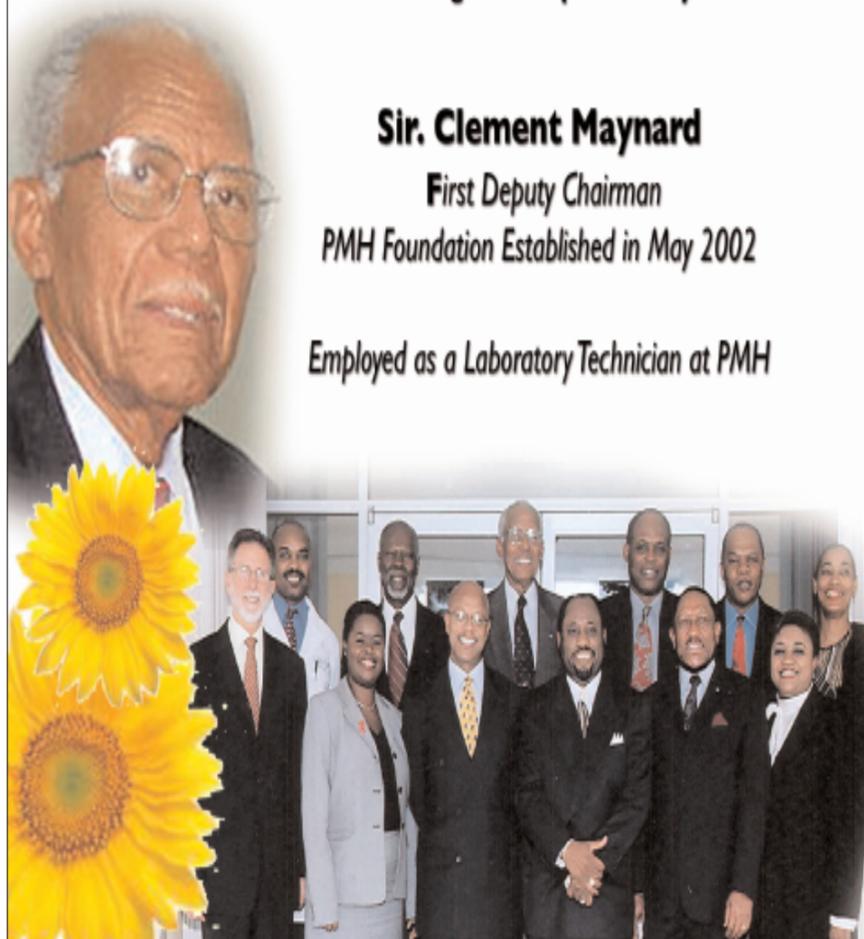
Sir Clement Maynard

Sincerest condolences to the family and friends of the late Sir Clement Maynard. Our prayers are with you at this time.

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Sir. Clement Maynard
First Deputy Chairman
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Senior league officials attend FIFA referee training course

ABOUT 12 officials who call games in the senior soccer league here in New Providence attended an intensive, four-day referee training course.

The FIFA Member Association Referee Course was conducted September 17-21 as part of the development programme of the Bahamas Football Association (BFA).

FIFA referee assistance programme development officer Ramesh Ramdhan of Trinidad and Tobago, FIFA referee instructor Peter Pendergast of Jamaica and FIFA referee fitness instructor Merere Gonzalez of Trinidad and Tobago joined local instructor Stan Darville for the presentation of the course material.

In attendance at the opening of the course programme at the Hilton resort were Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Desmond Bannister, Anton Sealey, president of the Bahamas Football Association, Fred Lunn, executive vice president of the BFA, Lionel Haven, general secretary of the BFA and Pierre Lafleur, vice president of the BFA.

Bannister confirmed his pleasure at the leadership and direction of the BFA, and commended the association for their attention to the mentoring of referees for the game.

He commented on the



DESMOND BANNISTER

SEE page 17

Lady Technicians defeat COB Caribs

Defenders get victory over Crimestoppers

IT took the Lady Technicians five sets to defeat the COB Caribs 25-21, 25-17, 19-25, 18-25 and 15-7 in New Providence Volleyball Association (NPVA) action at the D W Davis gym. Sharon Whyly led the Lady Techs with seven kills followed by Sonia Hinsey with five kills.

In a losing effort, Kenisha Thompson led all scorers with 11 kills.

On the men's side, the Scotiabank Defenders also won over the Crimestoppers in five tough sets 23-25, 26-24, 25-16, 20-25 and 16-14.

Ian "Wire" Pinder and Shedrick Forbes led the Defenders with 16 and 11 kills respectively.

Leonardo Dean and Carl Rolle led the Crimestoppers with 17 and 13 kills.

League play continued with two games Wednesday night (Scottsdale Vixens vs The Cougars at 7:30pm and The Saints vs The Intruders at 8:30pm) but those results were not available up to press time.

SPORTS

Sunfish boats custom made

SEVENTY two custom-made Sunfish boats have arrived in Nassau ahead of the International Junior Sunfish Championships and the 2009 Sunfish World Championships which are expected to kick off on Friday and Monday respectively.

The boats feature a brilliant sail boasting the colours of the Bahamian flag, incorporating the Bahamas tourism logo.

On Friday and Saturday, the world's top junior sailors will take to Montagu Harbour for two days of intense racing.

The week-long World Championship sailing is slated to start 10am Monday with 72 of the Bahamian-inspired Sunfish boats lined up across the water.

"It's just a win-win, this kind of event. For us, it's promoting sailing and that's what we're all about here, but from an economic perspective, welcoming this many people who are all bringing value into the economy is tremendous. We calculate that these regattas probably bring about half a million dollars worth of value to the economy, which is great in these challenged economic times," said Paul Hutton, chairman of the regatta.

The events are being hosted

by the Nassau Yacht Club with tremendous logistical and financial support from the ministries of tourism and youth, sports and culture, and platinum corporate sponsor Pictet Bank and Trust and others.

"Having the Sunfish World Championships come here exposes so many of our Bahamian sailors to a different side of regatta sailing because it gives them the opportunity to sail amongst the who's who of Sunfish sailing in the world.

"It also will enable our junior sailors to better their skills and prepare them to sail on a larger scale," said Michelle McPhee, regatta officer in the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture.

Eldece Clarke, sports tourism manager in the Ministry of Tourism, said there will be "residual marketing" for the Bahamas.

"We at tourism are so excited to see the design and to have been a part of it. Not only will it look awesome when all those boats are out on the water this weekend and next week, but we see that there will be residual marketing for the Bahamas as these boats with our colours and logo end up all over the world."



SHOWN (l-r) are Jeremy Stuby, vice president of Pictet Bank and Trust, Paul Hutton, Michelle McPhee, Eldece Clarke, sports tourism manager in the Ministry of Tourism and Brent Burrows, commodore of the Nassau Yacht Club.

Scotiabank Paradise win Vincent D'Aguilar Memorial 20/20 tournament

BAHAMAS Cricket Association executives said the Vincent D'Aguilar Memorial 20/20 tourney was a successful and well-attended event.

Two of the top teams, the Dynasty Stars and the Dockendale Titans, who were favourites to capture the title suffered upsets much earlier than expected.

The Stars fell to Castrol Commonwealth, while the Titans fell to Scotiabank Paradise.

The two underdog squads eventually advanced to the tournament final with Scotiabank winning the tournament and the cash prize. The Stars finished in third position.

The tournament was sponsored by Dionisio D'Aguilar, whose father Vincent played cricket with the St Albans and Westerns cricket teams during the 1950s and 1960s.

The D'Aguilar family attended Monday's matches and were on hand for the presentation of the prizes.

Omni Money Transfers and Payments and Burger King Restaurants provided prizes for individual performances.

Gregory Taylor, president of the Bahamas Cricket Association, presented International Cricket Council medals to Phillip Smith, Irving Taylor, Sidney Deveaux, Edmund Lewis, Paul Thompson, and Theophilus Fritz, for their outstanding contribution to cricket over the past decades.

BCA league play continues at Windsor Park and Haynes Oval on Saturday, October 17.

Jamaica national soccer team player stabbed to death

By HOWARD CAMPBELL
Associated Press Writer

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Jamaica defender Orane Simpson was fatally stabbed in the violence-racked Kingston slum where he was raised, police said Wednesday.

A brief police statement said the 26-year-old player, a Jamaica international since 2005, was killed in Tivoli Gardens, a sprawling neighbourhood that was the country's first government housing project.

Simpson was attacked late Tuesday. There have been no arrests, and police did not disclose specifics of the stabbing.

Howard Bell, an administrator with the Jamaican Football Federation, said the right back had recently been sidelined with an injury. He did not provide more details.

Team officials did not immediately return calls Wednesday.

Simpson also played with the Tivoli Gardens team in the Caribbean island's

Drug and extortion gangs are blamed for 90 per cent of the homicides in Jamaica — 1,611 last year, about 10 times the rate in the United States, relative to population

National Premier League.

He was first called up to the Reggae Boyz in 2005 for a match against Australia.

Drug and extortion gangs are blamed for 90 per cent of the homicides in Jamaica — 1,611 last year, about 10 times the rate in the United States, relative to population.

FIFA, from page 16

BFA youth programme and the valuable service that the programme provides to the community at large.

Bannister said the development of referees is critical for the overall development of the game and encouraged the referees to press on, regardless of whether or not they are liked, but more importantly because they ensure the integrity of the game.

He then issued a challenge to all of the participants to continue their education and learning in their craft and further to assist the overall development of the game by taking the time to pass on the information received, not only in New Providence but especially in the Family Islands.

Anton Sealey, president of the BFA, welcomed the visit-

ing instructors to the Bahamas and thanked them for assisting in the delivery of the message.

FIFA RAP development officer Ramesh Ramdhan advised that the conduction of the MA referees course programme was designed to change the environment that exists.

He reiterated the important role that officials play in the development of the game in any country and charged the participants to assist in the recruitment of new officials by suggesting "each one bring one."

The course ran for four days with practical sessions conducted at the BFA National Centre for Football Development and theory sessions conducted at the Hilton.

Sessions covered the laws of the game, application of the laws of the game, man-

agement during the match, fitness for the referee and a host of other subjects.

The majority of the lectures were given by Stan Darville, chairman of the BFA referees committee, who has attended FIFA Futuro III Courses for Referee Instructors in the region for the past three years.

FIFA referee fitness instructor Merere Gonzalez conducted the fitness training segment of the programme and fitness testing for all of the officials.

The course concluded September 20 with brief remarks from BFA general secretary Lionel Haven and the course instructors, followed by a presentation of certificates to all those who attended.

The referees are expected to continue their preparation until the start of the senior league later this month.

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INTERNATIONAL SPORTS



Campbell-Brown named as UNESCO Champion for Sport

Jamaica's 200 meters double Olympic champion Veronica Campbell-Brown, receives an award at the 35th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO in Paris on Tuesday. Veronica Campbell-Brown has been named as UNESCO Champion for Sport and will join the ranks of Formula One driver German Michael Schumacher, Judoka French David Douillet, ice hockey player Russian Vyacheslav Fetisov and Belgian tennis player Justin Henin.

(AP Photo: Michel Euler)

Del Potro retires with right wrist tendinitis

SHANGHAI (AP) — US Open champion Juan Martin del Potro retired because of right wrist tendinitis while trailing Jurgen Melzer of Austria 7-5, 2-1 Wednesday at the Shanghai Masters.

The third-seeded Argentine, who was shaking his right hand before packing up his rackets, said that he had similar wrist tendinitis this year.

"I'm a little sorry," Del Potro said. "It's a big tournament here in Shanghai, very important for me. But if I want to have a good finish this season, I have to recover, go home to be in good shape for the last tour-

naments."

Del Potro has already qualified for next month's season-ending ATP tournament in London.

Top-seeded Rafael Nadal and second-seeded Novak Djokovic also advanced. Nadal defeated James Blake 6-2, 6-7 (4), 6-4 — the second straight week in which the Spaniard needed three sets to defeat the American.

"Every match is important for me now," Nadal said. "I had the match under control, set and a break, playing really well, that's true. I think I deserve to win the match, because most of the time, I think I played better than James."



US OPEN champion Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina returns to Edouard Roger-Vasselin of France during their first round match at the Japan Open Championships in Tokyo.

(AP Photo: Itsuo Inouye)

Last week, Nadal beat Blake 7-5, 6-7 (4), 6-3 in the second round of the China Open.

Djokovic reached the third round by beating Fabio Fognini of Italy 6-3, 6-1.

"First matches are always the ones which are trickiest,

especially if you're playing against a lower-ranked player who has basically nothing to lose," said Djokovic, who is coming off a win in Beijing last week.

Besides Del Potro, 15th-seeded Tommy Haas of Germany also retired from his match. Haas lost the first

set to German qualifier Rainer Schuettler 6-4 and retired with a right shoulder injury.

On Tuesday, fourth-seeded Andy Roddick retired from his match against Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland with a left knee injury.

Soccer: More countries qualify for World Cup

By STUART CONDIE
AP Sports Writer

Switzerland and Slovakia earned Europe's last two automatic berths for next year's World Cup on Wednesday night, while Argentina tried to beat out Uruguay and Ecuador for South America's last certain spot in the 32-nation field.

Costa Rica played at the already clinched United States, hoping to stay ahead of Honduras and gain the final automatic berth from North and Central America and the Caribbean.

Portugal, Greece, Slovenia and Ukraine finished second in their groups and joined Bosnia-Herzegovina, France, Ireland and Russia in the

European playoffs.

Portugal won its third straight World Cup qualifier and advanced to the European playoffs, beating Malta 4-0 Wednesday night as Nani scored one goal and assisted on another.

Simao Sabrosa, Miguel Veloso and Edinho also scored for Portugal (5-1-4), which finished second in Group One with 19 points, two behind Denmark (6-1-3). The Danes clinched the automatic berth last weekend.

The eight playoff teams will be drawn into four pairs on Monday, and the four winners of home-and-home, total-goals matches on Nov. 14 and 18 will qualify for next year's 32-nation tournament in South Africa.

Howard looking to find Magic free throw touch

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ
Associated Press Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Orlando assistant coach Patrick Ewing stood underneath the hoop, took the ball after it swished through the net and passed it back to Dwight Howard standing at the free throw line.

"Twenty," Ewing said, passing the ball back. The next shot finally clanked. Then came a grimace and a grunt. "Restart the count," Howard called out. This scene plays out daily for the Magic big man.

The All-Star center has surprisingly hit as many as 28 straight free throws in practice during Orlando's training camp. The work is all part of his goal to rid his free-throw woes after missing a costly pair in the waning seconds in Game 4 of the NBA finals, a blown opportunity that still haunts Howard.

"It's not gone yet. Every day I wake up and I think about what happened," Howard said. "Every day I get a reminder when I turn on the TV ... first

thing I see is Kobe (Bryant) putting up the championship sign. You think about it, and I haven't stopped thinking about it since we lost. I put some of the moments away, but losing something when you're so close, it hurts. So you don't want to go through that experience again."

Howard is a dominant presence in the paint and he attempted more free throws (849) than any other player last year. That's why he has gone to great lengths trying to solve his problems at the stripe.

Howard spends nights at the Magic's practice facility, even inviting friends to blast music and distract him during shots. There are days he takes more than 300 free throws and he's usually the last player to leave the court. "He's dedicated to make himself a good free throw shooter," point guard Jameer Nelson said.

Practice has never been Howard's problem. The games are where it hurts.

He's a 60 percent career free throw shooter, a big reason why the Magic often turned elsewhere for offense in the final seconds in the playoffs last season. The

finals are where it really stung.

In Game 4, Howard set a finals record with nine blocked shots, had 16 points and 21 rebounds. He was putting on a performance for the ages, then he was fouled with 11.1 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter and Orlando ahead 87-84. All he needed was to make one and the game would likely have been sealed and the series tied.

He clanked them both. The Lakers rallied. The Magic were eventually eliminated.

"I'm going to be better this season," Howard said. "We're going to be better. We fell short last season. We just want to win a championship now."

Howard isn't the first All-Star center to struggle at the line. Shaquille O'Neal and Wilt Chamberlain stand out the most, a pair of dominant big men who have six NBA titles between them, but never could solve their free-throw stroke. O'Neal (52 percent) and Chamberlain (51 percent) rank as some of the worst free throw shooters in league history.

Reflecting on the '09 Hall of Famers

FROM page 16

here at home.

Another being honoured posthumously is **Anthony Carroll**. Many will remember the gentle giant who paraded down Bay Street as a one-man show during the junkanoo celebrations.

But Carroll was a dual legend in bodybuilding, going all the way to the top where he excelled as Mr World, following in the footsteps of fellow inductee **Kingsley Poitier**. And he also shined under the international bright lights as an actor, having starred in a number of plays and movies.

And then who could forget **Errol Bodie**, a quiet individual who developed the respect and reputation as being one of the top track and field coaches in the country. As a resident of Grand Bahama, Bodie, in my opinion, he never really got the recognition and opportunity to display his skills internationally like his New Providence counterparts.

Talking about matching up to their counterparts, there's **Florence "Flo" Rolle**, who grew up playing multiple sporting events. She was so versatile that she played in softball, volleyball, basketball, track and field and netball and she made at least one national team in just about every sport.

All of the above, along with **Cliff Wilson, Doyle Burrows, Glen Wells, Ed Smith and the late Edwin "Sir D" Davies** should all been commended for the recognition they will receive. There are others who could have also been considered, but all of the above deserve to be inducted in the Class of 2009.

What's interesting to note is that during the celebrations dubbed National Sports Heritage Week, the ministry also intends to honour members of the national team that competed in August this year at the 12th IAAF World

STUBBS



OPINION

Championships in Athletics in Berlin, Germany.

The team continued the rich legacy of the Bahamas on the international scene with **Debbie Ferguson-McKenzie** clinching the bronze medal in the women's 200m and sharing the silver with team-mates **Sheniqua "Q" Ferguson, Chandra Sturup and Christine Amertil** in the 4 x 1 relay.

No specific details on the celebrations have been released at yet, but it's good that they are being recognised with some of the forerunners who set the pace. It should be a grand week for sports.

SAY A PRAYER WITH ME FOR MR C

Normally I wouldn't do something like this, but I ask you to join me in offering prayers for Mr Roger Carron, husband of The Tribune's publisher Eileen Carron and my former boss.

When I joined the staff as a budding young reporter, Mr Carron took me under his wings as he sat on the desk as the sports editor.

Mr C, as he was affectionately called, was very astute about the presenta-

tion of your story and he also taught me a valuable rule in journalism, particularly sports, and that is to always get both sides of an argument so that you can present a balanced report on the situation.

Even after he left the desk and up to the time of his latest illness that resulted in him having to undergo an emergency angioplasty to open a blocked artery as a result of a heart attack he suffered on Saturday, he would always come into the office and offer his wise comments on a story or a sporting event that caught his attention.

Mr C didn't just offer his criticism like so many people are quick to do, but he always provided a solution. His aim was to get the best out of your presentation.

I remember one of his latest inspections came just before the 12th World Athletics Championships as veteran sprinters **Debbie Ferguson-McKenzie** and **Chandra Sturup** were performing as if they were still in their prime.

Mr C came over to my desk one day and said 'Brent, don't forget to keep interjecting the ages of those girls. People need to know how fantastic their performances are compared to the other girls.'

Over the years, I've learnt quite a bit from Mr C. I certainly cherish the opportunity I have to work with him and would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you for your role as my mentor and motivator.

INSIGHT

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

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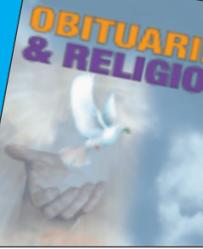
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Readers' views invited on dog pound conditions
STORY ON PAGE THREE

OBITUARIES and RELIGION
IN TODAY'S TRIBUNE



Bridgewater tells of trial 'ridicule'

Former PLP Senator, ex-ambulance driver open their defence in John Travolta case

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
nmckenzie@hotmail.com



PLEASANT BRIDGEWATER

FORMER PLP Senator Pleasant Bridgewater and ex-ambulance driver Tarino Lightbourne proclaimed their innocence in their sworn statements to the jury yesterday as the attempted extortion trial continued.

Bridgewater and Lightbourne are accused of attempting to extort \$25 million from American actor John Travolta.

The pair chose to make unsworn statements from where they stood outside the prisoner's dock. Lightbourne also called one witness in his defence, while Bridgewater said she did not intend to call any witnesses.

"I too have been shocked over some of the evidence that has come from this case," Bridgewater said. "January 22 is a day I will not forget. It was a day when my fairly structured and organised life became a life of deception and a horrible dream," she said.

"I have been ridiculed and ostracised. I have seen my business gone rock bottom," she told the jury. "Since January I have not seen a salary."

Bridgewater told the jury the ordeal has taken an emotional and financial toll on her. She said she has not been able to work, and because of a downturn in her business she has had to lay off some staff.

"As far as I am concerned I thought I was doing what was right as a citizen of the Bahamas and a professional," she said.

Bridgewater said she had known Lightbourne for 10 years and they also worked in close proximity of each other. She recalled that Lightbourne had come to her seeking legal advice after being terminated from his job. She said he had told her that since he had given an interview regarding the death of Jett Travolta, reporters had been calling him constantly.

Bridgewater said he told her he had a document they were

SEE page 14

SIR CLEMENT MAYNARD IS LAID TO REST



Felipe Major/Tribune Staff

THE COFFIN carrying the body of Sir Clement Maynard.

By AVA TURNQUEST

BAY Street stood still yesterday as former Deputy Prime Minister and Parliamentarian Sir Clement Travelyan Maynard made his final procession from Parliament House to Christ Church Cathedral and ultimately Eastern Ceremony where he was laid to rest.

Hundreds of hushed spectators waited on each side of the downtown stretch to witness the state funeral service that commanded the respect of all present.

Residents and visitors stood side by side with the tension only to be broken by the first rap from the Royal Bahamas Police Force Band, sending a visible ripple through the crowds as they marched.

Police Commissioner Reginald Ferguson said: "Despite the sadness, we are more than pleased to show up in large numbers to

SEE page six

Minister of State denies access to reports on Detention Centre

MINISTER of State for Immigration Branville McCartney is denying access to a fact-finding team's reports into the controversial Carmichael Road Detention Centre.

Mr McCartney said he would not give in to *The Tribune's* requests for publication because he disagrees with this newspaper's series of articles into allegations of abuse and mistreatment at the facility.

For months, Mr McCartney - whose 2007 party manifesto pledges greater transparency

and ensuring media access to information - has not followed through with assurances he would release the reports to *The Tribune* or grant a tour of the site.

In June, the junior immigration minister said he could not release the documents until he had discussed the matter with his Cabinet colleagues. Back in March he said he had no problems releasing the reports once he had the "opportunity to pass it by Cabinet".

SEE page six

Fury over Mitchell bid for PLP leadership

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

WHAT was intended to be a general foreign affairs update at PLP headquarters exploded into an all-out attack on Fox Hill MP Fred Mitchell after he confirmed to the gathering that he intends to challenge leader Perry Christie at the party's national convention.

Addressing what is being labeled as a "group of young PLP pseudo intellectuals", sources within the party said Mr Mitchell was confronted on what his

SEE page 12

Dr Nottage to announce PLP leadership bid this morning

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

DR BERNARD Nottage will formally announce his bid for the leadership of the Progressive Liberal Party at 11am today from his Bain and Grant's Town constituency office.

Duplicating the dramatic showdown which took place at the party's 1997 convention, both Dr Nottage and former Prime Minister Perry Christie will vie once again for the leadership of the party.

Joining them in this battle will

SEE page 12

Anglican Archdeacon acquitted of assault

ANGLICAN Archdeacon Ivan Ranfurly Brown was acquitted of an assault charge yesterday.

Father Brown, rector of St Agnes Anglican Church, was accused of choking and slapping a 14-year-old girl at a church picnic on Nirvana Beach, on October 13, 2008.

Magistrate Ancella Williams acquitted Father Brown on the grounds that the charge sheet was not properly signed as his attorney Wayne Munroe had contended.

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Attorney Cheryl Grant-Bethell
appointed new General Counsel

FREEPORT, Grand Bahama – The Grand Bahama Port Authority has announced the appointment of Attorney Cheryl Grant-Bethell as its new general counsel, effective November 2.

Called to the Bar of England and Wales in July 1988, and the Bahamas Bar in September 1988, Mrs Grant-Bethell has more than 20 years of experience in the judicial field. "We are more than pleased to have someone of the professional calibre as attorney Grant-Bethell. Her judicial background is impeccable and a perfect fit for our multi-faceted organisation," said Hannes Babak, chairman of the GBPA Group.

A seasoned lawyer, she received her LLB with honours



Cheryl Grant-Bethell

from Buckingham University in the UK in 1986, and LLM in commercial and corporate law from the University of London, Kings College, in 1990.

She is thoroughly experienced in court room advocacy with particular specialty in criminal capital prosecutions, in addition to providing effective representation and advice to the government in the negotiation of important bilateral and multi-lateral treaties.

She has received numerous appointments during her tenure in the public sector, including serving as acting director of the Financial Intelligence Unit, and representing the Bahamas at a seminar on money-laundering, asset forfeiture and the proceeds of crime in 2005.



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Mexican firm eyes BTC bid

* 'More than one or two' bidders interested in BTC, as due diligence phase of privatisation starts, with offers expected by end-November

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

A MEXICAN-headquartered telecoms conglomerate is among the potential bidders interested in acquiring a 51 per cent stake in the Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC), sources told Tribune Business yesterday, with "a select group of potential buyers" now invited to commence due diligence on the company.

Telmex, the company headed by billionaire Carlos Slim, which has operations in Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and other Latin American countries, was said by sources familiar with the situation to have had a team of executive in the Bahamas as far back as

Key FOCOL investor denies Port claims

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The largest shareholder in BISX-listed FOCOL Holdings yesterday said the company's Board of Directors would not have sold land to the Christie administration's proposed southwestern New Providence port unless it was acquired by the Government through compulsory acquisition.

Franklyn Wilson, responding to claims that the Christie administration's port location decision was based partly on rewarding PLP supporters who owned land in the area, said FOCOL's Board had never discussed selling the land required for that project.

Describing the claims as "a gross misrepresentation of anything that's true", Mr Wilson also questioned how FOCOL, as a publicly-traded company, could be perceived as "politically partisan". Apart from having hundreds of Bahamian retail investors as shareholders, he pointed out that the company's main shareholders included both FNM and PLP supporters.

The 2005 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the new port site, produced by Coastal Systems

International, said that among the property owners who land had to be acquired from were New Providence Development Company and Shell. FOCOL, through its Sun Oil subsidiary, acquired the assets and operations of Shell Bahamas in a deal that closed in early 2006.

"The majority of land is owned by New Providence Development Company," the EIA report said. "The Bahamas Electricity Corporation also owns a portion of the land. An additional small parcel exists on site, for which ownership has not yet been determined."

"At the centre of the proposed entrance corridor, the Shell oil company is a major landowner, possessing approximately 121,400 square metres/30 acres."

"Initial discussions with the New Providence Development Company and Shell Oil Company have resulted in positive feedback relative to the acquisition of this land."

A source familiar with discussions at the time on the Christie government's planned new port, proposed for a site between BEC's Clifton Pier plan and Commonwealth Brewery, said of the Shell holdings: "That parcel of land was critical to the port entrance. We couldn't get through to the port with-

out that acreage of land."

The source suggested that, after acquiring Shell, FOCOL could have either sold the land to the port to part-pay for the acquisition, or done a land-for-equity swap to gain a stake itself in the project.

This is likely to have been where claims regarding the port location being designed to benefit PLP supporters have originated from. Apart from Mr Wilson, FOCOL's main shareholders also include the trust of former PLP MP, minister and chairman, Bradley Roberts.

However, Mr Wilson emphatically denied such claims yesterday. "Our directors have never had discussions about selling the land, and I cannot imagine that is something the Board would have done without a compulsory acquisition by the Government," he told Tribune Business.

"We would have no motivation to do it. Whatever it is, I can say that. The directors have never ever discussed any matter about selling that property, and I cannot imagine we would be interested in doing it without a compulsory acquisition by the Government."

He added: "There is absolutely no

SEE page 5B

Retailer is 'struggling to survive'

John S George moves to close Harbour Bay store

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

A well-known Bahamian retailer is continuing to downsize with the closure of its Harbour Bay store, its owner telling Tribune Business yesterday that the company was "really struggling to survive" amid the ongoing recession.

Andrew Wilson confirmed that John S George was in the process of closing its Harbour Bay operation, although he was unable to give an exact date for the closing as the store was still clearing/selling off its remaining inventory.

Responding to Tribune Business's inquiries, after this newspaper received several calls informing it of the closure, Mr Wilson said: "That's right; Harbour Bay is closing down. I can confirm that. We're just really struggling to survive."

SEE page 8B

CLICO liquidated \$10m deposit to cover expenses

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

CLICO (Bahamas) liquidated a \$10 million bank deposit to generate cash and help cover \$12 million in operating expenses in the two months immediately prior to it being placed under Supreme Court supervision, its liquidator has confirmed, "a further indication that the company was insolvent".

Craig A. 'Tony' Gomez, in his first report to the Supreme Court as the insurer's liquidator, said that while the Bahamas-based term deposit initially appeared to have been liquidated to settle policy surrenders, in reality the funds were used to meet operating expenses during its last two months in operation.

"My review of the company's general ledger for the period from December 31, 2008, to February 24, 2009, revealed that the funds were used to cover daily operating expenses, commissions paid to agents and bonuses paid to agents," Mr Gomez alleged in his report.

"The above was a further indication that the company was insolvent and not able to meet recurring expenses, and

* Move to pay \$12m costs 'a further indication that the company was insolvent'

had to resort to invested assets to enable it to fund its operations."

Of the \$12.018 million paid out over the period, Mr Gomez alleged that CLICO (Bahamas) general ledger showed some \$6.037 million went to cover operating expenses. A further \$4.415 million went on agent commissions, and \$1.567 million on agent bonuses.

As of the July 7, 2009, date of his report, Mr Gomez said he had retained some 16 of CLICO (Bahamas) former 141 staff members to assist the liquidation, the rest having been released on April 15 and given their redundancy letters.

"At the time of their release, and to the date of this report, the company was not in position to pay severance amounts," Mr Gomez warned. As a result, 18 former CLICO (Bahamas) employees had filed trade disputes with the Labour Board

SEE page 4B

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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.

Clearing House needs key law amendments

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

BAHAMIAN commercial banks are "making progress" towards the full launch/implementation of an Automated Clearing House (ACH), senior industry executives told Tribune Business yesterday, although key legislative changes are needed to ensure the system takes its "true form".

While there was "guarded optimism" that all the technical issues affecting the ACH were being worked through, banking industry sources have told this newspaper that criti-

- * Banks 'making progress' on ACH electronic payments system, and 'guarded optimism' technical issues close to being resolved
- * But sources say laws need amending to ensure electronic cheque images can be accepted as legal tender
- * Operational issues also outstanding

cal operational and legal issues still needed to be addressed, especially when it came to ensuring electronic images of cheques could be accepted as legal tender.

To enable this to happen, banking industry sources, who

requested anonymity, said the Bill of Exchange Act, which regulates how cheques are handled and cashed, needed to be amended by Parliament.

Needless to say, such

SEE page 12B

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BUSINESS



SHOWN (l-r) are Nicole Pratt-Rolle (director), Marie Cargill (director), Anita Bain (director), Francisco Ceruti (chief executive, BSI Trust Corporation (Bahamas), Tony Schweitzer (partner of Fraser, Milner Casgrain LLP, Toronto, Ontario), Tanya Hanna (STEP Bahamas chairperson), Dianne Bingham (director), Karen Haven (director), Timothy Colclough (director)



SHOWN (l-r) are Nicole Pratt-Rolle (director), Marie Cargill (director), Anita Bain (director), Ricardo Taylor (STEP diploma scholarship recipient), Tanya Hanna (STEP chairperson), Dianne Bingham (director), Karen Haven (director), Timothy Colclough (director)

STEP-ping it up on Canada trust laws

A leading Canadian attorney has given members of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) Bahamas an update on current issues affecting that

nation's trust laws. Tony Schweitzer, of Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP in Toronto, gave a presentation that included an overview of recent decisions of the Tax Court of Canada on the taxation of trusts.

The presentation also included a summary of other developments in Canada in respect of the taxation of trusts. The luncheon was sponsored by BSI Trust Corporation (Bahamas).

STEP (Bahamas) also awarded a scholarship for one module of the STEP Diploma programme in International Trust Management to Ricardo Taylor at the luncheon.

INSIGHT

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

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Bahamas needs new tax system

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Business Reporter
crobards@tribunemedia.net

THE BAHAMAS must implement a new tax system, such as Value Added Tax (VAT), as the country moves towards full membership in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) president said yesterday.

Reece Chipman insisted that the Bahamas will have to wean itself off its dependency on Customs revenues, as new rules-based trading regimes evolve and require the elimi-

nation of import-based tariffs in line with WTO rules.

"The Bahamas should be looking at some alternate forms of revenue because we can't depend on customs revenues as we have been," he said.

Legal

Ethlyn Norton-Coke, UTECH Jamaica's legal counsel and compliance officer, told BICA members about the benefits and disadvantages of implementing a VAT system, as opposed to an income tax system.

She maintained that com-

pliance is of the utmost importance in any tax system, as well as proper regulation by government.

Ms Norton-Coke said a tax at the point of sale was a far more manageable system than an income tax or Customs duties in terms of the percentage of compliant taxpayers.

She said the evasion of Customs-related taxes plagues not just Jamaica but many Caribbean countries that rely on them.

"We really have a compliance problem, but the best compliance is with VAT," said Ms Norton-Coke.

The IMF recently touted the Bahamas' fiscal stability, but suggested that it broaden its revenue base in order to decrease its national debt.

In his 2009-2010 budget contribution, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham suggested that if the Bahamas were to implement another source of revenue collection it would be a VAT.

"It may also be the case that the revenue base is simply too narrow, as is repeatedly mentioned in IMF reports," he said.

"If it is necessary to widen the revenue base, the change will come by implementing some form of sales tax to cover deficiencies. For example, a Value Added tax has been adopted by over 140 countries around the world and would represent a prime candidate for the Bahamas."

However, Ms Norton-Coke revealed that VAT was usually a much more successful taxation method in countries with large manufacturing, wholesale and retail sectors. In those cases, the VAT is "favoured over the traditional sales tax because it is charged at each tier of the consumption process".

She said that in countries such as India, with a sizable manufacturing sector, VAT is a key source of revenue.

While the system it is not devoid of corruption, Ms Norton-Coke argued that it was the most efficient method of assuring that the Treasury receives the majority of public funds due.

"VAT is a broadbased tax that is conceptually superior in design," she said.

Nations

Ms Norton-Coke said that as the Bahamas and other nations enter into the WTO, revenue from customs duties will decrease. And Mr Ingraham, in his budget contribution, said: "Compliance is low and more vigorous enforcement is vital."

However, he suggested this country fix the current revenue streams before considering the implementation of VAT.

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BUSINESS

CLICO liquidated \$10m deposit to cover expenses

FROM page 1B

against him, "contesting the omission of 'Notice Pay' from their redundancy letters".

The matter, though, has "been dispensed with" after Mr Gomez's attorneys told Department of Labour officials at a June 17, 2009, conciliation meeting that the matter should be deferred because CLICO (Bahamas) was in court-supervised liquidation.

"Former staff members of the company continue to call me on a regular basis inquiring as to when they would receive their severance packages," Mr Gomez said.

"Some staff members also

met with me on the same matter. I also received numerous phone calls and correspondence from attorneys making representation on behalf of employees inquiring about severance packages."

Mr Gomez said the Supreme Court had also given its approval to settle a \$180,000 debt owed by CLICO (Bahamas) to its Trinidad affiliate, the latter having provided IT support, accounting and policy management services to the Bahamian company.

These services had been rendered under a service agreement that started in 2008, having previously been available free, and payments were outstanding from Janu-

ary 2008, Mr Gomez alleged.

He added that the bill needed to be paid so that the liquidation team could obtain current accounting and policy administration information, as CLICO Trinidad was preparing to discontinue these services.

"Failure to have access to essential information, such as accounting and policy details, has hindered the progress of the liquidation," Mr Gomez said. "However, since settlement of the outstanding debt to CLICO Trinidad, we have had unhindered access to the system, but challenges remain.

"While the system generates financial statements and policy details, we have had to spend a tremendous amount

of time attempting to organise and reconcile both the accounting and policy portfolio records."

Mr Gomez said he was in the process of returning 317 policy contracts amended prior to the liquidation, with some 27 handed back already. He still had to track down the other 290 policyholders.

Meanwhile, CLICO (Bahamas) liquidator has placed a \$360,786 demand letter from FirstCaribbean International Bank (Bahamas), requesting immediate repayment of outstanding loans to the company, on his list of creditors "in the order of its ranking".

The bank, Mr Gomez added, was concerned that

some \$35 million worth of its mortgages were secured by life insurance policies issued by CLICO (Bahamas).

Elsewhere, the liquidator said he was investigating the \$34 million and \$15.5 million claims submitted by CLICO Guyana and CLICO Suriname respectively.

"My preliminary review of the documentation suggests that the policies were not issued by the company," Mr Gomez alleged. "Moreover, the premiums received by Guyana and Suriname were never paid to the company."

"It appears that the funds were directly remitted to bank accounts in the US. Notwithstanding this, the premium proceeds are reflected in the records as an inter-company loan."

Mr Gomez said his team was also investigating the beneficial ownership of CLICO Enterprises, the CLICO (Bahamas) affiliate through which the majority of the latter's investments were made.

A search of CLICO Enterprises' corporate records, he alleged, had produced annual returns - filed in September 2007 with the Companies Registry - showing its shareholders as Mayco Holdings and Nardco Holdings. Each held one share.

A further search of these entities' records, the liquidator alleged, found their share-

holders to be Ellen Serville, Vanria Greene and Nadia Richardson. All three were employees of Serville & Co, and were acting as nominees, Mr Gomez claimed.

Some 179 policies, with paid premiums of \$46,038, were due to be refunded by CLICO Bahamas because due diligence on the prospective policyholders had not been completed at the liquidation date.



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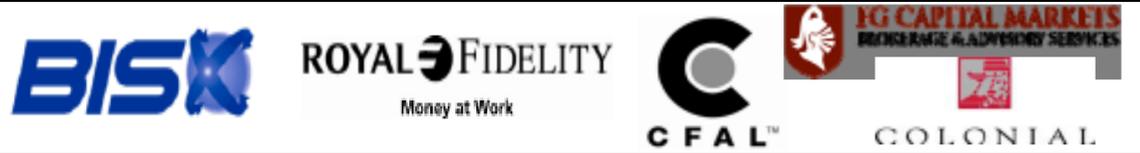
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FINDEX: CLOSE 789.77 | YTD -5.40% | 2008 -12.31%
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52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
1.81	1.15	AML Foods Limited	1.15	1.15	0.00	0.127	0.000	9.1	0.00%	
11.80	9.90	Bahamas Property Fund	10.75	10.75	0.00	0.992	0.200	10.8	1.86%	
9.30	6.18	Bank of Bahamas	6.18	6.18	0.00	0.244	0.260	25.3	4.21%	
0.89	0.63	Benchmark	0.63	0.63	0.00	-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
3.49	3.15	Bahamas Waste	3.15	3.15	0.00	0.078	0.090	40.4	2.86%	
2.37	2.14	Fidelity Bank	2.37	2.37	0.00	0.055	0.040	43.1	1.69%	
14.20	10.00	Cable Bahamas	10.00	10.00	0.00	1.406	0.250	7.1	2.50%	
2.88	2.74	Colina Holdings	2.74	2.74	0.00	0.249	0.040	11.0	1.46%	
7.50	5.26	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	5.92	5.92	0.00	0.419	0.300	14.1	5.07%	
3.85	1.27	Consolidated Water BDRs	3.74	3.73	-0.01	0.111	0.052	33.6	1.39%	
2.85	1.32	Doctor's Hospital	2.05	2.05	0.00	0.382	0.080	5.4	3.90%	
8.20	6.60	Famguard	6.60	6.60	0.00	0.420	0.240	15.7	3.64%	
12.50	8.80	Finco	9.30	9.30	0.00	0.322	0.520	28.9	5.59%	
11.71	10.29	FirstCaribbean Bank	10.29	10.29	0.00	15,650	0.794	0.350	13.0	3.40%
5.53	4.95	Focol (S)	4.99	4.99	0.00	2,000	0.332	0.150	15.0	3.01%
1.00	1.00	Focol Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
0.45	0.30	Freeport Concrete	0.30	0.30	0.00	0.035	0.000	8.6	0.00%	
9.02	5.49	ICD Utilities	5.50	5.50	0.00	19,879	0.407	0.500	13.5	9.09%
12.00	9.98	J. S. Johnson	10.09	9.98	-0.11	3,253	0.952	0.640	10.5	6.41%
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.180	0.000	55.6	0.00%	

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

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

52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD%	Last 12 Months	Div \$	Yield %	NAV Date
1.4038	1.3344	CFAL Bond Fund	1.4038	3.72	5.20			31-Aug-09
3.0350	2.8952	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	2.8990	-1.39	-4.16			31-Aug-09
1.4892	1.4119	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.4892	3.87	5.47			11-Sep-09
3.6090	3.0941	Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	3.0941	-8.61	-13.59			31-Aug-09
13.0484	12.3870	Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.1136	3.93	5.87			31-Aug-09
101.6693	100.0000	CFAL Global Bond Fund	101.6693	1.10	1.67			30-Jun-09
100.9600	93.1992	CFAL Global Equity Fund	96.7398	0.35	-4.18			30-Jun-09
1.0000	1.0000	CFAL High Grade Bond Fund	1.0000	0.00	0.00			31-Dec-07
9.4075	9.0775	Fidelity International Investment Fund	9.3399	2.69	-1.41			31-Jul-09
1.0707	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.0707	3.38	5.14			31-Aug-09
1.0364	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.0319	-0.11	2.05			31-Aug-09
1.0673	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.0673	2.89	4.93			31-Aug-09

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52wk-Hi - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks
Previous Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily volume
Today's Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume
Change - Change in closing price from day to day
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today
DIV \$ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings
(S) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/8/2007
(S1) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/11/2007
YIELD - Last 12 month dividends divided by closing price
Bid \$ - Buying price of Colina and Fidelity
Ask \$ - Selling price of Colina and Fidelity
Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price
Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week
EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 months
NAV - Net Asset Value
N/M - Not Meaningful
FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index. January 1, 1994 = 100

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ARGOSA CORP. INC.
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Key FOCOL investor denies Port claims

FROM page 1B

reason for FOCOL to be seen in any partisan political context. It is a public company, and among its largest shareholders are very high profile supporters of both parties.

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Coastal Systems concluded: "Based on the growth projections for the tourism indus-

try and the island's population, it is apparent that commercial shipping operations will likely need to increase capacity in order to accommodate increased numbers of visitors/inhabitants on New Providence.

"Increased commercial shipping operations will require more capacity from

New Providence's ports in order to efficiently process both inbound and outbound cargo.

"Spread over approximately 50 acres in downtown Nassau and Arawak Cay, the existing port facilities in Nassau are at or near capacity, with only marginal room for expansion."

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NOTICE

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Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 105 of the Cooperative Societies Act, 2005 the voluntary liquidation of **Bahamas Agribusiness Cooperative Society Limited** has commenced. All claims against the aforementioned Cooperative must be submitted to and received by THE LIQUIDATOR before October 31, 2009 at PO Box SS 6462, Nassau, Bahamas.

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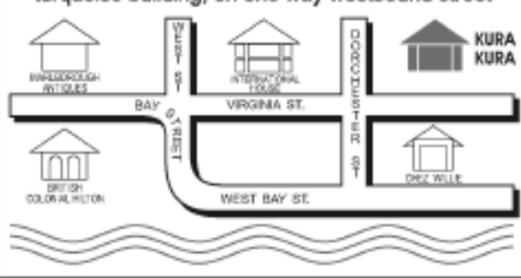
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BUSINESS

Bureau needed for more trust

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

THE creation of a Bahamas-based Better Business Bureau (BBB) would increase consumer confidence in the business community and cause companies to act in the best interests of their employees and clients, the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce's executive director said yesterday.

Philip Simon said the Bahamas lacks the structure to establish an institution such as a Better Business Bureau, which exists in the US and Canada. He added that the Chamber of Commerce acts as a Bureau of sorts, but its reach extends only to its membership.

In the US and Canada, he explained that only approved companies are eligible to become partners with the Better Business Bureau, and are held to stringent best practices and standards of trust.

Trust is an essential part of a Better Business Bureau's mission, Mr Simon said, in addition to creating a community of trustworthy businesses, setting standards for marketplace trust, encouraging and supporting best practices, celebrating role models and denouncing substandard market behaviour.

"Better Business Bureaus work effectively in the US because of tax structures and credible information," said Mr Simon. "You can't get that in the Bahamas, as you have to trust the membership and trust the organisation."

Mr Simon said there was a lack of trust in the wider business community, and a commerce system not conducive to information sharing and gathering. "So when complaints are made, you can't corroborate that without being able to verify it," said

Mr Simon. "You don't want to end up in a scandalous, libellous type of situation."

While the question of what could be done for Solomon's Mines employees, some of whom have allegedly not received pay for more than five months, prompted the discussion of Better Business Bureau's with Mr Simon, he said their plight WAS the responsibility of the Labour Board.

Mr Simon said the Chamber may mediate a labour dispute with one of its members if a complaint reaches its doorstep, but the organisation can only impose peer pressure. It has no legal or legislative authority to act on

behalf of the employees or the company.

"We contact those companies' chief executives or managers and let them know what is happening in their businesses," said Mr Simon. "What usually happens, particularly in our membership, is they are not aware of the particular complaint. We act as Better Business Bureau."

He said that in order to establish a viable Better Business Bureau in the Bahamas, private sector associations, such as small and medium-sized business associations, and the Government must come together to introduce a culture of trust and information sharing.

NOTICE

WEST WINDS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting of West Winds Property Owners Association Limited

Please be advised an Extraordinary General Meeting of West Winds Property Owners Association Limited (WWPOA) will be held on Tuesday, October 20th, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the evening at the Pavilion, West Winds.

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BUSINESS

Caribbean Bottling Co. (Bahamas) Ltd



Is seeking candidates that are performance- driven to join our expanding, high volume, dynamic team for the position of

SALES & MARKETING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Responsibilities of the function include but are not limited to:

- Administrative Support to Sales & Marketing Team
- Provide Progress Reports On Promotions & Events
- Responsible For Point of Sale Orders & Inventory Control
- Provide Support To Customers As Needed

Requirements:

- A Bachelor's Degree Preferred, Associates in Marketing or equivalent to, OR
- Minimum of two years work experience in the related field
- The ability to multi-task, communicate effectively in both a written and verbal manner and be a team player.
- Computer literate, including fundamental knowledge of Microsoft Office.

Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications.

If you are interested in a progressive career path, designed to bring out the best in you, please email or hand deliver a copy of your Resume on or before **October 23rd 2009** to:

Marketing Department
Caribbean Bottling Co. (Bah.) Ltd.
P.O. Box N-1123
Nassau, Bahamas.

or by Email to:
cbcmktg@ccebahamas.com

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PUBLIC HOSPITALS AUTHORITY

VACANCY NOTICE

MANAGER III (HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT)

SANDILANDS REHABILITATION CENTER

Applications are invited from suitably qualified individuals for the post of Manager III, Human Resources Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre, Public Hospitals Authority.

Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, Management, Public Administration, Human Resources or equivalent and three (3) years relevant experience.
- Strong interpersonal, networking and negotiation skills; also high-level analytical, creative and problem solving skills
- Be computer literate
- Excellent communication skills both oral and written

Job Summary

The Manager III is responsible for assisting with the day to day administration of human resources transactions and services; to ensure that the Sandilands rehabilitation Centre human resources policies and procedures, transactions and services are aligned with the Authority's business objectives.

The duties will include, but not limited to the following:

1. Probationary Appointments
Confirmations in substantive posts
Promotions and reclassification
Benefits under the Authority's policies
Benefits under the law, e.g. Employment Act, Pension Act and National Insurance Act
Employee transfer and secondment
Employee grievances
Disciplinary actions and penalties
Involuntary and voluntary terminations
2. Liaising with Payrolls Unit with matters relating to salaries adjustments and financial clearances.
3. Managing the performance appraisal process for staff within assigned areas of responsibilities, ensuring that evaluations are ongoing and appraisal forms are prepared, distributed and reviewed.
4. Opportunities will also be given for involvement in human resources strategic functions such as policies, development, quality improvement initiatives.

The successful applicant will be responsible to the Department Head.

The salary for the post is in Scale HAAS8 (\$28,050 x 700 - \$34,350) per annum. Starting salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Letters of application, resume, documentary evidence of qualification and three (3) references should be submitted, no later than 30th October, 2009 to the **Human Resources Director, Public Hospitals Authority, P.O. Box N 8200, Corporate Office, Third terrace Centerville, Nassau Bahamas.**



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THE TRIBUNE



The Tribune

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Retailer 'struggling to survive'

FROM page 1B

However, he said no redun-

dancies would result, as the Harbour Bay store staff - believed to number around four or five persons - were

being redeployed within John S George's remaining businesses. Mr Wilson declined to comment further.

John S George now consists of its flagship Palmdale store, warehouse and head office, plus its Cable Beach interests. In the past two years, it has also closed outlets in Lyford Cay and on Independence Drive.

The retailer appears to be another example of a business, already troubled, which is now struggling to survive a deep recession. The blame for that cannot be laid at Mr Wilson's door, as John S George had suffered under the ill-fated ownership of the buyout group put together by Ken Hutton and, in the opinion of many observers, stagnated under the ownership group before that.

Benefit

Without the benefit of hindsight or a crystal ball, Mr Wilson's 2007 purchase of the business from Mr Hutton's group appears badly timed, having taken place just before the economy lurched into a full-blown downturn - and after Mr Wilson had invested some \$1 million in upgrading John S George.

The retail chain's staffing levels have been cut drastically as a result of the downturn, Mr Wilson earlier this year describing current retail trading conditions as "the most challenging since getting into" the business.

Apart from John S George, Mr Wilson also owns Quality Business Centre (QBC), the Radioshack franchise and a host of fashion retail formats. All those outlets, he told Tribune Business earlier this year, were weathering the downturn well.

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- train and educate staff to foster strong compliance culture within the firm;
- identify potential areas of compliance vulnerability and risk, firm wide and develop and implement corrective action plans for resolution of problematic issues;
- safeguard the firm from any possible reputation damage and protect and enhance the reputation of the firm;
- draft and update the firm's retainer agreements;

Qualifications:

- Minimum 5 years of Compliance experience
- Solid communication, presentation, and interpersonal skills
- Strong computer and database management skills
- Organizational and project management skills with the ability to multi-task and attention to detail
- Four(4) year college degree required.

Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications
Attractive benefits

Reply in confidence to: vacancy50@gmail.com



THE PUBLIC HOSPITALS AUTHORITY NOTICE

TENDER FOR PROVISION OF CLEANING SERVICES, PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITALS

Tenders are invited from qualified contractors to provide cleaning services for The Princess Margaret Hospital, Public Hospitals Authority, for a period of one (1) year.

Tender documents, which include instructions to tenderers, specifications and other relevant information, can be collected 9 am - 5:00 pm Monday to Friday at The Public Hospitals Authority, Corporate Centre "B", Third & West Terraces Collins Avenue.

A tender must be submitted in duplicate in a sealed envelope or package identified as A TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF CLEANING SERVICES, PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL@ and addressed to:

THE CHAIRMAN,
TENDERS COMMITTEE
THE PUBLIC HOSPITALS AUTHORITY
CORPORATE CENTRE "B"
THIRD AND WEST TERRACES COLLINS AVENUE
P.O. BOX NB8200
NASSAU, BAHAMAS

TENDERS ARE TO ARRIVE AT THE PUBLIC HOSPITALS AUTHORITY NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M. ON **November 6th, 2009.**

A copy of a current business license and a certificate verifying up to date National Insurance Contributions should accompany all proposals.

The Public Hospitals Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tender(s).

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Anglican Education... building Global Citizens - prepared for life!



BUSINESS

Mexican firm eyes BTC bid

FROM page 1B

March/April this year, exploring the feasibility of BTC as a privatisation target.

"They've [Telmex] had bodies on the ground during this process," said one source familiar with Telmex's interest. The Mexican-based company would seemingly be a good fit for BTC, as it currently offers fixed-line telecoms, Internet, data, hosting services and Internet Protocol (IP) TV - all business lines that the state-owned incumbent is currently in, or seeking to move into.

The most valuable component of BTC is its cellular monopoly, which according to the company's 2007 annual report accounted for 68 per cent - more than two-thirds - of its annual revenues that year.

Telmex has expertise here, too, having spun-off its cellular unit in 2000 to create

America Movil. Telmex/America Movil's interest in BTC and the Bahamas has been longstanding, the two entities having participated in the failed 2003 privatisation process by paying a deposit to enter the 'data room' and conduct due diligence on the Bahamian company back then.

Observers

That was felt by many observers then to have been a 'spying mission', assessing the Bahamian telecoms market and how ripe it was for a new cellular player - the main interest said to have been acquiring a cellular licence for America Movil.

Meanwhile, sources suggested that other players interested in BTC included Digicel (although it is purely a cellular company to date), Cable & Wireless and AT&T. The latter part-owns the

Bahamas Cable System with BTC, which carries the latter's traffic, and the Bahamas would be a natural extension to its existing Florida presence.

A spokesman for the BTC privatisation committee, which yesterday announced that the due diligence phase of BTC's privatisation had commenced, said of the number of bidders: "It is a group. It is not one or two."

He added that Citigroup Global Markets, the company playing the 'investment banking role' of going out to solicit bids for BTC on the Government's behalf, did not want the identity of bidders or their number revealed for competitive reasons.

However, the spokesman said the level of interest shown in BTC to date had met the Government and Citigroup's expectations. "The

Government is very pleased with the level of interest so far, and the quality of the parties," he said.

Privatisation

The BTC privatisation committee said "significant interest" had been received so far from potential bidders, and the Government had "narrowed down" the list from the August pre-qualification phase to a "select group" they had invited to participate in the due diligence phase. The deadline for bids is expected to be the end of November 2009.

"As far as we can see, right now the bids are expected by the end of November. There'll be a selection process after that, and then the closing," the spokesman said, adding that he "imagined" BTC's privatisation was like-

ly to be completed in early 2010.

That would accord with the Government's timescale, since it is aiming to use the BTC privatisation proceeds to pay down debt and narrow an estimated \$200-\$300 million fiscal deficit for its 2009-2010 financial year. Completing the exercise before June 30 next year is a clear goal.

It is unclear what purchase price the Government expects to realise, although some close to the situation have suggested a figure of around

\$200 million. It is not known, though, whether that figure includes a \$30 million dividend the Government plans to take from BTC prior to privatisation.

Diligence

The due diligence phase will allow buyers to enter a 'Data Room', where they can access financial, business and legal information on BTC. They will also be able to meet with key members of BTC management.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2007
IN THE SUPREME COURT CLE/qui/00109
COMMON LAW AND EQUITY

ALL THOSE piece parcels or lots of land comprising 9,374 square foot and being Lot Number One (1) and Lot Number Two (2) situate in Block Number Forty Three (43) in a Subdivision called and known as "Englerston Subdivision" situated at the South-Eastern Junction of Homestead Avenue and Podelo Street in the Southern District of the Island of New Providence one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas which said piece parcel or lots of land are bounded on the North by a Road Reservation called and known as Homestead Avenue and running thereon approximately One hundred and Fourteen and Sixty Eight hundredths (114.68) feet partially on an acre, on the East by Lots Number 44 and 43 in the said Subdivision and running thereon Ninety Eight and Twelve Hundredths (98.12) feet and on the West by a Road Reservation called and known as Podelo Street and running thereon Eighty One and Three Hundredths (81.03) feet which said piece parcels or lots of land have such position, boundaries, shape, marks and dimensions as are more particularly delineated on the Plan recorded in the Department of Lands and Surveys as Plan No.3914 N.P.

AND

IN THE MATTER of the Quieting Titles

Act 1959

AND

IN THE MATTER of the Petition of JANE MCPHEE

NOTICE

The Quieting Titles Act, 1959.

The Petition of JANE MCPHEE of Podoleo Street in the Southern District of the Island of New Providence one of the Island of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas in respect of:-

ALL THOSE piece parcels or lots of land comprising 9,374 square feet and being Lot Number One (1) and Lot Number Two (2) situate in Block Number Forty Three (43) in a Subdivision called and known as "Englerston Subdivision" situated at the South-Eastern Junction of Homestead Avenue and Podelo Street in the Southern District of the Island of New Providence one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas which said piece parcel or lots of land are bounded on the North by a Road Reservation called and known as Homestead Avenue and running thereon approximately One Hundred and Fourteen and Sixty Eight Hundredths (114.68) feet partially on an acre, on the East by Lots Number 44 and 43 in the said Subdivision and running thereon Ninety Eight and Twelve Hundredths (98.12) feet and on the West by a Road Reservation called and known as Podelo Street and running thereon Eighty One and Three Hundredths (81.03) feet which said piece parcels or lots of land have such position, boundaries, shape, marks and dimensions as are more particularly delineated on the Plan recorded in the Department of Lands and Surveys as Plan NO.3914 N.P.

Jane Mcphee claims to be the owner of the fee simple estate in possession of the said pieces or parcels of land free from encumbrances. And the Petitioner has made application to the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas under Section 3 of the Quieting Titles Act, 1999 to have title to the said pieces parcels or tracts of land investigated and the nature and extent thereof determined and declared in a Certificate of Title to be granted by the Court in accordance with the provisions of the said Act.

NOTICE is hereby given that any person having a Dower or a right to Dower or an Adverse Claim or a claim not recognized in the Petition shall on before 26th November, A.D., 2009 file in the Supreme Court and serve on the Petitioners or the undersigned a Statement of his claim in the prescribed form verified by an Affidavit to be tiled therewith. Failure of any such person to file and serve a Statement of Claim on or before the 26th November, A.D., 2009 will operate as a bar to such claim.

Copies of the filed plan may be inspected at:

1. The Registry of the Supreme Court.
2. The Chambers of Messrs ROLLE & ROLLE., Attorneys for the Petitioner.

Dated the 28th day of September, A.D., 2009.
ROLLE & ROLLE
Chambers Seventh Terrace West, Centerville
Nassau, Bahamas
Attorneys for the Petitioner

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2009
IN THE SUPREME COURT
COMMON LAW AND EQUITY DIVISION CLE/GEN/01441

BETWEEN

IN THE MATTER of the Property comprised in a Deed of Mortgage dated the 27th day of July, A.D. 2001 between Antonio Thompson as Borrower and FirstCaribbean International Bank (Bahamas) Limited (formerly CIBC Bahamas Limited);

AND IN THE MATTER of the Conveyancing and Law of Property Act, Chapter 136 of the Revised Statute Laws of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

BETWEEN
FIRSTCARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL BANK (BAHAMAS) LIMITED (formerly, CIBC BAHAMAS LIMITED) Plaintiff
AND
ANTONIO THOMPSON Defendant

ADVERTISEMENT OF SERVICE OF NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO HEAR THE ORIGINATING SUMMONS

TAKE NOTICE that it has been ordered by the Honourable Justice Stephen Isaacs, Justice of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas that service of the Notice of Appointment to Hear the Originating Summons and the Notice of Adjourned Hearing in the said action be effected on you by this advertisement.

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

GIBSON, RIGBY & Co.
CHAMBERS
10 Blake House
Downsview Street
Nassau, The Bahamas
Attorneys for the Plaintiff

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2009
IN THE SUPREME COURT
COMMON LAW AND EQUITY DIVISION CLE/GEN/01441

BETWEEN

IN THE MATTER of the Property comprised in a Deed of Mortgage dated the 27th day of July, A.D. 2001 between Antonio Thompson as Borrower and FirstCaribbean International Bank (Bahamas) Limited (formerly CIBC Bahamas Limited);

AND IN THE MATTER of the Conveyancing and Law of Property Act, Chapter 136 of the Revised Statute Laws of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

BETWEEN
FIRSTCARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL BANK (BAHAMAS) LIMITED (formerly, CIBC BAHAMAS LIMITED) Plaintiff
AND
ANTONIO THOMPSON Defendant

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO HEAR THE ORIGINATING SUMMONS

TAKE NOTICE that the Originating Summons filed herein will be set down to be heard on Thursday the 17th day of September, A.D., 2009 at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon before Justice Stephen Isaacs, Justice of the Supreme Court, Bank Lane and East Street North, Nassau, The Bahamas.

Dated the 24th day of April, A.D., 2009

REGISTRAR

This Notice is issued by Gibson, Rigby & Co., Chambers, 10 Blake House, Downsview Street, Nassau, The Bahamas, Attorneys for the Plaintiff.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2009
IN THE SUPREME COURT
COMMON LAW AND EQUITY DIVISION CLE/QUI/01441

BETWEEN

IN THE MATTER of the Property comprised in a Deed of Mortgage dated the 27th day of July, A.D. 2001 between Antonio Thompson as Borrower and FirstCaribbean International Bank (Bahamas) Limited (formerly CIBC Bahamas Limited);

AND IN THE MATTER of the Conveyancing and Law of Property Act, Chapter 136 of the Revised Statute Laws of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

BETWEEN
FIRSTCARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL BANK (BAHAMAS) LIMITED (formerly, CIBC BAHAMAS LIMITED) Plaintiff
AND
ANTONIO THOMPSON Defendant

NOTICE OF ADJOURNED HEARING

TAKE NOTICE that the Notice of Appointment to Hear the Originating Summons filed on the 30th day of April, A.D. 2009 and set down to be heard on Thursday the 17th day of September, A.D., 2009 at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon will now be heard on **Monday the 26th day of October, A.D., 2009 at 11:00 o'clock in the forenoon** before Justice Stephen Isaacs, Justice of the Supreme Court, Senate Building, Parliament Street, Nassau, The Bahamas.

Dated the 17th day of September, A.D., 2009

REGISTRAR

This Notice is issued by Gibson, Rigby & Co., Chambers, 10 Blake House, Downsview Street, Nassau, The Bahamas, Attorneys for the Plaintiff.

Legal Notice
NOTICE
ROSEWOOD ISLAND LIMITED
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that the above-named Company is in dissolution, which commenced on the 9th day of October 2009. The Liquidator is Argosa Corp. Inc., P. O. Box N-7757 Nassau, Bahamas.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

Legal Notice
NOTICE
BRIGHT JADE HOLDINGS LTD.
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that the above-named Company is in dissolution, which commenced on the 9th day of October 2009. The Liquidator is Argosa Corp. Inc., P. O. Box N-7757 Nassau, Bahamas.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

Legal Notice
Notice
GLIDER MANAGEMENT LTD.
VOLUNTARILY LIQUIDATED

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 137 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000 the Dissolution of **GLIDER MANAGEMENT LTD.** has been completed, a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the Company has therefore been struck off the Register of Companies.

The Date of the Completion of dissolution was 25th September 2009.

David Thain
Liquidator

Legal Notice
NOTICE
SAILFAST FX FUND LTD.
IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with section 137 of the International Business Companies Act 2000 **SAILFAST FX LTD.** is in dissolution.

The Date of the Commencement of dissolution was 13th October 2009. David Thain of Amer Bank & Trust (Bahamas) Ltd., Building 2 Caves Village, P.O. Box N-3917 is the Liquidator of **SAILFAST FX FUND LTD.** All persons having claims against the above-named company are required to send their address and particulars of their debts to the Liquidator before the 13th November 2009.

David Thain
Liquidator

BUSINESS

Asian stocks up amid China optimism, oil above \$75

By JEREMIAH MARQUEZ
AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian stock markets rose Wednesday as China's economy showed more signs of recovery and oil prices touched a new high for the year above \$75 a barrel.

Helping lead the region's advance were shares in major technology companies after US chipmaker Intel Corp. issued a surprisingly cheery profit forecast for the rest of the year. The dollar, meanwhile, resumed its slide against the yen and the euro.

Investors

Investors were heartened by news the slump in China's exports eased in September, a sign global trade was improving and aiding the government's efforts to engineer a stronger turnaround in the world's third-largest economy.

Combined with huge amounts of easy money freed up by governments to rebuild their economies and companies, growth in China

has helped drive Asia's markets in the last six months.

"The writing is on the wall: China's economy is recovering," said Henry Chan, Hong Kong-based head of Asian equities at Baring Asset Management, which oversees more than \$9 billion in assets. "And when there's so much liquidity in the system it will have to go somewhere, and I think Asia's markets will go higher."

In mainland China, Shanghai's index jumped 62.52 points, or 2.1 per cent, to 2,998.71. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 292.93 points, or 1.4 per cent, to 21,760.29.

Japan's market was the region's only major loser, with the Nikkei 225 stock average shedding 0.2 per cent to 10,059.76 amid a stronger yen which hurts exporters.

Elsewhere, Australia's market gained 1.1 per cent, India's benchmark added 1.2 per cent and Taiwan's key index advanced 1.1 per cent.

Meanwhile, the slumping dollar sent commodities — which are largely priced in dollars and therefore tend to

rise when the US currency falls — surging once again. Gold traded near an all-time high of \$1,069.6 an ounce.

Barrel

Oil blew past its previous 2009 high of \$75, with a barrel of crude for November delivery rising 96 cents to \$75.11. The contract added 88 cents overnight.

On Wall Street Tuesday, the Dow fell 14.74, or 0.2 per cent, to 9,871.06.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 3.00, or 0.3 per cent, to 1,073.19, its first loss after six days of gains. The Nasdaq rose 0.75, or less than 0.1 per cent, to 2,139.89.

The dollar tanked to 88.96 yen from 89.69 yen. The euro climbed to \$1.4879 from \$1.4852.

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MUST HAVE

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Must be reliable.

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Why Now?

- US\$225 discounted airfare available plus taxes/fees until October 19th
- Discounted rooms available
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Register NOW at www.americasfoodandbeverage.com



For More Information Contact:

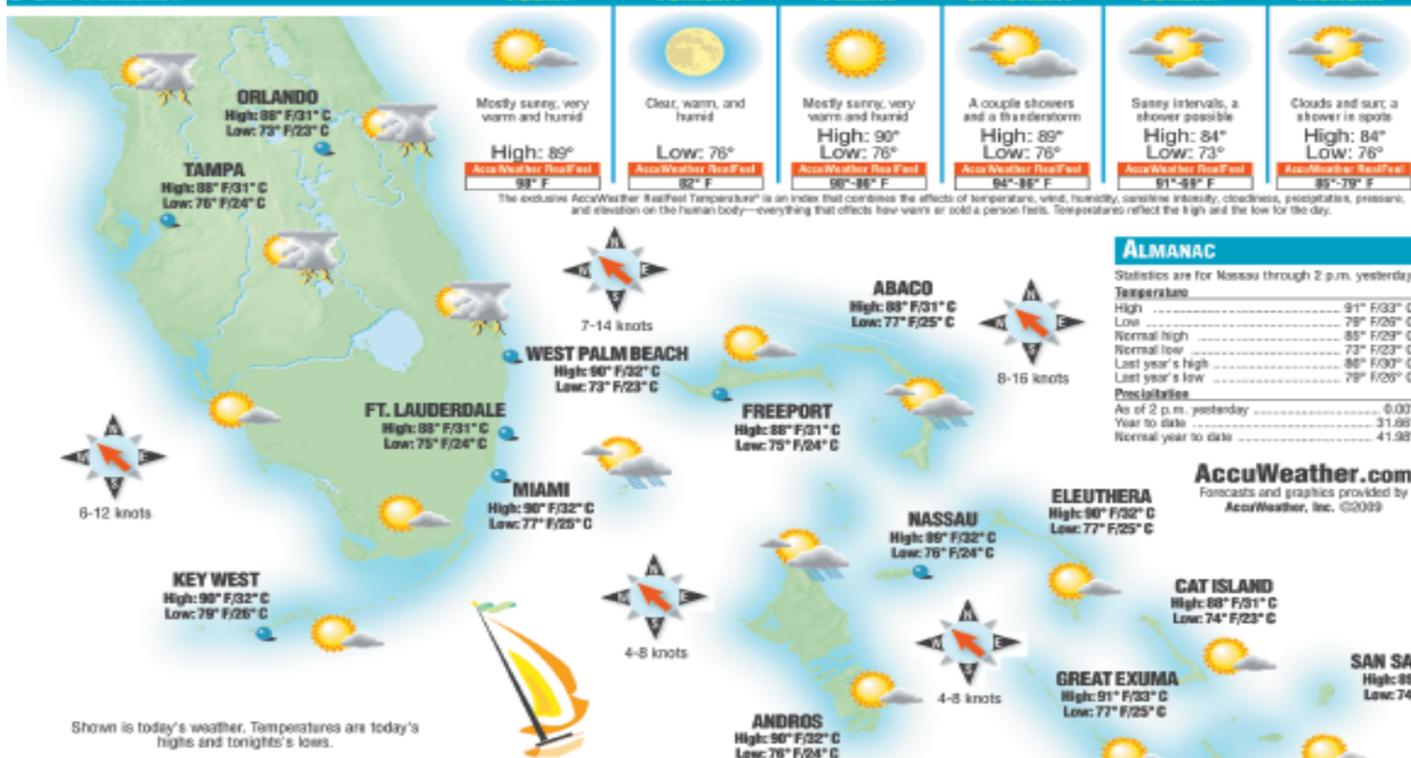
Omar Gonzalez/CBATO (305-536-5304)
Emy Rodriguez at Tel: 305-871-7910

THE WEATHER REPORT



INSURANCE MANAGEMENT (BAHAMAS) LIMITED
INSURANCE BROKERS & AGENTS

5-DAY FORECAST



UV INDEX TODAY



TIDES FOR NASSAU

Day	High	Hi (H.)	Low	Lo (H.)
Today	4:54 a.m. 6:15 p.m.	3.2	11:12 a.m. 3.2	0.4 0.1
Friday	5:46 a.m. 6:05 p.m.	3.5	12:06 p.m. 3.2	0.1 ---
Saturday	6:34 a.m. 6:52 p.m.	3.6	12:19 a.m. 3.1	0.0 0.1
Sunday	7:20 a.m. 7:38 p.m.	3.6	1:03 a.m. 3.0	-0.1 0.1
Monday	8:05 a.m. 8:22 p.m.	3.6	1:45 a.m. 2.9	0.0 0.1
Tuesday	8:48 a.m. 9:05 p.m.	3.5	2:28 a.m. 2.7	0.0 0.3
Wed.	9:32 a.m. 9:50 p.m.	3.3	3:10 a.m. 2.5	0.3 0.4

ALMANAC

Statistics are for Nassau through 2 p.m. yesterday

Temperature	Value
High	91° F/33° C
Low	79° F/26° C
Normal high	89° F/32° C
Normal low	73° F/23° C
Last year's high	88° F/30° C
Last year's low	78° F/25° C

Precipitation	Value
As of 2 p.m. yesterday	0.00"
Year to date	31.96"
Normal year to date	41.98"

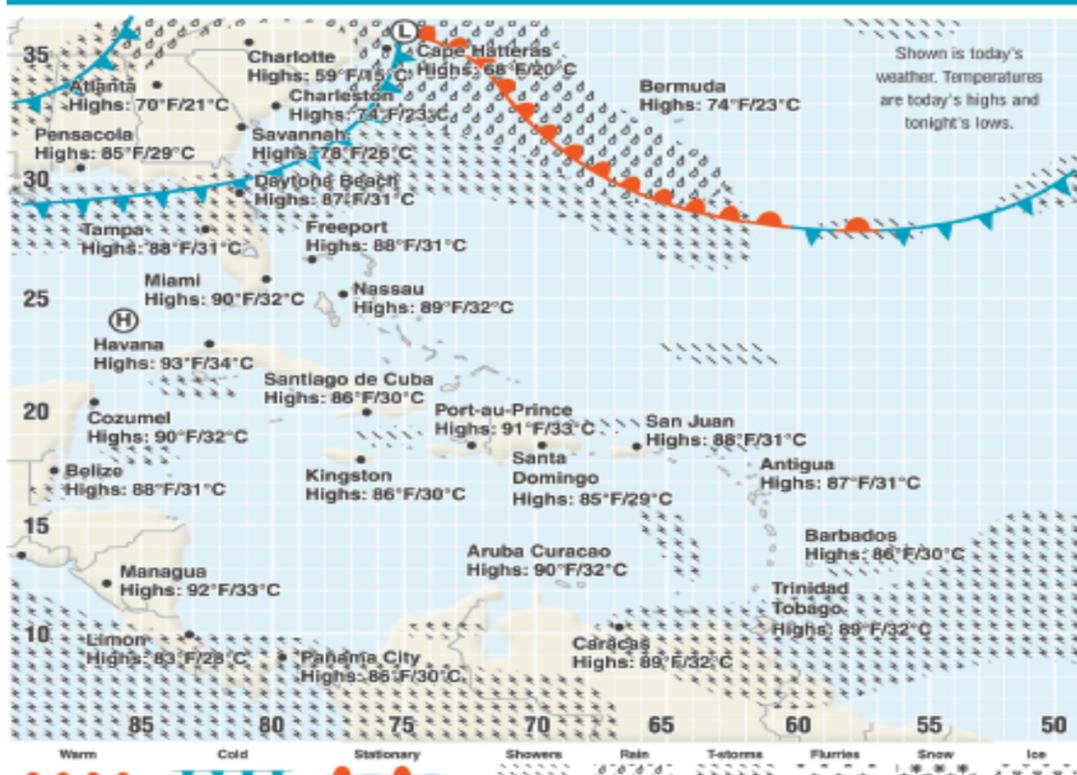
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SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	7:08 a.m.	Moonrise	4:26 a.m.
Sunset	6:43 p.m.	Moonset	4:53 p.m.

Phase	Date
New	Oct. 18
First	Oct. 25
Full	Nov. 2
Last	Nov. 9

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP



MARINE FORECAST

Location	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMPS.
ABACO	Today: SW at 8-16 Knots Friday: SW at 10-20 Knots	3-5 Feet 3-6 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	84° F 84° F
ANDROS	Today: S at 4-8 Knots Friday: S at 6-12 Knots	1-2 Feet 1-2 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	85° F 85° F
CAT ISLAND	Today: S at 6-12 Knots Friday: S at 6-12 Knots	1-3 Feet 1-3 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	84° F 84° F
CROOKED ISLAND	Today: ESE at 4-8 Knots Friday: ESE at 6-12 Knots	2-4 Feet 1-3 Feet	10 Miles 6 Miles	84° F 84° F
ELEUTHERA	Today: SSW at 6-12 Knots Friday: S at 7-14 Knots	2-4 Feet 1-3 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	85° F 85° F
FREEPORT	Today: WSW at 8-16 Knots Friday: WSW at 8-16 Knots	1-3 Feet 3-6 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	86° F 86° F
GREAT EXUMA	Today: SE at 4-8 Knots Friday: SSE at 6-12 Knots	1-2 Feet 1-2 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	84° F 84° F
GREAT INAGUA	Today: E at 7-14 Knots Friday: ESE at 4-8 Knots	2-4 Feet 1-2 Feet	10 Miles 6 Miles	85° F 85° F
LONG ISLAND	Today: SE at 6-12 Knots Friday: SE at 6-12 Knots	1-2 Feet 1-2 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	84° F 84° F
MAYAGUANA	Today: ESE at 7-14 Knots Friday: SE at 6-12 Knots	3-5 Feet 1-3 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	84° F 84° F
NASSAU	Today: SSW at 6-12 Knots Friday: SSW at 7-14 Knots	0-1 Feet 1-3 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	84° F 84° F
SAN SALVADOR	Today: SE at 7-14 Knots Friday: ESE at 6-12 Knots	1-3 Feet 1-3 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	85° F 85° F
RAGGED ISLAND	Today: S at 6-12 Knots Friday: S at 6-12 Knots	1-2 Feet 1-2 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	84° F 84° F



INSURANCE MANAGEMENT (BAHAMAS) LIMITED. INSURANCE BROKERS & AGENTS

BUSINESS

Sandals aims to bring 1,500 travel agents to Bahamas over six weeks

THE Sandals resort chain is aiming to boost tourism to the Bahamas by bringing 1,500 travel agents to this nation over a six-week period lasting until mid-November, all spending one night at its Royal Bahamian Resort & Spa.

The travel agents are visiting the Bahamas as part of the resort chain's MEGA FAM initiative, launched earlier this year and designed to familiarise that sector with what Sandals and this nation have to offer their clients.

There are 10 different opportunities for agents to visit the Sandals Royal Bahamian Resort. As an added bonus for agents participating in one of the 10 scheduled trips this autumn, they will have an opportunity to tour Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort Villages and Spa, spending one night in Turks & Caicos and one night in the Bahamas.

The trips will originate from the US east coast and mid-west, and feature a two-night, three-day MEGA FAM trip that includes accommodations in one of the resort's luxurious rooms and an exclusive Junkanoo dinner party at Sandals Royal Bahamian's pri-

vate island, Sandals Cay.

Travel agents will also have the opportunity to earn Certified Sandals Specialist (CSS) certification when they attend a four-hour training course. The certification provides meaningful benefits, including marketing tips and techniques; bonus commissions; and business tools such as co-branded collateral, websites and advertising opportunities.

All workshops feature an in-depth look at the latest developments across the Sandals Resorts International portfolio, including its latest addition, Sandals Emerald Bay, and Sandals Resorts' new partnership with Martha Stewart Weddings.

Dates for the new MEGA FAM trip to Sandals Royal Bahamian include:

October 5 – 7, 2009
Airfare from Chicago
October 8 – 10, 2009
Airfare from Milwaukee
October 19 – 21, 2009
Airfare from Detroit
October 22 – 24, 2009
Airfare from New York
October 26 – 28, 2009
Airfare from Atlanta
October 29 – 31, 2009



THE TRAVEL AGENTS (shown) are visiting the Bahamas as part of the resort chain's MEGA FAM initiative...

Airfare from Pittsburgh
November 2 – 4, 2009
Airfare from Baltimore
November 6 – 9, 2009

Airfare from Phoenix
November 10 – 12, 2009
Airfare from Miami
November 13 – 16, 2009

Airfare from Los Angeles

In April, May and June 2009, nine chartered flights

from major US and Canadian gateways brought more than 1,500 travel agents to Sandals Royal Bahamian Spa Resort.

ACH, from 1B

amendments may be some time away, given the crowded legislative agenda before Parliament and the Cabinet.

Paul McWeeney, Bank of the Bahamas International's managing director, who heads the Clearing Banks Association's ACH committee, told Tribune Business when contacted by this newspaper:

"Progress is being made."

He added that he was unable to say much more than that, but alluded to the necessary legislative changes needed to support the ACH and bring it into being.

"We have to address the legislative framework which supports it," Mr McWeeney added. "It's a lot more

involved than the banks."

Another banking industry source, more forthcoming on condition that they remained anonymous, said of the ACH: "We are making progress. They've had several days of [ACH] testing, doing entire days of transactions and exchanges of information between the banks."

"All that has been going reasonably well. There is guarded optimism that from a technical point of view, we will be able to reach a conclusion and launch. It seems we are getting there."

However, the source pointed out that apart from technical issues, the Bahamian commercial banks also had to tackle "operational issues", such as the ACH's cost and what the pricing structure should be.

Confirming Mr McWeeney's assertion that the outstanding issues went beyond the clearing banks, and into the realm of regulators, government and Parliament, the source said the key Act to be amended was the Bill of Exchange Act.

This regulated how cheques were handled and cashed, and with the ACH allowing electronic images of cheques to be used, the key is to amend that Act to allow these images to be accepted as legal tender, Tribune Business understands.

"Quite a few of these things need to take place before we can launch the ACH in its true form," the banking indus-

try source said.

THE failure to implement an Automated Clearing House (ACH) to-date, the system having promised as far back as 2003-2004, reared its head again this week. A former Bahamas Chamber of Commerce president argued that its absence had made "doing business in this country so prehistoric", the nation's payments and settlements system running exactly "like it was 100 years ago".

Dionisio D'Aguilar, who is also Superwash's president, said the failure to deliver technology to facilitate an electronic payments system was effectively holding up the rest of the business community, especially when it came to rolling out a widespread e-commerce platform.

"It's good for every single business," Mr D'Aguilar said of the ACH. "Putting in place an ACH is the first step to a cashless society. It's got to be cheaper than the process now of clearing cheques and handling tonnes of cash. It just makes the fact of doing business in this country so prehistoric."

"This is 2009. It should be

able to be done electronically. If I want to pay people electronically, I should be able to. It just continually delays the ability of business to operate in a cashless society.

"It would save companies an enormous amount of money if they did not have to hold on to such tremendous amounts of cash, and as such reduce the amount of cash they have to hoard. By not allowing an ACH, you're still operating a system where it takes too long for cheques to clear and everything is done manually, like it was 100 years ago."

Implementing an ACH would enable consumers and businesses to settle transactions in real-time, creating more certainty and confidence by cutting down on the quantity of 'bounced cheques' and buyer defaults, thus improving commercial sector cash flow. Taking cash out of the system would also lessen the attractiveness of companies as armed robbery targets.

The ACH was intended to replace the current manual system for settling cheque transactions, where cheques drawn on one bank but due to be deposited at another have to be taken by armoured car to a central location where they are settled by representatives of the various institutions.

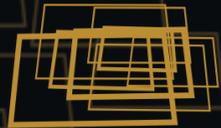
Apart from allowing inter-bank cheques to be processed electronically rather than manually at a cheque clearing facility, the ACH system would allow direct debits and credits from accounts, debit cards and a shared Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) network.

The latter would allow Bahamians to use their cash cards at any bank branch. It would also reduce the time persons spent in line waiting to cash and deposit pay cheques, as they could be deposited to their account.

Bahamian consumers would also be able to use direct debits from their bank accounts to pay bills such as cable television and electricity. The ACH could ultimately lead to the creation of just one back office system for the entire Bahamas. It may also help develop SWITCH products, where Bahamians could use their cash cards at any bank's ATM machine.

A further potential bonus from the ACH will be the opening up a whole range of electronic banking services in the Bahamas, including its use in the online purchase of government goods and services.

Ultimately, through modernising the Bahamian payments system through electronic means, it will also enhance economic and business efficiency by settling transactions quicker, boosting business cash flows.



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For more information, please call 322.3301.

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British Colonial Hilton
 Nassau



Caribbean Center For Child Development

The Caribbean Center for Child Development would like to invite applications from qualified and experienced candidates for the following vacancies:

Teaching Specialist for children with Autism: Teacher with certification in Autism needed for full-time employment. Teacher is expected to implement the full range of behavioral and educational programs individually designed for each student.

ABA Therapist for children with Autism: Experienced ABA or Verbal Behaviour Therapist. Experience working in clinical, in-home and school settings. Trained in the ABBS assessment a plus!

Teaching Specialist in Occupational Therapy: Position duties include providing OT therapy services to children from birth to 21 years of age. This individual performs evaluations, planning, and intervention to a variety of children with disabilities.

Music Teacher: Experienced Music Teacher to provide music therapy to children with disabilities.

All interested candidates should apply by email to: mmajor@caribbeancenter.org with:

- letter of application
- a personal statement
- a full curriculum vitae

For more detailed information on these positions and more, please visit our website at www.caribbeancenter.org

Thursday, October 15th, 2009

The Tribune

OBITUARIES

& RELIGION



The Tribune

My Voice, My Newspaper!

Let your light so shine before men, that they
may see your good works and glorify your
Father in heaven.

-Matthew 5:16





AFTER years of heated debates and controversy concerning capital punishment in the Bahamas, the government is now preparing to read a death warrant and send someone to the gallows for the first time in a decade. But what does the Bible say about capital punishment? What is the Christian stance on the issue?

While many Bahamians may be satisfied that justice is finally being done, Cephias Ferguson, ex-chaplain at Her Majesty's Prison and Bishop at the Church of God of Prophecy, told *Tribune Religion* that people should not be too hasty in urging the authorities to hang murderers.

As a former prison chaplain, Bishop Ferguson said he has had several experiences with hangings. In some of these cases, he said, the persons deserved the capital punishment, while others in his opinion did not.

And with the most recent pro-hanging march staged on Sunday, he added that Bahamians must look to the word of God for the answer concerning the questions on capital punishment.

"People today must study the word of God to get a concrete understanding of what the Bible says about capital punishment. The Bible stipulates what should happen in various instances of crime. The (people) cannot be so quick to say 'hang them, hang them', because this is a very long process and there must be patience, prayer and dialogue when dealing with cases like this," he said.

Bishop Ferguson said that the word of God holds the answers to every question on the death penalty, the only thing necessary is that those in authority examine it diligently.

"The law must take its course, but there is a great need for dialogue, study and prayer," he said.

Bahamians have been criticising and questioning the judiciary's ability to bring about swift justice, and although the decision has finally been made to send someone to the gallows, Bishop Ferguson said that this will not stop the rising murder rate in the country.

"General deterrence is a common-sense theory with the misfortune of being virtually impossible to prove. In fact, every study but one has documented that executions do not deter crime. The one exception has received much publicity, and much criticism, but has not been successfully replicated by any other researcher," he said.

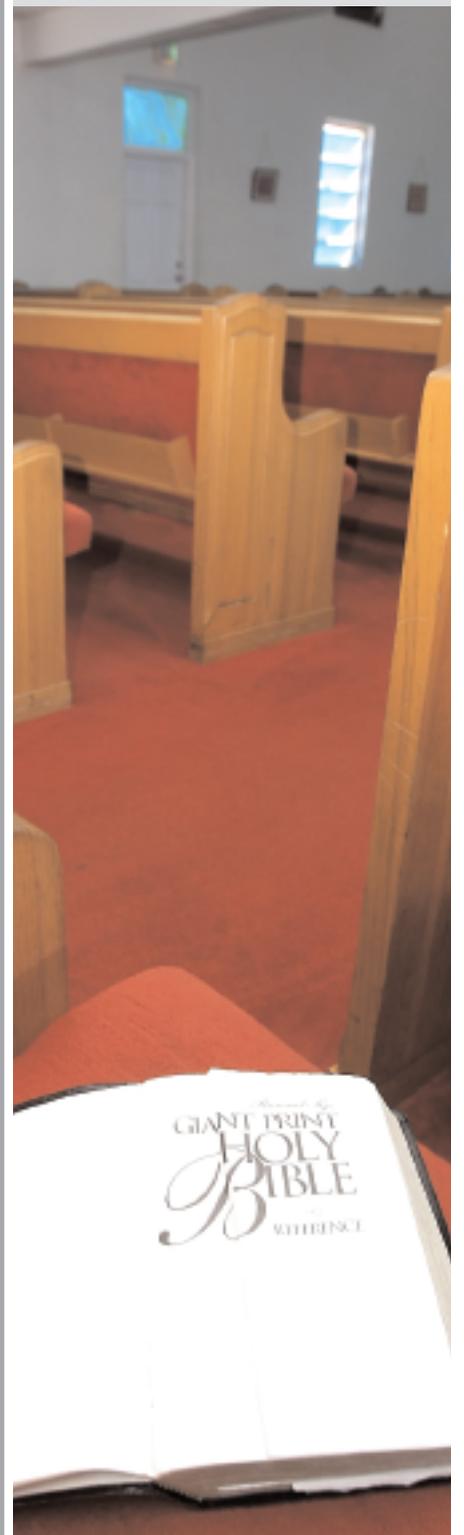
Although he said he understands that people in this country are tired of hearing about gruesome murders on an almost daily basis, he does not want Bahamians to demand the death of another human being.

"Christians are even demanding the death of murderers, (but) people must keep in mind that while these individuals are wrong for what they have done, it be could their family members next, and I am sure they would not want for their family member to be killed. As a matter of fact, they might want pity, too," he said.

Bishop Ferguson said in his opinion not every murder requires the death penalty, and one must keep in mind that there are many different and complex circumstances and motivations surrounding each individual case.

He said his ultimate message is for the people to allow God to direct and influence their decisions through prayer, as God should be the final authority in every situation.

Earlier this week, the Catholic Church in the Bahamas said that it remains resolute in its opposition to the death penalty.



the Bible and capital punishment

What is the Christian stance on the issue of capital punishment?

A stupid praise?

Gymnastics, calisthenics, hysteria, joyful noises - or even refined choreography not motivated, orchestrated, instigated, directed and controlled by the Holy Spirit is an offering to God with a stench. It is a "Cain Offering."

I Timothy 4:8(a) - "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things. Romans 8:8 - "So then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

A lady wrote a song about giving God a "crazy" praise. Worship leaders are often heard encouraging worshippers to "give God a crazy praise," or to "act/be stupid for God". Then, a pastor opined that if two or three men would "run around the church" (during the corporate worship time) then the glory of the Lord would descend. There apparently was a point being made that conservative postures of men (who did not mimic the extreme emotionalism of



DR ALBERT S. FERGUSON, JP

female fellow worshippers) actually hindered the moving of the Holy Spirit, or perhaps, the worship.

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines/interprets the word 'stupid' to mean "slow of mind, given to unintelligent decisions or acts, lacking intelligence or reason"; and the word 'crazy' to mean "mad, insane, impractical, erratic, without a design or to an extreme degree". Persons using these words in the context of praising God or along with the word "praise" (which involves attributing or expressing of approval or commendation or bestowing honour and admiration) must be speaking figuratively, because these

two terms together are incompatible, diametrically opposed, incongruous and oxymoronic.

Romans 8:8 unapologetically declares: "So then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God!" Then, Romans 8:5 instructs, "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."

Praise and worship is a "spirit thing" and a "heart thing" - John 4:24, "God is (a) Spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth"; Psalm 66:18, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me..."

So then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God. That's the bottom line. The word to spirit-led worshippers therefore, is this: Gymnastics, calisthenics, hysteria, joyful noises or even refined choreography not motivated, orchestrated, instigated, directed and controlled by the Holy Spirit is an offering to God with a stench. It is a

"Cain Offering."

Of course, I hate to be the one to break this news. It's tight, but it's right!

Genesis 4: 4(b), 7: "And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering. But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect.

Verse 7: If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door."

So let's be spirit-led and not puppets! And a word to spirit-led men, based upon the 'word of wisdom' from the pastor, which I stated above, men, let's be ourselves!

• **Dr Albert S Ferguson, JP**, is an ordained minister of the gospel for over 30 years. He is a "born Jumper" from the stock of the original "holy rollers" and ancestral roots in the 'Jumper Church' first located on Eneas Jumper Church Corner, north of Odle Corner and south of Burial Ground Corner. Address comments to Dr Ferguson via e-mail at albertsferguson@gmail.com.

St. Saviour's Parish hosts its Annual Friends and Family Weekend

AS is tradition every Discovery Day holiday, the Anglicans of Cat Island welcomed with open arms the members of the Cat Island Committee based in Nassau and Freeport who visited during the Annual Friends and Family Weekend to raise much needed funds for the upkeep of the island's 11 churches.

At this time, only five of these once glorious edifices are operational and suitable for Sunday morning worship.

Father Chester Burton, priest in charge of the Anglican Churches in Cat Island, expressed his gratitude for this collaborative effort initiated some 30 years ago.

He said it is a time held sacred in tradition which gives members and well-wishers of St Saviour's Parish a "golden opportunity" to liaise with visiting Anglicans from Nassau, Freeport and abroad. Father Burton said that Cat Island is one of the islands in the Bahamas that has a dwindling population and only a fledgling economy.

The efforts of the Cat Island Association are far reaching and the Annual Friends and Family Weekend is seen as the single most important fundraising event in the parish.

On Friday, October 9, before the grand event, Father Burton waited at the Arthur's Town Airport, as committee members from Nassau and

Freeport trickled in.

Final preparations still had to be made for the upcoming annual church fair, but first there was a gospel concert planned for the auditorium of the Arthur's Town High School - the alma mater of many of those attending the event.

The emcee for this event was Church of God Pastor Madlyn Campbell, and the coordinators working with the youth from the Anglican Church were vestry members Helen Thurston and Coral Patrice Burton.

Numerous well-wishers and parishioners from other denominations also performed selections and skits. The auditorium was packed to capacity and all in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment.

Then on Saturday, October 10 the Arthur's Town basketball court was a beehive of activity as members and visitors made last minute preparations for the fair which would begin at 12noon.

This year's fair would be like no other year because during the summer break St Saviour's Parish acquired three brand new tents, 75 new folding chairs and 10 new folding tables. It was a glorious day as the sun shone down on fair-goers and the gifts were blessed by Father Burton.

Persons from all walks of life converged on the fair grounds, trying their



MEMBERS at the church service.

hand at winning one of the coveted prizes on the hoop la table, while others enjoyed some of the fine delicacies and coconut water.

During the evening proceedings, Bahamian culture icon Edmund Moxey gave a musical presentation which was enjoyed by all and proved that Cat Island was indeed the birthplace for Rake n' Scrape music in the Bahamas.

On Sunday, October 11, both visitors and the Anglican Communion from Cat Island boarded the two church buses and took a scenic tour to the settlement of Port Howe, congregating at the Deep South Movement site for the

Holy Eucharistic Celebration and family picnic that started at 11am.

Father Edward "Rex" Seymour, assistant priest, celebrated the Eucharist and Father Burton preached the sermon, stating: "With mortals it is impossible and with God all things are possible."

Father Burton admonished that we need to stay committed and connected to each other in the church.

After the weekend came to a close, both locals and visitors returned home with wonderful memories. Many are already looking forward to next year's fair.



The beauty of nature

WHEN last have you made the time to gaze at the clouds, the moon, or a flowering plant? There is so much of God's glory for us to discover.

On a recent trip abroad, I had the opportunity to observe multi-coloured butterflies at very close range, with one or two settling on my shoulder. We are not usually that fortunate when we see them flying in our gardens, but we can still marvel at the intricacy of their patterns, the difference in speed and flight movements, and their flowers of choice.

At the large botanical garden, I was able to walk among the rose, herb, cactus, bamboo, fern, vine and other garden areas. The path was almost two miles long as it wound through each terrain, with waterfalls, water features,



REV. ANGELA
C BOSFIELD
PALACIOS

figurines, benches and other attractions to catch the eye. The highlight was an orchid show put on by several garden clubs with pots of profuse blossoms arranged in sections of one room.

In the museum of Natural History, there were sections on indigenous peoples of Florida, pre-historic specimens, underwater scenes and many other points of interest. Next door was the art gallery which displayed intercontinen-

tal exhibits, work by women in a homeless shelter, and other contemporary works of art.

Sometimes we have to play the tourist at home to take the time to enjoy our places of historic and artistic interest.

Have you done any of the following? If so, how long has it been that you did the following?

1. A horse and carriage ride
2. A visit to the Ardastra and Botanical Gardens
3. A tour of the Educulture Junkanoo museum, the Pompey Museum, National Art Gallery, Doongalik Studios and any of our other art galleries.
4. A leisurely day at the beach

What about the wonder of the

human creation? If you have the chance to watch people from a polite distance, marvel at the varied skin tones, facial features, hair-styles, and outfits. Discover the magnificence of the persons created in God's image who reside in your own home. Carefully reflect on the distinct differences between each personality.

Then look at the mirror and see another masterpiece. You are a work of art in the making indeed. Do you treat yourself as such? Do you believe that God has great dreams for your life, even if the greatness is never on public display? Why not spend more time getting to know the dreamer, the creator, and the source of all life and beauty. Discover the glory of our God who made it all.

He is Faithful

2 Timothy 2:13 - If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: for he cannot deny himself.

To paraphrase the above scripture verse, here is what it would sound like: Even when we're unfaithful to God's word: He (Yahweh) abideth faithful to His word for He cannot deny Himself. Here is what God said to Jeremiah about Himself and His word in the book of **Jeremiah 1:12b**: For I will hasten my word to perform it.

As we (the Bahamas) go through our difficult times of famine and hardship, it is of the utmost importance that we be mindful of the fact that God is ever faithful. Over the course of time we have ignorantly taken our eyes off God and focused on mankind based upon the many promises they have made.

Unlike man, whenever God gives His word or makes a promise, He faithfully watches over His word to perform it.

If there was ever a time that we needed to stand upon the word of God, that time is now.

The revelation or fact that as a nation we are in a severe spiritual battle has evaded the religious Christian church; and its ability to equip the saints to fight the good fight of faith is lost in the maze of today's divisive religion.

As I listen, I am hearing the religious leaders crying just as much or even more than those who do not profess Christianity about how bad or tough things are.

So, if the leaders are crying, what is



PASTOR
MATTHEW
ALLEN

expected of their followers?

As church leaders, what about encouraging and demonstrating for the nation.

1 Timothy 6:12 - Fighting the good fight of faith - rather than focusing primarily on the incomplete prosperity gospel. How about teaching the church

2 Timothy 2:3 - Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Yeshuwa Messiah?

The country's economic crisis, the unemployment rate, the murder rate coupled with an ancient health care system and facilities (the Princess Margaret Hospital and The Rand Memorial Hospital) along with a defunct judicial system and a rapidly deteriorating education system is enough to cause even a crazy man or woman to ask 'what's going on?'

I am constantly reiterating that "nothing happens on the Earth that will ever catch God off guard or by surprise", but rather He is constantly looking for a people.

As said in **2 Chronicles 16: 9** - For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show

himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.

The Bahamas' woes and challenges are nothing more than opportunities for Yahweh to show our nation that He alone is God.

For He is preparing a man that will make up the hedge to stand in the gap before Him for the Bahamas (**Ezekiel 22:30**). This man is definitely not one of the country's religious leaders who has financially fattened himself via prostituting/merchandising the gospel while the nation deteriorates both spiritually and morally.

Some years ago, I heard Bishop Darryl of New Orleans give this acronym for the word faith - F-For, A-All, I-I, T- Trust, H-Him.

Remember the opening scripture of this article: **2 Timothy 2:13**, 'If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: for he cannot deny himself.'

I want to assure you that even though many of us might have been unfaithful in various areas of our lives that does not nullify God's faithfulness towards us, therefore we are without excuse for not being obedient to God's word.

Religion and religious thinking would cause a person to make decisions based upon man's performances or the lack thereof. Whereas a relationship with Father Yahweh via

His only begotten Son, Yeshuwa Messiah, would be that bridge over troubled waters that even a disciple of

Yeshuwa Messiah, be mindful of the encouraging words of the apostle Paul to the saint at Ephesus in **Ephesians 6:10 - 18**.

Keep in mind **Ephesians 6: 13** - Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand; and 6: 14 - Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness.

.....
• For questions or comments, contact us via e-mail: pastormallen@yahoo.com or telephone number 1-242-441-2021.

Pastors Matthew and Brendalee Allen Kingdom Minded Fellowship Center International

“Unlike man, whenever God gives His word or makes a promise, He faithfully watches over His word to perform it.”

ST Christopher's celebrates ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI DAY

ST Christopher's Church in Lyford Cay was packed full on Sunday, October 4, as Archdeacon Keith Cartwright preached to the animals and their owners in celebration of St Francis of Assisi Day.

Close to 50 animals were packed into the small white church. There were fish, hamsters, cats, kittens, dogs, puppies and even a fresh water turtle (terrarin). And they all behaved amazingly well, Bahamas Humane Society president Kim Aranha said.

Whilst the congregation sang "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small", the animals in church all sat peacefully as if they knew that they were in the presence of God, she said.

Ms Aranha said that she is so grateful to Archdeacon Cartwright for holding this service every year.

"The first one was three years ago and six animals were present, now the word is going around and people are come from as far as Fox Hill to have their beloved pets blessed," she said.

"It really makes me feel good because we have to deal with so much cruelty and sadness at the Bahamas Humane Society on a regular basis that it is a good feeling to see happy and healthy animals who are well cared for and loved."

Archdeacon Cartwright is a keen animal lover and is on the board of the Bahamas Humane Society himself.

"We are delighted how many people came out to worship with us," he said.

"The church was full and the animals were very peaceful."

In her address to the congregation Ms Aranha said: "It is a wonderful thing that today we are all here to honour and bless our animals, but we must remember that today is just one day in 365 days of the year. That we remember animals today is right, but we must use today as an example of how we should act and think towards animals for the rest of the year."

"God painstakingly created domesticated and wild animals from the smallest to the very largest for us to nurture and protect. Those that we see in church today are companion animals, however, we must not forget the wild animals in this country and all over the world."

In the Bahamas, she said, there is still so much cruelty towards animals - "much of it is through ignorance."

"This is why the Bahamas Humane Society has a very strong and active educational programme lead by Inspector Percy Grant who is with us today. We now have an approved curriculum in all the government schools and some of the private ones, teaching children about animal care and respect. We find that these children go home and teach their parents. Things are getting better but we have a ways to go," she said.

"Please join me in helping those outside of here, that perhaps we cannot even see who endures so much at the hand of man, help them to live pain free lives as God meant them to."

'A Blessing of the Animals' was also led by Father Cooper in Freeport this year in honour of the patron saint of animals. The blessing took place in the Garden of the Groves and was organised by the Grand Bahama Humane Society.



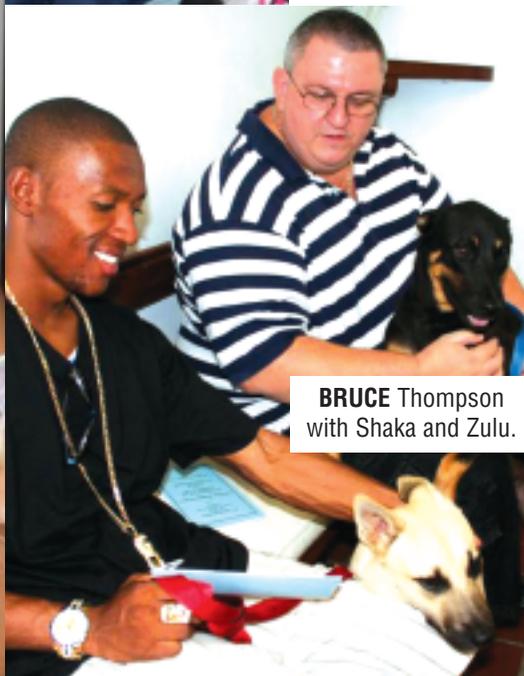
ARCHDEACON Cartwright with terrarin 'Big Momma'.



LINDA Gill Aranha and Patricia Charney



MEGHAN de Souza with a tiny kitten in need of a home.



BRUCE Thompson with Shaka and Zulu.