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INSIDE

CARS FOR SALE, HELP WANTED AND REAL ESTATE

BAHAMAS BIGGEST

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Drinking water 'under threat'

Passport to Paradise

Spring edition hits hotels

THE Spring edition of Passport to Paradise Magazine hits hotels today. The latest edition of this light-hearted Bahamian feature magazine covers the extraordinary cruise ship Oasis of the Seas, recaps the Michael Jordan Celebrity Golf Tournament, the models of Versace, and some of the best kept secrets of the Bahamas.

The magazine is delivered door-to-door to hotels that receive USA Today and is also inserted in all home delivery copies of The Tribune.

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Minister says Bahamas urgently needs proper networks and policies

By **TANEKA THOMPSON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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THE availability of fresh drinking water in the Bahamas could be jeopardised by climate change and hurricanes, warned State Environment Minister Phenton Nymour, who said this country urgently needs proper water networks and management policies.

Anticipated sea level rise from climate change, hurricane motivated storm surges — and even heavy rain — can all contaminate precious water well-fields with brackish, salty water, cautioned Mr Nymour, leading to severe water shortages and unavailability.

Likewise, human acts of environmental negligence — like digging pits or quarries to obtain fill below the water table or dumping solid and liquid wastes indiscriminately — also threaten our water supply.

His statements came as he chastised the Christie administration for its "reckless management or mismanagement"

ment" of two publicly owned utility companies — the Water and Sewage Corporation (WSC) and the Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC) — actions for which, he said, the Bahamian people are still paying heavily.

The threats underscore the need for properly designed water supply systems or a centralized sewerage system, especially in New Providence, which is burdened with a rapidly growing population of more than 300,000, said Mr Nymour.

"This administration has identified such instances and appropriate preventative and response mechanisms are in trend," he told Parliament during his contribution to the 2009/2010 mid-term budget debate.

The South Beach representative recalled several past natural disasters that wreaked havoc on fresh water well-fields on Cat Island, Long Island, Andros and Grand Bahama, in turn leaving these islands severely

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NEW DEFENCE FORCE BOATS HIT THE WAVES



ONE OF TWO new boats given to the Royal Bahamas Defence Force by the United States takes to the water yesterday. The vessels were formally handed over at the 'Enduring Friendship Equipment Turnover' held at the Defence Force base in Coral Harbour.

• SEE PAGE TWO

'High costs hamper Grand Bahama' as tourist destination

By **DENISE MAYCOCK**
Tribune Freeport Reporter
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GRAND Bahama's ability to compete as a tourist destination is being significantly hampered because of the high costs associated with the island, according to a tourism expert.

Vernice Walkine, Director General of Tourism, said feedback from visitors to the Ministry of Tourism is that Grand Bahama is "too expensive in every respect."

She stressed that all stakeholders on the island must do their part to drop prices and reduce costs to the customer so that the island can be competitive.

The cost of airfare, rooms, food, and transportation on Grand Bahama are much higher than Nassau and other destinations in the Caribbean.

SEE page six



VERNICIE WALKINE

Few details on Fox Hill murder

POLICE say they have no information to release to the public in connection with the murder in Fox Hill on Thursday night.

According to reports, the man, a Haitian, nicknamed "Black", was shot and killed at around 7.30pm in an area known as "The Bend."

According to residents he had borrowed a bicycle to go to make a purchase in Wright Lane when he was shot.

His death brings the murder total for the year to 18.

When contacted for comment last night, a police spokesperson said they should have an update on the incident by Monday morning.

Developers accused of 'environmental terrorism'

SECRET SOUL FLY FISHING ADVENTURES bonefish guide Clint Kemp at the South Seas development site adjacent to the Bahamas National Trust Bonefish Pond national park.



By **MEGAN REYNOLDS**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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DEVELOPERS responsible for ripping out acres of mangroves and digging canals on the south side of New Providence have been accused of environmental terrorism by Nassau fishermen.

Bonefish guides Clint Kemp and Aaron Bain of Secret Soul Fly Fishing Adventures have reported a dramatic transformation of the southern shoreline where thriving mangroves have been

removed and canals dredged to build the marina communities of Venice Bay and South Seas.

Around 30 acres of mangroves were removed to make way for Venice Bay, at Millars Creek, ridding the coast of part of its natural buffer against storms and thriving feeding and nursing ground for marine life, Mr Kemp said.

A road extended across the bay links to a jetty extending around half a mile across the shallow flats as a canal is

SEE page six

Mitchell hits back at comments by Minister of National Security

SHADOW Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Public Service Fred Mitchell took grave exception yesterday to remarks made by the National Security Minister in the House of Assembly Thursday night.

According to Mr Mitchell, Minister Tommy Turnquest sought to suggest that there was "political interference" in prison officer promotions prior to his arrival in office.

"That is a despicable untruth," Mr Mitchell said in a statement made to the media.

"If this were said outside the House, it would be a grave libel. I challenge him to give any credible evidence that there was political interference."

According to the former Minister, the record will show that the promotions at the prison were at all times guided by the due processes of the Prison Department and the

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LOCAL NEWS

Agreement made on date for hotel union elections

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
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“I would like to commend the executive council for heeding the advice of the court and agreeing to move the dates forward.”

Former president and now presidential hopeful Nicole Martin

new election and nomination dates.

More controversy arose after it was announced that the council had agreed by a majority to set April 27 as the nomination date with June 30 for the elections; meaning that the union would effectively be without proper representation for more than a year.

Subsequently, former president Nicole Martin and her team filed a writ which sought to void the dates that had purportedly been set.

“We are facing a situation where the union seems apparently out of control,” Justice George Newman said yesterday. He noted that it was not the duty of the court to micro-

manage the union.

Court of Appeal President Dame Joan noted that the order of the court had been followed by letter but not in spirit. She pointed out that the court’s order in January paved the way for the union to have new elections and allowed for the temporary executive council to pay the necessary union bills.

“We already made every order we could to protect the interests of the union,” Dame Joan said.

Attorney Keod Smith, who represents Kirk Wilson and several members of the union’s executive council, noted that he had filed a motion seeking leave to appeal the appellate court’s decision at the Privy Council.

This prompted the judges to inquire as to who had authorised him to represent the

union, in light of the fact that he did not represent the interests of all union members.

Mr Smith subsequently conceded that he was not authorised to represent the union and withdrew his application for leave to appeal to the Privy Council.

Eight members of the union’s executive council were present, and the court encouraged them to convene and set the nomination and election dates.

After a brief adjournment, Mr Smith said that it was agreed that March 15 would be nomination day and that April 27 would be the date for the elections.

Following the hearing, former president and now presidential hopeful Nicole Martin said: “I would like to commend the executive council for heeding the advice of the court

and agreeing to move the dates forward.

“I think we are all very relieved that we don’t have to wait until June because being in the industry we know what is happening among the membership and that really would not have served the purpose.”

Current union president Roy Colebrooke told reporters, “I am relieved to know that persons can now get on with your lives because when you look at this whole thing, persons were just held in suspense.”

Attorney Keod Smith said: “Now we are going forward hopefully with a clearer set of circumstances for the members of the union to consider as to what they can and cannot do.”

Attorney Damian Gomez said that he was “exceptionally pleased” with the outcome of yesterday’s proceedings.

TWO NEW BOATS FOR DEFENCE FORCE



Felipe Major/Tribune staff

THE DEFENCE FORCE received two boats from the US yesterday at the Enduring Friendship Equipment Turnover ceremony held at the Royal Bahamas Defence Force base in Coral Harbour. The new boats are pictured above and top right. Pictured right is Minister of National Security Tommy Turnquest signing the turnover documents with US Deputy Chief of Mission Timothy Zuniga-Brown.



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MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY Tommy Turnquest speaks yesterday.

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New coalition aiming for Haitian/Bahamian solidarity

NOELLE NICOLLS
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THE Lambi Coalition hosted its first Haitian/Bahamian Solidarity Forum Wednesday in an effort to bridge the gap between the two communities.

Guest presenters spoke about the need to create a change in behaviour by touching one Bahamian at a time; to have the community engage in self-examination for ingrained prejudice, insensitivity and ignorance.

There was consensus that change at the level of individuals was necessary for amassing the scale of support needed to create major political changes, such as citizenship at birth for Bahamian-born individuals of Haitian descent.

"I was inspired by the Solidarity Forum. There was a good turn out. It's a start. We hope to continue the process of rising the consciousness of African people. Based on the feedback from the audience we hope to have another forum and will begin planning toward that at Lambi's next meeting," said Alex Morley, Lambi chairman.

Ean Maura, educator, father of two, and co-founder of the Indaba Project, spoke about the global importance of uniting the African community. He said there are many examples of how the African community has set global trends, from fashion, music, community organising, to spirituality. He said if the African community could achieve solidarity it would not be long before the world

caught on.

The Lambi Coalition takes its name from the Creole word for "Conch," as the conch shell has a long standing association with the idea of resistance and coming together for Africans. The organisation was formed in the wake of the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti.

"I was taken aback when I arrived because I did not expect to hear the things I heard from a group of Bahamians. It is amazing how compassionate and concerned the group is for the plight of the Haitians living in the Bahamas and the children of Haitian descent," said Mary Reckley, founding member and treasurer of the United Association of Haitians in the Bahamas (UAHB).

Ms Reckley has had 16

years working with UAHB and 23 years working with the Bahamian Haitian Cultural Association, of which she is president.

"I see this group going far and personally I will encourage children of Haitian descent to join the group, because they seem to be able to address the issues in a way that would make a difference. I was very, very impressed," she said.

Lucien Emmanuel attended the event, having been one of the main advocates at the College of the Bahamas (COB) for a change in regulations governing tuition for Haitian Bahamians.

He encouraged the presenters to be steadfast, saying that from his personal experience he knew people who spoke up in support of Hait-

ian rights were often targeted and victimised.

Prior to 2008, stateless Bahamians of Haitian descent had to pay international student rates, while their high school counterparts paid Bahamian rates. The regulations were changed to allow anyone attending high school in the Bahamas for six consecutive years to benefit from local fee rates.

Mr Emmanuel was born in the Bahamas to Haitian parents and said it took him about three years to be granted citizenship after he applied. He enrolled in COB during this limbo period, and refused to pay international fees as a matter of principle.

"I was born here. I don't think I should be treated any differently than anyone else. I sat the same BGCSE, so why

should a different standard be set economically," said Mr Emmanuel.

Next on the planning agenda for Lambi is building on the support from its initial forum, and organising a benefit concert in aid of the earthquake relief effort, according to the chairman.

Canned goods will be collected as the cost of admission instead of money. These goods will be delivered to reputable grassroots organisations in Haiti.

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PLP candidate Ryan Pinder stands outside court on Thursday.

Elizabeth protest votes removed

BALLOT boxes from the five polling division affected by the Elizabeth by-election challenge mounted by Ryan Pinder were brought to the court yesterday afternoon so that the protests votes could be removed.

The procedure took place in closed chambers, in the presence of the election court judges, the Parliamentary Registrar, attorneys and three agents for the parties concerned.

Attorney Philip "Brave" Davis, who represents petitioner Leo Ryan Pinder, indicated to the court on Thursday that polling divisions 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 are affected by the challenge. The election court petition was filed by Ryan Pinder of the PLP, who gained 1,499 votes to Dr Sands' 1,501 in the February 16 Elizabeth constituency by-election. Mr Pinder is claiming that five protest votes cast in his favour should be counted, thus making him the elect-



FNM candidate Dr. Duane Sands gestures to supporters outside court on Thursday.

ed MP for Elizabeth. The hearing is set to open on Thursday, March 11.

Ministry website move 'would be mistake'

NOELLE NICOLLS
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OPPOSITION spokesperson on foreign affairs Fred Mitchell said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be making a "grave mistake" if it moved its independently hosted website to the government's platform at this time.

The Foreign Affairs website is registered under the domain mfabahamas.org. Mr Mitchell said without a substantial investment in the upgrade of the bahamas.gov.bs platform it would not benefit the ministry to switch.

"The government's website is inadequate because it cannot handle the existing traffic demands. It is slow. The government's website is down 50 percent of the time and is not properly updated or maintained. This was the reason when I was the minister, the ministry chose not to join the government's website. Those problems have still not been resolved," said Mr Mitchell.

Senior administrators in the ministry said Thursday that

work on the website was on hold, because the ministry is in the processing of switching platforms and reviewing the management structure of the website.

No one has specific responsibility for the website, according to the administrator. It falls under the general responsibility of the permanent secretary and the administration.

Mr Mitchell said: "The 'reason' that the official offered is an excuse that is almost one year old. The ministry continues to do a disservice to the country by continuing, for over one year now, to talk about upgrading and transferring a service when there is little evidence to suggest that the ministry gives a hoot about the public's right to know what, if anything, the ministry is doing for the Bahamian people," said Mr Mitchell.

More important than the problem associated with deciding on a platform, Mr Mitchell said, was the issue of the website being content deficient. He said the website should be content driven.

After a quick analysis of the

government's main website, technology consultant Eric Lopez of WSI Internet Consulting identified two favourable aspects - the recently updated news items on the home page and the visible banners that provide ease of access for key legislature and government information.

He identified 10 areas where improvement could make the website more appealing, interactive and relevant.

"The website lacks appeal - very monotonous. A creative design and structural make-over will enhance value to visitors. It lacks effective call to actions; call to actions foster the conversion of website traffic to customers or site users. These should be designed and included to attract and direct visitors to fulfill the objectives of the website," said Mr Lopez.

Some of the other areas of deficiency he identified include: the lack of key audience appeal; ineffective navigation; no social media connection; the lack of relevancy in design and functionality and that the website objectives are not clear.

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BROOKLYN'S FINEST	NEW	1:05	N/A	4:20	7:20	N/A	10:40
COP OUT	C	1:10	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:55
THE CRAZIES	C	1:10	3:20	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:45
SHUTTER ISLAND	C	1:30	N/A	4:10	7:10	N/A	10:10
THE WOLFMAN	C	1:05	3:20	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:55
VALENTINE'S DAY	T	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:50
PERCY JACKSON	B	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:45
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	C	1:05	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:55
THE TOOTH FAIRY	A	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:55
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THE CRAZIES	NEW	1:15	N/A	4:15	7:15	N/A	10:15
SHUTTER ISLAND	C	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:40
THE WOLFMAN	C	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:45
VALENTINE'S DAY	C	1:05	N/A	4:05	7:05	N/A	10:05
PERCY JACKSON	B	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:45

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Turkey warns US over Armenian genocide vote

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey warned the Obama administration on Friday of diplomatic consequences if it doesn't quash a congressional resolution that would brand the World War I-era killing of Armenians genocide.

Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Turkey, a key Muslim ally of the U.S., would assess what measures it would take, adding that the issue was a matter of "honour" for his country.

Meanwhile, a senior Obama administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said there was an understanding with the Democratic leadership in Congress that the resolution would not go to a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives.

A U.S. congressional committee approved the measure Thursday. The 23-22 vote would send the measure to the full House of Representatives, if the leadership decided to bring it up. Minutes after the vote, Turkey withdrew its ambassador to the U.S.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton did not answer a question about the diplomatic fallout Friday.

"The Obama administration strongly opposes the resolution that was passed by only one vote by the House committee and will work very hard to make sure it does not go to the House floor," Clinton told reporters in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Historians estimate that up to 1.5 million Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks around the time of World War I, an event widely viewed by scholars as the first genocide of the 20th century. Turkey denies that the deaths constituted genocide, saying the toll has been inflated and those killed were victims of civil war and unrest.

President Barack Obama promised during his campaign to officially recognize the killings as genocide but has not done so. The Obama administration had been silent about the resolution until shortly before the vote, when it said it opposed its passage. Turkey wants stronger action to block the resolution.

"The picture shows that the U.S. administration did not put enough weight behind the issue," Davutoglu told reporters. "We are seriously disturbed by the result."

"We expect the U.S. administration to, as of now, display more effective efforts. Otherwise the picture ahead will not be a positive one," he said. He complained of a lack of "strategic vision" in Washington.

The measure was approved at a time when Washington is expected to press

Turkey to back sanctions against Iran to be approved in the U.N. Security Council, where Turkey currently holds a seat. Turkish cooperation also is important to U.S. operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Also at stake are defence contracts. Turkey is an important market for U.S. defence companies, many of which had lobbied against the measure.

"We have had good cooperation with the U.S. administration at all levels," Davutoglu said. "We would expect our contributions not to be sacrificed to domestic political games."

Davutoglu said the U.S. ambassador had been called to the Foreign Ministry for talks. The ambassador, James Jeffrey, told reporters the Obama administration was opposed to the measure going before the full House.

The foreign minister said Turkey was determined to press ahead with efforts to normalize ties with Armenia, but said Turkey would not be "pressured" into taking any decisions.

He added that the vote had put the ratification of agreements to normalize ties with Armenia at risk.

Last year, Turkey and Armenia agreed to normalize ties by establishing diplomatic relations and reopen their shared border, but the agreements have yet to be approved by their parliaments.

Turkey has been dragging its feet, fearful of upsetting ally Azerbaijan, which balks at any suggestion of the reopening of the border until its own dispute with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh is settled. The region in Azerbaijan has been under Armenian control.

Armenian groups have sought congressional affirmation of the killings as genocide for decades and welcomed Thursday's vote.

"The problem that America faces is how to recognize the Armenian genocide without damaging its strategic alliance with Ankara. But at some point, we must adopt moral positions," Mourad Papazian, president of the western European branch of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, told AP Television News in Paris.

In Ankara, dozens of members of a small left-wing party staged a protest near the heavily protected U.S. Embassy, shouting: "Genocide is an American lie!"

Turkey has been struggling to block similar genocide bills in parliaments across the globe.

(This article was written by Suzan Fraser of the Associated Press)

Economic freedom and the Bahamas

EDITOR, The Tribune.

MS. CHARLYNE E. SEALY, in a thoughtful letter to The Tribune on January 25th responds to the Heritage Foundation report showing decline of economic freedom in the Bahamas. Her remarks were directed to Rick Lowe, Vice President of The Nassau Institute.

The key ingredients of economic freedom are:

1. Personal choice;
2. Voluntary exchange coordinated by markets;
3. Freedom to enter and compete in markets;
4. Protection of persons and their property from aggression by others.

Where public policy interferes with, or fails to support these four "ingredients" economic and other freedoms are at stake. Rick Lowe and the Nassau Institute are unrelenting advocates for a free economy.

Ms. Sealy cites areas in the Bahamian economy that lowers the overall rating in the Heritage Index. She does not believe most Bahamians would willingly agree to change the following policies:

- 1) Reserving sectors of the economy for Bahamians;
- 2) Permission required to sell property over five acres;
- 3) Tariffs
- 4) Monetary policy and exchange controls.

Reserving particular sectors of the economy is protectionist policy restricting retail, and wholesale businesses to Bahamians. Licensing of the professions is also protectionist policy.

Ms Sealy should understand that "every form of protectionism builds on raw political force which is strengthened by advocates of political power."

Those benefitting from government protection of their industry or profession are big business and politicians counting votes. It is an unholy alliance of business and government in a common cause against consumers and foreigners. It is "crony capitalism" and not free market.

Ms. Sealy asks: "Would

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

Mr. Lowe sanction a campaign to get Bahamian lawyers, accountants and luxury store owners to agree that foreign nationals be permitted to come to the Bahamas and hang their shingles with no review or approval?"

Implied in the question is should we campaign for free and voluntary exchange in goods and services considering that lawyers, accountants and luxury store owners prefer the current system of protection for their professions and businesses.

She may be right in the preference for protection by certain groups, but if so then Mr. Lowe's comment that the Bahamas is "heading in the wrong direction" is irrefutable.

Consumers are not concerned with the nationality of the seller. They want a wide choice of products at the lowest prices. The Bahamianization policy requiring permission from government to decide who can sell and serve is therefore anti-consumer. It is anti-free market and negative for economic growth.

A shrinking economy and drop in consumer spending should cause rethinking policies that protect special interests.

Competition tends to maintain prices at levels that maximize exchange. A walk down shabby Bay Street illuminates the sad story of decline in the retail sector. If Bahamians wish to recapture lost business and encourage new enterprise they will have to open up to new participants not based on nationality but on whoever and whatever will attract business and promote economic activity.

Patriotism as paternalism is often confused with protectionism. Rick Lowe would say that protectionism is unpatriotic because it supports high prices and slows economic growth.

The existing interventionist policy of restricting areas to the discretion of politicians is a declaration that business is free to act as long as what it does complies exactly with the plans and intentions of the government.

Government interference is asking ultimately for more compulsion and less freedom.

If action in the market place is subject to political approval then we have to believe in an omniscient all-knowing government with all the knowledge required to know what is best for everyone else; an absurd notion that few would support in 2010.

The permission required to sell more than five acres - is policy that interferes with voluntary exchange required to co-ordinate markets.

Property rights have evolved from the earlier practice of minimum intervention to government approval to sell over five acres. Population and environmental conditions affect property use. Declarations of intended use of property for development may protect the property rights of others. However, restrictions on the use of one's property if they are arbitrary decisions by bureaucrats limit on a cherished freedom.

Tariffs as protection for chosen industries are counterproductive to economic freedom and economic growth.

In the Bahamas they replace an income tax. The current tariff rate is so high

as to reduce competitive advantage. The Duty Free policy of the early nineties is empirical evidence that retailers were unable to compete in the "luxury goods" market with vendors in other countries.

Duty Free was a kind of deception where the "tariff" was renamed a "stamp tax."

"A rose by any other name is still a rose." Whilst duty was lowered on some items, the revenue lost was compensated by increasing the rate in other sectors.

A flat consumption stamp tax of 17 per cent universally applied would encourage more economic exchanges without deceptive marketing strategies. Dr. Arthur Laffer an economist in the Reagan years has shown that when taxes drop revenue increases — The Laffer Curve.

Ms Sealy overlooks the low tariffs of the 50's and 60's. The rate on most imports was 15 per cent on the C.I.F value plus 2 per cent stamp tax. Other taxes were low, and there were no deficit budgets. The economy grew at 8 - 10 per cent. In 1972 the Economic Freedom of the World Index ranked the Bahamas 7th of 121 countries. In 2007 the Bahamas is ranked 43rd of 143 countries.

Monetary policy and exchange controls. The Bahamas gets a consistently low rating in the Freedom Index for monetary and fiscal policy due to foreign exchange controls. Ms Sealy is correct to note a relaxation of the controls. Until there is total free exchange the rating in this category will not improve.

The limit on foreign currency exchange is related to the foreign reserves required to support the value of the B\$ at par with the US\$.

Dr. Alvin Rabushka in studying the Bahamian economy stated in 2004: "Unless foreign reserves rise to, and remain at, a higher level in the near future, the financial structure of the Bahamian economy, which resembles an inverted pyramid, will continue to get heavier and larger at the top. At some point, the whole structure will topple. Either devaluation or new restrictions on current account transactions, which means import control, must follow."

Economic freedom and free trade are polarizing issues between those who understand the benefits of free exchange and the protectionists whose opposition is visceral and passionate. Those of us who favour free trade believe in the ethical principle that people should be free to buy from whomever they choose, and in the economic truth that wealth and efficiency increase as prices fall.

Mr Lowe, an advocate for economic freedom, is a true patriot and a courageous defender of the rights of individuals to pursue their interests so long as they do not interfere with the right of others to do the same.

Ms Sealy raises policy issues for public discussion that mostly occurs behind closed doors.

Her response and questions open them to public scrutiny.

We invite her to join the Nassau Institute in identifying public policy and government actions that take away our precious freedoms.

THE NASSAU
INSTITUTE
Joan Thompson
President,
Nassau,
February 2, 2010

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NOTICE

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Grant updates House on major ministry projects

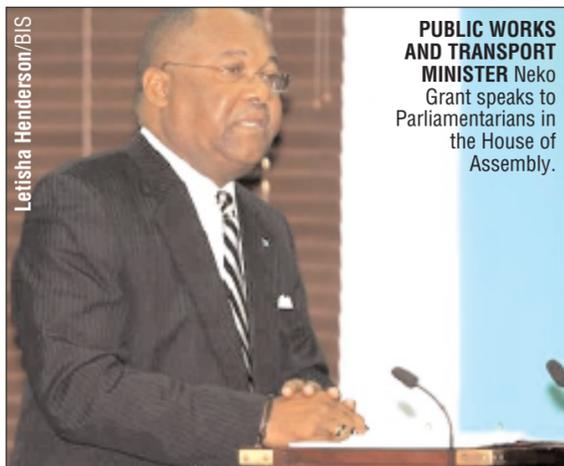
THE Ministry of Public Works and Transport will continue its efforts to improve service, contain costs and enhance revenue collection during the second half of the 2009/2010 year, Minister Neko Grant said in his contribution to the mid-year budget debate.

Mr Grant said: "Our efforts in improving service delivery will also continue as it underpins the credibility of the government."

He highlighted the Buildings Control Division's second place finish in the Public Sector Service Improvement Programme in October 2009.

"I congratulate the employees of the Buildings Control Division on their achievement," said Mr Grant. "I also take this opportunity to thank all employees of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, its departments and statutory authorities for the work they perform on a daily basis in providing services to the public and to encourage them all to strive to attain even higher levels of performance."

He noted three major projects completed during the first half of the 2009/2010 fiscal year. Among them is the New Providence harbour dredging and bollard project that was



Letisha Henderson/BIS

PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT MINISTER Neko Grant speaks to Parliamentarians in the House of Assembly.

completed in December 2009 in time for the arrival of the Royal Caribbean's Oasis of the Seas.

"While these projects are virtually completed and the harbour successfully facilitates entry and exit of Genesis class vessels, a small section of the harbour remains to be dredged due to inclement weather conditions. We expect this area to be completed by May 2010," said Mr Grant.

A major contract totalling \$11,294,468.86 was awarded to Cavalier Construction Com-

pany for the construction of the new Bay Street Straw Market. Mr Grant said the government is pleased with the progress made to date on the straw market and anticipates that the building will be completed by mid-2011.

Furthermore, the precincts of the Parliament Square on Bay Street will be enhanced as a result of a contract signed for the refurbishment of the Supreme Court, Senate, Hansard and Magistrates Court buildings. Mr Grant explained that the project includes construction of a new utility support enclosure to service the buildings.

"These projects (straw market and Parliament Square) will undoubtedly contribute to the overall effort that is being undertaken to improve the appearance of the downtown area of Nassau," said Mr Grant.

Regarding other work in the downtown area, Mr Grant said the project to replace elevators in the Churchill and Main Post Office building is ongoing. One of the elevators at the Churchill Building has been completed and a second one is to be installed by March of this year.

He said the elevators for the Post Office Building have been ordered and delivery is expected during July of this year. The first unit is expected to be installed by September and the second unit by November at a cost of \$335,430.

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WHY YOU VEX?

BAHAMIANS HAVE THEIR SAY

"I VEX that some of them by-election candidates still have their billboards up in the Elizabeth constituency. They was so quick to put them up now they ain' want take it down like that ga 'cause anyone to vote for them next time."

"If they can't pay couple dudes one \$50 to take them signs down, I suggest those big, strapping men go down there with some tools and dig them eye-sores out themselves."

—Vex on Prince Charles Drive.

"I vex at how disgusting, rowdy and low class some of our Members of Parliament act in the House of Assembly. I wouldn't dare carry my child in there to observe the slack way those grown men and women carry on — I mean it look like some of them wanted to throw blows on Monday, man."

"I can understand wanting to argue your point and to defend your name, but my word, I wish they could find a more decent way to talk to one another instead of acting like beasts. The only difference I see between them and the man on the street is the bigger words they use but the same biggety, nasty attitude is there."

—Ashamed of MPs.

"I vex at how some of today's young women leave their house to go out at night without pants on, clothes too tight, chest out — all topped off with a head of full of weave that looks like it belong on a rag doll. What makes it worse, is you often see these women holding the hand of a little girl and you wonder what sort of person that innocent child is going to grow up to be or what she is

being exposed to.

"Ladies and mothers, please take some pride in yourself and set an example for your children. Let them know there is more to life than showing what God gave you to every Tom, Dick and Harry."

—Concerned.

"I vex at all these people who cut me off while I driving every blessed morning, as if only they have somewhere to go. Why is it that our people seem to have no patience or compassion for others, as evidenced by the nasty way they treat you on the streets?"

"Road rage is a serious thing, but I am thankful for the grace of the One above who hold me tongue and my hand from displaying my anger at those inconsiderate drivers. People think of your fellow man next time you are behind the wheel and stop driving so reckless."

—Mad Motorist.

"I is particularly vex dat dem 'politrickans' keeps trying ta hoodwink da people, especially now we see dat Saunders Beach gats two levels, one upper level mussey fa dem who go fa da view and da lower level

for dem regulars who likes da cold water. Dey politrickans shoulda check dem old pictures of da previous massive enormous Montague Beach an see what happens when they done fool wid it.

"Dey ain't learn. "Of all t'ings yinna shouldn't mess wid mother nature."

—Mama ain't born no fool.

"I am happy with the new police Chief having the vigilant police officers working during the nights and hearing the police car horns tooting all around the neighbourhood. This sure sends a message to the culprits."

"And all we need to do now is to make the lawyers liable for the actions of their client culprits because they somehow manage to keep getting bail for them, for the umpteenth time to keep repeating criminal acts on us da victims in this little seven by 21 mile long island."

—Victim.

Are you vex? Send your complaints to whyyouvex@tribunemedia.net

Donations from Americans for Haiti top \$1 billion

NEW YORK

EXPERTS who track charitable giving say donations from Americans for earthquake relief in Haiti have passed the \$1 billion mark, according to Associated Press.

The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University has been monitoring donations received by 91 charities engaged in Haiti relief since the quake on Jan. 12. The total surpassed \$1 billion as of Friday. About one-third of it has gone to the American Red Cross.

The Chronicle of Philanthropy says other major recipients of Haiti donations include Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. Fund for UNICEF and the U.S. wing of Doctors Without Borders.



The American Embassy is currently considering applications for the following position:

Program Specialist, HIV Surveillance

The incumbent, under the supervision of the Director of the CDC Caribbean Regional Office Global AIDS Program will provide technical expertise for HIV/AIDS surveillance systems and prevention programs within an agreed Program of Work established by CRO in collaboration with the Bahamas Ministry of Health.

This four-year position is open to candidates with the following qualifications:

- A Bachelor level degree in one of the following disciplines: Medicine, Public Health; Epidemiology; Nursing; Behavioral Sciences.
- Five years' experience in the management of HIV/AIDS, STD, TB prevention programs at the local, state or international levels that entailed responsibility for the evaluation of program activities.
- Must possess basic computer skills with experience/training for word processing and spreadsheets.

BENEFITS PROVIDED INCLUDE:

The successful candidate will be offered an excellent compensation package including performance-based incentives, medical and dental insurance, life insurance, pension and opportunities for training and development.

Applicants must be Bahamian citizens or U.S. citizens who are eligible for employment under Bahamian laws and regulations.

Application forms are available online at:

http://nassau.usembassy.gov/job_opportunities.html

All applications are to be submitted via e-mail to the Human Resources Office:

Email: poiterra@state.gov or fernanderra@state.gov

Deadline: March 24, 2010

Applications will not be accepted at the Security Gate of the Embassy.



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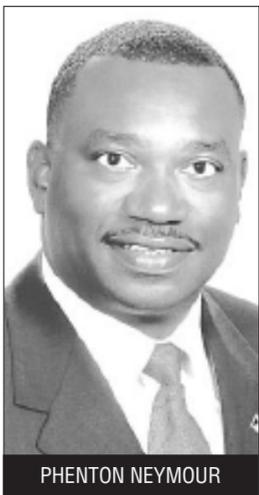
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"EXCLUSIVITY HAS ITS REWARDS"

LOCAL NEWS

Drinking water 'under threat'

FROM page one



PHENTON NEYMOUR

ly depleted of drinking water.

"We may presume that our wells will continue to provide the water we need, and that water will still come streaming from the tap. Hurricane Floyd should be a fervent reminder that being complacent or passive in establishing appropriate water networks could prove disastrous and consequential to our future water supply and to our overall well-being and could place us in jeopardy," said the South Beach representative.

During hurricane Floyd water wells in parts of Cat Island and Long Island were put out of use because of sea water contamination. Similarly, storm surges from hurricanes Frances and Jeanne in 2004 had major effects on the water resources of Grand Bahama while hurricane Frances caused damage to water resources in North Andros, he said.

These two hurricanes adversely affected the country's two major well-fields — W6 in Grand Bahama and the Barging Wellfield in North Andros, said Mr Neymour.

"These primary well-field locations, positioned in the centre of two of the largest Bahamian islands, were both inundated by the sea water, and became brackish as a result. Parts of the Andros well-field still have high salinity as a result of the saline intrusion. There is abundant evidence in Grand Bahama and Andros of previous events that caused saltwater damage to the environment."

Alarming few of these major events were recorded and analysed by the previous administration or officials at WSC handicapping the corporation from designing future mitigation plans, said Mr Neymour.

"This administration is addressing such planning deficits," he said.

The anticipated devastating affects of climate change — which can lead to elevated sea levels that can devastate our low lying chain of islands — is also a major threat to our water supply.

"Climate change is expected to result in rising sea levels, in addition to the threat of even more severe hurricanes and storm surges. Therefore, the Bahamas should elevate our awareness and preparedness to the threat that such likelihoods pose to our water resources and to our water supplies.

"In fact, even heavy rainfall events can be disastrous, similar to that which occurred during tropical Storm Noel. Heavy flooding can result in the wastes from septic tanks flowing directly into the private wells of our manipulation. This has been a repeat occurrence in some parts of New Providence."

To mitigate against these threats, the Ingraham administration will focus on enacting environmental and conservation laws and regulations; preventing future improper development in low-lying areas prone to flooding; restrict rock and sand mining activities to approved locations only; and protect beach ridge and coastal dune formations.

Government also plans to adopt appropriate physical planning policies, which will protect infrastructure from storm surges and rising water tables.



SECRET SOUL FLY FISHING ADVENTURES bonefish guide Clint Kemp at the South Seas development site adjacent to the Bahamas National Trust Bonefish Pond national park.

Developers accused of 'environmental terrorism'

FROM page one

dredged across the flats.

"All this was mangroves; it used to be teeming with fish," Mr Kemp explained at the site yesterday.

"But they cut straight through the flats and all the mangroves are gone. It's like these people have just said 'The hell with Nassau, let's just destroy it'."

"I agree that with development there is this balance that has to happen, but this! This is environmental terrorism, that's the only phrase for it. This is crazy."

At the eastern end of Millars Creek the flats converge and form the entrance to the Bahamas National Trust (BNT) Bonefish Pond national park, where many more healthy mangroves have been ripped out and an existing canal is being widened to lead into the marina dredged at South Seas.

Developer Tennyson Wells confirmed he had to stop the project in 2005 for permits to be checked, but resumed construction with full government approval in June last year. He expects South Seas

to reach completion in 18 months.

BNT Executive Director Eric Carey said the Trust will monitor the development which has already produced silting in the park despite having silt screens in place.

Mr Bain said the dredging has affected the movement of the tides, and the silt produced has coated the feeding grounds where lobster and mutton snapper were thriving just a year ago, but have now disappeared.

"There were turtles and crabs, lobster everywhere," he said.

"You could find 20, 40, 60 holes of young lobster here, but now the holes have closed up and they're gone. There's nothing."

Damage to mangrove ecosystems in the south will only increase when high-powered boats are docked in the marinas, Mr Kemp said, while the adjacent national park will do little to mitigate the effects sure to be seen on coral reefs throughout the New Providence area and beyond.

"Right here is probably the most sensitive spot in all of Nassau," he told *The Tribune*.

"They are digging up the Bonefish Pond national park. It's going to change everything in here."

He wants the lack of public dialogue over development projects and lack of sufficient environmental law to be addressed with urgency to ensure important ecosystems are protected when developments go ahead.

Without such legislation, the economic need for development cannot be balanced with the need to protect the vulnerable natural environment.

"It's not radical to speak out about this," Mr Kemp said.

"It's just sticking up for what's right. We are out here every day watching it happen and it's absolutely heart-breaking to see it actually happen right before our eyes, and it's happening so fast."

"We have complained for years how the beaches are being taken away from us, but all of this is getting taken away too."

"This is against international treaties that we have signed — and there is no mitigation."

FROM page one

'High costs'

"There is a responsibility for people here in Grand Bahama to do some things to make this island more competitive, like drop their prices," Ms Walkine stressed.

"Everybody that has a direct impact on the end product visitors pay for has to look at how they can drop prices and reduce cost to the customer."

Ms Walkine noted that the high cost of airfare and high jet fuel is one of the main problems and challenges here on the island.

"We have more than adequate number of seats to fill the rooms here on Grand Bahama, and our goal is not to lose any of those seats."

"In order to avoid losing those seats, we have to reduce the cost of jet fuel," she stressed.

Airlines flying to Grand Bahama pay 240 per cent above the average cost of jet fuel in Nassau, which is 40 per cent above average what those airlines pay for routes within the US.

Jet fuel costs for carriers reached \$5.41 per gallon in Freeport, compared to \$2.26 in Nassau, which resulted in

\$1 million in annual cost for air carriers flying to Grand Bahama International Airport.

The Grand Bahama Airport Company buys jet fuel from an overseas supplier because there is no local jet fuel supplier on the island.

GBAC officials are working with the Ministry of Tourism to lower fuel costs, which could happen soon, possibly in a matter of weeks.

"We are optimistic that sometime in next few weeks we will have a price per gallon that is considered reasonable," said the director general.

"They have understood and accepted their obligation with responsibility to protect this business and we don't anticipate that we will lose any service."

Ms Walkine noted that customers do not want to pay a \$500 airfare for a 20-minute flight to Grand Bahama when they can pay less to go to Nassau.

"That is why Grand Bahama has a unique challenge that it has to address and make itself more affordable, it cannot be overpriced."

"That's what our feedback tells us, that Grand Bahama is an expensive destination in every respect."

"And so everyone has to give a little in order to be able to attract the critical mass that will spend that much more so that your revenue grows. Even though the unit price has dropped, you are going to make more money. That is what we have been trying to communicate to people here."

"People are not responding to it, but we in tourism are supposed to solve the prob-

lem. We are supposed to find some people out there who are willing to pay that premium to come to Grand Bahama, why would they do that when they have other options for less? So it is the most frustrating challenge we have ever had."

"We are not about to negotiate any new services until we can make the existing airlines here viable and it is not viable right now because of the high cost of fuel in Grand Bahama," said Ms Walkine.

Mitchell hits back at comments by Minister of National Security

FROM page one

Ministry of National Security in consultation with the Prison Staff Association.

"The Minister ought to concentrate on getting the job done and stop trying to rewrite history. The fact is that shortly after they came to office, the FNM administration unfairly withdrew lawfully granted promotions to prison officers under procedures agreed with the Prison Staff Association and the Public Service Commission. Any other story is simply fiction."

"The Minister's own previous statements in the House of Assembly support this view. It is simply tiresome that almost three years after coming to office, the Minister can only find comfort in propaganda as a substitute for the failures of the FNM administration in the Public Service and other areas of public life in the Bahamas," he said.

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 11:00 a.m. Rev. Carla Culmer/Sis. Tezel Anderson/
 Ministry of Helps
 7:00 p.m. Bro. Franklyn Bethel/Men's Fellowship

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LOCAL NEWS

BTC donates \$100,000 to Haiti earthquake relief

THE Bahamas Telecommunications Company has donated \$100,000 to the Red Cross Haiti Relief effort.

Acting president and CEO Kirk Griffin, vice president Antonio Stubbs and chief financial officer Paul McClean made the presentation to Caroline Turnquest, president of the Bahamas Red Cross Association at a press conference yesterday morning.

In addition to this donation, BTC also introduced a text to donate campaign – Each One Reach One – in the wake of the devastating January 12 earthquake in Haiti.

The campaign was very successful, raising more than \$31,000 in text donations from BTC customers. The texting campaign allowed customers to donate in unlimited increments of \$1, \$3 and \$5.

BTC employees also donated to the cause in the amount of \$3,100.

In the wake of the disaster, BTC reduced the outbound calling rates to Haiti to 25¢ per minute for customers using BTC's Hello long distance phone card. As a result, friends and family members are able to make calls to Haiti at a lower rate until March 31.

On January 25, BTC participated in an earthquake relief telethon organised by the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Clubs of Nassau.



THE EARTHQUAKE struck Haiti in January. (AP)

The company provided phone lines, equipment and manpower for the event which was a stellar success, raising \$250,000 for the victims in Haiti.

The company is also slated to assist the Ministry of Youth with its live concert and Haiti relief telethon on March 13 at the Rain Forrest Theatre.

A statement from the company said:

"BTC is extremely grateful to its employees and the general public for their extraordinary compassion and rapid mobilisation in support of this effort.

"In the upcoming weeks, the organisation will officially introduce its corporate charitable donation programme to the public."

Mentorship programme to prepare young adults for life beyond the classroom

LIFE COACH Michelle Miller said she wants to help address the critical shortage of life skills among young adults in the Bahamas in an effort to counter anti-social behaviour and build positive attitudes.

Her programme, LifeSkills242 Mentorship, is designed to be an interactive learning programme that engages young adults in a wholesome, enriching and fun learning experience.

It is structured as a six session series, scheduled to begin March 13 at the Coaching Studio in the Jovan Plaza, Madeira Street.

Designed for students in grades eight to 12, she said the programme will impart fundamental skills to assist young adults in making self-supporting decisions, as they deal with the confusion of transitioning into adulthood. Ms Miller said she drew inspiration for the programme from her own struggles as a young person.

"Keeping young people optimistic, safe and out of trouble is just part of the story of the LifeSkills242 Programme," she said. "What we're really doing is helping them to engage their thinking, learning and developmental capacity; providing invaluable skills that they will use for the rest of their lives."

Ms Miller said the greatest challenge facing this society today is that many young people lack inspiration and a sense of belonging.

"The continuous episodes of anti-social behaviour suggest that present methods for social competence are

inadequate or ineffective. It is difficult, if not unreasonable to expect children to effectively navigate emotions, make positive decisions and reach for higher achievement if we have not adequately equipped them with the essential skills to do so," she said.

Ms Miller said the fact that most education models in the Bahamas are exclusively focused on academic aptitude, leaves the development of healthy self-esteem and positive attitudes hanging in the balance.

She explained that the focus on academic competitiveness has the tendency to lead to the negative labelling of children who do not make top grades; inadvertently encouraging low self-esteem and a lack of self-control. This in turn leads to anti-social behaviour and aggression; which gradually mushrooms into violence and criminal behaviour.

Through the LifeSkills242 Programme, she hopes to offer a message that builds a new, optimistic mindset amongst young adults; offering valuable lessons of self-awareness, self-esteem, anger management, critical thinking and emotional coping skills; ultimately helping them take responsibility for the management of their attitudes and behaviour.

The effectiveness of life skills education is internationally recognised and most developing countries have incorporated it as a crucial component of the school curriculum.

More information can be found at lifeskills242@yahoo.com

Port Of Call residents tackle dumping head-on

FREEMPORT – Appalled by the rise in indiscriminate dumping, Port Of Call residents have joined forces to officially clean-up their neighbourhood.

"The road was lined with debris from the western entrance all the way down to the dead-end," said Don Mitchell, a Port Of Call Villas resident. "Mounds of garbage were at the canal easement including fast food containers, condoms, needles and household refuse."

The quiet street is a popular retreat for residents of nearby neighbourhoods, who regularly use it for exercise and other recreational purposes.

After becoming increasingly frustrated with the frequent dumping, residents, frequent visitors and members of the Port Of Call Villas and Condominium Association; the Mayfield Beach Tennis Club and Association; and Seabreeze Executive Suites, decided to act.

Clean-up efforts were launched in January by Stan and Tatiana Sargeant, second home owners and visitors to the island for more than 20 years.

The couple initially tried to collect the garbage on their own during daily walks but quickly recognised the magnitude of the problem.

After encouraging other residents to join them, the group pooled donations and hired a workman to collect the garbage. "In all, he collected 259 large trash bags over a seven-day period," said Mr Mitchell.

To discourage dumping nearby the canal, the Port Of Call group has purchased garbage bins which they regularly empty themselves. With the assistance of the Environmental Department of the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA), "No Dumping" signs have also been strategically posted.

Environmental manager for the GBPA Nakira Wilchcombe praised the group's initiative.

"GBPA applauds the Port of Call group, which has now been officially dubbed the first community group – known as 'Keep Port of Call Clean' – for addressing indiscriminate dumping in their community. Such efforts are worth imitating as they demonstrate what can be accomplished through self-driven initiatives.

"It is unfortunate when others show disregard for



RESIDENTS JOIN FORCES TO TACKLE DUMPING PROBLEM: Condominium residents and visitors of Port Of Call Drive pooled resources to clean-up their neighbourhood, collecting hundreds of bags of refuse.

the environment and the personal surroundings of others. We hope that their example would encourage other communities to work together and do their part in keeping their environment clean," she said.

Reflecting on the dumping, Mr Mitchell noted that non-residents who frequent the area are the culprits.

"We don't mind persons using the dead-end to sit and eat and enjoy the waterway but the problem arises from their abuse of the environment," he said. The Port Of Call group's next move is to contact the developers of Bahamas Terrace in an attempt to have a large dumpster installed for proper garbage disposal.

Additionally, assistance is being sought to have Sanitation Services remove heavy bulk items, like an abandoned boat and a refrigerator, from the underbrush.

Citing their efforts as an example, group member and owner-resident Ms Marianne Sussex encouraged other individuals or groups to adopt specific areas or communities on the island. "In my eight years of visiting, I've definitely seen an increased awareness and intense drive towards keeping Grand Bahama clean," the Canadian observed.

"We hope that other residents can learn from our self-help project. May they become more sensitised to

the environment and the need for all of us to keep it clean and preserve it," said Mr Mitchell.

Share your news

The Tribune wants to hear from people who are making news in their neighbourhoods. Perhaps you are raising funds for a good cause, campaigning for improvements in the area or have won an award. If so, call us on 322-1986 and share your story.



NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **BERNARDO GEDEUS of MONASTERY PARK, NASSAU, BAHAMAS**, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **6th day of MARCH, 2010** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Freeport, Bahamas.

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF:											
WEDNESDAY, 32 MARCH 2010											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,569.27 CHG 0.10 % CHG 0.01 YTD 3.89 YTD % 0.25											
FINDEX: CLOSE 000.00 YTD 00.00% 2009 -12.31%											
WWW.BISXBAMAHAS.COM TELEPHONE: 242-323-2330 FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
1.49	1.02	ARL Foods Limited	FBB1	1.02	1.02	0.00	0.00	0.283	0.000	3.5	0.00%
10.75	9.67	Bahamas Property Fund	FBB2	9.67	9.67	0.00	0.00	0.592	0.200	9.7	2.07%
6.95	5.50	Bank of Bahamas	FBB3	5.50	5.50	0.00	1,300	0.598	0.260	9.2	4.73%
0.58	0.58	Benchmark	FBB4	0.58	0.58	0.00	0.00	-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%
3.49	3.15	Bahamas Waste	FBB5	3.15	3.15	0.00	0.00	0.168	0.050	18.8	2.86%
2.15	2.14	Fidelity Bank	FBB6	2.37	2.37	0.00	0.00	0.055	0.040	43.1	1.69%
12.56	9.62	Cable Bahamas	FBB7	12.40	12.40	0.00	100	1.406	0.250	8.8	2.02%
2.88	2.72	Colina Holdings	FBB8	2.72	2.72	0.00	0.00	0.249	0.040	10.9	1.47%
7.00	5.00	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	FBB9	6.76	6.76	0.00	70	0.419	0.300	16.1	4.44%
3.65	2.21	Consolidated Water BDRs	FBB10	2.62	2.62	0.10	0.00	0.111	0.052	23.6	1.98%
2.55	1.32	Doctor's Hospital	FBB11	2.55	2.55	0.00	0.00	0.627	0.080	4.1	3.14%
7.80	5.94	Famguard	FBB12	6.49	6.49	0.00	0.00	-0.003	0.240	N/M	3.70%
11.80	8.75	Finco	FBB13	9.27	9.27	0.00	0.00	0.322	0.520	28.8	5.61%
10.40	9.75	FirstCaribbean Bank	FBB14	9.94	9.94	0.00	0.00	0.654	0.350	15.2	3.52%
5.53	3.75	Focal (S)	FBB15	4.77	4.77	0.00	0.00	0.326	0.150	14.6	3.14%
1.00	1.00	Focal Class B Preference	FBB16	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%
0.30	0.27	Freeport Concrete	FBB17	0.27	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.035	0.000	7.7	0.00%
5.59	5.00	ICD Utilities	FBB18	5.59	5.59	0.00	0.00	0.407	0.500	13.7	8.94%
10.50	9.95	J. S. Johnson	FBB19	9.95	9.95	0.00	0.00	0.952	0.640	10.5	6.43%
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate	FBB20	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.156	0.000	64.1	0.00%
BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing bases)											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity			
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00	0.00	7%	19 October 2017			
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00	0.00	Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022			
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00	0.00	7%	30 May 2013			
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00	0.00	Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015			
Fidelity Over-The-Counter Securities											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Weekly Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield	
14.60	7.92	Bahamas Supermarkets	10.06	11.06	14.00	0.00	-2.248	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
8.00	6.00	Caribbean Crossings (Pref)	2.00	6.25	4.00	0.00	0.000	0.480	N/M	7.80%	
0.54	0.20	RND Holdings	0.35	0.40	0.35	0.00	0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%	
Colina Over-The-Counter Securities											
41.00	29.00	ABDAB	30.13	31.59	29.00	0.00	4.540	0.000	9.03	0.00%	
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.45	0.55	0.55	0.00	0.002	0.000	261.90	0.00%	
BISX Listed Mutual Funds											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD%	Last 12 Months	Div \$	Yield %	NAV Date			
1.4387	1.3535	CFAL Bond Fund	1.4460	0.51	6.15	0.00		31-Jan-10			
2.8869	2.8266	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	2.9061	0.66	-1.23	0.00		31-Jan-10			
5.1581	1.4398	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5181	0.71	5.28	0.00		26-Feb-10			
3.2025	2.9343	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	3.2025	2.75	-3.54	0.00		31-Jan-09			
13.4296	12.6816	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.4296	5.58	5.90	0.00		31-Oct-09			
103.9873	93.1999	CFAL Global Bond Fund	103.9873	3.41	3.41	0.00		31-Dec-09			
101.7254	96.4070	CFAL Global Equity Fund	101.7254	5.52	5.52	0.00		31-Dec-09			
1.0943	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.0943	0.41	0.00	0.00		10-Jan-10			
1.0801	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.0801	1.13	4.56	0.00		10-Jan-10			
1.0972	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.0972	0.60	5.40	0.00		10-Jan-10			
9.5795	9.1005	Royal Fidelity Bah Intl Investment Fund	9.5795	5.33	5.33	0.00		31-Dec-09			
11.2361	10.0000	Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 1	11.2361	12.36	12.36	0.00		31-Dec-09			
7.7171	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Bah Intl Investment Fund	7.7171	6.928	-0.31	47.51		31-Dec-09			
MARKET TERMS											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX - 19 Dec 02 = 1,000.00						YIELD - Last 12 month dividends divided by closing price					
52wk-Hi - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks						Bid \$ - Buying price of Colina and Fidelity					
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks						Ask \$ - Selling price of Colina and Fidelity					
Previous Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily volume						Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price					
Today's Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume						Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week					
Change - Change in closing price from day to day						EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mths					
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today						NAV - Net Asset Value					
Div \$ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months						N/A - Not Meaningful					
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings						FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index, January 1, 1994 = 100					
(S) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/8/2007											
(S1) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/11/2007											
TO TRADE CALL: CFAL 242-502-7010 ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764 FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000 COLONIAL 242-502-7525											



INSIDE • Hugh Campbell champions



Felipe Major/Tribune staff

ST. AUGUSTINE'S College Big Red Machine celebrates another Bahamas Association of Independent Secondary Schools' Track and Field Championships title.

Big Red Machine champions again at BAISS

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

THE headlines read the same as usual: St. Augustine's College Big Red Machine win another Bahamas Association of Independent Secondary Schools' Track and Field Championships title.

This time, the Big Red Machines rolled out of the Thomas A. Robinson Track and Field Stadium with their 22nd consecutive title, carting off six of the eight divisional titles in a dominating 334.50 point margin over their arch-rivals Queen's College Comets.

St. Augustine's College finished the three day meet yesterday with a total of 1,361.50 points, winning the bantam, junior, intermediate and senior girls as well as the junior and senior boys.

Queen's College, who had beefed up their squad in a bid to dethrone SAC, took both the bantam and intermediate boys divisions as they had to settle for a disappointing second place with 1,027.

While there was a two-way race for the top spot, third place was closer with St. John's College Giants collecting 474.50, compared to St. Anne's 449.50 for fourth. St. Andrew's rounded out the top five with 357.

SAC's head coach William 'Knucklehead' Johnson said it was a routine performance for his Big Red Machine squad.

"This one feel good, better than the rest," said Johnson as he watched SAC's athletes, coaches, officials and fans rush onto the field for another



victory lap.

"Somehow, everyone felt that this year was their time, but we knew that we had a chance to widen the gap and I think that is what we did."

Johnson said the key to their success was to concentrate on the field events and while they did that, he admitted that they fell down in the distance events.

"Other than that, we had a well balanced effort and that made up for any mistakes that we had," he pointed out.

All year long, the talk was about the challenge that the Big Red Machine would receive from the Comets. Looking at the final results, Johnson said they did well, but they just improved on the areas they didn't perform that well in last year.

"Better luck for next year," said

Johnson as he hinted at coming back to defend their title again. "We're going to be better than we were this year."

Queen's College coach Gary Markham said they just simply weren't able to contain SAC.

"I know it sounds like a cliché, but we're disappointed in coming second," Markham stressed. "Our first day wasn't so bad. We were behind by 57 points."

"But on our second day, we got messed...And today, we were ahead of SAC in most of the relays, so I'm really pleased with today."

"SAC is an extremely talented team and we have a long way to go," he insisted. "We had a lot of injuries that kept us back, but we don't have the depth that SAC does."

"We don't have the quality that

they do, so we came second again. It's sounds like a bit of a habit right now. But we will continue to work on our weaker events."

If they can only get the kind of consistency in the performances as SAC, Markham said Queen's College will definitely be able to compete for the top spot, rather than settling for second best.

"They were really out to compete. All credit to them. They competed well and they competed like champions," Markham stated.

"We can learn from them, but we will continue to knock on their door."

Next up is the Bahamas Association of Athletic Associations' Scotiabank National High Track and Field Championships next weekend at the Thomas A. Robinson Track

BAISS FINAL RESULTS

HERE'S the results from the Bahamas Association of Independent Secondary Schools' Track and Field Championships that concluded on Friday at the Thomas A. Robinson Track and Field Stadium:

OVERALL SCORES

St. Augustine's College	1,361.5
Queen's College	1,027
St. John's	474.5
St. Anne's	449.5
St. Andrew's	357
Nassau Christian Academy	230
Aquinas Colleg	192
Kingsway Academy	157
Temple Christian Academy	113.5
Jordan Prince William	94
Charles W. Saunders	92
Faith Temple Academy	66
Bahamas Academy	57
Westminster College	55

and Field Stadium.

The Big Red Machine will be challenged by the CR Walker Knights in the senior division and the CH Reeves Raptors in the junior division.

But Johnson said they are definitely going to be ready.

Security & General Buccaneers Rugby Football Club get another sponsor in Bahama Joe's

THE SECURITY and General Buccaneers Rugby Club, the oldest club in The Bahamas, was presented a cheque from Bianca Zaiem of Bahama Joe's bar last week. Club Chairman Dorian Roach along with Captains Ryan Knowles and Jonathan Brown were there to accept the cheque.

Bahama Joe's has joined Security and General to aid in the development of young men through the coaching provided by the Buccaneers Rugby Club. Between the upkeep of the Winton Rugby Centre, uniforms & equipment and travel, it costs a rugby team about \$10,000.00 a year and not everyone can afford to pay that price to play rugby. That's why the sponsorship is key to not only keeping a club together, but providing an outlet for young men to play and develop their skills.

"We are very proud of the

kids who have been a part of the club. We currently have the youngest team in the league and are able to give many of our youth and former youth players a lot of playing time. Bahama Joe's sponsorship allows us to continue to help and develop these young kids as athletes and young men," said Club President Dorian Roach.

Buccs' Captain Ryan Knowles added, "We have been extremely happy with the progression of our team over the last three to four years with the maturing of our youth players and also some new players to the game. We would like to thank Bahama Joe's for wanting to be a part of that."

The Buccs take on Balliou on Saturday February 20th, and then travel to Freeport to play on February 27th. The full schedule can be found online at <http://www.buccs-rugby.net>.

Dwayne Robinson/Photo



PICTURED from Left to Right: Thomas Bethel, Dorian Roach, Bianca Zaiem, Jonathan Brown, Ryan Knowles and Loran Pyfrom.

**SPORTS
IN BRIEF**



Dwayne Wade

Wade gets 27, Heat hold off Lakers in OT, 114-111

**BASKETBALL
MIAMI
Associated Press**

JERMAINE O'Neal called it, telling teammates in overtime that the next time someone drove the lane he would be there to take the charge.

That someone was Kobe Bryant.

And O'Neal delivered on his vow.

O'Neal stood his ground with 18.7 seconds left in the extra session and Bryant was whistled for an offensive foul. It was the final turning point as the Miami Heat found a way to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 114-111 in the NBA's wildest back-and-forth game this season.

There were 19 ties and 31 lead changes, two more than any game in the league in 2009-10, and Miami's center stood tallest at the end.

"He was there. He stepped up," said Dwyane Wade, who led the Heat with 27 points and 14 assists. "I saw it coming the whole way. That's J.O. — J.O. not only protects the basket by being a shotblocker, but he also protects it because he can take charges. And that's great. Everybody did their job tonight."

Bryant went left, looking for a layup that would have tied the game. Instead, O'Neal drew his team-best 19th charge of the season, Carlos Arroyo hit two free throws 0.3 seconds later to make it a two-possession game and Miami held on, winning back-to-back home games for the first time since mid-January.

Quentin Richardson scored a season-high 25 points for the Heat, who got 17 from Arroyo, 13 from O'Neal and a 12-point, 11-rebound effort from Udonis Haslem.

"We have big-moment, big-player type guys that love to step up to a big challenge like this and aren't afraid of the moment," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Obviously, Dwyane is like that, Jermaine is like that. Udonis, Quentin will hit big shots. A lot of times it's a fight and an argument to see who's going to shoot the ball. They're not running from it. They want the moment."

Bryant scored 39 points, including the overtime-forcing jumper for the Lakers, who got 14 points from Derek Fisher and 13 points and 11 rebounds from Lamar Odom.

It wasn't the offensive foul late that seemed to raise the ire of Lakers coach Phil Jackson but rather a foul call that he thought Bryant earned against Wade with a half-minute left in regulation and Los Angeles up by one.

Bryant shot what was ruled an airball; the Lakers insisted Bryant was fouled. Instead, Richardson came down and hit a 3-pointer to put Miami up 99-97 with 11.1 seconds left in regulation.

"I'm sure he didn't shoot an airball. That's unconscionable that that call can't be made at that point in the game, because that's a shooter and there it is," Jackson said. "But they didn't call it and he had to do another miracle to come back and tie the game. But in the overtime, we had our chances."



Falcons celebrate Hugh Campbell championship

**BY DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net**

FREEPORT — The Tabernacle Baptist Falcons celebrated through the streets of Grand Bahama in a victory motorcade on Friday.

The Falcons of Tabernacle Baptist Christian Academy are the reigning basketball champions of the Hugh Campbell Basketball Tournament that was held New Providence at the Kendal Isaac Gymnasium on February 21.

This is their second consecutive win and the sixth time that the Falcons have won the Hugh Campbell championship title.

The win was an inspirational one for the team, which lost one of its team members, Shaquille Hinds, who collapsed and died during basketball practice in January.

A special assembly was held at the school on Friday to celebrate the outstanding accomplishment. Motivational speaker Michael Pintard addressed the principal, administrators, teachers and students.

At 12 noon, the players, students and parents participated in a motorcade from the school to Port Lucaya and to downtown.

Cecil Thompson, Deputy Director of Education, commended the team for its outstanding record of wins at the tournament.

"Tabernacle Baptist Academy has the unique distinction of being the only school in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas that has ever won six Hugh Campbell Basketball Championships," he said.

Mr Thompson said that many other senior basketball teams from Grand Bahama - the former Hawksbill High, Grand Bahama Catholic High, Eight Mile Rock High, and Jack Hayward High - have dominated the tournament over the past 28 years by winning more than 20 championships.



THE TABERNACLE Baptist Falcons celebrated through the streets of Grand Bahama in a victory motorcade on Friday.

CC SWEETING COBRAS - HUGH CAMPBELL RUNNERS-UP



Patrick Hanna/BIS photo

THE CC Sweeting Cobras celebrated their senior boys runners-up position in the recent Hugh Campbell Basketball Classic yesterday. At a special assembly, the administration and staff paid tribute to the team, coached by Mario Bowleg and led by Gari Larent. The Cobras lost out to the Tabernacle Falcons by one point in overtime.

LOCAL NEWS



COMMITTEE members Rochelle Sealy and Claire Howarth.

Heart Ball was a great success

The 46th annual Heart Ball held last month brought together hundreds of concerned citizens to help raise funds for children with heart disease and to honour Dr Donald Gerace who was named the Lady Sassoon Golden Heart award winner.

Dr Gerace is the founder of the Gerace Research Institute in San Salvador. He received recognition for his work on marine biology, archeology and the environment of the Bahamas. Additionally, Dr Gerace is known for his contribution to the establishment of the Boy Scout troop 1492, and also for helping to rebuild homes after Hurricane Francis. He also helped arrange scholarships for a number of Bahamian students, many of whom got full tuition grants to attend colleges and universities in the United

States. Another highlight of the event was the unveiling of the Go Red for Women dress, designed by Indra Moss. The committee certainly lived up to its promise of an evening of fun, elegance, dancing, prizes and surprises. Guests thoroughly enjoyed the event, held under the theme "Give a gift of life, preserve a heart." The event took place on Saturday, February 13, at Sheraton Nassau. Guests danced to the music of the Ed Brice Orchestra, the SG Band and the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Dinner Band. Portia Nottage, Heart Ball Committee chairperson said: "The foundation is grateful and thankful to all who have helped to make this event a success. Without your support, we would not have

SEE page 12

RIDE FOR HOPE

Eleuthera, Bahamas
2010
Saturday
March 20

Ride for Hope is a truly memorable annual charitable bike-a-thon which raises money for cancer patient care, treatment, early detection, and Bahamas-based cancer research.

Here's what participants say: "Congratulations on organizing such a truly amazing day. Thank you so much for the countless hours you put into organizing an incredible day for a great cause!! We had a ball and can't stop talking about how well it was done! ... it was truly an inspiring time, what a great experience!"

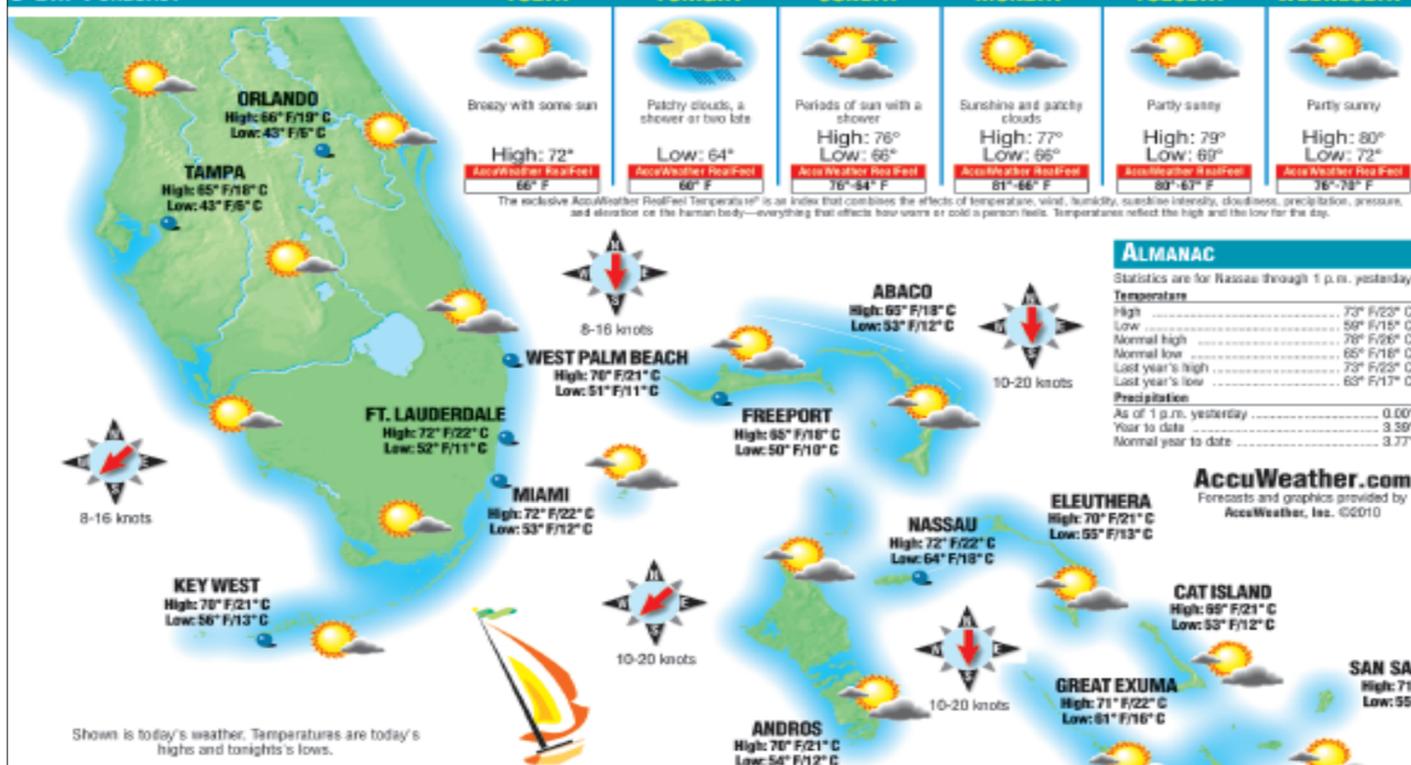
JOIN US!

MORE INFO AND REGISTER
RIDEFORHOPEBAHAMAS.COM

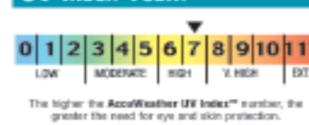
THE WEATHER REPORT

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT (BAHAMAS) LIMITED
INSURANCE BROKERS & AGENTS

5-DAY FORECAST



UV INDEX TODAY



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

TIDES FOR NASSAU

Time	High	High (ft.)	Low	Low (ft.)
Today	12:08 p.m.	2.2	6:18 a.m.	0.0
			6:29 p.m.	-0.1
Sunday	12:49 a.m.	2.6	7:19 a.m.	0.3
	1:07 p.m.	2.0	7:18 p.m.	0.1
Monday	1:51 a.m.	2.5	8:24 a.m.	0.4
	2:11 p.m.	1.9	8:21 p.m.	0.3
Tuesday	2:58 a.m.	2.4	9:26 a.m.	0.6
	3:16 p.m.	1.9	9:23 p.m.	0.3
Wednesday	3:53 a.m.	2.4	10:24 a.m.	0.4
	4:14 p.m.	2.0	10:21 p.m.	0.3
Thursday	4:45 a.m.	2.5	11:12 a.m.	0.4
	5:04 p.m.	2.1	11:12 p.m.	0.3
Friday	5:29 a.m.	2.5	11:52 a.m.	0.3
	5:48 p.m.	2.3	11:57 p.m.	0.1

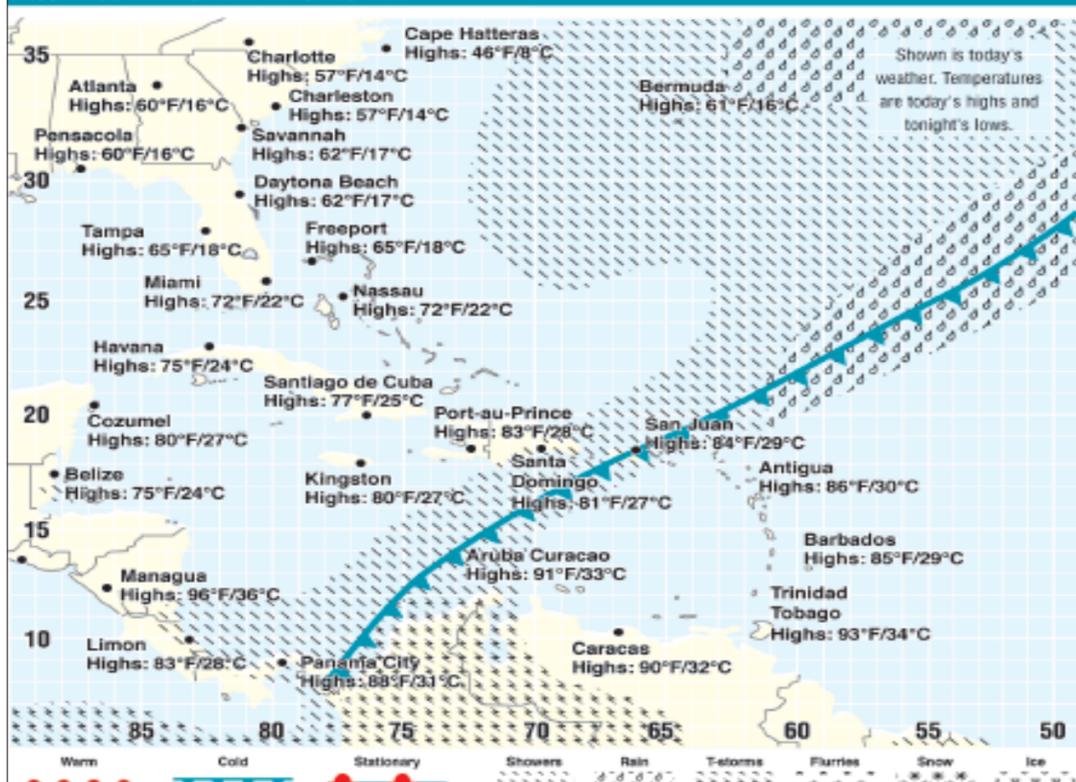
ALMANAC
Statistics are for Nassau through 1 p.m. yesterday

Temperature	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low	Last year's high	Last year's low	Precipitation
As of 1 p.m. yesterday	73° F / 23° C	59° F / 15° C	78° F / 26° C	65° F / 19° C	73° F / 23° C	65° F / 19° C	0.00"
Year to date	3.38"						
Normal year to date	3.77"						

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	6:28 a.m.	Moonrise	none
Sunset	6:14 p.m.	Moonset	10:30 a.m.
Last	Mar. 7	New	Mar. 15
First	Mar. 23	Full	Mar. 29

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP



MARINE FORECAST

Location	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMPS.
ABACO	Today: N at 10-20 Knots Sunday: NE at 8-16 Knots	8-12 Feet 6-10 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	74° F 74° F
ANDROS	Today: NE at 10-20 Knots Sunday: NNE at 8-16 Knots	3-5 Feet 2-4 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	70° F 70° F
CAT ISLAND	Today: N at 10-20 Knots Sunday: NE at 7-14 Knots	4-7 Feet 4-8 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	71° F 75° F
CROOKED ISLAND	Today: N at 10-20 Knots Sunday: NNE at 8-16 Knots	1-3 Feet 6-12 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	83° F 78° F
ELEUTHERA	Today: N at 10-20 Knots Sunday: NNE at 7-14 Knots	5-9 Feet 4-7 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	75° F 69° F
FREEPORT	Today: N at 12-25 Knots Sunday: NNE at 10-20 Knots	3-5 Feet 4-8 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	72° F 77° F
GREAT EXUMA	Today: N at 10-20 Knots Sunday: NE at 7-14 Knots	2-4 Feet 1-3 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	74° F 74° F
GREAT INAGUA	Today: N at 8-16 Knots Sunday: NNE at 10-20 Knots	2-4 Feet 3-5 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	83° F 78° F
LONG ISLAND	Today: N at 10-20 Knots Sunday: NE at 7-14 Knots	3-6 Feet 1-3 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	74° F 82° F
MAYAGUANA	Today: N at 10-20 Knots Sunday: NNE at 8-16 Knots	5-9 Feet 6-10 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	74° F 70° F
NASSAU	Today: N at 10-20 Knots Sunday: NNE at 7-14 Knots	2-4 Feet 2-4 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	74° F 75° F
SAN SALVADOR	Today: N at 10-20 Knots Sunday: NE at 8-16 Knots	6-10 Feet 6-10 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	76° F 76° F
RAGGED ISLAND	Today: N at 10-20 Knots Sunday: NE at 7-14 Knots	3-5 Feet 3-5 Feet	10 Miles 10 Miles	70° F 70° F

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT (BAHAMAS) LIMITED. INSURANCE BROKERS & AGENTS

TO DISCUSS STORIES ON THIS PAGE LOG ON TO WWW.TRIBUNE242.COM



Wedding Smiles

Did you or a loved one get married recently? Or is that marriage about to take place? If so, send us a snap of your happy day and we'll publish it free of charge. Let everyone see how good you looked on that special day.

SEND YOUR PHOTOS TO TRIBUNE@TRIBUNEMEDIA.NET - INCLUDE DETAILS OF THE HAPPY COUPLE'S NAMES AND WHERE THEY WERE MARRIED.



GO RED Dress designer Indira Moss with Heart Ball Committee & Heart Association president- Nellie Cox

Heart Ball was a great success

FROM page 11

made it. We look forward to your continued support as we help to repair the hearts of children, and put smiles on their faces and those of their families, one child at a time."

There were lots of prizes and surprises. The silent auction featuring more than 40 items, was a great success. The most coveted prizes were jewellery, in particular the silver necklace with marsonite pendant from Godet's Jewellery.

The room raffle was a great success as well. The first prize included: a round-trip World Traveller Plus ticket to London donated by British Airways; an anonymously donated diamond ring; a painting, "Morning Glory", by Nettica Symonette; and a Baum and Mercier watch, donated by Colombian Emeralds.

The second prize winner got a Cartier "Trinity" Handbag from Cartier at John Bull, a pearl and Diamond 18k bracelet donated by Fondas Jewellers, a whole body scan donated by the Centreville Medical Pavilion, and a painting, "Love Bird Seagulls" by Clifford Fernander.

The third prize winner won a 21" Toshiba Flat Screen TV, an Astengo de Lama necklace, a wellness assessment by Dr Graham Cates, and a three-day/two-night stay at Sammy T's Beach Resort in Bennet's Harbour, Cat Island.

The ballroom was decorated by Stefan J L Rahming of Events by Stefan. Table favours were provided by Maria Antoinette of Special Events and Milo Butler and Sons Ltd.

The Sir Victor Sassoon (Bahamas) Heart Foundation was established in 1961 to assist persons with heart disease. Today, the foundation's main goal is to assist children who need heart care. Donations are accepted throughout the year to help this cause. To make a donation, volunteer or obtain more information, call 327-0806.



RE BARNES presents the Lady Sassoon Golden Heart award to Dr Donald Gerace.



PORTIA Nottage gives opening speech.



HEART Doctors (l-r) Duane Sands, Mark Weech and Jerome Lightbourne.



MISS GOSPEL Bahamas (right) and mother.