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Island scenes

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BAHAMAS BIGGEST



SPORTS



Mackey to square off with 'The Technician'

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Chainsaw attack in day of violence

Judge overturns pastor appointment

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

A JUDGE yesterday overturned the appointment of Rev Diana Francis as pastor-elect of First Baptist Church. Rev Francis, host of the show "U Gat Issues", had been installed in the position in December 2007 by her father, the Rev Earle Francis, head pastor of First Baptist Church, Market Street South. Rev Harold Bodie, a founding member of the church which now reportedly has some 400 members, opposed the appointment. Rev Bodie, who was backed by some members of the church, had sought a Supreme Court declaration that Rev Diana

SEE page seven

- Man has fingers cut off
- Teenagers are stabbed
- Gunman shoots pair

A PETROL station worker had his fingers cut off with a chainsaw, two teenagers were stabbed, and two men were shot as violence surged across New Providence.

The Texaco service station employee had his fingers severed with a chainsaw when he got into an argument with a man installing security bars at the service station in Shirley Street just after noon on Monday.

His middle and right finger were cut off and he was rushed to hospital while police were called. The suspect fled the

area and is still being hunted by police.

The incident was just two hours after armed robbers held up an Outback Steakhouse employee outside the East Bay Street restaurant.

The employee was carrying a business deposit bag out of the back door when four men pulled up in a black car. Two men armed with shotguns jumped out and ordered him to lie on the ground.

They took the deposit bag containing an undetermined

SEE page 12

Immigration Dept gives court warning for those who 'refuse or fail' to pay

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

HAVING upped the ante in 2009 on collecting monies owed to it, the Immigration Department warned yesterday that it is now set to take companies and individuals who continue to "refuse or fail" to pay-up to court.

Despite focused attention on the recovery of \$1,746,140 which should have been paid to the government for Immigration-related services, officials yesterday revealed that \$1,354,074

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'CHAOTIC SCENES' AS CUSTOMS STRUGGLES WITH CRUISE SHIP BAGGAGE



Felipe Major/Tribune staff

A PORTER struggles with one passenger's cargo yesterday.

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

WEARY travellers returning to Nassau on the Bahamas Celebration cruise ship were forced to wait all day for an understaffed Customs department to inspect thousands of bags belonging to returning Bahamians yesterday.

An angry passenger on the ship from Fort Lauderdale to Nassau reported chaotic scenes at Prince George Wharf in downtown Nassau as more than 200 locals were forced to wait on the dock while five Bahamas Customs officers searched more than 2,000 bags.

The Bahamian cruise passenger was one of

SEE page 12

Court set to decide on bid to wind-up NIB over cash claim

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

THE COURT of Appeal is expected to decide by next week on an appeal by a man seeking to wind-up the National Insurance Board over a multi-billion dollar claim.

Anthony Wright, 58, claims that NIB never properly paid him for an on the job injury he suffered almost 30 years ago in Grand Bahama. Mr Wright, who represented himself in the appellate court yesterday, has appealed a ruling

SEE page seven

Police Constable in court accused of rape

A POLICE Constable accused of rape was arraigned in Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Daniel Paul Smith, 21, of Hawthorne Road, Oakes Field, appeared before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez in Court 1, Bank Lane, yesterday charged with the rape of a 19-year-old girl. According to court dockets, Smith is accused of committing the offence on Monday, September 28. Twelve witnesses are listed on court dockets.

Smith, who was not required to enter a plea to the charge, was granted \$10,000 bail and ordered to report to the Southern Police Station every Saturday before 6pm. The case was adjourned to December 15 and transferred to Court 10, Nassau Street.

Social workers stage sick-out

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT - About 40 disgruntled social workers at the Department of Social Services staged a sick-out on Tuesday.

Although the action was unauthorised by the union, John Curtis, area vice president of the Bahamas Public Services Union, said that there are a number of pressing issues affecting social workers in Freeport.

"This (the sick-out) was not orchestrated by the union, but we are very supportive of the staff because their concerns have not been addressed by the relevant government officials," he said.

There are some 45 social

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LOCAL NEWS

Rise in complaints over marriages of 'convenience'

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

THE number of complaints of Bahamians getting married to foreigners for "convenience" is on the rise, warned Immigration Director Jack Thompson.

Immigration officials have issued a stern warning that such behaviour is "very serious" and must stop.

"I wish to state for the record that wherever we find marriages of convenience happening and if it can be proven we shall to the full extent of the law have the

matter dealt with," said Immigration Director Jack Thompson.

The Immigration chief said he has received some "troubling" information relating to individuals soliciting Bahamians to marry them or their foreign relatives so that they can get "status" benefits, such as a spousal work permit giving them the right to be employed in this country.

Meanwhile, the department is seeing more and more marriages of people who have "met on the Internet or for the first time at a social occasion."

"We've received lots of complaints. Something is definitely up," said Mr Thompson, noting a case recently brought to his attention of a foreign mother residing in The Bahamas who is "looking for a Bahamian to marry her daughter."

Providing further evidence of such unions, Senior Deputy Director Roderick Bowe revealed that the Department of Immigration has "a file" of letters from individuals who claimed they were not paid the amount they were promised for agreeing to marry a foreigner for "convenience", in which they subsequently implored the government to take away or deny that person the status they were seeking to achieve.

Mr Thompson expressed further concern that there may be an organised effort under way to facilitate such marriages.

"Suffice it to say that if this is a business going on I pray to God that it comes to a screeching halt," said the Director, who added that people must remember that "marriage is sacred" and should be entered into "for love."

He said that while it is "difficult to prove" if mar-



Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION Jack Thompson and head of Family Island administration Donald Clarke address the media yesterday.

riages are valid, the department wants the public to know that they are keeping a keen eye out for such unions.

"We want the public to know that we are up on it, we are aware of it, and those persons will be dealt with."

Under Bahamian law, a foreign individual who marries a Bahamian has the right to get a spousal work permit, and can later apply for permanent residency and citizenship.

When such applications for spousal status are made, an official from the Department of Immigration will go to the couple's house to ascertain if the relationship is genuine.

Officials will seek to determine if the pair are in fact living together, and they and other family members and friends will also undergo an interview where they will be asked certain questions by which the official would seek to ascertain whether the couple really "know" each other.

1,750 fewer people repatriated than 2008

ALTHOUGH 1,750 fewer people have been repatriated by the Immigration Department so far this year than were sent home by the end of 2008, officers there say the Bahamas must be ready in case of a surge in illegal immigrants around the new year.

According to Senior Deputy Director Roderick Bowe, 5,254 people have been repatriated from the Bahamas this year at a cost of \$2,987,316.34.

By the end of 2008, 7,000 people were sent back to their home countries.

Given that many of those came to the Bahamas around the end of last year, Mr Bowe said an influx could again be on its way.

In the two week period leading up to January 7, 2009, more than 670 Haitians were detained.

Officials cited favourable wind conditions and the harsh aftermath of four hurricanes ravaging the island during the 2008 hurricane season as possible catalysts for the surge.

"We're not sure (if it will happen again), so we're going to be vigilant in that regard," said the deputy director yesterday.

Of those who were sent home in 2009 so far, 4,692 were returned to Haiti and 348 to Jamaica.

Smaller groups were sent back to other countries.

Today, a further 115 people are scheduled to fly back to Haiti onboard a Bahamasair flight courtesy of the Department of Immigration, bringing the number of people being housed at the Carmichael Road Detention Centre down to 150.

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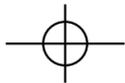


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LOCAL NEWS

Illegal immigrants moving out of shanty towns as Bahamians move in?



JACK THOMPSON

Director of Immigration believes warning has led to problematic 'shift'

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

THE director of Immigration believes his department's warning that it was set to tackle unauthorised shanty towns has caused some illegal immigrants to move out of such areas – while some Bahamians are moving in.

Jack Thompson said the department has seen a problematic "shift" in this regard.

"We've made it known that we intend to deal with it and obviously some have got the message. Our information is that some of them have moved from unauthorised communities into other locations," said Mr Thompson.

The growing numbers of Bahamians taking up residence in these "shanty" or "slum" communities represents another "twist" to the state of affairs with which the department is forced to grapple.

"There are lots of Bahamians living with people who are living illegally in this country," added the director.

Meanwhile, new unauthorised communities such as those that have plagued the country for years continue to be created.

"On a daily basis there are complaints here and in the Family Islands of towns popping up. There are people constructing houses, huts, whatever you want to call them. They don't own the land, they don't have building permits, they are not sanitary,

there are health issues. "They are breaking every law in the book. What we also have is lots of people here illegally working and residing in these communities."

While emphatically describing this state of affairs as "unacceptable" Mr Thompson admitted that thus far an inter-agency committee spearheaded by the department – with representatives from Immigration, the Ministries of Housing and Works, the Department of Lands and Surveys and shortly, the police and Attorney General's Office – has not had many concrete achievements in reducing the number of these communities since its formation earlier this year.

"We've not met as many times as I would have liked. It's hard to get all of those senior people together," he said.

However, the director intends that the committee will now "zone in" on the problem.

"These communities are unacceptable in the Bahamas we believe we need to deal with it head on – if not there will be more problems down the road."

Mr Thompson was providing an update on the Immigration Department's efforts towards fulfilling its mandate this year.



AN AERIAL view of The Mud. Dave Ralph/The Abacoian

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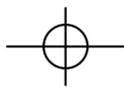
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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Tribune Limited

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Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master

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Publisher/Editor 1972-

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A Commissioner who enforced the law

RETIRED Police Commissioner Reginald Ferguson is not ashamed to admit that he is a law enforcement officer who has no problem with enforcing the law.

One would have thought the nation would have embraced such a man, especially when unity is needed now more than ever before to get a growing criminal element under control.

But not so. Certainly, not in the opinion of the Opposition PLP, which since 2002 has used every stratagem to sideline Mr Ferguson.

But why? Is it because there are politicians who believe they should be able to influence the Commissioner of Police? If so, we can see why Mr Ferguson would be an embarrassing inconvenience. Here is a man who has the nerve and the will to follow an investigation wherever it leads him, regardless of who might be involved. "That's the very thing they are afraid of," said someone close to the manœuvring.

We recall the PLP days of the late Sir Lynden Pindling. One only has to read the 1984 Commission of Inquiry report into drug peddling to know what was happening within the force in those days. We recall Magistrate Wilton Hercules (1968-'77), a no nonsense magistrate, who on his retirement ran into Tribune publisher, the late Sir Etienne Dupuch, on Cayman Islands' Five Mile Beach early one morning. The former magistrate talked freely of the political interference he had to endure during his magistracy in the Bahamas in the Pindling years. Magistrate Hercules was no pushover. And so, like Mr Ferguson, he was not welcome. They were men who did what justice required — friendship was not allowed to cloud their vision.

In *The Tribune* on Tuesday, PLP chairman Bradley Roberts, denied that his apparent animosity for now retired Commissioner Ferguson had anything to do with an investigation into rape allegations against him several years ago. The allegations were later dropped.

During the Christie administration Mr Ferguson, as deputy, was next in line on the retirement of Commissioner Paul Farquharson, now Bahamas High Commissioner to the UK.

However, during those years Mr Ferguson had several delicate cases to investigate, to which, it was claimed, the governing PLP would have preferred to have turned a blind eye. But not Mr Ferguson. He was in charge of investigations and he

intended to leave no clue unexamined.

One of the cases — a murder case — was indeed delicate. There was debate at the time as to whether two men would be charged together. In the end it was decided that one would be charged first. When his case was completed, he would be used as a witness against the second person, who in the end was never charged. However, the first man, found guilty, appealed his case. This suspended all further action that might have been considered against the second man. In the meantime, the first man was released from prison pending his appeal. But death intervened. His body was found with a fatal bullet wound. As far as we recall his attacker was never found. The proposed case against the second man went to the grave with the first man. There were other cases better left unnoticed. But Mr Ferguson refused to leave them.

Before the Christie government was voted out of office in 2007 it flooded the police force with 10 additional assistant commissioners — later cut in half by the Ingraham administration. Deputy Commissioner Ferguson was sidelined to the Police Training College to perform a job, which according to Prime Minister Ingraham, was usually assigned to a superintendent. This removed him from promotion to commissioner of police.

However, Deputy Commissioner Ferguson out-foxed the schemers. Instead of going to the College, he went on leave. This removed him from the political scene during the 2007 election. He returned to duty after the election. Mr Ingraham was now Prime Minister, Police Commissioner Farquharson retired, and Deputy Commissioner Ferguson took his place.

It was claimed at the time that the PLP did not want Mr Ferguson to have the top job because his brother, Johnley Ferguson, was chairman of the FNM.

But those of us with some knowledge of what was going on behind the scenes did not buy into that explanation.

You see, Mr Ferguson's main failing was that he was not a political animal. He was just a law enforcement officer, who had no problem enforcing the law.

However, if crime is to be turned around in this country this is the type of man who must replace him. The new Commissioner will only be respected and can only be effective if he treats all persons — regardless of political party, or social position — as equal before the law.

Allow authentically Bahamian vendors on Bay Street on Friday

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Please allow me a few moments to voice a concern. On Sunday past, I attended the Authentically Bahamian Craft Show held at the Wyndham Nassau Resort & Crystal Palace Casino. The displays as well as the array and quality of products far exceeded my expectations.

There were items on every booth that I could have easily purchased had I a big enough bag or sufficient funds on me to do so. Everything from beautifully handmade ladies bags made out of burlap bearing personally designed stamps, an assortment of straw craft items, paintings by local artists, finely crafted handmade jewellery made from semi-precious stones, souvenir items made out of coconut husk and conch shells, and of course an assortment of jams, jellies, cakes and candies. I am sure I missed something. Needless to say, I have never seen such beautiful workmanship on display by local vendors, some hailing from our Out Islands.

My concern of course are based on several conversations that I had with the various vendors, some from the Out Islands while walking around the show. While doing a little shopping of my own, I began asking myself several questions: How can these folks vend more of these items — especially the ones traveling from the Out Islands?

Why aren't more locals and tourists out here making Christmas purchases? Are the various products being bundled and offered online to the World? and on and on I mused. I then made inquiries from the vendors themselves, some of whom are my friends, as to whether the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation (Show Organisers) intended on transporting the entire show somewhere close to the Cruise Port this coming Friday for the arrival of the World's largest cruise ship, the Oasis. I got a resounding NO from everyone I spoke to, including Ministry officials. I asked if there was a plan in place to offer to these vendors another opportunity to vend their products. What I was told left me very confused, stunned and asking myself, are we (the Government or those responsible for this particular decision) really serious about Bahamians and their collective abilities when it comes to showcasing talents?

I was told that once again, the Cultural and Heritage Site at Arawak Cay has been chosen as the site to house the vendors. Keep in mind this was the site chosen when the second largest cruise ship — The Dream called on our ports a few weeks ago. If you had the opportunity to visit the Culture and Heritage Site at Arawak Cay, you would have been very disappointed. If one hundred

LETTERS

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tourists passed through, it would have been plenty. Vendors were not patronized by cruise passengers or locals at an appreciable level.

Many were reported to have lamented that the location was just too far removed from the point where they disembarked. Additionally, they would have had to take a taxi to that location, that's money, then spend additional funds on craft and other souvenir items, take a taxi back to the docks — more money. In short, I am thinking that the money spent on various local bands, etc, could have been money put to better use particularly since there was no return on the investment by visitor spending. When the ports have officially been relocated, this particular venue will become a mute point. But until then, let's stop throwing good money behind bad ideas.

Here is my suggestion, and one that is supported by everyone I conversed with. Why not recreate the setting used during the Junkanoo Summer Festivals held this past summer, where the western end of Prince George Wharf was blocked off to vehicular traffic? Erect temporary booths along with staging. Allow the Authentically Bahamian Craft Artisans and Bahamian Musicians to vend their products to the 8,500 or potential 10,000 (if the employees were to disembark as well) visitors cruising in on the largest cruise ship in the World, the Oasis, this coming Friday.

The benefits are many. We are talking about a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all involved. Visitors get an opportunity to purchase *Authentic* Bahamian products made using the highest quality, and the vendors get an opportunity to make some money. (Many of them did not do so well this past weekend at the hotel). Visitors are also treated to live Bahamian entertainment. Naturally, Bahamians can also benefit from the wonderful display of superior product offerings. There is also the question of offering to cruise owners and passengers, tighter security because of the insular surroundings. More Police Officers can be deployed in this smaller area. Perhaps, we can do a small You Tube video of this setting on upload to the internet as a means of countering the recent negative publicity associated with cruise passengers.

Some have asked what will become of the taxi drivers, surrey drivers, and shops on Bay Street, the Straw (big joke) Market, the local excursionists, and others. A coupon or voucher system can be developed and offered to visitors (one per fam-

ily) at the point where they disembark. This coupon or voucher offers a modest \$5 off the regular taxi or surrey fare if used to take an island tour or scenic ride of Historic Nassau, or even a visit to a local restaurant — perhaps on Arawak Cay. Participating drivers should be allowed to redeem the vouchers for their dollar value as early as next week from the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation or the Ministry of Finance. As far as shops on Bay Street, this observation is superfluous (without need of explanation). There are over 50 retail shops on the Oasis. Why would visitors purchase on Bay Street? But if they wish to, nothing, not even the Vendor's Festival on Prince George Wharf will stop them. As for the Replica (counterfeit, forged, some straw, sham) of a Market, I remain mum. I will share my personal thoughts on this planned redevelopment at another time. But honestly, is vending cheap t-shirts with "Hey Mon" and souvenirs made anywhere else but The Bahamas, what we ought to be displaying to our guests? This question is rhetorical. As for the local excursionists, I could hardly see how they would be put out by having the visitors concentrated in an area where they normally do business. Finally, lest I forget, the vendors in Festival Place can relocate for this one day event.

My recommendations seem to be a win, win solution for all involved.

Have I missed something? If so, would someone from the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation please help me to understand? Thanks.

Dr. Sophia Rolle
Nassau,
December, 2009.

Article was spot on

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Very well-written article Tribune Bahamas (Editorial, Monday, December 7)! I couldn't have said it better myself. You hit the nail on the head with the hammer. I surely can't blame Mr. Ingraham for all of the wrongdoing and conditions with the economy, but the corruption of greed amongst public officials must stop. The Bahamian economy does depend greatly on foreign affairs; currently, this issue must be resolved internally by the United States. Things will get better for everyone. Overall, I enjoyed the article and agree totally with your valued point of view. Well done!

KEITH THOMPSON
Nassau,
December 7, 2009

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LOCAL NEWS

Fire investigators seeking cause of prison blaze

FIRE investigators were still on the scene at Her Majesty's Prison, Fox Hill yesterday trying to determine what started a blaze in the D Block of the institution that resulted in "extensive damage" to a laundry room.

While no lives were threatened by the fire, the interior of the bathroom/laundry area, in particular the ceiling, sustained significant damage, according to Director of Fire Services Jeffrey Deveaux.

It was around 5.30pm on Monday when the blaze broke out in the prison's Female Correctional Centre and four fire trucks rushed to the scene through the afternoon traffic.

Inmates were "immediately and safely evacuated and secured," a release from Prison Superintendent Ellison Rahming said.

Mr Deveaux was unable to say when investigators may be closer to knowing the cause of the blaze.

Turnquest: Tribune headlines focusing too much on crime

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



TOMMY TURNQUEST

MINISTER of National Security Tommy Turnquest has criticised *The Tribune* over its headlines – which he claims focus too much on the rise in crime.

"I find that every single day in *The Tribune*, with the exception of one day last week when you carried the story about the elimination of greenhouse gases in 15 years, that there is an 'action word' in your headline – whether it is 'crash', whether it's 'kill'; whether it is 'steal', whether it is 'rob', whether it is 'smash'." Mr Turnquest said in an exclusive interview.

"And I have been watching it, and for a leading

turned on me as if I am trying to suppress the level of crime in our country. I am not trying to do that. I have said over and repeatedly that the level of crime in our country is at an unacceptable level and I have given reasons for it and I have given reasons for what I think we ought to do in dealing with it," he said.

Mr Turnquest added that he has been by far the most open and accommodating minister of national security in recent history in terms of releasing statistics and information to the press.

"Last week (*The Tribune*) ran a story about armed robberies being increased and you used old statistics.

"Mind you, the more recent statistics would have made the matter more

grave. But the point I want to raise is that you should feel free to ask for what you need.

"Sometimes in terms of quarterly or more frequent updates I will provide the media with information. But the one thing we don't want to do in the Bahamas is withhold information.

"What I would hope that the national media would do is report it in such a way that it doesn't affect our livelihood of tourism.

"And by that I mean, if everyday you have a sex and violence story above the fold, that will get into the psyche of our people, and now that you are on the Internet and it goes around the world, it is very difficult to change," he said.

Noting that some coun-

tries around the world and in the Caribbean suppress crime statistics in the "national interest", Mr Turnquest said that the Bahamas government on the other hand provides statistics to the press "as we get them."

"We don't massage the numbers.

"What it is, it is. Because I am trying as well to educate the public so that they are sensitised to these things so that they can realise that all of us together need to work to get things back on track.

"The major aspect of it from my point of view are the parents. I have seen young, 13, 14 and 15 year olds roaming the streets at night and I oftentimes ask myself, where are their parents?"

Engineers challenged to help country mitigate the effects of climate change

ENVIRONMENT Minister Earl Deveaux challenged Bahamian engineers to come up with ways to help the country mitigate the effects of climate change, dwindling energy supplies, and the changing demographics of the world's population.

These three factors will greatly impact the country for a long time to come, he said during the Bahamas Society of Engineers 2009 Officers Installation Awards Ceremony on Friday.

"In my view, engineers and their interaction with the design of buildings, bridges and roads, and the location of subdivisions, and the development of subdivisions, can assist immeasurably in how the Bahamas, which is one of the lowest lying states and one of the most vulnerable in the world, will mitigate and manage the effect of climate change."

It has been clearly established that the world's energy supply is finite and



MINISTER of the Environment Dr Earl Deveaux.

Letisha Henderson/BIS

the resources are dwindling, he stressed.

"We import close to 100 per cent of our energy supplies and use fossil fuel and our country has one of the largest carbon footprints in the history of the Caribbean.

"Yet, in the Bahamas, we have access to an abundance of wind, wave, and solar energy."

Dr Deveaux said it is his quest to inspire Bahamian engineers to design buildings, appliances, and facilities that will accommodate this abundance of energy.

"Around the year 2050, the world's population is estimated to stop growing at approximately nine and a half billion."

China recently became a nation whose number of individual cars exceeded the number in America, he noted.

"Can our world continue to use automobiles at that rate?

"Can we live in a greener, cleaner world? Can our lifestyle be accommodated with sustainable energy? I think it can," Dr Deveaux said.

"Even though I am not one of you, I believe the smartest people in the world have an obligation to help us achieve a state where we are greener."

• SEE PAGE EIGHT

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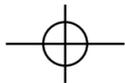
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LOCAL NEWS

Taxi drivers gear up for fight to stay on Bay Street

Cabbies fear move to drive them from downtown area

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net



TRADE FIGHT: Cabbies say they have been hit by the recession.

TAXI drivers are vowing to fighting for the right to remain on Bay Street in defiance of what they believe is an ongoing conspiracy by tourism stakeholders to remove them from the busy downtown area.

The Bahamas Taxi Cab Union is calling on taxi drivers to unite in response to Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham's suggestion that they park on Bay Street all day without doing anything.

The union argues taxi drivers are forced to hustle in the centre of Nassau because of the drop in business owing to the global recession.

If removed from downtown, their business would wither up completely, union president Leon Griffin maintains. He believes the prime minister's attitude confirms an ongoing conspiracy to ensure stakeholders in the tourism industry get the bulk of the visitor transport business and eventually remove taxi drivers from Bay Street.

This strategy is reminiscent of the Bahamas Hotel Association's 1991 attempt to impose an endorsement policy and fee on those providing products and services to its members, he said.

An uprising by Majestic Tours operator William Saunders, Dupuch Publications' Pierre Dupuch, former Tourism Minister Obie Wilcombe and others halted the move.

Now, some elements within the National Tourism Development Board (NTDB) is attempting to exclude "unfavourable" members such as taxi drivers and straw vendors from the new Nassau



Hubert Ingraham

Business Improvement District (NBID), Mr Griffin claimed.

He fears the NBID's proposal to sign a contract with the government will pave the way for a board of directors predominated by private sector property and business owners who can charge fees to other service providers who operate downtown, such as taxi drivers.

Mr Griffin said: "The NBID was organised without the knowledge or sanction of the NTDB and comprises only certain members of the NTDB and the government. "Taxi drivers, straw vendors, independent operators and others are not represented on the NBID and are not privy to decisions made by them."

of Nassau could be hijacked by a few special interest persons, supported by the elected government, to the exclusion and detriment of others, pushing once again a programme to impose taxes or fees on those who wish to provide products and services in the City of Nassau; a clear throwback to the 1991 BHA endorsement policy."

Taxi cab union members and straw vendors were further excluded from a meeting about the downtown redevelopment and port relocation chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette in July 2007, Mr Griffin said.

This meant they could not contribute to discussions about parking downtown and the revitalisation of Bay Street. Mr Griffin said: "This ongoing pre-occupation and conspiracy to remove hardworking business persons from Bay Street - just so another set of hardworking business persons can have all the economic pie - must stop."

Downtown

He fears the NBID will control downtown Nassau as suggested in a document presented to Cabinet, but not shown to NTDB members upon request. "This covers the whole matter in a shroud of conspiracy and mistrust and demonstrates a lack of transparency and accountability," the union president added.

"It is absolutely amazing, a project for the redevelopment

of Nassau could be hijacked by a few special interest persons, supported by the elected government, to the exclusion and detriment of others, pushing once again a programme to impose taxes or fees on those who wish to provide products and services in the City of Nassau; a clear throwback to the 1991 BHA endorsement policy."

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"Like the straw vendors who stood up for their rights when threatened to be removed from Bay Street, we taxi drivers will also stand up for our rights. We are a part of the historical development of this country and the cultural makeup of the downtown experience. We will not be moved by those who continually seek more for themselves to the exclusion of those who in many cases are struggling to make ends meet."

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J-M	Wednesday, December 9, 2009
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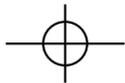
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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

Court set to decide on bid to wind-up NIB

by Senior Justice John Lyons. In a ruling handed down on February 19, Senior Justice Lyons had dismissed his petition on the grounds that it was "frivolous and vexatious" stating that the amounts Mr Wright claimed "bear no semblance of reality." Senior Justice Lyons also found that NIB could only be dissolved by parliament.

Mr Wright, who filed the "wind-up" petition in March of last year, contends that NIB owes him billions of dollars in back-pay, medical bills and settlement money after a 1982 accident on the premises of his former job with the now dissolved Franklin Chemicals in Grand Bahama. Mr Wright claimed that he suffered a fall that left him with a ruptured disc and damage to the soft tissue of his back.

Mr Wright told the court yesterday that NIB owed a debt of more than \$70 billion. Mr Wright contended that despite the order dismissing his petition, the judge had previously found that he was entitled to the wind-up order and that the sum was undisputed. Wright claimed that he had paid for a copy of the courts tran-

scripts but had been unsuccessful in getting them. Attorney Deidre Maycock-Clarke, who appeared with attorney Heather Maynard for NIB, said that the claims against NIB were not valid and that there was no debt outstanding to Mr Wright. Mr Wright contended, however, that he never received medical care

under NIB until 14 years after the accident and also noted that he had even been on welfare.

"I didn't want it to come to this," Mr Wright told the

court. Dame Joan said told him that the court understood his complaint against NIB and its failure to honour its commitment. Dame Joan said that the court

would take the matter under advisement and would make the matter a priority. She said that the court would seek to give its decision by December 18.

DREDGING WORK AHEAD OF CRUISE ARRIVAL



WITH JUST two days before the world's largest cruise ship, the Oasis of the Seas, arrives in the Bahamas, dredging work continued in Nassau Harbour yesterday.

Immigration Dept gives court warning for those who 'refuse or fail' to pay

FROM page one

remains outstanding in New Providence and Grand Bahama. While some \$353,003 has been recouped in New Providence from 49 companies, the remaining 43 of 92 companies in New Providence so far found to have been in debt to the department still have not paid the amounts owed, leaving a total of \$944,964 outstanding for this island alone.

In Grand Bahama, 140 companies were determined to be owing \$448,173, and up to November 27, 2009, just \$39,063 had been paid and collected by Immigration's Grand Bahama enforcement unit — a figure with which Immigration Director Jack Thompson said he was disappointed.

Mr Thompson said: "We're going to vigorously pursue the money. It's a high priority of the department and we're prepared to go to the next level."

He claims the department is prepared to "do what it has to do", including taking the companies to court, after going through the "proper procedure" in its attempt to recover the funds. "We gave first and second notices," said Thompson.

Meanwhile, noting that a significant proportion of the debt incurred arose from incidences where companies received letters informing them that their application for approval to employ a foreign worker was successful, but then failed to make the necessary follow-up payment, Mr Thompson added the Department intends to adjust the way it deals with applications to ensure this does not happen.

"We're going to have to change the way we do business," said the department chief. "Early next year we are going to implement a new system to close the loophole," said Mr Thompson.

He added that all companies that have yet to pay the funds have been placed on a "delinquent list" identifying them as organisations that can make no applications to the Department until they are in full compliance.

It was at the time when the new management team headed by Mr Thompson, Senior Deputy Director Roderick Bowe and others was installed at the Department of Immigration last year that audits were initiated to get a grip on the thousands of dollars in funds owed to the government agency by companies that had utilised its services.

Mr Thompson said it is "not fair" that certain companies should have been allowed to get away with not paying the funds they owe for work permits and other services while other individuals find themselves forced to pay up.

At present, a further "forty to fifty" companies are being scrutinised by the Department's delinquent unit to find out what they may owe.

Judge overturns pastor appointment

FROM page one

Francis' installation as pastor-elect and co-pastor of the church was null and void and a contravention of article 16 of the association's memorandum. Rev Bodie had also sought a declaration that all positions of the church's executive board presently constituted by the appointment of the pastor be null and void and that all financial records be turned over to him.

Bodie. Rev Bodie and some of the members as she pointed out, had expressed concern over the lack of transparency of the church's financial records. The judge said that she had found nothing in the evidence before her to suggest that the demand would be in conformity with the church's memorandum and in the interest of justice.

None of the parties wished to comment after the ruling yesterday, however, Rev Bodie's lawyer, Romona Farquharson, said: "It has been a long battle for Rev Bodie and some of the other members of the church. This is just the first step."

Ms Farquharson said she believes that there will be another proposal for Rev Diana Francis to be made pastor.

"I don't see this being the end," she said. Ms Farquharson said she will advise her client to ask the Bahamas Baptist Union of Churches to step in and ensure that the process is properly done.

Rev Francis and her father were represented by lawyer Sharon Wilson.



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Preventing catastrophic climate change

PRIME Minister Hubert Ingraham and Environment Minister Earl Deveaux fly to Denmark next week for a landmark world conference aimed at tackling what some have called "the most complex collective challenge humanity has ever confronted."

It's not about the war on terror or the global recession. The challenge is to prevent catastrophic climate change by "decarbonising" economic growth. In other words, cutting our almost total reliance on the burning of fossil fuels (oil gas and coal), which is pumping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere at an alarming rate.

There are significant — and manageable — costs involved in this effort. But the good thing about action to address climate



change is that it presents unprecedented opportunities for the world in terms of energy security, pollution control, technology innovation and sustainable development.

Ingraham and Deveaux will join more than 100 government leaders (including US President Barack Obama) and 15,000 other attendees from around the world at the United Nations summit in Copenhagen, which got underway this past weekend and closes on December 18.

Their goal is to strike a major political deal that will control the world's carbon emissions for the next decade.

Bahamian interests are being pursued through CARICOM, which strongly backs a comprehensive agreement at Copenhagen; and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), a group of 39 countries that are especially vulnerable to sea level rise. All but three CARICOM countries are small island states and can be expected to benefit from significant international funding aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change.

A technical team from the Bahamas, led by BEST Commission chief Philip Weech, is already in Copenhagen. He is joined by Tiska Francis of the Bahamas Mission to the UN; Arthur Rolle of the Met Office in Nassau; and Frank Davis of the Bahamas High Commission in London. Teresa Butler, a senior policy advisor to the government, will accompany the prime minister and environment minister to the high-level talks on December 15.

The aim is to have the new land planning bill — which addresses coastal protection issues — passed by the House of Assembly before the prime minister leaves for Copenhagen, where he will press the case relating to the effects of global warming on the Bahamas. These impacts include more destructive weather patterns, coral bleaching, and rising sea levels, which threaten the survival of low-lying island nations throughout the Caribbean and Pacific regions.

"I will share with the international community in Copenhagen the efforts The Bahamas has already taken at home, as well as the broader environmental strategy the administrations I have been privileged to lead have vigorously pursued over three non-consecutive terms," the prime minister told me earlier this week.

"While Copenhagen is a significant event, the considerable efforts needed to address climate change must, and will, continue beyond that summit," he said. "The media here at home can play an important role in informing and educating the Bahamian people on this issue of extraordinary global and national challenges. My government proposes to do the same over the course of the months and years ahead."

A little background is in order here. Experts say that without immediate action the world may lose its ability to con-

tain atmospheric warming to below 2 degrees Celsius. Anything beyond that, scientists say, will present a severe danger to human society. Droughts, floods, stronger storms and sea level rise would impact millions of people, damage ecosystems and spur massive migrations, with all the conflicts that would imply.

The Bahamas and CARICOM are calling for even stronger action — to keep the average global temperature rise to under 1.5 degrees Celsius and set a more aggressive emissions reduction timeline. For example, AOSIS has proposed that the global deal to replace the Kyoto Protocol in 2012 should close in 2017, enabling a post-2017 agreement to respond directly to the next report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — due in early 2014.

In 2005, world emissions from fuel combustion were 27.1 Gigatons and are projected to rise by almost 60 per cent to 42 Gigatons in 2030 if policies don't change. To prevent greenhouse gases from rising to levels that pass the point of no return, we need to cut emissions by at least 17 Gigatons below projections within a decade. Recent research by McKinsey & Co concludes that this is achievable through energy efficiency measures, low-carbon energy technologies, and forest preservation — but the window of opportunity is closing fast.

There is no scientific debate any more about the key facts of climate change. But critics argue that the effects are overstated and the cost to achieve carbon reductions is too high. Others think there should be no limits to economic growth and reject the notion that an expanding carbon economy has negative consequences. And then there are the extremists who believe that the whole issue has been cooked up by scientists and politicians seeking to establish an oppressive world government.

But the weight of evidence makes it clear that the question is not whether we can afford to act, but whether we can afford not to. The International Energy Agency — a monitoring body set up by 28 industrial countries following the 1973 Arab oil embargo — has identified the prospect of rising oil demand and higher prices from a business as usual approach as a serious threat to the world economy, just as it is beginning to recover. Unless we reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, that is just one of the risks we face.

According to the IEA the world needs to spend an extra \$500 billion on clean energy every year from now until 2030 to keep atmospheric greenhouse gases within safe limits and avoid an oil supply crunch. But



According to IEA Deputy Executive Director Richard Jones, "It requires only about 1.5 per cent of world GDP in additional investment over more than 20 years. We are trying to break the connection between economic growth and fossil fuel demand by investing in new technology, but you need everything — all the oil and gas and new technologies you can come up with."

The key, most experts say, is to use a combination of cap-and-trade systems, taxes and regulation to curb demand for fossil fuels and reward the development of clean energy technologies. A recent report from Bruegel, a Brussels-based think tank, says we should do much more to encourage innovation and investment in green research and development — by setting a price on carbon and using the receipts to subsidise clean tech development.

this cost can be largely offset by economic, health and energy-security benefits. Efficiency measures can play the biggest role, followed by renewable energy technologies — including nuclear power. What do they mean by efficiency? Chiefly low-energy buildings, mandatory energy use standards for appliances and equipment, and fuel standards for vehicles, and other simple things like changing your light bulbs. These measures are considered the low-hanging fruit of carbon reduction efforts. For example, if incandescent light bulbs were phased out globally, by 2012 the electricity savings would equal the output of 80 nuclear power plants.

Deveaux's Environment Ministry is already pursuing projects that will move us closer to a low-carbon world. They are part of a \$3.8 million sustainable energy programme for the Bahamas financed by the UN's Global Environment Facility and the Inter-American Development Bank. The pilot projects will show how electricity bills can be cut by installing compact fluorescent lightbulbs, solar water heaters and solar power panels in public housing. Equipment is being procured this month to begin some two dozen trial installations.

Meanwhile, consultants are completing detailed energy audits of some 50 homes, hotels and public buildings (including the homes of the prime minister and environment minister). This information will be used to design incentive policies and recommend changes to the building code to promote energy efficiency in the construction sector.

What will a low-carbon world look like? The IEA says we will have to generate about 60 per cent of global electricity from renewables (37 per cent), nuclear (18 per cent) and plants fitted with carbon capture and storage (5 per cent) by 2030. It also projects a dramatic shift in car sales, with hybrids and pure electric vehicles accounting for almost 60 per cent of sales in 2030, from around 1 per cent today.

While this is a tall order, it is expected to have a negligible impact on economic growth.

Electricity and transportation are the two core sectors of the economy, accounting for 40 per cent and 25 per cent respectively of global energy-related emissions. The IEA says the issue of power-related emissions is especially pressing in developing countries like the Bahamas, where demand growth is high (about 3 per cent growth a year in our case). That's because investments in new conventional generating capacity will lock in carbon production as plants are used over several decades.

A clear example of this problem is our recent decision to spend \$100 million on a new conventional power plant in Abaco that will burn the lowest grade of fossil fuel available and will supply the island's electricity needs for the next 30 years. BEC is also contemplating a \$300 million expansion of the fuel oil power plant at Clifton on New Providence, which has been a pollution nightmare over its 50-year lifespan.

"Any global strategy to fight climate change must make the electricity sector a priority for action, with developed countries taking a strategic role in helping developing countries establish new, more effective approaches to emission mitigation," the IEA says.

The good news is that there are IDB-funded projects underway that could lead to a transformation of our energy sector if the necessary political backing is available. A report on BEC's operations and finances will be submitted to government later this month by German consultants. And a legislative/regulatory review of what is needed to promote the widespread adoption of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy

SEE page 12

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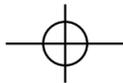
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INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

Rodgers throws 3 TDs as Packers beat Ravens 27-14

By COLIN FLY
AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Ray Lewis believes that the Ravens will make a run to the playoffs.

However, there is a big caveat. "I feel more than confident any time you tell me I'm going to get a Terrell Suggs and an Ed Reed back," Lewis said. "You never stop fighting, that's the beauty of this team, but we have to stop the things that are getting us in trouble real early, whether it's the penalties or it's the turnovers."

In Baltimore's 27-14 loss to the Green Bay Packers on Monday night, it was both in an ugly, flag-filled contest that saw the teams combine for 310 penalty yards, tied for second-most in NFL history.

"The penalties were unbelievable for both sides," said Packers coach Mike McCarthy, whose team won its fourth in a row to improve to 8-4 and now sits in a position of strength for an NFC wild-card spot. "The adversity that we overcame throughout the football game is something that we will definitely carry forward with us."

Aaron Rodgers threw three touchdown passes, two to Jermichael Finley, as the Ravens (6-6) struggled in coverage without their star safety, Reed, who sat out with hip and ankle injuries. Suggs (knee) has been out since Nov. 16.

The result was five pass interference flags, the most on one team in the NFL since 2001. Green Bay was flagged for pass interference four times and there were 23 total penalties in the game.

"You can't come in nobody's house and have that many penalties and on third downs, you're off the field and then you turn around and look and there's a flag laying on the ground," Lewis said. "That's some of the things you've got to cut out."

Rodgers finished 26 of 40 for 263 yards with two interceptions, only his sixth and seventh of the season. Reed's replacement, Tom Zbikowski,



GREEN BAY PACKERS' Jermichael Finley (88) gets past Baltimore Ravens' Ray Lewis and Tom Zbikowski (28) for a touchdown during the second half of a game Monday in Green Bay, Wis. (AP Photo)

ki, had one of the interceptions but also allowed Finley to make a catch over him for the Packers' first TD that made it 10-0.

"Before I left the huddle (Rodgers) said, 'Time your jump, it's coming,'" said Finley, who finished with seven catches for 79 yards. "I just had to make a play on the ball."

Green Bay extended the lead to 17-0 just before halftime on Donald Driver's 8-yard TD reception, but the Packers found themselves in a suddenly tight game when the Ravens scored twice in 30 seconds after Rodgers' second interception.

Baltimore's Joe Flacco was 15 of 36 for 137 yards with a touchdown and three interceptions. The Packers sacked him three times, but the Ravens were able to close it to 17-14 on Kelley Washington's 12-yard TD catch and a 1-yard TD by Willis McGahee after a 41-yard pass interference penalty on Tramon Williams.

"I've got a short-term memory," Williams said. "That's one of my advantages."

He also came up big late. With Baltimore trailing 24-14 and at the Packers 3 with 9 minutes left, Williams intercepted a pass in the end zone that effectively sealed it.

"I saw Flacco's eyes turn this way and I was like, 'Man, it looks like he's going to throw it.' He threw it and I was there," Williams said. "I can't lie to you, it felt great."

Less than a month ago, Green Bay was 4-4 and reeling from a loss to Tampa Bay, which still has only one victory this season. But, the offense has done a better job of protecting Rodgers and the Packers' 3-4 defensive scheme installed this offseason by new defensive coordinator Dom Capers is ranked No. 1 in the league for fewest yards allowed.

"With a new year and a new system, 12 games in, we really feel like as a defense things are clicking," linebacker Clay Matthews III said. "We're up there in overall defense, and we're real proud of that."

Olympic softball player and crew to conduct clinic in Bahamas

FROM page 11

In the future, Dorsett said Oslinker intends to spread the clinic to a tournament where they will be bringing down a number of players to participate in an organized tournament with local teams.

As for next year's initial

trip, Dorsett said he feels the local players will get a good opportunity to see one of the top female players in the game today in Abbott when she comes with the group.

Abbott has been a representative on the US national team since 2002. During that time, she helped the US to win the gold medal at the

2007 Pan American, two World Cup titles in 2006-2007, the World title in 2006 and the silver medal at the 2008 Olympic Games.

The 2008 graduate of the University of Tennessee was also the winner of the 2007 Women's Sports foundation's 'Team Sport Athlete of the Year' award.

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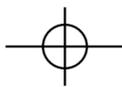
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INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

Blazers F Fernandez has procedure on back

By ANNE M PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Portland Trail Blazers forward Rudy Fernandez underwent a procedure to alleviate nerve pressure in his back that was causing leg pain, and he is expected to miss up to six weeks.

It is the latest injury to befall the Blazers, who are down to just nine available players.

The team said Fernandez had a microdiscectomy on Tuesday to relieve pressure on a nerve in his back. The pressure on his nerve was causing him pain in his right leg.

The Blazers put the timetable for his return at anywhere from four to six weeks.

"The procedure was successful and we can now turn our attention to getting Rudy healthy and back on the court," Portland general manager Kevin Pritchard said in a statement. "He's been under a lot of pain and we look forward to Rudy returning healthier than ever."

Fernandez, a second-year player from Spain, was averaging 8.6 points, 2.2 assists and 2.7 rebounds in 23.3 minutes a game this season. He missed two games with the injury before having surgery.

What are left of the Blazers are on a four game-road trip, which started with a 93-84 loss Monday night to the New York Knicks.

On Saturday, center Greg Oden fractured his kneecap during a game at home against the Houston Rockets. Portland's 7-foot No. 1 draft pick had surgery on Sunday and is out for the season.

Forward Nicolas Batum required shoulder surgery just before the start of the season, while forward Travis Outlaw broke his foot in mid-November and required surgery.

Rookies Patty Mills (right foot) and Jeff Pendergraph (left hip) have both started the season on the injured list after surgeries.

Even coach Nate McMillan had surgery on Monday to repair a ruptured Achilles' tendon. McMillan injured his right Achilles while practicing with the Blazers — because the team was so short-handed.

Assistant Dean Demopoulos is filling in for McMillan on the Blazers' current four-game road trip. Portland visits the Indiana Pacers on Wednesday.

The Blazers, considered at the start of the season to be talented and deep enough to challenge the Lakers in the West, are suddenly struggling. While Portland is 13-9, the team has lost four of its last five games.

"It's not normal," Demopoulos said. "But life throws you curveballs sometimes and if you can't hit a curveball, you don't belong here."

"We're lacking some really fine basketball players that are injured right now."



BAYERN MUNICH players celebrate after winning a match between Juventus and Bayern Munich at Olympic stadium in Italy. Bayern won 4-1.

(AP Photo)

Madrid, Milan, Bayern advance in Champions League

By STUART CONDIE
AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Real Madrid, AC Milan and Bayern Munich clinched places in the next round of the Champions League on Tuesday.

The trio, European champions a total of 20 times, advanced alongside CSKA Moscow after their final group matches.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice to help nine-time European champion Madrid win 3-1 at Marseille and take Group C from Milan, which needed a penalty by Ronaldinho for a 1-1 draw at FC Zurich.

Bayern advanced behind already-qualified Bordeaux in Group A with a 4-1 win at Juventus that eliminated the Italian side while CSKA Moscow won 2-1 at Besiktas.

Michael Owen had a hat trick to give Manchester United a 3-1 win at Wolfsburg to take first place in Group B from CSKA and knock out its opponent. But CSKA's place may be in doubt after UEFA said two of the Russian team's players failed doping tests after a 3-3 draw against Manchester United last month.

UEFA will announce the result of its investigation on Dec. 17, the day before the draw for the next stage.

Ronaldo put Madrid ahead in the fifth minute with a 30-yard free kick before Marseille playmaker Lucho Gonzalez leveled from close range in the 11th.

Madrid defender Raul Albiol scored in the 60th and Ronaldo rounded off the scoring 10 minutes before the end following a mistake by Marseille goalkeeper Steve Man-



JUVENTUS forward David Trezeguet, of France, reacts after missing a chance to score during a Champions League, group A, soccer match between Juventus and Bayern Munich at the Olympic stadium in Turin, Italy. Juventus lost 4-1.

(AP Photo)

danda.

Madrid finished with 13 points, four more than Milan, which trailed until the 64th minute in Switzerland.

Zurich dominated much of the first half and led through Milan Gajic's 29th-minute free kick from 25 yards.

Milan was in real danger of missing out on the next round but Zurich defender Alain Rochat was sent off for a foul on Marco Borriello and Ronaldinho scored the resulting

penalty.

Juventus looked to be on course for the next round when David Trezeguet put the Italian side ahead in the 19th, but Bayern got back in the match with a 30th-minute penalty by Joerg Butt — the goalkeeper's third in the Champions League.

Ivica Olic put Bayern ahead six minutes after halftime. Mario Gomez and substitute Anatolij Tymoshchuk scored in the last seven minutes.

Bordeaux, which won 1-0 at Maccabi Haifa, won Group A with 16 points. Bayern was next with 10 points, while Juventus will play in the Europa League after finishing third with eight.

Maccabi Haifa became the first team to be eliminated from the Champions League without winning a point or scoring a goal.

Owen's hat trick for United in Group B is likely to reignite the debate in British newspapers over whether England coach Fabio Capello should take the veteran striker to next year's World Cup.

"Me getting three goals will probably grab the headlines, but it was a great team performance," Owen said.

Group D had already been settled before Tuesday.

First-place Chelsea conceded an 87th-minute equalizer to draw 2-2 with APOEL Nicosia, losing midfielder Michael Essien in the process to what appeared to be a hamstring injury.

"We were not concentrating," Drogba said. "We thought, maybe, it was going to be an easy game but in the Champions League there are no easy games."

Mackey to square off with 'The Technician'

FROM page 11

going to Trinidad and coming back with the title."

Looking back at the fight against Stevenson, which the Bahamas Boxing Commission blasted Minus Jr for taking what they considered an "ill-advised fight," Minus Jr said as far as he's concerned, it was still the right decision.

"It was an excellent decision to take the fight. He's a fighter, who has been trained to take on a fight whenever the opportunity presents itself," Minus Jr said.

"If an opportunity comes his way, he can take a shot at it. Losing the Commonwealth title was unfortunate, but the Commonwealth is a title that has been almost like a pressure thing where you are basically tied down."

Minus Jr, a former British Commonwealth bantamweight and lightweight champion, said when other opportunities come up, a Commonwealth champion can't take it because they are committed only to the Commonwealth.

"We felt that it was a spiteful act being put down on us by the Commonwealth Commission taking the Commonwealth title," Minus Jr said.

"He fought for it, he didn't lose it in a fight and he should have been given the opportunity to fight for it. He already had a promoter who was willing to promote the Commonwealth title defence."

But Minus Jr said the Commonwealth Commission decided to strip him. "Everything would have still been running smooth because right now the Commonwealth title is on dry dock. Nobody has it," Minus Jr said.

"There are a number of other weight classes that don't have any champions. So right now it's been poorly managed. It's a business and you have to work with the athletes as they try to move forward."

Having lost the bid to defend his Commonwealth title, Minus Jr said Mackey will head to Trinidad & Tobago this weekend and make the best of the opportunity to fight for the WBA Fed-Caribe title again.

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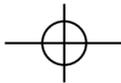


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sports

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009



Rodgers throws 3 TDs as Packers beat Ravens...

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PAGES 9-10 • International sports news

SPORTS IN BRIEF

BASKETBALL NPBA ACTION

THE New Providence Basketball Association played one game on Monday night with the Coca-Cola Explorers knocking off the Police Crimestoppers 98-90.

Lamar Watkins, playing 32 minutes, scored 21 points on 5-of-13 from the field and 10-of-13 from the free throw line and he pulled down six rebounds, dished out three assists and had three steals in the win.

Dannon Carter, in 36 minutes, also had 21 points on 8-of-16 from the field and 3-for-6 from the foul line and he ended up with a game high 11 rebounds.

Ahmad Bootle helped out with 20 points, six rebounds and two steals, Cody Pinder had 15 points with three rebounds and Lorenzo Carter added 10 points with four rebounds for the Explorers.

In a losing effort for the Crimestoppers, Valentino Richardson had a game high 24 points on 8-of-18 from the field and 6-for-10 from the line in 36 minutes.

Cecil Mackey, also playing 36 minutes, had 22 points on 7-of-18 from the field and 4-for-5 from the line. Vernon Stubbs chipped in with 17 points and eight rebounds and Freddie Lightbourne had 17 points, six rebounds, three assists and two steals. The NPBA is expected to be back in action tonight.

BASKETBALL CATHOLIC PRIMARY PLAYOFFS

THE sudden death playoff is scheduled to get underway Friday at Loyola Hall.

Although the playoff picture has been set, the final regular season game is set for 3:15pm today when the defending champions St Bede's Crushers will host the St Francis Joseph Shockers.

The Crushers head into their final regular season game with an 8-1 win-loss record. No matter the outcome, they will finish in second place in the standings.

On Friday when the playoff gets underway, St Bede's is slated to play third place St Thomas More Sparks in the first game at 3:30pm. It's a rematch of last year's final. The Sparks finished fourth at 4-6.

The feature game in the playoff set for 5pm will be between the league leading St Cecilia's Strikers, who ended up with a 9-1 record against the third place Our Lady's Blue Flames, who were 6-4.

Correction

It was incorrectly stated in Monday's Tribune that Olympic sprinter Adrian Griffith and hurdler Christopher 'Nipples' Bethel were preparing for the wedding of basketball player/triple jumper Antonio Saunders when Bethel was tragically killed in an accident Saturday morning.

It was not Antonio Saunders who was getting married. The Tribune apologises to Saunders for the error.

Mackey to square off with 'The Technician'

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

After losing his bid for the World Boxing Council's International super middleweight title - a fight that eventually caused him to get stripped of his British Commonwealth title - Jermaine 'Choo Choo' Mackey has gotten a chance at another title.

The 29-year-old Bahamian will be leaving town today with his manager/trainer Ray Minus Jr for Trinidad & Tobago where he is scheduled to take on Kirk 'the Technician' Sinnette - again - for the World Boxing Association's FedeLatin title.

The 12-round main event bout is set for Saturday night. "I'm excited, I'm ready and I'm just waiting on the time," said a confident Mackey, who is making his return to the ring after he was stopped in the fifth round by Adonis Stevenson at the Bell Centre in Montreal, Canada, for the WBC International title on September 25.

Southpaw Mackey, who was to have defended his British Commonwealth title in October but was stripped of it as a result of his loss to Stevenson, stopped Sinnette



JERMAINE 'CHOO CHOO' MACKEY has a chance at another title...

in the second round at the Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium on June 22, 2007, for both the WBC Caribbean Boxing Federation (CABOFE) and WBA FedeCaribe titles.

Mackey, who has since relinquished the FedeCaribe title but still holds onto the

Olympic softball player and crew to conduct clinic in Bahamas

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

TALENTED American Olympic softball player Monica Abbott is expected to head a delegation coming to town from the United States and Canada next year.

Abbott, the six-foot, three-inch left hander from Salinas, California, will be among more than 160 persons who are slated to be coming on the cruise ship MSC Poesia on February 19.

While in town, the group known as the Softball Cruise Clinic will conduct a female fast-pitch clinic at the Baillou Hills Sporting Complex. They will be here with Smooth Sailing Cruises, headed by travel consultant Reece Oslinker.

"We will have about a dozen states represented, anywhere from Pennsylvania, Missouri and from Canada," Oslinker said. "The guy who helped me promote the cruise is from Canada, so he has been able to get a lot of people from there."

Oslinker said they are working with the Bahamas Softball Federation to get some of the local high school players involved in the clinic that is designed for ages 9-18 years.

"It's an educational clinic and at the same time we hope to build up the female fast pitch league," Oslinker said. "It's not really part of any particular educational group. It's just a fun type event."

With a number of parents, family members and friends committed to coming with the players, Oslinker said they are

hoping to make it a semi-annual clinic and eventually they will be able to organise some games for the visiting players against the local players.

BSF president Burkett Dorsett said they welcome the visitors and they are looking forward to the excitement that they will bring to the game.

"We are going to direct it through the presidents of both the government and the independent school associations," Burkett said. "But it will be held under the sanctioning of the federation."

From talking to Oslinker, whom he and immediate past president Rommel Knowles met with and spoke to a couple weeks ago, Dorsett said they have been advised that there will be about a two-hour clinic.

Additionally, the group will be bringing down some softball equipment that will be presented to the participating schools as well as use in the federation's junior development programme.

"This is supposed to be the start of a continued programme from the youth all the way up to the adults," Dorsett said. "But this is something that we feel will be very beneficial to us."

"This will be the starting ground of the development of our own plans for fast pitch softball in the Bahamas. The basic mechanism that is used for softball continue to change and so we need to keep abreast of what is going on."

SEE page 9

Trinidad bout for the WBA's FedeLatin title

CABOFE, said although he was disappointed that he didn't win his last fight, he was glad that he still has another opportunity to fight for another title.

"The challenges will come in my way and sometimes will not go your way, so it's just a matter of picking yourself up and moving on," he said. "I'm prepared to do that 100 per cent."

But despite the fact that he stayed in the gym training after losing to Stevenson, Mackey said he knows it's not going to be as easy as their initial encounter, fighting this time in Sinnette's backyard.

"I know he's going to give it his all because he's got the home base, he's got family and friends and so I have to overcome that and win," he

said. "I'm feeling great and I'm confident that I can do it."

Not resting on his laurels, Mackey said he knows it won't be easy going to Trinidad, but he's prepared for the challenge ahead of him.

Minus Jr said his protégé is definitely in great shape, having already trimmed down to his fighting weight. "He's really excited and looking forward to it," Minus Jr stressed. "He received a cut over his eye in his last fight, but has been healed up."

"He saw the doctor and the doctor declared that he's 100 per cent okay to fight. So he's really looking forward to

SEE page 10

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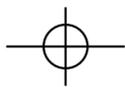
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\$60m solar/wind power proposal targets 3 islands

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

ONE of the six renewable energy bidders shortlisted by the Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC) yesterday said its solar/wind power project would require a \$60 million investment and generate 50-60 construction jobs, collectively generating 24 megawatts (MW) of power per day - equivalent to one of the gas turbines the Corporation currently employs.

Thomas Schneider, the Bahamas Renewable Energy Corporation's chairman, said the company had targeted projects on three separate islands where BEC's power needs were greatest - New Providence, Abaco and Eleuthera/Harbour Island.

The company, if selected to go ahead with its project by

* Shortlisted bidder says plan to supply 24MW over three Bahamian islands to generate 50-60 construction jobs, and 10-15 full-time jobs

BEC, would seek to generate 4MW of power per day for Harbour Island and Eleuthera, and 10MW per day for Abaco and New Providence, using a combination of wind and solar technology.

"The total 24MW is going to be about a total \$60 million investment. That's equivalent to getting one of those gas turbines off the grid - our combined generating capacity is equivalent to one of those," Mr Schneider told Tribune Business.

"During the construction

SEE page 2B

Judge blasts trustees of Hilton joint owner

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

A judge has found the Board of Trustees for one of the British Colonial Hilton's owners "failed in their duty" to supervise investments in that property and their other Bahamian holding, the South Ocean resort, with members of its investments committee also guilty of breaching regulatory guidelines.

Canadian Supreme Court Justice Beverly Brown, in a December 7 judgment, found three members of the Canadian Commercial Workers Industry Pension Plan's (CCWIPP) investment committee - Bernard Christophe, Gordy Cannady and Clifford Evans - guilty of breaching "the 10 per cent quantitative limits" rule that limited the amount of plan funds they could invest in one asset - namely the British Colonial Hilton and South Ocean.

The three were also members of the plan's Board of Trustees, who were all



A VIEW of the British Colonial Hilton...

found guilty of "failing in their duty to supervise the members of the investment committee as was prudent and reasonable" as it related to the investment limits established in the Canadian Pension Benefits Act and its regulations.

Detailing the case brought against the CCWIPP trustees by the Canadian state, Judge Brown said two counts brought against the trustees "relate to the investments by the plan in the British Colonial property in the Bahamas, which is a

* Canadian pension fund had \$92m exposure to Hilton and South Ocean at time of takeover from Ron Kelly

* Almost \$20m pumped in during 2003 to keep Bahamian resorts afloat

* Judge finds plan trustees guilty of failing to supervise investment committee, and latter of breaching regulations on investment limits

hotel and commercial complex". A further two counts related to the South Ocean Resort, the other New Provi-

SEE page 2B

Realtors: 'Not acceptable' for Government to ignore reforms

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE Bahamas Real Estate Association's (BREAA) president yesterday said it was "not acceptable" for the Government to effectively reject all the recommendations it had submitted for inclusion in the Planning and Subdivisions Bill, saying it made "no sense" not to include "the meat" of the legislation in the shape of a Land Use Plan.

After reviewing the proposed amendments to the Bill, which will be introduced to and debated in the House of Assembly tomorrow, William Wong told Tribune Business: "It appears that they've used none of the recommendations we sent to them. Not one of them. We're very disappointed."

"After all we've done, all

Say it 'makes no sense' for administration to accept 'none' of its Planning and Subdivision Bill recommendations and ignore the Land Use Plan 'meat'

the public discussion and getting all our members to put input in, to totally disregard it is pretty awful. We're supposed to be the body for real estate in this country, we submitted our recommendations, and for not one of them to be accepted is unacceptable."

Mr Wong added: "The whole meat of this Bill is the Land Use Plan, but there's none. It makes no sense. It's disappointing that after we've put all this time into making

SEE page 5B

BEC likely to beat renewable energy 10% goal

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

ONE of the six remaining bidders in the race to supply the Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC) with renewable energy yesterday said that with wind and solar power also in the mix, it was likely that the Government would exceed its initial target of generating 10 per cent of this nation's power supply from sustainable sources.

Len Enriquez, of Miami-based Cambridge Project Development, which is part of the NP Renewables \$140 million waste-to-energy facility project, said he was "glad to see" solar and energy providers were part of the mix, with two such proposals among those shortlisted among BEC's final six candidates.

"We're looking forward to moving ahead," Mr Enriquez

Bidder praises shortlisted final six 'mix' for including solar and wind, as well as four waste-to-energy players

told Tribune Business. "I'm glad to see there's some wind and solar options in there. I think the mix of energies, wind and solar, is probably attractive, and we're looking forward to meeting with BEC and responding to any additional information they'd like to know with regard to our project."

"I think the original goal was to replace 10 per cent of power with renewable sources. Our project is 9-10 per cent alone, but I think everyone will be pleased that the 10 per cent goal is likely to be exceeded, if you add wind and solar options on top."

Waste-to-energy is the most competitive sector in BEC's search for renewable energy suppliers, with four of the six

proposed projects in this area. Apart from the NP Renewables Group, which includes BIX-listed Bahamas Waste, this field also includes Bahamas Renewable Energy Resources, a group led by Ginny McKinney's Waste Not; Smart Power and Canadian-based Plasco Energy Group.

All four are proposing projects on New Providence, given that this is the only Bahamian island that generates enough municipal waste to make such projects work.

Apart from the four waste-to-energy bidders, the final two are Bahamas Renewable Energy Corporation, which is proposing wind/solar projects on New Providence, Abaco and Eleuthera, and Protocol

Energy. The latter is eyeing exclusively solar projects on a number of Family Islands, including Andros, Exuma, Cat Island, San Salvador, Long Island and Crooked Island.

Describing waste-to-energy as "a little different" from solar and wind power solutions, Mr Enriquez told Tribune Business that it effectively generated "baseline power".

"It provides electricity as reliably, if not more reliably, than old fossil fuel plants," he said. "You can expect waste-to-energy to generate power 85-90 per cent of the time."

"It's really part of the base load, and will save them

SEE page 3B

Bahamas breaches global health rules over airport waste

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE Bahamas is breaching Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) guidelines on preventing the spread of animal diseases by mixing local and internationally-generated waste from airline passengers, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) having also revealed the presence of asbestos on the roof of Lynden Pindling International Airport's (LPIA) International Terminal.

The EIA for LPIA's \$409.5 million redevelopment, which has underscored Tribune Business's June 2009 revelations that the airport was a potential 'environmental timebomb', due to poor practices prior to Nassau Airport

* EIA says asbestos present on roof sealants of one terminal building

* 145,500 cubic yards of fill needed for \$409.5m expansion project, with 63,000 set to be excavated for new building foundations

Development Company's (NAD) takeover, said waste collection and storage systems would be designed to separate domestic and international waste.

Acknowledging that better data was required on the source and types of waste being generated at LPIA, a process that would involve dumpster audits, the EIA said all domestic and international waste generated at the airport was currently being mixed there and disposed of in the Tonique Williams-Darling Highway landfill.

"However, this is in contravention of the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) guidelines to prevent the spread of animal diseases," the EIA added. "International waste is supposed to be segregated at the source, transported separately to the landfill, and disposed of within a designated area per instructions from the Department of Environmental Health Services."

The report suggested there might be work in this particu-

SEE page 4B

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TEXACO

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

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BUSINESS

HILTON, from 1B

dence-based property in which CCWIPP is still invest-

NOTICE

IN THE ESTATE OF PHILLIP EMERSON BRAID a.k.a. PHILLIP E. BRAID domiciled and late of 15 Gervin Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2G OJ6 deceased

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claim or demand against or interest in the above Estate should send same duly certified in writing to the undersigned on or before 21st January, 2010 after which date the Executrix will proceed to distribute the assets of the Estate having regard only to the claims, demands or interests of which she shall then have had notice **AND** all persons indebted to the above Estate are asked to settle such debts on or before 21st January, 2010.

FREDERIK F. GOTTLIEB & CO.
Attorneys for the Executrix
P.O. Box AB-20405
Bay Street, Marsh Harbour
Abaco, The Bahamas

ed. The judgment recalled how CCWIPP, through its PRK Holdings vehicle, was forced to take over the British Colonial Hilton and South Ocean after former owner Ron Kelly, and his RHK Capital vehicle, defaulted on their debt repayments to the pension plan, forcing a restructuring.

"Various loans were made to resort and hotel properties in the Caribbean prior to the offence period," Justice Brown wrote. "Additional funds were advanced during the offence period for British Colonial [Hilton], in the Bahamas, which is a hotel and commercial complex, and for the South Ocean property in the Bahamas, which is a golf and beach resort.

"The total outstanding loans at the time of the

SOLAR, from 1B

phase we will probably create 50-60 jobs, and in the next 20 years we're probably looking at about 10-15 full-time employees."

The permanent jobs would be for maintenance on all three islands, plus accounting and back-office functions, Mr Schneider said, adding that the Bahamas Renewable Energy Corporation's goal was to develop sustainable energy projects that matched both a community's power needs and its environmental footprint.

restructuring in December 2000 was in excess of \$92 million." CCWIPP's PRK Holdings took over ownership of both South Ocean and the British Colonial Hilton.

CCWIPP was forced, as a result of its exposures and the multi-million dollar losses being suffered by its two Bahamian resort properties, to seek potential purchasers or joint venture partners for them. It also had to support the two hotels' operations and "provide ongoing funding".

"Further advances were made in April 2002 in the amount of \$4.7 million, January of 2003 for \$2 million, in March 2003 for \$24,000 and a retainer of \$25,000 for PricewaterhouseCoopers to act as brokers and investment bankers to facilitate the sale of the Caribbean properties," the judgment recorded.

"Additional funding was approved in April 2003 for slightly above \$4 million. In September 2003, the investment committee approved funding of \$3.45 million. Finally, in December of 2003, an additional loan in excess of \$5.6 million was approved."

This meant that almost \$20 million - some \$19.554 million - was pumped into the British Colonial Hilton and South Ocean over a one-year period, both to keep them afloat and find a solution to its predicament. Ultimately, some \$16.42 million was received due to delays in paying advances.

Indeed, some might say CCWIPP has never found a solution to its Bahamian over-exposure, as it is now mired in disputes over both the British Colonial Hilton and South Ocean, unable to exit because

it cannot recoup the full value of its investments - something sure to attract regulatory attention back in Canada.

At the former resort, CCWIPP has initiated arbitration proceedings against its joint venture partner Adurion, to whom it sold a controlling 71 per cent interest less than three years ago. CCWIPP is attempting to prevent Adurion from calling in, or refinancing, a \$22 million loan on the grounds that the British Colonial Hilton is unable to repay it.

And at South Ocean, where it has a \$75 million first mortgage debenture on the property, CCWIPP's attempt to foreclose and bring an early end to the dispute between its partners, RHS Ventures and Plainfield, was thwarted on a technical point in the Bahamian Supreme Court.

Explaining that the company's proposal would not only reduce BEC's financial losses, especially on the Family Islands, Mr Schneider told Tribune Business: "We're designing the right size that fits the community's population density and the power demand. We're developing the concept of low impact, small scale projects.

"We will not build massive solar and wind farms, and then push the electricity where it needs to go. It will have a low impact on the environment, but provide all the electricity the community needs.

"We do low impact projects. By doing low impact conservation engineering, and making sure we build it right, we reduce the impact on the nation. It works well in the Bahamas, because it's main selling points are the location, the beaches, the beauty of it all. We want to have a project that fits right in with that, and most people do not know it's there."

Mr Schneider said a wind farm established by his company, Schneider Power (a major investor in the Bahamas Renewable Energy Corporation), on a remote Canadian island with a population of 3,000 persons, had proven something of an

attraction for the 30,000 tourists that visited annually.

"I think the Bahamas is on the right track," Mr Schneider said of the Government and BEC's renewable energy plans, adding: "We have a project that works for both BEC and the community at large, and we're very supportive of BEC in its task in getting renewable energies

online.

"With BEC having all the financial issues, which are mostly derived from the Government subsidising electricity in the Family Islands, by bringing this and other projects online, at least they will be getting on the right track to solving some of the energy and financial problems in the Bahamas."

MEMORY HOLDINGS LIMITED

(Company number 118214B)

An International Business Company
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Pursuant to Section 137(4) of the International Business Companies Act, 2000 notice is hereby given that the voluntary winding-up and dissolution of the Company commenced on the 7th day of December, 2009 and that Pine Limited of Devonshire House, Queen Street, P.O. Box N-8176 Nassau, Bahamas has been appointed Liquidator.

Dated this 7th day of December, 2009

Pine Limited
Liquidator



**Credit Suisse, Nassau Branch
Private Banking**

is presently accepting applications for a

Securities Executor

The position is open to candidates with the following minimum requirements:

Qualifications:

University Degree or equivalent

Experience:

- Sound international banking background with at least 5 years banking experience in back-office securities operations, trading and securities market
- Strong understanding of Private Banking Business and Financial Sector
- Working knowledge and experience with Globus Banking System is advantageous
- Working knowledge and experience with MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Bloomberg applications

Personal Qualities:

- Strong analytical skills
- Excellent organizational skills
- Strong written, oral, and interpersonal skills
- Work independently with strong accountability within a team environment
- Enthusiastic team spirit with the ability to effectively collaborate across teams and cultures
- Highly motivated and committed to service excellence
- Confident with good leadership skills

Key Duties & Responsibilities:

- Oversee, input and approve securities trade, delivery and corporate action settlements for worldwide markets
- Liaising with brokers and agents
- Monitoring custodian reports
- Investigating failed trades and instructing depositories
- Serve as an Operations subject matter expert for new requirements impacting settlement processing
- Participate in User Acceptance Testing prior to project or product implementation for developments impacting securities operations
- Contribute to and participate in special project initiatives impacting the Bank

Benefits provided include:

- Competitive salary and performance bonus
- Pension Plan
- Health and Life Insurance
- Ongoing internal and external career development/training program

APPLICATIONS MUST BE IN WRITING.

ONLY PERSONS MEETING THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS NEED APPLY

Applications should be submitted to:

Human Resources Department
P.O. Box N-4928
Nassau, Bahamas
or via fax 356-8148

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS:
DECEMBER 16, 2009**



**THE CENTRAL BANK
OF THE BAHAMAS**

**B\$ COUNTERFEIT
BANKNOTE DETECTION &
INTRODUCTION TO CRISP SERIES SEMINAR**

Place: The Central Bank of The Bahamas
Training Room, Market Street and
Trinity Place Entrance

When: **Thursday December 17, 2009**

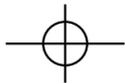
- **Session One 10:00am - 11:00 am**
- **Session Two 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm**

Contact: **302-2734**
302-2629

Apply By: **Tuesday December 15, 2009**

Session 1 is open to the General Public. Session 2 is open to Bankers and Law Enforcement Agents.

Persons wishing to participate should apply as soon as possible as space is limited.



BUSINESS

80% of airline's flights coming to the Bahamas

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

A SMALL Florida airline is beginning weekly service to the Bahamas this month, with chartered flights to these islands making up 80 per cent of its itinerary, its director of

operations said yesterday. Danny Krachun told Tribune Business that after 16 years of servicing passengers in the areas between major hubs, Fort Lauderdale International and Orlando International Airport, the airline has decided to make the Bahamas a scheduled trip three days per week.

Starting on January 15, Treasure Coast Airlines will fly to Marsh Harbour on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

According to Mr Krachun, there has been an overwhelming response to the announcement of weekly flights to the Bahamas, with more than 300 calls in only a few days despite minimal publicity.

He said most of the passengers Treasure Coast receives are individuals with second homes in the Abacos. And with weekly flights aboard the company's Navajo

Cheiftans aircraft, the \$285 ticket price is on par with that of other airlines that frequent the island.

Mr Krachun said the company hopes to turn the flights around and have Bahamians use the service to commute to Stuart in St Lucie County, where the airline's base is.

Passengers

He added that passengers from across the country use Treasure Coast as the final leg of their flight to the Bahamas, preferring its relative privacy over larger commercial flights, such as American Eagle.

However, the allure for Stuart residents and St Lucie County residents in general, is avoiding the almost two-hour drive to Fort Lauderdale Airport in order to commute to Marsh Harbour. And, according to Mr Krachun, they have been extremely receptive to

the new flights schedule.

Treasure Coast traditionally runs only charter flights to the islands, which became a popular destination for the airline over its 16-year history.

According to Mr Krachun, they hope to expand their flight offering into Treasure Cay in the near future.

The Ministry of Tourism and Aviation has attempted to encourage more private airlines to fly to the Bahamas, and has successfully drawn several new carriers to this nation this year alone.

The Government has promised to deliver more air-lift to this country, but the shrunken global economy, which is responsible for wearing down the tourism sector, is not expected to return until 2012, and therefore the number of stopover visitors enjoyed pre-recession not expected to recover until then.



PRICE INQUIRY

PI-190 A-Furnishings, B-Appliances & C-Commercial Seating

Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD) has a requirement for the Supply and Delivery of Furnishings (PI-190 A), Supply and Delivery of Appliances (PI-190 B) and Supply and Delivery of Commercial Seating (PI-190 C), for Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the Lynden Pindling International Airport Expansion Project. These Supply and Delivery Price Inquiries are to be in accordance with the required schedule and specifications, with Stage 1 being awarded at this time.

PI-190 A Furnishings Scope of Work includes:

- Supply and Delivery of Specified Furnishings

PI-190 B Appliances Scope of Work includes:

- Supply and Delivery of Specified Appliances
- Warranty and on-island Service for warranty period

PI-190 C Commercial Seating Scope of Work includes:

- Supply and Delivery of Specified Appliances

Price Inquiry Packages will be available for pick up after

1:00 pm, on Thursday, November 19th, 2009.

Contact: Traci Brisby
Contract & Procurement Manager
LPIA Expansion Project
Ph: (242) 702-1086 | Fax: (242) 377-2117
P.O. Box AP 59229, Nassau, Bahamas
Email: traci.brisby@nas.bs

BEC likely to beat renewable energy 10% goal

FROM page 1B

[BEC] from loading up on the fossil fuels. We hope to replace roughly 10 per cent of the imports of fossil fuels, and suppress the fires that occur at the landfill. It will serve two major goals - eliminating the waste and some of the implosions at the landfill."

Given that BEC imported some \$376 million worth of fuel in 2008, the NP Renewables proposal could effectively have saved the Corporation some \$37.6 million that year.

"We're hoping that we can move ahead expeditiously, and think we can really make a significant impact on that renewable goal that they have," Mr Enriquez said.

Tribune Business previously reported that the NP Renewables project would create 500 construction and 35 permanent jobs, supplying 16 mega watts (MW) of power to BEC, an amount equivalent to 9-10 per cent of the Bahamas' daily energy needs.

The plant, which would be located at the Tonique Williams-Darling Highway landfill, would use some 200,000 tonnes of waste being deposited their annually as a renewable fuel source, "replacing over 185,000 barrels per annum of non-renewable fossil fuel oil now being imported at a cost of approximately \$15 million at today's relatively low oil pricing".

Apart from serving as a potential hedge against the exploding oil prices experienced in 2008, the NP Renewables Waste-to-Energy group said its Mass Burn Thermal Treatment technology would help prevent landfill fires, plus the odour from the current landfill site.

Their project, the group said, would generate clean power production from the 89 per cent biomass content in the waste now being land-filled, providing carbon credit revenues to BEC. It would also have a recycling component for the 6,000 tonnes per annum of ferrous metals currently being landfilled.

Elsewhere, Plasco Energy Group said its proposed Bahamian facility was capable of generating 400 to 800 tonnes of municipal solid waste per day, and would be located in the same place as NP Renewables proposed development.

BEC has now reduced the shortlisted bidders to six from 13, having culled the latter number from an initial 28 proposals. Engineering consultants will now be engaged to help the company choose, assess and implement a process to select its renewable energy supplier(s).



Field Marketing Assistant Vacancy

PURPOSE OF THIS JOB: To establish a local face of a globally recognized brand The primary responsibility of the position is to administer the Consumer Collection and Marketing programs of a leading beverage brand, including Sports & Culture projects and related Communications initiatives. The Field Marketing Assistant supports the Marketing Manager in every aspect of business operations to activate product consumption in the Bahamas including owning projects, building up relationships and networks with key stake holders and administrative support to the team.

KEY DELIVERABLES (WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE)

1. Perfect execution of the Consumer Collecting & Marketing Programs
2. Perfect implementation of defined sports & culture & communications projects.
3. Effective working relationships with Trade Team and excellent delivery of defined projects.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

1. University-educated – Bachelor's Degree preferred.
2. The candidate should have experience of at least one (1) year in the Marketing of Fast Moving Consumer Goods
3. Age group 18-25 yrs

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

1. Strong understanding of youth culture in sports & culture.
2. Exceptional organization skills, timeliness and appreciation of deadlines
3. Excellent communication skills, including presenting and training abilities.
4. Strong planning and project management competencies.
5. Ability to cultivate team environment.
6. Must be proficient in standard Microsoft office applications and common IT tools.
7. Must be energized, driven, creative and passionate about marketing.
8. Must have a Driver's license and a reliable vehicle is highly preferred.

Interested applicants are asked to submit their application letters and CVs on or before **December 10th 2009** to the following:

Email: hr@bristolbahamas.com
Post: ATTN: Field Marketing Manager Vacancy
Bristol Group of Companies
Gladstone Road, PO Box N-131

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2009
 IN THE SUPREME COURT CLE:qui No. 01483
 Common Law and Equity Division

IN THE MATTER OF ALL THAT piece parcel or lot of land comprising 5,515 square feet and situate on the Northern side of Lewis Street East, in the City of Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas, and at a distance of 137 feet from Comfort Street, and bounding Northerly by land said to be the property of Howard Pinder and running thereon Fifty-seven and Nineteen hundredths (57.19') feet and bounding Easterly by land said to be the property of Gertrude Fowler and running thereon One Hundred and Three hundredths (100.03') feet and bounding Southerly by Lewis Street and running thereon Fifty-three and Ninety-seven hundredths (53.97') feet and bounding Westerly by land said to be the property of Mary Cartwright and running thereon Ninety-eight and Sixty-five hundredths (98.65') feet.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF the Quieting Titles Act of 1959

AND

IN THE MATTER OF the Petition of
 Lesley Anne Stubbs and Laverne Palacios

NOTICE OF PETITION

Pursuant to an Order of The Supreme Court dated the 15th day of October, A.D. 2009.

The Petition of Lesley Anne Stubbs and Laverne Palacios, both of Lewis Street East, in the City of Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas, sheweth in respect of:

ALL THAT piece parcel or lot of land comprising 5,515 square feet and situate on the Northern side of Lewis Street East, in the city of Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas, and bounded on the North by land said to be the property of Howard Pinder and running thereon Fifty-seven and Nineteen hundredths (57.19') feet and on the East by land said to be the property of Gertrude Fowler and running thereon One Hundred and Three hundredths (100.03') feet and on the South by Lewis Street and running thereon Fifty-three and Ninety-seven hundredths (53.97') feet and on the West by land said to be the property of Mary Cartwright and running thereon Ninety-eight and Sixty-five hundredths (98.65') feet.

The Petitioners, Lesley Anne Stubbs and Laverne Palacios, herein claim to be the owners in fee simple in possession of the said tract of land and have made application to The Supreme Court Of The Commonwealth Of The Bahamas under Section 3 of the Quieting Titles Act 1959 to have their title to the said tract of land investigated and the nature and extent thereof determined and declared in a Certificate Of Title to be granted by the Court in accordance with the provisions of that Act.

Copies of the Plan showing the position boundaries shape marks and dimensions of the said tract of land may be inspected during normal office hours at the following places:

- (a) The Registry of The Supreme Court, East Street North, Nassau, Bahamas.
- (b) The Chambers of Joseph C. Lédée, Suite No. 6, Grosvenor Close, Shirley Street, Nassau, Bahamas.

Notice is hereby given that any person having Dower or right to Dower or an Adverse Claim not recognized in the Petition shall on or before the expiration of Thirty (30) days after the final publication of these presents file at the Registry of The Supreme Court in the City of Nassau, Bahamas, and serve on the Petitioners or on the undersigned an Adverse Claim in the prescribed form verified by an Affidavit to be filed therewith.

Failure of any such person to file and serve an Adverse Claim on or before the expiration of Thirty (30) days after the final publication of these presents shall operate as a bar to such claim.

DATED THIS 15TH DAY OF OCTOBER, A.D. 2009.

JOSEPH C. LEDEE, ESQ.
 Chambers
 Suite No. 6, Grosvenor Close
 Shirley Street
 Nassau, Bahamas
 Attorney for the Petitioners

Dec. 9th, Dec. 19th and Dec. 29th



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for TIX: 242.356.5939 / www.bintifilmfest.com





BUSINESS

Bahamas breaches global health rules over airport waste

FROM page 1B

lar area for BISX-listed Bahamas Waste, as a result

of its existing medical waste treatment facility at its nearby Gladstone Road headquarters.

"This technology is acceptable for the treatment of international waste," the EIA said of Bahamas Waste's facility. "The waste is heated to 1,600 degrees Fahrenheit, and the unit has a 1,000 pound capacity per cycle. Any alternative to land filling will be evaluated and approved by the DEHS."

The need for upgraded environmental and health practices at LPIA in the area of waste disposal was further driven home by the EIA, which found that the amount of per capita waste being generated at LPIA was relatively high for international airports.

"Solid waste generation per passenger is estimated at 0.6729 pounds per passenger," the EIA said. "Based on this estimation, waste volumes will grow from 2.018 million pounds for one year (2006-2007) to an estimated 3.075 million pounds in 2015, and an estimated 3.556 million

pounds in 2020.... This per passenger estimate is high for international airports."

Meanwhile, the EIA disclosed that the \$409.5 million redevelopment of LPIA would require 145,500 cubic yards of fill that would have to be imported to the construction site from both local and international sources.

Cubic

And some 63,000 cubic yards of material will be excavated for the foundations of the new LPIA terminal buildings, with plans for this "to be reused within the construction project or in the airport in pre-approved locations".

Yet demolition waste from remodelling the existing US departures building, and flattening the Customs/Immigration Hall and International Terminal would need to be "carefully sorted by waste type", especially given that "some risks" had been identified with respect to materials in those buildings.

The EIA disclosed that a Hazardous Building Material Assessment, undertaken by Parks Environmental in August 2007, had found "non-friable" asbestos in the roof caulk/sealants on the International Terminal's metal roof panel.

The assessment also detected paint on the outside canopy of the International Terminal that "may have elevated lead levels", while NAD was also advised that items such as plastics, fabrics, light bulbs, and electronic devices needed to be segregated from the other demolition debris. "Areas containing asbestos (currently only in roofing materials) will be well marked on drawings, and noted in maintenance procedures," the EIA said.

Parks Environmental's assessment had also identified areas of mould and mildew, leading to the EIA promising that NAD's maintenance team would tackle this through cleaning impacted areas, in addition to cleaning air conditioning units and filters.

"The new terminal buildings, following the completion

of the expansion project, should have fewer leaks that lead to mould and mildew," the EIA promised.

With some 5,000 persons employed at LPIA in various capacities by NAD and its tenants and other users, the EIA noted, to no one's great surprise, that the airport was "a vital piece of the country's economic infrastructure".

Some 98 per cent of all stopover visitors to New Providence, the hub of the Bahamian tourism industry, arrived and departed via LPIA, hence the need for the airport to form a good first and last impression of the Bahamas.

"In a 2005 survey carried out by the Ministry of Tourism, a very high number (42 per cent) of the passengers had one or more complaints about the airport," the EIA said

"Dissatisfaction at these levels very likely indicates travel decisions are now being negatively affected, especially among potential return visitors whose last impression of the Bahamas is created at their departure through the airport."

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NOTICE

IN THE ESTATE OF PATRICK VAN WAINWRIGHT BETHEL a.k.a. WAINWRIGHT PATRICK BETHEL a.k.a. PATRICK BETHEL late of and domiciled of Eastwood Estates, Eastern District, New Providence, The Bahamas, deceased

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claim or demand against or interest in the above Estate should send same duly certified in writing to the undersigned on or before 21st January, 2010 after which date the Executrix will proceed to distribute the assets of the Estate having regard only to the claims, demands or interests of which she shall then have had notice AND all persons indebted to the above Estate are asked to settle such debts on or before 21st January, 2010.

V. M. LIGHTBOURN & CO.
Attorneys for the Executrix
P.O. Box AB-20365
Bay Street, Marsh Harbour
Abaco, The Bahamas

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that MARC ARTHUR PIERRE of P.O. BOX GT-2627, NASSAU, BAHAMAS, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 9th 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 DAVID HUGHES, P.O. BOX N-7777, NASSAU, BAHAMAS, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 2nd 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 RICHIE ELYSEE of BLUE HILL ROAD, P.O. BOX GT-2557, NASSAU, BAHAMAS, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 9th day of December, 2009 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK LIMITED
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

The creditors of the above-named Company are required, on or before December 24, 2009 to send their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their attorneys (if any) to Mark E Munnings, the Liquidator of the said company, at Dehanda House, 2nd Terrace West, Centreville, P.O. Box N-7120, Nassau, Bahamas, telephone number 242-302-4800. The creditors may be required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, by his Attorney or personally, to come in and prove their said debts or claims at the office of the Liquidator at such time as shall be specified in such notice. If in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Mark E Munnings
Liquidator

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a Meeting of the Directors of the above-named Company duly convened and held on the 1st day of December, 2009 the following resolutions were passed:

- RESOLVED that INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK LIMITED be wound up Voluntarily.
- RESOLVED FURTHER that Mark E. Munnings be appointed the Liquidator for the purpose of such winding up.

Dated the 4th day of December 2009.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FATHERS FROM SPACE: THE ELOHIM

FREE LECTURE :
Friday 11 Dec. '09, 7:30PM
College of the Bahamas
Michael Eldon Complex, Room 1A
Oakesfield, Thompson Boulevard.
Info.: 43287

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Legal Notice
NOTICE
KOPENHAGEN LTD.
 (In Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that the above-named Company is in dissolution, which commenced on the 28th day of October 2009. The Liquidator is Argosa Corp. Inc., P. O. Box N-7757 Nassau, Bahamas.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)



Employment Opportunity: Full-Time Managers

REQUIREMENTS:

- MUST BE A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE
- MUST HAVE A DEGREE IN MANAGEMENT OR MANAGEMENT/SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE
- MUST BE CUSTOMER SERVICE DRIVEN
- MUST BE RESULTS-ORIENTED & ARTICULATE
- MUST HAVE EXCELLENT INTER-PERSONAL SKILLS
- MUST HAVE EXCELLENT ORAL & WRITTEN COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- PROFESSIONALISM REQUIRED
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BUSINESS

Realtors: 'Not acceptable' for Government to ignore reforms

FROM page 1B

these suggestions, they've disregarded them."

A copy of the proposed Planning and Subdivision Bill amendments, which has been obtained by Tribune Business, appear largely designed to clarify the language in the legislation, in addition to tidying it up and numbering it correctly. No substantive amendments appear to have been made.

Tribune Business revealed last week how BREAs main concern over the Planning and Subdivisions Bill had been that there "is no commitment to ever draft the central part", the Land Use Plan for each Bahamian island/.

The organisation added that this should be the "cornerstone of a national economic development plan", and also urged the Government to adopt a "phased" approach to subdivision approval, since full approval also gave developers permission to start selling lots.

BREA also called for the Government to mandate that developers first obtain a Business Licence, and that they

also be mandated to have a Developer's Licence, which it issued, prior to obtaining final approval for lot sales.

Among the other recommendations submitted by BREAs, which have been seen by Tribune Business, were that district council chairmen in the Family Islands be allowed to assume the authority of the Department of Physical Planning's director when it came to dealing with planning applications.

Questions

Posing questions about the experience, knowledge and transparency required if district council chairmen were to oversee planning in their areas, plus the skills and qualifications required, BREAs urged that the Planning and Subdivisions Bill's processes be "transparent and efficient".

To ensure this, BREAs urged the Government to create a 'Planning Guideline Manual', with clear definitions and procedures to govern the submission of plans and applications. It also suggested that a Public Land Registry be cre-

ated to enhance transparency, and "empower communities and agencies to monitor land use more accurately and effectively".

On the Bill's proposed development charges by law, BREAs said: "Such a clause leaves everyone vulnerable to any charge the Government may decide to levy.

"This is basically a new, undetermined tax on real estate and creates uncertainty with purchasers, developers and lending institutions. Again, the Association's recommendation is that such policy be reconsidered and redrafted."

When it came to the Bill's section 24 on subdivision approval, BREAs said that while dividing land gave Bahamians opportunities to become real estate owners, this clause "could potentially make land ownership more restrictive".

"Related to subdivision approval, BREAs recommends that the proposed number of lots should be carefully reviewed, with consideration given to dimensions

and logistics," the organisation said. "Further, BREAs recommends that subdivision approval must be obtained, and that all items under [approvals required for development] must also be obtained when dividing a piece of property into three lots."

BREAs also urged the Town Planning Committee to issue notices of its decisions to affected parties within seven days of them being taken, adding that the current communications process was "slow and bureaucratic".

And it also warned that the Bill's provisions to compensate landowners for any additional improvements or investments, if approvals were modified or revoked, could be "subject to misuse and may aid corruption and abuse".

It added: "For example, a local government official may give an approval to his/her uncle, which may threaten an important mangrove system. The local government official's uncle may have secured financing from a bank, and commenced making improve-

ments to the land. If the central government intervenes and revokes the approval, the Government may be required to compensate the individual a huge amount of money."

BREAs said that given the Government's inability to

maintain public parks, it was doubtful that it would "be able to effectively manage land in private communities and commercial/ industrial zones as well". This undertaking was also said to be expensive.

NOTICE

IN THE ESTATE OF HANS OTTO ERICH RITTER domiciled and late of Hessisch, Lichtenau, Germany, deceased

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claim or demand against or interest in the above Estate should send same duly certified in writing to the undersigned on or before 21st January, 2010 after which date the Administratrix will proceed to distribute the assets of the Estate having regard only to the claims, demands or interests of which she shall then have had notice AND all persons indebted to the above Estate are asked to settle such debts on or before 21st January, 2010.

FREDERIK F. GOTTLIEB & CO. Attorneys for the Administratrix P.O. Box AB-20405 Bay Street, Marsh Harbour Abaco, The Bahamas

PUBLIC NOTICE INTENT TO CHANGE NAME BY DEED POLL

The Public is hereby advised that I, JEFFERY LAURENT of Nassau Village of the Southern District of the Island of New Providence one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas intend to change my name to JEFFERY LORON. If there are any objections to this change of name by Deed Poll, you may write such objections to the Chief Passport Officer, P.O. Box N-742, Nassau Bahamas no later than thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that DUOSIER WILBERT of ST. JAMES ROAD, P.O. BOX N-720, NASSAU, BAHAMAS, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 9th day of December, 2009 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

Legal Notice NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

- (a) VENEZIANA OVERSEAS LIMITED is in dissolution under the provisions of the International Business Companies Act 2000. (b) The Dissolution of said Company commenced on December 8, 2009 when its Articles of Dissolution were submitted and registered by the Registrar General. (c) The Liquidator of the said company is Zakrit Services Ltd. of 2nd Terrace West, Centreville, Nassau, Bahamas. (d) All persons having Claims against the above-named Company are required on or before the 20th day of January, 2010 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the Liquidator of the company or, in default thereof, they may be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

DECEMBER 9, 2009

ZAKRIT SERVICES LTD.

LIQUIDATOR OF THE ABOVE-NAMED COMPANY

Legal Notice NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

- (a) DUNA MANAGEMENT LIMITED is in dissolution under the provisions of the International Business Companies Act 2000. (b) The Dissolution of said Company commenced on December 8, 2009 when its Articles of Dissolution were submitted and registered by the Registrar General. (c) The Liquidator of the said company is Zakrit Services Ltd. of 2nd Terrace West, Centreville, Nassau, Bahamas. (d) All persons having Claims against the above-named Company are required on or before the 20th day of January, 2010 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the Liquidator of the company or, in default thereof, they may be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

DECEMBER 9, 2009

ZAKRIT SERVICES LTD.

LIQUIDATOR OF THE ABOVE-NAMED COMPANY

Legal Notice NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

- (a) FIRST CLASS OVERSEAS LTD. is in dissolution under the provisions of the International Business Companies Act 2000. (b) The Dissolution of said Company commenced on December 8, 2009 when its Articles of Dissolution were submitted and registered by the Registrar General. (c) The Liquidator of the said company is Zakrit Services Ltd. of 2nd Terrace West, Centreville, Nassau, Bahamas. (d) All persons having Claims against the above-named Company are required on or before the 20th day of January, 2010 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the Liquidator of the company or, in default thereof, they may be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

DECEMBER 9, 2009

ZAKRIT SERVICES LTD.

LIQUIDATOR OF THE ABOVE-NAMED COMPANY



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NOTICE

IN THE ESTATE OF GUISEPPE CAMPI domiciled and late of Podere Grillana, Trequanda (S1), Italy, and Madrid, Spain, deceased

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claim or demand against or interest in the above Estate should send same duly certified in writing to the undersigned on or before 21st January, 2010 after which date the Executrix will proceed to distribute the assets of the Estate having regard only to the claims, demands or interests of which she shall then have had notice AND all persons indebted to the above Estate are asked to settle such debts on or before 21st January, 2010.

FREDERIK F. GOTTLIEB & CO. Attorneys for the Executrix P.O. Box AB-20405 Bay Street, Marsh Harbour Abaco, The Bahamas

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TASTE

The Tribune Taste



A real taste of junkanoo

By JEFFARAH GIBSON

A multi-coloured 18-inch edible junkanoo doll is the featured treat of this year's Christmas season at the Nassau bakery Somethings Different.

Making its debut this Friday, the store's co-owner Samantha Moree told *Tribune Taste* that the junkanoo doll is already attracting the attention of a number of pastry connoisseurs.

"Already the reception has been favourable, and we have had a number of requests for the junkanoo doll," she said. Mrs Moree, who owns

Somethings Different Novelty Cookies and Cakes with her husband Ian, said they have created dolls before, but never have they made an edible doll that has cultural significance.

"It was just simply our desire to make something different, something that is Bahamian, and this was the reason behind the introduction of the 18-inch edible junkanoo doll," Mrs Moree said.

Last year, edible Christmas tree ornaments were the most popular treats at the bakery on Alexander Street in Palm-dale.

Outside of holiday specific treats, one of the bestselling items is the photo cookie.

Customers can select a photograph to be printed onto a cookie, which can then be used as a delicious party orna-

ment.

Using vegetable based ink, sugar sheets, and a special printer, the image is printed onto traditional chocolate, guava, or orange shortbread cookies. And all of the inks used are FDA approved.

Mrs Moree said that she and her husband are artists who simply prefer using dough as a canvas.

"We are artists who learned to bake, and we wanted to continue art but just with a different medium. We don't see it as just food but as a blank canvas where we can make our customers' requests come alive," she said.

And it doesn't matter if you walk into the store without anything in mind, the Morees will help inspire you and make your wish an edible reality.

"Some people are limited by their imagination and we enjoy the process of taking our customer's dream and translating it onto a cake," Mrs Moree said.

The pastries, cookies, and jam platters (the products can be intermixed to make one specialty platter) are designed to order.

Some of the existing gift package ideas, which can easily be changed to suit individual taste, are the assorted cookie trays, cookie tins, cookie jars and boxes that include a variety of goodies.

The Morees have been running their business for over five years now, and have gained a reputation for making delicious hand-decorated pastries.

The moment you step into the doors of Somethings Different Novelty Cookies and Cakes the sweet aroma of freshly baked pastries hits you, and the cozy setup is almost an exact replica of a European-style bakery.

For more information visit www.somethingsdifferent.biz.

RECIPE FOR CHRISTMAS EGGNOG POUND CAKE

(xmasrecipes.com)

Difficulty: Medium
Serves: 14

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of butter
- 1 cup of shortening
- 3 cups of all-purpose flour
- 1 cup of commercial dairy eggnog
- 1 cup of flaked coconut
- 3 cups of sugar
- 6 eggs
- 1 teaspoon of lemon extract
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon of coconut extract

Directions:

Preheat oven to 325°F. Cream butter and shortening. Gradually add sugar, beating well.

Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition.

Using a spoon, add flour to creamed mixture alternately with eggnog, beginning and ending with flour.

Stir in coconut and flavourings. Blend well. Pour batter into well-greased and floured 10-inch tube pan.

Bake at 325°F for 1 1/2 hours. Cool 10 minutes in pan. Remove.



A CAKE OF ART

HANNAH Albury couldn't have been happier with her art assignment. She and the rest of the sixth grade art class at St Andrews School were challenged to find an alternative art form to do their project on for this semester. Hannah completed her assignment with flying colours with a little assistance from Ian Moree, one of the artists at Somethings Different Novelty Cookies and Cakes. Her chosen medium? Cake.

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.



TASTE

BAHAMAS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

6th ANNUAL BAHAMAS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed actor Johnny Depp will be honoured with the Career Achievement Tribute at this year's Bahamas International Film Festival.

TOMORROW night is the anticipated official start of the 6th edition of the Bahamas International Film Festival (BIFF). And with big name Hollywood stars like Johnny Depp being honoured and critically acclaimed movies such 'Precious' being shown, this year's festival promises to be a spectacular event.

Taking place from December 10-17, the festival will showcase 68 films from 26 countries, including 38 features of which several are world or international premieres, and nearly all Bahamian premieres.

The four competition categories at BIFF are Spirit of Freedom: Narrative; Spirit of Freedom: Documentary; New Visions; and Short Film. Special sections include a Caribbean Sidebar, World Cinema showcase, Hispanic Cinema Spotlight and special screenings.

"The 6th Bahamas International Film Festival delivers a wide assortment of films from around the world that will no doubt entertain and enliven the island for the week. For anyone who shares a sincere appreciation for independent films of the highest quality, this festival will be a special experience," said Leslie Vanderpool, founder and executive director of BIFF.

Among the films screening at BIFF this year are the drama 'Skin' starring Sophie Okonedo, BIFF's Rising Star; Steven Soderbergh's 'The Girlfriend Experience'; Joshua Goldin's dark comedy 'Wonderful World' starring Matthew Broderick, and acclaimed documentaries 'Sweet Crude' and 'House of Numbers', to name just a few.

Bahamian filmmaker Kareem Mortimer's acclaimed indie drama 'Children of God' will raise the curtain at this year's festival as the official opening night film, while Lee Daniels' critically lauded drama 'Precious' starring Gabourey Sidibe, Mariah Carey, Lenny Kravitz, Mo'Nique, Sherri Shepherd and Paula Patton, will bring the week's festivities to an end as the official closing night film.

Festival patron Sir Sean Connery will again be lending his full support throughout the week. On Sunday, December 13, internationally acclaimed actor Johnny Depp will be honoured with the Career Achievement Tribute.

Then on Tuesday, December 15, Bahamian Director of Photography Gavin McKinney will be awarded the First Bahamian Tribute Award.

And on Wednesday, December 16, Academy Award nominee Sophie Okonedo ('Hotel Rwanda,' 'Skin') will be feted with the festival's special Rising Star Tribute. Festival-goers will also want to keep an eye out for rock icon Lenny Kravitz, celebrated filmmaker Lee Daniels and a host of Hollywood talent in town to celebrate cinema in paradise.

The full BIFF programme is available in print or online at www.bintfilmfest.com.

Booking for the 2009 festival is now open. Tickets can be purchased at the BIFF Office, 4th Terrace East, Collins Avenue.



SCHEDULE FOR EVENTS AND PANELS AT THE 6TH ANNUAL BAHAMAS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
(schedule is subject to change)

- Filmmaker Residency Programme
Friday, December 11; Saturday, December 12; Sunday, December 13 at the National Art Gallery at 10am.
- Opening Night Film
Friday, December 11 at the Atlantis Theatre at 7.30pm
Set against the backdrop of a nation grappling with violent homophobia, 'Children of God' by Bahamian filmmaker Kareem Mortimer 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.
- Opening Night Reception
Friday, December 11 at Atlantis at 10pm
- Youth Film Workshop
Saturday, December 12 and Sunday, December 13 at the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas at 10am
- Green Reel Contest Winner
Saturday, December 12 at Galleria Cinema, John F Kennedy Drive, at 11.30am
- Art of Collaboration
Moderated by Elliot Kotek on Saturday, December 12 at the National Performing Arts Centre at 12noon.
- Film Financing
Moderated by Elliot Kotek on Saturday, December 12 at the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas at 1.30pm.
- Filmmaking in the Caribbean
Moderated by Elliot Kotek on Saturday, December 12 at the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas at 2.30pm.
- Filmmaker Reception
Saturday, December 12 at La Hipica Hispanic Restaurant on Nelson Road, Mount Pleasant Village, next to Goodfellows Farms, starting at 7pm.
"Sammy T" and his band will be performing, among others.
- Screenwriting
Moderated by Kelly Moore on Sunday, December 13.
Learn how to craft your thoughts on paper. International professionals will speak on the basic tools necessary to mold your story into a screenplay that rises to industry standards.
Takes place at the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas at 12noon.
- Music and Film
Moderated by Elliot Kotek on Sunday, December 13 at the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas at 1.30pm.
- BIFF Awards Ceremony
Sunday, December 13 at the Balmoral Club at 5pm.
- Career Achievement Tribute to Johnny Depp
The Career Achievement Tribute honours an actor or actress whose work has had a major impact and advanced the frontiers of cinematic artistry around the world. This year it goes to internationally acclaimed actor Johnny Depp. The tribute will be awarded on Sunday, December 13 at the Balmoral Club at 6.30pm.
- Tribute to Gavin McKinney
Gavin McKinney has been involved in underwater film making since 1973 when he worked as a diver on the feature film 'Day of the Dolphin' and has spent over 20,000 hours underwater making films. He will be honoured on Tuesday, December 15 at the College of the Bahamas at 7pm.
- Rising Star Tribute
The festival's prestigious Rising Star Award is given to an actor or actress whose noteworthy performances have put them on the path for elite and lasting stardom in the industry. Sophie Okonedo, who starred in the movies 'Hotel Rwanda' and 'Skin', will be on hand for the special tribute on Wednesday, December 16 at the Balmoral Club at 7pm.
- Closing Night Film
'Precious', winner of three awards at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival, is a vibrant, honest and resoundingly hopeful film about the human capacity to grow and overcome. It will be shown on Thursday, December 17 at the Galleria Cinemas on John F Kennedy Drive at 7.30pm.
The films stars Gabourey Sidibe, Mo'Nique, Mariah Carey and Lenny Kravitz.
- Closing Night Gala
Thursday, December 17, venue to be announced.

Award-winning short film to raise awareness of war-affected children

'ANA'S Playground', the international award-winning short film to be shown at this year's Bahamas International Film Festival (BIFF) tackles the serious topic of children living in armed conflict.

The film has already won awards at four of the past six film festivals it was screened at, including most recently its "Best International Short" win at the Oscar-qualifying 2009 Foyle Film Festival in Northern Ireland.

Set in a non-specific, war-torn country, 'Ana's Playground' is an examination of children living and dying in a world of armed combat.

Told through the eyes of 11-year-old Ana, the story opens on a group of children playing soccer surrounded by the signs of war.

When their soccer ball is kicked into a sniper zone, Ana is sent in to retrieve it.

Once inside, a dangerous game of cat and mouse ensues, as Ana

becomes the sniper's target.

Connected through the power of sport, the characters all listen to the same professional soccer game which plays in the background. Viewers will be kept guessing as to how the story will reach its ultimate conclusion - will their games end up in harmony or tragedy?

"'Ana's Playground' is an allegory about the moment a child is forced to choose

between humanity and ideology," said filmmaker Eric Howell. "The film is not a political statement about a particular war or conflict, instead it directly examines the delicate nature of a child's humanity and how the world at large is connected to and responsible for preserving it."

The objective of 'Ana's Playground' is to raise awareness about how war and violence affect children by communicating with the largest audience possible.

There's also an opportunity to provide information about organisations working to improve the lives of children living in violent conditions.

"The film's conclusion will resonate with viewers leaving behind a powerful message audiences will be unable to forget," said Johann Koss, president and CEO of Right to Play.

Raven Bellefleur, the 11-year-old actress who plays Ana, leads an all-Minnesotan cast, and producers Marsha Trainer and Jillian Nodland worked hard to pull together and organise resources to shoot the film in one cold November week in the Twin Cities.

With a background that demonstrates a balance of studio films and independents, writer-director Eric Howell is on a mission to raise awareness for short films, but also the plight of war-affected children around the globe.

Early in his career, Howell devel-

oped his directing skills by working as a stuntman/coordinator on numerous feature films including North Country, Joe Somebody, Fargo and A Simple Plan as well as hundreds of TV commercials and music videos.

The filmmakers are interested in partnering with corporations, foundations and individuals who can help sponsor 'Ana's Playground' at film festivals and screening events to help audiences learn more about war-affected children and organisations helping them.

For details on the film or more information about war-affected children, child soldiers and the organisations that support them, visit: <http://www.anasplayground.com>.

The film will screen twice - once on Sunday, December 13 at 11am at Galleria JFK Cinema Theatre 2 and again on Monday, December 14 at 5.30 pm at Galleria JFK Cinema Theatre 3.

Music documentary 'Rise Up' takes us into the underground music community in Jamaica

AMONG the many offerings at this year's Bahamas International Film Festival (BIFF) is the award-winning music documentary film 'Rise Up' which showcases Jamaica's underground music community and the struggles, dreams, and aspirations of three young artists vying for their shot at success.

Directed by Argentine Luciano Blotta, the documentary was the winner of the "Best Music Documentary Award" at the AFI/Discovery Channel Silverdocs film festival.

'Rise Up' chronicles the experiences of three Jamaican musicians as they fight for a place in the overcrowded reggae field.

Inspired by the graphitised walls of Clarendon, pristine beaches of Montego Bay, and remote ghetto dancehall parties, the music documentary captures the stark poverty, inequality and violence residing among a talented and proud Jamaican people.

Over a four-year period, director Blotta followed Turbulence, a charismatic lyrical master from the ghetto; Ice, the privileged songwriter from

uptown Kingston, and Kemoy, a shy angelic songstress from the country.

Blotta captures the raw ambition of each aspiring artist with an intimate and unique camera style, giving them their first taste of fame as well as a vehicle to turn their dreams into reality.

The documentary also features veteran music insiders and aims to offer inspiration and homage through true spirits of reggae music, including legendary producers Lee "Scratch" Perry, Sly Dunbar, and Robbie Shakespeare.

With compelling footage and high commercial appeal, the film was quickly sought after by numerous broadcasters and film festivals.

Producer Darrin Holenders said that "having the film released by companies like BBC Storyville is nothing short of a major achievement for us."

Following its world premiere at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) and its North American premiere at Hot-Docs, 'RiseUp' has screened to full houses and rave reviews and has gained the attention of many indus-



TURBULENCE, a charismatic lyrical master from the Jamaican ghetto, is one of the subjects of the award-winning music documentary 'RiseUp'.

try insiders and music lovers.

While 'RiseUp' is Blotta's first feature documentary film, the director has previously worked on major Hollywood productions, operating video systems for celebrated directors such as Ron Howard, Steven Soderbergh, John Woo and Steven Spielberg.

'RiseUp' will be shown three times during the film festival: At 6pm on Friday, December 11 at Galleria Cinemas, John F Kennedy Drive; at 3.30pm on Sunday, December 13 at Galleria Cinemas, John F Kennedy Drive, and at 9pm on Monday, December 14 at the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas.

For updates and the film schedule visit www.bintfilmfest.com.