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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2010

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INSIDE

Secret Sound winner

MOTHER OF THREE WINS \$9,900 - SEE PAGE FIVE

INSIDE

Win a weekend getaway with Tribune Trivia

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INSIDE

CARS FOR SALE, HELP WANTED AND REAL ESTATE

BAHAMAS BIGGEST

Classified Trader

Huge blaze leaves hundreds homeless

Families seek shelter after Haitian village fire

By **AVA TURNQUEST**
Tribune Staff Reporter
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

DEVASTATED by the indiscriminate fire that consumed more than 100 wooden shanties on Boxing Day, nearly all of the residents in the Haitian village off Carmichael Road are now homeless.

With displaced families seeking shelter in cars and in some cases sleeping outside, less than 20 wooden structures remain in the area on Alan Drive known as "Mackey Yard" - spared

only by chance from the wind-driven blaze.

Former residents, family members and onlookers walked carefully through the sea of tin roofs and still-smouldering remnants yesterday, as community leaders attempted to organize the distribution of a sparse supply of vital goods and clothing.

Pastor Celiner St. Louis of Gospel Assembly, lead organizer of the immediate relief efforts, said: "We have started to carry some peo-

SEE page 11



AFTERMATH: Pastor Celiner St. Louis of Gospel Assembly surveys the damage.

SAXONS ARE UNOFFICIAL BOXING DAY WINNERS



BOXING DAY PARADE: A Saxons member on Bay Street yesterday morning. The group, with their theme 'Conquest of the Great Aztec Empire', were the unofficial parade winners.

BRAVING icy temperatures and struggling with their costumes as gale force winds blew them down Bay Street paid off for the Saxon Superstars who beat out the Valley Boys to become the unofficial winners of the 2010 Boxing Day Parade with their theme "Conquest of the Great Aztec Empire."

While the Saxons celebrated their victory of the A Category, members of the Roots Junkanoo group were left devastated after they were disqualified when they failed to make it out of the gate on time.

Roots were scheduled to be the first

group of the night and were supposed to leave the gate at midnight.

However, due to weather conditions, the group could not go out with some of their lead pieces. Rumours reportedly quickly began circulating that due to this Roots was disqualified. These rumours, according to group members, turned out to be false.

With morale destroyed, the group then missed their midnight mark to come out of the blocks. By the time the group rallied to make an appearance

SEE page two

BTC CHAIRMAN IN TELEVISED DEBATE CHALLENGE TO UNION LEADERS

By **TANEKA THOMPSON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
tthompson@tribunemedia.net

BTC Chairman Julian Francis has challenged union leaders to a televised debate on the impending sale of the state-run utility company so that he can "shame them publicly."

"I wish Mr Evans and Mr Carroll would propose to me to debate these issues on TV, I would be willing to do it and have both of them in front of me. I'm ready to shame them publicly anytime they're ready," Mr Francis told The Tribune.

His statements are part of an ongoing war of words between himself, Bernard Evans and William Carroll - the leaders of the Bahamas Communication and Public Officers Union and the Bahamas Communications Public Manager's Union respectively.

The union leaders believe the bidding process for potential BTC buyers was a "sham," claiming that C&W was a favourite long before they were selected as the new owner of BTC.

"Cable & Wireless didn't

SEE page 12

'NO SURPRISES' IN BTC MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

By **TANEKA THOMPSON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
tthompson@tribunemedia.net

THERE will be no surprises when the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Government and BTC buyer Cable & Wireless is released, said BTC Chairman Julian Francis, who added that all the relevant details have already been made public.

Government signed the MOU with C&W on December 2 to purchase 51 per cent of the state-run telecommunications company but have yet to release the document, despite pressure from unions and the opposition party. The Ingraham administration has said it is still finalising a business plan with C&W and once these details are negotiated they will be made public at least two weeks before Parliamentarians debate the issue. This is expected to happen by the end of the second week of January, 2011.

Mr Francis, who has seen the MOU, said public statements from government and

SEE page 12

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LOCAL NEWS

BOXING DAY JUNKANOO PARADE

TIM CLARKE/TRIBUNE STAFF

VALLEY BOYS



COLOURS



FANCY DANCERS



ROOTS



ROOTS

SAXONS



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Saxons' Boxing Day Junkanoo unofficial victory

FROM page one

they were late by over an hour and were officially disqualified.

Some Roots members, who said costumes were ripped off their dancers by the wind, expressed frustration with the decision by Junkanoo leaders to go ahead with the parade despite the adverse weather conditions.

The forceful winds, however, were more forgiving when it came to the other groups.

The Saxon Superstars unofficially won the parade with 2328 points. They also won the Shirley Street Award, Best Costume, Best Music, Best Banner, Best Off-the-Shoulder and tied for Best Choreographed Dancers with One Family.

The Valley Boys, with their theme of "Let the Music Play - Music Hall of Fame," placed second with 2294 points; they were followed by One Family in third place, Music Makers in fourth and Prodigal Sons in fifth place.

The Category B was won by Colours Entertainment, who were followed by Conquerors for Christ in second and Redland Soldiers in third place.

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LOCAL NEWS

US weather cancels flights from Bahamas



PEOPLE PASS TWO CITY BUSES that were both stuck in the snow, Monday, Dec. 27, 2010 in the Brooklyn borough of New York. A powerful East Coast blizzard menaced would be travelers Monday. (AP)

TRAVELLERS were left stranded after flights from the Lynden Pindling International Airport into New York and Boston were cancelled over the weekend due to heavy snowstorms affecting the East Coast of the United States.

Flights into Newark Airport in New Jersey, La Guardia and JFK airports in New York and Logan Airport in Boston, Mass., were affected by the storm.

Two airlines at LPIA, Jet Blue and Continental, which service the East Coast were forced to cancel flights because of the inclement weather.

The three-day snowstorm left the East Coast under several feet of snow. New York City was expected to be blanketed with about 20 inches of snow last night.

All airports in New York were closed on Monday because of the massive blizzard with John F Kennedy Airport set to open at 4 pm yesterday.

Travellers are advised to check the status of their flights with their airline carrier before heading to the airport.

Swift action leads to apprehension of bag snatcher

MEMBERS of *The Tribune* staff were shaken and outraged on Christmas Eve after a brazen thief snatched an employee's purse in the newspaper's parking lot.

The swift action of concerned citizens and the police, however, led to the bandit's apprehension minutes after he fled the scene, and the return

of the purse. "I feel it is terrible that on Christmas Eve someone would do something like that," one irate employee said. "Around 8.45 am I reported to work," said the employee. "By the time I reached upstairs waiting for the door to be opened I happened to look back outside and saw my daughter screaming in the yard

and a male figure running across the street with my bag which I had left on the floor of the car.

"He ran in another parking lot. I went and screamed and called for help. "There were people passing by who were able to answer to my call and continued to chase the gentleman across by Doctor's Hospital, into the Chamber of Commerce yard and then into the museum yard where he was apprehended."

"The police were called. The police did a good job. They came quickly and I can thank God for grace and mercy," the employee said.

An eyewitness identified as Reid stated, "I didn't know what was going on when I heard the lady screaming. I saw the man running and I ran after

him, he started throwing things out of the bag. Me and two other guys, we were able to get him."

Assistant Commissioner of Police Hulan Hanna said that police have not seen a notable increase in purse snatching incidents this holiday season.

THREE INJURED IN LIQUOR STORE SHOOTING

THREE men were injured, one critically, during a shooting at a liquor store over the holiday weekend.

The incident occurred around 9.20pm on Christmas Day when a gunman reportedly opened fire on three men at the B Watts Liquor store located on Bethel Avenue.

The victims - two aged 33, the other 39 - were taken to hospital in a private vehicle and by emergency medical personnel. Two are detained in stable condition and one is in critical condition.

Police are questioning a 33-year-old man of Stapledon Gardens in connection with the incident.

Investigations are also continuing into the stabbing of a teenage boy which took place on Christmas Day around 11pm.

Police said a 13-year-old boy got into an argument with another boy at the Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre and was stabbed in his left leg.

The victim was taken to hospital in a private vehicle. He was treated and later discharged.

CAR CHASE ENDS WITH SUSPECT CRASHING

A POLICE car chase early yesterday morning ended with a suspect crashing into a sign post.

The chase started around 3am when officers of the Traffic Division on routine patrol on Thompson Boulevard noticed the occupant of a silver coloured 1995 Nissan Pulsar, licence plate number 271916, acting suspiciously.

Officers attempted to stop the vehicle, however, the driver sped off.

The police gave chase and caught up with the vehicle in the area of Yellow Elder Way, after the vehicle crashed into a sign post.

Officers conducted a search of the vehicle and recovered a handgun with ammunition and a quantity of suspected marijuana.

The vehicle's driver, a 22-year-old man of Sumner Street, Nassau Village, was taken into custody.

GIRL, 3, DIES IN SUSPECTED DROWNING

POLICE suspect that a three-year-old girl drowned in waters near Half Moon Cay in South Eleuthera.

According to a brief report issued by Royal Bahamas Police Force Press Liaison Officers Sergeant Chrislyn Skippings, the child was found floating around 2.45 pm on Friday.

Police did not release the little girl's identity or additional circumstances surrounding her death up to press time. Police on Eleuthera also remained tightlipped on the investigation when contacted by *The Tribune*. Police investigations continue.

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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Tribune Limited

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Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master

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Dismayed we still cling to Privy Council

EDITORS, The Tribune.

IN 1958, I was sent by the Bahamas Government to study at the Westriding Detective Training School in Yorkshire, England. At that time the British still had capital punishment in their laws as the punishment for capital murder. As student detectives we had to memorise and discuss the murders that constituted capital murders. As I recall the killing:

- In the course or furtherance of a crime, eg rape, armed robbery, kidnapping and burglary, etc.
- A law enforcement officer in the execution of his duty or while trying to escape lawful custody.
- By the use of explosives; bombs, etc.
- By the use of poison. (Premeditated and planned).
- After being previously convicted of murder (a second murder conviction), I think treason was also on the list.

The British and the Europeans have eliminated capital punishment as the penalty for murder. Many persons in The Bahamas are yet to be persuaded hangings will significantly reduce the spiral of crime in the country. Many argue that they are yet to see any empirical evidence that executions significantly reduce murder and crime rates generally and should not be seen as a universal remedy. Police officers discern hanging as being similar to a lighthouse, which if not there several ships may be wrecked. Police records will reveal that several persons convicted for

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

murder and not put to death have returned and killed again. Police officers cannot be blamed for their views as they are the ones who are exposed to the blood, gore, death and the wheeling at the scene. They are the ones, who become engaged in the tedious investigation required to bring the murderer to justice.

I am a supporter of hanging for murder, but would recommend changes in the law to have two degrees of murder, namely capital murder and murder, with the death penalty for the capital murders. It is also recommended, that the Director of Public Prosecutions consider using conspiracy to murder as an additional charge where applicable. There are those murder cases to be retried for which jurors may have convicted for conspiracy where a unanimous verdict is not the requirement.

It is my humble view, which is shared by many, that the Privy Council will continue to obstruct hangings in the former colonies of Britain. They are likely to support the British and European efforts to abolish capital punishment.

I am disappointed that The Bahamas still clings to the judicial system of the Privy Council of England, after being supposedly independent for nearly four decades.

We are a part of CARICOM where the Caribbean

Court of Justice is the final Court of Appeal (CCJ) as far as I am aware we contribute financially to the court and to CARICOM.

We have proven that we have the moral and intellectual capacity to run our own country, but we have no faith, that we can judge ourselves.

There appears to be self doubt and unwillingness to take responsibility for our jurisprudential self-determination.

In recent months there were hints in the British Parliament that the Privy Council deliberating on cases from abroad is a burden on the British taxpayers.

It is also very well known that the Law Lords in London have commended our Caribbean Judges on judgments delivered and have reportedly stated that they are better suited to deliberate on such matters.

It has been stated, that in order to be a fair judge history, cultural norms and other aspects need to be considered. The Law Lords are challenged to understand our behaviour in their societal context.

The Bahamas is one of a number of Caribbean countries that have not yet aligned themselves with the CCJ. It is my humble opinion that appeals will be dealt with expeditiously and would be less costly.

We served with honour. We remember with pride.

PAUL THOMPSON Sr
Nassau,
December 20, 2010.

Our leaders should take stand like Australia's former Prime Minister Rudd

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Re: Whole World needs a Leader like This!

Will you kindly publish the following from Australia's former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd:

Muslims who want to live under Islamic Sharia law were told on Wednesday to get out of Australia as the government targeted radicals in a bid to head off potential terror attacks.

Separately, Rudd angered Australian Muslims on

Wednesday by saying he supported spy agencies monitoring the nation's mosques. Quote: "Immigrants, not Australians, must adapt. Take it or leave it. I am tired of this nation worrying about whether we are offending some individual or their culture. Since the terrorist attacks on Bali, we have experienced a surge in patriotism by the majority of Australians."

"This culture has been developed over two centuries of struggles, trials and victories by millions of men and women who have sought freedom.

"We speak mainly English, not Spanish, Lebanese, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian or any other language. Therefore, if you wish to become part of our society, learn the language!"

"Most Australians believe in God.

"This is not some Christian, right wing, political push, but a fact, because Christian men and women, on Christian principles, founded this nation, and this is clearly documented. It is certainly appropriate to display it on the walls of our schools. If God offends you, then I suggest

you consider another part of the world as your new home, because God is part of our culture.

"We will accept your beliefs, and will not question why. All we ask is that you accept ours, and live in harmony and peaceful enjoyment with us.

"This is Our Country, Our Land, and Our Lifestyle, and we will allow you every opportunity to enjoy all this. But once you are done complaining, whining, and griping about Our Flag, Our Pledge, Our Christian beliefs, or Our Way of Life, I highly encourage you take advantage of one other great Australian freedom, 'The right to leave.'

"If you aren't happy here then leave. We didn't force you to come here. You asked to be here. So accept the country you accepted."

In conclusion I would recommend that some of our leaders take a stand like Prime Minister Rudd.

PAT STRACHAN
Nassau
December 23, 2010.

Freedom of Information Act needed urgently

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I was pleased hearing from the Prime Minister that he thought it was time to amend the Rules and process for responding to government Tenders – he is right but the solution has to be totally, I suggest, transparent.

There is no doubt that we have to urgently established a Freedom of Information Act – there is no reason why in 2010 that the public has to go through so many hurdles, many many times still denied asking basic fundamental questions of the government.

Secrets breed corruption and there is enough evidence that our long established pirating spirit is retained in our genes so throw the door open and light up the floodlights so everything is public information.

There is no doubt that any further process to privatize BEC, Water & Sewerage and anything else of that nature cannot be developed under the current process again it has to be on the table, totally transparent and supported by a team of independent experts.

It is sad that we did not seemingly learn from the process of Cable Bahamas and here we are going into BTC and nothing changed.

I hope your publication will champion Freedom of Information immediately with the highest priority, no excuses – if as small a place as Cayman can have it why do we refuse to have one?

My answer to that is simple – why change? Let's keep everyting hush hush secret.

W THOMPSON
Nassau,
December 16, 2010.

Is union chief heading for collision with law?

JUST AS THE Bahamas is on the cusp of an economic turn-around the unions are encouraging Bahamians to re-enact the 1958 general strike, which closed down business in New Providence for three weeks.

One would have thought that Bahamians had suffered enough in the past year and a half to even be tempted to entertain such an irresponsible invitation to create chaos and further endanger their future. Those being invited to demonstrate should ask their union leaders when they pull this stunt who is going to put food on their tables, pay the school fees and clothe their children when they lose their jobs. We hope union funds are fat enough to take care of their needs, because the private sector will certainly have no sympathy with their behaviour.

Instead of getting out on the streets to flex their muscles, they should try to improve their service to the public in the hopes of saving their jobs. The taxpayers are paying for the inferior performance of too many of them and, therefore, are anxious to support a more efficient, dedicated civil service – men and women who understand they are being paid by the public to serve them. There are many commendable staff in the ranks of all of the government corporations and departments, enough that if they were not daily dragged down by the shiftless could probably make a difference. But even they are condemned to carry too much dead weight.

Mrs Jennifer Isaacs-Dotson, a PE teacher at the College of the Bahamas, who seems anxious to make a name for herself as the first woman president of the National Congress of Trade Unions of the Bahamas, said that in the near future union leaders will invite thousands of Bahamian workers from all walks of life to take a stand and "together fight oppression and injustice by a none-caring government."

It's easy to use such highfalutin, meaningless language, it might be better if she spelled out how a government that has kept this country together over this perilous period is none-caring. While European citizens have taken to the streets in demonstrations against their governments

because of the world's economic collapse, our government has been able to keep the situation relatively calm – which, of course, does not bode well for the Opposition winning the 2012 election. Although Mrs Dotson denies that the demonstrations are politically motivated all signs indicate that they are.

As Mr Ingraham told parliament earlier this year the government has done and is continuing to do all in its power "to cushion and lessen the consequential hardship brought on by this global phenomenon and to ensure that when it ends, as indeed it will, The Bahamas will be in a condition that it can benefit from the turn-around."

This he has done and the New Year will see the opening – one after the other – of projects created to carry the Bahamian people to new horizons. This success is obviously too much for the Opposition to face. Is this why economic disruption is important at this time?

We know that Mrs Dotson is a PE teacher at COB, but if she is to lead a union, we would suggest that she becomes acquainted with the law.

She uttered some dangerous words last week that could bring her on a collision course with s. 75 of the Industrial Relations Act.

Instead of her union filing a frivolous and unwinnable complaint against the Prime Minister for advising unionists of the consequences of walking off the job during an illegal strike, she should reconsider her words to the press that implied that the union movement could "oust" Mr Ingraham from his post at the next general election.

Under the Industrial Relations Act section 75 (1)(a)(ii):
"Any strike is illegal if it is a strike designed or calculated to coerce the government either directly or by inflicting hardship upon the community."

Mrs Dotson might be the first woman to head the National Congress of Trade Unions of the Bahamas, but she could also have her name etched into the history books as the first woman trade union leader to run afoul of the law.

We advise her followers to disassociate themselves from her objectives.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that TRISHA COLLINS of SKYLINE LAKES, P.O. BOX CB11130, NASSAU, BAHAMAS is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 21st DAY of December, 2010 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

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LOCAL NEWS

\$9,900 sounds good to lucky winner of 100 Jamz promotion

Mother of three wins radio station's Secret Sound

A MOTHER of three who became unemployed on Christmas Eve was the lucky winner of the latest 100 Jamz Secret Sound promotion.

Brittney Seymour guessed the sound for a prize of \$9,900 in cash, just in time for the holidays.

As caller number 17, Ms Seymour had an opportunity to reveal the sound during deejay Reality's show on the evening of Thursday, December 23.

It was then that she solved the mystery – a knife rubbing against the side of a wine glass.

When Reality congratulated her, Ms Seymour was overwhelmed by emotion.

Ms Seymour could be heard on air screaming at the top of her lungs while explaining to those around her the reason for her insanity.

On the way to collect her cheque on Christmas Eve,

Ms Seymour was given bad news.

She and her co-workers had been laid off from work because the company where they worked was closing.

Now unemployed, the winnings will help Ms Seymour care for her three daughters until she finds a job. She said she plans to manage the money wisely, saving most of it and avoiding those who are already making demands.

Ms Seymour won the Secret Sound during the fifth week of the promotion. Since the ultimate jackpot was \$17,000, 100 Jamz listeners will still have a chance to play and win at the start of the new year.



SECRET SOUND: Empress, a 100 Jamz deejay (l) presents Brittney Seymour with her \$9,900 cheque.

Housebreakings in Freeport over the holiday period

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – Several housebreakings were reported over the Christmas holiday in the Eastern and Central Divisions on Grand Bahama, police reported.

Asst Supt Loretta Mackey said police received reports of seven housebreakings and two attempted housebreakings in the Freeport area.

Ms Mackey said the break-ins occurred around noon and 8pm when persons were not at home.

“The police are encouraging home-owners to properly secure their homes and put valuable items away such as jewellery, cash, cell phone, laptops,” she said.

Ms Mackey said residents should call the police if they observe suspicious persons in their neighbourhoods walking, riding a bicycle, or driving slowing in the residential areas.

She said residents should get a good description of vehicles, and the clothing of suspicious individuals that they see.

They are asked to call 911 or Eastern Division at 373-1112 or 374-3713; High Rock Police Station at 353-5499; Central Division at 350-3138; Bazaar Station at 351-4156; Eight Mile Rock Division at 348-3444/5, and West End Division at 346-6444.

FIRE

The Fire Department is continuing its investigation into a house fire that occurred in Pinedale, Eight Mile Rock on Friday, December 24.

Ms Mackey reported that a single story wooden structure was fully engulfed in flames when firemen arrived. Although the fire was extinguished, the building was destroyed.

She said no one was

and taken to hospital, where they were treated and discharged.

Police reported a total of eight traffic accidents over the Christmas weekend. Only one person was injured

and taken to hospital, where they were treated and discharged.

ASP Mackey said motorists should drive with care and caution.

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MATT DAMON
JOSH BROLIN

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TRUE GRIT

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Movie	Rating	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:45
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS	NEW	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:45
TRUE GRIT	NEW	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:20	10:50
LITTLE FOCKERS	T	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:00	8:30	10:40
TRON LEGACY	B	1:00	3:20	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:45
YOGI BEAR	A	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:30
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	A	1:00	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:35
TANGLED	A	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:35
THE FIGHTER	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:40
HOW DO YOU KNOW	T	1:05	3:20	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
THE TOURIST	T	1:10	3:25	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:40
FOR COLORED GIRLS	C	1:05	4:05	N/A	7:05	N/A	10:05

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Movie	Rating	1:15	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:20	10:45
LITTLE FOCKERS	T	1:15	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:20	10:45
YOGI BEAR	A	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:35
THE FIGHTER	C	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
THE TOURIST	T	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:45
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	A	1:10	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:30	10:30
TRON LEGACY	B	1:15	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:50

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LOCAL NEWS

Two memorial services to be held for Wayne Lowe

TWO memorial services will be held in celebration of the life of Wayne Lowe, who died on Christmas eve — Friday, December 24 — after a brief illness. The first service will be held on Thursday at 2pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Frederick Street in Nassau and the second at Epworth Methodist Chapel, Cherokee Sound, Abaco, on Monday, January 3, 2011 at 3pm.

Wayne Richard Lowe was born in Nassau on Wednesday, November 7, 1928, the last of the three children of James R and J Valeria

Lowe. He completed his schooling at Western Senior School after a stint at Whale Cay All Age School when his father worked there for Miss Betty "Joe" Carstairs, renowned woman speedboat racer and owner of the cay.

Mechanic

A mechanic by trade, he started his career at Water Works under Mr. Jack Cole. Moving on to Neil Brothers, working with his uncle Bernard Malone as an electrician, he then returned to

the car business at Central Garage with his dear friend Mark Murray.

He settled in for several years in the late 1960's and early 1970's with Neville Roberts and his varied companies, both in Nassau and Marsh Harbour, Abaco. One of the projects of which he was most proud was the construction of the cement silos at Clifton Pier.

In 1972 he joined Nassau Motor Co. Ltd with his life long friend, Roy Smith, eventually becoming its Managing Director until his death.

In 1945 Wayne met the love of his life, Phyllis (nee Higgs) and they were married on May 3, 1949. They remained inseparable for 61 years.

He was pre-deceased by his parents, brother Mur-

phy, sister Mizpah Collins and grandson Brian Pinder, son-in-laws, Jeffrey Sands and Derek Albury. He is survived by his wife Phyllis, daughters Julie Cates, Linda Albury, son Richard (Rick), son-in-law James Cates, daughter-in-law Joanne Lowe, grandchildren, Cameron Sands, Randy Pinder, Christopher and Matthew Lowe, Brant and Craig Albury, granddaughters-in-law, Amy Sands, Heather Pinder, Kate Lowe and Judy Albury. Great grandchildren, Kirstie Albury, Rhiannon Pinder and Wyatt Sands and many other nieces and nephews, in-laws, relatives and friends.

The family would like to offer special thanks to Dr. Wesley Francis, Dr. Leander Moncur, Dr. Duane



WAYNE LOWE died on Friday.

Sands, Dr. Sheena Antonio-Collie, Dr. Patrick Cargill and the ICU and IMCU nurses and patient care technicians at Doctors Hospital.

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Freighter crew members expected to be charged with human trafficking

MEMBERS of a five-man freighter crew are expected to be charged with human trafficking when the courts reopen this week after they were stopped by the Defence Force on Christmas Eve with suspected Dominican Republic nationals onboard.

Members of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Dauntless P-49, commanded by Acting Sub Lieutenant Byron McClain, responded to a call last Friday from a vessel in the vicinity of Hope Town, Abaco claiming to be disabled.

The officers boarded and searched the 65-foot wooden

freighter and found 24 persons suspected of being Dominicans onboard.

They were unable to produce proper documentation and were consequently arrested by the RBDF and taken to Marsh Harbour where they were turned over to the police.

Crew

The vessel's five crew members are expected to be charged with human trafficking and the 19 passengers for illegal entry into the Bahamas.

The Defence Force also apprehended a group of 80 Haitians over the holiday weekend.

The crew of the Defence Force vessel Enduring Friendship EF-130, commanded by Petty Officer Lucitas Greene, responded to intelligence received from the US Coast Guard about the possible sighting of a Haitian sloop on Sunday afternoon.

An "unsanitary sailing sloop" was found and boarded some six miles southwest of Mathew Town, Inagua.

The Haitians onboard – 65 men, 11 women and four children – were handed over to the US Coast Guard to be taken back to Haiti.

We take this opportunity to wish all our valued customers

A blessed and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

2010 HOLIDAY SEASON HOLIDAY HOURS

Friday, December 31st	Closes at 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 1st	Closed
Monday, January 3rd	Closed
Tuesday, January 4th	Normal Hours

Please remember to make electricity conservation one of your New Year's Resolutions.

THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BOARD
JEMI HEALTH & WELLNESS AND BODY ZONE FITNESS

Invite applicants for participation in the

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JANUARY – APRIL, 2011

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- **First Prize** - A one-year gym membership, \$1000 wardrobe certificate and \$1000.00 grocery voucher
- **Second Prize** - A one-year gym membership, \$500.00 wardrobe certificate and \$500.00 grocery voucher
- **Third Prize** - A one-year gym membership, \$350.00 wardrobe certificate and \$250.00 grocery voucher

APPLICATION FORMS

Application forms will be available as of Wednesday, December 22nd. They may be downloaded from www.nibdrugplan.com or collected from the Reception Desk at NIB headquarters, Sir Clifford Darling Complex, Baillou Hill Road, The Drug Plan Office at Wulf Road, Jemi Health & Wellness, Body Zone Fitness, & from The Counsellors Ltd. Marketing Firm on 1st Terrace Centreville.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

All application forms and photos must be returned to The Counsellors Ltd. Marketing Firm, First Terrace Centreville by 5 p.m., Monday, January 10, 2011. Please address submissions to: Get Well Bahamas c/o The Counsellors Ltd., Nassau, Bahamas.

SELECTION PROCESS

Participants will be selected by Jemi Health & Wellness and Body Zone Fitness. Personal interviews will be conducted with prospective participants before selection of the final 40 participants. NIB will not be responsible for selection of any participants in the Get Well Bahamas Health and Fitness Challenge.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicants must be Bahamian citizens & residents of New Providence between the ages of 18 & 60 years
- Applicants must have a body mass index of more than 30 and have one or more of the following lifestyle conditions: hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes or ischaemic heart disease.
- Applicants must be committed to complete the entire 12 week programme and all of its requirements
- Applicants must have their own transportation and be present at all required meetings and appointments
- Applicants must be willing to appear in all publicity for the Get Well Bahamas Challenge, including but not limited to television appearances and interviews, photography, print and radio interviews.
- Applicants' National Insurance payments should be up-to-date
- Employees of The National Insurance Board and its advertising and public relations agencies are not eligible to participate.

GET WELL BAHAMAS is funded by the Healthy People component of The National Prescription Drug Plan.

Win a weekend getaway with 'Tribune Trivia'

THE Tribune's website Tribune242.com is starting off the New Year with a bang.

Beginning on Tuesday, January 4, readers who "like" The Tribune News Network on Facebook will get a chance to win a fabulous weekend getaway **EACH MONTH.**

All you have to do is log on to Facebook, search for our Facebook page - www.Facebook.com/Tribune242 - and click "Like". Then be sure to read *The Tribune* every day and play **TRIBUNE TRIVIA.**

We have teamed up with Dollar Rent A Car who are offering a fantastic prize package, including airfare for



READ *The Tribune* every day and play TRIBUNE TRIVIA.

one to Miami, a one-day car rental and a night in a hotel.

Every week day at 3pm, the team at *The Tribune* and Tribune242.com will post a question relating to a story in that day's newspaper. The answers can be found by reading the stories in the newspaper and online.

The first three readers to email the correct answer, along with their full name, will receive points. The first correct answer to hit our TribuneTrivia@tribunemedia.net inbox will get three points. The second person to respond correctly will get two points and third in will

get one point.

Each day's winners will be recorded on the monthly tally sheet and at the end of each month one person will walk away with the grand prize.

Tribune Trivia is open only to residents of the Bahamas.

In the event of a tie, the prize will go to the person who received the most first place wins that month. The tally sheet will be wiped clear on the first day of each month.

The question, the correct answer, and the names of the three winners will be published the following day in *The Tribune*.

Good luck!

Cuban ballerina Alonso gets top teaching prize

HAVANA

CUBA has honored the celebrated ballerina and National Ballet director Alicia Alonso with its top award for arts instruction, according to *Associated Press*.

The 90-year-old prima ballerina assoluta received this year's National Prize for Artistic Teaching at a ceremony Monday in a wood-floor studio at the ballet's

headquarters.

Alonso said she was touched.

She told admirers, journalists and dance students that "the most wonderful moment in life is when one can teach others what one has learned."

Alonso rose to stardom with the American Ballet Theater.

She has led the Cuban National Ballet for decades, despite being nearly blind.

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.



Water and Sewerage denies PLP claims over Abaco supply

THE WATER and Sewerage Corporation has denied claims by the PLP that the water it is supplying poses a serious health issues for Abaco residents.

While the Corporation (WSC) conceded that the water it is supplying to Grand Cay, Abaco has high levels of hydrogen sulfide (H2S) - which produces a foul odour - this is something that primarily affects only the aesthetics of the water.

"H2S is a gas with a characteristic foul odour, often a result from the breakdown of organic matter found in local geological formations in the absence of oxygen.

"H2S is a common natural feature in groundwater in the Bahamas, and approximately 30 per cent of the feedwater wells used by SWRO plants in the islands have been impacted by its presence.

"In all these cases treatment makes the water aesthetically acceptable," the WSC said.

In a press statement released last week, PLP chairman Bradley Roberts said that to classify the water supplied to Grand Cay by the WSC as safe "is a criminal and grave insult to the residents."



WATER SUPPLY: Phenton Neymour and Bradley Roberts

gen levels in the water, and thus decrease the H2S experienced, will be successful.

The corporation said the matter should be fully resolved by the end of this week.

"Additionally, the drill rig shall remain at site should there be a need for additional drilling," the WSC said.

However, Mr Roberts suggested that if there was

no problem with current water supplies there would be no reason to use alternative sources.

"If the water was safe to use, why switch the supply well?" he asked.

Mr Roberts further challenged Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and Minister Neymour to have the water delivered to them and publicly make a statement of the water's "good" quality by drinking it.

Declaration

He was responding to Minister of State for Public Utilities Phenton Neymour's declaration that the water is safe.

"The people of Grand Cay have been burdened with very serious health issues for a month," said Mr Roberts.

The WSC said in response that Mr Roberts' statements are "inaccurate and misleading."

In a press statement released last Wednesday, Mr Neymour rebutted earlier accusations by the Opposition party describing the new reverse osmosis plant in Abaco as a "disaster and disgrace as the RO water produced is smelly and foul."

Mr Neymour said the H2S which is responsible for the foul odour is considered a minor issue in the sea water reverse osmosis (SWRO) process that is easily managed.

The State Minister added that newly installed equipment by the company Watermakers has started the process of stripping the H2S from the source of water and that the quality was gradually improving as a result.

The WSC added that it remains confident that the efforts to increase the oxy-

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Dr. Jacinta Higgs
& Family**



Waiting to hear from Trinidad

By SIR RONALD SANDERS

(The Writer is a Consultant and former Caribbean diplomat)

AS THE sun began to set on the closing days of 2010, Caribbean Airlines Ltd (CAL), the airline owned by the government of Trinidad and Tobago, has been the major headline story in Trinidad and Tobago. It is a story that

insight
WORLD VIEW

has serious implications for the operations of Air Jamaica and, once again, makes a "regional airline" an elusive ambition. There has been a very public squabble between

the Minister of Transport and powerhouse, Jack Warner, and the newly appointed Board of Directors of CAL.

The squabble is a turf war over who makes decisions for the airline. Warner has proclaimed that either he or the Board must go and that the government must make a choice.

At issue is whether the new Board of Directors had the authority to re-evaluate a major decision, which had been made by the airline's CEO in the absence of a Board of Directors after the old one had resigned, to purchase a dozen turboprop aircraft to replace and expand its fleet which services the Trinidad to Tobago air bridge.

The CEO, Ian Brunton, sought and received Cabinet approval to proceed with the transaction which had not been finalized by the time the new Board was appointed although a "good faith" deposit had been paid to the aircraft manufacturer.

Enter, then, the new Board which took the view that the decision to spend a quarter of a billion US dollars should await its overall review of the airline's strategic plan to ensure that the aircraft chosen and the number ordered were compatible with the plan.

The public squabbling became so frenzied that Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and the Attorney General have imposed a "time out" on the issue in an effort to find a solution.

This summation of the power struggle over CAL sets the scene for the troubling reason for this Commentary which is: What are the implications for Air Jamaica and the notion of a single Caribbean-owned airline?

The CAL Board of Directors in a Press Release on December 12 raised the possibility that CAL might not proceed with its acquisition of Air Jamaica.

This represents a huge change on the part of Brunton, the CEO, who in a newspaper article on November 11 reaffirmed his support for CAL's acquisition of Air Jamaica and went further to say that it was part of CAL's mandate to have one Caribbean airline which included LIAT, the carrier owned by the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Brunton is no longer the CEO. Dismissed by the Board, he is collateral damage in the ongoing turf war and is seeking his own redress.

After the May 24 general election that swept in the new, coalition government, the Minister of Finance, Winston Dookeran, appointed a Cabinet sub-committee to assess the Air Jamaica acquisition which had been concluded on April 30, 2010 and was in effect for an interim period of one year.

The Report's analysis, conclusions and recommendations were not made public but were apparently accepted by Cabinet as defining a way forward for CAL, including the Air Jamaica acquisition.

Thus, while in Jamaica in early July for a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government Conference, Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar discussed the Air Jamaica acquisition directly with Bruce Golding, her Jamaican counterpart, and declared that: "When you put the pros and the cons

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Prime Minister on Air Jamaica



SIR RONALD SANDERS

“There has been a very public squabble between the Minister of Transport and powerhouse, Jack Warner, and the newly appointed Board of Directors of CAL. The squabble is a turf war over who makes decisions for the airline.”

together, the bottom line from our review is that it would be advantageous to Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago to honour the agreement.” and continued “... in every business venture there are risks, but we did the risk analysis and the bottom line is we decided to go ahead with the deal.”

The Jamaican government assumed all the liabilities of the airline and CAL assumed the financial risk of the continuing Air Jamaica operations from May 1, 2010, receiving any excess of revenue over expenses or covering any shortfall.

This first stage was to last for a year – until April 30, 2011 – to give CAL the opportunity to plan for the second permanent stage which is the full integration of the Air Jamaica operations into its system at which time it would formally assume ownership of the Air Jamaica assets required for those operations, be designated as a Jamaican national airline, and have the right to the use of the Air Jamaica brand.

As part of the overall arrangement the Government of Trinidad and Tobago was to invest

US\$50 million in new equity capital into CAL to fund the transition and integration, and the Government of Jamaica was to receive a 16 per cent equity interest in the new CAL with the right to appoint one member to its Board of Directors.

Until April 30, 2011, CAL has the right to terminate this arrangement on minimal notice at its option with no apparent penalty.

After the publicly declared July go-ahead from Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar, the integration of the two airlines appeared to be proceeding smoothly: joint ground operations at Toronto and Fort Lauderdale, a new joint ticket office in Jamaica, direct flights on CAL aircraft from Kingston to Toronto – all as expected: numerous small, visible incremental steps with more going on behind the scenes.

In public, the CAL CEO talked up the Air Jamaica acquisition and its prospects for a future that would see CAL grow by further such acquisitions, including that of LIAT, into the Caribbean Regional Airline for the entire CARICOM Caribbean.

So, what has transpired between the Persad-Bissessar announcement in Jamaica on July 8 that she was “very happy to announce that we are going to be partners, definitely when it comes to Air Jamaica and Caribbean Airlines” and the suggestion by the CAL CEO to the new CAL Board on November 11 “that it should not complete the Air Jamaica transaction”?

The government of Jamaica and Air Jamaica have been proceeding on the basis of the written agreement with the Trinidad and Tobago government and the public declaration of Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar who personally made the commitment to a partnership between Air Jamaica and CAL.

Her personal credibility has been thrust on the line in this matter, and she should not let this year close without urgently ending the doubts and concerns over Air Jamaica and the prospects for a “regional airline” created by the struggle for power over CAL.

Responses and previous commentaries at: www.sirronaldsanders.com



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standards. The candidate will communicate the company's safety policies, procedures and mitigation response plan and procedures to government agencies and in public forums.

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LOCAL NEWS

Defence Force officers receive HIV/AIDS training

CAPTAIN Tellis Bethel of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF) recently returned home after successfully completing the United States Defence Institute for Medical Operations HIV/AIDS Planning and Policy Development Course.

The purpose of the course was to enhance the ability of senior civilian officials and military leaders to develop, implement and strengthen the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS policies for their militaries.

Specific topics included: HIV and the Military; Department of Defense Policy on HIV/AIDS; Counselling and Testing, and Gender, Security and Peace Building.

Countries throughout Asia, Africa, Central America and the Caribbean region were represented at the course.

Learning

The course's faculty of experts combined lectures with group discussions, classroom exercises and presentations on country specific issues to create a shared learning experience, highlighting best practices and concerns pertaining to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care.

Captain Bethel was also awarded a diploma on completion of the course, which was held from December 5-10.

Throughout the month of November, 300 RBDF members participated in a HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention and education programme as a part of the Defence Force's healthy lifestyles strategic objective.

The programme was a collaborative effort between the US Defence Institute for Medical Operations, the Bahamas AIDS Foundation and the Bahamas AIDS Secretariat, and was coordinated by the Office of Defence Security Cooperation at the United States Embassy.



TRAINING: Captain Tellis Bethel

Captain Bethel is a Deputy Commander of the Defence Force with responsibility for the coordination of HIV/AIDS awareness and educational programmes within the Defence Force in conjunction with the Force's medical officer, Senior Commander Francis Saunders.

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Nassau, Bahamas

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The Corporation reserves the right to accept
or reject any or all proposals.
For all inquires regarding the tenders and site visits, contact
Mr. Wayne Farquharson at telephone **302-1216**

LOCAL NEWS



SCENES OF THE DEVASTATION after the fire at the Haitian village off Carmichael Road. The fire consumed more than 100 wooden shanties on Boxing Day

Huge blaze leaves hundreds homeless

FROM page one

ple but we cannot pick up everybody. So right now we are just bringing water, clothes and shoes, for those who have nothing."

Fire services have yet to identify the origins of the blaze – investigations are continuing – however it is believed to have started in a single structure near the back of the lot sometime around 10:30am.

Due to the gale force winds, which exceeded 30 miles an hour on Sunday, the fire ripped through the closely juxtapositioned plywood homes.

Struggling against inclement weather and the densely packed structures, 15 firefighters and four trucks battled the flames for over eight hours.

Pastor St Louis added: "There was plenty fire, so people lost passports, work permits, residence, people lost everything. So right now, whatever you can do for these Haitian people – please do the best you can."

For over 100 families, most of whom were at church as the fire raged early Sunday afternoon, the overwhelming need is shelter from the below 60 degree weather which is forecast to continue this week – along with more high

winds.

Each structure was estimated to have at least four persons in them – two of whom were under the age of 16.

One resident, whose home had been spared, said: "I was shocked, I never knew it would have come back this far, all the houses from the back straight to the front street. I think the firefighters did the best they could, and they worked very hard yesterday. It's just that where the houses were so close, they couldn't get to do what they came to do. They had to start breaking homes just to get to the fire."

Alexander Thurston, 61, came to the area to search for his friends and view the aftermath firsthand.

Mr Thurston said: "I've never seen something like this in my lifetime – not in the Bahamas. Something like this, this is tragic – I don't understand this. One fire and couple hours time the whole place is swept, this is very poor. These people came here to get a better life and now this, it's like they can't get a break on any front. Where do we go from here?"

Persons interested in donating water, food, or clothing to relief efforts are encouraged to contact Pastor St Louis at 426-7414.

Holiday Greetings from the Deputy Leader of the P.L.P., Philip 'Brave' Davis M.P.

My fellow Bahamians,

Christmas is once again here. This is the time when we celebrate the gift of Christ in the lives of our friends and family. I know that many of us are finding it difficult to get into the Christmas Spirit. The challenges that we have faced and continue to face have taken their toll on all of us.

We have witnessed record unemployment and its unfortunate consequence – an increase in violence. Far too many of our countrymen have lost their lives in an unnecessary battle to ride out this recession.

The economic downturn, coupled with a daunting lack of hope also claimed the lives of too many of our brothers and sisters to suicide.

In moments when things may seem bleak, I ask you to be brave as we look to a new year that brings with it the hope of a bright future.

I encourage you to let us march forward and look toward two thousand and eleven with a great promise. The trials that have confronted us this past year are almost over.

To my constituents, the great people of Cat Island, Rum Cay and San Salvador, your perseverance and resilience are a beacon that serves as a model throughout the country. You are an inspiration to my family and me and at this time I say, Thank You. I also take this opportunity to wish you Season's Greetings and God's blessings in the year ahead.

In this past year of highs and lows we cannot forget the eight men who tragically lost their lives in a tragic plane crash this past October. All were well known members and friends of our community and their loss still echoes in my heart and the hearts of their loved ones. I ask you to be brave and know that God's purpose, while not known to us, is always best.

This holiday season let us not forget to reach back to assist and uplift those who have fallen on hard times and despair. Let us all this holiday turn to them, our brothers and sisters, and lend a helping hand. Let us all remember them in our prayers. We are one Bahamas!

During this blessed season as we reflect on the grace of God, let us also personally assess our lives and its impact on each other. Let us grow together as a nation economically and spiritually as we celebrate God's gift of his son and welcome a new year.

My family and I wish all Bahamians a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,
Philip Brave Davis
Philip Brave Davis



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Twin suicide blasts kill nine in western Iraq

HAMID AHMED, Associated Press BAGHDAD

Two suicide bombers blew themselves up Monday front of a government office in Iraq's western Anbar province, killing nine people including family members of security officials who were killed in another bombing at the same place less than a month ago, security officials said.

Insurgents frequently go after Iraqi government targets in an effort to destabilize the U.S.-backed Iraqi authorities, as American troops prepare to leave by the end of next year.

The Anbar provincial headquarters has been a particularly favorite target. It has been attacked four times in the span of a year, including an explosion in which the governor lost a leg.

Many of the people killed and injured in Monday's violence were family members of police and soldiers who died Dec. 12 at the same location in another suicide blast. The family members were at the provincial headquarters to receive compensation for their losses, said Mohammed Fathi, a spokesman for the Anbar governor.

Policemen

He did not know how many of the dead were family members but said three policemen were killed in the Monday suicide attacks.

The first blast occurred when a suicide bomber drove a minibus packed with explosives into the entrance of the main government compound of Ramadi 70 miles (115 kilometers) west of Baghdad, Fathi said. As people gathered to observe the destruction, another suicide attacker detonated his explosive vest in their midst, said police and hospital officials.

The officials said besides the dead, 50 people were injured by the blasts.

Consecutive blasts meant to catch bystanders and rescue personnel have become a hallmark of al-Qaida's tactics in Iraq in the past few years. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the double attack, but Fathi blamed it on al-Qaida.

Mosques across the city called on residents to donate blood, in a sign of the severity of the injuries.

Ramadi is the seat of the Anbar provincial government and used to be a stronghold of al-Qaida. Recently, local mili-



(AP Photo)

DEATH SCENE: A U.S. army soldier inspects the scene of two suicide bomb attacks in Ramadi, 70 miles (115 kilometers) west of Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, Dec. 27, 2010. Two suicide bombers blew themselves up on Monday, killing and wounding scores of people at the government compound in the provincial capital of Ramadi, officials said.

tias have managed to bring a measure of calm to the city and province, a drop in violence that has also been seen across the country.

The suicide bombings were the first major attacks since Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's new government was appointed last week. Al-Maliki's success has been in large part due to the fact that violence has dropped significantly during his tenure. Attacks like Monday's are a sign that rooting out al-Qaida-linked militants is a continued challenge.

The Ramadi complex, which houses various government agencies, including the governor's offices, has been bombed twice this year.

In July, a female suicide bomber blew herself up at a reception room outside the governor's office.

Earlier this month, a suicide bomber exploded outside the office complex, killing 17 people, including women and elderly people waiting to collect welfare checks.

The Islamic State of Iraq, an al-Qaida front group, claimed responsibility for a December 2009 bombing of the same complex. Anbar's Governor, Qasim al-Fahadawi, lost a leg in that blast.

In a separate incident Monday, three members of the same family were killed when a roadside bomb hit their car outside the town of Dujail, 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Baghdad. A 1-year-old child was also injured in the blast, police and hospital officials said.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters.

IRAN CORRUPTION CLAIMS STOKE POLITICAL INFIGHTING

BRIAN MURPHY, Associated Press DUBAI, United Arab Emirates

Corruption charges against one of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's most trusted political advisers provided the latest evidence of deep rifts within the Iranian president's own conservative political camp. The challenge by Ahmadinejad's rivals — one of them the head of the judiciary — could set the tone for a bitter fight leading up to the next big political moment in Iran, parliamentary elections less than a year away.

"This case isn't going to bring down Ahmadinejad, but it may get very ugly," said Abdulkhaleq Abdulla, a regional political analyst at Emirates University. "It's a commentary on the troubled state of Iranian politics at the moment."

Ahmadinejad has faced a growing internal backlash from conservative leaders — including influential parliament speaker Ali Larijani. They are upset by the president's combative nature and deepening links with the vast military-economic network run by the Revolutionary Guard, Iran's most powerful force which led the crackdown on the reformist movement after Ahmadinejad's disputed re-election last year.

The political infighting escalated earlier this month when Ahmadinejad suddenly dismissed his longtime foreign minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, a close ally of Larijani. Many lawmakers and others denounced the move as further evidence of Ahmadinejad's steamrolling style. He dumped Mottaki in apparent retaliation for disagreements that included control over foreign

ministry posts. Shortly after Mottaki's firing, the judiciary headed by Larijani's brother announced the corruption allegations against First Vice President Mohammad Reza Rahimi.

The charges could do more damage to Ahmadinejad and the reputation he has cultivated as aloof from Iran's powerful financial clans and foundations, many run by the Revolutionary Guard.

The developments revealed the increasingly complex political maneuvering within the Islamic Republic as it struggles with economic sanctions and growing international pressure to curb its production of nuclear fuel.

The judiciary last week said Rahimi is facing corruption charges that need to be investigated and will have to stand trial. The details of the accusations against him have not been made public since. Rahimi quickly denied the charges and was expected to present his side at a news conference, possibly later this week.

On Monday, Ahmadinejad's office came to Rahimi's defense, saying that his complaints against the accusations should be investigated, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

But the rumblings have been coming for months against Rahimi, whose position as the top of 12 vice presidents gives him authority to meet visiting prime ministers and other dignitaries and lead Cabinet meetings in Ahmadinejad's absence. Some of Ahmadinejad's political foes have frequently taken pot shots at Rahimi with allegations of financial misdeeds since a major government-linked embezzlement probe opened in April.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

THOUSANDS STRANDED TRYING TO GET HOME AFTER HOLIDAYS

Flights resume at NY airport after blizzard



SNOW REMOVAL: John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, Monday, Dec. 27, 2010.

DEEPTI HAJELA,
Associated Press
SAMANTHA HENRY,
Associated Press
NEW YORK

Planes began landing again Monday at one of the nation's busiest airports after a blizzard clobbered the Northeast with more than 2 feet of snow and closed the New York metropolitan area's three airports, stranding thousands of travelers trying to get home after the holidays.

A Royal Jordanian flight was the first to arrive at John F. Kennedy International Airport, shortly before 7 p.m., said Steve Coleman, of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the airports. Flights were expected to begin arriving at Newark and LaGuardia airports later in the evening.

Vikki Walker, 24, and her boyfriend Kevin Berryman, 26, were among those in line at a security checkpoint at LaGuardia. They had been in New York for Christmas and were trying to get home to Halifax. They originally planned to fly out of Newark on Monday morning and said they had been rebooked four times before getting seats on the flight out of LaGuardia.

"It feels incredible. Hopefully it will work out, though," Walker said. "I don't want to get my hopes too high."

The storm walloped the Northeast on Sunday, stymieing most means of transportation. Flights were grounded. Buses sputtered to a halt in snow drifts. Trains stopped in their tracks. Taxi drivers abandoned their cabs in the middle of New York's snow-clogged streets. Even the New York City subway system — usually dependable during a snowstorm — broke down in spots, trapping riders for hours.

Snowfall totals included a foot in Tidewater, Va., and Philadelphia, 29 inches in parts of northern New Jersey, 2 feet north of New York City, and more than 18 inches in Boston.

Cold, hungry and tired passengers spent the night in airports, train stations and bus depots. Some were given cots and blankets. Others used their luggage as pillows, curled into chairs, or made beds by spreading towels on the floor or overturning the plastic bins used for sending items through airport security.

Some airline passengers could be stuck for days. Many planes are booked solid because of the busy holiday season, and airlines are operating fewer flights because of the economic downturn.

As bad as the storm was, it could have been worse if it had been an ordinary work day. Children are home from school all week on Christmas vacation, and lots of people had taken off from work.

Many youngsters went out and frolicked in the snow, some of them using the sleds they got for Christmas.

Many side streets in New York City remained unplowed well into the day, and pedestrians stumbled over drifts and trudged through knee-deep snow in some places. Numerous people simply gave up trying to use the sidewalks, instead walking down the middle of partially plowed streets. Some New Yorkers complained that snowplow crews were neglecting neighborhoods in the outer boroughs in favor of Manhattan.

A testy Mayor Michael



THE LONG WAIT: Air travelers wait in line to find out the status of their flights at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, Monday, Dec. 27, 2010.



SHOVEL TIME: McDonald's General Manager Yves Florespal, left, and owner Robert Cocozzoli shovel snow from the parking at 1788 N. duPont highway in Dover, Monday, Dec. 27, 2010.

Bloomberg defended the city's cleanup effort, saying the furious pace of the snowfall — 2 to 3 inches per hour — required crews to plow streets repeatedly to keep them open. And abandoned cars slowed the process further because plows could not get through, he said.

"It's being handled by the best professionals in the business," Bloomberg said, urging people not to get upset. "It's a snowstorm, and it really is inconvenient for a lot of people."

At the Manchester Boston Regional Airport outside Manchester, N.H., 25-year-old Alicia Kinney slept overnight on benches in the baggage claim

area before moving to the food court for a soda in the morning.

"I'm trying to stay positive," she said.

The blizzard had a ripple effect on air travel, stranding thousands of people at airports around the country.

"I know the Northeast was hit by snow. I get it. But still, this is Monday and I still haven't gotten a flight yet," said Sam Rogers, who had planned to fly back to New York on Sunday after visiting his brother in Charlotte, N.C., for the holiday. He was supposed to be back Monday at the mortgage company where he works, but no one was answering the

phone at his office. "I guess they took a snow day, too."

Tired

In New York, many passengers tired of waiting around couldn't have left even if they wanted to. Taxis were hard to find, and many airport shuttles and trains were also a lost cause.

"There's literally no way to leave," said Jason Cochran of New York City, stuck at Kennedy.

Yoann Uzan of France, on a first-ever trip to New York City with his girlfriend, said their airline had promised to put pas-

sengers up at hotels overnight. "But we waited for the shuttle buses to take us there, and then the buses couldn't get through because of the weather, so we were stuck here," he said.

Passengers stuck at New York City's main bus terminal — where all service was canceled — tried to get some shut-eye as they awaited word on when buses might start rolling again.

"It's really, really cold here," said 12-year-old Terry Huang. "The luggage was really hard to sleep on. It was hard and lumpy."

Two passenger buses headed back to New York City from the Atlantic City, N.J., casinos

became stuck on New Jersey's Garden State Parkway. State troopers, worried about diabetics aboard, brought water and food as emergency workers worked to free the vehicles.

In Virginia, the National Guard had to rescue three people trapped in a car for more than four hours in the Eastern Shore area.

Not even professional hockey players could beat the frozen conditions. The Toronto Maple Leafs, after defeating the New Jersey Devils 4-1 in Newark, N.J., got stuck in traffic for four hours on their way to the team hotel. It was supposed to be a 20-minute ride. Center Tyler Bozak tweeted in one middle-of-the-night dispatch: "Roads closed in new jersey stuck on the busses. Brutaalllll!"

Christopher Mullen was among the New York City subway riders stranded for several hours aboard a cold train Monday. "I just huddled with my girlfriend. We just tried to stay close," he said.

The train was stopped by snow drifts on the tracks and ice on the electrified third rail. It took hours to rescue the passengers because crews first tried to push the train, and when that didn't work, a snow-covered diesel locomotive had to be dug out of a railyard and brought in to move it.

Getting around cities in the Northeast was an adventure. In one Brooklyn neighborhood, cars drove the wrong way up a one-way street because it was the only plowed thoroughfare in the area.

In Philadelphia, pedestrians dodged chunks of ice blown off skyscrapers.

New York taxi driver Shafiq Hayat spent the night in his cab on 33rd Street in Manhattan, unable to move his vehicle down the unplowed road. "I've seen a lot of snow before, but on the roads, I've never seen so many cars stuck in 22 years," he said.

GOP hopefuls find some issues a hazard early on

CHARLES BABINGTON,
Associated Press
WASHINGTON

This month's early, under-the-radar campaigning by potential Republican challengers to President Barack Obama is a reminder of something too easily forgotten: Running for president is harder than it looks, and Obama ultimately will stand against a flesh-and-blood nominee certain to make mistakes along the way.

Mitt Romney, Tim Pawlenty and other possible GOP candidates stumbled over health care, taxes and other issues in December, even as Obama coped with the harsh political reality stemming from his party's "shellack-

ing" in last month's elections. No serious contender has officially launched a 2012 campaign. But with the Iowa caucuses less than 13 months away, at least a dozen Republicans are jockeying for position, speaking to groups throughout the country, writing op-ed columns and taking potshots at one another.

As all politicians learn, the more deeply they delve into contested issues, the likelier they are to stumble. Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., got caught in the middle of his party's quickly changing views about congressional earmarks, the pet projects that some lawmakers sprinkle throughout big spending bills. Earlier this year he tucked more than \$100 million in earmarks into a massive year-end spending bill that many

had expected to pass. But after tea party successes in the Nov. 2 elections, elected Republicans swung hard against earmarks and pork-barrel spending. At a Dec. 15 news conference in the Capitol, Thune came uncomfortably close to echoing Sen. John Kerry's infamous line about voting for an \$87 billion bill "before I voted against it."

Thune told reporters: "I support those projects, but I don't support this bill, nor do I support the process by which this bill was put together."

Meanwhile, Romney was put on the spot when a federal judge ruled that Obama's health care law is unconstitutional because it requires everyone to buy health insurance. Romney included virtually the same mandate in

the 2006 health law he enacted as Massachusetts governor.

Romney took pains to say his plan was different from Obama's, mainly because it takes a state-by-state approach rather than a federal one-size-fits-all solution. Pawlenty aides note that the Minnesota governor rejected such mandates in his state.

But Pawlenty had his own problems this month. In a Wall Street Journal column, he said most labor union members now work for governments, which Obama has rendered "the only booming industry left in our economy." Since January 2008, he wrote, "the private sector has lost nearly 8 million jobs while local, state and federal governments added 590,000."

The nonpartisan research group

PolitiFact gave the column its worst rating for accuracy, "pants on fire." The group said Pawlenty mangled the time frame, contradicted his definition of federal workers and "repeated a statistic that had been criticized as inaccurate as long as six months ago."

Pawlenty's office said he based the statistics on a June article by Veronique de Rugy, a senior research fellow at George Mason University, on the Big Government website run by conservative activist Andrew Breitbart. After reviewing the article, PolitiFact said it stood by its analysis that "the 590,000 number doesn't encapsulate the time frame or definition set out by Pawlenty," and it is "still skewed by a large bump in temporary Census jobs."

LOCAL NEWS

JUNKANOO: THE BOXING DAY PARADE

PHOTOS: Tim Clarke/Tribune staff



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Contractors still waiting on Business Licence woe



STEPHEN WRINKLE

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

The Bahamian Contractors Association's (BCA), which had hoped to receive word from government on concerns raised about the proposed hike in their business license fees, are still awaiting the Ingraham administration's "judgment" on the matter.

Larger contractors, in particular, had expressed anxiety

SEE page 4B

Hotel incentive request under 'serious review'

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

The Bahamas Hotel Association (BHA) has been informed that the Prime Minister is "giving serious consideration" to its recommendation that requirements, which must be met under the Hotels Encouragement Act to enable hotels to access materials for infrastructure upgrades duty free, be eased.

Frank Comito, the BHA's executive vice-president, said tourism stakeholders were informed this was the case by Minister of Tourism, Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, at the BHA's Annual General Meeting earlier this month.

At the end of November, Mr Comito released the results of a survey undertaken by the BHA, which showed that more than 90 per cent of hoteliers would undertake capital upgrades in short order, potentially pouring an estimated \$40-

SEE page 6B

Baha Mar settles \$12.2m Harrah's legal demand

* Developer incurs just under \$25m in collective legal costs, as gaming giant's demand resolved in accordance with referee's report

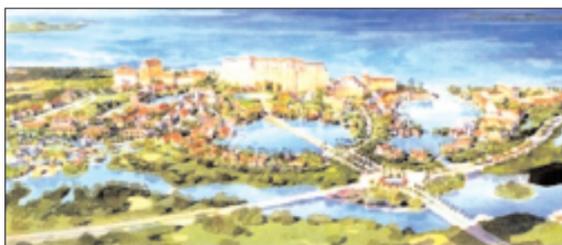
By **NEIL HARTNELL**
Tribune Business Editor

Baha Mar has agreed to pay US gaming giant Harrah's Entertainment \$12.174 million to cover the legal costs it incurred in defending itself against the Cable Beach developer's breach of contract and other claims made over their failed \$2.6 billion joint venture.

The settlement, part of a total \$25 million legal bill that Baha Mar has incurred, the balance coming from its own legal team's fees, was filed with the New York State Supreme Court last month.

The motion stated that the dispute over Harrah's legal fees had been "resolved in accordance" with a report provided by a special referee back in August 2010. As a result, a December 21, 2010, motion was filed to finally dismiss the legal battle between Baha Mar and Harrah's, as all issues had been resolved.

The court-appointed 'spe-



AN ARCHITECT'S drawing of the Baha Mar development.

cial referee', Marilyn Dershowitz, trimmed the initial bill submitted by Harrah's and its Bahamian subsidiary, Caesars Bahamas Investment Corporation, by just over \$110,000, but she largely accepted the gaming giant's clam and rejected assertions by Baha Mar's attorneys that the sum demanded was too large.

Ms Dershowitz's report also revealed that Baha Mar's own legal bill was "in excess of \$12.6 million". Its legal costs were ahead of Harrah's, with the gaming giant's law

firm billing all its attorney's at a rate of \$490 per hour - something it alleged had saved its client \$900,000 in legal costs.

According to Ms Dershowitz's report, it was Baha Mar who insisted that a hearing on Harrah's legal cost demands be held, with "vociferous argument" having taken place as to whether this was necessary.

James Kearney, a partner at Harrah's US law firm,

SEE page 4B

ANALYST FORECASTS 6-7 PER CENT STOCK MARKET REVIVAL FOR 2011

* Baha Mar and other projects set to revive investor sentiment after two bad years, although 2011 will 'not be stellar'

* 'The almost total absence of confidence' big bar to recovery, although Heineken IPO and potential BTC and Port offerings set to boost market depth and choice

* Economy in 'resuscitation' mode with recovery yet to fully kick in

By **NEIL HARTNELL**
Tribune Business Editor

Listed Bahamian securities could on average enjoy price appreciation of between 6-7 per cent in 2011, a leading capital markets analyst has told Tribune Business, with developments such as the likely construction start for the \$2.6 billion Baha Mar project set to revive earnings and investor sentiment after two down years.

While acknowledging that 2011 would not be "a stellar year" for the Bahamian capital markets, certainly not in comparison to the 20 per cent gains enjoyed in 2007, Kenwood Kerr, Providence Advisors' chief executive, said factors were in play to encourage an equity market revival.

Among these were prospective new initial public offerings (IPOs), such as the \$60-\$65 million Burns House/Commonwealth Brew-

SEE page 5B



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Retailer fears lengthening consumer recovery

* Warns that 2011 first half will be 'very telling' for many in industry, given that it was 'well into June 2010' before any spending rebound from last Xmas was seen

* Says that recovery becoming more protracted every year, as Bahamians fail to budget for seasonal spending

By **NEIL HARTNELL**
Tribune Business Editor

A leading Bahamian retailer fears that the sector is likely to struggle during the 2011 first half due to the ever-lengthening time it is taking consumers to recover from their Christmas spending and pay down debt, warning that the period was going to be "very telling" for some firms' survival.

Christopher Lowe, operations manager at Grand Bahama-based Kelly's (Freeport), told Tribune Business that retail top and bottom lines across the Bahamas were likely to suffer even more in 2011 from the protracted debt hangover many consumers experienced as a result of festive shopping.

Stating that Kelly's (Freeport's) Christmas sales had held firm, essentially being flat when compared to 2009 data, Mr Lowe said: "It's going to be very telling in the February, March, April period, because every year it

SEE page 5B

2011 Q4 START DATE TARGET FOR OIL DRILLER

But government says BPOC would require new permits and have to undergo new processes

By **NEIL HARTNELL**
Tribune Business Editor

A UK-listed company would have to undergo new approvals processes and obtain a revised series of permits if it is to meet its stated goal of beginning exploratory drilling for oil in Bahamian waters by the

SEE page 4B



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BUSINESS


RoyalFidelity Market Wrap
BY ROYALFIDELITY CAPITAL MARKETS

It was an active week of trading in the Bahamian stock market. Investors traded in four out of the 24 listed securities with one decliner.

EQUITY MARKET

A total of 1,294,943 shares changed hands, representing a significant increase of 1,241,943 shares compared to the previous week's trading volume of 53,000 shares.

ICD Utilities (ICD) was the volume leader, trading a volume of 1,073,917 shares to close unchanged at \$5.59.

Focol Holdings was the big decliner last week, trading a volume of 200,103 shares to fall by \$0.46 to \$5.

BOND MARKET

No notes traded last week.

COMPANY NEWS**Earnings Releases:**

Bahamas Waste (BWL) released its unaudited financial results for the nine-month period ending September 30, 2010. For the period, BWL reported net income of \$304,000, a decline of \$346,000 or 53 per cent from the \$651,000 reported in the same period in 2009.

Gross profits of \$1.8 million declined by \$294,000. It was noted that while sales and services revenues of \$5.7 million declined slightly by \$67,000 in relation to the comparative period, the cost of sales and direct expenses of \$3.9 million increased by \$227,000. Total operating expenses of \$1.5 million were consistent with same period in the prior year, declining slightly by \$52,000.

Earnings per share for the nine-month period were \$0.05, compared to \$0.09 in the comparative period, a decline of \$0.04.

Total assets and liabilities stood at \$10.2 million and \$907,000 respectively at September 30, 2010, compared to \$9.9 million and \$952,000 at December 31, 2009.

FamGuard Corporation (FAM) released its unaudited financial results for the quarter ending September 30, 2010, reporting net income available

EQUITY MARKET - TRADING STATISTICS				
Week ending 24.12.10				
BISX SYMBOL	CLOSING PRICE	WKLY PRICE CHANGE	VOLUME	YTD PRICE CHANGE
AML	\$ 0.97	\$-	0	-17.09%
BBL	\$ 0.18	\$-	0	-71.43%
BOB	\$ 4.90	\$-	0	-16.95%
BPF	\$ 10.63	\$-	0	-1.02%
BSL	\$ 5.01	\$-	0	-50.20%
BWL	\$ 2.70	\$-	0	-14.29%
CAB	\$ 10.46	\$-	0	4.81%
CBL	\$ 6.95	\$-	20,423	-0.71%
CHL	\$ 2.40	\$-	0	-11.76%
CIB	\$ 9.39	\$-	0	-2.50%
CWCB	\$ 1.82	\$-0.02	500	-36.14
DHS	\$ 1.60	\$-	0	-37.25%
FAM	\$ 6.07	\$-	0	-6.47%
FBB	\$ 2.17	\$-	0	-8.44%
FCL	\$ 5.00	\$-0.46	200,103	4.82%
FCLB	\$ 1.00	\$-	0	0.00%
FIN	\$ 7.23	\$-	0	-22.09%
ICD	\$ 5.59	\$-	1,073,917	0.00%
JSJ	\$ 9.82	\$-	0	-0.30%
PRE	\$ 10.00	\$-	0	0.00%

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

to common shareholders of \$604,000, compared to \$186,000 reported in the same quarter in 2009.

Total income of \$25.5 million increased by \$1.5 million or 6.5 per cent from the \$24 million reported in the 2009 third quarter.

Income

The increase in income was primarily due to higher net premium income and annuity deposits of \$22.7 million being reported in the quarter, which

was up by \$1.2 million or 5.6 per cent quarter-over-quarter.

FAM's total benefits and expenses were \$24.7 million in the quarter, increasing by \$1.1 million or 4.8 per cent quarter-over-quarter.

Earnings per share available to common shareholders for the quarter were \$0.06 compared to \$0.02 in the same quarter in the prior year.

Total assets and liabilities at September 30, 2010, were \$197 million and \$139 million respectively, compared to \$189 million and \$130 million reported at December 31, 2009.

Franchise urged as route for success

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

With Baha Mar projected to bring hundreds of thousands more visitors to this nation's shores in three-four years' time, there is "no better time" for Bahamians to consider the advantages of becoming franchisees of known brands as a path to business success, the organiser of the Bahamas' first 'Franchise Summit' believes.

A franchising workshop to educate Bahamians on opportunities to franchise their businesses abroad, and a trade show hosting brands that may be interested in expanding their franchise into the Bahamas, are set to take place in Nassau next year.

The events are being organised by the National Association of Black Hotel Owners, Operators & Developers (NABHOOD), in conjunction with the International Franchise Association (IFA), the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce, the US Embassy in Nassau, Travel Professionals of Colour (TPOC), the Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD), HVS Caribbean and the Bahamas Entrepreneurial Venture Fund.

Andy Ingraham, president of NABHOOD, urged Bahamians to consider the advantages of franchising their own businesses abroad and becoming franchisees of known brands in the Bahamas.

"In the next few years the whole structure in Cable Beach will change with the advent of Baha Mar, and there's no better time for Bahamians to figure out beyond employment how they can benefit from Baha Mar and the fact that tourism in the Bahamas welcomes five million people a year," said Mr Ingraham.

A free franchise workshop will take place at the Sheraton Nassau Beach hotel on April 24, 2011, and shortly afterwards, the "first annual" franchise show will bring a variety of companies from throughout the world who are interested in expanding into the Bahamas.

SEE page 6B

**Kingsway Academy**

(An Evangelical, Non-denominational, Christian School)

Entrance Examinations for the 2011-2012 School Year

High School Division (Grades 7 to 12)

Applications for the 2011-2012 school year (starting in September 2011) are invited for grades 7 to 10.

Testing Date: 8.00 am January 15, 2010

- The high school division supplies a premium offering of courses from grades 7 to 12.
- These include Arts, Sciences, Technical and Vocational Subjects in addition to sound fundamentals in Christian education.
- This school provides one of the most balanced ranges of subject offerings in the Bahamas. Students are prepared for examinations such as BJC, BGCSE, PSAT, SAT, SAT Subject Tests and Advance Placement (AP) tests.
- Accelerated Track - Students with exceptional ability are allowed to accelerate beginning in grade 9 with a view towards college preparatory courses in grade 12.
- In addition, the school provides a wide range of extracurricular activities including all BAISS core sports, Governor General's Youth Award, Junior Achievement, Travel Club, Key Club, Science Club etc.
- The achievements of our students during and after high school speak for themselves.

Elementary Division (K3 to Grade 6)

Applications are invited for the 2011-2012 school year for all grade levels from K3 to Grade 6.

- The elementary division offers a curriculum that blends the A Beka and Harcourt Brace curricula.
- The experience also offers a stimulating blend of extracurricular activities to enhance the academic and social development of your child.

Testing Dates:

- K3 - Saturday, January 15, 2011 at 10.00 am. (must be 3 years old by October 31, 2011)
- K4 - Friday, February 4 and Friday February 18, 2011 from 8.30 am to 1.40 pm. (Must be 4 years old by December 31, 2011.)
- K5 - Saturday, March 5, 2011 from 8.00 am to 1.00 pm. (Must be 5 years old by December 31, 2011)
- Grades 1 to 6 - Saturday, March 5, 2011 beginning at 9.00 am

THE CLEARING BANKS ASSOCIATION

Announces

New Year's Day Holiday Banking Hours

Thursday, December 30, 2010
9:30am – 4:30pm

Friday, December 31, 2010
9:30am – 1:00pm

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2011
CLOSED**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2011
CLOSED**

Normal Banking Hours will resume on
Tuesday, January 4, 2011
(9:30am – 3:00pm)

Bank of The Bahamas Limited
Citibank, N.A.
Commonwealth Bank Limited
Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited
FirstCaribbean International (Bahamas) Limited
RBC Royal Bank (Bahamas) Limited
Scotiabank (Bahamas) Limited

BUSINESS

Baha Mar settles \$12.2m Harrah's legal demand

FROM page 1B

Latham & Watkins, produced the billing records, and Ms Dershowitz noted: "He offered a comparison of time spent by the plaintiff and that spent by the defendants. That the fees of the defendants [Baha Mar] were in excess of \$12.6 million was not disputed; by contrast, the fees and expenses for which the plaintiff seeks reimbursement here are a bit over \$12.2 million."

Harrah's, the report to the New York State Supreme Court found., had to spend "enormous amounts of time" in responding to "plainly massive document requests" and deposition requests made by Baha Mar.

"And, indeed, the amount of fees generated by the defendants [Baha Mar]

clearly reflect that this litigation resulted in a blitz of activity by the defendants, which obviously required responsive action," Ms Dershowitz said. "As a first matter, it was clear that an enormous amount of money was at stake in this multi-billion dollar contract. And the defendant's [Baha Mar] expert contended that there were damages of approximately \$289 million."

Responding to Harrah's fee claims, Baha Mar's attorneys alleged that the legal billings were not specific enough and failed to show why certain actions, such as specific depositions, were necessary. Baha Mar's representatives also claimed that too many attorneys were involved with the case, and that staffing was too heavy - even though it was "clear at times that [Baha Mar] had more lawyers on the case".

However, Ms Dershowitz agreed with the arguments of Harrah's attorneys, who alleged that Baha Mar's counsel for the fee hearing had not been involved in the litigation, and thus "lacked knowledge of what had gone on and how the matter had proceeded".

Harrah's had sought \$12.29 million, broken down into \$11.24 million for attorneys' fees; \$398,802 for charges; and \$651,782 for litigation service providers. This, Ms Dershowitz said, reflected an amount that the gaming giant's legal advisers had reduced by \$92,745.

However, she rejected the claim for \$116,492 in research costs incurred by Lexis and Westlaw, deducting this from the \$12.29 million to find that Harrah's had a claim to recover \$12.173 million in legal costs from Baha Mar.

Contractors still waiting on Business Licence woe

FROM page 1B

about the Government's proposal to increase their business license fee, with some suggesting that not knowing to what extent they will be impacted was making it difficult to plan financially.

The new Business License Act is set to come into force on January 1, 2011, with companies being given a three-month window within which to comply with its provisions - which include re-registering their company and paying the adjusted license fee.

The overall intent of the

Act, according to the Government, is to simplify and ease aspects of doing business in this nation.

Stephen Wrinkle, the BCA president, said: "The case was made to the Ministry of Finance and they've taken it under consideration, but to date we've had no response. I would've hoped we would have heard by now, but you know in this day and age I think there are probably a number of requests for considerations they had and I just don't know what their schedule is."

Under the new Business

License Act, which adjusts how license fees are calculated for all businesses in what the Government says is a "simplification" of the previous process, business license fees for contractors increase from 0.5 per cent to 0.75 per cent, with this to be calculated based on gross turnover rather than gross profit (with certain costs deducted).

Pay

Zhivargo Laing, minister of state for finance, has argued that the change in the Business License fee would be "revenue neutral" for the Government in the most part - meaning that most companies would not pay significantly more, and some may pay less - but admitted that there were a "small number of companies", primarily contractors with large turnovers, who would "clearly pay more".

Mr Wrinkle said the BCA had asked that if the Government was intent on increasing their Business License fee so significantly, it should con-

sider doing so in phases.

"What happens is that in some cases contractors are locked into contracts where they won't realise revenues until the coming year, so we asked for consideration of a phased, incremental increase as one way of cushioning that blow," Mr Wrinkle said.

"For example, where a company may have recently signed a letter of intent with Baha Mar for the \$45 million roadwork project, if the (license fee) increase is tacked on to that that's several hundreds of thousands of dollars more they will have to pay. The contractors have not had the right to include that in their tender because (the new Business License Act) has not become law yet. It leaves contractors in a particularly vulnerable area," said Mr Wrinkle.

He said that if the fee is applied "in one instance" then contractors will "be at a significant disadvantage, without any recourse to recoup that loss, and that's fundamentally wrong".

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **SALLY COLLINS of SKYLINE LAKES, P.O. BOX CB11130, NASSAU, BAHAMAS** is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 21st DAY of December, 2010 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

Legal Notice

Notice

BNP Paribas (Bahamas) Limited (In Voluntary Liquidation)

Pursuant to Section 228 of the Companies Act, 1992, notice is hereby given that the voluntary winding-up and dissolution of the Company commenced on the 17th day of December, 2010 and that Tracy E. Knowles and Juan M. Lopez of KPMG Restructuring Ltd., 5th Floor, Montague Sterling Centre, East Bay Street, P.O. Box N-123 Nassau, Bahamas have been appointed Joint Liquidators.

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above-named Company are required on or before January 31, 2011 to send their names, addresses and supporting documents for their debts or claims to the Joint Liquidators at the address above and/or email address info@kpmg.com.bs and fax number, 1-242-393-1772.

Failure to do so may result in the creditor being excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proven or from objecting to the distribution.

Dated this 17th day of December A.D., 2010

Tracy E. Knowles and Juan M. Lopez
Joint Liquidators

Legal Notice

Notice

Bergues Finance Limited (In Voluntary Liquidation)

Pursuant to Section 228 of the Companies Act, 1992, notice is hereby given that the voluntary winding-up and dissolution of the Company commenced on the 17th day of December, 2010 and that Tracy E. Knowles and Juan M. Lopez of KPMG Restructuring Ltd., 5th Floor, Montague Sterling Centre, East Bay Street, P.O. Box N-123 Nassau, Bahamas have been appointed Joint Liquidators.

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above-named Company are required on or before January 31, 2011 to send their names, addresses and supporting documents for their debts or claims to the Joint Liquidators at the address above and/or email address info@kpmg.com.bs and fax number, 1-242-393-1772.

Failure to do so may result in the creditor being excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proven or from objecting to the distribution.

Dated this 17th day of December A.D., 2010

Tracy E. Knowles and Juan M. Lopez
Joint Liquidators

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF:											
THURSDAY, 23 DECEMBER 2010											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,488.77 CHG -8.16 %CHG -0.55 YTD -76.61 YTD % -4.89											
FINDEX: CLOSE 000.00 YTD 00.00% 2009 -12.31%											
WWW.BISXBAHAMAS.COM TELEPHONE: 242-323-2330 FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Security	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
1.26	0.87	AML	Aml Foods Limited	0.87	0.87	0.00	0.150	0.040	6.5	4.12%	
10.75	9.67	Bahamas	Bahamas Property Fund	10.63	10.63	0.00	0.013	0.200	817.7	1.88%	
6.18	4.50	Bank of	Bank of Bahamas	4.90	4.90	0.00	0.598	0.260	8.2	5.31%	
0.58	0.18	Benchmark	Benchmark	0.18	0.18	0.00	-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
3.49	2.70	Bahamas	Bahamas Waste	2.70	2.70	0.00	0.168	0.090	16.1	3.33%	
2.15	2.14	Fidelity	Fidelity Bank	2.17	2.17	0.00	0.016	0.040	136.6	1.84%	
12.50	9.62	Cable	Cable Bahamas	10.46	10.46	0.00	1.050	0.310	10.0	2.96%	
2.84	2.36	Colina	Colina Holdings, Series 2	2.40	2.40	0.00	0.781	0.040	3.1	1.67%	
7.00	5.40	Commonwealth	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	6.95	6.95	0.00	0.422	0.260	16.5	3.74%	
3.65	1.63	Consolidated	Consolidated Water BDRs	1.78	1.82	0.04	0.111	0.045	16.4	2.47%	
2.25	1.60	Doctor's	Doctor's Hospital	1.60	1.60	0.00	0.199	0.110	8.0	6.88%	
6.99	5.94	Famguard	Famguard	6.07	6.07	0.00	-0.003	0.240	N/M	3.95%	
10.50	7.23	Finco	Finco	7.23	7.23	0.00	0.287	0.520	25.2	7.19%	
11.40	8.77	FirstCaribbean	FirstCaribbean Bank	9.39	9.39	0.00	0.645	0.350	14.6	3.73%	
5.51	3.75	Focol	Focol (S)	5.46	5.00	-0.46	0.366	0.210	13.7	4.20%	
1.00	1.00	Focol	Focol Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
7.40	5.00	ICD	ICD Utilities	7.40	7.40	0.00	0.012	0.240	616.7	3.24%	
10.50	9.82	J. S. Johnson	J. S. Johnson	9.82	9.82	0.00	0.971	0.640	10.1	6.52%	
10.00	10.00	Premier	Premier Real Estate	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.991	0.800	10.1	8.00%	
BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing basis)											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Security	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity			
99.46	99.46	Bahamas	Bahamas Note 6.95 (2029)	BAH29	99.46	0.00	6.95%	20 November 2029			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00	7%	19 October 2017			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00	Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00	7%	30 May 2013			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00	Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015			
RoyalFidelity Merchant Bank & Trust Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid %	Ask %	Last Price	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield	
10.06	5.01	Bahamas	5.01	6.01	14.00		-2.945	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
0.55	0.40	RND	0.35	0.40	0.55		0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%	
CFAL Securities Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)											
41.00	29.00	ABDAB	30.13	31.59	29.00		4.540	0.000	9.03	0.00%	
0.55	0.40	RND	0.45	0.55	0.55		0.002	0.000	261.90	0.00%	
BISX Listed Mutual Funds											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD%	Last 12 Months %	NAV 3MTH	NAV 6MTH	NAV Date			
1.5122	1.4076	CFAL	1.5179	5.51%	6.90%	1.498004	1.475244	30-Nov-10			
2.9265	2.8300	CFAL	2.9187	1.10%	3.13%	2.919946	2.911577	30-Sep-10			
1.5688	1.4954	CFAL	1.5697	4.15%	4.18%	1.551550	1.532712	30-Dec-10			
3.2025	2.8522	Royal	2.7108	-13.03%	-4.96%			30-Nov-10			
13.6388	13.0484	Royal	13.2825	-0.63%	-0.14%			30-Nov-10			
114.3684	101.6693	CFAL	114.3684	9.98%	12.49%	109.392860	107.570619	30-Jun-10			
106.5528	99.4177	CFAL	106.5528	4.75%	7.18%	100.779540	105.776543	30-Sep-10			
1.1415	1.0000	FG	1.1415	4.74%	5.21%			30-Nov-10			
1.1101	1.0000	FG	1.1101	3.94%	7.60%			30-Nov-10			
1.1428	1.0000	FG	1.1428	4.78%	5.90%			30-Nov-10			
9.1005	9.1005	Royal	9.7950	4.85%	5.45%			30-Nov-10			
11.2361	10.0000	Royal	10.6417	-1.20%	0.50%			30-Nov-10			
10.0000	9.1708	Royal	9.6635	-3.37%	-3.37%			30-Nov-10			
8.1643	4.8105	Royal	7.9442	2.94%	6.47%			30-Nov-10			
MARKET TERMS											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX - 19 Dec 02 = 1,000.00						YIELD - last 12 month dividends divided by closing price					
52wk-Hi - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks						Bid \$ - Buying price of Colina and Fidelity					
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks						Ask \$ - Selling price of Colina and Fidelity					
Previous Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily volume						Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price					
Today's Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume						Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week					
Change - Change in closing price from day to day						EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mths					
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today						NAV - Net Asset Value					
DIV \$ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months						N/M - Not Meaningful					
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings						FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index, January 1, 1994 = 100					
(S) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/8/2007											
(3) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/11/2007											
TO TRADE CALL: CFAL 242-502-7010 ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764 FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000 COLONIAL 242-502-7525											

2011 Q4 START DATE TARGET FOR OIL DRILLER

FROM page 1B

2011 fourth quarter.

BPC PLC, in its December 2010 presentation to prospective investors and industry analysts, states that it "plans to drill in Q4 2011", having obtained a new set of seismic data on the potential for Bahamian waters to be harbouring substantial oil deposits.

The company, which also previously announced plans for a secondary listing of its shares on the Bahamas International Securities Exchange (BISX), also said in the presentation - a copy of which has been obtained by Tribune Business - that "new seismic planned to mature a prospect for Q4 2011". That is another reference to its hopes for a drilling start.

However, Earl Deveaux, minister of the environment, told Tribune Business in a recent interview that the five licences BPC PLC already held were leases for exploration and testing purposes only, not drilling. Should the company want to start drilling, it would have to apply for a totally new set of permits.

"The licences that we issued are not licences for drilling; they are leases, and they provide for them to do seismic work and conduct investigations for oil," Mr Deveaux explained.

"They would have to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan that would have to be approved, and they would be required to get permission for drilling in Bahamian waters.

"There would also have to be agreement on the royalties for the oil likely to be found."

Mr Deveaux said the Government-imposed moratorium on the consideration of any new oil exploration/drilling licence applications, which was instituted in late August 2010, remains in place. This immediately placed the three licences BPC had sought in a joint venture with Statoil/Hydro, plus two others it wanted in its own name, into cold storage.

The minister explained that the reasons for the moratorium also remained, namely the need to account for the lessons learned in the Deepwater Horizon rig explosion/oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, and the Government's desire to put in place "the most stringent regulatory regime".

What is clear is that apart from the oil discovery prospects, BPC has been attracted to the Bahamas by the relatively high rates of return that can be enjoyed, due to the absence of any income or corporate taxes.

According to its August 2010 investor presentation, compared to the Gulf of Mexico, where any oil explorer/driller will retain just over 30 per cent of the gross as net revenues, in the Bahamas they would retain more than 50 per cent due to the absence of taxes. While costs were roughly the same, royalties paid in the Bahamas would also be less.

Indeed, the BPC presentation showed that the Bahamian government would have the second lowest take of any project's pre-tax net profit value (NPV), standing at just under 30 per cent compared to a global average of 67 per cent.

In the meantime, BPC is continuing to conduct seismic testing and processing in the five areas where it was licensed - the Bain, Cooper, Donaldson and Eneas fields on the Cay Sal Bank, on the maritime border with Cuba, and the Miami field in the northern Bahamas near Bimini. Together those fields cover some 3,873,546 acres.

The three fields that BPC plans to explore in a joint venture with Statoil cover 2,328,700 acres, while the two licences that the former hopes to obtain in its own name cover 1,534,600 acres. Altogether, almost four million acres are involved in the licence applications now delayed by the Government.

In its August investor presentation, BPC said that the total acreage covered by the 10 licences was some 7,736,846 acres of seabed. "BPC will grow assets by expanding acreage and engaging new farm-in partners by year-end 2010, which will carry BPC through the early stages of exploration, discovery and delineation," the company added.

Associate Attorney - Real Estate

Applicant must have minimum of 5 years experience and be specialized in the area of Real Estate and Development; demonstrate an ability to work independently and possess thorough working knowledge and technical competence in the area mentioned.

Compensation: commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Reply in confidence to
attorneyvacancy@gmail.com

NOTICE

International Business Companies Act
No.45 of 2000

CHARLTON TRADING LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with Section 137 (4) of the International Business Companies Act, (No.45 of 2000), CHARLTON TRADING LIMITED has been dissolved and struck off the Register according to the Certificate of Dissolution issued by the Registrar General on the 3rd day of December, 2010.

Hamilton Management Services Limited
Fiman House, St George's Place
St Peter Port, Guernsey
GY1 2BH
Liquidator

BUSINESS

ANALYST FORECASTS 6-7 PER CENT STOCK MARKET REVIVAL FOR 2011

FROM page 1B

ery flotation; the initial 9 per cent government-owned tranche in the Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) valued at roughly \$37 million; and the Arawak Cay Port.

Explaining that these offerings would give Bahamian investors - both institutional and retail - greater depth, diversification and choice when they came to market, Mr Kerr told Tribune Business: "I'm an eternal optimist. It's not going to be a stellar year of performance by historical standards, at least not like 2007, when you have 20 per cent additional gains, but there's a lot of things going on locally that will restore and underpin investor sentiment."

Larry Gibson, vice-president of pensions for Colonial Group (Bahamas), agreed with Mr Kerr that investor sentiment was critical to Bahamian stock market recovery.

"What is lacking is confidence - the almost total absence of confidence," Mr Gibson told Tribune Business. "Even people with money are not willing to do things, and it's not going to happen unless they're confident. The professional money will start to look around once they become comfortable."

"The big risk out there is, if you look at credit to businesses, it's terrible." On mortgages, while loan values compared to appraised values were still pretty good, the high level of defaults in this area still did "not bode well".

Pointing out that Bahamian investors largely behaved as if they expected stock prices to go up all the time, meaning they reacted even more negatively in a downturn, Mr Gibson said: "I think it's going to be sluggish again next year."

"Our economy lags, and may not have seen the bottom. We're in a state of resuscitation, and it's not getting any better per se. The deterioration has stopped, but the recovery has not really kicked in yet."

Earnings

Key is progress on the \$2.6 billion Baha Mar project, which is expected to eventually - through Bahamian contractors and workers hired to work on the \$400 million construction package set aside for locals - produce a 'trickle down' effect that may also boost earnings for listed Bahamian public companies.

In addition, Mr Kerr said Baha Mar and other development projects could also result in the "level of discretionary and disposable income that allows people to invest increasing, both at the retail and institutional level".

The latest Central Bank of the Bahamas data showed that collective equity market valuations on the Bahamas International Securities Exchange (BISX) were down by 5.28 per cent for the year to November 30, 2010, a trend that contrasted with the upward movement for most global stock market indices, apart from France's CAC 40 and Japan's Nikkei 225.

While BISX was down on a "net net basis" by around 1.5 per cent for 2010, Mr Kerr said investors "could expect" average stock price appreciation of around 6-7 per cent for 2011, if all factors likely to impact the Bahamian economy came through in a positive manner.

"We need a sustainable recovery to cause people to think about being in the market long-term. We've had two bad years, and I believe this coming year will be much better, and the year after that better again," Mr Kerr said.

Acknowledging that the Bahamian economy was hugely dependent on the US for its well-being, and that our northern neighbour was still "not out of the woods", Mr Kerr took encouragement from the fact tourist numbers had passed the five million mark in 2010.

"That's a positive sign, meaning the destination is still attractive. If we continue at those levels, we should be OK," Mr Kerr told Tribune Business.

Stating that his four stock picks for 2011 were FINCO, Commonwealth Bank, Colina Holdings (Bahamas) and AML Foods, he acknowledged the need to get more Bahamians participating in the equities market as investors.

"Institutional monies play a significant role, and more people entering the market is important," Mr Kerr said. "We need broad-based retail participation. If it's just for companies and institutions, that signifies a lack of knowledge or understanding of the process, or that people just don't have the monies to invest in equities."

Pointing to the likely increase in capital market activity in the New Year, Mr Kerr added: "Market depth and diversification is very important. People have options. BTC would be more of a pure telecoms play, as opposed to Cable Bahamas, Heineken is a beverage, and the Arawak Cay port more of an infrastructure opportunity, so we're bringing real depth and diversification to the market."

"I think we're going to have a real degree of institutional involvement, create liquidity, have long-term capital, and real demand for those companies." Yet, he acknowledged, their prospects all depended on economic recovery and consumer sentiment.

Retailer fears lengthening consumer recovery

FROM page 1B

takes longer for the overwhelming majority of Bahamians to recover from Christmas expenditure, which is definitely bad for Bahamians in retail.

"The recovery period has increased by a month every year for the past six years. That's what we see in terms of historical trending with respect to an individual's financial recovery taking an additional month each year, and that's not going to bode well for us. We see it in our sales figures."

Apart from paying down Christmas shopping-related debt, Bahamian consumers also had to deal with bills such as mortgages, utilities and all manner of existing consumer loans, causing Mr Lowe to bemoan the general lack of budgeting among his fellow countrymen.

"We've held steady to flat to last year," he added of Kelly's (Freeport's) sales performance, "but it doesn't bode well going into the New Year with respect to what's going to happen in the first six months of 2011. It's going to be pretty tough for most people. Like it or not, we don't manage our funds very well in relation to what's around the corner."

"That's something we've been watching for the last six years. The recovery used to take until January/February, but then it lengthened to February/March, then

March/April, and by last year it was well into June before we saw an increase in sales.

"Based on the recovery getting stretched out further and further, the banks will be watching that very closely."

Tribune Business reported on Christmas Eve how Bahamian commercial banks saw their hopes for a third consecutive month of bad loan declines dashed by a 3 per cent November increase, prompting one senior executive to say that the \$1.169 billion delinquent credit portfolio was becoming "more hard core the longer the recession lasts".

Private

Expressing disappointment that November 2010, during which total private sector loan arrears increased in value by \$34.3 million, did not match September and October and create a three-month trend of bad credit declines, Paul McWeeney, Bank of the Bahamas International's managing director, warned that it would be another 18-24 months before the Bahamian commercial banking industry saw "substantial improvement".

November's 3 per cent bad loan increase took the total arrears ratio, as a percentage of all loans to Bahamian businesses and households, to 18.6 per cent

- the latter increasing by 0.4 percentage points.

That means that \$18.6 out of every \$100 loaned by Bahamian commercial banks is in arrears. And, more critically, non-performing loans - those 90 days and more past due, and upon which the banks have stopped accruing interest - rose by \$12.6 million or 2 per cent during November to hit \$648.4 million.

The latter figure is a sum worth 10.2 per cent of all outstanding loans to Bahamian companies and the private sector, meaning that \$10.2 out of every \$100 in credit extended by the private sector is non-performing.

Consumer loan arrears rose by \$12.3 million or 4.6 per cent during November 2010 to hit \$279.6 million, out of a total \$2.174 billion in outstanding consumer

credit, with short-term defaults up by \$6.5 million or 5.5 per cent, while credit 90 days past due was up by \$5.8 million or 3.9 per cent.

Commercial loan arrears, which grew by \$7.1 million or 2.6 per cent, saw an increase of \$4.3 million or 5.2 per cent in the 31-90 days past due category, and a rise of \$2.8 million or 1.5 per cent in the non-performing segment.

The November arrears growth was again led by the mortgage sector, where bad loans increased by a collective value of \$14.9 million or 2.5 per cent to hit a total of \$608.6 million.

Non-performing mortgages, those 90 days or more past due, increased by \$4 million or 1.4 per cent, while those between 31-90 days past due increased by \$10.9 million or 3.6 per cent.



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or email: people@nas.bs

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BUSINESS

Stocks flat as Wall Street shrugs off China rate move

DAVID K. RANDALL,
AP Business Writers
PALLAVI GOGOI,
AP Business Writers
NEW YORK



CHINA ON THE MOVE: An investor walks past the stock price monitor at a private securities company Monday Dec. 13, 2010 in Shanghai, China.

Stocks were little changed Monday as investors focused on strong holiday shopping results and looked past an interest rate hike in China, according to Associated Press.

Many traders stayed home because of the snow, but the absence of selling points to growing confidence about the U.S. economy. Data from MasterCard Advisors' SpendingPulse survey estimates that U.S. retail sales between Nov. 5 and Dec. 24 rose 5.5 percent from last year. Wall Street is anticipating that Tuesday's consumer confidence index for December will reflect this optimism.

Also expected on Tuesday is the widely-watched S&P/Case-Shiller house price index for October, which may not capture the exuberance seen in other more recent economic indicators.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended the day down 18.46 points, or 0.2 percent,

to 11,555.03. The Standard and Poor's 500 index gained 0.8, or less than 0.1 percent, to 1,257.54. The Nasdaq composite index rose 1.7 points, also less than 0.1 percent, to 2,667.27. Monday's trading was particularly light after a massive blizzard swept the Northeast, disrupting commutes for many people in New York's financial industry. Activity was already expected to be slow in a week

sandwiched between the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

China's move over the weekend was the second time in three months that the country took steps to slow the pace of its economic expansion. Inflation jumped to its highest levels in two years in November. Any slowdown in China affects companies worldwide and can drive a decline in many stock markets. Bank of

America Corp. estimates that emerging markets like China account for 80 percent of the world's economic growth.

In the U.S., financial stocks were up. American International Group Inc. shares rose 9 percent to \$59.38 after the bailed-out insurer said it obtained \$3 billion in credit facilities, marking another step on its road to recovery.

Bank of America shares closed up nearly 2 percent to \$13.27, while Citigroup Inc. was up 2 percent to \$4.77.

Consolidated volume of stocks traded on the New York Stock Exchange totaled 2 billion. Gaining stocks outpaced losing stocks four to three. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose slightly to 3.34 percent.

Hotel incentive request under 'serious review'

FROM page 1B

\$50 million into the Bahamian economy, if the Government were to relax the requirements necessary for them to access incentives for such work under the Hotel Encouragement Act.

As a consequence of the survey's results, the BHA issued a call for government to consider an amendment to the Hotels Encouragement Act to temporarily eliminate the requirement that hoteliers must invest in upgrades equivalent to 25 per cent of the value of their property in order to access duty incentives on materials related to those upgrades.

The survey was undertaken by "a strong sampling of the nation's hotels, particularly smaller properties", and involved them answering three questions with a view to determining "the extent to which hotel upgrades and refurbishments could be stimulated with a change in the existing Hotels Encouragement Act investment requirement".

Eighty per cent of hotel properties surveyed said they had "put a hold on refurbishments, capital improvements or upgrades during the past two years due to economic conditions".

Mr Comito suggested the stimulus from the proposed amendment to the Act would be felt especially in the Family Islands, where many of the properties surveyed were located.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2009
IN THE SUPREME COURT CLE/qui/No.01268
Common Law & Equity Division
BETWEEN
IN THE MATTER OF ALL THAT piece parcel or tract of land containing 6.888 acres situate on the Eastern side of the Eleuthera Main Road and approximately 1.2 miles Northwest of Haynes Avenue in the Settlement of Governor's Harbour on the Island of Eleuthera one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE Quieting Titles Act, 1959
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE Petition of Alban Johnson

NOTICE

THE PETITION OF ALBAN JOHNSON in respect of:- ALL THAT piece parcel or tract of land containing 6.888 acres situate on the Eastern side of the Eleuthera Main Road and approximately 1.2 Miles Northwest of Haynes Avenue Governors Harbour Eleuthera one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas which said piece parcel or tract of land is bounded Northeastwardly by land now or formerly the property of Eleuthera Adventurers Ltd. now Cigatoo Estates and running thereon 350.81 feet and Southeastwardly by land now or formerly the property of the Estate of D. Artie Nottage and running thereon 949.97 feet and Southwestwardly by Eleuthera Main Road and running thereon 297.53 feet and Northwestwardly by land now or formerly the property of Eleuthera Adventurers Ltd. now Cigatoo Estates and running thereon 933.14 feet.

ALBAN JOHNSON claims to be the owner of the unencumbered fee simple in possession of the said land and has made application to the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas under Section Three (3) of the Quieting Titles Act, 1959 to have his title to the said land investigated and the nature and extent thereof determined and declared in a Certificate of Title to be granted by the Court in accordance with the provisions of the said Act.

Copies of the Petition and Plan of the said Land made by inspected during normal offices hours in the following places:

1. The Registry of the Supreme Court, East Street North, Nassau, The Bahamas;
2. The Administrator's Office, Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, The Bahamas; and
3. The Chambers of Lockhart & Co., 35 Buen Retiro Road, off Shirley Street, Nassau, The Bahamas.

NOTICE is hereby given that any person having dower or right to dower or an Adverse Claim or a claim not recognized in the Petition shall on or before the expiration of Thirty (30) days after the final publication of these presents, file in the Supreme Court and serve on the Petitioner or the undersigned a Statement of his claim in the prescribed form verified by an Affidavit to be filed therewith.

Failure of any such person to file and serve a statement of his claim on or before the expiration of Thirty (30) days after the final publication of these presents will operate as a bar to such claim.

Dated the 8th day of February, A.D., 2010

LOCKHART & CO.
Chambers
35 Buen Retiro Road
Off Shirley Street
Nassau, The Bahamas

Attorneys for the Petitioner

Franchise urged as route for success

FROM page 1B

In a statement to Tribune Business, organisers said the workshop will "introduce (participants) to the value and economics of franchising". It will include speakers such as Jerry Crawford, president of Jani-King International, one of the ten largest US franchise systems, who is looking to expand his franchise to the Bahamas; a representative from the International Franchise Association; a Washington, DC, franchise attorney who can offer advice on expanding Bahamian businesses into the US; and Tyrone Nabbie, owner of the Kafe Kalik restaurant known for its Lynden Pindling International Airport locations, which is also now being fran-

chised in the US.

The US Embassy in Nassau will also have a representative on hand to offer relevant advice.

Mr Ingraham said: "Our concept is to have local Bahamians have a look at franchising as a fast growing element to business, and to have them understand that your business risk goes down when you have a franchisor, who has a tried method and track record of success, as a partner."

He said the ability to be successful in this area may often depend on Bahamians' willingness to partner with other Bahamians, to share the benefits of their joint capital and experience.

"Bahamians have not been used to doing what we call partnerships and joint ventures. But if you can take

two or three or four guys with different skill sets and access to capital and at the end of the day discover that if we understand the entity and develop and work in it together, we are all successful, then everyone wins," Mr Ingraham said.

"Bahamians in the past have thought: 'It has to be all mine', but a lot of our workshops will talk specifically about how to create that winning environment (through partnerships)," said Mr Ingraham.

As for Bahamian businesses that may be in a position to successfully franchise their operations abroad, Mr Ingraham admitted that "there may not be a whole lot, but there are some where there's a concept that may be expanded".

Those wishing to attend the workshop and/or franchise show should visit www.bahamasfranchisecommunity.com or e-mail Shirley Gleman at sgleman@gate.net.

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BUSINESS

Nonprofits getting first shot at bank foreclosures



BOB CHRISTIE, Associated Press PHOENIX

RENOVATION: In this photo taken Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010, Francisco "Chico" Cruz, right, and his wife Pam Cruz, second right, greet volunteers from the Honeywell Aerospace Human Resources Department as they work on a month-long renovation of a donated home, in Phoenix. The foreclosed home was donated by Chase Bank to Rebuilding Together, a nonprofit organization that renovates and repairs homes for low-income, disabled, veteran and elderly homeowners at no cost to them. This home was renovated and then sold to retired U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Francisco "Chico" Cruz and his wife with the proceeds from the sale staying with Rebuilding Together to be reinvested into on-going programs. (AP Photo/Matt York)

Francisco and Pam Cruz maneuvered around boxes of new flooring and open cans of paint as they surveyed the foreclosed Phoenix house they would soon call their own.

This house wasn't typical of the thousands in foreclosure-battered Arizona that banks have auctioned for cheap — often to investors who make just enough repairs to satisfy a potential renter.

The Cruzes will become first-time homeowners, helped by one of many nonprofit groups that can snag foreclosures at a discount — and sometimes for free — before banks make them available to speculators.

It's a glimmer of hope for struggling neighborhoods that are watching banks foreclose on a record number of homes this year.

In the Cruzes' case, Rebuilding Together obtained the home for free from JPMorgan Chase & Co., the bank that foreclosed on its previous owner. Honeywell International Inc. provided the labor to renovate it and \$25,000 cash for the materials.

In a market hot with speculators snapping up cheap foreclosures, Rebuilding Together's program is one of many that give a leg up to nonprofits and redevelopment agencies trying to stabilize neighborhoods dotted with vacant houses.

Yet Jim O'Donnell, JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s community revitalization program manager, acknowledges that each home being offered to a community group also has a story about someone who lost it to the bank.

"It's an unfortunate situation, and that's why we really take a conscious effort to work with our partners to ensure that we can have some good stories at the end of this unfortunate equation," O'Donnell said. "Through these programs, we put what I call this protective umbrella over these affordable



INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

homes so that first-come first-served nonprofits can get access to them to ensure they get turned back into the hands of the community."

Cruz and his wife watched earlier this month as more than 70 red-shirted Honeywell Aerospace employees swarmed throughout the three-bedroom house, putting the final touches on new kitchen cabinets, painting baseboards and walls, and cleaning up the landscaping.

"All the neighbors, they're just so grateful, because the house was looking so bad," Pam Cruz said. "This is a good example of the banks working with the mortgage companies and so forth, helping the community revitalize the neighborhood."

The disabled Vietnam veteran and his wife bought the house after the renovation was complete and got a completely updated home for below market value. The mortgage payment will be much less than the \$900 a month they were paying in rent.

Under an expanded agreement announced in September

between the federal government and banks that provide about 75 percent of all U.S. mortgages, as many as 100,000 more repossessed homes will join those already being pumped into the nonprofit and redevelopment agency pipeline.

That deal started in 2008 as a pilot program to provide foreclosed homes to cities and nonprofits that could renovate them for low- and moderate-income families. About \$7 billion in federal funds has been allocated to the program.

But the discount program will only handle a small percentage of the foreclosures expected in the coming years. Banks seized more than 980,000 homes nationwide through the first 11 months of 2010 and will likely take back a million more next year, according to foreclosure listing firm RealtyTrac Inc.

The home the Cruzes now own is one of 1,200 Chase has donated or sold at steep discounts to nonprofits or community development agencies in the past two years. There are similar programs at other major

lenders, including Wells Fargo & Co., which will donate close to 200 homes this year and sell hundreds more at a discount.

The Cruzes said they had been contemplating buying a house for months before a friend who is a real estate agent recommended the couple to Rebuilding Together's Phoenix chapter.

As first-time homebuyers, the retired couple were the type of people the group is looking to help.

The nonprofits generally have experience rehabbing homes, and their efforts help pull up home values. Groups like Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together and community development organizations like Detroit Shoreway in Cleveland and Jacob's Ladder in Memphis participate.

The availability of foreclosure homes has helped community-based housing groups like Community HousingWorks in San Diego expand from developing affordable apartment housing to helping buyers get into their first homes.

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(No.45 of 2000)
In Voluntary Liquidation

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with Section 138(8) of the International Business Companies Act, No.45 of 2000, the Dissolution of **LAUREL MANAGEMENT INC.** has been completed, a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the Company has therefore been struck off the Register. The date of completion of the dissolution was the 20th day of December, 2010.

LeRoy Walson III
Liquidator

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

2009/CLE/QUI/001435

IN THE SUPREME COURT

EQUITY SIDE

IN THE MATTER OF The Quieting Titles Act, 1959

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THAT tract of land containing 3,794 acres situate approximately ¾ miles south of the settlement of Governor's Harbour Airport and immediately on the south side of the main Eleuthera Highway on the said Island of Eleuthera one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

AND

IN THE MATTER OF The Petition of John Liege Burrows and Thelma Victoria Burrows of Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

The Petition of JOHN LIEGE BURROWS AND THELMA VICTORIA BURROWS in respect of:

NOTICE

ALL THAT tract of land containing 3,794 acres situate approximately ¾ miles south of the settlement of Governor's Harbour Airport and immediately on the south side of the main Eleuthera Highway on the said Island of Eleuthera one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

John Liege Burrows and Thelma Victoria Burrows claim to be the owners of the unencumbered fee simple estate in possession of the said land and has made an application to the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas under Section Three (3) of the Quieting Titles Act, 1959 to have their title to the said land investigated and the nature and extent thereof determined and declared in a Certificate of Title to be granted by the Court in accordance with the provisions of the said Act.

Copies of the Petition and the Plan of the said land can be inspected at the following places during normal office hours:

1. The Registry of the Supreme Court, Ansbacher House, East Street North, Nassau, Bahamas;
2. The Chambers of Commonwealth Law Advocates, Duncanson House, 79 Montrose Avenue, Nassau, Bahamas

Notice is hereby given that any person having dower or right to dower or an Adverse Claim or a claim not recognized in the Petition shall on or before the expiration of thirty (30) days after the final publication of these here presents, file in the Supreme Court or serve on the Petitioner or the undersigned a statement of his claim in the prescribed form verified by an affidavit to be filed therewith.

Failure of any such person to file and serve a statement of his claim on or before the expiration of Thirty (30) days from the final publication of these presents shall operate as a bar to such claims.

Dated this 14th day of December, A. D., 2010

COMMONWEALTH LAW ADVOCATES
Duncanson House
79 Montrose Avenue
Nassau, Bahamas
Attorneys for the Petitioner

Career Opportunity
IT Technician

The Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD) is seeking candidates for the position of IT Technician. This position will assist in the management and maintenance of electronic systems and equipment.

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For more details, please visit the PEOPLE section of our website at www.nas.bs.

If you are qualified and interested, please submit your resume by January 7, 2011 to:

Manager, People
Nassau Airport Development Company
P. O. Box AP 59229
Nassau, Bahamas

or email: people@nas.bs

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **NADIA FERNAND** of **QUACKOO STREET, P.O. BOX N-4079, NASSAU, BAHAMAS** is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **28th day of December 2010** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **CYNTHIA JOSEPH** of **QUACKOO STREET, P.O. BOX N-4079, NASSAU, BAHAMAS** is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **28th day of December 2010** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

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WOMAN

By JEFFARAH GIBSON
Tribune Features Writer

THE efforts to increase the awareness and the prevention of HIV/AIDS in the Bahamas has been ongoing.

And the American Red Cross is doing its part to ensure that the awareness of HIV/AIDS is kept alive through the dissemination of information and the implementation of community projects.

For that matter, the American Red Cross is funding the Bahamas Red Cross Society to reduce the transmission as well as the social stigma associated with the disease.

Through work with Jamaica, the Bahamas, and Guyana Red Cross societies under the Caribbean HIV/AIDS Project (CHAP), the American Red Cross aims to reach nearly 22,000 people from high-risk groups, such as men who have sex with men (MSM), sex workers, minors and high risk youth, as well as the wider community.

The first thing on the agenda for the American Red Cross Society is the peer educators initiative, one that allows individuals between the ages 16-30 to conduct outreach activities in various communities. The project is expected to begin in January of next year.

"We are targeting the most vulnerable communities like Bain and Grants Town, Farm Road and Centreville and St Cecelia," said Sally Moore health delegate of the organisation.

Skills

The peer educators project is the largest activity under (CHAP). Individuals who are interested in becoming part of the project will learn skills in negotiation, problem solving assertiveness and learn facts about HIV/AIDS. "The criteria for peer educator is simple, the person must be between the age of 16-30. They must be a resident of Bain and Grants Town, Farm Road and Centreville, or St Cecelia. They must also be eager to learn new information, especially about HIV AIDS. They must be a good communicator outgoing, confident and willing to commit to the program for 18-months of the project (in both time and effort)," Ms Moore said.

Ms Moore said that the peer educators project will provide the opportunity for the HIV/AIDS message to reach the wider community.

"When you talk to young people the majority of them learn about sex from their peers. If you train a group of people with knowledge and details these skills can be passed on to friends and the message can reach a broader spectrum of the community," she said.

Recruitment for peer educators initiative is underway and the

boosting AIDS awareness

"We are targeting the most vulnerable communities like Bain and Grants Town, Farm Road and Centreville and St Cecelia." – Sally Moore



PROJECT LAUNCH: Delegates from Bahamas, Jamaica, Guyana, Haiti, American Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent at the project launch.

organisation is seeking to attract youth from Haitian and Bahamian descent. As a peer educator, projects will all be initially offered by Red Cross, first aid training followed by training as a Red Cross HIV peer educator is necessary.

A small stipend will be given to the peer educators.

Another project called the Trusted Adult Youth Communicators will also be launched during April 2011. This program is designed to improve conversation between

adults and their children about HIV and sexual reproductive health. "It's about teaching adults that talking to their kids about sex is not going to make them go out and do it. It also teaches young people to talk to their parents about sex as well. And when parents and young people have this conversation they will find that they are able to talk about other things," she said.

All year long the organisation will be engaging in activities to

increase the awareness of the disease. Ms Moore said that volunteers of both projects will be given small training in theater based techniques to foster an appreciation for Bahamian entertainment. They will also develop skits and stories to be performed during community events.

Ms Moore said so far the Bahamas has been doing good job at the keeping the awareness alive.

"I think the Bahamas has been doing a good job at addressing

HIV as a health issue rather than a social issue. The Government has done good job of putting strategies in place to deal with the issue. However we have to keep the message going because we are still seeing high rates among young people. We have to give them skills to make the right decision that will put them in safer situations," Ms Moore told *Tribune Health*.

Persons interested any of the projects can contact the American Red Cross directly at 322-9451.

Coders give hope to cancer patients

By ALESHA CADET
Tribune Features Reporter

THE HOLIDAY cheer is still in the air as the Bahamas Chapter of Professional Coders (BCPC) recently donated a port to the Sister Sister breast cancer support group.

Coders are the persons who transform medical diagnoses and procedures into a universal numeric text for clarity, privacy and confidentiality, in terms of billing and insurance purposes.

Adding additional information on the port, in a statement, the Mednet Group said: "The Implantable ports, sometimes called portacaths or subcutaneous ports are often used to give chemotherapy treatment and other medicines to both adults and children with cancer."

"The port allows medicines to be given into the vein or blood to be taken from the vein or samples of the blood to be taken for testing. The port also makes it possible for cancer patients to have treatment

without the need to frequently put needles into veins in their arms."

The cost of an implantable port for cancer treatment ranges from \$470 to \$600. According to Sandra Ferguson Rolle, Vice President of Sister Sister, the donation means a lot and it is going to make somebody happy.

"When you hear that they are unable to afford a port and then you hear in the next couple of months that they have passed on, you know, it's not a good feeling. Most of the time, these women are the bread winners of the family, so when they are stricken the whole family is shaken. That's why we try to help," said the Sister Sister vice-president, who also noted that the Sister Sister motto is "Women helping Women".

She also revealed that just last month alone, Sister Sister's fundraising efforts enabled the organisation to purchase five ports from the Cancer Society of The Bahamas and give them to Breast Cancer patients.

Marsha Sands, President of the Bahamas Chapter of



THE JOY OF GIVING-Members of the Sister Sister Breast Cancer Support Group received a port donated by the Bahamas Professional Chapter of Coders for a fellow breast cancer sister who cannot afford the port needed for treatment. PICTURED FROM L TO R: Mrs. Sandra Rolle-Ferguson, Vice President of Sister Sister, Breast Cancer Support group, Mrs. Marsha Sands, President of The Bahamas Professional Chapter of Professional Coders (BCPC) and Mrs. Shantell Cox-Hutchinson, member of Sister Sister, Breast Cancer Support group.

Professional Coders explained that over a year ago, BCPC adopted the Sister Sister Group with the intention of donating a port.

Short

"Last year we fell short on the monies that we collected, so this year we thought that we would pursue it again. Based on personal dues and monies that we collected, we finally came up with the monies that we needed so we could

purchase a port and donate it to shall we say, a Fellow Sister," she said.

This donation had added meaning for the BCPC President. "I'm a seven-month cancer survivor and I was diagnosed with cancer in February, and I know and I understand that the port is very important to the treatment of the cancer as it relates to the administration of chemotherapy," she added.

"In speaking with other females who had been diagnosed with cancer as well, I

found that because they had no insurance like I did, they were not able to afford a port and this was a set back for these females. So even though we decided a few years ago that we would get together and donate a port, it just resonates with me so much more, now after being diagnosed with the condition."

A Sister Sister member, Shantell Cox-Hutchinson, a five-year and stage-four cancer survivor, emphasised that because the demand for the ports is so great, the port

would be assigned and donated over that very weekend.

"I've seen in the last five years, how many women can get treatment because we buy the port. We raise funds from charity and public kindness, so this donation by The Bahamas Chapter of Professional Coders is one step closer to not having to find the funds to buy a port, and because of this, some lucky woman is going to receive this port within the next several days," she said.

The Tribune

B O D Y A N D M I N D

health

You should resolve to make your menopausal health a priority

(ARA) -
Now is the time for a renewed focus on personal health and wellness. If you have been putting the health of your family first, take some time to educate yourself and make your own health a priority, as well.

If you are a menopausal woman, you may be experiencing physical changes that you may not be sure are common or related to menopause. For some women, menopause is an easy transition into the next phase of their lives. However, for women experiencing moderate to severe symptoms, menopause can affect day-to-day activities. During menopause, declines in estrogen can result in a variety of symp-

ptoms, which may include hot flashes, night sweats, vulvar and vaginal atrophy (when the vaginal walls become thinner and less lubricated) and sleep disturbances leading to fatigue and irritability. Additionally, vaginal changes that may result from menopause - such as vaginal dryness, itching, and burning in and around the vagina - may make sexual intercourse difficult or painful for some women. While not uncommon, some women may not be comfortable talking about these vaginal or sexual symptoms that may be associated with menopause.

In fact, in a survey of 1,006 post-menopausal women called REVEAL (REvealing Vaginal Effects At mid-Life), 25 per cent of the women surveyed reported experiencing dyspareunia, or painful

sexual intercourse, at least sometimes, yet only 44 per cent of these women had initiated a conversation with their health care professional about this condition. In a related survey of 602 health care professionals, 95 per cent somewhat or strongly agreed that they considered treating a woman's vulvar and vaginal health important to her overall sexual physical health, and 87 per cent reported that detailed discussion with a patient regarding her reported symptoms was very important in guiding their diagnosis of dyspareunia.

"Menopausal women should not be embarrassed or afraid to discuss their vaginal and sexual health with their health care professional," says Karen GIBLIN, president of the Red Hot Mamas, the nation's largest menopause education and support pro-

gram. "If you are experiencing menopausal symptoms, such as uncomfortable vaginal pain either during routine daily activities or pain with intercourse, don't ignore these symptoms. Talk with your clinician - a doctor, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant or nurse - about management options to determine what you can do and find out what treatment approach that is best for you."

Make it your resolution to speak with your health care professional about your menopausal health. Menopausal symptoms, such as painful intercourse, are not something you have to live with. To learn more about your vaginal and sexual health and to obtain tips on speaking with your health care professional, visit www.REVEAL-Survey.com.

GARDENER JACK

Not a gardener?



FANTASTIC PLASTIC: Plastic containers are not usually re-usable, but they can be for gardeners.

Not a Gardener?

Not a gardener but you want to grow some tomatoes you can call your own? Dig a hole or few in your yard. Fertilise and plant. Use a hybrid variety and water occasionally. That's all it takes. The fertiliser? Do not buy a \$30 bag. I use Scotts All Purpose Flower & Vegetable Continuous Release Plant Food and with a name that long it has to be good. A 3-lb bag costs \$4.51 in Abaco. Other manufacturers have a similar product. Check out the price of fertiliser in both hardware stores and nurseries. There is often an appreciable difference.

Milk Crates

Plastic milk crates were made for gardeners. You can put your tools in them and carry them around easily. When tomato plants get out of hand, you can turn the crates upside down and support bunches of fruits off the ground. You can also sit on them when you weed and get your buns turned into waffles.

Plastic Containers

Lots of produce such as fresh fruit salads come in clear plastic containers that are wonderful for starting difficult seeds such as thyme and chives. Fill one half with soil and scatter your seeds. Dampen the soil and close the lid. Wait until you see green and then transplant.

Tool Container

Fill a cheap plastic bucket with dry builders sand and use it to store your trowels and other small digging implements. Just stick the blade into the sand and it will be cleaned as you store it in a handy position.

Broomsticks

The handles of old brooms and mops make serviceable supports for tomatoes and other plants. Cut off the action end with a machete and sharpen the broomstick as you do so. Soak the cut end (about 12 inches) in a solution of copper sulphate for a few hours or coat with a water seal. Hammer the sticks into the ground next to your tomatoes and tie them up for easy fruit retrieval.

GARDENING TIPS

Snail Motel

Prefer not to use snail bait in case you poison pets or birds? Place a piece of plywood on four rocks so it is supported about two inches off the ground. Do this near the edge of your garden where there is plenty of snail activity. Leave your motel for a week and then remove the plywood. You will find plenty of snails. How you dispose of them is up to you. A hammer works and is organic.

Roses Love Parsley

Plant parsley around the base of your rose bushes as the two plants are mutually beneficial. If you plant parsley from seed, do not forget to soak them in several changes of water over a day or two before planting. Some plants do not do well together. Bad pairings are: a) strawberries and cabbage; b) tomato and corn; c) beans and beets; d) beans and onions; e) onions and peas; f) sage and cucumbers.

Coffee Filters

Have you ever filled a pot with potting soil, watered it and watched the soil wash out through the drainage holes? It is better to fill your pot with soil that is already damp. Better yet, cover the drainage holes with one or more coffee filters. These provide excellent drainage and retain your soil. Also, when you add coffee grounds to your compost, tear up the filter and add that too.

Save Seed

If your seed package does not say that the plants you are growing are hybrid then you will be able to save the seeds to use for next season. I like to use kitchen towels for tomato seeds. Squeeze the seeds out and spread them with your finger. Allow two or three days for the seeds to dry then wrap them up and label them. Seeds should be kept in a cool and dry place. The only cool dry place in The Bahamas is your refrigerator.

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FLORIDADE: A simple broomstick can support a tomato vine, especially Roma tomatoes. This is Floridade.