



**WEATHER**

FRI. NOV. 20  
**McHAPPY DAY**

**HIGH 83F**  
**LOW 69F**

**SUNNY AND WINDY**

# The Tribune

ANY TIME...ANY PLACE, WE'RE #1

**USA TODAY**

BAHAMAS EDITION

www.tribune242.com



Volume: 105 No.294

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2009

PRICE - 75¢ (Abaco and Grand Bahama \$1.25)

**BENCHMARK 'teetering around' negative worth**

SEE BUSINESS FRONT



**CARS FOR SALE, HELP WANTED AND REAL ESTATE**

BAHAMAS BIGGEST



**Softball championships**

SEE PAGE NINE

# Ex-MP denies link to Hywel Jones murder

**Tourist dies in fall from 10th floor of hotel**

By ALISON LOWE  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
alowe@tribunemedia.net

AN AMERICAN man is assisting police in their investigations into the suspicious death of a tourist who is believed to have fallen from the tenth floor of a Paradise Island hotel.

Wearing only a bathrobe, the 41-year-old woman of West

SEE page seven

Lester Turnquest hits out at 'campaign of jealousy and spite'

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



LESTER TURNQUEST

FORMER FNM MP Lester Turnquest yesterday denied any involvement in the murder of his former business partner Hywel Jones.

At a press conference at his attorney Andrew McKinney's chambers, Mr Turnquest said he was offended by an assertion by Mr Jones' brother, Iltyd, that he was somehow connected with the brutal slaying.

Mr Turnquest said: "Iltyd knows me. It was me who got him out of jail when he came here and in the usual disregard for Bahamian laws got locked up. I got him out."

"I am 52 years of age and if I have gone through all my life without hurting anyone I am not going to start now. And there was no benefit. What would I gain?"

Describing the late Mr Hywel as a drinker amongst other things who had an affiliation for taking "risks", Mr Turnquest said that on many occasions he had to bail out his

one time business associate from danger as he often found himself in situations where he seemed to literally fear for his life.

In one instance, Mr Turnquest said, he was visited by a representative of Ansbacher Bank who complained that Mr Jones had established an account for the son of a convicted narcotics trafficker and murderer. Here Mr Turnquest said that he unwound the structure returning the many millions of dollars to the originating banks along the Texas/Mexican border along with whatever extra funds had been depleted through banking fees and the like.

In another instance Mr Turnquest said that Mr Jones had come to him seeking another "bailout" as he was afraid of someone to whom he owed \$300,000 Canadian dollars.

And yet another example included some \$5,000 which Mr Jones was given for a client who was visiting the Bahamas for the weekend.

"He took the money home

SEE page seven

## NEW BOOK SHOWS BEAUTY OF THE BEAST



THIS PHOTOGRAPH of a Hawksbill Turtle features in the book *Island of the Sun*.

**ISLAND OF THE SUN**, a new book showing the natural beauty of the Northern Exuma Cays, will be officially unveiled tonight at the Doon-galik Studios, Marina Village, Paradise Island. The landmark publication features informative text, stunning photographs and painted illustrations of the central Bahamas.

SEE PAGE TWO

### Dramatic 21% fall in hotel income

By ALISON LOWE  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
alowe@tribunemedia.net

IN THE nine months leading up to September 2009, major hotels have seen their income fall by a dramatic 21 per cent compared with last year, causing 12 out of 14 in New Providence and Paradise Island to record losses for that period.

At the same time, hotel occupancy averaged a depressed 63.5 per cent and room rates are down \$25 per night at \$254.42, as opposed to 68.9 per cent and \$230.35 during the same nine months in 2008.

In the face of this dire turn of events, the industry this week welcomed improved performance seen in September 2009 over September of 2008, as revealed in the results of the September 2009 Nassau Paradise Island Major Hotel Performance Survey.

SEE page seven

### Brenton Smith's family upset after Coroner's inquest

By TANEKA THOMPSON  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
thompson@tribunemedia.net

THERE were emotional scenes outside a court yesterday after the coroner's inquest into the shooting death of 18-year-old Brenton Smith was adjourned to January.

Members of the teenager's family huddled together for support, visibly upset at not getting the "closure" they were seeking from the inquest as quickly as they would have liked.

Anthony Delaney, who appeared for the Attorney General's office, requested the adjournment because several

SEE page seven

### Airport redevelopment project right on track

By MEGAN REYNOLDS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

RAPID progress in construction of the United States Terminal has put the \$409 million Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD) redevelopment project right on track.

The first public tour of the site since ground was broken in July showed how an initially slow start to build the new US Terminal quickly gathered pace to bring development up to speed while keeping it within budget.

With the \$11.7 million investment in capital improvements at the current facility marking the near completion of phase one, the second phase of redevelopment has started with the first stage set for com-

SEE page two

**ATLANTIS**  
PARADISE ISLAND, BAHAMAS

**KFC FALL ADVENTURE**

ENTER TO WIN TODAY!  
BUY ANY 5PC MEAL OR MORE TO RECEIVE YOUR SCRATCH & WIN GAME CARD

It's Finger Lickin' Good

WE ACCEPT: MasterCard, VISA, American Express

**The New TOPS**

**DRIVE THRU LUMBER YARD AND SUPER STORE NOW OPEN**

LUMBER & PLUMBING  
WILTON STREET

LOCAL NEWS

# New book shows natural beauty of Exuma Cays

A FANTASTIC new book documenting the natural beauty of the Northern Exuma Cays takes the reader on an exciting journey, and according to author John Thompson, making the book was just as much of an adventure.

"Island of the Sun", a book offering a spectacularly illustrated tour through the eco-systems of the central Bahamas, will be officially unveiled tonight at the Doongalik Studios, Marina Village, Paradise Island from 5pm to 9pm.

The book is a landmark publication from both a scientific and artistic point of view for the Bahamas, with informative text, beautiful photographs and painted illustrations bringing to life the unique and diverse plants and animals of the Exuma Cays. John Thompson, who wrote the book, told *The Tribune* days blurred into one another as he and photographer for the project Nikita Shiel-Rolle went out day after day across the turquoise waters of the Exuma Chain in their "chariot", a 15 foot Boston Whaler.

The pair had never met before they were asked to produce the work but went on to spend many hours, days and months together

in relative isolation, based at the Bahamas National Trust headquarters in Warderick Wells, Exuma.

From being ambushed in the middle of one of their first night dives by a curious but rather large nurse shark accustomed to hand feeding, to discovering their food had been pecked mercilessly in their kitchen by bananaquit birds, to finding themselves wondering if they would ever get the necessary funds to print the book after putting two and a half years work into it, Shiel-Rolle and Thompson came up against a myriad of quirky challenges during their time together.

one day after trying to capture a glimpse of the majestic osprey in the Exuma Land and Sea Park.

According to Thompson, the pair were intrigued enough to introduce themselves to a man they spotted with a "tremendous camera on a tripod on a tiny, barren cay."

Thinking they had come across a fellow naturalist, the young Bahamian were amused and surprised to discover that the photographer was hunting for glimpse of another rare species - a celebrity.

"It turned out that he was paparazzi trying to catch an image of Johnny Depp, who owned the neighbouring cay," joked Thompson.

All of the proceeds from "Islands of the Sun" will directly support the environmental and educational programmes of the non-profit Danguillecourt Project, such as Young Bahamian Marine Scientists' after-school clubs, workshops, and summer camps.

If you want to be one of the first to see the book, head to Marina Village tonight.

The book will be officially presented to Minister of the Environment Earl Deveaux at 6.30pm.

## Paradise

While you might think that spending so much time in paradise that you forget what day it is sounds like a fine occupation, Thompson recalls one day that the two travelled 20 miles to re-fuel "forgetting that it was a public holiday" and the gas station was closed. "We'd burned too much fuel to get home," he said.

Other happenings could better be filed under "surreal", such as a chance encounter



THE BOOK features stunning photographs.



**Store Wide**  
ends Nov 14

# 20% OFF

**Fine Threads**

Bernard Rd: 393-3463 Mackey St: 393-5684 Thompson Blvd: 328-1164

**Have A Merry**  
**Johnson's Christmas**  
NOVEMBER 2 - DECEMBER 12, 2009

Ho Ho Ho

**FIRST PRIZE: B\$2,500**  
**SECOND PRIZE: B\$1,000**  
**THIRD PRIZE: B\$500**

**NEW WR 0.02 SEC.**  
SANTA COVERING THE BAHAMAS

**HOW TO ENTER**

- Purchase any three (3) Johnson and Johnson products and get a chance to win CASH Prizes.
- Fill out entry form with your name, address, phone number and correctly write the slogan: "PRODUCTS FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY"
- Attach proof of purchase and drop off or mail entry to: LIGHTBOURN TRADING CO. LTD. 118 MACKAY STREET P.O. BOX N-7124 NASSAU, BAHAMAS

**Johnson & Johnson**  
Products For the entire family

**ENTRY FORM**

**MERRY Johnson's CHRISTMAS**

ENTER TO WIN CASH PRIZES WITH JOHNSON & JOHNSON

1. Purchase (3) Johnson & Johnson products
2. Attach receipt to entry form, correctly fill out slogan & bring or mail entries to Lightbourn Trading Co on Mackey Street, PO Box N-7124, Nassau. (Last date receipts must be dated November 2 through December 12 2009.)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: wk \_\_\_\_\_ hrs \_\_\_\_\_  
ISLAND: \_\_\_\_\_  
SLOGAN P\_o\_d\_u\_c\_t\_s\_f\_o\_r\_t\_h\_e\_e\_n\_t\_i\_r\_e\_f\_a\_m\_i\_l\_y

Prizes must be collected within 34 days of notification. Entry deadline December 12, 2009. Prizes cannot be redeemed for cash. Employees & immediate family members of Lightbourn Trading Co. and staff may not enter. Family limited siblings must ensure entries are received by Dec. 12.



Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

THE US CUSTOMS hall site and pits for escalators leading passengers to the second-storey departure lounge.

# Airport redevelopment project right on track

## FROM page one

pletion in Spring 2011.

Around 150 construction workers, 80 per cent of whom are Bahamian, have laid 90 per cent of the foundations for the 247,000 sq ft US Terminal and pier, and concrete is being poured for the ground slabs on the second floor.

Vice president of airport development Stewart Stevens explained how the new airport will make the Lynden Pindling International Airport one of the most complex airports in the region as it comprises three airports in one with separate terminals for domestic, international and US-bound flights.

The check-in area of the new US terminal is sprawled across the ground floor of the two-storey terminal building and a connecting moment frame steel building, designed to withstand 150 mph winds.

Passengers will hand their checked luggage to airline staff at the counter to be transported on a \$22 million system for processing baggage through security systems and out to the aircraft on a network of conveyor belts leading in various directions.

Mr Stevens said: "It will be complicated. The Bahamas is unique in that we have pre-clearance for US customs which is a great advantage, but to have that and not have to take your baggage with you is a new concept.

"Most airports in the Caribbean are international airports through and through, so we have a much more complicated airport."

The new airport will have a capacity for 5.5 million passengers when it opens in the Fall of 2013.

As their bags are transported to the gates, they will be filed into a large single-entrance customs hall to be cleared by US Immigration, and then glide up escalators over a garden feature to a range of retail stores and eateries on the second floor.

Travellers will then be able to walk down the "pier" to their gate where they can wait to board their aircraft.

The \$198 million construction of stage one, phase two, will also include a 1,000,000 sq ft asphalt apron, parking facilities and roadways.

Mr Stevens said environmental concerns raised at the outset of development regarding ground oil on the airport site have not yet been cause for concern as they are cur-



CONSTRUCTION WORKERS prepare the ground for the future US Customs hall and second-storey US Terminal departures lounge

rently building on virgin territory.

And staff will work to repair areas of environmental concern as and when they encounter them, as well as working to prevent pollution and meet international environmental standards.

The new US departure terminal building will be fully energy efficient, using systems such as the extraction of cool water from a series of holes 400 ft deep to fuel a high efficiency cooling system, Mr Stevens explained.

Upon the completion of the US Terminal, NAD will embark on stage two, phase two, and demolish areas of the current US departures terminal, construct a new international arrivals terminal, and lay down parking facilities, by Fall 2012.

The new Domestic/International Departures, and Domestic Arrivals Terminals and associated groundworks will be then developed in time for the airport to open in the Fall of 2013.

**PRE Thanksgiving THROWDOWN!**

Friday November 13th 12 pm to 9 pm & Saturday November 14th 12 pm to 7 pm  
at Wholesale Wines & Spirits, East West Highway

**Enjoy up to 25% OFF selected Spirits**

**WINES STARTING at \$5**

**RON RICARDO PINEAPPLE SAMPLING!**

**\$1 Beer Special**

**BLOCK PARTY with KALIK DRAFT SAMPLINGS & GIVEAWAYS!!!**

**Plus Junkanoo Rushout @ 7 with The Roots! & Thanksgiving treats from Sweet Indulgences**

LOCAL NEWS

**In brief**

**Man stabbed following a dispute with girlfriend's son**

A man is in hospital after being stabbed following an argument with his girlfriend's son, police said. The attack took place in the Pinewood Gardens area. According to police, a report was received at around 6.30pm on Wednesday that a man visiting his girlfriend got into an argument with her son. He was stabbed and had to be taken to hospital. Attempts to seek an update on his condition were unsuccessful. The suspect fled the area before police arrived. Investigations continue.

**Pair rob man of cash and 'beat him about body'**

ONE man is in police custody after another was beaten and robbed of cash on Baillou Hill Road, police reported. An anonymous individual contacted police at around 2.25pm to report that a man had been robbed in the area of Cambridge Street off Baillou Hill Road. When police reached the scene, they spoke with the alleged robbery victim who said he had been "beaten about the body and robbed" of an unknown amount of cash by two men. The incident has been classified as an armed robbery and one man is being questioned in connection with the incident. Investigations continue.

**Youth symposium on conflict resolution**

The St George's Parish Youth Department will be hosting a youth symposium on conflict resolution with the speakers Reverend Diana Francis, Pastor Carlos Reid and Sgt 2091 Rolle. The event is to be held today at 7pm at St George's Anglican Church, Montrose Avenue. The organisers said: "Bring your note pads, pens, pencils and most of all, your youth groups, family and friends to engage in this wonderful opportunity."

**Cayman police investigating claims of vote irregularities**

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands – Cayman Islands police are probing claims that partisans illegally campaigned outside voting centers in a May vote that ousted the sitting government, according to Associated Press. Police spokeswoman Fiona Gallegos said Thursday that "several voters" have complained that backers of the United Democratic Party distributed campaign materials too close to polling booths. Detectives are looking for evidence of any election irregularities. The UDP won nine spots in the 15-seat Legislative Assembly to defeat the People's Progressive Movement. The PPM has not contested the results.

**Lester Turnquest: I hope to re-enter political arena**

But ex-FNM MP says ambitions depend on legal issue resolution

FORMER FNM MP Lester Turnquest said he still hopes to one day re-enter the political arena, but that his ambitions will have to be tempered by the conclusion of his present legal predicament. Admitting that anyone who offers themselves for high office should be able to explain to the Bahamian people their current circumstances and be "unsmirched", Mr Turnquest said that his political future will depend on the resolution of "this present dark cloud" (see page 1). "I think the Bahamian people at the very least deserve that. So the extent to which this fiasco besmirches me will be the extent to which it limits any political aspirations that I have." As he is currently embroiled in a legal battle surrounding allegations of forgery dating back to 2007, Mr Turnquest and his attorney Andrew McKinney are in constant talks with police, who are once again investigating the matter.



LEGAL PREDICAMENT: Former FNM MP Lester Turnquest

**Innocence**

Having been arrested on Monday and later released, Mr Turnquest maintains his innocence in the case. "We haven't done anything wrong and the one thing I have learned is that when you are in litigation people would say anything. "There are certain things I just can't bring myself to do – as my former partner Hywel Jones denied his signature; I can't do that. It is just amazing but in litigation people say things to bolster their case," he said.

Mr Turnquest also took a jab – presumably at individuals in his former party – when he said that he was asked upon leaving politics how he was going to pay his mortgage. "Well I paid my mortgage," Mr Turnquest thundered, "and then some! And I thank God for that. "The credo I always follow is that there is always someone better than me. So no

matter how large a contribution I think I can make there is a young Bahamian who can do more, and do better. So if I never go back someone else will and hopefully they will do more and do better. It is still a win-win situation for the country in my view," he said. Mr Turnquest said the forgery case will probably continue for some time as there are a large number of documents that need to be reviewed.

**COURT: JOSEPH SWEETING, 48 Unnatural sex trial: Witness 'heard friend screaming over the telephone' while at accused's apartment**

By NATARIO McKENZIE Tribune Staff Reporter nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

A WITNESS in the unnatural sex trial of a 48-year-old man told a jury yesterday that he heard his friend screaming over the telephone while at the apartment of the accused. Joseph Sweeting, 48, stands accused of having sex with a 16-year-old boy in February, 2003.

Delvin Pratt testified yesterday that the complainant, who was his friend, accompanied him to Sweeting's apartment to collect a phone card he had promised to give the witness two weeks earlier. He told the court that when he arrived at the apartment, Sweeting, who he only knew as "Joe", asked if he "came to give him some." "I told Joe, don't play with me," Pratt told the court. Pratt said Sweeting asked the complainant to help him move a table to another unit. The witness said that Sweeting told him to stay in the apartment and if anyone knocked on the door, not to answer it. Pratt said that some 10 minutes later, when he went outside and called his friend's cellular phone, he heard his friend screaming over the telephone. He told the court that he went back inside the apartment

and tried calling his friend again but got no answer. Pratt told the court that when he went back outside he heard glass breaking and went into the adjacent unit. The witness said he found the complainant with his shirt off, and his pants and underwear at his knees. He said that he asked the accused what had happened. According to Pratt, Sweeting said that the complainant "was joking" and told him to get his friend some water.

**Ridiculed**

Pratt said that after he and the complainant left the apartment, they went to the police station to file a report but were ridiculed by police. He said they left, and the alleged victim and another friend later went to the police station and then to the Criminal Investigation Department. Attorney V Alfred Gray, who represents Sweeting, asked Pratt why he didn't tell police that Sweeting had asked his friend to move a table. The witness told the court that that was in another statement he gave police and not the one before him in court. He said that he had no reason for not mentioning it in the statement. Mr Gray asked him why,

when he heard the screaming, he didn't go to help his friend. Pratt said that when he went outside he didn't know what unit the accused and the complainant were in and didn't hear any screams outside. Mr Gray suggested to the witness that he was lying and trying to help his friend to mislead the court. The witness said that he was telling the truth. Another witness, Zennerman Sherman, told the court that when he arrived home on the afternoon of February 4, 2005, the complainant, who he lived with, was not there. He said that he became concerned and contacted one of the complainant's friends to find out where he was. He said that he went to the friend's house where he found the complainant with a busted lip. The witness said that he and the complainant went to police to file a complaint. He also told the court that he, the complainant, and police officers went to Sweeting's apartment where police conducted a search. Sherman said that he was also present when the complainant was examined by a doctor at the Princess Margaret Hospital. Attorneys Sandra Dee Gardiner and Terry Archer are prosecuting the case, which is being heard before Senior Justice Anita Allen.

**Man convicted of having sex with boy aged nine**

A MAN was convicted yesterday of having sex with a nine year-old boy in 2003. The nine member jury found Andrew Lincoln Brown, 48, guilty of the charge by a vote of six to three. Bain was accused of accosting the young victim as he walked from school on September 19, 2003.

**Grabbed**

The victim told the court that Brown, alias "Spoon", grabbed him as he walked past his home, took him into the house and sodomised him. Brown maintained that he never touched the boy, who is now 15. The case was heard before Justice Vera Watkins. Brown was represented by attorney Dorsey McPhee. Lennox Coleby, Basil Cumberbatch and Linda Evans prosecuted the case. Brown is set to be sentenced on December 14. Mr McPhee requested a probation report on Brown.

**FOR 3 IN 1 LAWN SERVICE**  
Fertilizer, Fungicide, Pest Control  
Tropical Exterminators  
322-2157

**Sweet Sears Association Presents**  
**Sears Park Annual Market Day**  
Saturday November, 14th 12-5pm  
Come Join Us For Crafts, Food & Fun

**Galleria Cinemas**

The Multi-Maximum BOX OFFICE OPENS AT 10:00 AM DAILY  
EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 13TH, 2009

2012	NEW	1:00	N/A	4:00	7:00	N/A	10:00
2012	NEW	2:00	N/A	6:00	N/A	9:00	N/A
A CHRISTMAS CAROL	A	1:15	3:45	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:35
THE BOX	T	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:45
THE FOURTH KIND	C	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:40
IP MAN	T	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:55
MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT	A	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:45
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY	C	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:55
LAW ABIDING CITIZEN	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:45
SAW VI	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:35	10:50
I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF	B	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	N/A	N/A

**GALLERIA 6 - JFK DRIVE**  
USE YOUR E-CARD TO RESERVE TICKETS AT 380-3549 OR WWW.GALLERIA6CINEMAS.COM

2012	A	1:00	N/A	4:00	7:00	N/A	10:00
A CHRISTMAS CAROL	T	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:30
THE BOX	C	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
THE FOURTH KIND	T	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:35	N/A
IP MAN	A	1:05	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:45
MICHAEL JACKSON	A	1:00	3:35	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
LAW ABIDING CITIZEN	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:25	10:45

**380-FLIX**  
Use your e-card to reserve tickets at 380-3549 or visit us at www.bahamaslocal.com

**9 DAYS ONLY!**  
**20% OFF**  
ENTIRE STOCK  
DRAPERY & UPHOLSTERY FABRIC ONLY  
NEW Holiday 2009 Collection!

**25% OFF** ENTIRE STOCK Wallpaper Borders  
were \$10.00 NOW \$7.50

**20% OFF**  
ENTIRE STOCK

- Candle Holders
- Mirrors
- Planters
- Decorative Accessories
- Lamps
- Artificial Potted Plants Including Bamboo Trees
- Framed Pictures and Painted Canvas

**9 DAYS ONLY - NOV. 12<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>**  
NET Priced Fabric, Vinyl & Plastic Not Included.

*Fabrics, Crafts and Inspiration*  
**Home Fabrics**  
Madeira St. [242] 325-8233 • Robinson Rd. [242] 322-3080 • Fax: [242] 322-5251



## EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

SIR ETIENNE DUPUCH, Kt., O.B.E., K.M., K.C.S.G.,  
(Hon.) LL.D., D.Litt.Publisher/Editor 1919-1972  
Contributing Editor 1972-1991EILEEN DUPUCH CARRON, C.M.G., M.S., B.A., LL.B.  
Publisher/Editor 1972-

Published Daily Monday to Saturday

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

## TELEPHONES

Switchboard (News, Circulation and Advertising) 322-1986  
Advertising Manager - (242) 502-2352  
Circulation Department - (242) 502-2387

## WEBSITE

www.tribune242.com - updated daily at 2pm

**A new ball game has come to town**

ON A weekend tour of Acklins and Crooked Island to inspect development projects, needed road work and a proposed dock at Gun Point, Ragged Island, Prime Minister Ingraham spelled out the system to be followed in future when putting government projects to public tender.

Undoubtedly, influenced by the demands of the European Union to account to its member states on how their money is being spent, Mr Ingraham has applied those standards across the board for tenders in the Bahamas. In the 1990's the European Union (EU) contributed to the paving of the road in Acklins and continues to make grants to various public works. Contracts, for example, for infrastructural projects in Acklins and Ragged Island, partially funded by a \$9.4 million grant from the EU, will be signed by the end of November.

Speaking at the Gun Point dock site where a multi-million dollar docking facility is to be constructed, Mr Ingraham announced that in future politics will be eliminated from the granting of public contracts. The new Gun Point dock will not only improve national security by providing facilities for the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, but will also service BEC fuel tankers and mail boats.

Mr Ingraham told his audience that the Bahamas has wasted too much from the Public Treasury on contracts awarded to persons who failed to perform.

"We have not had good experience with publicly tendering jobs," the Prime Minister said.

"We are seeking to get out of the business of politicians merely selecting who can bid on jobs. That is why this year, we caused to be advertised most of the school busing contracts in the country and invited people to come forward and put in a bid."

Interestingly, he revealed that several Bahamian firms had bid for the Family Island projects, but most failed to comply with the rules and requirements established. We have no idea to which companies he referred, nor do we know which companies bid or failed to bid, but the attitude of non-compliance is symptomatic of what goes on in the Bahamas. No one had to comply to any standards before, and obviously many do not understand why they have to be bothered with such humbug now ... after all one telephone call to a friend used to fix it all. If this is in fact the attitude then it is a perfect example of the old boy network in operation — it's not what you know, but who you know that has let too much mediocrity slip

under the standards bar in this country.

Mr Ingraham said that this year's contracts were tendered and have met "European Union standards in terms of tenders ... They (the EU) have been involved in the evaluation of the tenders and hence the selection of the contractors. One of our great regrets is, not enough Bahamian firms complied with the terms of bids.

"They were publicly advertised in the newspapers, contractors were invited to bid; the list of things they had to produce in order to qualify for the bid was all stated in writing. They were also invited to attend a meeting at which the matters were discussed and agreed upon as to what you had to do in order to qualify.

"Notwithstanding that, only one of the contractors who tendered on the work in Acklins, had his bid fully compliant with the terms, and so that was the only bid that was able to be considered due to European Union requirements and standards."

As for the tendered work for resurfacing at the Ragged Island airport, said Mr Ingraham, the contractor who appears to have the winning bid is not in full compliance, but the European Union has waived a specific requirement provided he produces it in a very short period of time.

M Ingraham regretted that insufficient Bahamian firms have come forward to bid on projects when put out to tender. He stressed the importance of these firms understanding the need for compliance in the tendering process.

"We (must) continue to drill in people's heads that in order to bid you ought to qualify, in order to qualify, you ought to do 'A,B,C.' If you cannot do those things, then your bid should not be accepted. That includes a bond to ensure the job gets done; if you fall down on the job, that there is an insurance company or a bank that is going to guarantee the performance of the job.

"That you are going to have an adequate number of people with skills and training to be able to carry the job out," he said emphasising that "we are not giving these projects out to people just because they happen to be supporters or because they happen to be Bahamian, we are seeking to save the public money.

"We have wasted too much money in this country over the years giving contracts out to persons who messed up on the job."

At last a new ball game has come to town — Bahamians will now have to pull up their socks and sharpen their wits if they want to enter the game.

**The way forward for the nation**

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Now that the national conventions of both parties have been, mercifully, concluded, the task ahead for all Bahamians and residents within our boundaries of good will is to figure out just where the nation is going and how to get there collectively. A simple enough task, but one inherently fraught with uncertainties; lack of resolve and coloured with far too many partisans in politics.

There are any number of societal and economic problems which confront the nation and which could and must be solved by a massive across the board approach. Any other way could and would lead to even further political polarisation.

I suggest that a multi-party conclave be convened by my good friend the Rt Hon Hubert Alexander Ingraham, MP, PC, Prime Minister of our beloved country, to debate and flesh out the real issues such as crime and punishment; chronic unem-

**LETTERS**  
letters@tribunemedia.net

ployment; under employment; badly broken and maintained infrastructure; a new electrical power plant for New Providence; improved delivery of health care and, of course, public corruption and executive excesses. The ball is in the Prime Minister's court, so to speak and only he has the legal, constitutional and moral fortitude to lead such a call for a national forum to do the above. It is my sincere belief that more agape love must be demonstrated and played out in public life. After all, we are all in this boat called 'The Bahamas' and either we sail serenely together or we will all sink and perish.

Some have long wondered whether or not Orland H Bodie Jr is a PLP; an FNM or an Independent. For the record,

please allow me to state, without fear of sensible contradiction, that I am a partisan of the Rt Hon Prime Minister. No, not an FNM or PLP. Yes, I do not always agree with him or his behaviour, but he, like the Rt Hon Perry Gladstone Christie, MP, PC, Honourable Leader of the Opposition, is a patriot who wants only what is good for the country.

In conclusion then, what we need more of here in our beloved nation is more agape love in all spheres of our personal lives and that of the nation. These are, indeed, "the times that try men's souls" and we need all hands on deck. Both conventions were well attended and the majority of speakers in both camps made much sense. We, collectively, will overcome. To God then, in all of these things, be the glory!

**ORLAND H BODIE Jr**Nassau,  
November 10, 2009.**A memory of Roger Carron**

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I was not a friend of Mr Carron — at best an acquaintance. I would say hello to him when I saw him about town, often at The Harbour Bay Shopping Centre having lunch or grocery shopping. (A digression — it always impressed me that a man of Mr Carron "standing" would still consistently shop for his own groceries).

These superficial interactions were pleasant and brief, but underneath them I had a bond and sense of gratitude towards Mr Carron (and Mrs Eileen Carron), because of a gesture they made towards my family 18 years ago. When I was about 12 years old, my parents divorced and coinciding with the loss of our family business, my relatively comfortable and stable upbringing was tested. My mother, brother and I were put into a transition period — both personally and financially.

At this time, we attended the same church as Mr and Mrs Carron. They knew of our temporary circumstances and had supportive words and made a small, unsolicited and anonymous contribution to our family that helped us through this period. Our lives would have carried on with or without this contribution and moral support — but the quality of the gesture, the helping hand and the show of their character was huge. My interactions were always with Mr Carron, and he never said anything more regarding this during the past 18 years, but my family always had a strong sense of gratitude and respect for him and Mrs Carron. He was a gentleman and will be missed.

**DAMIEN FORSYTHE**  
Nassau,  
November 2, 2009.**More food, not guns**

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Your editorial (10/30/09) entitled "More schools, not troops", comprising an article by Nicholas D Kristof (of the NY Times), is excellent and could be paraphrased to "More food, not guns" in view of your recent articles on world food shortages, especially the statement from a UN food agency that the present crisis "has pushed the ranks of the hungry to a record of 1 billion."

The UN International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) has published information on armaments for many years, and states that armaments comprise the world's major industry, making tremendous profits in our world where food and schools are in short supply.

Some years ago, IANSA, Amnesty International and Oxfam stated in a press release: "From 1998-2001, USA, UK and France earned more income from arms sales to developing countries than they gave in aid. The arms industry is unlike any other. It operates without regulation. It suffers from widespread corruption and bribes. And it makes its profits on the back of machines designed to kill and maim human beings."

The release concluded: "So who profits most from this murderous trade? The five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council — USA, UK, France, Russia and China. Together they are responsible for 88 per cent of reported arms exports."

The US Congressional Research Service recorded the 2001 top military exporters: USA 9.7 billion; UK 4 billion; USSR 3.6 billion; France:1 billion; China 500 million; and Israel 200 million. Since then sales figures have increased greatly.

Your editorial could be subtitled: "More food, not guns."

**CONCERNED INTERNATIONALIST**  
Nassau,  
October 30, 2009.**NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that NARENDRA EKANAYAKE of Little Blair, Nassau, Bahamas, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 13<sup>th</sup> day of November 2009 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

**INSIGHT**For the stories behind the news, read *Insight* on Mondays**Sandals Emerald Bay Resort**

Invites application for the positions

Butler's Trainer / Manager (02)  
Butler Service Agents (30)  
Butler Agents Supervisor (03)

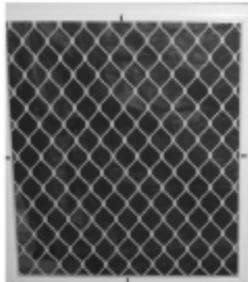
Applicants should satisfy the following minimum requirements:

- A degree from a tertiary institution is an asset
- At least two years experience in the hospitality industry
- Must be computer literate
- Be proactive, self motivated and willing to work long hours
- Strong communication skills, oral and written is essential
- Be able to set trend for timely and quality performance
- Candidates with foreign language skills are welcome
- Individuals with training from Guild of Professional Butlers are encourage
- Must be team player with creative ideas

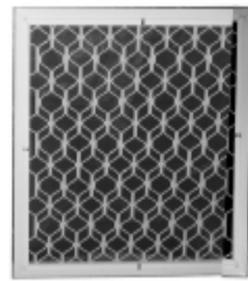
We offer a compensation package commensurate with relevant experience and qualification.

Fax or email resume with proof of qualification and experience to:  
[Humanresources@grp.sandals.com](mailto:Humanresources@grp.sandals.com)**DON STANTON PROTECTION Ltd.**

Tel: 322-8219 322-8160

TOP QUALITY TEMPERED  
ALUMINUM SECURITY SCREENS

CLASSIC

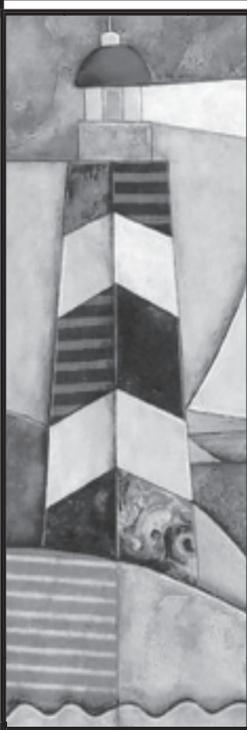


BEAUTYGUARD

Free Estimates

WE DO IT WHEN WE SAY WE WILL!

Serving The Bahamian Community Since 1978

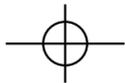
**THE LIGHTHOUSE QUILTERS MINI QUILT SHOW & SALE**FRIDAY,  
NOVEMBER 13  
SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 14

12 NOON - 6 P.M.

THE  
SALVATION ARMY  
WORKSHOP FOR  
THE BLIND  
IVANHOE ROAD  
(OFF MACKY STREET)

ENTRANCE: FREE

JOIN US FOR  
AFTERNOON TEA  
DONATION: \$5.00



LOCAL NEWS

# Meeting on COB crime concerns attracts only a handful of students

### Laing and Nottage appear at dispute resolution hearing

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
Tribune Freeport Reporter  
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – Minister of State for Finance Zhivargo Laing and Dr Bernard Nottage met with the Supreme Court Registrar yesterday for a dispute resolution hearing in connection with a defamation lawsuit filed by Mr Laing.

Mr Laing is suing Dr Nottage, PLP MP for Bain and Grants Town; Frank Smith, PLP MP for St Thomas More; and John Rolle, the former Comptroller of Customs, for defamation over their statements concerning Customs duties applied on the Mona Vie drink during the minister's tenure.

The dispute resolution hearing was held in closed chambers with the Registrar to see whether or not the matter could be settled between the parties without going to trial.

Fred Mitchell, MP for Fox Hill, accompanied Dr Nottage to Freeport for the hearing.

Mr Mitchell told *The Tribune* that all the respondents have filed defences denying that anything they said was defamatory.

"The Registrar tries to speak to the parties to see if there is any common ground or any meeting of the minds. It is supposed to be a confidential process so nothing that happens within the process is to be disclosed," Mr Mitchell explained.

He said if no settlement is reached between the parties at the hearing, the next stage is case management and the matter will go to trial before a judge.

"There are a number of issues which will be important for journalists because there is something which is in the pleading called the Reynolds Privilege by which the Privy Council and House of Lords, as it then was in the UK, made a decision that there is a certain privilege of sorts which it attaches to journalists under certain conditions.

"And so, if in fact it comes to trial, journalists should be interested in this case as a matter of public law and interest," he said.



COB STUDENTS at yesterday's meeting focusing on campus security.

A MEETING called to discuss dissatisfaction with College of the Bahamas campus security failed to attract a large number of students yesterday.

The COB students' union hosted the general student meeting and safety forum in an effort to allow students the opportunity to voice their concerns about campus crime and their issues with COB security following reports of a string of robberies on campus.

### Questions

Special guests included director of security Wellington Francis and campus investigator Ricardo Miller, who fielded questions from students on various issues, including criminal activity on campus and changes in student ID regulations.

Students claimed that campus security has not worked hard enough to ensure stu-

dents are aware of crimes that occur on campus and said this lack of communication has put them at even greater risk.

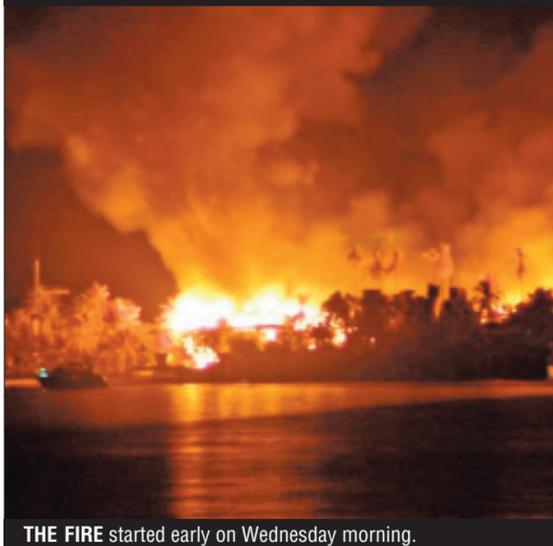
The officials maintained that they report all criminal activity to the Office of Communications, which is empowered to disseminate the information at its discretion.

They also told students that it is their responsibility to seek out information and keep abreast of the notices that are regularly distributed by the college.

Many of the students admitted that they rarely check the bulletin boards, online forums set up by the college, or their student emails.

Although attendance was fairly low, student union president Jamaal Knowles said he is confident about the forum's positive impact on student-administration relations and feels that increased communication will benefit both parties.

### NYGARD CAY FIRE



THE FIRE started early on Wednesday morning.

By TANEKA THOMPSON  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
thompson@tribunemedia.net

FIREFIGHTERS were yesterday still battling smoking embers from the fire which destroyed portions of luxury adult playground Nygard Cay.

One fire engine was at the scene yesterday morning and was expected to remain until this afternoon as firemen work to ensure the blaze is completely extinguished.

"We still have the embers that are still burning and we are trying to put those out," Director of Fire Services Jeffrey Deleveaux said, speaking to *The Tribune* while en route to New Providence from Eleuthera yesterday.

He declined to speak about the suspected cause of the blaze which is estimated to have caused millions of dollars in damage to the resort.

On Wednesday he told *The Tribune* that investigators have a clue as to what started the fire but could not divulge this information as investigations were ongoing. He added that arson and electrical problems are not being considered.

Property owner and Canadian fashion mogul Peter Nygard was still out of the country up to press time yesterday, according to a source close to the family. The multi-millionaire was expected to return to New Providence some time on Wednesday but

is believed to have changed his travel plans because of the incident.

The fire is believed to have started shortly before 4am on Wednesday in the northeast section of the private resort. It quickly spread to the southwest area of the property.

Police have not said exactly which areas were damaged in the fire, however it is suspected that the resort's disco and restaurant were destroyed.

The fire came days after Mr Nygard celebrated the opening of his flagship store in New York's Times Square.

Police received word of the fire at 3.56am.

The raging flames were visible to boaters and residents near Jaws Beach on Wednesday morning and leapt higher than the nearby palm trees.

Mr Nygard built the private luxury "Robinson Crusoe playground" in 1987, according to nygardcay.com. The lush property sports replicas of Mayan Temples, private tennis and volleyball courts, beaches, pools, a nightclub, a state-of-the-art home theatre, and more than 20 themed cabanas, the website adds.

Recently, it was revealed that the multi-millionaire had plans to expand the resort to include a suspended cable bedroom that lowers into the ocean, a dolphin interaction attraction, and allow guests to visit the property's \$2 million shark tank.

**TROPICAL EXTERMINATORS FOR PEST PROBLEMS PHONE: 322-2157**

**LyfordCay International School**



## OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, 18th November, 2009 - 5:30-7:00pm  
Exuma Meeting Room, British Colonial Hilton

www.lcis.bs

Come and join us to discover how the best school can bring out the best in your child

- ✓ Rigorous International Baccalaureate academics and success in Bahamian examinations
- ✓ State of the art technology
- ✓ Small class sizes; 7:1 student/faculty ratio
- ✓ Diverse international & Bahamian student body
- ✓ Financial aid available (for qualifying Bahamians & Permanent Residents)

For further information, please contact:  
Mrs. Rose-Marie Taylor - Admissions Director  
Email: rtaylor@lcis.bs ~ Telephone: 362 4774 x245



**MAKE THE CHOICE OF A LIFETIME**

## KEMP'S FUNERAL HOME LIMITED

22 Palmdale Avenue, Palmdale  
Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas

### Funeral Service For

MRS. ELIZABETH YVONNE CADMAN



of Blair Estates, Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas, will be held at Trinity Methodist Church, Frederick Street and Trinity Place, Nassau on Saturday, 14th November, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

Rev. Bill Higgs, President of The Bahamas Conference of The Methodist Church and Minister of Trinity Methodist Church, will officiate and interment will follow in Ebenezer Methodist Cemetery, East Shirley Street, Nassau.

Mrs. Cadman is survived by her husband, Mr. Charles Frederick (Fred) Cadman; one son, F. Neil Cadman; two daughters, Sharon E. Wilson and Crystal A. Graham; one daughter-in-law, Katherine A. Cadman; two sons-in-law, Alan Wilson and Paul Graham; one sister, Cynthia Albury; seven grandchildren, Ashley B.A. and James A. Cadman, Heather E. Wilson Huh, Christopher A.E. Wilson, George and Jessica Abrahams and Emily Graham; a grandson-in-law, Jae Huh; a great-grandson, Dylan E. Huh; two nieces, Janet Pinder and Yvonne Davies; four nephews, Richard Roberts, Peter, Tony and David Cadman; many other relatives and friends, including the Ladies of Trinity Ladies Class, the Inner Wheel Club of East Nassau, Dr. Dean Tseretopoulos, Joan Albury, Sandra Grattan, Sidney and Thiry Sweeting, David Higgs, Jean Thomas, Roy and Barbara Smith and her caregiver, Maisie Knowles.

**In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cancer Society of The Bahamas. P.O.Box S.S. 6539, Nassau or The Bahamas Humane Society, P.O.Box N.242, Nassau in Memory of Mrs. E. Yvonne Cadman.**

*Arrangements by Kemp's Funeral Home Limited, 22 Palmdale Avenue, Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas.*

# The lack of beach access in Bahamas

## YOUNG MAN'S VIEW ADRIAN GIBSON

By **ADRIAN GIBSON**  
ajbahama@hotmail.com

**I**N the Bahamas, particularly on New Providence, locals continue to be prohibited from accessing public beaches by over zealous property owners who illegally obstruct public access points by using guard dogs, erecting walls/large seawalls, fences, constructing artificial lagoons and using shrub borders or boulders.

It is likely that a reason for the skyrocketing crime rate is the lack of beach access and unavailability of other cultural and recreational activities that can foster an interaction with nature and undoubtedly contribute to the socialization of many of the armed and/or anti-social misfits roaming the streets. On public holidays, the dwindling number of beaches stands out even more as thousands of locals are confined to Goodman's Bay, Montagu Beach, Arawak Cay and, to a much lesser extent, Cabbage Beach and the secluded but rocky beach at Orange Hill (one I frequent). The overcrowding on these days is evident.

The lack of access to beaches in the Bahamas is so objectionable that former Prime Minister Perry Christie's administration actually repurchased twelve acres of beachfront property on Harbour Island. At that time, Mr Christie asserted that access to beaches by Bahamians should not be sacrificed in the name of development. While I could point to some obvious

hypocrisy between that administration's dealings with certain developers and in that statement, today I won't. However, beaches should also not be lawlessly annexed by selfish, rather bold land grabbers!

Beaches are a part of the Bahamian way of life. Anyone who has seen Bahamian children playing in the clear water, or experienced the excitement of a regatta, or enjoyed Bahamian music and food at a seaside festival, knows that beaches and coastlines have a social value that cannot be counted in dollars and cents. They are priceless national treasures, endowments that belong to every Bahamian, whatever his or her age or social condition.

In New Providence, the most obvious examples of where access onto and along beaches have been restricted are at Delaporte and Cable Beach, particularly by the Sandy Port canal and after the construction of the Crystal Palace hotel. Other beaches in Nassau and on Paradise Island have also been blocked off to the public due to development.

In southwestern New Providence, although the developers of Adelaide claim that their project would create more beach access for locals, official documents showing the marina channel cutting through the beach reveal that access will be restricted and be minimal at best. The public will no longer have full access along the beach by the marina channels.

While consecutive governments give environmental protection a priority for the protection of beaches and the preservation of the Bahamas' natural resources, more than 40 beach access points continue to be restricted. There must be stiffer penalties for illegal dumping and excavation and for those persons who illegally encroach upon and blatantly impede public access points to beaches. It is unacceptable when foreign/local developers and homeowners deny the community access to the entire length of public beaches.

Aisha Martin, daughter of Englerston MP Glenys Hanna-Martin, and a student in a geography class I lecture at the College of the Bahamas eloquently and thoughtfully addressed the question of



beach access in a letter she wrote in completing an assignment, which, with her permission, will be featured below.

Ms Martin writes:

Dear Madam Editor,

In the course of preparing a paper I have become sufficiently outraged and feel it necessary to raise this issue publicly through your newspaper.

We are an island nation with limited natural resources but what we do have are beautiful beaches which are the selling point for the main section of our economy, tourism. I am very disappointed that it seems to have been overlooked that Bahamians wish to enjoy the beauty and tranquility of our country as well as the tourists. In the recent past we have engaged in a frenzy of sales and giveaways of our beautiful beachfront properties to foreign nationals. Some of these people have become so presumptuous in the enjoyment of their property that they seek to prohibit people from accessing beaches.

The situation has become so vexing that it is difficult in New Providence to even glimpse the sea as our coast is now marked by high walls. This reflects unfavourably on policy makers in successive governments who have through their short sightedness, negatively impacted the quality of life for our people. We can certainly take a page out of the experience of Barbados where it is not permitted for the beach to be privately owned past the high water mark. In Barbados many of the beachfront properties must allow a public access point across their land to ensure that the public has

access to all beaches. The Government of the Bahamas should be enhancing beaches and protecting public access so that Bahamians can enjoy a cost free and healthy experience of nature's beauty because is it not what we have been blessed with in abundance?

Beach access is the birthright of every Bahamian, allowing beaches to be blocked illegally by property owners is a violation of this basic birthright. We should not allow foreigners or anyone else to bar our people from accessing the beaches in New Providence. Rather than turning this island of New Providence into an exclusive island resort for the sole enjoyment of foreigners, we should invest in preserving and enhancing the quality of life of our Bahamian people.

A concerned COB student,  
**Aisha Martin.**

I am always impressed when I have students, or meet people, who are serious about the future of their country and who are willing to demand that we protect and preserve our resources—within reason—for future generations. Ensuring that local beaches are accessible to the public is a must!

### TAKING A BRIEF LEAVE!

As most of my readers already know, I am presently enrolled in law school. The study of law is quite tedious, time-consuming and has a high threshold for attainment of good grades. I have literally been reading almost non-stop.

Law is a jealous mistress, and since I don't intend to fail in my courtship of lady law, I will totally direct my attention on studying and preparing for fast approaching examinations. In that vein, I will put down the pen until after exams, and thereafter resume writing my column where I will unquestionably return with many "Christmas gifts" as I'm sure that much will transpire during my sabbatical. I shall be watching from the sidelines and making mental notes.



URCA publishes its Final Determination on:

- (1) Cost of Capital;
- (2) Class Licences, Exemptions & Types of Fees &
- (3) Deadline extension for responding to Preliminary Determinations on SMP

The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) recently published several documents on its website and these include:

- A Preliminary Determination issued on 19 August, 2009 on the cost of capital associated with the activities of Cable Bahamas Ltd. and Bahamas Telecommunications Company Ltd. (BTC).
- A Preliminary Determination on 1 October, 2009 on the Class Licences, Exemptions & Types of Fees for the electronic communications sector in The Bahamas.
- On 30 September, 2009 Preliminary Determinations set out the types of obligations that in URCA's view would satisfy the obligations to be imposed on those licensees presumed to have SMP, in accordance with s.116(2) of the Communications Act, 2009 (the "Comms Act"). Following initial workshops with the SMP operators, and requests for extension of the deadline from one operator, URCA has extended the timetable set out in the Preliminary Determinations, to allow the operators to respond fully and to submit alternative revised proposals. A revised timetable can be found on the Publications page of URCA's website.

The full text of the submissions received, a summary of responses to the consultation and the Final Determinations can be downloaded under Publications on [urcabahamas.bs](http://urcabahamas.bs)

Visit the website for more information  
[www.urbahamas.bs](http://www.urbahamas.bs)

UTILITIES REGULATION & COMPETITION AUTHORITY

Fourth Terrace, Collins Avenue P.O. Box N-4860 Nassau, Bahamas | T 242-322-4437 | F 242-323-7288

[www.urbahamas.bs](http://www.urbahamas.bs)

### RUSSELL'S WAREHOUSE CLOSING SALE

Fire Extinguishers, Store & Home Christmas Decorations, 4'x 8' Light Fixtures, Cash Drawers, 5 Ton Split A/C Unit \$1,500.00 15kw Diesel Generator, Asst Fixtures and Fittings for Siltwall & Gridwall, Rivet Rite Shelving, Gondola ends, Glass Shelves, 2 & 4 Arm Display Racks, Slotted Standards Hardware, Lingerie, Kids & Adult Hangers, Men's Coveralls \$5.00, S/S & L/S White Shirts \$1-\$5, Blank CD's \$0.50, Men's Jeans sz. 48-50, \$15, Grey & White Boys Neck Ties \$0.50, Mirrors, Office Desk, Blank ID Cards bx of 500 \$45.00, 16" Stand Fans \$20.00, And MORE.

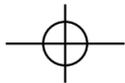
Hours: Tuesday to Thursday 8am to 4pm  
Contact: 465-8648 Location: Madeira Shopping Center  
Behind Mystical Gym - Entrance to Old Aquinas - First left - First stairs on left.

# NOTICE

The management and staff of  
**Sure Alarms System**  
also known as  
**The Alarm Company & Bahamas**  
[Yellow Pages.com](http://YellowPages.com)

would like to wish you a  
*Merry Christmas*  
and *Happy New Year.*

We would also like to remind you that  
**The Free Alarm is still FREE & Monitoring at 1/3 less (\$19.99)**  
for your Christmas gift from us!!!



LOCAL NEWS

**Brenton Smith's family upset after Coroner's inquest**

FROM page one

documents pertaining to the case had not yet been served to the interested parties.

He said a forensic report and the account from the investigating officer were turned over to the Court on Wednesday and only served on counsel yesterday morning.

He told the hearing that that there were "some issues" with the officer's report and added that the AG's office also did not have possession of the firearms examiner's report into the shooting.

Coroner William Campbell admonished counsel present and said he hoped future requests for adjournments would only be made when there were "real problems."

"I am a little uneasy about how this inquest has not been able to proceed smoothly," said the coroner, who added that the case has "limped along this week."

He said that in his experience, inquests "can flow very smoothly" and that a lack of documents was not considered a problem.

In an unexpected move yesterday, attorney Joseph Darceuil stepped down as counsel for Detective Corporal 1476 Kelsie Munroe, the officer who is alleged to have accidentally shot Brenton, and was replaced by Ramona Farquharson.

As the court attempted to schedule another inquest date, Ms Farquharson said December was not possible because her client will be taking exams.

Mr Delaney also told the court an application will likely be made for the court to visit the scene where the youngster died.

Brenton was accidentally shot as police chased armed robbers in the Kemp Road area on July 9. He died at the scene.

The inquest resumes on January 14.

FROM page one

on a Friday to give to the client on the weekend. He called me later in a sweat because a 'girl' that he picked up had taken the money and he wondered if we had \$5,000 in petty cash.

"He lived for that adrenaline rush. When he travelled and because of his lifestyle and the places he would go we had to replace his credit cards about three or four times a year because they would either be stolen or out and out taken from him. He lived in a world that I didn't want to live in," he said.

In fact, Mr Turnquest started to expound on a strip club that Mr Jones was a shareholder in and the fact that one of the girls at the club was murdered — but stopped from venturing any further at the suggestion of his attorney.

Having been arrested on Monday by police and questioned in connection with a criminal complaint of forgery dating back to 2007, Mr Turnquest said he feels that there is a concerted "campaign" that is

FROM page one

Greenfield, Milwaukee, was found dead outside the Paradise Island Harbour Resort shortly after 11.30pm Wednesday.

Having arrived in The Bahamas on Tuesday, November 10, she had been scheduled to leave yesterday, *The Tribune* understands.

According to a police report, officers received information that a "woman had jumped from the 10th floor of the Paradise Island Harbour Resort" at around 11.30pm Wednesday.

No motive was given as to why the vacationing American would have leapt to her death, which has been classified as "suspicious" until police are able to complete their investigations into the matter.

Supt Elsworth Moss yesterday confirmed it

FROM page one

However, a summary of the findings of that survey, conducted by the Ministry of Tourism and the Bahamas Hotel Association, warned that "one month is not a trend" and stakeholders must remain cautiously on the look out for how things turn out in the coming months.

It noted that September 2008 was historically harsh for business as The Bahamas "experienced a high level of cancellations and lost bookings as a result of a major hurricane threat."

"This was followed immediately by the precipitous collapse of the US financial markets, cancellations of group business and a halt in impulse travel," said the report, suggesting that for business to have improved slightly this year, given that there have been no hurricanes and much promotional activity, is to be expected.

Speaking of the upswing, the summary tells of major hotels in the islands reporting an increase in room revenue in September 2009 along with an average occupancy rate that was almost nine per cent higher than they experienced at the same time last year.

Preliminary statistics show that of the 14 major hotels in New Providence, occupancy averaged 38.9 per cent for the month — up on September

**Ex-MP denies link to Hywel Jones murder**



HYWEL JONES

being mounted against him, driven by jealousy and spite.

"In 2007 I commenced several legal proceedings against Mr Jones and his company, including one for tortious interference. As a counter move, Mr Jones made a criminal complaint alleging that I forged his

signature on a share certificate effecting its transfer to a prestigious Swiss trust company as trustee as this was always the client's wish and also Mr Jones' understanding.

"The originating documents show that Mr Jones and another associate, Mr Eveleigh, had arranged that scenario. Twenty-nine months after his complaint, the police have come a-calling. I firmly believe that there are forces committed to the destruction of me and my family and I want them to know I shall resist those forces and their minions," the former MP said.

Mr Turnquest thanked the many persons and friends who have offered their support to him during this difficult time, noting that some of these very same friends have even offered some insight on the "origins" of this alleged campaign against him.

Having formed the Britannia Group with Mr Jones in 2000, Mr Turnquest said that

the most lucrative clients of the company approached him to leave the business in 2003 after having lost confidence in Mr Jones.

As such, Mr Turnquest said he parted ways with Mr Jones in late 2006.

Mr Turnquest was arrested and questioned on Monday by

police in connection with a forgery charge that was levied against him by Mr Jones prior to his untimely death earlier this year. He has since been released and is continuing to assist officers in their investigations.

• SEE PAGE THREE

**Tourist dies in fall**

was the victim's boyfriend, the 57-year-old man who is now assisting them with their investigation, who made the emergency call. Up to press time yesterday the man was still said to be speaking with police.

While initial police reports stated that the visitor was taken "into custody" by officers in connection with the incident. Supt Moss yesterday downplayed any sinister connection to the woman's death.

"He's someone we're talking to because we need to have clarity on this before he is released. He is not really under arrest."

The Paradise Island Harbour Resort declined to issue a statement on the incident.

**Dramatic 21% fall in hotel income**

2008's 31 per cent occupancy level.

"The resulting 4.8 per cent increase in hotel room nights sold combined with an increase in average daily room rates of almost five dollars, generated a 7.9 per cent room revenue gain," said the report.

"Ten of the 12 reporting properties recorded a modest September increase in room revenue. However, September's positive performance did little to reverse the third quarter performance and reflects primarily a year over year comparison with September 2008, the starting point for the worst tourism cycle since 1991 and the first Iraq War," noted the report.

Meanwhile, September's positive performance also failed to lift average occupancy levels for the broader third quarter of 2009 — July, August and September — beyond those for the same period in 2008, leaving them standing at slightly diminished 60.1 per cent compared to 61.9 per cent.

Another sign that celebration may not yet be in order is evidenced in the fact that room nights sold and room revenue were 11.8 per cent and 20.6 per cent below last year's third quarter levels — meaning that the length of visitors' stays are down as well as the money they are handing over for that stay.

"Most of the hotels which experienced occupancy growth in September also experienced shorter stays by guests. This may add to the overall visitor arrivals numbers for September," the report added.

The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Bahamas Hotel Association summary said that "while the average daily rate for September inched up and revenue per available room has increased, they remain considerably below pre-recession levels and point to the continued vulnerability of the industry."

"The year to date revenue picture continues to concern hoteliers with the cumulative effect continuing to force management to remain prudent operationally and place similar constraints on Government."

The latest preliminary air arrivals to the end of August, released by the Department of Statistics and the Ministry of Tourism for New Providence, showed a 9.3 per cent decrease or 71,812 fewer foreign air arrivals than in 2008.

**Yager Funeral Home & Crematorium**  
 Queen's Highway  
 P.O. Box F-40288, Freeport, Grand Bahama, Bahamas  
 Tel: 352-8118 • Paging: 352-6222 #1724  
 Fax: 351-3301

**FUNERAL SERVICE FOR**

**ROLAND MAXWELL JONES, 83**

a resident of #2 Arden Forest Road, Freeport and formerly of South Caicos, Turks Island will be held on Saturday, 14th October, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. at The Church Of The Ascension, West Beach Drive, Lucaya Freeport. Officiating will be The Reverend Cornelius J Moss and interment will be made in the Grand Bahama Memorial Park, Forbisher Drive.

He is survived by wife of 61 years; Ruth Isabella Jones; two daughters: Annette Bethel and Dixie Jones; six sons: Arthur, Aston, Leo, Michael, Keith and Spence Jones; one son-in-law: Franklyn Bethel; four daughters-in-law: Delores, Linda Patrice, Evelyn, Natasha, Linda Olivia and Pauline Jones; 29 grandchildren: Ashley Bethel, Vincent, Sophia Gibson and Samantha Bethel; Michael Perez, Arthur Jr., Albert, Angelica and Ashley Jones, Ron and Aaron Jones, SHantell Williams, Tamiko Dillet, Quincy, Leonardo, Crystal and Leo Jones, Chanelle, Maxwell and Michael Jones, Keith and Kevin Jones, Letitia, Maceo, Caleb, Benjamin Jones and Leah Brennen; 29 great-grandchildren: Ashley Bethel Jr., Ashlyn, Ashwood, Ashton, Vintisha, Vinette, Veniece, Maya, Myles, Dashawn, DaShan, Ashley and Ashton Ellis, Rebecca, Erica, Marquis, Shaunte, Aaron Jr., Autumn, Bryon Jr., Darren, Darrel Jr., Dominique, Kymani, Alicia, Gabrielle, Leonardo II, Trisha and Trinity; two brothers: Douglas and Raebon Jones; two sisters: Dixie Jones (deceased) and Minerva Jones; three sisters-in-law: Louise Simmons, Mary Stovel, Carmen Jones; one brother-in-law: Modesta Williams; nieces and nephews: Tamiko, Yariele, Khammeelyn, Rebecca, Louis, Leroy, Lisa, Lermex, Franklin, Yvette, Ianthe, Evelina, Mary, Jonas, Caleb B, Stanley, Carlon, Jane, Leslie, Odette, Dorothy, Ruthann, Cecille, Rudolph, Caleb S., Charles, Clarence, Conrad, Clinton, Cherrybelle, Ruby, Verna, Ronnie, Pansy, Marvin and Christel Lightbourne; cousins: Charmaine Cornish, Cornell and LuAnn Ingraham, Sarah Missick and family, Louise Cartwright and family, Gloria Rowley and family, Rev. John Stubbs and family, Fred Basden and family, Louis Henschell, Enola Burke and family, Ester Saunders and family; many friends including: Aida Jones, Lois Jones, Helen Malcolm and family, Anita Missick and family, Maurice Glington and family, Fr. Norman Lightbourne and family, Emerald Jones and family and Rev. Harry Davis and family of Mangrove Cay, Willie McCartney and family, Calvin Parker and family, Mackey Williams, Beverley J.T. Taylor, Desleane Cumberbatch and family, Cheryl Campbell, Valencia Campbell and family, Lloyd Harry Smith and family, Father Cornell and Mrs. Carol Moss, Church of the Ascension family, the Chippingham family, Father Harry Ward and the Church of the Holy Spirit family, Fr. Curtis Robinson and family, Taxi Cab #40 Wesley Williams, Desiree and Keva Dawkins, Keva and Donna Roberts, June Wilson and family, Sharon Williams and family, Rose Rahming, Annamae Delaney, Minister Philip Kemp and family, Jamaal McSweeney, Valarie Godet and family, Norman Saunders and family, and many other family members and friends too numerous to mention.

Relatives and friends may pay their respects at Yager Funeral Home and Crematorium on Friday from 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m. and at the church on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until service time.

**Share your news**

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

**THE ALL-NEW OPTIMA**  
**KIA MOTORS**  
*The Power to Surprise*



The New Kia Optima has been improved for the 2009 model year, with updated exterior styling, more power and improved fuel economy.

The Kia Optima's engines receive power boosts for 2009, with the four-cylinder now producing 175 horsepower.

**ELITE MOTORS LTD.**  
#289 Walf Road  
P.O. Box N-4904  
t. (242) 394-4442 f. (242) 393-8238

**SANPIN MOTORS LIMITED**  
Thompson Blvd. • Oakes Field  
t. 242.326.6377 • f. 242.326.6315  
e. sanpin@hotmail.com

ON THE SPOT FINANCING WITH COMMONWEALTH BANK  
INSURANCE AVAILABLE WITH ADVANTAGE INSURANCE BROKERS & AGENTS LTD.

**5** 1959-2009  
**WINTER WONDERLAND**  
**Arts & Crafts Festival**  
 THE RETREAT, VILLAGE ROAD

**Saturday, November 21**  
**11am to 5pm**  
**Sunday, November 22**  
**12 noon to 5 pm**

**Featuring:**  
 Plants, books, gifts, children's crafts, decorations for the holiday season and food from around the world!

**General Admission \$ 10**  
**BNT Members \$ 5**  
**Children 2 - 12 \$ 2**  
**Infants (under 2) FREE**

**SANDS FOODART ZIP**  
**BRISTOL WINES & SPIRITS BAHAMIA**

**Bahamas National Trust • 393-1317 • bnt@bnt.bs**

DELTAIC BANK & TRUST LTD • PICTET BANK & TRUST LTD • GRAHAM THOMPSON & CO INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK LTD • AVIS RENT-A-CAR • COMMONWEALTH BANK INSURANCE MANAGEMENT (BAHAMAS) LTD • ARCOP LTD. ARCHITECTS • ARNER BANK & TRUST (BAH) LTD BAHAMAS WHOLESALE AGENCY • CALLENDER'S AND CO • KPMG • MAJESTIC TOURS MR & MRS MACGREGOR ROBINSON • LYNNE D'ARVILLE • THE AMOURY CO. DAMIANOS SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY • NUJ • ROYAL BANK OF CANADA FIRST CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL BANK LTD

MILLENNIUM COUNTDOWN CONCERT

# Performances to blow you away!

Plenty of local acts included in line-up



BEENIE MAN and company invite a young girl on stage to join them.



A MICHAEL JACKSON impersonator from Jamaica entertains the crowd.

By REUBEN SHEARER  
Tribune Features Reporter  
rshearer@tribunemedia.net

ORGANISERS guaranteed an experience of a lifetime that would "blow you away", and they pulled it off in style.

This year's Millennium Countdown concert also promised to keep negativity at bay and "uplift the senses."

The event, held over the weekend, aimed to encourage young Bahamians to renounce the violence and anti-social behaviour that plague society today.

Organisers went so far as to offer youngsters from "challenged grassroots areas" a stake in the event preparations - including hiring them to help construct the performance stages and skyboxes for the big night.

The actual concert started at midnight, an hour and a half behind schedule, but all 20 advertised acts hit the stage in smooth running order with no glitches and fast band changes.

The Bahamian acts included Billy Steels; Bobo Ken; Bahama Boyz; Smurf; El Padrino, a popular Bahamian producer and artist; Sammi Star and Rebirth.

It should be noted that this was the first time that an event of this type held in the Bahamas included so many local acts in the line-up.

## Jamaican

G Warren and Temprich-er added Jamaican flavour to the show with fast-paced beats and hard-hitting lyrics.

Then came the Portmore Empire.

While some said that the Empire performance did not live up to the hype, others

said it was a clear show-stopper, especially Black Ryno.

But all concert-goers agreed, Lisa Hype was "the bomb", even though she sang off-key at times.

Beenie Man also wowed the Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre crowd. After performing a string of hits, he introduced a young girl on stage, an up and coming child star who fired out lyrics like a pro.

But concert-goers said the star of the event was Vybes Kartel, who came on stage just as dawn was breaking. Fans were screaming like there was no tomorrow as he delivered one hit after another.

Organisers said having these artists perform was the best way to promote peace because they represent the music to which the youth listen.

And in that spirit, it can be reported that there were no fights or violent outbursts among concert-goers.

Josef Bogdanovich, chief organiser of the event and president of Downsound Records, said: "Security provided by IBG and Hardcore was tight and overall service for patrons was immaculate as usual."



RISING Star Queen Ifrika belts out one of her tunes.



TWO PERFORMERS electrify the crowd at Saturday's show.

**Ancient Chinese Secret**

We have been continuously providing top brands Chinese herbal healthcare food supplements. Good for:

- High cholesterol, triglyceride;
- Burning fatness, weight loss management;
- Improve liver & kidney functionings;
- High blood sugar, high blood pressure;
- Anti-diabetes;
- Arthritis, soothes tired, aching and swollen feet, knees;
- Mend damage to the immune system
- Enhance the effect of chemotherapy & radiation therapy etc

No hormones or other stimulants, 100% natural ingredients.

We are ready to serve you with the best quality products and also with the most competitive price!

Call 393-5157 or 448-0681  
Re-youth Biotech Company

**Pre-Christmas**

**Toy Sale**

Nov 13th-18th, 2009

**\*20% off**

\*Except on net items

**Visit Fantasy Forest**

Kelly's fully Animated Christmas Forest!

**Kelly's House & Home**

Mall at Marathon  
Monday-Friday 9:00am-8:00pm  
Saturday 9:00am-9:00pm  
Sunday closed  
www.kellysbahamas.com

Tel: (242) 393-4002  
Fax: (242) 393-4096

**Hands-On Educational Symposium**

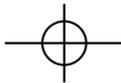
A CLASS YOU MUST ATTEND!

Monday, November 16, 2009  
Arawak Room  
Sheraton Cable Beach Resort  
Cable Beach, Nassau, Bahamas  
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Lunch Available at Seaside Buffet  
\$19.99 per person

Registration \$125<sup>00</sup>

Products Will Be On Sale  
For ticket information contact:  
Pivot Point @ 356-6554 or Hair International @ 327-3558



# sports

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2009



MITCHELL'S  
SOCCER  
STAR IS  
SHINING

pg10

INSIDE • Local sports news



SAC'S Byron Murray is tagged out in an attempt to steal second base to end the fourth inning.



HURRICANES' catcher Joe Lockhart hits an RBI double to put his team ahead in the second inning.

## Hurricanes force game 3

By RENALDO DORSETT  
Sports Reporter  
rdorsett@tribunemedia.net

### Defeat SAC's Big Red Machine 12-8

FACED in an unfamiliar position in game two of the Bahamas Association of Independent Secondary School (BAISS) junior boys softball championship series, the St Augustine's College Big Red Machine mounted a comeback effort that fell short.

The St Andrew's Hurricanes extended the series and forced a third and deciding game with a 12-8 win yesterday at Freedom Farm Field.

The Hurricanes, inspired after a game one loss, took advantage of control issues from SAC pitcher Todd Isaacs and racked up nine runs in the bottom half of the top inning.

The Big Red Machine would trim the deficit

throughout the course of the game but would never legitimately threaten.

Ashton Butler on the mound, backed by a stingy infield defense, held the Big Red Machine scoreless in the second inning while adding an insurance run on an RBI double by Joe Lockhart.

Trailing 10-2 heading into the top of the third, the Big Red Machine bats finally came alive at the plate.

After Lucious Fox and Isaacs singled, Anfernie Seymour drove in a two RBI triple.

Byron Murray followed

with a two run home run and Anthony Romer hit a sacrifice fly to score an additional runner.

After their best scoring output, the Hurricanes lead had been trimmed to three.

With the momentum seemingly in their favour, the Big Red Machine retired the side in order and mounted another run in the top of the fourth.

With two outs, Seymour tripled and scored three pitches later on a wild pitch for the 12-8 score.

The Hurricanes threat-

SEE page 10

#### BAHAMAS ELECTRICITY CORPORATION



#### VACANCY NOTICE

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS & CORPORATE PROGRAMS OFFICER HUMAN RESOURCES AND TRAINING

A Vacancy exists in the Corporation for the position of Public Relations & Corporate Programs Officer.

This job is responsible for assisting with the planning, development and implementation of a strategic public relations and communication program together with the effective and efficient planning and execution of all corporate events and activities.

*Responsibilities of the position include, but are not limited to, the following:*

- Assisting with the development of a strategic Public Relations and Corporate Programs plan to support the Corporation's Mission, Goals and Objectives;
- Overseeing the implementation of the Corporation's annual Public Relations programs, plan and budget;
- Assisting with the communication of all activities throughout the Corporation and where necessary the wider community;
- Preparing and distributing the Corporation's Annual Report;
- Directing press relations, including activities such as the preparation of press releases, photographs, fact sheets, and interviews between executive management and media representatives;
- Coordinating the development and interpretation of employee and public opinion surveys;
- Providing assistance to Executive Management and Government officials in writing speeches, preparing letters and drafting articles to be publicized;
- Evaluating and assessing customer complaints, queries and disseminates information to management;
- Assisting with the development, implementation and management of external communication efforts;
- Coordinating Marketing and all advertising material in collaboration with the external Public Relations Firms and the Media;
- Identifying and liaising with service providers to secure speakers, presenters and entertainment for Corporate events;
- Liaising with vendors on the selection, purchase, delivery of materials i.e. awards, invitations, prizes, letters, BEC paraphernalia, etc. for all events, as necessary and maintain an inventory of the same;
- Preparing and distributing all documentations (e.g. public and staff notices) relative to Corporate activities, as necessary;
- Creating and updating all Standard Operations Procedures for all activities, as necessary;
- Ensuring timely preparation of purchase requisitions and prompt receipt of bills for all events and activities as necessary;
- Working closely with the AGM-Human Resources & Training to ensure that there is global publicity (internal and external), as necessary on all Corporate activities;
- Ensuring that the websites, bulletin boards and other media i.e. company newsletter and Internal PA system are used for the communication of information relative to corporate activities/events.

*Job requirements include:*

- A minimum of a Bachelors degree in Public Relations/Journalism/Marketing/Business Administration/Business Communication, or equivalent.
- A minimum of 5 years relevant experience at Supervisor/Management level.
- Ability to write speeches, press releases and articles for publication that conform to prescribed style and format;
- Ability to effectively present information to senior and executive management and public groups;
- Ability to disseminate information effectively, both orally and in writing
- Experience in managing special events and activities
- Excellent time management and organizational skills
- Excellent human relations and interpersonal skills
- Computer proficiency in Windows environment and Microsoft applications.
- Good analytical skills.
- Good judgment and sound reasoning ability

Interested persons should apply by completing and returning an Application Form to:

The Assistant Manager, Human Resources Department,  
Bahamas Electricity Corporation, Blue Hill & Tucker,  
P. O. Box N-7509  
Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas

on or before Thursday, November 26, 2009

## Frank Rutherford Sr dies at 63

By BRENT STUBBS  
Senior Sports Reporter  
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

TAXI driver Frank Rutherford Sr, father of Bahamian Olympic and World Championships bronze medallist Frank Rutherford Jr, passed away at his home in Colony Village yesterday. He was 63.

Rutherford Jr, who is now based in Houston, Texas, where he operates his Rutherford Foundation camp, said it was a big loss for their entire family that included his mother, Yvonne, sister Juliette Rutherford-Moss and his brother Chad.

Among the rest of his family are Olympic quarter-miler turned collegiate coach Dennis and his brother, injured NFL wide receiver Devard Darling.

In reflecting on the life of his father, Rutherford Jr said he played a pivotal role in his success as an athlete.

"That's the part that always brings me to tears and causes me to break down," Rutherford Jr said. "When I think of the man that I am today and the things that

I've been able to accomplish, it's because of my father.

"My father was a serious disciplinarian that put the discipline in us very early in our lives. But he was the type of father that I wished every young man could have because he was fair, but he was also brutal when it comes to the discipline of life."

Although triple jumping was the highlight of his life, Rutherford Jr, who won the Bahamas' first medal at both the World Indoor Championships and the Olympic Games (track), said he enjoyed fishing and a lot of skills he developed was passed on from his father.

"That was is favourite thing that he passed on to me and my brother," Rutherford Jr said. "He was a Cat Island man and that was all he knew.

Despite the fact that he ran track and played basketball growing up, Rutherford Jr said his father made sure that they learned to master the art of fishing.

The funeral service for Rutherford Sr, who drove taxi No. 987, has been tentatively set for Saturday, November 21.

SPORTS

## Lady Truckers defeat Lady Techs in three straight sets

VOLLEYBALL

THE New Providence Volleyball Association (NPVA) continued its regular season action Wednesday night at the DW Davis Gymnasium with a double header on tap.

In the women's opener, the Johnson's Lady Truckers, behind Margaret 'Muggy' Albury's nine points, defeated the Lady Techs in three straight sets 25-13, 25-13 and 25-6. Roberta Hudson scored six points in a losing effort.

In men's action, the Scotiabank Defenders remained undefeated as they quickly disposed of the Police Crimestoppers in three sets 29-27, 25-13 and 25-20.

Ian 'Wire' Pinder and Shedrick Forbes led the charge for the Defenders, whilst John Rolle led the Crimestoppers in an losing effort. NPVA action is slated to continue tonight.

## Hurricanes force game 3

FROM page nine

ened to add to their run total in the bottom of the fourth with the bases loaded, however Isaacs struck out the final batter to keep his team within reach.

Butler forced the Big Red Machine into a trio of harmless groundouts to end the game.

A balanced Hurricanes lineup keyed the win, led by Lockhart who was 4-4 with two runs and three RBI.

Richie Munroe was 3-4 with two runs, Butler was 3-4 with two runs while Danny DeCardenas was 2-3 with two runs.

Jamie Lavin, Michael Treco and Michael Robinson each added runs in the winning effort.

For the Big Red Machine, Seymour was 2-3 with two runs and two RBI, Murray was 2-3 with one run and three RBI and Arien Seymour added two runs.

# Bullard and Diplomats to play b-ball in Cuba

By BRENT STUBBS  
Senior Sports Reporter  
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

COACH Geno Bullard will get a chance to see just how prepared his basketball team is for the defense of their Bahamas Association of Independent Secondary Schools' (BAISS) senior boys title.

With the BAISS season expected to start next Wednesday, Bullard and 11 of his players are in Havana, Cuba, where they are scheduled to participate in a series of pre-season exhibition games this weekend.

The Diplomats were given an invitation to take part in the tournament by Luis Ponte, the Ambassador of Cuba, who indicated that he was impressed with Westminster's performance in the summer pre-season training.

Bullard, on his arrival in Havana yesterday, said the team is in good spirits and are looking forward to competing in the tournament.

"It's going to be something that we look forward to as we bridge the gap between our two countries," Bullard said. "This is probably the beginning of something new. It's a good gesture by the Cuban

government."

Although the Diplomats are the defending champions, they will virtually have a new team as the majority of their key players from last year have graduated.

But Bullard said it will be good for his team to get a chance to play in the tournament as it will provide him with an opportunity to see exactly what he has to work with this year.

The players traveling with Bullard are Dwayne Miller, Thomas Mackey, Adrian Sherman, Brian Rose, Marco Lundy, Daniel Bullard, John Kemp, Shaquille Bain,

Travis Rolle and Krissoff Stuart.

"This will definitely get us ready for our season. We would like to win, but this is just a high quality of play that should help us once we come back home," he said.

"This will give us a gauge of what we need to improve on before we get ready to start our season. But we are confident that we will be able to do very well."

The Cubans have also invited Westminster to compete in their International Tournament slated for November 24-26. Bullard said they will make a decision on

whether or not they will compete at the end of this tournament.

Larry Smith and Rashad 'Gonzo' Morley, two of the key players from the Diplomats, have graduated and are now enrolled at Niagara College in Canada along with Calvin White.

Stuart, who also graduated, stayed in the Bahamas and is now enrolled in Westminster College's prep-college programme that was just initiated this year.

Bullard's son, Geno Jr, has also left Westminster and is now enrolled in another school in Canada.

## NoBull Basketball Club trio's 'will to succeed' a plus for the Knights

By BERNARD COOPER  
Niagara News Staff Writer

IT has been a long road to Niagara College from Nassau, Bahamas, for Larry Smith, Calvin White and Rashad Morley. These guys live the game of basketball.

It's their breakfast, lunch, dinner and everything in between. They all have similar backgrounds, not much support from home and not many positive male influences in their lives.

They then turned to the only guy who cared about them and wanted to help - Geno Bullard and his programme, the NoBull Basketball Club, which he founded in 2003.

"This organisation strives to positively influence the youth of the Bahamas. Leadership skills and team-building techniques are essential in intellectual growth and development. It is through the positive experience of sports that they strive to teach young athletes the values of hard work, dedication, team work and goal-setting. Giving young people in the Bahamas an opportunity for positive expression helps them grow into well-rounded successful adults," he said.

Bullard has known these guys for a combined seven years and has helped them with their game and school work.

"I have worked with Larry and Rashad going on five years," Bullard says. "Rashad has come a long way from the person (he was) five years ago, (from) not being able to play to become the No. 1 ranked

centre in high school for the last years.

"Larry has also risen from the street ball park of Yellow Elder Gardens to become one of the best combo guards in high school in the Bahamas, and Calvin, after graduating high school drifted around the local parks and never played organised basketball until he became a member of the NoBull programme two years ago."

All it took was for Bullard and his basketball organisation to come and play against some of Canada's top colleges - Humber College of Toronto, Sheridan College of Oakville and Niagara College.

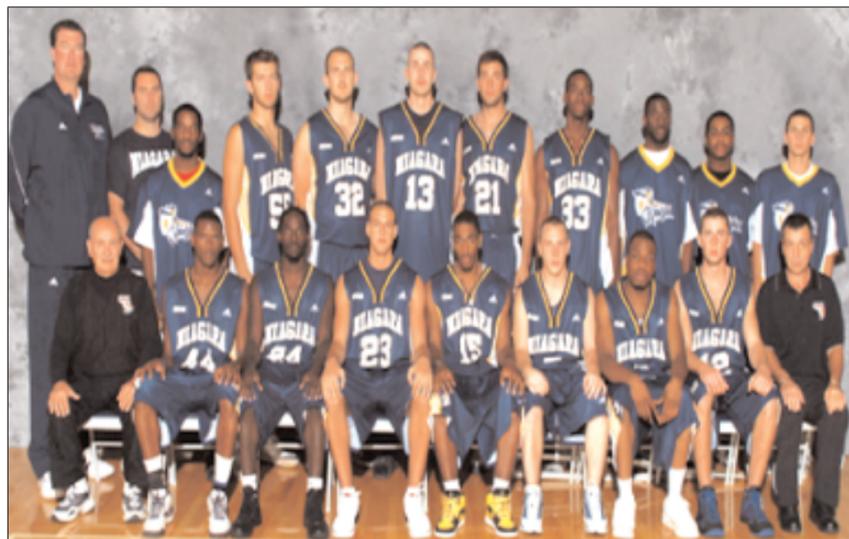
The assistant coaches for the Knights basketball team, Steve Atkin and Mike Hurley, were very impressed with their ability at the high school level, so they were invited to play for the college on a partial sports scholarship.

"Passion, dedication and determination is what we are bringing to the Knights' basketball team," White says.

White, 23, is in the Business-General programme here. Basketball is his life calling but one thing he really wants to succeed in, he says, is his academics.

He graduated in June 2003 from C C Sweeting High School in Nassau, Bahamas. He wants to have his own physiotherapy centre when he gets older.

White is a 6'2" guard who will suit up for the Knights. His favourite team to watch is the Los Angeles Lakers and he is a huge fan of Kobe Bryant. He enjoys eating Chinese food.



PICTURED are the 2009-2010 Niagara College Knights basketball team with three Bahamian players Larry Smith, Calvin White and Rashad Morley.

"We have to adjust to (a new) style of play," says Morley. "In the Bahamas we are really physical and there is not that much play calling."

Morley, a 6'6" forward for the Knights, is 19 years old and graduated in June 2008 from Westminster College in Nassau, Bahamas. He is studying Electronics Engineering Technology.

If he doesn't make it to the pros, his goal is to become a computer engineer.

He enjoys watching the Los Angeles Lakers play and he too admires the game of Kobe Bryant. His favourite food is pizza.

"It means discipline, that's what basketball means to me," Smith says. "After all my ups

and downs in life, I am glad that I have a chance here at Niagara to not only prove myself as a basketball individual but also to do well in school."

Smith, 19, a graduate of Westminster College in Nassau, Bahamas, is taking General Arts and Science.

He says if basketball doesn't take him anywhere he would just love to be a police officer. Smith, a 5'9" guard for the Knights, loves the Phoenix Suns and his favourite player is Steve Nash. He enjoys eating chicken.

The Knights basketball team has improved for this season. The acquisition of these guys makes them an even better team than last year. "The work

ethic that these guys have and their will to succeed will definitely be a plus for the Knights," says Bullard.

"Once able to be cultivated and guided properly in a structured programme, they will be a tremendous asset," he added.

The guys said they want to change the face of the team. They want to help take the Knights to the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) Championships.

People in the Bahamas sit and wait to see what their fellow Bahamians do here at Niagara. Knights fans can get a look at these guys and the rest of the men's basketball team at the season opener on November 19 against the Sheridan College Bruins.

## Mitchell's soccer star is shining

BAHAMIAN Dumont Mitchell just finished his third year with the Hofstra Pride men's soccer team. He helped the team to an 8-7-2 final record, including a 6-3-2 record in Colonial Athletic Association play, good for fourth place.

Mitchell had two goals in the 2009 season, both of which came in a 2-0 win over Georgia State on September 26 in Hofstra's CAA opener in Atlanta after he missed the first four games of the year with a dislocated elbow.

Mitchell now has five career goals at Hofstra, including three last season, one of which came in a road game against national power Virginia.

Mitchell became the first Hofstra player to score a goal in World Cup qualifying last year, when he tallied a goal in a 2-2 with the British Virgin Islands, enabling the Bahamas to reach the second round of qualifying.



Dumont Mitchell

### Share your news

The Tribune wants to hear from people who are making news in their neighbourhoods. Perhaps you are raising funds for a good cause, campaigning for improvements in the area or have won an award.

If so, call us on 322-1986 and share your story.



AVAILABLE NOW  
An American Icon



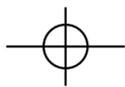
2010 LINCOLN TOWN CAR  
Signature series

The Town Car is the first in Automotive history to receive a five star rating\* in all five categories \*star ratings are part of the US Department of Transportation, safecar.gov program. www.safecar.gov

Reserve yours now available at

FRIENDLY MOTORS CO. LTD

THOMPSON BOULEVARD  
TEL: 356-7100 • FAX: 328-6094  
EMAIL: friendlymotors@hotmail.com  
WEBSITE: friendlymotorsbahamas.com



# THE TRIBUNE business

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2009

SECTION B • [business@tribunemedia.net](mailto:business@tribunemedia.net)



## Firms urged to exit BEC power use

By CHESTER ROBARDS  
Business Reporter  
[crobar@tribunemedia.net](mailto:crobar@tribunemedia.net)

A BUSINESS owner who took his property off BEC's electricity grid by setting up a solar-powered system yesterday urged more companies and households to follow suit, as private power generation was not illegal, according to the Bahamas Electricity Act.

Graham Weatherford, speaking as a panellist at the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Energy Conference, also decried the Government's decision to import 100,000 fluorescent light bulbs because they contain mercury, which he fears could cause

contamination when discarded after use.

Instead, Mr Weatherford suggested the Government consider the use of Light Emitting Diode (LED) light bulbs, which demand far less energy to power and last a lot longer. "They last longer than me," he said.

Several weeks ago, Mr Weatherford took his alarm business off the grid, mainly because power fluctuations were destroying - and had destroyed - several computer systems and air conditioning units he uses.

He added that he almost lost his entire store to a fire after a brownout sparked a

SEE page 8B

## Benchmark 'teetering around' negative worth

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor

A BISX-listed company has "put in place strategies" to ensure it does not end 2009 in a negative net equity position, its president and chief executive told Tribune Business yesterday, acknowledging that the firm was "teetering around" that position depending on the day it was valued.

Julian Brown, Benchmark (Bahamas) head, conceded that the net \$932,716 loss for the first nine months in 2009 had left the company close to dropping into a negative net

\* BISX-listed firm has 'put in place' strategies to ensure it does not end 2009 in negative net equity position, following \$932,716 loss in first nine months

\* Carmichael Road complex '75% finished' and 60% leased, expecting it to be filled by end-2010

\* Benchmark invested \$1.4m of own money into project, and drawing down \$1m of Bank of the Bahamas facility, expecting to leave \$1m unused

worth position, given that net shareholder equity at year-end 2008 was just \$494,525, but pledged that action would be taken to ensure the firm had a positive net worth - with

assets exceeding liabilities - at year-end.

"We're teetering around that number," Mr Brown said, when asked by Tribune Business whether the firm had

either dropped, or was in danger of falling, into a negative net equity position.

"Depending on what day

SEE page 8B

## Improved hotel numbers below recession levels

THE Bahamian hotel industry yesterday warned that the year-over-year 7.9 per cent room revenue and occupancy gains achieved in September were still "considerably below pre-recession levels", with 12 of 14 properties included in the survey reporting net losses for the year-to-date.

A joint Ministry of Tourism and Bahamas Hotel Association (BHA) statement said the 14 major New Providence resorts generated a 38.9 per cent occupancy rate for September, compared to 31 per cent in 2008.

They said the resulting 4.8 per cent increase in hotel room nights sold, combined with an increase in average daily room rate (ADR) of almost \$5, generated a 7.9 per cent room revenue gain.

The Ministry of Tourism and BHA said that for September 2009, the ADR was \$164.44 compared to \$159.75 last year. Available room nights decreased by 16.5 per cent, reflecting the closure of rooms at Baha Mar's Wyndham property on August 17 and the RIU property in September.

While 10 of the 12 reporting properties recorded a modest September increase in room revenue, the Ministry of Tourism and BHA said: "However, September's positive performance did little to reverse the third quarter performance, and reflects primarily a year-over-year comparison with September 2008, the starting point for the worst tourism cycle since 1991 and the first Iraq War.

"The third quarter occupancy was 60.1 per cent compared to 61.9 per cent in 2008. Room nights sold and room revenue were 11.8 per cent and 20.6 per

SEE page 8B

## Insurer targeting niche 'severely underserved' via health re-entry

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor

BRITISH American Financial last night "came full circle" with its re-entrance into the Bahamian health insurance market, telling Tribune Business it was initially targeting the "severely underserved" individual and small business categories with an operation it expects to be profitable "in the first year to year-and-a-half".

Chester Cooper, British American Financial's president and chief executive, said the company would seek to leverage its alliance with BUPA Insurance Company to gain access to a worldwide network of providers and physicians for its MedSafe product clients, in addition to "discounts and savings" on treatment costs.

\* British American Financial 'comes full circle' with medical insurance return in alliance with BUPA

\* Firm targeting individual and small group segments, plus cross-sell to existing 90,000 clients and former Generali customers



CHESTER COOPER

Fresh from British American Financial's acquisition of British American Insurance Company's Cayman branch, Mr Cooper said the company "going full steam" back into the health insurance business, planning initially to cross-sell the MedSafe products to its existing 90,000-strong Bahamian client base.

British American Financial's re-entry into the Bahamian health insurance market comes just three years after it sold its then-medical portfolio to Generali Worldwide, a deal that Mr Cooper

indicated had not worked out as expected.

He told Tribune Business that British American Financial had "attempted to outsource the [health insurance] business, but it did not go as smoothly as we wished", a reference to the uproar - revealed by this newspaper - that was caused when Generali increased premium rates dramatically on the individual policies it acquired in a bid, some observers felt, to shed those clients. Generali

SEE page 8B

## Single parent family costs 'why there's so much poverty'

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor

CHILD-rearing costs and the rise of single parent families are a key factor behind why "we have so much poverty in the Bahamas", a leading banking executive suggested yesterday, adding that Bahamians "may not" see the pre-recession "good old days" economically for another 10 years.

Gregory Bethel, president of Fidelity Bank (Bahamas), also told a Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) seminar that they and their clients needed to "prepare to pay more taxes", starting with the Bahamian government's 2010-2011 Budget, as the Ingraham administration moved to narrow the fis-

Banking executive warns Bahamian households and companies to prepare for new and increased taxes from 2010 onwards

cal deficit and reduce the national debt to a position more in line with a 30-35 per cent of GDP ratio. Currently, the national debt is moving closer to a 50 per cent of GDP ratio.

Mr Bethel suggested that the increasing number of single parent families in the Bahamas, where there was only one income supporting numerous children, was a structural socio-economic weakness that had been further exposed by rising unemployment and reduced incomes resulting from the recession.

He told Bahamian accountants that they would "be surprised" at what was happening in many families, where the sole source of income had either been eliminated or reduced. And the large size of many single parent families, where a mother supported multiple children, further exacerbated the situation.

"The reason we have so much poverty in the Bahamas is that children are very expensive, and in most homes we do not have two incomes supporting the children," Mr Bethel said.

Further evidence of the immense strain the recession had imposed on Bahamian

SEE page 4B



**FAMILY GUARDIAN**  
INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED





# secure future

- leave your children financially secure
- provide a safety net for your loved ones
- ensure a bright future for your family
- all of the above

**call us today at 396-1355**

SALES OFFICES: NASSAU | FREEPORT | ABACO | ELEUTHERA | EXUMA | CORPORATE CENTRE: EAST BAY STREET | [www.famguardbahamas.com](http://www.famguardbahamas.com)

A SUBSIDIARY OF  
**FAMGUARD**  
CORPORATION LIMITED



GAS TRACKER



\$4.17

Shell



\$4.25

Esso



\$4.25

Texaco

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.

BUSINESS

# Connecting key needs with climate change

**By Audrey Ingram Roberts**  
Executive director, Source Development Consultants  
Ltd and Enigin partner  
TOURISM and financial

services, our economy's twin engines, are greatly stressed by the impact of the global economic recession. Cold comfort may be found in the

fact that all our regional competitors, who also rely on one or both of these sectors to keep their GDP looking fairly good and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at bay, are in the same boat. Actually, indeed ironically, the recession has strengthened the IMF and so, once again, the Fund, which was never designed to benefit developing states (far less small developing states), is likely to bare its sharp teeth when it comes to structural adjustment programmes in our region. The more things change...but that's a topic for another time.

Yvette Sands, chair of the Chamber of Commerce's energy and environment committee, is quite right to admonish industrialised countries to eliminate pollutants and reduce energy use in manufacturing industries. Even her inference in last Monday's Tribune article, entitled *Reduced meat consumption 'can stave off global warming'*, that the industrialised north carries the bigger share of the blame for

global warming than the developing south is right, but so what? The whole world is caught on the horns of a common dilemma - acceptance of, and compliance with, a single model of development based on unsustainable consumption. By underestimating the importance of the diet issue in global warming, Ms Sands's advice, taken in the context of think global, act local, is far off the mark. The Bahamas would be well advised to put diet high on the energy and climate change agenda.

## Basic

Our basic need for water, food and energy is unchanging and everlasting. However, in the last few years, these needs have become a lot more complicated. In the Bahamas, as like any other country, we seek to improve our diet and even our food exports, as evidenced by The Tribune's September 11th article headlined *30 crops to reduce the \$580m food import bill*.

The announcement raises agriculture's traditionally low profile. It shows that the changing economic climate is driving the overdue need to diversify the economy, and signals inter-sector planning. But the gap left by a lack of integrated planning is evident in the article. The energy and climate change linkage that should cut across all sectors is missing. This should factor into policy and planning processes, so that the changes required in our systems of production and service, as well as in our consumption patterns and diet, are communicated to the country.

We use more energy in our lifestyle today, and consume more water, than we did 20 or more years ago. The Bahamas is not primarily an agricultural economy, yet the crops we grow need more fertilizer and are produced with huge amounts of fossil fuel energy. The same is true of

our lawns, and the green landscapes of the hotel properties and the golf courses that have been designed into our tourism product. Huge amounts of water are required to produce the necessary energy.

Traditionally, we import foods for our consumption and for our hotel guests. Production and transportation in the Bahamas uses a lot of fossil fuel-based energy. Reducing our food import bill by growing more livestock and crops may increase employment, reduce distribution costs and bring fresher produce to our dinner tables, but will not reduce carbon emissions or energy usage if our production methods are fossil-fuel based like everywhere else. There is no escaping the triangle of water, food and energy. The factor that locks this triangle together is environment, and our environment is water-stressed and river-less.

The common way of understanding linkages by adding two complementary terms - say food and water, or energy and climate change - is limited and unsatisfactory, but it does provide a starting place for analysis, which hopefully will lead to better correlations among all the elements that converge into massively complex topics such as climate change and our changing economic climate. So let us take food and water together.

It takes 11 gallons of water to produce a slice of bread; 13 gallons to produce an orange; 35 gallons to produce a cup of coffee; 36 gallons to produce an egg and 630 gallons to produce a hamburger. According to the Wall Street Journal, it takes roughly 20 gallons of water to make a pint of beer. We are rightly concerned about the pumps, motors and energy used to manufacture the foods we love to eat, even though we are not a manufacturing economy.

Harvard researcher John

Briscoe says 80 per cent of the world's fresh water is used for agriculture. Coca-Cola says it takes about a gallon of water to make a two-liter bottle of soda. That's not counting the 132 gallons of water used to grow ingredients such as sugar cane. Calories are a measure of energy, and every calorie you consume while dining takes 10 calories to get it to the dining table.

Let us connect food and the environment. Consider our meat-based diet. To produce just 16 ounces of beef requires one-third of a gallon of oil, 16 pounds of grain and 5,214 gallons of water. A person uses up that much water taking a shower every day of a year. Think of what that means in our water-challenged environment.

## Leading

Leading environmentalist Vandana Shiva, writing about industrial agriculture in her book, *Stolen Harvest*, has this to say: "Industrial agriculture has not produced more food. It has destroyed diverse sources of food and it has stolen from other species to bring large quantities of specific commodities to the market, using huge quantities of fossil fuels, water and toxic chemicals in the process."

Changing what you eat can have more effect on the environment than changing the car you drive. One third of what we throw away is food waste, which adds to our landfill gases on Harold Road. Here I'm talking only about New Providence, where the population is greatest.

Methane is 23 times worse than carbon dioxide, so if we can harvest food waste before it reaches the landfill we can do something positive for our environment. Composting food waste is something we each can do. It is free, it saves money and the environment. Fact is, everything about the way we eat today is energy and water intensive.

**Dear wealth manager, are you motivated by budgets, sales targets and discretionary bonuses? If so, EFG Bank & Trust (Bahamas) Ltd is probably not the wealth manager for you.**

The essence of wealth management is relationships; we create the conditions for them to flourish. Our wealth managers serve clients as they see fit, free from budgets, sales targets and arbitrary remuneration. Treated as professionals, they are empowered to run a business and rewarded on their profit contribution. Appealing? At EFG, we're looking for a different kind of wealth manager: a client-centred entrepreneur. Fans of internal bureaucracy need not apply.

Practitioners of the craft of wealth management

**EFG Bank & Trust (Bahamas) Ltd**

If you are interested in joining a wealth manager unlike any other, please get in touch with Steve Mackey, CEO, EFG Caribbean - T 1 242 502 5400 - F 1 242 393 1161 - [steve.mackey@efgbank.com](mailto:steve.mackey@efgbank.com)  
EFG Bank & Trust (Bahamas) Ltd is part of EFG International, which operates in 55 locations in over 30 countries - [www.efginternational.com](http://www.efginternational.com)



## Share your news

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

**NOV. 13 & 14**  
**@ A NEW LOCATION**

**FREE CONCERT**

**ARAWAK CAY**  
*We're gonna Eat and Dance and Sing and Play.*

**Starts 1pm UNTIL**

**JOIN THE LIVE IN LOVE MOVEMENT**  
*Its gonna be FAMTABULOUS!*

**Featuring:**  
Canton Jones | Sean Daniels | Yankee B  
Christian Massive | Mr. Lynx | Monty G  
LOJ RAP | Ricardo Clarke | Najie Dun  
Platinum Souljahz | Shabach

**Nassau:**  
**Grand Tasting & Cognac Lounge**  
Friday November 20th, 7pm • Sheraton Ballroom

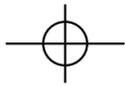
**Freeport:**  
**Grand Tasting & Tattinger Champagne Lounge**  
Friday November 27th, 7pm • Our Lucaya Grand Ballroom

**Grand Tasting (Nassau & Freeport): \$25** (\$30 at the door)  
**Cognac Lounge (Nassau Only): \$50** (\$60 at the door)  
**Tattinger Lounge (Freeport Only): \$45** (\$60 at the door)

Tickets are available at the following Butler & Sands locations:

**NASSAU:**  
Butler & Sands JFK  
Bahamas Wines Shirley Street & Caves Village.

**FREEPORT:**  
Butler & Sands in RND Plaza  
Burns House Head Office on Queen's Highway & House of Rum, Port Lucaya.



BUSINESS

# Alternative energy studies 'until 2016'

By CHESTER ROBARDS  
Business Reporter  
crobards@tribunemedia.net

THE Government could continue research on finding the best alternative energy sources for the Bahamas' into 2016, the director of the Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology (BEST) Commission said yesterday, while six of this country's first possible alternative energy providers have now been selected from a list of 13.

Philip Weech, speaking at the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Energy Conference, said financing will be the largest impediment to exploring the renewable energy possibilities for the Family Islands.

While waste-to-energy likely to be the alternative energy source used in New Providence and Abaco, with four of the six shortlisted companies offering this method of power generation, other options must be explored for the Family Islands.

Traditionally, the Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC) has never been profitable in its attempt to supply energy to the Family Islands. The minister responsible for BEC, Phenton Neymour, and

its director, Kevin Basden, have stated several times that New Providence has always subsidised power production on the other islands.

The Government has acquired more than \$1.6 million from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to explore alternative energy sources and evaluate BEC, as the newly-drafted National Energy Policy (NEP) drives this country towards the implementation of renewable energy.

The Government has given itself a target of five to 10 years to move its power production to 10 per cent from renewable energy.

The German company Fichtner, hired to evaluate BEC in order for it to be streamlined and possibly put on the market to be privatised, will be finished with its study by early second quarter 2010. And the findings of that study will lead to energy policy development and amendments to the Electricity Act.

Mr Neymour said recently that as part of the IDB grant project, the Government would look into BEC's financial position and research ways to improve this by looking at its internal structure

and rates it charges customers.

Moving forward with the production of biodiesel, the government recently awarded four licences and "are very pleased in the initiatives taken".

"We expect within the next year to see the fruits of our labour over the past two years," said Mr Neymour.

Despite the Government's haste in reviewing alternative energies, Mr Neymour said implementation could take some time.

According to him, from award of the contract to completion of the project, integration of a renewable source such as waste-to-energy could take up to five years.

"The implementation of these programmes takes considerable time," said Mr Neymour. "More time than we like, but they do."

He said implementation of renewable energy takes time and research, and he cited lack of data as a prime hurdle. "We are fighting feverishly to try to catch up to where the Bahamas ought to be," Mr Neymour added.



## The National Insurance Board of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

### Request for Contractors Pre-Qualification

The National Insurance Board (NIB) is seeking to pre-qualify contractors to bid on works to provide furniture (fit out) for various buildings that are scheduled to be constructed; these projects are joint ventures of NIB and The Bahamas Government. Contractors must be in compliance with the National Insurance Act (social security programme), and in good standing with the relevant Government agencies.

Pre-qualification documents may be collected from the Security Booth at NIB's Clifford Darling Complex, Blue Hill Road, or downloaded from NIB's website at [www.nib-bahamas.com](http://www.nib-bahamas.com).

Pre-Qualification documents should be signed, sealed and returned to the Director's Office in an addressed envelope with the caption "Furniture Contractor Pre-Qualification Document" on or before 12:00 Noon on November 20, 2009.

To advertise in *The Tribune* - the #1 newspaper in circulation, just call 502-2371 today!

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### INTENT TO CHANGE NAME BY DEED POLL

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

### NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **SONEL CHARLES of MACKEY STREET, NASSAU, THE BAHAMAS**, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2009** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.



### RELOCATION NOTICE

Dear Valued Clients,  
We wish to remind you that **Ansbacher (Bahamas) Limited** will move offices effective Monday, November 16, 2009.

**Please note our new address:**  
308 East Bay Street, 4th Floor  
Nassau, Bahamas  
Tel: 322.1161

**TODAY**  
Thinking green

**TOMORROW**  
Planning for blue

Can today's environmental thinking inspire tomorrow's technology? Toyota believes so. Since its launch in 1997, the Prius has earned the love of millions of forward-thinking drivers. We estimate our hybrid technology has saved 4 billion liters of gasoline and lowered CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by billions of kilograms\*. It's also paving the way for the next generation of environmental vehicles. Like cars charged at home. Or cars that will run solely on electricity, or consume hydrogen and emit only water. Because when it comes to thinking green, the sky's the limit.

\*Estimated savings compares each U.S. hybrid vehicle's EPA combined mpg rating with its segment average based on latest EPA Trends Report (driven 15,000 miles annually). Actual mileage will vary. ©2009

**TOYOTA**  
Moving Forward  
[toyota-future.com](http://toyota-future.com)

**BIFF09/DEC 10-17**  
for TIX: 242.356.5939 / [www.bintlfilmfest.com](http://www.bintlfilmfest.com)

Bahamas International Film Festival



BUSINESS

# Single parent family costs 'why there's so much poverty'

FROM page 1B

families came from the "incredible number" of customers - more than 6,000 - who had been disconnected for non-payment by the Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC).

"Why? Because we live from pay cheque to pay cheque, we don't plan for emergencies, and we run to the Government" whenever there is a crisis," Mr Bethel said, "yet we all dream about travel, home ownership and vacations."

And, in a further warning to Bahamians that difficult economic times may be with them for some years to come, he added: "The good old days of 2006, 2007 and the early part of 2008, we may not see them again for, maybe, 10 years. It's going to be very different in our country. My boss calls it 'the new normal.'"

Mr Bethel drew on a 2008 study conducted for the US-

based Centre of Nutrition Policy Promotion, which visited 5,000 homes where a baby was born in 2008 to calculate how expensive it was to raise a child on a per annum basis.

The study's findings, Mr Bethel said, showed that it cost a lower income American family \$9,000 per year to raise a child, a middle income family \$12,000 per year, and \$20,000 for a high income American family.

Taking a child from birth to 17 years-old, the study found that the costs for a lower income family would total \$160,000, for a middle class family it would total \$205,000, and \$320,000 for an upper class family.

These costs, Mr Bethel suggested, would be higher for Bahamian families at all levels of the social spectrum, given the relatively high living costs in this nation, and the existence of high customs tariffs

on many imported goods.

"Family planning is really financial planning," Mr Bethel said. "You've got to get money for it, work hard for it, borrow it or get it through some other means."

And these costs, he added, ignored the sums involved in paying for children to get through higher education, traditionally college or university. The Centre of Nutrition Policy Promotion study had found that in 2008, the cost of education at a state-funded university was \$105,000, and for a private university it was \$225,000.

Therefore, it would cost a lower income family in the US some \$265,000 to raise a child to the age of 17, then pay for their college education, while for a middle class family it would cost either \$310,000 or \$430,000 depending on whether the child went to a state-funded or private university. For upper class families, the cost would be \$545,000.

Meanwhile, Mr Bethel warned Bahamian accountants to warn their clients of new and increased taxes "beginning next year", and to watch the 2010-2011 Budget communication.

He pointed out that governments throughout the world, not just the Bahamas, had "borrowed their way through the recession", incurring expanded fiscal deficits and a rising national debt in the process.

Given that the Bahamas could not print money because it is unable to print US dollars, the Government had to resort to borrowing, and Mr Bethel effectively implied that both the Ingraham administration and its counterparts worldwide had little option to either raise tax-

es or cut spending to bring public finances back into line.

In the Bahamas' case, Mr Bethel said the Government's expanding welfare and social safety net programmes had to be funded. He pointed to the unemployment benefit, health initiatives such as the National Prescription Drug Programme, and actuarial projections that contribution rates/wage ceilings for the National Insurance Board (NIB) contributions needed to be raised, as examples of forthcoming tax increases.

The Government has already indicated that there is likely to be a total 2 per cent increase in NIB contribution rates to finance the unemployment benefit and prescription drug programme, with this set to take effect in 2010.

"There will be more taxes, increased taxes, new fees and as government determined to collect revenues. Get your clients ready for it. That's going to be the new normal," Mr Bethel said. The burden would be shared by both individuals and companies.

And he suggested that among the new tax options for the Government could potentially be a payroll tax, sales tax or value-added Tax (VAT), plus increased property-based taxes.

Illustrating why foreign direct investment (FDI) and tourism had been so badly hit by the global recession, Mr Bethel said some \$11.2 trillion in wealth had been lost as a result of the US stock market crash between October 2007 and March 2009.

Since the latter month, some \$4.6 trillion of this figure had been recovered for a net \$6.6 trillion loss, but Mr Bethel said this had not been enough to induce wealthy

Americans to buy property in the Bahamas, construct homes or visit this nation.

Foreign direct investment flows were down by one-third, he acknowledged, and the increase in the global price of an ounce of gold from \$855.40 last October to \$1,114.60 this year showed that international investors had lost confidence in the US dollar and its economy, and were seeking safer havens.

"That's us. That's our future, that's our economy," Mr Bethel said of the US dollar flight. "It's a signal for us that we're in this new normal. It's not going to be done the way it used to be, and that's what experts are saying around the world."

The rise in the US unemployment rate from 6.2 per cent to 10.2 per cent in the past year again showed why Bahamian resorts were suffering from lower occupancies and room rates, Mr Bethel said.

And, while the US personal savings rate was a negative 0.5 per cent in 2005, as people spent more than they owned through cheap borrowing against the equity in their homes, it was now a positive 6.9 per cent.

"That's not good for us, because they're not coming to the Bahamas on vacation, they're saving their money," Mr Bethel said. Credit card spending was especially important for the Bahamian tourism industry, but American credit card debt had fallen by 8 per cent between September 2008 and August 2009, dropping from \$975 billion to \$899 billion.

And median US house prices had fallen from \$245,000 in 2006, a record high, to \$195,000 in August 2009.



## Share your news

The Tribune wants to hear from people who are making news in their neighbourhoods. Perhaps you are raising funds for a good cause, campaigning for improvements in the area or have won an award.

If so, call us on 322-1986 and share your story.

## GENERAL MANAGER Care Management Network

Care Management Network (CMN) is an international medical cost containment company based in Nassau. CMN, a part of Europ-Assistance, a global company is seeking to engage a suitably qualified person for the following newly created position in Nassau.

### Essential Duties:

- Report to President, Care Management Network
- Responsible for effective operations of multiple functions in the Bahamas office in coordination with key suppliers
- Excellent leadership and supervisory skills are essential
- Additionally responsible for local governance, regulatory and legal matters
- Ensure strong execution as well as strong relationships with external partners

### Requirements:

- Management experience across multiple functions in the insurance sector, preferably in health insurance
- Proven ability to work effectively with staff, suppliers and clients in a matrix environment
- Minimum Bachelor's Degree in a related field
- Minimum 5 years of experience at a management/ supervisory level
- For the right candidate willing to consider flexible work week

If you are interested in applying your knowledge and experience with a growing organization and meet the requirements for either of the above listed positions please apply via email to [hr@cmn-global.com](mailto:hr@cmn-global.com), listing the position in the title of the email. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

GN 958



## Ministry of National Security Police Department

Traffic press release notice  
official funeral service for the late wife of the  
Governor General Beryl Hanna on Friday 13 November 2009 at  
11:00am at Christ Church Cathedral on George Street

### INFORMATION:

Official Funeral Service for the late wife of the Governor General Beryl Hanna will be held on Friday, 13 November, 2009 at 11:00 am at Christ Church Cathedral, George Street.

### ROUTE:.

After the funeral service the procession will travel north on George Street to Bay Street; east on Bay Street to Armstrong Street, south on Armstrong Street to Dowdeswell Street. then east on Dowdeswell Street to Saint Matthews' Cemetery.

### ROAD CLOSURE:

From 12:00 noon until after the procession passes, the following streets will be closed to vehicular traffic.

GEORGE STREET BETWEEN BAY STREET AND DUKE STREET	BOTH SIDES
BAY STREET BETWEEN GEORGE AND ARMSTRONG STREETS	BOTH SIDES
ARMSTRONG STREET BETWEEN BAY AND DOWDESWELL STREETS	BOTH SIDES
DOWDESWELL STREET BETWEEN ARMSTRONG AND CHURCH STREETS	BOTH SIDES

### TRAFFIC DIVERSION:

At the commencement of the funeral procession, vehicular traffic not connected to the funeral service will be diverted through side streets.

### NO PARKING:

From 11:00 am until after the procession passes, no vehicle will be permitted to park. On the following streets:

GEORGE STREET BETWEEN BAY STREET AND DUKE STREET.	BOTH SIDES
BAY STREET BETWEEN GEORGE AND ARMSTRONG STREETS	BOTH SIDES
ARMSTRONG STREET BETWEEN BAY AND DOWDESWELL STREETS	BOTH SIDES
DOWDESWELL STREET BETWEEN ARMSTRONG AND CHURCH STREETS	BOTH SIDES



# Everything Christmas

November 6th - 14th, 2009

# \* 20% off

\* Except on net items

Shop early  
for fabulous  
bargains!

## Kelly's House & Home

Tel: (242) 393-4002  
Fax: (242) 393-4096

Mall at Marathon  
Monday-Friday 9:00am-8:00pm  
Saturday 9:00am-9:00pm  
Sunday closed  
[www.kellysbahamas.com](http://www.kellysbahamas.com)



BUSINESS



A WHOPPER sandwich is shown at a Burger King restaurant. Restaurant chain Burger King Corp's fiscal first-quarter profit slipped six per cent as recession-weary diners stayed home, the company said...

(AP Photo)



FREE LUNG-FUNCTION TEST

- Do you have a history of smoking?
- Are you regularly exposed to second-hand smoke?

If you have answered "YES", you may need to be tested for a chronic lung condition known as COPD.

WHEN: Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
WHERE: Doctor's Hospital, Conference Room  
TIME: 4-6 p.m.

Refreshments will be served!

Sponsored by: **NOPQ**

# Food fight: Burger King franchisees sue chain

By ASHLEY M HEHER  
AP Retail Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Burger King franchisees sued the hamburger company this week over its \$1 double cheeseburger promotion, saying they're losing money on the deal and the company can't set maximum menu prices.

The National Franchise Association, a group that represents more than 80 per cent of Burger King's US franchise owners, said the \$1 promotion forces restaurant owners to sell the quarter-pound burger at a loss.

After testing the \$1 deal in markets across the country, the discounted burger went on sale nationwide last month even though franchise own-

ers, who operate 90 per cent of the company's 12,000 locations, twice rejected the product because of its expense.

"The current management team has disregarded rights that Burger King franchisees have always had," Pennsylvania franchise owner Steve Lewis said in a statement.

Denise Wilson, a spokeswoman for the nation's No. 2 hamburger chain, said the Miami restaurant company believes the litigation is "without merit," particularly after an earlier appeals court ruling this year showing the company had a right to require franchise owners to participate in its value menu promotions.

Restaurants, especially fast-food chains, have been slashing menu prices because of

the poor economy.

Executives hope the deeply discounted deals will bring in diners who are spending less when they eat out, or opting to stay home altogether.

When the \$1 double cheeseburger was announced this fall, analyst said it could increase restaurant visits by as much as 20 per cent. But despite that boost, a Deutsche Bank analyst said as much as half of the gain recorded from increased traffic could be lost because customers were spending less when they ordered food.

The lawsuit was filed Tuesday in US District Court in Southern Florida.

Burger King shares fell 26 cents, or 1.5 per cent, to \$17.04 in late-afternoon trading.

Home & Motor Insurance  
SAVE \$\$\$!

Call NIBA on 677-6422  
Why pay more for your insurance?



NASSAU INSURANCE  
BROKERS & AGENTS

NASSAU INSURANCE BROKERS & AGENTS CO. LTD.  
Atlantic House, 2nd Terrace & Collins Avenue, P.O. Box N-7764 Nassau Tel. 677-6422  
A member of Colonial Group International: Insurance, Health, Pensions, Life

## RN CASE MANAGER Care Management Network

Care Management Network (CMN) is an international medical cost containment company based in Nassau. CMN, a part of Europ-Assistance, a global company is seeking to engage a suitably qualified person for the following newly created position in Nassau.

**Essential Duties:**

- Medically manage a patient's care within the context of their Policy coverage and ensure both maximum cost containment and quality of service and care.
- Provide caring and professional support to patients and their families
- Ensure strong execution as well as strong relationships with external partners
- Ensure seamless and professional communication with, and support for, health Providers in order to facilitate appropriate medical management within the health insurance process.

**Requirements:**

- A licensed Registered Nurse with international medical experience
- 3 - 5 years of strong clinical assessment and treatment experience, preferably in a hospital setting.

If you are interested in applying your knowledge and experience with a growing organization and meet the requirements for either of the above listed positions please apply via email to HYPERLINK "mailto:hr@cmn-global.com" [hr@cmn-global.com](mailto:hr@cmn-global.com), listing the position in the title of the email. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

To advertise in *The Tribune* - the #1 newspaper in circulation, just call 502-2371 today!



LifeChoices

## Love your home? You'll love affordable mortgage protection.

Home owners can enjoy additional family security with affordable life insurance for mortgage protection from Atlantic Medical. For example, cover of \$300,000 is from just \$9 per week and no medical is necessary.\*

\* rates vary, illustration applies male age 30



ATLANTIC  
MEDICAL

ATLANTIC MEDICAL INSURANCE CO. LTD.

Atlantic House, 2nd Terrace & Collins Avenue, P.O. Box SS-5915, Nassau Tel. 356-5433  
Suite 5, Jasmine Corporate Center, East Sunrise Highway, P.O. Box F-42655, Freeport Tel. 351-3960

A member of Colonial Group International Ltd: Insurance, Health, Pensions, Life

CALL 356-5433  
or visit [www.cgigroup.bm](http://www.cgigroup.bm)



Colonial Group International is rated A-(Excellent) by AM Best.



BUSINESS

## Improved hotel numbers below recession levels

cent below last year's third quarter levels. The ADR recorded was \$200.51 compared to \$222.94 in 2008."

For the first nine months to end September 2009, the Ministry of Tourism and BHA said hotel occupancy stood at 63.5 per cent compared to 68.9 per cent last year.

The ADR was \$230.35, while January to September last year was \$254.42. Hotel revenue fell 21 per cent, with 12 of the 14 hotels reporting losses for the year so far. Hotel room nights sold decreased by 12.8 per cent.

The latest preliminary air arrivals to the end of August for New Providence showed a 9.3 per cent decrease or 71,812 fewer foreign air arrivals than in 2008.

The Ministry of Tourism and BHA said: "While the hotel industry welcomed the improved performance in September, the Bahamas Hotel Association advises that it must be taken in context. The Bahamas experienced a high level of cancellations and lost bookings last year as a result of a major hurricane threat. This was followed immediately by the precipitous collapse of the US financial markets, cancellations of group business and a halt in impulse travel.

"While the average daily rate for September inched up and revenue per available room has increased, they remain considerably below pre-recession levels and point to the continued vulnerability of the industry.

"The year-to-date revenue picture continues to concern hoteliers, with the cumulative effect continuing to force management to remain prudent operationally and placing similar constraints on Government. Most of the hotels which experienced occupancy growth in September also experienced shorter stays by guests. This may add to the overall visitor arrivals numbers for September."

The statement added: "The outlook for the industry remains cautious. One month's performance is not a trend, and the next several months should determine the extent to which optimism may be returning.

"The industry continues to monitor US economic performance indicators, a number which are beginning to show signs of improvement, the latest being an announcement that US GDP should be higher than previously anticipated. As US consumer confidence rebounds and unemployment levels drop, the Bahamas will see an acceleration of its tourism industry's recovery."

# Bahamas can set Caribbean renewable energies trends

By CHESTER ROBARDS  
Business Reporter  
crobards@tribunemedia.net

AN ENVIRONMENTAL and global energy consultant said yesterday that the Bahamas can set the trend in the Caribbean for renewable energy production because of the diversity of its islands, and the wide variety of energy sources that could be implemented.

Dr Albert Binger, speaking at the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Energy Conference, said controlling greenhouse gas emissions in this region and setting an example for nearby countries was important to conserving natural resources and, consequently, the economy.

Dr Binger said if ocean temperatures were allowed to rise two

degrees, all marine life could cease to exist in these waters, thereby causing the collapse of the tourism industry and the breakdown of the economy.

He said this was a key reason to quickly find alternative energy solutions, despite the Caribbean region collectively contributing less than 0.5 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions. He also said that 43 islands states alone in this region sequester about half of the emissions outpitted.

Dr Binger revealed that the Bahamas consumes 26,000 barrels of oil per day, and asserted that much of that oil is wasted through power consumption. He cited water heaters as one of the most inefficient appliances in a common house. According to him, in terms of one barrel of oil, only 15 per cent is used in the heating of water while

85 per cent is wasted throughout the production and transmission process. "We don't use energy efficiently," he said. "There is nothing more inefficient than to convert electricity to heat. We waste 90 million barrels (of oil) in heat waste."

## Benefits

Recognising the benefits of Solar Water heaters, the government has written this into its National Energy Policy (NEP). Experiments with the sun-powered heaters are expected to begin shortly as a part of the construction of government subdivisions.

Dr Binger said the Bahamas also has great potential for developing biofuel for diesel engines through the farming of elephant grass, which he said yields a 1 to 14 output.

"Power is the easiest thing to produce, but we like liquid fuel, so we continue to use it," he said.

He suggested several alternative energy options for islands across the Bahamas, including solid waste, landfill gas and fats energy for New Providence, and biomass, fuels from grasses, used oil and the ocean as sources for Grand Bahama. On the Out Islands, mainly wind and solar energy were suggested.

Dr Binger said though these alternative energy sources were expensive to implement, they were absolutely necessary for the survival of the islands in the region, as global warming affects sea level rise, and even more important for the Bahamas as the highest per capita user of energy in the region.

"What we do about climate change matters and it matters a lot," said Dr Binger.

## Firms urged to exit BEC power use

FROM page 1B

fire in his air conditioning unit.

Mr Weatherford's original position on private power generation was that it was quite legal, until he read a newspaper article in which the minister in charge of the Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC), Phenton Neymour, warned citizens not to interfere with the electricity grid if they decided to produce their own energy.

He said the Government's policy on alternative energy and the language of the Bahamas Electricity Act were too ambiguous to risk the \$3,000 fine that could be imposed on him for generating his own "clean" power.

The Bahamas Electricity Act, with regard to private power gen-

eration, reads: "Except with the approval of the Minister and in conformity with any conditions to which any such approval may be made subject, no person other than the Corporation shall install or operate in New Providence any generating station with a generating capacity exceeding 250 kilowatts.

This was "provided that the prohibition imposed by this section shall not apply to any standby generating plant, which is used only for the supply of energy in case of the failure of the energy supply by the Corporation or other emergency. The Minister shall not refuse his approval under this section for the installation or operation of any generating station by any person in any case in which the energy required by such person cannot be

supplied or cannot be supplied within a reasonable time by the Corporation.

"Any person who installs or operates or permits the operation of any generating station in contravention of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$3,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further penalty of one \$150 for each day that the offence continues."

After studying the Act, Mr Weatherford argued that generating 250 Kilowatts of power was largely unnecessary for a typical private residence, but that that amount of output could run "four small hotels".

He also maintained that imple-

menting private power generation through solar systems can create a niche market that would employ a number of Bahamians.

According to Mr Weatherford, the Government, through Mr Neymour, should tout his solar power generating facility as the way forward for energy production.

The Government, in its National Energy Policy, (NEP) are studying the potential for private power generation through various sources, including solar power.

On a national level, it has been determined thus far that waste-to-energy could be the best option for renewable energy in New Providence, while options for solar and wind energy are being explored for implementation in the Family Islands.

## Benchmark 'teetering around' negative worth

FROM page 1B

you value it, we're teetering around that number, but we are very aware of it and have put in place strategies to deal with it, so that if share values don't improve we will not close out the year with net negative equity."

Mr Brown said he was "waiting to see how things pan out in the fourth quarter" before deciding whether to execute any of the strategies conceived by Benchmark (Bahamas) management and Board, although he did not divulge what these were.

However, most companies that fall into this position usually require an injection of equity capital, usually from their shareholders either privately, or in the case of public companies, via a rights issue.

Mr Brown alluded to this being one of the options Benchmark (Bahamas) was considering, telling Tribune

Business: "There are certain things we would commit to do, which would be to raise additional capital in some form if we get into that position.

"We have our eye on the situation, have done tests on our part, and have strategies to deal with a net deficit position should it occur at year-end."

However, Mr Brown said Benchmark (Bahamas) would have no difficulty in paying its bills or meeting its liabilities, as it had no debt on its books apart from the \$1 million - in two \$500,000 tranches - it had drawn down from Bank of the Bahamas International to finance its Carmichael Road office/retail complex. The debt financing was, as a result of the project's nature, fully collateralised.

Benchmark (Bahamas) cash flow was also up, standing at \$384,000 according to

Mr Brown, compared to \$154,000 last year, and this would increase further once the Carmichael Road complex was finished.

The complex, he added, would generate "further cash flow", as the real estate value would have increased from the time construction work started. There was future earnings value in that building, but Benchmark (Bahamas) was waiting until construction was completed to obtain a real estate appraisal.

Mr Brown said "excellent" progress was being made on the Carmichael Road project, whose construction was "75 per cent" complete.

"We're about three-quarters of the way complete, and we are getting a lot of interest in the real estate down there," he added. "We're very confident we're not going to have any difficulty in filling spots

there. The interest threshold from people calling is up three-fold since the June report was made.

"They're respectable and good-sized businesses making these inquiries, so we're very confident that we'll have that complex fully leased before the end of next year."

Mr Brown said some 60 per cent of the 18,000 square foot complex had been leased to date, with Bank of the Bahamas International acting as the anchor tenant with an 8,000 square foot branch taking up two levels.

The Carmichael Road complex was scheduled to be completed by year-end, Mr Brown said, and any schedule overrun would be a maximum of two to three weeks into the New Year, he had been assured by the project's architect and engineers. Construction was still on schedule, he added, to be completed with-

in the 52-week schedule set by Benchmark (Bahamas).

Mr Brown said the BISX-listed firm had invested about \$1.4 million of its own capital into the Carmichael Road complex, having spent \$650,000 in acquiring the land and another \$800,000 on the construction.

"We've made the first draw down against the facility we have with Bank of the Bahamas International for \$0.5 million, and are working with that," he added. "We have roughly \$900,000 left to complete the project, and it does not appear that we will have to draw down 100 per cent of that facility.

"We will probably draw down another \$0.5 million in the next 30 days or so, that will be all we need to finance the project. It will leave another \$1 million at Bank of the Bahamas International. Maybe we'll look at other

opportunities. We'll see."

For the nine months to September 30, 2009, Benchmark (Bahamas) lost \$0.19 per share as opposed to a \$0.12 per share loss the previous year.

The realised and unrealised losses on its investment portfolio continued to drag the company down, amounting to a \$1.594 million loss for the period to September 30, 2009, even though assets from new business grew and Benchmark (Bahamas) consolidated net investment income rose to \$386,427, compared to \$153,174 in 2008.

For the nine months, Benchmark's investment portfolio produced an unrealised depreciation of \$698,162. In its other segments, Benchmark Advisors suffered a loss of \$17,072, Benchmark Properties a loss of \$350,000, and Alliance Investment Management a loss of \$217,049.

## Insurer targeting niche 'severely underserved via health re-entry

FROM page 1B

is primarily a group health insurer. "In a nutshell, we're re-entering the health insurance market," Mr Cooper said, hinting that this would round-out its product offering, which already features life insurance, pensions, mortgages, annuities and other financial services products.

Touting the benefits of the BUPA alliance, given that the company generated \$10 billion in net income last year, and has more than 10 million clients in 192 countries, Mr Cooper said: "We're doing it with one of the largest health insurance companies in the world.

"Certainly, BUPA is the largest in Latin America and the Caribbean in terms of offering health insurance..... I think it's, for all intents and purposes, a win-win combina-

tion for us in terms of re-entering the market and providing clients with the full menu of services we had before. Our clients have again been asking us to offer this product for quite some time, and we are delighted to be able to do so."

Mr Cooper said British American Financial would look to expand its new medical insurance product portfolio into the Caribbean "in due course", in line with its plans to expand internationally - started by the Cayman acquisition.

He added that while British American Financial would eventually target all sectors of the Bahamian health insurance market, the "initial focus" would be on the individual and small groups categories, on the grounds that these segments were "severely underserved".

"We believe the individual market, as well as the market for small

businesses in the Bahamas, is severely underserved," Mr Cooper told Tribune Business. "This sector of the market is generally underserved by health insurers in the Bahamas. The products are available to consumers, but from the insurance perspective they don't see this market as being profitable.

"We're leveraging the strength of BUPA's 10 million members, and all the benefits from their sheer size to be able to offer improved products at competitive prices in this market.

"When we're looking at that part of the business, we're looking to offset the initial volatility of our business because we're relying on their infrastructure to a great extent."

Other potential markets include CLICO (Bahamas) policyholders, whose health insurance cards are still being refused by many doctors,

pharmacies and other medical providers, and former Generali clients who were "mutual" customers of British American Financial.

Mr Cooper added: "We believe this business and our approach to it can be profitable for us in the first year, year-and-a-half. We expect to achieve our sales targets."

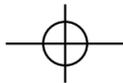
The start-up investment in the new health insurance products, Mr Cooper said, was "not as large one" due to both British American Financial and BUPA's existing infrastructure, although customer support and management/administration had been upgraded.

"We have a very significant partnership with BUPA, where they have got the experience, they have the global reach, and they are essentially supporting us in this venture," Mr Cooper said.

"BUPA is going to be effectively providing their network internationally, their worldwide network of physicians and providers, and ability to get discounts for us abroad. We needed a big partner in this side of the business to give us global reach, and give us access to discounts, savings and products to make this business a success, without duplicating ourselves the costs in a small market."

Mr Cooper said British American Financial was not the only company to exit the health insurance business in the Caribbean when it did. Swiss Re having adopted a similar course of action at the same time. He added that the move had given his company to restructure and assess its product offering.

British American Financial is offering four options in its MedSafe portfolio.



INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS



AN Advance Micro Devices (AMD) logo is shown on a computer at Best Buy in California... (AP Photo)

# Intel to pay AMD \$1.25bn in legal settlement

NEW YORK (AP) — Intel Corp. is paying \$1.25 billion to Advanced Micro Devices Inc., its largest rival in the market for computer processors, to settle all antitrust and patent suits, the companies said Thursday.

Intel said it has agreed to abide by a set of "business practice provisions." In return, AMD is dropping suits in the US and Japan, and withdrawing complaints to antitrust regulators worldwide.

AMD shares soared \$1.19, or 22 per cent, to \$6.51 in morning trading. Intel shares edged up 13 cents to \$19.97.

AMD has been complaining to regulators for five years

that Intel has broken antitrust laws to limit AMD's market share.

In May, the European Union fined Intel a record \$1.45 billion, and last year, Korea's Fair Trade Commission fined Intel \$18.6 million. Intel is appealing both rulings.

EU spokesman Jonathan Todd said the European Commission "takes note" of Intel's settlement with AMD but that it does not change Intel's duty to comply with European antitrust law.

In 2005, Japan's Fair Trade Commission found that Intel violated antitrust rules there. Intel accepted that ruling without admitting wrongdoing.

The US Federal Trade Commission also is investigating.

Intel has previously defended its sales practices — which include rebates to big Intel customers — as legitimate and good for customers because it can lead to lower prices.

Intel said that the \$1.25 billion settlement means its spending in the current quarter will now be \$4.2 billion rather than the \$2.9 billion it had previously forecast.

Intel, based in Santa Clara, Calif., owns about 80 per cent of the worldwide micro-processor market, while AMD in nearby Sunnyvale has most of the rest.

# Stocks open lower on employment, retail sales

By IEVA M. AUGSTUMS  
AP Business Writer

STOCKS drifted lower in early trading as news of an improving job market failed to offset the market's disappointment over sales at Wal-Mart Stores Inc. The Labour Department said new claims for unemployment insurance fell to a seasonally adjusted 502,000 from an upwardly revised 514,000 the previous week. That's the fewest claims since the week ending

January 3, and below economists' estimates. The news is evidence the job market is slowly healing. But investors are more concerned by Wal-Mart's lower than expected third-quarter sales, a sign of weak consumer spending. The Dow Jones industrial average is down 10.43, or 0.1 per cent, at 10,280.83. The Standard & Poor's 500 index is off 1.69, or 0.2 per cent, at 1,096.82, while the Nasdaq composite index is down 1.16, or 0.1 per cent, at 2,165.74.

## THE INSURANCE COMMISSION OF THE BAHAMAS Request for Proposals External Audit Services

The newly formed Insurance Commission of The Bahamas (a statutory corporation) is seeking proposals for the provision of external audit services in respect of its financial statements prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards for the period ended December 31, 2009.

For further information and to request the supplemental information, please contact:

*Superintendent of Insurance*  
*The Insurance Commission of The Bahamas*  
*Email: oric@bahamas.gov.bs*  
*Phone 328-1068*

*Proposal Submission:*  
**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**  
**TENDER DOCUMENTS – External Audit Services**  
**SUPERINTENDENT**  
**The Insurance Commission of The Bahamas**  
**3rd Floor Charlotte House**  
**Charlotte & Shirley Street**  
**Nassau, Bahamas**

**Deadline: Friday - 20 November 2009 at 12:00 Noon**

The Commission reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders  
(Issue Date – 11 November 2009)

## Caribbean Bottling Co. (Bahamas) Ltd.



IS SEEKING CANDIDATES THAT ARE PERFORMANCE- DRIVEN TO JOIN OUR EXPANDING, DYNAMIC TEAM FOR THE POSITION OF

## LAB TECHNICIAN

### Requirements:

- An Associate's Degree in a Science based field
- Laboratory experience a must
- Good organization and analytical skills

Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications.

If interested, please email or hand deliver a copy of your Resume on or before November 20th 2009 to:

**Lab Supervisor**  
**Caribbean Bottling Co. (Bah.) Ltd.**  
**P.O. Box N-1123**  
**Nassau, Bahamas.**  
**or**  
**by Email to:**  
**cbclab@cbcbahamas.com**



## The Four-WAY Test



From the earliest days of the organization, Rotarians were concerned with promoting high ethical standards in their professional lives. One of the world's most widely printed and quoted statements of business ethics is The Four-Way Test, which was created in 1932 by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor. This 24-word Test has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways. It asks the following four questions:

- The Four-Way Test**  
**"Of the things we think, say or do**
- 1. Is it the truth?**
  - 2. Is it fair to all concerned?**
  - 3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?**
  - 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?"**

## FOUR-WAY TEST ESSAY CONTEST

**Enter the contest and send your essay to the Rotary Club of East Nassau and you can be a winner of \$300!**

*(Cash prizes and trophies will be awarded in two categories for first and second place winners)*

**What does the 4-way test mean to you? Explain your understanding of the 4-Way Test as it relates to your life, experiences, and/or society in general.**

The world is much more complicated and dangerous for today's youth. We are faced with many challenges, such as drug abuse, gangs, violence, teen pregnancy, AIDS, high school dropouts—the list goes on. We have many decisions to make and problems to solve. Although there are many challenges in life, there is one thing that can help. Ask yourself the four questions when facing a challenging decision.

The Rotary Club of East Nassau  
[www.rcen.org](http://www.rcen.org)

### Rules:

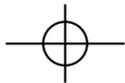
1. Children ages 10-16 may enter. Judging will be in two age categories: 10 - 13 years and 14-16 years for a first and second place winner in each category.
2. Write an essay answering the following subject: "What does the Four-Way Test mean to me." Explain your understanding of the 4-Way Test as it relates to your life, experiences, and/or society in general. Your essay must include the four principles.
3. The body of the essay must not exceed 1,000 words. Adults may assist the child in filling out the entry form, but not in writing the letter.
4. Limit one essay per child. All entries must be received by the Rotary Club of East Nassau before Nov 30, 2009.
5. Only essays accompanied by original entry forms clipped from the newspaper will be accepted. Photocopy, fax, carbon or other copies will not be accepted.
6. One winner will be chosen from each age category. The decision of the judges is final.
7. Winner must agree to a photo presentation which will be published in the newspaper.
8. Mail essay and completed newspaper clipping to The Four-Way Test Essay Competition, Attn: Michele Rassin, The Rotary Club of East Nassau, P.O. Box SS-6320, Nassau, Bahamas

### OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone contact: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

All entries become property of the Rotary Club of East Nassau and can be used and reproduced for any purpose without compensation.





BUSINESS

# Realtor to gain top designation

BAHAMIAN realtor Carlyle A Campbell, of Bahamas Realty, is expected to be awarded the Certified International Property Specialist (CIPS) designation and join a worldwide referral network of elite global real estate practitioners on Saturday.

The CIPS designation is awarded by the National Association of REALTORS (NAR), which represents more than 1.2 million realtors in the US.

Mr Campbell is scheduled to be formally recognised at NAR's 2009 REALTORS Conference & Trade Expo in San Diego.

"The nature of our business affords us the opportunity to interact with international clients on an ongoing basis," said Mr Campbell.

"The CIPS designation demonstrates



CARLYLE CAMPBELL

proven international expertise. To be one of only 1,600 real estate professionals worldwide to receive this designation is a significant honour professionally and personally."

"This is a highly prestigious award in our industry," said Barbara Schmerzler, CIPS, NAR international operations committee chair. "Mr Campbell is now established as an expert in international real estate."

"We're very proud of Carlyle's accomplishments," said Larry Roberts of Bahamas Realty.

"He has a wealth of knowledge in real estate, having been in the sales and appraisal division for several years, and the extra steps agents like Carlyle are taking on behalf of their clients continues to bolster the industry."

The Tribune  
**Real Estate**  
The Bahamas Source for Homes, Apartment Communities & Rentals  
*Guide*  
**Everywhere The Buyers Are!**

Tel: 502 2356  
for ad rates



Friday, November 20th, 2009

## McHappy Day™

Turn a BIG MAC® into a smile

Buy a Big Mac® and help kids with severe illness.

*We hope to see you!*



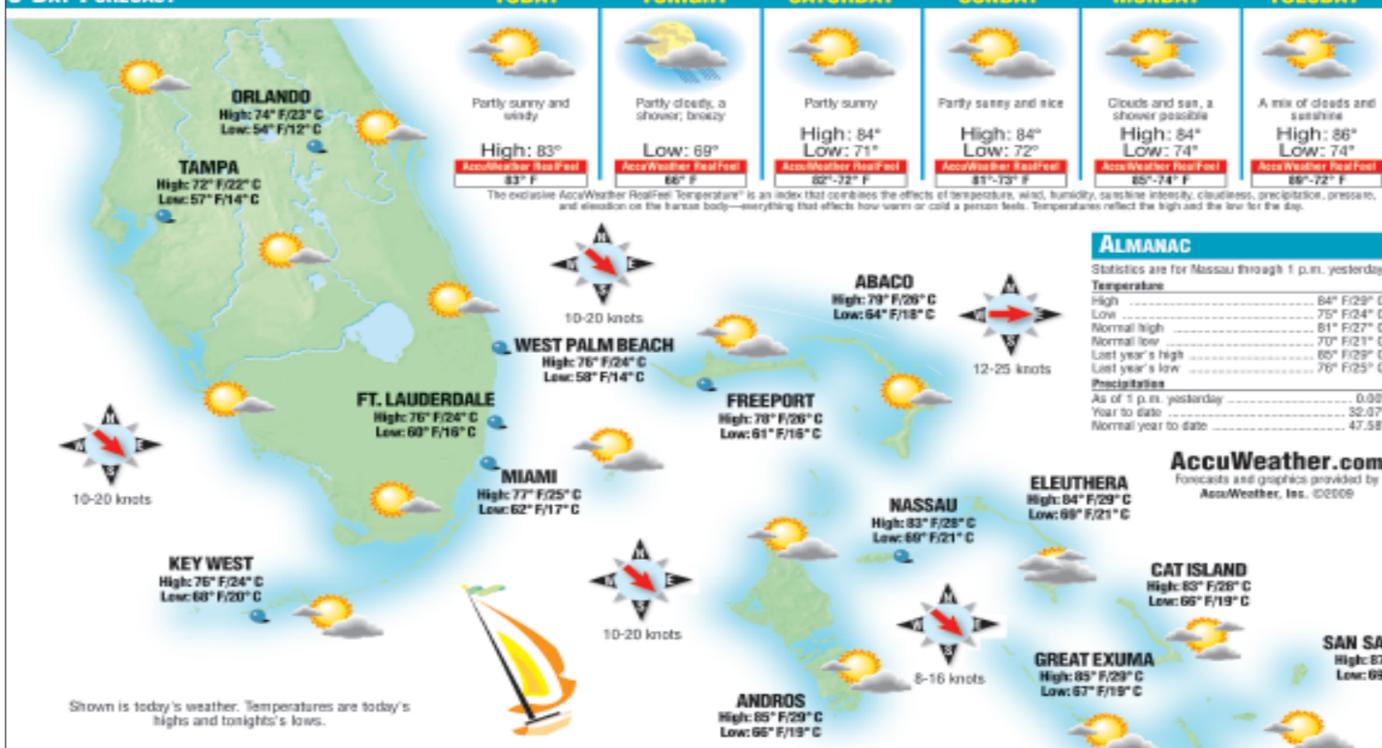
Javon Knowles

# THE WEATHER REPORT

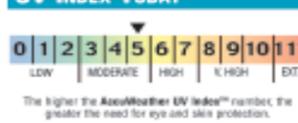


INSURANCE MANAGEMENT (BAHAMAS) LIMITED  
INSURANCE BROKERS & AGENTS

### 5-DAY FORECAST



### UV INDEX TODAY



### TIDES FOR NASSAU

Time	High	Low
Today	4:36 a.m. 3.1 4:54 p.m. 2.7	11:01 a.m. 0.3 11:57 p.m. -0.1
Saturday	5:29 a.m. 3.3 5:44 p.m. 2.6	11:54 a.m. 0.1 12:53 p.m. -0.1
Sunday	6:16 a.m. 3.3 6:31 p.m. 2.6	12:43 p.m. 0.0
Monday	7:01 a.m. 3.3 7:16 p.m. 2.5	12:37 a.m. -0.1 1:29 p.m. 0.0
Tuesday	7:43 a.m. 3.3 8:42 p.m. 2.5	1:20 a.m. -0.1 2:13 p.m. 0.0
Wednesday	8:25 a.m. 3.2 9:07 p.m. 2.4	2:01 a.m. 0.0 2:56 p.m. 0.1
Thursday	9:07 a.m. 3.1 9:24 p.m. 2.4	2:42 a.m. 0.1 3:38 p.m. 0.3

### ALMANAC

Statistics are for Nassau through 1 p.m. yesterday

Temperature	High: 84° F/29° C
Low	75° F/24° C
Normal high	81° F/27° C
Normal low	70° F/21° C
Last year's high	80° F/28° C
Last year's low	70° F/25° C
Precipitation	As of 1 p.m. yesterday: 0.00"
Year to date	32.07"
Normal year to date	47.58"

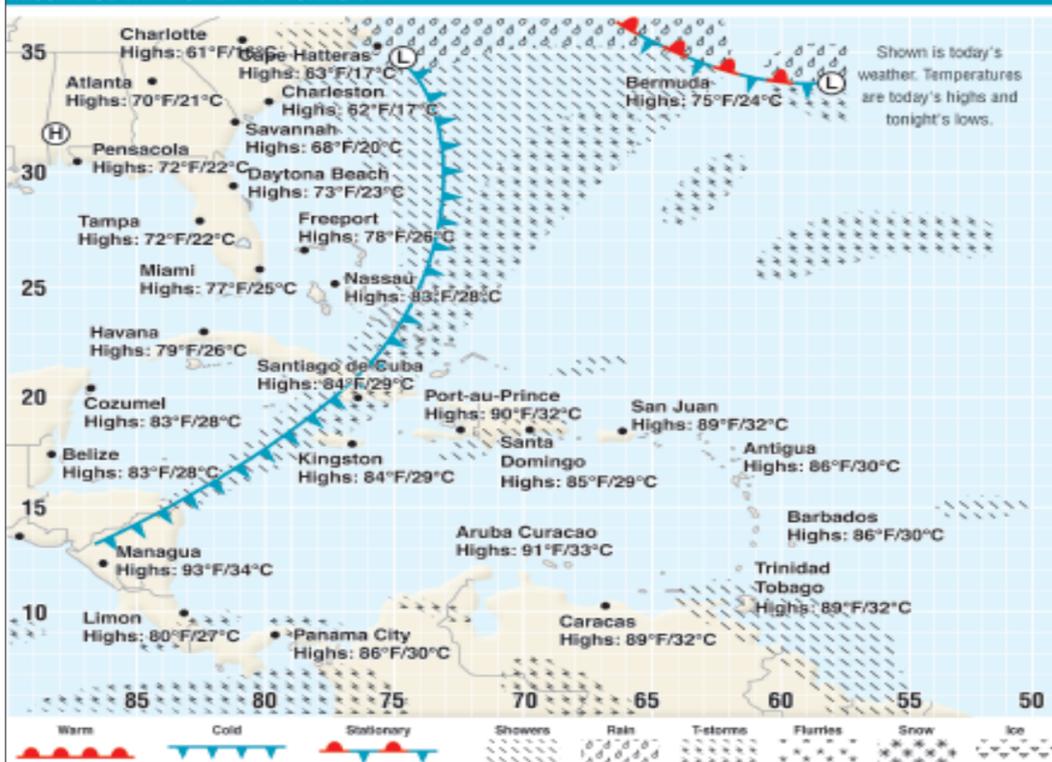
AccuWeather.com  
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2009

### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	6:25 a.m.	Moonset	2:18 a.m.
Sunset	5:23 p.m.	Moonrise	3:05 p.m.

New: Nov. 16  
 First: Nov. 24  
 Full: Dec. 2  
 Last: Dec. 8

### INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP



### MARINE FORECAST

Location	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMPS.
ABACO	Today: W at 12-25 Knots Saturday: MW at 12-25 Knots	6-10 Feet 6-10 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	79° F 79° F
ANDROS	Today: MW at 10-20 Knots Saturday: MW at 6-12 Knots	2-4 Feet 1-3 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	79° F 79° F
CAT ISLAND	Today: WNW at 8-16 Knots Saturday: MW at 8-16 Knots	3-5 Feet 3-5 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	81° F 81° F
CROOKED ISLAND	Today: WSW at 8-16 Knots Saturday: MW at 7-14 Knots	2-4 Feet 1-3 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	82° F 82° F
ELEUTHERA	Today: WNW at 10-20 Knots Saturday: MW at 8-16 Knots	3-5 Feet 4-7 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	81° F 81° F
FREEPORT	Today: WNW at 15-30 Knots Saturday: MW at 10-20 Knots	4-8 Feet 3-6 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	80° F 80° F
GREAT EXUMA	Today: MW at 8-16 Knots Saturday: MW at 7-14 Knots	1-3 Feet 1-2 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	80° F 80° F
GREAT INAGUA	Today: SW at 7-14 Knots Saturday: MW at 6-12 Knots	2-4 Feet 1-3 Feet	6 Miles 10 Miles	83° F 82° F
LONG ISLAND	Today: W at 8-16 Knots Saturday: MW at 8-16 Knots	1-3 Feet 1-3 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	81° F 81° F
MAYAGUANA	Today: SW at 8-16 Knots Saturday: WNW at 8-16 Knots	3-5 Feet 4-7 Feet	6 Miles 10 Miles	81° F 81° F
NASSAU	Today: WNW at 12-22 Knots Saturday: MW at 8-16 Knots	2-4 Feet 1-3 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	80° F 80° F
SAN SALVADOR	Today: MW at 8-16 Knots Saturday: MW at 7-14 Knots	1-3 Feet 1-3 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	82° F 82° F
RAGGED ISLAND	Today: MW at 8-16 Knots Saturday: MW at 8-16 Knots	1-3 Feet 2-4 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	81° F 81° F



**INSURANCE MANAGEMENT (BAHAMAS) LIMITED. INSURANCE BROKERS & AGENTS**

BUSINESS



ED TATE

# Workshop aims to boost marketing

THE Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and the Bahamas Employers Confederation (BECon) will attempt to arm the Bahamian business community with low-cost guerrilla marketing tools during an interactive workshop on Thursday, November 19.



PHILIP SIMON

The workshop, scheduled to take place at the British Colonial Hilton from 9am to 3.30pm, is expected to feature world-renowned guerrilla marketing guru Ed Tate.

"Regardless of the state of the economy, marketing your business effectively is vital and directly related to your business's success," said Philip Simon, executive director of the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce.

"This workshop will offer

the essential tools to craft a sound marketing strategy that works for your particular business.

"Small and large businesses alike have applied the principles of guerrilla marketing because of its simplicity, common sense and proven record in action,"

said Mr Tate. "One of the main reasons that businesses fail is lack of marketing insight; guerrilla marketing provides that insight."

There is a general admission fee for the workshop and seating is limited to about 100 people.

For additional information or registration, contact Shanda Lightbourne at 322-2145 or visit

[www.thebahamaschamber.com](http://www.thebahamaschamber.com)



# Christmas Car & Cartload of Groceries Giveaway



FIFTY \$200 Grocery Certificates

**ENTER** for your chance to win a Brand New **CHEVY AVEO HATCHBACK\*** or one of **50 \$200 GROCERY CERTIFICATES**



Promotion ends December 18, 2009

**How to enter:**

1. BUY any 4 of the 6 participating KRAFT products:
  - KRAFT Macaroni & Cheese 7.25oz
  - KRAFT Singles, 8oz or larger, any variety
  - PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese 8oz or larger, any variety
  - PLANTERS Nuts 6.5oz or larger, any variety
  - RITZ Crackers, 12oz or larger, any variety
  - CHIPS AHOY! Chocolate Chip Cookies, 6oz or larger, any variety
2. Circle the 4 items on your Original Store Receipt.
3. FILL OUT the Official Entry Form, ANSWER the Skill Question correctly and attach your Original Store Receipt.
4. DEPOSIT Official Entry Form into the Official Ballot Box located at participating stores, The d'Albenas Agency Ltd., Palmdale, and Purity Bakery, Market & McPherson Street.
5. ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED by December 18, 2009.

\*Car colour for illustrative purposes only

Kraft Foods International, Inc

**The d'Albenas Agency Ltd.**

Palmdale, 677-1441



Market & McPherson Sts. 302-3000

# Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

*With love from your wife, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family and friends*

*We find ourselves wondering...  
Did we give you your due...  
For all that you've done for us  
Did we ever thank you?*

*For teaching us the value of hard work,  
good judgment, courage, and being true  
The laughter, smiles, and quiet times we've  
shared  
Did we ever thank you?*

*If we have forgotten, we're thanking you now  
You taught us right from wrong...  
We hope you know how much you're loved and  
appreciated  
We hope you, instinctively, knew it all along.*

*Proverbs 22:1  
A good name is  
more desirable than  
great riches.*

*Floyd O. Lowe  
November 14, 2009*

