

WEATHER

NEW!
McCOMBO OF THE DAY 
i'm lovin' it

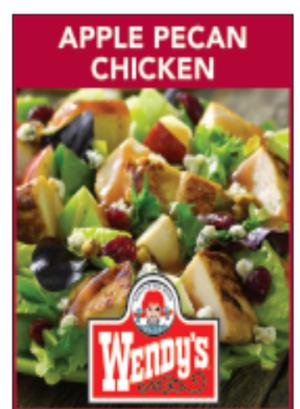
HIGH 82F
LOW 71F

 **PLEASANT WITH SUNSHINE**

The Tribune

LATEST NEWS ON WWW.TRIBUNE242.COM

**THE PEOPLE'S PAPER
 BIGGEST AND BEST**



Volume: 107 No.89 TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011 PRICE – 75¢ (Abaco and Grand Bahama \$1.25)

FEATURES

Women who love Too much
 SEE WOMAN SECTION



INSIDE

CARS FOR SALE, HELP WANTED AND REAL ESTATE
 BAHAMAS BIGGEST



SPORTS

Angels get game 1 victory
 SEE SECTION E



66 armed robbery victims in 2 months

MAN CHARGED WITH KILLING HIS MOTHER

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
 Tribune Staff Reporter
 nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

A MAN accused of killing his mother appeared in court yesterday.
 Ronado Adderley, 33, of Dundas Town, Abaco, was arraigned before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez in Court One, Bank Lane, yesterday, charged in the murder of Yvonne Adderley.
 It is alleged the accused

SEE page eight

Half could have been avoided, say police

By AVA TURNQUEST
 Tribune Staff Reporter
 aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

SIXTY-SIX people have been the victims of armed robbery within the past two months – an average of one person per day – it has been revealed.
 But police say at least half of these crimes could have been prevented had the victims carried out basic proactive measures.
 Personal responsibility is said to be a vital prerequisite of crime prevention.
 Supt Stephen Dean, director of the Royal Bahamas Police Force's National Crime Prevention (NCP) office, said: "Opportunity is the key element in crime, reduce the opportunity, reduce crime."
 "A lot of these cases were unnecessary and could have been avoided had persons utilised basic common sense in terms of their personal safety."
 According to police reports compiled by *The Tribune*, 39

persons were robbed by armed thugs in January, and 27 in February.
 Construction sites, cash-based businesses, phone card vendors, asue recipients, travellers and persons walking at night were all said to be at increased risk.
 Anticipating an increase in cash flow in the capital due to new construction projects – most notably the 1,000 acre, \$3.4 billion Baha Mar resort development at Cable Beach – Supt Dean explained that his department sought to crack down on emerging trends.
 Supt Dean said: "Prevention. Not to raise alarm, but to prevent similar events from recurring, to minimise armed robbery. When we see these trends we try to address it before it gets out of control."
 On Friday afternoon, three armed men burst into the office of the TG Glover construction site on Pitt Road. Armed with handguns,

SEE page eight

ON THE ROAD TO IMPROVEMENT

TIM CLARKE/TRIBUNE STAFF



HARD AT WORK: Roadworks taking place on Marathon Road yesterday. Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said on Sunday that progress is being made on the New Providence Road Improvement Project, but more monthly productivity will be needed to meet the government's schedule.

PLP CHAIRMAN: COMMITTEE NOT AWARE OF 'FRAUD' ALLEGATIONS LINK TO CANDIDATE

By NOELLE NICOLLS
 Tribune Staff Reporter
 nnicolls@tribunemedia.net



PLP CHAIRMAN
 Bradley Roberts

THE candidates selection committee of the Progressive Liberal Party was not aware of a Canadian TV station's allegations linking political hopeful Arnold Forbes to an alleged \$170 million investment "fraud", it was claimed yesterday.
 PLP chairman Bradley

Roberts said the committee only learned about the accusations after Mr Forbes was already ratified as the PLP candidate for the Mount Moriah constituency.
 Having learned of the claims, Mr Roberts said, to the best of his knowledge, the party is not reviewing its recommendation because "there is no basis for a review."
 Details of Mr Forbes' **SEE page eight**

PUBLIC RAISES CONCERNS OVER NETS USED IN LAKE KILLARNEY FISHING

By CELESTE NIXON
 Tribune Staff Reporter
 cnixon@tribunemedia.net

PERSONS seen fishing in Lake Killarney might be using nets that are killing protected species of birds.
 According to past president and executive member of the Bahamas National Trust, Pericles Mallis, while it is not illegal to fish in Lake Killarney or to use nets of a certain mesh, the "gill nets," which are suspected of being used in this case can be left in the water for hours, increasing the possibility of

trapping and killing birds such as diving and ruddy ducks – both protected in the Bahamas.
 Concerns were first raised when photographs surfaced of persons pulling large nets filled with fish out of Lake Killarney.
 Members of the public called The Tribune to claim this method of fishing is illegal.
 But Earl Deveaux, Minister for the Environment, said the Bahamas does not currently have fishery regula- **SEE page eight**

KFC WHATTADEAL

Snack ATTACK

\$5.50

Snack Attack Meal
 • 2 Pc. Thigh & Leg
 • Fries • Biscuit



Nassau

Get out of debt Fast!

Get out of Debt Fast with a Fidelity **Fast Track** Debt Consolidation loan.

Call 356.7764 today!
www.fidelitygroup.com

FREDERICK STREET | WULFF ROAD | MADEIRA PLAZA | ROBIN HOOD | CABLE BEACH | FREEPORT | MARSH HARBOUR

Get out of debt Fast!

- Decisions Fast
- Money Fast
- Plus Visa Credit Card Fast

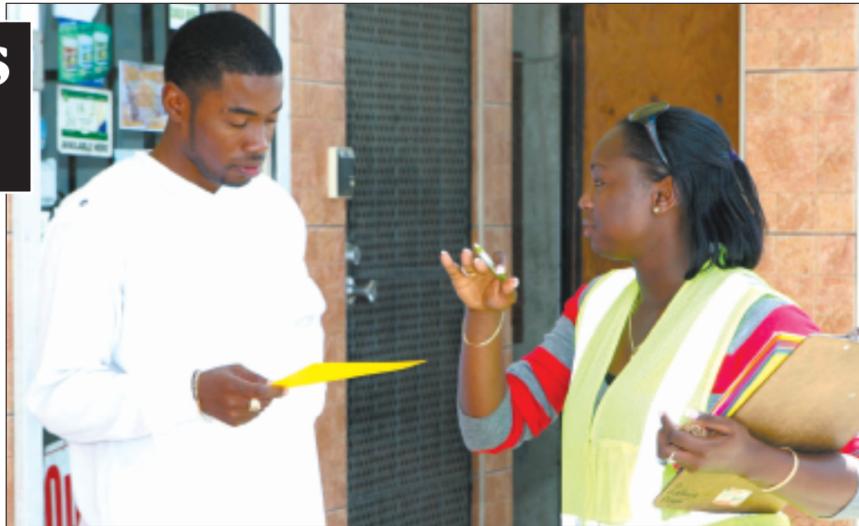
Call 356.7764 today!
www.fidelitygroup.com



LOCAL NEWS

Business owners, residents informed of road works

LATOYA WALKER, an employee of Jose Cartellone Construcciones Civiles SA, informing a representative of an East Street business of upcoming road work on East Street and Robinson Road.



THE Ministry of Public Works and Transport is sending out officers to inform residents and business owners of upcoming road works on various corridors that are a part of the New Providence Road Improvement and Infrastructure Project.

Charlene Collie, project engineer, said: "We've been trying to inform business owners and residents along the routes by walking door-to-door, handing them flyers and advising them of upcoming works and the duration of the works."

We also have a series of information meetings that we continue to hold, most of them at the Mall at Marathon, until we can secure other venues."

The next information meeting will be held on Thursday at the Mall at Marathon from 10am to 6pm. It will focus on the work being done on Prince Charles Drive, Robinson Road and Marathon Road.

All members of the public are invited to attend. Officers from the ministry will be present to answer questions.

PICK 2 SALAD VALUE COMBO



You know when it's real.™

PICK ANY *MEDIUM SALAD FOR \$4.99

(*Apple Pecan Chicken, Spicy Chicken Caesar, Baja & BLT Cobb Salads)

...then pick a bonus item

FOR ONLY \$1



APPLE PECAN CHICKEN

BLT COBB

SPICY CHICKEN CAESAR

BAJA

\$1 BONUS ITEMS...



5 PIECE NUGGETS

SMALL CHILI

CRISPY CHICKEN SANDWICH

JR. CHEESEBURGER DELUXE

JR. BACON CHEESEBURGER

DEFENCE FORCE CHURCH SERVICE AND PARADE



MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY Tommy Turnquest speaking at the Royal Bahamas Defence Force's annual church service and parade at Grace Community Church on Sunday.



THE ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE took to the streets of the Marathon Sub-division following their annual church service on Sunday.

FOR ALL YOUR DECORATING

"Lowest Prices On The Island"

Solutions

STORE HOURS:
Monday - Saturday
8:30am - 5:30pm



BILLY'S DREAM STILL ALIVE

FREE DELIVERY ANY WHERE IN NASSAU AND TO THE MAIL BOAT

• E-Z CREDIT TERMS AVAILABLE

Donald's Furniture And Appliance Centre

SIXTH TERRACE CENTREVILLE TEL: 322-1731 OR 322-3875



GOVERNOR GENERAL Sir Arthur Foulkes and Lady Foulkes headed the list of officials attending. Also pictured at left is Minister of National Security Tommy Turnquest.

GOLDEN GATES RALLY THIS TUESDAY

7:30 p.m.

MAR.8.2011

Golden Gates Assembly Park • Carmichael Road

LOCAL NEWS

POLICE NEWS

Police launch investigation of suicide attempt

• POLICE have launched an investigation into the attempted suicide of a 30-year-old woman.

The Fire Trail Road resident apparently attempted to end her life by cutting her wrists and taking an excessive amount of unspecified tablets on Sunday evening, police say.

The woman was taken to the hospital by ambulance and was yesterday listed in stable condition.

POLICE SEARCH FOR MASKED MEN WHO ROBBED AND ASSAULTED A WOMAN

• POLICE are searching for two masked men who assaulted and robbed a woman at her home.

The men – one armed with a handgun and the other with a knife – ambushed the woman when she arrived at her home on Miami Street off Balfour Avenue yesterday, shortly after 3am.

They forced the victim into her home, assaulted her, and stole her jewellery.

Several hours later, another woman was robbed by two masked men on Swordfish Drive off McKinney Avenue.

The culprits, one of whom was armed with a handgun, stole the victim's bag containing her cell phone, keys and other personal effects shortly after 9.30pm.

ARMED MAN STEALS CASH FROM ISLAND LUCK

• A MAN armed with a handgun stole an undetermined amount of cash from Island Luck and damaged a window before fleeing the area on foot.

The culprit was wearing dark clothing and a black hat when he entered the webshop on East Street south off Wulff Road shortly after 7pm on Sunday.

MAN QUESTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH MOTORCYCLE THEFT

• A 21-year-old man is being questioned by police in connection with the theft of a motorcycle.

It was reported that a man armed with a handgun robbed a 25-year-old man of his 150 CBR 2003 model Honda motorcycle. The victim was at Rupert Dean Lane around noon on Sunday when he was approached by the culprit.

The 21-year-old in custody is a resident of Baillou Hill Road South.

THREE MEN ARRESTED AFTER OFFICERS POLICE SEIZE AMMUNITION FROM HOME

• OFFICERS attached to Operation Rapid Strike arrested three men after seizing a quantity of ammunition at a home.

Police discovered the contraband during a search of a house on Podoleo Street around 10pm on Friday. The men taken into custody were 19, 22, and 29 years old.

Two armoured car employees arraigned

TWO armoured car employees accused of stealing from a local bank were arraigned in a Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Alfred Pinder, 24, of Golden Gates, and Arlington Rolle, 27, of Carmichael Road, are accused of stealing by reason of employment. It is alleged that on Thursday, March 3, the two men stole cash in the amount of \$50,000 from First Caribbean International Bank.

Both men pleaded not guilty to the charge during their arraignment before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez in Court One, Bank Lane.

Pinder was represented by attorney Stephanie Wells.

Both men were granted \$20,000 bail with two sureties. They were both ordered to report to the Carmichael Road police station every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday before 6pm. The case was adjourned to June 20 and transferred to Court 5, Bank Lane.

Govt 'expects to be awarded costs' after Grant-Bethell case ruling



Cheryl Grant-Bethell

THE government expects to be awarded costs in view of a Supreme Court judge's decision not to rule in favour of veteran prosecutor Cheryl-Grant Bethell, who protested being passed over for a top post.

Despite Mrs Grant-Bethell declaring victory with respect to a verdict she felt cleared her reputation, Senior Justice Jon Isaacs refused to grant any of the relief declarations sought by the veteran prosecutor.

When asked to comment on the matter on Saturday, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said: "I have no comment on it but I say this; that the Attorney General was sued in his personal capacity, that was thrown out by the court. The Attorney General was sued as

Bahamas, that too was thrown out, and we expect for costs to be awarded against the party that brought the action – Mrs Bethell – and we expect for her to pay it."

He went on to state: "A request was made to the court for 10 or 11 separate orders and the court refused each and every one. It said many things but at the end of the day it said, 'No, no, no, no'."

"At the end of the day, the party that took the Judicial and Legal Services to court to say that they had been transferred to the Law Reform Commission and that they should have remained as Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions and should have been made Director of Prosecutions (DPP), lost and they are still exactly where they were when the case began."

The prime minister also said he had no idea whether Mrs Grant-Bethell will remain in her present post.

Mrs Grant-Bethell filed an application for a judicial review after being passed over for the post of DPP.

She was instead appointed Deputy Law Reform Commissioner.

Mrs Grant-Bethell had sought to have the judge quash the decision of the Judicial and Legal Services Com-

mission (JLSC) purporting to appoint her to the post of Deputy Law Reform Commissioner.

She had also sought: a declaration that she remain in her substantive post as Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions; a declaration that she, having acted as DPP for the requisite period, be entitled to that post; and a declaration that any other appointment to the post of DPP be declared null and void.

Voter registration continues to be a 'gradual process'

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

VOTER registration continues to proceed at a moderate pace.

With just about 23,500 Bahamians registered for the next general election so far, Parliamentary Commissioner Errol Bethel said that while the rate has increased since the holiday season, registration continues to be a gradual process.

Persons seeking to register as voters must be Bahamian citizens 18 years or older, and must have lived in a particular constituency for three months or more.

Voter registration centres are open in New Providence between the hours of 10am and 4pm at the following locations:

- The Parliamentary Regis-

tration Department, Farrington Road.

- Town Centre Mall and Marathon Mall.
- The General Post Office, East Hill Street.
- The Sub-Post Office, Carmichael Road.
- The Sub-Post Office, Elizabeth Estates.
- The National Insurance Board, Baillou Hill Road.
- Commonwealth Bank, Mackey Street and Golden Gates branches.

In Grand Bahama, centres are open between the hours of 9.30am and 4.30pm at the following locations:

- The Parliamentary Registration Department, Freeport.
- The Administrator's Office, Eight Mile Rock.
- The Administrator's Office, High Rock (Tuesdays and Thursdays).

In the Family Islands, registration takes place at the

Administrator's Office between the hours of 9.30am and 4.30pm.

Businesses and organisations with at least 20 eligible employees or members may contact the department at telephone numbers 325-2888/9 or 397-2000 to schedule a visit from registration agents.

Tropical Exterminators Pest Control
322-2167

OBC Cellular & Electronics **With Love** RADIO SHACK

WBS \$80 *Java* *Over* *820* WHS \$100

NOW \$59⁹⁰ NOW \$79⁹⁹

MARATHON MALL-HARBOUR BAY-PALMDALE-DOWNTOWN

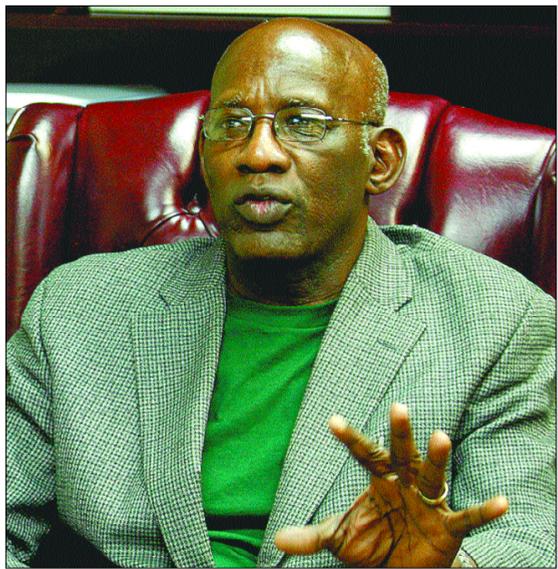
CARPET, FURNITURE, MARBLE & TILE CARE

THE MOST THOROUGH RESTORATION & CLEANING EVER, OR THE JOB IS FREE!
NASSAU'S ONLY PROFESSIONAL, CERTIFIED STONE CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CARE SYSTEMS.

- Carpet, Upholstery, Stone and Marble Cleaning & Restoration Specialist.
- Prochem Cleaning Systems removes Deep & Heavy Soil, Bacteria, Grease, Watermarks and Stains from Carpeting & Furniture, restoring them to like new at a fraction of replacement cost.
- Carpet Sofa's, Loveseats, Chairs, Dining Chairs, Cars, Boats, Grouts, Tiles, Marble & Stone.
- Persian, Wool & Silk Carpet Cleaning Specialist.
- Marble Tile Restoration, Polishing, Sealing & Care.
- Marble Counter-Top Restoration & Polishing.

Authorized StoneTech Professional Contractor
CALL PROCHEM BAHAMAS
PHONE: 323-8083 or 323-1594

ONLY WE CAN DO IT RIGHT!
www.prochemsystem.com • www.stonetechnopro.com • www.iicrc.org
*psp@coralwave.com



MODERATE PACE: Parliamentary Commissioner Errol Bethel (above) said that while the rate has increased since the holiday season, registration continues to be a gradual process.

Do it yourself oil change: "STEP 2: Remove drain plug and drain old oil into an oil pan."

WIN A CASTROL GOLF SHIRT: Call in to Star106.5 FM's "Soft Neck for the Soul" show: from 3-4pm on Friday and give Brad steps 1-5 to win a Castrol Golf Shirt.

Castrol
"QUOTE OF THE DAY"
Distributed By
BAY STREET GARAGE
Downeswell Street
322-2434 • 322-2082

CARIB GENERATORS
DIESEL GENERATORS
SUPER SILENT – PERKINS, CUMMINS, ISUZU:
Automatic Transfer Switch,
100/200 gallon fuel tanks, Deep Sea
Controllers, Stamford Alternators,
Weather Proof Enclosures,
Shipping & Customs Duties Included50%
Deposit, 60 day delivery:

Isuzu 20kw	Diesel	\$8,600.00
Isuzu 24kw	Diesel	\$9,125.00
Cummins 30kw	Diesel	\$12,546.00
Cummins 80kw	Diesel	\$19,476.00
C.N. Perkins 60kw	Diesel	\$14,227.00
U.K. Perkins 90kw	Diesel	\$21,800.00

15KW TO 4000KW FACTORY DIRECT

NASSAU & FAMILY ISLANDS
Phone 427-3749
www.caribgenerators.com

IT'S A TIME OF JOY AND JUBILATION!
IT'S A GRAND TIME OF PRAISE & CELEBRATION, IT'S A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP, PRAISE & WORSHIP!

90th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

March 13-20, 2011 - East Street Tabernacle
THEME: "LED BY HIS SPIRIT" ROMANS 8:14

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS & PRESENTERS: Sunday, March 20th, 2011

BISHOP CLAYTON MARTIN
General Presbyter

BISHOP DAVID BRYAN
Global Outreach Director

BISHOP ROBERT DAVIS
State Overseer of Florida

BISHOP JEFFERY DAVIS
State Overseer of North Carolina

BISHOP TIMOTHY COALTER
State Overseer of South Carolina

BISHOP CLARENCE WILLIAMS
Overseer of The Turks & Caicos Islands

BISHOP DON BROCK
Commissioner of Police

MINISTERING IN MUSIC ARE: The National Convention Choir, the Convention Praise Troupe, Tabernacle Concert Choir, and other Church Choirs, Praise Troupes, Soloists, and Singing Groups. The Bahamas Brass Band, Bahamas Youth and Junior Brass Bands, and the Crusaders Brass Band will provide special music.

Monday, March 14th, 2011
Bishop Dr. Elgarnet B. Rahming, CMG, DD, JP, National Overseer and Moderator will deliver his Annual National Address on Monday, March 14th live over ZNS Radio 1540 AM and 810 AM.

Moderators:
Bishop Dr. Elgarnet B. Rahming & Minister Jacqueline B. Rahming

LOG ON TO:
www.cogopbahamas.org
FOR LIVE WEBCAST EVERYING SESSIONS

Bring the family and be blessed!

For further information, call 322-3097

EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Tribune Limited

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

LEON E. H. DUPUCH, Publisher/Editor 1903-1914

SIR ETIENNE DUPUCH, Kt., O.B.E., K.M., K.C.S.G.,
(Hon.) LL.D., D.Litt.

Publisher/Editor 1919-1972
Contributing Editor 1972-1991

EILEEN DUPUCH CARRON, C.M.G., M.S., B.A., LL.B.
Publisher/Editor 1972-

Published Daily Monday to Saturday

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

WEBSITE
www.tribune242.com – updated daily at 2pm

Not the time for union unrest

ONE WOULD have thought that unions — especially the hotel union in Freeport — would have learned its lesson by now with the closure in 2004 of the Royal Oasis Golf Resort and Casino, putting more than 1,200 Bahamians out of work.

This hotel struggled under union pressure from the day the new owners bought it in 1999 to the day in 2004 when Hurricane Frances so badly damaged it that the owners decided not to reopen. It was clear that the disruptive behaviour of the unions played a major role in that decision.

A year before Hurricane Frances made the decision for everyone, Donald Archer, the hotel's senior vice president, broke his silence to complain about the poor level of service from certain staff about which guests were also complaining. He warned them that not only would a strike be illegal, but that "any responsible union would examine the current and future needs of its members, the fragile economic environment, the financial status of the company and global conditions." At the time the Iraq war was threatening.

Mr Archer warned at the time that more than 1,200 families would be affected by a strike "to say nothing of the impact on these families and the businesses that they patronise."

But what union leaders did not appreciate was how much they had hurt their membership who had a stake in the International Bazaar, which also faced closure. With the hotel closed, the Bazaar's patrons had disappeared.

Commenting on this in November 2005, we wrote: "This should teach the union a lesson that when it pushes its claims too far everything can collapse under the strain, taking even the union with it."

Seven years later the Royal Oasis Golf Resort remains closed.

And so we were surprised at the beginning of this year to hear of labour unrest at Our Lucaya resort, which everyone knew was struggling to keep its doors open in a world recession that was leaving millions jobless.

But apparently, Obie Ferguson, president of the Bahamas Hotel Managerial Association, saw a chink of light somewhere that no one else saw. In January he said that "now the economy is showing signs of recovery," he thought it "time to do what should be done."

"Workers rights," he said, "are as important as profits. We will take the necessary poll and then do what we have to do." Of course, the poll he was hinting at was a strike vote.

Hotel staff knew that the hotel was not doing well. As a matter fact there was no place on the globe that was not suffering from the world crash. However, in the Bahamas there are those among us — including, if not

especially, some politicians — who think that the Bahamas is somehow not a part of the economically broken world, and that our people, despite our exorbitant public debt, should not have to lower their financial expectations.

As a matter of fact Prime Minister Ingraham thanked the Hutchison-Whampoa group for keeping Our Lucaya open, when others would have closed it. It was known that the hotel was subsidising the staff's payroll and could not afford more. Yet Mr Ferguson, the union man, continued his background rumblings. Last week it was announced that Our Lucaya had closed two of its three hotels. Instead of closing completely, it consolidated its operation on one property — Breakers Cay — to save 800 jobs. However, to save the 800, 200 staff had to go.

Government is now working with the hotel to try to find employment for these 200, and to retrain some of them in other skills to qualify for other jobs.

When will Bahamians understand what is going on in the world, and appreciate the jobs they now have? This is not the time for government corporations — some of whose staff are the best paid in the Bahamas — to be talking of salary increases. Look at other countries and see how heavily they have reduced their public service to streamline their economies. It is acknowledged that our civil service is over stacked and could do with a heavy trim. But, government has as yet shown no inclination to do so.

Even the Cuban Workers Federation announced that half of its work force will lose their jobs by next year. The Cuban government currently employs 85 per cent of that island's workers.

These workers will have to either go back to the farms, find construction work, become self employed or join a cooperative.

Today's economic downturn is forcing Cuba closer to the free enterprise system.

"Our state can't keep maintaining... bloated payrolls," the Cuban Workers Federation told The Wall Street Journal.

This is something that local unions and many Bahamians have yet to grasp. Although we might not know it we are a part of the world and if any part of that world is injured, the whole unit will feel it. Already petroleum retailers want to raise their prices to offset the troubles driving prices up in the oil rich Middle East. The increase in oil will push up costs across the board. Businessmen have no control over these costs. Therefore, when they are forced to cut costs to keep their businesses operational — the decision forced on the Our Lucaya owners will be forced on them. Staff become redundant.

It is no time in such a climate for the unions to create further instability — in the end only its members will suffer.

Better union leadership needed at Our Lucaya

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Since the last layoffs at Our Lucaya Resort back in 2008, I am surprised that it took so long for another mass dismissal. As reported, the resort has lost an average of over \$30 million per year over the past few years.

Despite being one of those employees who was given bad news this past week, I feel Hutchison should be commended for keeping us employed for so long with such financial challenges.

I think it was misleading for our union representatives to know the facts prior to the layoffs and then in a last ditch attempt for headlines pretend management has done some-

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

thing wrong. Better and more responsible union leadership is needed at Our Lucaya moving forward.

I feel confident that Hutchison will find a way to make a success out of the resort and it was great to hear that a greater emphasis will be placed on marketing.

I accepted my notice with dignity and did not follow the union's advice to protest. I never believe in burning bridges.

I came to Our Lucaya with

my head up and left with my head high. I thank God for the opportunity to provide for my family and I pray there is a new form of take over at Our Lucaya and better days are ahead.

GRATEFUL FORMER EMPLOYEE - OUR LUCAYA
Nassau,
March 6, 2011.

P.S. "Man has such a predilection for systems and abstract deductions that he is ready to distort the truth intentionally, he is ready to deny the evidence of his senses only to justify his logic." — Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

Impressed by quick Government response to Our Lucaya layoffs

EDITOR, The Tribune:

I am very impressed and happy at how quickly the Government responded to the lay-off of 200 employees at Our Lucaya in Grand Bahama this past week. My heart and prayers go out to all of those individuals and families affected.

The good news is that within days of the announcement of the layoffs, the Government had a targeted package of responses such as job placement and retraining, the creation of a one stop shop for various benefits, and financial and spiritual counselling.

My friends in Freeport told me that Minister of Labour and Social Development Dion Foulkes went to Grand Bahama on Friday and stayed through most of the weekend to coordinate the Government's response.

This all got me to wondering what the response from the PLP would have been like if this happened on their watch. From their slow response to hurricanes that hit GB, the Our Lucaya employees would be in big trouble and on their own.

Perry Christie probably would have flown in with a big delegation of cabinet ministers and officials and given some emotional speeches and made plenty of promises.

He would have promised to go back to Nassau and consult with various people about what to do. Knowing Mr. Christie, his consulting would probably have gone on and on and on.

He would probably have also held several cabinet meetings on the layoffs without bringing the matter to conclusion for some time. Then after extensive consultation with his cabinet and experts he may have appointed a committee to study the problem of the layoffs with the committee told to report back in 30 days or so.

Then his cabinet would have spent a long time discussing the report with many Grand Bahamian families suffering and anxious as the many months went by as Mr. Christie tried to decide what to do never really able to make up his mind.

Unfortunately for the former Our Lucaya employees the Government's response under Mr. Christie would have been in my opinion quite limited if and when it came. There would have been no NIB Unemployment Benefit to help tide over those laid off. There would have been less social assistance such as was offered by this Government during the worldwide financial crisis.

There would have been no Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture Self-Starter's Programme to help offer training and other assistance such as starter loans which have helped quite a number of Bahamians to start their own small businesses.

There would also have been less training opportunities at BTVI and probably no apprenticeships in conjunction with the private sector such as was organized by the Government as a part of the successful National Retraining Programme.

The old Emerald Bay, which is now Sandals, would have probably still been closed on the PLP's watch and unavailable to provide some hotels jobs for those laid off from Our Lucaya.

When people are hurting or in crisis they need more than promises and talk about compassion.

They need action because talk doesn't pay the rent or the mortgage and consultation without quick action doesn't put food on the table.

BLS
Nassau,
March 7, 2011.

COMMONWEALTH BANK

PUBLIC NOTICE

Commonwealth Bank, Freeport Branch is trying to locate customer **Philip Kelly**

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS:

#11 Pearl Way, Freeport, Grand Bahama

Mr. Kelly or his next of kin is asked to please contact the Manager of Commonwealth Bank Limited, Freeport Branch as soon as possible.

Mr. J. Rupert Roberts, Sr. Manager, Freeport Branch
Tel: (242) 352-8307

"Leader in Personal Banking Services"

| www.combankltd.com

WONG'S HOME CENTRE
"A Complete Building Supplies Store"
Gladstone Road (south) • Nassau, Bahamas • Fax: (242) 341-6739
Telephone: (242) 341-7871
Email: wongshomecentre@gmail.com

Selective Tile SPECIAL

12 x 12 Ceramic Tile 99¢ per square ft.

A sad day for the Bahamas

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Last week was a sad day for the Bahamas and we will be reeling from the backlash for years to come.

While I agree that we all have a right to demonstrate, I just cannot sit back and have you embarrassing me by saying you are representing me while acting like a mob. I did not give you permission to go down town saying you are protesting on my behalf.

If I wanted to protest I would have done so myself. I would not have let the opposition or unions with hidden agendas fill me with alcohol give me a few dollars and a tee shirt and ask me to come to Bay Street to protest something that I do not even understand. I would not have embarrassed myself by cussing and fighting with the law. I would not have to explain to my children why I let them down by acting so stupidly in public. I just want to make it clear that you were representing yourself.

TONY
Nassau,
March 1, 2011.

LOCAL NEWS

PLP leader expresses 'concern and sympathy' for laid-off hotel staff

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREPORT – Opposition Leader Perry Christie was in Grand Bahama yesterday, where he expressed “concern and sympathy” for the 200 persons laid-off by the Our Lucaya Resort.

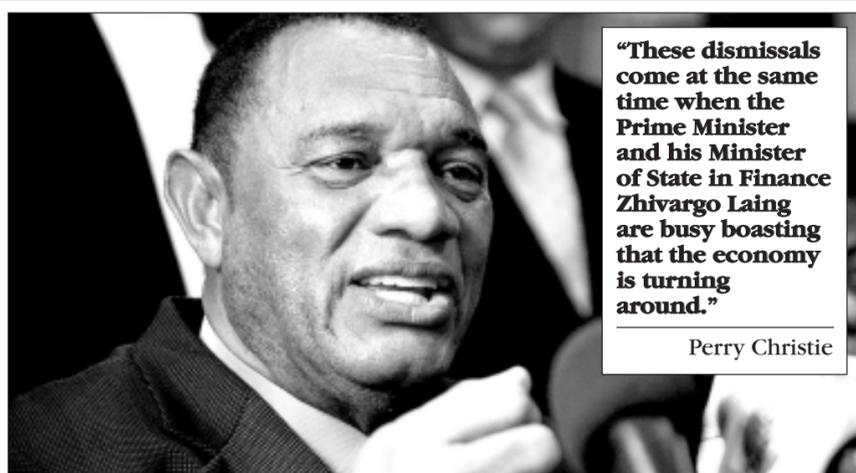
“here for the people of Freeport” and pledged that the party will do all that it can to push government to lend more of a helping hand to the city.

“I want to first and foremost express my concern and sympathy to all those who have lost their jobs in this most recent round of lay-offs at the Our Lucaya Resort.

“These dismissals come at the same time when the Prime Minister and his Minister of State in Finance Zhivago Laing are busy boasting that the economy is turning around.

“I ask: turning around for whom? Not those 200 employees who have been fired.”

On Friday, the hotel termi-



“These dismissals come at the same time when the Prime Minister and his Minister of State in Finance Zhivago Laing are busy boasting that the economy is turning around.”

Perry Christie

nated 202 workers and closed two of the three hotels on the property in an effort to streamline its expenses and keep the resort operational, thereby saving 800 jobs.

Accompanying Mr Christie to Freeport were West End and Bimini MP Obie Wilcombe, Fox Hill MP Fred Mitchell and Golden Gates MP Shane Gibson.

During a press conference at PLP Headquarters attended by PLP candidates Senator Dr Michael Darville and Gregory Moss, Mr Christie commented on how none of the FNM MPs on Grand Bahama had mentioned the lay-offs in the House of Assembly.

“It took a PLP MP to raise the issue in the House. Not one FNM member of the House, not one government minister including three who represent this island said one word.

“The very least they could have done was to express sympathy for the people who were laid off,” he said.

Mr Christie stated that only after the firings did the Ministry of Labour announce it initiated emergency measures to help those who had been laid off.

On Saturday, Minister Dion Foulkes announced that the government had put in place several initiatives to provide

assistance and relief to the workers.

Mr Foulkes met with hotel and union executives while in Freeport on Friday, but said he had not met with the dismissed workers when asked by the media.

The ‘One Stop Shop’ programme launched by the government yesterday offers job and training opportunities, unemployment benefit assistance and counselling for workers.

“While, one welcomes relief where relief is offered, the question is whether or not the government was aware that this was coming, when did they know and were they proactive seeking to lessen the impact on the work force,” said Mr Christie.

He stressed that the PLP is concerned about the “hands-off attitude” which the FNM administration seems to have about Freeport.

He stated that for four years, the FNM has sat idly by as the city lurched from one economic crisis to the next, without any clear vision of what to do to stop the problems.

Mr Christie said while there are serious issues facing the development of Freeport, the FNM government has its head in the sand.

He believes that Freeport is critical to the survival of the

Bahamas.

“It is not one’s interest for this city to collapse, the press on Nassau would be unrelenting if that were to occur,” he said. “When I held my party’s convocation in Grand Bahama, I chastised the Prime Minister for saying that he would not talk to the Grand Bahama Port Authority about the fact that the tax exemptions for this city will expire in 2015. That is simply wrong. A PLP government would never shut the door to dialogue,” he said.

Mr Christie encouraged Freeporters to hold on as elections are to be held within a year.

“Help and hope are on the way from our party. I hope that as we reach out our hand in friendship to you, that you will accept what we have to offer.

“The party has chosen three excellent candidates: men of vision and of empathy for people. We are nearing the choice of three more people,” he said.

FOR 3 IN 1 LAWN SERVICE
Fertilizer, Fungicide,
Pest Control
Tropical Exterminators
322-2157

LAI-D-OFF WORKERS REGISTER FOR GOVT PROGRAMME



FILLING IN FORMS for the One Stop Shop programme.

Photo/Vandyke Hepburn

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREPORT – Laid off workers at the Our Lucaya Resort turned out yesterday to register for the government’s One Stop Shop programme at the Foster B Pestaina Hall.

Around 100 persons filled out application forms for employment at Sandals Exuma, where 40 jobs are being offered, and at the Bimini Big Game Resort where 19 jobs are available.

The programme also offers persons the opportunity for training in a variety of skill sets at BTVI and College of the Bahamas. The government will pay the tuition.

Minister of Labour Dion Foulkes said six months apprenticeship will also be offered at industrial companies on the island and the government will subsidise salaries.

The 202 workers laid-off by the resort will also receive unemployment benefit assistance once their severance packages have expired, as well as access to other assistance programmes if they qualify.

They will also be considered for the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture’s Self-Starter’s Programme, which offers \$5,000 to persons interested in starting their own business.

One worker, who was employed for 15 years at the

hotel, commended the government for providing some relief and alternative options for employment.

“I have a lot of financial obligations and I am wary about moving to Exuma for employment because I have a family here that depends on me, but I will definitely enroll for training

at BTVI and apprenticeship that will be offered at BORCO,” he said.

The government will also provide financial and professional advice, and members of the Grand Bahama Pastor’s Forum were on hand to offer counselling to the laid-off workers yesterday.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY CONSERVATION COORDINATOR

The Nature Conservancy Northern Caribbean Program is seeking to fill the position of **Conservation Coordinator**.

Interested persons should apply in writing with full details, including resume and cover letter by March 9, 2011 to: <http://www.nature.org/careers/>; Job ID 12957

**GOLDEN GATES RALLY
THIS TUESDAY
7:30 p.m.
MAR. 8. 2011**
Golden Gates Assembly Park • Carmichael Road

KLOGS

ULTIMATE SLIP RESISTANT CLOG

NOW IN STOCK
MEN AND LADIES
SIZES 7-14

**FOR CHEFS AND KITCHEN AIDES
.....ALL DAY COMFORT**

BIG ONE

SHOE STORE
121 EAST ST. PH 322-5276

Grupo Santander

Banco Santander Bahamas International Bank Limited
Applications are invited from suitably qualified Bahamians for the following position:

ASSISTANT MANAGER – GROUP FINANCING

Requirements:

- Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration or Finance
- A minimum of 5 years in banking with a large international institution.
- Ability to speak and write English and Spanish fluently.
- Experience in Analysis of Financial Ratios, Variance Analysis, Management Information Systems, Forecasting, Budgeting, Accounting in the European market and Management of Derivative Instruments.
- Knowledge and working experience with all Microsoft Office applications.
- Ability to evaluate financial reports sent to our Head Office, create and/or implement new financial reports according to Head Office guidelines and streamline the business segments.

Compensation and other benefits commensurate with qualifications and experience

Applications in writing with details of education and experience should be addressed to the Director of Human Resources, Santander Bank & Trust Ltd., P. O. Box N-1682, Nassau, Bahamas or via fax to 502 7955 not later than March 14, 2011.

LOCAL NEWS

International travelling performers assist with 'Keep Grand Bahama Clean' efforts

DURING their one-week visit to Grand Bahama, cast members of the international performing group 'Up with People' (UWP) assisted the Keep Grand Bahama Clean (KGBC) committee with various tasks on the island.

Cast members lent their physical strength as they engaged in clean-ups at the Grand Bahama Home for the Aged (GBHA) and along the streets. Much needed support was also rendered to staff of the Rand Nature Centre as UWP members performed various odd jobs.

The artistic talents of group members came to the fore during special performances along with the KGBC puppets at several of the island's schools and at the Sir Charles Hayward Children's Library.

"We were extremely thrilled to have UWP in our midst for the past

week. The level of energy they displayed along with their genuine commitment to service was outstanding," said KGBC chairperson Nakira Wilchcombe.

GBHA supervisor Adrienne Dorsett was also full of praise. "We greatly appreciated them coming and helping us. They cleaned the windows and screens, weeded the flower beds and spent time interacting with the residents. It was a joyous occasion," she said.

Walls of the children's section of the library were transformed as the UWP members drew and painted oversized illustrations of favourite cartoon characters on them. The paintings brought story time to life for visiting students who were read to by the UWP group.

Geneva Rutherford, director of community relations with the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA),



KGBC PUPPETS – Whilst on-island, visiting 'Up with People' cast members made special appearances as the popular KGBC puppets at various schools. Pictured (left to right): Cassie Williams of the US; Kit Palabyab of the Philippines; Bogar Garcia Milan of Mexico and Katie of the US.

expressed appreciation for this latest gesture which she described as "a permanent fixture of the group's contribution to students of Grand Bahama."

Three cast members who hail from the United States, Philippines and Mexico took on roles of the popular KGBC puppets spreading environmentally friendly messages during special school assemblies.

Emma Whitehead headed the UWP sub-group assigned to assist KGBC and served as its spokesperson.

"We love being able to come into communities and meet the needs of people who are here and existing. Grand Bahama is such a beautiful island and being able to help make other people's lives better is truly rewarding. We try to unite young people to take action in their communities and in so many ways our visits spark people to be unified and get behind a common goal," she stated.

As an expression of gratitude, management of Port Lucaya Marketplace (PLM) Bourbon Street



CULTURAL INTERCHANGE – Visiting 'Up with People' members get a chance to enjoy local culture in Count Bassie Square, Port Lucaya Marketplace.

Limited, hosted cast members who assisted KGBC to lunch and entertainment in Count Basie Square.

"PLM was very excited to host UWP cast members. We trust that it allowed for a cultural interchange as they observed some of our local

talent. Hopefully, they can incorporate some aspect of it into their routine and even include talented Bahamians in their travelling ensemble," said Karen Ferguson-Bain, entertainment and marketing coordinator for PLM.



'UP WITH PEOPLE' help 'Keep Grand Bahama Clean' – Cast members and students of St Paul's College collect and bag litter.

RAFFLE WINNERS

St. Cecilia's Church Annual Bazaar & Raffle
Saturday, March 5th, 2011

1. Name: Agatha Saunders Round Trip Ticket for Two to Los Angeles, CA (Accommodations)	Ticket No. 49835
2. Name: All My Sister In GT Round Trip Ticket for Two to Detroit, MI	Ticket No. 53255
3. Name: Sean Brathwaite Round Trip Ticket for Two to New York, NY	Ticket No. 05847
4. Name: Anissa Ambrister Round Trip Ticket for Two to New Jersey, NJ	Ticket No. 14681
5. Name: Kim Round Trip Ticket for Two to Charlotte, N.C.	Ticket No. 37160
6. Name: Jusus Loves Round Trip Ticket for Two to Atlanta, GA	Ticket No. 22214
7. Name: Chirssy H Round Trip Ticket for Two to Tampa, FL	Ticket No. 09921
8. Name: Lenice Burrows Round Trip Ticket for Two to Orlando, FL	Ticket No. 02431
9. Name: Satcy Moultrie Round Trip Ticket for Two to West Palm Beach, FL	Ticket No. 36926
10. Name: Deshti Knowles Round Trip Ticket for Two to Fort Lauderdale, FL	Ticket No. 04458
11. Name: Jamaal Hamilton Round Trip Ticket for Two to Miami, FL	Ticket No. 09760
12. Name: Dwalnisha Adderley Round Trip Ticket for Two to Freeport, G.B.	Ticket No. 04330
13. Name: My Bag R Packed Round Trip Ticket for Two to Abaco	Ticket No. 47417
14. Name: Olive Cooper Round Trip Ticket for Two to Harbour Island	Ticket No. 25148
15. Name: Chanade Rolle Round Trip Ticket for Two to Bimini	Ticket No. 21508

Please bring in ticket stubs to collect prizes.



Housekeeper Wanted

Live -in housekeeper wanted immediately for family of 4 + 2 dogs. Responsibilities to include laundry (including ironing), cooking, cleaning and care of 2 young children.

Interested persons should contact
357-7381.



JUNKANOO GOES TO HARLEM SCHOOL

THE Bahamian American Cultural Society has taken its Bahamas Junkanoo Workshop to the Harlem School of the Arts in Harlem, New York – the mecca of Black Culture in the United States.

The Bahamas Junkanoo Workshop is a flexible four-part presentation, prepared by BACS, which is geared toward children and teenagers. It emphasises knowledge, hands on skills, entertainment and behavior modification.

With Junkanoo music playing in the background, around 50 young people enjoyed making at least one costume item.

Costumes

After verbal and visual presentations the children, wearing costumes displaying the colours of the Bahamas, junkanooed around the hall to the sound of bells, horns and drums.

The audience of about 200 stayed for a video presentation and to ask questions about the Bahamas and the way its people live.

The afternoon saw an unexpected turn of events when a participating parent heard a familiar voice on the video of last year's Boxing Day and New Years Junkanoo events in the Bahamas.

She rushed over to look, and to her amazement, she recognised a relative whom she had not seen for many years, who is now living in the Bahamas.

PRIME OFFICE SPACE

Approximately 2,200 square feet of second floor space is available in newly constructed building at the corner of Marlborough and Cumberland Streets.

Two (2) on-site car spaces included.

Ideal location for offshore bank, trust company, law or accounting firm, or other professions.

Contact Owner at **362-5787**

In Loving Memory

of our dear husband, daddy, grandfather and brother

Don't grieve for me I am free, I followed a path God laid for me, I took his hand when he called, I bid this world good bye and left it all. If my parting has left a void, fill it with the remembered joy, lift up your heart and rejoice with me, God has me now he has set me free.

Wilfred Rolle Sr.
"Long Boy"
Who Departed This Life on March 8, 2010

Precious memories will forever linger in the hearts of his wife Decones Ruthmae Rolle, six children, grand children, son-in-law, daughter-in-law family and friends

Rest in Peace

GOLDEN GATES RALLY THIS TUESDAY

7:30 p.m.

MAR.8.2011

Golden Gates Assembly Park • Carmichael Road

Salvation Army beneficiary of GBPA clothing drive

Over 1,000 units of clothing collected

EMPLOYEES of the Grand Bahama Port Authority and Group of Companies recently made a donation to the Salvation Army following a successful clothing drive amongst staff members.

Yanique Pinder, the 2010/11 'Group Employee of the Year', said over 1,000 units were collected, consisting of men's, women's and children's apparel, shoes and fashion accessories.

"We are extremely excited at the success of our campaign, 'Walk a mile in my shoes, share the clothes on my back'. It was very important for every member of the GBPA family to support this drive so that we in turn would be able to assist the Salvation Army in their efforts to service the needs of those in the community," she said.

A brainchild of GBPA's community relations department, the clothing drive was conducted over a two-week period, with staff members from throughout the group bringing in clothing and other apparel with the aim of supplying sufficient items to restock the Salvation Army's Goodwill Store.

Ian Rolle, GBPA president, praised their efforts.

"This gesture demonstrates that the employees have bought into our mission statement, 'To better the lives of the Grand Bahama community, and by extension, the Bahamas'. And so today I'm very pleased to see our employees join together in partnership to display in their own way, GBPA's commitment to the Grand Bahama community."

On hand to receive the donation were Roger and Cheryl Compton, commanding officers of the Salvation Army. Captain Roger explained that the donation could not have come at a better time, considering their current depleted stock at the thrift store.

"At Christmas time people are cleaning out their closets and such and we get really bounteous donations around then, but now our inventory has almost run down to nothing.

"So, it's great that GBPA remembered us and as you can see from what has been donated today, these are high quality items that we will be able to offer at reduced prices."

Expressing similar sentiments, Captain Cheryl stressed the significance of



GBPA DONATES TO THE SALVATION ARMY – After a successful clothing drive, GBPA management and 'Departmental Employees of the Year' presented commanding officers of the Salvation Army with clothing, footwear and accessories. Pictured (front row, left to right): Captain Cheryl Compton of the Salvation Army; Ginger Moxey, vice-president of the GBPA; Ian Rolle, GBPA president; Geneva Rutherford, GBPA's director of community relations, and Captain Roger Compton of the Salvation Army.

the Salvation Army's thrift store in the effort to assist the needy in the community.

"All of our programmes, whether it be food, things with the children and youth, the ministry and all of the different aspects of our disaster services, are funded by proceeds from the Goodwill

Store and the generosity of those on the island. It's really our thrift store that helps to generate funds for our overall operations, so that's why this donation is so meaningful to us because now we have items for resale that can help fund our programs longer," she said.

The Salvation Army's Goodwill Store is opened from 10am – 4pm, every day except Sunday. Social workers are also on-site 10am – 2pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays to render assistance or advice to any in need.

"GBPA was pleased at

the success of our company's clothing drive.

"We seek to lead by example and hopefully this will encourage other corporate citizens and those in the wider community to donate generously to organisations like the Salvation Army," Mr Pinder said.

ROTARY CLUB NEWS

BUSINESSES 'UNAWARE OF BEING ABLE TO OBTAIN FUNDS FROM GEF'

By LAMECH JOHNSON

ROTARY Club of Nassau's guest speaker at its weekly meeting Friday told club members that businesses are not aware that they can receive funding for environmental projects from the Global Environment Facility, which was established in 1991.

Stacy Moultrie, a project consultant for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) National Portfolio Formulation exercise, gave a power point presentation and described the workings of GEF, which is the largest funding organisation of projects to improve the global environment.

"GEF is an independent financial organization starting from the World Bank that provides grants to developing countries and countries in transition for projects related to the environment," she said.

Currently the government is the only entity in the Bahamas that receives funding from the organisation. GEF has an incentive where, depending on the size of the project, the company can receive anywhere from \$25,000 to \$50,000 to draw up the proposals.

The GEF unites 182 member governments, "of which the Bahamas is a part," in partnership with international institutions, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to address global environmental issues.

Ms Moultrie said that GEF's focal areas are "biodiversity, chemicals, climate change, international waters, land degradation and sustainable forestry management." Any project, in order to receive funding, must fit into one of these categories, she said.

Persons interested should note that GEF approval normally takes between 12 to 18 months and requires co-financing. "For every dollar you ask, you must have a dollar to match," she said.

According to GEF's website, the Bahamas has had nine projects since 1997, though approval and completion of them came at a later date.

For more information on how to qualify and receive funding for an environmental project, visit their website at www.thegef.org.

Book Drive for Primary School

By LAMECH JOHNSON

WITH March globally recognised as literacy month for Rotary International, a local Rotary club has decided to host a book drive for one of Nassau's primary schools in order to help stock its library.

The Rotary Club of East Nassau (RCEN) is assisting Thelma Gibson Primary students in acquiring reading materials for their understocked library.

RCEN president Joanne Smith told *The Tribune* that the school has more than 700 students who "need reading material to feed their young, eager minds."

RCEN members were encouraged to donate books and other reading

materials at the club's weekly luncheon on Friday.

Ms Smith is now also appealing to members of the public to donate.

"You can bring books to Media Enterprises at 31 Shirley Park Avenue," she said.

Principal of Thelma Gibson Angela Russell said she is grateful for RCEN's help with the initiative.

"It's difficult to put a number on the amount of books that the library needs for our students, but the more the merrier," she said.

It was the club's initial interest in helping with the construction of a playground for the Thelma Gibson pre-school that made the school seek further assistance with their mission to acquire more books for



their students.

Rotary is an organisation with more than 1.2 million members worldwide.

There are six clubs in New Providence, of which RCEN is the biggest with over 100 members.

Others are located in Cat Island, Eleuthera, Abaco and Freeport.

GOLDEN GATES RALLY THIS TUESDAY!
7:30 p.m.
MAR. 8. 2011
 Golden Gates Assembly Park • Carmichael Road

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.

Introducing The All NEW **2011 FORD MUSTANG**
 Drive one. **an American Icon**

Shop & Compare
 All new, all new, nothing like it available in The Bahamas, a true American Sports car. With the new 3.7L, 305 HP, V6 with Automatic Transmission, custom 17 inch alloy wheels, power windows, locks and mirrors, side curtain air bags, plus leather interior and the all new Sync System and all standard features, PLUS 3 years/36000 mile warranty, 3 years roadside assistance, 3 years rust protection, licence and inspection to birthday, full tank of gas, floor mats, first five services

If you are looking for the best value available You owe it to yourself to visit our showroom

2011 FORD FUSION
 Drive one. **Shop & Compare**

2.5L four cylinder engine with automatic transmission, the most fuel efficient vehicle in its class, 6 disc cd system, power windows locks and mirrors, side curtain air bags, 17 inch alloy wheels, completely new aerodynamic body design, all of this plus 3 years/36000 mile warranty, 3 years roadside assistance, 3 years rust protection, licence and inspection to birthday, full tank of gas, floor mats, first five services.

also include Sunroof & Sync System

Reserve yours now available at
FRIENDLY MOTORS CO. LTD **THOMPSON BOULEVARD**
TEL.: 356-7100 • FAX: 328-6094
 EMAIL: friendlymotors@hotmail.com
 WEBSITE: friendlymotorsbahamas.com

LOCAL NEWS

Public raises concerns over nets used in Lake Killarney fishing

FROM page one

tions concerning fresh water fish. Mr Mallis told *The Tribune* yesterday that talapia, a fresh water fish, was brought to the Bahamas in the 1960s to populate lakes, ponds and wells in hopes that it would become a "backyard agriculture product" for Bahamians, and as a conservation tactic to attract indigenous fish-eating birds.

Mr Mallis said that the talapia has flourished, however "mass killings using gill nets will not be sustainable in a closed system" like Lake Killarney and will wipe out the species.

He added that the numbers of talapia seem to have been dwindling in recent years.

Last year, a source reported finding a gill net in the middle of the lake that had killed several diving ducks, but the owner of the net was never found.

Even if he were, there is no guarantee that legal action would be taken.

"This is an unprecedented issue," Mr Mallis admitted, but added that if the use of gill nets on the lake is harming protected species, it should be made illegal and covered by legislation.

While Mr Mallis stressed there is no way to know if there are any health risks associated with eating the fish from Lake Killarney, as the water and fish have not been tested, lead poisoning is a possibility.

For years, cheaper lead pellets have been used in shotguns by hunters in the Bahamas, rather than steel pellets.

When birds are hunted on lakes, stray lead shot can be eaten by fish or can break down, contaminating the water and possibly resulting in lead poisoning for anyone who uses the lake as a food source.

Mr Deveaux said that following *The Tribune's* inquiries, the ministries of Public Health, Agriculture and Marine Resources have been alerted to the matter.

He said a public alert will be issued.



CONCERNS WERE RAISED when photographs surfaced of persons pulling large nets filled with fish out of Lake Killarney.



MAN CHARGED WITH KILLING HIS MOTHER

FROM page one

intentionally caused Mrs Adderley's death on Monday, February 28.

Mrs Adderley was found dead inside an apartment in Dundas Town, with injuries to the back of her head. Police believe she had been involved in an argument prior to her death.

The accused, who was not represented by an attorney yesterday, was not required to enter a plea to the murder charge.

Prosecutor Sandradee Gardiner said the prosecution intends to proceed with a Voluntary Bill of Indictment in the matter- bypassing a preliminary inquiry in the Magistrate's Court.

The case was adjourned to May 9, with Adderley remanded to Her Majesty's Prison.

66 ARMED ROBBERY VICTIMS IN 2 MONTHS

FROM page one

the robbers escaped with an undisclosed amount of cash in a white 2006 Chevy Suburban they stole from an employee. Police later found the vehicle abandoned at Bain Street, off Nassau Street.

Construction sites and other businesses that employ cash payroll were urged yesterday to invest in a checking system which would eliminate the increased risk of keeping large sums of cash on site. All cash-based businesses are advised to invest in high-quality surveillance, security guards, and have greater communication with the police.

Supt Dean added: "Call the police, call the crime prevention office, we can give recommendations on how you can make your home or business more secure. Our officers will come out to your place and conduct a survey, for free, and present you with recommendations based on our findings."

Anyone with any information that might assist police in their investigations into all criminal matters should call 911, 919 or call Crime Stoppers anonymously on 328-TIPS (8477).

PLP chairman says committee not aware of 'fraud' allegations link to candidate

FROM page one

alleged connection were recently broadcast by Canadian station CTV in a television special. The news station reported on an alleged connection between Mr Forbes and a Bahamian registered company, GSF Limited, accused of squandering client investments.

Arnold Forbes & Co was the "registered office/agent" for GSF Limited, and Mr Forbes served as a director with two Quebec residents, Jean-Pierre Tremblay and Stephane Hardy.

GSF Limited was at the centre of a high-profile trial last year, when Canadian millionaire Nick Djokich was found guilty of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and murder for hire.

"Those claims are all a bunch of b*****t. And you can quote me on that. They say they were looking for \$6 million and they found it in the end. Where is the story in that?" Mr Roberts asked.

"When it came over the television and we looked at it there was nothing in it. The claims were asinine. His role in whatever took place is the role that lawyers in Nassau do every day and continue to do today," he said.

Mr Forbes said the report disparaged his character and he plans to sue the Canadian broadcaster.

"We incorporated the company which is a normal practice for law firms especially those in corporate law," said Mr Forbes in explaining his involvement.

"We provided a corporate service to a client and it was

normal to always act as officers and directors.

"We got all the due diligence that is needed and these clients checked out clean.

"When I found out that these guys were up to no good we terminated (business with them) immediately," he said.

In the Djokich trial, Djokich claimed he invested \$6 million in GSF Limited with an understanding that his annual interest rate was 20 per cent and his principal funds were guaranteed.

The CTV report claims that when Mr Djokich went to cash out money in 2004, he was informed by company directors that the money was all gone.

The report claims Djokich went to desperate lengths to uncover the story behind his missing money. He tried working through various Canadian authorities, including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police fraud squad in Calgary, the Quebec Provincial Police and the Quebec Securities Commission. But after years of unsuccessful attempts, he was driven to launch his own experiment in vigilantism, according to CTV.

Based on details revealed in the trial, Djokich orchestrated a series of kidnappings, torture sessions and attempted murder, including an alleged hit placed on Mr Forbes and Richard DeVries, a Canadian lawyer living in the Bahamas, as well as others. Djokich's scheme unraveled when the hit-man he hired turned out to be an undercover US Immigration and Customs enforcement agent.

A segment in the CTV programme depicts a Canadian reporter speaking with Mr Forbes, asking for his account of what happened to the millions of dollars that passed through GSF Limited.

Mr Forbes was then confronted with copies of documents that purportedly bore his signature and alleged he was a director and signing officer for the company and had authorised hundreds of thousands of dollars in payouts.

On the programme, Mr Forbes asked the television crew to return in a couple of days so he could provide them with documents to clear him and his company of any wrongdoing. The report claimed that when the crew returned Mr Forbes could offer nothing "conclusive."

Mr Forbes maintains he never had a connection to Djokich, and the allegations have "no bearing" on what he plans to do in the constituency of Mount Moriah.

National Security Minister Tommy Turnquest, the Member of Parliament for Mount Moriah, said he did not want to comment on the situation at this time.

When asked if he anticipated the allegations factoring into the upcoming elections, he said: "I don't need the misfortunes of others to win."

Mr Turnquest won the last election by more than 500 votes, and he said he is confident his support is still strong.

He said any support he may have lost would likely be counter-balanced by new supporters gained.

Tribune Trivia Yesterday's Question

Which Government department is investigating companies for alleged tax evasion?

Yesterday's Answer

The Customs Department

Yesterday's Winners

Jillian Mullings
Calvin Missick
Shawn Moree

3pts
2pts
1pt

Click the 'Like' button on the Tribune News Network Facebook page to play Tribune Trivia

*Nassau Residents Only



Win!!!

One Lucky Winner monthly. Pick up a copy of *TheTribune* and visit us on facebook.



1 day Hotel



1 day car rental



(1) Roundtrip Airfare Nassau to Miami

When booking your next trip to Florida, choose Bahamasair, Dollar/Thrifty and The Best Western

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

GAZA HAMAS POLICE SEIZE HARDLINE EXTREMIST MUSLIM

IBRAHIM BARZAK,
Associated Press
GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

The Gaza Strip's Hamas government announced Sunday that it has arrested the spiritual leader of an extremist Islamic group after a two-year search.

It was one of the most high-profile arrests against a series of shadowy groups that have tried to challenge Hamas rule in Gaza in recent years. These groups, known as Salafis, draw inspiration from the al-Qaida terror network and believe the Iranian-backed Hamas is too moderate.

Hamas said Sheikh Abu Walid-al-Maqdasi, the leader of the group "Monotheism and Holy War," was arrested in a crowded beachside neighborhood of Gaza City last week.

Al-Maqdasi's group shares the same name as an al-Qaida inspired group suspected in hotel bombings in Egypt's Sinai desert between 2004 and 2005 that killed more than 120 people. It's not clear if it's the same group.

In Gaza, al-Maqdasi's group says Hamas, a fundamentalist group that has killed hundreds of Israelis in suicide bombings, shootings and rocket attacks, should do more to battle Israel. It also says Hamas must impose an even more extreme version of Muslim law in Gaza.

His group has also claimed responsibility for firing rockets at Israel in defiance of an unwritten truce between the Jewish state and Gaza's Hamas rulers. It is believed to have attracted former Hamas loyalists disenchanted with the militant group's enforcement of a two-year-old cease-fire.

Hamas has been especially wary of their hardline challengers, particularly since the spiritual mentor of another shadowy group defied Hamas and announced a separate Islamic state in southern Gaza in 2009. That prompted a gun battle with Hamas police that killed more than 20 people.

Hamas spokesman Salah Bardawil says al-Maqdasi spread incitement against Hamas and tried to attract youths to his organization.

Al-Maqdasi, who is Palestinian, sneaked into Gaza in 2006, with his wife and seven children, Hamas officials said. He is believed to be about 50, and he also is known as Hisham al-Suaydani. Hamas has been trying to track him down for two years.

Gates: US should stay involved in Afghanistan

ROBERT BURNS,
AP National Security Writer
BAGRAM, Afghanistan

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Monday that both the U.S. and Afghan governments agree the American military should remain involved in Afghanistan after the planned 2014 end of combat operations to help train and advise Afghan forces.

"Obviously it would be a small fraction of the presence that we have today, but I think we're willing to do that," Gates told a group of U.S. troops at Bagram air field, which is headquarters for U.S. and NATO forces in eastern Afghanistan. "My sense is, they (Afghan officials) are interested in having us do that."

A soldier asked Gates about a long-term military presence, and Gates noted that Washington and Kabul have recently begun negotiating a security partnership. He mentioned no details. He was to meet later in the day with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

On Sunday, the Afghan National Security Council discussed the matter of a long-term security accord with the U.S., according to a statement issued by Karzai's office. The statement said Karzai told the council that the U.S. wants the deal worked out as soon as possible. And he said that on the Afghan side it was matter not just for the government but for the Afghan people to decide. The U.S. has said it wants a long-term relationship with



(AP Photo/Mandel Ngan, Pool) **GREETING:** Gen. David Petraeus, left, top commander of coalition forces in Afghanistan, greets U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates upon Gates' arrival in Kabul, Afghanistan Monday, March 7, 2011. Gates arrived in Afghanistan Monday, beginning a two-day visit with U.S. troops, allied commanders and Afghan leaders to gauge war progress as the Obama administration moves toward crucial decisions on reducing troop levels.

Afghanistan, in part to ensure the country does not again become a haven for al-Qaida or affiliated terrorist groups. Karzai's interest is rooted in his desire for U.S. security guarantees and commitments that could help bring stability and prosperity.

Gates is at the start of a two-day visit with U.S. troops, allied commanders and Afghan leaders to gauge war progress as the Obama administration moves toward crucial decisions on reducing troop levels.

The trip comes during heightened tensions between the U.S. and Afghanistan. On Sunday, Karzai rejected a U.S. apology for the mistaken killing of nine Afghan boys in a NATO air attack. The Afghan president told Gen. David Petraeus, the top commander of coalition forces in Afghanistan, that expressing regret was insufficient for last week's killing of the boys, ages 12 and under, by coalition helicopters.

A planned visit to a combat outpost south of Kabul was scratched due to poor weather, and instead Gates made a brief flight north to Bagram, headquarters for the U.S.-led command that is responsible for eastern Afghanistan. The Pentagon chief visited a combat hospital, where Maj. Gen. John Campbell told reporters three soldiers had been admitted earlier in the day with wounds from a roadside bomb blast.

In his remarks to troops

assembled inside a cavernous building on the air field, Gates offered encouragement.

"I know you've had a tough winter, and it's going to be a tougher spring and summer, but you've made a lot of headway," he said. "I think you've proven, with your Afghan partners, that this thing is going to work and that we'll be able to prevail."

Defense Department spokesman Geoff Morrell told reporters flying with the Pentagon chief from Washington that Gates wants to get a first-hand feel for changes on the ground since he last was in Afghanistan in December.

The U.S. is committed to beginning a troop withdrawal in July. But the size and scope of the pullback will depend on the degree of progress toward handing off full control to the shaky Afghan government.

Morrell said Gates expects to hear from troops and commanders that U.S. and NATO strategy is making important progress against the relentless Taliban, who are thought to be gearing up for a spring offensive. Campbell told reporters in Bagram that the number of roadside bomb attacks has risen in the last two weeks.

"The enemy is trying to get an early start on what he would call a spring offensive," Campbell said, adding that it was not yet clear whether there has been an increase in Taliban fighter infiltration from the Pakistan side of the border.

U.S. commanders have been

saying for weeks that the Taliban are suffering big losses in territory and personnel, while being denied the funding and infiltration routes they have relied on in the past to ramp up guerrilla operations each spring.

Marine Maj. Gen. Richard Mills, top commander in the southwestern province of Helmand, told reporters last week that a Taliban counteroffensive is anticipated.

Mills said he expects the Taliban to try "to regain very, very valuable territory ... lost over the past six to eight months." He added that U.S. and allied forces are intercepting "as many of the foreign fighters as we can" who come from Pakistan to attack U.S. and Afghan troops. Gates sees the spring as a potentially decisive period for President Barack Obama's war strategy, which includes beginning to withdraw U.S. forces in July.

This week's visit is Gates' 13th trip to Afghanistan, and probably one of his last as defense secretary. He has said he will retire this year but has not given a date.

After Afghanistan, Gates planned to fly to the Stuttgart, Germany, headquarters of U.S. Africa Command to attend a ceremony Wednesday marking the arrival of a new commander, Army Gen. Carter Ham.

Gates will attend a NATO defense ministers meeting in Brussels on Thursday and Friday.

Pakistani PM praises slain Christian at memorial

MUNIR AHMED,
Associated Press
ZARAR KHAN,
Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's prime minister told mourners at a Friday funeral Mass for a Christian politician assassinated for opposing harsh blasphemy laws that they had a lost a great leader and that the government would do its "utmost" to bring his killers to justice.

Shahbaz Bhatti, the sole Christian government minister, was shot dead Wednesday after being threatened for opposing laws that impose the death penalty for insulting Islam. He was the second Pakistani politician killed in two months over the matter, and his death underscored the perils facing a government that is increasingly too weak to govern well or buck the religious right.

Also Friday, a bomb went off in a mosque in northwest Pakistan, killing eight people and wounding 25 around prayer time. Police official Saif Ali Khan says the blast in Akbarpura village occurred as worshippers gathered at a shrine attached to the mosque to collect free food.

Islamist extremists frequently attack Muslims as well religious minorities to sow fear and undermine confidence in the Pakistani government.

As anguished friends and relatives of Bhatti, a 42-year-old Roman Catholic, prepared to bury him in his home village of Khushpur on Friday, mourners packed an Islamabad church in the morning to pay their respects. There, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani praised a man many



(AP Photo/B.K.Bangash) **COMFORT:** Pakistan's Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani comforts the mother of slain Christian leader Shahbaz Bhatti during Bhatti's funeral ceremony at a local church in Islamabad, Pakistan on Friday, March 4, 2011. Pakistan's prime minister told mourners at a Friday funeral Mass for a Christian politician assassinated for opposing harsh blasphemy laws that they had a lost a great leader and that the government would do its "utmost" to bring his killers to justice.

described as gentle, humble and devoted to helping Pakistan's downtrodden religious minorities. "People like him, they are very rare," Gilani told the overflow crowd. "All the minorities have lost a great leader. I assure you, we will try our utmost to bring the culprits to justice."

The prime minister did not specifically mention Islamist extremists who have waged a war on a country, though he has issued statements denouncing them in recent days. Gilani also avoided mentioning the blasphemy laws, which rights groups have long deplored as vague and misused to persecute minorities.

Christians are the largest religious minority in Pakistan, where 95 percent of the country's 180 million people are Muslim. They often are the victims of discrimination and persecution, and they typically live in poor parts of towns and do low-skilled, badly paid jobs.



March 2011 Calendar

242.356.9555
Saunders Beach, Nassau, Bahamas
Sunday - Thursday: 11am - 11pm
Friday - Saturday: 11am - 2am

Ten Dollar Mondays	2 For Tuesday	Wings Wednesday	Thirsty Thursday	TGIFriday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 2 LARGE, 2 TOPPING PIZZAS FOR \$19.99	1 2 LARGE, 1 TOPPING PIZZA WITH WINGS \$20.99	1 3 BEERS for \$7.54 WINGS	1 HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS!	1 BUY ANY 2 SPECIALTY PIZZAS AND GET 1 OFF 1 APPETIZER	1 1 XL PIZZA, WINGS, CHEESY BREAD \$17.99 PLUS 2 LITTLE POP
1 1 LARGE, 1 TOPPING PIZZA \$13.00	1 2 LARGE, 2 TOPPING PIZZAS FOR \$19.99	1 1 LARGE, 1 TOPPING PIZZA WITH WINGS \$20.99 LUNCH PIZZA BUFFET \$13.99 PER PERSON 11:30AM-2:30PM	1 10 BEERS for \$7.54 WINGS LUNCH PIZZA BUFFET \$13.99 PER PERSON 11:30AM-2:30PM	11 HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS!	12 BUY ANY 2 SPECIALTY PIZZAS AND GET 1 OFF 1 APPETIZER	13 ALL YOU CAN EAT PIZZA BUFFET! ADULTS - \$18.99 KIDS - \$9.99 11PM-6PM
1 1 LARGE, 1 TOPPING PIZZA \$13.00 LUNCH PIZZA BUFFET \$13.99 PER PERSON 11:30AM-2:30PM	1 2 LARGE, 2 TOPPING PIZZAS FOR \$19.99	1 1 LARGE, 1 TOPPING PIZZA WITH WINGS \$20.99 LUNCH PIZZA BUFFET \$13.99 PER PERSON 11:30AM-2:30PM	1 10 BEERS for \$7.54 WINGS LUNCH PIZZA BUFFET \$13.99 PER PERSON 11:30AM-2:30PM	12 HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS!	13 BUY ANY 2 SPECIALTY PIZZAS AND GET 1 OFF 1 APPETIZER	14 ALL YOU CAN EAT PIZZA BUFFET! ADULTS - \$18.99 KIDS - \$9.99 11PM-6PM
1 1 LARGE, 1 TOPPING PIZZA \$13.00	1 2 LARGE, 2 TOPPING PIZZAS FOR \$19.99	1 1 LARGE, 1 TOPPING PIZZA WITH WINGS \$20.99	1 10 BEERS for \$7.54 WINGS	13 HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS!	14 BUY ANY 2 SPECIALTY PIZZAS AND GET 1 OFF 1 APPETIZER	15 ALL YOU CAN EAT PIZZA BUFFET! ADULTS - \$18.99 KIDS - \$9.99 11PM-6PM
1 1 LARGE, 1 TOPPING PIZZA \$13.00	1 2 LARGE, 2 TOPPING PIZZAS FOR \$19.99	1 1 LARGE, 1 TOPPING PIZZA WITH WINGS \$20.99	1 10 BEERS for \$7.54 WINGS		15 Bring this coupon and get an additional 10% off your order.	16 Buffet includes salad, cheesy bread, specialty pizza and drinks and desserts

A New Opportunity in Sales Awaits You!

If you are a self-motivated sales professional, this is THE opportunity for you.

Requirements:

- Prior sales experience with a proven track record of closing sales
- Excellent communication skills
- Must have own transportation
- Basic computer skills
- Ability to work flexible hours
- Ability to manage all aspects of client accounts, including collections

Successful candidates will be expected to manage an existing client portfolio AND actively pursue new clients for the company.

Full training will be provided and an excellent commission based remuneration package awaits successful candidates.

If you have what it takes to join our team we are waiting to hear from you.....

Please send your applications to:

DA 1257
c/o The Tribune
P.O. Box N-3207
Nassau

LOCAL NEWS

LICKETY SPLIT HOSTS 'GIVE A PINT, GET A PINT' BLOOD DRIVE

IN response to the Princess Margaret Hospital's pleas for more blood donors, Lickety Split invited the public to participate in an innovative blood drive in which those who donated a pint of blood, got a pint of Edy's Grand ice cream free.

The "Edy's Give A Pint, Get A Pint Blood Drive" was held at the Lickety Split diner on JFK Drive.

Managing director of the company Llewellyn Burrows was first in line to donate, followed by various Lickety Split staff members.

Throughout the six-hour blood drive, a steady stream of customers lined up to give a pint of blood and get their ice cream prize.

The event was Lickety Split's fourth blood drive in aid of the PMH Blood Bank.

Thanks to the company's efforts and the giving spirit of the donors, the PMH Blood Bank was able to collect almost 30 pints.



LLEWELLYN BURROWS, Lickety Split managing director, was first to donate.



CINDY BROWN, Lickety Split store manager, puts on a brave face.



PMH BLOOD BANK staffer starts the flow on a donor.



A BLOOD DONOR anticipates her free pint of ice cream.

FG CAPITAL MARKETS
BROKERAGE & ADVISORY SERVICES



investments plan your strategy

- get sound investment advice
- benefit from multiple fund options
- earn potentially higher returns
- all of the above

call us today at (242) 396-4076

A SUBSIDIARY OF
FAMGUARD
CORPORATION LIMITED

CORPORATE CENTRE: EAST BAY & SHIRLEY STREET & EAST BAY STREET | www.famguardbahamas.com

Obama restarts Guantanamo trials

WASHINGTON
Associated Press

PRESIDENT Barack Obama reversed course Monday and ordered a resumption of military trials for terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, making his once ironclad promise to close the isolated prison look even more distant.

Guantanamo has been a major political and national security headache for the president since he took office promising to close the prison within a year, a deadline that came and went without him ever setting a new one.

Obama made the change with clear reluctance, bowing to the reality that Congress' vehement opposition to trying detainees on U.S. soil leaves them nowhere else to go. The president emphasized his preference for trials in federal civilian courts, and his administration blamed congressional meddling for closing off that avenue.

"I strongly believe that the American system of justice is a key part of our arsenal in the war against al-Qaida and its affiliates, and we will continue to draw on all aspects of our justice system — including (federal) courts — to ensure that our security and our values are strengthened," Obama said in a statement.

"Going forward, all branches of government have a responsibility to come together to forge a strong and durable approach to defend our nation and the values that define who we are as a nation."

The first Guantanamo trial likely to proceed under Obama's new order would involve Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, the alleged mastermind of the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole. Al-Nashiri, a Saudi of Yemeni descent, has been imprisoned

at Guantanamo since 2006.

Defense officials have said that of the around 170 detainees at Guantanamo, about 80 are expected to face trial by military commission.

On Monday, the White House reiterated that the administration remains committed to eventually closing Guantanamo — which is on a U.S. Navy base — and that Monday's actions were in pursuit of that goal. But the outcome Obama wants seemed even more distant.

Critics of the military commission system, which was established specifically to deal with the detainees at Guantanamo, contend that suspects are not given some of the most basic protections afforded people prosecuted in American courts and that that serves as a recruitment tool for terrorists.

Obama's administration has enacted some changes to the military commission system while aiming to close down Guantanamo.

More than two dozen detainees have been charged there, but the charges against a number of them were dismissed in the wake of Obama's order in January 2009 to halt the commission process.

So far six detainees have been convicted and sentenced, including Ali Hamza al-Bahlul, Osama bin Laden's media specialist who told jurors he had volunteered to be the 20th Sept. 11 hijacker. He is serving a life sentence at Guantanamo.

Meanwhile, the first Guantanamo detainee tried in civilian court — in New York — was convicted in November on just one of more than 280 charges that he took part in the al-Qaida bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa. That case ignited strident opposition to any further such trials.



\$4.59 EACH ONE WITH MEDIUM FRIES AND MEDIUM DRINK

Today's McCombo





TUESDAY | McCHICKEN®



WEDNESDAY | QUARTER POUNDER® WITH CHEESE



THURSDAY | McFISH®



SUNDAY | MIGHTY WINGS® 5 PIECES

ROYAL FIDELITY
Money at Work
RBC / Fidelity Joint Venture Company

NASSAU
(242) 356-9801

FREEPORT
(242) 351-3010

MARSH HARBOUR
(242) 367-3135

royalfidelity.com

\$8.9m FINCO boost through loan provision policy change

* Reduction in credit allowances from 40% to 30% of non-accrual loans key factor in quadrupling of mortgage lender's 2010 income

* Non-performing loans hit \$88.64m or 10.47% of total loan portfolio

* FINCO insurance subsidiary was still seeking licence renewal at balance sheet date

By **NEIL HARTNELL**
Tribune Business Editor

A change in its loan provisioning policy resulted in Finance Corporation of the Bahamas (FINCO) reducing credit loss provisions by \$8.9 million during its 2010 financial year, a key factor behind net income quadrupling to more than \$18 million.

SEE page 4B

Chamber unveils Mystery Shop plan

Aims 'to test every single business in the Bahamas' on customer service and front-line performance for indefinite period

By **NEIL HARTNELL**
Tribune Business Editor

The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation (BCCEC) has launched a Mystery Shopper project that aims "to test every single business in the Bahamas" on front-line performance and customer service.

SEE page 2B

GAS TRACKER

Shell \$4.72

Esso \$4.72

FUEL \$4.72

TEXACO

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

Agriculture output \$305m per annum

By **ALISON LOWE**
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

Agriculture could be generating \$305 million per year towards Bahamian Gross Domestic Product (GDP), compared to the \$40.2 million recorded in the most recent statistics, if proper reporting and recording of all agricultural outputs took place, a Department of Agriculture official said yesterday.

Leslie Minns, a statistician with the Department, said in his most recently-issued report on agriculture's contribution to the Bahamian economy that there has been "under-reporting" of agricultural output since the first census in 1978.

"Agriculture in the Bahamas is perceived as one of the sectors with little economic activity, and therefore its contribution to the Gross National Product is considered minimal. As an agricultural professional, and as per the definition for economic activity, nothing could be further from the truth," said Mr Minns in a

report released to senior agriculture officials in January.

A fact which Mr Minns suggests highlights this appears in this report. In it, an increase in the total value of agricultural production from \$78 million in 2008 to around \$194.8 million in 2009 is documented.

Acreage recorded as being under cultivation by farmers or being used for livestock increased by 511 per cent, from 5,793 acres in 2005/2006, to 35,402 acres in 2009.

However, rather than being a consequence of a significant rise in actual output created by farmers or other individuals producing agricultural goods, Mr Minns suggests this increase is primarily due to better recordkeeping and data collection, which needs to be further improved if a true picture of agriculture's contribution to the economy is to be obtained. Between 1994 and 2006, only "reported data" - that willingly made available by a relatively small selection of farmers - was used to estimate agricultural output.

From 2005, the department

turned to the Farmers' Register to better estimate production and its value. Farmers become registered to obtain incentives such as duty-free agricultural equipment, imports and hurricane relief, and such a register has been one of the only ways for the Government to get a better handle on the farming industry, given that there have traditionally been few other incentives for producers to make themselves known for data collection purposes.

Mr Minns said he hopes that in the future input from other areas, from which economic value is derived from agriculture, can be included in reports detailing agriculture's input into the national economy. Agriculture's contribution to the \$6.7 billion GDP in 2008 was found to be just 0.6 per cent or \$40.2 million. In 2009, this rose to 0.7 per cent.

The statistician laments that only economic value derived from the production of crops and livestock in the Bahamas

SEE page 4B

PRICE CONTROLS PLACING BUSINESS 'IN TIME WARP'

By **NEIL HARTNELL**
Tribune Business Editor

Price controls are putting Bahamian businesses "in a time warp", leaving them unable to adjust margins in the face of increasing costs and other changes in the economic climate, a think-tank executive yesterday charging that they ultimately resulted in product shortages.

Rick Lowe, of the Nassau Institute, said the Government-imposed price controls on industries such as petroleum and food, ostensibly to protect the interests of low income Bahamian consumers, were misnamed and failed to work because they could not impact international factors outside this nation's control.

Suggesting that it was really "price management", rather than "price control", that the Government-dictated mark-ups imposed on various Bahamian businesses, Mr Lowe said a better solution was for the administration to "get out of the way" and let the market, through competition, determine the price of

SEE page 5B

* Think tank executive warns government-imposed margin and mark-up restrictions ultimately cause product shortages and distort market

* Government urged to 'get out of the way' and let market decide prices through competition

* 'Many firms would do better putting money in the bank than staying open'



"When you use close to one million gallons of fuel a year, it is ridiculous."

KHAALIS ROLLE

Airport's \$138m second stage to start March 17

* Plan to construct 226,000 sq ft arrivals terminal and pier

* Contracts for stonework, masonry and carpeting now before NAD/Airport Authority Board for approvals

By **ALISON LOWE**
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

Work on the \$138.3 million Phase II stage of the Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA) redevelopment will begin on Thursday, March 17, with the selective demolition of the existing US departure terminal.

The second stage, which follows comple-

SEE page 3B



GUIDED TOUR: A tour of the Airport last year.

MAJOR TRANSPORT FIRM IN 35% FUEL COST HIKE

By **NEIL HARTNELL**
Tribune Business Editor

A leading Bahamian transportation company, which consumes almost one million gallons of diesel per year, yesterday said it had seen its fuel costs rise 35 per cent year-over-year, a senior executive telling Tribune Business it was "ridiculous" that this nation had yet to

SEE page 5B

* Bahamas Ferries executive says 'ridiculous' that nation has yet to devise long-term solution to fuel price inflation, his firm using almost one million gallons per year

* Now exploring hedging strategy to aid all fuel-dependent Bahamian companies, via talks with oil firms and major banks

ROYAL FIDELITY
Money at Work
RBC / Fidelity Joint Venture Company
[Learn more at royalfidelity.com](http://royalfidelity.com)

Prime Income Fund

- A higher, stable rate of return
- Long-term capital preservation
- Lower risk investment
- Professional fund management
- Diversified portfolio

ROYAL FIDELITY
Money at Work

BAHAMAS
Nassau: 242.356.9801
Freeport: 242.351.3010

BARBADOS
St. Michael: 246.435.1955

Damianos | **Sotheby's**
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

PARADISE ISLAND ~ OCEAN CLUB ESTATES

BEACHFRONT CABBAGE BEACH LOT
Large elevated lot on world-famous Cabbage Beach with 149 feet on the beach.
Priced to sell at **US\$6.9m.**
Contact: George.Damianos@SothebysRealty.com 242.362.4211

SIRbahamas.com | t 242.322.2305 | Member of The Bahamas MLS

BUSINESS

Timely economic data demanded

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

Economists and business leaders yesterday joined Opposition MPs in questioning the Government's decision to allow more than a year-and-a-half to pass without producing any updated unemployment figures, each stressing the importance of such data for proper economic and social policy formulation.

The last available statistics on the level of unemployment in the Bahamas were released in September 2009, following a survey conducted in May of that year. At that time it was found that the unemployment rate was the highest it had been since the early 1990s.

For New Providence, the unemployment rate of 8.7 per cent in 2008 increased to 12.1 per cent in February 2009, then to 14 per cent in May 2009. A similar trend was experienced in Grand Bahama, with rates of 9 per cent, 14.6 per cent and 17.4 per cent recorded for those three dates.

A labour force survey, which records the unemployment rate, is traditionally undertaken on an annual basis, except in a Census year, when it is bypassed in favour of focusing on this larger, once in a decade, project.

Ryan Pinder, MP for Elizabeth and a tax attorney by profession, raised the dearth of statistics relating to unem-

ployment, a key economic indicator, as a matter of concern in the House of Assembly last week.

Speaking with Tribune Business yesterday, he said the unemployment figures are important "so we have an understanding not only of the unemployment figure, but of who is unemployed - from what sectors and age groups", with such data key to better positioning those concerned to "establish policies to really provide some buoyancy to the situation".

Responding in Parliament to Mr Pinder's criticism over the lack of figures, minister of state for finance, Zhivar-go Laing, noted that last year the Department of Statistics undertook a nationwide Census, and for this reason, resource limitations did not permit the opportunity for a labour force survey to be conducted as usu-



RYAN PINDER



ZHIVARGO LAING

al. Director of Statistics, Kalsie Dorsett, yesterday confirmed that a labour

force survey has never been undertaken in a Census year, and her department would not have had the capacity, either financially, human or infrastructure, to do both.

However, Mr Pinder and others have suggested this may not be an adequate reason to ditch the survey at this time.

"We are in a unique climate where I think that decision is not in the best interests of the country, and if we have to do something different because of the challenges we have and the situation we find ourselves in, then we do it. That is the responsibility of a government," Mr Pinder said.

"I understand the proposition they don't do it in a Census year, but I also say if it's only a matter of resources, much more benefit would come from having the unemployment statistics than not having it. You get more than just a number, it's an analysis of what's going

on out there in terms of employment."

James Smith, former minister of state for finance under the Christie administration, concurred. "Especially during a recession, when we went through a period of high joblessness and lay offs - and we're still seeing them - it's very important to have timely economic data on all areas of the economy," he said.

"I think many sectors of the economy have been looking forward to having some idea of how deep and broad this recession is, and how it's impacting the labour force.

"At the very least I think an appeal should be made to the Government in the general interest of economic planning to try to make the resources available, because businesses also depend on that kind of information to plan going forward. The level of unemployment gives you a measure of the level of demand for your goods and services and so many other things."

Khaalis Rolle, chairman of the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation (BCCEC), said he feels strongly that more emphasis and resources must be brought to bear on information gathering in the Bahamian economy generally.

Instead of being prepared on an annual basis as they have traditionally been, Mr Rolle said he would support resources being put in place to ensure such statistics can be compiled on a "monthly or quarterly basis".

"It's difficult for me to say precisely why it wasn't done (the Labour Force survey in 2010). I think in any given period it's always critical to have information, and one

of our key economic indicators is unemployment. I don't believe that information should not be available and compiled on a regular basis," he said.

"You are at the mercy of making decisions in a vacuum or in the dark if you don't have quality information."

Dion Foulkes, Labour Minister, yesterday reiterated the Government's position that it would have been impractical for the Department of Statistics to do both the Census and the Labour Force Survey in 2010.

"We hired hundreds of people to conduct the Census, which comes up every 10 years. It was very detailed and took a very long time, and the Department of Statistics got a special allocation to hire those people and provide the necessary equipment and documents to conduct the survey," he said.

"Money is only a part of the equation. It's also a question of capacity in terms of infrastructure, buildings, desks, computers, training. It's a very comprehensive and holistic approach, especially with unemployment figures because you want them to be as accurate as possible."

Ms Dorsett, head of the Department of Statistics, said that besides her staff and offices being occupied with Census-related work, another problem with attempting to undertake a Labour Force survey in a Census year, which cannot be combated by the allocation of more resources, is a simple matter of public cooperation.

"The most important thing is you can't go to householders twice like that in a year. They are already getting tired of you (after the Census)," she said.

Mr Foulkes, meanwhile, suggested that the Government has been able to assess the unemployment situation to some degree using other "barometers", such as the number of individuals signing up to obtain unemployment benefits - which has dropped sharply.

"We believe a tremendous amount of jobs have been created through projects such as the airport re-development, the road improvement project, the straw market. Atlantis has taken on some 300 people recently," he added.

Chamber unveils Mystery Shop plan

FROM page 1B

tomers service, its chairman yesterday describing it as another plank in the organisation's drive to deliver value-added services to its members.

Khaalis Rolle, who is also Bahamas Ferries' chief marketing officer, told Tribune Business: "We just launched the Mystery Shopper project, and that's an initiative most businesses can benefit from.

"I find that to be a very effective means of monitoring the performance of your business, particularly on the front line. It is a project designed to test that level and quality of service that you're offering to the customer.

"It's a well-constructed, diagnosis type of project where people go into the business and evaluate the type of experience they have. They give a report on how businesses perform in every key area."

Mr Rolle told Tribune Business that Bahamas Ferries "has been using it [the Mystery Shopper initiative] for a couple of

years now, and when we started everyone thought it was a nuisance, and now at the beginning of the month e-mails start flying on when the report's due. Each department wants to know how it's done".

The BCCEC chairman described the Mystery Shopper programme as "one of the value-added services we're offering to our members".

He told Tribune Business that the initiative would continue "indefinitely", and added: "We hope to test every single business in the Bahamas".

Looking at the bigger picture and the long-term future, after he demits office as BCCEC chairman in June, Mr Rolle added: "I wanted to leave the Chamber with a value proposition. That [the Mystery Shopper] really adds value to the membership.

"I want businesses to say that the Chamber is not only an advocacy organisation, but a value added organisation. This is one of the diverse revenue streams we wanted to add, diversifying revenue streams beyond just membership fees."

Domino's
You Can't Top This!
Order 1-Extra Large, 3-Topping Pizza
\$22.25
Get 1-Medium, 1-Topping, Pizza
Absolutely FREE!
WIN A Brand New i-Pad! One Winner Every Week!
Sponsored by: **Electrojack**

THE TRIBUNE • SECTION C
arts
& ENTERTAINMENT
COMING SOON...
TO ADVERTISE IN THIS NEW EXCITING SECTION CALL 502-2394.

BUSINESS

Second student wave enters Spanish school



SECOND INDUCTION: The Association of International Banks and Trust Companies (AIBT) has unveiled the second induction of students into its language school.

Initiated in 2010, the language classes have been well supported by members of AIBT, and 30 students have enjoyed free beginners and intermediate Spanish classes. In addition to those students who will continue with their language education, the AIBT has welcomed a further 17 candidates who have begun their studies in Spanish.

Quality Auto Sales
PRE-OWNED CARS
and TRUCKS

TRADE-INS ON NEW
CAR SALES ACCEPTED

Check Out These Great Values

'08 SUZUKI SWIFT
'06 HYUNDAI TERRACAN
'09 HYUNDAI TUCSON
'08 CHEVY CMV VAN
'05 HYUNDAI SANTA FE
'01 MAZDA MPV
'91 HONDA ACCORD
'98 FORD EXPLORER
'01 FORD TAURUS
'00 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
'00 DODGE NEON
'01 DAIHATSU CUORE



QUALITY auto sales
LIMITED

#1 AUTO DEALER IN THE BAHAMAS

EAST SHIRLEY STREET • 322-3775 • 325-3079

Visit our showrooms at Quality Auto Sales (Freeport) Ltd for similar deals, Queens Hwy, 352-6122 or Abaco Motor Mall, Den Muckey Blvd, 367-2916

OPEN: Mon to Fri 8:30am - 5:30pm • Sat 8:30am - 12:30pm

AIRPORT'S \$138M SECOND STAGE TO START MARCH 17

FROM page 1B

tion of work on the first stage - the construction of a new US departures terminal and pier - includes the construction of a 226,000 square foot International Arrivals Terminal and International Departures Pier on the site of what will soon become the former US departures terminal.

It is scheduled to be opened in late 2012, and will be followed by a third terminal in 2013.

Contracts have so far been awarded for airside and landside civil work for the international arrivals terminal, inclusive of the parking lots and apron areas.

"There are several contracts in with the Board for approval at the moment, including works for stonework, masonry and carpeting," said Shonalee Johnson, communications manager at the Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD), which is overseeing the airport redevelopment.

Other works that will be undertaken as part of Phase II are: complete demolition of the pier attached to the former US departures terminal and demolition of all electrical and mechanical systems.

The roadway canopy that currently covers the road where visitors, taxis and buses pull in to the airport to load and offload passengers and baggage will be extended.

The roof of the facility will be replaced with a rounded, "barrel vault" type structure similar to that used in the new US departures terminal.

Work on the second stage is set to begin concurrent with the opening of the new US Terminal, which has now been completed. On Saturday, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and Cabinet Ministers toured the \$190.8 million facility ahead of its March 16 opening to the travelling public.



PROJECT: A file photo on work at the Airport.



Bahamas Electricity Corporation Tender

The Bahamas Electricity Corporation invites Tenders for the services described below:

Tender No. 747/11
Group Medical & Life Insurance Services

Bidders are required to collect packages from the Corporation's Administrative Office, Blue Hill & Tucker Roads

Contact: **Ms. Charlene Smith** at telephone **302-1158**

Submissions should be marked as follows:

Mr. Kevin Basden
General Manager
Bahamas Electricity Corporation
Executive Offices - Blue Hill & Tucker Roads
Nassau, Bahamas

Tender No. 747/11
Group Medical & Life Insurance Services

Deadline for delivery to BEC:
March 25, 2011
no later than 4:00 p.m.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

For all inquiries regarding the tenders please contact **Mrs. Antionette Turnquest** at telephone **302-1166**



VACANCY

Are you a motivated, innovative, business-minded professional looking for a challenging career in the supermarket or food franchise business? Then come and grow with AML Foods Limited. As we continue to expand our operations, we are seeking qualified applicants for the following positions:

Store Manager
Assistant Store Manager
Manager in Training
Grocery Supervisor
Front-End Supervisors
Warehouse Supervisor
Meat Supervisor
Produce Supervisor
Buyers
Drivers
Customer Service Representatives

Outstanding salary, benefits and incentives offered.
Experience desired.

Interested candidates should forward their resumes to hr@amlfoods.com.

No telephone calls please. Only persons selected for an interview will be contacted.

BUSINESS

\$8.9m FINCO boost through loan provision policy change

FROM page 1B

lion, even though non-performing loans exceeded 10 per cent of its total portfolio.

The BISX-listed mortgage lender, which is 75 per cent owned by Royal Bank of Canada's Bahamian subsidiary, revealed in its financial statements for the year to October 31, 2010, that it reduced the allowance for credit (loan) losses from the 40 per cent of non-accrual loan threshold used in 2009 to 30 per cent last year.

This move, following a Board and management review of FINCO's provisioning policy, which assessed factors such as the quality of security held over its mortgage portfolio and recovery rates, resulted in a considerable boost to the mortgage lender's 2010 financial results.

"This review resulted in

the Corporation [FINCO] reducing its provisioning policy ratio to 30 per cent of non-accrual loans, and a reduction of \$8.9 million in the amount charged for provision of credit losses," the financial statements, audited by Deloitte & Touche, stated.

"While current provisions are considered conservative, the Corporation will continue to review its provisioning policy and methodology to ensure that levels remain appropriate and conservative."

The \$8.9 million reduction in FINCO's loan loss provisions went straight back into the income statement, and was a key factor behind the lender's dramatically improved performance in 2010 compared to the previous year.

Indeed, the more than \$13.7 million reduction in credit loss allowances, from

\$15.073 million to \$1.345 million, was the main reason for the 399 per cent growth in FINCO's net income to \$18.188 million from \$4.563 million the year before.

Flat

Otherwise, the lender's 2010 performance would have been essentially flat compared to 2009. Net interest income actually declined slightly to \$28.241 million, compared to \$28.314 million the year before, as a 6.9 per cent rise in interest income to \$65.467 million was cancelled out by a 13 per cent increase in interest expense to some \$37.226 million.

Elsewhere, FINCO's financials disclosed that its non-accrual loan portfolio (loans that are more than 90 days past due) now accounted for 10.47 per cent of its \$847.212 million loan portfolio, having increased from 8.09 per cent at year-end 2009.

"Loans classified as non-accrual represent 10.47 per cent (2009: 8.09 per cent) of the total loan portfolio," the Deloitte & Touche audited financial statements said. "At the consolidated balance sheet date, the carrying amounts of loans whose terms were renegotiated during the year were \$22.429 million, and interest accrued on loans to date were \$1.58 million."

The total value of FINCO's non-accrual loans had also increased by 36.8 per cent year-over-year, hitting

\$88.64 million compared to \$64.812 million the year before. However, the cumulative value of residential mortgages that were non-performing fell from \$60.534 million to \$59.769 million. The increase was caused by a dramatic surge in non-performing "non-residential" mortgage loans, from \$3.862 million to \$28.457 million, likely due to a surge in delinquencies among business clients.

Elsewhere, Deloitte & Touche noted that FINCO's wholly-owned subsidiary, FINCO Insurance Agency, was still awaiting renewal of its insurance licence by the Insurance Commission as at the January 28, 2011, balance sheet date.

"As of the balance sheet date, FINCO Insurance Agency's application for renewal of its agency licence is pending with the Insurance Commission of the Bahamas. FINCO Insurance Agency is taking steps to satisfy all regulatory requirements," the accounting firm said. FINCO added that a Central Bank of the Bahamas' directive that some of its loans be risk-weighted at 100 per cent impacted its capital ratios. For Tier 1 and Total Capital ratios, these fell to 15.86 per cent and 17.11 per cent respectively at year-end 2010, compared to 18.53 per cent and 19.78 per cent the year before.

Agriculture output \$305 million per annum

FROM page 1B

have traditionally been included in reports detailing the sector's contribution to the economy.

However, the problem with this, he added, is that there has not been full and accurate reporting of statistics relating to these areas, and this definition of the economic contribution of agriculture to the Bahamas is too narrow.

Mr Minns suggests that some of the key areas in which economic value is being derived from agriculture in the Bahamas, but are yet to be properly documented, include animal husbandry (the breeding of domestic pets and farm animals for sale); dairy farming and the production of animal products; horticultural services (such as landscaping; and the production and sale of ornamental plants and flowers), hunting and forestry.

Within these groups, Mr Minns said he has reason to believe that hunting and forestry-related economic activity may be worth \$25 million a year to the Bahamian economy through activities such as foreign visitors engaging in hunting of wild animals in the Bahamas, Bahamian boat builders harvesting local wood for their vessels and the use of local woods for furniture and more.

"It has been said that 'no significant hunting and forestry activities take place in the Bahamas'. Nothing could be further from the truth. While for this report we may only be reporting a modest estimate of \$3.5 million, this sub-sector of agriculture is contributing greatly to our economy," said Mr Minns in the report.

He also suggests that a much greater value is being derived from the harvesting of top (straw), coal, Brazilian pepper (used for animal feed) and cotton than he has been able to record due to minimal reporting.

Fruit

The growth of fruit bearing trees, vegetable seedlings and herbs and spices for sale, combined with the provision of landscaping services and the production of ornamental plants at local nurseries for sale to people using them in their gardens and homes, could be worth a combined \$150 million annually to the Bahamian economy but is not yet properly documented, said Mr Minns.

Mr Minns further notes that of all the animal products available in the Bahamas, the Department of Agriculture only tracks the production of eggs and honey, which were worth \$9.6 million and \$193,000 in 2009, respectively.

Egg production in 2009 produced around six million eggs valued at \$9.6 million. Of that amount, \$1.96 million in economic value was derived from chickens in New Providence, \$7.64 million came from Grand Bahama and \$22,464 from Long Island.

The Bahamas also produced 6,341 gallons of honey worth \$193,050 in 2009. The greatest honey-producing island in 2009 was Eleuthera, which made 158,525 gallons, followed by Andros with 19,000, New Providence with 9,000, Abaco with 3,200 and Grand Bahama with 3,100.

Mr Minns suggests that other animal products, or by-products, from which significant economic value is being derived but not recorded include chicken manure and milk.

"Perhaps the most used animal product for which no value has been placed is chicken manure, which we know is used widely throughout the Bahamas," he said.

The statistician said that unless farmers make available information on harvests, and agricultural officers from the various Family Islands and throughout New Providence report the data relating to output from the various agricultural sectors, he is unable to put them in his reports.

Mr Minns calls for more resources to be invested in conducting surveys of the undocumented agricultural sectors, such as horticultural services, animal husbandry, hunting and forestry, so that a true picture of their economic value can be determined going forward, adding to the traditionally documented crop and livestock production.

LOT FOR SALE

Location: Lyford Cay Price: \$550,000 Size: 170 x 150 Sq ft.: 20,000 plus



Lyford Cay is a magnificent private residential enclave located on the most western tip of New Providence. Boasting beautifully landscaped properties within a 1900 acre gated community including the world-renowned Lyford Cay Club. Residents and members of the exclusive Lyford Cay Club enjoy a championship golf course, twelve tennis courts, a complete marina, private school and world-class cuisine at the Club. A half-mile of powdery white beach, twenty-four hour security and privileges of the most kind distinguish Lyford Cay as a truly unique place to live.

Contact: Brian Austin 323-0800 (n) or 376-5400 (t) B.Austin@RTBahamas.com www.RTBahamas.com



BAHAMAS FIRST
FIRST IN INSURANCE. TODAY. TOMORROW.

Career opportunity for an ambitious career oriented individual Application Support Specialist

Our Application Specialist must have excellent Service and Customer Skills and must be an expert in Application Support in a multi-tier environment (IIS, Java, Apache / Tomcat & HTML / XML) with experience in XML / HTML front end applications.

Skills:

- IIS
- Java
- Apache / Tomcat
- HTML / XML
- Websphere
- Communications Framework
- SQL Query

Qualifications:

- Relevant IT education to degree level
- 3 years Project Management Experience (Certification a plus)

Competencies:

- 3+ years experience working with IT groups or proprietary application software support environments in a demanding, dynamic environment
- 3+ years experience working with User Groups
- Experience in defining, establishing and implementing testing 'best practices' techniques, policies and standardized trouble shooting in addition to workflow procedures
- Documenting issues and working with other functional groups to develop updated processes and workarounds.
- Strong client focus: troubleshooting and follow-up skills; commitment to continuous improvement.

There will be shift work involved.

Compensation commensurate with relevant experience and qualifications.

The Bahamas First Group is the largest property and casualty insurance company in the Bahamas and has an A- (Excellent) Rating from A. M. Best, reflecting the company's financial stability and sound risk management practices.

Please apply before 11th March, 2011 to:

Group HR & Training Manager
Bahamas First Corporate Services, 32 Collins Avenue
P.O. Box SS-6268
Nassau, Bahamas

Or email to:
careers@bahamasfirst.com



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.



Apollo Medical Specialty Suite

INTRODUCES...

TRANSITIONS LIFESTYLE SYSTEM®

A weight-management program!

100% Guaranteed low-glycemic-index eating, exercise, stress reduction and supplementation. Find out why this system works and why we can give you a 100% guarantee! This is a comprehensive, low-glycemic weight management system that you will actually enjoy. Transitions Lifestyle System provides you with education materials, a daily journal, low-glycemic food options, and clinically proven supplements to promote permanent weight loss. With Transitions Lifestyle System, you can have 100% lifelong success. INTENSE 12 WEEK PROGRAMS NOW BEING OFFERED.



Free Health Awareness Test

Discover the State of Your Health
Bone Density, % Body Fat, Metabolic Age etc.
PLUS Nutraceutical Physical & Nutrition Consult
By Appointment with Transitions Wellness Coaches

Apollo Medical is pleased to offer ...
ALTERNATIVES

Chinese Integrative Medicine & Anti-Aging Regenerative Medicine

242-327-3633

Suite 210 Marina Village, Sandypoint, Nassau, The Bahamas

BUSINESS

FROM page 1B

products such as gasoline.

Pointing out that price controls "distorted" the market for goods they were imposed on, especially if Bahamian companies were forced to sell below the 'market clearing' or equilibrium price, Mr Lowe noted the impact that fixed margins had on the petroleum retail sector.

Using the example of a gas station needing 20,000 gallons to fill its tanks, the Nassau Institute executive said an increase in global oil prices from \$1 to \$1.50, a 50 per cent increase, would raise the retailer's cost to purchase this amount from the oil company by the same percentage - from \$20,000 to \$30,000.

"If they can't make a higher margin to get more turnover, more cash flow, they're forced to make additional arrangements with the banks etc to get additional float that will make up the inventory," Mr Lowe told Tribune Business.

"That's a problem, because they're working on razor thin margins, the service stations."

With fixed margins of \$0.44 per gallon of gasoline, and \$0.33 per gallon of diesel, Mr Lowe said Bahamian petroleum retailers, in common with many other businesses, might find it prudent to exit the industry because they were unable to get the necessary return on their investment.

When that happened, and no replacements entered the sector due to the unattractive fixed

Price controls placing business 'in time warp'



HUBERT INGRAHAM

mark-ups, product shortages were the likely result.

"A lot of businesses today would probably do better putting money in the bank than the returns they get by staying open," Mr Lowe told Tribune Business.

"If businessmen are not getting a 3-5 per cent return on turnover, they're better off sticking money in the bank.

"These price controls make it so you can't adjust your business model as times change. You're putting businesses in a time warp, as everything is changing around them.

"They're mark-up restrictions, not price controls."

Reacting to Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham's comments on Saturday, when he suggested that price controls on the petroleum

industry had protected Bahamian consumers, Mr Lowe contrasted this with what happened when then-president Ronald Reagan removed similar controls in the US in the early 1980s.

Arguing that "things were back to normal" within two weeks in the US, following the removal of controls imposed in the aftermath of oil price-driven inflation in the 1970s, Mr Lowe added: "Government just needs to get out of the way.

"I think it [the petroleum industry situation] just again proves that price control doesn't work because there are too many factors involved. We've had 40 centuries of price controls and governments putting them on, and then another government takes them off, throughout the world.

"They don't take into consideration all the things necessary to put a product on the market, things we in the Bahamas don't control, such as the initial costs, transportation, the potential blockages in the Middle East.

"Ultimately, we end up with shortages," Mr Lowe said.

"If the gas stations feel that they can't get a reasonable profit, they're not going to sell it.

Eventually, it costs more than they get in through profits.

"What do they do? Maybe they look for a new business, so ultimately shortages result from price controls.

"What happens is that intervention causes the businessman to lay off staff, causing more unemployment. That's really the unintended consequences of public policy."

Again arguing that it was not the Government's duty to intervene in transactions between business and consumer, Mr Lowe said the ultimate solution lay in 'freeing the market' and allowing the three oil companies - Shell, Texaco and Esso - to compete at the wholesale level, with the dealers also competing among themselves.

This, he suggested, would force all concerned to be more efficient and, by allowing gas retailers to charge the margins and prices they wanted, consumers would naturally gravitate to those offering the lowest costs.

"They distort the margins you might get, or do not normally get," Mr Lowe told Tribune Business of price controls.

"And prices have gone up all the time. Price control is not preventing prices going up, because petroleum costs are based on the international market.

"No one can control that. Mr Obama can't control it, and Mr Bush couldn't control it. It's a little bit of a fallacy to say there's price control.

"If you want to say price management, that's fine."

Major transport firm in 35% fuel cost hike

FROM page 1B

devise and implement a long-term solution to oil price shocks.

Khaalis Rolle, Bahamas Ferries' chief marketing officer, said that in his capacity as the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation (BCCEC) chairman, he was exploring fuel hedging options designed to shield all Bahamian companies - especially those that were transportation-based - from exposure to rapidly increasing oil prices.

And he criticised the Bahamas' tendency as a nation to focus on short-term, temporary solutions rather than long-term fixes, while the National Energy Policy and alternative energy forms seemed to become a secondary issue once oil prices started on a downward trend in late 2008.

"It is extremely high," Mr Rolle told Tribune Business, when asked about Bahamas Ferries' current fuel bill. "I think we're up about 35 per cent compared to last year. When you use close to one million gallons of fuel a year, it is ridiculous."

And, turning to the Bahamas' failure as a nation to draw up and implement a comprehensive strategy to deal with oil and energy-related cost increases, the BCCEC chairman said: "We keep sounding this alarm. We keep going through these temporary fixes, and we're not looking to long-term solutions.

"We keep ending up right back where we started. There isn't any substantial pressure to resolve this problem. We're back right where we were, and the minute prices started to trend downwards, nobody looked at it. This wasn't an issue any more; it became a secondary issue."

A National Energy Poli-

cy now looks more needed than ever. Global oil prices moved close to \$120 per barrel yesterday, with speculators moving in to exploit the uncertainty caused by Middle East turbulence, the latest bout of which is in Libya, while investors sought a safe haven in gold.

"Now is the time for us, because these issues don't go away," Mr Rolle told Tribune Business. "They may disappear for a second, but they don't go away. They usually come right back at you, and when they come back around, they're more ferocious and more dangerous. We have to figure this one out."

Hedging

The BCCEC chairman confirmed that he was exploring various hedging strategies and options, and is set to meet this week with one of the major oil companies, having already spoken to commercial banks in the Bahamas and abroad.

Hedging is a strategy where private sector companies, anticipating a future increase in oil prices, lock-in existing prices by agreeing contracts to purchase oil at a fixed price over a certain period of time. In agreeing to do this, they are hoping to save against future oil price increases.

However, major Bahamian institutions, such as BEC and Bahamasair, while looking at this possibility have declined to hedge in the past, fearing that they may come down on the wrong side of a 'hedge' and suffer losses that will result in political repercussions.

"I'm looking at some options that we haven't explored in the past," Mr Rolle said, "like hedging. We're looking at an option to hedge from a very global perspective. We're looking at hedging for everyone that

is fuel dependent, especially companies that are fuel dependent like our business.

"We've had some preliminary discussions, and I think we're going to try and further those discussions to speed this up. We actually have a meeting with one of the oil majors this week, but we've spoken to some of the commercial banks here and abroad.

"It's been positive. We just have to now look at the possibilities and look at how practical it is, what the options are and how practical those options are."

Mr Rolle added that the BCCEC was set to meet with Bahamian petroleum retailers this week to discuss their situation, where oil price increases were forcing them to increase their upfront capital outlay to buy supplies from the wholesalers.

This is causing cash flow and overdraft problems for the retailers.

"We've had a couple of discussions with them, but nothing is substantiated as yet," Mr Rolle added.

"I'm going to meet with a couple of them this week just to discuss it briefly and see what, if any support, can be given to them through the Chamber."

APD Limited

APD Limited is seeking bids from Bahamian firms for the demolition and disposal of the old Customs building on the east end of Arawak Cay. All interested applicants should submit their proposal to APD Limited's offices in the House of Mosko located at the corner of Victoria Ave and Bay Street. Proposals can also be emailed to info@apdport.com.



Proposals should address the following:

- The old Customs Building contains asbestos which must be removed and disposed of in accordance with Department of Environmental Health protocol of asbestos abatement. The contractor must be a certified asbestos abatement contractor and hold a valid certification. The asbestos removal process must be detailed within the applicant's proposal. Any questions regarding the qualification criteria should be directed to the Department of Environmental Health.
- All debris and scrap to include the steel, scrap vehicles, concrete, building parts, trash, attached to or immediately adjacent to the building are to be removed by the tenderer and a plan detailing the disposal methods is to be included within the proposal. The demolition and disposal of the concrete foundation is not required and is not to be included in the proposal.
- The applicant must provide a safety plan describing how they will secure the site and protect the health and safety of their employees and subcontractors.
- All applicants should understand that the site is a high risk site and that the structure is unstable.
- The applicants proposal should consider a start date of no later than April 7th 2011 and a completion date of no later than June 7th 2011.

Demolition and Disposal proposals should be delivered to APD Limited by March 18th, 2011.

APD Limited, Mosko Building, Bay and Victoria, Ph. (242) 322-2142

NOTICE

JADAJOLEA LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

- JADAJOLEA LIMITED is in voluntary dissolution under the provisions of Section 137 (4) of the International Business Companies Act 2000.
- The dissolution of the said company commenced on the 4th March, 2011 when the Articles of Dissolution were submitted to and registered by the Registrar General.
- The Liquidator of the said company is Manex Limited, The Bahamas Financial Centre, Shirley & Charlotte Streets, Nassau, Bahamas

Dated this 8th day of March, A. D. 2011

Manex Limited
Liquidator

NIBA

pay less for insuring your home!

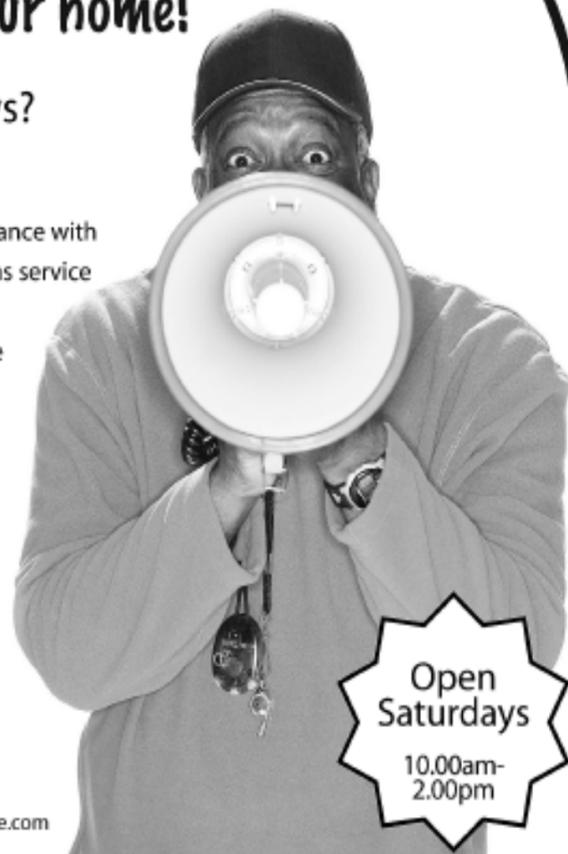
Have you heard the good news?
You CAN save money!

Ask NIBA for a home insurance quote! Home insurance with NIBA costs less AND you receive cover with a claims service that lives up to its promise! In addition to low deductibles, you can choose to pay by interest free installments for added convenience.

It's time to pay less for insuring your home!

Tel. 677-6422 or visit
www.nibaquote.com

NASSAU INSURANCE BROKERS AND AGENTS LIMITED
Atlantic House, 2nd Terrace & Collins Avenue
P.O. Box N-7764 Nassau Tel. 677-6422 www.nibaquote.com



Open
Saturdays

10.00am-
2.00pm

ROYAL FIDELITY
Money at Work
RBC / Fidelity Joint Venture Company

NASSAU
(242) 356-9801

FREEPORT
(242) 351-3010

MARSH HARBOUR
(242) 367-3135

royalfidelity.com

\$8.9m FINCO boost through loan provision policy change

* Reduction in credit allowances from 40% to 30% of non-accrual loans key factor in quadrupling of mortgage lender's 2010 income

* Non-performing loans hit \$88.64m or 10.47% of total loan portfolio

* FINCO insurance subsidiary was still seeking licence renewal at balance sheet date

By **NEIL HARTNELL**
Tribune Business Editor

A change in its loan provisioning policy resulted in Finance Corporation of the Bahamas (FINCO) reducing credit loss provisions by \$8.9 million during its 2010 financial year, a key factor behind net income quadrupling to more than \$18 million.

SEE page 4B

Chamber unveils Mystery Shop plan

Aims 'to test every single business in the Bahamas' on customer service and front-line performance for indefinite period

By **NEIL HARTNELL**
Tribune Business Editor

The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation (BCCEC) has launched a Mystery Shopper project that aims "to test every single business in the Bahamas" on front-line performance and customer service.

SEE page 2B

GAS TRACKER

Shell \$4.72

Esso \$4.72

FUEL \$4.72

TEXACO

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

Agriculture output \$305m per annum

By **ALISON LOWE**
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

Agriculture could be generating \$305 million per year towards Bahamian Gross Domestic Product (GDP), compared to the \$40.2 million recorded in the most recent statistics, if proper reporting and recording of all agricultural outputs took place, a Department of Agriculture official said yesterday.

Leslie Minns, a statistician with the Department, said in his most recently-issued report on agriculture's contribution to the Bahamian economy that there has been "under-reporting" of agricultural output since the first census in 1978.

"Agriculture in the Bahamas is perceived as one of the sectors with little economic activity, and therefore its contribution to the Gross National Product is considered minimal. As an agricultural professional, and as per the definition for economic activity, nothing could be further from the truth," said Mr Minns in a

report released to senior agriculture officials in January.

A fact which Mr Minns suggests highlights this appears in this report. In it, an increase in the total value of agricultural production from \$78 million in 2008 to around \$194.8 million in 2009 is documented.

Acreage recorded as being under cultivation by farmers or being used for livestock increased by 511 per cent, from 5,793 acres in 2005/2006, to 35,402 acres in 2009.

However, rather than being a consequence of a significant rise in actual output created by farmers or other individuals producing agricultural goods, Mr Minns suggests this increase is primarily due to better recordkeeping and data collection, which needs to be further improved if a true picture of agriculture's contribution to the economy is to be obtained. Between 1994 and 2006, only "reported data" - that willingly made available by a relatively small selection of farmers - was used to estimate agricultural output.

From 2005, the department

turned to the Farmers' Register to better estimate production and its value. Farmers become registered to obtain incentives such as duty-free agricultural equipment, imports and hurricane relief, and such a register has been one of the only ways for the Government to get a better handle on the farming industry, given that there have traditionally been few other incentives for producers to make themselves known for data collection purposes.

Mr Minns said he hopes that in the future input from other areas, from which economic value is derived from agriculture, can be included in reports detailing agriculture's input into the national economy. Agriculture's contribution to the \$6.7 billion GDP in 2008 was found to be just 0.6 per cent or \$40.2 million. In 2009, this rose to 0.7 per cent.

The statistician laments that only economic value derived from the production of crops and livestock in the Bahamas

SEE page 4B

PRICE CONTROLS PLACING BUSINESS 'IN TIME WARP'

By **NEIL HARTNELL**
Tribune Business Editor

Price controls are putting Bahamian businesses "in a time warp", leaving them unable to adjust margins in the face of increasing costs and other changes in the economic climate, a think-tank executive yesterday charging that they ultimately resulted in product shortages.

Rick Lowe, of the Nassau Institute, said the Government-imposed price controls on industries such as petroleum and food, ostensibly to protect the interests of low income Bahamian consumers, were misnamed and failed to work because they could not impact international factors outside this nation's control.

Suggesting that it was really "price management", rather than "price control", that the Government-dictated mark-ups imposed on various Bahamian businesses, Mr Lowe said a better solution was for the administration to "get out of the way" and let the market, through competition, determine the price of

SEE page 5B

* Think tank executive warns government-imposed margin and mark-up restrictions ultimately cause product shortages and distort market

* Government urged to 'get out of the way' and let market decide prices through competition

* 'Many firms would do better putting money in the bank than staying open'



"When you use close to one million gallons of fuel a year, it is ridiculous."

KHAALIS ROLLE

Airport's \$138m second stage to start March 17

* Plan to construct 226,000 sq ft arrivals terminal and pier

* Contracts for stonework, masonry and carpeting now before NAD/Airport Authority Board for approvals

By **ALISON LOWE**
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

Work on the \$138.3 million Phase II stage of the Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA) redevelopment will begin on Thursday, March 17, with the selective demolition of the existing US departure terminal.

The second stage, which follows comple-

SEE page 3B



GUIDED TOUR: A tour of the Airport last year.

MAJOR TRANSPORT FIRM IN 35% FUEL COST HIKE

By **NEIL HARTNELL**
Tribune Business Editor

A leading Bahamian transportation company, which consumes almost one million gallons of diesel per year, yesterday said it had seen its fuel costs rise 35 per cent year-over-year, a senior executive telling Tribune Business it was "ridiculous" that this nation had yet to

SEE page 5B

* Bahamas Ferries executive says 'ridiculous' that nation has yet to devise long-term solution to fuel price inflation, his firm using almost one million gallons per year

* Now exploring hedging strategy to aid all fuel-dependent Bahamian companies, via talks with oil firms and major banks

Damianos Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

PARADISE ISLAND ~ OCEAN CLUB ESTATES

BEACHFRONT CABBAGE BEACH LOT

Large elevated lot on world-famous Cabbage Beach with 149 feet on the beach.
Priced to sell at **US\$6.9m.**

Contact: George.Damianos@SothebysRealty.com 242.362.4211

SIRbahamas.com | t 242.322.2305

Member of The Bahamas MLS

ROYAL FIDELITY
Money at Work
RBC / Fidelity Joint Venture Company
[Learn more at royalfidelity.com](http://royalfidelity.com)

Prime Income Fund

- A higher, stable rate of return
- Long-term capital preservation
- Lower risk investment
- Professional fund management
- Diversified portfolio

ROYAL FIDELITY
Money at Work

BAHAMAS
Nassau: 242.356.9801
Freeport: 242.351.3010

BARBADOS
St. Michael: 246.435.1955

WOMAN

The Tribune

B O D Y A N D M I N D

health

Weight lost, faith in self gained

By ALESHA CADET
Tribune Features Reporter

FROM diet plans to weight loss programs, women out there are going the extra mile to stay fit. Whether it is for health or personal issues, they are determined to take it off and keep it off.

Jennifer Hudson, the singer and actress who won an Academy Award for her performance in *Dream Girls* recently made an appearance on the Oprah Winfrey show and discussed how joining Weight Watchers helped her drop the pounds.

Bouncing in her seat and saying "I want to tell it!" — Jennifer revealed the magic number.

She said: "I've lost 80 pounds," and received a standing ovation."

"It's like a brand new me," she said. "Sometimes I don't even recognize myself."

She told Oprah, she made the decision to lose the weight while she was pregnant with her now 2-year-old son, and she eventually went from a size 16 to a size 6.

She also spoke tearfully a bit about the tragedy that occurred more than two years ago when her mother, brother and young nephew were murdered. She said she was able to survive that loss with the help

that Dr Diggiss was looking for patients who wanted to have the surgery, but who were also willing to be a spokesperson for the procedure and tell their story.

"It was a just a dream come for me- because it meant that I didn't have to travel, but I would be able to have the surgery performed at home, in the facility where I worked by a fellow countryman and I jumped at the opportunity."

Samantha said she was never afraid of the medical risks associated with any elective surgical procedure.

"I just focused on the new me. I was ashamed of my body going into surgery. (I was wearing a size 32) but Dr Diggiss assured me before we went in that what I was seeing then, I would never see again. Samantha describes the day of her surgery as " the day that Dr Diggiss rescued me."

TV personality, Kelly Osbourne graced the cover of Shape Magazine last year displaying her life changing weight loss. In an interview with Claire Connors of Shape Magazine, Kelly stated: "I was called fat and ugly in the press almost my entire life. I understand that being judged by others comes with the territory, but it broke my heart and ruined my self-esteem. It sets you up to hate yourself in a huge way. I was so angry about the things people said about me. I truly believe it's the main reason I turned to Vicodin and ended up in rehab three times. I just

“ Being overweight caused me a lot of pain and rejection. I had a situation where I had applied for a job and I was actually told, 'We're sorry, you have a great attitude and excellent qualifications and a pretty face, but we cannot hire an overweight person as the first contact to our clients.' That crushed me. ”

— SAMANTHA EVANS

of "my family, my baby and God." "The only thing I can do to honour their memory is to make them proud," she said.

Like Jennifer, two years ago, a Bahamian resident, Samantha Evans walked around "wearing a smile, but carrying a heart full of pain," desperate to end the cycle of obesity that had controlled her life since her early teens.

That desperation led her to make medical history, becoming one of the first people in the Bahamas to have a lap-band surgery done locally by Doctor Charles Diggiss.

"Being overweight caused me a lot of pain and rejection. I had a situation where I had applied for a job and I was actually told, 'We're sorry, you have a great attitude and excellent qualifications and a pretty face, but we cannot hire an overweight person as the first contact to our clients.' That crushed me."

"At my heaviest, I was well over 300 pounds," she said. "Fortunately, I didn't have any of the medical conditions associated with obesity like hypertension or diabetes, but I knew I had to do something to change my life. I have four children and I was not able to do things with them."

"I was familiar with the concept of weight loss surgery, I had even corresponded with a doctor in Mexico, but one day, I was at work (in the surgical unit of Doctor's Hospital) and my coworker asked me if I knew

hated myself. I'm an emotional eater. When I get upset, my diet goes out the window."

It was not until she signed up for *Dancing With the Stars* six months later, she says, that she realised how bad her diet really was. "I'd fill up on French fries and pizza all day and wonder why I wasn't losing weight. In the very beginning, I kept getting sick during rehearsals because I was eating such terrible, fatty food and feeling so exhausted."

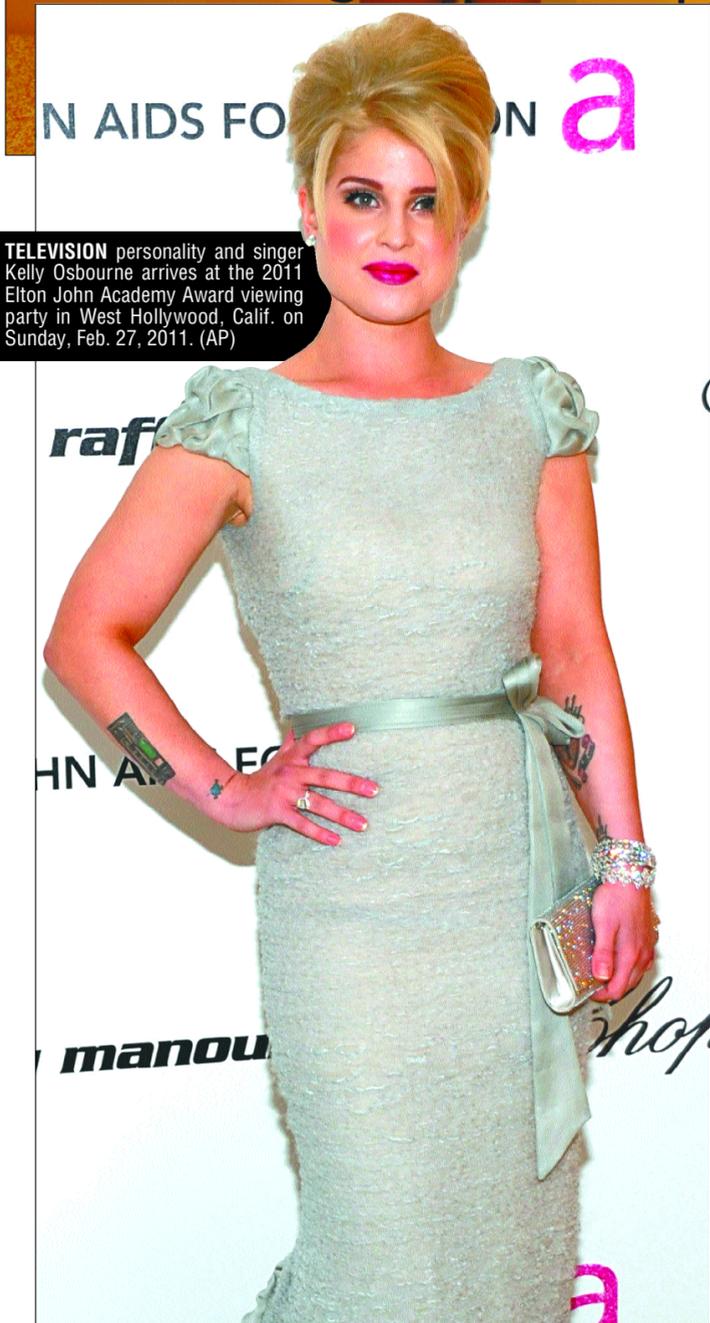
It was her dance partner, Louis van Amstel, who taught her about nutrition. "He made me eat turkey burgers and salads and explained to me that a high-protein, low-carb diet would keep me energised," she says. "Then I started losing weight and realised, 'Oh, it's true what they say: Diet and exercise really work!'"

Over the last nine months, Kelly's dropped another 30 pounds, bringing her weight loss to a total of 50." She says: "Ultimately, I'm really glad I lost the weight the way I did," says Kelly. "I never thought in a million years I'd be that healthy girl who wakes up every morning to exercise. After being called 'cherubic and chubby,' I'm rocking a bikini! I feel silly, but I think I'm going to cry. Being on the cover of SHAPE is the biggest victory I could ever hope for."

Going further, in an exclusive first person story for *Glamour Magazine*, Star Jones also discussed her battle



JENNIFER Hudson waves to photographers at Essence magazine's Black Women in Hollywood luncheon in Beverly Hills, Calif., Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011. (AP)



TELEVISION personality and singer Kelly Osbourne arrives at the 2011 Elton John Academy Award viewing party in West Hollywood, Calif. on Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011. (AP)

with weight, and her ultimate decision to have gastric bypass surgery.

CHANGE

She openly told the magazine: "I could also start in the summer of 2000, when I was a co-host on "The View" and the first media stories about my weight started to surface, but that, too, would be too easy. So why don't I start on the day that changed how I would physically appear to the world and would force me to face the reasons such drastic steps needed to be taken, August 19, 2003."

"We African American women are taught to be proud of our curves, full breasts and shapely hips. I used to look in the mirror and take pride in my figure, but that was when I was legitimately a full-figured woman. I'd gradually gone from full-figured to morbidly obese. Finally, one of my dearest friends sat me down, looked me in the eye and said, "So, what are we going to do about your weight?" She knew my weight was a subject no one dared mention, but she didn't care — she loved me too much, she said, to allow me to continue killing myself. While it was easy to deny the little voice inside my head, I found it impossible to deny my friend's. I knew in my heart that her love and respect for me were pure. I cried; I got angry — but eventually I took the first step and walked into a doctor's office," she said.

"The night before the surgery, I convinced myself that afterward everything would be fine and I could get on with the rest of my life. I had no idea that before I could move on, I would have to face the present and the past as they were, not as I wished them to be."

WOMAN

Got some greens to detox your body?

RECIPES TO HELP YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY!

RESEARCH will verify the myriad of benefits of consuming greens (smoothies). To date we've shared quite a bit of information, ranging from how to make a GREEN SMOOTHIE, the health and nutritional benefits derived from consuming GREEN SMOOTHIES and why incorporating them into your detoxification regimen is greatly beneficial.

Now, here are some recipes (in case you still haven't formulated your own) to try and enjoy. Happy blending!!

From the Kitchen of RHONDA WRIGHT, SEEDlings' Place

NOTE: All recipes can make approximately 6-7 cups so adjust quantities accordingly as well as to taste

GREEN ZING SMOOTHIE

1 banana
1 cup homemade almond mylk
2 cups of mustard greens
Guaco (or some other nutritive additive)
2-3 cups water (add 1 cup at a time)

MORE ZING GREEN JUICE

1 cucumber

LOVE YOURSELF & YOUR HEALTH

By RHONDA WRIGHT

1 cup Irish moss
2 cups of mustard greens
1/4 piece of avocado
4-6 dates
1 pear
1 cup coconut water
1-2 cups water (add a bit at a time)

NOTE: Mustard Greens are a 'spicy' green, so be ready for the ZING!!

NUTTY KALE SMOOTHIE

2-3 cups of kale
1/2 cup Irish moss
1 Tbl maple syrup
1 cup almond mylk
3 bananas
1" ginger

ADDITIONAL RECIPES:- BASIC SMOOTHIE

4 bananas or

2-3 bananas and 1/2 cup of frozen blueberries
2 tsp bee pollen
1 sachet of Berry Radical Antioxidant Superfood (or fresh blueberries)
1 cup of water or fresh squeezed orange juice
generous portion of greens
1 tsp vanilla extract (this is the secret of calming down the greenness that can sometimes overpower the smoothie, if you have put a bit too much in taste wise)

PARSLEY & LEMON TAKES MY LIVER TO HEAVEN

1 bunch of flat leaf parsley (keep the tender stalks and chop off the tough ones)
1-2 lemons with the rind, pith and seeds removed
1-2 bananas
20-30g of sweetener of choice
1 cup of ice blocks
2 cups of water

ENZYME FRENZY

2 bananas
1 cup chopped papaya (red or yellow)
1 cup freshly squeezed orange juice
a big handful of greens

This naturally enzyme rich smoothie is easy to digest as it won't tax your own pancreas!

Bloody Great Green Smoothie
55 per cent coconut water
45 per cent greens

Blood is made up plasma and blood cells. Plasma comprises 55 per cent of blood, fluid and is mostly water (90 per cent by volume) and containing dissolved proteins, glucose, mineral ions, hormones, carbon dioxide, platelets and blood cells themselves. Blood cells are mainly red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. Red blood cells are the most abundant and they contain hemoglobin, an iron-containing protein.

The plant version of hemoglobin is chlorophyll which is a green pigment based around a magnesium ion as opposed to iron (haem). Both hemoglobin and chlorophyll exist to obtain energy.

Coconut water is a natural liquid closest in structure to blood plasma and has been used in wars instead of plasma when supplies were low. So combine 55 per cent coconut water and 45 per cent greens and you have a BLOODY great smoothie!

So there you have it - no excuses to not get in the kitchen (or wherever the blender can fit) and get to blending. You have your tips, your rationale, discounts on blenders from Q-Club - the only thing missing now is you.

Join the Love Yourself team Tuesday, March 8, for the next Let's Talk Wellness Tuesday forum where Chad Thompson and Mark Daniels of h.o.m.e.grown will speak on the topic: Backyard Farming made easy. They will share the basics on growing naturally so you can grow greens in your own backyard. It will be held at the Ardastra Gardens (next to Botanical Gardens) at 6.30pm. The forum is open to the general public and is free to attend.

To get more details on these and other events of the campaign, befriend us on facebook: seedlingsplace or Love Yourself and Your Health Campaign, or call us at 361-6314.

Disclaimer: The information enclosed in this article does not replace medical advice. Please see your medical practitioner for guidance before you begin or make any adjustment to your current wellness plan.

Resources: www.squidoo.com

One shoe can change your life!

BABY boomers might be surprised to learn that many of their generation are wearing the wrong size shoes. Overtime, feet can widen or flatten, and fat padding on the sole of the feet can wear down. Weight gain or loss, activity and lifestyle changes, and foot problems can also contribute to changes in shoe fit. It is important to be fitted by a professional occasionally, rather than simply choosing the sizes you have worn in the past.

Reduce Stress on Your Body and Sole - Stress on the feet can lead to many major health problems!

There are many things that contribute to feet widening and flattening such as **flip flops**. Most flip flops are awful for your feet as they lack the support necessary to control and support the foot.

However, you can very well wear a flip flop designed to



FOOT SOLUTIONS

By BERNADETTE GIBSON

give the appropriate support for your arch type (high, medium or low), and having a 'heel cup' to stop the heel from spreading and at the same time adequately support the ankle.

A supportive flip flop combined with a properly designed 'foot bed' will put your foot in its natural position for walking and standing. By putting your foot in balance, the alignment of other joints will be improved. Properly aligned joints mean less stress and strain and pain.

As the feet widen or flatten, due to improper footwear or weight gain, it is often squeezed into the same size shoes. This is extremely dan-

gerous as it can interfere with your blood circulation and can pose a major health problem such as a stroke.

In today's business world, while it is important for you to look your very best by complementing that perfect outfit with a cute pair of high heel shoes or for the men, trendy looking shoes, it is absolutely necessary to note that these magnificent creations often lead to foot pain at the end of the day. While I understand that certain occasions require you to wear shoes with less support, I would recommend that you follow these simple tips to get away with looking your best while feeling great:

1. Try to choose shoes with a reasonable heel height of 1.5 to 2 inches. Look for shoes that provide ample toe room (beware of pointed toe styles) and contain a back

strap or enclosed back. The same holds true for men with the exception of heel height.

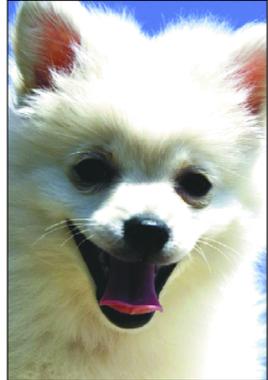
2. If you are having trouble achieving the appropriate fit with shoes you already own, take them to a local specialty footwear store or Pedorthic facility and they can modify your shoes to fit your feet.

3. Purchase a slim arch support that your shoe can accommodate. Specialty footwear stores and Pedorthic facilities have options that will fit almost any shoe.

In conclusion, it is important to note that as the body changes in size so do the feet. We often fail to recognise this fact, even though we are wearing larger sizes in dresses and slacks. Believe it or not, your feet have changed in size

and shape in some cases due to the stress of ill fitting, tight, and too small shoes over the years. However, kudos goes to the few who always did and continue to pay attention to their feet in wearing properly fitted footwear.

• Bernadette D. Gibson, a Board Certified & Licensed Pedorthist, is the proprietor of Foot Solutions, a health and wellness franchise that focuses on foot care and proper shoe fit, located in the Trinity Plaza, West Bay Street, Nassau, Bahamas
www.footsolutions.com/nassau
The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Foot Solutions Incorporated or any of its subsidiary and/or affiliated companies. Please direct any questions or comments to nassau@footsolutions.com or 322-FOOT (3668).



DISORDER: Alopecia X usually occurs in plush-coated breeds, most commonly Pomeranians and Samoyeds, but can occur in any breed of dog.

Alopecia X



By DR BASIL SANDS

ALOPECIA X is a disorder of the hair follicles that most likely reflects a defect in the ability of the hair follicles to cycle properly through its growing and resting stages.

Alopecia X may be a component of a typical Cushing Disease. It usually occurs in plush-coated breeds, most commonly Pomeranians and Samoyeds, but can occur in any breed of dog. It can also occur in at any age. Gradual loss of primary hair progresses to complete alopecia of the neck, tail, both sides of the trunk, back of thighs and under the tail. Usually the head and front limbs are spared. Hair loss is bilaterally, symmetrical and the alopecic skin becomes hyper-pigmented and thin.

Mid seborrhea and secondary superficial pyoderma may occur. There are no systemic signs of illness with this condition. It usually diagnosed by ruling out other causes of endocrine alopecia.

Controversy exists as to whether this disease requires treatment because it is mainly a cosmetic problem and affected dogs are otherwise healthy. Neutering of intact dogs may induce permanent or temporary hair regrowth. Drugs such as melatonin, mitotane trilostane have been used for this condition.

The decision whether to treat this condition in your dog requires a thoughtful discussion with your veterinarian, as well as careful weighing of the pros and cons of treatment. The prognosis for hair regrowth is unpredictable. This is a cosmetic disease only that does not affect the dog's quality of life.

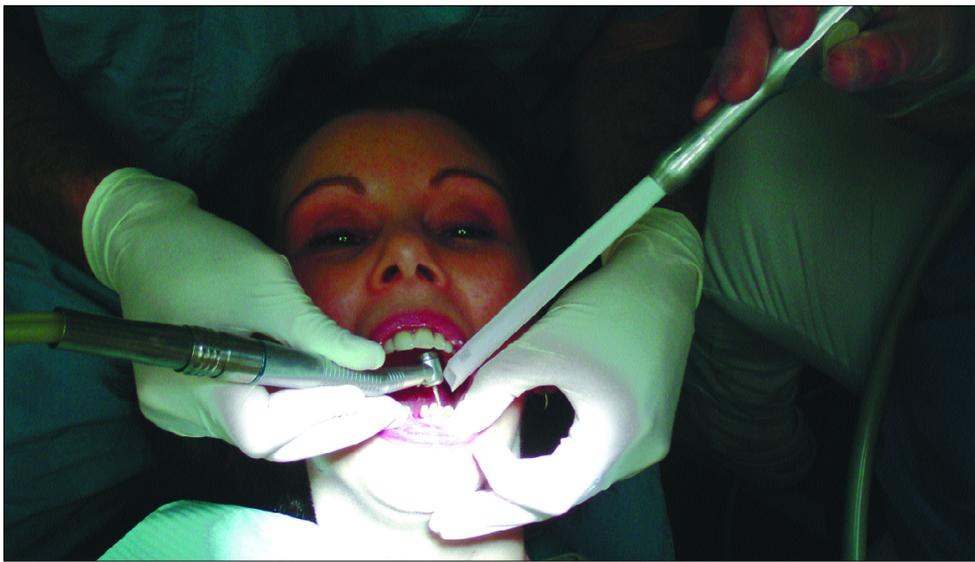
Dental Anxiety and Phobia

IN THE general population, psychological problems relating to receiving dental treatments are common. It is reported that about half of all dental patients experience some anxiety towards their dental visit. This fear can lead to a delay in seeking necessary dental care, cancellation of appointments and poor cooperation in the dental chair. Dental fear is one of the most troublesome patient management problems for a dental team. It causes distress for the patient and results in high stress levels in dentists.

An anxiety and a phobia are quite different and the words should not be used synonymously. They are managed and treated differently by your dental practitioner. An anxiety is a normal state of apprehension, uncertainty, and fear resulting from the anticipation of a realistic or fantasised threatening event or situation. It often impairs physical and psychological functioning. A phobia is an abnormal intense and irrational fear of a given situation, organism, or object. A dental anxiety is a normal state of mind and a dental phobia is an abnormal state of mind.

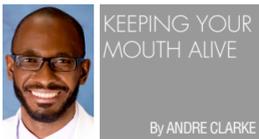
Dental phobia is classified in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fourth edition, text revision (DSM-IV-TR) as a specific phobia, which involves a marked and persistent fear of a specific object, activity or situation that results in anxiety on confronting the phobic stimulus. People with dental phobia commonly describe two types of experiences: a painful or traumatic dental procedure or a negative personal interaction with dental staff. It is common for the experiences to first occur in childhood or in adolescence autonomously. However, fearful attitudes and feelings of lack of control in dental situations can also be learnt from others.

The 'blood-injection-injury'



FEAR OF THE CHAIR:

It is reported that about half of all dental patients experience some anxiety towards their dental visit. This fear can lead to a delay in seeking necessary dental care, cancellation of appointments and poor cooperation in the dental chair.



KEEPING YOUR MOUTH ALIVE

By ANDRÉ CLARKE

type of specific phobia includes fear of needles, injections, drills and fear of blood in the dental situation. In the 'situational' type of specific phobia, there may be fear of the dental room, dental personnel or the smells and sounds associated with dental treatment. In the 'other' type of specific phobia, the person is anxious about occurrences such as gagging and retching. It is worth noting that gagging and retching result from a combination of psychological and physiological factors. The gagging and retching response can be so intense

that some persons cannot wear dentures or take dental impressions.

Dental practitioners have a

responsibility to avoid subjecting patients to traumatic dental experiences, but may not always be aware when they are occurring. It is sometimes not advisable to perform several extractions or complete large amounts of conservation work in different areas of the mouth at a single office visit. These types of procedures can create or exacerbate anxieties (normal) which can grow into phobias (abnormal). The practitioner must be especially careful, if there is poor patient cooperation or if there is patient distress.

Dental practitioners can treat dental phobias themselves or enlist the help of the patient's general practitioner or psychologist. It is very important for dentists to understand patients' fears and to explain the proposed

dental treatment. People with specific fears such as gagging and needle phobia may respond best to empathetic patient care, with the

addition of relaxation techniques. Relaxation techniques can sometimes last up to four hours prior to the procedure. Patients may also be offered a mixture of nitrous oxide (laughing gas) and oxygen to inhale, which can reduce pain experienced and produce relaxation. Tranquilizers injected directly into the veins can also

help. Some practitioners will in addition, play soothing music to promote patient relaxation. Only a few patients will require this type of specialist care.

Those with severe symptoms should have a thorough assessment by an experienced psychologist or psychiatrist and a carefully structured treatment programme. A psychiatrist is sometimes needed because dental anxiety may be part of a greater type of anxiety disorder e.g. generalised anxiety disorder, panic disorder or agoraphobia (a pathological fear of being in public places).

It is crucial that if you sus-

pect you have a dental phobia, to set up a meeting with your dental healthcare provider. He will ensure you get the help you need. What you consider a phobia (abnormal) may be just an anxiety

(normal). Do not delay in seeking necessary dental help because of a possible dental anxiety. It can be managed successfully and you can enjoy excellent oral health.

• Dr. André R. Clarke, DDS, MBBS
Special Care Dentistry

"This article is for informational purposes only. It is not intended and may not be treated as, a substitute for professional medical/dental advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of a physician or dental professional with any questions you may have regarding a medical/dental condition. Never disregard professional medical/dental advice or delay in seeking it because of a purely informational publication."

WOMAN

You GO Girl!

A spotlight on the talented women in our community



Philippa ES Davis, MD:

She's Doctor do-good and then some

Philippa Davis, MD, laughs when a family friend suggests it won't be long before her dad, well-known attorney and Member of Parliament for Cat Island Philip 'Brave' Davis, is introduced as the father of the famed Dr Philippa Davis.

"Never," chuckles the MP's daughter, in Nassau for a short visit recently. A Lyford Cay Foundation recipient, Dr Davis completed her undergraduate degree at McGill University in Canada (with distinction), her medical degree at Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, DC (earning membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honour Society), her internship in internal medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, her residency in Anesthesiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and her fellowship in Critical Care Medicine at Stanford Hospital and Clinics in California.

After 13 years of college and med school, she was certified in Critical Care Medicine in October and at the age of 31 is licensed to practise in California, Massachusetts and Virginia --and, by the way, had time along the way to volunteer in Mwanza, Tanzania.

"I would not have made it this far without the loving support and sacrifices of my family and friends, especially my parents and grandparents," said Dr Davis, now affiliated with Inova Fairfax Hospital in Fairfax, Virginia, a level one trauma centre.

The long journey, she said, also taught her that "the things most worthwhile are not easy to come by."

"The one thing she had to give up," says mom, Janice Davis, who has been with the Government of The Bahamas for 30 years, "is sports." A star athlete, Davis represented The Bahamas at the Caribbean Island Swimming Championships in Curacao at the age of 12.

It was a trade-off she was willing to make.

"I am humbled and blessed that God has given me the gifts to care for patients in their most vulnerable times of need," says Dr Davis, a member of the American Society of Anesthesiology and the Society of Critical Care Medicine. After lengthy training, Davis wants to gain more experience in high volume and acuity level one trauma before returning to The Bahamas to practise.

• Know another woman who is making it big? Email us at features@tribunemedia.net and she may be featured as the next "You Go Girl."



Dr. Philippa Davis

Francis recognised for exemplary character trait

By DEBI SWICK-CRUSE

JESSICA Francis, a student at Potomac State College (PSC) of West Virginia University, has been recognised for exemplifying the character trait of respect.

Each year, the college honours selected students by choosing them as CHARACTER COUNTS! students for various character traits.

One individual who nominated Francis stated, "In my 19 years of working in higher education, Jessica is one of the most respectful students I have had the opportunity to work with."

Francis is a general agriculture major from Nassau in the Bahamas and a graduate of CV Bethel Senior High School. She plays the position of center on the Potomac State Catamounts basketball team and according to Head Coach Jim Walton, "Jessica always gives one hundred per cent and has contributed to our current record of 23 - 3."

Jessica was born and raised in Nassau. She took karate for 13 years, retiring with a first-degree black belt. She performed volunteer community service at a geriatric hospital and was named 'Rookie of the Year' by a night-league basketball team in the Bahamas. She is the daughter of Jeffrey and Andrea Francis.

Potomac State continues to honour students with the CHARACTER COUNTS! Program, which is an outgrowth of The Joseph & Edna Josephson Institute of Ethics. This non-profit organization is dedicated to helping people make principled decisions in order that they might live with greater integrity.



Jessica Francis

I would not have made it this far without the loving support and sacrifices of my family and friends, especially my parents and grandparent.

Stomach pacemaker could help obese lose weight

LONDON Associated Press

PATRICK Hetzner tried diets and exercise, just about everything short of stomach stapling to lose weight. Nothing worked. Five months ago he tried something new: a stomach pacemaker that curbed his appetite.

Since having it implanted, Hetzner, a 20-year-old Munich mailman, has knocked off more than 10 kilos (22 pounds) from his earlier weight of 104 kilos (229 pounds).

Hetzner got the device as part of a clinical trial. Since being approved by Britain last month, the device is available for sale across the European Union. It works a bit like a cardiac pacemaker, and consists of a stimulator and a sensor surgically implanted onto the stomach.

The stimulator sends out electrical pulses meant to trick the stomach and brain into thinking the body is full. Hetzner said the pulses kick in a few minutes after he starts eating or drinking. He said they make him feel full after finishing about half the amount of food he would normally eat.

"It feels like a little pressure on my stomach or a tickle, but it's not a bad feeling," he said in a telephone interview.

"It's been like a little guide to help me change my life," he said.

So far, about 65 patients in two studies have received the device from U.S. pacemaker manufacturer Intrapace. Only about half of those have had the pacemaker for at least a year, and most lost about 20 per cent of their weight and kept it off.

Other stomach pacemakers are on the market but most are used to relieve symptoms like nausea and vomiting, not to fight obesity.

Appetite is partly controlled by signals sent from nerves around the stomach to the brain; the stomach pacemaker taps into that communication system, sending a message to the brain that the body is full



IN THIS Friday, February 25, 2011 photo Thomas Horbach, chief of surgery at Stadt Krankenhaus Schwabach, who led one of the trials, is seen in his office in the hospital in Schwabach, near Nuremberg, Germany, Horbach implanted a stomach pacemaker that helps regulate the amount of food users take in. Patrick Hetzner, a 20-year-old Munich mailman, has knocked off more than 10 kilos (22 pounds) from his earlier weight of 104 kilos (229 pounds). (AP)

after a relatively small amount of food is consumed.

"If you can stimulate the nerves going from the stomach to the brain, that should indeed have an effect in reducing food intake," said Stephen Bloom, an obesity expert at Imperial College in London, who is not connected to Intrapace or the clinical trials.

Bloom, however, questioned whether the device would work long-term, as people might eventually get used to the electrical pulses and keep eating anyway.

Doctors familiar with the pacemaker say there will always be ways for patients to eat and work around the system. "We could make the (stomach pacemaker) work so people feel like

they're going to throw up, but we don't want that," said Thomas Horbach, chief of surgery at Stadt Krankenhaus Schwabach, near Munich, who led one of the trials.

"If you take away all the responsibilities from the patient, they will not change on their own."

As an additional benefit, the sensor tracks when patients eat, drink or exercise, so patients can chart their progress. Intrapace has also created an online network for patients to trade weight loss advice and share experiences.

Other surgical approaches to weight loss come with serious side effects.

People who have their stomach stapled or have a gastric

band must eat smaller amounts of mostly low-fat foods, because their stomachs can't accommodate or process large volumes. If they overeat, they will feel nauseous, vomit, or suffer from other problems.

The most serious side effect seen in the pacemaker has been an infection linked to surgery. In Britain, the pacemaker costs about 15,000 pounds (\$24,040), including the keyhole surgery used to implant it. Intrapace President Chuck Brynensen said that's comparable to other weight loss surgeries.

The device is authorized for sale across the EU, though the company is first targeting weight loss clinics in Britain, Germany and Spain. It also plans to submit the device for approval in

the US once it has more data, and hopes it will be available there in 2014.

The pacemaker hasn't yet been implanted commercially in Europe, but Intrapace is in talks with clinics interested in offering it.

Brynensen said the battery in the device lasts about five years and it will be up to patients how long they want to keep the pacemaker. "We don't know if patients will see (the stomach pacemaker) as a bridge to recovery or whether this is a crutch they will need for the longer term," he said.

Some experts said the pacemaker did not address people's underlying reasons for overeating. "The problem with these devices is they assume people

are rational and that they eat because they're hungry," said Stephan Rossner, a professor in the obesity unit at Karolinska University Hospital.

"A lot of obese patients eat because they're depressed, they can't sleep at night, or they have nobody to have sex with," he said. "So whatever you insert into their stomach, they can out-eat that device because it's other things that drive them to consume."

Hetzner said he intends to keep the stomach pacemaker for about four years.

"I don't want to backslide," he said, adding he would recommend the device to others. "I want to be sure I can stick with it and that my body adapts to this new way of eating."



EMPTINESS: In an attempt to fill the void of loneliness and share in true companionship with another, some women get carried away in this quest. They become so obsessed with being in a relationship that they end up settling for less, at the expense of losing themselves and all of their hopes and dreams.

WOMEN WHO LOVE TOO MUCH

By **JEFFARAH GIBSON**
Tribune Features Writer

WHEN we have lost sight of our dreams, while getting caught up in his, we are loving too much. When we keep hoping that he will change, even though we know deep down inside that this transformation will never occur, we are loving too much. When we plan our entire existence around him, we are loving too much. And when we try to hold onto a relationship that is terribly broken and cannot be revived we are loving too much.

In an attempt to fill the void of loneliness and share in true companionship with another, some women get carried away in this quest. They become so obsessed with being in a relationship that they end up settling for less, at the expense of losing themselves and all of their hopes and dreams. In essence they end up loving too much!

But where do they find the answers to this ordeal. How do they stop themselves from becoming so absorbed in their mate, and how do stop themselves from loving too much?

Tribune Woman spoke to a few ladies to seek answers. Some of the women expressed their views on this issue and even admitted to loving so much, to that point where they became both physically and emotionally wounded.

Shantavia Sweeting* told Tribune Woman how she came to overcome her

emotional wreckage. "I am so guilty of loving too much. I surrounded my entire life around my boyfriend and I didn't realise what I was doing. Before making plans with friends I had to check with my boyfriend first to make sure he didn't have plans for us. Every single weekend would meet me spending time with him. And when he decided to go out with his friends instead of hanging out with me that was a major problem. I would find anything to argue about just so that he would not go out anymore and my behaviour was just sad man. I didn't have a life. I needed a life. Then it came to the point where I just had it with me being so consumed with him."

"I had to evaluate myself and I found that I was so emotionally dependent. Then I realised I had to get my own life and do the things that made me happy. I had to find my own happiness," she said.

Melody Edgcombe had this to say: "I feel as though its okay to love someone but not to the point where it seems as though you may love them more than you love yourself and you shouldn't waste time giving love to someone that doesn't appreciate you that much or doesn't think that much of you because in the end you'll only end up hurting yourself," she said.

Latoya Poirier said whenever she saw a beautiful couple out she always felt the need to be in a relationship.

"I'm sure at some point and time we all have. We find ourselves going crazy just to keep someone who really doesn't value us because there is always something new for men to go after. I've always been in relationships, I don't like being alone or the thought of being alone did something to me. It's like when you're not with someone whenever you go out you see all the couples out holding hands. I hate the thought of failing at anything. What I would do is go out and date then fall in love all over again. But that never changed anything and the cycle continued," she said.

"That's why I took a very short break and I allowed love to come to me instead of going out there looking for it."

In an effort to bring upliftment to women, Stanya Davis, decided to start Eve's Journey, a workshop designed to help women discover their true beauty.

Tribune Woman sat down with Stanya

Davis, organiser of the workshop "Women Who love Too Much", who expressed her views on the issue.

"When being in love means being in pain we are loving too much. When most of our conversations with intimate friends are about him, we are loving too much. When we keep hoping he will change we are loving too much. When our relationship jeopardises our emotional well being and perhaps even our physical health and safety we are definitely loving too much. This characterises the women that love too much and I think all women have been at this point where they are guilty of loving too much."

Ms Davis is a life coach and had done a great deal of research on "Women Who Love Too Much."

"The thing these women fear is being alone and they think if I hold on to this it can work. It is almost as though they cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel or they don't see themselves doing better or they don't think they can find something better."

She said women who are guilty of loving too much must find time to evaluate themselves. She said they must learn to love themselves truly before they can love anyone else. "Loving yourself does not happen in one day".

The workshop takes place this Saturday.

For more information log onto their facebook page Eve's Journey.

Jergens
new **naturals**

Put your best skin out there®

Hydrate
Soothe
Refresh
Renew