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INSIDE



MEET THE TRIBUNE'S LATEST **UNSUNGHERO** SEE PAGE FIVE

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GET CAUGHT & WIN

Crawfish industry facing new threat

FNM accuses PLP of 'nasty' campaign

THE Free National Movement has accused the Opposition of running a "nasty" by-election campaign filled with "lies" and "name-calling".
The statement is the latest in a war of words between the parties after critics of FNM candidate Dr Duane Sands lambasted him for what they claim was a disparaging quote about the voters in Elizabeth.
Last week, a *Tribune* report told how Dr Sands had met a number a small number of voters who had asked for money and goods in return for their support.
In paraphrasing Dr Sands' statement, the word "greedy" was used, and this newspaper has clarified that it was not a direct quote.
However, the Opposition has demanded an apology from
SEE page 11

Standards could force the Bahamas to lose core export markets

By **NOELLE NICOLLS**
Tribune Staff Reporter
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

TRIBUNE EXCLUSIVE

NEW standards for international certification in the crawfish industry are placing the Bahamas at risk of losing huge sectors of its export market.

Leading seafood retailers in the United States and Europe, the core export markets for the Bahamas' \$80 million crawfish industry, have signed up to the certification programme of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). The MSC is the international leader in certification and eco-labelling for sustainable seafood.

The Bahamas is the fifth largest producer of crawfish tails in the world. In 2008, it exported 4.5 million pounds. The fishing industry is the third largest income producer in the Bahamas behind tourism and the financial sector.

At its core, the MSC certification programme is about ensuring the sustainability of wild fish populations globally. It encourages governments, private sector companies, consumers and all stakeholders to embrace sustainable practices, such as documenting fish populations, implementing management plans, enforcing catch size limits, and respecting season bans. The Bahamas has yet to comply.

Certification is granted to the fishing industry as a whole, not individual stakeholders. In order to qualify for certification, all stakeholders have to be mobilised, including fishermen, processors, exporters, retailers, consumers, and marine resource regulators. It is not a mandatory certification, but the global industry is trending towards and embracing it.

"Bahamian products are sold to a global audience, so it is extremely important that high standards are maintained. We are going to need to comply with MSC standards which are the future of the lobster industry," said Jon Chaiton, director of Quality Assurance, Tropic Seafood Ltd, one of the largest crawfish exporters.

"They will either give us MSC certification or not. If they
SEE page 11

VESSEL CARRYING CARGO TO HAITI RUNS AGROUND

Felipe Major/Tribune staff



THE HAITIAN MOTOR VESSEL, *Mon Desir Express*, carrying cargo to the earthquake-stricken island nation, ran aground across from the Montagu foreshore on Saturday. The *Mon Desir Express* had been docked at Potter's Cay while her captain appealed for help to raise funds for fuel desperately needed to transport supplies to Haiti. The vessel was in the Bahamas taking on freight and cargo throughout the month, and was ready to sail, but the fuel shortage problem along with mechanical difficulties delayed the departure. The cargo included useful earthquake relief items such as mattresses, five gallon plastic buckets and large containers.

Bahamas and Haiti talks could bring forward date for residential status

By **NOELLE NICOLLS**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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DISCUSSIONS between the government of Haiti and the Bahamas could make it easier to regularise the status of Haitians in the Bahamas.

At the moment, a 1995 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which was established by the two governments, gives consideration to Haitians living in the Bahamas prior to 1985 in achieving permanent residential status.

But that date could be moved forward if talks on strengthening ties between the two
SEE page 11

Lawyer in 'critical' condition after 'falling from house'

POLICE in New Providence report that Grand Bahama lawyer Destini Thompson-Pinder is in "critical" condition in Doctor's Hospital after reportedly falling from a three-storey house over the weekend.

Mrs Thompson-Pinder, daughter of FNM Senator David Thompson, reportedly underwent surgery after being airlifted to Nassau last Friday. She reportedly sustained an injury to her head and sprained an ankle after the fall.

Yesterday, press liaison officer Sergeant Chrislyn Skippings said the circumstances surrounding the lawyer's fall are still under investigation by police on Grand Bahama. "Inquiries are still being conducted into
SEE page 11

Elizabeth voters 'may back PLP' as message to govt

By **TANEKA THOMPSON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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VOTERS in the Elizabeth constituency may throw their support behind the Opposition's by-election candidate as a message that they are unhappy with the Government, a major political observer believes.

However, even if the Opposition is successful in securing a by-election win, this may not transcend into a General Election victory, the observer noted.

"Some people, just to send a message to
SEE page 11



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LOCAL NEWS



Rodney McKenzie-Bethel Welbourne Bootle Tyrone Bethel Philip Wilson-Dames



Cleophas Cooper Dennis Dames Glennis Demeritte-Butler Lucas Armbrister



Derek Butler Wendal Smith Wendal Clarke Livingston Bevans

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IN accordance with Article 119 (2) of the Constitution, and acting in accordance with the recommendation of the Prime Minister after consultation with the Police Service Commission, the Governor General has approved the following promotions with effect from January 18:

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Rodney McKenzie-Bethel and Welbourne Bootle.

CHIEF INSPECTOR/INSPECTOR TO ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

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Caribbean Bottling Company and The Coca-Cola Company Assist Humanitarian Efforts in Haiti



As a result of the earthquake, which occurred January 12 in Haiti, Caribbean Bottling Company joined the hundreds of Coca-Cola System associates and bottlers worldwide that have been mobilized to help those affected. Walter Wells, President of CBC, The Bottling Company of Coca-Cola in The Bahamas, said that the company shares the pain of the families whose loved ones lives were lost and for those who were injured, trapped or left homeless.

"I would like to update you on some of the efforts Caribbean Bottling Company has made in helping the people of Haiti amid their difficult recovery from the devastating earthquake. As we sympathize with the plight of the Haitian people, we also share an urgent concern and responsibility to help". As part of CBC's humanitarian response to some of the most urgent needs of the people in Haiti, we have provided the following assistance:

Two 40 feet containers with 3100 cases of 20oz. Dasani water have been donated to help alleviate the serious lack of potable water, which is vital for the hydration of those who have survived this terrible incident.

Given the state of emergency that has struck Haiti, CBC has allocated funds for employees to assist their family members in Haiti, as well as provided airfares for those who needed to fly to Haiti to assist relatives after this disaster. Also, we have coordinated additional product donations in Nassau to various local fund-raisers for Haiti.

We are also contributing to a program, together with The Coca Cola Company and other bottlers around the Caribbean, to rebuild homes for those families employed with our Bottler in Haiti, who has lost their homes.

Our support will be sustained as the situation in Haiti evolves over the coming weeks and months, as it will take them several years to recover from this catastrophe and the suffering which has been inflicted.

Walter Wells, President & CEO
Caribbean Bottling Company
Nassau, Bahamas.

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LOCAL NEWS

Shootings and stabbings leave four in hospital

FOUR men are in hospital today after becoming the victims of knife and gun crimes over the weekend.

The first shooting occurred at around 8.25pm on Saturday when police received information of gunshots being fired in the area of Market Street and Whyly's Close.

It is believed that a group of men were standing on a corner when a grey Suzuki SUV with several passengers pulled up alongside them.

One of the vehicle's occupants fired several shots at the men, resulting in one of them being shot in both of his thighs. The victim was taken to hospital where he is presently being treated.

Then, on Sunday at around 8am yesterday, police received information of a shooting on Soldier Road and Summer Street.

According to reports, a man who was walking in the area observed two other men involved in an argument and later heard what appeared to be gunshots.

The man who was walking was shot to the right chest. He was taken to hospital by emergency medical personnel where he is listed in serious but stable condition.

Sometime around 8.30pm on Saturday a man was stabbed on Coco Plum Road off East Street.

The victim told police he

was walking through Coco Plum Road when he got into an altercation with a group of men which resulted in him being stabbed multiple times about the body.

The second stabbing of the weekend occurred on Saturday at 1.35am on East and Hay streets.

Police were told that a

man and a woman got into an altercation which resulted in the man being stabbed to the left side of his neck. He was taken to hospital where he is listed in stable condition.

Police have taken a woman into custody who is assisting with the investigation.

Cabinet minister death threats still under investigation

POLICE are still investigating death threats sent to a Cabinet minister.

A probe was launched last Monday after Charles Maynard, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, received an anonymous letter at his office on Thompson Boulevard threatening an attack on him and his wife.

The letter, signed by "The Brothers", detailed how a gun would be placed to Mr Maynard's head.

"The investigation is continuing, though there's no significant breakthrough to report," said Assistant Commissioner of Police Hulan Hanna.

Mr Hanna would not elaborate when asked whether the Royal Bahamas Police Force had added a security detail to Mr Maynard and his family since the threat.

"We are not prepared to discuss his personal safety," said Mr Hanna.

Last week, Commissioner of Police Ellison



CHARLES MAYNARD

Greenslade said his best team of officers had been placed on the case.

He added that he was "satisfied" that the RBPF had taken steps to ensure that Mr Maynard's safety was a top priority.

Mr Maynard has not commented publicly on the threats.

THE LIGHTS GO DOWN ON GLADSTONE ROAD

DAMAGE to these traffic lights on the corner of Gladstone Road and John F Kennedy Drive caused a slowing down of vehicles in the area at the weekend. The lights were reportedly hit by a vehicle.



Felipe Major/Tribune staff

Well-known Eleuthera resident dies in traffic accident

THE Eleuthera community is mourning the death of a well-known German resident of Governor's Harbour who was killed in a traffic accident on his way to church.

Dieter Haschker, 77, of Eleuthera, was one of two traffic fatalities recorded yesterday.

In New Providence, a 37-year-old man who lived at Quintine Alley died of injuries he sustained in a two-car collision on Thompson Boulevard and Portago Road at 1am yesterday.

The victim, who has not yet been named, was driving a blue 2006 Ford EchoStar, licence plate number 169290, travelling north on Thompson Boulevard.

At the same time, a white 2009 Toyota Camry, licence plate number SD2889, driven by a 28-year-old man of Oakes Field was coming from the east.

The two cars collided, resulting in damage to both vehicles. Both men had to be taken to hospital.

Shortly after arriving at the hospital, the 37-year-old died of his injuries.

A few hours later in Eleuthera, at around 10.45am, Mr Haschker died after crashing into a wall on Queen's Highway in central Eleuthera.

According to police, Mr Haschker, driving a white 1997 Suzuki truck with the licence plate number T77, was travelling south on the highway when he lost control of his vehicle, crashing into a wall. He was badly injured in the accident and died at the scene.

Eleutherans told *The Tribune* that Mr Haschker was a well-known and well-liked resident of in Governor's Harbour for many years.

He was married to a local woman and attended most churches on the island.

On the morning of his death he was on the way to a Sunday church service.

Members of the community said they were shocked and saddened by his sudden death.

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EDGE OF DARKNESS	NEW	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:45
WHEN IN ROME	NEW	1:30	N/A	4:30	7:30	N/A	10:00
LEGION	C	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:50
THE TOOTH FAIRY	A	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:35
BOOK OF ELI	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:45
THE SPY NEXT DOOR	B	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:50
LOVELY BONES	T	1:35	N/A	4:35	7:35	N/A	10:00
PRECIOUS	C	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:55
DAYBREAKERS	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:30	10:55
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	B	1:20	3:45	N/A	6:20	N/A	N/A
AVATAR	T	1:00	N/A	4:30	N/A	8:40	N/A

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Movie	Rating	1:05	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:45
EDGE OF DARKNESS	NEW	1:05	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:45
LEGION	C	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:35	10:50
THE TOOTH FAIRY	A	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:35
BOOK OF ELI	C	1:00	3:20	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:45
THE SPY NEXT DOOR	B	1:15	3:45	N/A	6:15	N/A	N/A
DAYBREAKERS	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:30	10:40
AVATAR	T	1:00	N/A	4:10	7:15	N/A	10:20

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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Tribune Limited

NULLIUS ADDICTUS JURARE IN VERBA MAGISTRI
Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master

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‘Utter Bar’ being boosted by appointments

EFFORTS are being made not only to improve the physical facilities of our courts, but to rebuild the judicial tradition of Inner and Outer (Utter Bar), which had almost totally collapsed under the two PLP administrations.

When Prime Minister Ingraham first took office in 1992 Kendal Isaacs was the only practising Queen’s Counsellor at the Inner Bar. By then Ernest Callender, who had been appointed Queen’s Counsellor in November 1970, had retired from practice.

The late Eugene Dupuch, QC, for whom the Eugene Dupuch Law School has been named, often deplored the neglect of the age-old and respected traditions of the courts.

It was known that now Governor-General Arthur Hanna, and then Attorney General Paul Adderley were against the English honours system, but no effort seemed to have been made — as had been in other Commonwealth countries where the Queen was no longer head of state — to establish an equivalent title in the courts unconnected with the British system. Many other jurisdictions substituted the term

“State Counsel” for the British terms — King or Queen’s Counsel. It is understood that Paul Adderley, who held the position of Attorney General during most of the Pindling administration, was so strongly against the use of British titles that he refused “silk” for himself — in other words becoming a Queen’s Counsel — under both the Pindling and Ingraham administrations. Meanwhile, Mr Adderley, while attorney general, had put the dead hand on the ambitions of all other Bahamian attorneys deserving of the distinction.

It had been customary — before the PLP — for lawyers, who had excelled in the practise of their profession, to be chosen for elevation in recognition of their leadership qualities and their intellectual skills. It is from this experienced group that the Bench would normally draw its judges. But in those days when a judge looked down from the Bench, he only saw members of the Inner Bar practising before him. The Utter Bar — or Outer Bar — was no more.

When Prime Minister Ingraham took office, Sir Orville Turnquest was the first attorney to “take silk.”

This honour had been denied him for so many years, and so annoyed Mr Dupuch, that in July 1978, Mr Dupuch took the extraordinary step of presenting his junior — then Senator Orville Turnquest — with a Red Bag. In making the presentation, Mr Dupuch said that it was an ancient tradition of the Inns of Court of England that members of the Outer Bar were entitled to carry a Blue Bag to court while members of the Inner Bar (Queen’s Counsel) carried a Red Bag. He said it was a little known custom of the English Bar, because of its rarity, that a Queen’s Counsel could present a junior with a Red Bag in

appreciation of his services in a particular case and in recognition of his talents as an advocate. The case that Mr Dupuch used to show his appreciation for Mr Turnquest’s legal ability, and his annoyance with the Bahamas government for denying worthy attorneys their deserved recognition, was the petition of National Oil Corporation of Libya for the winding-up of the Grand Bahama Petroleum Company Limited (Petco) on the grounds that Petco had refused to pay an alleged debt of \$136,000,000. Mr Dupuch, QC, and Mr Turnquest represented Petco. During that case, said Mr Dupuch, Mr Turnquest had carried a burden “above and beyond the call of duty.”

Mr Dupuch said that only circumstances such as these warranted the award of a Red Bag and added that “Red Bag juniors” are more rare in England than Queen’s Counsel and Mr Turnquest would be the first lawyer in the Bahamas in living memory to be so honoured.

And then came the sting in the tail. Mr Dupuch hoped that Mr Turnquest would soon carry a Red Bag in his own right as a Queen’s Counsel. However, on that particular day Mr Dupuch made the presentation in appreciation of the yeoman services given by his junior partner in the Petco case and in recognition of his extraordinary talents in the field of advocacy. Mr Turnquest (now Sir Orville Turnquest, former governor-general) had to wait another 14 years for this recognition with the advent of the Ingraham government. Mr Dupuch did not live long enough to see the day. He died in September, 1981.

No QCs were appointed during the Christie administration, but under Mr Ingraham’s two terms, the Inner Bar has been greatly strengthened with the appointments of Henry Bostwick, Thomas Evans, Harvey Tynes, and most recently Colin Callender, Emerick Knowles, Brian Simms, Brian Moree, Sean McWeeney, Fred Smith and Philip Dunkley. John Delaney, QC, is Attorney General and Sir Michael Barnett, Chief Justice.

The Appeals Court is now in need of some remedial care with the retirement last week of Mr Hartman Longley, vice president, who opted to step down at age 55 instead of continuing to 65. He has been transferred to Freeport to be a Supreme Court judge there.

The Court of Appeal is now one justice short, and soon will be two. In November Dame Joan Sawyer, who was earlier granted her two-year extension on reaching 68, will retire at the age of 70. Moving up as vice president of the Court of Appeal to replace Mr Longley is Mr Justice Christopher Blackman of Barbados. Mr Stanley John of Trinidad is also an appeals judge, and the post of Mr Justice Emmanuel Osadebay, who retired last year on reaching the statutory age of 65, is being temporarily replaced by Mr George Newman of the UK.

Detainees’ release was the right thing to do

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Thirteen days ago Haiti suffered a devastating earthquake which resulted in tens, maybe even hundreds of thousands of deaths. This undoubtedly was one of the most devastating tragedies this region has ever seen. That country suffered substantial damage and the human toll on the people, no doubt is immeasurable. Every day since the tragedy one can see the continued suffering and desperation in the faces of the people there.

Shortly, after the devastation, the Government of the Bahamas through the Rt Hon Prime Minister Hubert A Ingraham indicated that as a result of the earthquake and devastation in Haiti, that it would release the 102 Haitians being held at the Detention Centre and give them temporary status. The controversy which resulted from the decision was a startling surprise to me and others.

This move by the Government was not unprecedented. The United States and Canada did something similar and so has Dominica and others. We often pride ourselves on being a “Christian Nation” and obviously ought to display Christian Virtues. It seems, however, that for some people the Christian Virtue is only to be displayed on Sundays and for the rest of the week we become Machiavellis.

This duplicitous and hypocritical attitude is prevalent throughout our society. In every endeavour from the Church, politics and the rest, we have a society so steeped in hypocrisy that it is mind boggling. What is ever more surprising is that we throw our hands up in the air when young people don’t listen and go on a rampage, pillaging and pummeling our society.

That brings me back to the central point of my letter. There are people who have vehemently objected to the Government releasing the 102 persons, at the

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

Detention Centre. Some of the reasons being they were not consulted, that it was a unilateral decision, ad hoc, with no sound reasoning behind it.

Well firstly, if the Government consulted everyone on every decision nothing would ever get done in this country.

This is what happened from 2002 to 2007 and these people still have not grasped that yet.

Secondly, these same people have not grasped the fact that the Bahamian people voted them out of office and therefore they are not entitled to dictate government policy.

Thirdly, unlike some people the current Prime Minister is a man of action, he takes the necessary action and the consequences lie where they lie. Unlike other folk he does not stick his head in the sand and hope that the situation will resolve itself or just go away.

Having considered the detainees’ release, I had to admit that for sound humanitarian reasons it was the right thing to do.

However, it was also a sound economic thing to do.

No one knows how long it will take for Haiti to recover.

As it is Haiti is in no position to receive their citizens (migrants) at this time.

No one can say when they will be.

The Government, and therefore the people of the Bahamas would have to take care, house, feed and supervise the immigrants until such time as they could have been deported. Even the weak minded could see and appreciate that.

Would it not be a sensible thing to grant such persons temporary status, monitor them and allow their friends and family in the Bahamas to help and sup-

port them? Would that not help to reduce the tax payers burden in an economy that is still in recession?

Some have indicated that these released immigrants will take jobs from Bahamians. I have to disagree. Whether one believes it or not, there are Bahamians in this country who are working two and three jobs. In some cases they have been doing it for years.

Part of the problem is that Bahamians for the most part, believe that they should start at the top.

They don’t believe that they should start where they are currently, and work their way up.

Some of us think that we are entitled and therefore certain jobs are not for us “they are for them.”

Some Bahamians refuse to engage themselves in hard work. If some Bahamians can work at Atlantis, at the Service Station and still engage in landscaping, having three jobs, then others with a little ingenuity can find work or create their own jobs.

We have heard some say that Haitians themselves have indicated that they “coming to take over this country.”

Such scaremongering should find no resting place in our society. What should be prevalent, however, is compassion and diligence in protecting our boarders and being good conscientious citizens.

Bahamians are resilient and I submit that if we return to the values of our grandparents and great-grandparents the Bahamas will survive for many generations.

Finally, I would like to state that the Rt Hon Prime Minister Hubert A Ingraham should have been applauded and commended for taking the action which he took.

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The Bahamas Telecommunications Company Ltd. (BTC) would like to advise the general public that on **February 4th, 2010** the company will be conducting a Mass Suspension of service to both cellular and land line. Therefore, all subscribers are advised to bring their accounts up to date.

BTC apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

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Caribbean Diplomacy: An endangered species

By **SIR RONALD SANDERS**
(The writer is a Consultant and former Caribbean Diplomat)

CARIBBEAN governments are in danger of weakening still further their diplomatic capacity endangering its effectiveness, and imperiling their countries' manoeuvra-

bility in a harsh world. Industrialized nations have several instruments on which to draw in their relations with other countries. Among these are military might, economic clout and diplomatic capacity. If their security is threatened by other states or non-state actors, such as drug traffickers and terrorists, they are

insight

WORLD VIEW

able to deploy their military; on the economic front, they can apply trade sanctions with-

draw financial assistance or institute measures to halt cross-border transactions; in diplomacy, they have well-staffed, well trained and well informed foreign ministries and missions abroad who bargain for their interests. When diplomacy fails, big countries have economic clout and military might on which to fall back.

For small states, such as those in the Caribbean, diplomacy is the only instrument they have to advance their cause and defend their interests in the international community.

In this connection, Caribbean governments should place enormous emphasis on making their diplomatic capacity as strong as possible.

But, there is a growing tendency in many countries of the region to focus diplomacy in the Head of Government. Many Heads of government, already bogged down with urgent and pressing domestic problems have assigned the foreign affairs portfolio to themselves. In doing so, they either do not attend crucial meetings that impact their countries, or they attend without the full understanding of complex issues that only exclusive ministerial responsibility backed by expert analysis allows. In each case, their country's interest is not well served.

Beyond this, even where governments have appointed foreign ministers, foreign ministries are not seen as vital — or even on par — with ministries concerned with domestic issues. Therefore, the financial and other resources that they get in annual budgets are inadequate to the extremely important job they have to do on behalf of their nations.

Worse yet, little attention appears to be paid to where and why overseas missions should be located, and who would be best to man them. In many cases, governments have followed the traditional road establishing missions where they are now least needed and neglecting capitals and international organizations, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), where they are most required.

It cannot be in the best interest of any country for its diplomatic missions to be regarded as a pasture to send



SIR RONALD SANDERS

States, to seek to adopt, as far as possible, common positions on international issues, and to establish and maintain, wherever possible, arrangements for joint overseas representation and/or common services."

Words such as "fullest possible", "as far as possible" and "wherever possible" are usually inserted in Treaties of this kind where the governments intend to make the least change to the existing situation and where the real intention is to carry on business as usual. The signal that this sends is unfortunate, for the six independent members of the OECS would benefit enormously from a fully joined-up diplomatic service particularly in the present precarious conditions that confront their economies.

They least, of all, can afford layer upon layer of government. Already their tax payers are paying contributions to upkeep both the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) Secretariat and the OECS Secretariat. Arguably, they maintain the OECS Secretariat because they believe that participation in it brings them greater strength than they have individually. If that is the case, then surely establishing and strengthening joint diplomatic capacity is not only in their bargaining interest, it would also reduce their individual expenditure on foreign affairs or more effectively focus their spending.

Of course, a major difficulty the OECS faces is their neglect of the requirement of the existing Treaty to harmonize their foreign policies "as far as possible."

Thus, three of the six independent states are members of the Venezuelan-initiated organization, ALBA, and three are not, and three of them have diplomatic relations with China while three maintain formal relations with Taiwan. Only a serious and visionary dialogue, supported by rigorous analysis of their long-term interests, will create a rational policy.

The global political economy is not friendly to small states or even tolerant of them.

In a world being remorselessly driven by the interests of the larger and more economically powerful states — in which China and Brazil must now be included with the US, the EU and Japan — Caribbean countries need better and stronger diplomatic capacity to advance their causes and protect their interests.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

ANNOUNCEMENT

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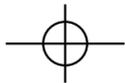
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LOCAL NEWS



OVERWHELMING SUPPORT for Haiti Relief drop-off boxes has prompted the programme's extension. Pictured left to right are Major Oral Morris, Salvation Army, Barbara Harvey, Kelly's Home Centre, Nikki Simmons, City Markets, Dania Ferguson, Bank of the Bahamas and Ethelyn Wong, Kelly's Home Centre.

Bank of the Bahamas extends Haiti relief drop-off boxes deadline

THE local outpouring of support for victims of the earthquake which devastated Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas has prompted Bank of The Bahamas and its partners, City Market and Kelly's, to extend the time it will leave large drop-off boxes in place for relief supplies.

"Boxes in some locations are continuing to fill up daily," said Dania Ferguson, the bank's marketing coordinator.

"As long as the need for medical supplies, bandages, blankets, baby goods, toiletries, bedding, bandages and clothing remains pressing, and as long as our partners are willing to devote floor space to relief efforts, we want to do everything we can to facilitate those efforts."

Boxes were originally intended to remain in place until January 27, but the deadline will now be extended



for at least one week.

Relief supplies, including ready-to-eat foods, are being collected by the bank at its 13 branches throughout The Bahamas as well as City Market and Kelly's. All goods collected are donated to The Salvation Army with distribution and transporta-

tion assistance from the Rotary clubs of The Bahamas.

For those who want to make a cash or credit card offering, the bank's Haiti relief telethon account will continue to accept donations. The account number is 5510032762.

Burns House designates a portion of Heineken and Vitamalt sales for Haiti relief

THE Burns House Group officially launches its fund drive today to assist the people of Haiti.

The group has designated ten cents from every Heineken bottle or can sold and five cents from every Vitamalt bottle or can sold until April 30 for support of Haiti earthquake relief efforts.

Given the popularity of Heineken and Vitamalt brands in the Bahamas, the Burns House Group stands to make a substantial contribution to the organisations it chooses to support relief efforts.

Regarding the choice of Habitat for Humanity, Wendell Seymour, corporate relations manager for The Burns House Group explained: "There are a number of reputable not-for-profit international and local organisations which will each play a very important role in the recovery of Haiti."

"They all need support at this time, so our choice was not an easy one. In the end, we chose Habitat because of its vital 26 years of experience working in the communities of Haiti."

Regarding the relief funds derived from the sales of Vitamalt, The Burns House Group is considering a number of local not-for-profit organisations.

Company officials are confident that they will make an excellent choice here as well.

To support The Burns House Group relief efforts for Haiti, consumers simply need to purchase Vitamalt and Heineken brands wherever they are sold in the Bahamas, from February 1 to April 30, 2010.

Critical

LeRoy Archer, managing director for the Burns House Group said: "Our company values oblige us to contribute to the betterment of our communities locally, and when necessary, internationally. As we have all learned from the various news reports, the situation in Haiti is an extremely critical one. Much help is needed to assist the victims and the country on the long road to recovery. We at The Burns House Group look forward to doing our part."

Total relief funds derived from Heineken sales will be donated to Habitat for Humanity International, a not-for-profit organisation which builds homes in disadvantaged and often disaster-stricken communities around the world.

Habitat, according to its website, has built more than 350,000 homes, positively impacting 3,000 communities.

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LOCAL NEWS

BAIC board impressed with farmers on Andros

THE board of directors of Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation (BAIC) and its executive team have expressed satisfaction with the progress of agriculture in North Andros.

They accompanied executive director Edison Key and his deputy Ronald Darville Sr on a weekend tour of North Andros farms.

"They were very impressed, and already they are saying there is room for improvement and that more will be done for this island," said BAIC's North Andros domestic investment officer, Alphonso Smith.

"BAIC has been spending a lot of money purchasing equipment, preparing land and generally assisting farmers here.

"But the board was yet to see what the money was doing. So we decided to bring them over so they can see first hand the success of BAIC's investment in empowering farmers.

"This has been a banner season. Through BAIC's initiative we have more new farmers coming on the scene. Things are really moving in Andros. We are well on the way to food security thanks to the new BAIC."

Deputy chairman Mr Darville, who is based in Freeport, recently relaunched the Ministry of Agriculture's backyard farming project there.

"This is beyond my wildest dream," he said. "I never realised that Andros farming has reached this level. It is a wonderful experience.

"BAIC's money is not only being well spent, but it is also being well managed. This is truly a new BAIC. Under the direction of Mr Key we are doing the right thing and we are doing it in a timely fashion which conserves expenditure and enhances production."

A variety of crops including onions, tomatoes, cabbages, egg plants, pumpkins, peppers, were in various stages of development.

"We have made tremendous progress in the development of agriculture and our support of Andros farmers," said Mr Key.

"So, I thought it would have been a good idea to

BAIC EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN Edison Key (left) and deputy chairman Ronald Darville Sr, along with board members, inspect an onion field in North Andros.



bring the board of directors to North Andros so they can see for themselves what is really taking place on the ground. They say they are impressed.

"The things we have put together in North Andros helped to motivate the farmers towards bigger and better things."

Sites visited included farms, the the proposed BAIC agro-industrial park, the Bahamas Agriculture Research Centre, and the Government's packing house.

BAIC DEPUTY CHAIRMAN Ronald Darville Sr inspects the quality of onion seedling production at Godet's Sapodilla Farm, North Andros



VETERAN NORTH ANDROS farmer Noah Newton (right) shows off some of his prized Persian limes plants to BAIC executive chairman Edison Key (centre) and board member Lonnie Rolle.



ATTENTION

ALL PHYSICIANS

The National Insurance Board & Ministry of Health

cordially invite you to attend a meeting to discuss

The National Chronic Disease Prescription Drug Plan

Date: **Wednesday, February 3, 2010**

Time: **7:30 a.m.**

Venue: **School of Nursing, Grovesnor Close**



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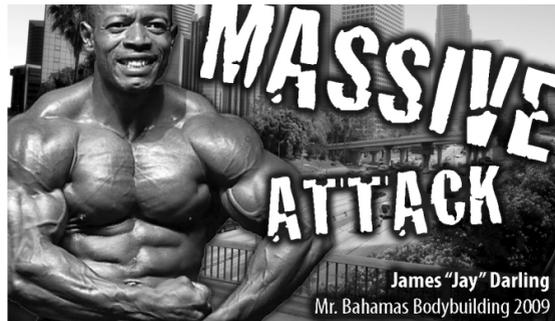
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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

Crawfish

don't it will be difficult to compete in the global marketplace," said Mr Chaiton.

According to the MSC, two fisheries in the Latin America and the Caribbean block have been certified sustainable. In 2004, the Mexican Baja California red rock lobster was the first fishery in the developing world to be certified to the MSC standard. In 2006, the Patagonian scallop fishery was certified. The Gulf of California, Mexico sardine fishery is under active assessment by the MSC.

"While there are fisheries in Latin America that are certified or in assessment, much of the fish is exported and the MSC has not yet engaged the local retail sector in those countries. As additional fisheries become certified, it will enhance the opportunity for Latin American and Caribbean seafood commercial sectors – processors, packaging companies, distributors, suppliers, retail stores and food service outlets – to incorporate MSC certified seafood into their supply chains and present MSC-labelled sustainable seafood to their end consumers," states the MSC website.

There is no hard and fast date in 2011, but some local exporters received communication from their international clients coaxing them to get on board with international sustainable fishing standards or risk being cut loose.

"We were issued a notice from buyers in Europe and the US that they are participating in these programmes that they have a choice to buy all over the world, which means we have to read between the lines. They are adopting the MSC standards and they have a choice. We better get in the game and become MSC compliant and have a fishery that is sustainable and proven to be sustainable," said Mr Chaiton.

He suggested the Bahamas would still be in a competitive position if it could at least demonstrate within the next two years that it was well on its way to compliance by taking positive action across the board.

In 2006, Wal-Mart, and Darden Restaurants Inc - owners of Red Lobster, Olive Garden

and other restaurant chains - as well as other retailers, rolled out new regulations for the shrimp industry, requiring suppliers to be certified by the Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA) Best Aquaculture Practices programme. The move to require MSC certification for crawfish is one of a series of industry moves dating back at least four years.

The government is looking favourably to facilitate the certification process, but Lawrence Cartwright, Minister of Agriculture and marine Resources, said it is going to be a tedious process to get the country where it needs to be.

"Most definitely if we do not become MSC certified the industry will be impacted in a negative way. When we become MSC certified it will allow us to operate as normal," said Mr Cartwright.

"The process is still in the discussion stage. The Government has not made a fixed decision. The stakeholders are more than willing to assist to defer the financial burden of the Bahamas being MSC certified," he said.

Tropic Seafood is not leaving the process to chance. It is playing a leading role in public education and mobilisation activities. Last week it made a presentation to the North Abaco Fishing Cooperative in collaboration with the non-profit Friends of the Environment organisation.

"We have work to do. We have to get everybody on board, on the same game plan. There are some challenges, but we have made great progress. We have been working on this privately for a couple of years. We have a zero tolerance programme at Tropic Seafood for accepting undersized lobster-tail. We don't buy them or put up with people trying to deliver them to us. If it is inadvertently delivered it is returned to the fisherman," said Mr Chaiton.

"We are working diligently to stay in communication with all aspects of the industry. We are getting everyone on board because the future success of the lobster fishing industry rides on this. There is a lot to do, but it is moving forward very nicely," he said.

FROM page one

Elizabeth

the FNM would vote for PLP, but in the General Election they probably would vote for who they think is the better leader. This is not a terribly important election and the General Election is so far away we will have forgotten who won this," said the prominent businessman.

But a staunch Free National Movement supporter argued that voters in the constituency are too "smart" to vote for the Opposition after nearly a decade of being "shortchanged" by their representative.

"The people in Elizabeth are a lot smarter than people think and will not select a member of the PLP after they have been treated with disrespect for the last seven years," said FNM Ivoine Ingraham, in a dig towards former MP for the area and ex-PLP Malcolm Adderley.

He added: "If the PLP was interested in the welfare of the Elizabeth constituency why would they fight to nominate someone in 2007 they said they knew wasn't up to scratch. That proves that the PLP wasn't interested in the people of Elizabeth they were interested in winning for themselves."

Mr Ingraham also lashed out at the PLP's choice, tax attorney Ryan Pinder, claiming he was picked because the

party wanted to "suck Marvin Pinder's money" to fund their by-election campaign.

Ryan Pinder is the son of Marvin Pinder, a former PLP representative for the Elizabeth constituency, formerly called Malcolm Creek.

Still, the political observer thinks that fed up voters in the area - who may have leanings towards the FNM - may cast their vote for PLP candidate Ryan Pinder as a wake-up call to the Government.

While the FNM has the most to offer because "they are in a better situation to deliver on any promises they make because they control the purse strings," the observer feels that voters not looking for a job will side with the Opposition ... which could lead to a win for the PLP.

"If you don't really need anything from government, you have a job and an education, and you really don't think that the Government can do anything better for you, then a vote for the Opposition and a win for the Opposition would probably send the message that the Government has not solved the problems of the country."

The observer says it is too early to say who will clinch the victory on February 16, but he is confident a win will not fall in the lap of one of the three fringe party candidates.

Lawyer in 'critical' condition after 'falling'

FROM page one

this matter," said Sgt Skippings, adding that at last report Mrs Pinder's condition was listed as "critical".

On Friday, Senator Thompson told *The Tribune* that he received information that his daughter had fallen from a window on to a concrete surface and sustained injuries to her foot and head.

"She is at Doctor's Hospital now undergoing surgery. We are concerned about the bleeding in her head and we are hoping that everything is OK," he said.

According to reports, it is believed the incident occurred in the early morning hours of Friday at a residence in the Lucaya area off Balao Road.

FROM page one

FNM accuses

Dr Sands for what they termed as "elitist" and "insensitive" statements.

The FNM, in response, said: "The PLP are continuing with a nasty campaign of deliberate lies and name-calling. Their latest press release called on Dr Duane Sands to apologise for a comment that he never made."

"At no time did Dr Sands ever use the word 'greedy' to describe any resident of the Elizabeth constituency," said the FNM in a statement released yesterday.

"It shows the immaturity and desperation of the PLP that they would continue to spread an obvious untruth, while calling Dr Sands all sorts of names, rather than to admit that they



DESTINI THOMPSON-PINDER pictured at her wedding.

jumped to the wrong conclusion before checking and finding out exactly what the true facts were."

As was clarified, Dr Sands never used the word "greedy" to describe voters in the Elizabeth constituency. He did say that while on the campaign he had met a small number of voters who asked for goods or money in exchange for their support. He also added that he was struck by the number of people in the area who are barely making ends meet. The PLP also hit out at Dr Sands for not knowing the "hardships" many of the residents in Elizabeth have endured, while blaming Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham's policies for their plight.

FROM page one

Bahamas, Haiti talks

countries are successful.

"I met with the foreign minister of Haiti last year, cordially meeting to speak about certain revisions to that agreement, including possibly changing the date," said Brent Symonette, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Symonette said the discussions are an indication of the relationship between the two countries, both of which are seeking to strengthen trading and diplomatic relations. They occurred before the huge earthquake devastated Haiti's capital city, Port-au-Prince.

Louis Harold Joseph, the Haitian Ambassador, said: "It is true that in October my minister of foreign affairs met in the Bahamas and we discussed a number of issues, among them immigration. We were looking to have the same type of arrangement (under the MOU) with a date closer to the present."

"The answer at that time was negative, saying that yes the Bahamas understood the situation - and that was before the earth-

quake - but we have a problem here too, so it is difficult for us to accommodate the Haitian people at this time," said Ambassador Joseph, who noted some Haitian nationals, with 12 to 15 years in the Bahamas on work permits, were denied renewal last year.

"We understand their position, because there is a very difficult situation here and around the world, so it is very difficult for them to accommodate foreigners for jobs," he said.

Although the government declined to change the date during last year's discussion, the option is still on the table.

This comes in the wake of public perception by some Bahamians that too many illegal Haitian migrants are in the country. The extremist view is that Haitians have the potential to "take over the country" or negatively impact Bahamian culture.

Dr Eugene Newry, former Bahamas Ambassador to Haiti, said the hysteria over illegal immigration expressed by some

Bahamians is not based on sound principles.

"That is total nonsense, they will never dominate the Bahamas, and anyone who says that has no knowledge of this history of sociology and the sociology of immigrants in all countries. Immigrants become like the country of adoption, the country does not become like the immigrant. One of the dramas is that young Haitian-Bahamians want nothing to do with their Haitian heritage; they want to be as Bahamian as peas and rice," said Dr Newry.

"They have these slum dwellings, not because they are slum dwellers in their spirits or minds, but because you have to start somewhere."

He noted that only a small number of Haitians in proportion to the total number of regularised and undocumented Haitians in the country are responsible for criminal acts. The majority, he said, are positively contributing in all sectors of society, including performing above par to Bahamians in education.

• SEE INSIGHT SECTION



TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF BEC GENERAL INSURANCES

The Bahamas Electricity Corporation invites tenders from any Bidder who is authorized to do business in The Bahamas; who satisfies all eligibility and qualification requirements of the CORPORATION and is registered with and licensed by the Registrar of Insurance to issue insurances for the services described below.

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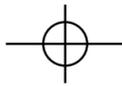
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DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15TH, 2010



INSIGHT

A PROPER BURIAL FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

FROM page 14B

and its anchor Anderson Cooper for uncovering the fact that more than 2,500 bodies had been unceremoniously dumped in the settlement of Ti-Tanyen.

"Please note that Haitians always show tremendous respect for our dead and that this thoughtless act should not in any way reflect who we are," Mr Rouzier said in a letter to CNN which he wished to be distributed in the Bahamas and throughout the region.

"Consequently, I want you to also report that as of today, Haitians have started the process to provide all the bodies dumped in Ti-Tanyen a decent sepulture. In reality, over 1,500 bodies were buried today and the remaining 1,000 or so will be buried tomorrow."

Volunteers

The pictures sent by Mr Rouzier show that on Friday, January 29, less than 12 hours after Mr Cooper's report, Bishop Pierre André Dumas, Father Richard Leo Frechette and volunteers from Food for the Poor burnt incense, sprinkled holy water on the bodies, recited the rosary of the painful mysteries of Christ's life, dug mass graves and gave these poor souls a decent Christian burial.

"Once again, on behalf of a mourning nation please accept the expression of our deepest gratitude for taking the time to inform us about an atrocious situation and allowing us to correct it as quickly and as decently as we know how," Mr Rouzier said.



MASS GRAVES are dug outside the settlement of Ti-Tanyen in Haiti for the earthquake victims.



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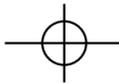
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sports

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010

SEE PAGE 14 • Sidney Collie warms up for marathon



sports NOTES

CRICKET PEPSI ICC TOURNEY

THE Bahamas Cricket Association will host the Pepsi International Cricket Council's (ICC) Americas Region Division II Tournament starting today at both Haynes Oval and Windsor Park.

A 20-member team from Brazil was the first to have arrived in town. They participated in an exhibition match with a select team from the BCA over the weekend at Windsor Park and will be joined by Suriname, Panama, the Turks & Caicos.

Today, the Bahamas will host Brazil at Haynes Oval, while Suriname will play Panama at Windsor Park. The teams are staying at the Nassau Palm Hotel.

The Ministry of Tourism's Sports Department and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture are both assisting the BSC in the tournament.

BASKETBALL NPWBA ACTION

THE New Providence Women's Basketball Association continued its regular season action over the weekend at the DW Davis Gymnasium with another double header on tap.

The College of the Bahamas Lady Caribs knocked off the Junior All-Stars 83-32 as Gabrielle McKay scored 19 points and Tisha Silver had 14. For the All-Stars, Brittany Harrison had 14 and Brittany Greenslade added 12.

In the other game played, the Bommer George Lady Angels defeated the Electro Telecom Cybots 91-63. Shanae Armbrister and Chrshandra Kelly both had 16. Christine Sinclair scored 22 and Tania Bodie chipped in with 15 in the loss.

BASKETBALL SHOCKERS IN 2OT OVER CRIMESTOPPERS

THE Real Deal Shockers are proving that they are indeed for real as they continue to make an impressive return to the New Providence Basketball Association.

On Friday night at the CI Gibson Gymnasium, the Shockers needed double overtime as they prevailed 121-117 over the Police Crimestoppers.

The Shockers got off to a slow start as the Crimestoppers crashed the board and led 37-23 before they surged ahead 57-47 at the half.

The second half was a full out battle from start to finish with the Shockers cuffing the Crimestoppers and muscling the game into overtime, not once but twice.

Cory Williams scored 27 points for the Real Deal and Vernon Stubbs had a game high 35 in a losing effort for the Police.

CHESS FEDERATION PREPARA FOR TOURNAY

KEAN Smith, president of the Bahamas Chess Federation (BCF), announced that the BCF will host Grand Master Dave Norwood (2503) in a 30 Board Chess Simultaneous on Saturday, February 6th, 2010 at 11 a.m.

Smith said GM Norwood has been a strong supporter of the BCF's efforts to win the bid to host the Caribbean Sub Zonal 2010 and is expected to make a financial contribution at the Chess Simultaneous towards defraying the costs of the event.

GM Norwood would be the third GM to play a chess simultaneous in the Bahamas since the BCF became a member of the World Chess Federation (FIDE) in 1974. The other Grand Masters were GM Lothar Schmid, who played a simultaneous in 1974 followed by GM Raymond Keene in the mid 1980's.

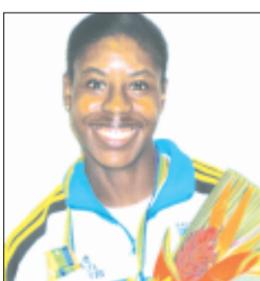
GM Norwood was recently in London during the London Chess Classic 2009, which was the strongest tournament organized there in 25 years. The Category 19 Tournament included Carlson, Kramnik, Nakamura, Short, Adams, Hua Ni, McShane, and Howell. The tournament was won by 19 year old GM Magnus Carlson.

The Bahamian chess playing community is invited to participate. For further details, interested parties should contact Warren Seymour at 325-6210 or Kean Smith at keansmith@gmail.com.

AVIVA INTERNATIONAL MATCH IN GLASGOW

Christine Amertil second in 200m

Three Bahamians represent Commonwealth team



CHRISTINE AMERTIL

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

THREE Bahamians represented the Commonwealth team as they competed at the Aviva International Match on Saturday in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

Quarter-miler Christine Amertil posted a second place finish in the women's 200

metres, clocking a season's best in her indoor debut in 24.18 seconds.

The winning time was 23.65 by American LaShuntea Moore.

Veteran sprinter Chandra Sturup, who hinted that this could be her final year on the circuit, placed third in the women's 60 in 7.38.

American Carmelita Jeter won in 7.19 and Great

Britain's Bernice Wilson was second in 7.37.

The 37-year-old Sturup's time was well of her season's best of 7.28 that she posted on January 23 in a meet in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

And Grand Bahamian Andrae Williams ended up fifth in the men's 400 in his season's best of 49.15. The

SEE page 14



PHOTO: Derek Smith Jr.

THAT WINNING FEELING: Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity hosted its first annual basketball tournament on Saturday to raise funds for the Haiti relief. All the fraternities and sororities came out to support this event. The Phi Beta Sigma beat the Alphas 60-42. Coming in third was the Kappa's who beat the Omegas 42-29.

Phi Beta Sigma beat Alphas 60-42 in basketball event



BAAA relays: Big Red Machine secure three titles

THE St. Augustine's College Big Red Machine secured three of the divisional titles at the Bahamas Association of Athletic Associations National High School Relays over the weekend.

The Big Red Machine rolled away from the Thomas A. Robinson Track and Field Stadium with the under-17 girls division with 28 points, the under-20 girls with 24 and the under-20 boys with 16.

The CH Reeves Raptors picked up victories in the under-13 girls with 16 and the under-13 boys with 24. The Queen's College comets took the under-15 girls with 26 and the under-15 boys with 28.

The St. John's Giants won the under-17 boys with 22.

■ The full results will be printed at a later date.

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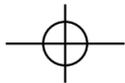
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INSIGHT

FROM page 14B

Conspiring to destroy Haiti: Past and present

a United Nations protectorate.

Thousands of government officials under the Aristide-government were removed from office during the questionable coup. The Americans claim they gave President Aristide a plane ride to the Central Africa Republic, where he now lives in exile.

America pundits in the mainstream media rarely, if ever, talk about America's involvement in Haiti, although America invaded the country in 1915 and occupied it for almost 20 years to secure its economic interests.

Under American rule, Haitian financial reserves were managed from Washington. Debt servicing accounted for 40 per cent of Haiti's annual income, primarily to service American financial institutions.

Even after the Americans left in 1934, they did not return control of the national treasury to Haiti until the 1940s. The only stable public institution they left was the US-trained Haitian mili-

tary. A series of military coups followed for the next few decades, ending with the infamous Duvalier dynasty.

Former Haitian president François "Papa Doc" Duvalier, said to be born in the Bahamas to a father from Mayaguana and mother from Haiti, is blamed for many of Haiti's current social and economic troubles.

He embezzled money and was responsible for political assassinations. His presidency was supported by the United States because of his anti-Communist views. He was succeeded by his 19-year-old son, Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, who was just as oppressive.

Much of Haiti's debt, still being serviced today, was accumulated under the Duvalier regimes. Rather than being used for national development, much of the borrowed money was squandered and outright stolen.

Massive deforestation in Haiti was another source of instability, particularly for the natural environment. Most commentators attribute this to the "poor masses" cutting down trees to burn fire wood. Dr Newry said this is only half of the story.

In the 1940s, Haitians also endured the violent anti-Voodoo crusade of Catholic missionaries.

During this period, called the Rejete massacre, they killed Voodoo priests, destroyed sacred temples and burned forests with centuries-old trees that were honoured by the Haitians.

Haiti's history of triumph and tragedy is too complex to unravel in one article. External forces were at play at the same time destabilizing internal forces that were at play. The internal forces are not to be absolved. The hands of many Haitian nationals are no doubt stained with the tears of many in the starving masses, from corrupt practices, mismanagement, incompetence and warfare.

As the international community convened in Canada late last month to begin forming a strategic plan for the reconstruction of Haiti, many in the Caribbean community were watching keenly with an eye on the past and an eye on the future.

The heart of the matter is: Haiti is inextricably linked to the Bahamas, the Americas and the modern world. Those who know this to be true are watching closely as the world mobilizes behind the latest international fad that is Haiti.

In order to gain access to international trade, in 1825 Haiti agreed to pay France reparations of 150 million gold francs in exchange for recognition and an end to the embargo. French accountants and actuaries valued land, animals, former slaves, and other commercial properties and services.

While the reparations debate for African descendants is scorned by the West, and avoided by the descendants themselves, France stands proudly having lived large off the modern equivalent of \$21 billion in reparations for losing land and human property while enslaving Haitians.

"Haiti was crushed by this debt repayment. It descended into financial and social chaos. France was enriched and it took pleasure from the fact that having been defeated by Haitians on the battlefield, it had won on the field of finance," said Sir Hilary Beckles.

At the 2001 United Nations Conference on Race in Durban, South Africa, the Caribbean made strong representation for France to repay Haiti. The Caribbean Community (Caricom) reaffirmed this call in 2007, during the anniversary celebrations for the two hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

Former Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide was a strong proponent of this initiative. His tenure was heralded as a return to order for Haiti, until he was finally escorted out of the country in 2004, under armed guard by American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officials. Haiti became

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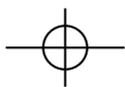
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SPORTS

Dillette pays price of 'coaching mistake'

By BRENT STUBBS
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22-year-old ineligible to compete in her senior year with the Auburn Swimming & Diving Women's team



ALANA DILLETTE

OVER the last four months, Alana Dillette was hoping that a "coaching mistake" would have worked in her favour and she would have been allowed to complete her tenure as a Tiger with the Auburn University Swimming team.

However, the US National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) stuck with its decision that has kept Dillette ineligible to compete in her senior year with the Auburn Swimming & Diving Women's team.

Dillette, in her freshman season in 2005-06, was "red shirt" by then Auburn's head coach David Marsh. However, Marsh admitted that he had entered her in too many meets as an exhibition swimmer and they should not have.

When Dillette, 22, was headed into her senior year at Auburn, leading the team in the 100 and 50 metres butterfly, was the second fastest 100 back and fourth fastest in both the 50 and 100 free when she got the news in September that she would not be allowed to compete and she was trying to get vindicated ever since.

Having been denied the opportunity to compete or train with the Tigers, Dillette has been working out with a professional programme as she prepares for the Commonwealth Games in India in October.

"Senior year is a special year and not to be able to be a part of a team that has been such a significant part of my life for the past four years is very disappointing, especially

through something that is no fault of mine," she said.

"I was also disappointed not to be able to help the Auburn team in competition this season in the areas where they depended on my performance.

"However, I have still been able to train at the elite level and I have already put this behind me. My focus has always been to compete for The Bahamas and I am looking forward to the CAC Games this summer and to continuing to represent the country."

Dillette, a member of the Bahamas Olympic team in 2008 and the World Championships last year, said she was first informed about the problem in September 2009 and it was hard to wait through the NCAA appeals process. "I

was still hopeful that the initial NCAA ruling might have been overturned in my favour because the reason for the ineligibility was so clearly a coaching error," she said.

Throughout her ordeal, Dillette said she was appreciative of the support she received from such persons former Minister of Sports, Desmond Bannister; Wellington Miller, president of the Olympic Association; Algeron Cargill, president of the Bahamas Swimming Federation and Cynthia 'Mother' Pratt, Member of Parliament for St. Cecilia's.

"I have been privileged in my swimming career so far to help pave the way for some of the younger girls in swimming in the Bahamas and I will always try to do my best," she said.

"There are some exciting times ahead for me personally and for Team Bahamas in swimming and I am committed to play my part. I would also like to thank the former Auburn Head Coach David Marsh for assisting in the NCAA appeals process and attempting to make this right and most especially I thank the current Auburn Head Coach Brett Hawke and his team for their support."

Dillette said she hope that this never happens to any other swimmer because it isn't right for an athlete to be penalized for a coaching mistake.

"I was a walk-on athlete and I was told right from the beginning that I would be red shirted," she said. "I followed what the Auburn Coach, David Marsh told me to do and I never thought anything more about it until they told me in September that I may not be eligible to compete."

Dillette, who held several records at Auburn University, will graduate in May with a Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management as a first degree.

She will eventually finish her US collegiate career as a CSCAA All Academic (Academic All American by the College Swimming Coaches Association of America), SEC Honour Roll Athlete and member of one NCAA and two SEC Championship teams.

Sponsorship pours in for marathon



PICTURED ARE Franklyn Wilson, Chairman of Sunshine Insurance, Dr. Keith Wisdom, Director of Public Affairs for Cable Bahamas and Brian Moodie, President of Sunshine Insurance Marathon Bahamas.

WITH the historic Marathon Bahamas less than two weeks away, the sponsorship has been pouring into the organising committee at Sunshine Insurance.

Over the weekend, Brian Moodie, president of Sunshine Insurance Marathon Bahamas, announced that Cable Bahamas Limited has joined the team as a sponsor.

This, according to Moodie, adds another exciting dimension to this soon to be iconic event on the Bahamian sporting calendar.

Cable Channel 12 will provide live coverage of the race on Sunday, February 14, so that fans in the far flung ambit of Cable 12 will be able to join in the thrills of race day.

Fans will be able to tune in for the start and finish of the race. Those who are taking part will be able to see themselves in later broadcasts of the event.

Speaking for Cable Bahamas, Dr. Keith Wisdom, Director of Public Affairs for Cable Bahamas and Executive Producer of Cable 12, said that the company "noted with excitement the many individuals and corporate entities that have decided to partner with you and we feel that this has greatly enhanced the potential for establishing a world class event and even higher standards for productions by Bahamians."

Cable Bahamas Channel 12 participation provides a great boost to getting the positive message of the Marathon out to the wide Bahamian community.

Also, Bahamasair has come on board with a special promotion for all visiting competitors.

Mike Sands, Bahamasair's Director of Sales and Marketing announced today that Bahamasair, the National Airline, will be offering a special \$99 round trip fare for all family island participants and an accompanying guest (booking and travelling together) to the February 14th event.

Sands is encouraging as many family islanders as possible to take advantage of this offer and to support Marathon Bahamas. He especially appealed to Family Island Schools track teams that are considering putting together a relay team.

As an incentive for schools to enter relay teams, Marathon Bahamas has waived the relay team registration fee for two relays from all schools in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Additionally, to encourage local participation, he added that Bahamasair will be offering a round trip ticket for the top male and female Bahamian/Bahamian Residents finishers, in the adult and junior categories, for the marathon and half marathon divisions.

The special \$99 round trip offer may be purchased at all Bahamasair Family Island ticket offices and in order to be eligible persons must present marathon registration confirmation at time of purchase. The accompanying guest must book at the same time, and both persons must travel together.

Moodie, speaking on behalf of Marathon Bahamas, welcomed Bahamasair as a partner and thanked the organization for its reduced rates to family island participants and for prizes for local participants.

For more details about Marathon Bahamas, please visit the website at www.marathonbahamas.com.



PICTURED ARE Mike Sands, BahamasAir Director of Sales and Marketing and Brian Moodie, President of Sunshine Insurance Marathon Bahamas.

INTERNATIONAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK IN THE WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Magnum Rolle honoured

But one night later Louisiana Tech Bulldogs suffer big loss

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

23 points for the University of Louisiana at Munroe Warhawks in a 72-67 lost to Louisiana-Lafayette.

On Thursday, Forbes, another one of those Grand Bahamian standouts, also played 35 minutes and scored 11 points as the Warhawks also lost a 75-56 decision.

David Nesbitt, yet another Grand Bahamian, had nine points to help his St. Thomas University Bobcats hold off the visiting Ave Maria Gyrenes 70-53.

And Marin Gray, also from Grand Bahama, came off the bench and played 16 minutes as he ended up with four points and three rebounds in Southern Indiana Eagles routed Lewis University 80-57.

Meanwhile Tehran Cox, a former CI Gibson guard, played 24 minutes and contributed five points with as many assists and rebounds as the High Point Panthers prevailed with an 82-80 triumph over the Gardner-Webb Runnin' Bulldogs.



MAGNUM ROLLE

ONE night after being named the International Player of the Week in the Western Athletic Conference, Magnum Rolle and his Louisiana Tech Bulldogs suffered a big loss to the New Mexico State Aggies.

Rolle, a senior from Grand Bahama, led all scorers with 27 points and 15 rebounds for his 10th double-double of the season. He ended up playing 40 minutes for the second-straight game.

Prior to that game, Rolle received his honour from Netscouts Basketball, the second for the season. Netscouts is the largest collegiate basketball scouting service in the country.

In receiving the honor, Rolle average 17 points and 11.5 rebounds as he led LA Tech to a 1-1 record last week.

Rebounds

During those two games, he had 17 rebounds, including nine offensive boards against Hawaii on January 23 to tie a career high. He also scored 23 points to lead the Bulldogs to their 18th win.

but in a loss to San Jose State on January 21, Rolle scored 11 points with six rebounds, five offensively.

With their latest loss to the Aggies, the Bulldogs dropped to 18-4 overall in 6-2 in the Western Athletic Conference.

A number of other Bahamian players were also in action over the weekend.

Dynile Forbes, a starting senior guard, played 36 minutes and scored a game high

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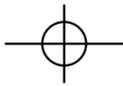


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INSIGHT

The stories behind the news

Conspiring to destroy Haiti: Past and present

By NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

THE transformative power of the spoken word has been proven throughout the centuries, but one wonders if declaring the Bahamas a Christian nation through constitutional declaration and use of the public pulpit is sufficient to make it actually so. The nation's claim to Christian credentials is probably most questionable when sifting through the public perception of Haiti and Haitians.

The word "Haitian", once a symbol of black liberation, has morphed into a derogatory insult in the Bahamian psyche, parallel only to the likes of racial epithets like "nigger" or "boy".

Former Member of Parliament, Keod Smith, furiously refuted claims of his Haitian heritage probably as a strategy to preserve his political career. He could very well have manufactured signs reading: "Not a Haitian."

Young Haitian-Bahamians go to great lengths to hide or subdue their Haitian heritage to increase their chances of gaining basic social acceptance.

Unfortunately, it is clear that public perception of Haiti is heavily influenced by what Sir Hilary Beckles, pro-vice chancellor of the University of the West Indies (UWI), calls "imperial propaganda". It is no surprise that some people like Tony, a Bahamian with Haitian heritage, are rendered speechless by the "ignorance" of people.

Someone like Tony could wonder where the context, the perspective, the truth went in the debate about Haiti. It is telling how an American news reporter says with full self-assurance, "Haiti's government was incompetent at best, even before the earthquake", and some Bahamians believe this to be a fact. There seems to be no formulae to break the stranglehold on the Bahamian psyche from this lingering colonial mentality.

Haiti was battered by the 7.0 magnitude earthquake striking 10-miles off the coast of Port-au-Prince on January 12. The quake reduced the capital to rubble and dust. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives; almost as many lost their limbs in a wave of sweeping amputations, and even more lost their homes and livelihoods. Just two years ago, Haiti was battered by a series of four hurricanes in the space of two weeks. The damage was so severe that there was enough international goodwill for Haiti to secure \$1.2 billion in debt relief from the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other creditors.

In the wake of the quake, the international community is pushing for total debt relief for Haiti. Most of the country's remaining debt is owed to Taiwan and Venezuela.

Just last week, Venezuela

President Hugo Chavez announced the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA) plan for Haiti, including debt relief, a \$20 million donation for the health sector and further investment funds.

"Haiti has no debt with Venezuela, just the opposite: Venezuela has a historical debt

"Young Haitian-Bahamians go to great lengths to hide or subdue their Haitian heritage to increase their chances of gaining basic social acceptance."

with that nation, with that people for whom we feel not pity but rather admiration, and we share their faith, their hope," said Chavez after the meeting of ALBA foreign ministers.

The case of Haiti is far from black and white, although it is easy to apply labels such as ungodly, corrupt and backwards to account for its status as the most economically impoverished country in the western hemisphere.

Superficially, it would appear that Haiti is doomed, even cursed, but the natural disasters in Haiti's history barely match the political, socio-economic earthquakes that have been engineered by external forces for centuries; those seeking to undermine Haiti's ability to be a beacon of light for African people.

Napoleon Bonaparte, French Emperor during Haiti's revolution, said of his colonial empire: "My decision to destroy the authority of the blacks in Saint Domingue (Haiti) is not so much based on considerations of commerce and money, as on the need to block forever the march of the blacks in the world."

In the minds of some, this endeavour has been successful, but there are those who see through the disparity, into the hope that is Haiti.

"Wake up Bahamas! Ours is a country that has been built — for literally the last 30 years — on the strength, sweat and hard work of our Haitian brethren. Many of us are descended from immigrants, recent or old, from Haiti, even though we may neither know nor admit it," said Dr Nicolette Bethel, COB lecturer and former Director of Culture.

Haitians may flee their country in search of better economic conditions, but their national pride is largely unshaken. Prosper Bazard has lived in the Bahamas for 28 years. The biggest thing that makes him proud to be a Haitian is the knowledge that his forefathers

fought the heavily equipped French army with their barehands and won.

"Another thing that makes me feel proud is we are a nation that can fight for a living. We don't have so much money but we can manage to find a way to live. Even if a Haitian is very poor, they will find a way to survive. He is not going to steal. We believe in hard work, we prefer to suffer and not steal," said Mr Bazard.

Haiti is the second free republic in the western hemisphere following the United States, but the first black republic in the post-colonial world. This might appear to be an historical footnote, even ancient history, but on the contrary, all progress in the modern world, particularly for people of African descent, rests firmly on the back of the ten-year war waged by Haitian freedom fighters for self-rule from the French. The legacy of Haiti and the contribution of Haitians in shaping liberation consciousness in the modern world is more like a keystone, indispensable and perpetually relevant.

"Bahamians probably do not

know much about Haitian history. I don't think history is high on the list; neither is context. Haitian people have been demonized as beggars of the Caribbean and I think that is what is ingrained in our psyche," said Fred Mitchell, opposition spokesperson on foreign affairs.

"It is nonsense, because first of all they bring their talents, expertise and skills as migrants to the country. They helped us to build our country," he said.

Few Bahamians learn about the Haitian revolution, or the history of Haitian-Bahamian relations, because the standard Bahamian school curriculum does not feature Haiti. Not surprisingly, with its roots still grounded in the colonial world view, "Discovery Day" is still celebrated in the Bahamas after all. This is despite the fact that next to the United States, Haiti probably has the largest external influence on the Bahamas, for good and for bad.

Even Dr Gail Saunders, scholar in residence at the College of the Bahamas and former Director General of Heritage, said she was not well versed in Haitian history. She welcomed

the opportunity created by this latest tragedy to spread awareness of Haitian issues and history. (Next week in Insight: an in depth look at the Bahamas and the world without Haiti).

"When Haiti became independent, no country on earth recognized Haiti, and they did so for practical reasons. Haiti was a slave economy and the slaves threw off the slave masters. Haiti's present day economic woes began back in 1804. Haiti did not just become like it is now," said Dr Eugene Newry, former Bahamas Ambassador to Haiti.

"They won their independence militarily. Psychologically it has a different effect than sitting around a table with someone coming back from London with some papers saying you are free," he said.

The audacity of the Haitian revolution was an unbearable embarrassment to the French. It was threatening to the slave-based economy of the United States, which failed to live up to its promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all. In its first constitution, Haiti declared it would grant auto-

matic citizenship to any person of African descent arriving on its shores. The world decided to starve the population with economic embargo and isolation instead of recognising its freedom.

"It was the most vicious example of national strangulation recorded in modern history. Haiti did not fail. It was destroyed by two of the most powerful nations on earth, both of which continue to have primary interest in its current condition. The sudden quake has come in the aftermath of summers of hate. In many ways the quake has been less destructive than the hate. Human life was snuffed out by the quake, while the hate has been a long and inhumane suffocation — a crime against humanity," stated Sir Hilary Beckles, in an article widely published by Caribbean news agencies.

The UWI is currently convening a major conference on the theme "Rethinking and Rebuilding Haiti" to dig beneath the rubble of public perception.

SEE page 13B

A PROPER BURIAL FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS



BISHOP PIERRE ANDRE DUMAS, Father Richard Leo Frechette and volunteers from Food for the Poor burned incense and sprinkled holy water on the bodies in an effort to give the earthquake victims in Ti-Tanyen a proper Christian burial.

ALMOST immediately following the worldwide publication of photos showing the dumping of earthquake victims in mass graves in Haiti, religious leaders and vol-

unteers of the charity Food for the Poor-Haiti mobilised to make every effort to give them a proper Christian burial.

Daniel-Gérard Rouzier, chair-

man of the board of Trustees for Food for the Poor-Haiti, thanked the American news station CNN

SEE page 12B

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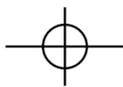
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SPORTS

Collie warms up for marathon

Breezes through Baptist Sports Council's 2010 Joanne 'Mother' Webb Family Fun Run/Walk Race



ASHLEY WEBB receives her winning trophy in the BSC's 2010 Joanne 'Mother' Webb Family Fun Run/Walk Race women's walk category from BAAA's Special Projects Officer Foster Dorsett (left) and race patron Joanne Webb.

MACKEY WILLIAMS receives his winning trophy in the BSC's 2010 Joanne 'Mother' Webb Family Fun Run/Walk Race men's walk category from BAAA's Special Projects Officer Foster Dorsett (left) and race patron Joanne Webb.

SIDNEY Collie, preparing for Marathon Bahamas easily breezed through the Baptist Sports Council's 2010 Joanne 'Mother' Webb Family Fun Run/Walk Race on Saturday. Collie, competing in the under-30 male division, won the four-mile race in 25 minutes, leaving his coach Ashland Murray a distant behind in second place. Murray, running in the under-50 division, clocked 27.24. Raymond Rudon, competing in the 50-59 category, was third in 30.44. "It was a good race and I felt comfortable out there getting ready for the marathon," Collie said. "But I was surprised to see coach (Murray) right there behind me. I expected more people to come out, but I want to thank God for allowing me to pull through."

petitors entered n the run that started from the Charles W. Saunders High School, Jean Street and traveled north to Prince Charles Drive, east to Fox Hill Road, south to Bernard Road and west back to Jean Street. In the shorter walk, which went from Jean Street north to Bernard Road, west to Village Road, south to Prince Charles Drive and east back to Jean Street, Mackey Williams took the men's title in 27.44 as he opted out of the run. "I'm just conserving my energy for the marathon," Williams said. "This race this morning was more like a workout to get myself in that good mental and physical condition. This is just a part of my training, but I'm going to run the half marathon."

under-15 division, she took the title in 42.43. Two other members from Golden Gates Native Baptist, competing in the under-19 division, were second and third respectively. They were Ariel Webb in 44.35 and Johnnain Webb in 44.39. "It was good. I got in some good exercise," said 12-year-old Ashley Webb, who attends Kingsway Academy. And in the Pastors/Ministers category, the Rev. Harrison Thompson of Faith United took first place, followed by the Rev. Ian Webb from Kemp Road Ministries and the Rev. Ellerston Smith from St. John's Native Baptist. Golden Gates Native Baptist Church was crowned the overall winner in the Church category, having had more finishers than anybody else. "I was happy with the turnout of the members of our Church, especially because it was in honor of one of our Deaconess," said Jesse Hinsey, wife of Alonzo Hinsey, pastor of the Golden Gates Native Baptist Church. "I enjoyed the walk. "I look forward to competing in it."

Murray noted that the race was nice and comfortable. "I had my partner, but I couldn't push him too far because the marathon is coming up in two weeks. I had to give him a break," Murray said. "If I push him too hard, he might not want to run the marathon." There were no female com-



SIDNEY COLLIE receives his winning trophy in the BSC's 2010 Joanne 'Mother' Webb Family Fun Run/Walk Race men's run category from BAAA's Special Projects Officer Foster Dorsett (left) and race patron Joanne Webb.



MEMBERS of the Golden Gates Native Baptist Church are pictured above with their overall title won at the Baptist Sports Council's 2010 Deaconess Joanne 'Mother' Webb Family Fun Run/Walk Race on Saturday. At left is BAAA's Special Projects Officer Foster Dorsett and at right is BSC's Public Relations Officer Rev. Ellerston Smith.



THE Baptist Sports Council showed its appreciation to the officials and sponsors at the end of the 2010 Joanne 'Mother' Webb Family Fun Run/Walk Race. In the front from left are BACO's Caroline Young and Shena Williams; race patron Joanne Webb and BACO's Val Kemp and Ralph McKinney. In back are BSC director Brent Stubbs; John Curry of Thompson Trading/Gatorade; BAAA's/BACO's Frank 'Pancho' Rahming and Rodney Curry of Thompson Trading/Gatorade.



RACE PATRON Joanne 'Mother' Webb gets a physical check up from Nurse Sargent at the BSC's Family Fun Run/Walk Race on Saturday. In the background, Nurse Ruth Coakley administers a physical on Johnnain Webb.

Christine Amertil comes second in Glasgow event

FROM page 12
winning time was 47.19 by American Jamaal Torrence. Demetrius Pinder, who won back-to-back meets in College Station, Texas on January 16 and 23, still holds the two fastest times in the world so far of 46.01 and 46.03. The quartet helped the Commonwealth Select to finish fourth with 49 points out of a field of five countries. Great Britain won with 63, followed by the United States with 60. Germany was third with 51 and Sweden brought up the rear with 30. On Sunday at the BW-Bank Meeting in Karlsruhe, Shamar Sands competed in the men's 60 metres hurdles where he finished fourth in a time of 7.72. Winning the race was Petr Svoboda of the Czech Republic in a world leading and national record of 7.50. Americans Allen Johnson and Eric Mitchum followed in second and third in 7.58 and 7.63 respectively. Prior to the final, Sands had finished third in the first of two heats in 7.74 to qualify. Svoboda won the race in what then was listed as the world leading and national record of 7.55. A number of athletes also competed in the United States on the collegiate circuit. At the Clemson Invitational, Shaniqua 'Q' Ferguson, competing for Auburn University, won the women's 60 in 7.22. She also had the fastest qualifying time of 7.35. Warren Fraser, competing for Clemson, was third in the men's 60 in 6.84 behind the Auburn 1-2 punch of Marcus Rowland (6.61) and Harry Adams (6.72). Fraser was also third behind the duo in the preliminaries in 6.79. But Fraser came back and posted the winning time in the men's 200 in 22.02. And he competed on the third leg of the men's 4 x 400 relay team that won in 3:18.44. Cache Armbrister of Auburn got seventh in the women's 200 in 25.15. Brianna Rollins led a Clemson sweep of the top four spots in 24.17. Armbrister also ran the second leg on Auburn women's 4 x 400 relay team that finished second in 3:40.82. Clemson won in 3:40.78. Gerard Brown, rounding out Auburn's participation at the meet, finished fourth in the men's long jump with a best leap of 6.85 metres on his second attempt. At the Big 12-SCE-Pac-10 Challenge in College Station, Texas, junior Jamal Wilson turned in a second place finish in his second meet for the University of Texas Longhorns with a leap of 2.11 metres or 6-feet, 11-inches. Sprinter Marcus Thompson, competing for Baylor University, was 11th in 22.06 and 16th in the 60 in 6.98. At the Indiana Relays, Tia Rolle of Lincoln was fourth in the women's 60 in 7.67. She was also fourth in her heat of the semifinal in 7.68. Her team-mate Michelle Cumberbatch was sixth in the women's 400 in 57.57. The winning time was 55.59 by Leander Ernest. And Dennis Bain of Rend Lake came in second in the men's 60 hurdles in 8.30. The winning time was 8.30 by Logan Griffith from Indiana. At the Montana State Open, Jamal 'Snickers' Forbes of Dickinson State, won the men's 55 in 6.41; Damon Miller, unattached, won the men's 400 in 48.02 with LaSean Pickstock of Dickinson State taking second in 48.27. Pickstock won the 200 in 21.73 with Miller second in 22.89. At Penn State, Nathaniel McKinney, competing unattached, posted a seventh place finish in the men's 400 in 48.90. At the Rodney McCraw Invite in Kentucky, Bianca Stuart, competing unattached, was 19th in the 60 in 7.87 and 34th in the 200 in 26.12.

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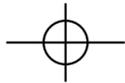
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**BISX chief:
Audit firms,
companies
must work
more closely**



KEITH DAVIES

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The Bahamas International Securities Exchange's (BISX) chief executive has urged publicly traded companies and their external auditors to work more closely together to ensure their year-end financials can be released on time, given that they are likely to soon have only 90 days in which to accomplish this.

Keith Davies, speaking to Tribune Business in a recent interview, told this newspaper that the relationship between public companies and their auditors needed to "change" and be more "proactive", with the former ensuring the accountants had access to all the necessary documents and materials from the moment they began their audit.

SEE page 9B

**Chamber campus
to 'empower staff
to empower firms'**

* Private sector body planning Chamber Institute and new 'career, business and vocational development campus'

* Absence of quality labour 'the single most limiting factor' for 75% of Bahamian firms

* Awards programmes planned to get businesses 'involved in and fired up about education'

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce is planning to establish its own "career, business and vocational development campus" in a bid to "empower workers to empower their companies", given that the absence of quality labour is "the single most limiting factor" for at least 75 per cent of Bahamian businesses.

Robert Myers, who heads the Chamber's Labour and Training Committee, told Tribune Business that while the project was still in its relative infancy, the Chamber was looking to obtain a Crown Land grant as a site for the campus, which it currently hoped to establish in the Oakes Field area.

The Chamber Institute, which the Chamber was moving to establish in partnership with the Bahamas Employers Confederation (BECOn), and the campus would be focused on

SEE page 10B

CLICO asset sale to generate \$10m

Bahamas-based assets yet to be placed on market likely to fetch more than initial real estate advertised to buyers

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

CLICO (Bahamas) liquidator is expecting to raise a collective \$10 million from selling the 11 properties it has currently advertised for sale, informed sources have told Tribune Business, with a greater sum likely to be realised once assets owned by the insolvent insurer's affiliate are put on the market.

Craig A. 'Tony' Gomez, the Baker Tilly Gomez accountant and partner, has largely

advertised the former CLICO (Bahamas) branch and sales office, along with associated land parcels, and the Centreville Medical Centre to prospective buyers, as he moves to monetise the insurer's real estate assets and generate liquid cash, which will be used to repay the company's creditors and policyholders.

Yet while representing a significant recovery for CLICO (Bahamas) creditors and policyholders, the Bahamas-based assets advertised by Mr

Gomez to date do not represent the so-called 'crown jewels' that the insurer's affiliate, CLICO Enterprises, owns in this jurisdiction.

Apart from the Florida-based Wellington Preserve real estate development, CLICO Enterprises, as confirmed by the liquidator, also owns GB Millworks (Grand Bahama Millwork and Building Supplies Ltd), a retailer/wholesaler of hardware,

SEE page 4B

\$30 million 'tonnes' of financing set at Cable

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Cable Bahamas has access to some \$30 million-plus of working capital for investment/expansion opportunities that may arise in 2010, its president telling Tribune Business the BISX-listed firm had "tonnes" of available financing even after completing the \$80 million buyout of its controlling shareholder.

Anthony Butler said the purchase of the 30.2 per cent stake held by Columbus Communications, the Barbados-domiciled vehicle owned by Canadian investors, had eliminated the need for Cable Bahamas to go through the Government's Investments Board/National Economic Council (NEC) process every time it targeted an acquisition or expansion.

"If lifts an approval process that Cable Bahamas used to have to go through with the Government; it actually releases us from having to go through that," Mr Butler said, pointing out that the transaction's completion this week meant the company was now a 100 per cent Bahamian-owned, fully public company.

Although Mr Butler did not say so explicitly, Tribune Business understands that both Cable Bahamas and Columbus Communications had become increasingly frustrated with the need to obtain government approval for all their expansion plans.

It is understood that both entities felt this had been used to frustrate their plans, namely through blocking the planned acquisition of Systems Resource Group (SRG), the IndiGo Networks parent, and when Cable Bahamas' Caribbean Crossings subsidiary had proposed developing a fibre optic cable linking the southern Bahamian islands and Jamaica. That, too, was never approved.

As a result, Columbus Communications felt it was never going to get the return on investment it was seeking, a key reason behind its decision to exit.

Now, with the Columbus deal behind it, Cable Bahamas is free to focus on the opportunities to expand into new Bahamian telecoms markets, in line with the sector's liberalisation and the

SEE page 6B

* Majority shareholder buyout removes need to go through government approval process
* Despite recession, still seeing 'year-over-year growth' in all business units

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Colina deal unlocks 'full potential' of RND's value

* Chairman says strong financial partner needed to return RND to paying dividends, and reduce debt, payables and monthly payments to creditors

* Company generating \$1.3m rental revenues per annum

* RND to be absorbed into majority-owner's insurance firm, with call centre used for latter's inquiries

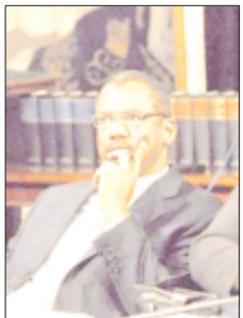
* Fitzgerald hints stepping down as chairman

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Selling a majority stake to Colina Holdings will unlock "the full cash flow and potential of RND" Holdings, its chairman has told Tribune Business, explaining that the company required a strong financial investor/partner if it was to resume dividend payments to shareholders.

Jerome Fitzgerald, who is also a PLP Senator, told this newspaper that Colina Holdings (Bahamas), parent company of Colina Insurance Company, had obtained a greater-than 50 per cent stake in publicly-held RND Holdings through acquiring some of his stake, as well as the issuance of new shares.

SEE page 8B



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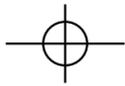
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BUSINESS

St George estate attorney wins against Babak firm

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The St George estate attorney, Fred Smith QC, has put one over bitter opponent Hannes Babak in a matter unrelated to the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) ownership dispute, winning a Supreme Court verdict requiring the latter's BISX-listed company to pay his law firm \$20,787 plus 1.5 per cent interest annually.

Mr Smith, acting on behalf of his firm Callenders & Co, obtained the award as payment for legal advice rendered to Freeport Concrete over whether certain actions by the Bahamas Customs Department were legal, and could be challenged, under the provisions of the Hawksbill Creek Agreement.

In her written ruling, Justice Estelle Gray-Evans said the two sides had been "arguing 'apples and oranges'", with Callender's & Co seeking payment for work performed on Freeport Concrete's behalf before it submitted a retainer letter, and the company's attorney arguing that no money was due because it had not signed the retainer letter.

Outlining the case, Justice Gray-Evans's judgment said Callender's & Co was claiming fees due for professional services rendered in providing legal advice to Freeport Concrete on whether it could challenge the Bahamas Customs Department's proposed policy changes.

Callender's & Co had alleged that in March 2006, several months before the GBPA ownership dispute

broke out in earnest, Mr Babak had "orally instructed" Mr Smith to provide advice on whether Customs' proposed policy of requiring all duty-free transactions - by both retailers and wholesalers - to be pre-approved by itself was lawful under the Hawksbill Creek Agreement.

In addition, Callenders & Co alleged that Mr Babak had also sought, on Freeport Concrete's behalf, a legal opinion on whether Customs' requirement that only duty-paid goods could be displayed on store shelves was lawful, and if it could be challenged under the Hawksbill Creek Agreement.

Licence

Ray Simpson, Freeport Concrete's chief executive, then supplied Mr Smith with a copy of the company's GBPA-issued business licence, and between March 23, 2006, and April 10, 2006, Callender's & Co assessed the evidence and rendered a 25-page legal opinion.

The work was performed by Mr Smith and UK-based QC, Jonathan Adkin, and sent to Mr Babak in an April 10, 2006, letter.

A second letter, sent on the same day, said Callender's & Co would be pleased to enter into a retainer agreement, setting out the terms for such and stating that a \$10,000 initial payment would be required.

No signed retainer letter was received by Callender's & Co, nor were its terms negotiated. Instead, the judge found that Callender's & Co issued an invoice for \$20,787

to Freeport Concrete on August 14, 2006, some \$20,750 of that being for professional fees and the remainder for photocopying.

Yet no payment was received, leading Mr Smith to e-mail Mr Babak on May 19, 2009, asking for the funds to be sent.

Mr Simpson, on Freeport Concrete's behalf, replied two days later, stating that he could find no signed retainer agreement or copy of a letter he had signed authorising Callender's & Co to perform the work.

Mr Smith replied on May 22, 2009, warning that legal action would be initiated if the outstanding sum was not paid within seven days.

That led to himself and Mr Simpson agreeing that if Freeport Concrete paid \$19,000 by the week's end, Callender's & Co would write-off the remaining balance and interest.

However, the sum was never paid, leading to Callender's & Co instigating legal action. Justice Gray-Evans found: "In a nutshell, the plaintiff's case is that it was agreed between the parties for the plaintiff to provide legal services, which it did, to the defendant by way of a legal opinion on the issues."

"Shortly thereafter, the plaintiff forwarded the legal opinion to the defendant, and approximately four months later, tendered its bill for services rendered, which the defendant has not paid, despite a subsequent agreement by the defendant's chief executive to pay an agreed discounted amount of \$19,000."

The judge said it was not disputed that Callender's & Co and Freeport Concrete had an agreement for the former to provide a legal opinion, which was delivered on April 10, 2006.

There was no agreement on fees, though, and Justice Gray-Evans said that while Callender's & Co clearly expected a long-term relationship to be established with Freeport Concrete, that never happened.

Informal

While the arrangement between the two sides was an informal one, Justice Gray-Evans found: "Their principals obviously know each other, and I do not believe that Mr Babak would have sought the services of the plaintiff through its managing partner, Mr Smith, expecting those services to be rendered gratuitously."

Despite the fact that fees were not discussed, Justice Gray-Evans said there was nothing to prevent Callender's & Co charging a reasonable sum for its services. She found the \$20,787 to be reasonable, given that Freeport Concrete did not dispute this and offered to settle the issue for \$19,000.

The thrust of the defence mounted by Freeport Concrete and its attorney, Andre Feldman, was that Freeport Concrete signed no retainer and did not pay the \$10,000 fee.

"It seems to me that the parties were arguing 'apples' and 'oranges'," Justice Gray-Evans wrote.

"The plaintiff was obvious-

ly seeking to be paid for work done before it submitted its retainer letter, whereas the retainer letter was in respect of an anticipated future relationship between the parties that did not materialise.

"Counsel for the defendant seems to be of the view that the defendant's failure to sign the retainer letter meant that it had not instructed the plaintiff to do any work on its behalf.

"However, the evidence is that the defendant would have received the advice at or about the same time as it received the retainer letter, so it must have realised that the plaintiff had already done some work on its behalf."

Finding in favour of Cal-

ender's & Co, Justice Gray-Evans said: "So, the defendant does not deny that it sought the plaintiff's advice; it does not deny that it sent its licence agreement with the Port Authority to the plaintiff, nor does it provide any reason for so providing the said licence agreement other than the reason advanced by the plaintiff; it does not deny that it received the opinion; it does not deny that it received the invoice; it does not say that the sum charged was unreasonable; it does not deny that its chief executive offered to pay \$19,000 to settle the debt; and it does not say that it did not expect to be charged."

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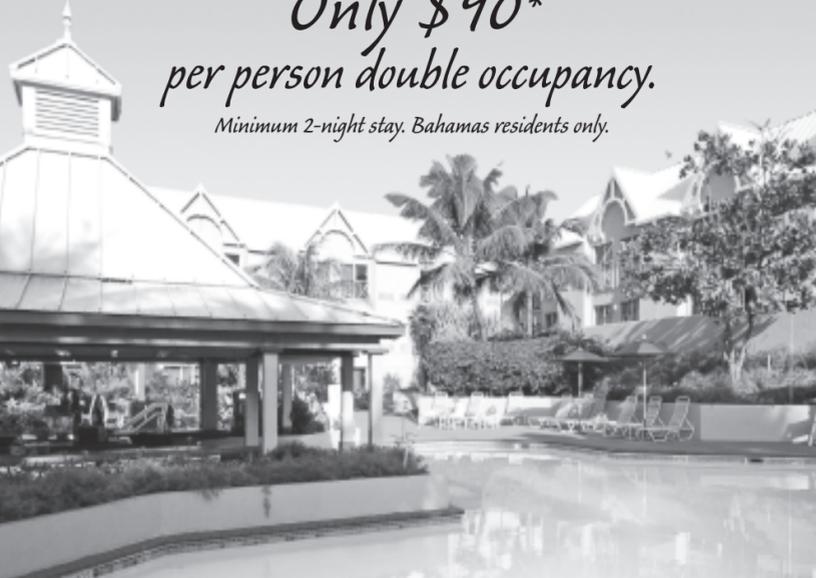
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BUSINESS

CLICO asset sale to generate \$10m

FROM page 1B
housewares and lumbers. The real estate and operations are owned by CLICO Enterprises

es. Other assets that can be sold by Mr Gomez, if and when he so chooses, include some 12.472 acres, divided into 12 lots, at Westridge

Estates. They were previously appraised for \$3.43 million, with the property a peninsula on the northwestern side of Lake Cunningham.

And in Grand Bahama, CLICO Enterprises owns an eight-unit apartment complex at Rum Cay Drive, Freeport.

The key to any liquidation, though, is the fate of Wellington Preserve. Sources familiar with the situation have indicated a sales agreement with the potential purchaser has been concluded, with the purchase price in the region of \$50 million, although that cannot be confirmed.

Tribune Business revealed early last month that the preferred buyer for Wellington Preserve is the Hines Group.

And this newspaper also revealed that Colina Insurance Company was the likely purchaser of CLICO (Bahamas) remaining life and health insurance policy portfolio, with Mr Gomez hoping to finalise the transaction and transfer of those policies by January's end - before Supreme Court Justice Cheryl Albury, who has carriage of the liquidation, steps down from the bench.

It is unclear whether those goals have been met, though, and Tribune Business understands that Mr Gomez's legal team, Michael Scott and Tracy Ferguson at Callender's & Co, have been working had behind the scenes in preparation to move the case to

another judge. The liquidator's second report to the Bahamian Supreme Court is also being prepared.

On the Wellington Preserve front, its sale - and maximising the purchase price - will be key in determining how much CLICO (Bahamas) creditors - especially its policyholders - recover in terms of their investment.

While a successful deal with the Hines Group or any other bidder cannot be guaranteed, Mr Gomez said in a previous report to the Supreme Court that he had been presented with three different sales price estimates for Wellington Preserve, based on various timelines and scenarios.

A sale within three to nine months could realise an estimated sales price of around \$40 million, the liquidator had been told, with a sale in six months to one year generating possible proceeds of \$69 million. And a sale of Wellington Preserve one year from now could generate up to \$120 million, Mr Gomez said he had been advised.

CLICO (Bahamas) had advanced about \$73 million in loans to its affiliate, CLICO Enterprises, over a four-year period beginning at end-2003. In turn, the latter entity advanced these funds to various entities, but the lion's share went into Wellington Preserve.

The likelihood that CLICO (Bahamas) would recover that loan at full value, given that CLICO Enterprises' 2008 unaudited financial statements showed it had a solvency deficiency of \$21 million, with assets of \$108 million and liabilities of \$129 million, was a key factor behind why the insurer was petitioned into court-supervised liquidation.

Some \$70 million had been loaned by CLICO Enterprises to Wellington Preserve, in

addition to a \$13 million direct investment, taking its total exposure to the Florida-based real estate project to \$83 million. While valued at \$127 million in January 2009, Wellington Preserve was said by Mr Gomez's report to now have an 'as is' value of \$62 million.

This illustrates why the project's sale, and Mr Gomez's ability to maximise its value especially if he can achieve prices nearer to the two longer-term valuations - are key to CLICO (Bahamas) liquidation. Currently, CLICO (Bahamas) has some \$124.484 million in assets and \$154.191 million in liabilities, rendering it insolvent to the tune of an \$29.707 million solvency deficiency. The greatest percentage of those assets are the loans to CLICO Enterprises, so achieving a purchase price for Wellington Preserve above what was invested in it will help to close the solvency gap.

In his first Supreme Court report, Mr Gomez said the 523-acre Wellington Preserve site, designed to incorporate 80 residential lots and an equestrian centre, had been acquired for \$55 million, a deal part-financed by a \$35 million mortgage.

Only \$1 million was outstanding on the mortgage, which was due to be paid off in July. While a \$42 million investment was supposedly required to bring Wellington Preserve into a condition suitable for sale, Mr Gomez said the project owed \$150,000 to its suppliers. It also owed some \$1.3 million in county and local taxes, and \$500,000 in taxes were past due on lot sales. Wellington Preserve had also settled litigation via a settlement under which it was due to pay \$200,000 per year for eight years, one-and-a-half years remaining on the agreement.

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- At least 5 or more years Human Resources experience. Previous experience in Banking would be an asset
- Demonstrated ability in the area of Supervision and Operations is required

Key Skills Required:

- Leadership & Coaching
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Please apply before **February 5, 2010** to:

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



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Vacancy

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The ideal candidate should possess:

- Professional accounting qualifications (ACCA, CA, CPA or MBA)
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- Working knowledge of short and long term budgeting and forecasting and product-line profitability analysis.
- Professional written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability and willingness to work a flexible schedule
- Supervisory and Management skills
- Proven leadership skills
- The capacity to work with and develop the team

An attractive compensation package is offered which includes Group Medical and Pension Plan benefits.

Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

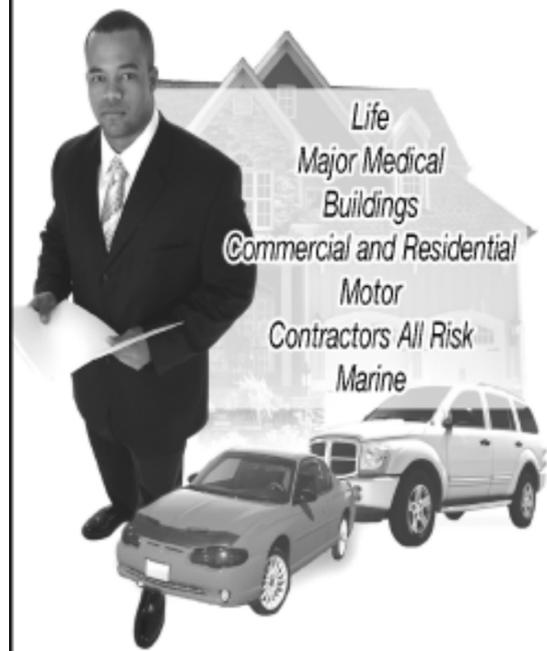
Interested persons should send resumes and supporting documents to:

P. O. Box CB-11651
Nassau, Bahamas

All applications must be submitted on or before **February 26, 2010**.

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Allison Collie
Head of Primary
allison.collie@st-andrews.com

Sally Varani Jones
Admissions Officer
sally.varani.jones@st-andrews.com

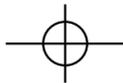
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BUSINESS

RoyalFidelity Market Wrap

EQUITY MARKET - TRADING STATISTICS

BISX SYMBOL	CLOSING PRICE	WKLY PRICE CHANGE	VOLUME	YTD PRICE CHANGE
AML	\$ 1.12	-\$-0.02	1,000	-4.27%
BBL	\$ 0.63	-\$-	0	0.00%
BOB	\$ 5.90	-\$-	8,986	0.00%
BPF	\$ 10.74	-\$-	0	0.00%
BSL	\$ 10.06	-\$-	0	0.00%
BWL	\$ 3.15	-\$-	0	0.00%
CAB	\$ 13.43	\$3.43	5,959,441	34.57%
CBL	\$ 6.99	-\$-0.01	14,886	-0.14%
CHL	\$ 2.72	-\$-	0	0.00%
CIB	\$ 10.00	\$0.01	7,297	0.10%
CWCB	\$ 2.70	\$0.12	0	-5.26%
DHS	\$ 2.55	-\$-	0	0.00%
FAM	\$ 6.49	-\$-	350	0.00%
FBB	\$ 2.37	-\$-	0	0.00%
FCC	\$ 0.27	-\$-	0	0.00%
FCL	\$ 4.77	-\$-	50,605	0.00%
FCLB	\$ 1.00	-\$-	0	0.00%
FIN	\$ 9.27	-\$-0.01	2,695	-0.11%
ICD	\$ 5.59	-\$-	3,337	0.00%
JSJ	\$ 9.95	-\$-	0	0.00%
PRE	\$ 10.00	-\$-	0	0.00%

It was an active week of trading in the Bahamian stock market. Investors traded in nine out of the 24 listed securities, of which two advanced, three declined and four remained unchanged.

EQUITY MARKET
A total of 6,048,597 shares changed hands, representing a significant increase of 5,982,767 shares compared to the previous week's trading volume of 65,830 shares. AML Foods (AML) was the lead decliner, trading 1,000 shares, with its stock closing down by \$0.02 at \$1.12. Cable Bahamas (CAB) was the big volume leader and advancer, trading 5,959,441 shares to close up by \$3.43 at \$13.43.

BOND MARKET
Some 380 FBB Series D bonds traded on the Bahamian exchange during last week, representing a total par value of \$380,000.

COMPANY NEWS:
Dividend Notes:
Freeport Oil Holdings (FCL) has declared a dividend of \$0.04 per share, payable on February 11, 2010, to all ordinary shareholders of record date January 29, 2010.

ICD Utilities (ICD) has declared a dividend of \$0.14 per share, payable on February 12, 2010, to all ordinary shareholders of record date February 5, 2010.

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

FOREX Rates	Weekly	% Change
Currency		
CAD	0.9348	-1.08
GBP	1.5996	-0.73
EUR	1.3864	-1.91

Commodities	Weekly	% Change
Commodity		
Crude Oil	72.79	-1.83
Gold	1,082.00	-1.10

Index	Weekly	% Change
International Stock Market Indexes		
DJIA	10,067.33	-1.04
S & P 500	1,073.87	-1.64
NASDAQ	2,147.35	-2.63
Nikkei	10,198.04	-3.71



Temple Christian High School

Temple Christian High School

Entrance Examination 2010 - 2011

Temple Christian High School will hold its Entrance Examination on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6th, 2010 at the school on Shirley Street from 8:00a.m. - 12noon for students wishing to enter grades, 7,8,9 and 10.

Application forms are available at the High School Office. The application fee is twenty five dollars (\$25.00). Application forms should be completed and returned to the school by Friday, February 5th, 2010.

For further information please call
394-4481 or 394-4484

INSIGHT

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

PUBLIC NOTICE



ALVIN INGRAHAM JR.

The above-mentioned individual is no longer associated with Dean and Associates Professional Insurance Agents & Brokers Co.Ltd. Therefore he is not authorized to conduct any business on behalf of this company.

Signed Management

BOND MARKET - TRADING STATISTICS

BISX SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	VOLUME	PAR VALUE
FBB13	FBB Series C Notes Due 2013	0	\$1,000
FBB15	FBB Series D Notes Due 2015	380	\$1,000
FBB17	FBB Series A Notes Due 2017	0	\$1,000
FBB22	FBB Series B Notes Due 2022	0	\$1,000



KINGSWAY ACADEMY

Immediate Vacancy: Part-time Woodwork Teacher for the High School

Teacher Vacancies for September 2010

Kingsway Academy invites applicants from qualified and experienced candidates for teaching positions at the **Elementary School level** and **all subjects at the High School level (Grades 7 through 12)**.

The successful candidates should have the following:

- An Academic Degree in the area of specialization
- A Teaching Certificate
- Excellent Communication Skills
- A love for children and learning
- High standards of morality
- Be a born-again Christian

Letters of application together with a recent color photograph and detailed curriculum vita (including the names and addresses of at least three references, one being the name of one's church minister) should be forwarded to:

The Academy Affairs Manager
Kingsway Academy
Box N-4378
Bernard Road
Nassau, The Bahamas

Deadline for applications is **Friday, February 19, 2010**

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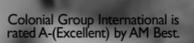


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Application expiration date: February 12th, 2010.

For further information on this and other available positions, please visit our website:

www.firstcaribbeanbank.com/careers.htm



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GET THERE. TOGETHER.

BUSINESS

Doctors certifies security officers

Doctors Hospital Health Systems (DHHS) security staff have been certified by an internationally accredited body, the International Association for Healthcare Security & Safety (IAHSS).

The only recognised body for certification that meets the Joint Commission International standards, the IAHSS recently DDHS officers in a three-month training course covering the 40 units of study contained in the Association's manual.

Leon Wilchcombe, Troy Curtis and Livingston Grant successfully completed and passed the international certification.

The three officers join a large group of international professionals, and a short list of Bahamians, to have this distinction.

Anton Saunders, DHHS security coordinator, said it was the department's plan to ensure that all the officers employed by the hospital are certified by IAHSS.

"Doctors Hospital is definitely proud

of our security officers in taking the next step in pursuing their professional and personal goals. This achievement speaks to the commitment of our organisation to invest in our staff so that they are equipped to meet and exceed the expectations of our customers.

"We also hope that this will encourage others to further their professional growth," said Paul Haven, DHHS vice-president of human resources.



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: Michele Rassin, vice-president, operations; Leon Wilchcombe, security officer; Troy Curtis, security officer; Anton Saunders, chief of security; Livingston Grant, security officer and Paul Haven, vice-president, human resources, Doctors Hospital.

FROM page 1B

\$30 million 'tonnes' of financing set at Cable

Utilities Regulatory & Competition Authority's (URCA) plans. Two of those areas are thought to be fixed-line and cellular services, once the time is right.

Mr Butler declined to com-

ment on which additional telecoms industry areas Cable was targeting, but added that the buyout was designed to help the company "to take advantage of opportunities

going forward".

"We've built in enough financing for the short-term," Mr Butler told Tribune Business.

"We've refinanced the company to put us on a sound footing to take up opportunities going forward.

"There'll be more access to telecoms services for Cable Bahamas going forward, and the refinancing takes that into consideration. We're probably just shy of \$30 million in working capital, and have access to another \$10 million if an opportunity comes up in 2010.

"We're in the \$30 millions.

If anything comes up on the horizon, we've got tonnes there."

Mr Butler added that Cable Bahamas was forecasting a "steady" 2010 performance. While the 2009 audit of its financial was not complete, he said: "We've seen year-over-year growth in our business units despite some challenges in consumer disposable spending, and are managing expenses really hard.

"We're happy with the increased uptake on broadband Internet, and video has been steady."

The acquisition of Columbus Communications'

5,954,600 ordinary shares was funded through the combination of a \$95 million syndicated credit facility and \$40 million in preference shares.

Currently, Cable Bahamas has more than 78,000 subscribers on its broadband network, 44,000 high-speed Internet subscribers and over 2,000 customers using international and domestic private line data circuits, IP transit and telecom/data co-location.

Tribune Business revealed earlier this month how Cable Bahamas had to restructure the deal to obtain Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approval, creating a trust overseen by an independent trustee to hold five million shares, equivalent to 26.74 per cent of its outstanding ordinary capital, which will be repurchased from Columbus Communications.

The BISX-listed electronic communications provider has

appointed Dr Keva Bethel, the former College of the Bahamas (COB) president, to act as trustee in a bid to keep the Government's total equity stake in the company below 25 per cent once the Columbus Communications transaction is completed.

Documents filed with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the US regulatory authority, showed that without the trust's creation the Bahamian government would hold a combined 29.2 per cent equity stake in Cable Bahamas once the Columbus Communications buyout was completed.

This would have placed the Government's ownership interest in Cable Bahamas above the 25 per cent threshold.

This benchmark is critical, since if the Government's stake was less than 25 per cent, the Columbus Communications purchase would qualify for faster processing by the FCC.

PALLETS FOR SALE

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For Further Information

Call 1 (242) 424-3703

or

1 (242) 376-7770

Legal Notice

NOTICE

ARNESTO HOLDINGS LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that the above-named Company is in dissolution, which commenced on the 29th day of January 2010. The Liquidator is Argosa Corp. Inc., P. O. Box N-7757 Nassau, Bahamas.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that RACHEL GINA MAUREEN ROBINSON of Simms General Post Office, Long Island, 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 1st day of February, 2010 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

Ready to lead?

Established wholesale company is accepting résumés for the position of *General Manager*.

Drive and ambition are a must.

Successful candidate should have at least 5 years' experience in top level management.

Compensation will be commensurate with experience and tied to performance.

Interested persons should send their résumé to wholesalecareers@gmail.com

NOTICE

IN THE ESTATE OF EULAH MAE FRANCIS late of Thompson Court, Oakes Field in the Western District of the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claims or demands against the above-named Estate are requested to send the same duly certified to the undersigned on or before Friday the 26th day of February 2010 after which the Personal Representatives will proceed to distribute the assets of the Deceased among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims of which the Personal Representatives shall then have had notice.

AND NOTICE is hereby also given that all persons indebted to the said Estate are requested to make full settlement on or before the date hereinbefore mentioned.

CASH, FOUNTAIN
Attorneys-at-Law
P.O.Box N-476
Armstrong Street
Nassau, The Bahamas
Attorneys for the Personal Representatives



Employment Opportunity

A leading Fast Food Franchise is looking for mature individuals to WORK ITS TRAILERS.

Requirements:

- Must be a High School Graduate
- Must have excellent Inter-personal Skills
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- Professionalism required

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Please submit Resume to:

Human Resources Department
McDonald's Head Office
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P.O.Box SS-5925
Telephone: 325-4444
Nassau, The Bahamas



Employment Opportunity

A leading fast food franchise is looking for an Administrative Assistant

for its Human Resources Department the successful candidate must have:

- Exceptional organization skills and the ability to multi-task
- Good computer and time management skills.
- The ability to maintain a high level of accuracy and confidentiality.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent inter-personal skills
- The ability to perform duties in an effective and efficient manner.

McDonald's offers excellent benefits!

Please submit Resume to:

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



Employment Opportunity

A leading Fast Food Franchise is looking for

CUSTOMER SERVICE

individuals to work its late night shift from 11:00p.m.-7:00a.m. on weekends and holidays

Requirements:

- Must be a High School Graduate
- Must be customer service driven
- Must have excellent Oral & Written Communication Skills

McDonald's offers excellent benefits!

Please submit Resume to:

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



BUSINESS

Colina deal unlocks 'full potential' of RND's value

FROM page 1B

While unable to detail the precise size of the stake now held by Colina Holdings (Bahamas), Mr Fitzgerald indicated that despite RND

"We've done that now, and wanted to ensure the next step would be to pay a dividend to shareholders. To do that, we needed to restructure our payables and long-term debt, to reduce the monthly debt pay-

issued some additional shares," Mr Fitzgerald explained. "They have a controlling stake."

It is likely that RND Holdings' minority investors, who suffered through several years of sus-

investment trust (REIT) or mutual fund through its RND Properties subsidiary, its only other business being the TicketXpress call centre. Now, not only are the Bahamian minority investors in a different company, but it is one under new controlling ownership to boot.

Many RND Holdings investors are likely to question whether their ownership stakes have been diluted as a result of the issuance of new shares to Colina Holdings, and are likely to question why they were not given new stock in proportion to their existing holdings - in other words, why they were not offered the same terms, and why no offer has been made to buy them out.

Mr Fitzgerald explained to Tribune Business that RND Holdings would effectively function as a sub-

subsidiary of Colina Holdings (Bahamas), although it would retain its over-the-counter listing.

He added that Ken Donathan, RND's chief executive, and the three TicketXpress staff would be absorbed into the Colina structure, with the latter subsidiary functioning as the insurance company's call centre, handling client inquiries and chasing up receivables owed.

Arguing that both RND Holdings and Colina held the same long-term objectives, Mr Fitzgerald told Tribune Business: "It was a move I felt was really necessary to ensure the company had strong financial backing and a major investment partner, and we will see increased shareholder value in the short-term."

"Colina has the financial wherewithal to restructure the debt, lower debt pay-

"Colina has the financial wherewithal to restructure the debt, lower debt payments, and ensure RND is cash flow positive every month, going to the benefit of shareholders and dividends. When we looked at it, we had to restructure some things to realise the full potential and cash flow of RND."

Jerome Fitzgerald

ments, and ensure RND is cash flow positive every month, going to the benefit of shareholders and dividends. When we looked at it, we had to restructure some things to realise the full potential and cash flow of RND."

When asked when RND Holdings would be in a position to pay a dividend, Mr Fitzgerald replied: "I think that by the end of the year we'll be in a position to ascertain exactly where we are with that."

He added that "end of the year" meant December 31, 2010, as RND Holdings was aligning its year-end, formerly end-February, with those of Colina Holdings and the remainder of the group controlled by A. F. Holdings.

When asked by Tribune Business whether he would remain RND Holdings' chairman, Mr Fitzgerald said that had not been discussed, but dropped a heavy hint that he might step down.

He told this newspaper that it was becoming "a bit tight to discharge my responsibilities" given his political duties/ambitions and role as head of Chancery Law Associates.

Several observers suggested yesterday that the deal with Colina was designed to provide Mr Fitzgerald with an exit route, given that RND Holdings had not proven to be a runaway financial success.

Its 2008 annual report showed an \$18,636 net profit on a top line of \$1.72 million, with an accumulated deficit of \$2.253 million.

The Colina takeover at RND Holdings also comes as little surprise, having been potentially in the works for some time. As at December 31, 2008, Colina Holdings (Bahamas) had accumulated 2.198 million shares in the company for a 24.8 per cent stake, setting the stage for it to acquire more.



THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS
Visit our website at www.cob.edu.bs

The College of The Bahamas wishes to engage the services of an Executive Search firm to support in the search for a College President.

Detailed information is available in a Request for Proposal (RFP) document which may be obtained by visiting The College's website, www.cob.edu.bs, by email request at communication@cob.edu.bs, or by telephoning the office of External Affairs at 302 4304.



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- Commitment to excellent customer service.
- Must be a team player.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Excellent problem solving skills.
- Ability to work under pressure and to meet strict deadlines.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:-

- Excellent knowledge of investment instruments.
- Very good understanding of Securities Administration.
- Good understanding of Independent Manager activities.
- Ability to speak/write French would be an asset.
- Knowledge of Spanish or Portuguese would be an asset.
- Bachelor's Degree in Finance or related subject.
- At least five (5) years Private Banking experience.
- NASD Series 7 Certification.
- Proficiency in a variety of software applications including Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

ABSOLUTELY NO TELEPHONE CALLS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Please hand deliver Resume and two (2) references

NO LATER THAN MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2010 to:

**The Human Resources Manager
Bayside Executive Park
Building No. 1
Nassau, Bahamas**

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT

No. 45 of 2000

LEXUS INVEST S.A.

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 137 of The International Business Companies Act No. 45 of 2000, **LEXUS INVEST S.A.** is in dissolution. The date of commencement of dissolution was the 28th day of January, 2010. **Dillon Dean** of Nassau, Bahamas is the Liquidator of **LEXUS INVEST S.A.**

Dillon Dean
LIQUIDATOR

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT

No. 45 of 2000

LYNNIE MANAGEMENT LTD.

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 137 of The International Business Companies Act No. 45 of 2000, **LYNNIE MANAGEMENT LTD.** is in dissolution. The date of commencement of dissolution was the 28th day of January, 2010. **Dillon Dean** of Nassau, Bahamas is the Liquidator of **LYNNIE MANAGEMENT LTD.**

Dillon Dean
LIQUIDATOR

TENDER FOR CAFETERIA OPERATION



The National Insurance Board invites suitably qualified businesses to tender for the contract to operate the cafeteria of the National Insurance Board's Head Office, Clifford Darling Complex, Baillou Hill Road.

The following **REQUIREMENTS** must be met:

1. Tenders must be licensed with the proper licensing authorities.
2. Tenders must meet all the requirements of the Ministry of Health and other relevant agencies related to food services.
3. Tenders must be able to provide food for 250 or more persons daily.
4. All National Insurance contributions should be paid up to date.

Interested persons may collect a **Bid Application** from the Director's Office, at the National Insurance Board's Head Office, Clifford Darling Complex, Baillou Hill Road, and submit the same on or before **February 5, 2010, at 1:00 p.m.** Tenders are asked to submit their bids in a sealed envelope, marked "**Bid for Cafeteria**," and addressed to:

The Cafeteria Committee
THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BOARD
Clifford Darling Complex
Baillou Hill Road
Nassau, Bahamas

BUSINESS

BISX chief: Audit firms and companies must work more closely

FROM page 1B

The Securities Commission, in the draft Securities Industry Act it has forwarded to the Ministry of Finance and the Attorney General's Office, moved to require that Bahamian public companies publish their audited financial statements within 90 days of year-end, rather than the current 120 days.

"I am not aware of where the Commission came down ultimately, but I can say this," Mr Davies told Tribune Business. "Where the Commission comes down will be the law of the land, and companies will have to comply."

"Will there be teething pains, growing problems? Yes. We need to work with the companies and the auditing companies to meet these guidelines."

He added: "The relationship between auditing companies and the public companies needs to change. There needs to be more proactive engagement between companies and their auditors, so that when the auditors come in, the groundwork is already prepared to enable them to do the audit relatively quickly."

The 90-day year-end audited financials deadline attracted much comment from both auditors and Bahamian public companies, with both arguing that the timeline was too tight, and that there were resource constraints on both sides.

And many Bahamian public companies have difficulty in meeting the present 120-day deadline, albeit for very different reasons. Within the last few months, FOCOL Holdings, Freeport Concrete and Premier Real Estate Investment Corporation all applied for - and obtained - extensions from BISX regarding the filing and publication of their year-end audited financials.

In FOCOL's case, it needed more time for accountants to complete the audit of a subsidiary in which it had a 60 per cent stake, having acquired its interest in that company to obtain a petroleum tanker fleet that supplies its Bahamian operations.

Freeport Concrete also sought more time, and obtained a share trading suspension, as it did not want material information to leak out before its figures were published. And Premier requested an extension due to a change in auditors.

In an interview with Tribune Business last year, Hillary Deveaux, the Securities Commission's executive director, said that most of the industry feedback on the proposed Securities Industry Act reforms centred on the Securities Commission's powers, enforcement, disclosure, the "ongoing requirements of public companies", and the move to file the audited financial statements of Bahamian public companies within 90 days of year-end, rather than the current 120 days.

The reforms are also proposing that Bahamian public companies file their unaudited quarterly management accounts within 60 days of period end, rather than the current 90 days they are allowed.

"The touchy one really was the requirement to have audited financial statements move from a 120-day filing to a 90-day filing, and there's going to have to be a major discussion," Mr Deveaux told Tribune Business.

"Where the Commission comes down will be the law of the land, and companies will have to comply."

Keith Davies

"I think our approach to dealing with the transition period for that will be based on how prepared the companies are - whether they

have the proper systems in place for them to get the financial statements, management accounts to the auditor, along with supporting documents, to ensure this can be accomplished."

Mr Deveaux added that the Securities Commission was "overly concerned that we don't put in into law a provision that can't be maintained or sustained, and then have people inferring that the jurisdiction is unable to adhere to the legislation. It has some serious implications for the jurisdiction."

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **WILSON DONJOIE of SANDY POINT, ABACO, BAHAMAS**, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **25th day of JANUARY, 2010** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

Legal Notice

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(No.45 of 2000)

ELLENTON LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 137 (4) of the International Business Companies Act (No. 45 of 2000), **ELLENTON LIMITED** has been dissolved and struck off the Register according to the Certificate of Dissolution issued by the Registrar General on the 26th day of November, 2009.

Mr. Nigel Bradley
22, Rue de Villereuse
1207 Geneva
Switzerland
Liquidator

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 1987
IN THE SUPREME COURT No.951
Equity Side
BETWEEN

IN THE MATTER OF ARTOC BANK and TRUST LIMITED
(In Liquidation)

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT
(Chapter 279)

NOTICE OF SECOND DIVIDEND

Rule 68 of the Companies (Winding -Up) Rules, 1975

Name of Company	Artoc Bank & Trust Limited (in Liquidation)
Address of Registered Office	3rd Floor, Charlotte House, Charlotte Street, Nassau
Nature of Business	Bank and Trust Company
Court	The Supreme Court of The Bahamas Equity Side
Action Number	951 of 1987
Amount of Dividend	7¢ per \$1.00
When Payable	4th February, 2010
Where Payable	Pannell House, Elizabeth Avenue, Nassau, Bahamas

Dated this 26th day of January, A.D.,2010

McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes

Mareva House

#4 George Street

Nassau, Bahamas

Attorney for the Official Liquidator

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THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS

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NOTICE FROM THE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

The deadline for Fall (September) 2010 applications is **Friday, February 5th 2010**.

Please ensure that your application and all supporting documents are submitted by that deadline.

For more information, call The Office of Admissions at 302-4499/302-4394 or e-mail admissions@cob.edu.bs.



THE PUBLIC HOSPITALS AUTHORITY

NOTICE

TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF X-RAY FILMS AND PROCESSING CHEMICALS PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL

Tenders are invited from qualified contractors to provide x-ray films and processing chemicals for the Princess Margaret Hospital for a period of one (1) year.

Tender documents, which include instructions to tenderers, specifications and other relevant information, can be collected 9am - 5:00 pm Monday to Friday at the Public Hospitals Authority, Corporate Centre "B", Third and West Terraces, Collins Avenue.

A Tender must be submitted in duplicate in a sealed envelope or package identified as "Tender for the provision of x-ray films and processing chemicals, Princess Margaret Hospital" and addressed to:

*The Chairman
Tenders Committee
The Public Hospitals Authority
Corporate Centre "B"
Third & West Terraces, Collins Avenue
P.O. Box N-8200
Nassau Bahamas.*

Tenders are to arrive at the Public Hospitals Authority no later than **5:00 p.m. Friday, 26th February, 2010. Late tender(s) will not be accepted.**

A copy of a valid business license and a letter of good standing from the National Insurance Board should accompany all proposals.

The Public Hospitals Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Tender(s).

BUSINESS

FROM page 1B

“career, business and vocational development”, Mr Myers explained, with classrooms geared for multiple courses in trades such as landscaping, mechanics and tile laying.

Chamber campus

them to fully develop and realise their potential “under the watchful eye of the Chamber and the Institute”.

chairs. That Association, he explained, was started to provide “career training, vocational training and certification” for workers in that sector, working with the Florida Nursery Growers Association to provide this.

tor, has got the same problem. Quite frankly, the number of work permits being issued is evidence of that..... You can't believe what I go through to find cashiers trained on a point of sale (POS) system.

tants to be literate and numerate. A lot of time is wasted at the front end getting them literate and numerate before they can become productive. We're not going for the top 25 per cent - we're going for the rest.”

tial candidates once they attained these. Mr Myers said the Chamber planned to “get businesses involved and fired up about education”, and aimed to launch a ‘Gold Star Awards’ programme to reward companies focusing on improved education and training.

Advertisement for the Bahamas Government Treasury Bills. Includes logo, title, details of tenders, and a signature.

“What we have done already is raise the bar and empower the workforce, which in turn empowers our company,” Mr Myers told Tribune Business. The same ethos and objectives that had guided the BLA were now what the Chamber Institute and proposed campus were seeking to mirror, and accomplish, on a much wider scale for the broader Bahamian economy's benefit.

“And it's one thing to find them, but another thing to get them to show up for work on time five days a week. There's a massive need for education and labour reform. The Chamber recognises that, and that's one of its biggest objectives.”

Mr Myers said the Chamber's Labour and Training Committee, which was established in August 2009, now had a permanent staffer, Russ Abrams, who was running it on a day-to-day basis and moving it towards the goals set out.

Those looking to earn these awards had to submit plans on how many employees were being trained, their apprenticeship programmes and business development plans. Another award programme under consideration was the Golden Apple Awards, which will go to the best public and private school teachers in lower, middle and upper high schools. And Mr Myers said the Chamber was also testing a planned Job Search website, where candidates seeking employment could post their resumes and employers advertise vacant posts.

He explained that the Chamber Institute and campus would eventually target high school pupils in the 10th-12th grades, and was focused chiefly on the 75 per cent of Bahamian society that were not going to become attorneys, doctors, accountants and bankers. The goal, Mr Myers said, was to “direct some of those very good minds” that were not academically inclined towards a career, “and encourage people to become functional members of society, with goals, objectives, ability to earn and to be productive.”

“Along with that is the challenge - very sad, but very real - of getting the group that are not going to become attorneys, bankers, lawyers and accountants to be literate and numerate. A lot of time is wasted at the front end getting them literate and numerate before they can become productive. We're not going for the top 25 per cent - we're going for the rest.”

With the private sector setting the standards they wanted persons to attain, there would be no reason to reject potential candidates once they attained these. Mr Myers said the Chamber planned to “get businesses involved and fired up about education”, and aimed to launch a ‘Gold Star Awards’ programme to reward companies focusing on improved education and training.

He added that it was vital for the private sector and broader Bahamian community to get involved in reforming this nation's education system, because this country was “already becoming less and less competitive as a nation because of education”.

NOTICE: Angela Hanna claims to be the owner of the following piece parcel or lot of land designated as lots 118-119 Brougham Street also known as Pansa Corner Southern District, New Providence.

THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS. Visit our website at www.cob.edu.bs. CULINARY & HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE, INDUSTRY TRAINING DEPARTMENT. (Session 2) Table with columns: COURSE, SEC, CODE, BEGINS, ENDS, DURATION, DAYS, TIME, TUITION & FEES, RM.

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF THURSDAY, 28 JANUARY 2010. Includes logos for BISK, ROYAL FIDELITY, CFAL, COLONIAL and a detailed table of market data.

UNITED WORLD COLLEGES. The Bahamas National Committee invites students and parents from public and private schools to attend a United World Colleges Scholarship Recruitment Reception, at Holy Cross Church Activity Centre Soldier Road on February 6, 2010 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

FirstCaribbean CAREER OPPORTUNITIES. Are you seeking an exciting career opportunity? AVAILABLE POSITION: PERSONAL CREDIT SERVICES - MANAGER. For further information on this and other available positions, please visit our website: www.firstcaribbeanbank.com/careers.htm