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INSIDE
OBITUARIES and RELIGION
IN TODAY'S TRIBUNE

Minister's plan for green energy future

TRIBUNE EXCLUSIVE

Bahamas to be free from fossil fuels in 15 years

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

MINISTER of Environment Earl Deveaux revealed plans to make the Bahamas completely independent of fossil fuels within the next 15 years in an exclusive interview with *The Tribune* yesterday.

As his mission is in a country nearly 100 per cent dependent on fossil fuels, with the third highest greenhouse gas emissions of all sovereign nations behind only Jamaica and the Dominican Republic, Mr Deveaux's is no small task.

Accepting the reality of global warming, which could have catastrophic effects for the low-lying islands of the Bahamas, Mr Deveaux has developed a 'Path to an Energy Secure Bahamas' in the face of great challenges.

Through extensive research

and careful planning, the Minister has mapped out a way to reduce the country's dependence on oil and transform the way the Bahamas Electricity Corporation's (BEC) produces electricity.

The government is currently in negotiations with a company working to develop an integrated grid and central storage facility that will allow BEC to draw on natural and existing sources of energy from wind, water, waves, sun and waste to greatly reduce our dependency on fossil fuels and eventually eliminate it altogether.

This will enable BEC to generate five per cent of power from waste to energy sources within two years, and by 2015 each BEC power plant with less than a 20 MG demand will have 50 per cent of its power supplied by renewable sources.

SEE page seven

BAY STREET'S SMALL BUSINESSES 'OPTIMISTIC'



BAHAMAS SOUVENIRS catch the eye in Downtown Nassau yesterday. Bay Street's small businesses say they are optimistic about the future and they will be able to survive the next fiscal year.
• SEE PAGE FIVE

NIB rejects claims of abuse of public funds

By **ALISON LOWE**
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

NATIONAL Insurance Board executives yesterday issued a prompt response after the prime minister demanded that they answer allegations levelled by the Opposition of serious abuse of public funds at the board.

Just before press time last night, NIB director Algernon Cargill issued a strong statement in which he rejected the assertions of two PLP MPs and insisted the board's policies are "completely transparent and defensible."

SEE page eight

Shane Gibson claims 'vicious attack' on him is imminent

GOLDEN Gates MP Shane Gibson yesterday issued a cryptic warning to his supporters to "brace" themselves for "the most vicious attack" that he claimed is to be imminently carried out against him.

Mr Gibson, who stood to speak during the debate on a resolution to transfer land to the National Insurance Board from the Treasury, said the attack would be the most "vicious ever launched against an MP in this Bahamas."

"I expect next year to be the most challenging year in

SEE page 10

Tribune readers back use of foreign police in crime fight

USING foreign police officers to help curb crime in The Bahamas has been given the thumbs up by *Tribune* readers.

As crime levels and the fear of crime rises, a *Tribune242* poll showed that more than half of our readers voted in favour of recruiting officers from abroad to assist the RBPF in the fight against crime.

However, retired Assistant Commissioner of Police Paul Thompson believes the RBPF would benefit from the assistance of international experts in DNA and firearms analysis

SEE page 10

Teen in court over stabbing death of deaf man

By **NATARIO MCKENZIE**
Tribune Staff Reporter
nmackenzie@tribunemedia.net

A TEENAGER charged with fatally stabbing a deaf man was arraigned in a Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The boy, 17, was arraigned before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez in

Court One, Bank Lane, yesterday charged with the murder of Rauol Bullard.

Mr Bullard, 23, was killed last Friday. According to police reports, it was around 3.30pm when Mr Bullard was accosted by a gang of teens, one of whom stabbed him in his neck.

Reports suggest that a short time earlier, the same

group of young men had been embroiled in an altercation outside the victim's home on Peach Street. The victim's mother had reportedly scolded the boys for their behaviour and asked them to leave her property.

Police say Mr Bullard was attacked while walking to a

SEE page 12

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LOCAL NEWS

Rev Moss: The country has suffered a national shame

Anti-crime rally receives very little support

ACCORDING to anti-crime crusader Rev CB Moss, the Bahamas suffered a "national shame" this past Sunday when a rally organised by the group Bahamas Against Crime in Rawson Square received very little support.

He said the rally, the latest in a series of similar public events, was designed to present residents with an opportunity to make several powerful statements, including:

- sending a message to the criminals - that the people of the Bahamas will not stand by idly while they destroy society
- sending a message to the government that Bahamians are demanding a strong, effective and immediate response to the crime crisis

Prior to the event, Rev Moss warned that a failure to demonstrate firm commitment to the fight against crime would embolden criminals to "continue their carnage", while sending the wrong message to the government.

He said yesterday: "Unfortunately, the rally was very poorly attended and a very powerful message was indeed sent, albeit the opposite of the message that should have been sent. Bahamians by their absence said that they were not yet ready to take a stance against the scourge of crime. Indeed, the rally was a mirror placed before the people, reflecting their unbelievable apathy, or worse, in the face of this national crisis. We were



REV. C.B. MOSS addresses an anti-crime rally held on Sunday in Rawson Square. The event was organised by Bahamas Against Crime, the organisation which he heads, under the theme "Enough is enough".

"Bahamians by their absence said that they were not yet ready to take a stance against the scourge of crime."

weighed in the balances by this event, and found wanting. Put bluntly, it was a national disgrace."

Embarrassment

Rev Moss said that while no sector of society can escape "this dreadful embarrassment", leaders in the political and religious sectors should be most ashamed, for they above all are obligated to preserve the security and well-being of the public.

"With the exception of Paul Moss and Rodney Moncur, no other political personality saw it fit to attend, while Reverends William Cleare, Charles Lewis, Wilfred Adderley, William Thompson and CB Moss were the only ministers in attendance," he said.

Corporate, civic and other leaders were all absent, however Rev Moss said the greatest shame must be borne by members of the public, "for the brunt of the crime and mayhem is being inflicted upon them and their families".

"While it is true that many persons were unable to attend for very valid reasons, the proverbial question, 'Where were the others?', could be asked. Where indeed were the tens of thousands?"

Rev Moss, said that as has been done in the past, Bahamas Against Crime will give Bahamians another opportunity in a few months to say "enough is enough"

"We are only saddened that another 30 or 40 murders, along with hundreds of rapes, robberies, assaults and other serious crimes would have been endured by a people already suffering immensely," he said.

Police probe two armed robberies in New Providence

By TANEKA THOMPSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
tthompson@tribunemedia.net

POLICE are investigating two separate armed robberies that occurred in New Providence Tuesday morning - one of which sent a man to hospital with knife wounds.

The crimes are just the latest in a string of armed robberies throughout the capital in recent weeks - a trend authorities attribute to the looming holiday season.

At around 10 am on Tues-

day, a man told police he had just been robbed while in the parking lot of Scotia Bank on East Bay Street by a man armed with a handgun.

Officers responded and spoke with a man who claimed that while in the bank's parking lot he was approached by a tall, dark man clad in a blue outfit who robbed him of cash.

In other crime news, would-be robbers were chased away from a fast-food restaurant early yesterday morning by an employee who fired a shotgun at them.

Press Liaison Officer Sergeant Chrislyn Skippings said police received a report of an attempted armed robbery at Keith's Chicken Shack on Fleming Street around 2.45am yesterday.

An employee of the establishment told responding officers that two masked men armed with handguns burst in and demanded cash.

Instead of turning money over, a male employee produced a shotgun and fired at the men. Both suspects were able to escape the restaurant and it is unknown if either was injured.

Police say their investigations into these incidents are ongoing.

Fled

The suspect fled the area on foot heading west, police said.

About two hours earlier, police received information of an alleged armed robbery at Long Wharf Beach in Nassau.

Officers were told that a man sitting on a wall at the eastern end of Long Wharf was approached by two dark men armed with knives.

The bandits allegedly robbed him of cash and stabbed him in the left arm.

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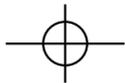
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LOCAL NEWS

Man pleads guilty to deaths in the course of driving dangerously

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

A MAN pleaded guilty in Magistrates Court yesterday to killing a woman and a one year-old girl in the course of dangerous driving.

Gabelle Gabriel, 23, of South Beach Drive also pleaded guilty to driving without a valid driver's licence and driving while not covered by third party risk insurance.

Court dockets alleged that at about 4.20pm on Sunday, September 20, Gabriel drove a water truck south on Marathon Road in the area of the Marathon Mall in a manner dangerous to the public, thereby causing the deaths of Lavonya Miller and Rondea Dean.

Miller, 20, and her one year old niece were reportedly passengers in the water truck driven by Gabriel which was travelling on Marathon Road when it crashed into a maroon Cadillac Seville, causing the truck to flip over.

Both the woman and the young child were thrown from the vehicle and sustained fatal injuries.

A remorseful Gabriel pleaded guilty to all charges during his arraignment before Magistrate Ancella Williams in Court Six, Parliament Street yesterday.

The magistrate ordered that he receive grief counselling and granted him bail in the sum of \$10,000 with two sureties. Magistrate Williams also requested a probation report on Gabriel.

He is expected back in court on February 8, 2010 for sentencing.

Student stabbed at Govt High School campus

THE start of another school day was marred by violence after a student was stabbed during an attack at Government High School yesterday.

The victim, a 17-year-old boy, was taken to hospital where his injuries were treated. He was later discharged, police said.

According to Press Liaison Officer Sergeant Chrislyn Skipings, the incident took place around 8.27am at the school's Yellow Elder Gardens campus.

"Police received information of a stabbing at Government High. Police responded and spoke with a 17-year-old who said that while on campus he was attacked by another student who stabbed him about the body," she said.

A suspect has yet to be arrested in connection with the matter, and police say they have no motive for the attack.

In other crime news, two teenagers were taken to hospital

after being injured in two separate incidents on Tuesday.

Police got wind of the first incident around 3.44 pm when an anonymous caller reported that a student had been stabbed.

When police responded, they spoke with a 16-year-old Government High School student who claimed he was struck in the head with an "unknown object" after being attacked by a group of men who accosted him as he walked through Yel-

low Elder with his friends.

A short time later, around 4pm, police received information of a stabbing on Tonique Williams Darling Highway.

Responding officers spoke with a 17-year-old boy who

claimed that while on Tonique Williams Highway, he was attacked by a group of men who stabbed him in the left hand with a knife.

Police are investigating both incidents.

Ellison Greenslade 'should be promoted to police commissioner'

By TANEKA THOMPSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
thompson@tribunemedia.net

A FORMER senior police officer believes acting Deputy Commissioner Ellison Greenslade should be promoted to the RBPF's top post once Commissioner Reginald Ferguson retires next month.

Retired Assistant Commissioner Paul Thompson said that of the two rumoured front-runners for the post – the other is Senior Assistant Commissioner Marvin Dames – Mr Greenslade's seniority and job history make him the best candidate for the job.

"I love both men very much I know them quite well and I feel that in the interest of morale and in the interest of justice the senior person, who is well qualified, should be put in that position. Mr Greenslade is the (acting) deputy commissioner so he is senior. . . I think seniority has its place.

"You affect the morale of the force if you go and jump a man – without good reason – for a promotion," said Mr Thompson, who retired from the force in 1981.

Last month, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham announced that due to provisions laid out in the recently passed Police Force Act, the current commissioner of police will be retiring on January 4, 2010.

Commissioner Reginald Ferguson, who is now 63, is past the new Act's stipulated retirement age of 60.



DEPUTY COMMISSIONER Ellison Greenslade and Commissioner Reginald Ferguson

Mr Greenslade, who has long been touted as the successor to Mr Ferguson, completed the latest of several training courses in Canada earlier this year.

He participated in this course, which was paid for by the government, along with Mr Dames, who has responsibility for the northern Bahamas.

The responsibility of appointing a new commissioner is in the hands of the prime minister, who is required to consult with the leader of the opposition before the selection is made.

There has been no official word as yet on Mr Ferguson's successor.

Murder accused gives tearful apology to parents

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – Tears flowed down the face of murder accused Kevin Harvey as he apologised to the parents of Philip Gaitor Jr while giving an unsworn statement in the Supreme Court Tuesday.

Harvey, 23, became very emotional and stopped several times to compose himself as he recalled certain events that occurred in December, 2006, including the beating and fiery death of Gaitor.

He is one of three men on trial for the kidnapping and murder of Mr Gaitor, and the attempted extortion of Mr Gaitor's father, Philip Gaitor Sr.

Co-accused Renaldo Armbrister, 22, and Renaldo Bonaby, 23, also gave unsworn statements in their defence.

Alphege Turnquest, 23, who was also initially charged with Harvey, Bonaby, and Armbrister, was granted a *nolle prosequi* by the Attorney General's Office for his testimony as a key witness for the prosecution.

In his statement, Harvey told the court that he pleaded with Bonaby to let "Little Phil" go, but he refused.

He said Bonaby told him they were going to call Phil's father and ask him for \$400,000 in ransom.

Mr Gaitor, 19, was reported missing on December 7, 2006. He was last seen leaving home in

his white 2006 Nissan Cifero, which was found burned in bushes near Barbary Beach.

The prosecution alleges that on December 7, 2006, the accused kidnapped Mr Gaitor and some time between then and December 15, intentionally caused his death by means of unlawful harm.

Harvey turned to face Mr and Mrs Gaitor sitting the court and said: "I am deeply sorry about what happened."

He told jurors he was in "the wrong place at the wrong time."

Harvey then recalled the evening of December 2006 when he received a call from Renaldo Armbrister. Armbrister had called him to take him somewhere.

Harvey said they picked up Alphege Turnquest and drove over the bridge.

"We parked the car and we waited in the bushes. I then saw a white car pull up with Bonaby and Little Phil," he recalled.

Harvey said Turnquest jumped out of the bushes and Renaldo told little Phil to get down.

He said Armbrister tied Little Phil and they then put him in the car. Harvey followed them in his car to a canal near the Arawak Hotel, where Bonaby and the others beat Phil.

Harvey said he tried to stop them from hitting Phil by shielding him.

"Little Phil asked Bonaby why he was doing this to him," Harvey said, wiping away tears.

Harvey said Bonaby told them that they were going to kill Little Phil. He said they then drove to a bushy area. He said he pleaded with Bonaby to let Little Phil go, but Bonaby threatened to throw him in the car.

Harvey said Bonaby poured gas all over the car. "I tried to stop him. I heard Little Phil screaming and Bonaby came back laughing," Harvey said.

Renaldo Armbrister denied participating in the kidnapping and murder of Philip Gaitor Jr, and the extortion of Mr Gaitor.

He claims police denied him the right to see a lawyer following his arrest.

"I told them that I wanted to see my lawyer and they never gave me a chance to see a lawyer. They brought a paper and told me after I sign it I will see my lawyer," he said.

Renaldo Bonaby also told the court he did not kidnap and murder Mr Gaitor.

He claimed police beat him and took him to the crime scene where Mr Gaitor's body was found.

"I never took them to any body; they took me to the body.

I never killed Little Phil," he said.

Bonaby's father told the court that he saw his son on December 14 at Police Headquarters.

He said his son was limping and complained that he had been beaten by police officers.

Mr Bonaby said that his son told him that officers put a black garbage bag and yellow rain coat over his head, stripped him naked, and beat him with a cutlass.

Mr Bonaby said that he filed a complaint with the Police Complaints and Corruption Unit.

When asked by Prosecutor Jillian Williams if he noticed any bruises on his son, Bonaby's father – a senior immigration officer – said he did not see any bruises on his son.

"Did you request that he see a doctor?" she asked. "No," he replied.

Ms Williams then asked Bonaby's father if his son had shown him a burn mark on his leg. He said he did not.

The trial will resume today when the prosecution and defence will give final summations to the jury.

Murrio Ducille is representing Renaldo Armbrister, Carlson Shurland is representing Renaldo Bonaby, and Donna Major is representing Kevin Harvey.

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NINJA ASSASSIN	T	1:05	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:55
THE OLD DOGS	B	1:10	3:45	4:15	6:10	8:30	10:40
THE TWILIGHT SAGA	A	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
BLIND SIDE	T	1:15	N/A	4:15	7:15	N/A	10:00
PLANET 51	A	1:20	3:40	N/A	6:20	8:35	10:35
2012	T	2:00	N/A	6:00	N/A	9:00	N/A
A CHRISTMAS CAROL	T	1:15	3:45	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:35
LAW ABIDING CITIZEN	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:20	10:45
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THE TWILIGHT SAGA	T	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
BLIND SIDE	B	1:10	N/A	4:10	7:10	N/A	10:10
2012	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10:00
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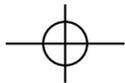
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LOCAL NEWS

FOCUS ON BAY STREET REGION

Street of hope



ADDERLEY CREATIONS, a variety store selling clothing, jewellery and personal items.

By AVA TURNQUEST
turnquest.ava@gmail.com

Small business optimism in Nassau's main shopping area

SMALL businesses located in the Bay Street area are optimistic about the future, confident that through specialised products, ideal location, and competitive pricing, they will be able to survive their next fiscal year.

My Ocean, a boutique specialising in unique handmade items like hand painted batik dresses, limestone dominoes and exotic soaps, has reduced prices and increased its offering of smaller affordable gift items.

Store manager Eduardo Azevedo commented that this year consumers are slowly spending more, but very cautiously, searching to get the very most for their money.

Optimistic

"I think everyone is a lot more optimistic," said Mr Azevedo, "things are better than they were a year ago and I believe it will continue to improve."

T-shirt Jungle, a veteran souvenir store with a predominantly tourist target market, admitted that they have experienced a decline in purchases. However manager Patrice Ferguson maintains that due to their prominent location and engaging staff, the business continues to meet its operational budget.

"We are anticipating a greater turnaround," added Ms Ferguson, "especially with the new cruise ship."

Meanwhile further east, though rent is considerably cheaper, the location remote location is a disadvantage.

Stores like Adderley's Cre-



BAHAMA PALM



MY OCEAN

ations, a variety store selling clothing, jewellery and personal items, and Fred's Natural Food Store are just two of many small businesses discovered only by the most adventurous consumer.

Fred's Employee Marckell Barret accredited the closure of many East Bay street shops to the lull in consumer traffic experienced by most entrepreneurs in the area.

However, she said staff ingenuity has kept them in business for six years. "We are doing well," said Ms Barret, "not many people walk this far out anymore due to a lot of the stores moving elsewhere, but I'm always outside on the sidewalk and I greet anyone that walks by and encourage them to check out our store."



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LOCAL NEWS

COB's Confucius Classroom offers chance to learn about Chinese culture and language

THE College of the Bahamas has opened new doors of opportunity for Bahamians to become immersed in Chinese culture and language by the establishment of a Confucius Classroom on campus.

The project is a collaborative effort with the Confucius Institute and the Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology (NUIST).

Hu Dingxian, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China; President Li Lianshui of the Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology; Professor Wang Suchun, Dean of the School

of International Education; and Professor Li Zhongming, Dean of the School of Language and Culture, travelled thousands of miles for the unveiling of the classroom and the signing of the implementation agreement between the two institutions.

Confucius Classrooms are extensions of the larger Confucius Institutes, which are non-profit institutes funded by the Chinese government and aimed at promoting Chinese language and culture.

The College's International Languages and Cultures Institute (ILCI) has been teaching Mandarin for two years. The Confucius Class-

room will further enhance the teaching of Chinese in the Bahamas and will inspire innovative teaching and learning techniques, the college said.

At a recent press conference for the special unveiling of Confucius Classroom plaque, COB executive vice president Dr Ronda Chipman-Johnson greeted the delegates on behalf of college president Janyne Hodder.

"We want to welcome our delegates from China to the College of the Bahamas, we are delighted to have you with us," said Dr Chipman-

SEE page 13



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr. Moss, Dean Wang Suchun, Executive Vice-President Dr. Chipman-Johnson, Ambassador Hu Dingxian, President Li Lianshui, Dean Li Zhongming.

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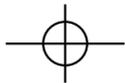
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LOCAL NEWS

Minister defends \$105m Wilson City power plant

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

DEVELOPMENT of the Bunker C fuel power plant in Abaco stirred up fierce opposition from those concerned about the negative impact on the environment. But in an exclusive interview with *The Tribune*, Minister of Environment Earl Deveaux defended construction of the \$105 million plant in Wilson City as it will have the capacity to burn cleaner fuels in the future. Bunker C, the heavy oil fuel controversially destined for the plant in March 2010, will not be used a decade from now as it will not be available to buy and it will not make sense for the Bahamas to burn, Mr Deveaux said.

The new plant will have the capacity and flexibility to burn a range of fuels to generate power, from biodiesel to waste products, meaning Abaco could be running on clean fuel in the not too distant future.

Investment

The minister said power plant was required in Abaco where the current facility only generates 27 megawatts of power while the islands need 40mw. And while he accepts the proposition of investment in cleaner technology, he said the cost of an exclusively renewable energy plant is not yet viable.

The minister said: "When they ask us why we didn't do wind turbines or more renew-

able energy, they should really be asking how much would it cost to do wind turbines or renewables.

"We evaluated it and have built the cleanest burning fuel plant in Abaco, with the greatest flexibility to convert to any alternative use, and will look to rationalise the tariff structure, but we are not going to compromise on the stark reality of global climate change.

"In order for these things to work we need to build the plants with this flexibility.

"In Abaco the power plant is being built with the capacity to accommodate other alternatives, and the plant will have the capacity to clean up Bunker C emissions."

In the development of an integrated energy grid, power sourced from wind, waves,

water and sun can boost the island's power by feeding into a central storage system, Mr Deveaux said.

The minister also responded to criticism over a lack of public consultation with the assertion that the possibility of building the plant at Snake Cay had been explored and rejected.

He said: "We didn't have a town meeting but they knew, and they told us to put it away from Snake Cay. We didn't come back and get them together to say 'here's the site plan for the power plant, here's the EIA', they wanted a more interactive and engaging process.

"I don't know if we could have done any better than we did, but we certainly could have done it earlier than we did."



MINISTER of Environment Earl Deveaux

FROM page one

Mr Deveaux understands growing and aging populations cannot be sustained if we continue to live in the wasteful way we currently do, and while countries such as India, China and Brazil are calling for allowances to be excused from global limits on carbon emissions to assist their development, the Bahamian Minister of Environment says they have not got the time.

His vision of the future for the Bahama islands is a cleaner one.

The Minister said: "The dominant revenue generating source of the Bahamas is tourism and therefore, our environment is our most important natural resource.

"Accordingly, we must develop an energy plan based upon clean energy that capitalises on our abundant resources; wind, water, sun and recyclable waste.

"The benefits of clean energy will be tremendous in terms of preserving our most precious natural resources, the environment, reducing our exposure to volatile energy prices, and simultaneously conserving our foreign exchange reserves."

Energy sources lie in our waste products, garbage which can be converted in new power plants, such as

Minister's plan for green energy future

the one being built in Wilson City, Abaco, which has the capacity and flexibility to generate power from a range of sustainable products.

This power source can be supplemented with energy produced by wind farms feeding into the grid on a utility scale, and energy absorbed from the sun in solar panels on our homes, places of work and potentially in every parking space, to be fed into the central storage facility.

Not only would this mean fewer carbon emissions, and therefore cleaner air and seas, it would decrease the cost of electricity and make a profit for government.

BEC currently produces energy at a cost of 25 cents per kilowatt hour, while generating electricity from wave, wind and waste energy, would cut that price in half and give the government more than \$500,000 annually to meet social demands.

It would minimise landfill waste as plastics, glass and garbage could be fully recycled.

Mr Deveaux said he is very interested in a method that would cleanly convert garbage to energy by means of a chemical process that would prevent toxic emissions and

produce a waste by-product that could be used to surface roads and leave no waste.

He said: "This is the whole concept of recycling in the broadest possible sense. Most things in the world can be recycled and reused and it's cheaper to recycle than to make it new.

"Our government, certainly at the executive level is fundamentally committed to pursuing these options.

"The cards dealt to us mean we need to find the best way to find the available technologies, particularly with regard to energy, promote the most sustainable development.

"Wind, wave, solar, waste energy and biodiesel could give the Bahamas, in the next 10 or 15 years, complete independence from fossil fuels."

Further plans include equipping all schools with solar panels for heating, cooling and lighting, and ensuring new buildings are energy efficient with sufficient insulation, solar panels for water heating and power.

Mr Deveaux expects all houses will be equipped with solar water heaters and energy-saving light bulbs by 2011 and required to have energy

efficient appliances.

Homes larger than 2,500 sq ft will be equipped with rainwater tanks and a sewerage collections system, and be energy efficient in design by 2015, and all homes will be insulated to ensure maximum energy efficiency in the same year.

In addition to generating clean energy, emissions will be controlled by bringing in clean fuel to the country and implementing emissions tests on vehicles through the Road Traffic Department within the next year. And emissions testing for BEC plants will be initiated as power generation migrates to renewable sources.

Mr Deveaux said: "The climate change issue, the cost of energy and the aging population of the world will come together, so we make smarter decisions in terms of how we deal with quality of life issues.

"The agenda is big and the need is strong. We have a huge mandate in this country to do everything we do in a sustainable way.

"We are a mix of rich and poor, big and small in this society, and we need to address environmental issues at the individual and corporate level.

"Climate change is a fact and the need for energy is also a fact. We can start by recognising that on a

household level and government level we have to do our part to lessen the adverse effects of climate change and make the most sensible decisions in regard to acquiring the green technology so we are not compromising health or economic issues."

As government pushes ahead with the plan to secure an energy-efficient Bahamas, Mr Deveaux suggested small methods people can adopt now to reduce their energy consumption and costs.

By using energy saving light bulbs, choosing solar water heaters, installing effective insulation, using energy efficient air-conditioning and appliances, households can reduce energy consumption by 25 to 45 per cent, the Minister said.

And if you are not doing it already, you will be soon.

Mr Deveaux added: "There are people who are smart enough to do this on their own, but we want it to be possible for people buying or renting homes to have 'green' homes. Right now that's difficult because the decisions are sometimes technically challenging, but we are trying to make those decisions easier."

To find out more log on to www.bahamas.gov.bs to download the National Energy Policy.

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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

National Insurance Board rejects claims of abuse of public funds

During yesterday's House of Assembly session, former minister of National Insurance Shane Gibson alleged that NIB officials are "spending money like it's dropping from the sky."

He claimed an "FNM cronyn" was contracted by the board at \$24,100 a month to provide "security" for a prop-

erty which contains only a "dilapidated" building, and when a senior NIB official

terminated the wasteful contract, he was fired. Meanwhile, Mr Gibson

alleged that a lawyer is on retainer for \$5,000 a month to provide legal services to NIB which could be provided by the board's in-house legal team and a consultant trainer was hired at a cost of \$7,000 a day to conduct 23 training sessions that could have been conducted by NIB's in-house training officers.

"This is the greatest level of abuse," said Mr Gibson.

After listening to this and other allegations made by Mr Gibson, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham got to his feet to speak.

"I am not going to take the bait of the member for Golden Gates except to say this: National Insurance Board managers and directors will be required and are hereby directed to respond publicly to each and every allegation made by him.

"They don't need any place of privilege to respond. What they say, they say publicly. I will listen to what they say, and I will speak after that," he stated.

During his speech, Mr Gibson also accused authorities at NIB of signing off on many contracts for public works without ever putting them out to tender.

He said some of the contracts were "given to FNMs", often for over the actual value of the work.

"There was a particular job for which the average bid received was \$13,000. Of course they gave it to one of their cronies for over \$60,000," said Mr Gibson.

And he charged that despite economic tough times, NIB had planned to take its executives on "an all expenses paid" trip to the exclusive Winding

Bay resort in Abaco.

Mr Gibson suggested the tales of abuse of funds at NIB were so numerous that he would deal with them "over the coming months."

In his statement, NIB director Mr Cargill responded to Mr Gibson point by point. With regard to the allegation that NIB is awarding contracts without going to tender, he said the board "has a very defined policy" that governs the award of contracts.

"Our tender process is completely transparent and defensible. The 2009 document prescribes what works must be tendered out and what works can be performed without tender. I can say, without fear of contradiction, that the policy is followed in every instance since its implementation and any exceptions to the contract would be properly documented within NIB files and supported with business reasons."

As for the suggestion that contracts were taken from PLP supporters and given to FNMs, Mr Cargill declared that this has not happened while he has been director. "We have awarded contracts to Bahamians based on competencies and capacity only," he said.

Mr Cargill said NIB is an apolitical organisation and that he knows of "no instance" where a contract was terminated for political reasons.

He went on to say he knows nothing about an item purchased by NIB for more than \$60,000 where the average bid was \$13,000.

"I've never even heard of this. It should be recognised that through any tender or bid process, the National Insurance Board has to completely review all quotations and/or estimates received and compare to ensure that the product/service being delivered is equal. There are instances within the National Insurance Board and/or any organisation where contracts are not necessarily awarded to the lowest bidder, but the tender/bid that completely meets the specifications of the product or service being provided."

As for the security of the property mentioned by Mr Gibson, he said: "I don't know about a security firm being fired by NIB then rehired by the minister. I can only speak to the current situation as it relates to security of the property."

He said NIB bought the property, which he identified as the former site of the Buena Vista hotel and restaurant, under the PLP government.

"The building has stood empty and unoccupied for years, but it is not 'guttered'. Because it's been unoccupied, vandals and thieves have been taking off with valuable copper, windows, et cetera, and vagrants have been squatting there."

"It is the plan of NIB to renovate, restore and preserve the historical building, and so, to protect the asset of the board, we have engaged a security firm to safeguard the property, and we have done so at competitive rates cover-

ing the period from 7pm to 7am each night. Since the engagement of the security firm, we have had no further destruction of this historical property," Mr Cargill said.

With regard to the charge that NIB has a lawyer on retainer for matters normally dealt with by the in-house legal department, he said that from time to time, NIB has to hire attorneys to provide additional expertise and assistance to its Legal Department.

"Our legal team comprises one attorney, and while she is competent, we do not have the capacity to handle internally every legal claim or industrial relations related claim we face. I am happy to say that we are seeing an ever-increasing caseload as we move forward with our compliance initiatives, consequently, rather than risk certain backlog, we have engaged the services of an attorney to help move cases through as quickly as possible. Additionally, we have also engaged on an as-needed basis an attorney to assist with industrial and human resources issues."

Mr Cargill said this is not unusual or unique to his administration, as NIB has always had the benefit of industrial consultants.

As for the charge that NIB paid out \$7,000 per training session, Mr Cargill responded that NIB has always taken advantage of the expertise of external trainers.

"The training department of the National Insurance Board exists primarily to facilitate the training of its human resources. This includes, of course, finding the expertise, wherever it exists, and securing competitive prices. It is not economically possible or even desirable to have all of the training experts resident in-house."

As for the "astronomical sums" suggested by Mr Gibson, the director said he knows of no-one who was paid "anywhere near" this much. He added that he believes NIB got considerable value for money through the engagement of an external trainer and can already see the benefits "as we continue to transform NIB into a more customer friendly and efficient organisation."

While Mr Cargill admitted it is true that NIB scheduled a two-day Executive Management Strategic Planning Meeting, he added this is not unlike similar initiatives held for senior executives throughout the history of the board.

"As for the imminent one at Abaco, we have been successful in negotiating rates significantly below market (less than \$200 per day). I am confident that the final costs to the board will total less than was spent on the last two-day executive retreat held at Emerald Palms Resort, South Andros, in 2006."

He said that cost aside, "it must be stressed that strategic initiatives such as the one planned are vital in that the team is able to get away to plan strategies for the coming year, focus on the key business drivers that we face, and ensure team alignment to meet the business objectives and customer service strategies."

After Mr Gibson levelled his allegations in parliament yesterday, Deputy PLP leader Philip Davis mentioned his concerns about a consultant who was hired by NIB — allegedly to provide services that a woman who was already employed by the board, but later terminated, had provided.

"What is of concern to me is that that person who may have been hired . . . the same person in advising National Insurance on these matters as to who may be hired to do certain architectural or construction work, has been getting contracts himself."

"This person has given himself several contracts," stated Mr Davis.

In his response, Mr Cargill said: "I can only say, no employee of NIB — permanent or on contract — has been awarded any contract to perform any works in the board's building division or anywhere else in the organisation."



DIVIDEND NOTICE

TO ALL SHAREHOLDERS

The Board of Directors of Commonwealth Bank Limited has Declared a Quarterly Dividend for Common, "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", "H" and "I" Preference Shares, to all shareholders of record at December 15, 2009, as follows:-

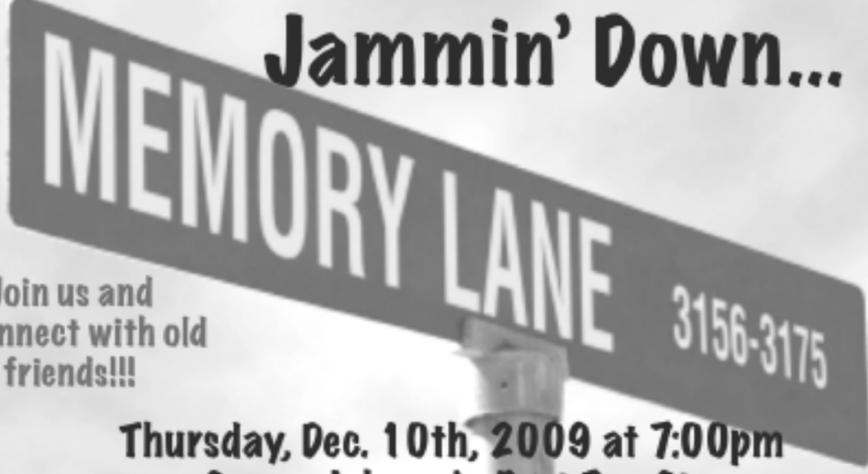
Common	-	5c per share
"A" Preference	-	7% per annum payable quarterly
"B" Preference	-	7% per annum payable quarterly
"C" Preference	-	7% per annum payable quarterly
"D" Preference	-	7% per annum payable quarterly
"E" Preference	-	7% per annum payable quarterly
"F" Preference	-	7% per annum payable quarterly
"G" Preference	-	7% per annum payable quarterly
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LOCAL NEWS

Children of God puts the Bahamas in the spotlight

THE Bahamian film *Children of God* directed by Kareem Mortimer and premiering December 11 at the Bahamas International Festival spotlights several emerging actors of Bahamian heritage and descent, many of whom are pursuing an acting career abroad.

These individuals include Van Brown, Margaret Kemp and Craig Pinder.

"The opportunity to create opportunities for creative persons to express themselves on this level are few and far between. As a

filmmaker it has been tremendously gratifying to work with some of the brightest and emerging film actors whose spirits are rooted in the Bahamas and to have them bare their souls for this film is truly a gift," Mr Mortimer said.

"Children of God" refers to the religious concept that human beings are regarded by God as his children, and is used by Christians to refer to human divinity.

The film is the story of two individuals who learn that in order to live a truly

happy life, you have to risk speaking and acting according to your true feelings.

It tells the story of Jon, a white Bahamian artist who faces losing his scholarship at a local university, and Lena a conservative religious woman who is struggling with a crumbling marriage.

Both escape city life in Nassau to the dramatic island of Eleuthera where their worlds collide in a fashion that will surprise audiences.

"This film in my opinion



A SCENE from 'Children of God' which will be showing at the Bahamas International Festival.

embodies the message that in order to fulfill your potential, you have to risk emotional vulnerability. Also, we have these polar opposite leading characters with con-

flicting views on life that is sure to raise discussion"

Children of God is Kareem Mortimer's first narrative feature. Executive produced by Jay Gotlieb

and produced by Richard Lemay and Trevite Willis, the film also stars US actors Stephen Tyrone Williams, Johnny Ferro and Mark Richard Ford.

The Hub to host JUX-TIE-POSITION

ON FRIDAY, December 4, the Hub will be hosting a new and exciting one night only exhibition - JUX-TIE-POSITION - works by artist and activist Erin Greene.

The exhibition is a collaborative experiment of junkanoo, art and social commentary, and an exploration of art as activism.

The exhibited objects are neckties that have been fringed via traditional Junkanoo methods.

Ms Greene explained that she uses a very intentional selection of colours, patterns, symbols and materials to represent particular ideas, questions or comments that she hopes the audience will experience through the neckties.

"I love neckties and as a human rights activist I am constantly aware of this symbol of western male power. I am also a 'junkanoo-er' and member of a local scrap group. In JUX-TIE-POSITION I bring these two things I love together to explore and examine our relationships to culture, religion, sexuality and capitalism, among other issues. I invite participants at the exhibition to voice and document their own ideas in this space," she said. Ms Greene, who is known for her human rights activism (specifically women's rights and lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender rights), has begun in recent years to seriously explore art forms such as junkanoo, poetry, film, performance and political satire as an avenue to create a larger discussion of the current social and political climate.

She noted that throughout art history there have been many examples of art being used as a way of pushing progressive social and political ideas.

However, in the Bahamas we seldom use art in the context of activism and almost never with such specific intentions.

"I would like to create a space where we can explore and discuss our relationships to Bahamian culture symbolised by the use of junkanoo fringing techniques, and the dominant western culture symbolised by the use of neckties; in particular I want to examine where these cultures meet, where they become the same.

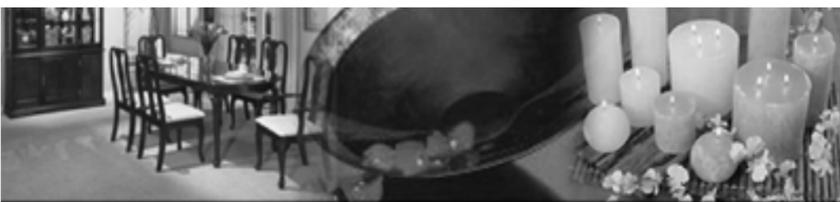
"I use simple art to bring people, objects and ideas into one space to create something beautiful," Ms Greene said.

The Hub encouraged all members of the public to come out and experience this event, which will take place on Friday from 7pm to 10pm.

For more information, email info@thehub-bahamas.org, call 322-4333 or visit the Facebook event "JUX-TIE-POSITION".

The Hub is a collaborative space where ideas and resources are shared across disciplines particularly but not exclusively in the arts.

The collective includes artists, performers, groups and individuals concerned with the environment and who support a sense of community within the larger cultural context.



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LOCAL NEWS

Shane Gibson claims 'vicious attack' on him is imminent

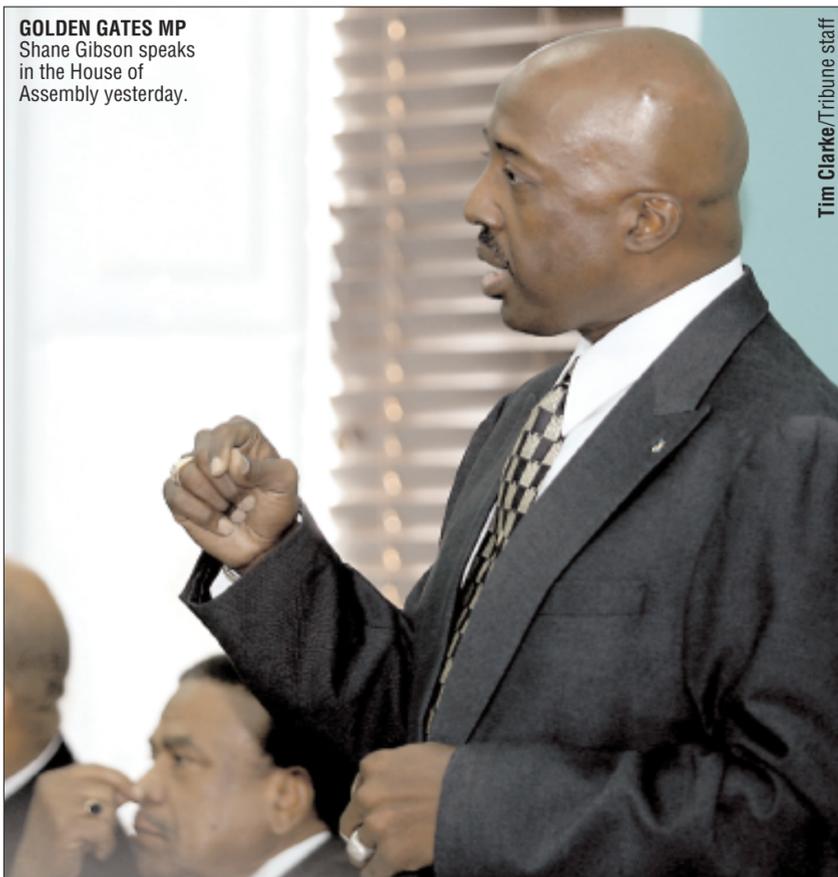
FROM page one

the history of my representation," said the MP. Mr Gibson did not explain what he expected to take

place as a result of this "attack" or for what reasons. Speaking with *The Tribune* after the close of the parliamentary sitting yesterday morning, Mr Gibson said he

was not prepared to say more at this time. "I've said all I want to say right now on that issue. In due time I will reveal more about that."

GOLDEN GATES MP
Shane Gibson speaks in the House of Assembly yesterday.



Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

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Foreign police FROM page one

— areas that he believes could use more personnel — but argued that foreign police would not be able to "walk the beat" in areas like Bain Town, in Nassau.

He also doubted that the public would offer much assistance to police officers they considered outsiders.

"I feel that where we could use foreign police is for expertise, not police to walk the beat. You can't take an Englishman to walk the beat in Bain Town. But there are areas in the force for example technical areas like DNA and firearms where I feel that we need more foreign expertise," said Mr Thompson.

He said this would allow the force's ballistics unit to compare all newly-seized firearms with bullets retrieved from crime scenes and compile a database that would prove fruitful to future investigations.

"We need people doing that and it has to be done regularly. We don't have sufficient people here to do it. This is an area I feel we can use some help from abroad," he said.

Mr Thompson, a native of Trinidad who joined the force in 1951 when Bahamians weren't "interested" in police work, said the RBPF is the best force in the region.

He added that much of the force's good work — like hefty firearm and drug seizures and a murder suspect detection rate of an estimated 70 per cent — often go unnoticed.

Tribune readers responded to a poll question that asked: "As crime escalates beyond levels seen before, one suggestion made by concerned citizens is to bring in foreign police officers to work alongside the Royal Bahamas Police Force. Do you think this would help in the fight against crime?"

In addition to casting their votes, several readers left comments explaining their decision.

"Isn't it amazing how they would bring in foreign consultants for everything else but the police force. I wonder why. We need a core of experienced foreign officers that bring expertise in solving murder cases and serious crimes. It is long overdue," said a voter who identified herself as Merissa.

Another reader said: "The RBPF is so corrupt from the top to the bottom."

"Foreign police are the answer!"

Reader Rashad Amahad commended the force for its good work: "They (the police) are doing a great job. Do you change the nurses if people keep getting sick. Come on Bahamas let's learn to love the ones we have and show the appreciation — it seems the solution is it must be foreign to be right. We have a commonwealth, it is our people, let us use this resource and you will see the reduction in crime."

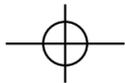
Of the 214 readers who voted in the online poll up to press time, 140 of them voted yes, 60 voted no while 14 voters were undecided.

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LOCAL NEWS

SWITCHED ON TO CHRISTMAS



Patrick Hanna/BIS photo

THE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE lights up Rawson Square on December 2nd.

MORE CHRISTMAS PHOTOS ON PAGE 20

Bank of The Bahamas INTERNATIONAL

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ALL STUDENTS

Surnames beginning with	Date
A-C	Monday, December 7, 2009
D-I	Tuesday, December 8, 2009
J-M	Wednesday, December 9, 2009
N-Smith	Thursday, December 10, 2009
Spence-Z	Friday, December 11, 2009

TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Holy Trinity Activity Centre
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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

Teen in court

nearby shop. Despite his injury, he was able to return home where he collapsed. He was taken to hospital by ambulance and died about three hours later.

Chief Magistrate Gomez informed the accused, who had his father present, that he was not required to enter a plea to the murder charge and that a preliminary inquiry will be held to deter-

mine whether there is sufficient evidence for him to stand trial in the Supreme Court.

The case was adjourned to December 8 and transferred to the juvenile panel. The accused has been remanded to Her Majesty's Prison.

THE JUVENILE at court yesterday.



Felipe Major/Tribune staff

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Sceptical Dems resign themselves to Obama war plan

WASHINGTON

A DEEPLY sceptical Congress on Wednesday resigned itself to President Barack Obama's escalation of the Afghanistan war, even as the president's chief military and diplomatic advisers sought to cool any expectations that the war would end in two years, according to Associated Press.

Leading Democrats said they had serious misgivings about the deployment of 30,000 more troops but would not try to block it — or the \$30 billion it will cost. Republicans said they support the force increase even as they doubted Obama's July 2011 deadline to start bringing troops home.

The response was the best Obama could have hoped for from a Congress sharply divided on the war.

"It's not likely that there would be any circumstances where the president would lose this battle this year" with lawmakers, said Rep. John Murtha, a vocal war critic who oversees military spending.

In House and Senate hearings on Wednesday, Obama's advisers insisted the stakes were great. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said losing the war "would have severe consequences for the United States and the world," and warned of a deadly "symbiotic" relationship between the Taliban and al-Qaida terrorists.

The testimony was aimed at building support among war-weary lawmakers for Obama's dramatic expansion of the Afghanistan war. By the end of next summer, the president plans to increase to 100,000 the number of U.S. troops there, marking the largest expansion of the war since it began eight years ago.

Much of the congressional questioning focused on the July 2011 date when the surge would begin to ebb.

Gates, Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton all sought to stress that the 18-month timeline would not constrain the military or encourage the Taliban.

The U.S. military will still have primary responsibility for fighting in Afghanistan for that period and perhaps far beyond. The Pentagon will use Obama's expansion of the U.S. fighting force to range farther and deeper into Taliban territory.

LOCAL NEWS



PICTURED are members of the fire response team, from left: Anthony Gilbert, Steven Roxbury, Randy McClellan, Howard Williams, Cyril Cox, Lynden Wilchcombe, Shemiko Stubbs, Samuel Ramlachan, Ted Pinder, Carlton Hall, Don Burrows, Shango Woodside, Tyrone Thomas, McDonald Cooper and David Armbrister.

Vopak fire response team praised by management

Vopak Terminal Bahamas management publicly thanked its fire and safety team for responding quickly and extinguishing a small fire that occurred at the facility.

The fire was not substantial and there were no injuries, management said in a statement yesterday.

"We wish to commend our terminal team for the execution of safety and emergency procedures, and by extension, our entire on-duty staff members for following the required safety protocols," it said. "We

remain very sensitive to the safety and well-being of all our employees and nearby community residents.

"Accordingly, even greater measures will be taken to improve safe working conditions, environmental protection, and the creation of a more effective emergency awareness programme for our employees and residential neighbours. Congratulations to our team on a job well done, and an impressive demonstration of team work," the statement said.

Local retailer salutes top teacher and student in the Southeastern District

BRASS & Leather has recognised the outstanding teacher and student in the Southeastern District as part of the company's Excellence in Education awards programme.

On Friday, November 27 at Brass & Leather's Mall-at-Marathon store, the company's management met with the award recipients – teacher Ms Jasmine Bodie and student Ms Jerrell Rahming, both of RM Bailey Senior High School which is headed by Principal Julian Anderson.

Ms Bodie is a hospitality and tourism studies instructor and has been employed with the Ministry of Education for the past six years. She was noted for being on the cutting edge of information and technology in her lesson planning and delivery.

Ms Bodie was also recognised for being one of the first teachers to enroll in the Promethean Active Board Training scheme and the Bahamas Education I Now Training (STI) course, enabling her to become the resource person for both programmes at RM Bailey.

The dynamic teacher is a recent graduate of the Bahamahost Programme and has passed level three of the American Hotel and Lodging Association qualifications, which will ultimately lead to her becoming a Certified Hospitality Instructor.

In addition to excelling in the classroom, Ms Bodie serves on almost every committee at her school including of the Social Committee, Interact Club and the Special Programmes Committee. Jerrell Rahming, a 12th grade student, was

described as a humble, ambitious and generous individual. Among her peers, she is known to be a motivator and a peace maker. The aspiring music teacher lives by the motto, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".

Jerrell, a senior prefect, holds many leadership positions at school including on the Praise and Worship Team, the Girls' Ensemble and the track and field team. She is a leader of the school band and head vocalist in the choir.

Her involvement in church includes membership in the Southwest Cathedral Youth Choir, the Girls' Club, Militant Invaders, the drama team, the church band and the dance group.

She visits different churches to perform and spread the word of God to others. The versatile student maintains a 3.30 grade point average in addition to mentoring young girls at her school and at church.

Brass & Leather, the popular leather goods company, has partnered with the Ministry of Education to highlight the achievements of teachers and students in the public educational system. The first awards were presented to Northwestern District teacher Doreen Thompson and student Julian Desir of TG Glover Primary School.

Managing director Peter Phillips said the objective of the programme is to recognise the achievements of teachers and students in public schools, and for Brass & Leather to say thank you to these outstanding individuals.

The awardees were presented with gifts from the Brass & Leather Shop.

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LOCAL NEWS

Bahamian-owned solar power firm expands workforce

By AVA TURNQUEST
turnquest.ava@gmail.com

AS GLOBAL demand for alternative sources of energy continues to climb, a Bahamian-owned solar power and alternative energy solution provider has expanded its workforce.

Solar Power Concepts has appointed a new sales consultant to manage sales and marketing of its products throughout the Bahamas.

Hussein Duncombe will educate customers about the multitude of possibilities available through solar energy, drawing from his bachelor's degree in environmental biology and his extensive volunteer work with the Ministry of the Environment's Public Analyst Lab.

"We are delighted to have Mr Duncombe join our team," said Richard Wilson, SPC's managing director. "Hussein brings with him the knowledge and dedication to help SPC serve its customers and to promote this technology which is so vital to the future of our economy."

The company offers products for residential and commercial application, and is granted reduced duties on imported solar equipment and duty exemption on imported solar lights.

Mr Duncombe said: "I am looking forward to introducing an alternative energy source which will reduce electricity billing costs and provide environmentally friendly products for all Bahamians."



ABOVE: Richard Wilson, SPC's managing director with Hussein Duncombe.

BELOW: The demand for alternative sources of energy such as solar power is increasing.



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21 Cube Energy Star Refrigerator Top Freezer	\$920.00



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2009

PAGE 17 • Brent Stubbs' opinion...



AI signs with 76ers again, to make debut next week...

See page 16

Knights 'shake up' Rattlers

By RENALDO DORSETT
Sports Reporter
rdorsett@tribunemedia.net

Pamela Bethel and the Government Secondary Schools Sports Association (GSSSA) senior girls basketball champions continue to roll and appear to be peaking at the right time as they head into the Father Marcian Peters tournament.

Bethel (far right) scored a game-high 25 points to lead the Knights to a 45-14 win over C I Gibson Rattlers at the D W Davis Gymnasium yesterday.

Arguably the most versatile player in the Bahamas, Bethel controlled the boards on both ends of the floor, blocked shots and stifled the Rattlers' penetration, scoring in the paint and from long range – beyond the three-point arch.

The Rattlers seemed poised for an early upset with Robin Gibson leading her team to an early 5-2 lead. Finishing with nine points to lead the Rattlers, she was 3-4 from the line in the half as C I Gibson took an early lead.

With ball-hawking defence, the Knights responded in usual fashion, turning steals on the defensive end into easy baskets on the opposite end of the floor.

The Knights' defence went on a 9-0 run to take a 13-5 lead before Lornika Seraphin stopped the run for the Rattlers with a pair of free throws.

Bethel's second three-pointer of the game gave the Knights a 20-9 lead as they

headed into the half.

In the second half, the Knights opened with a stifling full-court trap which frustrated the Rattlers' ballhandlers and made it virtually impossible for them to find any offensive pace.

Theodora Bain, who finished with 11 points, capped the Knights' run with a lay-up that gave her team a 30-8 advantage. Bethel scored on three consecutive possessions to give the Knights their first 30-point lead (44-14) with three minutes left to play.

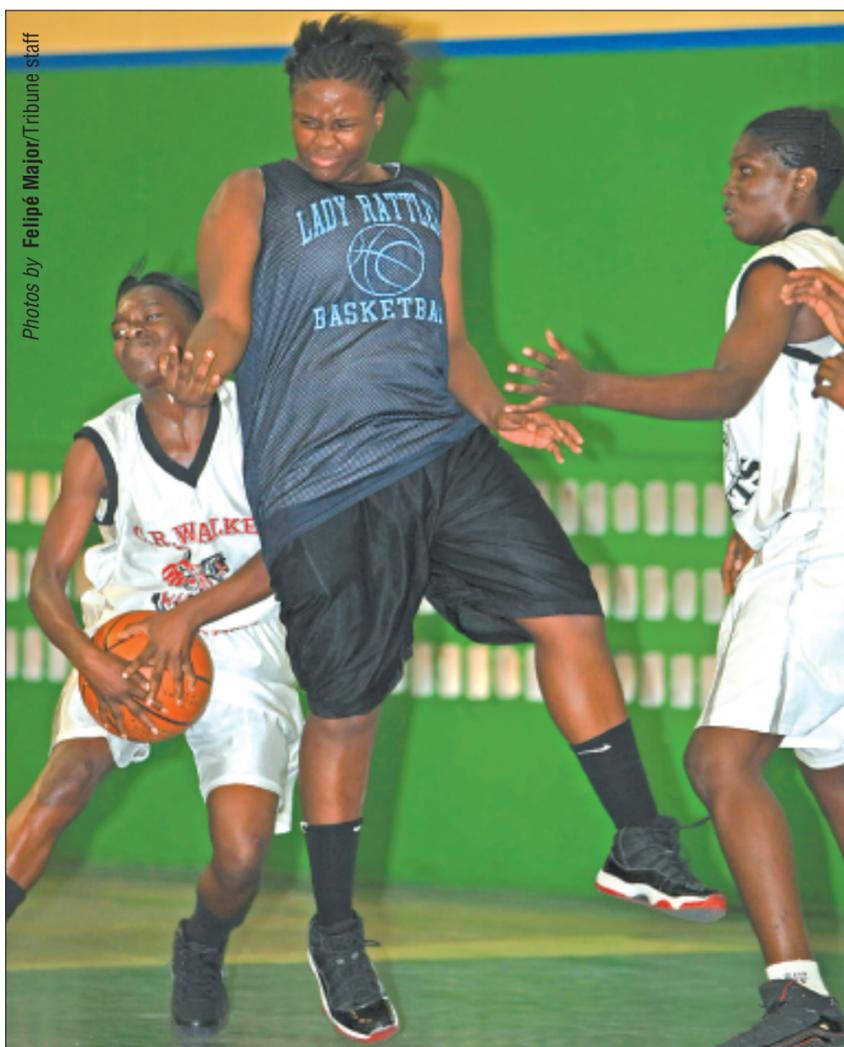
Bain, the team's captain, said her squad came out in the second half with renewed focus after a slow start.

"In the first half we did not play aggressive enough especially on defence but in the second half we really hustled and were going after every steal trying to attack their ballhandlers," she said.

"This could be our biggest competition but we don't underestimate any team, we just want to come out and play our game."

As the defending champions, Bain said the team has improvements to make but are poised to successfully defend their title. "We still have a long way to go to get back to where we were last year," she said. "But we have the team to do it."

For the Knights, Tameka Martin finished with four points, Leashea Grant added three while Ke'edrah Hanna and Toniquea Martin each finished with two. Seraphin and Silvia Colebrooke each finished with two for the Rattlers.



C R WALKER KNIGHTS defeated the C I Gibson Lady Rattlers 45-14 (SEE NEXT PAGE) at the D W Davis Gymnasium yesterday...

Diplomats crush the Crusaders 121-51

By RENALDO DORSETT
Sports Reporter
rdorsett@tribunemedia.net

THE Westminster College Diplomats made a statement to the rest of the BAISS senior boys basketball squads – taking the title from the defending champions and preventing a threepeat will be a monumental task.

The Diplomats outscored the Nassau Christian Academy Crusaders 121-51 for their second consecutive lopsided victory on the road.

Five Westminster players reached double figures – two finished with double doubles – led by Marko Lundy's all-round performance who finished just one assist shy of a triple double.

Lundy finished with 29 points, 15 rebounds, nine assists and six steals, while Travis Rolle added 20 points, 11 assists and five rebounds.

Shaquille Bain finished with 16 points, Shaquille Fernandez added 15 and Brian Rose finished with 14 points and eight rebounds.

The Diplomats led 18-10 after the first quarter and 38-25 at the half.

SEE NEXT page

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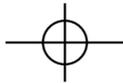
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SPORTS

Lady Rattlers vs Knights

AI signs with 76ers again, to make debut next week

By DAN GELSTON
AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Allen Iverson is rejoining the Philadelphia 76ers and is expected to make his debut Monday at home against the Denver Nuggets.

Iverson's brief retirement is over after signing a free-agent contract with Philadelphia on Wednesday, three years after their acrimonious split led to his trade and seemingly ended any chance of his return.

The Sixers needed a replacement once they lost starting point guard Lou Williams, who's expected to miss eight weeks after jaw surgery. Williams, who averaged 17.4 points and 5.1 assists, broke his jaw in a loss to Washington on Nov. 24.

Iverson, his agent and business manager met with team president Ed Stefanski, coach Eddie Jordan and two other members of the organization Monday to talk about returning.

"Without really seeing him on the floor, I would like to compare him to Brett Favre, a guy who people think is too old to play and he's almost having an MVP year," Jordan said. "That's off the top of my head. When I woke up this morning, I said, 'Maybe he can be that.' It's not a big maybe. I think he can be that."

The 34-year-old Iverson announced his retirement last week after a stint with the Memphis Grizzlies. The 10-time All-Star was NBA MVP in 2001, when he led the Sixers to the NBA finals.

Diplomats crush Crusaders 121-51

With the regular starters back in the game for the second half, the Diplomats blew the game open as they outscored the Crusaders 83-26 over the final two periods.

Westminster won the third quarter 35-13 and followed with an even better fourth quarter where they out-matched the Crusaders 48-13.

Diplomats head coach Geno Bullard said the performance is one his team is capable of on any given day with the balance and depth of the roster.

"It was a combined team effort from the guys. I think it is important to give the full roster equal playing time at this point in the season. It helps our depth by giving our bench more repetitions in games which will payoff as the season goes on because I think the key to winning another championship may come down to depth," he said.

"We can not depend on just three or four guys to carry the load day in and day out so the experience the whole team is getting right now should make us a force to be reckoned with as the season goes on."

In other BAISS news, the Queen's College Comets pulled off a major upset as they walked into the land of the Green Giants as underdogs and walked out with a thrilling win in the game's waning moments.

Devin Carey's game-winning layup on a drive to the basket with just one second left to play gave the Comets a 65-64 win over the Giants.

George Zonicle led the Comets and all scorers with 22 points, Eleazor Johnson added 20 while Carey finished with 12. Dwight Moss led the Giants with 19.

The Diplomats are scheduled to face the Faith Temple Christian Academy Warriors in their next contest as the Crusaders and Giants try to rebound against each other and the Comets get set to return home and face the St Anne's Blue Waves on December 7.

C R WALKER KNIGHTS defeated the C I Gibson Lady Rattlers 45-14 (highlights on this page) at the D W Davis Gymnasium yesterday...



Photos by Felipe Major/Tribune staff

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



SPORTS

'It's up to Maynard to take up the mantle and run with it'

STUBBS



OPINION

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter

WHILE Desmond Bannister said farewell, Charles Maynard was welcomed in as the new Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture.

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham this week made his second change in ministerial positions at the ministry since the Free National Movement took over the government in 2007.

Byron Woodside initially sat in the chair before he was replaced by Bannister. Now Maynard has taken over.

A long-time sporting enthusiast who now resides in New York sent me an email asking what I thought about the new changes in the ministry. I didn't respond at the time because I thought I would wait until I had this opportunity to do so.

Having had a chance to work with both Bannister and Maynard, who served previously as the Minister of State

for Culture, I really think that the ministry will not really lose anything because Maynard is not stepping into a virgin territory.

Unlike in the past when there is a change in portfolio, Bannister was actually grooming Maynard for a pending take over. The two spent a lot of time working together at the ministry and so I think the transition will be a smooth one.

However, I felt that Bannister did a magnificent job and although he had hinted at leaving office long before the shuffle to return to his legal practice.

As he contemplated his future, Bannister worked with Maynard, who represented the government at the International Amateur Athletic Federation's World Athletics in Berlin, Germany in August.

At the championships, Maynard got a chance to get his feet wet as he strutted around with the dignitaries and witnessed the high-level performances of our track and field athletes.

At the time, Maynard said he was eager to make his contribution to the ministry, once he had returned home and

Ingraham had made the shuffle.

It has been about three months since the trip and while Bannister declined to make his exit from the cabinet, the shuffle eventually came.

Before taking up his new position, Bannister had an eventful week last week as he opened the Thanksgiving Senior Boys Basketball Tournament in Grand Bahama and he attended the commissioning of the reconstruction of the Carl Oliver Track and Field Stadium in Nicholls Town, Andros.

Bannister's last official job was on Saturday night as he attended the Road Runners Track Club's 10th annual awards banquet at the Wyndham Crystal Palace Reosrt.

At the time, Bannister indicated how impressed he was with what he saw in the club, headed by Dexter Bodie. He noted that they are definitely the envy of all of the other clubs because of the role they play in the development of so many young people.

Bannister also noted that he felt pleased with the progress track and field had made and he was looking forward

to the future as the development continued with the construction of the new national stadium by the Chinese government and the renovations in Grand Bahama and Andros.

It's just a pity that Bannister won't be in office when the facilities are completed. But as he leaves, I'm sure he goes with a lot of pride knowing that he did what he could have done to cement the groundwork.

Now it's up to Maynard to take up the mantle and run with it. But he has indicated that before he does anything, he will definitely consult with the movers and shakers in the sporting world to ensure that he gets their input on the way forward.

There's been some critical changes in the local world of sport this year that one can only take a wait-and-see approach to the future.

But as we wait, I'm sure that those persons who have assumed their responsibility will make every effort to keep sports in general in the forefront.

BODIE LAUDED

It's not everyday that a coach receives the praise heaped upon Dexter Bodie on Saturday night.

At the Road Runners Track Club's 10th annual awards presentation, Grand Bahamian businessman Basil Neymour had nothing but praises for Bodie as the president and head coach of the club.

Bodie is someone that is very visible as he goes about his chores. His club has attracted more than 60 athletes, who are primarily in the high school age range.

At the awards presentation, the club presented awards to just about every member of the team, both for their academic and athletic pursuits.

It is a noble gesture because most of the clubs are just interested in providing an avenue for the athletes to train and compete.

But Bodie and his club have taken it a step further where they honour the athletes as well for their performances in the classroom.

In today's society where so much has been said about the failing passing grades of our students, it's tremendous to see a club like the Road Run-

ners, who also highlight the athletes for their academic deeds.

Bodie may not have produced too many of the top athletes who go on to international prominence yet, but I'm sure that there's a whole lot more value in highlighting them for their academic prowess, which is far more important than how fast they can run or how high they jump or how far they throw.

Congrats to Bodie and the Road Runners for looking out for athletes in their totality.

Woods' sponsors standing behind him _ for now

GOLF
NANCY ARMOUR
AP National Writer

LONGTIME sponsors are sticking with Tiger Woods — for now.

But the world's most famous athlete, who offered a "profound apology" Wednesday following allegations of infidelity, might find new deals hard to come by, marketing experts say, and the loyalty of existing sponsors could be tested by any additional tawdry stories or his reluctance to address the issue publicly.

"Unfortunately for Tiger, the situation is not over," said Bob Williams, CEO of Burns Entertainment and Sports Marketing, which represents companies looking to hire celebrities to sell their brands.

"The linchpin will be when he addresses the public for the first time," Williams said,



Tiger Woods

world's No. 1 golfer. The magazine also published what it said was a voice mail — provided by the waitress, Jaimee Grubbs — that Woods left on her phone on Nov. 24, three days before his middle-of-the-night car crash outside his Florida home.

Woods did not offer details of any alleged relationships but said he had "not been true to my values and the behavior my family deserves."

Forbes estimated earlier this year that Woods was the first athlete to surpass \$1 billion in career earnings, more than 80 percent of that coming from endorsements with companies such as Nike, Gillette, Gatorade and AT&T. Those are all long-term relationships, Octagon First Call's David Schwab said, partners not likely to dump him at the first rough patch.

adding that will help companies determine how they feel about him.

Woods' apology came in a statement on his Web site, after a cover story in Us Weekly magazine reported that a Los Angeles cocktail waitress claimed to have had a 31-month affair with the

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LOCAL NEWS

Raising autism awareness with pedal power

ONE-HUNDRED thousand dollars, 700 miles, seven islands, two wheels and one goal. This is the realisation of a dream that real estate entrepreneur Mario Carey has ignited to make a difference in the lives of children with autism.

He has committed to cycle through numerous Bahamian islands to raise awareness and money with every mile covered along the way.

For the past five years, Mr Carey has been a champion for children, parents and even educators affected by autistic spectrum disorders. On Saturday, November 21, he began his new journey of support in Long Island, starting at Gordon's, riding to the tip to Seymours and finishing in Salt Pond – a distance of 100 miles.

Mr Carey and his fellow riders Dr Mark Davies and Simon Lowe, all finished the ride in less than six hours. As far as they know, they're the first to bike from tip to tip, which is officially 70.54 miles.

With 600 miles to go, every mile completed increases funding for REACH (Resources and Education for Autism and Related Challenges), a non-profit organisation that assists those faced with the disorder.

"I can see why they call him Super Mario, because it is quite a physical undertaking," said DeCosta Bethel, president of REACH. "I'm hoping to join him on another island; it's the least I can do. The need to raise awareness has escalated because the condition is so prevalent and incidents are increasing at an incredible pace. There's still no cause or cure."

The condition has become so pervasive that the United Nations has declared April 2 "World Autism Awareness Day." AIDS and cancer are the only other illnesses to

receive such observation.

For Carey, the tour has been a very personal trek. His 12-year-old son Cole was diagnosed at an early age and Carey has been on a path of understanding and support ever since. Improving the quality of diagnosis and treatment throughout the Bahamas, while heightening the awareness of the disability has become a life-long goal. Carey has held onto his commitment with the same zeal used when competing in triathlons.

"Autism really hits home because I have two beautiful children, one of whom is autistic," said Carey. "There are still so many unanswered questions about what causes autism and other developmental disorders. So it is vital that we continue to research and educate ourselves in the hopes that we begin to understand the challenges that these children and their families continue to face. I would like to thank all those persons who have donated to this cause so far; this give me confidence that I can reach my goal of \$100,000."

San Salvador is the next planned stop in his route as it nears the end of December. His course for a cause also includes Abaco, Cat Island, Eleuthera, Exuma and Grand Bahama. He plans to complete the journey by May 2010, before it's too hot. Carey encourages more riders to put their pedals to the pavement and join him. He continues to seek sponsorships and recently secured a major endorsement from Nautilus Water.

Those interested in riding can contact Mario directly at mariokidflash@gmail.com. Donations can be made out

to REACH and dropped off at Mario Carey Realty, East Bay Street. Phone: 677-8255.



REAL ESTATE ENTREPRENEUR MARIO CAREY has cycled 100 miles so far for a cause dear to his heart – raising money and awareness for children with autism. Autism is one of the fastest-growing developmental disabilities and it affects millions of children. Carey's son is one of them. Pictured l-r: Simon Lowe, Cole Carey, Mario Carey and Dr Mark Davies.

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FLIGHT TO FLORIDA Diandra Flowers	MOTOROLA CELL PHONE E. Ferguson	\$200 FUEL VOUCHER Don Mills

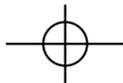
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*6 Kia Sportages drawn weekly from 25.11.09 - 28.12.09. Promotion ends 27.12.09. **Standard SMS text rates apply. All winners must answer a skill-testing question. Special conditions and restrictions apply. Actual colour of car prize will vary. For competition rules and details, see website, press and Texaco service stations.

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LOCAL NEWS

RAWSON SQUARE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING



TOP LEFT PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham checks out the Life Size painting of himself painted by Anthony Morely during Tuesday's National Tree Lighting ceremony at Rawson Square.

ABOVE SANTA came to town with gifts and joy for the children during the National Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.

PHOTOS: Patrick Hanna/BIS



Share your news

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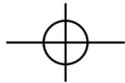
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No commitment to Bill's 'central part'



JAMES SMITH

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Realtors have expressed concern that there "is no commitment to ever draft the central part" of the Planning and Subdivisions Bill, the Land Use Plan for each Bahamian island, adding that this should be the "cornerstone of a national economic development plan".

In feedback submitted yesterday to both Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and Dr Earl Deveaux, minister of the environment, which it hopes will be included at the committee or third reading of the proposed Bill in Parliament, the Bahamas Real Estate Association (BREA) recommended that the Government first complete and implement its proposed Land Use Plan before proceeding to have Parliament pass the Planning and Subdivisions Bill into statute.

In feedback compiled from BREA's members, the organisation said: "In its current form, the Bill continuously refers to the goals of the Land Use Plan, while a Land Use Plan does not exist."

"Since there is no stated commit-

- * Realtors urge Land Use Plan to be drafted first, before Planning and Subdivision Bill passes, but concerned no guarantee this will happen
- * Say Land Use Plan should be 'cornerstone of national economic development'
- * BREA urges that business licence and developer's licence be condition of final subdivision/lot sale approvals
- * Education needed on title deeds being 'null and void' if subdivision not fully approved

ment in this Bill for the Government to adopt a Land Use Plan, there is general concern that if this Bill passes in its current form, there will never be a Land Use Plan.

"Section 45, Conformity to Land Use Plan, states that nothing can be approved without conforming to the Land Use Plan, so this simply does not make any sense."

Urging that Sections 35 to 41, dealing with the Land Use Plan, be the "foundation" of the Government's proposed planning and land development legislation, BREA said they needed to be completed before the Bill became an Act.

"In general, the Bill, as presently drafted, introduces new policies and requirements that add to the risk of developing, building or owning real estate in the Bahamas," BREA said. "Policies like revocation and public hearings bring a new requirement that will affect the decisions of developers and lending institutions because there is greater potential for the property value to be affected."

"The Land Use Plan is the central part of this Bill, but it has not been drafted and has no commitment to ever be drafted. The Land Use Plan can first protect the most valuable natural resources of the Bahamas, and

then develop zoning areas and policies that build the foundation for economic growth and jobs for Bahamians.

"BREA strongly recommends that the Government first complete the Land Use Plan, and then adopt a Bill that has the Land Use Plan policies as the cornerstone of a national economic development plan."

BREA also urged the Government to conduct a major public education campaign to advise Bahamians of all the changes the Planning and Subdivisions Bill was likely to introduce, pointing to clauses such as the one

SEE page 10B

'Proper time' for tax reform

- * Ex-finance minister says recession has sensitised public to need for restructuring and 'more modern regime', due to 'lack of revenue buoyancy'
- * Government can 'still ease its way' out of fiscal crisis if nothing worsens

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

A FORMER finance minister yesterday said now was "the proper time to seriously consider" restructuring the Bahamas' tax regime away from its traditional import-duty dependency, adding that the Government could still "kind of ease its way out of the fiscal crisis" if the situation did not worsen.

James Smith, minister of state for finance in the former Christie administration, said the recession, combined with the Government's fiscal woes, would have exposed Bahamians to the need for a "more modern tax regime", providing the public support such a major restructuring would require for success.

"Now would be the proper time to seriously consider changing this tax regime," Mr Smith told Tribune Business. "We see a lack of buoyancy in

SEE page 10B

Accounts receivables up 'across the board'

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

ACCOUNTS receivables have risen "across the board" in the Bahamian business community as a result of the recession, a leading accountant told Tribune Business yesterday, something that had caused "considerable strain" for small businesses as companies elected to retain staff and hold-off on paying bills as long as possible.

Raymond Winder, Deloitte & Touche (Bahamas) managing partner, said both government agencies and the private sector had seen an increase in accounts receivables - monies owed by customers for products and services rendered (taxes in the Government's case).

Describing this as "a cycle", where if Business A was unable to pay Business B, the latter would also be late or unable to meet its accounts payable, Mr Winder told Tribune Business: "Across-the-board there's been an increase in accounts receivables."

"The fact that Bahamian businesses are still holding on to employees, and we're not seeing massive lay-offs, shows

- * Top accountant says situation 'worrisome' and causing 'considerable strain' for Bahamian small businesses
- * Adds that companies needed to 'put more aside' several years ago when economy doing well

that a lot of employers have held off on paying receivables and other bills as they come due.

"I think that for the most part employers are struggling along, holding on to their staff rather than lay-offs, closing shop and downsizing. The cost of closing down may be more than staying in business. Most of them are planning and waiting for things to turn-around. Therein lies the reason for the increase in receivables."

Given that well-qualified, highly skilled employees are in relatively short supply in the Bahamian market, it makes sense for employers to hold on to their most valuable staff and pay them well,

SEE page 4B

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

Start-up eyeing \$69m revenues by its fifth year

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

IP Solutions International, the \$16 million Bahamian telecoms start-up, had projected it would earn \$26.5 million in revenue during its first year in operation, a figure that would rise to \$69 million by its fifth year, according to a copy of its business plan seen by Tribune Business.

The company's private placement memorandum for the offering that closed on Monday,

SEE page 6B

- * Company has completed first installation at Baker's Bay, and believes it can capture 10% of Bahamian residential market in first year, rising to 70% in year five
- * Letter of Intent signed to lease bandwidth and for ARCOS access
- * IPO and BISX listing eyed for third year

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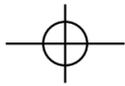
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BUSINESS

Superwash sees revenues decline 10 per cent

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Business Reporter
crobards@tribunemedia.net

SUPERWASH has seen revenues decline 10 per cent for 2009 year-to-date, the fall being 5 percentage points more than 2008, its president said yesterday.

Dionisio D'Aguilar, speaking to a packed house at the Visionary Business Leaders Conference, said his sales deteriorated "precipitously" in August and are continuing to decline.

According to Mr D'Aguilar, 2007 was a boom year for Superwash. However, as the financial crisis rippled across the world he saw revenue earnings drop by 5 per cent in

2008. And with 2009 witnessing a deepening global recession, Superwash's sales fall by 10 per cent.

"We hoped the nightmare might just go away and we could return to the times of feast, but we are definitely in a period of famine," said Mr D'Aguilar.

He said that just like many businesses, during the boom period he gorged on equipment upgrades and increased staff levels, all of which have now become a burden on a declining business.

"There probably was a need for additional staff to meet increased demand," said Mr D'Aguilar. "Now, it's just not justifiable."

He added that he had been more forward thinking he may have expanded his business while he had the chance, in order to corner the market in a certain area. Now, he laments, competition has moved into his area and is cutting into business.

While Superwash has experienced some declines since the onset of the global financial crisis, Mr D'Aguilar assured his audience that many businesses have not.

He cited accounting and established security firms as some businesses that may have benefited from the decline in the global economy.

Mr D'Aguilar advised those business people who have not

been able to grow their firms during the recession to become more creative in the way that they market themselves and sell their products and services.

"Selling products in the same old way won't do," he said. "You now have to appeal to as many different needs as possible."

Mr D'Aguilar added that extending business hours, giving customers unfettered access to yourself and expanding locations may prove to sustain firms in the long run and during difficult economic periods.

"You need creativity to stop your sales declining," he said.

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Heather 'STEPS' up to receive award



HEATHER THOMPSON, a partner at Higgs & Johnson and a former chairperson of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) Bahamas branch, has been honoured with the STEP Founder's Outstanding Achievement Award for long-standing service to the society...

NOTICE

The Public is hereby given that C & D (a twenty-four hour nursing services enterprise) has made application to the Nursing Council of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas for approval as a Nursing Agency, situated on Rosetta Street and Mount Royal Avenue, Nassau, Bahamas.

Anyone knowing any cause why the said group should not be granted approval should respond in writing to the Nursing Council, P.O. Box N 8506, Nassau, Bahamas, within fourteen days of the last publication of this notice 21/12/09.

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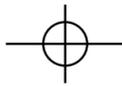
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BUSINESS

Accounts receivables up 'across the board'

FROM page 1B

then simply ride out the recession and wait for better times ahead.

As a result, some companies, according to Mr Winder have deferred payments to suppliers, business partners and others to cope with the reduced top-line revenues, or paid them later than usual, leading to the increase in accounts receivables at other firms.

And while receivables (an asset) have risen for many companies, their liabilities are also likely to have increased due to growth in their accounts payables.

Mr Winder said the accounts receivables increase throughout the Bahamian economy provided evidence of the extremely tight 'cash flow/liquidity' situation many companies found themselves

in, but added that as the recession ended and economic activity picked up, their financial position would improve.

"When you look at it from a macroeconomic point of view, if you can say that those receivables are high because one decided to retain employees, that's not a big, big issue, but if you undertook downsizing and lay-offs and receivables are still high, it would be a lot more worrisome," Mr Winder said.

"We still have a ways to go. If you have cut employees to the bone and have these problems, that would be more worrisome to me."

Many small businesses have also allowed accounts payables to rise sharply, and cut back on inventory orders, to survive the downturn, and Mr Winder conceded:

"Another year or two of this could be a considerable strain on small businesses.

"This [accounts receivables] is an issue for small businesses, rather than larger firms, because a lot of them were able to invest profits from previous years into their businesses, and have been able to weather the increase in receivables.

Challenged

"Small businesses are the ones being really challenged by this, and they don't have many staff to lay-off. They don't have the built-in profits from previous periods to weather the storm."

However, the Deloitte & Touche (Bahamas) managing partner said the rise in accounts receivables was not due to owners or directors

taking money out of their businesses, via dividends or otherwise, when they should not be.

Still, he added of the current accounts receivables build-up: "It's an indication that businesses should have been a lot more prudent three, four, five years ago and put aside a lot more than they did."

"When they were doing well, they did not put enough aside to reinvest in the business."

Mr Winder said the accounts receivables situation was further exacerbated by the structural weaknesses in the Bahamian economy, namely the high cost of labour and utilities, relatively low productivity in relation to salaries, and the increase in employee and customer theft during the recession.

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GENERAL AVIATION AND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE CENTER- LPIA

Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD) is inviting proposals from qualified parties (individuals, companies, partnerships, joint ventures, etc.) to design, finance, construct, operate and manage a **General Aviation and Aircraft Maintenance Center** in accordance with appropriate regulations and provide general aviation and aircraft maintenance services at Lynden Pindling International Airport.

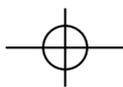
The successful Proponent will be required:

- To design, renovate/construct, finance, maintain, operate and manage a General Aviation Center for piston, turbo prop and jet aircraft not exceeding 12,500 lbs maximum takeoff weight (weight exceptions may be authorized for 100% cargo aircraft operations); and
- To design, construct, finance, maintain, operate and manage an adjoining Aviation Maintenance Center of a proposed 3 hangar bays or individual hangars of approximately 10,000 square feet clear span each and able to accommodate, as a minimum, aircraft of up to a Dash 8 or equivalent in size.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the proposed design and development of the facility, the proponent's relative background and experience; the proponent's ability to finance the capital investment and ongoing operations and their operating and marketing plans.

The successful proponent will be required to incorporate in The Bahamas.

Qualified and interested parties may pick up the Request for Proposal package at NAD's office, Terminal 1 (Domestic/International), 2nd floor, LPIA between **November 23rd, 2009 and January 4th, 2010**. A mandatory pre-proposal briefing and site tour for those who have picked up packages will be held in NAD's Arawak Lounge at the airport on **January 7th, 2010 at 10:00am**.



BUSINESS

Bahamas to host regional summit for accountants

THE Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) is preparing to host the 28th annual Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Caribbean (ICAC) conference, having selected an executive in Doctor's Hospital's finance department as the

conference chairperson. Jasmine Davis will act as chair for the conference that is scheduled to be held on June 24-26, 2010, under the theme, *Responding to Change: Reshaping the accounting profession in the Caribbean*. She will be assist-

ed by three assistant chairpersons and 10 committee members.

Some four delegates from across the Caribbean are

expected to attend the conference, and the ICAC Board will visit the Bahamas in February 2010 to prepare for the conference.

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- Need a business plan and financing proposal prepared?
- Need business licence prepared/certified? (1-2 weeks)

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- MUST HAVE EXCELLENT ORAL & WRITTEN COMMUNICATION SKILLS
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- EXPERIENCE IN RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT WOULD BE A PLUS

JOB SUMMARY:

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McDonald's Head Office on Market St. North
P. O. Box SS-5925
Telephone: 325-4444
Nassau, Bahamas

GN918



Ministry Finance

RE: Real property tax Surcharge Waiver Notice

The general public is here by advised of the provisions of the Real Property Tax Act. The principal Act is amended by the insertion immediately after section 21 of the following new section 21 A and 21 B respectfully;

Section 21 A Waiver of surcharge.

Notwithstanding section 21, any surcharge which has accumulated in respect of

- (a) owner-occupies property with a market value of up to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) shall be waived.
- (b) owner-occupied property which exceeds two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, shall be waived if the outstanding real property tax is paid on or before December 31,2009: and
- (c) other property, shall be waived by fifty per cent if the outstanding real property tax is paid before December 31,2009.

Section 21 B Revival of Surcharge

If after December 31,2009 any real property tax remains outstanding in respect of

- (a) owner-occupied property with a market value of up to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00)
- (b) owner-occupied property which exceeds two hundred and fifty thousand.
- (c) other property

The owner of such property, shall be liable to pay a new surcharge of five per centum (5%) of such tax tax per annum.

NOTICE

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) hereby notifies its clients and the general public that effective Wednesday, November 25, 2009 our main telephone number will be #396-7800.

The current telephone number #393-7159 will remain active until January 1st, 2010.

The IDB apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

RBC ROYAL BANK OF CANADA
is considering applications for

Account Manager

The successful candidate should possess the following qualifications:

- 7 or more years banking experience
- Must have retail banking experience in lending
- Minimum – Bachelor's Degree in Banking or a related field

Responsibilities Include:

- Providing overall management by achievement of team sales objectives, and related activities to achieve a high standard of customer care, optimal business retention, profitable growth and productivity.
- Developing RBC Financial Group and community relationships to capitalize on business opportunities.
- Providing ongoing coaching and development of staff, ensuring a high level of employee commitment and capability through focused sales/service management routines.
- Growing both the business and personal client relationship.
- Balancing the rewards of meeting business objectives with the risk of loss to the customer, employee and shareholder by following corporate compliance/policies to maintain risk exposure and to operate within the legal framework.

Required Skills:

- Strong Leadership
- Problem Account Management
- Strong written and verbal communication
- Negotiating/Selling Skills
- Relationship building & Coaching Skills
- Analytical Skills
- Good judgement
- Effectively manage Risk
- Critical Thinking
- Impact and Influence
- Ability to manage multiple priorities
- Microsoft Office Proficiency (Word, Excel, Outlook)

A competitive compensation package (base salary & bonus) commensurate with relevant experience and qualifications is offered.

Please apply by **December 4, 2009** to:

Regional Manager
Human Resources
Caribbean Banking
RBC Royal Bank of Canada
Bahamas Regional Office
P.O. Box N-7549 Nassau, N.P., Bahamas
Via fax: (242)322-1367
Via email: bahcayjp@rbc.com

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for TIX: 242.356.5939 / www.bintifilmfest.com



BUSINESS

Start-up eyeing \$69m revenues

FROM page 1B

in year three. The start-up's return on net worth was forecast to range from 64.4 per cent in the first year down to 30 per cent by year five, with return on assets starting at 46.11 per cent in the first year and standing at 29.04 per cent in year five. As for the return on total revenues, this was projected

to be 58.51 per cent in IP Solutions International's first year in operation, rising to 64.36 per cent by year four and 69.13 per cent in the fifth year. And, with 90,000 cable television subscribers in the Bahamas, and 50,000 Internet subscribers, IP Solutions International said it was confident it would establish a niche for itself.

"While the hotel market appears as the most lucrative place to begin operations, the residential market will yield a great return on investment," the private placement memorandum said. "IP Solutions International anticipates capturing as much

as 10 per cent or more of the residential market in the first year of operations, and as much as 70 per cent or more into year five." As revealed by Tribune Business yesterday, IP Solutions International is in the process of adjusting its business plans after its \$16 million offering - seeking \$8 million in equity capital, \$4 million in preference shares and \$4 million in bank debt - was "undersubscribed" by

Bahamian investors. The company is now in talks with a potential international strategic/financing partner, which has indicated its willingness to invest capital in IP Solutions International to take it beyond the initial \$16 million target. However, Edison Sumner, IP Solutions International's president and chief executive, told this newspaper that the

SEE NEXT page



The Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church

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EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION SESSION FOR TEACHERS

This session will highlight the benefits of being a part of a professional faculty at Queen's College and what you can do to be a part of our team!

**Saturday,
December 12, 2009
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Queen's College
Primary School Hall**

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NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **Fritzgerald Benoit of Palm Beach St., P.O.Box CB 12627** 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 **3rd day of December, 2009** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **KAITIA ALCEUS of # 71 Minnie St., P.O.Box N 10326** 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 **3rd day of December, 2009** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **Lorry Nicolas of 525NW, 8th Street, Apt.10, Belle-Glade, Florida** 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 **3rd day of December, 2009** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

SPECIALTY RETAIL SHOPS NEW U.S. DEPARTURES TERMINAL AT LPIA

Nassau Airport Development Company Limited (NAD) is seeking Proponents (individuals, consortium or joint venture that must include an experienced retail operator) to finance, design, develop, operate and manage general Specialty Retail stores in the new U.S. Departures Terminal currently under construction at the Lynden Pindling International Airport. These stores will be world class in design and appearance with a distinctive 'sense of place' and will offer products at competitive prices.

Two (possibly three) inline stores have been identified in the new terminal; the categories are as follows:

1. T-shirts, golf shirts, hats and related souvenirs and products
2. Other specialty retail

There will be additional Requests for Proposals issued in early 2010 covering retail kiosks and carts.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

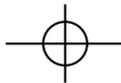
- i. Proponents must be Bahamian and incorporated in The Bahamas.
- ii. Proponents must have operated a retail facility within the last three (3) years.

NAD'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES ARE TO:

- (a) achieve a high standard of excellence and customer service;
- (b) offer a mix of concepts that will help to enhance the image of the Lynden Pindling International Airport as a world class airport;
- (c) offer retail choices to passengers at reasonable prices;
- (d) develop and design retail facilities that complement the qualities of the new terminal while recognizing the distinctive spirit, character and 'sense of place' of The Bahamas; and
- (e) optimize revenue to NAD.



Qualified and interested parties may pick-up the Request for Proposal package at NAD's offices at the reception desk on the second floor Domestic/International Terminal at Lynden Pindling International Airport between the hours of **9:00am and 4:00pm, from November 23rd to December 7th, 2009**. A mandatory pre-proposal briefing for those who have picked up packages will be held at the **New Providence Community Centre, Blake Road on Wednesday, December 9th at 10:00am.**



BUSINESS

by its fifth year

FROM page 6

company's launch may be delayed by several months, although it still hoped to launch some of its Multi-Play services by the 2010 first quarter.

Out of the initial \$16 million capital that IP Solutions International targeted, the company's private placement memorandum said some \$10 million would be used for capital expenses such as infrastructure, head-end and wireless tower construction, with another \$5 million earmarked for operating expenses such as salaries, rents and licence fees.

"The company has already completed its first technical infrastructural installation at the Baker's Bay development

in Great Guana Cay, Abaco," the memorandum said, adding that it had signed a Letter of Intent with Columbus Networks to sub-lease fibre optic bandwidth and gain access to the ARCOS cable system that runs throughout the Caribbean and Latin America.

Solutions

IP Solutions said it had also spoken to the Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) about leasing fibre-optic bandwidth from the state-owned incumbent.

"The company anticipates employing between 10-12 qualified Bahamians in the first year, and will provide further substantial employment opportunities to Bahamians

as it expands its services through the country, the Caribbean and Latin America," the IP Solutions International offer document said.

"Certain services will be outsourced to professional Bahamian and international companies, as the case may be. Apart from the direct employment the company will offer, plans have also been developed to encourage indirect employment opportunities for budding and established entrepreneurs through partnerships as Value Added Resellers of the company's products and services."

In addition, IP Solutions International's private placement memorandum confirmed that the company would make a recommendation to its Board of Directors

that it go public via an initial public offering (IPO) and listing on the Bahamas International Securities Exchange (BISX).

This, it added, would enable it to raise further capital for its expansion into Latin America and the Caribbean, and the development of other products and services.

IP Solutions International was hoping to attract 5,000 subscribers to its 'multiple-play' product during its first operational year. It is targeting Bahamian consumers with a proposition of services delivered via a wireless Internet infrastructure. Among the product offering will be news, entertainment, movies, TV and video-type games of a non-casino variety.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To all Ordinary Shareholders of ABDAB

Please be advised that a meeting of the Shareholder of the above company will be held on Wednesday, December 16th, 2009 at 4:00 PM at the offices of Burns House, 16 John F. Kennedy Drive, Nassau, Bahamas.

Members may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in their stead, the proxy need not be a member.

Barry Newman
Company Secretary
November 24th, 2009

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Rock Crusher Road




NOTICE

IN THE ESTATE OF ELKIN JOHNSON SR., late of Garden Hill Estates #2 in the Southern District of the Island of New Providence, Bahamas, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having claims or demands against the above-named Estate are requested to send the same duly certified to the undersigned on or before 30th December 2009.

AND NOTICE is hereby also given that at the expiration of the time mentioned above, the assets of the late **ELKIN JOHNSON SR.** will be distributed among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims of which the Administrators of the Estate shall then have had Notice.

GRAHAM, THOMPSON & CO.
Attorneys for the Executors
Attn: Attorney S. Smith
Sassoon House
Shirley Street & Victoria Avenue
P.O. Box N-272
Nassau, Bahamas.

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Salesmen
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P.O. Box N-7124
#118 Mackey Street
Nassau

Employment@lightbourntrading.com

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- University of Sunderland** - BA (Hons) Business & Management (top up), BA (Hons) Accountancy & Financial Management (top up)
- University of Derby** - BSc (Hons) Psychology (commencing January 2010)
- University of Teesside** - LLB, BSc (Hons) Business Computing (top up)
- Sheffield Hallam University** - BSc (Hons) International Hospitality & Tourism (top up)

MASTERS

- MBA** - University of Bradford (AMBA, EQUIS accredited), University of Sunderland, University of Wales
- MSc in Public Administration & Development** - University of Birmingham
- MSc Marketing & Management** - University of Bradford (commencing January 2010)
- MSc Finance, Accounting & Management** - University of Bradford (commencing January 2010)
- MSc Information Technology** - University of Teesside
- MSc Telecommunications** - Birmingham City University
- MSc International Hospitality Management** - Sheffield Hallam University
- Diploma in Management** - University of Wales (pre-MBA for non-degree holders)
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BUSINESS

No commitment to Bill's 'central part'
FROM page 1B

Bahamas debt ratio 'envy' of Caribbean

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Business Reporter
crobards@tribunemedi.net

THE BAHAMAS' debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio is "the envy" of most countries in this region, the Ministry of Finance's acting secretary to the Treasury said yesterday, insisting that this country was in a better economic position than most in the Caribbean.

Ehurdd Cunningham, making his keynote address at the Visionary Business

Leaders Conference, said many governments have been unable to develop a national stimulus programme to revive their economy and curb rising unemployment.

However, he said that despite projections that the Bahamas' debt to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio might increase to 50 per cent, it had been able to seek funding for capital works projects, creating jobs and opportunities to stimulate other sectors of the economy.

Mr Cunningham said the Government's stimulus programmes are not designed to provide immediate economic relief, but create meaningful opportunities for individuals to contribute to growth of the Bahamas' GDP.

With the onset of the global economic crisis the Government sought to underpin the shrinking economy amid declining tourist arrivals.

And capital works projects were thought to be the best place to inject government funding for the economy's short-term stimulation and long-term infrastructural gain.

According to Mr Cunningham, those projects should create "substantial economic benefit in the short-term with training opportunities".

He added that in order to stimulate the economy further, the Government has introduced a temporary job programme slated to begin in mid-December. Almost 2,500 jobs are expected to be created.

"Participants will hold temporary jobs and assist the government in projects," said Mr Cunningham. "Some projects will be in New Providence, and the Family Islands will also see employment stimulation."

Construction was a crucial sector for the Bahamas' economic revival, with Mr Cunningham saying about 60 to 70 per cent of construction projects were residential, while 10 per cent were industrial.

While the private sector is in some way or another wholly dependent on government stimulation during economic crises, Mr Cunningham argued that businesses are seldom satisfied with the level of public sector involvement.

"It really is impossible to recession proof a business, but in any economy when there is a disaster or downturn people look to the Government to lead and find solutions to those problems," he said. "Whatever action is undertaken by government, there is always someone to criticise because things do not fit into their point of view."

Attorney pleads not guilty in \$1bn fraud

By CARMEN GENTILE
c.2009 New York Times News Service

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A South Florida lawyer accused of running a \$1 billion Ponzi scheme pleaded not guilty to federal racketeering charges on Tuesday.

The lawyer, Scott Rothstein, 47, is charged with several counts of fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering in a scheme that involved selling legal settlements. He faces up to 100 years in prison if convicted on all counts.

Rothstein, who was known for his extravagant lifestyle and his philanthropy, sat quietly and appeared calm while the charges against him were read in the federal courtroom of Magistrate Judge Robin Rosenbaum.

Rosenbaum granted the prosecution's request for pretrial detention of Rothstein, based on its assertion that he was a flight risk.

He had set up bank accounts in Morocco totaling an estimated \$15 million.

Rothstein, who was taken into custody shortly before 8 a.m. Tuesday, went to Morocco in late October as his business began to unravel, though he returned to South Florida last month.

Witnesses said that while Rothstein awaited his hearing Tuesday morning, he was overheard providing legal advice to others in his holding cell.

Prosecutors are charging Rothstein under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, also known as RICO.

Last month, federal authorities filed court documents seeking to seize Rothstein's 87-foot yacht, more than a dozen properties and 20 luxury cars, including a 2009 Bugatti Veyron that sells for \$1.5 million.

Rothstein's lawyer, Marc Nurik, said his client did not provide any information to federal prosecutors about the case, despite previous reports that Rothstein was cooperating with the authorities and prosecutors by providing details of his investment business.

In the meantime, Nurik said he would provide "limited information to the government."

Latour Lafferty, a criminal defense lawyer and a former federal prosecutor, said federal authorities were likely to try to make a deal with Rothstein for a reduced sentence if he would identify co-conspirators in the case.



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.

'Proper time' for tax reform

FROM page 1B

around 35 per cent. Duty rates have been amalgamated with stamp tax rates for simplicity, but in the 2009-2020 Budget, import duties and the new Excise Tax were due to account for \$646.366 million - some 46.5 per cent of the total anticipated \$1.389 billion tax and non-tax receipts.

Under the EPA, the Bahamas is required to eliminate customs duties on 85 per cent of imports from the European Union over a 25-year period to 2033.

To cope with the adjustment, the Government has already moved to shift imports attracting the highest duty rates, such as cars and luxury items, into the Excise Tax bracket in a bid to avoid the WTO's scrutiny.

And another Chamber study, this time dealing with the implications of WTO accession, said that the Bahamas' move to accede to full membership in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and its decision to sign the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) means that it will be forced to restructure its tax system, given that customs duties/tariffs are seen as barriers to trade and targeted for elimination in a rules-based trading set-up.

A major difficulty in shifting to a sales or VAT tax is that an entirely new collection system will be required. While Bahamas-based companies and importers may benefit from the elimination of customs duties through not having such a large chunk of revenues/cash flow consumed in up-front tax payments, they will be the ones the Government will require to first collect, then pass on, taxes to it.

And, while VAT may lead to a broader tax base through capturing services (the major part of the Bahamian economy) and the value added at each stage of the production chain, its implementation would require a massive cultural shift and changes to many businesses' computer systems.

The potential for fraud and evasion/non-payment of VAT would be a further concern, and the business community would be unlikely to welcome the prospect of tax reform at this time, given that their companies are still grappling with the recession's effects.

A study produced for the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce, on the EPA's challenges and benefits, noted that the "biggest issue" for the Bahamas in relation to this agreement was its impact on government revenues and the tax structure.

Currently, customs tariff rates in the Bahamas ranged from 0 per cent to 210 per cent, with the average set at

around 35 per cent. Duty rates have been amalgamated with stamp tax rates for simplicity, but in the 2009-2020 Budget, import duties and the new Excise Tax were due to account for \$646.366 million - some 46.5 per cent of the total anticipated \$1.389 billion tax and non-tax receipts.

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BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,486.86 CHG -0.61 %CHG -0.04 YTD -225.50 YTD % -13.17										
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52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
1.71	1.03	AML Foods Limited	1.17	1.17	0.00		0.127	0.000	9.2	0.00%
11.80	9.90	Bahamas Property Fund	10.75	10.75	0.00		0.992	0.200	10.8	1.86%
9.30	5.90	Bank of Bahamas	5.90	5.90	0.00		0.244	0.260	24.2	4.41%
0.89	0.63	Benchmark	0.63	0.63	0.00		-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%
3.49	3.15	Bahamas Waste	3.15	3.15	0.00		0.125	0.090	25.2	2.86%
2.37	2.14	Fidelity Bank	2.37	2.37	0.00		0.055	0.040	43.1	1.69%
14.04	9.92	Cable Bahamas	10.00	10.00	0.00		1.406	0.250	7.1	2.50%
2.88	2.72	Colina Holdings	2.72	2.72	0.00		0.249	0.040	10.9	1.47%
7.19	5.26	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	5.62	5.62	0.00		0.419	0.300	13.4	5.34%
3.85	1.27	Consolidated Water BDRs	2.62	2.63	0.01		0.111	0.052	23.7	1.98%
2.85	1.32	Doctor's Hospital	2.55	2.55	0.00		0.625	0.080	4.1	3.14%
8.20	6.28	Famguard	6.40	6.40	0.00		0.420	0.240	15.2	3.75%
11.87	8.80	Finco	9.29	9.29	0.00		0.322	0.520	28.9	5.60%
11.71	9.86	FirstCaribbean Bank	9.87	9.86	-0.01	8,459	0.631	0.350	15.6	3.55%
5.53	4.11	Focol (S)	4.75	4.75	0.00		0.326	0.150	14.6	3.16%
1.00	1.00	Focol Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00		0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%
0.45	0.27	Freeport Concrete	0.27	0.27	0.00		0.035	0.000	7.7	0.00%
9.02	5.49	ICD Utilities	5.59	5.59	0.00		0.407	0.500	13.7	8.94%
12.00	9.95	J. S. Johnson	9.95	9.95	0.00		0.952	0.640	10.5	6.43%
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate	10.00	10.00	0.00		0.156	0.000	64.1	0.00%
BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing basis)										
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity		
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00		7%	19 October 2017		
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022		
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00		7%	30 May 2013		
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015		
Fidelity Over-The-Counter Securities										
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Weekly Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
14.60	7.92	Bahamas Supermarkets	10.06	11.06	14.00		-2.246	0.000	N/M	0.00%
8.00	6.00	Caribbean Crossings (Pref)	2.00	6.25	4.00		0.000	0.480	N/M	7.80%
0.54	0.20	RND Holdings	0.35	0.40	0.35		0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%
Colina Over-The-Counter Securities										
41.00	29.00	ABDAB	30.13	31.59	29.00		4.540	0.000	9.03	0.00%
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.45	0.55	0.55		0.002	0.000	261.90	0.00%
BISX Listed Mutual Funds										
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD%	Last 12 Months	Div \$	Yield %	NAV Date		
1.4160	1.3419	CFAL Bond Fund	1.4160	4.62	5.53			31-Oct-09		
3.0350	2.8266	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	2.8266	-3.86	-4.88			31-Oct-09		
1.5033	1.4258	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5033	4.85	5.24			27-Nov-09		
3.5399	2.9343	Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	2.9343	-13.33	-17.11			31-Oct-09		
13.2400	12.3870	Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.2400	4.93	5.90			31-Oct-09		
103.0956	100.0000	CFAL Global Bond Fund	103.0956	3.10	2.52			30-Sep-09		
100.0000	99.4177	CFAL Global Equity Fund	99.4177	4.12	2.76			31-Oct-09		
10.5884	9.4740	Fidelity International Investment Fund	9.4740	4.17	4.18			31-Oct-09		
1.0804	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.0804	4.32	5.26			31-Oct-09		
1.0364	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.0269	-0.59	-0.19			31-Oct-09		
1.0742	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.0742	3.56	4.42			31-Oct-09		
10.6301	10.0000	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund	10.6301	6.30	6.30			31-Oct-09		
		Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 2								
7.4613	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Int'l Fund - Equities Sub Fund	7.4613	35.40	29.64			31-Oct-09		
MARKET TERMS										
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX - 19 Dec 02 = 1,000.00										
52wk-Hi - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks										
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks										
Previous Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily volume										
Today's Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume										
Change - Change in closing price from day to day										
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today										
DIV \$ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months										
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings										
(S) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/8/2007										
(S1) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/11/2007										
YIELD - Last 12 month dividends divided by closing price										
Bid \$ - Buying price of Colina and Fidelity										
Ask \$ - Selling price of Colina and Fidelity										
Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price										
Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week										
EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mths										
NAV - Net Asset Value										
N/M - Not Meaningful										
FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index, January 1, 1994 = 100										
TO TRADE CALL: COLINA 242-502-7010 ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764 FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000 COLONIAL 242-502-7525										

BUSINESS



SHOWN (l-r): Betty Ann Higgs Brooks, administrator at the Elizabeth Estates Children's Home; Tedra Nairn, Scotiabank employee; Richard Desmangles, Scotiabank employee; Terry Farrington, Scotiabank employee; Wenzel Sands, Elizabeth Estates representative; and Samantha Love, Scotiabank employee.

Scotiabank stages festive food drive

SCOTIABANK (Bahamas) management and staff have hosted an internal Thanksgiving food drive to benefit the Elizabeth Estates Children's Home.

All Scotiabank branches and units in Nassau participated, with each employee donating at least one food item. The same took place at Scotiabank's Family Island branches, with donations being made throughout island communities.

Betty Ann Higgs Brooks, administrator at the Elizabeth Estates Children's Home, said: "Scotiabank continues to give back to the wider community, and the Elizabeth Estates Children's Home in

particular."

In 2008, Scotiabank contributed more than \$43 million worldwide to community causes focused on health, education, social services, arts and culture.

In addition to Scotiabank's corporate efforts, employees at all levels volunteer their time, skills and money, individually and through teamwork, to support community causes.

HANDYMAN NEEDED

A vacancy exists for an experienced handyman. Must be able to speak Creole fluently.

Must have seven or more years experience as handyman/houseman in a upscale five star resort... Must be able to work long hours on evenings, weekends and holidays as needed.

Email resume to larrywil87@live.com on or before December 7th, 2009.



GN-970

Ministry Of Agriculture And Marine Resources

NOTICE

The Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas through the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources invites suitable contractors to submit bids for the Management and Disposal of Conch Shells and Waste from the Potter's Cay Dock, Dump Site. The description of works is as follows:

- (i) A daily cleaning of the immediate area of the Dump Site.
- (ii) Pressure cleaning of the garbage collection site at least once a week with the use of Eco - Friendly chemicals.
- (iii) The proper management of the garbage collection site.
- (iv) Collection and dumping of conch shells on a daily bases including Saturday, Sundays and Public Holidays.
- (v) Placement of one (1) five cubic yard garbage receptacle bin.
- (vi) Work closely with the Operations Manager to maintain a cordially management relationship.
- (vii) Ensuring that the Dump Site is always properly managed in view of the Public and Management - (Ministry of Agriculture & Marine Resources).

The Contractors will be required to provide a Business License along with a detailed indication of their competence to carry out the intended scope of work.

Interested parties may submit their sealed bids directly to The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, Third Floor, Levy Building, East Bay Street Nassau, The Bahamas Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00am to 5:00pm deadlines is Monday, 14th December, 2009. Mailed documents will NOT be accepted.

The Government of The Bahamas has the right to reject any or all contractors.



GN-968

JUDICIAL AND LEGAL SERVICE COMMISSION

AMENDED VACANCY NOTICE

Director Of Public Prosecutions Office Of The Attorney General

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the post of Director of Public Prosecutions in the Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Applicants must be a member of the English, Irish, Scottish or Bahamian Bar or the Bar of a country of the Commonwealth to which a member of The Bahamas Bar is admitted without examination. In addition, they must have at least ten (10) years standing at the Bar or have enrolled and practiced as a Solicitor for at least ten (10) years in the above-mentioned countries.

The duties of the post include:

- i) general supervisory responsibility over the work of the Criminal Division of the Office of the Attorney General;
- ii) general supervisory responsibility over the counsel in the Criminal Division of the Office of the Attorney General;
- iii) supervisory responsibility for the assignment of cases and prosecuting counsels in the Criminal Division of the Office of the Attorney General;
- iv) representing the Department of Public Prosecutions and the Attorney General in constitutional applications, extradition proceedings and forfeiture and restraint applications;
- v) prosecuting criminal matters in the Magistrates' Courts, the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council;
- vi) general advice to the Police on the commencement and cessation of prosecutions;
- vii) being able to organize and effectively provide legal assistance to other officers under his/her command and control;
- viii) advising the Attorney General on money laundering and terrorist financing matters;
- ix) attendance at and involvement in local, regional and international organizations and meetings;
- x) such other matters as may be assigned by the Attorney General.

Additionally, the successful applicant must have demonstrated leadership and administrative ability and experience in the management of a law chamber or public prosecution office.

The appointment will be on permanent and pensionable or contractual terms if a citizen of The Bahamas is appointed or on contractual terms if a non-Bahamian is appointed. In the case of a contractual appointment of two years or more, a gratuity of fifteen percent (15%) of the basic salary would be payable on the satisfactory completion of service.

The salary of the post is in Scale JL7 in a salary range of \$64,750 x 1,000 to \$73,750 per annum. **Benefits include a scarcity allowance of \$15,000 per annum, a responsibility allowance of \$10,000 per annum, a vehicle (or a car allowance of \$152.00 per month) and family insurance coverage.**

Serving officers should apply through their Heads of Departments.

Application forms may be obtained from the Department of Public Service, Poinciana Hill, Meeting and Augusta Streets, P.O. Box N-3915, Nassau, The Bahamas. They must be returned, complete with original qualifications and documentary proof of relevant experience, to the Secretary, Judicial & Legal Service Commission, Office of the Judiciary, 3rd Floor, Ansbacher House, East Street & Bank Lane, Nassau, The Bahamas, not later than Friday, 11 December 2009.



GN-967

Treasury Department

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Treasurer of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas advises all pensioners, Parliamentary, Judicial, Official, World War 1 Veterans & Widows, Bahamas Widows & Orphans and Re-employed, whose pension payments are paid directly into their bank accounts and have not yet verified during the July, 2009 verification exercise to do so immediately as failure to comply will result in the disruption of pension payments directly into their bank accounts.

Pensioners' are further advised to visit the Pension Section of the Treasury Department situated on the first floor of the British American Insurance House, Marlborough St. and Navy Lion Road, Nassau, during the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm weekdays, bringing with them a valid form of identification such as Passport, Voters card, National Insurance card or Drivers' license. Pensioners unable to appear in person may submit the appropriate Life and Payment Certificate duly signed by one of the persons designated on the said form assuring that the signed date falls within the designated period.

The following Life and Payment Certificates are available at the Treasury Department, Nassau, Treasury Department Freeport, and at Family Island Administration offices:

- **Parliamentary Pension Life & Payment Certificate - for retired Parliamentarians.**
- **Official Pension (Judicial) Life & Payment Certificate - for retired Judges.**
- **Official Pension Life & Payment Certificate - for retired Public Officers.**
- **World War 1 Veterans and Widows Life & Payment Certificate - for Veterans & Widows of World War 1.**
- **Bahamas Widows' & Orphans' Pension Fund Certificate - for Widows & Orphans.**

Pensioners residing within The Bahamas should also note that submission of Life and Payment certificates are no longer required on a monthly basis. However, all pensioners are required to verify during January and July of each year to avoid any inconvenience.

For further details please contact the Pension Section, Treasury Department at telephone numbers (242) 302-0539, 302-0565 or 302-0524. Life and Payment Certificates may be forwarded via facsimile to (242)323-1459.

Thursday, December 3rd, 2009

The Tribune

OBITUARIES & RELIGION



The Tribune

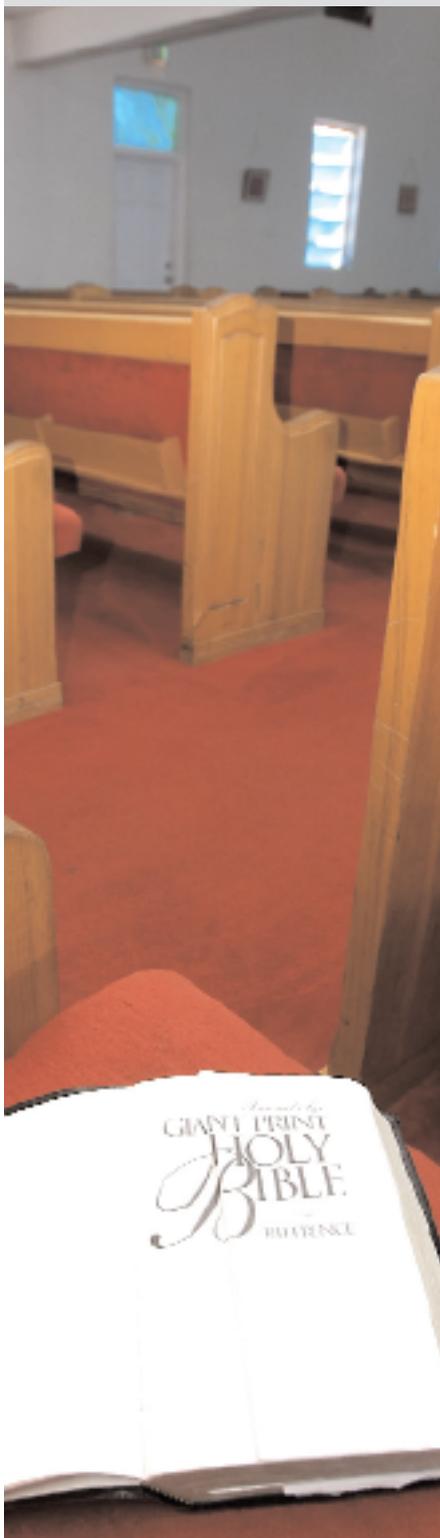
My Voice, My Newspaper!



Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21



KAREN PINDER of Ebenezer Methodist Church shows a few of the Christmas ornaments that will be on display at the Creative Treasure stall during the church's fair.

CHRISTMAS WITH EBENEZER

By **JEFFARAH GIBSON**

FESTIVITIES for the holiday season are already underway all over the country, and this Saturday Ebenezer Methodist Church will host its Annual Christmas Fair.

Christmas music will ring out throughout the grounds of Epworth Hall on Shirley Street where fair-goers will be able to enjoy a day of good food and holiday cheer.

There will be various different stalls offering everything from conch fritters and chowder to hamburgers and hot dogs, and even some homemade

Bahamian dishes.

And you won't have to neglect your sweet tooth, as there will be an array of cakes, cookies and other treats.

"We will also have the famous homemade coconut ice cream that everyone seems to love. Some people come just for the ice cream, so you want to come out early to get that," Jennifer Carey at Ebenezer Methodist Church told *Tribune Religion*.

After enjoying the delicious food and great games, persons can take a stroll to the Creative Treasure to take a look at the beautiful Christmas ornaments on offer.

"At this stall people can stop to get Christmas decorations, books or plants. This will be a day of fun, and we encourage the families to come out and bring their kids," Ms Carey said.

Under the theme "Joy", the Ebenezer Methodist Church's music department will also host its annual Christmas concert on December 13 at 7pm.

The Sanctuary Choir together with singers from the wider community will be accompanied by members of the Bahamas National Symphony Orchestra and the Ebenezer Concert Band.

The annual Christmas Concert is the climax of the year's music ministry events that has been growing consistently both in participants and attendance.

Following these two major events, the public is also invited to join in as Ebenezer Church celebrates Christmas with the Children's Choir and Youth Group as they present "An Island Christmas" on December 18 at 7pm.

New Life Community Church: 'Progressive and different'

By **REUBEN SHEARER**
Tribune Features Reporter
rshearer@tribunemedia.net

THERE is no typical Sunday service at New Life Community Church, said Jermaine Watkins, pastor of New Life Community Church (NLCC) on John F Kennedy Drive.

NLCC, a church that is said to be "progressive and different," is a church which aims to reach a younger demographic of Bahamians "with a Christ-centered ministry."

Last Sunday, Pastor Watkins and his church held a special service honouring persons with disabilities in obser-

vance of the ongoing Disability Awareness Week.

Leon Taylor, former member of popular 1960's group 'Leon Taylor and the Roosters', singers of popular gospel song 'Eternal Love', performed at the service.

Mr Taylor is now a bus driver for the Disability Affairs Division.

A young lady named Hannah McPhee read from the scriptures in Braille, which was a very special moment during the service.

Braille, a system widely used by blind people, is read by passing your fingers over characters made up of an arrangement of one to six embossed points.

Every year the support groups for disabled persons in the Bahamas choose a church to attend during Disability Awareness Week, said Eyes Wide Open president Maxcine Stubbs.

Iris Adderley, a psychologist and consultant for the Disability Affairs Division at Social Services, brought greetings from Social Services Minister Loretta Butler-Turner.

Close to 40 persons showed up and about 25 of them had disabilities. Eyes Wide Open and other support groups for persons with disabilities were represented.

SEE page 28

Bishop Ros Davis celebrates 37th pastoral anniversary

THE members of Golden Gates Ministries, Carmichael Road, will come together this coming Monday at 7.30pm to celebrate the 37th anniversary of service in ministry of Bishop Ros Davis and his wife Althea Davis.

Bishop Davis had just returned from North Central Bible College, Minneapolis in August of 1972 with his wife Althea and two sons when he was given the privilege to pastor the newly formed outreach mission Golden Gates Assembly of God Church by Dr Gary Curry, then superintendent of the Assemblies of God in the Bahamas.

With approximately eight people, led by Rev Vernon Moses, Bishop Davis started his work, and over the years the congregation has grown to include thousands of members.

"For this we say, 'To God Be the Glory!'" church members said in a statement.

As a result of the Mission's effort, Golden Gates has birthed many pastors and ministries. Among them are: Trinity "City of Praise"; Glad Tidings Ministries; Orlando Florida; Rhema Christian Chapel Assembly; Christian Discipleship Ministries International; Firetrail Assembly; Overcoming Power Ministries; People Word Centre; Great Commission Ministries International; New Life Christian Centre, and Breakthrough Ministries.

Bishop Davis has also commissioned the following:

Victory Towers Discipleship Centre; Bringing In the Sheep; New Destiny

People of Praise; Behind the Veil Prayer; Healing and Deliverance Ministry International; the Royal Ambassador Ministries, Freeport; Ambassador Chorale International; Higher Ground Ministries; True Worshipers Assembly, Charlotte, North Carolina; Restoration of Life Christian Centre, West Palm Beach, Florida; Jesus in Action, Miami, Florida, and Seed of Faith World Outreach Ministries.

Bishop Davis hails from Mangrove Cay, Andros where his father, Rev Harry Davis lead the historic St James Baptist Church for more than 55 years.

His siblings are both pastors in their own right: Bishop Wenneth Davis of the Zion South Beach Baptist Church and Apostle Merilee Watson of the Trinity City of Praise.

Bishop Davis was schooled at the All Age Anglican Primary School; the Mangrove Cay Public School; the Government High Evening Institute; the Assembly of God Bible College; the North Central University; the University of Miami; the Templeton Theological College; the Oxford Extension College, and has attended numerous courses held by various disciplines all over the United States.

After serving as pastor of the local church for 27 years, ten years ago Bishop Davis was consecrated as Bishop in the Lord's Church. He is associated with the Coalition of Pentecostal Bishops' worldwide Apostolic body and is proud of his spir-

itual fathers Bishop Harold I Williams and Archbishop Alfred Owens of the Mount Calvary Holy Church of America, Washington, DC. Bishop Davis is the presiding prelate of the Bahamas Network of New Apostolic Churches (BNNAC).

This is a network of churches from the Bahamas, the US, Africa, Singapore, Malaysia, Haiti and India.

Bishop Davis has served the churches of the Bahamas in various capacities.

As president of the Bahamas Christian Council (BCC), he headed the clergy who lobbied the government for a religious station, ZNS 11 FM, and established branches of the BCC in San Salvador, North Andros, South Andros, Eleuthera, Abaco and Inagua.

Additionally, Bishop Davis was among the charter group of pastors who established the Bahamas Pentecostal Fellowship Association in which he later served as president.

Bishop Davis dream continues for the Evangelisation and maturing of the body in Kingdom mentality and the development of the whole man.

To this end he has been responsible for the development of several housing estates, namely the Ros Davis Estates and the Ros Davis Edition.

Civically, Bishop Davis was honoured 15 years ago by Her Majesty the Queen with the OBE and has received his succession from the College of Bishops Congress ten years ago.

Being a firm believer in social religion, Bishop Davis' leadership has pro-

duced from the Golden Gates Church, street evangelism teams, a soup kitchen, a clothing bank and counselling services to help the poor, indigent and marginalised of the community. Under his watch, the church ministry has expanded to catering to weddings, funerals, receptions, conventions and any special event that can be held on the church campus.

Educationally, Bishop Davis has established the award winning Golden Gates Pre-School programme, where classes are held on the subjects of music theory, music ministry, drama and physical exercise.

"For our struggling youth, Bishop has instituted the stellar award winning Golden Gates Youth Band, Community Bell Ensemble, the basketball court, youth choir and dancers, and other community incentives to keep our young people occupied and spiritually engaged," his church members said.

A family man, Bishop Davis has been married to Althea nee Wallace of Ragged Island for the past 42 years and is the proud father of five children, Stan, Trent, Terez, Adrian and Delorus.

The couple also have six grandchildren.

"A life well spent in the service of the King of Kings, we the people of Golden Gates World Outreach Ministries salute our leader as we recommit ourselves to carrying out the vision he has made plain," the church members said.

MEDITATION

What time is it?

IN the national calendar of our next-door neighbours, and hence for us to some degree, we are in a time of thanksgiving.

We do not share the same history, but we use our harvest celebrations in the church to remind us to join with them in a general spirit of thanksgiving at this time.

In the Anglican Church (and some others), we have now entered a season of Advent preparation.

This is when we remember the Second and Final Coming of our Lord, even as we engage in spiritual activities in anticipation of His First Coming as a babe in Bethlehem.

For some of us, this is a time to fast and pray, and slow our pace down to engage in more extended periods of



REV. ANGELA
C BOSFIELD
PALACIOS

spiritual reflection in our new Church year.

Commercially, we can see the Christmas spirit has been introduced earlier than ever.

Christmas decorations are going up, the outdoor lights are being strung, and Christmas sales are being advertised. The traffic is increasing, and shopping at home and abroad has begun with a vengeance, poinsettias

and others are now available, the music is being played, all of which remind us that Christmas is drawing nigh.

Social events are being planned to draw persons together in the family, workplace and other groups.

Menus are being finalised to share with family members who will travel home for the annual festivities.

For those who are facing the first Christmas without a loved one, this is a very different holiday.

Do we travel abroad to create new memories, or do we continue the family traditions in memory of the person?

If it has brought a major shift in the family income, this will be reflected in the material side of the occasion.

Similarly, for those who have been hard hit by the recession (whether unemployed or underemployed now), a new joy will have to be found, a new hope introduced and a new faith needed to sustain them.

What time is it for you?

If this is a time to turn to the Lord, then you will not be disappointed.

There is always a blessing to be received from the Lord in some form - answered prayer; inner healing, sudden peace, overwhelming joy, or unconditional love.

The coming of a saviour is God's remedy to our spiritual ailments, before He comes again as judge.

What use are you making of the present time?

Are you facing indescribable distress? Pray and seek the Lord in a Christian community. Are you feeling lost and hopeless?

Find a church of your choice and worship the Lord.

Are you lonely and sad? Be generous and bless someone else.

May God bless you and strengthen you as you face the end of this year and look forward with courage to the year that is to come.

Is capital punishment mandated, prohibited or permitted?

By Cephias Ferguson, ex-chaplain at Her Majesty's Prison and Bishop at the Church of God of Prophecy.

PART 1

THOUSANDS of men and women in the Caribbean and the Bahamas are now on death row.

In a major change in public opinion from 30 years ago, most Americans and Caribbean people now favour capital punishment, although not dogmatically.

When people are presented with stringent alternatives such as life in prison without parole, support for the death penalty drops considerably.

Many Christians are typically divided on this issue, some sympathise with the Old Testament, particularly the books of the law.

Others focus on the words and actions of Jesus, or on the absence of explicit teaching on the subject in the New Testament.

Still others explore practical issues concerning the death penalty such as deterrence or the possibility of erroneous conviction.

Each of these concerns is important.

But dialogue is sometimes frustrated by the lack of a useful, common approach.

The purpose of this article is to facilitate dialogue by raising three questions. Each question leads logically to the next.

The questions are: 1. Does scripture prohibit, mandate, or permit capital punishment?

If scripture prohibits it, the next questions are irrelevant.

But if scripture mandates or permits the death penalty, the second question must be raised: According to scripture, under what conditions may a state exercise capital punishment?

After exploring these conditions, those who hold that scripture merely permits capital punishment must proceed to the third question: What principles should guide the state in determining whether to exercise the death penalty?

QUESTION ONE:

Is capital punishment mandated, prohibited or permitted? Lets summarise the arguments for each position:

"Scripture mandates capital punishment."

The principal argument is that because life is sacred, those who wrongfully take another human life must lose their own; this is a form of restitution, a matter of justice. The state purging itself of those who shed innocent blood.

Proponents of this position cite three scriptural arguments for it - the "Creation Mandate" of Genesis 9:6; the Mosaic Law, which calls for the execution of certain offenders; and the New Testament passages that imply the authority of the state to execute.

ARGUMENT ONE:

Genesis 9:6 says, 'Whoever sheds the blood of a human, by a human shall that person's blood be shed; for in his own image God made human humankind.'

This is part of a larger covenant that God made with Noah after the flood.

It not only reflects the great value of human life but also gives the reason for that value: Human beings are made in God's image. The absolute language of Genesis 9:6 suggests that all those who kill another human being must be killed. And since this mandate was given long before the Mosaic Law to all who survived the flood, it apparently has universal application.

ARGUMENT TWO:

When God gave the law to the children of Israel at Mount Sinai, He included this provision. In fact, the law ordained execution for several offences:

- Murder, but not for accidental killings (Exodus 21:12-14; Leviticus 24:17; Numbers 35:16-28)
- Striking or cursing a parent (Exodus 21:15; Leviticus 20:9)
- Kidnapping (Exodus 21:16; Deuteronomy 24:7)
- Adultery (Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22-24;)
- Incest (Leviticus 20:11-12,14)
- Bestiality (Exodus 22:19; Leviticus 20:15-16)
- Sodomy or homosexuality (Leviticus 20:13)



- Unchastity (Deuteronomy 22:20-21)
- Rape of a betrothed virgin (Deuteronomy 22:25-27)
- Witchcraft (Exodus 22:18)
- Offering human sacrifices (Leviticus 20:2)
- Incorrigible delinquency (Deuteronomy 21:18-21)
- Blasphemy (Leviticus 24:11-16)
- Breaking the Sabbath (Exodus 35:2; Numbers 15:32-36)
- Worshipping or enticing to worship false gods (Exodus 22:20; Deuteronomy 13:1-11)
- Refusing to abide by a court decision (Deuteronomy 17:12)

ARGUMENT THREE:

While no New Testament passage expressly mandates capital punishment, several imply its appropriateness.

For example, in Romans 13 Paul calls his readers to submit to the authority of civil government, reminding them: "But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain."

In its ultimate use, the word sword implies execution.

SUPPOSITION ONE: Scripture prohibits capital punishment.

Old Testament law clearly calls for capital punishment. So those who believe scripture prohibits capital punishment argue that the developments of the New Testament era supercedes Old Testament law. These developments include the dissolution of the nation of Israel, the atonement of Christ, and the teachings of Christ.

ARGUMENT ONE:

Israel was a theocracy, a nation ruled directly by God. Therefore, its law was unique. Provisions for executing false teachers and those sacrificing to false gods are examples of laws that sprang from Israel's unique position as a nation God called to be holy.

When Israel ceased to exist as a nation its law was nullified.

Even the execution of murderers stemmed, at least in part, from God's special relationship to Israel.

Numbers 35 says that the blood of a murder victim "pollutes the land," a pollution that must be cleansed by the death of the murderer. If the murderer could not be found, an animal was to be sacrificed to God to purge the community of guilt (Deuteronomy 21).

ARGUMENT TWO:

Christ's death on the cross ended the need for blood recompense and blood sacrifice. That is, the sacrifice of Jesus, the Lamb of God, replaced animal sacrifice. The substitutionary death of Jesus, the God-man, made it unnecessary to execute murderers to maintain humankind's dignity and value (Genesis 9:6).

The death of Christ forever established humanity's value.

Hebrews 9:14 says: "How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God."

ARGUMENT THREE:

Christ's teaching emphasises forgiveness and the willingness to suffer evil rather than resist it by force. This may not be definitive on the issue of the state's authority to execute. But it demonstrates a different response to evil than that established on Mount Sinai. Christ's example in not demanding death for the adulteress supports this argument (John 8).

SUPPOSITION TWO: Scripture permits capital punishment.

Those who argue that the Bible permits capital punishment see strengths in both the pro and con arguments.

However, they hold that God's dealings with capital cases in both the Old and New Testaments show that capital

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 THE HISTORY OF RELIGION IN THE BAHAMAS

Rev John Woodcock, Anglican

The Gentleman's Magazine of 1852 contains the following obituary:

Died: Dec 9 (1851) at Eleuthera, Bahamas, the Rev William John Woodcock of Christ Church, Adelaide, South Australia. Mr Woodcock was the second son of the late Rev George Woodcock, Rector of Caythorpe, Lincolnshire, and grandson of the late Sir William Walker. He was educated for the law, and commenced practicing as a solicitor, at Melton Mowbray, in 1843.

Very soon after his arrival in that town, he exerted himself in improving the public schools, and promoting and fostering every institution which he thought would aid the moral and religious progress of the inhabitants, and particularly of the rising generation.

In November, 1845, his exertions were stopped by a very severe and sudden pulmonary attack, from which he was not expected to recover. His medical attendants told him it would be dangerous for him to attempt to reside in England during the winter months.

Accordingly, in August, 1846, he went to the island of Madeira, and, after a sojourn there of about three months, he proceeded to Nassau, in the island of New Providence, one of the



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Bahamas, where he had friends residing.

In his passage he met with a kindred spirit in the Ven. Archdeacon Trew, a resident in that place, and from unreversed communications with him, and observing the degraded state of the African race residing in that island, Mr Woodcock formed the benevolent idea of doing his utmost good, with God's permission, to elevate and teach them the truths of Christianity.

He returned to England in the summer of 1847, and in the autumn visited Malta, Rome, Damascus, the Dead Sea, and Jerusalem, returning to England in the spring of 1848, when he wrote and published "Sites and Scenes in Scripture Lands", a book which few can read without admiring the keen perception of its author, his varied talents, and deep religious feeling.

In the autumn of 1848, having

obtained from the Bishop of Jamaica a promise of ordination, Mr Woodcock left England for that purpose, and was appointed to the curacy of St Agnes, in Nassau, a parish chiefly occupied by a coloured and neglected population.

He then commenced his duties; and first, nearly at his own cost, renovated the small church, that been allowed to go to decay; purchased a piece of land, on which he built three schools, for boys, infants, with play-grounds.

According to the last report tools, 380 black children were educated there. He also established a clothing connection with these schools, by which more than one hundred children were decently clad.

As a parochial clergyman he was most exemplary; but his great aim was to train up youths who might ultimately go out as missionaries to their own African race.

In November last, his old complaint having returned, Mr Woodcock was advised to leave, for a short time, his curacy and schools, and seek renewed health by a quiet residence in the island of Eleuthera, about 70 miles distant from Nassau, and on the 9th of Dec. he died there, in the house of the Rev W Stromborn, the clergyman of

Governor's Harbour.

His mortal remains were conveyed to Nassau, and buried in his own church, attended by Governor Gregory as chief mourner, and with sincere lamentations of the whole colony. Mr Woodcock was unmarried.

A plaque on the wall of St Agnes Church reads:

'He founded and endowed the schools called The Bain's Town Free Day School.'

The Bain's Town Free Day Schools became the St Agnes Day School and Woodcock School named in his honour, situated in the northeast corner of the site presently occupied by the Woodcock Primary School.

After the death of Rev Woodcock, the schools continued to operate and teachers paid from the fund left by him.

By 1920, the fund was almost exhausted and the Board of Education took over and luckily, due to Prohibition, the education grant was increased and the school maintained. However, the original building deteriorated with age and the Government purchased the property and erected a larger building on land acquired from St Agnes Church, who used the money to maintain the St Agnes Day School.

Is capital punishment mandated, prohibited or permitted?

FROM page 26

punishment is neither prohibited nor mandated.

ARGUMENT ONE:

As noted earlier, scripture includes many provisions for capital punishment, beginning with Genesis 9:6 and continuing in the Mosaic Law.

The Law significantly limited the scope of Genesis 9:6. For example, persons guilty of manslaughter or of accidentally causing another's death were exempted.

ARGUMENT TWO:

Jewish interpretation of the law reflects a great reluctance to impose the death penalty. For example, circumstantial evidence was not admitted; eyewitnesses must have warned the accused that he or she was about to commit a capital crime; if the witnesses' testimonies differed, the accused was acquitted; those presumed to lack compassion

could not rule on a capital case, and delays in the execution were sought if there was any chance of finding more favourable evidence or more effective arguments in defence.

Perhaps the most compelling arguments against the view that capital punishment is mandated are the examples of capital criminals who were not executed.

When God punished Cain for murdering Abel, He not only spared his life (he was punished through banishment) but also marked him so others would not kill him for his crime.

He promised to punish sevenfold anyone who killed Cain (Genesis 4:10-16).

David committed adultery with Bathsheba, then plotted to kill her husband, Uriah. But God did not demand David's death.

Instead, He took the life of David and Bathsheba's first child.

In John 8, Christ was asked to support the execution of a woman taken in adultery. He not only refused to condemn

her but also suggested that only those without sin were qualified to perform the execution.

He also did not condemn His disciples for doing unlawful work on the Sabbath (Luke 6:1-5). Paul urged Philemon to accept Onesimus back into his household even though runaway slaves were subject to death under Roman law.

Of course, God can always set aside His law. But in each of these examples there is no indication that He was doing so. Instead, it appears that the punishment of death was a sanction that could be imposed but was not required.

ARGUMENT THREE:

The New Testament references to capital punishment are tangential. New Testament passages clearly assume the existence of the death penalty.

For example, when Pilate asked Christ, "Don't you realise I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" Christ answered that all civil leaders receive their authority from God.

One would not expect Christ at this point in His trial to get into an argument over the death penalty.

Romans 13 probably comes closest to addressing the state's authority to execute. However, it refers to the state as having the "authority of the sword" - not the obligation to execute.

While this passage establishes the state's power to punish wrong-doers and exercise deadly force if necessary, in administering justice it does not require the state to execute murderers.

Christ said He did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it.

He declined to enforce the death penalty in the one capital case presented to Him, the woman taken in adultery.

So is capital punishment mandated, prohibited, or permitted? Those who believe it is prohibited need go no further. But those who conclude it is either mandated or permitted must move to the second question.

'Gospel Explosion' concert to unite Bahamians and Haitians under one God

By JEFFARAH GIBSON

THIS weekend's Gospel Explosion Concert has set itself several very significant goals - event organisers hope that the concert will cultivate a spirit of integration within the Bahamian and Haitian communities, while at the same time raise money for two worthy causes.

All proceeds from Gospel Explosion will be donated to the efforts of the Breathe Easy Campaign, launched to raise \$300,000 for ventilators to benefit critically ill newborns at the Princess Margaret Hospital, and the Haitian Community Emergency Fund.

Under the theme "Two Nations Under One God", Caribbean artists will welcome the presence of God to "light up de place" at the National Centre for the Performing Arts on Shirley Street.

So for those who don't have any plans this Saturday and Sunday night between 7pm and 11pm, consider your plans arranged.

Concert organisers told *Tribune Religion* that the event will be a spiritually uplifting experience as various

Bahamian and Haitian gospel artists will hit the stages.

The event will "combine the best of both Bahamian and Haitian gospel bands performing live on stage in a spirit of unity for only two nights," said Mark Desmangles, organiser and network associate of the Sakpase Bahamas Group.

There will be performances by Shaback; Landlord; Christian Massive; Millennium; Benedict Lamartine; Orchestre Benediction; Victory Choir; VCCN Dancers; Queen of Peace Choir; Bensax; the Poet Merlande, and many more.

Because many Bahamians have vague and distorted views of Haitians, Mr Desmangles said he hopes that after people see the unity between the Bahamian and Haitian artists they will begin to see the Haitian community in a different light.

"With this concert people can understand who Haitians are and what they are about. Yes, obeah and voodoo are cultural practices in Haiti, but I am hoping people see that despite what they have heard they will see there are some Haitians who worship the same God as Bahamian Christians," he said.

When the artists join in harmony they will send the message that regardless of colour, creed, race or cultural background, God sees everyone as equal, and accepts all who proclaim their belief in him, organisers said.

"The first impression people get is



THE EVENT will "combine the best of both Bahamian and Haitian gospel bands performing live on stage in a spirit of unity for only two nights

that they (Haitians) don't worship the same God. Their melodies in music might be a little different, but this concert proves that Bahamian and Haitians share the most important thing in common, and that is they have love for the same master (God)," Mr Desmangles said.

The Haitian artists will perform their songs in both English and Creole. This is for people of the Haitian community who do not understand English that well.

All of the performers said they are excited about the event since this will mark the first time artists from both the Bahamian and Haitian communities share one stage during a gospel concert.

And of course, organisers also hope to raise money through ticket sales to go to worthy causes.

"The Gospel Explosion Concert is cultivating a spirit of unity by embracing a night of giving. It is a fundraising event and we chose the Breathe Easy Campaign and the Haitian Community Emergency Fund because they are very

important initiatives. Incubators are vital and it is important for us to be a part of that initiative," Mr Desmangles said.

"As for the Haitian Emergency Fund, they need assistance in alleviating the pressure on their limited resources. Finding funds in times of a crisis such as natural disasters or mass burials of Haitians who drowned near the shore is much more than one can imagine."

Mr Desmangles also said that the cost of clothing, burial expenses, emergency medical supplies, food and water, disaster shelters, and other associated materials pose a significant challenge.

Overall the event will be a "great moment to bring in the holiday season as we reflect on its true meaning by celebrating the Gospel Explosion Concert", he said.

The public is encouraged to come out and show support for this event.

Tickets can be purchased at Anna's Fashion and the Twenty Dollar Shop on East Street.

New Life Community Church

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Director of Social Development Mellony Zonicle also attended the service along with representatives of five different organisations of the Disability Affairs Unit.

Pastor Watkins preached from John, Chapter five.

The passage chronicles the life of a man who had been an invalid at the pool of Bethesda for 38 years. When Jesus saw him stretched out by the pool, and knew how long he had been there, he

said, "Do you want to get well?"

Pastor Watkins, who is a student of the scriptures said, "it almost seems like a strange question to ask a disabled person, if they want to be (healed)."

Pastor Watkins said he believes that Jesus' question referred to the man's mental stance.

Reading from this passage, the pastor attempted to empower persons with disabilities at the service, to encourage them to move forward despite their physical or mental obstacles.

And Disabled persons found it rela-

tively easy to attend the service, as the church has disability access. And all of the restrooms are accessible for disabled persons.

The NCLL, which rents a mini-auditorium in the Christian Life Centre on John F Kennedy Drive, also has members who are fluent in sign language.

"Our doors are open for all to experience New Life, despite what your circumstance may be," Pastor Watkins said.

Iris Adderley - who was featured in *Tribune Woman* this week - was very enthusiastic about what transpired on Sunday at NCLL. It was her first time attending a church service honouring disabled persons.

"Pastor Jermaine's message was very empowering," she said. "It wasn't pitying, or that you have to be healed. But it was take up your bed and walk.

"The message was that we have a right to be like everyone else. Our disability should not be the determining factor in our future."

"The pastor is a very dynamic young man. He's geared toward that 18-45 age group," she said.

Today is International Day for Persons with Disabilities and the Disability Affairs Division will hold a special forum tonight at 6pm at the Holy Cross Anglican Church to address the millennium goals of primary education and poverty and hunger.