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SPORTS

Junior golf Camp

SPORTS STARTS ON PAGE 12

'Drop lawsuit or forget politics'

Police warning for public frustrated with armed robberies

By NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

A SENIOR police chief has warned the public about taking matters into their own hands out of frustration with the current spate of armed robberies.

Speaking out after the fatal shooting of an armed robber over the weekend, Assistant Commissioner of Police Hulan Hanna promised that anyone who breaks

SEE page two

Lawyer alleges FNM blocked his bid to become MP

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net



FRED SMITH

A PROMINENT lawyer elected by the FNM's local association in Pine Ridge Grand Bahama as their preferred candidate to run in the 2007 general election alleges he was told by the party's decision-makers to drop a controversial lawsuit against a foreign developer or see his political aspirations denied.

Fred Smith, QC, senior partner with law firm Callender's and Co. in Freeport, claims in an affidavit filed on December 7 that he was informed by the FNM's Candidates Committee that he would not be endorsed by them for the Pine Ridge seat — despite hav-

ing the support of the Pine Ridge Constituency Association — unless he either pulled out of rep-

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PM OUTLINES CLIMATE CHANGE THREAT TO BAHAMAS



Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham departs for Copenhagen, Denmark for the United Nations' 15th Climate Change Conference. Mr Ingraham was escorted to the flight by Deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette, Acting Commissioner Elliston Greenslade, and Permanent Secretary Anita Bernard.

By PAUL G TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
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PRIME Minister Hubert Ingraham warned yesterday that if sea levels were to rise by 1.5 feet, nearly 80 per cent of the Bahamas' land mass will be underwater. Mr Ingraham left Nassau yesterday to attend the United Nation's 15th Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

SEE page 11

Govt aims to enforce emission standards throughout nation

By PAUL G TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
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THE Government of the Bahamas is expecting to pass new legislation next year to create emission standards that will be enforced throughout the country, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said yesterday.

Speaking before his departure for Copenhagen, Denmark, for the United Nation's 15th Climate Change Conference, Mr Ingraham said this new legislation will also deal with other standards, including the age of vehicles that can be imported and the disposal of large household items such as fridges

SEE page 10

Teen found dead in cell 'said he would commit suicide'

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
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RECALLING the final moments of 15-year-old Michael Knowles' life, a witness told a Coroner's Court yesterday how the youngster said he was going to commit suicide.

Desirae Chisholm struggled to maintain her composure as she tearfully recalled the final moments of the teenager's life.

Michael was found hanging in a holding cell at the East Street South Police Station on May 31. According to previous testimony, he had been arrested on suspicion of committing house-breaking.

Ms Chisholm told the hearing that earlier that

SEE page six

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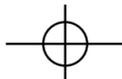
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LOCAL NEWS

Armed robbers storm liquor store

Men make off with cash in daylight raid

A GROUP of armed men stormed a liquor store in broad daylight yesterday and escaped with an undetermined amount of cash, police reported.

The brazen robbery occurred at around 1pm when three men, all armed with handguns, reportedly burst into Janet Kemp Liquor Store on Robinson Road and demanded money.

According to Press Liaison Officer Sergeant Chrislyn Skippings, an employee of the store told police the men took a black bag containing an undetermined amount of cash.

The bandits then escaped in a

dark coloured Nissan Camry, licence plate number 108552, Sgt Skippings said. The incident is the latest in a string of armed robberies of businesses.

According to statistics, up to November 24, armed robberies and

robberies have jumped by 17 and 25 per cent respectively, compared to the same period in 2008.

Considering the bold nature of yesterday's robbery, Sgt Skippings warned business owners to be on the lookout for suspicious activity

near their companies, no matter the time. "Once the opportunity presents itself people will definitely try to take advantage of the situation and that's why we try to ask business persons to be vigilant and pay attention to their environment. If you notice someone passing up and down the store it's time to get in touch with your neighbourhood police," she said.

POLICE CONTINUE TO PROBE WOULD-BE ARMED ROBBER'S DEATH

by NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
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POLICE are still investigating an incident on the weekend in which a licensed firearm owner shot and killed a would-be armed robber but have not ruled it a criminal matter.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Hulan Hanna confirmed this yesterday afternoon, adding that such shootings are rare.

"While there are numerous incidences where citizens are involved in stopping crime, where they abort a robbery or detain individuals until the police arrive, in my most recent memory, the incidences are few and far between where the incident ends with a fatal result," said Mr Hanna, who added that he has not noticed any changes in the number of firearm applications.

Police reported that around 7pm on Saturday a male employee of Island Wide Produce and Meat Mart, a popular store on East Street South, used his licensed shotgun to abort a robbery. One of the armed men



THE SCENE on Saturday after the would-be armed robber was shot dead,

involved in the robbery was pronounced dead on the scene. At his side, police found a .38 revolver with six live rounds of ammunition and a full money till. Officers are still searching for the second suspect.

"In cases like this, the procedure is to collect the evidence and forward the case file to the Coroner's Office. They will

marshal the evidence or convene a Coroner's Court to determine the justification for the homicide," Mr Hanna said.

While the constitution allows for people to defend themselves, Mr Hanna said the actions of licensed firearm holders must be measured against what the law says, and there should not be an "open-sea-

son," where anything is allowed.

"The police will never advocate people to resist robbery attempts. Once you take that step there are many implications that may be far-reaching. Whatever a person decides to do, their actions will be scrutinised by the court," said Mr Hanna.

FROM page one

Police warning for the public

the law will be prosecuted. But other than stating his warning, he was cautious about specifically defining vigilantism, saying people would seek to use his definition as an interpretation of the law.

"The police have no authority to define vigilantism. The laws of the Bahamas determine what is considered vigilantism. What I can say is that when someone believes a crime has been committed against them, they are obligated to report the matter to the police. Anyone who breaks the law is subject to prosecution under the law," he said.

Business owners are not perturbed by the cautioning against vigilantism. They understand the concern, but they feel it should not be confused with the actions of business owners to defend themselves. Some business owners believe the question of whether or not to be armed is becoming easier to answer, because they say business owners are a target and seriously disadvantaged when they are unarmed.

"I feel businesses should be armed because the criminals are armed. The criminals have illegal weapons whether we like it or not. When you are armed it is a deterrent for the criminals because they know their lives are also in danger, and no one wants to die, not even the criminals," said Atwell Ferguson, manager and part owner of Fergie's Meat Mart, located in South Beach.

"The criminals know we are armed, but periodically they take chances for whatever reason. I guess they feel you are relaxed when they see you haven't been robbed in a

little while, so they take a chance," he said.

Fergie's Meat Mart is one in a group of companies owned by the Ferguson family. Island Wide Produce and Meat Mart, which was the scene of the fatal shooting over the weekend, is owned by Atwell's brother Preston Ferguson. Police reported that two armed robbers entered the popular store in East Street south demanding money from the cashiers and threatening their lives. One of the two suspects in the robbery was shot by a licensed firearm holder. He died on the scene as a result.

Wesley Willie, owner and manager of Quality Convenience Store, said: "I don't support the idea of vigilantism, but at some point we have to ask, 'how much more are people going to take?' As a business owner, my duty is not just to collect money from my customers. When they walk through my four walls they should feel safe and it is incumbent upon me to defend their lives. At any given time I have three to five staff members, and I should have their interest at heart as far as safety is concerned.

"I guarantee you it is inevitable (that people will rise up) if something is not done about the crime in this country. Talk to 10 people about the shooting (at Island Wide Produce and Meat Mart) about whether they feel any remorse or sympathy for the robber who was killed. I bet you 10 out of 10 people would support the store owner in his actions. That shows you the mood of the people," said Mr Willie, who served as a police officer for 10 years before his venture into entrepreneurship.

While armed robbery is not as frequent for some proprietors as petty theft or break-ins, it is a constant security threat. In the past 10 years, Willie said he has experienced one armed robbery and about four break-ins. He said robbery was a crime of opportunity, and owners are responsible for minimising opportunities as best they can. He also believes people should be armed even in their homes.

Mr Ferguson agreed that proprietors have to be ready at all times, because it is impossible to predict when criminals will act. About three years ago, Fergie's was robbed by an armed assailant. That incident ended in a shooting, although not fatal. The assailant was captured and convicted several months ago.



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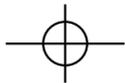
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LOCAL NEWS

Bishop Hall: Illegal immigrants 'becoming factor' in crime issue

By AVA TURNQUEST

CONCERNED about rising crime and what he feels may be one of its major sources, former National Crime Advisory Panel chairman Bishop Simeon Hall is urging the authorities to be more forthcoming about the "massive challenge of illegal immigrants in our country".



BISHOP SIMEON HALL

"It would be wrong to blame the Bahamas' crime problems on foreign persons," said Bishop Hall in a statement issued yesterday, "but it is clear and blatantly obvious that the involvement of these persons in crime is fast becoming a major factor." The former Christian Council president and long-time social activist noted that the most recent National Crime Advisory

Panel was unable to address the involvement of foreign nationals in crime due to a lack of relevant statistical data.

However, if the numbers were ever compiled and published, Bishop Hall said he is sure they would reflect that foreigners are responsible for a significant percentage of the crimes being committed today.

Of particular concern, according to Bishop Hall, is the case of those born in the Bahamas of Haitian parentage, who due to the laws of these two countries, are effectively "stateless".

The Bahamas does not automatically confer nationality to those born within its borders, relying instead on the nationality of the father, while Haiti does not

automatically recognise those born outside its borders as Haitian.

Haitian-Bahamians born here do have the right to apply for citizenship, but the process is often slow and some have had no response from the government for years.

Bishop Hall said such persons are not legally – and therefore not socially or psychologically – attached to any community. "A stateless person is the most difficult person to be socialised and amalgamated into the fabric of the Bahamas," he said.

According to the bishop, those who are not accepted by any nationality are essentially "trapped" and without legal protection of any kind.

"I believe it is our moral duty to regularise any person who has a legitimate claim to status, and those without should be sent back home."

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Senator: crime could threaten financial sector

By TANEKA THOMPSON
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ALLYSON MAYNARD-GIBSON

THE crime crisis gripping the country could damage the Bahamas' reputation overseas and threaten the financial services sector, Senator Allyson Maynard-Gibson said.

In light of the record-breaking 80 homicides for the year so far, and the recent armed robbery of 18 cruise ship passengers who were on an onshore tour, Mrs Maynard-Gibson stressed that prospective investors may soon become weary of the Bahamas.

In an effort to help stem rising crime, Ms Maynard-Gibson proposed that anyone who shoots or threatens an officer of the law or is accused of committing murder while on bail for another offence, should be tried before the courts immediately.

She also stressed that the introduction of electronic monitoring for persons on bail charged with violent crimes needs to be fast-tracked and accused the government of dragging its feet.

She added that a website listing all persons released on bail should be created so the public can be aware of possible "menaces" to society.

"The most significant deterrent to those evaluating the Bahamas will be crime," the former attorney general said while contributing to the debate on a pair of arbitration bills which were later passed in the Upper Chamber yesterday (see page 8).

"We are headed to almost 100 murders for the year, that

is almost two murders per week. People are being attacked in their cars, in their homes, their cars are being attacked while they are on the streets and while they are at stop signs.

"Property owners, as we would have seen in the papers recently, have resorted to vigilante justice and people coming on cruise ships are being warned by cruise directors not to stray far from the port when they come to Nassau.

"By any yardstick we are in crisis. This is a national problem, a problem that does not have a political complexion. We all need to participate in the process and demonstrate enough is enough."

She continued: "The entire judicial process is conducted in public – the charge is in public, the granting of bail is in public and it should be easy for citizens to access a website to find out who is on bail. We know that victims of rape for example, when they are at the food-store they are encountering the person who raped them. We know that policemen are being approached ... by the people they arrested. This is

shocking situation that we are in and it's a situation that does not promote an international arbitration centre."

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Eleuthera man charged with murder appears in court

A 32-YEAR-OLD Eleuthera man charged with the murder of a 22-year-old man who died last week after being stabbed in the neck was arraigned in Magistrate's court yesterday.

Simon Mark Mackey of Water Ford, Eleuthera, appeared before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez in Court 1, Bank Lane, charged with the murder of Noel Pratt.

Pratt was reportedly stabbed in the neck with a sharp object at around 8am last Friday during a violent altercation with another man at the exclusive Cape Eleuthera Resort and Marina.

The victim was rushed to the Rock Sound clinic where he died of his injuries.

Pratt was the country's 79th homicide victim for the year.

Mackey, who was not represented by a lawyer, was not required to enter a plea to the charge. He was remanded to Her Majesty's Prison.

A preliminary inquiry will be held to determine whether there is sufficient evidence against him to have him stand trial in the Supreme Court.

The inquiry is set to commence on January 28, 2010 in Eleuthera.

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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master

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A year on, Iran, North Korea threats worsen

VIENNA — Another year has passed in the world's standoff with Iran and North Korea over nuclear weapons, and the situation has only got worse.

Both countries have pressed ahead with their programmes, while the U.N. has stuck to sanctions that seem to have little if any effect, and a slew of other countries are now seen as candidates for the nuclear club.

"The world is worse off than a year ago," says Gao Shangtao, a professor of international relations at China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing, when asked about Iran and North Korea's defiance.

"They will not give up."

Tensions were already high a year ago. Back then, as the Obama administration was preparing to take office, it heard a chilling assessment from William Perry, President Bill Clinton's defence secretary when the North Korea crisis first blew up in the early 1990s.

"If North Korea and Iran cannot be contained, we face the real danger of a cascade of proliferation of nuclear-armed states," he told a conference on the challenges facing the incoming White House team. "Indeed, I believe that today we are clearly at the tipping point of nuclear proliferation."

Under Barack Obama, Washington has sought to talk directly with both Tehran and Pyongyang — tactics shunned by the Bush administration. The U.N. Security Council has approved a second package of sanctions in response to the North's nuclear defiance and could agree on a fourth set for Iran within months. But both countries seem impervious. A year ago, North Korea's negotiations with the U.S., Russia, China, South Korea and Japan were stalled — but the North had at least mothballed its nuclear weapons programme and was still discussing dismantling it.

Since then, it has expelled International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors, restarted its atomic facilities, test-fired ballistic missiles, quit the six-party talks and conducted its second nuclear test.

U.S. envoy Stephen Bosworth was in North Korea this week, trying to salvage the talks. He reported no commitments, just "a common understanding" that talks should resume.

Iran, meanwhile, has moved closer to being able to develop nuclear weapons, even while insisting that its atomic programme is meant solely to generate energy.

Its thousands of centrifuges have produced enough enriched uranium to produce two nuclear weapons, compared with one a year ago — even though Tehran maintains the stockpile will only be used for nuclear fuel and not for weapons-grade material.

Iran only belatedly revealed that it is building a second enrichment site and stonewalled an IAEA probe of allegations that it had experimented with making nuclear weapons.

Tehran has threatened to expand its enrichment programme tenfold, even while

rejecting an IAEA-brokered plan to supply fuel for its research reactor if Iran exports most of its enriched stockpile.

On Saturday, Iran's foreign minister said his country was ready for a swap of enriched uranium for nuclear fuel — the key demand of a U.N.-sponsored initiative to defuse global fears over its nuclear programme.

In what is almost certain to be a deal breaker, however, Manouchehr Mottaki spoke of exchanging the material in phases rather than all at once as is called for in the U.N. plan. Such a staggered swap would leave Iran in control of enough uranium to make a bomb. The U.S. administration has signalled willingness to hold off on further sanctions and wait out the year for Iran to signal readiness to negotiate. Russia has indicated it may support extra sanctions, despite its strategic and economic interests in Iran. China, which previously opposed new sanctions, usually follows the Kremlin's lead on Iran. In June, after the second North Korean nuclear test, the U.N. strengthened its arms embargo and authorised searches of North Korean ships on the high seas. But Pyongyang shows no sign of buckling.

The Obama administration has not moved away from the Bush administration's position that every option remains on the table to prevent Iran from going nuclear. But such threats come primarily from Israel, which has the Mideast's most formidable military arsenal, including submarines capable of carrying nuclear-tipped missiles.

The fear of a nuclear-armed Iran and North Korea propelling regional arms races is also growing. Japan's advanced civilian nuclear programme can easily be retrofitted to produce weapons, should it lose faith in the U.S. nuclear umbrella. South Korea could follow suit.

"Already, North Korea's nuclear advances have triggered reflections in Seoul, Tokyo, and other regional capitals about options that were previously considered taboo," writes nonproliferation expert Graham Alison, director of the Belfer Centre for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University.

"Japan has a ready stockpile of nearly 2,000 kilograms (over 4,000 pounds) of highly enriched uranium and a well-developed missile programme. ... It could adopt a serious nuclear weapons posture virtually overnight," he writes in the January-February issue of Foreign Affairs. Iran's neighbours to the west also are unlikely to tolerate the Islamic republic going nuclear.

"Saudi Arabia, for example, has insisted that it will not accept a future in which Iran ... has nuclear weapons and it does not," writes Alison. "Egypt and Turkey could also follow in Iran's nuclear footsteps."

(This article was written by George Jahn, Associated Press Writer).

An open letter to the Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I respectfully request you to print the following open letter to The Prime Minister of The Bahamas.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister: It seems more and more apparent as each day goes by and crime escalates, our tourism market affected dramatically, Bahamians black and white, PLP and FNM are terrified to venture out, the international community are in a writing frenzy about our crime, international property owners here are buzzing with disappointment, and you, our Prime Minister, appear to be sitting, watching and speechless; quietness is deafening us and I feel, and I think your party supporters feel helpless, lost disgusted, fed-up, had enough.

Tommy T has got to go, sick and tired of his mouth talk, no action. Whatever agreement you and the hierarchy made, whatever you promised, whatever is holding you back, you better let it go and deliver us from the crime stricken era. Because your party members, your supporters have had enough. I am afraid you are going

LETTERS

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to wait for the public at large to start taking matters into their own hands. Private, small businesses have had it, the economy was bad enough, but watching our Prime Minister do absolutely nothing is pitiful, disheartening, discouraging. I do not mean to be disrespectful, Mr. Prime Minister, but Bahamians have had enough. Crime is everybody's problem and everybody needs to help fix it but the government needs to fix the Judicial, the Judiciary system, the Attorney General's office, Police. The prison, corporal punishment needs to be addressed now not later.

If you cannot handle it, sir, you need to step aside. I am a long time FNM and I have had it with crime and the discussion surrounding Tommy T.

If Big Bad Brad was smart he would ride this crime thing right straight through. Crime has everybody ticked off. Big Bad Brad, I am FNM, a white

Bahamian, start a campaign to get a serious "non-political" parade to march to the Prime Minister's house to ask for action. You start it and I will be the first person to call and say "I will be there."

To "My Prime Minister" we as Bahamians have had enough, had enough of Tommy T. If you can't handle him, we will fix it for you next election. Tired of talk, Police do a good job, lousy leadership, I think police need a temporary fix with an extra 1,000 officers from perhaps USA.

By the way, you are hard pressed to find a policeman, I wouldn't speak of a police car, not to mention a bike cop. Where are they? Seriously, you drive around tourist spots, Fort Charlotte, Fort Fincastle, Perfall Tract, Bay Street, don't even try 6 a.m. in the mornings when some tourists are jogging Paradise Bridge, downtown, West Bay Street. It would be nice to see a cop every two or three miles.

A FED-UP GOVERNMENT SUPPORTER,
Nassau,
December 8, 2009.

Was the repaving of Shirley Street really a new wonder of the world?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Possibly being it is the Season, Madam Editor is celebrating early, but your Editorial on the re-paving of Shirley Street, as if it was a new wonder of the world draws a lot of laughter.

I have driven up Shirley Street since the "magical surface" was laid and I suggest in any reasonable jurisdiction where there would be a Quality Control Engineer, the finished surface would not pass and time will tell whether the scouring/milling of the old surface will have cracked the water mains and very soon we will see water leaks.

I have not seen whether, like the repaving of West Bay to Lynden Pindling Airport, we now have a special feature of ponding to the side of the road and absolutely nothing has been done

to remediate this which in some cases ponds over half of the road and is exceptionally dangerous driving at night.

Was the resurfacing of Shirley Street such an important national event to merit a full Editorial?

Not unless you really have lost the perspective of logical thinking and all norms.

If you have not driven up Shirley Street and experienced the bumps and dishevel then I invite you...Ministry of Public Works should require remediation before paying them and only then possibly the paving deserves the Editorial you wrote.

J. MOORE,
Nassau,
December 8, 2009.

Christmas – an extraordinary and transcendental season

EDITOR, The Tribune.

A short time ago we began the Advent season that leads to Christmas. Christmas is a season of universal festivity. Even non-believers perceive something extraordinary and transcendental about the Christmas season.

However, under the drive of a hedonist consumerism, Christmas runs the risk of losing its spiritual meaning, reduced to a mere commercial

occasion to buy and exchange gifts. The world's current economic difficulties might serve as a stimulus for rediscovering the warmth of the simplicity, friendship, and solidarity that are the typical values of Christmas.

As we turn our eyes toward the infant Jesus in the manger, all peoples should be grateful for that gift of love and be ready to welcome it everywhere, and that welcome should take the form of caring for those in need. Indeed, the almighty God reveals Himself to us as a poor infant in order to conquer our pride. In the Baby Jesus we see the defenselessness of God's love: God comes to us unarmed, because he does not intend to conquer externally, but rather to win us over and transform us internally — to lead us to our true

elves. The cave stall, where the Baby lay, was not inhabited by refined persons.

Are we very far from that stall precisely because we are too refined and intelligent? Don't we perhaps live too much closed in on ourselves, in our self-sufficiency, our fear of persecution, such that we are no longer able to perceive in the night the voices of angels so that we may join them in adoring Him?

When we place the figurines in our Christmas crèche, we should pray to God to grant to our hearts that simplicity that recognizes the Lord in the Baby.

PAUL KOKOSKI
Hamilton,
Ontario, Canada,
December 11, 2009

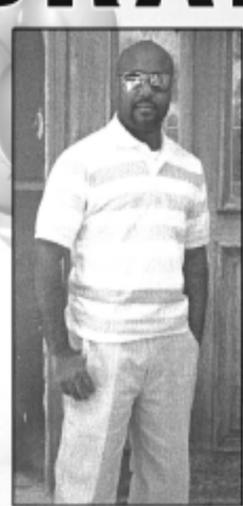
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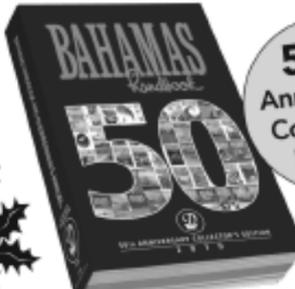
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LOCAL NEWS

'Miracle water' story gets the big screen treatment



ADEL LOCKHART

Tentative date is set for funeral of local lawyer's son

THE funeral of Adel Lockhart, 21, who died on Friday after he apparently fell from a balcony in Florida, has tentatively been set for next Sunday, December 20.

The family of Adel, son of local lawyer Elliot Lockhart, issued a statement yesterday advising of the funeral date and noting that the matter is still under investigation.

"By the account of the Lockhart and Heastie family's representatives and investigators, Adel's death was caused by trauma, resulting from a fall, the means of which has yet to be established or otherwise determined and remains under investigation by law enforcement authorities," the statement read.

It did not say where the funeral would take place, but did note that interment would follow at Woodlawn Gardens.

Adel was studying as a second year student at Barry University in Miami, Florida, after having studied two years at the College of the Bahamas.

He is survived by his parents, four sisters and a brother. The statement said Adel's family and representatives will make further information available regarding his death as they uncover it.

Meanwhile Barry University issued a statement yesterday stating that contrary to initial reports, the balcony which Adel appears to have fallen from was not on campus property.

"Our student, Adel Lockhart, lost his life at an off-campus apartment complex in Aventura, Florida," a spokesperson said.

He went on to note that the Barry University community "indeed, is feeling his loss."

FOUR years ago a popular pastor ignited a firestorm of controversy when he began peddling "miracle water" that his supporters claimed could cure terminal illnesses, heal the blind and reverse paralysis.

The story grabbed national headlines, stirred a local religious debate back in 2005 and forced many to question whether Bishop Lawrence Rolle was simply "doing the Lord's work" or misleading impressionable parishioners.

The issue is the subject of a new documentary, *The Bishop, The Scientist & The Miracle Water*, being screened tonight at the Bahamas International Film Festival.

Expatriate filmmakers David Lee and Simon Frank — who were both holding down teaching jobs at a local high school at the time — spent three sweaty weeks during the summer of 2005 with the bishop, attempting to understand what drew the hordes of miracle seekers who poured into "the singing prophet's" church.

Blessed

They filmed Bishop Rolle as he blessed the water — which was sold in 12 fl oz and five gallon bottles for \$1 and \$5 respectively — and later took the liquid to independent scientist Alfred Thompson, who tested the water's properties.

The film itself questions the substance of miracles along with the powers of faith and unwavering belief.

"There's so much talk of miracles that the word becomes commonplace — what is a miracle? Can it be proven? Is it enough to believe in it for it to be real?"



A SCENE FROM *The Bishop, The Scientist & The Miracle Water* which is showing at the Bahamas International Film Festival.

(I think) that the word is relative and probably used too lightly but we all, even scientists cannot help but want to believe. We are all human after all," director David Lee told *The Tribune* when asked about the motivation for the film.

The two UK natives said they approached the subject without prejudice and allowed Bishop Rolle, his followers and the scientist to weave their own stories about the unbelievable tale. They said they were welcomed with open arms into the Voice of Deliverance church as they quietly observed the frenzy; after news broke of Mr Rolle's blessed water hundreds of persons reportedly swarmed Bishop Rolle's services where they shelled out cash for the "holy" water.

"The movie is as much about the journey as it is about the result, so we went with no preconceived ideas," said Mr Frank, adding that

the documentary is a gritty look at a part of paradise left unseen in tourist ads.

Whether or not Bishop Rolle's "miracle water" had any healing properties — real or imagined — is left up to the audience to decide.

"We came away believing in his ability to make people believe," said Mr Lee.

Bishop Rolle has previously said that he made no profit from the water sales, adding that the \$50,000 generated in sales was all donated to the poor.

The Bishop, The Scientist & The Miracle Water plays tonight at 7 pm at Galleria Cinemas JFK.

• SEE PAGE SEVEN

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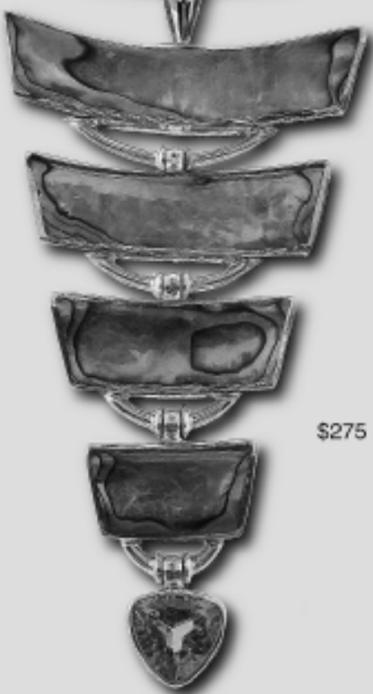
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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

'Drop lawsuit or forget politics'

resenting litigants against the Baker's Bay resort development in Guana Cay, Abaco or convinced them to drop their case. The attorney alleges that financial concerns trumped democracy in the selection of who would run under the FNM banner in the Grand Bahama constituency in 2007, with the committee expressing concern that his continued representation in the Guana Cay

case would turn off "powerful financial backers" of the FNM. Another Grand Bahama attorney, Kwasi Thompson, was officially nominated for the Pine Ridge seat, which he went on to win for the party. Mr Smith represented the Save Guana Cay Reef Association in a four-year-long legal battle waged against the \$500 million Baker's Bay development — a bid that

was recently rejected by the Privy Council. The Association, which included Bahamians and non-Bahamian residents of Abaco, are against the development on the grounds that locals were not adequately consulted before central government gave approval to the developers of the project, which they considered unsustainable and a threat to the local environment.

The affidavit was filed in connection with the argument over who should pay the legal costs in the unsuccessful appeal to the Privy Council launched by Mr Smith on behalf of the SGCRA seeking to have the initial ruling that gave the development the go-ahead in the face of the SGCRA's concerns overturned. In the affidavit he stated: "My political aspirations and the wishes of the voters in the Pine Ridge Constituency Association were dashed as a result of this case."

"I was elected by the members of the (Pine Ridge Constituency) Association, prior to the last general election in 2007, to be the FNM candidate for the Pine Ridge Constituency."

"The next stage was for the FNM party candidates' committee to nominate me as the FNM party candidate for the election."

"Despite overwhelming local support I was told at one of the meetings with the committee members that unless I dropped the Guana Cay case, or unless I persuaded my clients to drop the case, I would not be chosen by the committee as the candidate for the next general election."

Mr Smith said that among the reasons give were that the candidates committee believed his "association with the case would deter powerful financial backers (who were involved in real estate, construction, etc) which the FNM party needed support from because this case was considered anti-business and development."

Meanwhile, a further concern noted was that "the country needed foreign investment and the case was seen as being against foreign investment," although Mr Smith goes on to add that his clients "were all fully for foreign investment, but at a steady, proportionate and non environmentally destructive pace in Guana Cay."

"Another issue which they considered militated against choos-



KWASI THOMPSON, was officially nominated for the Pine Ridge seat, which he went on to win for the party.

ing me was that I would be labelled as 'Haitian'," added the attorney, whose family — father a Bahamian and mother of Lebanese descent — spent many years in Haiti. The father, from an old Bahamian family, established a business in Haiti and lived there for many years before returning home to his Bahamian roots.

Mr Smith said it was suggested by the committee that if he withdrew as the Association's elected potential candidate and settled the Guana Cay case to make room for another person to be chosen instead, he could "consider an offer to be appointed" as an FNM senator.

"I declined to abandon my clients. Consequently I was not selected to be the FNM party's 'Torch Bearer' in the elections," said Mr Smith.

Teen found dead in cell FROM page one

day; she had been picked up by police over a domestic dispute. She testified that after being processed at the East Street South Police Station, she was placed in the second of two holding cells.

She told the court she saw a young boy who she believed was between 15 and 17 years old inside the first cell. According to Ms Chisholm, a mother of two, the boy appeared to be in good spirits at the time and was singing to himself.

The witness recalled that at some point that afternoon, police came and took him out of the cell. She said that 30 minutes later, the boy returned to his cell crying and screaming very loud.

Ms Chisholm further stated that the boy called out to her and asked her to give his mother a message. She said he told her he was going to hang himself and that his name was Michael. Struggling to keep her composure at this point, Chisholm was asked to take a seat in the witness box as Mr Knowles' mother Donna Knowles looked on tearfully.

"I heard a struggle in the cell. I called out to Michael saying 'Michael! Michael!' I heard loud breathing and gasping," Ms Chisholm said.

She further testified that after getting no response from Michael, she banged the bars of her cell and nearby door in an effort to get the attention of police at the station. She told the court that some 25 minutes later, Corporal Leon Strachan who was the station orderly at the time, visited the cell block. She told the court that Cpl Strachan alerted another officer of the incident and she was subsequently taken out of her cell.

She said she left the police station after EMS personnel arrived. During questioning by attorney Keod Smith who represents Knowles' family, Chisholm described Michael's screams as passionate and recalled the boy saying he could not take it anymore.

Detective Constable Jamal Hamilton, a crime scene technician, also took the witness stand yesterday. He told the court that around 9.45pm on May 31, he and woman detective Corporal Devia Johnson visited the East Street South Police Station where they were directed to the station's cell block which was north of the charge room.

Constable Hamilton said he observed a young male clad in a black T-shirt, red and blue trousers, suspended from a blue cord which was tied to a horizontal bar in the first cell. Constable Hamilton said that he photographed the scene while Corporal Johnson collected the evidence. Constable Hamilton further testified that the photos he took were compiled into photo albums which were submitted into evidence. The jury was also shown the photos of the scene.

Detective Corporal Devia Johnson told the court that the horizontal bar which the string found around Michael's neck was suspended from, was approximately seven and a half feet from the floor. Michael was reportedly five feet five inches tall. Corporal Johnson told the court that she collected a pair of slippers, two white T-shirts and two brown blankets from the cell.

Attorney Smith questioned why she had not collected the clothes that Michael was wearing at the time he was found dead. Corporal Johnson said that another crime scene officer collected those items at the morgue. Mr Smith requested that two bottles which were in the cell, as well as their contents be examined. Corporal Johnson said that she was told that the two bottles had belonged to someone else. Coroner Campbell ordered that the items be examined.

The inquest into his death continues before Coroner William Campbell and a seven-member jury yesterday.

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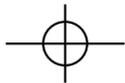
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LOCAL NEWS

Govt plans centre for film, music and the arts

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

FILM, music and the arts will be supported and encouraged at a new cultural resource centre envisioned for an abandoned building in western New Providence, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Charles Maynard said yesterday.

The Morrow Castle in Deans Lane, off West Bay Street, is being examined by architects from the Antiquities, Monuments & Museums department with the hope it can be restored and transformed into a cultural centre for the community.

And the newly appointed minister expects to learn within a matter of weeks whether the derelict building, near Fort Charlotte, will be fit to support the government's vision for a film and music centre providing research material and equipment to develop the arts.

He hopes the new cultural arts centre will be established at the historic building and opened by the end of the FNM government's term in 2012.

His announcement came one day after esteemed actor and patron of the Bahamas International Film Festival (BIFF) Sir Sean Connery called on the government and the private sector to do more to support the festival and cultural industries throughout the year.

Sir Sean, a resident of Lyford Cay, said: "I think

what it needs is the government and the business side to take a building that's pretty run down, abandoned, in Shirley Street or somewhere, and get these guys and girls who are in town and make it their place, build it up, clean it up, and make it a meeting place.

"It wouldn't need to be anything super-elite, but it would be theirs and you could build from there."

Archive

Sir Sean suggested building up an archive of Bahamian film and providing equipment to help young people develop filmmaking and acting skills before presenting the BIFF Career Achievement Award to actor Johnny Depp at the Balmoral on Sunday night.

And it seems Mr Maynard somewhat shares his vision.

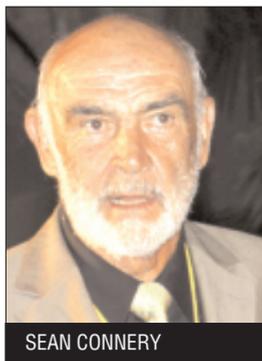
He said: "We want to do a cultural resource centre with files of Bahamian music and film, the whole nine yards; a station where if you are doing a project you will be able to research what you need to, and go to be creative and to learn."

However, a resource centre exclusively for BIFF would have to be spearheaded by the organisation before government chooses to lend support, Mr Maynard said.

He added: "If they identify a building we would try to assist them any way we can. It's an excellent event and they have shown that consistently over the years."



CHARLES MAYNARD



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Funeral Service for

Eckland Anderson Dean, 61



of Roses, Long Island, The Bahamas will be held at St. Michael Anglican Church, Roses, Long Island, on Thursday December 17th, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Officiating will be Rev'd Fr. Ernest Pratt & Rev'd Paulette Cartwright and interment will follow in the Church Cemetery, Roses, Long Island.

He is survived by, **four brothers**, Roger (Vivian), Leslie, Colin, Edward Dean; **five Sisters**, Jacqueline Burrows, Joyce Riviere, Valderene Major, Eurydice Dean-Wallace and Sandy Dean-Kincaid; **nieces & nephews**, Kenyetta, Morelle and Leslie Dean, Varian, Melonie and Ricardo Dean, Brian, Eureka and Baruch Burrows, Tarah Curry, Italia Robinson and Krista Major, Lavardo Dean, Kenneth Wallace, Eurydice Rolle, Vernard, Greer and Dionne Coleby, Chet Kincaid, Starniecia, CoShanna, Coshanker, Alyssa and Colinia Dean; **brothers-in-laws**, Euric Burrows, George Riviere, Holland (Hollie) Major & Robert Kincaid; **sisters-in-laws**, Julie Dean, Antoniette Dean and Theola Dean; **five uncles**, Lincoln Major, Joshua, Harry, Roy and Freeman Dean; **nine aunts**, Lorinda Smith, Jessie Darville, Helen, Monicha, Vivian and Clara Dean, Frankie (Tampa, Fl.), Feleice Major (Orlando, Fl.); **numerous cousins including**, Elkanah & Elgin Major, Rev. Paulette Cartwright, Ceolah Turnquest, Juliana Bullard, Carmelita Treco, Toinette Major, Kevin, Ashwood, Lester, Kennon Darville, Gail & Wanda Darville, Wendy Smith, Junior Darville, Quincy Fisher, Kay Darville, DebbieAnn Darville, Candice Williams, Nicholas & Narissa Dean, Dorothy Smith & Hazel Dean; other family and friends including, George Heastie, the community of Roses, Long Island, friends and colleagues throughout New Providence, members and parishiners of St Matthews Church, Nassau Bahamas, Archdeacon James Palacios and Rev. Angela Palacios, The Deans, Majors, Darvilles, Pratt, Cartwright and Carroll families.

Viewing will held at the church from 5:00p.m Wednesday until service time on Thursday.

Arrangements by Mt. Olive Funeral Chapel, Long Island.

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LOCAL NEWS

AG: new legislation will modernise system dealing with civil disputes

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

attract international business. " (This legislation) provides a robust, comprehensive and modern regime for arbitration in the Bahamas," Mr Delaney told the Senate.

Arbitration is the use of an impartial third party to fairly resolve disputes arising out of contracts between individuals or parties. It is often preferred as an alternative to the courts as it generally involves less delay and expense.

The Bills deal with, among other things, establishing the fundamentals of a proper arbitration agreement; the constitution and jurisdiction of an arbitral tribunal and the extent of court intervention.

Mr Delaney explained that the legislation allows for arbitration matters to remain strictly confidential – in contrast with matters which are heard before the courts. He said is an attractive feature for international businesses considering places to invest.

The attorney general assured the Senate that feedback from the relevant stakeholders was considered during the crafting of the legislation, adding that additional suggestions may be taken into account before the laws are brought into force.

Senator Anthony Musgrove, who seconded the legislation, said the Bills come at a time when the Bahamas' economy

is pegged to become even more integrated with the global community.

He said the passing of the two Bills will solidify the Bahamas' position in terms of global trade and commerce.

During her contribution to the debate, Opposition Senator Allyson Maynard-Gibson said although the arbitration Bills have a few "defects" the legislation is a step in the right direction.

She questioned if the legislation has all the necessary components and asked how it compares to similar laws in other jurisdictions.

Mrs Maynard-Gibson added that establishing an interna-

tional arbitration centre in the Bahamas would create a large number of sustainable jobs for secretaries, court reporters, translators and lawyers, along with indirect jobs in the tourism and hotel sector.

The Senate also passed the United States of America and the Bahamas Pre-clearance Agreement Act. The law allows persons travelling from the Bahamas on private planes to undergo US pre-clearance in the Bahamas.

Five resolutions relating to the transfer of land to a number of Bahamian families and to the National Insurance Board were also passed in yesterday's session.



JOHN DELANEY

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LOCAL NEWS



CRUISE SHIP passengers on all boats docking at Prince George Wharf will be invited to see the show.

Native show targets locals and tourists

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

A NATIVE show exploring the history of Bahamian music and culture will be launched at Da Tambrin Tree to attract tourists and locals alike.

Cruise ship passengers on all boats docking at Prince George Wharf will be invited to see the show on three days and evenings a week from January.

in the arts.

A \$6,000 grant has been provided by the Ministry of Culture to cover pre-production costs and the Ministry of Tourism has shown its support for the show by promoting it to visiting cruise ships.

Mr Maynard said: "We hope this will be able to sustain itself and others in the community can follow so we can have a number of these types of initiatives in our country."

Da Tambrin Tree owners Fred Ferguson and Ronald Simms said they wanted to provide classic Bahamian entertainment to tourists and open their eyes to Bahamian culture.

Choreographer Lekeisha Bostwick, who has experience working with the National Dance School and National Youth Choir, said the show will take spectators on a journey through Bahamian music from the early 1950s to the popular music of today.

And the show, directed by

Philip Burrows, producer and director of Shakespeare in Paradise, will also include limbo and fire dances.

Newly appointed director of tourism Linda Moxey-Brown said: "This is a Bahamian thing and that means all of us must be in this together."

"Culture is our backbone, without it we are nothing, and we want to show the world that we have something great to offer."

Support

Assistant director of Culture Eddie Dames encouraged those in the hotel sector to also support it by encouraging their guests to visit and called on businesses and financial institutions to support the arts.

Mr Dames added: "It's no wonder the Bahamas is lacking in these kind of activities because we lack the support from various sectors in the country and in the economy."

Innovative

Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Charles Maynard praised the new native show in Harrold Road as an innovative initiative strengthening both the culture and tourism industries, and he encouraged others to follow.

The show will provide jobs for 25 singers, dancers and musicians, during a time when there are limited employment opportunities

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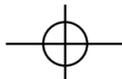
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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

Customs officers abandon posts in protest

FROM page one

Emission standards

wake of its decision to repeal overtime opportunities for the officers and implement a shift system.

According to Bahamas Public Service Union President John Pinder, only three customs officers showed up to work on Sunday night, while the rest "called in sick." Meanwhile, Monday saw a "skeleton crew" of only around forty per cent of the officers at their posts.

Their action came after the Government made a salary increase offer to them on Saturday with which they were displeased, feeling it did not adequately compensate them for the money they will lose when the overtime system is replaced.

Customs and Immigration officers have traditionally been able to make thousands of dol-

lars in overtime to supplement their base salaries, however early next year the Government is to introduce a shift system that would eliminate the need for overtime and therefore much of the money they have until now been able to collect. BPSU Vice President for the northern region John Curtis recently said this can amount to as much as double their base salary, bringing their yearly take to somewhere in the region of \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year.

The shift system the government will implement, which comes in on January 1, 2010 is intended to reduce costs for the government as well as for airlines and cruise ships coming to The Bahamas that at present find the price of landing in The Bahamas increased by the fact that they have to

contribute to the overtime payments made to customs and immigration officers who work when they arrive in off-peak hours. By lowering these costs, the government hopes it can incentivise travel to The Bahamas for airline and cruise operators.

Late last night Mr Pinder said he had just come out of a meeting with the officers in which he said they had agreed to accept a revised proposal by the Government which would amount to them being provided with base salary increases of somewhere between \$4,000 and \$6,000 each.

"They're still losing much more than that, but we know that's the best the country can do at this time," said Pinder, adding that he expects the issue will be "revisited" next year if the economy recovers.

and stoves.

"There will be a charge that will be tacked on to these items so that when they are imported or sold the \$50 or \$100 that it is going to cost to dispose of them will go into this fund, and that at the end of the day when it is time to dispose of them we will have the means to do so.

"So everybody who buys a car will pay something into that environmental fund because we know that the car will eventually be put down. And as it is now the Government has the responsibility of the locating of it, and disposing of it, etc.," he said.

With the Bahamas being one of the first signatories to the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change in 1999, Mr Ingraham said his govern-

ment over three non-consecutive terms has pursued a comprehensive environmental strategy "in an urgent and deliberative effort to protect and preserve our natural environment."

"That strategy includes the creation of the Bahamas Environment Science and Technology Commission (BEST) in 1994, the implementation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, becoming a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and in 1999 becoming the eighth country in the world to sign the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on

Climate Change.

"Over three terms in office the FNM has more than doubled the national park system, bringing to 700,000 acres the amount of marine and terrestrial areas protected. This is approximately two acres for every Bahamian citizen.

"During this term we are committed to further increasing land and marine areas to this national patrimony and to working with the Bahamas National Trust and the Nature Conservancy to implement the ecological gap assessment which identifies those areas that are critical to maintaining the integrity of the naturally productive ecosystems of the Bahamas," he said.

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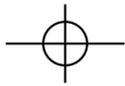
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LOCAL NEWS

PM outlines climate change threat to Bahamas

FROM page one

Denmark. While in Copenhagen he is expected to be joined by other CARICOM and world leaders to forge a consensus on global warming.

Before boarding his flight, the PM said: "I am able to see in my hometown of Cooper's Town, Abaco what the effects of rising sea level is. What it used to be when I was a boy, what it was 10 years ago, and what it was just a few years ago. And how high the water comes in relation to the roadway along the main street of that community. And that is only an example of what rising sea level is doing to us and for us."

Therefore, Mr Ingraham said, it is very important for the Bahamas to have a voice at this conference in Copenhagen to make a case that in the distribution of funding that the developed world will offer in relation to this climate challenge, the Bahamas' per-capita income must not be unduly taken account of.

"Our special circumstance, and our special vulnerability ought to put us in a position to compete on an even keel

with others for funding to sure up our sea defences (sea walls, etc) and do something about the emissions from all of the Bunker C stations in the Bahamas, and to put in place appropriate rules about building too near the coast and a whole host of things.

"And so that will be my focus. And take for instance the generators — we have bought these from the developed world and their companies made the monies. And if we are now going to commit ourselves to mitigation and adaptation then we think it is appropriate for them to assist us in changing the technology for things that they helped to put in for us," he said.

While matters of national security, including crime and immigration, are at the forefront of the national agenda Mr Ingraham said that his government is vigorously responding to the dangers posed by global warming and its related effects on The Bahamas.

"Over the course of my administrations I have been determined to demonstrate clear and consistent leadership on one of the greatest issues of our time — what the Port of Spain Climate Change

Consensus calls the 'predominant global challenge'.

"Because we share a single vulnerable planet, that leadership must not only be local or here at home. It must also be regional and global. This is why I have joined with my fellow CARICOM and Commonwealth heads of government to help forge a consensus on effective responses to climate change, including vigorous mitigation strategies for more vulnerable states such as ours.

"And this is why I will join leaders from throughout the world, in Copenhagen, to press for 'a comprehensive, substantial and operationally binding agreement - leading towards a fully legally binding outcome no later than 2010' to reduce carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases," he said.

Such an agreement Mr Ingraham said would provide for "the legitimate development aspirations of developing countries" as the world's leaders also negotiate the financing and other mechanisms "needed by developing countries to engage in reducing their emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change."

"The Bahamas heads to



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham answers questions from members of the media yesterday at the VIP Lounge of the Lynden Pindling International Airport.

Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

Copenhagen with an enviable and clear environmental record and determined environmental leadership by your Government and various domestic environmental organisations. We will state our case from a position of strength, both ethically and because of our considerable record and long-term vision.

"I take with me to Copenhagen not only the best practices and environmental needs and successes of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, I also take the hopes and aspirations of all Bahamians for a meaningful agreement that will preserve our way of life and our nationhood. Upon my return I will report to the nation on the results of the meetings in Copenhagen," he said.

Joining the Prime Minister at the conference will be Minister for the Environment Earl Deveaux.

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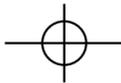
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sports

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2009

CRUSHERS
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FLAMES

PG 13



INSIDE • Local sports news



FEMALE pro players Georgette Rolle and Raquel Riley sandwich Minister of Sports, Charles Maynard. At right is Yvonne Shaw.

Abaco athlete wins judo gold at regional tournament

A FOUR athlete team finished off the competitive year for the Bahamas Judo Federation (BJF) with an impressive performance at the 9th Annual International Barbados Tournament. The team won four medals a gold, a silver and two bronze. The tournament is an important regional event in which over 135 athletes from six countries participated. The stand-out of the tournament was Ashton Forbes from Abaco who won all of his matches by knockouts. In Judo a knockout occurs when an opponent is thrown flat to his back with force and control.

"The BJF is developing the sport of Judo in the Family Islands and Ashton Forbes has represented us very well" said Head Coach David Rahming. "We have never won a gold medal at this tournament before and the competition was even harder this year."

The team consisted of 18 year old Malcolm Rahming (Bronze), 15 year old Ashton Forbes (Gold), 13 year old Matthew Rahming (Bronze) and 12 year old Tajaro Hudson (Silver). "The additional strength and conditioning workouts over the past several weeks really paid off," said Coach Rahming who accompanied the team with Coach Albert Lill from Abaco and Federation President D'Arcy Rahming. Persons interested in contacting the Bahamas Judo Federation should do so at telephone 364-6773 or at the website: www.bahamasjudo.com.

Georgette Rolle Junior Golf Camp tees off on Wednesday

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubb@tribunemedia.net

MORE than 70 participants have already signed up for the second Georgette Rolle Junior Golf Camp that will tee off on Wednesday morning at the Bahamas Golf Federation's Training Facilities at the Bailou Hills Sporting complex.

Newly appointed Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Charles Maynard was on hand to endorse the camp that will run through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

for participants between the ages of 6 and 18 years.

Rolle, one of two Bahamian players currently playing on the Ladies Professional Golf Association's Futures Tour, said the camp is designed to give back to the BGF's Junior Golf Association, which helped her to get to where she is today.

"This is the second year of the camp, which affords myself and some of the other instructors who grew up in the junior programme, to help the upcoming youths and expose them to the game," said Rolle, a graduate of St. Augustine's

College and Texas Southern University.

"So we want to try to teach them the game and the social skills as well, like meeting and greeting each other. So we hope the kids will enjoy the camp."

From the money raised from the camp, Rolle said she intended to provide a number of scholarship opportunities for some of the deserving campers in the BGF's Junior Programme.

Maynard, who recently took over as the Minister of Sports from Desmond Bannister, con-

gratulated Rolle in taking the initiative as a premier athlete, to come back and give back to the sport she participated in.

"We're happy to support you in this event and we want to encourage people to come out and support you in this venture," he said.

Maynard also took the time out to congratulate Rolle and Raquel Riley, who also came home from participating on the Futures Tour, to assist in the camp.

"Usually, as a country, we only recognise our track and field athletes when they attain

this level of international achievement, but I think that it is important for us to pay equal attention to other disciplines," he said.

"Golf being one of those sports where most countries in the world participate, the fact that we have two Bahamians now playing and competing at this level, is even more commendable. We look forward to their success and we want them to know that the Bahamas Government is behind them

SEE page 14

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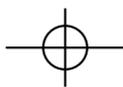


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SPORTS

Crushers edge out Blue Flames 53-51

By RENALDO DORSETT
Sports Reporter
rdorsett@tribunemedia.net

Adrian Mackey scores game high 27 points

KYLE TURNQUEST generally grabs the headlines for the St Bede's Crushers, but in game one of the Catholic Primary School Championship series, Adrian Mackey carried the defending champions to a nail-biting win in game.

Mackey scored a game high 27 points to lead the Crushers to a 53-51 win over the Our Lady's Blue Flames yesterday at Loyola Hall to place his team one win away from back to back championships.

The versatile forward scored, nine points in the all important fourth quarter to ward off a late surge from the Blue Flames and high scoring tandem D'Angelo Mackey and Charles Cooper.

With less than one minute remaining, the Crushers' lead expanded to two possessions when Malik Jones beat the Blue Flames full court press on his own and finished with a layup to give his team a 53-48 lead with just over 40 seconds left to play.

D. Mackey responded with one two at the line and after he forced a turnover a fast-break layup to bring the Blue Flames within two, 53-51 with 28.6 seconds left to play.

The Blue Flames missed four shot opportunities to tie on their final possession and Gregory Cooper came up with a timely rebound to seal the win for the Crushers.

The Blue Flames opened the game on a 6-0 run before A. Mackey broke the drought for the Crushers with a free throw, which sparked a 9-0 run.

Mackey scored seven of his teams nine in the quarter while Jones added the other two.

C. Cooper broke the scoring drought for the Blue Flames with a pair of free throws early in the second.

One of the smallest players, on the floor, Cooper did most of his damage in the paint on the offensive boards and at the free throw line en route to 21 points.

Turnquest gave the Crushers a 13-9 lead, but C. Cooper ended the half on a 5-1 run.

His pair of free throws with no time left on the clock tied the game at 14 headed into the half.

As the Crushers looked to

make a run in the third quarter, with their regular starters on he floor together for the first time, D. Mackey refused to let the defending champs pull away.

His buzzer beating three pointer by Mackey at the end of the third quarter gave the Blue Flames a 26-25 lead headed into the fourth quarter.

Penetrating through the Crushers' defence at will all afternoon, Mackey finished with a team high 23 points, including 11 in the third.

The Blue Flames took their biggest lead of the second half early in the fourth when Tori Ingraham sank one of two free throws to give his team a 29-25 advantage.

D. Mackey's running layup gave the Blue Flames a 33-30 lead, however Turnquest responded on the very next possession with a three point play to tie the game.

A. Mackey gave the Crushers their first lead of the fourth, when he stole the inbound pass on the next possession to take a 35-33 lead.

A. Mackey and C.Cooper traded baskets for the next four possessions before St. Bede's took a two possession advantage.

Turnquest gave the Crushers a 41-37 lead with a layup and regained a four point lead for his team with a baseline jumper to take a 45-41 lead. D.Mackey and C.Cooper responded with a pair of baskets to tie the game at 45 with 2:51 remaining.

Tied again at 46, the Crushers went ahead five after Turnquest made one of two at the line, scored on a layup, and G.Cooper capped the run with an offensive rebound and putback.

Turnquest finished with 15 points, while G. Cooper added five and Jones finished with four.

A. Mackey said his team looks to play even better in game two to close out the series.

"We were just happy to win, it was close and I feel we can play much better next time. We just have to rebound the ball better and

play better defensive, especially in the fourth quarter," he said, "It is important for me and Malik to start the game off on a good note, but with 'Flash' (Kyle Turnquest) out of the game we had to finish it off today."

Crushers Head Coach Donnie Culmer was displeased with his team's performance but felt the game should serve as a wake up call.

"We played lousy today. We beat this team a couple times this year and we did not play like that today," he said, "If we play our game we will have two straight easily but if this was not a wake up call for my guys to get their act together and come out harder next game, I do not know what else would do it."

D. Mackey said for the Blue Flames to rebound his team will have to play better defensively and spread the ball around.

"It is disssappointing, but the game was close and I feel like we can play better defence and win next time," he said.

Game two is set for Wednesday, December 16th at Loyola Hall at 4pm.

GAMENOTES:

- Neither team led by more than six points
- the high scoring pairs dominated the stat for each team with Mackey/Turnquest accounting for 79% of their team's total points with 42 and Mackey/ Cooper netted 82% of their team's points with 44
- The supporting cast made the major difference as the Crushers placed in scorers in the scorebook
- Crushers center Gregory Cooper played the entire fourth passively with four fouls but came up with a huge block and outlet pass which led to a fastbreak and a two possession lead late in the game
- Turnquest fouled out of the game with 2:09 remaining, but the Blue Flames only outscored the Crushers by one in the final minutes.



CHARLES Cooper shoots over the outstretched arms of Gregory Cooper.

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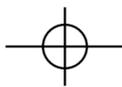
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SPORTS

BAAA to host honorary luncheon

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

INSTEAD of having a dinner, the Bahamas Association of Athletic Associations will host a luncheon to honour the most outstanding athletes, coaches, officials and sponsors this year.

Mike Sands, who was returned to office as president last month, said although they have only had a short time to pull off the event, they are committed to showing their appreciation to the athletes.

"So this is why we are asking all of our stake holders and interested parties and persons who understand what we are trying to

do to come on board and assist us," Sands said.

"We know it's a challenge, but we don't want people to wait until all is said and done. Now is the time to show your interest and make things happen."

The awards luncheon will be held at 3 p.m. at the Wyndham Nassau Resort and Crystal Palace Casino under the theme: "Celebrating Our Athletes, Partners and Stakeholders."

Sands said he and his "Visionary Team" have also changed the format of the awards presentation in that more focus will be placed on the athletes during the event.

Sherman Stuart, first vice president, said the objective is

to broaden the recognition of athletes in other areas particularly in the field events and to promote increased participation by our athletes in all events now and in the future," he said.

"We want to recognise the youth, junior, collegiate and cross country athletes highlighting their performances and to show them they are equally as important top the programme as the senior and elite athletes."

To that end, the BAAA's awards will be extended to the most outstanding male and field performers on the track and the field and the Athlete of the Year in both the junior and college divisions, the cross country most outstanding male and female

performers, the youth's most outstanding male and female and the most improved athlete of the year.

But as usual, the BAAA will name the Roderick Simms Official of the Year, the Henry Crawford Coach of the Year, the Male and Female Athlete of the Year and the Charlie Major Sr. Athlete of the Year.

Additionally, Sands said the BAAA will honour three of the pioneers of the sport in Leonard Dames, Minky Isaacs and Cyril Johnson, having being the first to represent the Bahamas at an international competition.

Public relations officer Alpheus 'Hawk' Finlayson went back to July 1954 when history

was made for track and field in the Bahamas when the three men, accompanied by the then president of the BAAA, Cyril Richardson, competed in the British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Vancouver, Canada.

"These men travelled long and had difficulties arriving in Vancouver, but they did their best," he said. "Two of the men, Cyril Johnson and Leonard Dames, are now in the BAAA's Hall of Fame," he said.

"We look forward in recognising these men for all that they have done for the sport in the Bahamas. We look forward to having their families and friends attend the luncheon."

Special Projects member Linda Thompson said they are very excited about the luncheon because of the very elite and upcoming athletes whom they will be honouring.

Tickets are priced at \$35.00 for the athletes and \$50 for general admission. They are currently on sale at the Colony Club, the Prescription Parlor and the BAAA's office or from any BAAA's executive member.

"We have a lot of talent in this country and we want to expose that talent to you the public," she said. "So come out and celebrate with us as we celebrate them."

Interested businesses wishing to assist the BAAA in the event can come on board as a platinum, gold, silver or bronze partnership, which will give them various levels of incentives.

Again, those persons are urged to contact the BAAA's office or any executive member.

Georgette Rolle Junior Golf Camp tees off this week

FROM page 12

100 percent in whatever they do."

Riley, a native of Grand Bahama, said she's really fortunate to give back to the camp and she's even more elated because of the accomplishment made by Rolle.

"This is something that I believe is very important, so it didn't take me very long to say yes I will come and help her with a venture like this," stressed Riley, who intends to duplicate a camp in Grand Bahama in the future.

"When I was a junior, there was a whole league of young kids playing and it's so sad to see those numbers going down. But people are getting older and getting out of the sport, so we need more youngsters to replace them."

Riley, however, said it's so important that Rolle has decided to implement the rules of life skills because if she wasn't taught them, she probably would not have been able to succeed as far as she has in the sport.

BGF's president Glenn Archer said he's privileged and humbled to once again assist Rolle in her second camp, as he also invited Riley back home to serve as an instructor.

"The whole issue of golf I would like to address because this is just the beginning of the contribution that the sport will be making to the community at large," said Archer, noting that they intend to provide some after-school activities for the school student-athletes.

Yvonne Shaw, Chairman of the Ladies Central Division of the BGF, said as the administrator of the Training Complex,

said her role is primarily to make sure that everything will be in place for the camp.

"It is important to note that now that golf is an Olympic sport, the country has to move forward on helping golf in the Bahamas in more ways than one," she said.

But Shaw said she's just delighted that the Bahamas have two women playing on the Future's Tour and the BGF will be doing all it can to assist them financially in order to make the break through on the LPGA.

Also present was Davis Harris, the executive director of the First Tee Golf Programme in Houston, Texas. He was delighted to be in the Bahamas and helping Rolle out with the camp.

"I think me being from America, this type of opportunity reflect how important golf

is and how important the Bahamas Golf Federation has been in her life," Harris said.

"I look forward to the week. I look forward to this being a success."

As a foreigner, Harris said both Rolle and Riley are making big steps to making it on the LPGA Tour.

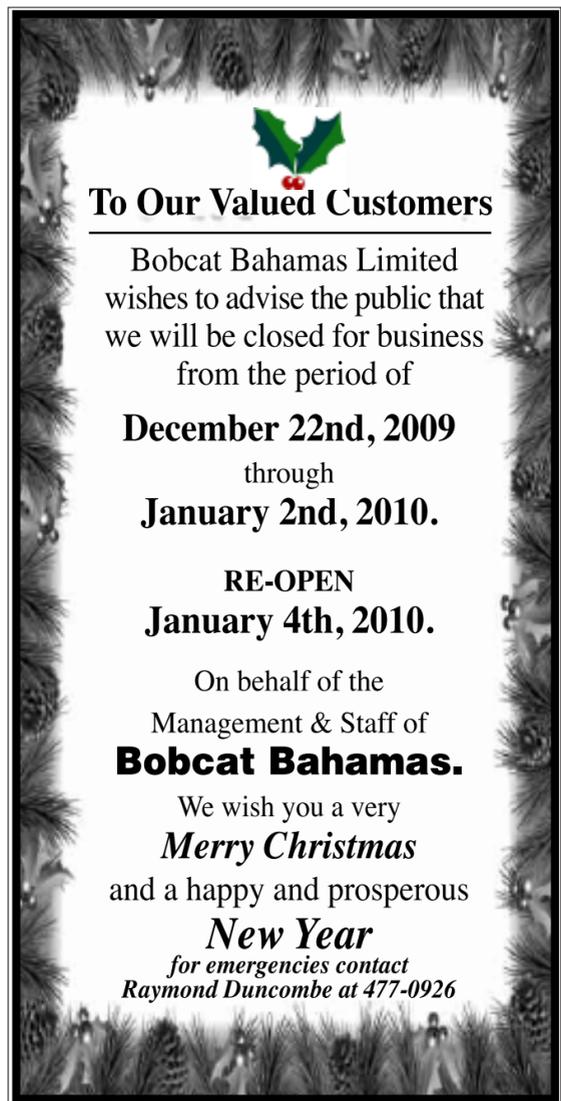
"I think we African-Americans or ladies of colour on the tour," he said. "We currently don't have any that I know about, so I think they are making the right steps."

Among the instructors are Annamae Adderley, Eugenie Adderley, Ricardo Davis Jr., Cheiwah Ferguson, Nadario Ferguson, Rashad Ferguson, Kristian McSweeney, Marcus Pritchard, Devaughn Robinson and Keno Turnquest.

Sponsors for the event include Bahamas Waste Ltd, Budget Food Stores, Chef Boy Catering, Eagle Electrical Supplies, FML Webshop, Galleria Cinemas, Giffstream Airlines, Impact

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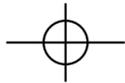
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FamGuard seeks 'higher note' via 10% growth in new business

* BISX-listed insurer says annuity sales almost double 2008 levels
* Major increase in health claims responsible for 76.3% profits drop in Q3, but 2010 likely to be better
* Company to launch 'in next few weeks' new health product targeting those previously unable to purchase health insurance
* 2010 first quarter targeted for general agency launch

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

FAMGUARD Corporation yesterday said it was "optimistic of ending the year on a higher note" with better numbers than the 2009 third quarter, telling Tribune Business the new business growth in its ordinary life and health insurance segments was 10 per cent ahead of 2008 levels. Patricia Hermanns, FamGuard's president and chief executive, said that while the negative impact from the dra-

SEE page 2B

Port chair: \$100m project in jeopardy

* Babak says LNG plans, which could reduce power costs in Freeport by 40%, and 25-30% in Abaco/Nassau, in danger if work permit not renewed
* Says all conditions set by Prime Minister have been met
* Confirms move to Cayman to run Port from there is possible

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Plans for investors to build a \$100 million hospital in Freeport and kick-start medical tourism for the city, and the revival of liquefied natural gas (LNG), could be jeopardised if his work permit is not renewed by the Government, the Grand Bahama Port Authority/Port Group Ltd's chairman said yesterday.

Expressing "surprise and disappointment" that Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham had announced that the Government would not be renewing his work permit when it expired at year-end, Hannes Babak said he had "fulfilled all the conditions" that Mr Ingraham had set

for its renewal when they last met.

Before he departed for the UN Climate Change conference, Mr Ingraham said of the Government's intentions towards the Port: "We have no plans that I want to tell you about today. All I can tell you is that the Government's decided that Mr Hannes Babak's work permit, who is the chairman of the Port, will not be renewed at the end of this month when it expires."

Mr Babak expressed concern about what his departure would do for "the continuity of Freeport" and the numerous projects he was working on.

"I'm already negotiating with two individual US companies who want to build a

\$100 million first phase hospital in Grand Bahama next year," Mr Babak told Tribune Business. "I have already begun getting together the companies required for LNG and produce power here. That would have the effect of reducing power costs in Grand Bahama by 40 per cent, and in Abaco and Nassau by 25-30 per cent."

"That means every household has a lower power bill, and it is a good project for the Bahamas and Freeport."

Mr Babak also told Tribune Business that if his proposed LNG project took root, it could save the Bahamas Electricity Corpo-

SEE page 4B

Hutchison's 'bloody awful' tourism job

Sir Jack in new broadside against GBPA's main partner

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Sir Jack Hayward yesterday launched another attack on the Grand Bahama Port Authority's (GBPA) main business partner, accusing Hutchison Whampoa of having done a "bloody awful" job in promoting its Our Lucaya hotel, and pursuing a 'land banking' policy in Freeport.

In what some observers are likely to consider an astonishing broadside against Port Group Ltd's 50/50 joint venture partner in Freeport's most critical assets, Sir Jack reiterated to Tribune Business his determination not to sell his GBPA stake to the Hong Kong conglomerate.

Speaking in the wake of Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham's public confirmation that the Government will not renew the work permit of Hannes Babak, the GBPA/Port Group Ltd chairman, when it expires at year-end, Sir Jack told Tribune Business that if this happened Freeport would not move forward.

"If that's the case, we won't be going forward. If that's the case, there's no forward progress," Sir Jack said, when told by Tribune Business of the Prime Minister's remarks.

Informed that the comments had been made by the Prime Minister as he prepared to depart for the United Nations' summit on climate change in Copenhagen, Denmark, Sir Jack added: "All I can say is that there's no progress in Freeport, and it will be very hot here."

"There will be no progress in Freeport without Hannes Babak, who's doing a tremendous job."

Tribune Business revealed earlier this year that the Government would not renew Mr Babak's work permit once it expired at year-end, part of Mr Ingraham's efforts to split him from Sir Jack and force the latter to settle the GBPA

SEE page 6B

Developers deny 'persuasion' claim

* Baker's Bay attorney rebuts allegations developers offered jobs, business opportunities in return for dropping opposition to project

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Legal representatives of the \$500 million Baker's Bay Golf & Ocean Club project yesterday vehemently denied that the developers had attempted to persuade Guana Cay residents to drop their opposition by offering jobs and business opportunities to them.

Robert Adams, a Freeport-based partner at Graham, Thompson & Co, who is the lead Bahamian attorney for Discovery Land Company, said the developers behind the Great Guana Cay development were more interested in looking forward and "building positive relations" with the local community, rather than re-opening old wounds from a legal dispute already adjudicated on.

Mr Adams was responding to allegations made by the Save Guana Cay Reef Association's attorney, Fred Smith QC, who had claimed in legal documents that Discovery Land Company representatives had made financial offers to himself, Association president Troy Albury and other residents in a bid to settle the case or have the action dropped.

"I'm certainly unaware of any such contacts by the developers as described by Fred," Mr Adams told Tribune Business. "I can say categorically I don't know anything about it. We are in the process of taking some instructions as regards those allegations, but I do not know them to be true."

Discovery Land Company, the Baker's Bay developer, is understood to have been both annoyed and surprised at the timing of Mr Smith's allegations, which were made in an affidavit submitted to the Privy Council as part of the parties' submissions on who should pay legal costs in relation to the long-running court battle.

SEE page 6B

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Foreign reserves to end 2009 'significantly up'

* Reserves currently standing at \$840m, boosted by reduced credit demand and government foreign currency borrowing
* Central Bank governor acknowledges the current 17 per cent loan default rate 'not something we are accustomed to'

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The Bahamas' foreign exchange reserves, currently standing at around \$840 million, will end 2009 "significantly above where they ended last year", the Central Bank governor said yesterday, although the level of loan arrears in the commercial banking system was "not something we are accustomed to".

SEE page 5B



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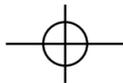
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BUSINESS

Exuma resort names Bahamian manager

Grand Isle Resort & Spa this week announced the appointment of Bahamian Shervin Penn as Resort Manager of its \$100 million, luxurious 78 condo villa resort at the peak of Emerald Bay on Great Exuma.

"We are pleased to announce the promotion of assistant manager Shervin Penn to the post of resort manager," said James Clabaugh, president of EGI Ltd, developers of the luxury property.

"We know that a new era is dawning for Exuma, and we believe that Shervin's appreciation of how important a superior visitor experience is will help Grand Isle retain its standing among repeat discerning guests and the many new visitors that Sandals will be bringing to Exuma."

Mr Penn, who now holds one of the highest positions in the hospitality industry in the Bahamas, trained with the Hilton brand before being lured to Exuma in 2007.

Since then, he has trained under Tracy Stoltz, who earlier this month accepted a job in Hawaii after several years with Grand Isle. It was



GRAND ISLE RESORT & SPA has appointed Bahamian Shervin Penn as resort manager.

Stoltz who recommended Mr Penn, a choice the developers supported.

Qualified

"For any developer, finding a qualified Bahamian to fill a post is the ideal situation and we have been committed to that from the beginning, even during construction," said Mr Clabaugh.

EGI Ltd searched various Family Islands and New Providence for the best carpenters, electricians, tile lay-

ers and other skilled labourers and artisans. A plaque naming all the Bahamian sub-contractors who contributed to the project hangs in the reception area.

Nestled atop the highest ridge of Emerald Bay, the 12-acre resort with newly-constructed full service spa has been a good respite, earning accolades from visitors, lifestyle publications and travel writers.

"I am excited to be given the opportunity to showcase my expertise at the helm of a magnificent resort such as Grand Isle," said Mr Penn. "The staff is always willing to make the effort to continually raise the level of service we offer our guests, and it has been a pleasure being a part of such a dynamic team."

"Knowing that the principals of the resort realised my potential is indeed humbling and, for that, I am appreciative for the opportunity."

Prior to his time at Grand Isle, Mr Penn spent seven years at the British Colonial Hilton in Nassau and, before that, he pursued a marketing degree, working briefly in that field.

FamGuard seeks 'higher note' via 10% growth in new business

FROM page 1B

matic rise in health claims and benefits would "take a little time" to work through the company's system, the BISX-listed company had bucked the recession by exceeding year-over-year and budgeted targets for new business growth.

Ms Hermanns added that FamGuard and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Family

Guardian, were also planning to launch their general insurance agency during the 2010 first quarter "for sure", something that would enable the company to effectively become a 'one-stop shop' for all their clients' insurance needs.

A 20.7 per cent or \$4.9 million year-over-year increase in total benefits and expenses, rising from \$19.568 million to \$23.613 million, had been the main factor behind FamGuard's 2009 third quarter net income dropping by 76.3 per cent to \$360,706, compared to \$1.525 million last year.

The benefits/expenses increase was largely driven by substantial growth in health insurance claims made upon Family Guardian, something experienced by all Bahamas-based health insurers this year.

Optimism

Expressing optimism that the 2010 health claims experience would be better, Ms Hermanns told *Tribune Business*: "The issues relating to the impact of our claims experience are going to take a little while to roll-out."

"The impact of that will carry through to the end of the year. We've seen a gradual improvement in our profits. At end-September they were \$990,439, which was an improvement over the previous quarter, and we will continue that improvement as we go through the final quarter."

"We're optimistic about ending the year on a higher note than we did in the third quarter, certainly."

"We're very confident that we should be able to show numbers that will be better than the third quarter."

Despite the benefits/expenses increases more than cancelling out the \$2.9 million or 13.7 per cent increase in Family Guardian's total revenues for the 2009 third quarter, Ms Hermanns said: "We're very pleased with the growth we've shown on life and health sales, and in both instances we're ahead of budget and ahead of the prior year. Our annuity sales have shown significant improvement over the prior year; it has almost doubled over the prior year."

"On ordinary life we are ahead of budget and certainly ahead of last year."

"We set some aggressive targets for growth this year, and are essentially beating them on the life and health side, notwithstanding the economic conditions."

"On the new business side for ordinary life, we are probably looking to be somewhere in the vicinity of 10 per cent better than the prior year."

And Ms Hermanns added: "In 2008, new sales on health were phenomenal."

"We budgeted a lower amount for 2009, because we

knew we could not match that pace of growth, but we've exceeded budget by about 10 per cent on new business."

"Notwithstanding the economic conditions, we've shown our ability to hold our own in the marketplace. We've been able to produce significant volumes that compare very favourably with what else is out there."

Ms Hermanns said Family Guardian was also assessing whether its health policy premiums were correctly priced to reflect the claims experience, along with the benefits packages offered.

In addition, the BISX-listed insurer was also set to launch a new health policy, The Essential 300, "in the next couple of weeks".

This product, Ms Hermanns explained, was "tailored to cost containment" and "targeted at people who want health insurance without all the bells and whistles".

She added that its launch would enable Family Guardian to cover the entire Bahamian health insurance market, with The Essential 300 focused on those who had previously been unable to afford healthcare cover.

For the nine months to September 30, 2009, Family Guardian had been able to keep operating expenses some \$0.5 million below 2008 levels through cost containment without reducing staff levels, and despite the growth in new business.

Ms Hermanns confirmed to *Tribune Business* that Family Guardian planned to employ its existing branch network to launch its general insurance agency, adding: "We certainly intend to launch in early 2010. That's very much on the drawing board right now. I would say the first quarter for sure. Sometimes there may be delays, but we think that's very achievable."

Family Guardian would not be hiring large number of staff to run its insurance agency initially, Ms Hermanns added, with the company planning to use its existing sales force.

She pointed out that while the launch would be taking place in the midst of a steep recession, it was arguable that the demand for risk coverage in the shape of insurance had increased, especially given the rise in crime.

Ms Hermanns said Family Guardian expected 2010 to be another "challenging year", but the company would again be setting itself aggressive sales targets given its performance in 2009.

"We are expecting to see downward trends in our claims experience in 2010," Ms Hermanns said.

"It's very hard to make definitive predictions on claims, because these things are out of our control - when people go to the hospital or seek healthcare. But we will see continued improvements in the claims experience throughout 2010."



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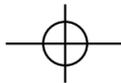
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*Includes double occupancy stay in the Royal Towers at Atlantis Hotel & Resort from Dec. 25th - 27th, 2009.
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BUSINESS

Bahamas cannot wait for renewable energy sources

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Business Reporter
crobards@tribunemedia.net

THE PRIME Minister said yesterday that Abaco and other islands cannot wait for the implementation of renewable energy sources to expand their power distribution. Three new fossil fuel-burning power plants are scheduled to come on stream within a few months in Abaco, Eleuthera and Bimini.

Hubert Ingraham told reporters shortly before his flight to Copenhagen for the United Nations Climate Change Conference that those new power stations, which may burn a controversial fuel called 'Bunker C', are necessary for the population in those areas.

The erection of the three new fossil fuel-burning power plants come while the Bahamas is taking a stand against global warming at the year's meeting on climate change.

The Caribbean, the Bahamas and other low-lying areas in this region are most at risk from rising sea levels, as the warming of the planet melts land-locked ice at an alarming rate, according to scientists.

Mr Ingraham said CARICOM leaders will come together in Copenhagen to forge a case for global climate change initiatives, especially when it comes to matters that affect the Bahamas and Caribbean.

"My Government also has

the urgent task of responding to the multiple challenges, short and long term, posed by global warming," he said

"Climate change is also a national security issue. It poses a direct and potentially devastating threat to our way of life, our territorial integrity, our economic well-being and our survival. It draws limited resources away from other national priorities, including resources which should be directed towards education, health care, housing and social assistance."

Environmentally-conscious residents of Abaco have lambasted the Government for their lack of consultation on the new Wilson City power plant, which government said might burn the heavy oil Bunker C.

Wetlands

According to them, the plant is located near extremely sensitive wetlands which are only a few thousand feet from the plant. And despite claims that the plant is two miles from the coast, the reality is that the heated pipeline that will disperse the oil from the tanker to the plant is 2.5 miles away.

From the air, it is apparent that the plant lies within thousands of feet from the coast within dense pine growth. It also lies within a few miles of acres of farm land and the fuel dock only feet from the boundary of a national park, residents say.

Residents who live within two miles say they felt slighted by the Government's claims that there are no communities within seven miles of the Wilson City site. Though their communities are small they contend that they still stand to be affected by the emissions from burning the Bunker C fuel oil.

The Government's retort to all these claims is that many other plants throughout the Bahamas now burn the cheap Bunker C oil, and that if the more expensive diesel oil is burned fuel surcharges will have to be increased across the island.

At the moment, residents in New Providence subsidise power production on the Family Islands because of the costs associated with shipping to the islands.

The Prime Minister contends that the new power plant will have pollutant mitigating measures attached to it so as to minimise the immediate impact to the Abaco environment. The Government's case for immediate fossil fuel power stands on the frequent power failures on the island of Abaco.

"I suppose in the case of Abaco we could have continued with the power cuts we had and the outages, and we could continue to pollute the environment as we are doing now at the station in Marsh Harbour, and we could continue to have all that smoke and what not blow into the community," said Mr Ingraham.

ST ANDREW'S
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St Andrew's School, The International School of The Bahamas, an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, invites applications from qualified and experienced Bahamian candidates for the following teaching vacancies, with effect from August 2010. Full information regarding the school may be found at its website: www.st-andrews.com.

Candidates should be qualified teachers who possess the necessary academic qualifications for the position(s) for which they apply, including a teaching qualification and a bachelor's degree, and normally need to have a minimum of two years successful school-based experience. Desirable qualifications, in addition to those specified for individual posts, are that teachers have successful experience in an independent and/or international school and an advanced degree. Applications from candidates able to coach team sports or advise school clubs and activities are particularly welcomed. Secondary (i.e. middle and upper) school teachers will be expected to undertake the responsibility of a homeroom.

Please note that applications received from non-Bahamian candidates will not be considered at this time, although permanent residents with the right to work are invited to submit their papers for future consideration. Applications from candidates living outside The Commonwealth of The Bahamas will not be acknowledged or considered at this stage of the recruiting process. If the school is unable to recruit any position locally, it will advertise internationally in January.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school is authorized to teach the Primary Years Programme (PYP) of the International Baccalaureate Organization. Candidates for all posts in the primary school should be committed to the principles of, and preferably trained in, the PYP.

Homeroom teachers: Class sizes range between 15 and 20.

Primary school Spanish (Part time post): Candidates should be familiar with ACTFL standards and be able to work as a contributing member of a school-wide team.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

The school offers its own middle years programme in years seven through nine and the BGCSE in years 10 and 11 (grades 9 and 10). The school is authorized to teach the Diploma Programme (DP) of the International Baccalaureate Organization in years 12 and 13 (grades 11 and 12).

Spanish and French: Candidates should be familiar with the ACTFL standards and able to work as a contributing member of a school-wide team. They must be qualified to teach to pre-university level and be familiar with the demands of the International Baccalaureate diploma programme.

Science:

Biology: Candidates for this post must be qualified to teach biology to pre-university level and be familiar with the demands of the International Baccalaureate diploma programme. Candidates should also be able to offer either chemistry or physics at BGCSE/IGCSE level.

Chemistry: Candidates for this post must be qualified to teach chemistry to pre-university level and be familiar with the demands of the International Baccalaureate diploma programme. Candidates should also be able to offer either biology or physics to BGCSE/IGCSE level.

Physics: Candidates for this post must be qualified to teach physics to pre-university level and be familiar with the demands of the International Baccalaureate diploma programme. Candidates should also be able to offer either biology or chemistry to BGCSE/IGCSE level.

English: Candidates for this post must be qualified to teach to pre-university level and be familiar with the demands of the International Baccalaureate diploma programme. Successful BGCSE/IGCSE and SAT I/SAT II experience is also essential.

Mathematics: Candidates for this post must be qualified to teach to pre-university level and be familiar with the demands of the International Baccalaureate diploma programme. Successful experience in teaching calculus to AP and/or IB level is preferred for this post. Successful BGCSE/IGCSE and SAT I/SAT II experience is also desirable.

Drama: Candidates should be able and willing to teach up to IB theatre arts level and coordinate musical and drama productions throughout the secondary school.

Middle school home room and core teachers: Middle level educational qualifications, experience working with early adolescents and a familiarity with the philosophy of middle schools are required from applicants for these posts. Applicants may also be required to teach BGCSE courses up to year 11.

At least one of the successful applicants will have documented successful experience in teaching English in years 7 to 9 and will be able to offer English and one of the following ÉPSE; IT & Social Studies; art; drama É possibly to BGCSE level.

Mathematics and special needs (part time post): Candidates must have successful experience in teaching in both areas.

NB: One successful candidate from all the posts offered will be able to offer the teaching of the Theory of Knowledge course at IB diploma level.

Interested candidates should apply to the school's principal, Mrs Sharon E Wilson, by letter, email or fax as soon as possible. All applications MUST include the following:

- letter of application
- a personal statement detailing the candidate's educational philosophy
- a full curriculum vitae,
- either the names, addresses, telephone numbers, fax and email numbers of three people who may be approached for confidential professional references or the name and address of the recruiting agency from which the candidate's confidential dossiers may be obtained.

Information on the teaching posts offered may be obtained from the heads of the schools by email or fax only.

Frank Coyle, Head of the secondary school:
Email: Frank.Coyle@st-andrews.com
Fax: (1 242) 677 7847

Allison Collie, Head of the primary school:
Email: Allison.Collie@st-andrews.com
Fax: (1 242) 677 7846

Sharon E Wilson
Principal
St Andrew's School
P O Box EE 17340
Nassau

Email: Sharon.Wilson@st-andrews.com
Fax: (1 242) 677 7802 or (1 242) 324 0816

The closing date for applications is 8th January 2010. Applications from unqualified candidates, applications arriving without the full information requested, applications from outside The Commonwealth of The Bahamas or applications received after this date will not be considered.



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Utilities Regulation & Competition Authority

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**Our office will be closed on the following
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Dec.24, 2009 - All day
Dec. 31, 2009 – Half Day

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(Bahamas) Limited, P.O. Box N-
1576, Nassau, Bahamas OR
Fax: (242) 302-8779 OR Email:
belty.roberts@citi.com

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OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT HEAD

ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES
Reporting to our Country Operations and Technology Head the position is responsible for providing Operations support to our local and global Trust Companies as well as other local business units. Key responsibilities include oversight for three operations teams including Reconciliation, Special Services and Global Fee Billing.

KNOWLEDGE/ SKILLS REQUIRED
The ideal candidate will possess an MBA or related post-graduate degree together with a minimum of 7+ years of related experience preferably in financial services. An excellent operations management background coupled with a strong accounting/financial background is required. Solid knowledge of Trust Administration fundamentals is an asset. Additionally, excellent analytical skills, superior communication skills, and sound judgment/decision-making skills are also necessary.

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BUSINESS

(The Tribune)
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Port chair: \$100m project in jeopardy

FROM page 1B

ration (BEC) some \$250 million in planned capital expenditure to improve its own infrastructure.

"Any reduction in energy costs will have a huge effect on Grand Bahama," Mr Babak said. "A reduction in power costs for industry will be a reason for industry to come to Freeport, not a problem to come to Freeport. The power costs have always been a downside to industry coming, but without that the sky's the limit."

Mr Babak said there were several other projects that he would like to see come to fruition, and told Tribune Business that the management team and structure at the GBPA/Port Group Ltd was working well.

Commenting on the Prime Minister's announcement that his work permit would not be renewed, Mr Babak said: "I'm very surprised and very disappointed about that, because I understood from the last meeting with the Prime Minister that he had certain conditions. I

"A reduction in power costs for industry will be a reason for industry to come to Freeport, not a problem to come to Freeport. The power costs have always been a downside to industry coming, but without that the sky's the limit."

fulfilled all of them before time. I know I fulfilled every single one of them."

Conditions

Declining to reveal what those conditions were, Mr Babak said he wanted to know the reasons for the Government's decision on his work permit.

"Maybe it's a misunderstanding," he added. "I think it's not good for Freeport and the continuity of Freeport. I have a lot of major projects that I am working on, and would like time for them to be completed."

Mr Babak, though, confirmed to Tribune Business

ing to Cayman given that IDC was based there.

Fred Smith QC, the Callenders & Co partner and attorney for the late Edward St George's estate, which is disputing the GBPA ownership with Sir Jack, said it was pleased that Mr Babak's work permit was not being renewed because it did not believe he had a contract to run the companies in the first place.

Mr Smith accused Sir Jack and Mr Babak of "putting roadblocks in the way of a resolution to the dispute" with the St Georges, and added: "Perhaps this should be a sign to Sir Jack and Mr Babak to lay down the sword and consider more peaceful negotiations to settle this matter".

Mr Smith said Mr Babak's potential move to Cayman would add "insult to injury", adding: The Port should be run from Freeport, not the Cayman Islands."

Legal Notice

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

- (a) **BELLONA LTD.** is in dissolution under the provisions of the International Business Companies Act 2000
- (b) The Dissolution of said Company commenced on December 14, 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 day of January 25, 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 15, 2009
ZAKRIT SERVICES LTD.

LIQUIDATOR OF THE ABOVE-NAMED COMPANY

Legal Notice

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

- (a) **ZONTA LTD.** is in dissolution under the provisions of the International Business Companies Act 2000
- (b) The Dissolution of said Company commenced on December 14, 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 day of January 25, 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 15, 2009
ZAKRIT SERVICES LTD.

LIQUIDATOR OF THE ABOVE-NAMED COMPANY

Legal Notice

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

- (a) **GOLE OVERSEAS LIMITED** is in dissolution under the provisions of the International Business Companies Act 2000.
- (b) The Dissolution of said Company commenced on December 14, 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 26th 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 15, 2009

ZAKRIT SERVICES LTD.

LIQUIDATOR OF THE ABOVE-NAMED COMPANY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Persons that currently have items stored at Tropical Brokerage Services Limited, Solider Road are asked to contact the Liquidator at 424-9036 immediately to arrange for the settlement of their accounts and the removal of the said items.

Items not paid for and collected within two (2) weeks will be sold to defray costs.

Signed
The Liquidator

Legal Notice

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

- (a) **MEGAFONO OVERSEAS LIMITED** is in dissolution under the provisions of the International Business Companies Act 2000.
- (b) The Dissolution of said Company commenced on December 14, 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 26th 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 15, 2009

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Legal Notice

NOTICE

REFORMATION LTD.

IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

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

The Date of the Commencement of Dissolution was 9th December 2009. David Thain of Amer Bank & Trust (Bahamas) Ltd., Building 2 Caves Village, P.O.Box N3917 is Liquidator of **REFORMATION LTD.** All persons having claims against the above-named company are required to send their address and particulars of their debts to the Liquidator before the 9th January 2010.

David Thain
Liquidator

Legal Notice

NOTICE

HABAKKUK INVESTMENT LTD.

IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

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

The Date of the Commencement of Dissolution was 9th December 2009. David Thain of Amer Bank & Trust (Bahamas) Ltd., Building 2 Caves Village, P.O.Box N3917 is Liquidator of **HABAKKUK INVESTMENT LTD.** All persons having claims against the above-named company are required to send their address and particulars of their debts to the Liquidator before the 9th January 2010.

David Thain
Liquidator

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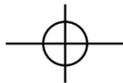
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BUSINESS

Foreign reserves to end 2009 'significantly up'

FROM page 1B

Wendy Craigg told *Tribune Business* that the banking sector regulator was "very closely watching" the level of non-performing loans and loan arrears in the Bahamian banking sector, given that almost 17 per cent - more than one in every six loans to the private sector and consumers - was in default at end-October 2009.

Expressing hope that the Bahamas was likely to seed "some bottoming out of the recession", and its impact on loan arrears and unemployment, in 2010, Ms Craigg told *Tribune Business*: "We are in discussions with the banks about the programmes they have in place, and ensuring they have sufficient provisions and the capital to sustain them through this period of weakness in economic activity."

The non-performing/loan arrears situation was "something we continue to monitor very closely", and the Central Bank had implemented

enhanced reporting procedures for the commercial banks.

"We require more granular information on remediation measures," Ms Craigg said, explaining that this was designed to pick up when, for example, a commercial bank moved a loan from the non-performing category back to performing, enabling the regulator to monitor credit trends.

"Certainly, it reflects the severity of the economic downturn. It's not a level we are accustomed to," Ms Craigg said of the loan default rate.

"In terms of non-performing, it was usually just shy of 5 per cent [of total loans]."

"The situation has deteriorated, and it definitely reflects what is happening in the economy with employment conditions.

"When people lost their jobs or were working reduced hours, they had to make reduced payments.

"The extent to which we see improvement in that area depends on the process of

economic recovery, and we know next year will be very mild for us as well, although not as severe as this year.

"We may see some bottoming out of the weakness, but don't expect to see any major improvement in the employment situation."

Upgrade

The Central Bank was "continuing to upgrade our model and data" gleaned from stress testing the commercial banks' capital adequacy and ability to withstand the economic downturn, having begun this initiative last year.

Ms Craigg also confirmed that the Central Bank had increased "the minimum and trigger ratios for Tier I capital" from 8 per cent to 14 per cent "as a proactive measure on our part to ensure the situation remains stable".

She acknowledged, though, that "all banks are well in excess of the levels we elevated them to".

The governor also confirmed that the Bank Super-

vision Department's Commercial Banking Unit, which was established "to focus on systemically important banks", had performed well.

Elsewhere, Ms Craigg said the Bahamas' foreign exchange reserves, critical to this country's ability to purchase imports and maintain the one:one peg with the US dollar, were "holding up quite well", standing at around \$840 million.

"We will end this year significantly ahead of where we ended last year," Ms Craigg told *Tribune Business* on the foreign reserves.

"Liquidity is holding up. As long as we have the slowdown

in credit and have the inflows from foreign currency borrowing, that has allowed liquidity to be maintained at relatively robust levels."

This means that the Bahamas' self-correcting monetary policy mechanism has kicked-in, with the reduction in import and credit demand resulting in reduced foreign currency demand/outflows.

This, in turn, has protected the foreign reserves at a time when foreign currency inflows from tourism and investment have been depressed.

The Government's foreign currency borrowings have also aided this goal.

"Liquidity is holding up. As long as we have the slowdown in credit and have the inflows from foreign currency borrowing, that has allowed liquidity to be maintained at relatively robust levels."

Wendy Craigg

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| BEVERLY SMITH | CHERYL WELLS |
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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.

VACANCY NOTICE



**Assistant Manager (Pharmacist) -
Chronic Disease Prescription Drug Plan (CDPDP)**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the above position of Assistant Manager (Pharmacist), Chronic Disease Prescription Drug Plan (CDPDP).

JOB SUMMARY

The applicant will be responsible for researching, preparing and managing the Plan's Formulary through ongoing reviews of pharmaceutical databases, consultations with pharmaceutical companies and health professionals and audits of pharmacies to ensure quality drugs and cost control in the Plan.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ Bachelors Degree in Pharmacy and certificate of registration with Pharmacy Council.
- ❖ At least 7 to 10 years experience as dispensing or clinical pharmacist at a senior level.
- ❖ Working knowledge of formulary development, pharmacy audits and local health legislation.
- ❖ Proficient in Microsoft Office Applications including: Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- ❖ Excellent written and oral communication skills.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Conduct targeted research through database analyses (print and electronic) and discussions with health professionals for specifying and updating the Formulary in line with Plan's priorities, objectives and targets;
2. Prepare technical briefs, articles, website material and other documents for timely communication of specific aspects of the Plan's Formulary to internal and external stakeholders;
3. Prepare quarterly and annual data on dispensing and utilization of Formulary items to facilitate timely negotiations and procurement of supplies by the Bahamas National Drug Agency (BNDA) for participating pharmacies;
4. Lead team involving officers from the Drug Plan and the BNDA in reviewing requisitions, conducting annual and other special audits of dispensing activities of pharmacies to ensure compliance with Plan's rules and to deter likely fraud and abuse;
5. Lead and/or vet responses to queries, complaints and comments from health professionals, pharmacists, Plan members and the public in a prompt and satisfactory manner given the Plan's response time guidelines;
6. Compile annual and other reports as requested for servicing meetings of the Benefits Review Committee and take charge of follow-up actions within defined time-frames as recommended by the Committee;
7. Collate and classify Plan data on drug prescribing, dispensing and utilization to assist public health officials in defining or intensifying national policies and programs aimed at controlling chronic diseases.

APPLICATION

Interested persons may apply by submitting a completed application form, along with the necessary proof of qualifications on or before Friday, December 18, 2009, to:

Vice President
Human Resources and Training
The National Insurance Board
Clifford Darling Complex
Nassau, Bahamas

BUSINESS

FROM page 1B

Sir Jack fires broadside

ownership dispute with the late Edward St George's estate. The plan was then that the two sides would sell their interests to Hutchison Whampoa. Yet Sir Jack is showing that he will not be pushed around, either by the Prime Minister, the St Georges or Hutchison. Sources suggested yesterday that Sir Jack had signed an agreement to sell his GBPA/Port Group interest to

the Mid-Atlantic Group, said to feature Mr Babak and Ben Bell, a Fortune Cay resident who is a former director of the Office of National Risk Assessment (ONRA) in the US Transportation Security Administration. Mr Bell set up the Freeport office of Global Information Group five years

ago, yet Sir Jack denied that he had any desire to sell his GBPA interest, telling Tribune Business: "Without Hannes Babak, there are no plans at all. I'm not selling my shares."

When pressed about the Prime Minister's desire for a resolution of the ownership dispute, Sir Jack replied: "He'll get a solution in the next day or two." When asked what he meant, Sir Jack said: "Read into it what you will." He then returned to a meeting at the Port offices.

He was less reticent about Hutchison Whampoa. "I've said in public that I'm not selling to Hutchison," he told Tribune Business yesterday. "I don't think they're the right people for Freeport, Grand Bahama or the Bahamas."

"Their land policy of locking up land for 30, 40 years for their grandchildren should not be the policy in the Bahamas," he added, telling Tribune Business that land in Freeport and Grand Bahama should be used as a tool for economic development and empowering Bahamians. "It's certainly off my agenda," Sir Jack said of selling his GBPA interest (he alleges it is 75 per cent, the St Georges 50 per cent) to Hutchison Whampoa, "regardless of any price being offered. They don't have the right land policy, and have done a bloody awful

job of administering the hotel. One of the problems with tourism is the lack of promotion of Our Lucaya." Sir Jack contrasted efforts to promote Our Lucaya with the numerous times Kerzner International's Atlantis resort was featured in adverts and promotions on US TV channels. He also argued that "Pelican Bay, with 250 rooms, is spending more on promotions than Our Lucaya, which has 2,500 rooms".

Such an attack on a joint venture partner, which holds a 50 per cent stake in the Grand Bahama Development Company (Devco), Freeport Harbour Company and Grand Bahama International Airport Company, is considered most unusual in business circles, and shows the depths of Sir Jack's feelings on the issue. Sir Jack also denied reports reaching Tribune Business that he had appointed James Chapman, an attorney with Cayman-based Bodden & Bodden, who previously acted for one of the entities involved in the GBPA ownership dispute, as a protector for the Hayward Family Trust. "That's news to me," Sir Jack said. "I don't know where you get these things from." Tribune Business had been told that Mr Chapman would have the power to add or remove directors of the trust's trustee, who include Butterfield Bank (Bahamas) bankers Ian Fair and Robert Lotmore, and do the same with the trust's beneficiaries.

Developers deny 'persuasion' claim

FROM page 1B

after the Privy Council, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court all ruled emphatically in favour of the developers on the substantive elements of the case.

"He does not identify any persons," Mr Adams said of the allegations. "That, in and of itself, makes it difficult to develop a reply. That is a matter we are taking up with our clients, and hopefully we will get some instructions shortly."

Mr Smith had alleged that "almost 100 per cent of the community" on Great Guana Cay had been behind the legal challenge to the Government and developers over the project.

"It was only in the later stages of the litigation, when the Government and the developers used their financial strength and political strength to persuade many of the community members to try and change their minds that a small number of the community began to support the project instead of opposing it," the Callenders & Co partner had alleged.

"This 'persuasion' occurred, by way of example, by the developers for instance going to persons such as Mr Troy Albury, the president of the Save Guana Cay Reef Association, and asking him to end his challenge in consideration of him being allowed to open a dive store within the gated community and being promised business. I am told by my clients that this sort of thing happened progressively and, in some instances, successfully."

"I was also approached by representatives of the developers on a number of occasions. They asked me how much my fees were, and offered to pay them to me to find a way of settling the case."

Unlike the Government, Mr Adams said his clients had no interest in seeking an Order that the Association's financial backers reveal their identities, or go after them individually. Discovery Land Company simply wanted the Association to pay the legal costs it had incurred, given that it had challenged the Heads of Agreement to which it was one of the two signatories.

"The developers' position is that they are happy this is behind them, they'd like to get an Order to recoup the costs of the litigation, and as regards the local community they want to place the emphasis on building a positive relationship," Mr Adams told Tribune Business.

"That's where their focus is right now, not on, as Mr Smith put it, putting salt and vinegar on any wounds. The developers are not interested in that. They're interested in moving forward and building a positive relationship with the local community."

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(No.46 of 2000)

SHANAC SERVICE COMPANY LIMITED
IBC N° 99911B
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with Section 131 (2)(a) of the International Business Companies Act, (No. 46 of 2000), **SHANAC SERVICE COMPANY LIMITED** is in Dissolution.

Any person having a Claim against the **SHANAC SERVICE COMPANY LIMITED** is required on or before 7th February 2010 to send their name, address and particulars of the debt or claim to the Liquidator of the Company, or in default thereof they may be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such claim is approved

Mr. Nathan Santos of Suite 2B Mansion House 143 Main Street Gibraltar is the Liquidator of **SHANAC SERVICE COMPANY LIMITED**.

Nathan Santos
Liquidator

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(No.46 of 2000)

MIRASOL INVESTMENTS GROUP LIMITED
IBC N° 144099B
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with Section 131 (2)(a) of the International Business Companies Act, (No. 46 of 2000), **MIRASOL INVESTMENTS GROUP LIMITED** is in Dissolution.

Any person having a Claim against the **MIRASOL INVESTMENTS GROUP LIMITED** is required on or before 3rd March 2010 to send their name, address and particulars of the debt or claim to the Liquidator of the Company, or in default thereof they may be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such claim is approved

Mr. Nathan Santos of Suite 2B Mansion House 143 Main Street Gibraltar is the Liquidator of **MIRASOL INVESTMENTS GROUP LIMITED**.

Nathan Santos
Liquidator

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(No.46 of 2000)

ROYMILLION HOLDINGS LIMITED
IBC N° 144101B
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with Section 131 (2)(a) of the International Business Companies Act, (No. 46 of 2000), **ROYMILLION HOLDINGS LIMITED** is in Dissolution.

Any person having a Claim against the **ROYMILLION HOLDINGS LIMITED** is required on or before 3rd March 2010 to send their name, address and particulars of the debt or claim to the Liquidator of the Company, or in default thereof they may be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such claim is approved

Mr. Nathan Santos of Suite 2B Mansion House 143 Main Street Gibraltar is the Liquidator of **ROYMILLION HOLDINGS LIMITED**.

Nathan Santos
Liquidator

NOTICE

EXXONMOBIL KAZAKHSTAN EXPLORATION NORTH CASPIAN

OFFSHORE LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

- (a) **EXXONMOBIL KAZAKHSTAN EXPLORATION NORTH CASPIAN OFFSHORE LIMITED** is in dissolution under the provisions of the International Business Companies Act 2000.
- (b) The dissolution of the said Company commenced on the 9th day of December, 2009 when its Articles of Dissolution were submitted to and registered by the Registrar General.
- (c) The Liquidator of the said Company is Carol G. Gray of 16825 Northchase Drive, Houston, Texas 77060.

Dated the 10th day of December, 2009.

HARRY B. SANDS, LOBOSKY MANAGEMENT CO. LTD.
Attorneys for the above-named Company

NOTICE

EXXONMOBIL KAZAKHSTAN EXPLORATION NORTH CASPIAN OFFSHORE LIMITED

Creditors having debts or claims against the above-named Company are required to send particulars thereof to the undersigned c/o P.O. Box N-624, Nassau, Bahamas on or before 4th day of January, A.D., 2010. In default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made by the Liquidator.

Dated the 10th day of December, A.D., 2009.

Carol G. Gray
Liquidator
16825 Northchase Drive
Houston, TEXAS 77060

Sandals Royal Bahamian Resort @ Offshore Island.

Invites applications for the positions of:

- Cost Controller**
- Water Sports Manager**
- Dive Instructors (Exuma/Nassau)**
- Certified Lifeguards (Exuma/Nassau)**
- Receiving Supervisor**
- Entertainment Coordinators**
- Food & Beverage Management**
- Front Office Manager**
- Environmental Coordinator**

Applicant must have at least five years experience in the Hospitality Industry in the above mentioned positions, excellent communication, organizational and interpersonal skills, must be able to train and motivate team members. Formal qualifications and computer skills desirable must be able to work flexible and long hours.

Fax or email résumé's with proof of qualifications and experience to cmajor@grp.sandals.com Fax 327-6961.

Closing date December 18, 2009.

Sandals Emerald Bay Resort Emerald Bay, Exuma

Invites applications for the following positions:-

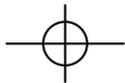
- Butlers**
- Golf Equipment Technician**
- Assistant Chief Engineer**
- Air Condition Technician**
- Refrigeration Technician**
- Store Porters**
- Cost Control Clerk**
- Bartenders**
- Stewards**
- Servers**
- Security Officers**
- Room Attendants**
- Housemen**
- Asst. Housekeeping Manager**
- Shop/Tour Desk Agents**
- Tour Guides**

All applicants would be screened on **Friday, December 18th, 2009** at the Sandals Royal Bahamian Board Room at 9:00am – 6:00pm. Applicants should satisfy the Company with proof of qualifications in respected area.

Resume' should be email to cmajor@grp.sandals.com

Application close December 18, 2009.

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF:										
MONDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2009										
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,525.20 CHG 28.83 % CHG 1.93 YTD -187.16 YTD % -10.93										
FINDEX: CLOSE 000.00 YTD 00.00% 2008 -12.31%										
WWW.BISXBHAMAS.COM TELEPHONE: 242-323-2330 FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320										
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Security	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
1.71	1.05	AML Foods Limited	1.17	1.17	0.00	500	0.127	0.000	9.2	0.00%
11.80	9.90	Bahamas Property Fund	10.75	10.73	-0.02	2,000	0.992	0.200	10.8	1.86%
9.30	5.90	Bank of Bahamas	5.90	5.90	0.00	0.244	0.260	24.2	4.41%	0.00%
0.89	0.63	Benchmark	0.63	0.63	0.00	0.877	0.000	N/M	N/M	0.00%
3.49	3.15	Bahamas Waste	3.15	3.15	0.00	0.125	0.090	25.2	2.86%	
2.37	2.14	Fidelity Bank	2.37	2.37	0.00	34	0.055	0.040	43.1	1.69%
14.04	9.92	Cable Bahamas	10.00	10.00	0.00	1,408	0.250	7.1	2.50%	
2.88	2.72	Colina Holdings	2.72	2.72	0.00	0.249	0.040	10.9	1.47%	
7.19	5.26	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	5.80	6.37	0.57	21,653	0.419	0.300	15.2	4.71%
3.85	1.27	Consolidated Water BDRs	2.57	2.60	0.03	0.111	0.052	23.4	2.00%	
2.85	1.32	Doctor's Hospital	2.55	2.55	0.00	0.625	0.080	4.1	3.14%	
8.20	6.28	Famguard	6.49	6.49	0.00	0.420	0.240	15.5	3.70%	
11.87	8.80	Finco	9.29	9.29	0.00	0.322	0.520	28.9	5.60%	
11.71	9.86	FirstCaribbean Bank	9.86	9.86	0.00	4,889	0.631	0.350	15.6	3.55%
5.53	4.11	Focol (S)	4.75	4.75	0.00	48,565	0.326	0.150	14.6	3.16%
1.00	1.00	Focol Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.000	0.000	N/M	N/M	0.00%
0.45	0.27	Freeport Concrete	0.27	0.27	0.00	0.035	0.000	7.7	0.00%	
9.02	5.49	ICD Utilities	5.59	5.59	0.00	0.407	0.500	13.7	8.94%	
12.00	9.95	J. S. Johnson	9.95	9.95	0.00	0.952	0.640	10.5	6.43%	
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.156	0.000	64.1	0.00%	
BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing bases)										
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity		
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00		7%	19 October 2017		
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022		
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00		7%	30 May 2013		
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015		
Fidelity Over-The-Counter Securities										
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Weekly Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
14.60	7.92	Bahamas Supermarkets	10.06	11.06	14.00		-2.246	0.000	N/M	0.00%
8.00	6.00	Caribbean Crossings (Pref)	2.00	6.25	4.00		0.000	0.480	N/M	7.80%
0.54	0.20	RND Holdings	0.35	0.40	0.35		0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%
Colina Over-The-Counter Securities										
41.00	29.00	ABDAB	30.13	31.59	29.00		4.540	0.000	9.03	0.00%
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.45	0.55	0.55		0.002	0.000	261.90	0.00%
BISX Listed Mutual Funds										
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD%	Last 12 Months	Div \$	Yield %	NAV Date		
1.4160	1.3419	CFAL Bond Fund	1.4160	-4.62	-5.33			31-Oct-09		
3.0351	2.8266	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	2.8552	-2.98	-3.92			30-Nov-09		
1.5050	1.4294	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5050	4.99	5.29			4-Dec-09		
3.3856	2.9343	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	2.9618	-12.52	-15.21			31-Oct-09		
13.2400	12.5597	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.2400	4.93	5.90			31-Oct-09		
103.0956	100.0000	CFAL Global Bond Fund	103.0956	3.10	2.52			30-Sep-09		
100.0000	99.4177	CFAL Global Equity Fund	99.4177	3.12	2.76			30-Sep-09		
1.0804	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.0804	4.32	5.26			31-Oct-09		
1.0364	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.0299	-0.59	-0.19			31-Oct-09		
1.0742	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.0742	3.56	4.42			31-Oct-09		
9.4740	9.0775	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund	9.4740	4.17	4.18			31-Oct-09		
10.6301	10.0000	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund	10.6301	6.30	6.30			31-Oct-09		
7.4613	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Int'l Fund - Equities Sub Fund	7.4613	35.40	29.64			31-Oct-09		
MARKET TERMS										
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX - 19 Dec 02 = 1,000.00										
52wk-HI - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks										
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks										
Previous Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily volume										
Today's Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume										
Change - Change in closing price from day to day										
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today										
Div \$ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months										
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings										
(S) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/8/2007										
(S1) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/11/2007										
TO TRADE CALLS CFAL 242-502-7010 ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764 FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000 COLONIAL 242-502-7525										



BUSINESS

NY transit agency proposes subway, bus cuts

KAREN MATTHEWS
NEW YORK

Facing a nearly \$400 million budget gap, transit officials on Monday proposed cutting subway lines, dozens of bus routes and free rides for students, according to Associated Press.

The recommendations from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority board's finance committee will be presented to the full MTA board when it meets on Wednesday to vote on the 2010

budget. The MTA has pledged not to raise fares next year. It revived the proposed service cuts after the state cut aid it had pledged months ago.

The proposed cuts would eliminate two subway lines, cut several bus routes and mean fewer subways and buses late at night and on weekends. The proposals also call for a 10 percent salary cut to be accomplished by furloughs and temporary pay cuts. "We're grappling with the loss of nearly \$400 million virtually overnight," said MTA Chairman Jay Walder.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Closure of BTC offices for Staff Christmas Party

The Bahamas Telecommunications Company Ltd. (BTC) wishes to advise the general public that all BTC Offices in New Providence, Grand Bahama and the Family Islands will close at 2pm on Friday, December 18th to host its Annual Employee Christmas Party.

BTC apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

Very Merry Christmas

www.btcbahamas.com • www.facebook.com/mybtc



Happy Holidays

May the joy of this holiday season hold the Promise of a bright future filled with love, Laughter, happiness and the Fulfillment of your dreams.

Your Team at Scotiabank (Bahamas) wishes to Thank You for your business and loyalty.

We wish you and your family

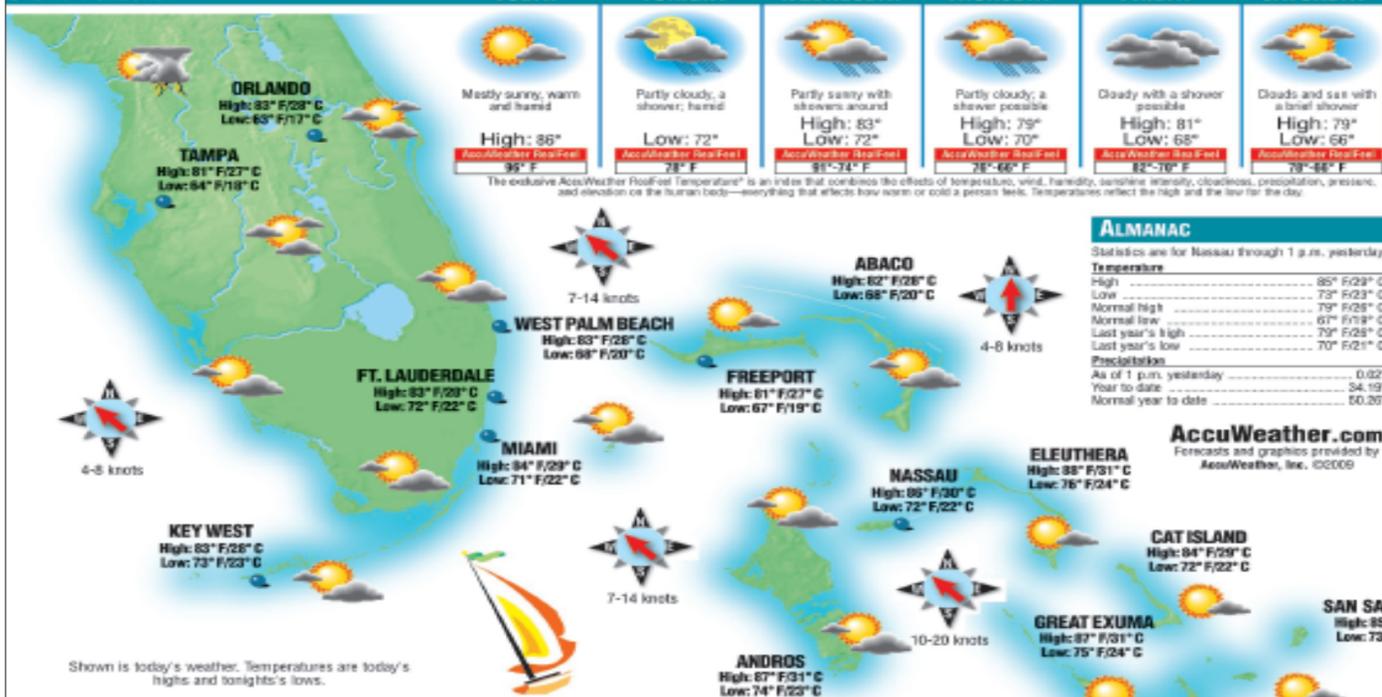
A Joyous Holiday Season

And a Great New Year!



THE WEATHER REPORT

5-DAY FORECAST



UV INDEX TODAY



TIDES FOR NASSAU

Time	High	Low
Today	6:43 a.m., 2:2	12:16 a.m., -0.3
Wednesday	7:25 a.m., 2.9	12:59 a.m., -0.3
Thursday	8:05 a.m., 2.9	1:40 a.m., -0.1
Friday	8:44 a.m., 2.9	2:20 a.m., -0.1
Saturday	9:22 a.m., 2.8	3:00 a.m., 0.0
Sunday	10:00 a.m., 2.7	3:41 a.m., 0.1
Monday	10:38 a.m., 2.5	4:23 a.m., 0.3

ALMANAC

Statistic	Value
High	85° F/29° C
Low	73° F/23° C
Normal High	79° F/26° C
Normal Low	67° F/19° C
Last year's high	79° F/26° C
Last year's low	70° F/21° C
Precipitation	0.02"
As of 1 p.m., yesterday	54.1%
Year to date	50.2%
Normal year to date	50.2%

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

SUN AND MOON

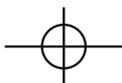
Event	Time
Sunrise	6:47 a.m.
Sunset	5:23 p.m.
Moonset	5:04 a.m.
Moonrise	4:42 p.m.

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP



MARINE FORECAST

Location	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMPS.
ARABO	Today: S at 4-6 Knots	4-7 Feet	10 Miles	77° F
ANDROS	Today: SE at 7-14 Knots	2-5 Feet	10 Miles	77° F
CAT ISLAND	Today: SE at 8-12 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	80° F
CROOKED ISLAND	Today: ESE at 8-16 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	81° F
ELEUTHERA	Today: ESE at 8-16 Knots	4-7 Feet	10 Miles	82° F
FREEPORT	Today: SSE at 6-12 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	79° F
GREAT EXUMA	Today: SE at 10-20 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	80° F
GREAT INAGUA	Today: ESE at 10-20 Knots	2-6 Feet	10 Miles	82° F
LONG ISLAND	Today: ESE at 8-16 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	81° F
MAYAGUANA	Today: ESE at 10-20 Knots	5-9 Feet	10 Miles	81° F
NASSAU	Today: SE at 7-14 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	83° F
SAN SALVADOR	Today: SE at 8-16 Knots	3-6 Feet	10 Miles	82° F
RAGGED ISLAND	Today: SE at 8-16 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	80° F



Woman

THE TRIBUNE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2009

SECTION C • HEALTH: Body and mind



GREAT GIFT IDEAS FOR GUYS

By JEFFARAH GIBSON

COLOGNE or jewellery, clothes or electronics? Shopping for the special men in your life can be a tedious task at Christmas, especially when you don't have a clue what to purchase, and on top of that you have to deal with the holiday rush.

This year, however, you can make your holiday gifts a little more personal while saving some money at the same time. And you don't necessarily have to browse through stores or fight through crowds at the local malls to do so.

Tribune Woman spoke with a few ladies who said they are aiming for more personal, yet inexpensive gifts this season.

Sherry Roberts said that while she enjoys shopping for pricey items, she prefers a gift that can be sentimentally valued.

"I find shopping for men very easy because it doesn't take much for a man to be satisfied with what you purchase for him. Last year, since my husband's birthday is a few days after Christmas, instead of getting him the 'same ole' cologne, jewellery or clothing, I threw him a party. I invited friends and family over and we had the time of our lives," she said.

While throwing a party might seem unusual, this gift meant much more to her husband than any expensive piece of jewellery, as "it was validation that he has a loving family who cares so much about him, which I can say is more precious than any pearl found at the bottom of the ocean," Mrs Roberts said.

Hosting a Christmas party for that special someone is a great idea, but if you have a family member, close friend, or significant other that collects certain items, it might be a good idea to purchase a gift that adds to his collection.

With a purchase like this you will show your loved one that you pay attention to his hobbies and passions.

Another lady who spoke with *Tribune Woman*, but wanted to remain anonymous, said that her special

friend will be appreciative of the vintage cigars she intends to buy this year.

"He has been collecting (cigars) for a very long time. He started out with one Cuban cigar, and now he has a bunch of them. So this year I am thinking of heading down to Graycliff to buy the best I can find to help him complete his collection, and I know he will appreciate that," she said.

To keep romance alive in her marriage, Tamika Grant will be presenting her spouse with an alluring portrait of herself this Christmas.

"My husband and I have made a pact to always do something out of the box and extraordinary for Christmas, so this year I decided to get a portrait painted of myself in lingerie," she said.

When asked about the reasons behind her unique choice, Mrs Grant said: "This kind of stuff brings out the humour in our relationship and I know this is something that he will enjoy."

"I thought it would be an amusing gift, and what better time to spice things up in your relationship than during the holidays."

But if you don't have the time or the means to come up with a gift as unique as a sexy portrait, then you can still head out to the Mall at Marathon where you will be sure to find a wide variety of items at a reasonable price.

"There's a lot of great stuff you can purchase in here," said Bob Stevenson, general manager at the Mall at Marathon.

"I can honestly say that you can never go wrong with clothes because it's a necessity. If women are interested in purchasing clothing for their men they can step into Bonneville and Bones or the Tommy Hilfiger store for the latest fashion trends," he said.

Knowing what kind of guy your loved one is and what he likes is key. If he loves electronics then that would probably be the better choice. If he enjoys barbequing then buying him a brand new power grill "will hit the nail on the head," Mr Stevenson said.

But remember, in the end it doesn't matter so much what you choose for a gift, as always it's the thought that really counts.



Primadona clothing store gives aide to single mothers

By JEFFARAH GIBSON

THANKS to the Primadona clothing store and the Department of Social Services, single mothers without bank accounts will have the opportunity to open one for the first time this Christmas season.

The store this month launched a chic gallery-like outlet named "Pop-Up" which is a temporary pre-Christmas showcase of a range of hard-to-find limited edition apparel and established designer brands.

And 10 per cent from first day sales were donated to families selected by the Department of Social Services.

In a time of economic hardship, store owner Tyrina Neely said they wanted to help give single mothers the opportunity to save funds and build a good credit report.

"Once the Department of Social Services selects the women we all meet for a brief talk, we will all go to a specified bank together to open the accounts. It's important for me to have one-on-one

contact with the ladies as opposed to just writing a cheque to the Department. I want them to know that someone is on their team and cheering for their success," Ms Neely told *Tribune Woman*.

Each bank account will be opened with \$50 as a starting balance, which will get the women on the path to saving.

Because it is commonplace in the Bahamas for women to be the sole provider of the family, Ms Neely said she wanted to extend a hand to

those supporting their children by themselves.

"Financial planning is the most important for single mothers who are the sole breadwinners for their families. Having a dedicated savings account whether for college savings or as a safety net in case of emergency, it's important for mothers to be financially responsible in this regard," she said.

Ms Neely also said she hopes by offering this small incentive it will help the women develop disciplined

saving habits.

This is not the first time "Primadona" has displayed acts of charity, having donated to various worthy causes in the past.

"Although this is the first time 'Primadona' has opened a 'Pop-Up' shop with donations from first day sales, we have been hosting monthly parties for just over a year," she said.

"At those parties we feature silent auctions where all proceeds are donated to this cause. Partners such as BTC,

Baha-Retreat Day Spa, Graycliff Hotel, and TriStar Insurance have donated fabulous items which women bid on and all proceeds then go toward opening bank accounts for single mothers," Ms Neely said.

The Pop-Up store offers a selection of elegant attire, handbags, shoes, jewellery, and much more.

The outlet, located in Prince George Plaza, upstairs opposite Lum's Iguana Café, will remain open until December 24.



Discover the goodness of Ovaltine.

Ovaltine's unique recipe includes milk and cocoa powder, 15 essential vitamins and minerals, and complex carbohydrates. One cup of hot milky Ovaltine contains half the amount of sugar as a cup of ordinary hot chocolate.

Distributed by: BWA, East West Highway • 394-1759

WOMAN

Miss Andros wins Miss Toastmasters Bahamas title with her oratory skills

CONTRARY to popular belief, beauty pageants are not just about good looks.

Yes, looks along with finesse and poise play a major role in winning the coveted crown, but it's not the deciding factor.

Organisers of traditional pageants point out that a contestant's intelligence, her ability to maintain composure and articulately express her views account for 50 per cent of the judges' decision in the final rounds of competition.

After the competition is over, during their reign, pageant winners are asked to appear at public functions and speak to serious issues, not wear their swimsuits.

It's often said that contestants aren't properly trained to answer 'the final question' in local pageants.

There are few pageants like Miss Toastmasters Bahamas that really reward contestants for their ability to answer a question eloquently and with poise.

Last month, eight contestants showed off their oratory

skills in grand style at the Miss Toastmasters Bahamas Speech Pageant held at the Wyndham Nassau Resort and Crystal Palace Casino.

At this year's competition, it was Toastmaster Kareen Sherwood who received the most awards.

She won in the categories of Miss Congeniality, Best Speech, Best Business Attire, Best Evening Gown, Peoples Choice, and for the most number of ads.

But this wasn't a problem for the winner of the overall competition, Sashane McDonald of the Toastmasters Club 7178.

Sashane, 29, told *Tribune Woman* that she simply walked her walk and talked her talk, wowing the judges with her poise and confidence, responding with a well thought out answer to her final question.

Activities like 'table topics' and other segments of a typical Toastmasters' meetings proved most beneficial to the contestants in responding to off-the-cuff questions.

The competition was stiff, as the eight contestants participated in three pageant segments in front of a 200 plus crowd.

In the end, it was Miss Andros Sashane McDonald who took home the 2009-2010 Miss Toastmasters Bahamas title, and almost \$250 in cash and prizes.

The pageant afforded female members of Toastmasters Clubs in the Bahamas the opportunity to demonstrate their personal growth in public speaking since being involved in Toastmasters.

After a business attire segment and a six-minute speech, Sashane and four other contestants battled it out by answering the final question about defining the 'phenomenal man.'

Scripts and notes were not allowed during the contestant's monologue.

Generally, the responses were that a man has to be independent, has to be honest with himself and his family. Sashane's answer impressed the judges the most; she spoke

about a man being true to himself.

"The answer set her apart from the other finalists," said pageant coordinator Damien Miller.

A lawyer by profession, Sashane has learned to master public speaking, but said that her Toastmasters experience has helped her understand the difference between public speaking and giving speeches.

Sashane and runner-up Christina Chemhuru, who are both from the Toastmasters Club 7178 Healing Communicators - were called to the front at the end, holding hands and smiling.

"We were passing comments to each other. We were actually saying stuff through our teeth the whole time. We were saying how tired we were of smiling all night," said Christina.

The pageant began as a club initiative, but over the years has blossomed into an event open to the entire New Providence Branch of Healing Communicators Toastmasters Club 3596.

These were the results: Title winner - Sashane McDonald; first runner-up - Christina Chemhuru; second runner-up - Bruanne Elliot,



SASHANE MCDONALD right after the announcement that she won the Miss Toastmasters Bahamas title.

and third runner-up - Kareen Sherwood.

Toastmasters is a leading global movement devoted to making effective oral com-

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Enhancing your relationship

By JEFFARAH GIBSON

AFTER the honeymoon phase passes, couples tend to get lazy in their efforts to ensure that their relationship is thriving and that their significant other is sufficiently satisfied.

But there is something every couple can do to keep the fire ablaze and to build a strong, loving bond.

Bring back the romance

Speaking with *Tribune Woman*, Margaret Bain, an individual and couples relationship therapist, said that it is only natural for the romance in the relationship to wear off, and when it does, each person should make an effort in restoring the connection.

"Almost everyone gets comfortable after a period of time, and as time progresses the relationship becomes less fulfilling and there is a feeling of emptiness," she said.

What most people forget, Ms Bain said, is the importance of romance.

"The romance keeps a relationship alive and healthy. It's all about relearning those things that cause one to become attracted to their partner and reintroducing them later on in the relationship," she said.

Being romantic does not only involve making reservations at the most expensive restaurants or buying lavish flower arrangements, it also means understanding your partner's interests and rediscovering them together.

Spend time together

This is probably the most obvious and important aspect, since without spending time together it is difficult to foster an intimate bond. The adage is true, couples who don't spend much time together lose their

connection. Being in a relationship requires time and dedication from both partners, Ms Bain said, and no relationship can survive without the couple having fun together.

"If couples want their relationship to last then they must create time together without children," she emphasised.

"People do a lot of family things together, but they neglect their relationship, and some people wonder why after the kids are all grown up there is left what is called an 'emptiness syndrome' within the relationship", she said.

Couples should take at least 15 minutes to sit down face-to-face, and discuss the highs and lows of their days without any distractions, which means no kids, no television, and no music. If this is not possible then they can check in with phone calls every so often.

Get to the talking

Communication is at the root of almost every relationship dilemma. The inability to express oneself without being judged or criticised is very important to an individual, and a relationship that is unable to foster healthy communication is doomed to fail.

"Communication does not only require talking to get one's point across, but they must also be willing to listen attentively. Too many times couples try to communicate with each other and they are either interrupted or judged by their partner. This, then causes the other mate to shut down and become unwilling to share their thoughts," Ms Bain said.

With this in mind, she said, couples should spend at least 30 to 50 minutes a day talking to each other. During this time they should encourage openness and honesty.

The power of touch

Ever notice when a mother kisses her child after it has hurt itself and all of a sudden the child stops crying? In relationships it is similar - each partner gets confirmation and comfort from the touch of their mate.

"After couples have been in a relationship for some time they forget to touch one another. Now this type of touch is the non-demand for pleasure kind of touch. This involves the simple hugging, kissing or holding hands, this is what actually encourages and builds intimacy," she said.

Ms Bain also recommended that touching should be done regularly, and although it might be a little surprising for your partner in the beginning, it is worthwhile.

So the next time you see your significant other, greet them with hug and a kiss on the cheek.

Spend time away from each other

While couples might want to spend every waking moment together, it is not healthy for a relationship. And although the more time spent with a partner, the more the connection strengthens, it can also cause the quality of the relationship to diminish slowly.

"What most people seem to forget is that although they are in a relationship with a person they are still individuals. By wanting to spend every moment of the day with their lover the person comes across as needy and loses all of their emotional independence," she said.

It is vital that each partner engage themselves in activities without their mate. Not only does it improve emotional stability and strengthen one's separate identity, it is also the beginning of healthy fulfilling unity.

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WOMAN

PMH makes Bahamian medical history

Dr Magnus Ekedede performs first lobotomy

By REUBEN SHEARER
Tribune Features Reporter
rshearer@tribunemedia.net

AS Kenneth Farrington views the pictures of the large tumour doctors removed from his brain on his 12th birthday last month, he seems uneasy.

And it's no wonder, as Kenneth has undergone the first lobotomy ever to be performed in the Bahamas and in the region.

The extremely risky procedure was performed at Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) by a team of neurosurgeons in a five-hour operation on November 25.

Dr Magnus Ekedede, Chief Neurosurgeon at PMH, explained to reporters seated around a boardroom table last week the reason why it took so long for them to inform the public about this amazing feat.

"There have been cases where the patient didn't fully recover from the operation and died," he said. "And in order to avoid disseminating premature information we wanted to wait a few days to be sure that Kenneth was well."

Kenneth's surgery had a 50/50 chance of success, Dr Ekedede said.

The operation required a "meticulous technique" and if anything had gone wrong it could have had life-altering consequences for the patient. He could have regressed to a vegetative state; become a hemiplegic (where half of the body is paralysed), or experienced diminishment of speech functions and vision.

In the worst case scenario Kenneth could have died from complications during or after the operation.

Dr Ekedede explained all of these possibilities to Kenneth's mother, Pearl Mitchell, before the operation.

"They told me surgery was

the only option to save his life, and I gave them the okay because he had a lot of headaches and seizures," Ms Mitchell explained to *Tribune Health*.

"I was afraid, and I started crying because I didn't know what the results would be like." But in the end Ms Mitchell understood that the surgery was the only chance for her son to live a normal, healthy life.

Kenneth's health woes began in recent months when he started experiencing headaches in the front part of his head.

Little did he or his family know, but a vascular tumour was the cause for those headaches, and it was growing in size.

Kenneth saw a doctor in Freeport on November 24, after having just suffered a seizure for the first time in his young life.

Doctors in Freeport opted to do a CT scan to determine if the seizure could be due to bleeding in the brain.

The scan showed them a suspicious area in Kenneth's right frontal lobe, leading the Freeport doctors to immediately contact a neurosurgeon who advised them to look into it further.

According to the Centre for Neuro Skills (CNS) in the United States, the left frontal lobe is involved in controlling language related movement, whereas the right frontal lobe plays a role in non-verbal abilities. But the CNS pointed out that some researchers emphasise that this rule is not absolute and that with many people both lobes are involved in nearly all behaviour.

Kenneth's tumour was confined to the left frontal lobe, and doctors decided to perform the surgery the very next day.

The surgery involved a craniotomy in the right frontal lobe - the removal of half of the right part of the brain that contained the growth.

Kenneth was anaesthetised, and extensive measures were taken to set up all of the appropriate monitors to be certain that the boy remained stable throughout the procedure.

The surgery began with an incision to the scalp.

After that, a plate of bone was cut and temporarily removed, this gave the neurosurgeons access to the inner skull which has a protective layer and leads to the brain.

Any bleeding had to be quickly controlled, or else Kenneth would've hemorrhaged. After removing the entire right frontal lobe, taking care not to damage the left lobe in any way, doctors filled the space with a sterile solution and closed the skull back up.

When Kenneth emerged from the operating theatre after five hours of surgery Ms Mitchell said she did not recognise her son.

"I couldn't believe it was my child," she said, "His eyes were all swelled up, they had tubes and other things hooked up to him."

Kenneth regained consciousness after 24 hours, and was immediately able to communicate that he was fine and in possession of all of his speech and motor skills.

Two days after the risky operation, Kenneth was able to walk again. All in all, his recovery was uncomplicated.

Kenneth was discharged from hospital a week after he underwent the lobotomy.

"It's remarkable that he's recovered so well," said Dr Ekedede.

"Kenneth has no loss of memory, no weakness, he can see smell and everything else."

The boy's initial symptoms of headaches and epilepsy are also gone. If there had been any complications from the operation they would have shown up within three to five days after surgery, Dr Ekedede said.

Kenneth's family is now

planning a fitting "welcome home" for when he returns to Freeport.

His aunt has promised him a birthday cake to mark his 12th birthday, which he spent on an operating table at PMH.

In six months time, Dr Ekedede will do a follow-up examination on Kenneth.

"We have accomplished a lot, because this operation is normally done in Mayo Clinics and Harvard Clinics," Dr Ekedede said.

He emphasised that he is indebted to the contribution of everybody who made the operation a success: Dr Ian McDowell, Dr Vernal McPhee, Dr Coralie Adderley, Dr Marie Roe, and Dr Geoffrey Pennerman.

"This is very good news at this Christmas season," said Dr Pennerman, Medical Chief of Staff at PMH.



KENNETH Farrington just before his surgery. In this photo, the medical team has outlined cutting lines on his forehead for the procedure.

The hospital has also given a monetary gift to Kenneth, "to allow him to achieve his life's potential."

Ms Mitchell said Kenneth may be able to return to school in January for the Spring semester.

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WOMAN

LOVING RELATIONSHIPS

Does size really matter?

IMAGINE yourself sipping a cup of coffee, feeling relaxed and your mind starts to drift to 'people watching'; all sorts of people, dressed differently and interacting with each other.

Then you notice smiles, endearing looks, touches, and other not such friendly body language. Thoughts about what attracts them to each other and what sort of relationship they have becomes a playful pastime.

Attraction is such a fascinating topic and our individual likes and dislikes are intrinsic to who we are. We know that there will always be people who find small or large breasts, hips or legs their preference, so does size really matter?

If that is the case then why do we get so hung up and self critical about parts of our own body?

For others, it may not be physical looks but the level of the magnetism and the size of the wallet that is attached. For both men and women, material assets equal security and in their eyes, add size to the person.



By MAGGIE BAIN

Throw in position and power, and the person grows to be larger than life. Wouldn't we all want their self-confidence and sexual attraction? Who says size doesn't matter?

Picture yourself having it all; enormous personal wealth, position, power, personal happiness. Decades go by and you turn your wealth over and over. The pressure to maintain a certain image keeps the wheel turning. Does something change or is it an inevitable progression of events when you discover that sharing your wealth feels so rewarding? To be viewed as a philanthropist moves you further up the ladder of 'having it all'.

Now you can be seen as not only

successful but generous with a huge overflowing heart.

If we know all of this then it still does not explain why we are so self-deprecating about parts of our body. Why do we always want to change something about ourselves?

Certainly a little 'tweaking' here and there cannot be a bad thing? Watching what we eat or exercising more efficiently makes sense, however, abusing our bodies in any way can become consuming and pull us from focusing on the world around us.

No matter what we tell ourselves, or hear from other people, positive body image and self-acceptance are hugely important.

It is hard to move forward if we loathe the size of a part of us. It will always get in the way of feeling free and uninhibited if we are engaged in an intimate relationship.

Women in particular are insecure about their bodies, but they also underestimate men's adoration and worship of the female form.

For some, frequent compliments

and reassurance helps to ease the shyness.

However, others are faced with criticism that only intensifies their desire to change the defective part. If it does become hugely important to you then cosmetic surgery may be the answer.

The long-term consequences of body modification are far reaching and a powerful method to gain or regain lost self esteem.

Low self esteem is not exclusive to women and many men feel society's pressure to live up to the ideal image of a man.

This is reinforced by the full range of media and marketing products. Pornography, in particular, plays a huge role in reinforcing penis envy and comparisons.

The majority of heterosexual men have rarely, if ever, seen another man's erection so this is often the only way they have to compare.

However, few fail to recognise that the industry itself searches for the largest phalluses to enhance the effect. Put all these expectations together and

it is little wonder that performance anxiety interferes with satisfaction.

Actually, most women will tell you that 'bigger is not necessarily better'. Sexual compatibility starts with shared values and preferences, but then moves to reciprocal pleasuring.

Many couples would uncover a new intimacy if they asked each other how they could become better lovers. Learn to perfect the skills in areas that you bring most pleasure and in this way any physical shortcomings are minimised. If you move to placing more emphasis on all areas of sensuality and sexuality then you will learn to give more with out holding back.

• Margaret Bain is an individual and couples relationship therapist. She is a registered nurse and a certified clinical sex therapist. For appointments call 364-7230 or e-mail her at relatebahamas@yahoo.com or www.relatebahamas.blogspot.com. She is also available for speaking engagements.

Emotional Hijacking: Who is navigating your feelings?

"The sign of intelligent people is their ability to control emotions by the application of reason."
- Marya Mannes

EMOTIONS are something that we experience everyday; whether negative or positive, our emotions are an integral aspect of who we are – how we think and how we behave.

We have all experienced anger, hatred, desire, fear, jealousy, disappointment and other such emotions many times throughout our lives.

But are we appropriately navigating them?

Often times we justify our emotional reactions by blaming others, spinning a web of delusion that another person's action or behaviour is the cause for ours and thus they are responsible for what we do or say.

This in a roundabout way is a symptom of being emotionally out of control and vulnerable to an emotional hijacking.

Emotional Hijacking - It Is What It Is!



By Michelle M Miller, CC

intellect.

Healthy EQ therefore means that you possess the skills necessary to navigate your emotions and avoid emotional hijackings.

But at some point we all get hijacked by our emotions. This occurs when the emotional part of the brain takes control and the logical or thinking part shuts down, causing your emotions to control your behaviour, rather than the other way around.

The untold truth of how you feel remains in your subconscious mind, and you may think that because you have suppressed rather than expressed it, that it doesn't exist.

But you could not be more wrong. Your feelings are right there, silently forming a concentrated part of the energy you exude.

The point here is you cannot run from yourself. You either own your feelings or you are blaming others for how you feel.

Most adults do not own their feelings, they simply learn to live with their untruths. This is where the bulk

of emotional hijackings take place, especially in relationships, whether romantic or in the workplace.

Most people try to navigate relationships without first being able to navigate their own emotions.

Final Thoughts – Let's Bring It Home

When you disregard your feelings you adversely affect your emotional well-being and that of those around you, especially children who are unable to understand. Consequently, they repeat the same ineffective means of channelling their emotions based on what they observe.

This sheds light on the notion that anti-social behaviour is not necessarily about physical violence as much as it is about the need to effectively understand and navigate emotions.

The challenge here is that most education models focus primarily on IQ, paying very little regard for EQ, even though it considered a fundamental component of human potential development.

Emotions can help or hinder you, but you have no power over them until you understand them.

When you know who you are, your

strengths and your breaking points, you can develop strategies to improve your emotional well-being.

Remember your emotions are complex, building healthy emotions begin when you honour and positively navigate your feelings. Of course this is easier said than done, but to win you must begin by finding ways to assess your EQ.

More importantly, the best that you can do is to learn to live your own truth. One great writer puts it well – "Everything can be taken from a man but the last of human freedoms, which is the ability to choose one's attitude in a given set of circumstances, to choose one's way." (Viktor Frankl)

You have the inner power to navigate your emotions, get up and make it happen!

• Your questions or comments are welcomed. Call 326-3332 or 429-6770 – or send an email to coach4ward@yahoo.com. Michelle M Miller is a certified life coach and stress management consultant. She is the principal coach of the Coaching Studio, which located in the Jovan Plaza, Madeira Street.

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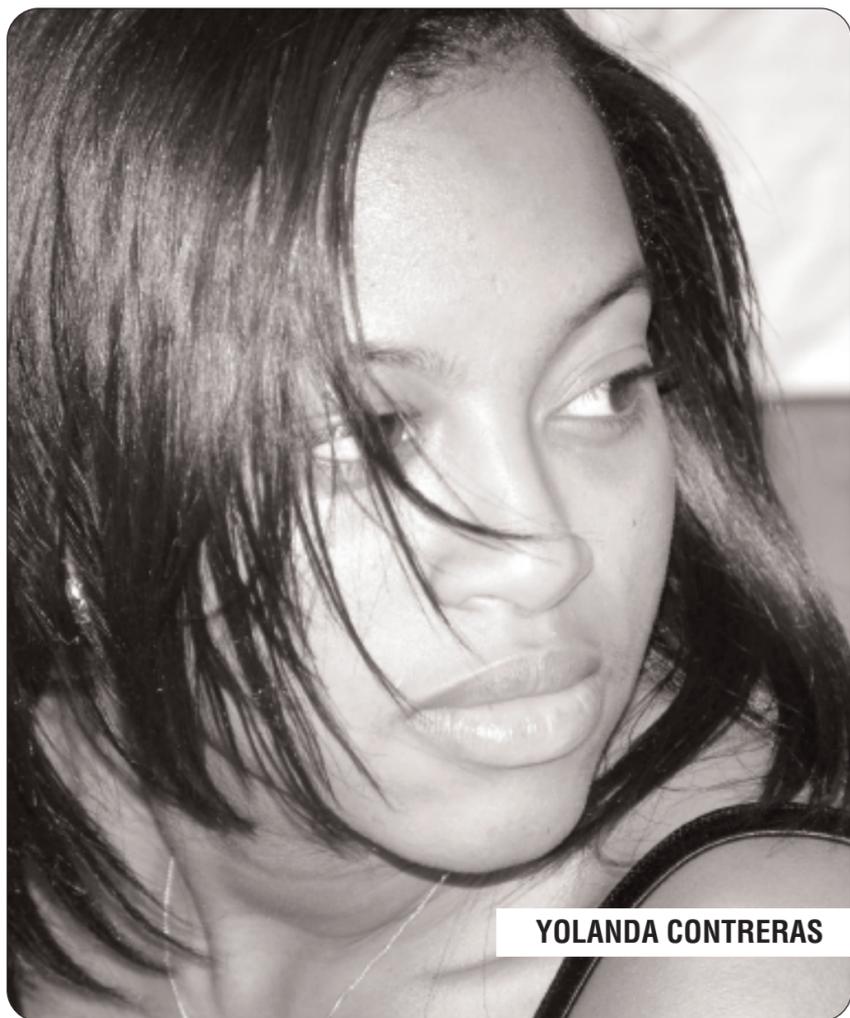
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WOMAN



YOLANDA CONTRERAS

The buzz about Dominican cosmetology

By YOLANDA CONTRERAS

PART 1

MANY years ago, Dominicans surrendered their hair to the magic of ceramic irons and heavy, oily products, however, it was only a matter of time before those frequenting the hair parlors realised the long-term damage that the consistent use of these tools and products caused to their hair.

The new and improved Dominican cosmetologists are now putting heavy emphasis on "hair care". By doing so they have separated themselves from the traditional hair stylists or hairdressers.

With the establishment of the many prestigious Dominican laboratories dedicated to the field of cosmetology, the Dominican community has become much more educated about hair and its care.

Dominican cosmetologists were left with no choice but to embrace the change and the evolution of the "free flowing hair" era.

From the United States to Europe, Dominicans have created a lot of buzz with the introduction of their famous techniques of round-brushing and its advantages over the many heated tools which are capable of cooking a steak well-done on the spot.

Round-brushing has not only been proven to be healthy for the hair (provided the right brushes are used),

but it also promotes stimulation for hair growth and has no limitation as to hair textures of length.

When all else fails, Dominicans rely on homemade hair recipes passed down from generation to generation.

From bushes to fruits and special oils, Dominicans are passionate about keeping their hair in good health, enhancing women's natural beauty. Roller-setting, hair-wrapping and consistency is the key to strong healthy hair.

Whoever said that in order to grow or maintain our hair we must keep it in its natural state? Not so anymore.

Women in Nassau are now also embracing change. No longer do Bahamians show much interest in hair products which make the hair heavy or stiff, or even the forever famous "weaves".

I take my hat off to those Bahamian cosmetologists who are now getting on the healthy hair wagon.

And to those who are still a bit hesitant I say, 'get on with it, for change is unavoidable and time waits for no man or woman'.

So there you have it, that's the big buzz about Dominican cosmetology. What's the buzz with your hair?

Yolanda Contreras was trained at Nacidit International in the Dominican Republic and studied cosmetology for three

years.
All inquiries can be sent to Ms Contreras at info@bahare-treat.com, or call 323-6711 or 323-6715.

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WOMAN

FLEAS - A SERIOUS PEST

THIS ectoparasite causes most pet owners in the Bahamas more stress than any other parasite. It seems because of our warm climatic conditions we are bombarded with this pest year round.



By DR BASIL SANDS

Fleas: This is the leading cause of itching and scratching in dogs and cats.

Fleas survive by jumping onto a host animal, cutting open their skin and feeding on the blood. In many dogs, the bites cause only a mild itch but a heavy infestation in a puppy or small dog can cause severe anemia and even death.

Fleas can cause an allergic reaction by a marked hypersensitivity to the saliva of fleas that result in skin abrasion, hair loss and secondary pyodermas.

They can also transmit tapeworms to your pet.

Flea infestation can be diagnosed by finding fleas on the dog or by seeing black and white (salt and pepper) grains in the coat.

These particles are flea faeces (the pepper) and flea eggs (the salt).

Flea faecal material is made up of digested blood, and when placed on a wet paper or towel it turns reddish brown.

The adult flea is small and has no wings so cannot fly. However, they do have powerful back legs and can jump great distances. Fleas move through the hair rapidly and are difficult to catch. To effectively control fleas one must understand the flea life cycle.

Fleas need a warm, humid environment to flourish and reproduce.

The higher the temperature and humidity, the more efficient their reproduction.

This summer has been very hot

and the amount of rainfall has been the highest in years, thus the high levels of fleas this summer.

The adult flea can live up to 115 days on a dog, but only one or two days off the animal.

After a flea takes a blood meal, it will mate on the skin of the dog.

The female lays eggs within 24 to 48 hours and may produce up to 2,000 eggs in a four-month life span.

The eggs fall off and incubate in your home beneath furniture and in carpets, cracks and bedding. In 10 days the eggs hatch into larva that feed on local debris. Larva spin a cocoon and goes into a pupal stage that last for days or months. Under ideal temperature and humidity conditions fleas can emerge rapidly.

After hatching, immature fleas have two weeks to find a host. At any given time, about one per cent of the population is composed of adult fleas, while 99 per cent remain in the invisible egg, larval and pupal stages. An effective flea control programme must eliminate this large reserve.

How to control fleas:

Today, you can go to any food store, pet store or mom and pop store and find products that are labelled as flea killers. I am not telling you how to spend your money or where to spend it, but I am going to recommend what you should use.

Advantage: This is a once a month liquid preparation that kills fleas by direct contact. Fleas don't have to bite the dog for the preparation to work. Advantage kills fleas on direct contact and may reduce hatching

eggs and larvae.

Advantix: This is a new formulation of Advantage that works on fleas and ticks, however, it is very expensive.

Frontline Plus: This contains the active ingredient Fipronil which kills fleas on contact within 24 to 48 hours. The fleas do not need to bite the dog to be killed. It is a liquid that comes in tubes and is applied between the shoulder blades. The effectiveness of Frontline is not diminished if the dog becomes wet.

The product has a residual affect that last up to 90 days in some dogs. One additional benefit is that it often kills ticks for up to 30 days. The Frontline plus has Methoprene, which kills adult fleas, flea eggs and larvae. It is also labelled for use on breeding, pregnant and lactating bitches.

Revolution: This is a once a month liquid preparation used as heartworm preventative that has flea-controlling properties. However, it is extremely expensive and I do not recommend it.

Topical insecticides

Flea shampoos (usually pyrethrin based):

Shampoos such as Adams and Zodiac kill only when they are on the pet. Once rinsed off, they have no residual effect. These are used in mild to moderate flea infestation, when the environment has also been thoroughly treated.

Flea powders and dust:

Powders and dusts such as Zodiac and Seven have more residual killing activity, but must be worked thoroughly through the coat down to the skin. Dusting must be repeated two to three times a week or as recommended by the manufacturer.

Sprays and dips: These have the most effective killing action and are the best choice



FLEAS can cause an allergic reaction by a marked hypersensitivity to the saliva of fleas that result in skin abrasion, hair loss and secondary pyodermas. They can also transmit tapeworms to your pet.

es for severe flea infestation and for dogs with flea allergy dermatitis. If you are not using a topical preventive like Frontline, sprays like Adams or Davis work best on dogs with short coats. When using a spray, begin near the back of the dog's head and work toward the tail.

This prevents fleas on the body from escaping the treatment by moving up to the face. Insecticide dips such as Para Mite applied to the coat and allowed to dry are extremely effective in getting rid of fleas.

Dips penetrate the coat and have the most immediate killing action and the longest residual activity.

Flea collars: Flea collars aid in flea control but do not eradicate all fleas. Most col-

lars contain Dichlorvos, which turns into a vapour that surrounds the dog. If the dog sleeps outdoors, the collar is not as effective. Flea collars lose their potency over time and must be changed every two months. Dog flea collars should never be used on cats.

Treating the environment:

As mentioned earlier, a female flea may produce up to 2,000 eggs in four months. Most of these eggs will incubate in the environment and become adult fleas. Hence it is wise to treat the environment with a product that will kill flea eggs and larvae. You can ask your veterinarian for a suitable house treatment and/or a yard treatment that is reliable and safe or you can call your local pest company.

Foot health tips for the holiday season



By BERNADETTE GIBSON

DURING this festive season many persons will be on their feet for extended periods. In preparation for the season's celebrations, many

are cooking, baking and decorating.

Then there are the shopaholics who don't realise that they are in for quite a work-

out, the constant moving from store to store and standing in cashier lines for extended periods. Finally, there are the party-goers who are more concerned about mixing and mingling, rather than their feet.

Most people, and more so women, don't wear the proper walking or standing gear for these activities. Instead of wearing a supportive sandal while cooking, baking or decorating, they would opt to go bare feet or wear flat flip flops while standing for hours on tiled or hard floors.

On the other hand, we have the shop-a-holics who want to sport the season's latest heels - which are obviously inappropriate for this exercise.

Wearing improper footwear during the holiday season will only result in blisters, corns, calluses or worse, heel pain.

Heel spurs has been recognised as one of the most common causes of heel pain.

Injury, hard surfaces and poorly constructed footwear can account for this condition.

Calluses are often found on pressure-sensitive parts of the foot, such as under the ball of the foot or under the big toe joint. They can be sore and even painful, much like having a pebble under your foot. Calluses are sometimes a sign of foot imbalance or of a more serious problem con-

cealed inside the foot.

Corns on the other hand come in two forms, hard corns and soft corns.

Hard corns usually start as red skin, followed by a coating of callus, which develops into a hard corn. Most hard corns develop on the side of the little toe, but are also found in other places where there is steady pressure and abrasion. Hard corns are almost always caused by shoes of the wrong size or shape or fit.

On the other hand, the soft corn is always found between the web of the toes, usually between the fourth and fifth toes.

A soft corn is white and damp. It can also be very painful. It is caused by a constant squeezing together of the toes as a result of shoes too short or narrow at the toes.

I wish to give the following advice to readers this holiday season:

A supportive flip flop, loafer or even running gear combined with a properly designed 'foot bed' will put your foot in its natural position for walking and standing this holiday season.

Party-goers should choose shoes with a reasonable heel height of 1.5 to 2 inches.

Look for shoes that provide ample toe room (beware of

pointed toe styles) having a back strap or enclosed back. The same holds true for men with the exception of heel height.

If you are having trouble achieving the appropriate fit with shoes you already own, take them to a local specialty footwear store or pedorthic facility and they can modify your shoes to fit your feet.

Purchase a slim arch support that your shoe can accommodate. Specialty footwear stores and pedorthic facilities have options that will fit almost any shoe.

As this is my final article to end 2009, I want to wish you comfort and joy this holiday season! Remember when your feet feel good so will the rest of your body! Until next year - Happy feet!

Bernadette D Gibson, a board certified and licensed pedorthist, is the proprietor of Foot Solutions, a health and wellness franchise that focuses on foot care and proper shoe fit, located in the Sandport Plaza, Nassau.

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Foot Solutions Incorporated or any of its subsidiary and/or affiliated companies. Please direct any questions or comments nasau@footsolutions.com or 327-FEET (3338).

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WOMAN

GREEN SCENE

By Gardener Jack

Birds on the wing

NOW that I am retired from teaching I live most of my waking hours on my back porch. From there I can look out over my garden and ponder the mysteries of life such as 'why does grass have to grow so fast' and 'why does my pentas look so chlorotic even though I fertilise it quite often'.

As is usual with men, I am not as observant as the gentler sex. Out on the back porch for just a few seconds this summer my wife observed: "Those birds are building a nest?"

I had been watching a pair of mockingbirds - obviously a male and female though I am no ornithologist and cannot tell the sexes apart - go through a ritual of landing on top of the vine trellis with small twigs in their beaks, looking around, then swooping low to the corner of my yard near to the road.

I had been watching this activity without putting two and two together.

"This is the end of July. Don't birds build nests in spring?"

"Whatever. But those birds are building a nest," my wife said.

I went to investigate and found the nest. It was in a clerodendron shrub that was only about six feet tall and the nest was at below shoulder height, perfect for taking photos. Every day from then on I checked out the nest and before July was over there was one egg, then three, then four, sky blue and speckled with brown.

I can only surmise that some birds lay a second clutch if they lose the first to predators. Or maybe they are remarkably fecund and just enjoy adding to the population of the avian world.

It was the beginning of August when the last egg was laid, three days from the first egg to the last.



Every day I visited the nest and took photos, often while being dive-bombed by one of the parents.

The change from fascinatingly ugly and naked to sizeable fledgling was far from gradual. Every day I was able to see substantial development. Then one morning the nest was empty.

I checked around for signs of carnage because I have had the experience of a ravaged nest before, but there were no signs. The youngsters had gone from eggs to flying creatures in the space of three

weeks. Amazing.

The new denizens of the bird world soon made their presence known.

You could tell it was the youngsters from the way they played with each other, even in flight. They were noisy and seemed to be playing hide and seek with each other, one darting off and the others following, all to make clumsy landings in the pigeon pea trees.

There was no sign of the parents. It is obvious that once the offspring were out of the nest the parents had taken off and left the kids to

A summer crop of mockingbird eggs. Three weeks after this photo was taken the birds had hatched and flown.

their own devices.

After a few weeks the siblings broke up, first of all into pairs and then into loners. Their territory obviously expanded but I know the only mockingbirds I see in the yard these days are one of the homeys.

Perhaps next spring I will see one of them and a new mate perching on the top of the vine trellis with twigs in their mouths and the

cycle will have started all over again.

There are many lessons to be learned from the animal world, both cautionary and inspirational, and I gave pause for thought to the birds' achievement. In a little over a month they had built a nest, produced a family and then retired. It took me over 40 years, and still counting.

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