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SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2010

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Haiti: Post-earthquake healing

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INSIDE

CARS FOR SALE, HELP WANTED AND REAL ESTATE

BAHAMAS BIGGEST



SPORTS



Junior athletes honoured

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Anger over nationwide telephone system breakdown

Out of order



UNDER PRESS-URE: Acting President and CEO of BTC Kirk Griffin answered questions from members of the press on the nation wide system failure.

By REUBEN SHEARER
 Tribune Staff Reporter
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The public responded with widespread outrage yesterday at the system-wide blackout of communication services, the first such disaster in the Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation (BTC) history.

The Tribune spoke to several businesspersons who said they lost money because of the outage.

The incident also sparked safety concerns with at least one person temporarily stranded without communication – a woman who had to drive home with a flat tyre because she couldn't use her cell phone to call for help.

Kirk Griffin, BTC's Acting President and CEO, assured BTC prepaid customers that there would be some kind of monetary compensation for inconveniences caused. Prepaid customers make up the biggest group of customers for the company.

The outage affected the company's system across the board in The Bahamas, including its prepaid cellular, SMS platform, landline, and its international roaming services.

According to Mr Griffin, the

system failed at 2am Friday, when BTC's Digital Access Cross Connect System at their Main Technical centre on Poinciana Drive experienced some difficulties.

"There is no act of sabotage involved. It was purely a technical failure," he said.

"Our systems alerted us immediately on the network failure, and since then all of our technical resources are entrenched and working to ensure that service is restored as soon as possible."

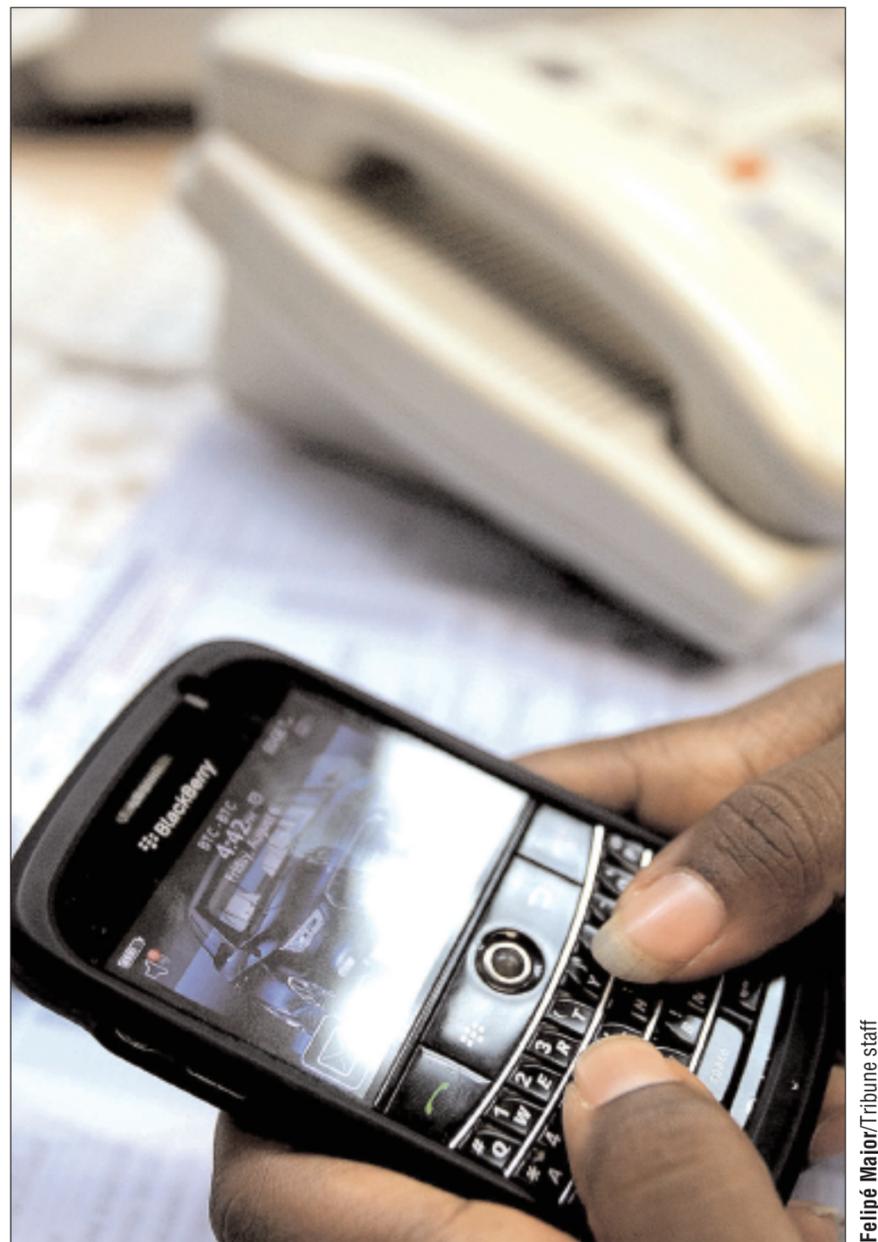
Khaalis Rolle, Chamber of Commerce president said that he received multiple calls from businesspersons complaining that they were unable to receive customers' calls.

Persons were calling Mr Rolle for most of the day, complaining about the inconvenience of having an outage on a busy Friday.

"It goes to show how important our communications infrastructure is to the conduct of business in the Bahamas," Mr Rolle told *The Tribune*.

On BTC's Facebook page, comments came flooding in, with customers complaining about the inconvenience

SEE page seven



BLACKOUT: Cell phones and landlines were down as people tried to make calls out. The system-wide blackout was the first such disaster in BTC's history.

Uncertainty over the blackout's impact on emergency services

By TANEKA THOMPSON
 Tribune Staff Reporter
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The police control room and director of ambulance services could not accurately say how much the widespread disruption of BTC's telephone system affected the public's ability to connect with emergency personnel yesterday.

According to Dr Alverie Hanna, director of emergency medical services at the Public Hospitals Authority which oversees ambulance dispatches, despite the phone breakdown the department still received an average number of calls yesterday morning.

"We did have 15 calls on our morning shift which is average for us and I really have to say I'm not aware of any one having difficulty calling in to get emergency medical services."

"Our ambulances were dispatched as usual throughout the course of the day."

She added that the afternoon shift, which started at 4 pm yes-

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'Diversity makes good business sense'

By TANEKA THOMPSON
 Tribune Staff Reporter
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IT makes "good sense" for businesses to have options in telecommunications services so they can be fully functional in the event of a failure from a main service provider, said Indigo Networks president Paul Hutton.

His comments came in response to questions put to him by *The Tribune* the day thousands of BTC customers were affected by a widespread disruption in landline, cellular and international roaming services.

"I wouldn't like to speculate on that, but we've always taken the position that, certainly for business customers, it just makes good sense to have diversity. So if you're a business in the Bahamas it pays to have (service) from multiple carriers because you get the benefit of being able to make calls to customers," he said when asked if he thought Indigo would be able to grab more clients away from BTC after yesterday's service prob-

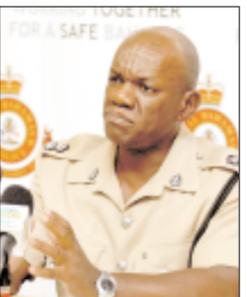
lems. Mr Hutton said his company's customers were not affected by BTC's "technical difficulties" except when trying to call subscribers of the state-run phone company. Indigo provides domestic and international phone services to residential and commercial customers in the country. He said some connections between Indigo and BTC customers were restored starting from 2.45 pm yesterday.

"We noticed that at 1am the interconnection between our two networks was down, both here and in Grand Bahama. We obviously notified BTC's network operations centre. We've had no other information since that time," said Mr Hutton yesterday afternoon.

"It obviously hasn't affected Indigo customers unless they are attempting to call BTC customers or likewise. As far as all of our international access and access between Indigo customers there's been no effect at all."

SEE page seven

Police chief puts armed robbers on notice



WARNING: Superintendent Stephen Dean

By REUBEN SHEARER
 Tribune Staff Reporter
 rshearer@tribunemedia.net

A TOP police chief has warned armed robbers that his officers are "coming to get them".

Superintendent Stephen Dean, director of the National Crime Prevention Office, yesterday sent a strong message to those responsible for a recent spate of armed robberies on businesses.

At a Police Headquarters press conference, he vowed: "We want them to know

SEE page 12

'Ninety' Knowles' convictions and sentences upheld

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
 Tribune Staff Reporter
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A US appeals court has upheld the convictions and sentences of drug kingpin Samuel "Ninety" Knowles.

Knowles was jailed for 35 years in May 2008 on federal drug trafficking charges. He will ultimately serve 25 years and is scheduled to be released at the age of 75.

Upon his release, Knowles has 72 hours to report to a probation office for the commencement of a five-year supervised release.

Knowles, who spent six

SEE page 12

Teenage girls are raped at knifepoint

By DENISE MAYCOCK
 Tribune Freeport Reporter
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POLICE on Grand Bahama were last night hunting two men who raped two terrified teenage girls at knifepoint.

The girls were walking home from a party when two masked men approached them from behind.

Assistant Superintendent Loretta Mackey, press liaison officer, said the incident

SEE page 12

LOCAL NEWS

AWARDS CEREMONY AT MALL AT MARATHON MARKS CULMINATION OF FOUR-WEEK WORKSHOP

RBC summer art workshop inspires student artists

OVER 60 students from New Providence and the Family Islands have completed the annual RBC Summer Art Workshop for 2010 held at Government High School.

The four-week workshop, which is a nearly 30-year-old tradition for RBC, culminated with an awards ceremony at the Mall at Marathon on July 30.

Minister of Education Desmond Bannister addressed the students at the event. The first, second and third place winners of each division in the workshop's competition received monetary prizes.

Art and Design Officer at the Ministry of Education Pamela Chandler highlighted the success of the long-standing public-private partnership between the Ministry and RBC. The banking institution also partners with the Education Ministry to sponsor its Annual Visual Art Exhibition.

"It's a good investment. We both gain from this experience," said Mrs

Chandler of the partnership. "Students improve their skills each year. I'm amazed at the number of students who return to participate in the workshop year after year."

Open to students from grades seven through 12, the workshop has become a place where students can work on their BJC and BGCSE course work for the upcoming year. The workshop has even opened its doors to high school graduates who come to hone their skills in preparation for the art programme at the College of the Bahamas.

Four instructors, including a teacher from Harbour Island All Age School, participated this year.

"Every year we're encouraged by the quality of work that students produce. Over the course of the workshop we visit to see what's inspiring and it's always refreshing for us," said Patrice Ritchie, senior manager of Mortgages, FINCO main branch, RBC. Mrs Ritchie pointed to the multiple benefits of the pro-

gramme. "Parents are confident that the students are safe. The Ministry of Education experiences an improvement in the quality of BJC/BGCSE submissions and RBC is pleased that we're giving back to the community in a meaningful way," she said.

Proud

The students, who studied painting, drawing, craftwork and ceramics, were proud to express what they had learned this summer.

"It's been a good experience. I learned new skills and new techniques," said 16-year-old Tyrel Lockhart, a four-year participant in the workshop. Tyrel's work was also featured in RBC's 2008 commemorative calendar.

"I learned how to enhance my painting and drawing abilities," said 16-year-old Ilka Rodgers.

Julia Knowles, the art teacher at Harbour Island All Age School,



SUMMER ART WORKSHOP STUDENT AWARD WINNER: Desmond Bannister, Minister of Education, and Patrice Ritchie, senior manager, Mortgages and manager, Mortgages at RBC FINCO main branch.

which won the Family Island Division of the 12th Annual Visual Arts Exhibition this year, said that she enjoyed instructing students at the summer art workshop.

"I allowed the kids to experiment with different techniques other than paint brushes. They learned to use their hands, hair combs, toothbrushes, cardboard palette knives

and rollers. We experimented with abstract – they had so much fun with it," she said.

The students agreed.

"It was an enjoyable experience. We have learned a lot of new skills and techniques and I've improved a lot on my painting skills," said Shan-nen Knowles, a 15-year-old student from Long Island.

Bibles for prisoners

Presentation to Elliston Rahming



Patrick Hanna/BIS Photo

DONATION: Pictured from left are Pastor Leonard Clarke, prison chaplain; Tommy Turnquest, Minister of National Security; Richa Sands; Dr Elliston Rahming, Prison Superintendent; Pastor Mario Moxey; Peter Deveaux Isaacs, permanent secretary, and Ellison Greenslade, Police Commissioner.

RICHA Sands, singer, actress and motivational speaker presented more than 1,300 New Testament Bibles to Superintendent of Her Majesty's Prisons Dr Elliston Rahming last month.

Ms Sands said she was "humbled" by the opportunity to present the New Testaments that have been donated by Bibles for the World to the prison inmates.

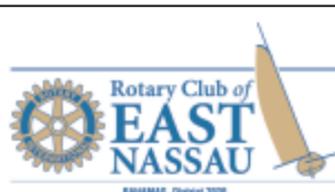
She also presented book-markers featuring the Ten Commandments and other motivational material.

Ms Sands, who is also a religious minister, said it is her prayer that the words of the New Testament would come alive in the souls of the men and women who read them.



Patrick Hanna/BIS Photo

PRESENTATION: National Security Minister Tommy Turnquest speaks during a presentation of New Testament Bibles by Minister Richa Sands for inmates of Her Majesty's Prisons.



Attention all Rotary Club press officers. The Tribune's Rotary News is dedicated to giving you a platform to getting your news and photographs out to other members and the public at large. Make sure you get your message across in The Bahamas' biggest-selling newspaper and the nation's fastest growing fully interactive news website Tribune242. Email your stories and photographs to jflect@tribunemedia.net



Tuna tournament 'success'

THIS year marks the ninth successful Tuna Tournament jointly sponsored by Harbourside Marine and the Rotary Club of East Nassau.

Fourteen boats and 80 anglers competed in this annual charity fundraiser held on the June 12/13, 2010, weekend.

The tournament is an International Game Fish Association qualifying event.

Last year's winner - Richard King and crew - placed second overall in the IGFA World Championships.

The winner of this year's event was past tournament organiser, current sponsor and owner of SunTee EmbroidMe, Scott Farrington.

Pictured receiving their floating trophy (from left) are: anglers Todd Kemp, Alberto Suighi, Nick Rademaker, Harbourside Marine, handing over the trophy, captain of Sweet P Scott Farrington and Mark Farrington. Suighi caught the winning 71.5lb tuna.

Harbourside Marine donated a four-stroke Yamaha personal watercraft for the winning boat as well as Shimano fishing gear and three Yamaha Jog Scooters. The floating trophy remains on display at SG Private Banking, a long-time supporter of the event.

Other prizes went to best Junior Angler Sasha Klonaris and best female angler Trish Gibbons for her 68.8lb tuna.

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.



OVERSEAS NEWS

Jamaica govt worries that gang crackdown leads to police killings

KINGSTON, Jamaica

Jamaican authorities are on high alert after three police officers were killed in eight days, an unusual occurrence even for an island that has one of the world's highest murder rates, according to Associated Press.

Police Chief Owen Ellington said Tuesday that the killings were retribution for a crackdown on gangs that began with the hunt for Christopher "Dudus" Coke, an alleged drug lord sought by U.S. prosecutors. Coke is now jailed in New York.

Nine officers have been killed so far this year, compared to a total of 11 last year, when Jamaica reported a

record 1,680 homicides. The worst day for police occurred in 2005, when five officers were shot to death in one day.

Security Minister Dwight Nelson ordered officers to do "whatever necessary to protect themselves."

The order came days after authorities detained three

policemen who they said were caught on video beating and fatally shooting an unarmed and subdued murder suspect. The officers said they were being threatened.

Ellington said he has urged officers to take extra security precautions but offered no details.

Officials search for 3 boaters

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida

The US Coast Guard is searching for three South Florida-area boaters who are overdue, according to Associated Press.

Authorities on Friday say they are searching from Fort Pierce to Fort Lauderdale and east to the Bahamas.

The boaters were supposed to return from a fishing trip on Thursday.

A family member contacted the Coast Guard early Friday saying the boaters did not return at sunset as planned.

They had left Riviera Beach aboard Shademaker, a 32-foot blue-and-white centre-console SeaVee.

The Bahamian Air and Sea Rescue Association also sent an aircraft to help find the boaters, and the Royal Bahamas Defence Force has boats searching.

Haitian immigrants arrive on Florida beach

MANALAPAN, Fla.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection says about a dozen Haitian immigrants arrived on a South Florida beach after being dropped off by a boat, according to Associated Press.

Authorities were called to Manalapan, about 10 miles south of West Palm Beach, Thursday evening.

Five adults and two infants were taken to Bethesda Memorial Hospital in Boynton Beach. They were released and are being processed at the West Palm Beach Border Patrol station.

A spokeswoman for the federal agency said the immigrants reported paying between \$1,000 and \$3,500 to be smuggled into the United States. They stopped first in the Bahamas. Officers are still searching for the other five immigrants.

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TROPICAL EXTERMINATORS FOR PEST PROBLEMS PHONE: 322-2157

LOCAL NEWS

Call for improved teaching in wake of poor national average



By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
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ILLITERACY and limited problem solving skills among high school graduates highlighted in the BGCSE results will continue to present difficulties for employers, according to education stakeholders.

But former Nassau Employers Association and Coalition for Education Reform member Ralph Massey said he is encouraged by Minister of Education Desmond Bannister's recognition of the failings.

As the results of this year's Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education exams (BGCSE) were released on Thursday, Mr Bannister said the national grade average of 'E-' in BGCSE mathematics and 'D' in English is an issue of "national concern" and showed a need for improvement in mathematics and literacy skills.

An 'E-' on the seven-point 'A' to 'G' grade scale - or eight-point scale including the lowest possible grade 'U' - demonstrates general basic knowledge, evidence of an ability to comprehend this knowledge and limited problem solving skills.

While the 'D' average in English

indicates specific knowledge appropriate to the task, comprehension, and satisfactory critical thinking/problem solving skills.

Additional data shows some improvement in art and design, biology, carpentry and joinery, bookkeeping and accounting, however, the average grade in bookkeeping and accounts is 'E-', and the average grade in economics and office procedures is 'D+'.

The number of students awarded grade 'C' or above in five or more subjects is thought to be higher than ever, and girls appear to be doing better than boys.

But Mr Massey said the standard of teaching needs to be improved, as often teachers are not sufficiently educated themselves, and corruption in the system needs to be addressed to allow for good education to prevail.

"The big thing now is that the government is no longer denying the problem and that's the first gigantic step," Mr Massey said.

"These results show some improvement, and little or no improvement in the most important subjects, but the important thing is that the minister is talking about it.

"The Prime Minister says illiteracy and poor numeracy is unacceptable,

and this represents a change in government attitude towards something that has been a reality for employers for a long time."

The shift in attitude reflects the need to achieve international standards since entering into a funding agreement with the European Union.

And moves to improve education are being made by the ministry, Mr Bannister said, as it addresses corruption in public schools, such as alleged inappropriate relationships between teachers and students, and the matter of retired teachers still being paid.

"This is the kind of ongoing corruption that if you are going to have a better education system you really have to address first - that is where Mr Bannister has been and that's where he should be," Mr Massey said.

He also noted that Bahamian students have performed well in universal education standards when one looks at the number of hours students spend in the classroom, rather than at the exam results.

Mr Massey said: "The Bahamas has done quite well in that measure compared to other countries, but in another sense it has failed because it has such a high degree of illiteracy in the system, and particularly in the public school system."

WHYYOUVEX?

"I is vex 'cause I paid for 12 pack of bath tissue for \$9.49 week before the last and went back to the same store last week and the identical 12 pack bath tissue now costs \$10.99. That is downright obscene! A \$1.50 increase or 16 per cent. Things so rough in this recession that even our prime minister and the MPs showing the way by taking a pay cut while this large store costing us more to increase their bottom line."

- SHOPPER

"I is steaming vex 'cause BEC raising we light bills an' even ain't offered solutions, no one even charged and nothing to attempt to stop all the tying of electricity and that they says they cannot account for some 25 per cent of electricity they is producing. I is never see nobody getting charged so does this means that 25 per cent of the increase we pay also going to be unaccounted for?"

- FLYING STRAIGHT

"I am upset that fast food restaurants are selling their products to consumers some of whom are very nasty and drop their wrappers and other nasty debris on the road and in my neighbourhood. Restaurants should make their customers sign documents to say they will be clean and put the wrappers in trash containers or discard it on the floors or yards of their own homes where it appears their parents have raised them to do."

- CLEAN AND PRISTINE BAHAMAS

"I am happy that my credit card manager Ms Eunice Johnson not only gave me excellent service during the good years but also during this economic rough time when I have a problem. As a banker she shows she treasures this nation's clients and can identify with them at all times. She is truly one of a kind and a shining example for others. Such dedication, genuine customer service is truly appreciated."

- CUSTOMER

Hotel union boss: Bahamas needs service culture reform

By REUBEN SHEARER
Tribune Staff Reporter
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ON the heels of her recent election to the office of president of the Bahamas Hotel Catering and Allied Workers Union, Nicole Martin this week unveiled her plans to refocus the union's priorities on improving its members' service in hotels.

Ms Martin, who secured a landslide win in May, said at a gathering for the Rotary Club of West Nassau on Thursday that the union has begun the process of achieving its goals this year.

"As is the case with many organisations, we have had our fair share of challenges," said Ms Martin.

"Our challenges include, but are certainly not limited, to employers, hotel industrial agreements, internal conflicts, the image of the union and the level of services industry-wide."

To top the decline of service in the industry, BHCAWU intends to bring general customer service training on-stream, she said.

Ms Martin said she believes that the tourism industry needs a service culture reform.

"We must re-evaluate how we service our members and what services we offer them and make the necessary adjustments," she said.

Ms Martin said she knows the process of reform will be a very challenging one and will have to start

from the bottom up.

In order to address the challenges that the industry faces, she believes "it's imperative to exercise creative and non-traditional thinking in order to address and implement corrective measures to have such challenges turned into opportunities to benefit the organisation."

"We represent persons in the number one industry in our country and we must be ever mindful that choices for vacation travel are increasing at a pace that should cause us concern," she said.

Ms Martin said the union is taking its first steps to start the process of refocusing on service and making the Bahamas more attractive to prospective guests.



REFORM: Nicole Martin

DOWN FOR THE COUNT >>



The street light at Shirley Street and Kemp Road was knocked during a car accident last week. Repairs have still not been carried out.

Darville: Reopening highway at Royal Oasis may stimulate business

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT - An executive of the Grand Bahama Chamber of Commerce agrees that reopening the highway at the Royal Oasis Resort may help stimulate business in that area.

Since the closure of the resort in 2004, the once bustling tourist area has literally become a ghost town in the heart of the city of Freeport.

The International Bazaar is no longer a major tourist hotspot and only a handful of stores are still open.

The struggling store owners who remain are hoping that business will improve again when the resort re-opens, but are not sure how much longer they can hang on.

Harcourt Development, the new owner, has had to delay its plans to redevelop the distressed resort property, citing financial challenges due to the global economic crisis.

In an effort to stimulate business at the Bazaar, the Grand Bahama Port Authority is offering a one time exemption on business licence fees for new businesses.

While some new stores have opened there, many spaces are still vacant.

Senator Dr Michael Darville commended the Grand Bahama Port Authority and the International Bazaar Owners Association for trying to stimulate business at the Bazaar, but noted that more must be done.

He proposed that the government along with the GBPA and shop owners look once again at the possibility of reopening the highway so traf-

fic can flow through the resort area once again.

Senator Darville believes that this would ease the traffic problems which are one of the main factors keeping shoppers away from the area.

The Tribune attempted to contact the Bazaar Owners Association for comment on the issue, but no one was available.

Grand Bahama Chamber of Commerce vice president John Swain said he supports the plan to reopen the highway.

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The Mall-at-Marathon
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THE OTHER GUYS	NEW	1:35	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:45
STEP UP	NEW	1:30	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:45
CATS & DOGS - 3D	A	1:15	3:45	N/A	6:15	8:25	10:45
DINNER FOR SCHMUCKS	T	1:10	N/A	4:10	7:10	N/A	10:10
CHARLIE ST CLOUD	B	1:50	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:20	10:40
SALT	C	1:30	3:30	N/A	7:10	8:30	10:50
RAMONA & BEEZUS	A	1:05	3:40	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:40
INCEPTION	C	1:15	N/A	4:10	7:15	N/A	10:15
THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE	T	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:50
DESPICABLE ME-3D	B	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:40
THE TWILIGHT SAGA-ECLIPSE	A	12:00	3:25	N/A	6:55	8:25	10:55

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THE OTHER GUYS	NEW	1:35	3:20	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:50
CATS & DOGS - 3D	A	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:40
SALT	C	1:35	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:45
INCEPTION	C	1:10	N/A	4:10	7:10	N/A	10:10
THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE	T	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:25	10:45
THE TWILIGHT SAGA	B	1:30	3:25	N/A	6:00	N/A	N/A

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NYC mayor eloquent advocate for mosque

NEW YORK — Mayor Michael Bloomberg is not known for public displays of emotion. So he startled more than a few observers this week in a speech supporting a proposed mosque near ground zero, recalling the firefighters who died in the September 11, 2001, attacks.

"In rushing into those burning buildings, not one of them asked: 'What God do you pray to? What beliefs do you hold?'" Bloomberg said, his voice breaking. "We do not honour their lives by denying the very constitutional rights they died protecting."

The debate over the mosque has emerged as a national proxy battle over religious freedom and the symbolic significance of the World Trade Centre site. And no public figure has been more identified with the mosque than Bloomberg, who has been willing to yoke his own stature and reputation to a project its critics call a victory for terrorists.

"He believes in diversity and the greatness of New York is in the diversity of its people," said Hank Sheinkopf, a Democratic strategist who has worked for Bloomberg. "He's consistent. He doesn't owe anything to anyone, and my hunch is that he's not out of line with where most people in the city are on this issue."

The billionaire mayor, a Republican-turned-independent, has never shied from championing a cause — from knocking proposed tax increases on hedge fund managers to banning trans fats in the city's restaurants. But he has been unusually forceful on the mosque issue, even as otherwise loquacious New York politicians such as Democratic U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer have largely steered clear.

After spending weeks answering questions about the mosque, Bloomberg decided to give a speech outlining his views on the matter. "He wanted to speak proactively, forcefully and at some length," said Deputy Mayor Howard Wolfson, who helped craft the address.

Bloomberg delivered it Tuesday surrounded by a multicultural array of religious leaders, with the Statue of Liberty as a backdrop.

"I believe that this is as important a test of the separation of church and state as we may see in our lifetime, and it is critically important that we get it right," he said.

The mosque, to be located two blocks from ground zero, would be part of a 13-story, \$100 million Islamic centre that would also feature a 500-seat auditorium, swimming pool and gym. It's a project of the Cordoba Initiative, an advocacy group that promotes improved relations between Islam and the West.

The mosque has drawn vocal opposition from many relatives of the September 11 victims and local and national Republican leaders, including former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin and former House Speaker Newt

Gingrich. Last week, the Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish civil rights group, announced its opposition as well.

Some critics object to any mosque being built so close to the site where nearly 3,000 people died at the hands of Muslim extremists. Others say they have specific concerns about Cordoba and its director, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, who said in an interview shortly after the 2001 attacks that U.S. policies were partly responsible for the attacks. Rauf also refuses to disclose who is funding the mosque's construction.

Bloomberg has steadfastly rejected those concerns.

He views the mosque, in part, as a redevelopment project like any other — carrying with it the possibility of creating jobs and bringing something new and interesting to a stretch of lower Manhattan.

Bloomberg is staunchly pro-development; during his 8 1/2 years in office, his administration has rezoned thousands of blocks in dozens of neighbourhoods, welcoming new construction in every corner of the city.

The mayor has roundly dismissed complaints about the mosque from Republican officials while making what many might view as a fundamentally conservative argument: that government should not interfere in private enterprise.

"This building is private property and the owners have a right to use the building as a house of worship," Bloomberg said. "The government has no right whatsoever to deny that right."

The mayor scoffed when asked if he had any concerns about Rauf. "My job is not to vet clergy in this city," he said.

But Debra Burlingame, a spokeswoman for some September 11 victims' families, said Bloomberg is being played, because Rauf has links to Muslim extremist groups and advocates the eventual "Islamization" of the U.S.

"The mayor is demagoguing an issue that is wreaking agony on family members of those killed in the name of Allah," Burlingame said. "Bloomberg says it's about the separation of church and state? The imam doesn't believe in the separation of church and state. He's laughing up his sleeve."

Rauf did not reply to a phone message. But his wife, Daisy Khan, has said the Islamic centre would include a memorial to the 9/11 victims.

In the end, observers say, Bloomberg's willingness to speak his mind on the mosque is boosted by the fact he's almost certainly in his last term as mayor and won't face voters again. "When you're running for office, you tend not to take controversial positions," Sheinkopf said. "Bloomberg is not running."

(This article was written by Beth Fouhy, Associated Press Writer)

TV stations seem to ignore accurate weather forecasts

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Weather forecasting and broadcasting accurate forecasts seems not to be of interest to any of the television stations, if today was a perfect example.

Tropical Depression Colin was downgraded by NOAA at approximately 4.30 p.m. today, however ZNS13 - NB12 were quite proud in telling our nation that this weather system could be affecting the islands later this week.

We had the horrible prob-

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

lems when the tornado hit Freeport and the tragic loss of life — this inefficiency is just the same.

If the segments for broadcasting were taped already surely the News Presenter could easily have brought us up-to-date by confirming NOAA-Hurricane Centre and the Bahamas Met Office had downgraded the storm

and there was currently no dangers to the islands, however advise the public to be alert and watch future weather broadcasts.

No the country goes to bed this evening wondering whether Nassau TV stations are correct, whilst the Miami stations are saying Colin has disappeared?

Who are we to believe? When will we ever get something right?

W. THOMPSON,
Nassau,
August 3, 2010.

Stop the political tennis match

EDITOR, The Tribune.

The longest professional tennis match, in terms of both time and total games, was the Wimbledon 2010 first-round match between Nicolas Mahut and John Isner on June 22, 23, and 24, 2010. It lasted 183 games and required 11 hours and 5 minutes of playing time.

I do hope to one day commend those tennis players as they truly showed the world what the word perseverance means. Unfortunately, neither Mahut nor Isner won Wimbledon. Rafael Nadal won.

Hubert Ingraham, regarded as one of the country's hardest working political strategist, was born in Pine Ridge, Grand Bahama, on August 4, 1947.

He will be 63 years old this year. He first served as Prime Minister from 1992 until 2002 and became Prime Minister again in 2007.

Perry Christie, regarded by many as a very kind consultative Prime Minister, was born in Nassau, Bahamas on August 21, 1944.

He will be 66 years old this year. He served as the third Prime Minister of The Bahamas from 2002 to 2007.

Unfortunately, we see the same political "tennis match" being played in our lifetime. It appears as if any young man or woman with true political fortitude and ambition will only advance if approved, and endorsed, by either of these leaders. They will or could undoubtedly suffer at the hands of two ancient politicians who have cemented themselves institutionally in their respective political parties. As the two expert political leaders of our nation's leading political parties continue their daily diatribe and "volley" their seemingly personal political agenda of "tit for tat", year in and year out, it often appears as if

our country's most pressing issues, in these most trying financial times, get lost. We sit and watch these two ancient political gladiators navigate, taunt, and tease each other about their proclaimed delivered political successes, or their undelivered political failures, all at the expense of us, the Bahamian people.

They continue to hold this lengthy political "tennis match" that will end the same way that the longest match at Wimbledon 2010 ended. Even the chair umpire at Wimbledon, Mohamed Lahyani, sitting in his perch long enough to have watched four Junkanoo parades and a Carifta Game, showed signs of fatigue just like our Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Honourable Alvin Smith. The Speaker often appears to have battle fatigue from watching two leaders go back and forth on issues with no productive results, simply for political points.

Rather than embracing each other's positive national initiatives, contributions, or programmes that could have further enhanced the development of our nation, they again, like the two tennis players at Wimbledon, go on, and on, and on, to accomplish nothing except for the occasional outburst of laughter, followed by an orchestrated laughing cast of paid, elected Members of Parliament, who must laugh according to when the signal is given, as if they were in a pub with their Mafia boss.

The "tennis court", which I use here to symbolize our country, has cracked under their feet, thus symbolic and emblematic of the rapid depreciation of our nation. Our Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition still go on, and on, and on, playing their political "tennis" match, even though the country con-

tinues to slowly deteriorate under their leadership.

Yet, crime is totally out of control.

Illegal immigration has changed the face of our nation as we continue to accept habits foreign to our way of life that undermines our culture and very existence.

Unemployment increases. Financial Services Industry has read its own obituary no matter how many agreements we sign.

BEC sneaked a rate hike. Schools are just being repaired in August again. Tourism is suffering from a terminal disease. Cuba readies itself to open and expand its Tourism Industry with hopes of embracing its glory days. We fake farming while realizing our labour costs are just too high. Urban Renewal needs urgent "refuel".

Our waters are poached and not protected by our military command due to lack of equipment and supplies.

The hospital has run out of beds and meds. The roads programme is forced down the throats of Bahamian citizens without any recourse. The "Barefoot" bandit never saw Fox Hill prison. Number houses are guarded by the police.

And the engine runs out of oil in Abaco while the leaders of the two leading parties continue to simply hit volleys at each other in their political "tennis" match. But which young politician will emerge like Rafael Nadal at Wimbledon in 2010, to finally win this country's prize from these veteran gladiators who have passed the civil servants' retirement age, and go on to be the new Prime Minister for a new generation of Bahamians?

Anthony U Bostwick Jr
Nassau,
August 3, 2010.

Concern over hurricane windows and doors

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I am writing to you a short letter in regards to all of the companies operating in the Bahamas that are proclaiming to manufacture hurricane impact windows. I am a young man trying to operate a small business in the general field of windows and doors and for the past five years it's been really rough due to ever rising cost of aluminium.

I know this may seem as if I am picking on the companies

because they are offering a product for the fraction of the cost, but there are facts that should be taken into consideration.

1. I would like to see approval certificates showing that the products have undergone the necessary testing to be considered Hurricane Resistant (Burglar Resistant.).

2. If the products they are selling are European I would like to know when they experience hurricanes.

3. If there was a hurricane

and my windows were to fail would they refund me the money I spent for the window as well as pay for the damage to my property?

I have been around to a number of projects in which the companies have installed these windows and doors and honestly I don't see anything that has the capabilities to withstand any type of Hurricane either Category 1 or Category 3.

This is a serious problem and I have noticed that it has been going on for a long time and I think it's time for them to put up or shut down. I was also wondering if there is anyone out there with the same concerns. Now I would like to clarify one more thing, I am not only aiming at the Bahamian based companies that are manufacturing these products but also the companies bringing in the China built window which cost as much as a car battery to be build and selling them all over the Bahamas as Hurricane Resistant Windows.

In closing I think that the Ministry in charge of home inspections should take a special interest in the inspection of the windows and doors because windows are very important to the home or business. It is time for the truth to be told, and lord helps us if we do experience a storm and I am right because there will storms after the storm.

JOE BROWN
Nassau,
August 4, 2010.

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NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **LIONEL AUGUSTIN of MACKEY STREET, P.O. BOX N-19964, 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 **31st day of July, 2010** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

LOCAL NEWS

Govt under pressure to target crime 'hot spots'

Rev Moss calls for 'surge' strategy

IN THE face of ever worsening crime statistics, Rev CB Moss is calling upon the government to mobilise all law enforcement assets and implement a "surge" strategy in "hot spot" areas of New Providence.

Rev Moss, executive director of the activist group Bahamas Against Crime, said it is clear the "monster" of criminality is threatening our way of life and it must be brought under control immediately.

He said: "Our failure to take drastic action now will almost surely mean years of great pain and suffering for our people".

Rev Moss said the government should mimic the recent strategy used by the American military in Iraq, known as the surge, in which "a large force of soldiers systematically entered enemy infested areas, overwhelming the opponents and bringing the areas under control".

He said: "In many areas of New Providence the streets, and thereby the communities, are controlled by criminal elements. They use these areas as headquarters and launch their criminal forays across the island, returning to their sanctuaries."

Drastic times call for drastic measures according to Rev Moss, who described an anti-crime surge as the best chance the Bahamas has of stemming "the rising tide" of crime while giving the courts and other legal institutions time to "get their acts together".

He said the main objectives of a surge should be:

- To send a clear, strong message to criminals that they will not be allowed to wreak havoc in their communities
- To destroy the support systems which allow criminals to use these areas as enclaves
- To reassure citizens of their personal safety and encourage them to work closely with law enforcement to keep crime under control

Rev Moss said that while a surge strategy would require a large number of personnel, the Royal Bahamas Police Force with its nearly 4,000 regular and reserve officers – bolstered by the return to reserve duty of many retired police and other law enforcement officers – should be able to successfully implement the strategy.

"The government is urged to move now before it is too late," said Rev Moss.

ON THE WAY UP

Grand Bahama Power Company announces two promotions



PROMOTED: Lakeisha Wilmott



PROMOTED: Chantel Nesbitt

BY DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT - The Grand Bahama Power Company has announced the promotion of two employees at the company this month.

Chantel Nesbitt has been promoted to Director of Environmental Safety and Security (ESS) and Lakeisha Wilmott to Financial Controller. The promotions became effective on August 1.

According to the company, Ms Nesbitt brings a wealth of experience to her new position and will be responsible for job site inspections, environmental monitoring and testing, key performance indicator reports, safety compliance, investigations, risk management and the day-to-day management of the ESS department.

Alan Kelley, CEO and president of GBPC, said safety and security is very important at the Power Company.

He noted that the company oper-

"We attribute some of our more recent international accomplishments to contributions that Chantel has made. These include holding a top safety record in the fossil power plant industry."

Alan Kelley

ates at high international standards.

Fossil

"We attribute some of our more recent international accomplishments to contributions that Chantel has made. These include holding a top safety record in the fossil power plant industry," he said.

Prior to joining the power company, Ms Nesbitt was employed as quality control supervisor at Polymers Inter-

national Limited for eight years.

Ms Nesbitt has also participated in numerous occupational health and safety training programmes throughout the US. She holds a BSc in chemical engineering from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

In her new capacity as Financial Controller, Ms Wilmott will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the finance team, the department's staff training and the company's budget preparation.

Ms Wilmott has served as Assistant Financial Controller for GBPC and its Customer Service Manager and Revenue Accountant. She also spent seven years as the Financial Controller for Freeport Jet Wash and Auto Mart Ltd.

Ms Wilmott received a BSc in accounting from Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina.

In 2000, she became a certified public accountant in the State of Georgia. She is a member of the Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Proud Paws launches its ad campaign for 2011 calendar

Information on how to be kind to animals throughout the year

By REUBEN SHEARER
Tribune Staff Reporter
rshearer@tribunemedia.net

THE Proud Paws organisation yesterday launched the ad campaign for its 2011 calendar, which will be filled with educational tidbits and the 100 ways to be kind to animals throughout the year.

The organisation requests that persons who want to have their pets featured in the calendar purchase a spot for their animal soon, Dr Peter Bizzell, president of Proud Paws told *The Tribune*.

Donations start at \$50 for a spot for a single day and \$100 for two days. The "Business ad of the month" is \$200 and "the Pet of the Month" is \$400.

Fuel

Funds generated from the ad campaign will help maintain and purchase fuel for the Proud Paws vehicle, which helps pet owners who cannot transport their animals to the veterinarian's office, the organisation said.

The Proud Paws vehicle does a round-up of ill and unkempt dogs and cats that roam Nassau streets on a frequent basis in an effort to reduce the amount of diseased animals through spaying and neutering.

There are estimated to be 10,000 to 20,000 stray and roaming dogs on New Providence, most of which are "destined to live short lives," as they have inadequate food, shelter, and veterinary care, said Dr Bizzell.

He says it is a problem that has existed for more than 100 years, affecting locals and animal lovers who visit the Bahamas.

"With a focused and con-

certed effort over the next five years this long-standing problem can be greatly diminished and eradicated," Dr Bizzell said.

Proud Paws' first line of action, he said, is to educate children through a primary initiative of free classroom presentations; teaching children how to act around dogs and how to care for animals, with emphasis on spaying and neutering.

For the upcoming academic year, schools can request a presentation at

their schools in October, for students in kindergarten to sixth grade.

Kingsway Academy, St Andrew's School, Uriah McPhee, Cleveland Eneas, St Thomas Moore, St Bede's, Yellow Elder, Naomi Blatch, and Woodland Primary have all participated in this primary initiative.

So far, the plan of Proud Paws is to limit the reproduction of animals. Annette Dempsey, spokesperson for the education programme, said Proud Paws has had a

big impact on Nassau's streets, significantly reducing the number of stray dogs.



FEATURE YOUR PET: Proud Paws requests that persons who want to have their pets featured in the calendar purchase a spot for their animal soon.



Campus Supervisor

St Andrew's School, The International School of The Bahamas, is seeking a Campus Supervisor to begin September, 2010.

The Campus Supervisor is directly responsible to the Principal for the day to day organization and management of the operational areas of the school, and for providing overall leadership, direction and support for the grounds, housekeeping and maintenance personnel.

All applications must include a written letter of application, full details of qualifications, relevant experience as well as the names of two referees.

All applications must be received at the school by 3.00pm, Wednesday, 18th August and should be addressed to Mrs Sharon E Wilson, the Principal.

Applications without the complete information required or those received after that date will not be considered.

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LOCAL NEWS

PMH in a sickly condition



By ADRIAN GIBSON
ajbahama@hotmail.com

YOUNG MAN'S VIEW ADRIAN GIBSON

THE Princess Margaret Hospital is in a deplorable state and, in many instances, gives off an aura of sickness and death—hardly one for persons wanting to return to a hale and hearty state or one that reflects an efficient operation. There is a tardy response to patients; there are grimy and foul-smelling bathrooms, and unkempt elevators, in addition to the ogre-like behaviour of certain staff members and the petulant and inhospitable conduct of certain healthcare professionals. An air of ineptitude and narrow-mindedness only add to the depressing reality of the appalling state of affairs at PMH.

Frankly, it appears that medical negligence usually goes unreported in the Bahamas and is disavowed whenever such questions arise. Indeed, if you listen to hospital officials, their physicians are perfect, can make no mistakes and, it seems, are free from human error in their apparent status as demigods. Apparently, today the Public Hospitals Authority merely serves as a buffer between the hospital and the Ministry of Health. Who has oversight of wayward doctors? Why isn't there a local medical watchdog? By and large, there appears to be a lack of accountability at PMH.

Now that Doctor's Hospital has achieved yet another world-recognized certification, one wonders how much longer will PMH, which is much older, give a picture of itself as a second-rate, banana-republic operation.

Along with the ongoing redevelopment and improvements at accident and emergency, there must be hospital-wide upgrades of medical facilities. I am told that there are critical repairs and maintenance

needs with the nation's primary public healthcare facility. The insufferable attitudes of hospital officials have spawned most of the problems at the hospital in the first place.

PMH must deliver quality care in a timely manner. What happened to the much-promised improvements in the efficient flow of patients? What happened to the patient care coordinators who were supposed to reduce overcrowding and congestion at the hospital, alleviating the jam-packed scene at accident and emergency?

There must be some enhancement of communication between staff, patients and the families of patients, who are all dissatisfied with the lack of information and impolite behaviour of attendee nurse/doctors. That said, it must also be noted that there are some nurses and doctors who, no matter how tired they may be, are good-natured, extremely kind and most accommodating!

The institution of a data collection system at PMH is essential. Indeed, there is a dire need for a properly functioning electronic integrated public health information system that encompasses the entire archipelago. The aforesaid system could increase the likelihood of evidence-based healthcare planning, produce timely medical reports and cause a reduction in the duplication of diagnostic investigations and drug treatment.

The use of electronic health records (EHRs) is becoming a norm in hospitals across the globe, delivering healthcare more efficiently, although there

are some concerns about privacy and security breaches of information containing servers. However, in the Bahamas, the risks of privacy breaches are clearly higher when records are contained in conventional paper file folders and can be misplaced and/or removed.

In an article, writer David Bates asserts that physicians in the United States have been slowest in their transitioning to EHRs. The writer argues that hurdles to greater usage of EHRs at that time was reimbursement as physicians had to pay for this innovative medical approach; an apparent failure in terms of interoperability; capital and risk tolerance; the resistance of physicians who express disquiet about timing; questions relative to the vendors in the market and the fitfulness of these vendors (Bates, p.1).

Since the United States is considered to be the Caribbean's immediate neighbour, it is of note that surveys revealed barely thirty per cent of US-based physicians use EHRs as compared to countries such as Australia and Sweden (Bates, p.1). Studies show that in the United Kingdom—the former colonial master of the Commonwealth Caribbean—£8 billion has been invested in health information technology (Bates, p.1). It must be also noted that in the Commonwealth, large medical practices or hospitals have adopted EHRs far more speedily than solo practitioners who are faced with high costs (e.g. hiring a system administrator) and the reluctance, in some instances, of vendors who wouldn't sell to sole practitioners as they cannot

earn robust returns. The recent economic stimulus, passed by the US Congress several months ago, contained the HITECH Act that aims to encourage doctors/facilities to use EHRs and threatens to trim down on Medicare payments to those physicians/medical offices who do not. The aforementioned Act offers financial incentives to those physicians making the switch.

Electronic health records are beneficial in vast and varied ways as its implementation is believed to improve the quality of service, automate the writing prescriptions, electronically record patient information and retain treatment records.

Construct

Authors Tracy Gunter and Nicolas Terry speak of EHRs becoming a national construct that would foster an amalgamation of patient information received on hard copy, alongside that which is later input into an electronic database. These writers assert that using information technology in medicine can greatly reduce medical errors and highlight the suggestion of the prominent US-based Institute of Medicine (IOM), which has pressed for "a renewed national commitment to building an information infrastructure to support health care delivery, consumer health, quality measurement and improvement, public accountability, clinical and health services research, and clinical education." It was the IOM's ambition to rid medical facilities of the need to utilize paper and retain handwritten data by this year. However, one would say that this objective has not been attained.

In the Bahamas, greater usage and implementation of EHRs can undoubtedly lead to great improvements in local health care—which for the most part is centred upon the use of manila folders/envelopes, hand-

written information and files stuffed away in drawers. Moreover, EHRs can reduce the physical storage requirements of the respective local hospitals, clinics and other medical outlets. Even more, on a secure database, files will not be so easily "lost" or misplaced, neither would these files be subject to mildew, fires and so on. Many Bahamians can speak to the archaic and time-consuming episodes that accompany the traditional handwritten method of obtaining or retrieving (e.g. chart pulls) medical records/attention.

Whilst such an innovative approach to improving healthcare comes with a substantial price tag and may not yield immediate financial returns, it must be noted that some EHRs have failed in terms of their interoperability with other applications and there is the matter of allaying fears about confidentiality.

In following Australia's example, the Bahamas could establish a national health information network. In Australia, EHRs allow for the healthcare network—Health-Connect—to gather patient information locally and then upload that amassed information into a centralized Health-Connect database which is shared with an accessible to authorized providers/personnel (Gunter & Terry, 14/3/2005). Between some physicians, a peer-to-peer file exchange programme has been developed. Overall, this would undoubtedly reduce concerns—at least in the immediate future—about the interoperability of EHRs (Gunter & Terry, 14/3/2005).

At many modern hospitals, EHRs maintain patient records relative to their medical histories, immunizations, test results, billing and payment information, prescriptions, scans and other images, demographics and so on. Research shows that it has also been credited with the reduction of healthcare

costs (e.g. past scans and images are readily available) and medical errors are not as probable as that information and any shared ideas as to best practices are also readily available.

Certainly, if medical information is being input and stored here or in a foreign country, it is expected that security measures would guarantee privacy and that agreements between patients and health facilities should reflect the facility's ability to protect information via electronic monitoring and surveillance, password and virus protected servers, firewalls and, even more, a department specifically tasked with protecting information and ensuring patient privacy. Whilst US laws dictate that no physician or member of a hospital's staff can share patient information without being subject to dismissal, criminal charges and possible jail time, in the Bahamas—though a small nation—the notion of physicians and nurses discussing patient's medical information without their permission must be addressed compellingly and with immediate effect.

EHRs give the advantage of having a server that is accessible even in the event of a fire and information would not so easily be deleted or dispensed with. Furthermore, it fosters an environment of accountability and transparency as files wouldn't so easily disappear or be adjusted and persons accessing record must officially sign in/out. In the highly technological 21st century, EHRs are becoming a primary source of medical data, for which establishment in local healthcare facilities should be imminent.

Indeed, there is a pressing need for another modern, well-equipped hospital on New Providence, as well as the construction of geriatric homes and mental health facilities that primarily focus upon addressing mental issues (not housing prisoners and geriatric patients).

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- * POWER CREW Church (Ages 10-11 yrs.)
Second & Fourth Sunday 11:30 a.m.
- * Evening Service 6:30 p.m.

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- 11:00 a.m. Bro. Jamicko Forde/Youth
- 7:00 p.m. Sis. Rosemary Williams/Board of Visitation, Outreach Ministry

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COME TO WORSHIP. LEAVE TO SERVE

LOCAL NEWS

Post-earthquake healing in Haiti - one organisation's experience

BY ANDREA DOWNER

FOR PANOS CARIBBEAN

KINGSTON -

More than six months after Haiti was rocked by the devastating January 12 earthquake, many Haitians are still on the slow journey to healing.

For some, this means just trying to sleep through the night, while for others it means taking the conscious decision to move on past the death of loved ones.

For five-year-old Thaime Saintus, the turning point came at a staff retreat in Jamaica hosted by Panos Caribbean in April for its Haitian employees who were all severely affected by the earthquake, which killed close to 300,000 persons. Employees of the organisation's Jamaica office, who have been providing support for their Haitian colleagues, also attended.

At that retreat, Thaime's father reported that she slept soundly for an entire night for the first time since the earthquake. Wildor Saintus explained that Thaime had slept fitfully in the aftermath of the disaster, initially awoken by the many aftershocks that followed. Even when those subsided, the little girl had trouble sleeping as she was afraid another earthquake would topple their house.

However, it seems the experience of getting out of Haiti helped break the chains of fear - since the retreat, according to Wildor, her sleeping patterns have returned to normal.

For Panos Caribbean's regional financial administrator Lucien Saint-Louis and his 12 year old daughter, Ephodie, the counselling that Panos introduced for the staff helped on the road to healing. Lucien's wife was one of the hundreds of thousands of Haitians who lost their lives in the massive quake which flattened most of Haiti's capital, Port au Prince.

In an emotionally charged account, Lucien explained that

he had just taken his daughter and her mother to the gym and was standing outside when his world tilted and began shaking violently.

When the shaking stopped, his wife lay dead among the rubble. His daughter was injured, but miraculously alive.

Three months later, the pain was still raw.

Sitting beside his daughter who rarely leaves his side, Lucien brought tears to everyone's eyes as he revisited his story.

After the retreat he once again reflected on his loss, but in a different way.

"I feel much better than I did on April 18. I have taken the resolution to continue my life and help Ephodie grow up. I will remember my life before January 12, but I have to continue to do all my best to build my life in order that my wife would be proud of me and of Ephodie. This is my promise to her," he said.

Severely

Panos Caribbean has an office in Haiti and is among the many organisations whose staff were severely affected by the earthquake. Early psycho-social intervention resulted in the recommendation for a family/staff retreat.

Eleven Panos Caribbean staff members and one board member, Barbara Jacobs-Small, attended.

Executive director of Panos Caribbean, Jan Voordouw, explained why he felt the retreat was important.

"The Panos Haiti staff has undergone tremendous stress, suffering and displacement after the massive January 12 earthquake. Staff was stressed out, confused and suffering from a number of post traumatic stress symptoms. Two staff members had left Haiti, increasing the workload on those left. Most staff in Haiti



WATCHFUL EYE: A boy watches a theatre show, organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, for people affected by the earthquake of January 12, at the Petionville Golf Club camp in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010.

would welcome a chance to get away and recoup, preferably with family members, in order to face the arduous tasks of rebuilding that lay ahead," he said.

Jean Bernard Abellard, the psychologist who facilitated the counselling sessions at the retreat, said: "It was a good experience. The sense of family was achieved. I was very happy to help people and do some assessment with them and I think the retreat had a therapeutic effect."

He will continue counselling some of the Haiti staff for a while. However, as a Haitian who has also been affected by the earthquake, he is still healing. He is now separated from his wife and their newborn son who is just a month old as she had to move to the countryside like so many other Haitians. Dr Abellard explained that he and seven other Haitian psychologists have formed a support group that meets once a month to talk about their feelings as well as aspects of the cases they are handling and exchange strategies.

"People were not affected at the same level," he explained. "And so their process of healing and recovery will be different."

He said in addition to their ability to access psychological support, the level of emotional trauma suffered by each person will depend on the extent to which they were impacted by the earthquake and the financial resources they are able to access to get back on their feet. As the staff members



ALL SMILES: A girl smiles for pictures on her way to attend a theater show, organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, for people affected by the earthquake of January 12, at the Petionville Golf Club camp in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010.

returned home to continue the post-earthquake recovery process, there are few aftershocks being felt in Haiti but many people imagine and fear them constantly.

Some Panos staff have family members who still sleep outdoors, under tents or on balconies.

But life is slowly returning to normal, as the Haitian people, ever resolute, continue to literally pick up the pieces

around them. School children are among the teeming crowds jostling for position on the cracked and dusty sidewalks of Petionville in Port au Prince. Some are being tutored under tents in oven-like temperatures, but at least they are once again in school.

• Panos' post-quake activities in Haiti include the establishment of Youth Journalism Groups with a special focus on

disabled children who lost limbs in the earthquake; distance counselling; the commissioning of in depth reports on issues related to the earthquake, its impact and the recovery efforts; and training reporters to cover those issues. Via Panos' youth journalism programmes, young people are taught how to speak out on issues that affect and concern them and effectively use the media as an advocacy tool.

Out of order

FROM page one

caused. Just about all of the prepaid customers were affected, 300,000 in total, and 85,000 landline customers.

Reports indicate that the company saw some signs of restoration with their landline, SMS and international roaming services at 2.45pm.

Despite reports to *The Tribune* from the public, Emergency contacts 911 and 919 were not affected, said Mr Griffin.

"This type of failure is not unique to BTC," said Mr Griffin. "These type of failures happen all over the world. It's just that it decided to happen in the time and history of BTC and the country when we've had this failure."

Diversity 'makes sense'

FROM page one

BTC said the breakdown in services began early yesterday morning affecting its prepaid cellular, SMS platforms and some landline exchanges. The company also experienced major difficulties with its international roaming services.

This means thousands of customers throughout the country were unable to use their prepaid and postpaid cellular phones, make or receive landline phone calls.

Up to press time, BTC had no specific explanation for the breakdown in phone services.

The company said it saw some restoration with its landline service beginning yesterday morning, and said all landline, SMS and international roaming service were restored as of 2.45pm.

Yesterday afternoon the company said it was gradually restoring its prepaid network.

BTC promised to issue a future statement outlining the cause of the disruption and terms of compensation to its customers.

Impact on emergency services is uncertain

FROM page one

terday, already had responded to two calls up to press time.

A dispatcher in the police control room, who did not want to be identified, said luckily yesterday was "a quiet day."

"From what I understand, everything is in order now 919 is operational. From what we have now nothing serious occurred during the time that the lines were down, no one called to report anything serious. It was a good day, nice and quiet," said the dispatcher, who added that phone lines in the

control room were affected for about two hours, becoming fully operational around 2 pm.

BTC said at a press conference yesterday that early yesterday morning it suffered significant network failure on its pre-paid cellular, SMS Platforms and some landline exchanges. The company also experienced major difficulties with its international roaming services.

As a result, customers throughout the country were unable to use their prepaid cellular phones, or make or receive landline phone calls.

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF: THURSDAY, 5 AUGUST 2010											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,491.89 CHG -0.97 %CHG -0.06 YTD -73.49 YTD % -4.69											
FINDEX: CLOSE 000.00 YTD 00.00% 2009 -12.31%											
WWW.BISXBAHAMAS.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
1.34	1.00	AML Foods Limited	AF	1.04	1.04	0.00	0.250	0.040	4.2	3.88%	
10.75	9.67	Bahamas Property Fund	BPF	10.63	10.63	0.00	0.050	0.200	212.6	1.88%	
6.25	5.00	Bank of Bahamas	BOB	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.598	0.260	8.4	5.20%	
0.58	0.27	Benchmark	BEN	0.27	0.27	0.00	-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
3.49	3.15	Bahamas Waste	BW	3.15	3.15	0.00	0.168	0.090	18.8	2.88%	
2.15	2.14	Fidelity Bank	FBI	2.17	2.17	0.00	0.055	0.040	39.5	1.84%	
12.50	9.62	Cable Bahamas	CB	11.11	11.11	-0.00	1.408	0.300	7.9	2.70%	
2.84	2.50	Collins Holdings	CH	2.55	2.50	-0.05	0.511	0.040	4.9	1.60%	
7.00	5.00	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	CBK	6.04	6.04	0.00	0.460	0.230	13.1	3.81%	
3.65	2.23	Consolidated Water BDRs	CWB	2.43	2.36	-0.07	0.111	0.052	21.3	2.20%	
2.55	1.60	Doctor's Hospital	DH	2.00	1.95	-0.05	0.627	0.110	3.1	5.64%	
6.99	5.94	Famguard	FG	6.07	6.07	0.00	-0.003	0.240	N/M	3.95%	
10.90	8.75	Finco	FIN	8.90	8.90	0.00	0.168	0.520	53.0	5.84%	
11.40	9.50	FirstCaribbean Bank	FCB	9.74	9.74	0.00	0.720	0.350	13.5	3.59%	
5.53	5.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBI17	100.00	100.00	0.00	7%				19 October 2017
1.00	1.00	Fool Class B Preference	FBC	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
5.59	5.00	ICD Utilities	ICD	5.59	5.59	0.00	0.407	0.240	13.7	4.29%	
10.50	9.95	J. S. Johnson	JSJ	9.95	9.95	0.00	0.952	0.640	10.5	6.43%	
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate	PRE	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.156	0.500	64.1	8.00%	
BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing basis)											
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity			
99.46	99.46	Bahamas Note 6.95 (2029)	BAH29	99.46	0.00		6.95%	20 November 2029			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBI17	100.00	0.00		7%	19 October 2017			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBI22	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBI13	100.00	0.00		7%	30 May 2013			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBI15	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015			
RoyalFidelity Merchant Bank & Trust Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)											
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid	Ask	Last Price	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield	
10.05	7.92	Bahamas Supermarkets	9.42	10.42	14.00		-2.345	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
8.00	6.00	Caribbean Crossings (Pref)	2.00	6.25	4.00		0.000	0.480	N/M	7.80%	
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.35	0.40	0.55		0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%	
CFAL Securities Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)											
41.00	29.00	ABDAB	30.13	31.59	29.00		4.540	0.000	9.03	0.00%	
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.45	0.55	0.55		0.002	0.000	261.90	0.00%	
BISX Listed Mutual Funds											
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD %	Last 12 Months %	NAV 3MTH	NAV 6MTH	NAV Date			
1.4825	1.438	CFAL Bond Fund	1.4825	3.04	6.96	1.460225	1.438700	30-Jun-10			
2.9265	2.8266	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	2.9199	1.14	0.85	2.911577	2.886947	30-Jun-10			
1.5438	1.4804	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5438	2.43	4.28	1.527368	1.511377	23-Jul-10			
3.2025	2.9522	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	2.9522	-8.49	-8.08			30-Jun-10			
13.6388	13.0484	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.4110	0.33	3.32			30-Jun-10			
109.3929	101.8693	CFAL Global Bond Fund	109.3929	5.20	7.60	107.570620	103.987340	30-Jun-10			
105.7795	93.1998	CFAL Global Equity Fund	100.1833	-1.52	3.56	105.779543	101.725415	30-Jun-10			
1.1177	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.1177	2.52	5.19			30-Jun-10			
1.0917	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.0785	0.98	5.29			30-Jun-10			
1.1162	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.1162	2.34	5.45			30-Jun-10			
9.5795	9.1005	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 2	9.5439	2.16	6.25			30-Jun-10			
11.2361	10.0000	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 1	10.0344	-6.84	5.63			30-Jun-10			
10.0000	9.3299	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 3	9.3299	-6.70	-6.70			30-Jun-10			
7.9664	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Int'l Fund - Equities Sub Fund	7.3073	-5.31	16.22			30-Jun-10			
MARKET TERMS											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX - 19 Dec 02 = 1,000.00											
52wk-HI - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks											
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks											
Previous Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily volume											
Today's Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume											
Change - Change in closing price from day to day											
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today											
DIV \$ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months											
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings											
(S) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/1/2007											
(S1) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/1/2007											
YIELD - last 12 month dividends divided by closing price											
Bid \$ - Buying price of Collin and Fidelity											
Ask \$ - Selling price of Collin and Fidelity											
Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price											
Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week											
EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mths											
NAV - Net Asset Value											
N/A - Not Meaningful											
FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index. January 1, 1994 = 100											
TO TRADE CALL: CFAL 242-502-7010 ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764 FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000 COLONIAL 242-502-7525											

Delivering economic good: a new role for diplomacy

insight

WORLD VIEW

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

THE British government has recently launched an initiative to make its Ambassadors frontline persons in pushing British business abroad. There are lessons in this move for small states including those in the Caribbean, and governments should be taking note to revamp the outmoded structures through which they conduct their foreign affairs.

Over the last decade, the world has gone through cataclysmic changes which have had – and are still having – adverse effects on small countries. Among these are climate change, the spread of HIV/Aids, the fallout from the global financial crisis that started in October 2008, the rise of the ideology of trade liberalization leading to unfair terms of trade for small countries, and heavy constraints on financial services imposed by wealthy nations in the name of the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing.

Small states have no arsenal of foreign policy tools such as economic clout or military capacity with which to advance their interests or counter the constraints that are imposed on them by more powerful countries and institutions. They rely entirely on the capacity and forcefulness of their diplomacy.

Given the state of the international political economy, small states should be aggressive in doing precisely what the British government now expects of its diplomatic service – they should require their diplomats, as a primary task, to contribute to the earnings of the national treasuries by seeking out and expanding markets for their goods and services, and procuring investment. The exceptions to this would be the missions of a purely political nature, such as those accredited to the UN and its specialized agencies.

As part of the British initiative, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, William Hague, has said that he intends to appoint businessmen to key Ambassadorial posts.

The Financial Times reports this development as “part of Mr Hague’s pitch for resources to the Treasury, casting the embassy network as an important driver of Britain’s economic recovery.”

The manner in which Foreign Ministries and Embassies (or High Commissions) were structured by Caribbean countries after independence, followed too slavishly the British model of the 1960s, and regrettably, they have remained so even while the British themselves have undergone periodic change.

Not enough emphasis was placed by Caribbean governments on the commercial aspect of Embassies – the business of actually promoting trade and investment. Very few persons working in Caribbean diplomatic missions have any experience in business at any level, and, therefore, they lack the knowledge and experience to understand what conditions attract business people.

To be fair to these Caribbean diplomats, many of them also get little – if any – guidance or direction from their governments, largely because the foreign ministries to which they respond are also staffed with public servants who have not been exposed to, or trained in business.

Diplomatic training – such as it exists in the Caribbean – is also still too focused on traditional diplomacy. There is a gaping hole in commercial diplomacy – the business of promotion, marketing and negotiation.

In this context, Caribbean countries need to reform and revamp their foreign ministries and their diplomatic missions to put them in the forefront of promoting trade and investment. To do so, they would have to establish close working relationships with Chambers of Commerce, hotels and tourist organizations, manufacturers and agricultural export organizations, and their financial services sector. The work programme of the foreign ministry in trade and investment should be devised and constantly revised by a joint board drawn from the private and public sectors.

Some governments may find the notion of a public-private

board to drive foreign economic policy as too big a pill to swallow, inured in the belief that policy making and implementation is the government’s exclusive domain. But, this is an anachronistic concept.

In the member states of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) governments consult widely and deeply with their private sectors before they agree to rules that apply within the group, and that the group then imposes on others. The OECD countries know well that it is their companies that trade and invest, and it is the profits of these companies that grow their economies. Governments, therefore, have an active interest in their success.

It is far more important for small states to reform and revamp their overseas missions than it is for industrialised nations, such as Britain, whose embassies, for the most part, have commercial capabilities. If Britain recognizes the importance of strengthening the commercial capacity of its embassies, it should be urgent for countries in the Caribbean.

One part of the British government’s initiative, is likely to pose difficulties requiring creative solutions for the same reason that it would present a problem in the Caribbean. Mr Hague wants to appoint businessmen to key Ambassadorial posts. The two constraints on this are: businessmen are unlikely to abandon their businesses for three years or more to become Ambassadors; and the pay for the job would be much less than businessmen earn.

But, this constraint should not stop top executives in small states from taking leave of absence from the private sector to work for governments on flexible contracts with realistic pay, and for limited periods to work on the international stage. They are much needed in Embassies in Brussels where the work of Caribbean governments



SIR RONALD SANDERS

on the Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union is focused, and they should be in Caribbean missions to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) where trade rules are negotiated.

It would also be extremely beneficial if, in the Caribbean, there was a permanent private sector presence at the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and within the Office of the Trade Negotiator.

Another of Hague’s initiative also has a lesson for Caribbean countries. He is creating in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office a team to coordinate strategy towards the emerging economic powers – Brazil, Russia, India and China – the so-called BRIC nations obviously because he recognizes them as sources of investment in Britain and markets for British goods and services.

This is an initiative that Caribbean countries should have launched over a year ago, assigning the CARICOM Secretariat the task of developing a joint strategy for promoting trade and investment with the BRIC nations on advantageous terms. Given that three of them are developing countries, a well thought out strategy may have yielded impressive success.

All this calls for a sea change in government thinking and attitudes toward the private sector in the Caribbean so that the relationship becomes one of genuine partnership. It is a sea change that has all the urgency of now.

Responses and previous commentaries:
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INSIDE • Woods can't find range

Cartwright advances closer to Major League Baseball dream

By **RENALDO DORSETT**
Tribune Sports Reporter
rdorsett@tribunemedia.net

Another career milestone for one of the country's leading baseball players as he advanced one step closer to his Major League Baseball dream.

Albert Cartwright was called up to AA minor league baseball for the first time as a mem-

ber of the Corpus Christi Hooks.

The Hooks are a minor league team that plays in the Texas League as the Class AA affiliate of the Houston Astros.

The ownership group is headed by Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan, whose ownership group recently won a bid to purchase the Texas Rangers.

Cartwright has appeared in six games for the Hooks thus far.

He has hit 6-24 for a batting

average of .250 with two doubles.

The veteran minor league second baseman has recorded one RBI and one stolen base with a slugging percentage of .333.

In 2006, Cartwright was selected in the 43rd round by the New York Mets when the Major League Baseball Draft.

Cartwright, a product of the Freedom Farm Junior Baseball League, starred at American Heritage High School in Florida.

Cartwright helped lead Amer-

ican Heritage to the recent 2006 Florida State Championship game.

He was selected in the 36th round of the 2007 Draft by the Houston Astros.

He then advanced to the minor leagues as a member of the Greenville Astros where he played for two consecutive seasons.

Cartwright advanced to Class A baseball with the Lexington Legends for the 2009 season.

In 2010, he moved to the Lancaster Jethawks which are a Class - A Advanced team in the California League and currently serve as the farm team of the Houston Astros.



Albert Cartwright

of the Houston

Second 'Power Punch' Invitational set for today

By **RENALDO DORSETT**
Tribune Sports Reporter
rdorsett@tribunemedia.net

ONE of the country's leading amateur boxing clubs continues its stellar 2010 season with the second edition of one of its noteworthy events on the calendar.

Ray Minus Jr and Champion Amateur Boxing Club are scheduled to host the second edition of its "Power Punch" Invitational featuring a strong slate of young talented fighters.

The night is expected to feature a schedule of 12 matches hosted at the Wulff Road Boxing Square, on Saturday August 7, beginning at 6pm.

Boxers from Minus Jr's club will square off against those from the Simpson Penn Boxing Team. The main event will feature Javano Collins against Keron Knowles.

Four awards will be up for grabs at the event including Best Fight of the Event, Most Improved, Most Outstanding, and the Power Punch Awards.

The first edition of the Power Punch Invitational was staged July 24th with Championship Amateur Boxing Club squared off against Boston Blackie Miller's Bahamas Youth Sporting Club.

Results of that event included Maurice Pinder won a round three decision over Kenzel Armbrister, Deonte Tinker won a round three decision over Kyle Brown, Randan Johnson won a round three decision Jermaine Allen, Achaz Wallace over Edson Joeseph, Lenzel Rahming over Dominic Butler, Javano Collins with a TKO over Armard Rolle, Don Rolle over Jermaine Allen, Maurice Pinder over Stanford Bain and Lester Brown over Achaz Wallace.

Don Rolle and Jermaine Allen won the Best Fight of the Evening, Maurice Pinder was the Most Improved and Lester Brown was the Most Outstanding.

Champion Amateur Boxing Club is dedicated to refilling the talent pool of amateur boxers to replace top professionals such as Jermaine 'Choo Choo' Mackey, Meacher 'Pain' Major, Jerry 'Big Daddy' Butler and Jerome 'The Bahamian Bronze Bomber' Ellis.

Since his retirement from the sport as arguably the country's most decorated professional boxer, with international titles in two different weight classes, Minus Jr has been giving back to the sport in a meaningful way.

His club last showcased its new talent over the Independence Day holiday weekend at the 14th Wellington 'Sonny Boy' Rahming Silver Gloves Boxing Championships.

"We expect another very successful event," Minus Jr said. "And all we have to do is improve their abilities by giving them more opportunities to box."



TESS Mullings accepts her award.



V'ALONEE Robinson accepts her award.

BAAA honours elite junior athletes

IN an effort to celebrate "student athlete" in the truest sense of the word, the Bahamas' governing body for track and field paid homage to its elite junior athletes which have excelled in the classroom.

The Bahamas Association of Athletic Associations held their fourth annual All Bahamian Scholar Athlete Awards Ceremony Wednesday night at the auditorium of the Bahamas Red Cross Society.

Held under the patronage of the Governor General Sir Arthur Foulkes and Lady Foulkes, Desmond Bannister, Minister of Education, was also in attendance.

Thirteen athletes were recognised at the event, with four absent and nine in attendance.

The programme was established in 2007 by Kermit Taylor and Dwight Marshall and traditionally honours the most outstanding performers among the Bahamas junior track and field athletes in for achieving athletic and academic excellence at the highest levels.

The criteria for selection requires that each athlete demonstrates excellence in their chosen event and achieves the academic standard of



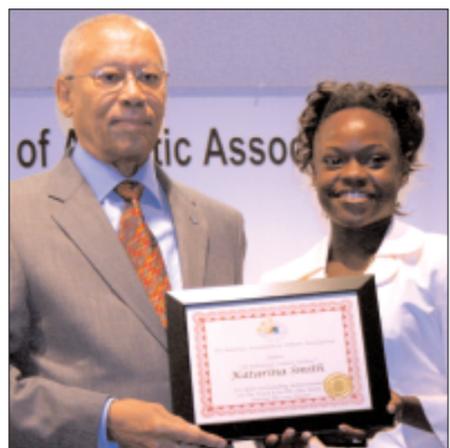
OUTSTANDING: Sir Arthur Faulkes presents Shauna Miller with an award at the event.

a minimum 2.50 grade point average.

- The 13 athletes honoured included:
- **Nejmi Burnside** (2010 St. Andrews graduate with a GPA of 2.90)
 - **James Audley Carey III** (11th grade student at SAC with a GPA of 3.46, honour roll),
 - **Devin Cartwright** (2010 Queen's College graduate with a GPA of 3.10, honour roll).
 - **Tynia Gaither** (11th grade student at Osceola High School Florida, Osceola High School honour roll, 2008, 2009, 2010)
 - **Trevon Green** (11th grade student at Moores Island All Age school, GPA 3.06, honour roll).
 - **Laron Hield** (11th grade student at Moores Island All Age School, GPA 2.56)
 - **Alfred Higgs** (2010 Tabernacle Baptist

- Academy graduate with a GPA of 2.77)
- **Geno Jones** (2010 Bishop Michael Eldon High School graduate with a GPA of 2.89)
- **Shauna Miller** (10th grade student at SAC with a GPA of 2.73)
- **Tess Mullings** (2010 SAC graduate with a GPA of 2.70)
- **V'Alonee Robinson**, (2010 SAC graduate with a GPA of 2.53)
- **Katarina Smith** (2010 Grand Bahama Catholic High School graduate with a GPA of 3.36, honor roll).
- **Aaron Wilmore** (2010 Queen's College graduate with a GPA of 2.73)

SEE page 10



KATARINA Smith accepts her award.



JAMES Audley Carey accepts his award.



NEJMI Burnside accepts his award.

SPORTS

**SPORTS
INBRIEF**

New NFL rules designed to limit head injuries

**FOOTBALL
HOUSTON**

NFL referees will take on more responsibility this season to protect players from helmet-first hits to their heads and necks, according to the Associated Press.

The league has expanded its rules for protecting "defenseless" players from taking shots above their shoulders. Groups of officials are meeting with teams to go over the rule changes. Referee Walt Anderson, also the head of officiating for the Big 12 conference, led a meeting with the Texans on Friday.

The reworded rules prohibit a player from launching himself and using his helmet to strike a defenseless player in the head or neck. The old rule only applied to receivers getting hit, but now it will apply to everyone.

Also new this season, when a player loses his helmet, the play is immediately whistled dead.

Anderson says the league will monitor how the new rules worked at season's end and then evaluate if they were effective in limiting injuries.

Berdych loses to Malisse in DC quarterfinals

**TENNIS
WASHINGTON**

WIMBLEDON runner-up Tomas Berdych lost in three sets to unseeded Xavier Malisse in the Legg Mason Tennis Classic quarterfinals, adding to the string of upsets at the hard-court tournament, according to the Associated Press.

Malisse beat the No. 1-seeded Berdych 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 in Friday's first match.

Malisse knocked off No. 5-seeded John Isner in third round Thursday, when the surprises also included No. 2-seeded Andy Roddick's straight-set loss to Gilles Simon.

The 62nd-ranked Malisse reached his second semifinal of the year and will face eighth-seeded Marcos Baghdatis in Sunday's final. Baghdatis, a 2006 Australian Open finalist, eliminated third-seeded Fernando Verdasco 7-6 (3), 6-4 Friday.

Once a member of the top 20, and a 2002 semifinalist at Wimbledon, Malisse is now ranked 62nd and hasn't won a title or even played in a tour final since 2007.

With Americans Roddick, Isner, Mardy Fish and Ryan Sweeting all losing Thursday, this is the first time no U.S. players reached the quarterfinals at Washington's tournament, which dates to 1969. And because Roddick will drop from No. 9 to no better than No. 12 on Monday, no U.S. man will be in the top 10 for the first time since the computer rankings began in 1973.

Bahamian karate team attends The Caribbean Martial Arts Hall of Fame

AS teams arrived from around the world, Trinidad was preparing for the largest martial arts event the country has ever seen with the hosting of The Caribbean Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

This three-day event also played host to the Purple Dragon open karate championship, and seminars by invited grandmasters.

Professor Don Jacobs promoter of the CMAHF and also founder of the Purple Dragon system, and former student of grand master Moses Powell of New York, greeted and informed managers of their itinerary for the next three days after being brief by trinidad's tourism officials.

Rough Road

The road to Trinidad was not an easy one: soliciting sponsors, and to train for this competition, takes a lot out of you, we knew that going into Trinidad the team had to be prepared mentally and physically for Trinidad was no walk in the park, also teams to watch were Canada, England, Australia, USA, Ghana, Venezuela and Jamaica.

We knew that this one was for all the marbles and we were going to do what it takes to bring all home: fighters were studied, information gathered on teams that were

going to be there, we searched YouTube for named fighters just to have the upper hand, coaches did their home work and team Bahamas was ready, all to come crashing down with delays coming out of Nassau forcing the team to catch the next available connecting flight into Trinidad and Tobago which was the following evening. Hench missed 90% of their events, leaving the Bahamas without the opportunity to display what they have trained so hard to show the world, and the team saddened by the turn of events knew that this was again a time for the Bahamas to shine; being a little disappointed, they knew the show must go on.

On Saturday morning a special invitation was sent to team Bahamas by Mr Tae BO Billy Blanks to take part in his early morning workout. It did not stop there, he went one step further, and insisted that we train with him in Japan and he is willing to assist team Bahamas wherever possible - this gesture is now being considered seriously by team managers and coaches to facilitate this relationship.

This three-day event saw some of the more elite martial artist and promoters, such as Soke Papanan, grandmaster Sugar, Billy Blanks, Alan Goldberg host of the world's



AWARDEES: Pictured from l to r are Sensei Jawara Pierre, Master Brian Beckford and Master Julian Rolle.

largest hall of fame event of its kind just to name a few.

On Sunday, the final day of activities and the hall of fame banquet, it was the Bahamas time to be recognised by its peers, Master Brian Beckford got a gold life time achievement award for 30 years or more of martial arts contribution, Master Julian Rolle awarded silver life time achievement award for 25 years or more and senior

instructor Sensei Jawara Pierre was awarded teacher of the year, the last of the individual categories. Smiling nods were exchanged as if to say well done and congratulations bro.

Disappointed

All of this was not and will not be possible without the support of family, friends and

those that drop the dollar in the bottle at the marathon light on Saturdays. Also essential are master Basil Rolle who advises and assists with training, as well as teachers who come to the Sunday training and lend their support, Keith Rolle and Sonic Express that affords the team a place to practise and most of all our Father that keeps us spiritually rooted, healthy and strong.

Woods can't find range off the tee

**GOLF
AKRON, Ohio**

THINGS got so bad for Tiger Woods off the tee in Friday's second round of the Bridgestone Invitational that he had to supply his own soundtrack, according to the Associated Press.

"Get in the hole!" he sneered under his breath at an errant iron shot into the par-3 seventh hole, repeating the cliched phrase so often yelled by the loudest of his fans.

Woods followed up his worst round ever at Firestone Country Club, a 4-over 74 on Thursday, by matching his second-worst round, a 72. When he left the course, the seven-time winner of the Bridgestone stood 13 shots off the lead - but just two shots out of last place in the 81-player field.

In his 261 PGA Tour starts, he has played the first 36 holes worse in only four tournaments.

It wasn't just bad scores, however. The biggest problem is that Woods has almost no idea where his ball is going off the tee.

He hit only three of 14 fairways in the second round. A closer look shows he hit seven tee shots into the right rough - sometimes far, far to the right - and three other times he pounded the ball into the high grass on the left.

In other words, he was all over the course, visiting spots that the game's best seldom see.

He bolted after his round, walking away from reporters after signing his scorecard and then hustling to his waiting luxury SUV. But on Wednesday, he was asked about his driving.

"Of late I've been driving the ball so much better," he said.

He did not back that up on the course. His play speaks volumes about where he is just a week before the final major of the year, the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits.

Woods came into the Bridgestone ranked ninth in the U.S. Ryder standings, with the top eight assured of spots on the team. He repeatedly said during a pretournament interview that he intended to play his way on, instead of forcing American captain Corey Pavin to select him with one of his discretionary picks.

But Woods is not showing that his game is in shape with just 10 days remaining until those eight automatic qualifiers for the U.S. side are finalized.

Woods hit his first drive of the day (on the 10th hole) far to the right and ended up bogeying. On the next tee, he slashed the ball far to the left, scattering the gallery, but ended up making a par.

After walking off the second tee, he turned back to playing partner Lee Westwood, who was also spraying the ball off the tee, and said, "So how are we doing so far?" Both laughed.



Amy Sancetta/AP Photo

FALLING BEHIND: Tiger Woods hits from the sand trap to the 12th green during the second round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio on Friday, Aug. 6, 2010.

BAAA awards

FROM page nine

Also honoured were two former scholar athletes.

Dr. Gail Saunders who attended Queen's College in the early 1960's and was a member of the 1962 CAC Games team.

Fabian Whyms was the first Bahamian male to win the carifta 100m in 1979 in the under 20 boys and defended his title in 1980.

Whyms went on to attend the University of Texas at El Paso.

Not present were: Fabian Whyms, Tynia Gaither, Trevon Green, Alfred Higgs and Geno Jones. Laron Heild arrived late on a flight from Abaco and was presented with his plaque by Mike Sands, president of the BAAA and Harrison Petty, president of the BAAA's Parents Association.



DR. GAIL Saunders accepts her award for her role in the 1962 CAC Games.



AARON Wilmore accepts his award .



DEVIN Cartwright accepts her award .

LOCAL NEWS



BIG PAYOFF: Michael's determination and loyalty pays off big time

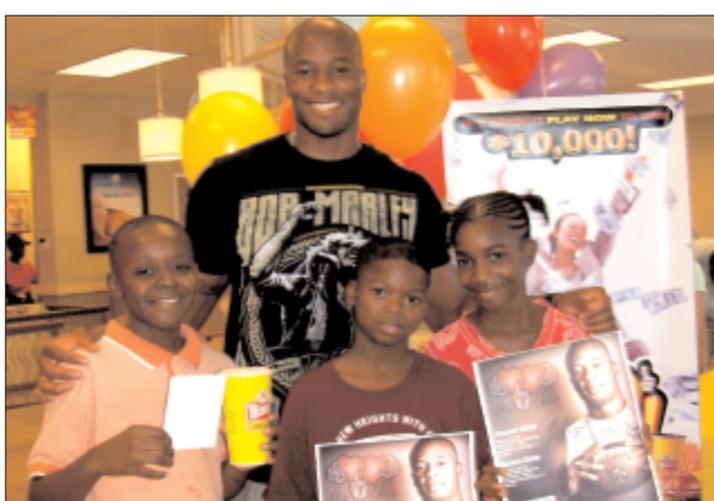


IT'S OFFICIAL: Naughty announces live on air that Michael Davis has won again, following the drawing by Terry Tsavoussis, vice president of Wendy's.



PRETTY AND SMILING: Delightful designs by Sea Horse Face Painting.

Michael beats the odds to win 11K from Wendy's and Coca Cola



DARLING KIDS: Homegrown NFL champ Devard Darling (above) and several recipients of the Wendy's & Coca Cola Scholarship Programme participate in the final 1K drawing leading up to the 10K giveaway.

ANOTHER WINNER: Lucky customer (left) wins Boss gift certificate in "Pop The Balloon" contest.



LOVELY LOGAN: Lovely little Logan points out her favorite promotion.

WAS IT destiny, a winning strategy, or just serious luck that led to Michael Davis beating the odds and winning not only the initial drawing of \$1,000, but also the highly coveted \$10,000 cash jackpot in Wendy's and Coca Cola's "Upgrade Me Too" promotion?

This easy going, down home guy from Freeport said he set his sights on winning from the very start.

Michael said "somehow" he just knew the big cash prize would be his, and the first win gave him and his family the motivation and determination to press on.

For the Davis family, it was a group effort. They banded together with Michael insisting that the family dine at Wendy's (their favourite quick serve restaurant) at least twice a day for the duration of the promotion; a strategy that paid off in a big way!

During the past six weeks of the "Upgrade Me Too" promotion, customers upgrading their combos to a large at all Wendy's locations (including the airport and Freeport) became eligible to complete the blanks and enter their receipt to win.

Weekly Prizes

There were four weekly \$1,000 prizes, and the promotion culminated with a jackpot giveaway of \$10,000.

Not only was Michael the first customer to win 1K in this year's promotion, he also became the first person from Freeport to ever win in the two years the promotion has been run.

Proving that lightning does sometimes strike the same place twice, Michael sealed the deal with his second win five weeks later.

On that fateful Friday, dozens of curious onlookers flocked to Wendy's at the Mall at Marathon to deposit their last minute entries, and see first-hand who would walk away 10K richer courtesy of Wendy's and Coca Cola.

While the drive-thru and in-store staff kept the queues moving at a record pace, spectators enjoyed an exciting afternoon filled with free

treats, prizes and surprises. Festivities included a hilarious "Dueling Deejays" Hula Hoop spin off between Inigo (Naughty) of More 94.9FM and Giles (The G-Juice Guy) of Spirit 92.5; a Triple Combo Eating Contest; free face painting by Seahorse Face Painting; and numerous promotional giveaways from Coca Cola.

Bonus

As an added bonus customers making a purchase were able to participate in a game of "Pop The Balloon" to win gift certificates from Bani Shoe Warehouse; Bahamas Office and School Supplies (BOSS); The Work Shop (Signature Brows By Janine) and Marco's Pizza. Additional prizes included I-Tune Cards, an I-Pod Touch, Wendy's meal vouchers; and six packs of Coca Cola.

Michael says he and the family were practically glued to the radio as More 94.9FM and Spirit 92.5FM, (promotional partners) broadcast live from the 10K drawing. After four ineligible tickets were drawn, Michael heard his name announced, and there was instant rejoicing and celebrating in the Davis yard.

Although this was the win he'd been patiently waiting for, Michael admitted he had to see the cheque with his name on it to really believe the cash was his. When asked about his wife's reaction, Michael chuckled and said "she told me to bring the cheque straight home."

Following his historic double win, Michael was flown to Nassau to redeem his prize.

Michael, who works in Freeport as a bellman, says the cash windfall will allow him to bring his bills current, put away money to cover back-to-school expenses, and with the remaining funds a smiling Michael says he and the wife will "party like rock stars."



PROMOTIONAL PARTNERS: Giles Wells, representing Spirit 92.5; Yolanda Pawar, marketing manager of Wendy's and Marco's Pizza; Cindy Williams-Rahming, marketing consultant for Coca Cola; Inigo "Naughty" Zenicazelaya, representing More 94.9FM



SCHOLARSHIP & EDUCATIONAL LOAN DIVISION
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BAHAMAS
EDUCATION GUARANTEED LOAN FUND PROGRAMME
 2010 disbursement exercise

CHECK DISTRIBUTION EXERCISES

WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY, AUGUST 9TH, 2010 AND END ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 13TH, 2010 FROM 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- THE HOLY TRINITY ACTIVITIES CENTRE, STAPLETON GARDENS, NEW PROVIDENCE; AND
- THE BANK OF THE BAHAMAS, FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA (Grand Bahama and the Northern Bahamas)

CHECKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY LAST NAME IN **ALPHABETICAL ORDER** AND YOU ARE TO REPORT TO THE DISBURSEMENT CENTRE ON THAT DAY ONLY.

Students and their co-borrowers are required to bring a valid Passport, National Insurance Card, and a job letter with them.

ALL LOAN RECIPIENTS IN THE EDUCATION GUARANTEE LOAN PROGRAMME ARE **REMINDED THAT:**

1. ALL LOAN ACCOUNTS WITH THE BANK OF THE BAHAMAS MUST BE MADE CURRENT BY JULY 31ST 2010
2. ALL OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS FOR SPRING 2010 MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP & EDUCATIONAL LOAN DIVISION

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE STANDARD REQUIREMENTS WILL RESULT IN A DELAY IN RECEIVING YOUR SEPTEMBER LOAN CHECK AND/OR YOU MAY BE SUBJECT TO A LATE FEE CHARGED OF \$25.00

ONLY PERSONS WHO COME ON THEIR ASSIGNED DATE WILL BE SERVED

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 @502-9025

THE EDUCATION LOAN COMMITTEE

LOCAL NEWS

Police put armed robbers on notice

FROM page one

that we know who they are, and we are coming to get them.

"Members of the public can rest assured that these prolific offenders' life of crime is running out."

Data from an analysis of the recent attacks reveal the offenders to be a relatively small number of people who cause disproportionate amount of crime and disorder in local communities, and seem to have good knowledge of business operations. "These robberies seem to be well organised," said Supt Dean.

Robbers, he said, have also changed their methods, using high-powered weapons such as AK47 assault rifles, handguns, and driving stolen vehicles.

"Communities must stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us," Supt Dean advised. "If they don't like what is going on around them, they have to help us stop it."

Breakdown

He said the breakdown in communication between the public and police has been contributed by people not coming forward to tell them who are using guns, and who are committing these criminal acts.

A startling fact, he said, is that all of the robberies usually took less than 90 seconds, which shows that the heists seem to be well-organised, with criminals having a good knowledge of business operations. "In keeping with our 2010 policing plan, we believe that an informed community is a safer community," said Supt Dean, who issued a list of prevention tips that businesses should take in the event of an armed robbery.

He gave the public, in particular business owners, practical advice to reduce their chances of becoming a victim of armed robbery, and instructing them how to respond to an armed robbery.

"We will not tolerate our country being ruined by a handful of people," said Supt Dean.



Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

PUBLIC MESSAGE: Superintendent Stephen Dean addresses members of the media on robbery issues and protective measures that can be taken.

Armed Robbery Prevention Tips For Businesses (released by the RBPF National Crime Prevention Office)

- Your first concern should always be for your own safety and that of your staff.
- It is wise to plan for the possibility of an armed robbery. Develop a set of procedures for all and certain staff to follow.
- Large businesses with high cash flow should have cash collected at all times by a security company. In the recent armed robberies, all of the culprits wanted quick access to cash.
- Conduct banking regularly but at different times.
- Install video surveillance covering 'at risk' internal and external areas.
- Consider installing monitored alarm systems and panic alarm buttons.
- Do diligent background checks of new employees.
- Install detector lighting around entrances and exits, car parks and routes to premises.
- Employees should be trained to watch for and report suspicious actions of people inside and immediately outside the premises. Do not hesitate to call the police at 911 when worried about a potential risk.

FROM page one

years locked away in Fox Hill prison fighting extradition to the United States, was abruptly flown there on August 28, 2006. He had reportedly exhausted all of his legal options, although his defence team had challenged the lawfulness of his extradition.

Knowles had appealed his convictions and sentences for conspiracy to import cocaine and conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine. In a ruling handed down on Tuesday, the US Court of Appeals Eleventh Circuit in Atlanta affirmed Knowles' convictions and sentences.

Knowles' defence had argued that the district court had lacked the personal jurisdiction to try him in the May 2000 indictment because his extradition violated both the Extradition Act and the Bahamas Supreme Court's May 2004 consent order.

The Appeal's court found, however, "no error in the district court's determination in its decision denying Knowles' motion to dismiss that Knowles' kingpin habeas application was foreclosed by the Privy Council's decision in *Matthew (Glenroy Matthew v United States, 2005)* and was not pending at the time of his extradition."

The court also concluded that the Bahamas' Ministry of Foreign Affairs' consent to Knowles' extradition was an

Convictions upheld

"official act of a foreign sovereign, the validity of which we must abstain from questioning under the dictates of the act of state doctrine." The court also found that Knowles' argument that his Sixth amendment right to a speedy trial had also failed.

The appeals court also stated that the district court had not erred on finding that Knowles was a leader or organiser of the conspiracy. "Testimony reflected that he had decision-making authority and a high degree of participation in planning or organising the offence," the ruling stated.

Knowles' defence had also challenged his sentence claiming it was unreasonable.

The appeals court found, however, that "Knowles had not carried his burden of establishing that the sentence imposed was unreasonable."

The court noted that the 420-month sentence which Knowles contended was "tantamount to a life sentence" because of his age, is only 60 months greater than the low end of his guideline range and is significantly less than the statutory maximum of life imprisonment.

Knowles' first trial was declared a mistrial, but on March 5, 2008, following a retrial, a jury found him guilty of conspiracy to import and con-

spiracy to distribute five kilos or more of cocaine.

At his trial, the United States established he was the leader of a sophisticated, multi-national drug trafficking organisation that utilised "go fast" boats to transport multi-tonne quantities of cocaine from Colombia, Jamaica and the Bahamas to the United States. Convicted drug traffickers Dwight and Keva Major avoided lengthy prison sentences in the United States after they pleaded guilty to drug charges against them.

The couple, who had spent five years fighting extradition to the United States, were extradited in 2008.

They are accused by the US government of being part of a drug trafficking conspiracy that involved the transportation of cocaine and marijuana between August 2002 and January 2002.

In October 2008, Dwight Major pleaded guilty to drug charges against him and was sentenced to 108 months imprisonment with supervised release after five years. His sentence will reportedly take into account the 78 months served since the extradition order was filed against him in 2003.

His wife pleaded guilty to charges against her in 2003 and was placed on three-years probation.

Teenage girls are raped at knifepoint

FROM page one

occurred sometime around 11.30pm on Wednesday as the girls were walking through a track road in the East Atlantic area.

Two men armed with knives and wearing cloths over their faces forced the girls into a building near the area and raped them. One girl managed to escape and was able to get a ride to the police station where she reported the incident to officers around 12.15am.

The girl took officers back to the location where they found the second victim. They were both taken to the Rand Memorial Hospital.

Police say one of the men they want to question is of light brown complexion, while the other is dark.

Detectives are asking anyone who was in the area between 11.30am on August 4, and 12.15am on August 5, and may have seen something or have information to assist the

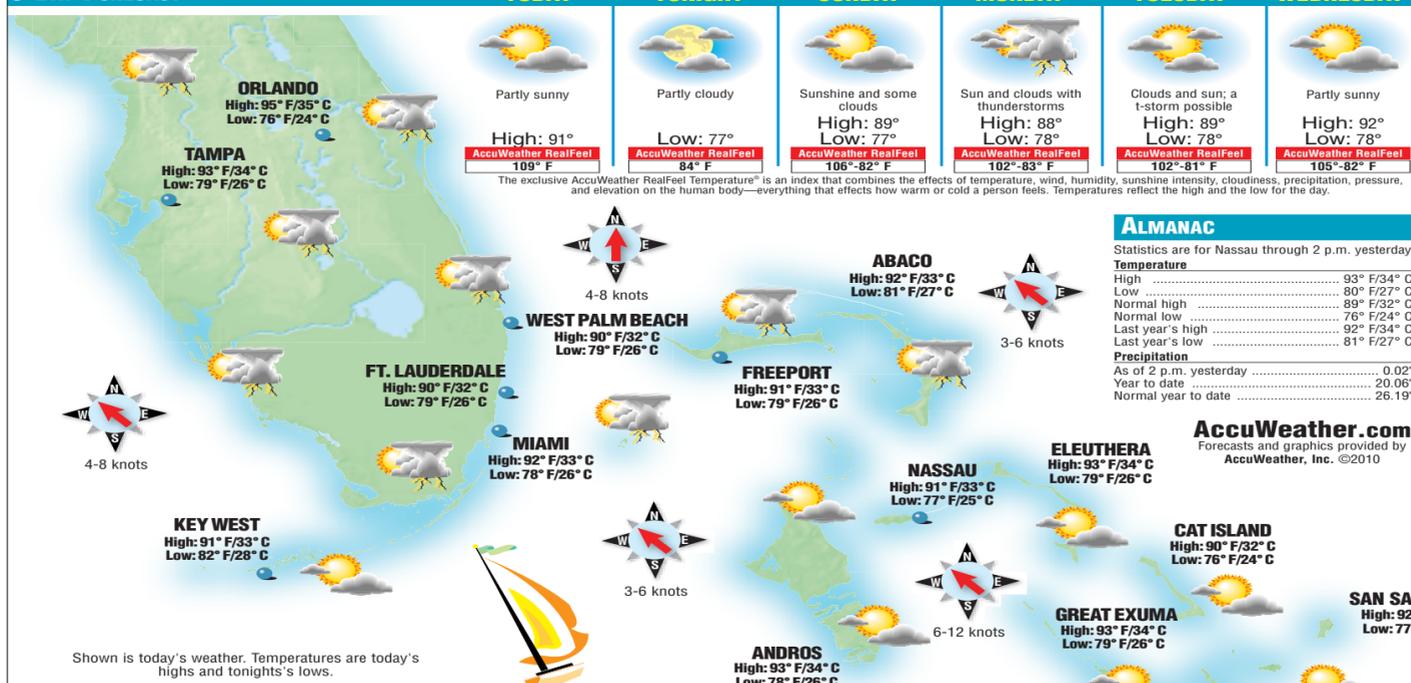
police, to call 350-3107/8, 352-9774/5 or 911.

In the meantime, police are advising residents to be aware of their surroundings and take note of persons or individuals around them during the day and at night. "Pedestrians, in particular women, should avoid travelling dark streets or track roads at anytime. If they must walk, use busy well-lit streets," said ASP Mackey.

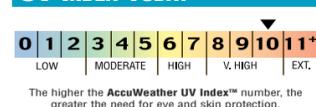
THE WEATHER REPORT

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT (BAHAMAS) LIMITED
INSURANCE BROKERS & AGENTS

5-DAY FORECAST



UV INDEX TODAY



TIDES FOR NASSAU

Day	High	Hi. (ft.)	Low	Lo. (ft.)
Today	4:37 a.m.	2.5	10:47 a.m.	0.1
	5:17 p.m.	3.4	11:46 p.m.	0.4
Sunday	5:35 a.m.	2.8	11:45 a.m.	0.0
	6:10 p.m.	3.6		
Monday	6:30 a.m.	3.0	12:37 a.m.	0.1
	7:01 p.m.	3.7	12:41 p.m.	-0.1
Tuesday	7:24 a.m.	3.3	1:26 a.m.	-0.1
	7:51 p.m.	3.8	1:35 p.m.	-0.3
Wednesday	8:16 a.m.	3.5	2:13 a.m.	-0.3
	8:40 p.m.	3.7	2:29 p.m.	-0.3
Thursday	9:08 a.m.	3.6	3:01 a.m.	-0.3
	9:29 p.m.	3.5	3:24 p.m.	-0.1
Friday	10:01 a.m.	3.6	3:49 a.m.	-0.3
	10:20 p.m.	3.3	4:19 p.m.	0.0

ALMANAC

Statistics are for Nassau through 2 p.m. yesterday

Temperature	High	Low
Normal high	93° F/34° C	80° F/27° C
Normal low	76° F/24° C	89° F/32° C
Last year's high	92° F/34° C	81° F/27° C
Last year's low	76° F/24° C	89° F/32° C

Precipitation

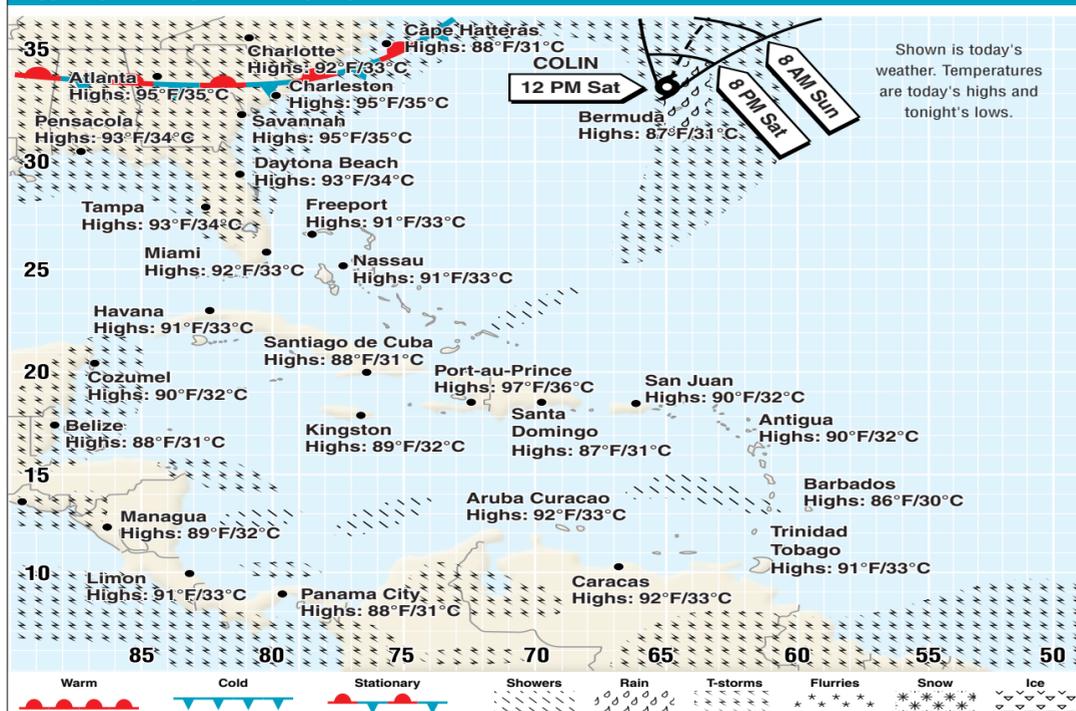
As of 2 p.m. yesterday	Year to date	Normal year to date
0.02"	20.06"	26.19"

AccuWeather.com
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2010

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	6:40 a.m.	Moonrise	3:44 a.m.
Sunset	7:51 p.m.	Moonset	5:49 p.m.

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP



MARINE FORECAST

	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMPS.
ABACO	Today: SE at 3-6 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	86° F
ANDROS	Today: SE at 3-6 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	87° F
CAT ISLAND	Today: ESE at 4-8 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	85° F
CROOKED ISLAND	Today: E at 6-12 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	84° F
ELEUTHERA	Today: ESE at 4-8 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	86° F
FREEPORT	Today: SSE at 4-8 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	86° F
GREAT EXUMA	Today: SE at 4-8 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	86° F
GREAT INAGUA	Today: E at 7-14 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	86° F
LONG ISLAND	Today: ESE at 4-8 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	86° F
MAYAGUANA	Today: E at 6-12 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	84° F
NASSAU	Today: ESE at 4-8 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	86° F
SAN SALVADOR	Today: E at 7-14 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	85° F
RAGGED ISLAND	Today: SE at 4-8 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	86° F

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