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Volume: 106 No.23

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2009

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

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Urban Renewal workers frustrated by political wrangling

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CARS! CARS! CARS!

CLASSIFIEDS TRADER

INSIDE

OBITUARIES and RELIGION

IN TODAY'S TRIBUNE

PLP team seeks Adderley talks

Father shot dead as gunmen open fire on group

By **MEGAN REYNOLDS**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A **LOVING** father became the country's 80th murder victim when two gunmen opened fire on a group of men.

Steel worker Darron Farrington, 38, was with friends standing outside a house when two armed gunmen emerged from a track road and began shooting.

Mr Farrington collapsed as he was shot in the chest. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Another man was shot in his lower

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Party in bid to find out if MP intends to quit

By **PAUL G TURNQUEST**
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IN THEIR bid to find out if PLP MP Malcolm Adderley will leave the party and force a by-election in Elizabeth, the PLP has mobilized a team to meet and speak with the MP over the Christmas break.

According to well-placed sources within the party, this decision was made during the party's Candidate's Committee meeting held at Gambier House on Monday night.

As is well known within the PLP, Mr Adderley has been very vocal about the "mistreatment" he claims he endured under the party's leader, Perry Christie. At the time, it was reported that Mr Adderley had been promised the post of Attorney General before the PLP's 2002 election. However, upon gaining the government, Mr Adderley was reportedly called into the then PM's office and offered the post of Speaker of the House of Assembly. After an exchange of "heated"

words, it is alleged that Mr Adderley was then offered the post of Chairman of the Water and Sewerage Board — a position he again turned down.

Therefore it came as no surprise to many that the Elizabeth MP was essentially "black-balled" by the party and offered no assistance in the upkeep of his constituency in terms of jobs or road work improvements.

Mr Christie has gone on

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CALL FOR 'FAIR AND TRANSPARENT' QC SELECTION PROCESS

NEWLY APPOINTED
QC Fred Smith smiles yesterday. Emerick Knowles, QC, looks on.



By **ALISON LOWE**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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HENRY Bostwick, QC, used the formal ceremony admitting four new QCs to the Inner Bar yesterday as a platform to call on the government to "seriously consider" reforming the process by which QCs are selected to one which is "fair and transparent" and not open to accusations of secrecy or that it "perpetuates an old boy's network."

He made his recommendations even as he officially congratulated Colin Callender QC, Fred Smith, QC, Philip Dunkley, QC, and Emerick Knowles, QC, on being appointed Queen's Counsel, saying that their admission to the Inner Bar represents "an historic day" in Bahamian legal history.

"Each has merited this distinction," he said, adding however that their appointments "only just begin to tap into the deep reservoir" of such talent within the Bahamas Bar.

The four senior attorneys participated in the formal ceremony admitting them from the "Utter" or outer Bar to the Inner Bar during a special sitting of the Supreme Court presided over by Chief Justice Sir Michael Barnett yesterday.

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BTC expects profits of \$40 million

By **TANEKA THOMPSON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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BTC executives expect to end the year with "near record revenues" with anticipated profits within the \$40 million range.

According to management, increased vigilance and slashing expenditure on unnecessary items allowed BTC to remain profitable in spite of the financial constraints placed on the telecommunications provider during the harsh economic climate this year.

The utility company also decided to forego \$13 million in revenue this year and pass these savings on to its customers through giveaways and price cuts, said acting president and CEO Kirk Griffin.

"Despite the fact that our revenues remained under threat, BTC made a deliberate decision to forego some \$13

SEE page 12

Govt 'not officially informed' by Sir Jack Hayward of GBPA stake sale

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

claims, and was only aware of the news after it was first published in *The Tribune*.

SEE page 14

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MP BYRAN WOODSIDE plays Santa for the Pinewood youth.

A Christmas celebration in Pinewood

IT'S the time of year when the night becomes a spectacle of bright lights adorning Christmas trees, homes and lamp poles around the city.

But for many, Christmas just isn't the same this year, because bills are piling up and more and more families are finding it harder to make ends meet.

Some have suggested that under the circumstances, Christmas tree lighting ceremonies and other traditional community events are little more than a waste of valuable resources.

But if the Pinewood Constituency's holiday gathering on Saturday was anything to go by, such occasions are more important than ever in years when Christmas spirit seems difficult to rouse.

And MP Byran Woodside along with the Pinewood Urban Renewal Office and the Pinewood Outreach Group spread more than just glad tidings and holiday cheer – they also brought material relief to some of the residents most in need.

One family was given a \$1,000 voucher to use in any way they wished and many others took part in the grand raffle for a number of prizes.

Mr Woodside and his team also presented vouchers to hardworking young artists and performers from the area, including the Backyard Boys, a group of young Pinewood men who got together to come up with a unique musical sound and lyrics that promote a positive way of life.

Children involved in community projects and Urban Renewal after-school programmes were also recognised and rewarded, as were those who take part in the Governor General's Youth Awards, the neighbourhood

football league and the Outreach Group – which exists to help any Pinewood resident in need.

Best of all, the Christmas tree lighting ceremony gave residents a chance to talk and interact as they rarely get a chance to nowadays, with the busy pace of life and the struggle to make ends meet.

A spokesperson for the MP said: "The spirit of togetherness was the essence of the ceremony, topping off a year in which the Pinewood community focused on knitting itself more tightly. They achieved this by implementing programmes that brought the young people and the senior citizens closer together."

For example, the community launched a "Stop the Violence" concert that received an overwhelmingly positive reaction from the youth.

Residents also marched through the streets to promote togetherness and community spirit.

As 2009 comes to a close, Mr Woodside encouraged his constituents to remember that "even in troubling or tough times, the hand of God is protecting us."

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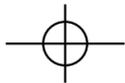
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LOCAL NEWS

Urban Renewal programme workers frustrated over political wrangling

By NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
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COMMUNITY workers have told *The Tribune* about their frustration at the political wrangling over Urban Renewal.

Talk has raged for months among politicians about who founded the programme, who changed the programme, who stopped and restarted the programme, and whose programme was more effective.

But people who work on the programme say the political points-scoring is damaging Urban Renewal and affecting the people who are in dire need.

"People believe we are not doing anything and it takes away from the work which is being done," said Kolamae Pedican, manager for the Kemp Road Urban Renewal Centre.

"I am working hard and it makes me feel like the work I am doing does not matter. When people listen to the politicians they stop coming. They say they thought we were closed."

"There have been changes in the programme, but I am a civil servant and I have to respect the changes. The message needs to go out that Urban Renewal centres are not closed. We are still serving the public, we are still helping people and we still work very closely with the police. That baby just needs to go to rest."

Urban Renewal was introduced by the Progressive Liberal Party in their last term in government. The programme received international recognition and was lauded as a success story. When the Free National Movement assumed control of the government, they made changes to the programme, which have been widely criticised by the PLP. Under the PLP, the Royal Bahamas Police Force played a central role in the management and operation of the programme.

At the Kemp Road Centre, four officers and two reservists worked in the centre with case aids from the Department of Social Services. Pedican was one of those case aids serving under Centre Coordinator, Inspector Frankie-Mae Mather. The police are no longer stationed in the centre's offices, and some of their community policing activities, such as being stationed in schools, have been discontinued. However, they continue to work closely with the centre management, and with school principals.

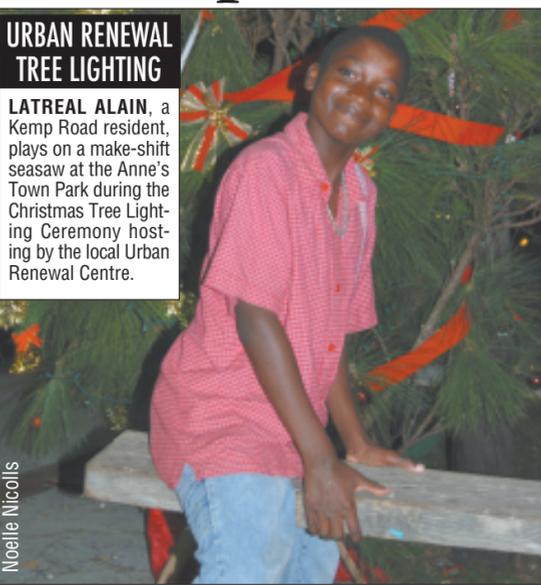
Some members of the PLP have been critical of the removal of police officers from direct involvement in the programme. Some have further questioned the appointment of Ella Lewis as the Director, saying her position as former FNM candidate for Farm Road and Centreville, which is the constituency of Perry Christie, Leader of the Opposition, compromises her authority.

"I think the back and forth about what has been changed has had a negative affect on the programme. It is taking a lot of effort to inform people that the centres are open and the programmes are still active," said Ms Lewis.

"I was appointed because I am qualified: I am community based and community active. I live in

URBAN RENEWAL TREE LIGHTING

LATREAL ALAIN, a Kemp Road resident, plays on a make-shift seasaw at the Anne's Town Park during the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony hosted by the local Urban Renewal Centre.



Noelle Nicolls

an urban area. I have worked with inner city people all of my life. I have love and respect for the community and I am committed to making the Bahamas better through urban renewal," she said.

Ms Lewis said she acknowledges the good work that was done under Urban Renewal by the PLP. She said it was an excellent programme, but it lacked some of the structure necessary. Under her leadership, she said she is working to add that aspect to the programme to make it even more successful.

While the needs of each community vary, the nine Urban Renewal centres focus on ten core programmes, including: after-school programmes, where students get help with homework and school projects; senior citizen programmes, where seniors can participate in seminars, workshops, tours and socials; and youth activities, such as marching bands.

At the start of the FNM administration, two of the centres were closed for no more than two months, according to Ms Lewis, in order to facilitate staffing changes. All of the other centres remained open and active. In many instances, staff members carried over from the former administration.

At the Kemp Road Centre, three of the four current staff members served under the former structure. Former Centre Coordinator, Inspector Frankie-Mae Mather, provided the training for the new management.

PLP Senator Allyson Maynard-Gibson has been a vocal

supporter of Urban Renewal under the PLP leadership. In her presentation on the Senate floor this week, she read several references from a report, "Urban Renewal: Past, Present and Possible Future" authored by Rhodes Scholar and physician Desiree Cox. Mrs Maynard-Gibson spoke about the success of the programme in curbing crime in urban communities.

"My point is bigger than Urban Renewal. I am interested in the problem of crime and seeing a major paradigm shift in this country so we have something that works, and so Bahamian people can live in peace and tranquility. My responsibility is to ensure the issues that impact our people are aired and that the government acts on issues that are critical," said Mrs Maynard-Gibson.

"There is no bigger issue than crime. Urban renewal was a transformative programme. I do not want to diminish the people working in Urban Renewal. I think they are trying their best, but if something is working it should be given more resources," she said.

Work in Urban Renewal centres across the island is continuing. The Kemp Road Centre hosted a Christmas tree lighting ceremony this week that attracted both young and old residents. One of their regular activities is a feeding programme. They work closely with the food rescue organisation Hands for Hunger to feed a steady stream of residents daily, who are unable to feed themselves.

"People are really appreciative and they look to us for support.

They depend on us to educate them on things like applying for passports or getting a police record clean. They come to us to find out how to get help from the various government social services. If someone dies they call us; if someone is sick they call us; if someone gets locked up or married, they call us," said Ms Pedican.

Supporters of Urban Renewal say they are not interested in playing political games or engaging in a back and forth political debate. But Bahamas Democratic Movement leader Cassius Stuart said the debate is unavoidably political because politicians from the PLP and FNM are holding fast to particular positions and being very vocal about it.

"Quite frankly I believe both political leaders have been immature in their dealing with urban renewal policy. It is destroying the essence of what the programme should really be. We have a high degree of political immaturity at the top which is why we have problems at the bottom. There should be a clear and concise direction as to where the programme is going so everyone can have clarity," said Mr Stuart.

Mr Stuart said both parties have political motivations, which is underlying the heated rhetoric. In the case of the FNM, he said they want to claim that their changes were the real source of success for the programme. In the case of the PLP, he said they want to use the programme in its original form to propel them back into power.

"Who is going to suffer? Workers will suffer because there is no clear direction as to how the programme should be run. The people on the ground, who should really be receiving the assistance, young people, the elderly and less fortunate, will suffer if the workers can't do what they are supposed to do. Now it is a big mess because it is a political game. We are wasting time, because the politicians are confusing everything," said Mr Stuart.

Mr Stuart suggested the best solution for Urban Renewal would be to have it run by a non-governmental organisation. He said the objectives of the programme, which he identified as rebuilding urban communities and strengthening the relationship between residents and the police, require political non-interference, and responsible members of the community should look at taking it over.

In the new year, *The Tribune* will be looking at the achievements of Urban Renewal.

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DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?	T	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:45
INVICTUS	B	1:10	N/A	4:10	7:10	N/A	10:10
THE PRINCESS & THE FROG	A	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:35
ARMORED	C	1:20	3:40	N/A	6:20	8:40	10:50
NINJA ASSASSIN	C	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:55
THE OLD DOGS	B	1:10	3:45	N/A	6:10	N/A	N/A
THE TWILIGHT SAGA	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:20	10:40
BLIND SIDE	B	1:15	N/A	4:15	7:15	N/A	10:00
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ARMORED	C	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:50
NINJA ASSASSIN	C	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:25	10:45
THE TWILIGHT SAGA	T	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Tribune Limited

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Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master

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Published Daily Monday to Saturday

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

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Bahamas can't hide crime problem

TODAY *The Tribune* is caught between a rock and a hard place. There are those — understandably they are in the business of tourism — who claim that *The Tribune* not only sensationalises crime, but publishes too much of it, certainly too much on its front page. And then there are others — members of the public — who will almost daily send us e-mails of crimes they claim *The Tribune* is missing and should investigate.

Not only are those in the tourist industry concerned, but so are those of us at *The Tribune* who are in the business of publishing the news — fully aware that crime can, and will, if nothing is done about it, destroy this country's lifeblood.

Unfortunately crime today is this nation's biggest news story — it's not glamorous, it's not good, but it is there staring all of us in the face. We cannot hide it, we cannot conceal it in agate type that would be too small for our average reader, nor can we pretend that it does not exist — our reading public would not permit it.

We are accused of putting crime on our front page almost daily. Yes, that is probably true. Not only is it on the front page, it is also on many of the inside pages. And it is there because it has taken place, it is news, the public wants to be informed for its own safety and *The Tribune* is a newspaper that has a duty to keep them informed. There was at least one day during this critical period that every news story on the front page of *The Tribune* was a crime story. We did not commit those crimes, but we reported them, and they took precedence over stories that would have been of less interest to our readers.

We were roundly criticised for selecting the holdup of 18 tourists on an eco-tour in New Providence last month as our front page lead story — and especially that we highlighted the number 18 in red.

When the news of that day was classified and graded in importance, no objective newsman worth his pen would have put the holdup story on any page, other than the front.

How often are so many tourists held up at gun point — the number 18 was staggering, it was news, and it was highlighted in red.

The Tribune was accused of chasing tourists away from the Bahamas and destroying our tourist industry. *The Tribune* is not quite that powerful. Before those tourists got back to their ship their cell phones were clicking the news around the world — and as they were the victims they were telling it in

far more graphic detail than any Tribune reporter ever could.

In that group of 18 there was at least one newsman. Davie Laitinen's story and family photograph took up most of the front page of the *Windsor Star* in Windsor, Ontario. He gave his newspaper's readers the details of how he "feared for his life and prayed to see his children again as an armed bandit pressed a shotgun barrel against the base of his skull while forcing him to lie face down in the dirt."

The residents of Windsor were not reading *The Tribune* — nor was *The Tribune* the source of Laitinen's information — they were reading about the experience of one of their own in a place called paradise, where there are some who would have us believe that crime does not exist, certainly not for tourists. The story about tourists was once true, but it is no longer so, times have changed — the situation is serious. And so instead of complaining about how *The Tribune* assesses the news, do something about removing that news from our streets so that no one can publish it, not even *The Tribune*.

We are told that we are frightening Bahamians. They should be frightened and we will have done our job if they are sufficiently afraid that they resolve to assist the police with information to help get the guns and criminals off the streets.

We are told that crime is not as bad as it seems because these are not random killings — just crooks killing crooks. If this is so and, if it is true that most of these killings are by persons with a long rap sheet and out on remand, then why are they on our streets? If they are the ones making the news and destroying this country's image, then they should be behind bars. What's wrong with the courts? All we hear from them are complaints that they don't have enough facilities and staff for early trials, and that the Privy Council has put a time limit on how long a person can be held in prison awaiting trial.

As someone suggested the other day, the Bahamas should retain the Privy Council for civil and commercial matters, but retain the final punishment of crime for its own courts.

However, whatever the solution, the excuses must stop. If the judges cannot exercise their discretion in the interest of society, then the legislature should remove that discretion in matters of murder and armed robberies — even possession of an unlicensed firearm.

We still don't know who we are and why we are here

EDITOR, *The Tribune*.

Majority Rule as of this day has had 42 years (one generation and some) to forge its own identity and to shape a nation of which all could be proud.

Unfortunately we have shaped a nation to the chagrin of its people and the world.

We have had enough time to stop blaming the "White Man" and to show them how it should be done with all our abilities and knowledge as we can also lead and not just be followers.

Forty-two years later we still have no idea who we are, why we are here, and what is our purpose.

The Government that brought in "Majority Rule" unfortunately is the one to be held responsible just as a parent is responsible for its offspring until legal age. They set the parameters for the way forward and what was to take place and the rest is history, but they are not the only ones at fault, all subsequent governments are also responsible for the mayhem now overcoming this, our nation.

Bahamian reviews (shows) which dominated hotels at one time, are now extinct as the first thing is to please the investor (I thought we were the ones in charge).

How could any meager hotel not show off our Bahamian artists?

Still all governments turn a blind eye.

The most beautiful islands (out islands) in the world were left out of all wealth sharing of the nation as the leaders have/had no vision for future things such as a few thousand students leaving school every June.

Why are we crying, is it not a fact that we love the politician more than God? Prove it, if the Prime Minister and the Opposition Leader calls a mass rally the same day the Christian Council calls for a mass Christian event where will the masses be? You know

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

and I know where.

Remember politicians, no matter how hard you campaign, no matter what steps you take, God is the only one that can promote you. Don't go round blaming factors, blame God when you don't win your seat or government because in the end you will give an account to Him for our tenure as leaders if you do win or not. Stop robbing and plundering this nation thinking it belongs to you, your family, and circle of friends.

Pastors, the church (building and members) does not belong to you, so stop passing it down to your sons, daughters, family and good friends, just so you can still manipulate even though you have stepped aside.

Let things proceed the godly way then maybe the stranglehold on this nation can be broken as prayers will be done with more sincerity.

You now have a chance to change things and do the godly thing, do you think this does not hurt us?

Open your mouths church, come out of the pockets of the politician and find yourself on your face before the mighty God who watches over His Word to

perform it, because there is a recession, the church does not have to stop functioning, the Lord is still the final judge and as you know the Word says "judgment must first be done in His house."

For you men and women who have sold this country for a few dollars and a good life, although you were joyful receiving the bounty, there shall be grave consequences for this action.

The Bahamas now has more millionaires per capita than anywhere else in the world (among the indigenous people).

It has been documented that over a five-year span as a politician, many have reached this lofty milestone, no wonder so many are now trying and fighting for nominations to become candidates for the various parties.

Let's go back to the discipline of having lights, reflectors and bells, on our bicycles, and having a collar with a license for our dogs (small but let's start somewhere).

The Bible quotes so soberly, we brought nothing into this world and will take nothing out, because the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof and all that dwell within.

STEPHEN HUMES,
Nassau,
December 5, 2009.

Beware BaTelCo impostors

EDITOR, *The Tribune*.

Please be aware that there are persons impersonating BaTelCo workers trying to gain access into your homes...They will say that they are responding to your call for service, my mother just called to say this just happened to her a few minutes ago.

AGATHA MUNROE
Nassau,
December 4, 2009.

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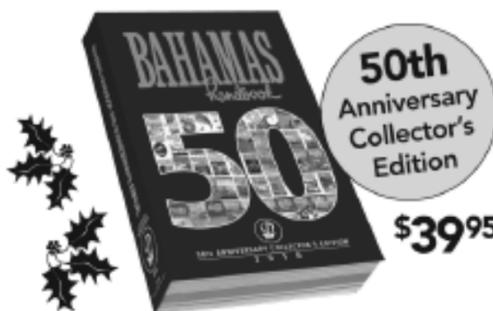
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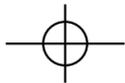
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LOCAL NEWS

Peruvian accused of trying to deceive immigration authorities

Man, 36, fined \$2,000



Tim Clarke /Tribune staff

PERUVIAN ELVIS QUISPO being escorted to court by immigration officers yesterday.

A Peruvian man accused of attempting to deceive immigration authorities was fined \$2,000 after pleading guilty to a fraud charge.

Elvis Quispo, 36, appeared before Magistrate Ancella Williams in Court 6, Parliament Street yesterday, charged with possession of a forged document.

Quispo, who was represented by attorney Romeo Ramsey, admitted that he had forged a Bahamas Permanent Residency document on December 11 of this year.

Immigration officers had alleged that although a document affixed to Quispo's Peruvian passport was purportedly issued on November 9, their records show that no such certificate was issued on that date.

Quispo's attorney pointed out to the court that his client had admitted his guilt and further noted that Quispo had been working in the country legally for the past seven years.

He said that Quispo had thought that the document was genuine.

Magistrate Williams said that the court would not impose the maximum penalty of a \$3,000 fine or two years in prison, but instead sentence him to pay a \$2,000 fine or serve six months in prison.

Police quiz man in connection with weekend armed robbery

POLICE are questioning a man in connection with the armed robbery that led to a fatal shooting at Island Wide Produce and Meat Mart in East Street South on Saturday.

Emmet Campbell Junior, 20, of Williams Lane off Kemp Road, has been identified as the suspect who was shot dead by a staff member.

The police reported that Campbell was shot after two men attempted to rob the popular store at gun point.

The two men reportedly approached the store's cashiers, demanding cash and threatening to kill them if they did not

hand over the money. "It is reported that the men continued with the threats to the cashiers stating, 'I will kill you, I will kill you'," press officer Sergeant Chrislyn Skippings said.

At this point, one of the staff members produced a licensed shotgun and fired shots in the direction of the two suspects.

A .38 revolver with six live rounds of ammunition were recovered from the scene.

A money till containing funds, believed to be the property of Island Wide Produce and Meat Mart, was found at the side of the deceased.

Boy, nine, hurt in hunting accident

A NINE-YEAR-OLD boy was shot in the leg and hand when a shotgun was accidentally fired during a hunting trip in Abaco on Tuesday.

Police say the boy was with three men on a farm in Sandy Point at the time of the incident.

As the hunting group emerged from some bushes, one of the men reportedly slipped and fell, which caused his weapon to discharge.

The boy, who suffered injuries to his right leg and right hand, was rushed to the health clinic in Marsh Harbour and then flown to Nassau for further treatment.

His injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

Headline clarification

The Tribune wishes to clarify that State Minister for Finance Zhivargo Laing did not express uncertainty as to whether the Bahamas will meet the ultimate March 2010 deadline by which it must get off the OECD/G20 "grey list" or face possible sanctions.

Contrary to a headline in Wednesday's Tribune which may have given this impression, Mr Laing was in fact suggesting, as the story itself indicated, that there exists some uncertainty as to whether the Bahamas will meet the earlier end of 2009 deadline the government set for itself to sign the 12 Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs) necessary to be removed from that list.

This uncertainty he attributed to the Bahamas "waiting on" those countries it wishes to sign a further two TIEAs with, to finish doing their own due diligence in this regard.

He said the government is "certainly" confident it will meet the March deadline. The Bahamas government has committed itself to doing what is necessary to be in full compliance with newly evolved international tax transparency and information exchange standards. Ten TIEAs have been signed thus far.

The Tribune apologises for any inconvenience caused by the headline.

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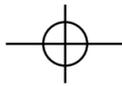
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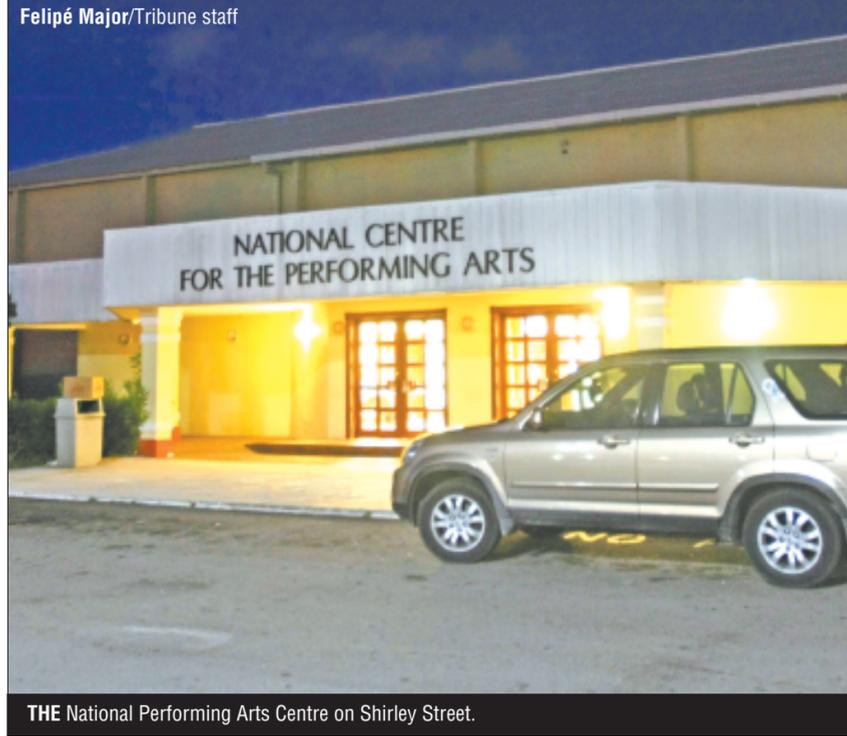
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LOCAL NEWS

Felipe Major/Tribune staff



THE National Performing Arts Centre on Shirley Street.

BIFF calls on the govt to repair an existing arts centre

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

THE Bahamas International Film Festival is calling on the government to maintain and repair an existing arts centre following the announcement that a new

cultural centre would be established.

Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Charles Maynard confirmed on Monday that his department was investigating the possibility of renovating a building in Dean's Lane to create a cultural arts centre.

His remarks came in response to Sir Sean Conner's call for government to provide the Bahamas International Film Festival (BIFF) with a permanent cinema centre where Bahamians and visitors could find a catalogue of Bahamian and BIFF films, and filmmakers could edit their footage.

But BIFF founder and executive director Leslie Vanderpool said the historic building government has identified to store a record of Bahamian music and film will not suit the purposes she and Sir Sean have envisioned.

She said: "He is talking about making a new film centre when there's actually one in Shirley Street that could be fixed up and used if it's maintained."

"I want to challenge them to fix it up while we go about finding private funding to build a building for BIFF."

"They don't need to make it super-fixed up, they just need to maintain it so anybody coming to visit will feel comfortable there."

"Culture and Tourism need to work together on this."

A permanent film festival centre would attract resident and visiting filmmakers and film-lovers throughout the year, and allow BIFF to generate a steady stream of rev-



LESLIE VANDERPOOL

enue as festivals do in Edinburgh and Cannes.

Without a permanent centre, BIFF has to hire theatres to show nearly 90 films during the annual festival.

BIFF spent thousands of dollars on repairs at the National Performing Arts Centre last year to bring the theatre up to par for festival screenings, because Ms Vanderpool said the Ministry of Culture has not maintained the building.

She said: "That all falls under the Ministry of Culture and when we tried to get assistance to clean it up we didn't get any response."

"Then for him to say he is interested in restoring a building for all of this, I find it ironic that he can't even maintain a building that is under his control."

"The government need to help themselves."

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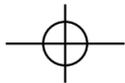
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LOCAL NEWS

Bahamian underwater film veteran honoured

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

A BAHAMIAN underwater film veteran whose work has been seen by millions worldwide was honoured with the Bahamas International Film Festival's first tribute to a Bahamian star.

Having captured below-the-surface scenes for Hollywood mega-movies like James Cameron's *The Abyss*, five James Bond films and in the last decade, hi-tech 3D underwater epics for IMAX theatres, Gavin McKinney said it was "great" to get such an honour for his achievements.

The tribute took place at the College of Bahamas' Performing Arts Centre on Tuesday evening.

Founder and executive director of the Bahamas International Film Festival Leslie Vanderpool described Mr McKinney as "talent behind the screen that makes the movies come alive."

"I am elated to have Mr McKinney accept this award," she said.

Over his 36 year career, the 55 year-old has spent 20,000 hours – or almost two and a half years – underwater.

He learned his trade on the job, first as a diver in the 1973 sci-fi thriller *Day of the Dolphin* after accepting an offer from a visiting US film crew at age 18, before developing a reputation as the "go-to man" for film makers seeking to create underwater scenes in the Bahamas.

Mr McKinney soon expanded his horizons beyond the Bahamas, travelling all over the world to create his awe-inspiring images, as director of photography with the company 3D Entertainment.

After the company's 3D trilogy *Ocean Wonderland, Sharks and Dolphins and Whales: Tribes of the Ocean* grossed \$70 million at the box office, his latest project seems set for just as much success, having been picked up for distribution by Walt Disney in the last three weeks.

Voyages 3D directed by Jean Jacques and Francois Mantello and narrated by Oscar-winning French

actress Marion Cotillard, tells a fictional tale of the travails of a wandering turtle.

Tuesday night's tribute saw around 70 audience members treated to a montage of Mr McKinney's images – including dolphins, whales and herds of hammerheads – set to soaring orchestral music.

The shots were intersected with footage of the wet-suit clad Bahamian himself gliding through the water, cumbersome camera equipment the only thing between him and some of nature's most impressive creatures.

During a question and answer session led by editor in chief of Moving Pictures Magazine, Elliott Kotek, Mr McKinney entertained the audience with insights into his experience in the film industry, telling of the "intensity" of days of shooting in the dark in a multi-million gallon pool for *The Abyss* and of being approached for the first time head-on by a 66 foot whale during the making of *Dolphins and Whales 3D*.

"Filming with whales was almost more frightening than filming with sharks. They are so big, it's hard to describe."

"You've just go to get in there and wait for them to come to you," he said.

The underwater expert joked that there are often "three stages" in the work he does with marine life, particularly of the larger variety.

"Boredom – nothing's happening, you're frustrated; euphoria – you've got it!; and panic – it's going to hit you!"

Notwithstanding his impressive resume of work with Hollywood greats – which also saw Gavin assume the role of under-sea stunt double for Roger Moore and Pierce Brosnan – the honouree said it is his more recent work advancing the cause of marine conservation of which he is most proud.

Mr McKinney said: "Being born in the Bahamas at a time when we didn't have jet-skis or other terrible attractions we did a lot of sailing and swimming... I learned we have an incredible environment that's very fragile."



GAVIN MCKINNEY at the Bahamas International Film Festival

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LOCAL NEWS



PICTURED FROM LEFT: Permanent Secretary for Education Elma Garraway; Mr Bannister; administrator in the Office of the Prime Minister Don Cornish and District Superintendent of Education Sandra Edgecombe.

Minister meets Grand Bahama schools staff and students

MINISTER OF EDUCATION Desmond Bannister made a special visit to Grand Bahama this week to meet with staff and students at the Eight Mile Rock High and Lewis Yard primary schools as well as prin-

cipals, vice principals, the School Board and Ministry of Education officials.

Mr Bannister also used the time to discuss his plans for the educational system in Grand Bahama.

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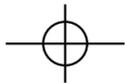
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LOCAL NEWS

New AG: justice system needs to be more efficient

Delaney announces that new court complex should be complete within six months

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

THE new Magistrate's Court complex on the corner of Nassau Street and South Street is expected to be completed in six months and will provide secure and state-of-the-art facilities for the administration of justice, Attorney General John Delaney said.

"We are very proud to be getting near the point of completion. We expect that the project will be completed by mid 2010," Mr Delaney said yesterday as he accompanied the press on a tour of the complex.

"The administration of justice is extremely important for the government. We need to create greater efficiency in the administration of criminal and civil justice and this Magistrate's Court complex will be very important in achieving this national objective for the government of the Bahamas," Mr Delaney said.

He said the overall cost of constructing the complex, which is being built by Adler Construction to house 12 courtrooms, is \$6.4 million.

Mr Delaney said that once the complex is completed, the potential hazard to the public created by speeding prison buses will be a thing of the past.

"They will no longer be arriving downtown. They will be arriving here. You will not have the prison bus travelling down busy Shirley Street in the mornings and East Bay Street in the evenings," he said.



Photo: Felipe Major/Tribune staff

"We need to create greater efficiency in the administration of criminal and civil justice and this Magistrate's Court complex will be very important in achieving this national objective for the government of the Bahamas."

JOHN DELANEY

"That will be moved to what we expect to be a safer route to the court's location. When those prisoners arrive here they will be arriving to a secure and purpose-designed reception bay at the rear of the building," Mr Delaney said.

Segregated

He explained that male, female and juvenile prisoners will be segregated within a secure and sterile holding area which will be supervised by a police station at the rear of the

complex that will also coordinate electronic monitoring.

He added that the government has acquired a considerable amount of property surrounding the new Magistrate's Court complex to ensure that parking will no longer be a problem.

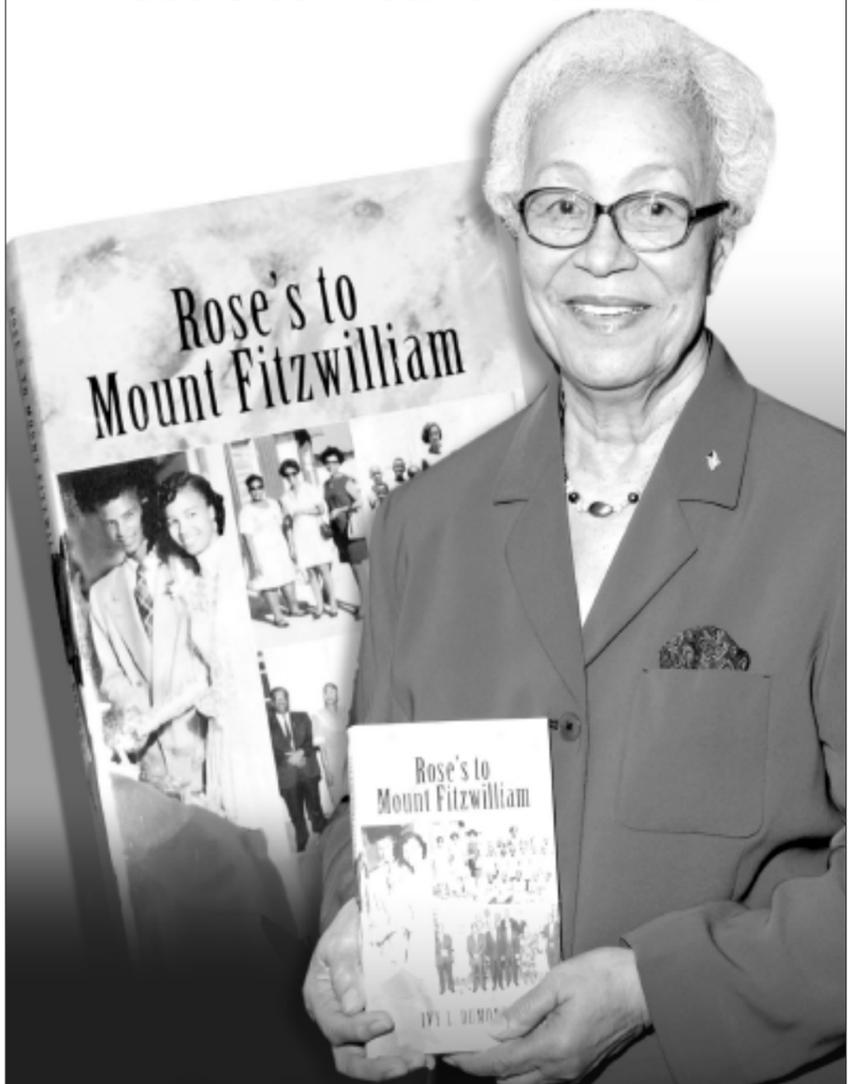
Chief magistrate Roger Gomez told reporters yesterday: "We are coming out of the wilderness so to speak and into the Promised Land because for many years we have been promised a new building and nothing has been done. Now we are reaching that goal."

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LOCAL NEWS

BTC gives \$15,000 donation to local charitable groups

Salvation Army, Great Commission Ministries and the Red Cross benefit

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



us spending the money on something like a Christmas party we wanted to bring some of that money and share it with the broader community," he said, flanked by Kirk Griffin, BTC's acting president and Tellis Symonette, senior vice-president of Family Island administration.

CHRISTMAS will be a little brighter this year for less fortunate communities struggling to put food on the table thanks to a \$15,000 donation from BTC to three local charitable groups.

Gifts of \$5,000 were awarded to the Salvation Army, Great Commission Ministries and the Red Cross at a press conference yesterday.

In keeping with the spirit of the holiday season, staff at the utility company agreed to scale back plans for a lavish Christmas party in order to make the donation, said vice-president of marketing, sales and business development Marlon Johnson.

"This is a sacrifice made happily by all staff across the company to say that instead of

"Considering the country's economic climate we believe that these types of gestures are not only timely but very significant," he added.

President and founder of Great Commission Ministries Bishop Walter Hanchell said the money will be used to replenish his organisation's food bank. With an influx of middle-class persons visiting the non-profit organisation for food and clothing due to jobs losses and the tough economy, it is sometimes hard for the group to fulfil their obligations.

"People are still losing jobs, the Bahamian people are still suffering because of hardship, because of lack, because they just don't have enough food and we see it daily in our feeding programmes with a different type of clientele now coming to us for assistance – not just for food but also for clothing. We've had so many what we would term as middle income families coming in for assistance, which tells us that the situation is worsening," he said.

Brendon Watson, president

of the Bahamas Red Cross Society, said during the holiday season an extra effort is made to provide food and clothing for those in need.

The Red Cross is busy preparing packages for needy persons in New Providence and the Family Islands as well as feeding the hungry with its daily meals-on-wheels programme.

"This money is coming in at the right time to meet that need," Mr Watson said.

Major Lester Ferguson, local commander of the Salvation Army, agreed that the "important gift" could not have come at a more opportune time: "On behalf of all of those who will be the recipients of the food parcels or the other services that this donation will help to fund, we want to say a very special thank you," he said.

The economic climate has forced BTC to whittle down the size of its charitable donations this year, however the company was able to donate \$59,000 to the Princess Margaret Hospital's Breathe Easy Campaign as well as \$150,000 to local youth, sports and arts groups.

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and a happy and prosperous

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LOCAL NEWS

Residents of Persis Rodgers Home enjoy holiday dinner



AT YOUR SERVICE: Students helped Goodfellows Farms, Sheila Hailey and Patricia Leonard serve the residents of Persis Rodgers Home for the Aged a delicious Christmas lunch.

A GROUP of students from the Lyford Cay International School visited the Persis Rodgers Home for the Aged to help Goodfellows Farms, Sheila Hailey and Patricia Leonard serve the residents a delicious Christmas lunch.

Grade nine student Nicholas Mindorff reflected on the experience: "It was really sad to see the conditions in which they lived. There were stray dogs running around, and children throwing stones and food at them."

"I never really thought about how much we can learn from elderly people. All of them have lived fascinating lives, and each one has a story to tell."

He added: "But the thing that struck me was not the poverty, but the determination of these people. And they did not feel sorry for themselves, not one bit. I saw one old woman slowly making her way up the path to the area

LCIS students volunteer at home for the aged

where lunch was being served. And though she was going at an agonising slow rate, she had this feeling that she would not let anything get in her way. That, of all things, stuck in my mind.

"These people have virtually nothing, yet they manage to always enjoy themselves. When a small band came to play, some of the residents even got up and started to dance. And all they ever did was thank us, over and over. And I do not intend to ask my teacher for a signature on my Community Service form, because the only thing I want to keep with me for the rest of my life is the memory of that woman, slowly, ponderously, making her way up that path. That will stay with me forever."

Karin Goodfellow, from Goodfellow Farms which provided the food, thanked all the students.

"The LCIS students helped make the event a wonderful display of true holiday spirit. Their kindness made the day that much more special. Thank you."

LCIS Secondary School students who volunteered were: Nicolas Mindorff, Shannon DeJong, Kira Friese, Yanice Bailey, Mrs Bailey (parent), Charlotte Frey, Mrs Frey (parent), Emma Hall, Bruce Hall, Mrs Rolle (teacher), Camrawn Moxey (Grade two), Tyler Mattio, Tatiana Mattio, Lucille Cousin, Emma Cousin, Pari Kemp, Vanessa Huber, Davon Smith.

PM warns of dire global climate threat to Bahamas

Country would suffer 'catastrophic results' if emissions not cut

Prime minister Hubert Ingraham told the world yesterday about the dire consequences that climate change will have on his country.

Speaking at the UN Climate summit in Copenhagen, Mr Ingraham noted that the Bahamas joins like-minded countries in calling for the meeting to produce "a strong political agreement" which will cause world-wide reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

He said: "The Bahamas, a country of negligible greenhouse gas emissions will suffer catastrophic results if emissions are not stabilised and reduced."

"The Bahamas is the fifth most vulnerable country to sea level rise. A temperature rise of two degrees Celsius will result in sea level rise of two metres and will submerge 80 per cent of our territory. It will drastically affect the health of our coral reef system."

Mr Ingraham said that funding will be a critical factor in the efforts of the developing world to mitigate the consequences of climate change and adopt technologies that reduce greenhouse emissions. He therefore said he hopes for a result from the summit which would allow for an enforceable agreement by mid-2010.

"Here in Copenhagen, it is time to act on climate change," he said.

Mr Ingraham pointed out that even if the developed world were to meet their announced targets toward reducing greenhouse emissions, if the developing world "continues business as usual", the reduction will be inadequate.

He said: "The temperature of the planet will still increase to perhaps four degrees Celsius, which will result in the most dire of consequences for some small island and low-lying states."

"The Bahamas has sustained repeated attacks by stronger



WARNING: Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham

and more destructive tropical hurricanes, sea surges and related coastal and in-land flooding, necessitating repeated recovery and restoration costing hundreds of millions of dollars.

"And slow onset processes continue to erode shorelines, damage freshwater resources and alter sea surface temperatures resulting in extensive damage to our coral reefs

Adapt

"The Bahamas is not one island but a family of islands with needs to adapt in urban centres and in smaller, more remote Family Islands. Finding appropriate adaptation options are vital; already in our experience we have relocated an entire community, Crossing Rock in Abaco, following the impact of a devastating hurricane.

"We ask the developed world to support the efforts of small, vulnerable states such as ours by increasing and simpli-

fying access to financing to modernise our electrical infrastructure, produce smarter electricity grids, adopt renewable technology and implement environmentally sound planning and development strategies for coastal and wetland protection. In particular, when funding mechanisms for mitigation and adaptation are agreed, special account must be taken of the vulnerability of small, low lying island states.

Mr Ingraham said he cannot over-emphasise the importance and urgency of developing specific mechanisms so that countries like the Bahamas can access new, innovative, and environmentally-sound capacity building.

He added that recognising that climate change is a threat we all face, the Bahamas is "committed to collaborating with the family of nations to ensure our own survival and the survival of humankind in a sustainable development model for planet Earth."

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PG63

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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

PLP team seeks Adderley talks

record to state that he has had no communication with Mr Adderley in recent months. He emphasized that out of courtesy he would have expected to be informed by the MP of any plans he may have that pertains to his political future.

"No, I've had no discussions with Mr Adderley," Mr Christie said, "and no-one on my side has indicated to me any discussions that they might have had that would suggest Mr Adderley has been offered a job and has accepted a job."

"Like everything else you would expect that with the code that exists on our side that notice would be given and information exchanged, and we have not had any such notice," he said.

Currently Mr Adderley serves as the chairman of the Gaming Board, a post that he accepted from Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham much to the chagrin of the PLP. Now with the rumours circulating that Mr Adderley has been offered a new post to take up the seat that Supreme Court Justice Cheryl Albury will be vacating has caused another

firestorm within the party.

"Obviously he would have to resign from his seat in the House of Assembly, and force a by-election in Elizabeth. Now he doesn't get his full pension from the House of Assembly until May of next year, so we are looking at anywhere around that time. But the party has to have an idea of what is going on before that," said another source close to the matter.

While the PLP continues to meet to decide on what Mr Adderley will be doing, *The Tribune* reported last week that the Elizabeth MP has already advised his family that he is openly "reviewing his options" as to his political future.

According to well-placed sources, Mr Adderley was said to be considering all of his options as he is fully aware that he might not get another nomination from the PLP in 2012.

With this in mind, the Elizabeth MP was said to be "not waiting" to allow the PLP to "dictate his political future."

"He will be 64 before the end of this year. If he takes the appointment and becomes a Supreme Court judge he will ensure that he collects his pension from the House of Assembly, and whenever he retires from the bench, either in one year, or three years if the PM decides to extend his stay, he will collect a handsome pension from the judiciary as well."

"Now what more could the man ask for? Under the PLP and Perry Christie, nothing was ever done for him. So you really can't blame him for looking elsewhere. He was promised certain things when the party won in 2002 and like with so many other instances Christie didn't deliver. And we all know why they call Mr Ingraham the 'Delivery Boy,' the source quipped.

FROM page one

million in revenue and in so doing, to pass on these savings directly to our customers," he told the media at a press conference yesterday.

"By increasing vigilance on our expenditure and scaling back on many discretionary items, BTC is on track with a good December to approach near record revenues, with profits trending toward the \$40 million range — at or very close to the historic highs in recent years."

Although the numbers are only an estimate and subject to the scrutiny of a final audit, BTC is confident that projections demonstrate the company's "surprising resilience" in the face of a tough economic climate, Mr Griffin said.

He added that BTC's installation and implementation of its new \$55 million IP-based Next Generation Network (NGN) — which will provide the foundation for the company to be more competitive in an increasingly liberalised market — is on schedule.

Ahead of the company's proposed privatisation management is working closely with BTC's privatisation committee and government consultants to ensure that the necessary data is available for the potential strategic partners, Mr Griffin said.

A target date of year-end 2009 was set for BTC's privatisation but with the deadline fast approaching there has been no recent word from Government on whether or not this timeline will be met.

Earlier this month reports emerged that there were staff concerns at BTC over possible job

BTC profits

losses stemming from the looming privatisation. Yesterday, Mr Griffin dispelled these reports claiming the majority of BTC's staff were eagerly awaiting privatisation.

"As far as fear is concerned I think there is a misconception out there that the majority of the employees of BTC are fearful. You may have very few employees who may have a degree of fear but overall I believe we are embracing the opportunity," he said.

The sale of BTC will be a 51 per cent of the company with the Government retaining 49 per cent. The winning bidder will also receive operational control of BTC, which provides services to more than 334,000 wireless, 132,000 fixed-line and 18,500 broad-band customers in The Bahamas.

At the top of prospective buyers is said to be UK-based communications firm Vodafone and One Equity Partners (OEP), which is JP Morgan Chase's private equity arm.

Last month, UK media reports confirmed that Vodafone was mulling whether or not to join a consortium put together by JP Morgan partners; the former would effectively be the operating partner for a privatised BTC and provide the management/technical expertise the group would need to successfully beat out the other bidders.

Other bidders that have reportedly received the nod of approval from the privatisation committee are Digicel Limited, Atlantic TeleNetwork Inc, and Trilogy International Partners.

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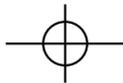
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LOCAL NEWS



THE \$10M CLUB LUNA, situated on the site of the old Zoo nightclub, has its grand opening tonight. The open air courtyard will host the party.

\$10m nightclub on old Zoo site opens tonight

THE \$10 million nightlife complex on the site of the old Zoo nightclub is set for its grand opening tonight.

Club Luna will be a first for New Providence with almost 40,000 square feet of club space and reminiscent of New York and Los Angeles nightclubs, the owner says.

With two major clubs attached to the complex,

a grand courtyard anchored on one end by a more than 20-foot waterfall feature, and three acres of the seven-acre property dedicated solely to parking, it will be the largest nightlife complex in Nassau.

Owner of Luna, Al Collie, said that when the complex is fully complete and operational it could employ up to 100 individ-

uals, including bar personnel and security guards.

The mixed-use facility was designed to host parties and concerts on a large scale, and features two huge balconies replete with bars overlooking what will be named Providence Court.

The open air courtyard will be the site of the grand opening party for Club Luna tonight.

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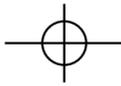
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To win the questions must be answered correctly.
Answers for the questions can be found using THE HIGHWAY CODE FOR THE BAHAMAS found on the Road Traffic Website at www.bahamas.gov.bs/roadtraffic.



sports

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2009



INSIDE • Stubbs Opinion

Felipe Major/Tribune staff



Crushers clinch Catholic Primary School league title



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ST BEDE'S Crushers guard Kyle Turnquest drives to the basket for two of his 19 points against the Our Lady's Blue Flames. The Crushers won back to back championship with a 56-43 win yesterday at Loyola Hall.

By RENALDO DORSETT
Sports Reporter
rdorsett@tribunemedia.net

IN A fitting end to a nearly unblemished season, the St. Bede's Crushers trio of stars shouldered the load once again and led the way for the Crushers to repeat as Catholic Primary School league champions.

St Bede's clinched the series with a 56-43 win in game two over the Our Lady's Blue Flames yesterday at Loyola Hall.

Adrian Mackey led the Crushers with a team high 21 points, Kyle Turnquest finished with 19, while Gregory Cooper dominated the paint to finish with 11.

D' Angelo Mackey and Charles Cooper were once again the catalyst for the Blue Flames offence.

Mackey followed up a thrilling performance on Monday with a game high 29 points while Cooper chipped in with 10.

The Crushers resiliently fought back over an early ten point deficit in the opening quarter and outscored the Blue Flames 15-3 in the third quarter to pull away.

In a first half of runs, both teams traded baskets on their first possessions, but the Blue Flames ended the quarter on a 10-0 run to take a 12-2 lead at the end of the first.

D. Mackey scored eight of the team's 12 in the quarter and C. Cooper added four, while A. Mackey scored the lone basket for the Crushers.

The St. Bede's epic turnaround began on the opening play of the second quarter, when Turnquest raced down the sideline for his first basket of the game.

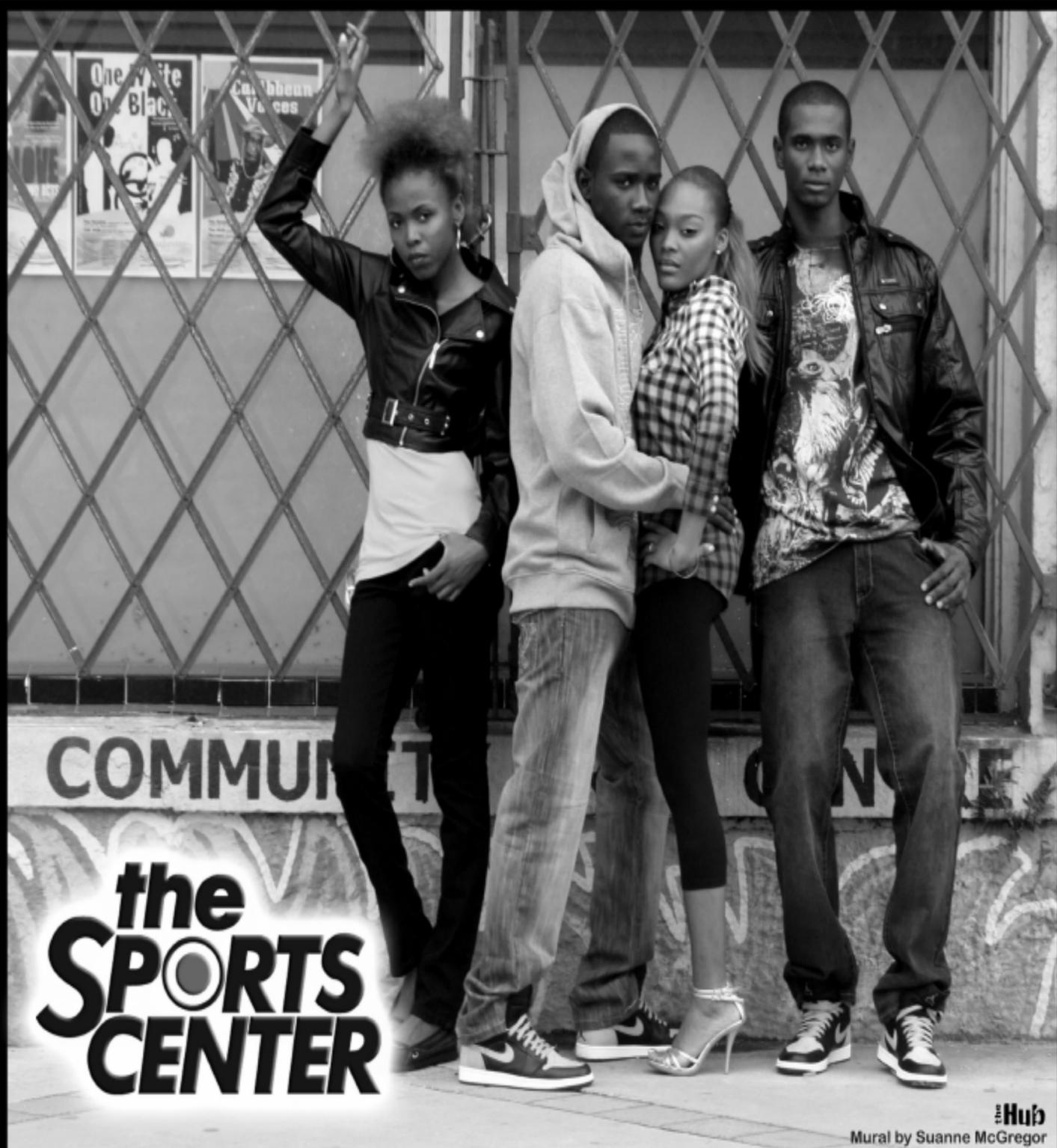
It would be the first of seven points consecutive points for Turnquest, capped with a successful three point play conversion.

With an assist to G. Cooper and ensuing free throw with time expired, Turnquest had a hand in all but one of the team's points in the second quarter as the Crushers now trailed by just one at the half, 13-12.

St. Bede's stellar defensive effort led to a double figure lead in the third quarter in the eventual rout.

After both teams went

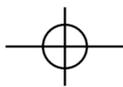
SEE page 17



the SPORTS CENTER

the Hub
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SPORTS

FATHER MARCIAN PETERS BASKETBALL CLASSIC RESULTS

WITH THE 25th edition of the Father Marcian Peters Basketball Classic in the books, several teams staked their claims as powerhouses in the country, while several newcomers rose to the forefront. Here is a look at the individual awards for the

week long tourney which featured play in six divisions.

2009 Fr. Marcian Peters Basketball Invitational Official Results

I. Special Award

(First basket scored on new

courts)
Kyle Turnquest (St. Bede's Primary)

II. Most Assists Award

1. Primary Girls Division - Ansir Thompson (St. John's)
2. Primary Boys Division -

- Alexiou Munnings (Our Lady's)
3. Junior Girls Division - Kailicia Laing (H.O.Nash)
4. Junior Boys Division - Myron Lockhart-Bain (N. Long Island)
5. Intermediate Boys Division - Travis Rolle (Westminister)
6. Senior Girls Division - Shanae Armbrister (University School)

Most Rebounds Award

7. Primary Girls Division - Serena Brown (St. Anne's)
8. Primary Boys Division - Travis Barnett (C.W.Saunders)
9. Junior Girls Division - Kailicia Laing (H.O.Nash)
10. Junior Boys Division - Agassi Saunders (S.C.Bootle)
11. Intermediate Boys Division - Tavari Dorsette (C.R.Walker)
12. Senior Girls Division - Ariel Hepburn (R.M. Bailey)

IV. Most Steals Award

13. Primary Girls Division - Chelly Austrele (Freedom Academy)
14. Primary Boys Division - Anwar Hanchell (Mt. Carmel)
15. Junior Girls Division - Erinisa Rolle (San Salvador)
16. Junior Boys Division - Jaron Cornish (S.C.Bootle)
17. Intermediate Boys Division - Van Hutchinson (C.R.Walker)
18. Senior Girls Division - Shawny Adderley (N. Long Island)

V. Sportsmanship Award

19. Girls Division - Kailicia Laing (H.O.Nash)
20. Boys Division - Edwar Bullard (Harbour Island)

VI. Most Blocked Shots Award

21. Primary Girls Division - Serena Brown (St. Anne's)
22. Primary Boys Division - Travis Barnett (C.W.Saunders)
23. Junior Girls Division - Bardeia Sands (H.O.Nash)
24. Junior Boys Division - Kenton King (San Salvador)
25. Intermediate Boys Division - Mark Davis (C.R.Walker)
26. Senior Girls Division - Chrishonda Roberts (University)

VII. Most Points Scored Award

27. Primary Girls Division - Chelly Austrele (Freedom Academy)
28. Primary Boys Division - Troneil Moxey (Mt. Carmel)
29. Junior Girls Division - Kailicia Laing (H.O.Nash)
30. Junior Boys Division -

- Rio Saunders (Harbour Island)
31. Intermediate Boys Division - Shaquille Fernander (Westminister)
32. Senior Girls Division - Shanae Armbrister (University)

VIII. Most Valuable Player Award

33. Primary Girls Division - Sade Smith (Temple Christian)
34. Primary Boys Division - Kyle Turnquest (St. Bede's)
35. Junior Girls Division - Kailicia Laing (H.O.Nash)
36. Junior Boys Division - Edwar Davis (Harbour Island)
37. Intermediate Boys Division - Daniel Bullard (Westminister)
38. Senior Girls Division - Shanae Armbrister (University)

IX. All Tournament Team Award

- Primary Boys Division**
1. Kyle Turnquest (St. Bede's)
 2. Travis Barnett (C.W.Saunders)
 3. Gregory Cooper (St. Bede's)
 4. Stevejay Whyly (St. Bede's)
 5. Anwar Hanchell (Mt. Carmel)
 6. Alexious Munnings (Our Lady's)
 7. Deanglo Mackey (Our Lady's)
 8. Charles Cooper (Our Lady's)
 9. Stephen Humes (St. Cecelia's)
 10. Valerio Nesbitt (Palmdale)
 11. Tevin Evans (Palmdale Primary)
 12. Joshua Brennen (St. John's)

Primary Girls Division

1. Serena Brown (St. Anne's)
2. Ansir Thompson (St. John's)
3. Syntche Fountain (St. Anne's)
4. Chelly Austrele (Freedom)
5. Gabrielle Ferguson (Mt. Carmel)
6. Chyis Curry (Temple)
7. Dionnae Culmer (St. Bede's)
8. Alisha Thompson (Temple)
9. Vereelle Moss (St. John's)
10. Krista Collie (St. Anne's)
11. Renique Brown (Yellow Elder)
12. Lucianna Miller (Yellow Elder)

Junior Boys Division

1. Dantae Thompson (S.C.Bootle)
2. Alvaro Miller (A.F.Adderley)
3. Agassi Saunders (S.C.Bootle)
4. Tensas Mackey (A. F. Adderley)
5. Kenton King (San Salvador)
6. Rio Saunders (Harbour Island)
7. Lathario Wallace (North Eleuthera)
8. Kyle Gibson (H.O.Nash)
9. Edwar Davis (Harbour Island)
10. Anwar Neeley (St. John's)
11. Phillip Major (North Andros)
12. Theron Taylor (Teleos)

Junior Girls Division

1. Kailicia Laing (H.O.Nash)
2. Bardeia Sands (H.O.Nash)
3. Erinisa Rolle (San Sal-

- vador)
4. Allanya Morris (Westminister)
5. Kadieshia Miller (D.W.Davis)
6. Garinique Arthur (D. W. Davis)
7. Nigia Rolle (H. O. Nash)
8. Trevonya Knowles (San Salvador)
9. Natoria Knowles (North Andros)
10. Patrel Pickstock (Westminister)
11. Mary Major (Mt. Carmel)
12. Maxine Thompson (Mt. Carmel)

Intermediate Boys Division

1. Travis Rolle (Westminister)
2. Jay Roberts (Zion)
3. Van Hutchinson (C.R.Walker)
4. Dee Brown (San Salvador)
5. Shaquille Fernander (Westminister)
6. Aaron Avila (Mt. Carmel)
7. Jeffrey Williams (University)
8. Adulphus Leadon (Westminister)
9. Alcott Fox (C. I. Gibson)
10. Norris Burrows (Doris Johnson)
11. Rhemar Lewis (C. W. Saunders)
12. Matthew Davis (C. R. Walker)

Senior Girls Division

1. Shanae Armbrister (University)
2. Taneka Sandiford (St. John's)
3. Ariel Hepburn (R.M. Bailey)
4. Theresa Hanna (Westminister)
5. Randy Kemp (St. John's)
6. Khadijah Moncur (St. John's)
7. Annalisa Pinder (N. Long Island)
8. Lakishna Munroe (St. John's)
9. Melissa Clyde (Doris Johnson)
10. Pamela Bethel (C. R. Walker)
11. Tenesha Rolle (North Andros)
12. Sheneice Rahming (Gov. High)

X. Most Outstanding Coach Award

1. Primary Girls Division - Donny Culmer (St. Bede's)
2. Primary Boys Division - Neken Demeritte (Temple Christian)
3. Junior Girls Division - Patricia Johnson (H.O.Nash)
4. Junior Boys Division - Stephen Brown (San Salvador)
5. Intermediate Boys Division - Geno Bullard (Westminister)
6. Senior Girls Division - Herbie Brown (St. John's)

XI. The Fr. Marcian Peters Award

- Final Results**
(Top Ten Schools)
- 1st - St. John's College 516 points
 - 2nd - Mt. Carmel Academy 350 points
 - 3rd - Westminister 329 points
 - 4th - Harbour Island 272 points
 - 5th - A.F. Adderley 258 points
 - 6th - University 253 points
 - 7th - San Salvador 240 points
 - 8th - C.W. Saunders 236 points
 - 9th - H.O.Nash 195 points
 - 10th - Temple Christian 217 points



Our December opening hours:

Starting December 1st to the 12th we will be open 9a.m. to 8p.m. Monday to Thursday and 9a.m. to 9p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Starting December 14th to the 19th we will be open 9a.m. to 9p.m. Monday to Thursday and 9a.m. to 10p.m. Friday and Saturday.

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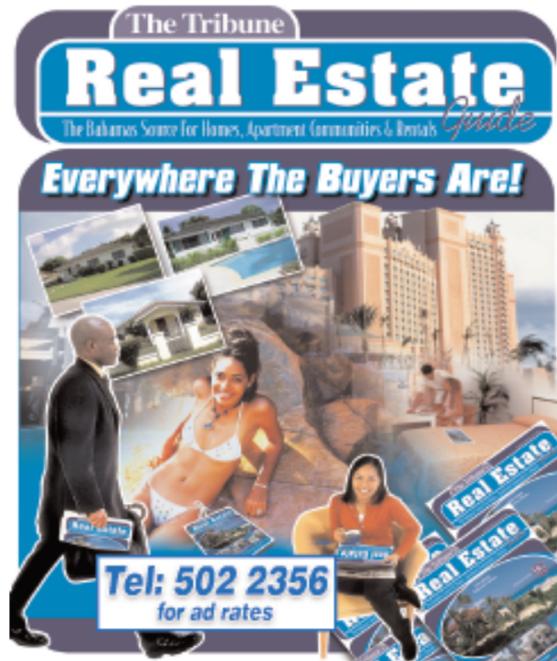
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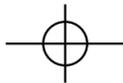


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SPORTS

Crushers clinch Catholic Primary School league title



CRUSHERS forward Adrian Mackey dishes and assist to a teammate. Mackey finished with a team high 21 points.

FROM page 15

scoreless for nearly three minutes, G.Cooper gave the Blue Flames their first lead of the game, but D.Mackey would respond with the Blue Flames' only field goal of the quarter to regain the advantage.

The Crushers led for good on the next possession when Adrian Mackey scored on a turnaround jumpshot in the post to put his team ahead 16-15.

The Crushers closed the quarter on an 11-1 run to take a commanding lead.

A. Mackey made one of two from the line, G.Cooper scored on the ensuing offen-

sive rebound and layup, Malik Jones scored on back to back buckets and the Crushers lead reached double figures for the first time when A. Mackey knifed through the lane to score and convert for a successful three point play.

The Crushers led 27-16 headed into the fourth quarter.

The final quarter was all St. Bede's as the lead continued to balloon.

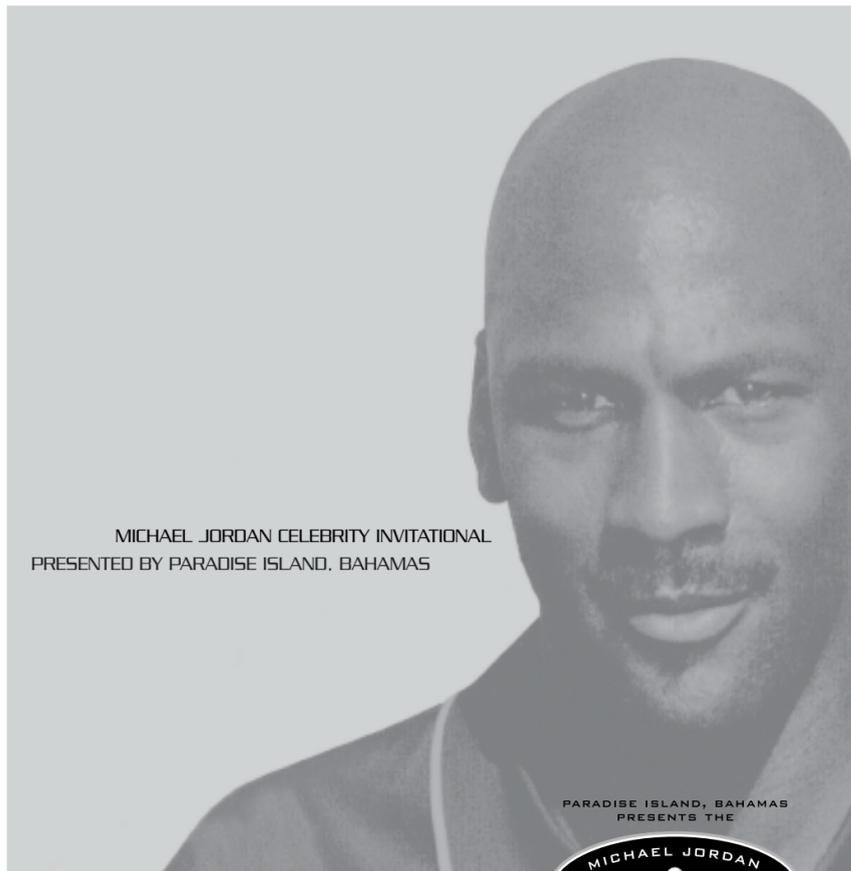
The Crushers largest margin reached 26 when G. Cooper grabbed an offensive rebound and scored on a put-back to give his team a 44-18 lead with 5:48 left to play.

The Blue Flames were kept at bay for most of the period,

as they struggled to come within 20 until a late surge trimmed the deficit to 13.

Headed to St. John's College for junior high school, Turnquest said he was determined to rebound in game two to make his final year at St. Bede's one to remember.

"I do not think I played that good in the first game so I really wanted to come out today and just try my best to start strong and help my team win a championship," Turnquest said, "It was a really good year with everything we did, but to end it with another championship feels great. This is a very good team when we play hard and I knew we could do it."



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Kerzner International Bahamas Limited is recruiting volunteers to assist with the Michael Jordan Celebrity Invitational Golf Tournament to be held on January 21 - 24, 2010 at the Ocean Club Golf Course on Paradise Island.

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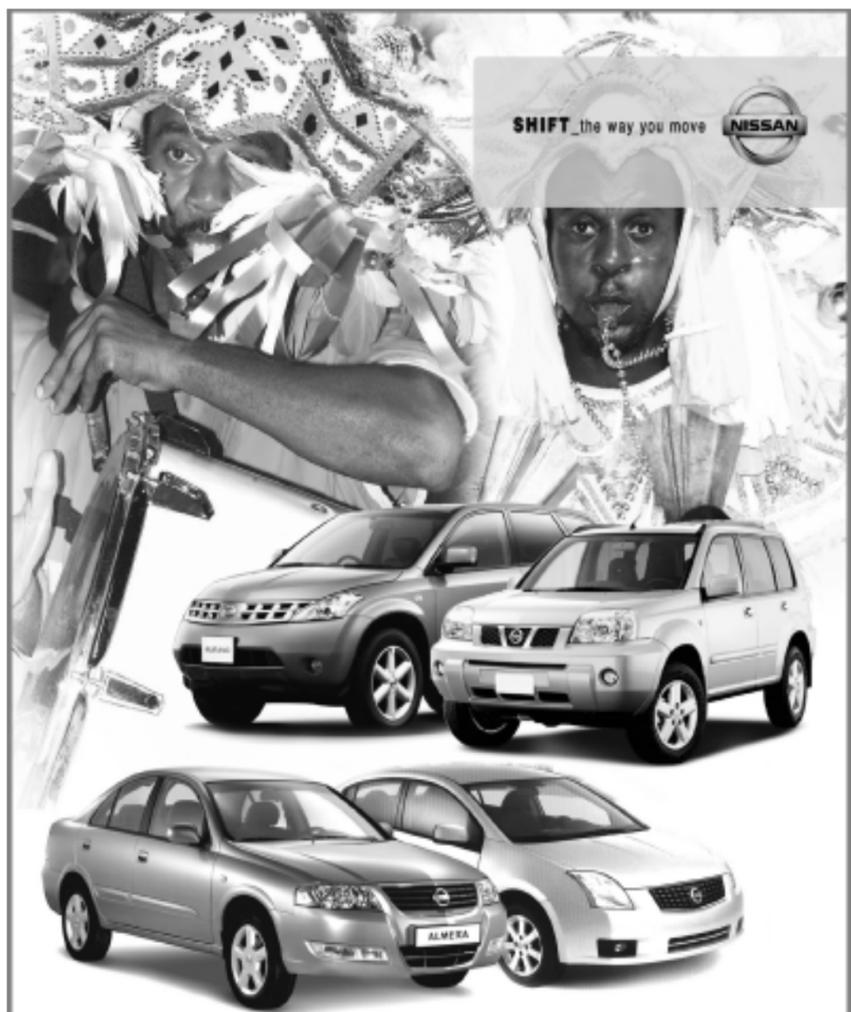
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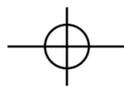
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SPORTS

KUDOS TO GEORGETTE ROLLE AND RAQUEL RILEY FOR GIVING BACK



Georgette Rolle



Raquel Riley

ONCE upon a time they were all looking up to someone else to give them the instructions to get to the point that they are now. Now having done that, they're back, giving to a younger generation of future superstars.

At the Bahamas Golf Federation's Training Facilities at the Baillou Hills Sporting Complex, professional golfer Georgette Rolle is being joined by Grand Bahamian Raquel Riley as she hosts her second Junior Development Golf Camp.

The camp got started on Wednesday and will wrap up on Friday.

Rolle and Riley are currently playing on the Ladies Professional Golf Association's Futures Tour. They are both hoping to make the break through to the LPGA where the sport is still looking for its first African American superstar like it anxiously did when 33-year-old Eldrick 'Tiger' Woods made his debut in the summer of 1996 and revitalised the sport.

Today, players have even more incentive to play the game as it's now part of the Olympic Games as of 2012 in London, England.

So as Rolle and a number of the country's premier collegiate players come home to lend their expertise, the BGF could be looking ahead to a brighter future. The camp is essential and could not have come at a better time.

With Jameica Duncombe, the most promising player to come out of the junior programme not playing that much anymore, Rolle and Riley have the best chances of cracking the

LPGA Tour and so it's good that the younger players can rub shoulders with them because they make it big.

And Rolle should be commended for her efforts because as costly as she's indicated that it is to achieve her ultimate goal, she's leaving some of the proceeds from the camp to provide scholarship opportunities for some of the participants to play in the BGF's Junior Programme.

Not bad for a player who hasn't even made it through yet.

Meanwhile, at the College of the Bahamas, Assistant Athletic Director Bradley Cooper, who was recently inducted into the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture's National Hall of Fame, is hosting an annual Winter Track and Field Camp.

The camp got started on Monday and will wrap up on Friday.

A host of Olympic athletes have returned home to assist. They include Golden Girls Pauline Davis-Thompson, Olympic and world champion Tonique Williams-Darling, veteran Lavern Eve and James Rolle.

That's quite a cadre of personalities in one arena, considering the fact that Cooper himself is just as distinguished as those who are assisting him. He may not be competing in an era when the sport continued to flourish, but during his era, Cooper made quite a name for himself on the international scene.

With this being the off-season, the camp's timing could not have been any better because the athletes can help to instill some of the work ethics and discipline that the youngsters need to get through this period before they start competing in January.

And with the newly elected officers of the Bahamas Association of

Athletic Associations looking at ways to turn around the Carifta programme, this is definitely a step in the right direction.

Too many times, unless it's not the foreign experts coming in and providing the information, many of our people feel like it's not good advice. But our athletes can definitely benefit from the personalities at the camp.

On the heels of the two camps, the tennis community can look forward to another exciting showcase at the National Tennis Center.

This time, the Bahamas Lawn Tennis Association will host its annual Christmas Invitational Tennis Tournament.

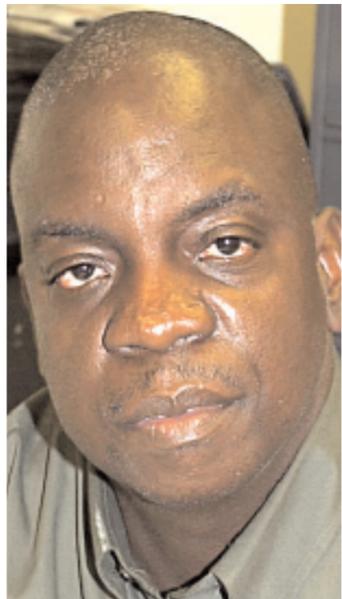
The tournament will not only bring home the best professional and collegiate male, but also female players as they vie for spots on the men's Davis Cup and the women's Fed Cup teams next year.

In the past few years, the tournament was designed specifically for the male players as the BLTA had started a process to reassemble the Davis Cup team after the departure of top players like Roger Smith and now Mark Knowles.

The tournament not only served its purpose but it also gave the public an opportunity to see the players in action as many of them would ordinarily not come home to compete otherwise unless they played on the Davis Cup team.

Hopefully with the round robin tournament on tap from Friday to Sunday, more Bahamians will come out and support not just the men, but all the women participating. Let's give them the Davis Cup atmosphere that they so rightfully deserve as they attempt to make the team.

STUBBS



OPINION

2009 Olympia Morris-Evans Softball Classic championship set

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THE final pieces of the Baptist Sports Council's 2009 Olympia Morris-Evans Softball Classic championship picture was completed on Tuesday night at the Baillou Hills Sporting Complex.

Golden Gates and St. Paul's both swept their opponents in two straight games in their co-ed best-of-three semifinal playoff series to advance to the best-of-three championship series that starts on Thursday night.

Game one of their series will be played at 8 p.m., just after the opener of the 17-and-under series

between Macedonia and Temple Fellowship and before the men's opener between Macedonia and Transfiguration.

In securing their berth into the co-ed final, Golden Gates held off Salem 15-9 after winning the opener by default, while St. Paul's knocked off St. John's 18-4.

Here's a summary of the two games played:

Golden Gates 15, Salem 9: Candice Smith was a perfect 3-for-3 at the plate with three runs batted in and one scored to lead Golden Gates. Renee Davis was 2-for-4 with a RBI and a run scored and

winning pitcher Ramon Johnson went 2-for-3 with a three-run home run, scoring two runs.

Losing pitcher Rodger Demeritte was 2-for-4 with two RBI and a run scored to lead Salem. Stephen Beneby Jr was 1-for-3 with two RBI and a run scored and Lotonia Bowleg was 2-for-3 with a RBI.

St. Paul's 18, St. John's 4: Edney Bethel went 2-for-5 with a RBI and three runs scored to lead St. Paul's. Kelly Smith was 2-for-4 with two RBI and two runs scored and winning pitcher Harold Fitzgerald was 2-for-3 with three runs. Raymond Larimore added a solo in-the-park homer.

Tori Brown was hitless, but he scored three runs for Salem, one on a two-run homer and another on a RBI single from Randolph Coakley.

Vernie Curry suffered the loss. The remainder of all of the series will take place on Saturday.

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- Housemen
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- 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

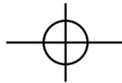
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'Hold Bahamian company owners liable' through Act amendments



FRED SMITH

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The attorney for the late Edward St George's estate yesterday urged the Government to amend the Companies Act and Exchange Control Act over changing shareholder registers, so as to hold the beneficial owners of Bahamian entities, who held their equity interests via foreign companies, liable for the accuracy of their "representations".

Clearly speaking with the prospect of Hannes Babak running the Grand Bahama Port Authority/Port Group Ltd from the Cayman Islands in mind, Fred Smith QC called on the Government to amend both Acts so that shareholders in Bahamian companies "be held liable" when it came to accurately recording their equity interests.

If they failed to do so, Mr Smith suggested that the law be amended to require the rectification of a company's shareholder register, and the issuance of shares directly to their beneficial owners in the correct proportion. He added that both shareholders and the Government should have the power to effect this by applying to the courts via a summary action.

If such amendments ever came to pass, they would nullify the consequences of the current GBPA/Port Group Ltd ownership structure. Both companies are Bahamian-domiciled and carry on all their business activities and operations in the Bahamas, yet they are 100 per cent owned by Intercontinental Diversified Corporation (IDC), a Cayman-registered entity.

It is in Cayman where the heart of the ownership dispute between Sir Jack Hayward and the Hayward Family Trust on one hand, and the late Edward St George's estate on the other, lies.

Some 50 per cent of IDC is owned by Seashells Investments, which is 100 per cent

SEE page 9B

Buyer pledges 'substantial growth' for Port Authority

* Mid-Atlantic Projects confirms sales agreement signed with Sir Jack, but 'much work' remains to be done before closing

* Group says Freeport 'has a lot of potential that has not been exploited to date'

* Coy on plans until deal sealed, but group involved with former South Riding LNG project and is investor in 'energy-related real estate'

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The prospective purchaser of Sir Jack Hayward's 50 per cent stake in the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) yesterday said it expected to "substantially grow" the group and Freeport if it successfully closed the deal, indicating that while there was "a lot to be done" it hoped to complete early in the New Year.

Joe Rosetti, its senior managing director, confirmed Tribune Business's revelations earlier this week that Mid-Atlantic Projects had "entered into an agreement to purchase all of Sir Jack Hayward's interest in the GBPA/Port Group Ltd".

He added: "The transaction is subject to the normal due

diligence and approvals required of such transactions. Our goal is to have the transaction completed in the late first quarter or early second quarter of 2010."

It seems likely that Mid-Atlantic Projects is acquiring a 50 per cent GBPA stake from Sir Jack, not the 75 per cent he has alleged he has owned during the ownership dispute with the late Edward St George's estate.

In an interview with Tribune Business yesterday, Mr Rosetti said that the deal with Sir Jack was "at a very preliminary stage", with only a sales agreement signed. Much remained to be done, he said, adding: "The due diligence has to take place, and then there has to be a closing."

"I'm hopeful all will be positive, and we're looking for-

ward to a nice closing and moving on, with all this being very beneficial for all concerned." Closing was likely to take place "around the first of the year".

Tribune Business failed to locate any information about Mid-Atlantic Projects via a prolonged Internet search, but Mr Rosetti told this newspaper that the company had previously been heavily involved with El Paso Corporation's failed bid to establish a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal and pipeline at Grand Bahama's South Riding Point.

"We are a company that has been set up for a specific purpose, and that is to invest in energy-related real estate,"

SEE page 5B

New Oriental's pension move despite 15% sales decline

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Business Reporter
crobarnds@tribunemedia.net

DESPITE a 15 per cent sales decline year-over-year, New Oriental Cleaners is rolling out its environmentally-friendly products, honouring employees with gifts of electronics and initiating a mandatory pension plan next year to secure the futures of their 121 staff members.

Lana Lee-Brogdon, the company's director, introduced its first bio-degradable plastic garment bags, and recently unveiled an environmentally friendly, multi-use garment bag in a bid to be a 'greener' company.

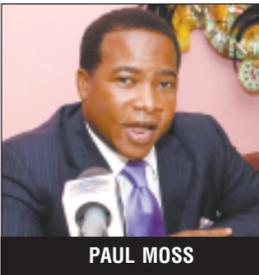
Mrs Lee-Brogdon yesterday said the new three-in-one garment bags also transform into a hamper and a duffel bag, making it easy for New Oriental patrons to drop-off and pick up their laundered items in the same bag with minimal impact on the environment. The use of the \$10 garment bags, which the company sells at the same retail price as in the US, will also assist in cutting its overhead on biodegradable plastic bags.

"It's better for them to store their clothes in it because it is a breathable bag," said Mrs Lee-Brogdon. "The plastic bag retains moisture."

She added that another large purchasing expense is wire hangers, for which New Oriental is offering three

SEE page 6B

Ex-PLP leader candidate: 4% tax on every financial firm



PAUL MOSS

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

A former PLP leadership candidate yesterday suggested that the Government impose a 4 per cent tax on profits generated by all Bahamas-based financial institutions to help hit a \$3.5 billion per annum revenue target, advocating that commercial banks be prevented from writing consumer loans.

Paul Moss, who runs his own financial services business, Dominion Management Services, said that while the 25 per cent tax on repatriated profits suggested by former Bahamas Chamber of Commerce president, Dionisio D'Aguilar, was too high, the Government ought to impose a broad-based tax increase

SEE page 7B

* Also calls for legislation to ban commercial banks from consumer lending, to allow likes of auto dealers and furniture firms to develop in-house financing

* Says 4% tax 'across the board' in financial sector a 'reasonable margin' to hit \$3.5bn government revenue target

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

Auto industry is seeking emissions standards detail

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor
and CHESTER ROBARDS
Tribune Business Reporter
crobarnds@tribunemedia.net

Bahamian auto dealers yesterday urged the Government to provide them with the proposed legislation/regulations for emissions standards and testing, expressing concern that it may result in them ceasing imports of specific models and possibly increase vehicle prices.

While welcoming any moves to reduce pollution and cut carbon emissions, Rick Lowe, operations manager at Nassau Motor Company (NMC), said

Concerns over phase-in period, making vehicles more expensive and end to imports of some models

"the most important thing" for the Bahamas Motor Dealers Association's (BMDA) members and other dealers to know was the exact standards the Government was proposing to implement. In an e-mail sent to Dr Earl Deveaux, minister of the environment, who is currently attending the UN Cli-

SEE page 8B

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BUSINESS

The appropriate situation response

When does one lose the right to defend themselves or, as a matter of fact, the life of another? The answer is 'NEVER'.

When is your life in danger or the life of another? There are two answers to this one. The first being the moment you feel that your life is in danger.

During this period only you can make that decision, no one else. No law can be formed or voted on to determine this life or death experience. It is hoped that you are rational enough and emotionally sound to be able to know the difference.

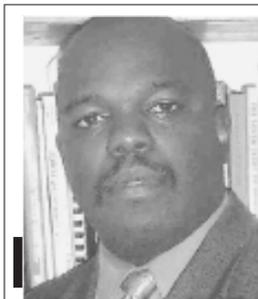
The second answer is determined by a court.

Not even the police can make this determination, only the court, who will listen to the facts as you present them and the opinion of the so-called experts, such as police, doctors and witnesses.

Self-defence is the immediate, 'if you do not do something you will die', situation, whereas vigilantism is the 'Let's go find them and get them' situation.

Very different indeed. To place this term with the conditions of self-defence is, to say the least, ludicrous and uninformed. This is like saying that your child is choking, and saying: 'Wait, let's call 919', or your house is on fire, call 919 and wait. These events require an immediate and appropriate response, just like self defence. Do we tell the cutlass swinging, gun-to-head attacker: 'Wait, let me call 919.' I think not.

Calling 919 is endorsed and fully supported. Nevertheless, it is a delayed response that will have an effect several minutes or hours after the event, depending on police,



Safe & Secure

By Gamal Newry

ambulance and fire availability.

Let's look at the timeline. A call is placed to 919, and is then placed to the appropriate responder.

They have to get ready, set, and then go. After going they have to travel, the time of which can only be estimated and is dependent on traffic and distance.

Upon arriving they have to find out what has happened or happening, and then they decide the appropriate response.

These factors are understood and accepted. However, during this time my house is still on fire, my child is still choking and, oh yeah, the cut-

lass is stilling being wild...Hopefully they have not pulled the trigger.

PLEASE LET NO ONE CONFUSE YOU OVER SAVING YOUR LIFE AND ACTS OF VENGEANCE AND ANGER.

NB: Gamal Newry is the president of Preventative Measures, a loss prevention and asset protection training and consulting company, specialising in reviews and audits, and emergency and crisis management. Comments can be sent to PO Box N-3154 Nassau, Bahamas, or email gnewry@gmail.com or visit us at www.preventativemeasures.net

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- MSc in Public Administration & Development - University of Birmingham
- MSc Marketing & Management - University of Bradford (commencing January 2010)
- MSc Finance, Accounting & Management - University of (commencing January 2010)
- MSc Information Technology - University of Teesside
- MSc Telecommunications - Birmingham City University
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To our valued clients

Please be advised that our office will be closed on the following days:

Friday, December 18th 2009, REOPENING on Monday, December 21, 2009
Thursday, December 24th at 1:00 pm, REOPENING on Tuesday, December 29, 2009
Thursday, December 31st at 1:00 pm, REOPENING on Monday, January 4, 2010

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BUSINESS

BFSB repositions its annual Retreat

The Bahamas Financial Services Board (BFSB) is repositioning its annual 'Retreat' into a Bahamas International Business and Finance Summit (IBFS) that aims to leverage global business opportunities through an integrated approach. The event will be held at the Bimini Bay Resort on January 29-31.

IBFS will seek to clarify international business opportunities and develop action plans in line with the strategy statement for financial services, the BFSB said. This strategy statement, jointly developed by the Government and the BFSB, was presented to industry by Zhivargo Laing, minister of state for finance, in July, followed by a series of industry consultations.

BFSB has previously hosted an annual 'Retreat', which has served to bring together stakeholders from the Government, regulators and private sector in the financial services industry. The primary objective of such interaction has been to formulate strategies for the growth of the Bahamas financial services industry, while also providing opportunities for networking.

The Summit will adopt a more global approach to business development by giving dual atten-

tion to the dynamics impacting wealth creation, preservation and transfer, and secondly, how international business and financial centres such as The Bahamas can respond.

"2009 was a watershed year for change and the parameters for conducting international business and finance have changed dramatically," said BFSB chief executive and executive director, Wendy Warren. "The IBFS is intended to act as a catalyst for identifying business opportunities in this new economic environment, and to assist industry stakeholders in acquiring their fair share of business and to thrive in the new normal."

BFSB chairman Craig Gomez said: "We have been pleased to have public sector involvement by all relevant Cabinet Ministers, all industry regulators, and the leader and delegation of the Opposition at the annual retreats. The IBFS will be no exception and, already, there is an impressive line up of participants." The Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) has come on board as a Gold Sponsor of IBFS 2010, with the Grand Bahama Port Authority and King's Realty providing support as Bronze Sponsors and Schooner Bay, Great Abaco a supporting sponsor.

Bahamian insurer's subsidiary in CLICO Cayman acquisition

BRITISH American Financial's (BAF) yesterday said its Cayman Islands subsidiary had acquired CLICO's life insurance portfolio in that nation for an undisclosed amount.

In a statement, the Bahamian financial services provider said the acquisition will ensure the continuity of policyholder coverage and introduce state-of-the-art infrastructure and client services.

BAF Insurance Cayman is a member of the BAF Global Group, headquartered in Nassau, which also recently acquired British American

Insurance Company (BAICO) Cayman.

According to the release, restructuring of the company began immediately after the purchase and incorporated new systems and "drawing on the extensive resources of the group".

Benefit

It added that former CLICO policyholders will automatically benefit from being a part of the newly developed network of companies.

"We are pleased to

announce that all the rights and privileges of the policyholders will be protected under the terms of the agreement. We felt this was a natural step, not only in growing our local business, but also proving our commitment as a responsible corporate citizen of the Cayman Islands Community," said Jason Borrino, managing director of BAF Insurance Company (Cayman).

"Policyholders will benefit from new, state-of-the-art infrastructure and client services that are currently being introduced into BAF Cayman. As a member of BAF Global, we are backed by 90 years of solid experience in insurance and financial services and supported by extensive resources. Our clients will experience the benefits of being a part of such a solid company."

The sale and transfer of CLICO Cayman's life insurance portfolio has been formally approved by the Cayman Islands' Monetary Authority (CIMA) and the Grand Court.

Over the next few days, BAF Cayman will send out a formal written notification of the transfer of policies.

"BAF Insurance Company (Cayman) has expressed its commitment to a smooth and seamless transition in keeping with their philosophy of providing excellent customer service and 'financial solutions for life'," the release said.

CLICO (Bahamas) failed after the company was found to be insolvent to the tune of millions of dollars, after the Trinidad government took control of CLICO's parent company, CL Financial, to stop it collapsing.

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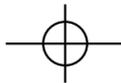
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BUSINESS

Buyer pledges 'substantial growth' for Port Authority

FROM page 1B

Mr Rosetti told Tribune Business. "We had attempted to get involved with the South Riding project in the Bahamas before, and the Port Authority opportunity came up.

"We're now focused on this. We have the resources from a private trust fund."

Describing the South Riding Point project as "some you win, some you lose", Mr Rosetti said it was "a little premature" to provide details on Mid-Atlantic Projects' plans for the GBPA/Port Group Ltd, and the investment it planned to bring and the jobs that would be created.

"We've not decided on the organisation, but we expect to grow it substantially for the benefit of the Bahamas. We think it's [Freeport and Grand Bahama] got a lot of potential that's not been explored to date," he added.

"We're very focused on the Bahamas, and were interested for a variety of reasons when the Port Authority came up. We, along with our partners, felt this was a good opportunity."

On Freeport's attraction for his group, Mr Rosetti said: "I think it's proximity to the US, I sense a real commitment to grow it, the business opportunity, and there was a willing person who wanted to sell."

Asked about the Government's reaction to the potential purchase of Sir Jack's stake, and where Mid-Atlantic Projects had reached in the approvals process, Mr Rosetti told Tribune Business: "The Government is aware of what we have done to date."

Asked whether Mid-Atlantic Projects had been in touch with its prospective joint venture partner, the late Edward St George's estate, Mr Rosetti replied: "I'd prefer

not to comment on that." He did add, though: "We only want to get involved in an amicable environment. We want to do things in a friendly way, and not get involved in any sort of controversy."

When asked by Tribune Business whether Mid-

Atlantic Projects' plans included Hannes Babak remaining as GBPA/Port Group Ltd chairman, Mr Rosetti skirted the issue, saying the question was "premature" because there had been no discussions on staffing or personnel issues yet.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

GENERAL AVIATION AND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE CENTER- LPIA

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

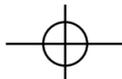
The successful Proponent will be required:

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

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

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

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



BUSINESS

New Oriental's pension move despite 15% sales decline

FROM page 1B

cents per hanger when their patrons bring them in.

The depressed economy has driven many people away from the expense of dry cleaning, and Mrs Lee-Brogdon said even corporate contracted work has slowed.

However, she said the company has not been forced to lay off any of its employees and has been able to pay out bonuses this year, though they have been somewhat trimmed down.

And, in a New Oriental tradition, awards and gifts for service and tenure were given out last month.

Electronics

Mrs Lee-Brogdon said this year employees who were due for the awards requested electronics. According to her, flat screen televisions, mobile phones and surround sound systems were given away at the company's annual award ceremony (backyard party).

"In November we usually

do the party in the backyard," she said. "We do separate awards for longer service and retirees, and employee of the year."

Mrs Lee-Brogdon said staff commitment is what has kept the business afloat through the tough economy.

With such a large staff, many close to retirement, and a high staff retention rate, the company has moved to enact a mandatory pension plan.

According to her, the company has had a plan in place for more than 10 years that matches the 3 per cent maximum of salary that employees put into it, but she has seen many employees shun it and come up short for retirement.

"We are trying to help them plan retirement," said Mrs Lee-Brogdon. "We are going to make it mandatory that everyone over five years (of employment) join the pension."

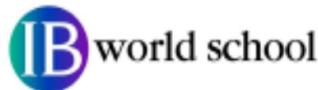
INSIGHT

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

ST ANDREW'S
SCHOOL



The International School of The Bahamas
FOUNDED 1948



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 for 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 E/PSE; IT & Social Studies; art; drama E 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.

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT

(No.46 of 2000)

EASTBOURNE TRADING COMPANY LIMITED

IBC No. 98,033 B

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with Section 138 of the International Business Companies Act, No. 46 of 2000, EASTBOURNE TRADING COMPANY LIMITED is in Dissolution

Any person having a Claim against the above-named is required on or before February 13, 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.

Vassilios Hadjivassiliou, of Nicosia Cyprus, is the Liquidator of EASTBOURNE TRADING COMPANY LIMITED.

Vassilios Hadjivassiliou
Liquidator


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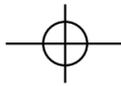
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BUSINESS

Ex-PLP leader candidate: 4% tax on every financial firm

FROM page 1B

that went beyond the commercial banks to all Bahamas-based financial institutions.

"I would be very holistic in my approach to it, and say no more than 4 per cent on the profits," Mr Moss said of any potential new tax on the financial services industry.

"I think 4 per cent is a reasonable margin, and do it across the board. It's not just the commercial banks, but we're looking at the mutual fund administrators, financial and corporate services providers, and banks and trust companies. That will go a long way in giving us the revenue we need in our country."

When asked whether he felt the \$1.5 billion in revenue the Government generated annually was not enough to meet the public sector and national infrastructure's requirements, Mr Moss replied: "Absolutely. This is not enough."

Aided by his suggested new tax on financial services industry profits, he added: "I would say that if we do things right in our country, we could collect \$3.5 billion annually. That would be a 200 per cent or more increase over the revenue we have collected so

"I think the Prime Minister ought to go further, and not look at just the commercial banks but private banks and offshore institutions, and make sure they pay their fair share of tax."

PAUL MOSS

far."

While not quite as much as 200 per cent, it would certainly be a more than 100 per cent rise, or doubling, of what the Government generated currently.

Mr Moss, meanwhile, also called upon the Government and Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham to pass "legislation to prevent banks from lending money for consumer items such as vehicles and furniture."

"This would force banks to be innovative in producing revenue, and ensure that they look at lending for business purposes which will help the overall economy. It will also ensure that automobile and furniture companies do their own financing, and this will make competition keener in the respective industries."

When challenged about the potential chaos, restrictive business practices and loss of revenue profits this would cause for the Bahamian commercial banking sector, and the impact on consumer-generated economic growth if they were unable to access debt financing for consumer items, Mr Moss told Tribune Business neither scenario would come to pass.

"What happens in business is supply and demand," he explained. "There will still be demand for consumer items. What it means is that furniture shops or auto dealer owners have to be innovative. Consumers won't be able to go to the bank to borrow, but other businesses will start up to lend consumer financing, or the furniture shop or auto dealer will do it themselves."

Barring the banks from consumer lending would deepen Bahamian ownership of the economy by allowing lending houses businesses to thrive, Mr Moss arguing that Bahamians "borrow too much and our people are burdened by debt". Instead, the banks would focus on mortgage lending and commercial loans to aid economic growth.

When asked by Tribune Business whether a tax on the

international financial services industry's profits would be badly timed, and give foreign-owned institutions a further reason to leave this jurisdiction amid the OECD/G-20 pressure, Mr Moss said: "I don't think so."

Arguing that all Bahamas-based companies should be taxed regardless of the line of business they were in as a precursor to introducing an income tax, Mr Moss said such taxes would "go hand in hand" with his suggested strategy of signing double taxation agreements with other jurisdictions.

These agreements, he said, where companies would be taxed on their Bahamian profits at lower Bahamian rates, rather than home country tax rates when these monies were repatriated, would ensure the Bahamas was not perceived as a 'tax haven'.

"No longer can they say people are coming to this jurisdiction for tax avoidance," Mr Moss added. "That facilitates where we need to go as a country. Far from business running from our country, business will run to our country, as this could legitimise their presence by having a tax base in place."

The former PLP leadership

candidate added: "I have felt for a long time that the banks have been getting away with, as they say colloquially, murder, simply because they are necessary members of our community and Bahamians have been able to rely on them."

"But they have been no advocates for their clients, customers and consumers. They're allowed to charge interest rates and overdraft rates that are too high. Even writing a letter - something that is required by a financial institution from your own financial institution if you want to do business with it - the bank charges \$20 for that."

Mr Moss pointed out that most other Bahamian companies had to pay business licence fees based on their gross revenues, while banks

paid bank licence fees ranging from \$400,000 to \$2.5 million per annum.

"It's unfair, and I think a tax increase is long overdue," Mr Moss added. "I think the Prime Minister ought to go further, and not look at just the commercial banks but private banks and offshore institutions, and make sure they pay their fair share of tax."

"These banks do not pay business licence fees, notwithstanding the gross revenue they doubtless produce annually. When compared to other businesses who must pay this, it is inequitable and I am happy that the Prime Minister will address it. However, he ought to be holistic and tax also the private and international banks that also produce huge tax free profits and repatriate out of the jurisdiction."

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2008/CLE/qui/1322
IN THE SUPREME COURT

Common Law and Equity Division

IN THE MATTER of three (3) pieces parcels or lots of land situate on the Northwestern Side of the Queen's Highway approximately Two Thousand One Hundred and Thirty-three (2,133) feet West of the Bridge to Newton Cay in the Settlement of Seymours North Long Island one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

AND

IN THE MATTER of the Quieting Titles Act, 1959 Chapter 393

AND

IN THE MATTER of the Petition of Eddington Burrows

NOTICE OF PETITION

The Petition of Eddington Burrows of the Settlement of Seymours North Long Island one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in respect:

"ALL THOSE three (3) pieces parcels or lots of land situate on the Northwestern Side of the Queen's Highway approximately Two Thousand One Hundred and Thirty-three (2,133) feet West of the Bridge to Newton Cay in the Settlement of Seymours North Long Island one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas containing Fifty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty-five (57,755) square feet which said pieces parcels or lots of land are bounded on the **North** by mangrove and running thereon One Hundred and Forty-two and ninety-five hundredths (142.95) feet on the **East** by land the property of John Smith and running thereon Two Hundred and Ninety-five and thirty-nine hundredths (295.39) feet on the **South** by the Queen's Highway and running thereon One Hundred and Fifty-six and sixteen hundredths (156.16) feet on the **West** by Land the property of Hubert Smith and running thereon Four Hundred and Fifty-eight and fifty-three hundredths (458.53) feet which said pieces parcels or lots have such position shape marks boundaries and dimensions as are shown on the diagram or plan attached hereto and thereon coloured **pink.**"

Eddington Burrows claims to be the owner of the unincumbered fee simple estate in possession of the said pieces parcels or lots of land and has made application to the Supreme Court of the said Commonwealth under Section 3 of the Quieting Titles Act 1959 to have his title to the said pieces parcels or lots of land investigated and the nature and extent thereof determined and declared in a Certificate of Title to be granted by the Court in accordance with the Provisions of the said Act.

Copies of the plan of the said land may be inspected during normal office hours at the following places:

- a. The Registry of the Supreme Court Ansbacher Building, East Street in the City of Nassau.
- b. The Chambers of Plakaris & Co., No. 16 Market Street, in the City of Nassau.

Notice is hereby given that any person having dower or right of dower or an Adverse Claim or a claim not recognized in the said Petition shall on or before the 30th day of December A.D., 2009 file in the Supreme Court and serve on the Petitioner or the undersigned a Statement of his Claim in the prescribed form, verified by an Affidavit to be filed therewith. Failure of any person to file and serve a Statement of his Claim on or before the 30th day of December A.D., 2009 will operate as a bar to such claim.

PLAKARIS & CO.
Chambers
No. 16 Market Street
Nassau, N.P.,
The Bahamas

Attorney for the Petitioner

NOTICE

WALLA MANAGEMENT LIMITED
In Voluntary Liquidation

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138(4) of the International Business Companies Act, 2000, **WALLA MANAGEMENT LIMITED** is in dissolution as of December 2, 2009.

Ignacio Riva Fierro of 76 Chemin de la Morintz, 1936 Verbier Switzerland is the Liquidator.

LIQUIDATOR

NOTICE

RYTON INTERNATIONAL S.A.
In Voluntary Liquidation

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138(4) of the International Business Companies Act, 2000, **RYTON INTERNATIONAL S.A.** is in dissolution as of December 2, 2009.

Ignacio Riva Fierro of 76 Chemin de la Morintz, 1936 Verbier Switzerland is the Liquidator.

LIQUIDATOR

OFFICE CLOSURES
FOR



Thursday, December 17th,
at 12:00 noon,
RE-OPENING on
Friday, December 18th, 9:00a.m.

Thursday, December 24th,
at 1:00p.m.,
RE-OPENING on Tuesday,
December 29th, at 9:00a.m.

Thursday, December 31st,
at 1:00p.m.,
RE-OPENING on
Monday, January 4th, 2010,
at 9:00a.m.

*Merry Christmas &
A Happy New Year!*

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2009
IN THE SUPREME COURT No. CLE/QUI/01549
Equity Side

NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE QUIETING TITLES ACT, 1959

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF
RAYMOND MEADOWS

TO

ALL THAT piece parcel or tract of land totaling some 175.287 Acres and situate in Salt Bluff and between the Settlements of Savannah Sound and Tarpum Bay on the Island of Eleuthera one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

Raymond Meadows claims to be the owner in fee simple in possession of the parcel of land hereinbefore described and the Petitioner has made application to the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas under Section 3 of The Quieting Titles Act, 1959 to have his title to the said land investigated.

Copies of the filed plan may be inspected during normal business hours at:-

- (a) The Registry of the Supreme Court
- (b) The Office of the Administrator situate at Tarpum Bay, Eleuthera
- (c) The Chambers of the undersigned.

NOTICE is hereby given that any person having dower or right to dower or an adverse claim or a claim not recognized in the Petition shall before the 24th day of January, A.D., 2010 file in the Supreme Court and serve the Petitioner or the undersigned a statement of his claim on or before the 24th day of January, A.D., 2010 will operate as a bar to such claim.

TIMOTHY SERRETTE & CO.,
Attorneys for the Petitioner,
Chancery House
No. 21 Dowdeswell Street
Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas



BUSINESS

FROM page 1B

Auto industry

mate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Mr Lowe said: "Is it possible to receive of a copy of the draft legislation/regulations so we can share the proposed requirements with our suppliers to see what changes might have to be made to the vehicles we import?"

constructive criticism before it/they are debated to Parliament for debate?"

Speaking to Tribune Business yesterday, Mr Lowe said of the Government's proposed emissions standards: "It may limit the type of vehicle we can import. It may impact some more than others. For example, our Hondas should meet the standards no problem, but some of the Korean product may not. "I don't know what the standards are yet to send to our suppliers. The question that arises is what happens to all the vehicles on the road now. A lot of the cars that are imported will not meet the standard. Is there going to be a

phase-in period for some cars to get adaptor kits, and how long will that be? The most important thing is that if there's going to be testing of these vehicles, we need to know what the standards are so we can make sure we get the right equipment.

"If they are the Florida standards we have something to go on, but if they're the California standards, the most stringent in the US, we will have numerous issues there to take to our suppliers. If the standards are more stringent, and we need to get more emissions stuff, it may make the vehicle more expensive."

Mr Lowe pointed out that the development of emissions standards had been talked about for years by both the first FNM administration and the Christie government, but nothing was ever implemented.

Other auto dealers and public transportation workers yesterday said they would welcome emissions standards as pro-

posed by the Prime Minister at a press conference prior to his flight to Copenhagen for the UN Summit. Friendly Ford's sales manager and director, Andrew Barr, said his US-made vehicles are built to meet US emissions standards, which are among the highest in the world.

According to Mr Barr, the legislation was overdue and will be good for the Bahamas in the long-term.

He said there were far too many cars in the Bahamas that were unfit to be driven, and this would change once emission standards were put in place.

Prime Minister, Hubert Ingraham alluded to a prohibition on the importation of derelict and old vehicles, which are often some of the country's worst polluters due to their old, under-maintained engines and lack of proper emission controls within the engine.

Mr Barr said all of Ford's products met the highest emissions standards. "For us per-

sonally there will be no impact at all, since we already meet those standards," he said.

"You know, I would have to say it's very good legislation and we sell Ford products to meet emissions standards, so a lot depends on what standard the Government will establish. I look forward to when they do implement it."

No draft legislation has come through the doors of Parliament as yet, however, but Mr Ingraham said his government was committed to setting emissions standard in this country.

President of the Public Transit Association of the Bahamas (PTAB), and chief executive of Fleet Management Solutions, Reuben Rahming, said his organisation also advocated emission standards legislation.

However, he warned that strong consultation with all sectors involved in public transportation and auto sales will be needed to enact multilateral emissions controls standards.

"Proper consultation will be very important because this could mean a shift in our livelihood," said Mr Rahming.

PTAB can be pegged as one of the country's largest organised contributors to greenhouse gas

emissions with more than 300 vehicles on the road per day. According to Mr Rahming, a typical bus drives the equivalent of the circumference of the earth in only six months, which makes the public bus system one of the worst automotive polluters in the world.

He contends that governments are the second worst automotive polluter in the world with a large fleet of public vehicles on the road every day. He suggested that the government seriously consider a tiered approach to enacting emissions legislation, because of the amount of cars that may have to be retrofitted with proper catalytic converters or other emissions mitigating devices. Whole fleets of cars may also need to be changed if they simply do not meet the standards put in place by the Government. Mr Rahming added that due to the country's extreme vulnerability to changes in the environment, 'green' standards should be set across the board - in construction and marine resources - on carbon emissions.

"Because we impact it most negatively we must put our foot forward," he said.



PRICE INQUIRY

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

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

PI-190 A Furnishings Scope of Work includes:

- Supply and Delivery of Specified Furnishings

PI-190 B Appliances Scope of Work includes:

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

PI-190 C Commercial Seating Scope of Work includes:

- Supply and Delivery of Specified Appliances

Price Inquiry Packages will be available for pick up after 1:00 pm, on Thursday, November 19th, 2009.

Contact: Traci Brisby
Contract & Procurement Manager
LPIA Expansion Project
Ph: (242) 702-1086 | Fax: (242) 377-2117
P.O. Box AP 58229, Nassau, Bahamas
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Pensioners of THE BAHAMAS HOTEL INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT PENSION FUND are asked to visit the Fund's Office in the SG Hambros Building, West Bay Street, Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas to obtain an end of year voucher and to update their pension fund records.

Please call or visit the Funds Office by Friday, 18th December 2009.

Please call us at (242) 322-8381/4 if you have any questions.

The Trustees for the Fund wish all hotel pensioners a safe and joyous holiday season.

For more information on the Bahamas Hotel Industry Management Pension Fund you may visit our website @ www.bahamashotelbenefitplans.com or www.bhimpf.com.

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NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that VILNER MERIZIER of MARSH HARBOUR, P.O. BOX AB-20542, ABACO, BAHAMAS, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 10th day of December, 2009 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that LUTHER KING CHARLMAINE of #321 DRUMFISH & HALIBUT, GRAND BAHAMA, BAHAMAS, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 10th day of December, 2009 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

Advertisement for DCTPC Technology. STORE OPENING & CLOSING HOURS FOR THE HOLIDAYS. Saturday December 12th & 19th Open 10am - 5pm. December 14th to 24th - Mon - Friday Open 9am to 6pm. December 26th - Closed. December 29th - 31st Close For Inventory. Reopen Monday January 4th, 2010. Tel: 242-328-0048 Fax: 242-328-0049 #4 Patton & Rosetta Sts., Palmdale Nassau, Bahamas Email: sales@dctpc.com

IN HOUSE INVESTMENTS LTD

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

The Board of directors of In House Investments Limited has declared a quarterly dividend for Preferred Shares to all shareholders of record at December 15, 2009 as follows: Preferred Shares 7.25% per annum (payment quarterly). The payment will be made December 31, 2009 through Royal Fidelity Share Registrars & Transfer Agents Limited in the usual manner.

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BUSINESS

'Hold Bahamian company owners liable' through Act amendments

FROM page 1B

owned by the Hayward Family Trust. The remaining 50 per cent, though, is held by Cayman-based Fiduciary Management Services (FMS). The St George estate is arguing that FMS is holding its 50 per cent stake in trust for it, whereas Sir Jack is countering that, since FMS is owned 50/50 between himself and the estate, that translates into a split ownership of that tranche of IDC shares. Consequently, that would give him a 75 per cent stake.

Sir Jack again indicated to Tribune Business late on Tuesday that Mr Babak could re-locate to the Cayman Islands and run the GBPA/Port Group Ltd from there via FMS and IDC, if the Government does not renew his work permit at year-end.

"He could go to Cayman and deal with the companies from there," Sir Jack said, indicating that he, the purchasers of his GBPA stake and Mr Babak have a 'Plan B' to manoeuvre around both the St George estate and Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham on the work permit issue.

Indeed, in his letter to the Prime Minister announcing he had signed an agreement with an unnamed party to sell his GBPA stake, Sir Jack indicated Mr Babak would remain as chairman if he and the new investors had anything to do with it.

He told Mr Ingraham that the purchasers "do not want to disturb that management when they take over", a clear reference to intentions to keep Mr Babak in place.

While the St George camp yesterday still appeared to be digesting Sir Jack's announcement of his sales agreement, Mr Smith declining to address it directly, one source said of the proposed deal: "This is all a Babak creation."

That may have been the impression given to some by Sir Jack's letter to the Prime Minister, in which he said Mr

Babak and Andre Feldman, an attorney who has represented the latter in the GBPA ownership dispute, were responsible for "bringing the parties together and negotiating an agreement extremely satisfactory to everyone involved".

The situation again indicates that Sir Jack and Mr Babak are determined not to be pushed around by the Prime Minister, the St Georges and Hutchison Whampoa, and are proceeding to do an 'end-around' the Government's preferred plans for Freeport, hanging on to the GBPA and its future direction. Meanwhile, Mr Smith described plans for Mr Babak to run the GBPA from the Cayman Islands as "unacceptable", adding: "Effectively, Freeport is going to become a colony of the Cayman Islands."

"It is unconscionable that the GBPA, being a local government authority, will be run by an Austrian who cannot get a work permit to run the Port Group of Companies, and he'll be doing it from the Cayman Islands."

Sir Jack has been able to control the GBPA/Port Group Ltd and their Boards because he has Board control at IDC and FMS. The St George estate has been unable to have the IDC and FMS shareholder registers changed to reflect the Supreme Court verdict that it held a 50 per cent ownership stake, Tribune Business was told, due to Sir Jack's Board control.

In addition, Sir Jack's attorneys have taken the position that the Bahamian courts do not have the power to order that the share registers of Cayman companies be changed.

To cut through this, Mr Smith said: "I urge the Government, for the avoidance of doubt, to amend the Companies Act and Exchange Control Act to say that persons who have made representations as to their beneficial

ownership in a Bahamian company, the shares of which are to be held by a foreign company, should be held liable for such representations. "They would be liable to have the local Bahamian shareholder register rectified, and the shares in the Bahamian company issued to their beneficial owners, so as to reflect the representations made to the Central Bank's Exchange Control Department."

Tribune Business has seen a November 22, 2007, letter sent to Mr Smith by the Exchange Control Department, which said: "We confirm that our records reflect the beneficial ownership of the Grand Bahama Port Authority Group of Companies as vesting, as to 50 per cent each of the shares, in Sir Jack Hayward and the late Edward St George."

Mr Smith suggested the amendments should apply to any representations made to Bahamian regulatory authorities, such as the Investments Board (Cabinet), when it came to foreign companies holding interests in Bahamian entities for the beneficial owners. He also urged the Government to "amend the Companies Act to allow any beneficial owners of such shares, and the Government, to apply to the courts in a summary action to rectify the Bahamian company's share register, and cause the shares to be issued in that way for the estate of Mr St George, as beneficial owner of shares in the GBPA and Port Group Ltd."

"The Government, as a 7.5 per cent shareholder of the GBPA, can apply to rectify the register of GBPA and Port Group Ltd, and to have the shares in both companies issued to the estate and Sir Jack."

Mr Smith said: "The amendments to the legislation would be a moral high ground for the Government, as it would simply be inviting that representations made to government agencies should be correct. "This would bring the shares of the Port Group of Companies back home and under the control of the Government in the sale, transaction or acquisition of the GBPA. This is especially important, since the Port Authority is the local government authority for the Bahamas."

"It is perverse to think that a population of 70,000 Bahamians will be administered as a colony by an Austrian and Sir Jack from the Cayman Islands."

NB: In a Wednesday, December 16, Tribune Business article on Sir Jack Hayward's sale of his Port Authority stake, Sir Jack should have been quoted as saying: "I was keen on getting the right successor, and the right people for Freeport and Grand Bahama." Tribune Business apologises for the error.

NOTICE

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All fees must be paid in full and items removed no later than Dec. 28th, 2009



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The Principal
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Nassau, Bahamas

Or faxed to: 242-393-3248, or emailed to dlynch@qcchcneforth.com, so as to arrive on or before January 8, 2010. Only candidates short-listed will be contacted by telephone, fax or email for an interview.

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NOTICE

The public is hereby notified that the entrance to the dock owned by Kelly's Lumber Yard Limited and situated on the Southern Side of the Harbour of Nassau and to the East of East Street and the properties formerly know as the "Clerihew" property and "Eleuthera Limited" property situated on the North Side of Bay Street approximately opposite Higgs & Kelly, 348 Bay Street, will be closed to the public on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th December, 2009 in order to preserve the Private Properties Rights and to prevent the Acquisition by the Public of a Right of Way.

Dated this 16th Day of December, 2009.

MARY ELIZABETH (BETTY) KENNING,
President
Kelly's Lumber Yard Limited

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF: TUESDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2009										
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,531.83 CHG 6.63 %CHG 0.43 YTD -180.53 YTD % -10.54										
FINDEX: CLOSE 000.00 YTD 00.00% 2008 -12.31%										
WWW.BISXBAHAMAS.COM TELEPHONE:242-323-2330 FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320										
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	P/E	Yield	
1.71	1.03	AML Foods Limited	1.17	1.17	0.00		0.127	0.000	9.2	0.00%
11.80	9.90	Bahamas Property Fund	10.73	10.73	0.00		0.992	0.200	10.8	1.85%
9.30	5.90	Bank of Bahamas	5.90	5.90	0.00		0.244	0.260	24.2	4.41%
0.89	0.63	Benchmark	0.63	0.63	0.00		-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%
3.49	3.15	Bahamas Waste	3.15	3.15	0.00		0.125	0.090	25.2	2.86%
2.37	2.14	Fidelity Bank	2.37	2.37	0.00		0.055	0.040	43.1	1.69%
14.04	9.92	Cable Bahamas	10.00	10.00	0.00		1.406	0.250	7.1	2.50%
2.88	2.72	Colina Holdings	2.72	2.72	0.00		0.249	0.040	10.9	1.47%
7.19	5.26	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	6.37	6.50	0.13	17,108	0.419	0.300	15.5	4.62%
3.85	1.27	Consolidated Water BDRs	2.60	2.66	0.06		0.111	0.052	24.0	1.95%
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	Farmguard	6.49	6.49	0.00		0.420	0.240	15.5	3.70%
11.87	9.80	Finco	9.29	9.29	0.00		0.322	0.620	28.9	5.60%
11.71	9.86	FirstCaribbean Bank	9.86	9.86	0.00		0.631	0.350	15.6	3.55%
5.53	4.11	Focol (S)	4.75	4.75	0.00		0.326	0.150	14.6	3.16%
1.00	1.00	Focal Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00		0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%
0.45	0.27	Freeport Concrete	0.27	0.27	0.00		0.035	0.000	7.7	0.00%
9.02	5.49	ICD Utilities	5.59	5.59	0.00		0.407	0.500	13.7	8.94%
12.00	9.95	J. S. Johnson	9.95	9.95	0.00		0.952	0.640	10.5	6.43%
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate	10.00	10.00	0.00		0.156	0.000	64.1	0.00%
BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing Basis)										
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity		
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00		7%	19 October 2017		
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022		
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00		7%	30 May 2013		
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015		
Fidelity Over-The-Counter Securities										
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Weekly Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
14.60	7.92	Bahamas Supermarkets	10.06	11.06	14.00		-2.246	0.000	N/M	0.00%
8.00	6.00	Caribbean Crossings (Pref)	2.00	6.25	4.00		0.000	0.480	N/M	7.80%
0.54	0.20	RND Holdings	0.35	0.40	0.35		0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%
Colina Over-The-Counter Securities										
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Weekly Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
41.00	29.00	ABDAB	30.13	31.59	29.00		4.540	0.000	9.03	0.00%
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.45	0.55	0.55		0.002	0.000	261.90	0.00%
BISX Listed Mutual Funds										
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD%	Last 12 Months	Div \$	Yield %	NAV Date		
1.4160	1.3419	CFAL Bond Fund	1.4160	4.62	5.53					31-Oct-09
3.0351	2.8268	CFAL MS1 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	FG Financial Diversified 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	1.0289	-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 Intl Investment Fund	9.4740	4.17	4.18					31-Oct-09
10.6301	10.0000	Royal Fidelity Bah Intl Investment Fund	10.6301	6.30	6.30					31-Oct-09
7.4613	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Intl Fund - Equities Sub Fund	7.4613	35.40	29.64					31-Oct-09
MARKET TERMS										
YIELD - Last 12 month dividends divided by closing price										
Bid \$ - Buying price of Colina and Fidelity										
Ask \$ - Selling price of Colina and Fidelity										
Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price										
Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week										
EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mths										
NAV - Net Asset Value										
N/M - Not Meaningful										
FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index, January 1, 1994 = 100										
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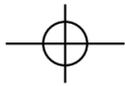
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BUSINESS

Fed holds rates at record low to fuel recovery

WASHINGTON
The Federal Reserve pledged Wednesday to hold interest rates at a record low to drive down double-digit unemployment and sustain the economic recovery.
The Fed noted that the economy is growing, however slowly.
And turning more upbeat, it pointed to a slowing pace of layoffs.
Still, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his col-

leagues gave no signal that they're considering raising rates anytime soon. They noted that consumer spending remains sluggish, the job market weak, wage growth slight and credit tight. Companies are still wary of hiring, they said.
Against that backdrop, the Fed kept its target range for its bank lending rate at zero to 0.25 percent, where it's stood since last December. And it repeated its pledge, first made in March, to keep rates at "exceptionally low levels" for an "extended period."



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

British American Financial wishes to extend a blessed Holiday Season

HOLIDAY HOURS

Friday, December 18, 2009
Closed for Staff Christmas Luncheon

Thursday, December 24, 2009
Closed half day

Friday, December 25 and Monday, December 28, 2009
Closed all day

Thursday, December 31, 2009
Closed half day

Friday, January 1, 2010
Closed half day




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THE WEATHER REPORT

5-DAY FORECAST

Location	Today	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Orlando	High: 71° F/22° C Low: 60° F/16° C	High: 81° F/28° C Low: 33° F	High: 83° F/28° C Low: 68° F	High: 82° F/28° C Low: 61° F	High: 74° F/23° C Low: 61° F	High: 74° F/23° C Low: 61° F
Tampa	High: 75° F/24° C Low: 62° F/17° C	High: 77° F/25° C Low: 69° F/21° C	High: 73° F/23° C Low: 67° F/19° C	High: 79° F/26° C Low: 69° F/21° C	High: 81° F/27° C Low: 72° F/22° C	High: 81° F/27° C Low: 72° F/22° C
West Palm Beach	High: 77° F/25° C Low: 69° F/21° C	High: 77° F/25° C Low: 69° F/21° C	High: 73° F/23° C Low: 67° F/19° C	High: 79° F/26° C Low: 69° F/21° C	High: 81° F/27° C Low: 72° F/22° C	High: 81° F/27° C Low: 72° F/22° C
Freeport	High: 73° F/23° C Low: 67° F/19° C	High: 73° F/23° C Low: 67° F/19° C	High: 73° F/23° C Low: 67° F/19° C	High: 79° F/26° C Low: 69° F/21° C	High: 81° F/27° C Low: 72° F/22° C	High: 81° F/27° C Low: 72° F/22° C
Miami	High: 80° F/27° C Low: 72° F/22° C					
Key West	High: 81° F/27° C Low: 73° F/23° C					
Nassau	High: 81° F/27° C Low: 70° F/21° C					
Eleuthera	High: 81° F/27° C Low: 72° F/22° C					
Cat Island	High: 79° F/26° C Low: 69° F/21° C					
Great Exuma	High: 83° F/28° C Low: 71° F/22° C					
Andros	High: 81° F/27° C Low: 73° F/23° C					

UV INDEX TODAY

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

LOW MEDIUM HIGH VERY HIGH EXT.

The higher the AccuWeather UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

TIDES FOR NASSAU

Time	High	Low
Today	8:05 a.m. 2.9 8:21 p.m. 2.2	1:49 a.m. -0.1 2:39 p.m. 0.0
Friday	8:44 a.m. 2.9 9:01 p.m. 2.2	2:28 a.m. -0.1 3:15 p.m. 0.0
Saturday	9:22 a.m. 2.8 9:42 p.m. 2.2	3:09 a.m. 0.0 3:53 p.m. 0.1
Sunday	10:00 a.m. 2.7 10:24 p.m. 2.2	3:41 a.m. 0.1 4:31 p.m. 0.1
Monday	10:38 a.m. 2.5 11:07 p.m. 2.2	4:23 a.m. 0.3 5:09 p.m. 0.1
Tuesday	11:16 a.m. 2.5 11:53 a.m. 2.2	5:08 a.m. 0.4 5:47 p.m. 0.3
Wednesday	12:00 p.m. 2.3 ---	5:56 a.m. 0.6 6:28 p.m. 0.3

ALMANAC

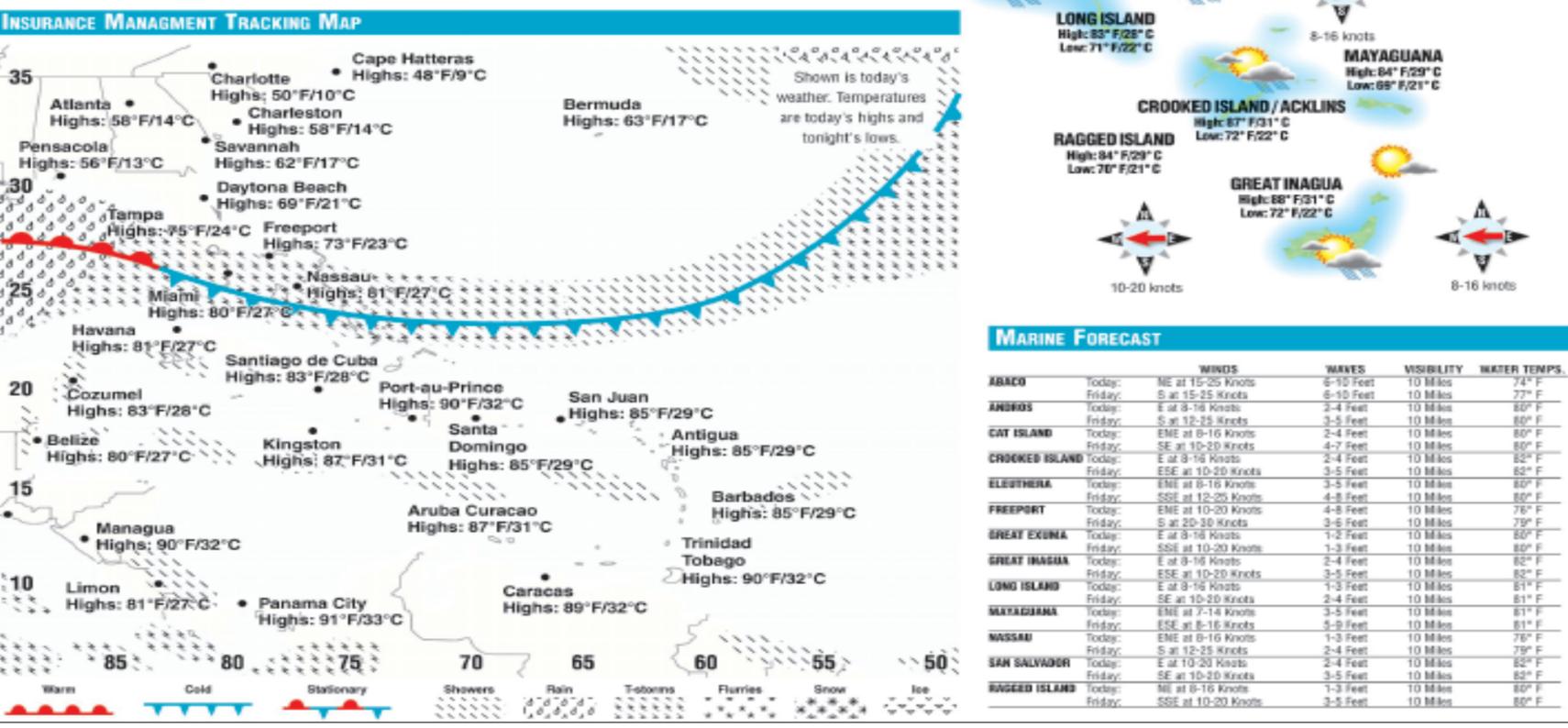
Statistics are for Nassau through 1 p.m. yesterday

Temperature: High: 88° F/31° C, Low: 75° F/24° C, Normal high: 79° F/26° C, Normal low: 67° F/19° C, Last year's high: 80° F/27° C, Last year's low: 70° F/21° C

Pressure: As of 1 p.m. yesterday: 30.07, Year to date: 34.20, Normal year to date: 30.37

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

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Location	High	Low
Atlanta	58° F/14° C	48° F/9° C
Charlotte	50° F/10° C	48° F/9° C
Charleston	58° F/14° C	48° F/9° C
Savannah	62° F/17° C	48° F/9° C
Daytona Beach	69° F/21° C	48° F/9° C
Tampa	75° F/24° C	48° F/9° C
Freeport	73° F/23° C	48° F/9° C
Miami	80° F/27° C	48° F/9° C
Nassau	81° F/27° C	48° F/9° C
Havana	81° F/27° C	48° F/9° C
Santiago de Cuba	83° F/28° C	48° F/9° C
Cozumel	83° F/28° C	48° F/9° C
Port-au-Prince	90° F/32° C	48° F/9° C
San Juan	85° F/29° C	48° F/9° C
Santa Domingo	85° F/29° C	48° F/9° C
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ADRIAN Archer and Highgrove Singers.

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

By JEFFARAH GIBSON

ADRIAN Archer and the Highgrove Singers of Highgrove Productions are continuing the European Christmas carolling tradition with the 'Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols' event this Sunday.

This carolling festival has become part of Christ Church Cathedral's annual music tradition.

"This was an English tradition that came to the Cathedral some years ago. This festival has been a part of our tradition for about 40 years now," Adrian Archer, director of the Highgrove Singers told *Tribune Religion*.

"The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols' is a format for a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ that is traditionally followed at Christmas.

Stories of the coming of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus will unfold as the group performs selections from 13th century musical composers.

"The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in a short Bible reading, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols and hymns," he said.

Themes will be revealed as Biblical scriptures are read and hymns are sang.

Christmas carols serve the purpose of recounting events that took place almost 2,000 years ago at the coming and birth of Christ.

Highgrove Singers hosts special festival at Christ Church Cathedral

Mr Archer said he thought it fitting to remind persons of the day that brought Christians salvation.

"We are thrilled to have been given this special opportunity to sing this traditional service. Since the selection of music is based on the readings. Being asked to lead this service provides our group an opportunity to explore the rich heritage of Christmas choral music, which we might not have otherwise thought to do," he said.

Not only will this service be one of celebration, it will also be learning experience, since attendees will have the opportunity to learn chorale literature as well as Christmas music of the 13th century.

"The music choral for the carol service spans the length and breath of Christmas choral literature. We will be singing works from (Giovanni Pierluigi da) Palestrina, written in the 13th century, to 20th century composers like John Tavener, famous for his recessional work 'Song of Athene' at the funeral of the late Princess Diana of Wales," Mr Archer said.

"Its absolutely beautiful music and I find the Tavener piece particularly dramatic because although he is a modern-

SEE page 33

Bahamas Baptist Union of Churches elects new members for the Baptist Convention

By REUBEN SHEARER
Tribune Features Reporter
rshear@tribunemedia.net

NEW beginnings were the order of the day at the New Providence District Convention of the Bahamas Baptist Union of Churches last week.

After a day of elections, a host of persons were confirmed as ministry heads of various posts at the 13 churches that make up the Baptist Convention.

The conference was prefaced by the stepping down of president of the New Providence District Convention Rev Wilton McKenzie.

Auxiliary posts in the New Providence District Convention of the Bahamas Baptist Union Churches were recently succeeded by newly elected members from various Baptist churches.

After serving for 10 years as its leader, Rev McKenzie resigned from his post to make way for Rev Cedric Farquharson to carry the

Convention to the next level.

The announcement of his resignation came during one of the weekday meetings to mark the 50th Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Baptist Convention. No explanation was given for Rev McKenzie's stepping down.

From November 30 through December 6, at Enoch Backford Auditorium on Carmichael Road, the various churches were informed of the changes of the department heads.

Rev McKenzie delivered his farewell address at the session's opening on Monday night.

He challenged those in attendance to "continue working together for a common goal, as the road ahead is filled with curves and bumps."

Day and night sessions were held during the week, and presidents from the various auxiliaries of the Convention also gave their addresses.

Rev Joseph Rolle, pastor of Carmichael Road Union Baptist Church, was re-elected to his post as head of the men's department for the New Providence District

Convention.

He said he plans to use his platform as men's department head to promote unity and increased involvement in his local church, the Carmichael Road Union Baptist.

Rev Joseph Rolle and Minister Lydia Rolle of the women's department gave reports of their stewardship during the past year within their respective sections.

Youth department head Johnathan Rolle reflected on the activities brought on-stream during his service to the church.

After serving as youth president for a combined 10 years, Johnathan Rolle stepped down and Sharmaine Munroe was elected to replace him as head of the department.

Some of the remarks were congratulatory, and others were farewell messages to the church. The posts of superintendent, president, first vice-president, second vice-president, secretary and other ministry positions were all filled.

The week-long event culminated with an honours banquet on Friday night at the auditorium and a thanksgiving service on Sunday afternoon.

The thanksgiving service marked the official closing of the convention, and Superintendent of the Bahamas Baptist Union, Rev Dr Charles Saunders, delivered the closing sermon.

He charged church members to stick together, to resolve any contentions that were caused as a result of bringing on the new ministry heads.

Rev Saunders challenged the church members to work together.

A total of 24 persons were awarded at the banquet for their contributions to the work of the New Providence District Convention over the past 50 years.

President McKenzie praised the stalwarts and presented them with plaques and awards for their committed service.

In attendance were Minister of Health Dr Hubert Minnis and leader of the Opposition Perry Christie.

Both men brought congratulatory remarks, and afterwards, Supt Saunders challenged the congregation to continue to support the work of the District, as well as its leader.

Christians need help

By BISHOP V G CLARKE

BECAUSE true leadership is an act, it requires planning. I have found that a major weakness in many of our evangelical Christian enterprises is in planning – long-range planning, over a three to five year span. Christians are not generally accustomed to thinking this far ahead, for most have heard from Sunday School days that Jesus may return at any moment.

Such truth forever remains, but it should never inhibit growth by short-circuiting responsible planning for the future.

Long-range planning is what one well-known author on management calls "risk-taking or decision making". Such planning takes courage because of the risk factor. Such risk-taking action is sometimes misunderstood.

It is not forecasting, forecasting

attempts to find the most probable course – concerned with future decisions.

It is concerned rather with the future of present decision; an attempt to eliminate risks. (It means the capacity to take greater risks – and the right risks).

"It is never safe to play it safe."

An outstanding story of World War II that discloses the importance of planning is the British offensive against German Army in North Africa.

Under General Erwin Rommel, the Germans had pushed nearly the whole way to Cairo.

In desperation the British High Commander assigned the task of turning the situation around to Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery.

Immediately Montgomery let it be known that he was going to take the initiative.

He planned carefully with great detail. Throughout the whole chain of command down to the privates, each person was told specifically what his job was to be.

A perfect coordinated team was formed, and each man knew precisely the commander's objectives and how they were to be achieved.

When the British Offensive began with this great precision, the mighty German Army was routed, and it became one of the early turning points in the war.

Montgomery was successful because through solid planning he was able to excite, motivate and challenge all his troops. The challenge to them to perform made the difference.

Planning spells the difference; remember that it is work done today to cause to happen tomorrow what we specifically want to happen.



Bishop VG Clarke

IS CAPITAL PUNISHMENT MANDATED, PROHIBITED OR PERMITTED?

By CEPHAS FERGUSON

PART 2

THOSE who believe that capital punishment is permitted must consider the third question: What principles should guide the state in determining whether to exercise the death penalty?

For those who hold that the state is permitted to execute wrong-doers, the key question is this, "Is there a unique benefit to using the death penalty, or can other (less severe) sanctions accomplish the same ends?"

Here the discussion includes pragmatic consideration - what methods best meet the objectives of criminal punishment?

This is not to suggest, however, that Christians should set aside Biblical principles in search of what works best. Pragmatic considerations must always be governed by Biblical principles of justice.

Christians have sought this balance on similar issues, such as the issue of just war. Most Christians regard war as evil in principle, but an evil which may be justified under certain conditions.

1. General deterrence:

General deterrence is the theory that when one person is punished for his or her crime, other potential offenders decide not to commit that crime for fear of being similarly punished.

It is a commonsense theory with the misfortune of being virtually impossible to prove. In fact, every study but one has documented that executions do not deter crime.

The one exception has received much publicity and much criticism, but has not been successfully replicated by any other researcher.

After reviewing all the research, it was found that the evidence was inconclusive.

However, reason suggests that for deterrence to operate, offenders must (1) care what will happen to them, (2) expect to be caught and convicted, and (3) take time to consider (1) and (2).

But these conditions are rarely met. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 55 per cent of all homicides are committed by a relative or acquaintance of the victim, usually during an argument.

Relatively few are premeditated.

There is little evidence of whether they would have been substantially less deterred by the prospect of another sentence, life imprisonment, for example.

Scripture cites deterrence as a basis for the death penalty in three kinds of crimes, all premeditated.

Deuteronomy 17:12-13 names willful contempt of court as a capital offence.

According to verse 13, the execution was clearly meant as a deterrent: "All the people will hear and be afraid, and will not be contemptuous again."

Deuteronomy 19:16-21 gives a similar situation - If one willfully gave false testimony in court and if the falsehood was revealed, the witness received the punishment the accused would have gotten.

In capital cases, of course, this meant death.

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 concerns children who persistently rebelled against their parents.

The parents were to publicly declare that their child would not obey them, and the child was to be executed.

Here again, the phrase is repeated, "And all Israel will hear of it and be afraid."

But the Bible does not give deterrence as a reason for executing murderers. This does not prove that executing murderers has no deterrent effect, of course. But it does show the weakness of general deterrence - it can deter only premeditated crimes.

If it can be shown that executions deter crime, this becomes a powerful argument for the death penalty.

But this has yet to be shown. In fact, the evidence suggests the opposite.

Three studies have examined the impact of capital punishment law revisions in seven states by comparing the resulting change in homicide rates in those states with the rates in surrounding states.

For example, Oregon abolished capital punishment in the early 1960s. A study compared the homicide rate in Oregon with those in Washington, Idaho, California, and Nevada.

Although homicide rates increased in all five states, they actually went up less in Oregon than in the other states.

This was borne out in six of seven states studied.

Only one state showed evidence that capital punishment deterred, in the others it had the opposite effect.

2. Specific deterrence:

Specific deterrence is the theory that punishing an offender will prevent him or her from committing further crimes.

Obviously someone who has been executed will never murder again. What is not so obvious is whether such an extreme sanction is necessary to achieve this purpose.

Imprisoning murderers for life under appropriate security also prevents them from killing.

3. Punishment

Punishment is the theory that a penalty must follow an offence.

Retributionists argue that other considerations such as deterrence and rehabilitation are not as important as establishing the law by penalising its violators.

This is a strong argument - punishment is clearly important.

However, retributionists differ over whether capital punishment is an appropriate punishment.

Many have argued that imprisonment punishes as well as or better than execution, mainly because they believe it is almost impossible to be certain of guilt.

Death is irreversible. If an innocent person is mistakenly executed, there is no remedy.

In itself, this does not prove that the state should not practice capital punishment. But it does require Christians who advocate capital punishment to show that it serves a purpose that outweighs its finality.

Capital punishment stirs the emotions of both its advocates and opponents.

Debates, which often degenerate into name-calling, are actually much more complicated than the debaters may suggest.

Proponents are not necessarily vengeful, unforgiving advocates of "legalised lynching".

Opponents are not necessarily weak-hearted, viewing the world through rose-colored glasses, ignoring justice in their desire to be merciful. Undoubtedly there are such people in both camps, but such stereotypes are unfair.

It is hoped that this outline for discussion will facilitate dialogue that produces "light" rather than "heat" on this critical issue - literally an issue of life and death.

4. Fairness

There is significant evidence that the death penalty is applied unfairly. Despite court-ordered sentencing reform, the death sentence is still affected by the race of victim and the offender.

A study comparing death penalty probabilities for various racial combinations of offender and victim demonstrated that the death sentence was most often imposed when a black killed a white.

Whites who killed whites were sentenced to death one-third less often, and only a small fraction of persons (black or white) who killed blacks were executed.

In fact, the difference was so pronounced that the authors W J Bowers and G L Pierce concluded: "Among felony killings, for which the death penalty is more apt to be used, race of victims is chief basis of differential treatment."

In a recent case of racial discrimination, a black was convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of a white police officer during a robbery.

The Supreme Court upheld the death sentence.

Statistical evidence that demonstrates disparity in the imposition of capital punishment due to the race of a victim or defendant was held to be insufficient to show a denial of equal protection or a violation of the Eighth Amendment.

To prevail under the equal protection clause, a defendant must show that the decision-makers in his or her case acted with discriminatory purpose.

5. Reluctance

Finally, there seems to be a growing lack of reluctance to execute.

Courts have painstakingly reviewed capital cases; there is frustration with the courts for delaying executions and perhaps a false sense of reality since the pace of actual executions has been so much slower than imposition of the death sentence.

Whatever the reason, the trial courts, legislatures, and general public no longer appear reluctant to execute. These shortcomings raise questions about whether Christians can support most of the existing death penalty laws - until these shortcomings are adequately addressed.



A new attitude

NOW that we are in the throes of acquiring new things for Christmas, you may wish to get in the Christmas spirit and begin to shop around for a new attitude.

Think of yourself as if you were able to participate in becoming a decoration. Your smile each day would glow like the string of lights that are already adorning early Christmas trees.

Your kind voice may remind others of happy times when friendships are genuine, family life harmonious, and all is well in the land as angels voices once rang out about peace.

Like a nativity scene, you can draw others into the true reason for the season, encouraging them to prepare their hearts for the coming of the Christ Child.

If you were an Advent wreath, you would speak of the passing of time, the urgency of the moment, and the ever-green nature of a growing faith.

Even as an Advent Calendar you would teach about the meaning behind the symbols, and create excited antici-



REV. ANGELA
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PALACIOS

pation.

You may not actually become any of these things, but you have your special part to play.

Think of Mary's trip to Elizabeth as they share each other's good news.

Think of the impending trip to Bethlehem that requires some preparation.

Think of your heart as the stable that will be the birth place of the Christ child.

What must you do to make it fit for a king?

Watching and waiting, working and witnessing, these are all active verbs which require us to pay a price.

Waiting is an excellent balance to our

"instant" reality.

It brings us back to the rhythms of the seasons when everything has its proper time.

More of us need to learn the patience that is associated with waiting. Often we are made more worthy of the expected event, while we wait.

Witnessing is the forth-telling and the foretelling of what else God has done in the past and will do in the future.

You have much to share as you cultivate your new attitude: How far the Lord has brought you; how gracious the Lord is; how sweet the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and so much more.

The harvest still is plentiful and the labourers all too few.

This is the time of year when there is so much work that one can do.

Who needs attention at this time of possible loneliness?

Who is struggling with a pile of bills?

Who is not in a position to provide for their children something that says this is meant to be a special time of year?

If you have had a year of abundance it is still more blessed to give than to receive.

If you have had a reduced income then visit someone who needs a friend and make your presence become your present.

What about making gifts that are a true sign of who you are; little baskets of personal items, a garment that was hand-made, cookies or cake or even a

whole meal for someone recently divorced or bereaved. A plant from your garden, an invitation to lunch or tea at your home, a gift to a charity, or a subscription to an inspiring magazine are ways to say, "I am thinking of you" in a unique and special way.

Let us give what we have to the glory of God, grateful for this year's bountiful returns.

Let us appreciate who or what we still have if we've lost someone or something that meant the world to us. May we all be encouraged and reach out some more with a new Christmas attitude.

God with us

By **BISHOP ELGARNET B RAHMING**

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us". (Matthew 1:23)

THE nations had their gods. Many of them were the works of men's hands.

One of them was Dagon, god of the Philistines. Then there was Baal, the Sun-god of the Phoenicians along with Ashtoreth, their Moon-goddess.

Israel's God was Jehovah, invisible Spirit, though at times, manifesting himself in a visible presence.

What an amazing prophecy this was which came through the Prophet Isaiah that a son would be born of a virgin, and that His name would be called Emmanuel - "God with us!"

God of heaven and eternity wrapped in a fleshly human body, emerging from a virgin's womb as a helpless infant - to the natural mind this would seem incredible and beyond possible. Then to observe this little infant grow into childhood, into adolescence, then to mature as an intelligent and wise young man, all the while being

Emmanuel, we surely are made to marvel at such a mighty miracle wrought according to the perfect plan and purposes of Almighty God for the eternal redemption of humankind.

It is no wonder then that the angels sang at His birth, "Glory to God in the highest" as they made the glad announcement that took shepherds away from their flocks to go into Bethlehem to "see this thing which (was) come to pass, which the Lord (had) made known unto (them)". (Luke 2:15)

To think upon such an unparalleled condescension still leaves us with a feeling of awe and wonder, that the holy Creator of the universe and all that is therein would make himself human and dwell as a mortal in this sin-cursed world.

In advance of His incarnation, Emmanuel saw His rejection; yet, he came to earth anyway. What made Him do it? The only one answer is love!

It was divine love, unfathomable love!

We talk about it; we write about it, we marvel at it, but we cannot comprehend it.

However, we can all respond to God's amazing and great love with grateful hearts as we embrace Emmanuel in a personal way as our loving Saviour.

Today, wherever God's people gather, this same Emmanuel still stands in their midst, with the same care for their anxieties, desires and needs. And so, I say to all who name the name of Christ, God is with you in this time of economic recession.

God is with you in the midst of our crime crisis. God is with you in the midst of your fiery trials.

God is with you when you cannot see how to get out of your trying situations. God is with you when you are used, abused and persecuted for righteousness sake. God is with you when your spouse and children reject you.

God is with you when your friends and associates forsake you. God is with you when you don't see how the bills will be paid, and He is with you even if you are without toys for the children, and without a ham and turkey to serve at this Christmas time.

How blessed we are when we recognize Jesus, Emmanuel is in our midst, saying, "peace be unto you" and "I will never leave you nor forsake you".

How blessed we are when we know without a doubt that Emmanuel is with us perpetually. He is present among us because He loves us unconditionally.



Bishop Elgarnet B Rahming

And so, we thank God that love came down at Christmas, and that love still abides here on earth dwelling in the hearts and lives of those who have received God's greatest gift in the person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

May you and your family have a joyful and blessed Christmas, and a New Year of peace, progress and success in the things of God and of men.

Merry Christmas!

The myth of Christmas and the tree

THE purpose of this article is to shed a little light of where we as a people came from and how we got here.

A study of God's word, not just the reading, but a study would clearly show that some of the religious traditions we've held onto over the years have absolutely nothing to do with Father Yahweh and his Son, Yeshuwa Messiah.

How can this be? I'm glad you asked.

Throughout the Old Testament we see where God admonished the children of Israel not to observe or partake in the pagan custom, culture and traditions of the other nations He would drive out before them.

Yet as educated Bahamians we've created reasons why we should hold onto various religious rituals, customs and traditions even when we know them to be wrong based upon the word of God (Deuteronomy 12:29-32; 18:9-14).

Come, let's talk about your sacred cow: Christmas and the tree.

Christmas: Religion and the teachings of men have taught us that Jesus is the reason for the season, that's why we celebrate Christmas.

Boy, what a good and effective lie, so much so that people will argue or even fight for their Christmas.

The concept of Christmas was first mentioned or used in 1038 AD.

The word Christmas derives from the term Christ-mass, which is from the Catholic "mass" a religious festival or mass in commemoration of the birth of Christ.

It's from this religion and tradition we've been taught to celebrate and acknowledge December 25 as Jesus' birthday. When the truth and fact is that the date of Christ's birth is unknown, best guess is spring of 6 BC nowhere near December.

The first mention of December 25



PASTOR
MATTHEW
ALLEN

as the birth date of Jesus occurred in 336 AD in an early Roman calendar.

The celebration of this day as Jesus' birth date was influenced by pagan festivals held at that time.

The ancient Romans held year-end celebrations to honour the birthday of Saturn, their harvest god, and Mithras, their "god of light".

As part of all these celebrations, the people prepared special foods, decorated their homes with greenery and joined in singing and gift giving. These customs gradually became part of the Christmas celebration.

There is no doubt that we - this so-called Christian Nation - has been bamboozled, bewitched, hoodwinked, through erroneous religion in many facets; especially that of the Christmas season and celebrations of which I looked forward to.

But one encounter with Yeshuwa Messiah and the continual revealing of spiritual truths via the Holy Spirit has put an end to my erroneous beliefs of Christmas and other religious notions and celebrations.

The apostle Paul asked the churches of Galatia in Galatians 3:1: "O Foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that you should not obey the truth."

And then in Galatians 4: 9-10, the apostle warns the church about turning away from God to the observing of days, and months, and times, and years.

So, likewise I'm asking, "O Foolish Bahamians, who hath bewitched you, that you should not obey the truth?"

Watch this!

Here's what Yeshuwa said in Matthew 15:8-9.

"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

As a religious Christian nation we often wonder why our country is deteriorating spiritually and morally, why are we bombarded with so many murders and other serious crimes?

It's because we've opened the doors to these and many other devices of the

enemy as a result of our partial obedience to the word of God.

The Christmas tree: The people in Scandinavia once worshipped trees and when they became Christians they made evergreen trees part of their Christian festivals.

The custom of decorating homes and churches with evergreens began in ancient Roman times.

Today, our religious custom is that around this time of year just about everybody puts a Christmas tree in their house, office or their church and decorates it with lights, gold and silver frills for their own religious reasons, and then through ignorance they can often heard boldly declaring that "Jesus is the reason for the season."

Well, my brothers and sisters, despite what your religious leaders may have taught you, even though he or she may have been sincere, as they've even provided a few scriptures verses to confirm their teachings, I submit to you that in all of their sincerity, they are sincerely wrong.

Yeshuwa Messiah, also known as Jesus the Christ, is not the reason for what we're celebrating and calling Christmas.

Listen! Your Christmas tree, its dec-

orations, the turkey, the honey-baked ham along with your giving and receiving of gifts have their own religious origin. It's just that the enemy has done an effective job in deceiving the religious Christian worldwide into this form of worship due to the fact that the word Christ is mentioned in Catholicism's high mass, Christmas.

Now, before you start player hating, let me say this - you do have the rights to believe as you choose based upon whatever teachings you're receiving.

But don't you think that its time for you to get up of your lazy "duff" and begin to seriously studying God's word and stop waiting/relying on your religious leaders to feed you with what they've religiously determined is the truth (2 Timothy 2:15)?

Here is what God's Word says about your expensive, beautiful Christmas trees:

Jeremiah 10:2-5: "Thus saith the Lord, learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

"For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax.

"They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

"They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good."

I'm not telling you what to believe, but what do you believe?

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• For questions or comments contact us via e-mail at pastormallen@yahoo.com or telephone number 1-242-441-2021.

Pastors Matthew and Brendalee Allen
Kingdom Minded Fellowship Center
International

Highgrove Singers hosts special festival at Christ Church Cathedral

FROM page 29

day composer he uses old Gregorian chant melodies as the basis of his work, bringing the old and the new musical formats together."

Mr Archer he believes that the 'Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols' should be a living and breathing thing, encompassing the elements that address our present day musicians.

"In that light we are pleased to feature the work of Clint Higgs who is a

Bahamian published composer, presently a member of Ebenezer Methodist Church," he said.

Although it is unclear where and when Christmas carols originated from, they have a very long history, appearing for the first time during the fourth century in Rome.

And according to Mr Archer, carolling started off mainly as a dance.

"It was the only way people knew how to make sense of the Biblical stories," he said.

"Carols made the church more acces-

sible to individuals. Even though people weren't allowed to sing carols in the church they continue to sing them in their homes."

Because of the introduction of carols people can now understand and make sense of the stories surrounding Jesus.

"Hymns are more powerful than a sermon, since the message is reiterated, and since music is so much powerful and thought provoking than anything," Mr Archersaid. The service will be held this Sunday at Christ Church Cathedral beginning at 6pm.

 THE HISTORY OF RELIGION IN THE BAHAMAS

Rev John Daveys' account of the 1866 Hurricane Part 2

The letter from the Rev John Davey in *The Baptist Magazine* of 1866 continues as follows:

From the "Nassau Guardian" we take the following description of the tempest: —

A fresh breeze blew on Sunday evening last, and those who walked on the Esplanade or elsewhere, congratulated themselves on the favourable change in the weather; but to those used to observe the weather, appearances decidedly bespoke a "blow".

The wind increased during the night, and about 7 o'clock on Monday morning had become a regular gale, accompanied with rain.

The bar of the harbour appeared a ridge of foam, and the harbour itself, formed by the long, low rocky land "Hog Island", though it kept off the main sea, yet left all exposed to the violence of the wind, which kept steadily increasing.

The short seas breaking in rapid succession upon the line of wharves along Bay-street, the abutment of the Barrack-square, the Esplanade, and rocky shore to the westward sending dense wreaths of spray over everything. Rumour soon reported much damage among the shipping.

Small boats, lumber, various gear and fragments began to bestrew the Ordnance Wharf, etc., and in Bay-street the scene was excitingly sad, most of the spacious stores and warehouses (on the north side next the harbour), principally with roofs of corrugated iron or other



JIM
LAWLOR

metals, were unroofed; immense sheets of metal were whirled along in the wind, and torn up like sheets of paper, and the whole thoroughfare was covered with portions of shipping and houses.

The passage was not only dangerous, but difficult in the extreme, the few people seen about being frequently brought to a stand-still by the corner of a street, and obliged to cling to lamp-posts or pillars of the piazzas, till a partial lull in the wind enabled them to make a run forward to go on afresh. The public market and wharf exhibited a scene of wild excitement, a number of vessels jammed together against the abutment — fishermen and boatmen shouting to the crews of the vessels, who, like those on shore were equally unable to save their property — the larger vessels rolling against the smaller, and smashing them to fragments, and in their turn were broken up against the stone wall of the wharf. The other streets began to show the effects of the storm - parts of verandahs, window shutters, and branches of trees, and occasionally a whole tree were blown down.

About 1.30 or 2pm, it was impossible to remain abroad; it was dangerous to take shelter under walls or houses, and

totally impossible to remain standing when exposed to the presence of the wind, which shook every building.

The sensation within doors was like the vibrations of a railway car attached to an express train; the noise of the wind, combining with the sound of the waves, kept up a loud bellowing roar, varied with thunder-like gusts, and were succeeded by a crashing sound which indicated destruction of some kind or other.

Green seas were now breaking upon the wharves of the town and government property, sending their spray over the tops of the houses, and, together with the heavy falling of rain and hail, made the air as obscure as the thickest fog, which, as it now and again cleared partially for a few moments, shows some further damage, houses being dismantled in all directions, and the fragments, intermingled with branches of trees, swept along at an alarming pace.

The trees that remained standing were being rapidly stripped of their leaves. Every house was in a state of commotion, the wind and rain penetrating everywhere, doing every kind of damage, and causing indescribable inconvenience. A lull in the storm occurred about 7.30 or 8pm, which fortunately enabled those who had some shelter remaining, to offer a share of it to their less fortunate neighbours.

About 9 o'clock it sprung up again in a south-easterly direction, but with far less violence, and altogether subsided by day-break.

Next morning, the whole scene was

indeed a desolation, the most familiar objects were scarcely to be recognised; some gone entirely.

Distressing accounts of the effects of the hurricane on the out-islands are being received.

We learn with sorrow that St John's Church and thirty-eight houses at Harbour Island have been levelled with the dust, and that the settlements of Spanish Wells, the Current, Governor's Harbour, and other parts of Eleuthera are nearly swept away.

At Abaco, the work of destruction has been awful.

Our correspondent at Great Harbour, in a letter dated the 4th

instant says, "I am sorry to inform you that we had a severe hurricane on the 1st of October, ruining all the plantations, making all the water in the tanks unfit for use, blowing down all the kitchens, several dwelling-houses, the public school-house, the assistant-keeper's dwelling, belonging to Elbow Cay Lighthouse, and doing a great deal more damage than I can mention. The poorer classes were trusting to their plantations, which are all destroyed, and I expect they will starve."

But as we look back in history - after the 1866 hurricane, once again as so many times in the past, the faithful residents rebuilt their lives, homes and community with the assistance of many other generous people.

And nature reached out her healing hand as the flora and fauna slowly regenerated to bring back the enchantment and beauty of the Bahamas.

 RELIGIOUS NOTES

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2009/10 FOR THE ST CECILIA'S PARISH ON THIRD AND FOURTH STREETS, NASSAU

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Carol Service at 11pm followed by Midnight Mass.

Friday, December 25 - Christmas Day Mass at 9am

Sunday, December 27 - Feast of the

Holy Family Mass at 9am

Monday, December 28 - Mass of the Holy Innocents at 7am

Thursday, December 31 - New Year's Eve Watch Night Service at 11pm followed by Midnight Mass

Friday, January 1 - New Year's Day Mass at 9am

Sunday, January 3 - Epiphany Mass at 9am

■ Did you recently give birth to the newest little angel on earth? Have you and your beloved recently tied the knot? Is your church planning a special event? *Tribune Religion* wants to hear from you!

We want to know about the special things going on in your life, so go ahead and send in your wedding photographs, birth announcements and church

activities schedule to be posted in upcoming *Tribune Religion* sections.

This service is free. Send all information, including (especially) photographs, to features@tribunemedia.net.

Information can be hand delivered to *The Tribune* at Shirley and Deveaux Streets or call the Religion section @ 502.2368.

A Joshua Generation

"And there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel."

I WONDER who the finger can be pointed at for how of our children behave no matter where they are (no it is not all of them).

Once it is negative behaviour no one wants to take responsibility for those actions.

However, it makes you wonder what is it that we as parents and society are teaching our children.

We have come such a long way as a nation to just let our children slip through our fingers.

Parenting is hard work and parents cannot do it by themselves.

It will take the village to raised our children. A few weeks ago at Fam Fest at Arawark Cay, a wonderful time came very close to being spoiled



ALLISON MILLER

by behaviours that were displayed.

Their were persons walking through crowds of people without saying, "excuse me."

If your foot was stepped on their was no, "I'm sorry".

Some of them used offensive language and degrading remarks. My grandmother always used to say to me, "manners and respect carry you through the world." When I see things like I saw on that weekend I thank God for the way I was raised.

My grandmother taught me and those who helped her, that when want

something you say, "may I have please." When you walk into a room you speak whether it was morning, noon or night. When you walk into a public place like the bank and you give a general greeting for everyone, the looks you get are a amazing. You would think that you are on a foreign planet.

When you receive something you are to say, "thank you". When answering someone you are to say, "yes ma'am, yes sir, no ma'am, no sir."

These were the simple principles that we were raised on. God help you if the neighbour was to give a bad report on you.

That's the stuff that our foundation was made out of. We looked out for each other and kept an eye on one another's children.

That doesn't happen anymore.

People failed to realise that it truly takes a village to raise a child.

I just don't understand why some parents go into the schools to fight teachers if their child or children are disciplined.

I wonder if we as parents realise that our children are a reflection on us. No matter what is said, it all begins at home.

Teachers can only do so much. And if what the teachers do at school is not being enforced at home there will always be a problem.

One day, my uncle and I were driving somewhere and we were listening to one of the local talk shows.

They were discussing customer service, especially in the hotel industry.

A chef had called in and said some of the things that should be said to guests weren't being said.

Things such as, "good morning, good day, please, thank you, yes ma'am, yes sir."

As she (the chef) was speaking I was amazed because these were the things that we learn as children at home. My uncle and I begun our own discussion and agreed that it all comes back to the home life.

These are the things that we learn at home.

It just can't be stressed enough that manners are first taught at home.

We have moved so far from that foundation, it is truly pitiful and we blame everyone other than those who should be blamed.

Yes, I know children have a mind of their own and do their own thing.

When they do their own thing, do we as parents or guardians call them

to account for their actions?

Do we cause them to understand the consequences of what happens when they choose to go against what mommy, daddy or who ever is responsible for them tells them to do?

Along with that, God has given us a way to raise our children.

He said to raise them in "fear and admonishment" of Him.

The Bible says if you raise them in this way they will never apart from it.

I know we wonder sometimes if God's way really works, and I will say that it does.

You see, God can't lie and His Word will not return to Him void. The best time to do this is when we have influence in our children's lives.

God says at the breast we are to teach them. When we do anything contrary to God's way we always get into trouble.

Her Majesty's Prison, Simpson Penn Centre for Boys and the Williamae Centre Pratt for Girls are perfect examples of doing things our way.

If truth be told we cannot afford not to raise our children in the fear of the Lord. They would be better off with God.

Yes, some of us grew up rough, but it didn't kill us. It caused us to appreciate the value of a dollar and be grateful for the little that we have.

Our upbringing developed a working mind inside of us. The Bible says by the sweat of a man's brow shall he eat bread. It made us survivors and better human beings. Nowadays we do a disservice to our children. They don't have earn anything, everything is handed down to them.

They have the worst grades and they still get the name brand of whatever item they want.

No respect for parents or anyone else, and still there is no reprimand for them.

As parents we have created the little monsters that live in our homes. They behave in one manner with you and out of your presence you can't tell them from the devil himself.

We have to raise our children in the way of God. They will be better for it.

We as parents will have to make up our minds if we are going to raise our children in God. The distractions are various and the devil uses them to take their attention off of what is truly important. However, once they have a Godly foundation the Bible says they will never part from it.

Christ Church Cathedral
presents
**The Service of
Nine Lessons & Carols
for Christmas**
with
The Highgrove Singers
Adrian A. W. Archer
Conductor
Sunday, Dec. 20th, 2009
6:00 PM
Christ Church Cathedral
George Street
Admission Is Free
Featuring the works of:
G. P. da Palestrina
Boris Ord
John Tavener
Joan Berger
John Ferguson
Steve Pilkington
Moses Hogan
and Bahamian composer and arrangers
Clint W. R. Higgs and
Adrian Archer

Bahamian consecrated Bishop of Guyana

By CLAYTON N CURTIS

AMID all the pomp and pageantry that accompanies the ordination rite of the Anglican Church, Bahamian-born Father Cornell Jerome Moss was made a Bishop in the Church in the Province of the West Indies on Tuesday, December 8.

The site was the historic Gothic St George's Cathedral in the city of Georgetown, Guyana, South America.

For decades, this national landmark has boasted of being the largest wooden structure in the world and with a seating capacity of 1,400, has been the site of many national observances.

Clergy from throughout the West Indies, along with a near-capacity crowd gathered for this historic occasion as Father Moss became the 7th Bishop of this Diocese, succeeding the Rev Randolph O George, who served as the Diocesan Bishop from 1980 to 2008.

Guyana, coincidentally, is the only English-speaking country on the South American continent.

This Diocese was well represented with priests from Abaco, Eleuthera, Exuma, Turks and Caicos, as well as New Providence and Grand Bahama in attendance.

The procession entered the cathedral shortly after 10am, led by the serving choir and including the 'who's who' of the upper echelon of the Anglican Church of the West Indies. This included 18 current and

retired bishops; the Chancellor of the Province, Ruby Nottage of the Diocese of the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands; Provincial Registrar Bernard Turner, also of the Bahamas, other participants, and of course, the candidate himself, Father Moss.

Following the readings of Holy Scripture which were done by Susan Hunt and Yvonne Lewis, mother and mother-in-law respectively of the Bishop Designate, the Bishop of our own diocese, Rev Laish Boyd, Sr, chanted the Gospel which was taken from John 10:11-16. The preacher for this historic occasion was retired Archbishop of the Province and Bishop of the Bahamas Drexel Gomez.

The text of the sermon was taken from the Gospel of John 13:1 and although it focused on the relationship between Christ and His disciples, it was only the preamble for the main thrust

of the message which was filled with words of encouragement for the new Bishop as he takes up his ministry in a country and culture that is totally new to him and one that will be filled with challenges.

Bishop Designate Moss was admonished to:

1. Lay out a framework that will guide his ministry while at the same time showing a path to God. Stay close to Jesus in all his actions and decisions while maintaining solidarity with God through fervent prayer and fellowship. Pray without ceasing.

2. Maintain solidarity in and among the people of the country, especially with respect to conflict resolution. Be mindful of the diverse ethnic mix, fostering practical unity of all mankind in Christ. All are one in Jesus Christ.

3. There will be economic challenges and these can at times give rise to tendencies that can lead to oppression.

4. Realise a practical approach to politics and be cognisant of the partisan grounds but work together to achieve national unity.

With respect to the church, Archbishop Gomez urged the new Bishop to:

1. Maintain solidarity with the clergy through effective leadership and thereby attract new, young persons who may wish to test their vocation to sacred ministry.

2. Encourage and inspire participation of the laity in the work of the church at both the diocesan and parish levels.

3. Christian stewardship has to be a priority if the work of the church is to be done. Sustained, proportionate giving of time, talent and treasure are vital if the church is to survive.

And finally, the new Bishop was reminded that he is not alone and that he is actually sharing in the ministry of Jesus Christ himself.

He should continue to lead persons to Christ who is indeed the way, the truth and the life.

He was also assured of the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the saints and the people from his home Diocese.

After declaring that it was indeed his intent to be ordained as a Bishop, the candidate was examined by the House of Bishops and in the presence of the people who pledged to support him in this new office.

Prior to the actual consecration, the prayers of the people were offered through the chanting of the Litany for



BAHAMIAN Cornell Jerome Moss is the 7th Bishop in the Church in the Province of the West Indies.

Ordinations, which was led by Clayton Curtis, while the candidate was lying prostrate before the altar.

By the laying on of hands by all bishops present, and the anointing with the holy oil of the Chrism, Cornell Jerome Moss was ordained a bishop in the church and subsequently presented with the instruments of his office.

Once this phase of the service was complete, the new Bishop was presented to the people amidst a loud fanfare which was played by members of the Guyana Police Force Band.

The Eucharist was celebrated after the elements were consecrated by Bishop Moss and other assisting bishops.

Presenting the elements were persons specifically selected by Bishop Moss and included his wife, Carol.

The mass continued in its standard format, as the hundreds of persons fed on the symbolic body and blood of Christ.

Special music was provided by an augmented choir comprising persons from the various Anglican churches, other denominations and the Woodside Chorus, a popular community concert choir.

They performed an original composition entitled, 'A New Time' (a song for leaders in the church), which, although

not written specifically for this occasion, was actually performed in public for the first time at this consecration.

Crowds gathered outside the historic church to get a glimpse of the new bishop who became an instant attraction, as his ordination and consecration received extensive front page coverage in all of the local newspapers.

A sizable contingent travelled from the Bahamas and posed with Bishop Moss on the steps of the cathedral following the service.

A mid-afternoon reception followed which culminated a full day of excitement and euphoria.

On Sunday, December 13, Rev Cornell J Moss was enthroned as the Lord Bishop of Guyana, again in services held in the Cathedral Church of St George at 4pm.

In his address, he stated how humbling this entire experience has been and he pledged to work to build up and strengthen the work and presence of the church in that country.

He stressed that it is not a singular task but that he will need the assistance of all to achieve his goals and together, they will move the Anglican Church forward and to unprecedented heights.

Returning to the Bahamas following the consecration Bishop Moss was given a grand reception in Freeport.