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Volume: 106 No.26

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2009

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INSIGHT



The year in review

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SPORTS



Mullings on-form

SEE PAGE 16

Clinic hope for cancer patients

Man killed, woman stabbed in brutal attack

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
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EYEWITNESSES last night described how a man and a woman were brutally beaten and stabbed in the street. The male victim died at the scene, his attacker dodging police bullets to flee in a car. It was one of two violent killings this weekend.

The man, who has not yet been identified by police, was beaten to death in Palm Beach Street, off Wulff Road, Nassau.

SEE page 14

Local specialist to open state-of-the-art centre modelled on Bahamas facilities

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A CANCER clinic modelled on existing healthcare facilities for Bahamians will be built in Antigua for 600,000 residents of the Eastern Caribbean.

The Cancer Centre Eastern Caribbean (CCEC) will be developed for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) by Dr Conville Brown, of Global Health Partners Ltd, based on the model of the Medical Pavillion Bahamas and cancer centre in Centreville, Nassau.

Dr Brown, chairman, president and CEO of Medical Pavillion Bahamas, signed a memorandum of agreement on November 19, the day after it was signed by Antigua and Barbuda Health Minister Willmoth Daniel, and developments have since taken off.

ners Ltd CEO has since addressed the OECS heads of government regarding the CCEC in Anguilla and conducted a video conference with the health ministers of the nine OECS member countries on Wednesday and said all countries pledged their support.

Dr Brown said: "People in the eastern Caribbean will soon have access to a state of the art cancer centre without having to travel to north, south or Latin America and it's in their own territory."

"Additionally each of the governments will be invited to participate in the equity of the company."

He said Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer was impressed by the model presented by Dr Brown at a meeting during the CARICOM Services Centre Symposium in July and Mr Spencer asked him to develop

SEE page two

POLICE FORCE CHRISTMAS BEAT RETREAT

CONSTABLE KEVA MAJOR sings yesterday during the Annual Royal Bahamas Police Force Christmas Beat Retreat. The event was held at Rawson Square.

SEE PAGES 12 & 13



Felipe Major/Tribune staff

Hope Town hit by storm

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
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WINDY weather ripped through Hope Town tearing shutters off windows and blowing outdoor furniture away in what locals believe was a waterspout.

The winds picked up just before 6pm on Friday, and Hope Town resident Matt McCoy said the windows shook and the pressure in the house changed as the storm passed over his beach house in the Queen's Highway, Elbow Cay.

A crop of banana trees were uprooted outside another resident's home and shutters were torn off the windows at a number of Hope Town houses.

Mr McCoy said: "It got really windy for about 10

SEE page 14

Three injured in triple shooting

THREE people were taken to hospital last night following a triple shooting on Martin Street, off Market Street.

The incident took place just after 7pm on Martin Street, near Market Street, Nassau.

At press time, Police

Sergeant Chrislyn Skippings said: "Details are still sketchy but we can confirm that there was a triple shooting."

"All of the people were taken to hospital by Emergency Medical Services."

"We don't know their condition right now."

Armed robbers target residents pulling up to their homes

ARMED robbers held up residents as they pulled into the driveways of their homes in two separate incidents in eastern New Providence this weekend.

A home in Minnie Street was raided by thugs armed with shotguns, and Carmichael Road businesses were stormed by armed robbers as high incidences of crime continue in the week before Christmas.

A resident of Montagu Avenue, off Village Road, was held up by a masked gunman as he pulled his car into the driveway

SEE page 14

Unemployment rises, but rate now slowing

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
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UNEMPLOYMENT continues to rise in The Bahamas but the rate at which it is growing has slowed significantly compared with earlier this year, new figures have revealed.

As of November 2009, 19,200 people were looking for work in New Providence, where there is a total potential labour force of 131,900 people, and in Grand Bahama 5,120 people out of a labour force of 28,360 were job hunting.

According to the results of the Department of Statistics' Interim Labour Sur-

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LOCAL NEWS

Clinic hope for cancer patients

FROM page one

something similar in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Medical Pavilion Bahamas is the only cancer treatment centre outside of North America accredited by the American College of Radiation and Oncology (ACRO) and has just received the highest level of accreditation, for three years from January 2010, at the end of its initial three year accreditation. It is run by Global Health Partners Ltd headed by Dr Brown and Managing Director the Honourable Professor Dr Arthur Porter, a Privy Council member for Canada and CEO of McGill University healthcare system.

The world-standard multi-specialism facility includes The Bahamas Heart Centre founded in 1993, The Cancer Centre added in 2002, as well as The Chest Centre, The Breast Centre and the Imaging Centre.

In addition to the state of the art healthcare model, Dr Brown said a key element for the Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister was the partnered care model utilised in the Bahamas. This allows governments to take 30 per cent of shares, while 10 per cent is available to private investors, while Global Health Partners Limited, headed by Dr Brown and Dr Porter, retains 60 per cent and will be the professional owners of the CCEC. The 30 per cent as split has 10 per cent for Antigua through Mount St John's and the other 20 per cent can be purchased by the other eight governments.

Core benefits for countries and territories that opt in are guaranteed access to discounts for government patients and self-paying individuals, the payment of dividends as return on investment and the opportunity to

venture in the niche market of medical tourism.

The discounts have not been fixed but the idea is for insured patients to pay the full price of treatment, a 25 per cent discount for self-paying individuals and 50 per cent discount for persons under government schemes.

Governments that cannot front their investment are being offered a deal where they pay 75 per cent of the patient's care. Fifty per cent would be the discount and the other 25 per cent would be payment towards their investment.

Staffing is still under review, but initial estimates are for two medical oncologists, two radiation oncologists and one paediatric oncologist. Nurses and technicians will also be needed for the facility.

Dr Brown expects the CCEC will receive the same ACRO accreditation as Dr Porter will take on the challenge of staffing and managing the facility.

Dr Brown said: "We are very proud. We think it's very flattering when we have established a model and the model is seen and appreciated by others as a mechanism for ensuring access to state of the art healthcare by all."

"The government of Antigua has offered the land for the cancer centre at the front of their main hospital in Mount St John's, it's a beautiful site."

A feasibility study of the \$10 million project is being done by PriceWaterhouseCoopers, commissioned by Global Health Partners Ltd, and Dr Brown expects it will be completed in January or February.

Architectural plans will then be completed and the bidding process will begin so construction can start in June and the new centre will be completed and ready to take its first patients in the first quarter of 2011.

The OECS includes Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines. Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands are associate members of the OECS.

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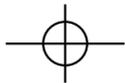
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LOCAL NEWS

Police revoke 'a number of gun licences' in 2009

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER of Police Raymond Gibson

POLICE have been forced to revoke "quite a number" of gun licenses this year, as owners were found to be using the weapons for illegitimate purposes, according to Assistant Commissioner of Police Raymond Gibson.

While declining to identify the number of revocations, Mr Gibson said the police are concerned that people who have been issued gun licenses may in fact end up using them for criminal ends.

"Revocations have been happening from time to time if someone's issued with a license and found to be involved in criminal activities or any matter that warrants us to revoke their licenses," said ACP Gibson.

He said there have been several recent cases which have warranted revocations, but would not go into details other than to say that such cases often involve the permit holder using their weapon to "make threats of harm" against someone else.

Reports reaching *The Tribune* last week were that the Government may have shifted its policy

and once we are satisfied and confident that they are making it for the right reasons then the permit is issued."

Mr Gibson said police have issued "quite a bit" of licenses this year.

A spotlight was focused on the issuance of permits for guns last week after the fatal shooting of an armed robber by an East Street south proprietor, who used his shotgun.

Police are investigating the shooting in which one of the two armed robbers died on the scene at Island Wide Produce and Meat Mart. Police say the shooting was lawful, despite permits for such weapons being issued solely for hunting purposes.

Last week several business owners issued a plea for the Government to loosen its restrictions on the issuance of handgun licenses, which are considered the ultimate form of protection against crime for many.

Minister of National Security Tommy Turnquest said the Government's current and long-standing policy is not to provide licenses for shotguns, except in exceptional circumstances and based on the approval of the Prime Minister.

on the issuing of new rifle and shotgun licenses, for which permits are only given on the condition that they are used solely for hunting or other similar sporting activities.

However, Mr Gibson denied there has been any change in the policy.

"On behalf of the Commissioner I can categorically state that the police are still issuing licenses. There is no moratorium," he said.

"Once the application is made

Robber shoots himself in leg during escape

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
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A DIMWITTED conch stall robber thwarted his own escape by shooting himself in the leg.

The incident happened in the early hours of yesterday morning when a masked gunman attacked Doc's Conch Stand, on Explorers Way, at Freeport.

According to police, the stall holder was sitting in his truck when a man wearing a Halloween mask banged on the window and demanded cash.

The terrified owner handed over some money to the gunman, who then demanded more. After giving up the extra cash, the robber then ran in the direction of the laundry shop across the street where a gunshot was heard.

Asst Supt Loretta Mackey said officers began a search and found the gunman sitting on the ground on the northern side of Explorers Way, approximately 100ft from Doc Conch Stand. He was suffering from an apparent gunshot wound to the left thigh.

Police also found a tan-coloured Halloween mask, a spent .45 ammunition casing, a black Desert Eagle .45 pistol with nine rounds of .45 ammunitions, and cash.

The man was arrested and taken into custody. He was then transported to the Rand Memorial Hospital by ambulance for treatment.

ASP Mackey said the suspect, who is in a serious but stable condition, was expected to be airlifted to New Providence for further medical attention.

New service from New York to Grand Bahama

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT - A new air service to Grand Bahama has commenced with the return of Delta Airlines' Comair, which is providing four flights weekly from New York.

Comair arrived with some 50 passengers at Grand Bahama International Airport. It now joins another Delta affiliate, Atlantic Southeast, which began two weekly flights between Grand Bahama and Atlantic on December 12.

Airport officials were pleased to welcome the return of Delta to the island and its services from Atlanta and New York.

Comair departs JFK Airport at 11am and arrives at 2.20pm in Grand Bahama. It leaves Grand Bahama around 3pm, arriving 6.35pm in New York.

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ARMORED	C	1:20	3:40	N/A	6:20	8:40	10:50
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THE TWILIGHT SAGA	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:20	10:40
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THE PRINCESS & FROG	A	1:05	3:40	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:40
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

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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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Nassau Fax: - (242) 328-2398
Freeport, Grand Bahama: 1-(242)-352-6608

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Climate accord a small step in long process

COPENHAGEN — A furious final two days of climate diplomacy and presidential brinkmanship produced 2 1/2 thin pages called the Copenhagen Accord, a deal vague at times in meaning, rejected by some, lacking any teeth.

"This particular text falls far short of our expectations," the European Commission president, Jose Manuel Barroso, said of the political declaration produced in talks Friday between President Barack Obama and big developing countries at the U.N. climate conference. Others were harsher in their criticism.

Ill-starred though it seemed at its birth, the 11th-hour deal may ultimately be seen as another halting step in the slow, painful evolution of the global fight against climate change — the two-decade-old effort to negotiate coordinated cuts internationally in carbon dioxide and other industrial, transport and agricultural emissions blamed for global warming.

The conflicts of many interests have marked those talks from the beginning: the division between rich and poor nations, the rivalry between the U.S. and Europe, the developing world's cleavage between poor and middle-class countries, the interests of the oil states, the concerns of island states endangered by global warming's rising seas.

All those interests and more played out in the two-week U.N. meeting, which ended with an unprecedentedly large working summit on climate, involving more than 110 presidents and premiers. The spotlight fell mainly on two of them, leaders of the two biggest polluters, China's Premier Wen Jiabao and America's Obama.

In two meetings on Friday, the pair seem to have worked through chronic mistrust between their countries, reached agreement on a summit declaration and brought other big developing states (Brazil, India and South Africa) into the deal. Sponsors later claimed much broader support among the 193 conference nations.

A final session of climate conference delegates that lasted through the night cast doubt, however, as several countries, including Bolivia, Venezuela and Sudan said the document is unacceptable because it lacks targets for reducing carbon emissions.

The declaration touched on major elements of the climate story, sometimes with scant detail, always with no legal obligation attached:

- Nations agreed to cooperate in reducing emissions, "with a view" to scientists' warnings to keep temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees F) above preindustrial levels, that is, 1.3 degrees C (2.3 degrees F) above today's average temperatures.

- Developing nations will report every two years on their voluntary actions to reduce emissions. Those reports would be subject to "international consultations and analysis" — a concession by China to the U.S.

- Richer nations will finance a \$10 billion-a-year, three-year programme to fund poorer nations' projects to deal with drought and other climate-change impacts, and to develop clean energy.

- They also set a "goal" of mobilizing \$100 billion-a-year by 2020 for the same adaptation and mitigation purposes.

In a U.S. concession to China and other developing nations, text was dropped from the declaration that would have set a goal of reducing global emissions by 50 per cent by 2050. Developing nations thought that would hamper efforts to raise their people from poverty.

In the full U.N. climate conference, where the Copenhagen Accord was discussed, some developing nations complained bitterly about the "top-down" imposition of the declaration, and the conference's failure to set ambitious targets for cutting emissions.

But even if the core declaration itself lacked broad support, two simple side documents will set the stage for continuing climate talks.

Those documents extend the mandates of two key negotiating groups under the U.N. climate treaty. They guarantee continued pursuit, as early as next year, of a treaty or other major agreement reducing global emissions more sharply.

In the weeks leading up to the Copenhagen conference, few expected it to produce dramatic results — the climate negotiations process seldom has. They're long-haul, step-by-step talks.

"I know this accord is far from what we expected and what the world needs," said one summit participant, Mexican President Felipe Calderon. Now, he said, "we must launch the negotiations immediately."

(This article was written by Charles J. Hanley, AP Special Correspondent, who has covered climate for The Associated Press since 1997).

Bradley Roberts' speech exposed 'desperate' PLP

EDITOR, The Tribune.

BRADLEY ROBERTS' initial speech at the recent PLP convention exposed just how desperate they really are. They reached in the past and returned with a "damaged political has been" hoping that he could rally their base. He wasted no time talking the regular PLP stuff that was carefully designed to strike fear in the electorate. But what they did not bargain for was that they are beginning to turn off their own base.

Many sensible PLPs have had enough of the old bullying tactics that worked in the past. No one was impressed with the crude utterances. We have long moved past silliness. Most of us have raised our level of debate and discussions to a more matured civilised level. Nobody is impressed, not even the less informed, less educated or less interested.

The strategy employed by the recycled chairman was to complain about everything and oppose everything and continue to complain about the same things ad nauseam. It is not only sickening to watch Mr Roberts wallow like that, but to twist the truth and spin while using the worst kind of propaganda and rhetoric, most of which is not gaining ground.

There was propaganda of "stop, cancel and review" of the Straw Market. Nothing was mentioned that someone must have been planning to benefit from the windfall of thirteen million. This figure was arrived at by the admission of former candid Minister of Works at the time Mr Leslie Miller who said that the figures he saw were ten million. The PLP later said the same market would be twenty-three million. A kindergarten student could easily conclude that the balance of thirteen million must have been going somewhere else.

But just Tuesday, Minister of Works Neko Grant in the Hubert Ingraham led government, signed the contract to build the Straw Market. The news was so refreshing that it caused straw vendors who have openly supported the PLP to sing the praises of Mr Hubert Ingraham. One ven-

LETTERS
letters@tribunemedia.net

dor said that in five years the PLP, who claimed that they loved them so much, did not find the time to build that straw market. She was embarrassed by that. "There was just too much talk and no action, talk really is cheap," she said. Mr Roberts must have taken a day off, since he has exerted himself a whole lot recently.

I am not surprised though that as much as Mr Roberts has to say, I didn't hear one crack from him congratulating the government for dredging the harbour that accommodated the largest ship in the world, Oasis of the Sea. I certainly didn't and do not expect him to say one single word about the Straw Market either. If he does he would be dising his own PLP supporters who have honestly congratulated the government on their own.

This just goes to show all and sundry, especially the sensible PLPs who don't repeat what Mr Roberts says because they know better, will not allow them-

selves to be made fools of, subscribing to the cheap brand of politics used by the PLP. The cheap name calling and getting personal will not help to attract new supporters, because no one will want to be a part of a party whose plan is to pit families against each other just for political gain.

Finally, if the PLP is to survive these next few weeks and months ahead, they would help themselves if they focus on repairing their severely damaged rudder, because without that, they would continue to head nowhere. The Bahamian people's memory is still fresh as to how aimlessly they were going in the last PLP government.

A mechanic once said, if you have a blown head gasket, it is foolish to keep putting oil, expecting the damage to be repaired automatically. The best thing to do, he said, is to change the gaskets. No amount of ignoring or talking about the severity of the damage will help. A word to the wise is sufficient

IVOINE
INGRAHAMNassau,
December 17, 2009.**Poor selection of Junkanoo themes**

EDITOR, The Tribune.

FROM the time I was a boy up until the point where my children did not require the company of parents I have witnessed the splendour of our perennial Junkanoo parades. Without question, the practitioners of this art have been endowed with a sort of genius which I hold in high regard.

I am equally as unimpressed, however, particularly in recent times, with the poor judgment which is being employed in the selection of themes which clearly do not reflect any aspect of Bahamian cultural history.

This abhorrent practice which is being perpetrated by the oldest and most celebrated of the senior groups has also permeated the ranks of Junior Junkanoo.

This is a tragedy, an abomination and in my opinion may be easily regarded as cultural treason.

I therefore call upon the new minister to immediately take corrective measures.

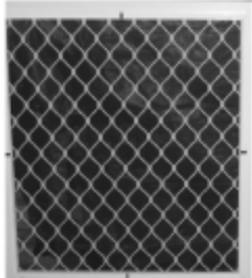
This may involve withholding financial support from any and all organisations who fail to honour the culture of the Bahamas and the reconfiguration of the judging in future Junkanoo parades to send a clear message to these groups and individuals that we have no further tolerance for this behaviour.

It is my further suggestion that the New Year's Day Parade may be used to facilitate experimentation with regional, international or global presentations.

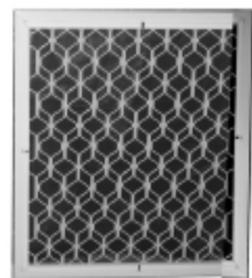
The Boxing Day Parade (whose name should also be changed) must be strictly reserved for the preservation and explosion of "only t'ings Bahamian" (and on this point I discourage the presentation of opposing points of view).

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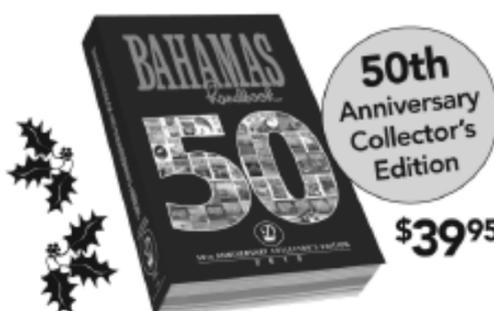
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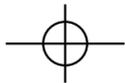
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LOCAL NEWS

Island FM to end newscasts with Cable Bahamas

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

CARTER Broadcasting has announced it is ending its relationship with Cable Bahamas and the Island FM Newsbreak nightly newscast will soon be no more.

In a statement released yesterday which supports a report which appeared in *The Tribune* on Friday that Cable Bahamas would soon no longer be producing its newscasts with Island FM, CEO of Carter Broadcasting Charles Carter said it was Carter Broadcasting which initiated the break, which takes effect December 31, 2009.

"Newsbreak was and is an exciting work in progress and

Carter Broadcasting enjoyed the relationship and challenge of creating a quality TV newscast nightly.

"Newsbreak, however, needs more resources to make it competitive and self sustaining and Carter Broadcasting felt it was in its own best interest to concentrate on its core product, Island 102.9FM," said Mr Carter.

Mr Carter said Carter Broadcasting gave notice by letter to Cable Bahamas on November 25 that it would be exiting the five year-long newscast arrangement. He said both companies continue to enjoy a good relationship.

"There was no pressure from either party to terminate the agreement and it is, with a great deal of sadness, that

102.9FM concluded that it could no longer accommodate the arrangement."

The Tribune understands that Cable Bahamas may now be looking to join forces with The Nassau Guardian and Star 106.9FM, adding television news to their radio and print media platforms.

Keith Wisdom, Director of Public Affairs at Cable Bahamas said the company "has no comment on that" when it was put to him on Thursday that Cable Bahamas would be breaking with Island FM and joining the other media organisation.

Nassau Guardian Managing Editor Erica Wells directed this newspaper to speak with the Nassau Guardian's publisher, who is currently abroad.

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ARTS AND CRAFTS CATCH THE EYE ON BAY STREET



THERE WAS a host of Bahamian arts and crafts on sale in Downtown Nassau at the weekend. Visitors and Christmas shoppers got an opportunity to check out bags, jewellery and paintings on display on Bay Street.

Search for missing boaters is called off

THE US Coast Guard has called off a search for two missing boaters who were believed to have set off from Florida to The Bahamas on a fishing expedition.

Richard Alicea and Edwin Pritchard, both residents of

Miami, were reported by a family member to have left for Bimini last Saturday but have not been seen since.

Mr Pritchard was reported to have family ties to The Bahamas.

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LOCAL NEWS

Climate Summit deal 'falls short of what's required to avoid catastrophe'

CARICOM Chairman Bharrat Jagdeo speaks out

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

THE critical two-week long UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen ended on Friday without a legally-binding deal being reached on efforts to curb global carbon emissions and no set future date by which attempts would be made to achieve such an agreement.

Chairman of CARICOM, President of Guyana, Bharrat Jagdeo, told *The Tribune* yesterday that the deal reached between a number of countries at the summit "has some positive elements but falls short of what is required to avoid catastrophic climate change".

The so-called Copenhagen Accord brokered between the US, China, Brazil, South Africa and India involves "significant departures from CARICOM's position" on what the Summit needed to achieve for the benefit of its members and the world in the fight against global climate change, added the President.

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham was one of three CARICOM leaders including Mr Jagdeo who, along with dozens of world leaders, decided to personally attend the UN Climate Summit last week in the hope of helping to ensure a meaningful outcome would be reached.

While at the Summit, Mr Ingraham made a speech in which he reiterated his warning that the Bahamas "will suffer catastrophic results if emissions are not stabilized and reduced".

"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," stated Mr Ingraham.

Yesterday Mr Jagdeo noted that the Accord announced late Friday night by US President Barack Obama "seeks to limit temperature increases to 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels (but) the commitments listed (by individual countries on cutting carbon emissions) in its appendices would lead to an increase of over 3 degrees".

CARICOM and the Alliance of Small Island States, of which The Bahamas is a part, had both called for countries to commit at Copenhagen to doing what is necessary to limit temperature increases to 1.5 celsius above pre-industrial levels if its members and other countries are "to stay alive".

Speaking at the close of the Summit, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon called the deal "an essential beginning" but cautioned that serious work lies ahead to turn it into a legally binding treaty.

Nonetheless he praised the fact that "all countries have agreed to work towards a common long-term goal to limit the global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius; many governments have made important commitments to reduce or limit emissions; countries have achieved significant progress on preserving forests; and countries have agreed to provide comprehensive support to the most vulnerable to cope with climate change".

President Obama called the Accord an "important breakthrough that lays the foundation for international action in the years to come" but also admitted that it leaves the world with "much further to go" to get the legally binding agreement that is agreed to be necessary to avert the most devastating potential impacts of climate change.

And besides the question of turning the Accord into an agreement with legal teeth, the criticism remains that while it "recognises" the scientific case for keeping global temperature rises to no more than two degrees celsius in total it does not contain the kind of commitments by countries to reductions in emissions that



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham speaks at the UN Climate Summit.

would achieve that goal.

Meanwhile, it is not yet known whether all 192 countries outside of the small group who ultimately negotiated the Accord will adopt it.

Yesterday Mr Jagdeo, who has been a strong advocate for action on climate change, said

that based on what transpired at Copenhagen, he does not think the type of agreement which climate experts say is necessary to save small island and low lying states like The Bahamas and Guyana can now be reached by the end of 2010.

Some of hotel's former staff demand full compensation

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

SEVERAL former employees of the Xanadu Beach Hotel have demonstrated demanding full compensation from hotel owner Mario Donato.

The workers were laid off in June when the hotel closed due to a downturn in business because of the recession.

When the property reopened in October, some workers were returned to their jobs but more than a dozen have not been called back to work. Community activist Troy Garvey and a small group of disgruntled workers held a demonstration at the property around 9am.

Mr Garvey said none of the former workers have been compensated by the hotel since being laid off in June.

"These people are still waiting to be paid their monies since October. They are frustrated and want what is rightfully theirs," he said.

"I have met with Mr Donato and he has told me that he does not have the money to pay these people."

Mr Donato could not be reached for comment.

Mr Garvey is calling on the Labour Board

to enforce labour laws against employers who are in violation of the Labour Act.

"There is too much labour unrest in Grand Bahama, and workers are not being treated fairly by employers," he said.

Struggling

Mr Garvey said Mr Donato owns multiple businesses in Grand Bahama. He said the former workers are unemployed and struggling to make ends meet.

He said that the workers were only given one week retroactive pay for the week worked prior to the hotel's closure in June. Some also received vacation pay, he said.

"They are willing to accept half now and half later, but to refuse to pay them anything is unacceptable, especially during this time of the year when Christmas is upon us.

"I have also learned that Mr Donato has brought some employees from another one of his closed hotel property in Freeport to work at the Xanadu Hotel," he said.

Workers are requesting a meeting today with Mr Donato.

Mr Garvey said if Mr Donato does not meet with the workers they will go ahead and seek legal action against him.

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Jump starting the economy:

insight

WORLD VIEW

By SIR RONALD SANDERS

(The writer is a Consultant and former Caribbean diplomat)

UNLESS there is an environment in all

Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) countries to help make businesses fully productive, they will not jump start their economies that now wallow in economic stagnation.

Barbados is about to

take a big step forward in improving the climate for the establishment and growth of businesses.

It is a step other Caribbean countries should emulate, particularly as the productivity of a country ultimately depends on the productivity of its businesses.

The economic model being pursued by President Hugo Chavez in Venezuela of nationalizing banks, oil companies and other productive enterprises may work for him for a time. Certainly, it will last while his government has access to the cheque book of the state-owned oil company, PDVSA, and oil prices remain elevated.

But, it will not work for many CARICOM countries whose debt to GDP ratio is so high that the obligation to repay debt prohibits them from spending to grow their economies.

The ratio of debt to GDP in several Caribbean countries is serious: St Kitts-Nevis 178 per cent, Jamaica 128 per cent, Antigua and Barbuda 107 per cent, Barbados 106 per cent, Grenada 87 per cent, Dominica 86 per cent, Belize 80 per cent, St Lucia 70 per cent, and St Vincent and the Grenadines 67 per cent.

When the global financial crisis slammed the Caribbean early this year, government revenues declined and they were unable to borrow money on commercial terms to finance development projects. At that time, some of us called for focus to be placed on the private sector to keep the economies stimulated and maintain employment.

At least two international financial institutions



SIR RONALD SANDERS

- the International Finance Corporation and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) - indicated then that they had funding available for the private sector.

It would have been beneficial if governments and private sector institutions had met to determine what businesses could be pursued on a national and regional basis; what funding would be required; and what financial institutions could be tapped for such funding. It didn't happen, and many Caribbean economies have deteriorated.

Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and St Kitts-Nevis have all had to apply to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for help through one or other of its windows for soft-lending. In the case of Antigua and Barbuda, the government has sought a full Stand-by programme, the terms of which are still being negotiated.

If Jamaica's current experience with the IMF is anything to go by, it will be sometime before the terms

SEE page nine

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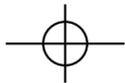
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Lessons from Barbados

FROM page eight

“The Barbados government has recognised that for unemployment and economic growth to be tackled, business must play a bigger role in the economy.”

of an Antigua programme are settled. Jamaica applied months before Antigua and Barbuda but the terms are not yet finalised. From current indications, Jamaica will face new and higher taxation – a development about which the private sector has already voiced concern.

Now, the example being set by Barbados. The government has secured a soft loan from the IDB for US\$10 million and is putting-up US\$1.8 million of its own resources to support the expansion of private sector participation in the economy, and to make government more effective and efficient as a facilitator of businesses.

The loan is for a 25-year term, with a 4-year grace and disbursement period at a LIBOR-based interest rate.

The Barbados government as well as local and foreign investors had expressed the need for improvement in some business climate factors. Specifically, they had identified the long period of time needed to start a business, delays in cross-border transactions and insufficient access to finance.

These are not conditions unique to Barbados, but since the island was rated 46th of 133 nations by the World Economic Forum's most recent global index of competitive nations, it is obvious that the climate for business in other Caribbean countries is very much worse. Trinidad and Tobago was second at 86 and Jamaica third at 91.

A recent Barbados Central Bank study estimates the time required to start a domestic incorporated

ing trade liberalization which is reducing government revenues from import duties; declining tourism earnings; and limited scope for export diversification.

The Barbados government has recognised that for unemployment and economic growth to be tackled, business must play a bigger role in the economy, and it is against that background that it approached the IDB for a loan to finance the greater participation of business in the economy, and to make them more competitive in regional and international trade.

Financing from the IDB will allow the government to pursue four crucial objectives: rationalizing government regulations to support business development including a review of the impact of some taxes on businesses; strengthening the private sector through cooperation by businesses including sharing costs of common services; improving the machinery to facilitate trade including improving and modernizing customs procedures; and lowering the cost of moving goods and people through the development of a National Transport Policy and Master Plan.

Barbados, unlike many other Caribbean countries,

already has a strong public-private dialogue involving government, trade unions and the private sector.

This programme will require that the dialogue be moved up to a higher level focusing on competitiveness and private sector development.

If the public-private partnership gets it right, international financial institutions have resources to support viable private sector projects, and some of the strain of keeping the economy stimulated, expanding export earnings and creating sustainable employment could be

shared by the private sector. Caribbean countries should seriously consider following this Barbados approach.

Responses and previous commentaries at: www.sirronaldsanders.com

business ranges from 281 to 480 days while international business can range from 24 to 187 days. No banking institution in the world would earmark millions of dollars for financing a project and keep such a large sum on ice while government bureaucracy grinds through a laborious process leading to the start-up of a business. Little wonder therefore that many domestic businesses have to opt to invest their money on the international market, and foreign investors shy away from the Caribbean.

Like every other Caribbean country, private sector development in Barbados is currently faced with serious challenges including eroding trade preferences for its main agricultural export, sugar; higher costs of compliance with new OECD and G20 requirements for its financial services sector; increas-

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LOCAL NEWS

Senator responds to criticism of Clifton Heritage Authority

By AVA TURNQUEST



DR JACINTA HIGGS

CHAIRMAN of the Clifton Heritage Authority Senator Dr Jacinta Higgs revealed several plans for the heritage park after scathing critique from a columnist portraying the Government as ineffective and "wasting the government's money."

Richard Coulson suggested the site was not being successfully exploited under the CHA, and in a letter to *The Tribune* he noted that "the park is far from fulfilling its function of bringing local history, culture and ecology to Bahamians and tourists" after more than two years in operation.

Senator Higgs said though she had been unable to speak with Mr Coulson at length, she expected that he at least refer to or research her previous comments and statement towards Clifton.

"I welcome the suggestions of all Bahamians to the development of the Clifton Heritage National Park, as well as scrutiny of the CHA's work," said Senator Higgs.

"The CHA is well aware of all of the challenges of developing Clifton from physical infrastructure to financial sustainability.

"Some of these plans have had to go through various vetting processes, including board approval, and could only be communicated to the general public at an appropriate time."

Senator Higgs warned that Clifton must not be developed in an "ad hoc, scattered manner", referring to criticism by Coulson towards the site's current development.

In her response, she revealed several of the broader plans for Clifton such as developing a significant heritage tourism programme and tour with the Ministries of Tourism and Youth, Sports and Culture, and an updated and revised interactive website.

To combat financial challenges, which the senator admits have impeded some plans, the CHA will announce a Blue Ribbon panel to solicit and raise private funds for larger capital projects.

The park is currently receiving an annual subvention from Government, and has also been given the authority to impose certain user and other fees which Senator Higgs said, will come on stream next year.

"I will continue to inform the Bahamian people on the funds raised

to develop Clifton, which is primarily a heritage park and not a nature preserve such as what the Bahamas National Trust may operate," said Senator Higgs, referring to Mr Coulson's suggestion of merging Clifton with the BNT.

The CHA is currently in cooperation with a local design firm, to memorialise the experience of the descendants of the African diaspora, allowing for an "enjoyable, enriching and educational visitor experience."

Senator Higgs maintained that although these plans have not been streamlined as yet, Clifton boasts innumerable school visits.

"Had Mr Coulson strolled the park during those occasions he may have had a more informed impression," she said. "Further, Mr Coulson missed the thousands of Bahamians who flock to Clifton's beaches during summer months, the months when Bahamians usually go to the beach."

"Though Clifton has its challenges," admitted Senator Higgs, "it has an extraordinary future, and as plans unfold many of the frustrations and concerns by some will be addressed."

"I am very thankful to the hundreds of Bahamians and visitors alike who continually send letters and expressions of thanks and gratitude to CHA Board and our staff for their great experiences visiting the park and for the transforming development of the space."

Appeal seeking to wind-up NIB dismissed

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

THE Court of Appeal has dismissed the appeal of a man seeking to wind-up the National Insurance Board over a multi-billion claim.

Anthony Wright, 58, claimed the NIB never properly paid him for an on-the-job injury he suffered almost 30 years ago in Grand Bahama.

Mr Wright, who filed the "wind-up" petition in March of last year, contended that the NIB owed him billions of dollars in back-pay, medical bills and settlement money after a 1982 accident on the premises of his former job with the now dissolved Franklin Chemicals in Grand Bahama.

Mr Wright claimed he suffered a fall that left him with a ruptured disc and damage to the soft tissue of his back. He contended that he never received medical care under NIB until some 12 years after the accident.

Mr Wright, who claimed that NIB was indebted to him for more than \$70 billion, had appealed a decision handed down by Senior Justice John Lyons on February 19.

Senior Justice Lyons had dismissed Mr Wright's appeal on the grounds that it was "frivolous and vexatious."

The judge also found that NIB could only be dissolved by Parliament.

Mr Wright contended that despite the order dismissing his petition, the judge had previously found that he was entitled to the wind-up order and

that the sum was undisputed. The Court of Appeal found that Senior Justice Lyons had not erred in his decision and dismissed the appeal.

A decision by Court of Appeal President Dame Joan Sawyer, which was agreed by Justice Hartman Longley, stated: "It appears that the appellant has a real sense of grievance against the respondent perhaps understandably so since the respondent appears to have adopted a somewhat casual approach to his claim rather than the seriousness which he, and every other taxpayer is entitled to expect from such a public body."

They also found that NIB is not a company incorporated under the present Companies Act. Section 187 of the Companies Act provides that a company under the act may be wound up by the court in various circumstances, including, but not limited to when it is unable to pay its debts.

The judges found that in light of the provisions of the Companies Act and the National Insurance Act, "however much one may sympathize with the appellant, it is not possible to say that Justice Lyons erred in any manner when he dismissed the appellant's petition for the winding up order, even if he concluded that for any other reason the appellant was owed vast sums of money by the respondent."

Justice Christopher Blackman in a separate decision also dismissed Wright's appeal, finding that, "there was no merit whatsoever in the appeal and it must be dismissed."

DAVID YURMAN



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Bahamian police inspector gets FBI training

THE United States Federal Bureau of Investigation shared their new investigative techniques with Bahamian police inspector Kimroy Ferguson on an 11-week course in Virginia.

Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) Inspector Ferguson was one of 267 law enforcement executives from across the United States and around the world who were trained in the FBI's latest strategies and developments in policing and investigative techniques at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Participants were also trained in an intense physical regime during the course.

For Inspector Ferguson the course was also an opportunity to share information and form bonds with law enforcement agencies around the world.

He has been in the RBPF officer for 17 years and worked in both uniform and plain clothes divisions of the force. Inspector Ferguson is currently a staff officer of

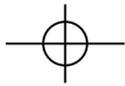


KIMROY FERGUSON

the Commissioner of Police.

He has a Masters degree in business administration from the Nova Southeastern University in Florida, a Bachelor of Arts degree in administration and management from the Sojourner Douglass College, and an Associate of Science degree in public administration from Success Training College in Bernard Road, Nassau.

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LOCAL NEWS

Mitchell slams PM over comments on customs officers

AN OPPOSITION MP has criticised Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham for his "reprehensible" comments over the dismissal of nine customs officers.

PLP MP for Fox Hill Fred Mitchell said it appears the nation's chief is interfering with the work of the Public Service Commission — a group responsible for hiring, disciplining and firing civil servants — and not allowing the system to work as designed.

"The Prime Minister does not allow the system to work but has instead engaged in conduct that would seem to interfere with the work of the Public Service Commission and the Public Service Board of Appeal," said Mr Mitchell.

On Tuesday, Mr Ingraham was quoted as saying he met with the Bahamas Public Services Union (BPSU) last week and agreed to accept the resignations of several officers who wanted to resign as opposed to being dismissed.

would not reflect a dismissal," he continued.

Mr Mitchell claimed the Prime Minister knows that by law, if an officer is retired in the public interest, he is not entitled to gratuity or pension.

"If these officers then retire before 1st January when their dismissal becomes effective, what will prevent the Public Service Commission from denying them their full gratuity and pension? Is the Prime Minister now saying that he controls what the Public Service Commission does; and can he guarantee them their full pension and gratuity if they resign?"

"If he can guarantee that, then it is clear that he interferes with the Public Service Commission, which is supposed to be an independent body."

"It is always wise for a minister to stay out of the deliberations that are the purview of what are supposed to be independent constitutional bodies, instead of making statements which appear to

interfere and sully the process."

Earlier last week Government confirmed through a press release that the Public Service Commission decided that effective January 2, 2010 nine of the 16 customs officers interdicted for misconduct last July will be let go from the public service.

Retired

Four more will be retired "in the public interest" with effect on the same date, while the matter concerning another officer — who is currently under investigation — has been deferred by the Public Service Commission, the statement said.

The two remaining officers are to be redeployed in the public service.

The Department of Customs has long been at the centre of corruption allegations and the move is said to be linked to Government's attempts to clean up the revenue collecting agency.



PLP MP Fred Mitchell



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham

Meeting

Mr Ingraham is quoted saying: "I had a meeting with the (Bahamas Public Services) union on Saturday and they said that there were a few of the customs officers who were being dismissed by the public service who may wish to resign and whether or not if they resign by the effective date of their termination, if that is something the government would consider. And I said yes we would because the dismissal takes effect on January 4, 2010."

He continued: "It is the four who are being retired in the public interest whose pensions and gratuities are being cut in half. No request has been made of me in respect of those four. If they choose to resign as opposed to leave, then I wouldn't have a particular difficulty with that."

Mr Mitchell said the officers who have been let go from the public service are entitled to their gratuities while those who are retired in the public interest are to get half their normal gratuity and half their normal pension.

"In the case of the customs officers dismissed, the Public Service Commission has allowed them their gratuity so resignation would not make a material difference to them, save that their files

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will have the following Office hours during the 2009 Christmas holiday season:

Thursday December 24th	Christmas Eve - Office closed
Friday December 25th	Christmas Day Holiday
Monday December 28th	Boxing Day Holiday observed
Thursday December 31st	New Years Eve - Office closed at 1:00pm
Friday January 1st 2010	New Years Day Holiday

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LOCAL NEWS



SERGEANT 977 Audley Dean salutes Governor General Arthur Hanna yesterday at the Royal Bahamas Police Force beat retreat.

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BEATRETREAT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EVENT IN RAWSON SQUARE YESTERDAY

Felipe Major/Tribune staff



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Thursday, December 31, 2009

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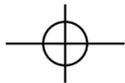
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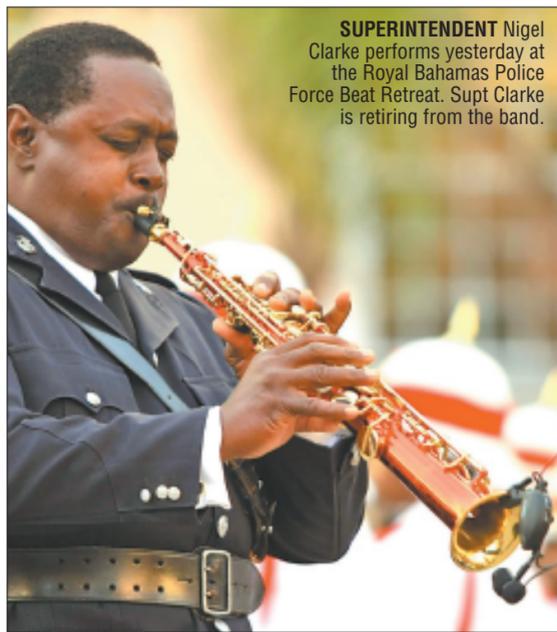


LOCAL NEWS

SERGEANT 977 Audley Dean, who has served as principal Drum Major, is retiring from the band.



SUPERINTENDENT Nigel Clarke performs yesterday at the Royal Bahamas Police Force Beat Retreat. Supt Clarke is retiring from the band.




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LOCAL NEWS

Man killed, woman stabbed in brutal attack

Felipé Major/Tribune staff



MARIO PETERSON, 29, (pictured right at age 17) was gunned down in a drive-by shooting near the Brand B Tyre Shop in Milton Street (above).

FROM page one

Local residents say his attacker used a sharp-tipped tyre wrench. They heard the blood-curdling screams from the man, and then the woman, as they were attacked in front of a house and a barbershop near Cartwright Building Supplies.

A Palm Beach Street resident came out of his house to find the man had already been beaten to death, and the woman was being attacked as police pulled up and fired shots at the assailant.

The resident said: "We were asleep and we heard the man screaming. Then after he dropped dead the woman kept screaming 'Help me! Help me!' and that's when we came out and people called the police."

"When I started walking towards them the police pulled up."

"They shot at him to stop him and he jumped in the car and drove off, the police followed."

"They found out that this guy had died and told the neighbours to back off while they put the yellow tape up."

Although the crime scene tape had been removed yesterday, the place where the man lost his life was made obvious by a pool of blood on the side of the street.

A resident said: "I saw it was a young guy who died. I can't understand it. I couldn't kill a man over a woman."

Police investigating the death have not speculated about the reason for the killing but believe the couple knew their attacker. They were stabbed many times, and the man received a severe blow to the head, according to the police report.

Emergency Medical Services took the woman to hospital where she is receiving treatment. The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

He was the second man to be killed in the capital this weekend.

A 29-year-old man was gunned down in a drive-by

shooting near the Brand B Tyre Shop in Milton Street just before 6pm on Saturday.

Mario Peterson, known as "Pearl Eye", was standing with a group of people near the tyre shop at around 5.45pm when a black Honda Accord pulled up and shots were fired. Mr Peterson was shot in the pelvis and left leg. He was taken to hospital in a private vehicle and later died of the injuries.

Relatives of Mr Peterson said his name was Narrio, rather than Mario as police reported, and said he lived in Fox Hill.

They maintain he was

standing in front of his mother's house in Milton Street while she and his girlfriend carried shopping goods to the back of the house when gunshots rang out and Mr Peterson collapsed.

The car then sped off and continued to fire shots from the car, residents claim.

Police are investigating all incidents. A man has been arrested in connection with the stabbing death.

Anyone with any information relating to the deaths should call police urgently on 919 or call Crime Stoppers anonymously on 328-TIPS (8477).



A BLOOD STAIN on the ground where a man and woman were attacked on Palm Beach Street.

Hope Town hit by storm

FROM page one

minutes, and it was so windy the windows started breathing in and out and the pressure was changing in the house, but it was pitch black so we couldn't see anything.

"The shutters got ripped off, we lost a Bimini Top, and one of our lawn chairs ended up on the other side of the house next door."

The storm seemed to have torn down a power line too as Hope Town residents had no electricity from 6pm on Friday until noon on Saturday.

Locals say it was a tornado or a waterspout, but the Meteorological Office was unable to confirm this last night.

Forecaster Pat Butler said his office at the Lynden Pindling International Airport in New Providence issued weather warnings on Friday as they expected 20 to 25 knot winds and six to nine foot sea swells.

He said: "We predicted adverse conditions for the northwest Bahamas on Friday as a deepening low pressure system in the Gulf moved northeast over Florida, bringing a cold front over the Bahamas."

"We had showers and thunderstorms mostly in Grand Bahama, but also in Abaco."

"The front is now exiting the southeast Bahamas so high pressure system is building behind it causing windy conditions which should last until Friday."

While strong winds blew across the Bahama islands, it seems Hope Town experienced some of the most dramatic weather this weekend.

Mr McCoy said: "Some people thought it may have been a tornado, but now we think it was a waterspout that came ashore and must have come up this way."

FROM page one

vey the unemployment rate in New Providence now stands at 14.6 per cent, compared with 14.2 per cent in May of this year, while in Grand Bahama 18.1 per cent of the labour force is now unemployed, compared with 17.4 per cent in May.

In 2008, 8.7 per cent of the labour force were unemployed in New Providence and nine per cent in Grand Bahama. The rise, which was registered in February of this year, took the unemployment rate to its highest level in 15 years.

The Department of Statistics said: "Between February and May of this

Unemployment rises, but rate now slowing

year, the number of unemployed persons increased by 12.6 per cent in New Providence and 17.4 per cent in Grand Bahama. Between May and November this growth was substantially lower, 4.5 per cent in New Providence and 3.9 per cent in Grand Bahama."

In Grand Bahama, with a 20.7 per cent jobless rate, women were much more likely to be unemployed than men, at 15.6 per cent. In New Providence unemployment is more evenly affecting the sexes, with 14 per cent of men and 15.1 per cent of women looking for jobs.

The department also notes that there was "minimum growth in the labour

force" of only one per cent since the last survey was conducted.

The Government announced in November that it has budgeted \$14 million to spend on a temporary jobs programme - now under way - which will provide work for six months for 2,500 people throughout the public service.

Prior to this the Government had accelerated numerous public works projects with the intention of creating work for some of those who had become jobless through a lack of activity in the private sector.

Minister of Labour Dion Foulkes was not available for comment yesterday.

FROM page one

in front of his home at 6.15pm on Friday. The gunman, wearing a ski mask and dark clothing, threatened the terrified resident with a handgun and demanded money. He stole cash and fled the area on foot.

The incident was the second armed robbery of a resident in his driveway that day.

A man was robbed by two men armed with handguns while in the driveway of his Yamacraw Beach Road home at around 3.50am on Friday.

Armed robbers

He told police the men threatened him at gunpoint and stole an undetermined amount of cash before they fled the area on foot, in an unknown direction.

A home in Minnie Street, central Nassau, was stormed by four burglars, three armed with shotguns, at around 5.40am on Saturday. The armed men searched the property and stole cash before getting away.

Businesses in Carmichael Road were hit by two robberies this weekend, including the daylight robbery of Texaco service station at lunchtime on Friday.

A man armed with a handgun entered the gas station store in Carmichael Road at around 1pm and stole cash before he got away on a bicycle.

Then a masked gunman robbed a woman operating a

phone card booth in Carmichael Road. The gunman who had covered his face with a scarf threatened her with a handgun, demanding she hand over cash and cell-phone cards, at around 7.50pm on Saturday.

The gunman drove off in a Honda.

Police are investigating all incidents and are appealing for witness to come forward.

Anyone with any information should call police on 919 or Crime Stoppers anonymously on 328-TIPS (8477).

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Joseph Dewitt "Jay" Albury, III, lost his life doing what he enjoyed the most. An avid motorbike rider, his accident occurred on December 16th, 2009, on Rock Plant Road, Nassau, Bahamas.

Jay loved his country of birth, The Bahamas, and this love led him to the sea. Jay will be remembered for his work in filmography. Some of the major films were "Pirates of the Caribbean", "Into the Blue", and the James Bond movies which were filmed in The Bahamas. His professional life, in addition to filmography, was filled with work that ensured he could be on the sea or in the sea. He held a boat captain master license; he was a commercial fisherman; certified scuba instructor; boat and motorcycle mechanic; underwater construction, dredging, and salvage expert, and all-round handyman. Although retired, he was always willing to help out those in need.

Jay's friends describe him as being "knowledgable", "dependable", "gentle", and "humorous". He loved dogs, particularly stray dogs that he could rescue and treat to a good meal.

Pre-deceased by his mother, Dorothy "Dede" Albury and his father, Joseph Dewitt "Jay Dee" Albury, Jr., he is survived by his beloved sister Susan "Honey" Robertson, his brother-in-law John Robertson, his nephew Jason Robertson, his nieces Chrystonia and Joanne Robertson, and a host of family and friends.

A service of celebration will be held at the Bahamas National Trust, Village Road, on Wednesday, December 23rd, 2009 at 3:00p.m.

Pastor Clint Kemp will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to BAARK, P.O. N-242, Nassau, Bahamas or Scotia Bank (East Bay Street) A/C#50385-3202371, in Jay's memory.

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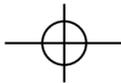
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INSIDE • Olympia Morris-Evans Softball Classic



Felipe Major/Tribune staff



DEVIN Mullings digs down deep for this return.

Mullings dominates December Invitational

BLTA RESULTS

Here's a look at the final results of the Bahamas Lawn Tennis Association's 2009 December Invitational Tennis Tournament held over the weekend at the National Tennis Center.

Men's Division

Final - Devin Mullings def. Timothy Neilly 6-2, 7-5.

Consolation third place - Marvin Rolle def. Jamal Adderley 6-3, 2-0 retired.

Fifth place - Justin Lunn def. Rodney Carey 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Seventh place - Jason Rolle def. H'Cone Thompson W/O.

Saturday's semifinals - Devin Mullings def. Jamal Adderley 6-1, 6-1; Timothy Neilly def. Marvin Rolle 6-3, 6-3; Rodney Carey def. Jason Rolle 6-4, 6-3 and Justin Lunn def. H'Cone Thompson 7-6, 7-6.

Pool Play

Pool A

Marvin Rolle def. Jason Rolle 6-2, 6-1.

Marvin Rolle def. KC Strachan 6-1, 6-1.

Jason Rolle def. KC Strachan 6-3, 4-6, 7-5.

Pool B

Jamal Adderley def. Ceron Rolle 6-1, 7-6.

Jamal Adderley def. Justin Lunn 7-6, 6-1.

Justin Lunn def. Ceron Rolle 6-2, 6-4.

Pool C

Devin Mullings def. Rodney Carey 6-1, 6-1.

Devin Mullings def. Desmond Perigord 6-0, 6-0.

Devin Mullings def. Robert Lightbourn 6-0, 6-1.

Rodney Carey def. Desmond Perigord 6-0, 6-3.

Rodney Carey def. Robert Lightbourn 6-1, 6-1.

Robert Lightbourn def. Desmond Perigord 6-3, 6-1.

Ladies' Division

Final - Kerrie Cartwright def. Elanqua Griffin 6-0, 6-1.

Consolation third place - Gabriel Moxey def. Tershelle Burrows W/O.

Saturday's semifinals - Kerrie Cartwright def. Tershelle Burrows 6-0, 6-0 and Elanqua Griffin def. Gabriel Moxey 6-3, 6-2.

Pool A

Kerrie Cartwright def. Gabriel Moxey 6-1, 6-1.

Pool B

Elanqua Griffin def. Nikkita Fountain 6-0, 6-0 W/O.

Elanqua Griffin def. Tershelle Burrows 6-0, 6-2.

Tershelle Burrows def. Nikkita Fountain 6-0, 6-0 W/O.

Cartwright ranked top in female division

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

DEVIN Mullings once again dominated the Bahamas Lawn Tennis Association's December Invitational to establish himself as the top ranked male singles player in the country.

The Grand Bahamian professional player went through the three-day tournament at the National Tennis Center undefeated and was joined by Kerrie Cartwright, who also established himself as the top ranked on the ladies' side.

The invitational, according to tournament director Mickey Williams, was designed to provide an avenue for the collegiate and pro players to compete to earn some type of national ranking and is not the official Davis Cup or Fed Cup team trials.

Mullings, who is also the top seeded player on the Bahamas' Davis Cup team, said it was a good opportunity for him to keep his winning streak intact, taking out fellow Grand Bahamian and Davis Cup team-mate Timothy Neilly 6-2, 7-5 in the final match yesterday.

"I played well. I think he played some good points, but his attitude was poor," Mullings said. "No matter what he feels, I called the lines as best as I could fairly and squarely and I haven't lost a match out here since I was 16 years old."

Mullings, 24, was referring to the fact that he and Neilly got into some heated arguments throughout the match and had to be advised by tournament director Mickey Williams to calm down.

At one point in the match with Mullings taking a 4-2 on a break, the two players got into each other's face at the net on a disputed call that Neilly felt was in and Mullings called it out.

After settling for the call in his favour, Mullings regrouped and kept the momentum as he held serve, then broke Neilly again to take the first set.

In the second set, both players got a break to force a 3-3 tie. It was close the rest of the way, tied at 4-4 and 5-5 until Mullings pulled away when he held and broke Neilly to end the game.

Neilly refused to shake hand with Mullings, despite Mullings' persistence. He also declined an interview as he left the stadium.

Third place in the Invitational went to Marvin Rolle, another member of the Davis Cup team. He took the first set 6-3 and was leading 2-0 in the second when Grand Bahamian Jamal Adderley was forced to retire with a right shoulder injury.

On his match, Rolle said "It was good. In the first set, I served well, placing a lot of balls on the court. In the second set, his arm was hurting and he couldn't finish."

"I came third in the tournament, so it's not bad. I just have to get ready for next year."

The most impressive performance in the tournament came from Justin Lunn, who came from behind 5-1 to beat former Davis Cupper H'Cone Thompson 7-6 in the second set on Saturday.

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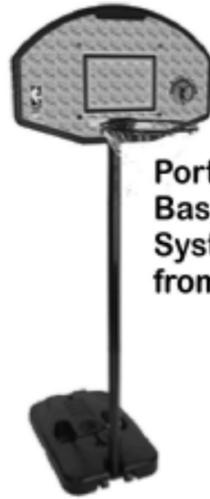


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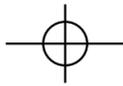
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SEE page 18

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SPORTS



OLYMPIA Morris-Evans presents men's championship trophies to Transfiguration.

Olympia Morris-Evans Softball Classic comes to a close

THE Baptist Sports Council completed its 2009 Olympia Morris-Evans Softball Classic on Saturday at the Baillou Hills Sporting Complex with two defending champions repeating and a new champion crowned in the three divisions.

Transfiguration had to go the full three games in the best-of-three series before they prevailed with a 2-1 decision over Macedonia to pull off their third straight championship title. They dedicated it to their ailing pitcher Alexander 'Zander' Bain, who is still recuperating from a serious traffic accident.

Infielder Dennis Johnson was named the Most Valuable Player.

In the co-ed division, Golden Gates needed just two games to repeat as champions, knocking off patron Olympia Morris-Evans' St. Paul's team.

Versatile Candice Smith was named the MVP.

And in the 17-and-under division, Macedonia avenged last year's defeat by turning the tables on Temple Fellowship in three games.

Catcher Sean Roker was named the MVP.

In addition to the team awards, the BSC also presented some individual awards to the deserving recipients.

In the men's division, Stephen Sands of Transfiguration was named the Manager of the Year. The best pitcher was Nelson Farrington, also of Transfiguration, with a 4-0 win-loss record and the batting champion was Geon Campbell from Temple Fellowship with a .800 batting average.

Transfiguration and Golden Gates retain championship titles



MACEDONIA men hold their runners-up trophies.

The co-ed manager of the year was Renee Davis of Golden Gates. She was also the repeat batting champion with a .500 average. The best pitcher was Cardinal Gilbert of Golden Gates with a 3-0 record.

And in the 17-and-under division, Geno Campbell of Temple Fellowship was the manager of the year. The best pitcher was Cardon Wallace of Macedonia with a 3-0 record and the batting champion was Tervin Symonette of Golden Gates with a .615 average.

Steve 'Bishop' Beneby, who served as the chief

umpire, along with Carlton Ingraham and Arthur 'Yo-Yo' Pritchard and chief scorer Sherry Beneby were all awarded. Joann 'Mother' Webb was also recognized for the role she played as the disciplinarian and her contribution to the league.

And Olympia Morris-Evans was honoured as the patron for the Classic and her role as the long-time treasurer.

The BSC will now prepare for its election of officers and the annual Family Fun Run/Walk race in January. Basketball is expected to begin in February.



JOANN 'Mother' Webb presents patron Olympia Morris-Evans with her plaques.

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JOANN 'Mother' Webb presents patron Olympia Morris-Evans with her plaques.



SPORTS

Pre-schoolers and primary students complete Learn-to-Swim programme

SOME 1400 Bahamian pre-schoolers and primary students recently completed an innovative Learn-to-Swim programme, with more than half successfully completing the requirements to survive an accident in ocean waters.

Sponsored by the Grand Bahama YMCA and private donors, the programme is designed to teach as many children as possible, in the least amount of time and at minimum cost, the basic skills needed to survive in the water.

Children as young as three years old took part in the programme, which was specially designed, and is administered, by Coach Iva Dreke Russell, the YMCA's aquatic director who is a former assistant coach for the Bahamas National Swim Team.

Russell also coached the Cuban

National Swim Team and is a former national record holder in the 400 and 800 metre freestyle. She has a graduate degree in physical education and culture from Havana's Manuel Piti Fajardo Institute and designed a low-cost training programme that relies on experienced swimmers as instructors.

This "factory" programme can teach large numbers of children to swim in a short time frame, and is believed to be the only one of its kind in the world. The Grand Bahama training sessions ran from September to December as a pilot project in order to demonstrate the methodology and cost-effectiveness of the programme.

It is not known how many schools on Grand Bahama will participate for the next two terms. If there is no official support then it will

depend on the priorities of the PE programmes of the schools and transportation costs. Potentially, more than half of the school population on Grand Bahama could acquire basic swimming skills by next June. The organisers may then turn their attention to other islands, and are calling on government to consider making the training a part of the national school curriculum.

"Swimming is the second leading cause of accidental death for children worldwide, and the Bahamas has a high rate of drowning per capita," said Coach Iva. "Enhanced water safety should be a top priority for schools and communities around the country, and we have managed to keep the cost per child to under \$20 for an average of 6.5 lessons."

This programme will also prepare

interested children for entry into more competitive swimming, eliminating some of the cost and risk of initial basic training at local swim clubs. And a secondary goal of the sponsors is to teach children to respect the ocean and the living things within it.

The programme was made possible by a special grant provided by two concerned Nassau residents, Louis Bacon and Kris Lehmkuhl. They are dismayed by the lack of swimming skills among Bahamians, concerns which were magnified by the drowning of two children at Adelaide and of a Bahamian employee at Nygard Cay earlier this year.

"Bahamian kids are islanders and it is axiomatic that they should know how to swim," Lehmkuhl said. "So we worked with a highly respected

certified swim coach to develop this special high-volume programme, which is unique in that it is geared towards teaching survival skills as well as respect for the ocean. It is also very cost-effective."

The introductory level teaches children how to save themselves if they fall into a pool. Level two students are trained to jump into open ocean, tread water for 15 seconds, and then swim to a nearby boat. Level three students can jump into open ocean, and swim 75 feet using the breast stroke.

"As far as we are aware this is the first time that a programme of this magnitude has been targeted at survival in the water," said Karon Johnson, Executive Director for the YMCA. "It is very popular among the kids, and the results have been encouraging."

Mullings dominates December Invitational

FROM page 16

Yesterday, lightning struck twice for Lunn as he did the same thing to Grand Bahamian Rodney Carey, coming from a 4-1 deficit in the third to pull off the clincher 6-4.

After losing the first set 2-6, Lunn rallied to take the second 6-3.

"It was really good. At the beginning I was really tight and frustrated," he said. "But with my family on the side pumping me up and getting me back into the game, I came back and won it."

"I'm really proud of myself. I'm playing very good."

Also playing at a high level in the tournament was 17-year-old Kerrie Cartwright. She wasted very little time in establishing herself on the ladies' side.

"I played really good, confident and positive going into the match, so

I hoped for the best and I got the best," said Cartwright after her 6-0, 6-1 triumph over collegian Elanqua Griffin in yesterday's final.

"I expected to play my best and I think I did that. I would have liked to play against Larikah (Russell) and Nikkita (Fountain) because they are much older and they have more experience. But they didn't show up."

As for 18-year-old Griffin who attends Missouri Valley College, she didn't want to give any excuse but she noted that not having a chance to play in quite a while made a difference in the outcome.

"I think my forehand was a little bit consistent, but she hit some big shots. She won all the major points," Griffin said. "I tried, but she just played much better."

Gabriel Moxey was awarded the consolation third place with a walk-over against Tershelle Burrows.



KERRIE Cartwright hits a double backhand shot.



RODNEY Carey concentrates on his backhand return.

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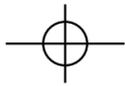
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LOCAL NEWS

Fab Finds Gift Shop opens its newest location

FAB Finds Gift Shop opened its newest location in Nassau at the Harbour Bay Shopping Centre just in time for the festive season.

To commemorate the opening, a small cocktail was held recently where guests could peruse the shop's gift items. Elizabeth Covington, the proprietor of Fab Finds Gift Shop and an experienced retailer of almost 20 years, said, "I opened this new location because it was an expansion of an already successful gift shop that I had opened under new management in the Lyford Cay Shopping Centre during the late summer of 2006. That first location, on the western end of the island, proved to be successful. I decided that if a gift shop like this could do well out west, it would do well out east."

The gift shop carries a wide

SEE page 20



A VISITOR to the store enjoys some wine at the opening cocktail.



ANOTHER visitor peruses some of the gift items available.

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LOCAL NEWS



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PERUSING the children's section.

FROM page 19

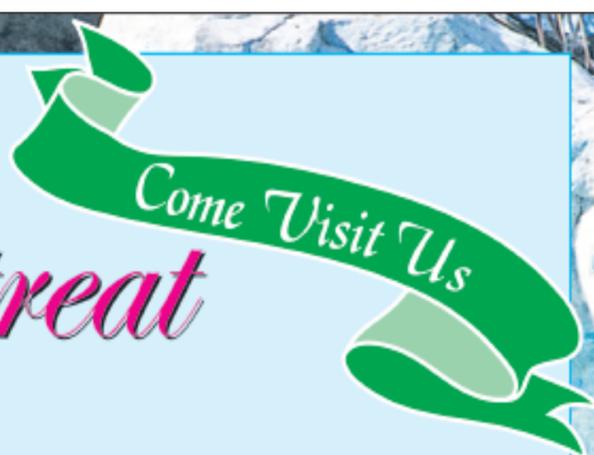
variety of gift items including candles, lamps, plants, jewelry, books and journals, picture frames, personal items, hand bags, table settings, infants' toys and accessories, and furniture, just to name a few.

As Elizabeth Covington further explained, "The concept behind the shops is to provide a safe, relaxing, convenient and comfortable environment where anyone looking for a gift can find something that fits any occasion and any budget. Whether it is Christmas time, a birthday, a wedding, a shower, a christening, a graduation, an anniversary or just a simple thank you or personal indulgence gift, our wish is to make it easy for you to find that fabulous gift."



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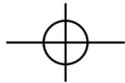
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In Front Row from left: Starting with lady in black: Agatha Almace (Marketing Representative and Nail Technician), Kenya Mortimer-McKenzie (Spa Therapist, Eyebrow Threading and Body Sugaring Hair Removal Expert and Spa Director), and Nevada Mills (Hair Stylist Assistant).

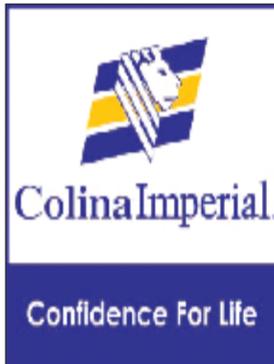
In Back Row from left: Starting with lady in black and gold: Yolanda Contreras (Dominican Hair Stylist), Yeslendi Thompson (Salon Assistant), Ebony Dorsett (Spa Therapist), Sharon Thompson (Nail Technician), Kedra Bell (Front Desk Manager and Spa Therapist), Mekeisha Fernander (Spa Therapist), Gertrude Roberts (Nail Technician), specializing in "Solar Nails", Body Sugaring Technician and Massage Therapist), and Janet Joseph (Hair Stylist). **Missing from the photo:** Judith Gibson-Adderly (Nail Technician, Waxing Technician and Massage Therapist), Je'Rome Miller (Master Hair Stylist).



THE TRIBUNE business

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2009

SECTION B • business@tribunemedia.net



\$100m project's 45-60 day goal on second phase

- * Events and dinners real 'saving grace' for Balmoral project with 2,000 people visiting in December
- * May/June 2010 occupancy target for 26-unit first phase
- * Foreign buyer interest rekindled for 43-acre site, which has 25% green space

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

A \$100 million Bahamian real estate project is aiming to break ground on its 20-unit second phase within the "next 45 to 60 days" once the required level of pre-sales has been achieved, telling Tribune Business that interest from foreign buyers appears to have been rekindled.

Jason Kinsale, principal of The Balmoral Development, located on Prospect Ridge near the US Ambassador's residence, told this newspaper that some 100-150 construction workers were currently employed on site, with the "sold-out" first phase targeting a May/June 2010 occupancy date.

"We have some units up to roof level, and infrastructure is being installed for those units as well," Mr Kinsale told Tribune Business. "We're using Bahamas Hot Mix for those utilities, and the tennis courts are 90 per cent complete. The new clubhouse for the tennis courts is almost done as well. It's looking like something now, not just a plan."

He added that construction remained on schedule, and might even complete slightly ahead of deadline. "There's a lot of construction work going on right now," Mr Kinsale said.

"We plan to have occupancy

SEE page 6B

Developers in dispute over 2,000 soil loads

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

TWO MAJOR, politically-connected real estate developers have become embroiled in a legal dispute relating to the accidental dumping of more than 2,000 loads of soil on one party's property.

The Court of Appeal, in reinstating an injunction initially obtained by Arawak Homes, owned by well-known businessman Franklyn Wilson, detailed how a dispute had broken out between the developer and Bethell's Trucking & Heavy Equipment Service, which had been contracted to work on the Destini Lakes project.

That latter development is part-owned by PLP MP, and former Cabinet minister, Shane Gibson, who was also named as a respondent in Arawak Homes' appeal.

In its judgment, the Court of Appeal noted that Bethell's Trucking & Heavy Equipment had "deposited over 2,000 loads of soil and fill on property belonging to Harmony Homes Ltd", an Arawak Homes subsidiary.

"After discovering that they had in fact deposited the materials on the wrong property, the respondents proceeded to remove the materials and were alleged to have caused permanent damage to the property," the Court of Appeal noted.

It added that there "were some unfruitful discussions between" Arawak Homes and Stanley Bethell, owner of Bethell's Trucking & Heavy Equipment Service, in a bid

SEE page 5B

Ginn's 'critical' win for \$4.9bn project

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

GINN has won a "very critical" legal battle over a challenge to its ownership of 179 acres vital to its \$4.9 billion Bahamian resort project, the Court of Appeal finding that a rival claim to the property was "without merit".

Wilbert Bootle and his family had challenged the Certificate of Title granted to Ginn for the site in Grand Bahama's West End. The land in question is located at the heart of the company's mixed-use Ginn sur mer project, and Mr Bootle alleged he and his family had a better ownership claim to the 179 acres via adverse possession.

However, the Court of Appeal found Mr Bootle's appeal against the original Supreme Court decision to be "clearly without merit", dismissing his action and removing any doubt as to the validity of Ginn's ownership.

One source familiar with the land situation, speaking to Tribune Business on condition of anonymity, said the 179 acres in question was situated at the heart of the Ginn sur mer project. Had

* Appeal Court finds rival claim to 179 acres of land 'without merit'

* Ruling the other way could have 'derailed' development

* Disputed land at heart of project; includes runway and canal entrance

the Bootle challenge succeeded, and a Certificate of Title been issued instead to him, the impact on the proposed development could have been disastrous.

Besides sitting in the middle of the two major chunks of real estate – one a 600-acre parcel, the other 1,200-1,400 acres – that Ginn acquired from the old Sammons estate to facilitate its project, the 179 acres incorporates part of the development's airport runway and the entrance to its canal system.

"It's a very critical piece," the source said of the disputed 179 acres. "The runway is at the end of that, and it's where the entrance to the canal system is. Ginn couldn't ignore it."

And if Mr Bootle's claim had won, the source said: "It could have derailed the entire development, because the land was in the middle of the project. Ginn didn't take any chances."

Tribune Business was told that when Ginn was in the process of acquiring

SEE page 4B



Franklyn Wilson

Major expansion planned for Shell retail footprint

* FOCOL eyes up to three new gas stations for brand on New Providence

* Aiming to pay off remaining \$7.2m long-term debt in 2010

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

BISX-listed FOCOL Holdings is planning to expand its Shell retail network by up to three new gas stations in 2010, the company's largest shareholder telling Tribune Business it also hoped to complete repayment of its outstanding \$7.2 million long-term debt.

Franklyn Wilson, the Arawak Homes and Sunshine Holdings chairman, told this newspaper that FOCOL was targeting new gas stations on East Shirley Street, at the Carmichael Road/Coral Harbour roundabout junction, and at Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA) as it bids to close the gaps in Shell's service coverage.

"We certainly expect in the first quarter of next year to open the Montague site on east Shirley Street," Mr Wilson said. "That's going to be the start of a substantial programme in that regard."

Confirming that FOCOL also owned the one-acre site at the Carmichael Road/Coral Harbour roundabout corner,

SEE page 5B

AML Foods in preference rescheduling negotiations

* Company sees Q3 net income rise 190% to \$665k, despite 3% sales decline

* Royal Bank pay-out frees \$70k monthly; \$3.5m cash position improvement

* Domino's Pizza eyes two more stores and 2010 online launch

* BISX-listed retailer still on target for 2010 dividend resumption, with new revenue streams set to generate 'a couple of million dollars'

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

AML Foods is in talks with its preference shareholders to reschedule debt redemptions, having freed up \$70,000 per month from clearing its long-term bank debt in a quarter where net income increased by 190 per cent despite a 3 per cent year-over-year sales decline.

Gavin Watchorn, AML Foods' president and chief executive, indicated to Tribune Business that the BISX-listed retail group wanted to put the cash flow freed up by the repayment of all debt owed to Royal Bank of Canada to better use, such as investing in the development of its Solomon's Fresh Market concept, rather than earmark it for repaying the preference shareholders.

AML Foods has three remaining preference shareholders, all institutional

SEE page 6B

GAS TRACKER

Shell \$4.05

Esso \$4.21

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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.

'Very optimistic' export prospects

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

A Bahamian developer of specialist software for the wealth management industry is "very optimistic" about export prospects for 2010, having received serious inquiries from financial institutions as far afield as Lebanon.

Bruce Raine, president of International Private Banking Systems (IPBS), which celebrates its 17th anniversary on January 3rd, told Tribune Business that the company's software solutions could be applied by financial institutions "in any tax jurisdiction", with

- * Bahamas wealth management software developer receives influx of December inquiries, including from Lebanon and Ecuador
- * Targeting development resources at e-banking platforms
- * Urges other Bahamian IT/knowledge providers to target high margin, value-added niches for export

the Internet and e-banking also set to be a "big growth

SEE page 7B

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BUSINESS

'We need to move on to more constructive things'

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE GRAND Bahama Chamber of Commerce's president has again called for an end to the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) ownership dispute and infighting, telling Tribune Business: "We simply need to move on to more constructive things."

K P Turnquest said it was difficult for the Chamber, or anyone in Freeport, to have an informed opinion about Sir Jack Hayward's announcement over the sale of his 50 per cent GBPA stake to Mid-Atlantic Projects, as no one knew who the buyers were or their plans for Freeport.

"We don't know enough about the group," Mr Turnquest said of Mid-Atlantic Projects. "We don't know anything about the group reported to by purchasing it at

this stage to say whether it's a good fit or not.

"We are hopeful that the whole [ownership] issue will be resolved shortly, but we know it can't be a situation where the new owners and the Government are at odds from the start. We have to follow the lead of the Government at the moment until we know who the buyers are and what their plans are.

"There's just too many elements right now; too much intrigue between the Government and the Port Authority, the Babak situation. It's too confusing. We don't know what to say because there's too many parts to this thing."

Indeed, much is likely to hinge on Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham's reaction to Sir Jack's announcement of last week when he returns from the UN Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen this week. Based on comments

before his departure, it is unlikely to be a warm one.

Speculation has been rife since Sir Jack went public, with many questioning whether the deal is for real, and if it is simply designed to allow Hannes Babak to remain as GBPA/Port Group Ltd chairman. Some have also suggested that, having an inkling that Sir Jack was up to something, the Prime Minister made his announcement about the non-renewal of Mr Babak's work permit in a bid to flush out details of the Mid-Atlantic sale.

"I would have thought that if they're coming into a situation like this, where they're going to have to work with and obtain the support of the business community, that at least they would have introduced themselves and said this is what they were going to do before signing an agreement," Mr Turnquest added

of Mid-Atlantic Projects.

"I was very hopeful that we would get this ownership dispute resolved at the end of the 2010 first quarter or so. We just need to get this thing behind us. Whoever sits in the chair is irrelevant to us, per se. We simply need the whole thing done with so we can move on to more constructive things."

The Chamber president added of Mid-Atlantic Projects: "What is their real motivation for investing? What we don't need is an investor only interested in the financial side or making a profit. We need an investor to work alongside us to develop the city and the community

"So, hopefully, whoever it is going to be is going to participate more in the community, and not just been an investor interested in making a return and flipping later on."

* Chamber chief calls for end to Port Authority battle, and bemoans lack of information on potential purchaser

GIBSON, RIGBY & CO. Counsels & Attorneys-at-Law Notaries Public



Holiday Hours

CLOSED - 12:30-3:30 Wed., Dec., 23rd 2009
Office Christmas Lunch

CLOSED - Thurs., Dec., 24th, 2009
Christmas Eve

CLOSED - Fri., Dec., 25th, 2009
Christmas Day

CLOSED - Monday, Dec., 28th, 2009
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OPEN - Tuesday, Dec., 29th, 2009
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New Year's Eve

CLOSED - Friday, Jan., 1st, 2010
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ROYALFIDELITY MARKET WRAP

By ROYALFIDELITY
CAPITAL MARKETS

IT WAS a moderate week of trading in the Bahamian stock market last week. Investors traded in 11 out of the 24 listed securities, of which three advanced, three declined and five remain unchanged.

EQUITY MARKET

A total of 129,599 shares changed hands, representing an increase of 119,111 shares, compared to the previous week's trading volume of 20,488 shares.

Commonwealth Bank (CBL) was the big advancer, trading 44,961 shares to see its stock close the week up by \$0.71 at \$6.51.

FOCOL Holdings Ltd. (FCL) was the volume leader, trading 53,565 shares, its share price closing the week unchanged at \$4.75.

BOND MARKET

There was no activity in the bond market last week.

COMPANY NEWS:

FOCOL Holdings (FCL) released its audited results for the year ended July 31,

2009. FCL reported net income of \$15.3 million compared to \$13.3 million reported in 2008, an increase of \$2.1 million or 15.5 per cent. Net income available to common shareholders advanced by \$974,000 or 8.4 per cent to total \$12.6 million, versus \$11.6 million last year.

EQUITY MARKET - TRADING STATISTICS

Week ending 18.12.09

BISX SYMBOL	CLOSING PRICE	WKLY PRICE CHANGE	VOLUME	YTD PRICE CHANGE
AML	\$ 1.17	\$-	500	-31.58%
BBL	\$ 0.63	\$-	0	-4.55%
BOB	\$ 5.90	\$-	0	-22.77%
BPF	\$ 10.74	\$-0.01	5,000	-8.98%
BSL	\$ 10.06	\$-	0	-1.28%
BWL	\$ 3.15	\$-	0	0.00%
CAB	\$ 9.98	\$-0.02	5,000	-28.87%
CBL	\$ 6.51	\$ 0.71	44,961	-7.00%
CHL	\$ 2.72	\$-	0	-3.89%
CIB	\$ 9.99	\$ 0.13	9,889	-4.40%
CWCB	\$ 2.63	\$ 0.07	3,000	16.89%
DHS	\$ 2.55	\$-	2,000	0.00%
FAM	\$ 6.49	\$-	0	-16.79%
FBB	\$ 2.37	\$-	34	0.00%
FCC	\$ 0.27	\$-	0	-10.00%
FCL	\$ 4.75	\$-	53,565	-8.12%
FCLB	\$ 1.00	\$-	0	0.00%
FIN	\$ 9.28	\$- 0.01	5,000	-21.82%
ICD	\$ 5.59	\$-	650	-8.81%
JSJ	\$ 9.95	\$-	0	-10.36%
PRE	\$ 10.00	\$-	0	0.00%

Revenues were down by \$106 million to total \$272.9 million, while cost of sales decreased by \$108 million to total \$228.3 million. Gross profit was approximately \$44.6 million for the year, versus \$42.6 million in the previous year.

Operating expenses increased by \$42,000 for the year primarily due to higher marketing, administrative and general expenses, which increased by \$707,000 or 2.8 per cent over the prior year.

Total assets decreased by \$10.4 million to total \$126.6 million, while total liabilities decreased by \$23.3 million to total \$33.9 million from the previous year.

Dividend Notes:

Cable Bahamas (CAB) has declared a dividend of \$0.07 per share, payable on December 31, 2009, to all ordinary shareholders of record date December 15, 2009.

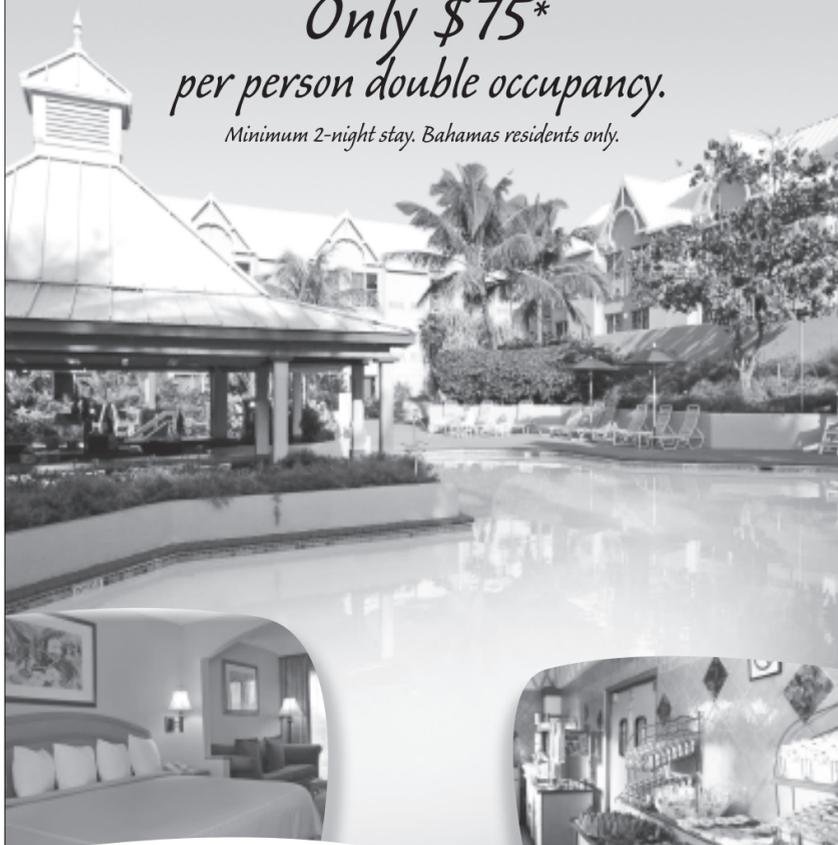
Commonwealth Bank (CBL) has declared a dividend of \$0.05 per share, payable on December 31, 2009, to all ordinary shareholders of record date December 15, 2009.

Doctors Hospital Health Systems (DHS) has declared an extraordinary

SEE page four

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BUSINESS

Ginn's 'critical' win for \$4.9bn project

FROM page one

Bahama Hotel Company, both parties – and their attorneys – were unable to establish possessory title to the 179 acres in question.

Sources said this was due to a technical problem, namely that the site's borders did not match the description contained in legal documents establishing the chain of title. To eliminate any uncertainty, the Grand Bahama Hotel Company and Ginn moved to 'quiet' the title to that land via a Quieting Titles Act petition.

Part of this process involves Ginn/Grand Bahama Hotel Company publishing notice of its Quieting Titles Act petition, so that any rival ownership claimants can stake their claim and have it heard by the court. This, Tribune Business was told, was what prompted the Bootle claim.

A Bootle is understood to have been the original Crown Land grantee in West End in the 18th century, but the land involved is understood to have gone through hundreds of conveyances since, while the Sammons estate enjoyed 40 years of uninterrupted possession.

In its judgment, the Court of Appeal recorded how Mr Bootle was appealing a May 18, 2006, order by retired Justice Jeanne Thompson, in

which she ordered that Ginn-LA West End be issued with a Certificate of Title to the property. She also dismissed Mr Bootle's adverse possession claim.

In her ruling, Justice Thompson had found that Mr Bootle's evidence of adverse possession "falls woefully short of the necessary proof" to trump Ginn/Grand Bahama Hotel Company's documentary title.

The Grand Bahama Hotel Company had initiated the Quieting Titles petition and, via agreements on November 17, 2004, and on March 23, 2005, sold its interest in the 179 acres to Ginn-LA West End, Ginn's holding company for the Ginn sur mer project. Given that Grand Bahama Hotel Company had sold its interest, the Certificate of Title was issued in Ginn's name.

While Mr Bootle's initial appeal against the verdict was struck out for failing to 'settle the record' in the time set by the Court of Appeal, the latter recorded: "Some time after this (it is not certain when) the appellant learnt that the original petitioner in the quieting action, Grand Bahama Hotel Company, which was registered as a foreign company in the Bahamas in 1963, but at all material times was a company incorporated in Delaware in the United States, was voluntarily dissolved on April 28, 2006."

This meant that at the time Ginn was granted a Certificate

of Title on May 18, 2006, the entity that had initiated the Quieting Titles Act petition was not in existence.

This, the Court of Appeal said, prompted Mr Bootle to seek to overturn the order striking out his original appeal, and to challenge the Certificate of Title issued to Ginn.

Apart from alleging that Grand Bahama Hotel Company could not apply to strike out his appeal because it was a non-existent entity, Mr Bootle alleged that Ginn was not a party to the action. He also alleged that Grand Bahama Hotel Company's attorneys did not disclose that the company no longer existed when Ginn was issued its Certificate of Title.

"The hub of the appellant's argument, therefore, is his contention that Grand Bahama Hotel Company could not have been a petitioner capable of maintaining an action in the Supreme Court at the time of the grant of the Certificate of Title, and nor could it have been a party to this appeal since it was a non-existent entity from the date it was dissolved and struck off the Delaware register, even though that fact was not notified to the Registrar General of the Bahamas," the Court of Appeal said.

"In this respect, [Mr Bootle] has made a serious allegation of fraud against counsel for Ginn, who were also counsel for the [Grand Bahama Hotel

Company], alleging that they knew, or must have known, of the fact but did not disclose it to the court."

Yet the Court of Appeal's verdict was that Mr Bootle's appeal was "without merit" regardless of whether it was reinstated. The court found there was "nothing" that would prompt it to interfere with Justice Thompson's findings of fact.

In addition, the Court of Appeal said the sales agreement that enabled Ginn to acquire the property was a Vendor Purchaser summons. "That meant as a matter of law, that from the time the agreement was entered into Ginn acquired an equitable interest in the properties and became, in the eyes of equity, the beneficial owner of the property the subject of the Quieting, which interest pre-dates the dissolution of the company," the court found.

As a result, even though the Grand Bahama Hotel Company had ceased to exist on the date Ginn obtained its Certificate of Title, the court still had to consider Ginn's ownership interest.

"Ginn's equitable interest was indefensible in the circumstances, as there was no one who could make a better claim to the property," the Court of Appeal found. It also ruled that Mr Bootle's complaint about Ginn not being substituted as the petitioner was "clearly without merit".



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

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*Wishing you all
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Our office will be closed on the following days during this Holiday Season

Dec.16, 2009 - Closed at 12:00 pm
Dec.24, 2009 - All day
Dec. 31, 2009 - Half Day

We apologize for any inconvenience.

NOTICE



PROPOSALS FOR GROUP LIFE & MEDICAL INSURANCE

The National Insurance Board invites proposals from eligible insurance companies and/or brokers for the coverage of its Life and Medical Insurance Plan for the active and retired employees of the National Insurance Board. This group will also include the active and retired employees of the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation.

The new policy will be for a two year period commencing on **February 1, 2010, through January 31, 2012**, following the selection of the successful tender.

Parties interested in submitting a proposal may collect an information package from the Human Resources Department located at the National Insurance Board Headquarters, Clifford Darling Complex, Baillou Hill Road.

All proposals should be sealed, marked "**Proposals for Life and Medical Insurance**," and must be delivered no later than 4:30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 30, 2009, to:

The Director
THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BOARD
Clifford Darling Complex
Baillou Hill Road
P.O. Box N7508
Nassau, Bahamas

RoyalFidelity Market Wrap

FROM page three

dividend of \$0.03 per share, payable on December 22, 2009, to all ordinary shareholders of record date December 15, 2009.

Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) (FBB) has declared an extraordinary dividend of \$0.04 per share, payable on December 30, 2009, to all ordinary shareholders of record date December 22, 2009.

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

FOREX Rates	Weekly	% Change
CAD	0.9379	-0.55
GBP	1.6152	-0.62
EUR	1.4343	-1.91

COMMODITIES

Commodity	Weekly	% Change
Crude Oil	74.45	6.43
Gold	1,113.40	-0.18

INTERNATIONAL STOCK MARKET INDEXES

Index	Weekly	% Change
DJIA	10,328.89	-1.36
S & P 500	1,102.69	0.98
NASDAQ	2,211.69	-0.36
Nikkei	10,142.05	0.34

INSIGHT

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



2010 NEW YEAR'S PIRATE RAID

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BUSINESS

Major expansion planned for Shell retail footprint

FROM page one

where another gas station is planned, Mr Wilson added: "We are also designated by the Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD) as the flagship station at Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA), so these are all interests we have in mind.

"Certainly, the NAD one is likely to start in the first half of the year. We seek to be disciplined in terms of the pace at which we proceed, but certainly with the NAD one we have certain obligations to them to be in place when the airport reaches a certain stage.

We will honour those obligations."

Mr Wilson was unable to provide figures on the level of investment FOCOL planned to make in expanding its Shell retail network, or the number of jobs that might be created, although he confirmed that all three stations – if constructed – would be leased to operators, rather than owned/operated by the company.

"We will act in a manner that lets the Bahamian public know Shell is one of the best, if not the best, names in the world when it comes to petroleum products," Mr Wilson said. "That has to be reflect-

ed. Quality and Shell go together all over the world. Part of our agenda is to make that abundantly clear to the Bahamian public."

While Shell currently had some 13-14 gas stations in New Providence, Mr Wilson acknowledged: "We have some holes left. We're aware of them, and will address them shortly." He declined to provide details on the "holes", citing competitive concerns.

FOCOL Holdings reduced its long-term debt from \$14.1 million to \$7.2 million in the fiscal year to July 31, 2009, almost halving it. Mr Wilson said the company's Board and management "think we stand

a chance" of eliminating the balance in fiscal 2010, as part of a balance sheet strengthening exercise.

"We want to strengthen our balance sheet and keep it very strong," he added. "We may go back to what we saw with oil prices in 2008, so we have to be in a position if that happens to respond." FOCOL also needed to be able to finance its planned gas station expansion, Mr Wilson said.

FOCOL's net income available to common shareholders increased by 8.4 per cent, rising from \$11.616 million the year before to \$12.59 million in fiscal 2009. This was despite the company's sales and rev-

enues falling from \$378.861 million the year before to \$272.871 million in 2009.

However, Mr Wilson pointed out: "Sales and revenues mean very little in that business." This was because the Government price controlled the retail and wholesale mark-ups on the per gallon price, meaning that any increase in

FOCOL's margins was derived from either cost containment or an increased sales volume.

"We continue to act in a manner to sustain the confidence of the stock market," Mr Wilson said. "FOCOL benefits tremendously from the wise leadership and judgment of Sir Albert Miller."

Developers in dispute over 2,000 soil loads

FROM page one

to resolve the matter.

"It was admitted in the affidavit of Mr Stanley Bethell that the surveyor employed by Destini Lakes – a company which had contracted the services of Mr Bethell's company to construct a road – had wrongly identified the subject property bordering Destini's property as that on which the road was to be constructed, hence the deposit of the soil there," the judgment noted.

This prompted Arawak Homes to apply to the Supreme Court for an injunction prohibiting Bethell's Trucking & Heavy Equipment Service and Mr Gibson from removing any more soil and fill from the property.

The injunction was granted at a hearing where only Arawak Homes and its attorneys were present, but when all parties were present Justice Neville Adderley lifted the injunction on the grounds "that there had not been full and frank disclosure as to the identity of the owner of the property".

In removing the injunction, Justice Adderley ordered that Bethell's Trucking & Heavy Equipment Service be allowed "to continue their trespass on the property to remove the materials they had wrongly deposited there but not to commit 'waste'". Arawak Homes also had to supervise the fill's removal.

The Court of Appeal found

that Bethell's Trucking & Heavy Equipment Service and Mr Gibson could not complain about Arawak Homes' standing in the matter, since they had admitted trespassing.

In reinstating the injunction, the Court of Appeal found: "It seems that in this case, in light of the admission by Mr Stanley Bethell, there could

be little or no doubt that the respondents were trespassers on the property, and that the danger which [Arawak Homes] was seeking to enjoin may not have been reparable by the payment of any damages, and so there was no 'contested' material of fact of which disclosure had not been made to the court at the ex-parte stage."

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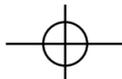


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BUSINESS

AML Foods in preference rescheduling negotiations

FROM page one redemption of their principal is set for March 2010. Some \$1.3-\$1.4 million had been set

aside to meet those payments as at end-October, but Mr Watchorn told Tribune Business: "I can tell you that we've been talking to them [the preference shareholders] to do something."

"We've got this cash we could use in financing our new store, and the preference shareholders will be looking to keep an income stream going." He did not elaborate on the finer details of any preference share rescheduling or restructuring.

However, Mr Watchorn told this newspaper that AML Foods' cash position had improved by some \$3.5 million during the first nine months of its financial year to October 31, 2009.

And while the company's third quarter sales had fallen by 3 per cent or \$695,000 year-over-year, Mr Watchorn said that for the first nine months, AML Foods' top-line growth was showing a 6 per cent or \$4.415 million improvement over 2008 numbers.

Describing the sales decline in the three months to October 31, 2009, as a "blip" largely induced by the recession's impact on the wider economy and Bahamian disposable incomes, Mr Watchorn said AML Foods was optimistic it would generate "a couple of million dollars" from new revenue streams set to come on line in 2010.

The group's Domino's Pizza franchise was eyeing two new store locations, with its online ordering facility set to launch in January 2010, with the first orders for Cost Right's Internet shopping facility also now being placed.

"The sales decline was not unexpected," Mr Watchorn said of the third quarter, "but we've got new revenue streams coming online, and a

few more coming in the first and second quarters next year.... We feel confident that we will add a couple of million dollars from new revenue streams that will be launched in 2010."

The AML Foods president said Domino's Pizza "hasn't really seen any impact" from the increased competition caused by Marco's Pizza's entrance into the Bahamian market, adding that the franchise was looking at adding one potential store in Nassau and another "outside New Providence".

"We have two new stores that we've been looking at for a little while. Hopefully we will have one new store next year," Mr Watchorn told Tribune Business. "We're pretty close to taking a decision to move ahead on one, which has a 90 per cent chance of happening. Hopefully, we'll do something towards the end of the 2010 first quarter."

"We're doing work on the second store, doing our due diligence, and its 50-50 as to whether we go ahead with that." He also disclosed that Domino's Pizza was planning to open another store in the new Town Centre being constructed by New Providence Development Company for the western part of the island, although that would not happen until the middle or end of 2011.

Domino's Pizza's online ordering service was due to launch in mid-January 2010, Mr Watchorn confirmed, and "the first orders on CostRight.com are coming in. We haven't launched it to the public, but we have 20-25 individuals testing it for us for launch in 2010". Cost Right's Freeport outlet had also begun bonded goods sales, where Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) licensees were able to purchase large appliances,

office supplies and TVs duty-free for use in their own businesses.

Mr Watchorn told Tribune Business that AML Foods' improving cash flow/liquidity position had enabled it to "accelerate over time" the monthly debt repayments to Royal Bank of Canada, the group completing the repayment of all bank debt by mid-October, ahead of the scheduled early January close.

The \$70,000 per month this had released had enabled AML Foods to "turn around our current cash position", both on the balance sheet and with debt repayment. "We have improved cash by \$1.6 million on the balance sheet, as well as re-paying \$1.8 million in bank debt. The total is about \$3.5 million in positive movement for the first 10 months of 2009 on cash flow," Mr Watchorn told Tribune Business.

"We're pleased we've been able to take increased profitability and use it almost exclusively to improve the cash position of the company, which was the last step to take [to complete the turnaround] - to get into a strong cash position."

AML Foods more than offset the negative sales impact through enhanced cost containment and savings measures, which were seen in the fact that its net income for the three months to October 31, 2009, rose by 190 per cent from \$229,000 the year before to \$665,000 this time around.

For the first nine months, the BISX-listed retail group's net income was up 510 per cent, standing at \$2,887 million compared to \$473,000 for the same period in 2008. Expenses dropped by 0.25 per cent as a percentage of sales, while interest costs fell by \$245,000 or 0.5 per cent

due to the debt repayment.

The increased profits make it likely AML Foods will finally pay a dividend to shareholders in 2010, the first for some six to seven years, rewarding them for their patience as the company underwent a painstaking turnaround programme.

"We have always said we will make that final decision based on the fourth quarter numbers," Mr Watchorn said of the dividend. "The plan is to resume the dividend, and we all want that."

"I'm not going to say how much or when, but we're still on track to do something in 2010. The level and timing will depend on the fourth quarter numbers. My Board are very anxious to give something back to the shareholders."

Mr Watchorn said AML Foods expected to be consistently profitable on a quarterly basis, adding: "Our November numbers are positive again; we've made some money again."

"We're pleased with the bottom line. It's not where we were in the first two quarters, but the third quarter has traditionally been a weaker one for us, and the little blip in sales was not unexpected given what we see in the economy."

Margins "dropped a point" in the third quarter compared to the first half, something that Mr Watchorn said reflected a drop in average spending per customer transaction. Customer counts, he added, were still "on average a couple of percentage points above last year."

Pledging that AML Foods would not cut any staff to save on payroll levels in 2010, Mr Watchorn said the entrance of new players into the food retailing market, such as Robin Hood, meant "everyone is fighting harder for a shrinking pie".

Legal Notice
NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

- (a) COLUMBUS STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS FUND LIMITED is in dissolution under the provisions of the International Business Companies Act 2000.
- (b) The Dissolution of said Company commenced on December 18, 2009 when its Articles of Dissolution were submitted and registered by the Registrar General.
- (c) The Liquidator of the said company is Zakrit Services Ltd. of 2nd Terrace West, Centreville, Nassau, Bahamas.
- (d) All persons having Claims against the above-named Company are required on or before the 1st day of February, 2010 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the Liquidator of the company or, in default thereof, they may be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

DECEMBER 21, 2009

ZAKRIT SERVICES LTD.

LIQUIDATOR OF THE ABOVE-NAMED COMPANY

NOTICE

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

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

The IDB apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

\$100m project's 45-60 day goal on second phase

FROM page one

for the first home owners in May/June. The 26 units in the first phase are sold out. We don't build on spec."

As for Balmoral's second phase, Mr Kinsale said: "We plan, I would say, to start construction within the next 45 to 60 days, and are just getting prepared for that, taking in additional pre-sales to start the building."

"That will consist of approximately 20 units, two

and four-bedroom town homes, and we're coming up with a new plan for a three-bedroom as well. It will probably take a couple of months to get pre-sales in place for the next phase, and we're starting to take deposits in escrow."

Mr Kinsale estimated that Balmoral had received six or seven deposits on phase two properties already, and the developers had the ability to start construction before it was sold out.. The 275-unit,

43-acre project, while pitched at and fuelled by Bahamian professional purchasers, was also now starting to gain traction with overseas purchasers, he added.

"We're actually starting to see more interest from foreign buyers. We've had a lot of Canadian buyers come in, and Americans as well," Mr Kinsale said. "I think the fear factor is eroding. People don't seem to be as scared as they once were."

He explained that prospective purchasers, who had made tentative inquiries about Balmoral's real estate options several months ago, were now returning as they became more confident that they were not going to lose their jobs or current salary levels due to the recession.

And Balmoral had also received a further boost from its hosting of special events. "That's really been a saving grace for us - to host a lot of dinners, events and functions," Mr Kinsale said. "In December, at last 2,000 people have come through the

doors for events. It helps to sell real estate and keep us in the public eye. It's been very beneficial."

"With the development's build-out as well, that's helped us. People can see we're for real. Demand is steady and we keep improving the product. Our show home will be done next month, so people can see what we're offering."

Balmoral, when fully constructed, will be "very low density" with some 25 per cent of the 43 acres green space. Although it is currently envisioned as a mix of 70 single family home sites, town homes and condominiums, Mr Kinsale said the developers "may change the mix a little bit" in the final phase.

Acknowledging that 2010 will be "a bumpy road", he added that while the developers would be conservative in their outlook, Balmoral had still been "able to sell in the worst economy in living memory", so its sales and development goals were still realistic.



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CULINARY & HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE, INDUSTRY TRAINING DEPARTMENT

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES - SPRING SEMESTER 2010 - 012010 (Session 1)

COURSE	SEC.	CODE	BEGINS	ENDS	DURATION	DAYS	TIME	TUITION & FEES	RM
Bahamian Cuisine	1	COOK B06	Jan. 14	Feb.25	6 weeks	Thursday	6:00 - 9:00pm	\$375.00	MK
Gourmet Cooking I	1	COOK B23	Jan. 11	Feb. 22	6 weeks	Monday	6:00 - 9:00pm	\$380.00	MK
Cake & Pastry Making I	1	COOK B13	Jan. 12	Mar. 9	8 weeks	Tuesday	6:00 - 9:00pm	\$300.00	PK
Bread Making	1	COOK B10	Jan. 14	Mar. 11	8 weeks	Thursday	6:00 - 9:00pm	\$290.00	LK
Cake Decorating I	1	COOK B17	Jan. 11	Mar.8	8 weeks	Monday	6:00 - 9:00pm	\$325.00	PK

All fees are included in the price quoted above; new students pay a one-time application fee of \$40.00. (NON REFUN)

Application Deadline: December 30, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

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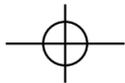
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BUSINESS

In brief
Health Care
bill faces key
Senate test vote

WASHINGTON

SENATE Democrats confidently advanced health care legislation Sunday toward a make-or-break test vote in a push for Christmas-week passage. Republicans vowed to resist what they appeared unable to stop, according to the Associated Press.

In the run-up to the vote, the escalation in rhetoric was remarkable on both sides of an issue that has divided the two political parties for months.

"This process is not legislation. This process is corruption," said Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., referring to the last-minute flurry of dealmaking that enabled Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and the White House to lock in the 60 votes needed to approve the legislation.

Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island responded in near-Biblical terms. In a speech on the Senate floor, he said Republicans are embarked on a "no-holds-barred mission of propaganda, obstruction and fear. ... There will be a reckoning. There will come a day of judgment about who was telling the truth."

Whatever else it was, the legislation represented the culmination of a year's work for Democrats, pressed by President Barack Obama to remake the nation's health care system.

Under Senate rules, Democrats needed 60 votes on three separate occasions to pass the measure. The first and most critical test was set for about 1 a.m. Monday. Democrats said Nebraska Sen. Ben Nelson's announcement Saturday that he would vote for the bill gave them the support they needed.

'Very optimistic' export prospects

FROM page one

area for us".
 "We're in 12 countries, including the Bahamas, and I think we have about 30 client institutions now," Mr Raine said. "We're hoping it's going to grow. This year was very, very flat, and we had very few inquiries at all."

"But just in December we've had three or four, and they're good. It's not people checking up; they're genuinely looking at implementing new systems next year. One inquiry came from Barbados, there was one in Ecuador, another in Vancouver and another in Lebanon. It says people are feeling more comfortable about the world economy."

IPBS and its 11-strong staff initially targeted the private banking and wealth management niche for their software product, but have since adapted it such that it can be implemented by any financial institution in the world. The latest client to acquire its product was Jamaica-based broker, Stocks and Securities Ltd.

Mr Raine described IPBS's software as a "labour saver" and device that increased the efficiency of financial services providers, since it automatically updated the relevant data categories with one button push when a transaction took place.

"There may be some quirks that are unique, depending on the country and the client, but we can offer software in any tax jurisdiction without any trouble. That's very good for us," Mr Raine told Tribune Business, explaining that this had helped broaden the

attraction of IPBS' products beyond the wealth management sector into the full financial services industries.

He added that the Stocks and Securities Ltd deal provided further evidence of just how adaptable IPBS' software solutions were, as it had to be made client-specific to allow the Jamaican firm to process that country's General Consumption Tax (CGT) and withholding taxes imposed on clients' incomes.

"We can now go anywhere really, which can only be good," Mr Raine said. "The Internet is going to be a big growth area for us, and where we will put a lot of development focus."

"That's key to a lot of private wealth management - to give clients direct access to their information, and allow them to place transaction orders electronically. It is going to be big."

Mr Raine described IPBS's 17 years in business as "a long haul, but it's paying off". He told Tribune Business that the company's success to date had exceeded initial expectations, with its name and product having achieved widespread

credibility and acceptance in the global financial services industry.

The knowledge that IPBS had gained, and its understanding of a client's business and their needs, had been key factors in their breaking into the market, Mr Raine added.

He again urged other Bahamian service providers and entrepreneurs, especially those in industries that were knowledge and technology-based, to target niche markets where they could develop a high margin, value-added export capability.

"We're a totally Bahamian company, and I really think there's a lot more room," Mr Raine told Tribune Business. "I don't want to see competitors, but there are so many industries. Bahamians should have been in the hotel software business."

"There are a lot of avenues that other people can develop here and export. All the Caribbean countries work the same way. They need to think about what they can do in the Information Technology field."

"Bahamians are up to it, no question. We've got some smart jacks here. We've tar-

geted banking, mainly because it's a high-priced item. We could spend time developing lesser-type applications, but we want to go for something that, when we sell or licence it, it brings in good revenue. We want to play for a higher level

market in what we do, particularly in terms of exporting product."

Mr Raine also urged Bahamian companies to target market niches where they did not face a challenge from major US and Canadian firms.

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ASSOCIATED BAHAMIAN DISTILLERS AND BREWERS LIMITED (ABDAB)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To all Ordinary Shareholders of ABDAB.

Please be advised that the Shareholders meeting of the above company, which was scheduled for Wednesday the 16th December 2009 has been postponed.

The meeting will now be held on Monday the 4th of January, 2010 at the offices of Burns House, 16 John F. Kennedy Street, Nassau, Bahamas.

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

Barry Newman
 Company Secretary
 24th November 2009

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **MOHAMED AYUBE NEZAMUDEEN of 106A HILLVIEW CL, WESTRIDGE, P.O. BOX CB-11226, NASSAU, BAHAMAS**, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **12th day of December, 2009** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE

Thursday, December 24-Christmas Eve - Closed For All Departments
 Payment Counters, Thompson Blvd and Mall -at- Marathon will be open
 8:30am - 1pm

Friday, December 25-Christmas Day - Closed

Monday, December 28 - Closed

Thursday, December 31, New Year's Eve-2pm

Friday, January 1, 2010, New Years Day-Closed

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VOPAK TERMINAL BAHAMAS
IT SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN

A vacancy exists within the IT Department for an IT Systems Technician.

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Monitor and support infrastructure across the organization's LANs, WANs, and wireless deployments.
- Ensure the stable operation and efficient performance of company networks and applications, including terminal automation systems.
- Provide technical support to organization's applications and hardware from end-users and other members of IT organization via helpdesk system.
- Identify and remedy network performance bottlenecks.
- Configure and troubleshoot servers, including e-mail, print and backup servers and their associated operating systems and software.
- Install and configure all network and client hardware and equipment, including routers, switches, hubs, UPSs, local PCs and so on.

Education:

- College diploma or University degree in the field of computer science and/or 5 years equivalent work experience.
- Certifications in Networking or MCSE preferred.

Experience:

- Extensive hands-on technical knowledge of network systems, protocols, and standards such as Ethernet, LAN, WAN, xDSL, TCP/IP, T1, 802.11x, and so on.
- Extensive client/server and operating system experience with Microsoft Operating systems and Lotus Notes.
- Hardware, software, and network connection troubleshooting experience.
- Skilled at installing/configuring hubs, switches, routers, bridges, etc.
- Knowledge of McAfee anti-virus software, Juniper firewalls and other network security measures.
- Good understanding of the organization's goals and objectives.
- Knowledge of applicable data privacy practices and laws.
- Strong written and oral communication skills.
- Able to conduct research into networking issues and products as required.
- Highly self motivated and directed.
- Keen attention to detail.
- Ability to prioritize and execute tasks in a high-pressure environment.
- Strong customer service orientation.
- Experience working in a team-oriented, collaborative environment.

Applications should be submitted to the
 Human Resources Manager
 Bahamas Oil Refining Company International Limited
 Dbs Vopak Terminal Bahamas
 P. O. Box F-42435
 Freeport, Grand Bahama, Bahamas
 On or before December 30, 2009