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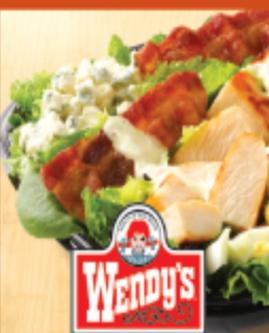
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# The Tribune

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Volume: 107 No.15

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2010

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**CARS FOR SALE, HELP WANTED AND REAL ESTATE**

BAHAMAS BIGGEST

**Classifieds Trader**

RESEARCHER BARGAIN HUNDER

HAVEN



**Strikers and Blue Flames secure championship berth**

SEE SECTION E

# Killed after \$50K numbers payout

**RESIDENTS STAGE PROTEST IN HOTEL DEVELOPMENT ROW**

By NOELLE NICOLLS  
 Tribune Staff Reporter  
 nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

HOPE Town residents criticised government in a local protest yesterday afternoon for "overturning the town council's unanimous opinion" to oppose a planned 24-room hotel and 88 villa development. Jeremy Sweeting, Hope Town chief counsellor, said council members have no interest in being puppets" for the

SEE page five

## Man shot dead, woman and baby 'in stable condition'

By NOELLE NICOLLS  
 Tribune Staff Reporter  
 nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

AN Abaco native was murdered Monday night, hours after collecting tens of thousands of dollars from a major pay out at a local numbers house, according to Tribune sources. Police confirmed they found the 36-year-old man with multiple gunshot injuries to the body inside his Forest Drive house in Marsh Harbour. He was pronounced dead at the scene by the local doctor. A woman, believed to be his girlfriend, and their one-year-old baby girl were shot in the head during the incident. Despite the trauma, mother and daughter were in stable condition when treated at the local government clinic and "they never lost consciousness." They were airlifted to Nassau and are said to be in stable condition. Sources on the ground identified the victim as Stanley Saintville, a "quiet man" who coached a football team

in the local Haitian league. His neighbour, Saintira Augustin, said he knew Mr Saintville from a small boy and it "pains his heart" to know what happened. He recalled how Mr Saintville constructed his own home. He said he was in the process of adding on an apartment to the same property. Mr Saintville recently won over \$50,000 in an Island Luck draw, according to sources. One police officer said the headquarters of the web shop was "a mad house" on Monday, because a number of people won big last week when the number 9966 fell in the Miami late night draw. He said large payouts are handled at the head office of the web shop. The Tribune was told by one resident that she knew of someone who had earned about \$200,000 in the draw. It was said that persons who entered the draw stood to win \$5,000 for every dollar they had invested. However, SEE page 11

## BTC WORKERS WALK OFF THE JOB IN SALE PROTEST



Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

**PROTEST:** BTC workers rally against the proposed sale yesterday.

By CELESTE NIXON  
 Tribune Staff Reporter  
 cnixon@tribunemedia.net

SOME 200 aggravated Bahamas Telecommunications Company workers walked off the job yesterday morning to rally against the proposed sale of the majority stake of BTC to Cable and Wireless Communication. Unified trade unions came together yesterday morning to protest the \$210 million acquisition of a majority 51 per cent stake in BTC by CWC (which operates as LIME in the Caribbean). The sale was announced last Wednesday by the government. "We are not opposed to privatisation, we are about Bahamianisation," echoed demonstrators. SEE page 12

Employees marched seven times around the BTC headquarters building located on JFK drive, carrying posters and chanting "solidarity forever, the union makes us strong." The main premise of the protest was that BTC should be a Bahamian privately owned company. Union leaders believe that BTC is capable of being a competitive and successful company if owned and operated by Bahamians. The Bahamian people are receiving little to nothing from the foreign investors. "We don't want to answer to the white man again," said Bernard Evans, President of

## LOCAL GROUP GAINS RIGHTS TO WIKILEAKS BAHAMAS FILES

A LOCAL advocacy group has gained the rights to have first access to all the files relating to the Bahamas in the 250,000 US Embassy Diplomatic Cables released by the whistle-blower website, Wikileaks. While the website's founder Julian Assange was arrested yesterday and denied bail over sexual assault allegations, sources close to the local group claim they have been in contact with persons close to his website and have reached an arrangement for the highly-anticipated files. Yesterday, a source told *The Tribune* that this is only the beginning to their approach to information freedom and the opening of gov-

ernment secrets. "We intend to establish a Wikileaks Bahamas set-up that will allow Bahamians who have access to sensitive government information to publish it in a safe and effective manner that will keep government accountable. We will secure that information in such a way that they are in no way implicated. "Bahamians will get an idea of how government works in a real sense and we will begin to understand how things that make sense don't always seem to happen, and the pressures that the government is under. "Also, we can begin to see clearly who the special inter- SEE page 11

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LOCAL NEWS

PROGRESS ON NEW PROVIDENCE WORK SITES

GENA GIBBS/BIS



**AIRPORT WORK:** The expansion of the new airport wing at the Lynden Pindling International Airport will allow the passage of more guests to fly to Nassau and connect to the Family Islands.



**STRAW MARKET:** The new Straw Market is expected to provide a home base for displaced straw vendors struggling for a place to do business in the aftermath of the 2001 Bay Street fire. It also will be a place for government to have office space in the downtown area within walking distance of the Cabinet Office and Parliament.



**HARBOUR:** Trucks moving sand deposits from the recent dredging of the Nassau Harbour carry the prized commodity to lay the foundation of development for new roads and subdivisions.

**ROUNDAABOUT:** The six-legged roundabout was the beneficiary of the sand deposits from the harbour dredging.

The completion of the road project is expected to ease the tension of transportation for those travelling from west to east to go to work and school as well as to hotels, marketplaces, entertainment centres and ports in the heart of downtown.



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# Changes to US visa applications

## Embassy announces new procedures, expanded drop-off hours for applications for children

US government regulations now require all individuals applying for US visas to submit DS-160 visa application forms that are fully accurate and complete.

Individuals presenting applications containing omissions or errors in biographical data (ie name, date of birth, place of birth, passport number, any prior or maiden names, gender) or purpose of travel, will be required to correct the omissions and/or errors to their online applications before their interviews can take place. Those applicants will be asked to complete the corrections and return to the US Embassy at a later time to complete processing of their visa applications.

"We encourage international travel and regret any inconvenience that these new regulations may entail. For the best possible customer service, we strongly recommend you complete your own application form in order to guarantee its accuracy," said the Embassy statement. "If you choose to have another person complete your application on your behalf, we recommend that you personally verify the accuracy of the information before the application is submitted electronically. Please note that bio-

graphical information in the DS-160 application form must match the information stated in your passport.

Please see our website (<http://nassau.usembassy.gov>) for a complete step-by-step guide on how to apply for a visa at the US Embassy in Nassau.

"We strive to provide better services for our visa customers. Therefore, we have expanded the hours offered to individuals wishing to submit application materials on behalf of minor children, 13 years of age and under. Individuals who will submit application materials on behalf of minors may now do so without a previously scheduled appointment (drop off) on Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 1pm to 3pm, except for official holidays. Please note that applicants 14 years of age and older with previously scheduled appointments may also submit applications for minor children at the time of their own appointments.

The Embassy said it is still accepting mail-in application materials for children under 14 via courier. The requirements to use this service or find out additional information about the US visa application process can be found on <http://nassau.usembassy.gov>.

## ZNS radio station goes back on air

AFTER three months off-air, the radio station ZNS1 1540AM yesterday resumed transmission of its signal.

The national radio station recommenced broadcasting at noon after the signal was tested and the pattern proofed for verification.

"We are currently operating at full broadcasting power of 50WK," said ZNS general manager Edwin Lightbourn yesterday in a statement.

The station's signal was disrupted when thieves stole copper ground radials from the transmission site and caused damage to equipment in one of the two tuning huts in September.

Last month, security guards thwarted an attempted second theft of copper wiring from ZNS' South Beach transmission site.

The wiring was part of transmission equipment installed after the daylight theft of 150ft of copper straps from the site two months earlier.

"Over the next few weeks the Corporation will take official measurements of the signal in the various islands to verify strength," Mr Lightbourn said.

"Management wishes to acknowledge the efforts of its dedicated staff in the restoration of 1540AM's signal and thank Family Islanders for their patience during the period the station was off the air. We also wish to acknowledge the assistance of Coast 106FM Radio in Inagua which aired 1540AM's signal during the period that the signal was interrupted on 1540AM."

### 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.



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LOCAL NEWS

**MAN SETS HIMSELF ON FIRE IN SUSPECTED SUICIDE ATTEMPT**

A MAN is being treated for severe burns after he lit himself on fire in a suspected suicide attempt.

Police reported that the incident took place at Freetown Lane off Shirley Street at 4.30pm on Monday.

The 35-year old man is said to have doused himself with gasoline before igniting the blaze.

The victim was rushed to hospital by ambulance and is said to be in stable victim.

Police say a vehicle he was repairing at the time of the incident was also damaged by the fire.

**VICTIMS ASSAULTED DURING ARMED ROBBERIES**

TWO men are in hospital with stab wounds and another is recovering from an assault after all three were attacked by armed robbers in separate incidents.

The first incident is said to have taken place on Monday at about 3.30pm near the corner of Sutton Street and Mount Royal Avenue.

Police reported that two young men, ages 16 and 18, were walking when they were approached by a tall dark man wearing a white t-shirt and dark pants, who snatched a watch from one of the victims' wrist.

A struggle followed which resulted in both the young men being stabbed multiple times.

The victims were taken to hospital by private vehicle. One of the victims is listed in stable condition, while the other remains in serious condition.

The second incident took place just before 1pm yesterday when two men – one wearing an orange shirt and blue jeans, the other dressed in black – entered the N&L Variety Store on the corner of Buttonwood Avenue and Charles W Saunders Highway, pretending to be customers.

Once inside, they both drew handguns and demanded cash.

They made off with an undisclosed amount of money and a cordless phone.

As they ran out of the shop, police say, they assaulted a customer. No further details were given, and the victim's condition could not be confirmed before press time.

**MAN APPEARS IN COURT ON ARMED ROBBERY CHARGE**

A 31-YEAR-OLD man of Munnings Drive was arraigned in a Magistrate's Court yesterday on an armed robbery charge.

Oman Ferguson, alias Omar Ferguson, was arraigned before Deputy Chief Magistrate Carolita Bethell in Court 8, Bank Lane.

It is alleged that on Saturday, December 4, Ferguson robbed Keith Woods of \$100.

It is also alleged that on Sunday, December 5, he was found in possession of a .40 calibre Smith and Wesson pistol, serial number unknown.

Ferguson pleaded not guilty to the charge. It is further alleged that he was found in possession of seven rounds of .40 ammunition. Ferguson also pleaded not guilty to that charge. He was denied bail and is expected back in court today.

**SENTENCING ADJOURNED**

THE sentencing hearing of a man accused of murdering his former girlfriend whose body was found inside a grave in the Bahamas Veteran's Cemetery was adjourned to next year.

Angelo Poitier, 24, was convicted in October of the murder of his girlfriend, Shanice Adderley, 19. The young woman's body was discovered inside a grave in the Bahamas Veteran's Cemetery on Infant View Road on May 27. According to an autopsy report, Ms Adderley had died as a result of blunt force trauma to the body.

Poitier denied killing Adderley in an unsworn statement from the prisoner's dock. He claimed that he had unwillingly signed a confession statement over fears that police would brutalise him.

Poitier was expected to be sentenced yesterday, however, his probation officer was not available for his sentencing hearing. His sentencing hearing has now been adjourned to January 19. Attorney Terrell Butler represents Poitier.

**Fox Hill police seek crime tips from residents**

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

POLICE in the Fox Hill community are calling on residents to come forward with tips no matter how small they may seem to help officers catch suspected criminals.

Officer-in-charge of the Fox Hill Police Station Assistant Superintendent Rodney Smith said his team investigates every report of shots being fired in the community and other suspected crime but appealed to the public to provide more crucial details – such as a description and precise location of the person involved – to ensure that police are able to narrow in on suspects.

"If you hear gunshots, provide us with detailed information. When we respond, if we have a target we go after the target but if you just say a gunshot in the area when we go there we can't find it. All I'm requiring from members of

the public, if they hear the sound of what they believe to be gunshots, give us some more information, the location, if you have more information give it to us, we can take it from there," said Mr Smith, who stressed that this information can be given to police anonymously.

**Suspect**

He noted a recent incident in which a tip from a concerned citizen helped police catch a housebreaking suspect in the act. The suspect was caught hiding in the ceiling of a home in eastern New Providence by police who were told that a suspicious man was seen entering a neighbour's yard.

"As the member of the public called and said they saw someone enter the yard, we responded and caught the man in the ceiling. Once the public calls we respond," said Mr Smith.

He added that police cannot

predict, nor prevent every violent crime, but an atmosphere has to be created to ensure criminals know they will be punished to the fullest extent of the law for infractions.

"Things have to line up in order for people to commit offences: a suitable target, a motivated offender and if he believes he is going to get away with the crime.

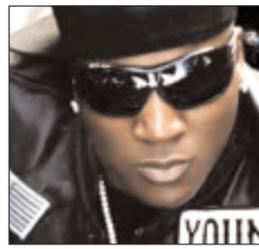
"You can't prevent him from being motivated, you can't tell people they are not a suitable target, but you have to ensure that the person who is committing the crime will never get away without being punished for it.

"And that's the difference, when people rally up and say 'Look here, you will not get away with this' and they know that the forces are against them.

"So what we do is, we go into the community and try to generate that type of (confidence) so when something happens they will call the police," said Mr Smith.

**US RAPPER 'WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY DURING ROAD BLOCK'**

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



**RAPPER: Young Jeezy**

AMERICAN rapper Young Jeezy was taken into police custody on Saturday during a police road block on Village Road following reports of gun shots fired in the Fox Hill area, according to police.

The hip-hop star, whose real name is Jay Wayne Jenkins, was booked at the Wulff Road police station, questioned at the Central Detective Unit and released hours before taking the stage at a concert at Club Luna on West Bay Street.

Officer-in-charge of the Fox Hill Police Station Assistant Superintendent Rodney Smith said police received information of gunshots being fired near a bar in the area of Dorsett and Grant Streets in Fox Hill on Saturday.

He said officers responded to the call and set up a road block near Village Road. Mr Jenkins' car was seen leaving the area and was stopped and searched in the roadblock, said ASP Smith.

"We got a report that shots were fired and the officers went to investigate – we keep the whole area hot, we pursue and investigate all reported shootings. He was in a roadblock that's where we blocked him off. When officers im-

mediately proceeded to the area that vehicle was seen leaving," said Mr Smith.

The other passengers in the car were also questioned.

A well-placed source earlier told The Tribune that the rapper was taken into the Fox Hill area by friends and was simply "in the wrong place at the wrong time" when he was taken into custody.

Club promoters "Da Recession" – a promotion company based in Miami, Florida but said to be headed by a Bimini born native DJ D'ano – engaged Mr Jenkins to perform at Club Luna on West Bay Street.

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**SEAT BELT LAW IN PLACE FROM DECEMBER 13**

THE government has announced that as of December 13, the seat belt law will go into effect.

The law was enacted in March 2002, but implementation was deferred.

Beginning next week, it will be against the law for drivers to drive without a seat belt, or carry a passenger unless that passenger is secured by a seat belt.

Any passenger under the age of five must be secured in a child seat positioned at the rear of the car's passenger.

The law goes on to state: "Any driver of a motor vehicle who drives without a seat belt or allows a passenger in such a vehicle to ride without a seat belt commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$300. A passenger who rides in a vehicle without a seat belt commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$100.

"Every person is guilty of an offence against this section, who being the person driving the motor vehicle at the time of the breach, permits a child to ride without a seat belt or secured in a child passenger seat, and such person shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$500."

Certain vehicles are exempt from the law, including:

- tractors
- motorcycles
- buses, except the front seats
- trucks, except the front seats and any other passenger sitting alongside the driver. In the case of a truck with double rows of seats, seat belts must be worn by all riders in the cab.
- motor vehicles specifically designed for the use of the physically or medically handicapped.



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## No more members needed in House

WHEN will they get it! The Bahamas is broke and yet a group in the PLP want four more seats added to the 41-member House of Assembly.

Instead of adding more to the country's financial burden, one would expect responsible leaders to try to find ways to reduce rather than increase those seats.

To hear some Bahamians talk — as they live their day-dreaming Walter Mitty lives — one would think that the Bahamas was not a part of this world.

Many nations have caught, or are in fear of catching, what a Polish official recently referred to as the PIGS virus — Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain — which has threatened to bring government's down because of the severe taxation needed to cure the virus.

In Ireland, for example, income tax has been extended to include low-salaried workers, welfare payments are to be cut across the board, spending on capital projects will be cut by \$2.4 billion, there will be a reduction in pensions for retired state employees, with the civil service being reduced to 2002 levels. The never-ending list of belt-tightening in Ireland goes on. Everything is being cut or tax increased in an attempt to prevent total economic collapse.

Each of these countries has had to agree large bail-out packets to keep commerce moving. When Prime Minister Ingraham found it necessary to do the same here to cushion the job losses when our tourism industry fell apart, he was criticised.

The Bahamas continues to flirt with the bright lights, seemingly oblivious to the fact that it has a national debt of about \$3.8 billion hanging like a Damocles sword over the heads of a population of about 300,000, 60 per cent of whom live in New Providence.

The world is talking of cut-backs, Bahamians are talking of add-ons. Imagine four more MPs — to do what? Just to talk a lot more hot-air in the House to keep journalists writing to fill newspaper pages? The suggestion at this time of crisis is almost obscene.

In making their argument for increasing their membership to 45, the PLP faction point out that the Constitution requires that the House of Assembly must be made up of no less than 38 seats. We suggest that they stop right there and recommend to the Prime Minister that the House be reduced to 38

members rather than increased to 45.

There will be those who will say that the \$28,000 annual salary for each member is not much and will not be noticed in the great scheme of things. But that is where they are wrong. It is that very attitude of mind that brushes off the little things, which over time builds into the avalanche that will bury them. Especially when one is broke every penny counts. As our old Devonshire grandmama used to remind us: "Every mickle makes a muckle!" — and it's the "mickles" that you watch, because the "muckles" will take care of themselves.

From what Prime Minister Ingraham has said it is likely that the PLP's plea has fallen on deaf ears.

He sees no reason to increase House seats, but can see the possibility of taking some of New Providence's 16 seats and distributing them among the Family Islands. Seems to make sense. In a radio interview he said he was thinking of decreasing House seats rather than increasing them. And in islands where local government is working an MP seems superfluous.

"In terms of the configuration of seats," he said, "when you take into account the population of New Providence, the population of Grand Bahama, the population of Abaco, the population of Eleuthera, and then Exuma, one has to determine how many of the 16 seats that are not in New Providence can be given to any one island.

"When we came into office we met Abaco with three seats and determined that Abaco could not justify three seats in relation to the total.

"The same thing applied to Long Island, Bimini and the Berries, and so, no I do not think it is reasonable for Exuma to expect to get another seat in the House of Assembly."

He felt that Exuma's size and population warranted only one House seat, all Exuma had to do was make its local government work. And that local government could use its one House member to have its needs heard in the capital. The issues would only become garbled if two members tried to out-do each other in presenting them.

We suggest to the PLP that if they were sincere in wanting to make a worthwhile contribution they would try to find ways to cut costs while at the same time encouraging job creation.

# A paradigm shift in thinking is needed in crime fight

EDITOR, The Tribune.

In a society immersed in an environment of instant gratification, ignorance, defiance of authority, immorality, real and perceived victimisation and corruption; should anyone be surprised at the degeneration of values and the consequential rise in murders and other serious criminal activity?

The primary reasons for the crime situation in The Bahamas have received little attention during the past 30 years. The piecemeal reform efforts which have largely failed over this period must be abandoned. What is required now is a paradigm shift in people's thinking, including our government.

Aside from the exception of acts of terrorism and the like, for crimes to occur there must be a convergence in time and space of at minimum three elements: a likely perpetrator, a suitable, easy or vulnerable target, and the absence of a capable protector or effective deterrent against crime. If we conclude that the mind of the "likely perpetrator" will always be among us, logic suggests that focus be placed on minimizing the opportunities for such a mind to flourish.

In Economic Sophisms, Frederic Bastiat, postulated; "When plunder becomes a way of life for a group of men living together in society, they create for themselves in the course of time, a legal system that authorizes it and a moral code that glorifies it." What Bastiat did not say was that when plunder becomes authorised, killing and destruction becomes glorified and the good citizens who permitted such a society become terrified and eventually mortified.

It is impossible, of course, to eliminate crime and corruption. But we must continually seek to reduce the many opportunities for steering public processes in ways that distort public purposes for private gain. A first step is to recognise that it is impossible to eradicate or eliminate this inseparable twin by laws and rules alone.

The enact more laws, write more rules, and implement more policies and regulations approach has and continues to fail.

In The Bahamas this approach has led to a proliferation of laws and rules, so much so that implementation and operation of the complex law enforcement, judicial and regulatory apparatus to prevent crime and corruption is in themselves mechanisms for further corruption and criminal activity.

It cannot be successfully disputed that fighting crime and corruption depends on political will, non governmental institutions; civil society, the church and the family.

What is being postulated here is that elimination of the availability of opportunities to commit crime and to engage in corruption with apparent impunity should be our focus.

When a society degenerates to the widespread criminal and corrupted propensities and proclivities, as appears to be the

## LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

case in the Bahamas today, an indifferent population will only serve to compromise anti-corruption and crime fighting initiatives.

Vigilance and law enforcement is absolutely critical at this juncture in our national development.

The Royal Bahamas Police Force must be commended for past efforts and for the nationwide initiative launched this week.

Notwithstanding, such initiatives are doomed to failure if they are seen as reactive, piecemeal approaches with selective enforcement of the law.

To ensure success, all laws must be enforced; initiatives must be sustained until the criminal mind is broken and opportunities for criminal activity must be eliminated, eradicated or at minimum, made scarce. People, particularly criminals, need to have a sense that allegations will be acted on and that disobedience of the law will have consequences.

When crime and corruption becomes ingrained in the culture or is seen as part of the daily struggle for survival, law enforcement and reforming governance becomes particularly difficult.

For far too long, much of the prevention work undertaken by police, private security, and business personnel in reducing crime opportunities have dealt directly with the criminal as opposed to also dealing with minimizing opportunities for criminal events.

Think about it, reducing opportunities helps prevent crime.

We subconsciously reduce criminal opportunities daily by locking our cars and homes, by not exposing our valuables, by keeping our money in safe places, by avoiding known crime hot spots, by securing the perimeter of our properties to keep uninvited guests out, and by watching the neighbours' home when they are away. On a micro level, most of us take these types of precautions every day of our lives.

The trouble is our governments on a national and macro level whether by omission or commission have neglected to put in place the necessary precautionary measures to reduce crime opportunities and events.

To address this mess that we find ourselves in, the haphazard, reactionary, trial-and-error approach must be abandoned. The stakes are too high and the consequences too grave for the business as usual crime fighting slogans and rhetoric.

Worldwide, particularly in Third World territories, sociologists have discovered that most convicted criminals did not finish high school; most grew up in single family homes and most grew up in homes with sub-standard income.

Do you have to ask yourself whether most of the murderers and criminals in the Bahamas

fit this profile?

People obey the law when they are able to make rational and intelligent decisions, when they fear punishment and the loss of liberty, when there is moral restraint, when they are bought into the unwritten social contract, when there are sufficient jobs to earn standard or above income and when opportunities to disobey the law are minimized and not authorized or glorified.

For example, as a start to our crime fighting solutions, I suggest reduction or eradication of seven of the more obvious crime enhancing opportunities in the Bahamas:

The crime opportunities to trade in illegal drugs;

The crime opportunities to gamble at the multiplicity of web shops;

The crime opportunities to solicit prostitution via cyber space through the internet;

The crime opportunities presented by bushy and overgrown properties and abandoned buildings;

The crime opportunities associated with a huge illegal and disenfranchised population;

The crime opportunities to benefit from the proceeds of crime; and,

The crime opportunities resulting from the possession of illegal firearms.

In conclusion, I submit that unless we reduce the opportunities for criminal activity, our social and personal crime fighting efforts will continue to resemble a philosophy of turning a bull loose in a china shop to prove that one day the bull will get the message and understand and appreciate the delicate and breakable nature of the china.

D HALSON MOULTRIE

Nassau,  
December 2, 2010.

## Article, 'Inagua's Last Murder', brought back memories

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I have just read the article, "Inagua's Last Murder", in The Tribune of November 12, 2010.

It recalls the murder of John Munroe back in 1937. I worked as an engineer for the Erickson brothers — West India Chemicals Ltd. — after World War II, and I knew Jim, Doug, and Bill Erickson quite well.

The story of the riot, murder, and escape to Cuba is a fascinating tale.

The irony is that the lives of the Erickson boys were saved by the wife of the culprit who orchestrated the attempt to drive them from Inagua.

Her name was Mae, a mail-order bride from Ireland who I knew as an elderly lady with whom I danced and shared many cups of coffee.

In fact, she was such a stalwart woman that I've written a short story about her and the whole riot incident.

It was a great experience for me as a young engineer to work with the people of Inagua and absorb the culture and history of an earlier time.

Thanks for the article. It brought back memories.

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LOCAL NEWS

# Residents stage protest in hotel development row

FROM page one

prime minister and his ministers. He said the Hope Town District Council unanimously passed a resolution to oppose the Elbow Cay Club and Marina development, claiming it was too big and inconsistent with the character and culture of Hope Town.

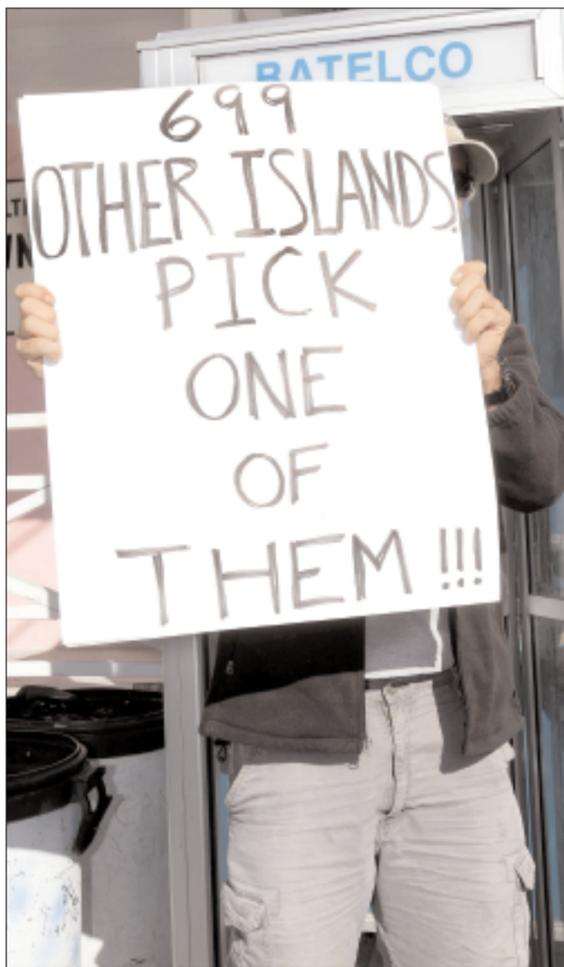
Some residents also claim the development will lead to an increase in crime and overburden the already challenged power supply of Hope Town and the "stressed infrastructure" of Elbow Cay.

"I am a man who can stand on my own two feet, form my own opinions, and if that is what they want us for, to be puppets, well someone else can have the job," said Mr Sweeting.

## Autonomy

"The Local Government Act does not bring true governance at the local level. This legislation needs to be amended so that it will provide and give more autonomy to your elected local leaders, so that when we unanimously pass a resolution, supported by a petition with over 1000 signatures that the resolution is final and can't be overturned or repealed, but it is respected as the wishes of the populace at large," he said.

Residents say a "beach front shanty town" is currently located on the 19 acres of land at the heart of the dispute. The property is owned by the Maltarps, a Danish family that settled



in the Bahamas. They operated the former Elbow Cay Club that was shut down by the government, some say, over 20 years ago.

Protesters marched with placards stating: "Nassau does not know what is best for Hope Town," "Let local council make our decisions not Nassau," "699 other islands, pick one of those." Most of the residents

involved in the protest were second home owners or expatriates, according to one observer, who lives in Hope Town. Another sources claimed "the original inhabitants of Hope Town don't have a problem with the development."

Kerry Sullivan, a real estate broker with Damiano's Real Estate, said community members should be



PROTEST: Hope Town residents stage their demonstration yesterday.

Felipé Major/Tribune staff

"mad at their own local government" for failing to negotiate effectively. She said they repeatedly insisted on the "just don't like the project" instead of offering workable recommendations for the developers to consider. Despite efforts of the developers to down size, she said they were persistent with claims that "we just don't like it."

## Company

Some community members claim she has a vested interest, since her company represents the buyer and the seller of the 19 acres. Michael Myers, a resident retiree and owner of Caribbean Landscape, said

he is not opposed to the development once it is done in a "controlled" way.

"I appreciate everyone's concerns, but controlled development is okay."

"The project is going to help the local economy. There are lots of young people growing up here who are going to need jobs. It is going to give employment," said Mr Myers.

He claimed the development is set to be "slow paced," taking over 15 years to complete in its entirety.

He said the developer down-sized plans for a 120-slip marina to now feature 75 slips, which was "a major bone of contention." Sources also claim the deal includes an arrangement for

the new developers to pay off outstanding real property taxes owed by the former operators.

## Immigrants

Mr Myers also said the development would finally solve the problem of illegal immigrants who are currently allowed to occupy the abandoned resort. Mr Myers said the property that borders two residential areas is currently "in terrible condition" with no running water or power, the facility is rented to Haitian immigrants.

A police source said many of the Hope Town residents employ the immigrants.

# THREE MEN CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH STEALING INCIDENTS

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
Tribune Freeport  
Reporter  
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT - Three men were charged separately in the Freeport Magistrate's Court in connection with a number of stealing incidents on Grand Bahama.

David McKenzie, 58, of Weddell Avenue, was arraigned on a total of 12 counts of stealing in Court One before Magistrate Debbye Ferguson, and in Court Three before Deputy Chief Magistrate Helen Jones.

It is alleged that between August and December, 2010, McKenzie stole copper wire from various establishments in Freeport.

He pleaded guilty to all 12 counts and was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

Emmanuel Fox, 21, of Amberjack Street, appeared in Court Two before Magistrate Andrew Forbes on eight counts of stealing.

It is alleged that between October and November, the accused snatched gold chains from the necks of several individuals.

Fox pleaded not guilty the charges.

Cleveland Newbold Jr, 19, of Malibu Reef, also appeared before Magistrate Andrew Forbes on one count of stealing from a person. It is alleged that he stole a gold chain from the neck of an individual.

He pleaded not guilty the charge.

Magistrate Forbes remanded Fox and Newbold to Her Majesty's Prison until January for trial.

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- Vintage ladies' handkerchiefs 20% off
- Christmas Cloths in Holiday patterns, 1/3 off.
- Christmas Napkins in colourful Holiday patterns. 20% to 1/3 off.
- Hand embroidered pillow cases 1/3 off.
- Graniteware 45% off.
- Enamelware 1/3% off.
- Stoneware Flower Pots 1/3off.
- Clay flower Pots 25% off.
- Cast Iron Miniature stoves 45% off.
- Christmas Aprons 25% off.
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LOCAL NEWS

# Bahamas Handbook 2011 is now in stores

FRESH off the press, the 2011 edition of the Bahamas Handbook published by Etienne Dupuch Jr Publications is now in stores.

At 624 pages, the Handbook is filled with lively features on the Bahamas, stunning colour photographs and beautiful illustrations that bring the stories to life.

In an exclusive interview with The Bahamas Handbook, former Governor-General Arthur "AD" Hanna talks candidly about his long and tumultuous political career, recalling the struggle for majority rule in 1960s and the long march to Independence in 1973.

Hanna also gives Handbook readers a rare insight into why he suddenly and unexpectedly quit the Cabinet of his life-long friend and colleague, Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling.

Hanna's story is only one of the highlights in this, the 51st edition of the Handbook.

Another traces the succession of wealthy and influential men who bought, transformed and then sold Paradise Island over the years - from industri-



**ROYAL GUESTS:** Duke and Duchess of Windsor were guests of Axel Wenner-Gren.

alist Axel Wenner-Gren to Huntington Hartford III, Donald Trump, Merv Griffin, and finally South African Sol Kerzner, who built the spectacular Atlantis resort.

You can read about the roots of the Baptist faith in the

Bahamas: how a few runaway slaves launched a movement that was to become the largest religious organisation in the country and a political force to be reckoned with.

Science provides the backdrop to several of the Handbook articles this year.

One, written by well known climatologist Paul Hearty, discusses how rising seas will have an impact on low-lying island nations like the Bahamas, and even more so on heavily populated coastal cities around the world.

Many islands in the Bahamas will be inundated during the lifetimes of Bahamians living today.

In another story, scientist Nancy Albright describes the importance of the remarkably well-preserved fossils that continue to be raised from the depths of Sawmill Sink, Abaco.

In the Business Section, the Handbook gives readers a penetrating look into the global recession that affected so much of the developed world in 2010, including the Bahamas.

Other articles reveal little-known aspects of the



**CONVENTION:** Church leaders gather for the first Bahamas Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, 1935.

Bahamas' rush effort to sign a flurry of Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs) at the behest of the richest and most powerful countries in the world.

You will also find a comprehensive guide to government departments, embassies, international organisations, biographies of members of parliament and the valuable up-to-

date Blue Page section, which includes all of the essential facts you need to know about the Bahamas from A to Z.

The Year in Review section looks back over the stories that made headlines in 2009-2010.

The Handbook, now in its 51st year, is the flagship of Etienne Dupuch Jr Publications Ltd. It has earned an interna-

tional reputation as the foremost publication about the Bahamas, its people, history and culture, including its ongoing growth as world-class destination for tourism, a sophisticated financial centre and a maritime nation with world-wide shipping connections.

For more information, contact Etienne Dupuch Jr Publications Ltd at 242-323-5665.

## Job Vacancy

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All resumes must be received by **10<sup>th</sup> December 2010.**

Only persons meeting **ALL** of the requirements above need apply.

## DEFENCE FORCE OFFICERS AND MARINES CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING



**ABOVE:** Defence Force marines singing at their annual Thanksgiving service at the Coral Harbour Base.

**RIGHT:** Officers serving meals at the Defence Force annual Thanksgiving service at the Coral Harbour Base. Deputy Commodore, Captain Tellis Bethel is seen serving a meal to Petty Officer Enoch Coleby.

RBDF photos/  
Able Woman Marine  
Monique Deveaux



AS part of their tradition, the officers and marines of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force held their annual Thanksgiving celebrations at the Coral Harbour Base.

Defence Force chaplain Pastor Prince Bode encouraged the men and women of the Force to be thankful. He reminded them to make the most of their opportunities and continue to be grateful for the gift of life.

Shortly after the service, the marines were hosted to a luncheon in which the officers of the Force assumed the role of stewards.

The lines of marines all stood patiently as their bosses served them up a dish of rice, turkey, ham, stuffing and pumpkin pie.



The Bridge Authority

### NOTICE

Paradise Island Employers & Employees, Paradise Island Residents, Transportation Companies and the General Public are hereby notified that The Bridge Authority will be undertaking physical improvement works to the Toll Plaza with effect from the 29<sup>th</sup> November to the 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2010. This exercise will include both overhead and ground level tasks.

This work will be conducted during off-peak traffic times between the hours of 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Due to the nature of the work, two (2) lanes shall be closed each time, resulting in restricted traffic flow. In our effort to minimize the impact of these lane closures, the work will be performed sequentially, firstly in Lanes 1 and 2 and then Lanes 3 and 4. Therefore, at no time will more than two (2) lanes be closed at once.

The Bridge Authority apologizes for any inconvenience caused, and assures its customers and stakeholders, that all efforts will be made to have the works concluded as quickly as possible.

Billy Scavella  
General Manager  
The Bridge Authority

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- \*The 40 Most Beautiful Christmas Classics - The Angel Gabriel, The Shepherds' Farewell, Berlioz.

# Minister calls for engineers to support 2010 Forestry, Planning & Subdivisions Acts

By GENA GIBBS

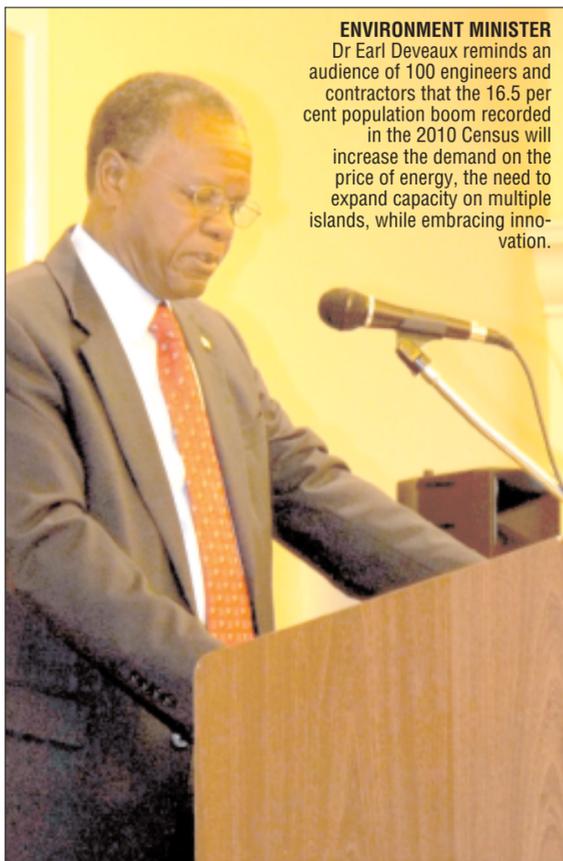
REGULATORY amendments to the 2010 Planning and Subdivisions Act and the 2010 Forestry Act will translate into increased employment and profits for Bahamian engineers, contractors and other construction professionals during 2011, said Environment Minister Earl Deveaux.

"While there is a significant body of reports and studies to underpin my remarks, two pieces of legislation recently enacted by Parliament will have the most dramatic impact on your work, the Planning and Subdivision Act for 2010 and the Forestry Act 2010. Both of these Acts are scheduled to take effect in January 2011," the minister said at a Bahamas Society of Engineers luncheon last week.

"The Planning and Subdivisions Act expands the regulatory framework for the sustainable growth and development of the Bahamas. I urge you to study the legislation and help us to implement it for the benefit of all Bahamians."

Minister Deveaux said diligent management of how resources are used will ensure that the intensity of land use is reduced, along with the cost of development, through following the guidelines in the Act.

"Environment is the source of our way of life. The cost arising from its use must be bound to the benefits now and to the future. Sustainable use for unborn generations has to be achieved," said Dr Deveaux.



**ENVIRONMENT MINISTER**  
Dr Earl Deveaux reminds an audience of 100 engineers and contractors that the 16.5 per cent population boom recorded in the 2010 Census will increase the demand on the price of energy, the need to expand capacity on multiple islands, while embracing innovation.

"The pressure from increased population, however, greater tourism and the accumulative impact of use, will affect the long-term quality of the environment. Consequently, we must ensure that we secure in law and nurture in practice the use of the fragile resource."

He stressed the execution of the Act in practice would naturally manage the impact of growth on the environment and prevent unnecessary costs to correct mistakes in building and development.

"Managing our growth will require the training of Bahamian professionals to ensure that the systems being put into place of competent persons in the public and private sectors, to nurture the process that we need to build national capacity because we must expand the range and use of natural resources," said Dr Deveaux.

"We are not the cheapest place to live, we're not the cheapest place to build. But we have abundant natural resources and the extent to which we would



**CONGESTION** in high traffic areas such as Bay Street are proof of the population overload on an already over-burdened economy. The country's population had to absorb a 16.5 per cent increase of residents in the last 10 years and those residing on New Providence have accounted for 70 per cent of the Bahamian population.

remain competitive will be the extent to which we shape and manage the things that are in our advantage."

Minister Deveaux gave a brief summary of the contents of the important sections of the Planning and Subdivisions Act. Section three sets out the purposes of the Act, which seeks to prevent indiscriminate division of land, promotes sustainable development in a healthy, natural environment, as well as protects and preserves the natural and cultural heritage of the Bahamas. It also plans for the development and maintenance of safe viable entities.

Section 12 specifically outlines the number of criteria a developer must meet during the planning stage, including the suitability of the land for the purpose it is to be developed to guard against exploitation. The section also lists flood control requirements, adequacy of utilities and services, the location and topography of the land, the percentage of the land to be cleared, and the population density of the area.



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**OPPORTUNITIES:** the packed Baha Mar meeting on Monday night.

# Residents pack meeting on Baha Mar opportunities

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
Tribune Freeport Reporter  
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

GRAND Bahama residents packed the Foster B Pestaina Centre on Monday evening to attend a town meeting about the opportunities for employment at the Baha Mar Development project in New Providence.

Some 4,000 construction jobs have been designated for Bahamian labourers and contractors during the construction phase. The project, which started in January, is expected to be completed in December 2014.

Minister of Labour Dion Foulkes said the meeting was a joint venture between the government and Baha Mar.

He told persons that there is a wide range of opportunities available for Grand Bahamians.

Mr Foulkes stated that there will be opportunities for training for construction jobs, and for permanent jobs at the five hotels where some 7,000 Bahamians will be employed after the construction. He urged persons who are unemployed to register with the Department of Labour in Freeport.

Robert "Sandy" Sands, senior VP of external affairs at Baha Mar, gave residents an overview of the \$2.6 billion project. He noted that some \$8 million will be allocated for training.

Mr Sands also stated that various construction projects, totaling some \$400 million, have been designated for Bahamian contractors.

Attending the meeting were Minister of State for Finance Zhivargo Laing, Housing Minister Kenneth Russell, Deputy House Speaker Kwasi Thompson, and Public Works Minister Neko Grant.

The Ministry of Labour will host a series of town meetings in the Family Islands to discuss the training and employment opportunities.

Mr Foulkes said government decided to kick off the meetings in Grand Bahama because of the unemployment situation and economic challenges facing many residents of the island.

"Now that the Baha Mar development is to begin, it is essential that Bahamians have access to training and employment at Baha Mar."

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# Is WikiLeaks founder a high-tech terrorist or freedom fighter?

By LARRY SMITH

WHEN *Tough Call* was a yoot-man, the incredibly destructive and morally disturbing US intervention in Vietnam's civil war was the burning issue of the day – bar none – sparking widespread disaffection in America and across the world.

There was always "light at the end of the tunnel" until, in 1971, the New York Times published a secret government war study that proved the government and the military were lying on a massive scale – and over the course of several administrations.

The Nixon administration went to court and was defeated in an important constitutional victory for press freedom.

Then, Nixon and his henchmen ordered burglaries (to stem more leaks) and set off down the road that led to Watergate. The rest, as they say, is history.

Daniel Ellsberg, the military analyst who leaked the papers, had to laboriously photocopy 7,000 pages of classified material to make his point. Bradley Manning, the soldier accused of providing military records about the Afghan War to WikiLeaks, loaded them onto a



rewritable CD in a few seconds.

So what are we to make of the recent publication by a website called WikiLeaks of a vast database of classified documents that has embarrassed governments and corporations and incited a global feeding frenzy?

Well, hardliners throw around words like electronic terrorism, subversion, assassination and treason. Liberals use terms like overreaction, voyeurism, anarchism and Watergate. It is up to us to decide whether WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is a modern-day Robin Hood, stealing information from the rich and powerful to give it away free and mostly unedited to the poor; or whether he is a criminal zealot suffering from delusional grandeur.

Here's one assessment from veteran Canadian journalist Simon Wickens – who worked for a time in the Bahamas – "WikiLeaks is the Watergate of the early 21st century. Assange may be a rather nasty human

being, but he does have the cojones the traditional media is lacking to show that an awful lot of emperors are walking around nude. That said, few if any of the WikiLeaks revelations are going to make a damn bit of difference, beyond making a bunch of public figures deservedly red-faced and possibly giving us a chuckle here and there."

Richard Haas of the prestigious Council on Foreign Relations asserts that WikiLeaks has not caused a national security crisis for the US. "Much of what we have seen thus far confirms more than it informs. It will cause more than a little near-term awkwardness...The longer term damage may be (that) American diplomats may be less willing to commit their thoughts to paper."

Historian Niall Ferguson reinforced that point. The history of US foreign policy probably stops in November 2010, he said on CNN recently. Future historians may be put out of business by having only vast quantities of insignificant emails to sift through while all the important stuff was on voice mail or discarded scraps of paper.

Time Magazine correspondent Fareed Zakaria said the WikiLeaks documents show that Washington is pursuing privately pretty much the same policies it has articulated publicly. "And often this foreign policy is concerned with broader regional security, not narrow American interests. Ambassadors are not caught pushing other countries in order to make deals secretly to strengthen the US, but rather to solve festering problems."

According to City University journalism professor Jeff Jarvis, government should be transparent by default and secret by necessity. "There are certain things that need to be secret, but do governments have credibility in deciding that? The internet did not kill secrecy. It only makes copying and spreading information easier and faster. It weakens secrecy. Or as a friend of



WIKILEAKS FOUNDER  
Julian Assange. (AP)

mine says, the internet democratizes leaking. It used to be, only the powerful could hold and uncover knowledge. Now many can. Secrecy lives, but it is wounded. And it should be."

In my view, what this boils down to is that we should carefully weigh the embarrassment and inconvenience caused by these disclosures with the knowledge that the powers-that-be can't be totally trusted. Secrecy is sometimes desirable, but it is basically contrary to democracy, and in a democratic society the press has to be able to tell uncomfortable truths.

Meanwhile, Assange has become one of the world's most wanted men, and is lying low even as his website has come under unprecedented cyber attacks and censorship. That's because WikiLeaks created a firestorm recently by publishing US Army logs from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as sensitive diplomatic cables from US embassies around the world.

But over the past three years it has also published documents detailing how government officials and the family of former President Daniel Arap Moi in Kenya were involved in massive corruption; the Australian government's list of banned websites; the unexpurgated report of the Turks & Caicos commission of inquiry, and documents showing that the clients of Swiss banks were involved in offshore tax evasion, asset hiding and money-laundering.

The WikiLeaks website allows the posting of original versions of sensitive, often highly classified files to a server which makes the source untraceable. There are no filters, no rewriting, and no spin. If Assange is able to survive the enormous attention he has attracted lately, his goal is to help traditional media develop their own forms of WikiLeaks.

We can just imagine how that would go down here in the Bahamas.

## Encounters of the Third Committee Kind

Some eyebrows were raised recently when the Bahamas voted in step with a range of unpleasant regimes to weaken an anti-discrimination resolution drafted by the UN General Assembly's Social, Humanitarian and Cultural (or Third) Committee. A little perspective is in order here.

First, these resolutions are a dime a dozen at the UN, and usually have little impact on anything. The Third Committee is one of six subgroups that try to filter the torrent of initiatives vying for the attention of the General Assembly's 192 member states.

Second, the resolution in question is passed every year to demand that states take effective action against extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions that occur throughout the world. The resolution specifically identifies ethnic and cultural minorities, hostages,

refugees, migrants, aboriginals, children, lawyers, journalists, activists and demonstrators as being particularly at risk.

This year, an amendment to the resolution was approved to replace the words "for any discriminatory reason, including sexual orientation" with the words "for discriminatory reasons on any basis." The reference to sexual orientation was objected to by the African and Arab Groups, as well as the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Dr Patricia Rodgers, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told *Tough Call* that the Bahamas had taken "a principled position" on the matter: "It is our view that the rephrasing of the sentence in (the resolution) still implies a reference to sexual orientation, without a specific mention, but also implies any and all other reasons for which persons may be killed and/or discriminated against."

"We are cognisant of the fact that homophobic violence and discrimination do exist and, also that a number of western states categorise such violence as hate crimes. However, the concept of gender identity is not accepted by all states as there is no legal foundation in any international human rights instruments regarding this concept, nor is it a part of any international human rights norms and standards. Indeed, opponents term it as a selective interpretation of international human rights instruments."

The Bahamas, along with 78 other countries, including six Caribbean states (Cuba, Jamaica, Grenada, St Vincent, St Lucia, and St Kitts Nevis), voted for the amendment to delete the reference to sexual orientation. Three Caribbean countries abstained (Barbados, Antigua and Trinidad Tobago), and one voted against the amendment (Dominican Republic).

A similar, but unsuccessful, effort was made to modify the resolution in 2008. The Bahamas was one of four countries that switched its position from abstention in 2008 to vote in favour of the amendment this year. Dr Rodgers said she did not know why the position had changed, but would "look into it."

Well, I was going along with all this fairly easily, until I came to this part of Dr Rodgers' explanation:

"The prevailing view in international law is that discrimination and fundamental freedoms are based on sex (not sexual orientation), as well as race, place of origin, political opinions, colour or creed. The Bahamas Constitution makes the same distinction. Mindful of the political sensitivities which obtain in The Bahamas with respect to this issue, we supported the amendment to broaden the scope of the paragraph, and not to make a specific reference to the term."

The argument that "for

discriminatory reasons on any basis" is more inclusive sounds good – until you look at our constitution, which (as noted by Dr Rodgers) does not include gender identity/orientation as a basis of discrimination that is prohibited under the articles relating to fundamental freedoms.

The United States faced a similar dilemma with African slavery. The 1776 Declaration of Independence famously stated that all men were created equal, but that equality was somehow not extended to black men by the US constitution – until there was a civil war and then, 100 years later, a civil rights movement.

Is being "mindful of the political sensitivities which obtain in the Bahamas on this issue" any different from American politicians in the 1960s catering to the bigotry of whites in the South by supporting a system that kept blacks as second class citizens?

**Dame of Destiny**  
Dame Joan Sawyer was quoted in *The Nassau Guardian* last week to the effect that her main purpose in life was to arrange a junket to Nassau for a bunch of British judges in 2006 and again in 2007.

The meeting of the London-based Privy Council in one of Her Majesty's lowliest former colonies has been previously described as "historic", but now it has also been revealed to be divinely inspired. And we should all be relieved to learn that the divinity in question is male.

Dame Joan, who was being interviewed on the occasion of her retirement as president of the Bahamas Court of Appeal, informed readers that God had spoken to her one night at 3 o'clock (in a masculine voice) to confirm that she had achieved her mission in life – that mission being the organisation of the judges' junket.

"I don't make plans for my life," Dame Joan confided. "My life was given to me for a purpose. As far as that voice was concerned I had fulfilled my purpose. I don't belong here (on earth)."

It is refreshing to know that one of our leading judicial figures is on such familiar terms with the deity, and to hear that she has no ambition in life other than to make travel arrangements for her former colonial masters. With all the problems and deficiencies surrounding our criminal justice system, we expected a more cogent and useful exit report.

Mellifluously described by the *Guardian* as "the diminutive Dame with the pleasant demeanour," Joan Sawyer was our first female Bahamian chief justice, and was appointed to head the appeal court in 2001. The Privy Council is the highest court of appeal for the Bahamas.

What do you think?  
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS



IN THIS AUG. 19, 2007 FILE PHOTO, former Sen. John Edwards D-N.C., and his then wife Elizabeth wave to supporters from their bus as they arrive at a Democratic candidates debate in Des Moines, Iowa. (AP)

# Elizabeth Edwards made her private pain very public

By CALVIN WOODWARD and MIKE BAKER, Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Elizabeth Edwards lost her hair to cancer, her son to an accident, her husband to another woman.

No wonder she called one memoir "Resilience." And another "Saving Graces."

Edwards' death Tuesday at age 61 ended a struggle of extraordinary and multiple dimensions, any one of which might have consumed the more faint-hearted. She had lived side by side with high political ambition, personal betrayal, advancing disease and single-minded determination, and in her last years built a network of supporters who took life lessons from her adversities.

A public figure to the end, Edwards said goodbye to them the night before, online, after doctors had concluded they could do no more to save her. They figured she might have weeks at best; she lived hours.

John Edwards, the man she had advised as a strategist and supported as a spouse through a Senate campaign and two runs for the presidency, joined the family by her side. The couple had separated nearly a year ago, their marriage and their shared dreams of power shattered by his affair with a campaign videographer and his eventual admission that he had fathered his lover's child.

Edwards became an advocate in her own right for health care reform and for the poor, two issues that had driven her husband, too. In that work, she lacked his clout but also his baggage.

"Our country has benefited from the voice she gave to the cause of building a society that

lifts up all those left behind," President Barack Obama said.

Edwards was calculating and ambitious in her own right, as well. A shrewd attorney, Edwards contributed mightily to her husband's rise in politics and acted conspicuously to prevent his fall, his partner in hiding a secret that would come out anyway.

Two books published about the 2008 campaign characterized her as shrill toward her husband and sometimes verbally abusive to campaign staff, especially as his run faltered and tabloid reports of his affair piled up.

## Riveting

In a riveting moment from the Democratic presidential primary campaign, the couple stood together in apparent harmony and loving mutual support in March 2007 to tell the country that her breast cancer, diagnosed in 2004, had returned, spread and could not be cured.

His campaign would press on, she said that day, because "it's important that the American people have the opportunity to have a president like him."

John Edwards quit the race after poor showings in the primaries that made Obama the Democratic nominee, and he and his wife retreated almost entirely from public life.

While she pleaded for privacy after revelations of his adultery, she also wrote a memoir — her second — that discussed how the affair repulsed her. She went on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" to talk about it, but only on the condition that Winfrey not mention the woman by name.

"Nothing will be quite as I want it, but sometimes we eat the toast that is burned on one side anyway, don't we?" she wrote in the memoir "Resilience."

Joe Trippi, a longtime Democratic campaign consultant whom Edwards recruited to work for her husband in 2008, recalled her driving spirit.

"She was out to live every single day," Trippi said. "She was going to live every single one of them with all the energy and grit that she could. That's a big lesson that her life could teach all of us."

Edwards connected easily with the public and her battle with breast cancer resonated. She shared the most intimate details, writing and speaking about the pain of losing her hair and her efforts to reassure her young children about her future.

It was not her first experience publicly dealing with very private matters. She wrote in her 2006 memoir about the death of their son Wade in 1996 and the grief that consumed her for two years afterward. She spent hours at home watching the Weather Channel on mute and broke down in tears on the floor of a grocery store after seeing Cherry Coke, Wade's favorite soda.

"If in a restaurant, I felt Wade about to overtake me, I would go to the restroom" and take out his picture, she wrote. "If someone, anyone was there, I showed them the picture and told them about my boy. I know it made some people feel awkward — I could see it in their faces — so I was always sure to say how much it meant that they had listened."

She was a Navy brat born in Jacksonville, Fla., and her expe-



IN THIS SEPT. 10, 2010 FILE PHOTO, Elizabeth Edwards arrives at the 'Stand Up To Cancer' television event at Sony Studios in Culver City, Calif. A family friend on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010 said Edwards has died after a battle with cancer. She was 61. (AP)

rience attending school in Japan and living on military bases helped make her comfortable introducing herself to roomfuls of strangers.

She and John Edwards met in law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and married the weekend after they took the bar exam. He gave her an \$11 wedding ring and borrowed money from his parents to pay for a brief honeymoon.

## Successful

Even as John Edwards went on to make millions as one of the nation's most successful trial lawyers, they continued to celebrate anniversaries at Wendy's, where they had marked their first year of marriage.

Gary Pearce, who advised her husband's 1998 U.S. Senate campaign, remembered her as fragile and distant in the months before he officially joined the race as the couple grappled with the loss of their son.

But she became involved and outspoken about her husband's career once he bid for office.

"It was clear from the beginning that she was a full political

partner with a lot of influence on him," Pearce said. "She was involved on a daily basis. She was in all the strategy sessions."

With the help of fertility treatments, Edwards gave birth to two more children, Emma Claire, now 12; and Jack, now 10. They joined daughter Cate, 20 years older than her new siblings.

Before her initial diagnosis with cancer, Edwards began writing a letter to her children with advice they could use after she died — such as how to choose a church or a spouse.

The message became more poignant in her final years, brought home when Jack once asked who would be the grandmother to his children.

"We are not in denial," Edwards wrote in an updated version of her first memoir published in 2007. "I will die much sooner than I want to."

• Woodward reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Nedra Pickler and Donna Cassata contributed to this report from Washington.

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### FUNERAL SERVICE FOR



**ANNIE COOPER EVANS**  
affectionately called "Mama", 98

of Augusta Street and formerly of Mader Town, Grand Bahama, who died on November 27th, 2010, will be held on Thursday,

December 9th, 2010, at 11:00 a.m., at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Boyd Road. Officiating will be Fr. Martin Gomes, SS.CC. Interment follows in Church's Cemetery.

Cherished memories will remain in the hearts of her **two daughters:** Charitymae Russell and Alice Edgcombe Clarke (deceased); **two stepsons:** Hayward and Fonser Cooper; **two brothers:** Aaron Cooper and Sam Laing (deceased); **grandchildren:** Pederson Dillet, Sherene Collins, Dianne, Fredlin, Fredrick Tucker, Mortie, Lowell Russell, Michael Neymour, Lambert, Dereck, Drexel, Anthony, Cachie, Donna, Raymond and Reramea Clarke, Felicia Dillet and Darey Dillet; **great grandchildren:** Anastacia, Lisa Solomon, Rochelle Strachan, Shawn Carey, Desiree Rolle and Sharvon Tucker; **numerous great great grandchildren; nieces and nephews including:** Annie, Joyce and Hilton Cooper of Grand Bahama; **a host of other relatives and friends including:** Lenamae, Georgina, Marjorie, Nola, Peggy Patricia, Idell, Branhilda, Lloyd and Michael Russell, The Christie Family, Janet Dillet and Family, Edith and Family, Leanne and Family, Mrs. Bethel and Family, Carl Patton and Family, Greg Patton and Family, Lena Williams and Family, Mrs. Tynes and Family, Kathy and Family, Hilton Black and Family, Paula Sweeting and Family, Star Cummings and Family, Marilyn Davis and Family, Winnie, Sydney, Monica Ford, Mrs. Watkins and Family, Newbold Family, Michael Huyler and Family, The Saunders, The Smiths, Liza Smith and Family, Florence Christie and Family, Liddybell Adderley and Family, Brenda Ward and Family, Carolyn Smith and Family, Rev. C.B. Moss and the Mount Olivet Baptist Church Family, The Landmark Baptist Church Family, The St. Joseph Catholic Church Family, The Salvation Army, The Russell Family of Lowe Sound, especially the Augusta Street Family, and others too numerous to mention.

Relatives and friends may pay their last respects at Newbold Brothers Chapel, Palmetto Avenue & Acklins Street off Market and East Streets on Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday at the church from 10:00 a.m., until service time.

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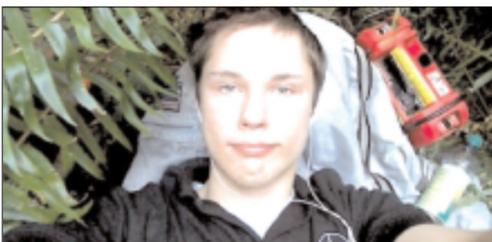
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LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS



TRIAL PUT OFF: This July 2009 file self-portrait provided by the Island County Sheriff's Office shows Colton Harris-Moore, the so-called "Barefoot Bandit."

# TRIAL IN BAREFOOT BANDIT CASE PUT OFF TO JULY 11

## SEATTLE

The trial for Colton Harris-Moore in the Barefoot Bandit case has been put off to July 11 in federal court in Seattle, according to Associated Press.

The 19-year-old agreed Tuesday to

waive his speedy trial right. Federal prosecutors and a defence lawyer agreed more time is needed for a plea arrangement or to prepare for trial.

Attorney John Henry Browne said they are working with prosecutors in as many as 20 counties to reach a settle-

ment. Harris-Moore is accused of a nine-state crime spree that includes more than a dozen burglaries, mostly in Western Washington, and stealing planes and a boat.

July 11 will be exactly one year since his arrest in the Bahamas.

# Haiti cholera likely from UN troops, expert says

JONATHAN M. KATZ, Associated Press PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

A contingent of U.N. peacekeepers is the likely source of a cholera outbreak in Haiti that has killed at least 2,000 people, a French scientist said in a report obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press.

Epidemiologist Renaud Piarroux concluded that the cholera originated in a tributary of Haiti's Artibonite river, next to a U.N. base outside the town of Mirebalais. He was sent by the French government to assist Haitian health officials in determining the source of the outbreak, a French Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday.

"No other hypothesis could be found to explain the outbreak of a cholera epidemic in this village ... not affected by the earthquake earlier this year and located dozens of kilometers from the coast and (tent) camps," he wrote in a report that has not been publicly released.

The report also calls for a further investigation of the outbreak, improved medical surveillance and sanitation procedures for U.N. peacekeeping troops and better support for Haitian health authorities.

The AP obtained a copy of the report from an official who released it on condition of anonymity. Piarroux confirmed he had authored the report but declined in an e-mail interview to discuss his findings. Copies were sent to U.N. and Haitian officials, the foreign ministry confirmed.

U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky told reporters in New York that there is still no conclusive evidence that its base was the source of the outbreak. He said the organization "remains very receptive to any scientific debate or investigation on this."

The report's revelation comes on a day of high tensions in Haiti, as people anxiously await the results of the disputed Nov. 28 presidential election and potential resulting violence.

Piarroux could not prove there was cholera inside the base or among the soldiers, a point the U.N. has repeatedly used to deny its soldiers brought the disease to Haiti or that its sanitation procedures were responsible for releasing it into the environment. He writes that military doctors said there were no instances of cholera within the unit.

But he also hinted strongly at a cover-up.

"It can not be ruled out that steps have been taken to remove the suspected fecal matter and to erase the traces of an epidemic of cholera among the soldiers," he wrote.

The report also notes that septic tanks and pipes that

would have helped to confirm sanitation problems and the presence of the bacteria were no longer at the base when he visited.

Nepalese troops earlier confirmed they had replaced a leaking pipe, which contained a foul-smelling runoff that the U.N. denies was human waste, between two visits by an AP reporter in October. The AP also found the local contractor dumped waste into overflowing pools dangerously close to a hillside that drains into the river.

Piarroux's is the first scientific report linking the base to the epidemic, though many other epidemiologists and public health experts have said for weeks that the soldiers are the most likely source of the infection.

## Ocean

Other scientists and experts say it is possible that ocean currents or other climate-related events carried the bacteria to Haiti. Further studies on bacterial samples that could address those questions are ongoing.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed in October that the strain of cholera bacteria in Haiti matched one from South Asia, a region that includes Nepal, but said it had no further information about the cause of the outbreak at the time.

Many Haitians have long suspected the Nepalese base was the source of the disease, and anger at the troops sparked a week of riots in which U.N. soldiers were injured and several Haitians were killed.

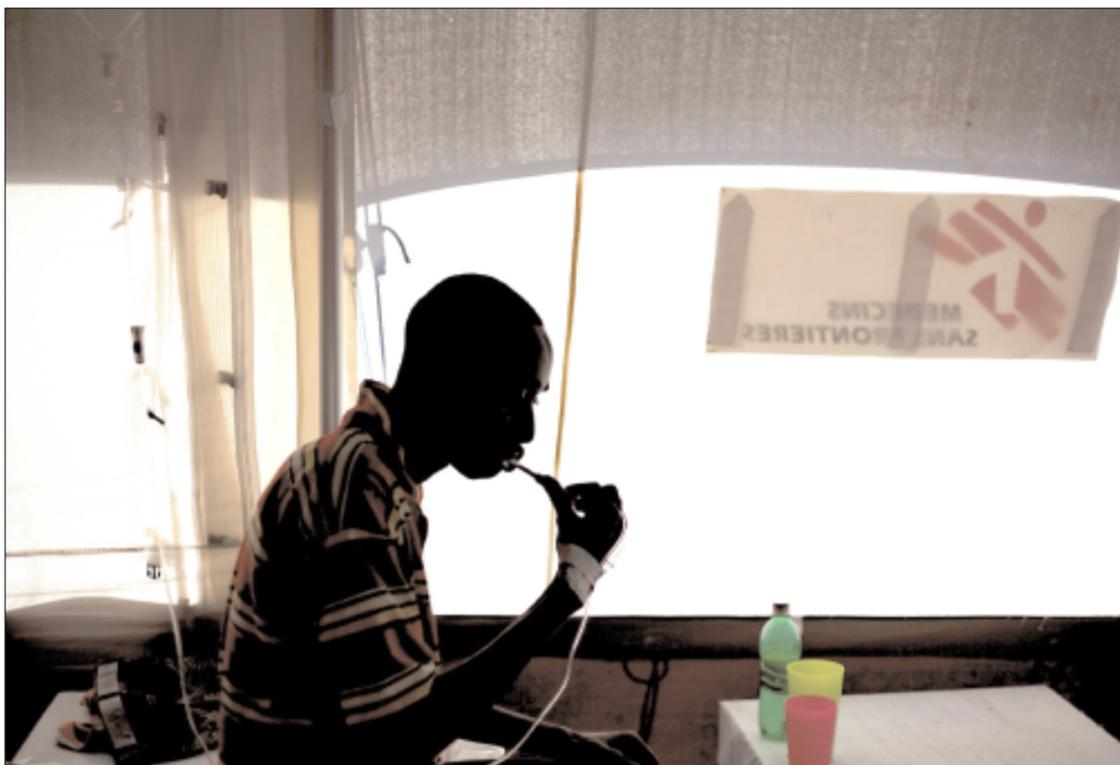
The report says that the first cases of the disease were from the village of Meille, where the base is located. The first confirmed case, a 20-year-old man from the village, developed symptoms on Oct. 14 and was found by Cuban doctors at a hospital in nearby Mirebalais.

Haitian investigators "indicated that the first patients were obtaining drinking water from a tributary of the Artibonite River flowing just below the (U.N.) base," he said.

It notes that the rotation of soldiers began arriving days before those first cases from Nepal, where there were cholera outbreaks over the summer.

It goes on to describe how the disease flowed into the Artibonite River before "exploding" in the delta where the river meets the sea. Hundreds of cases were reported within days, before the outbreak spiraled out of control to infect the entire county.

Until this outbreak there had not been a diagnosed case of cholera in Haiti as far back as records go in the mid-20th Cen-



SUFFERING: A man suffering from cholera symptoms washes his teeth as he is treated at a cholera clinic in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, Dec 6, 2010.

tury, Claire-Lise Chagnat, head of the global task force on cholera control at the World Health Organization, said in October. There were suspected cases a century before, but experts say it would have likely been a different strain than the ongoing El Tor pandemic.

The disease was totally unknown to today's Haitians, who had developed no immunity against it and had no information on how to fight it until aid workers mobilized after the outbreak. Terror over its fast-killing power has triggered attacks on cholera treatment centers and a witch-hunt in rural Haiti. At least 12 people were killed on accusations they used magic to spread the disease.

For the first critical month of the outbreak, the United Nations, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization and others said that an investigation into how the disease arrived in Haiti was not necessary and could in fact be harmful. Those who asked questions about it were accused of playing "the blame game."

It was not until AP reports of sanitation problems at the base and calls by experts including Paul Farmer, a physician and U.N. official, for a thorough investigation that the matter was seriously discussed in public.

Farmer said there were compelling public health reasons to find the source of the infection,



RESTING: Nadia Pier, a girl suffering cholera symptoms, rests as she is treated at a cholera clinic in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, Dec. 6, 2010.

including finding information to help prevent its further spread, and that avoiding the questions was a matter of politics.

## Findings

The U.N. mission confirmed to AP last month that a French epidemiologist had met with met with U.N. peacekeeping mission chief Edmond Mulet in Port-au-Prince to discuss his findings. At the time the mis-

sion denied that he had implicated the peacekeepers, but acknowledged that it was now taking the allegations about its base more seriously than when rumors first arose.

On Tuesday the mission said the report was still not definitive.

"We have neither accepted nor dismissed his findings, as it's one report among others," U.N. mission spokesman Vincenzo Pugliese said.

"The Nepalese contingent in

Mirebalais is just one piece of the cholera puzzle, since there is no conclusive evidence at this point that the Nepalese camp was or was not the source of the epidemic."

In roughly six weeks the disease has spread to every region of the country and sickened nearly 100,000 people.

The U.N. says the death toll could be twice the official count and that up to 650,000 people in Haiti could get cholera over the next six months.



(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa, file)

CRISIS: In this Oct. 31, 2010 file photo, the head of Nepal's mission in Haiti, Lt. Col. Krishna, second left, and Prakash Neupane, deputy chief of the MINUSTAH engineering section, left, walk by pipes coming from latrines and connected to septic tanks crossing a canal that leads to the Artibonite River, at Nepal's U.N. base in Mirebalais, Haiti.



(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa, file)

OUTBREAK: In this Oct. 27, 2010 file photo, A tanker truck deposits excrement from the Nepal UN base in an area 400 meters away from that base in Mirebalais, Haiti. A French disease expert said Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010 there is strong evidence linking U.N. peacekeepers to a cholera outbreak in Haiti that has killed more than 2,000 people.

LOCAL NEWS



ABOVE: The car of the victim with police tape draped over it. RIGHT: The shoe of the victim can be seen on a bloodstained floor.



# Shot dead after \$50,000 numbers win

FROM page one

this could not be confirmed. Neither would police confirm claims about Mr Saintville's alleged winnings. However, they do suspect the motive to be robbery. Still, they say they are looking at the investigation "holistically."

Superintendent Noel Curry, head of the Abaco police, said some money was found at the home of the victim, and the intruder may have got away with a "small amount."

During the incident, there was a struggle between the deceased, the adult female and the intruder, who was armed with a handgun, according to the police report.

Assistant Superintendent Bruce Arnet said they have leads in the case and "feel

good we are moving in a positive direction."

"It brought fear over the land. It really was not expected in such a close netted community," said Murray, an Abaco resident who knew the victim. He recalled a robbery last Christmas in the same area that resulted in the death of a convenience store manager.

This is Abaco's second murder for the year, although medical personnel say crime keeps them busy. "We always have some action. You have to pray to keep this place quiet," said a member of the medical staff.

A team from the Central Detective Unit in Nassau was in Abaco yesterday to view the body.

They are assisting the Abaco police in the investigation.

## Local group gains rights to Wikileaks Bahamas files

FROM page one

est groups are, who is working for our best interest and who are not. I think Bahamians will like to see from these documents who are these persons who are acting outside of the best interest of the Bahamas and its people."

With both political parties reportedly rumoured to have received heavy criticism from the Bahamas' US Embassy over its handling of a number of hot button issues in the Wikileaks' documents, the confidential source said he is not surprised that neither political party has spoken out about

the ramifications of the documents.

"We are not surprised at all.

"But we intend to make this information public hopefully before the end of the year," he said.

• SEE TOUGH CALL ON PAGE EIGHT

## Report says drilling agency needs more inspectors

WASHINGTON

THE OBAMA administration should increase sharply the number of offshore drilling inspectors, conduct more surprise inspections and stiffen penalties on companies found to violate federal rules on drilling, says a report by the Interior Department's top watchdog, according to Associated Press.

The report by the department's inspector general echoes one issued in September by a safety oversight board convened by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar.

Both reports emphasized that inspectors from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement are badly outnumbered and in some cases poorly trained, without clear ethics rules.

Mary Kendall, the acting Interior inspector general, served on the safety board. She said the new report does not raise new issues but instead "expounds" on those issues and adds analysis. Both reports covered a period that ended in July.

Kendall said the drilling agency has begun important changes but must continue to pursue a "culture of safety" that emphasizes protection of human life and prevention of environmental disasters above issuing offshore leases.

The drilling agency oversees offshore oil and gas drilling and renewable energy projects in federal waters. A separate agency was created in October to collect about \$13 billion a year from oil and natural gas leases under federal control.

Salazar and other officials have said they hope to hire hundreds of new inspectors to supplement the 60 or so now responsible for about 3,500 drilling rigs and platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. He has pledged to spend \$29 million to increase the number

and training of offshore drilling inspectors, upgrade enforcement and take other actions to improve the beleaguered agency.

The drilling agency, formerly known as the Minerals Management Service, has long been plagued by staffing shortages and an overly cozy relationship with industry. It was renamed and reorganized after the BP oil spill in April.

Salazar said in a statement that the new report "further validates the urgency, direction and steps we have already taken toward building a transformed regulatory agency with the authorities, resources and support to provide strong and effective regulation and oversight."

Michael Bromwich, director of the ocean energy bureau, said the new report was outdated and failed to acknowledge reform efforts that already have begun.

In a letter to Salazar, Bromwich called that omission "curious" and misleading.

The new report "increases the risk that the world's view of BOEMRE will continue to be frozen in the past and will not keep up with the reform efforts that are currently in full swing," Bromwich said.

Bromwich, who took over the agency in June, said he and Salazar have initiated a host of reforms, including a first-ever ethics policy that bars inspectors from dealing with a company that employs a family member or personal friend. The new policy is intended to end cozy relationships with industry and slow the revolving door between government and the energy industry.

Officials are conducting a "full-court press" to find and hire qualified inspectors and are recruiting top petroleum engineers, Bromwich said.

"We are making swift progress," he said, "but our work is far from over."

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SCENES from yesterday's action by BTC staff. Tim Clarke/Tribune staff



# BTC WORKERS WALK OFF THE JOB IN SALE PROTEST

FROM page one

Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union (BCPOU).

John Pinder of the Bahamas Public Service Union (BPSU) said BTC is a well run profitable company, why should it be sold when it is doing so well? "Bahamians managed it from day one, why should the third floor take over?"

William Carroll, President of Bahamas Communications Public Managers Union (BCPMU), said that the managers are standing strong with the unions "united in one body." Mr Carroll said that the Bahamian people deserve more than what they are getting.

The alleged "illegal work stoppage" led to numerous disruptions of all services in the capital, said Kirk Griffin, Acting President and CEO of BTC.

In a press release issued yesterday afternoon Mr Griffin expressed his disappointment with the way that unions

chose to express their disapproval of the majority sale of BTC to CWC. "It is disappointing to us that the unions would take this approach to address this or any situation - particularly because there exists within the union agreements clear steps for the escalation and adjudication of industrial matters whenever they occur," said Mr Griffin.

Mr Griffin noted that he is aware of the many concerns and uncertainties of staff members, however, union leaders have been informed of Cable & Wireless' intention to undertake early discussions with them and provide an opportunity for both parties to discuss mutual interests. These discussions are aimed to provide the mechanisms to discuss and agree upon a way to move forward together and ensure that the "interests of BTC stakeholders now and in the future are served."

Mr Griffin said that this type of forum will yield positive results without effecting services to BTC customers.



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**JAMES SMITH**

By **NEIL HARTNELL**  
Tribune Business Editor

The Bahamas' 2.5 per cent long-term average growth rate, which the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects will kick-in by 2012, "is much less than we need to get employment going back up", a former finance minister said yesterday, advocating that a 4 per cent per annum GDP increase was needed to lower unemployment by 1 per cent.

James Smith, who was minister of state for finance in the 2002-2007 Christie-led PLP administration, told Tribune Business that despite the IMF's optimistic medium-term growth projections, which in large part depended on an improving world economy, the Bahamas was likely to be "faced with double digit unemployment" through 2012.

■ Former finance minister says Bahamas will be stuck with 'double digit unemployment' through 2012, as 4% growth needed to reduce joblessness by 1%

■ Bahamas 'running out of options' on fiscal side, as 65% of recurrent budget taken by fixed costs, with 25-30% of capital budget going on subsidies

■ BTC sale gives government 'breathing space', with \$210m price 'not something to be sneezed at' as 3% of GDP

Noting that the world economy was "not out of the woods yet", especially given the ongoing eurozone debt crisis, Mr Smith said: "Even a 2.5 per cent growth rate in 2012 is much less than the Bahamas needs to get employment going up, because to get a 1 per cent drop in unemployment you need to get a 4 per cent GDP growth."

"There is such a long time lag between the impact of gross tourism receipts and employment figures improving." With many Bahamian resorts having become used to operating with lower staff per room ratios, and enjoying efficiency and productivity gains from this, the former finance minister said the hotel industry was unlikely to rebound to pre-recession levels.

"I think we will probably go through 2012

**SEE page 4B**

# CITY MARKETS EYEING NEW OAKES FIELD STORE SITES

- Company will 'have to leave' existing store, as \$16 per square foot revised rental rate demanded by landlord not financial viable
- Says store's profitability was 'borderline', as majority owner assesses sites it has ownership interest in
- Adds that not owning real estate left City Markets 'in a bit of a vulnerable position' when struggles began

By **NEIL HARTNELL**  
Tribune Business Editor

City Markets' new majority shareholder yesterday said it was examining two locations in which it had an ownership interest as potential sites for a relocated Oakes Field store, telling Tribune Business that it would "have to leave" its existing premises, as the landlord's revised rental demands of \$16 per square foot were not financially viable.

Outlining the dispute that had resulted in the supermarket chain being locked out of the store on Monday by landlord Neil MacTaggart, Mark Finlayson, head of Trans-Island Traders, which acquired 78 per cent majority control from BSL Holdings for just \$1, said the rental increase being



**MARK FINLAYSON**

sought "is not tenable".

Conceding that City Markets would have to operate with just 10 stores for an inter-

im period, with the 50 Oakes Field staff transferred to other outlets, Mr Finlayson told Tribune Business that he was already assessing two potential alternative store sites, both of which his family had an ownership interest in.

With the locks on the existing store set to be removed within the next day or so, to enable the publicly traded supermarket chain to recover all its inventory and equipment, Mr Finlayson said: "The good news is that we own two buildings right in that area. It may take a few months to get it going. We're looking at those options as a viable alternative."

"One is the Wine Gallery

**SEE page 4B**

## BUILDING CONTROL 'RELUCTANT TO COME INTO 21ST CENTURY'

By **NEIL HARTNELL**  
Tribune Business Editor

Bahamian architects have questioned why the Ministry of Works' Building Control Department (BCD) "is so reluctant to bring [itself] into the 21st century", criticising the proposal to create a 'one-stop shop' for processing all construction permits as creating further bureaucratic bottlenecks.

Replying to the Ministry's response to its initial criticisms of the slow building permitting process, and subsequent impact on the construction industry and wider Bahamian economy, the Institute of Bahamian Architects (IBA) told Tribune Business: "The Ministry of Works indicated that most delays are due to incomplete applications and drawings."

"The IBA simply will ask who determines that the drawings are incomplete? What are the qualifications of these individuals who decide that a registered architect or engineer, who are legally responsible for their documents and the contents therein, have not provided adequate documentation for their projects. The IBA contends that the building professional has more at stake in ensuring their documentation is correct and complete than BCD, as they are legally responsible for that project."

**SEE page 5B**

## Liquidator pledge to 'vigorously oppose' money laundering convict's application

\* BDO Mann Judd accountant Culmer warns that application by Dominion Investments' principal, Martin Tremblay, could 'put the security of the customers' assets held in the Bahamas in jeopardy'

\* Also promises to oppose Attorney General's move to enforce \$220,000 forfeiture award on Tremblay if it puts client assets in jeopardy

\* Says recovery of \$658,000 in costs will allow all creditors to be paid, and forfeiture sought by US realised

By **NEIL HARTNELL**  
Tribune Business Editor

A Bahamas-based broker/dealer's liquidator has pledged to "vigorously oppose" two legal applications - one by a convicted money launderer, the other by the Attorney General's Office - that could "put the security of the customers' assets held in the Bahamas in jeopardy".

Clifford Culmer, the BDO Mann Judd accountant, in his eighth report to the Bahamian Supreme Court on the liquidation of Dominion Investments, whose principal Martin Tremblay is serving a four-year prison sentence in the US after pleading guilty to money laundering, said the return of assets the broker/dealer had held in trust for their beneficial owners had once again hit a snag.

Although Mr Culmer had managed to secure removal of the freeze order imposed on all Bahamas-based assets that Dominion Investments had held in trust for its clients on August 14, 2009, Mr Tremblay subsequently filed an application with the Supreme Court to discharge this order, and requesting that the company pay the costs of his application. The August 14, 2009, Order had lifted the freeze - obtained by the Attorney General's Office at the behest of the US authorities - against all assets belonging to Dominion clients, maintaining it only on assets belonging to Mr Tremblay or parts of the company's estate to which he may be entitled.

Yet Mr Tremblay, Mr Culmer alleged, was now seeking to overturn this state of affairs via his June 1, 2010, application "on the grounds that he was not informed of the proceedings."

"The effect of such application could once again put the

**SEE page 4B**

## IMF: 'Far-reaching structural reforms' a Bahamas priority

By **NEIL HARTNELL**  
Tribune Business Editor

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has urged the Bahamas to implement "far-reaching structural reforms [that] are necessary to lift medium-term growth prospects", expressing "concern" over the Government's fiscal position and warning that the central government debt to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio was set to continue rising "over

**SEE page 2B**

\* Fund calls for 'broader' tax and public financial management reforms, with debt-to-GDP ratio set to rise further over medium-term

\* Return to nation's trend growth rate of 2.5% per annum likely by 2012 if global economy improves, but risks for Bahamas weighted to 'downside'

\* Bahamas urged to 'build adequate buffers against external shocks and address vulnerabilities in the fiscal domain'

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BUSINESS

## BTC IN COMMERCIAL WIRELESS AGREEMENT

The Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) was yesterday said to have launched commercial wireless services through a Wi-Fi mesh network that was enabled by Aptilo Networks, a provider of pre-integrated solutions for billing, user services and access in wireless networks. The system integration was provided by Alcatel-Lucent.

The service features advanced billing and credit card processing functionality enabled by First Atlantic Commerce (FAC), a multi-currency, online payment gateway and fraud risk solutions provider. It is designed to provide guests of BTC's customers, which include tourists staying at destinations such as Atlantis, Paradise Island, to enjoy a Wi-Fi experience tailored to their needs.

BTC will use the Aptilo Service Management Platform for delivering carrier-grade broadband access services in large public, semi-public and private networks.

The platform facilitates easy and scalable service delivery, administration, billing control and monitoring.

### Options

The company said its platform will allow BTC to offer customers a variety of options, such as customised pricing plans for access to pay-for-use services, including premium levels and the capability to use a credit card-payment system tailored to clients' specific needs. BTC can also associate price plans to a specific location or provide a multi-location service plan through Aptilo's location-based and roaming features.

"Pay-for-use wireless models that deliver premium services can deliver significant revenue for today's businesses," said Torbjorn Ward, Aptilo Networks' chief executive.

"BTC installations are an excellent showcase for Aptilo's full feature set, and the ability to deliver a wireless solution tailored to meet the unique needs of large-scale installations."

Additionally, BTC can automatically process and analyze data output from the Wi-Fi service, including usage information and events, using the Aptilo platform.

Aptilo also provides comprehensive Quality of Service control.

# Bahamian broker's fund wins 'Top Gun' honours

Accuvest, the Bahamian broker/dealer and wealth management firm, has received several awards for its Accuvest Global Opportunities investment strategy, which has been named by Barron's as a top 10 performer - the eighth best performing manager among 4,500 strategies - all managers, all asset classes for the 2010 third quarter.

And PSN, a leading investment manager search and evaluation database, has also named Accuvest Global Opportunities a 'Top Gun', ranking it number five among all Global Equity Separate Account Managers for the 2010 third quarter.

Robert Jensen, Accuvest's managing director, said: "The most noteworthy aspect of the recent recognition is not necessarily the returns, but the strategy employed to secure those returns."

"Most managers get their global equity exposure by picking individual stocks. We take a unique, top-down approach, getting our exposure through single-country Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs).

We pick countries, not individual stocks."

And Mr Jensen added: "Accuvest was an early adopter of ETFs, and was a pioneer in the active management of single-country ETFs. We use our in-house proprietary country selection model to rank countries and implement our strategies using single-country ETFs."

The benefits of investing with ETFs include ease, diversification, cost and liquidity. But because single-country ETFs are relative newcomers to the investment landscape, long-term results have not been available.

The move to ETFs by professional investment managers has gathered pace over the past two years. According to Morningstar, international ETFs listed in the US grew from \$35 billion in assets five years ago to \$245 billion in assets today.

Mr Jensen said: "It was extremely difficult to do what we're doing more than five years ago, as significant liquidity in most single-country ETFs didn't exist."

"Normally we're reluctant to focus on

performance, but rather concentrate on our strategies, as we think our top-down approach to global equities using single-country ETFs is unique. But we do believe that performance is a by-product of a disciplined, consistent approach."

Accuvest said its Accuvest Global Opportunities Fund, a Bahamian investment fund, has outperformed the MSCI All-Country World Index with "annualised alpha of more than 7 per cent over the last five years through November 2010".

The Bahamian broker/dealer added that the Accuvest Global Opportunities Fund was up 22 per cent over the last 12 months, more than triple the world benchmark for the same period.

Mr Jensen said: "We believe the results show that our country selection model works. We think that an actively managed portfolio of single country ETFs will continue to give our international investors solid long-term results but, unfortunately, the fund is not available to Bahamian investors at this time."

## IMF: 'Far-reaching structural reforms' a Bahamas priority

FROM page 1B

the medium term".

Expressing its sentiments in an advance notice stating that it had concluded the Article IV consultation with the Bahamas, the IMF praised the Hubert Ingraham-led FNM administration for implementing "prudent macroeconomic policies" that "have now laid the foundations of a recovery", yet hinted that this nation needed to

get its fiscal house in order.

The IMF is continuing to project a rise in central government debt as a percentage of GDP, forecasting that this will increase to 48.7 per cent this year, as opposed to 45 per cent last year.

That figure is some 13 percentage points above the 35.7 per cent debt-to-GDP ratio that the Bahamas enjoyed as recently as 2007, well below the 40 per cent threshold prescribed by the IMF.

Backing the Government's public statements committing itself to fiscal prudence, and reducing the debt-to-GDP ratio via medium-term adjustments, the IMF hinted that it wanted to see words translated into deeds.

### Welcomed

The Fund said it "welcomed the revenue and spending measures adopted in the 2010-2011 Budget, but considered that contingency measures might be needed to achieve the desired reduction in the fiscal deficit. Directors noted that broader reforms to the tax system and public finance management would also be needed over the medium term to sustain improvements in the fiscal position".

That points to the IMF holding the opinion that the Bahamas needs to address taxation system reform as a national priority, along with enhanced management systems in the Ministry of Finance and other revenue-handling agencies.

Data provided by the IMF, and drawn from Bahamian sources, showed that government revenue and grants were projected to fall to just 17.5 per cent of GDP this calendar year,

down from 18.1 per cent last year. Recurrent spending, though was projected to continue inching up to 19.4 per cent of GDP. Combined with a capital budget equivalent to 3.2 per cent of GDP, this was forecast to leave an overall fiscal deficit of 5.1 per cent for the 2010 calendar year, compared to 5.5 per cent in 2009.

Noting that the Government had maintained spending at Budgeted levels, in order to expand the social security safety net and for stimulus spending via public infrastructure projects, even though revenues deteriorated, the IMF added: "As a result, the central government deficit rose by 0.5 percentage points to 5.3 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the fiscal year 2009-2010."

"Central government debt also increased, reaching 47 per cent of GDP at end June 2010, about 10 percentage points higher than before the crisis."

Warning that Bahamian economic recovery remained exposed to "downside risks", namely the sluggish nature of the US and world economies, and tentative recovery there, the IMF struck a slightly more optimistic note, adding: "While near-term growth prospects remain weak, the medium-term outlook is somewhat more favorable."

"Real GDP is projected to grow modestly in 2010, as tourist arrivals rebound, but a return to the trend growth rate of about 2.5 per cent is likely by 2012 if global conditions improve."

"The external current account deficit, which will widen somewhat in 2010 and 2011, is expected to narrow over the medium term, from higher tourism receipts and



continued foreign direct investment."

The Fund said it had encouraged the Bahamian government to "to build adequate buffers against external shocks and address vulnerabilities in the fiscal domain and in the financial sector".

### Reforms

And it added: "Directors agreed that far-reaching structural reforms are necessary to lift medium-term growth prospects."

"They welcomed the authorities' plans to improve business conditions, including for small and medium-sized enterprises, and to strengthen public infrastructure in a manner consistent with the fiscal consolidation strategy."

While foreign exchange reserves were relatively healthy at \$842 million, the IMF noted that these had been boosted by "one-off" Special Drawing Rights worth \$179 million, plus foreign currency borrowing. Inflation was also down, and the external current account deficit had narrowed to about 12.5 per cent of GDP.

Urging "close monitoring" of commercial bank non-performing loans, after describing the issue as "a concern", the IMF said the banking system in the Bahamas was both well-capitalised and had good liquidity.

"Stress tests conducted by the authorities suggest that the banking system has adequate buffers to withstand a further deterioration, while continuing to comply with capital requirements," the IMF said.

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# Scotiabank backs LIME selection for BTC deal



PLACARD-WAVING protesters show their anger over the BTC deal.

PROTESTING: A union-organised response to BTC's privatisation and sale caused disruption in New Providence yesterday.

Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

Scotiabank's Caribbean executives yesterday backed the Government's selection of LIME, the Cable & Wireless Caribbean division, as purchaser of the majority 51 per cent stake in the Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC), saying the telecoms provider had assisted in transforming the bank's infrastructure and its "commitment to delivering on their promises was extraordinary".

Scotiabank's statement came even as a union-organised response to BTC's privatisation and sale for \$210 million interrupted service throughout New Providence and shut down BTC offices for hours. BTC issued a statement advising

the public to limit its calls to BTC to emergency calls.

## Good

"When we heard that LIME is contemplating the acquisition of BTC, we immediately envisioned this as a good thing for the Bahamas," said Rose-Marie Pilliner, executive vice-president, shared services & operations, Caribbean North Hub, Scotiabank.

"We have been very pleased with the transition we've seen in their management of our account in recent times. The account team that works on the Bank

Of Nova Scotia Jamaica account gets it. They understand the importance that communication plays in the sustainability of our business, and have been consistently professional, focused on our business and responsive to our day-to-day needs."

Ms Pilliner said Scotiabank considered LIME a strong partner, advancing the bank's business.

"The improved alignment has turned them into true business partners, as has been evident in more proactive recommendations of innovative solutions to some of our business challenges," said the executive vice-president.

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**BUSINESS**

# 2.5% growth 'much less' than needed

**FROM page 1B**

again being faced with double digit unemployment and a sluggish recovery, which is all conditioned on the global economy, and the US economy in particular."

Asked about the IMF's suggestion (see other article on Page 1B) that the Bahamas undertake tax and fiscal management reforms, Mr Smith said: "It's the lack of buoyancy in our tax rates. It's going to be very difficult to get expenditure under control, as so much of it goes to salaries and emoluments, and fixed charges."

Mr Smith estimated that some 55 per cent of the annual Budget, roughly \$750-\$800 million, went on civil service and public sector salaries, while another 7-8 per cent of recurrent spending was required for rents, utilities and other fixed costs.

With "at least" 65 per cent of the annual recurrent Budget already taken up, Mr Smith said the "only room" governments enjoyed was on the capital budget, but this, too, was restricted by the fact that 25-30 per cent of funds here were required to cover subsidies to loss-making public corporations, such as Bahamasair and Water & Sewerage.

"I think it's a very difficult road going forward," Mr Smith said of the Bahamas' fiscal position, "because we're running out of options in terms of austerity measures and have pretty much exhausted revenues."

"We have to take a careful look at the tax regime for many reasons, one of which is to improve revenue collection if we are not going to have a persistent annual deficit creeping into the overall debt, and larger debt ratios."

While the low level of private sector credit demand meant that there was no danger the Government's borrowing demands would 'crowd out' the private sector, Mr Smith said that "some of the issues with the existing [tax] regime may be beyond us."

"We need a return to growth through increased tourism spending and foreign direct investment. The appetite for both is limited, but we do have in the medium term the Baha Mar project, a couple of other projects, and the injection of funds from the Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) sale will give us some breathing space. It's not dire straits for us in the medium-term, but we have to keep an eye on what's happening in the global economy."

Mr Smith said the \$210 million purchase price for a 51 per cent controlling interest in BTC was "nothing to sneeze at", given that it was roughly equivalent to 3 per cent of Bahamian real GDP, but the "breathing room" it provided for the Government in fiscal terms would only last for one year, since it was a one-off, non-recurring transaction.

And the former finance minister added of the IMF's comments on the Bahamas' fiscal predicament: "I think they recognise as well the limitations of the indirect tax system we have, and that Bahamas is attempting entry into the World Trade Organisation arrangements, which demand a claw back of the tariffs."

"They're simply nudging the Government in the direction they have to go in any event."

**FROM page 1B**

at the Monument Shopping Centre, and the other is the old Burns House building, the big blue one" at the back of the Royal Bank of Canada branch on JFK Drive.

Stating that the situation with the existing Oakes Field store "isn't looking good at all", Mr Finlayson said: "What it really boils down to is that Neil wants to increase the rent to a number that is not tenable, given that particular location, back in 2005-2006 when we first looked at it, has been in a borderline break even position."

Revealing to Tribune Business that Mr MacTaggart wanted to agree a new lease deal that involved City Markets paying \$16 per square foot, Mr Finlayson said the current lease involved the supermarket chain paying a rental rate based on a percentage of gross sales.

This meant that when City Markets was doing well, and selling more produce, the rental income received by the landlord increased, but when the store - and the economy - were performing badly, this dropped.

This, Mr Finlayson said, meant that Mr MacTaggart had earned a reduced income over the last four years, due in no small part to the supermarket chain's travails under the previous ownership.

As a result, he suggested that the Oakes Field landlord had decided they no longer wanted City Markets as a tenant, and instead wanted someone who would be able - and willing - to pay more rent, improving their returns and income yields.

# CITY MARKETS EYEING NEW OAKES FIELD STORE SITES

Telling this newspaper he had met with many of City Markets' landlords, Mr Finlayson said that after taking control of the company Mr MacTaggart was "first on the list", yet two scheduled meetings - one on Thanksgiving Day, the other for Thursday last week - were never held.

"The understanding was that he would come in, we would talk, and he would get a cheque making the rent whole," Mr Finlayson said. However, the two only finally met yesterday, after Mr MacTaggart had locked City Markets out of the Oakes Field store because rent was more than 21 days past due.

"He basically tried to strong arm me," the City Markets head said.

"His position was: 'Take it or leave it'. I have no choice. I have to leave it. It makes absolutely no sense. I don't know if Neil has someone else to go in there. It doesn't look like we can come to any agreement."

However, adding that he would have been locked into the Oakes Field lease, Mr Finlayson said the outcome was probably "a win-win" for both the company and Mr MacTaggart.

Mr MacTaggart is also the landlord for City Markets' Village Road store, and whether the supermarket chain would stay there "remains to be seen".

"We'll see how that turns out," Mr Finlayson said, adding that if Mr MacTaggart "wants to move on" and get a higher rent paying tenant in there, "we're not going to stand in his way". Village Road, he added, was also "borderline" in terms of being profitable, its sales having been hit after the Harbour Bay store was opened.

Mr Finlayson confirmed that City Markets was current with rental payments on all its other 10 stores, and not in violation of any lease agreements. "We've brought all the rents up to date," he added, noting that there were a few letters from landlords expressing concern about late payments when he took over.

Going forward, Mr Finlayson said he would look at moving City Markets stores into properties where he and his family had some ownership interest, as not owning its own real estate had put the company "in a bit of a vulnerable position" when it began to struggle to pay its bills.

## Liquidator pledge to 'vigorously oppose' money laundering convict's application

**FROM page 1B**

security of the customers' assets held in the Bahamas at risk," the BDO Mann Judd accountant and partner warned.

"This application is being reviewed and addressed by the liquidator's attorneys [Lennox Paton], and will be opposed by the liquidator in so far as it could jeopardise his freedom to release the trust assets unaffected by the forfeiture to the beneficial owners thereof, and could subject the trust assets to

the imposition of further costs."

And, Mr Culmer warned, a further snag had arisen as a result of a June 16, 2010, application by the Attorney General's Office which, acting on behalf of the US authorities, is seeking to have the \$220,000 forfeiture order made against Mr Tremblay registered in the Bahamas, then enforced against Dominion Investments' accounts.

In his report to Dominion Investments' clients and creditors, Mr Culmer said that in discharging the asset freeze on

August 14 last year, a Consent Order was entered in its stead, stipulating that the broker/dealer's "residual estate" would be used to cover the \$220,000 forfeiture order.

This, in turn, meant that "there was no longer any restriction on the ability of the liquidator to release the trust assets held in the Bahamas to the beneficial owners thereof", client confidentiality had been preserved and there was "no question" of client assets being used to settle the forfeiture order against Mr Tremblay.

The Attorney General's Office's application thus jeopardises this process, and Mr Culmer promised: "The liquidator will vigorously oppose both such applications."

"The liquidator will be vigorously defending both the application by Mr Tremblay to have the Consent Order dismissed, and the application by the Attorney General to register and enforce the forfeiture order against Mr Tremblay [through] the accounts held by Dominion."

Of the application by the Attorney General's Office, Mr Culmer added: "These proceedings are being reviewed and addressed by the liquidator's attorneys, and to the extent that the order sought by the Attorney General conflicts with the August 14, 2009, Consent Order or undermines in any way to the liquidator's ability to release all of the trust assets to the beneficial owners free and clear of the effects of the forfeiture order, it will be vigorously contested and

opposed by the liquidator."

Mr Culmer said he was continuing to work towards the release of Dominion's held-in-trust assets to their rightful owners, but said that of 47 persons who may own some of these - but have made no claim to date - only two had subsequently done so after he contacted them.

The BDO Mann Judd accountant added, though, that he was still working to recover some \$435,515 from one Dominion Investments client, in respect of work done for them in the liquidation.

He also "had to pursue a claim and intervene in proceedings in Canada to recover approximately \$232,218 in Canadian funds for costs due to the estate of Dominion from trust assets over which the Canadian government obtained a freeze order to secure alleged tax liabilities of that customer, now deceased".

Negotiations were underway to secure payment of that sum, also necessary to recover liquidation costs.

One these two sums were recovered, Mr Culmer said he would be able to "reimburse the estate of Dominion, whereupon it is expected to have sufficient funds to pay its outstanding creditors less costs, and to apply any residual estate to the satisfaction of the sums due under the forfeiture order made against Martin Tremblay as and when the same is registered in the Bahamas, and to bring the liquidation of Dominion to a close".

Legal Notice

### NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT (No.45 of 2000)

#### PAID HOLDINGS INC.

In Voluntary liquidation

"Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 137 (4) of the International Business Companies Act (No. 45 of 2000), **PAID HOLDINGS INC.** is in Dissolution."

The date of commencement of dissolution is the 1st day of December 2010

**Hamilton Management Services Limited**  
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Liquidator

### NOTICE

#### NA RA LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

NA RA LIMITED is in voluntary dissolution under the provisions of Section 137 (4) of the International Business Companies Act 2000.

The dissolution of the said company commenced on the 03<sup>rd</sup> December, 2010 when the Articles of Dissolution were submitted to and registered by the Registrar General.

The Liquidator of the said company is Peter Leppard of c/o 1 Raffles Link #05-02 Singapore 039393.

Dated this 08<sup>th</sup> day of December A. D. 2010

**Peter Leppard**  
Liquidator

### NOTICE

#### NOVHELIOS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

NOVHELIOS LIMITED is in voluntary dissolution under the provisions of Section 137 (4) of the International Business Companies Act 2000.

The dissolution of the said company commenced on the 07<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 when the Articles of Dissolution were submitted to and registered by the Registrar General.

The Liquidator of the said company is Peter Leppard of c/o 1 Raffles Link #05-02 Singapore 039393.

Dated this 08<sup>th</sup> day of December A. D. 2010

**Peter Leppard**  
Liquidator

### NOTICE

#### SPARTACUS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

SPARTACUS LIMITED is in voluntary dissolution under the provisions of Section 137 (4) of the International Business Companies Act 2000.

The dissolution of the said company commenced on the 03<sup>rd</sup> December, 2010 when the Articles of Dissolution were submitted to and registered by the Registrar General.

The Liquidator of the said company is Peter Leppard of c/o 1 Raffles Link #05-02 Singapore 039393.

Dated this 08<sup>th</sup> day of December A. D. 2010

**Peter Leppard**  
Liquidator

### NOTICE

#### NEW BLUMBERG LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

NEW BLUMBERG LIMITED is in voluntary dissolution under the provisions of Section 137 (4) of the International Business Companies Act 2000.

The dissolution of the said company commenced on the 07<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 when the Articles of Dissolution were submitted to and registered by the Registrar General.

The Liquidator of the said company is Peter Leppard of c/o 1 Raffles Link #05-02 Singapore 039393.

Dated this 08<sup>th</sup> day of December A. D. 2010

**Peter Leppard**  
Liquidator

### Island West

#### Real Estate Company, Limited (In Voluntary Liquidation)

All persons having claims against the above-named Company are required on or before dated 31st day of December A.D.2010 to send their names, addresses and particulars of their debts and claims to Mr. Thomas Trevor Dean, P.O.Box F-42578, Freeport, Grand Bahama Island, The Bahamas, the Liquidator of the Company or, in default thereof, they may be excluded from the benefit or any distribution made before debts are proved.

Dated the 6th day of December A.D.,2010  
**Thomas Trevor Dean**  
Liquidator



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BUSINESS

# BUILDING CONTROL 'RELUCTANT TO COME INTO 21ST CENTURY'

FROM page 1B

And the IBA, in its statement sent to Tribune Business, said: "The IBA submits that BCD is not a qualifying entity but, as laid out by the law, is set up to primarily see that all buildings are in conformance to the Bahamas Building Code.

"BCD is instead checking drawings for silly discrepancies that would be picked up during construction and, in most cases, have nothing to do with code compliance. Lawyers, doctors and other professionals do not have government entities going over their work telling them how to do it, but architects, engineers and contractors have BCD doing exactly this."

The IBA said the BCD's efforts to contact construction industry professionals when queries were raised over their projects "has not been a successful procedure" as far as its members were concerned, and suggested that e-mail was a better communication form.

"The Ministry's statement also says that its job is to ensure compliance with the code regardless of whether the documents are submitted by a licensed architect, engineer or draftsman," the Institute said. "The IBA has no problem with checking for code compliance.

"We are surprised, though, that BCD is accepting applications from draftsmen. That is an illegal act. Since the passage of the Professional Architects Act in 1994, only licensed architects and licensed architectural technicians are allowed to submit plans for building permits."

The Institute also said the Ministry's comments about discussing planned reforms to the building permit process with the Attorney General's Office were "a stalling tactic" that had been used before when complaints and criticisms were made.

"Section 5 and 6 of the Building Regulation Act gives the Building Control Officer (BCO) the power to implement processes and procedures in carrying out the duties of the office," the IBA said.

"These sections were used to set up the present situation, and can be used by the current BCO to improve the procedures without any need to involve the Attorney Generals office.

"The IBA's recommendations to BCD on its permitting processes were done with the Building Regulations Act as a backdrop, and all we have suggested could be implemented tomorrow by the BCO."

## Rising food prices add to shoppers' economic worries

Susan Salisbury  
WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.

Tony Jones scrutinized the packages of ground chuck and ground round at the Walmart in suburban West Palm Beach. He was not a shopper in a hurry.

"You have to watch prices," Jones said. "Everything's going up this year. A lot of people come in and just grab something." Jones chose the ground chuck at \$2.58 a pound over the ground round at \$3.38. Jones is correct. Prices have spiked recently for such staples as beef, pork, poultry, cheese, milk, butter, sugar and coffee. Economists say that's just the beginning. Although inflation has been relatively weak for most of 2009 and 2010, food commodity and energy prices are on the rise. That puts pressure on wholesale and retail prices, said Ephraim Leibtag, an economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service. The service is forecasting 2 percent to 3 percent food inflation for next year. Food prices as a whole have not increased much this year, with the USDA predicting overall increases of 1 to 1.5 percent for 2010. But zeroing in on specific items provides some startling exceptions, such as butter's roughly 25 percent increase, attributed to short supplies. Next year, expect more increases when higher costs for commodities and energy kick in further.

General Mills, Sara Lee, Starbucks, J.M. Smucker's and Kraft Foods have all increased prices this year. Even SPAM, the low-budget canned pork product, will go up 3 to 4 percent at around February, Hormel Foods has announced.

"We are seeing some pretty big increases," said Brian Todd, president of The Food Institute, an Upper Saddle River, N.J.-based nonprofit whose members include food manufacturers and grocers. "The larger increases now are coming for the center-of-the-plate items such as beef, poultry and pork, which are a main portion of many people's meals," Todd said.

Blame several major factors. The first is rising prices for wheat, corn and soybeans. All are used for animal feed. More corn is going to ethanol, and soybean oil is used to make biodiesel.

The second is more demand for protein from countries around the world. In addition, higher fuel prices impact everything from production to delivery. "Soybeans are on pace for the sixth consecutive year of record exports, mainly due to China. China's population has turned to a more protein-rich diet, which means more meat. Soybean meal is fed to hogs and chickens," said John Sanow, a grains analyst with Telvent DTN in Omaha, Neb.

Leibtag agreed that it's a global market.

"As other countries increase their relative income and are able to purchase more and more of the American-type diet, they are eating more dairy and more protein," Leibtag said.

Corn for ethanol consumes about 35 percent of the U.S. crop. Corn is also used for animal feed and many food products. Its byproduct, high-fructose corn syrup, is an ingredient in soft drinks, cookies, ketchup, bread and more.

Where once wheat, corn and soybean prices were driven mostly by supply and demand, now the futures market is helping to ratchet up prices as more investors put their money into commodities. Futures prices for all three are up more than 60 percent over lows earlier this year, Sanow said.

"There are billions going into the commodity markets," Sanow said. The Intercontinental Exchange, which operates futures exchanges for oil and agricultural commodities, reported a 26 percent increase in volume for 2010 compared to last year.

Supermarkets can hold down prices for only so long.

"Retailers' margins have been cut for the past 13 months. They have been trying to buy more efficiently and cutting back on labor costs. If food prices are going up, at some point they will have to start passing those along," Todd said.

So far, Publix Super Markets has absorbed increased costs for commodities, spokeswoman Kim Jaeger said.

"We manufacture our own milk for our South Florida stores right here in Deerfield Beach as well as source our eggs from Florida," Jaeger said. "This allows us to keep our transportation costs down."

The food price increases mean that the tried-and-true money savers are more in vogue than ever. Using coupons, buying store brands, comparing prices, buying only what's needed, shopping your pantry and sticking to a budget are nothing new, but can make a difference. For Pamela Rattray, who manages a small group home in West Palm Beach, smart shopping is essential. She checks ads before venturing out to purchase breakfast and dinner items for the residents who are at their jobs during the day. She's noticed increases in bread, butter, eggs, cheese and Cream of Wheat. On a recent trip to Walmart in suburban West Palm Beach, her cart was filled with healthful foods such as cereal, fresh broccoli and oranges. "Don't buy junk food," Rattray said. "You don't need it."

Susan Salisbury writes for The Palm Beach Post. E-mail: (underscore)(at)pbpost.com.  
■ Story Filed By Cox Newspapers



(AP Photo/Toby Talbot, file) **FINANCE OFFER:** In this Nov. 29, 2010 file photo, Shoppers leave the Barnes and Noble store on in South Burlington, Vt. Activist investor William Ackman on Monday, Dec. 6, offered to finance a \$16 per share Borders-led takeover bid for rival bookseller Barnes & Noble Inc.

# Microsoft unveils new privacy feature for IE

JORDAN ROBERTSON,  
AP Technology Writer  
SAN FRANCISCO

Microsoft Corp. is tweaking its Internet Explorer with an upcoming feature that will let users add lists of sites that they do and don't want tracking them, a peace offering as the debate about websites' shady surveillance tactics heats up.

The announcement Tuesday comes amid uproar over the sneaky ways websites watch their users as they bounce around the Internet. The Federal Trade Commission is proposing new rules to limit advertisers' ability to do that.

But Microsoft's new feature comes with several drawbacks.

One is that it's not automatically turned on, and another is that consumers will be responsible for creating or finding their own lists of sites they want to block.

Part of the reason for the uproar is that it's hard to tell which sites you're sharing information with.

Websites use many third-party advertising partners that might use shady surveillance schemes.

Requiring users to sort out which sites are good and bad puts the onus on the wrong people, said Anup Ghosh, founder and chief scientist of Invincea, which makes software that companies layer on top of

Internet Explorer for additional security.

"With this kind of 'do not track' list, the industry is not held accountable for not tracking; it's the user that's responsible. They kind of got it backward," he said. "Users aren't equipped to make these kinds of decisions, nor do they want to."

A familiar refrain among security and privacy professionals is that Internet users by and large don't fully appreciate the extent to which sites harvest their personal information.

Visiting a modern website is less like a handshake between two friends than it is glad-handing a room full of strangers. Unless you have tinkered with your security settings, in most browsers, you implicitly give any site you visit permission for it and all of its advertising partners to track you. The tracking happens silently, and your browsing habits are sold and analyzed by advertising firms looking for ways to show you more relevant ads.

Ghosh said it would be more useful for Microsoft to work directly with privacy groups in creating lists of sites to identify sites that engage in controversial forms of tracking.

Dean Hachamovitch, who leads Internet Explorer development for Microsoft, said on a webcast with reporters that Microsoft isn't including pre-made lists in Internet Explorer 9, which ships next year, because it would amount to making a judg-

ment for consumers about which sites are OK to track them. "Choosing a tracking protection list is a statement around what the consumer wants out of the box, and in some ways that is completely up to the consumer," Hachamovitch said.

Privacy worries and corporate interests often collide in building a browser, which is why the privacy features that do make it into the finished product are often compromises between competing interests. As a seller of Internet advertising, Microsoft has to weight the benefits from completely shielding consumers from tracking with its advertising customers' need to monitor people to sell them more targeted ads.

Those pressures were apparently front and center in the development of the current version of Microsoft's browser.

The Wall Street Journal reported in August, in a report based on anonymous sources, that Microsoft's decision to make features that prevent tracking optional, rather than automatic, was the result of a fierce internal debate over the benefits users would gain versus the value that advertisers would lose.

Also, insisting on complete privacy, by turning off tracking features altogether and cranking up the privacy protections all the way, can make surfing the Internet a less-than-radical affair, since sites will forget who you are and your browser will forget where it's been.



## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS



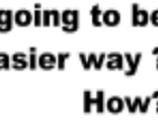
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**"E-Government: Delivering Service Anytime Anywhere"**

on

**Thursday, December 9th, 2010**

at

**7:00 pm**

at

**St John The Baptist Anglican Church**

**Marsh Harbour, Abaco**



**Delivering Service Anytime Anywhere**

## BUSINESS

# Lawmakers offer initial OK for Irish budget

SHAWN POGATCHNIK,  
Associated Press  
DUBLIN

Lawmakers narrowly approved tax hikes Tuesday as part of Ireland's most brutal budget in history, a euro6 billion (\$8 billion) slash-and-tax plan imposed as a key condition of the nation's interna-

tional bailout. Rejection following Tuesday's publication of the long-awaited 2011 budget would have forced Prime Minister Brian Cowen's resignation and snap elections — and raised doubts about whether Ireland could tap euro67.5 billion (\$90 billion) from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund.

But Cowen survived thanks to an 82-77 vote in favor of midnight hikes in taxes on vehicle fuel. The complex budget faces several more parliamentary tests between now and February, with at least three separate votes for major bills on welfare cuts, sweeping expansion of the income-tax net and other measures.

Unveiling the budget, Finance Minister Brian Lenihan said every household in this country of 4.5 million must take hits on their net incomes to close Ireland's staggering deficit.



**KEEPING WATCH:** Irish police officers keep a close eye on protesters outside Leinster House, Dublin, Ireland, Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010. Ireland's parliament has narrowly backed immediate tax rises and cleared the first hurdle for a 2011 budget that seeks euro6 billion (\$8 billion) in cuts and tax hikes, the harshest in Irish history.

## Spending

Lenihan said Ireland had no choice but to slash spending and raise taxes immediately because the country this year is spending more than euro50 billion on daily government activities and has committed at

least euro45 billion to bail out its banks — yet is collecting just euro31 billion this year in taxes.

The result has been an underlying deficit this year of 11.6 percent of Ireland's gross domestic product, second-worst in the 16-nation eurozone to fellow aid patient Greece. When exceptional bank-bailout

costs are included, as European Union authorities have required, Ireland's 2010 deficit skyrockets to a modern European record of 32 percent of GDP.

Lenihan's plan — the harshest yet of four emergency budgets unveiled since 2008 — contains euro4.5 billion (\$6 billion) in spending cuts and euro1.5 billion (\$2 billion) in tax rises. A potential further euro9 billion (\$12 billion) in cuts and tax hikes loom for 2012-14.

He said these measures represent the minimum required to counter "the worst crisis in our history" and put Ireland on course to reduce its deficit to the eurozone limit of 3 percent by 2015 as EU authorities expect.

As Lenihan spoke, outside the wrought-iron parliament gates, several hundred left-wing protesters endured icy weather to denounce the cuts as likely to hit the poorest citizens the hardest. Some banged drums, blew whistles, clanked cattle bells and tooted horns. Many more waved placards demanding that Ireland's state-aided banks default on their hundreds of billions in debts to foreign banks — a notion that Lenihan dismissed as economically suicidal.

The finance chief stressed that Ireland faced no easy choices as it deepens its austerity measures while simultaneously seeking to grow its economy.

He called the euro80 billion (\$105 billion) that Ireland's banks are estimated to have lost on dud property loans "unforgivable" — yet defended the need for Ireland's taxpayers to foot the lion's share of that bailout bill rather than the foreign banks that loaned Dublin institutions the money.

"There's simply no way this country, whose banks are so dependent on international investors, can unilaterally renege on senior bondholders against the wishes of our European partners and the European institutions," Lenihan said. "This course of action has never been an option during the course of this crisis."

Instead, Lenihan said income taxes would be broadened to

bring tens of thousands of low-salaried workers into the tax net for the first time, while welfare payments would be cut across the board. Spending on capital projects — chiefly jobs-intensive building of roads and public transportation networks — would be cut by euro1.8 billion (\$2.4 billion).

He defended the government's reluctant agreement last week on an EU-IMF bailout similar to the one given Greece, a move that Ireland long had dismissed as unnecessary. The first euro10 billion in foreign loans is earmarked to bolster the cash reserves of five Dublin banks that borrowed recklessly from abroad to fund an Irish property boom that went bust in 2008. The government since has nationalized or taken major stakes in all five banks.

## Unpopular

The deeply unpopular Cowen — who rose to power 2 1/2 years ago just as Ireland's vaunted Celtic Tiger boom was petering out — has pledged to resign and call an early national election once the budget is fully enacted in the spring. But he has refused to specify an election date.

Lenihan said pensions for retired state employees will fall 4 percent, while Ireland's civil service will be cut back to 2002 levels. Taxes on vehicle fuel and cash deposits would rise 2 percent to 4 percent.

The minimum wage would be reduced euro1 to euro7.65 (\$10.25) an hour. Fees for university students will rise 25 percent to around euro2,000 (\$2,650) annually.

In hopes of stimulating Ireland's collapsed property market, Lenihan unveiled major cuts to the taxes on house sales to just 1 percent for properties valued under euro1 million, a fraction of the previous tax rate.

A euro10 tax on air passengers will be cut in March to euro3 in hopes of boosting tourism.

And Lenihan said the government would spend euro200 million to put 15,000 of Ireland's 450,000 unemployed into training and internship positions.

### NOTICE

#### FRIESEN NETWORK LTD. In Voluntary Liquidation

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138(4) of the International Business Companies Act, 2000, **FRIESEN NETWORK LTD.** is in dissolution as of November 26, 2010.

International Liquidator Services Inc. situated at 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Withfield Tower, 4792 Coney Drive, Belize City, Belize is the Liquidator.

LIQUIDATOR

#### EXXONMOBIL EXPLORATION SOUTH AFRICA (ORANGE RIVER BASIN) LIMITED

### NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 137 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000, notice is hereby given that the above-named Company has been dissolved and struck off the Register pursuant to a Certificate of Dissolution issued by The Registrar General on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, A.D., 2010.

Dated the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, A.D., 2010.

Carol G. Gray  
Liquidator of  
EXXONMOBIL EXPLORATION SOUTH AFRICA (ORANGE RIVER BASIN) LIMITED



**PROTESTING:** Sinn Fein supporters protest government spending cuts in icy weather outside Leinster House, Dublin, Ireland, Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010.

### NOTICE

#### Mickey Management Limited

In Voluntary Liquidation

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138(4) of the International Business Companies Act, 2000, **Mickey Management Limited** is in dissolution as of **December 1, 2010.**

International Liquidator Services Inc. situated at 35A Regent Street, P.O. Box 1777, Belize City, Belize is the Liquidator.

LIQUIDATOR



### CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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#### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- High school or vocational diploma
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- Possess Airport Ramp Access or ability to obtain within 90 Days of employment
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Please send a resume and cover letter referencing Courier DHL to:  
Human Resources, DHL Express Bahamas, East Bay St, Nassau Bahamas  
or by email to [brian.woods@dhl.com](mailto:brian.woods@dhl.com) or fax at 396 6740.

Please submit applications no later than December 17, 2010



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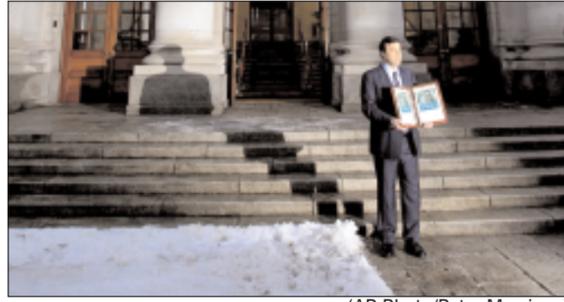
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Market St. North  
P. O. Box SS-5925  
Telephone: 325-4444  
Nassau, The Bahamas



**HARD COPY:** Irish Minister for Finance Brian Lenihan holds a copy of the Budget 2011 at Government Buildings, Dublin, Ireland, Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010.

## IMF: different eurozone growth rates pose risk

ATHENS, Greece

The head of the International Monetary Fund says there is a risk of "big difficulties" because of different rates of growth among the 16 European Union countries that use the euro.

Responding to a question Tuesday in the Greek parliament about the risks of a two-tier Europe, Dominique Strauss-Kahn said that while there were problems, he didn't believe the euro would break up.

"There is a risk of big difficulties," Strauss-Kahn said. "I don't think there is a risk of Germany, as I read sometimes in the newspapers, of leaving the euro or things like that."

However, he said, "the reality is that there are different rates of growth, it goes differently in the different parts of the eurozone, and that's not good."

Weak growth rates in some of Europe's most indebted countries — Portugal, Greece and Ireland — will make it harder for them to repay their debts. Meanwhile, countries that are doing better — Germany, Austria and the Netherlands — are resisting adding more bailout money to help them, saying they shouldn't have to keep paying for countries that overspent.

Strauss-Kahn said there was a need "to have something more dynamic, which is something where the center of the eurozone will be stronger because you can't have a single currency and not have at the same time a coordinated economic policy. And that's the big weakness."

## BUSINESS

# Gamblers spending less time, money in AC casinos

WAYNE PARRY,  
Associated Press  
ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

The amount of time gamblers are spending in Atlantic City casinos is falling, and they're holding on more tightly to their wallets while they're there.

A new statistical study shows the amount of time gamblers spent inside casinos in the nation's second-largest gambling market is down more than 22 percent, and the amount of money they spend there is down almost 30 percent over the last four years.

And the hit to the casinos' bottom line is substantial: gross operating profit per hour is down 61 percent.

George Cosgrove, a 69-year-old retiree from Whiting, N.J., comes to Atlantic City once a month with his wife, visiting a different casino each time. One day last week he was taking a break on a Boardwalk bench outside the Atlantic City Hilton Casino Resort, which hasn't paid its mortgage in more than a year and a half and which reported \$4.7 million in gross operating losses in the third quarter compared to gross operating profits of \$888,000 a year ago.

"It's easy to see for yourself — go in there, and there's hardly anybody in there," Cosgrove said, motioning to the Hilton. "There's probably half of what there was on a weekday a year ago. The business is just not there."

Cosgrove estimates he and his wife are spending at least 30 percent less at the casinos this year.

"We are definitely watching our money more closely," he said. "We'd love to keep doing things the way we used to, but we just can't."

Michael Pollock, managing director of Spectrum Gaming Group, which wrote the study, said the numbers show just how



## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

drastically the Atlantic City market is changing.

"It's shifting toward a visitor base that is less gambling-centric, which means they're gambling less per hour with tighter wallets," he said. "Recessions end, and when it does, what Atlantic City needs to do is diversify its customer base."

"We didn't realize it at the time, but 2006 and 2007 in Atlantic City and Las Vegas was really too good to be true," Pollock said. "People were spending more than they could afford."

## Halt

That came to a screeching halt when the economy started slowing down in late 2007 and nearly crashed in 2008.

The study examined third-quarter figures from 2006 to 2010 in three areas: gross gaming revenue per visitor hour (the amount of money casinos take in for every hour a gambler is on their premises); total visitor hours, and gross operating profit per visitor hour.

The time frame was chosen to use late 2006 as a starting point just before the first slots parlors opened in the Philadelphia suburbs, ushering in a four-year revenue plunge in



(AP Photo/Curt Hudson)

**PLAYING THE GAME:** A player puts a dollar coin in of one of Resorts Atlantic City's new dollar-coin slot machines, in Atlantic City, N.J. Over the past decade, new electronic slot machines that spit out paper vouchers to winners, or credit winnings directly to a player's club card, have made coin machines nearly extinct. Now, Resorts, Atlantic City's oldest casino.

Atlantic City that continues unabated.

Gross gaming revenue fell from \$9.13 per hour in 2006 to \$6.42 for the city's 11 casinos.

Gross operating profit per visitor hour went from \$2.74 in 2006 to \$1.05 in the third quarter of this year — a drop of more than 61 percent.

Corresponding hourly figures were not available for Las Vegas, the nation's largest gambling market. But it, too, has been struggling with the recession and the relentless expansion of casinos and slots parlors into local neighborhoods around the country. Las Vegas casinos are lowering room rates enough to get people in the door, but visitors are still being tightfisted. Gambling revenue in Las Vegas is up less than 1 percent to \$6.7 billion in Clark County from January through September, even though the

area has seen 2.4 percent more visitors during the first nine months of 2010 compared with the same time last year.

And 2009 was a similarly bad year: fewer people came to Vegas and they gambled even less. There were 3 percent fewer visitors than in 2008, but gambling revenue was down 9.8 percent.

Atlantic City's casino revenue fell from a high of \$5.2 billion in 2006 to \$3.9 billion in 2009. For the first 10 months of this year, they are at \$3.1 billion, down 9.1 percent from the same period in 2009.

## Grim

And a new PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP report released Tuesday paints a grim picture for Atlantic City over the next five years, predicting that New Jersey casino revenues in 2014

will still be nearly 36 percent lower than they were in 2006. The Spectrum study broke Atlantic City's 11 casinos into four groups by location. The three casinos in the city's marina district — The Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa, Harrah's Resort Atlantic City, and Trump Marina Hotel Casino — saw their gross gaming revenue per visitor hour fall by more than 41 percent over the last four years.

The three casinos in the Inlet section — Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort, Resorts Atlantic City and the Showboat Casino Hotel — fared even worse, down more than 49 percent.

The Hilton and the Tropicana Casino Resort were down nearly 26 percent.

Only the midtown casinos — Trump Plaza Hotel Casino, Caesars Atlantic City and Bally's Atlantic City — defied the

trend, seeing their gross gaming revenue per visitor hour rise by more than 11 percent over the last four years. Don Marrantino, eastern division president of Caesars Entertainment Corp. which owns Caesars, Harrah's, the Showboat and Bally's, says the report is yet more proof that Atlantic City's business model has permanently changed from day-tripping gamblers to those who book multi-night vacations or conventions here.

"We have to continue to expand the amenities we offer and do a better job in the convention business," he said. "Some of the drop in spending is due to the recession, and we should get some of that back. But to make up for the lost revenue from gambling, we have to make more money from our nightclubs, food and beverage and convention business."

## business BRIEFS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Times Co. says lower costs will boost 4Q results

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The New York Times Co. said Tuesday a drop in expenses should boost the publisher's fourth-quarter profit.

The company's long-term outlook is still uncertain. It owns The Boston Globe, the International Herald-Tribune and a group of smaller dailies along with its namesake newspaper. The latest forecast shows declines in its traditional print business continue to offset gains from its Web properties.

But close attention to expenses helped boost Times Co. shares by 28 cents, or 3 percent, to \$9.66 in midday trading.

Times Co. CEO Janet Robinson said operating expenses are on track to fall 2 percent to 3 percent from the same quarter a year ago, compared with a slight increase the previous quarter. She said lower costs should produce a "significant improvement" in the company's operating profit, excluding special items. The latest update from the Times Co. came during the annual UBS Global Media and Communications Conference in New York. Other publishers, including USA Today owner Gannett Co. and McClatchy Co., planned to offer their take on the state of the newspaper business Wednesday.

The Times Co. said that print advertising sales should slip about 4 percent in the fourth quarter compared with a year ago, slightly better than a 6 percent decline the company booked for the third quarter. Digital ad revenue, which includes ad sales on its newspaper websites as well as About.com, will show growth of roughly 10 percent compared with 15 percent growth the previous quarter.

Revenue from subscription fees and newsstand sales is expected to decline 4 percent to 5 percent, about the same as the third quarter. Digital growth will not be enough to make up for print declines. In dollar terms, the projections mean digital ad revenue will be up to \$99.7 million from \$90.6 million, while print ad revenue slips to \$295 million from \$307.4 million. Circulation revenue should come in between \$227.3 million and \$229.7 million, down from \$239.3 million.

## Talbots 3Q profit rises, cuts outlook, shares sink

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Talbots Inc. shares lost a fifth of their value Tuesday after the women's clothing seller gave a disappointing outlook for the crucial holiday quarter and year, raising worries that its turnaround plan isn't gaining traction.

Talbots and other "missy" retailers — clothing sellers that target women around their 40s — were among the hardest hit during the recession. In an effort to improve results, Talbots earlier this year pulled off a complex deal that let it reduce its debt and buy out its largest shareholder, Japanese retail company Aeon (U.S.A.) Inc., which held a 54 percent stake.

Talbots has also worked to revamp its clothing assortment to make it more appealing to its target customers and invested in a splashy advertising campaign that featured model Linda Evangelista.

But results Tuesday showed that despite a 17 percent increase in third-quarter net income and improving sales, traffic was down 9 percent during the quarter and revenue in stores open at least one year fell 7.1 percent.

## Hawaii hotel occupancy rates continue to increase

**HONOLULU (AP)** — Hotel occupancy rates throughout Hawaii have continued to rise compared to a year ago, while average room rates declined slightly.

According to a Hospitality Advisors LLC report Tuesday, statewide hotel occupancy averaged almost 71 percent in October, an increase of 4.5 percentage points over the same month last year.

The average daily room rate was more than \$163, representing a 0.7 percent decrease from October 2009.

Waikiki hotels posted 80 percent occupancy for October 2010, and the figure for all of Oahu was a bit more than 78 percent.

Big Island hotels experienced the lowest occupancy rates in the state, at almost 58 percent. Maui's was slightly higher than 67 percent and Kauai's was more than 61 percent.

## Canada's central bank leaves interest rate unchanged

**TORONTO (AP)** — Canada's central bank left its key interest rate unchanged Tuesday, saying risks to the global economy have increased.

The Bank of Canada, which held its benchmark rate at 1 percent, said there is an increased risk that sovereign debt concerns in several countries could trigger renewed strains in global financial markets.

The bank said household spending has been stronger than anticipated in Canada, but said exports were weaker than projected. The bank blamed a strong Canadian dollar for the weaker than expected exports.

It also said U.S. domestic demand "is picking up slowly." More than 70 percent of Canada's exports go the U.S., but Canada's resource-rich economy is also tied to the price of oil and other commodities. Canada has the second largest oil reserves in the world.

In June, Canada became the first Group of Seven nation to raise interest rates since the global economic crisis. It raised rates again in July and September but has kept the rate unchanged since then.

Most economists had expected central bank Governor Mark Carney to leave the rate unchanged.

"The bank is clearly trying to dissuade markets from any notion that they are going to hike interest rates soon," CIBC Chief Economist Avery Shenfeld.



## PUBLIC NOTICE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

The Ministry of National Security wishes to advise that with effect from 13 December 2010 the Royal Bahamas Police Force will commence strict enforcement of the seat belt law, which was enacted on 8 March 2002.

The Public is reminded that Section 42 C (1) of the Road Traffic Act Ch.220 states that:

**"no person shall drive a motor vehicle or permit a person to ride as a passenger in that motor vehicle unless that person or that passenger is secured by a seat belt."**

Section 42 C (2) states that:

**"no person shall ride as a passenger in any motor vehicle on any road unless he is secured by a seat belt."**

Section 42 C (3) states that:

**"Where any passenger mentioned under this section is under the age of five years, such passenger shall be secured in a child passenger seat positioned in the rear passenger seat of the motor vehicle."**

The Public is further reminded that:

**"Any driver of a motor vehicle who drives without a seat belt or allows a passenger in such vehicle to ride without a seat belt commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$300. (Sec. 42 C (4). A passenger who rides in a vehicle without a seat belt commits an offence and is liable to summary conviction to a fine of \$100." (Sec. 42 C (5)**

Section 42 C (6) states that:

**"Every person who is guilty of an offence against this section who being the person driving the motor vehicle at the time of the breach, permits a child to ride without a seat belt or secured in a child passenger seat and such person shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of five hundred dollars."**

The Public should note that Section 42 (b) provides exemptions to the following class of vehicles:

- a tractor
- a motor cycle
- an omnibus, except the front seats used by the driver and any other persons sitting alongside the driver's seat
- a truck, except the front seats used by the driver and any other passenger sitting alongside the drivers seat, and in case of a truck with double rows of seats in the cab double rows of seats
- motor vehicles specifically designed for the use of the physically or medically handicapped.

The Ministry requests that the motoring public pay careful attention to this announcement and buckle up. Seat Belts save lives.

BUSINESS

# Obama defends tax deal, says he's kept promises

**BEN FELLER,**  
AP White House  
Correspondent  
WASHINGTON

With fellow Democrats balking, President Barack Obama declared Tuesday that a compromise with Republicans on tax cuts was necessary to help the economy and protect recession-weary Americans. He passionately defended his record against Democrats who complain he's breaking campaign promises.

"Take a tally. Look at what I promised during the campaign. There's not a single thing that I haven't done or tried to do," the president said. He staunchly defended his decision to deal with the GOP in order to extend about-to-expire tax cuts for all Americans.

"There are some who would have preferred a protracted political fight," the president said at a White House news conference a day after the compromise was announced. "And I understand the desire for a fight. I'm sympathetic to that."

Many Democrats in Congress are unhappy about the agreement because it continues tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. But Obama said a long political battle "would be a bad deal for the economy. And it would be a bad deal for the American people."

He promised a renewed fight during 2012 when the tax cuts would expire again, making the point that he still opposes the Republican position that high-income earners should get the extension, too. The agreement includes individuals making \$200,000 or more a year and families making \$250,000 or more.

Obama called "tax cuts for the wealthy" the Republicans' "holy grail."

"It seems to be their economic doctrine," Obama added, previewing a likely argument during his expected re-election race in 2012.

In the agreement, the president gave up a key goal. But he said the deal would stop



DEAL-MAKER: President Barack Obama



## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

taxes from rising for middle class Americans, "which is what I promised."

"It's a good deal for the American people," Obama said. Obama cast his decision to accede to the GOP position on extending the tax cuts in stark terms.

"It's tempting not to negotiate with hostage takers — unless the hostage gets harmed. Then, people will question the wisdom of that strategy. In this case, the hostage was the American people, and I was not willing to see them get harmed."

He said the American people agree with his position, but "I haven't persuaded the Republican Party." Reflect-

ing the newly increased Republican clout in Congress, he said: "I haven't persuaded (Senate Republican leader) Mitch McConnell and I haven't persuaded (House GOP leader) John Boehner."

Even though Democrats will control both houses of Congress until January, Obama insisted the deal was necessary to ensure enough Republican support in Congress to extend unemployment benefits that also are about to expire, and he said a long, bloody battle with the GOP would be detrimental to recession-weary Americans.

"This isn't an abstract debate. This is real money for real people," he said. "This package will help strengthen the recovery. That I'm confident about."

Obama called the news conference in the face of Democratic criticism of the agreement, which still needs House and Senate approval.

It was part of a full-scale defense, with the White House arguing the deal would pump billions into the economy at a time it is recovering from the worst recession in eight decades and unemployment stands at 9.8 percent.

The plan calls for extending tax cuts from the Bush era that are due to expire at

year's end, renewing jobless benefits through the end of 2011 and granting a one-year cut in Social Security taxes. Several officials said the package could add \$900 billion or more to the federal deficit over two years.

Obama said he expects the unemployment rate to go down because of the compromise, although he would not predict by how much.

He also said he believes the jobless rate will recede because the economy is growing, even if businesses haven't yet picked up the pace of hiring enough to send large numbers of people back to work.

Obama spoke as Vice President Joe Biden met at the Capitol with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and then other Democratic senators. House Democrats were holding their own closed-door meeting later Tuesday.

"It's something that's not done yet," said Reid, D-Nev. "We're going to have to do some more work," he said after the meeting with Biden and members of the Democratic rank-and-file.

Across the Capitol, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi issued a statement that said merely, "We will continue discussions with the president and our caucus in the days ahead."

# Oil prices hit \$90 milestone

**CHRIS KAHN,**  
AP Energy Writer  
NEW YORK

Oil prices on Tuesday jumped above \$90 a barrel for the first time in more than two years, a key milestone for Wall Street analysts who say tightening supplies will eventually drive prices above the \$100 mark next year.

The recent surge in oil pushed gasoline and other fuel prices higher as well. Average heating oil and diesel prices are expected to increase year-over-year for the first time since 2008, and the Oil Price Information Service said gasoline prices may hit a national average of \$3 per gallon before Christmas day.

The price increases probably won't be enough to affect holiday shopping, but U.S. consumers will eventually pull back on spending at the start of 2011, OPIS chief oil analyst Tom Kloza said. "This sets up a very shaky January," Kloza said. "People are still going to drive to grandma's house. They're going to take it out on the economy later."

Overnight, the national average pump price added less than a penny to \$2.958 a gallon, according to OPIS, auto club AAA and Wright Express. A gallon of unleaded is 11 cents higher than it was a month ago and 32.6 cents higher than it was a year ago.

Kloza said gasoline could rise to between \$3.25 and \$3.50 a gallon by spring.

On Tuesday benchmark oil for January delivery gave up 69 cents to settle at \$88.69 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract hit \$90.76 a barrel earlier in the day, the highest price since Oct. 8, 2008.

Oil prices had been relatively stable for more than a year, wavering mostly between \$70 and \$80 per barrel. They've moved higher since the Federal Reserve announced plans to inject \$600 billion into the economy. Prices crossed the \$90 mark early Tuesday as President Obama and Republican leaders hammered out an agreement to extend Bush-era tax cuts. A cold snap also swept through Europe and the U.S., lifting demand for fuel.

Wall Street analysts now predict that oil will hit \$100 per barrel sometime next year. They point to rising demand from China and other emerging economies. OPEC countries can crank up production to meet that demand now, but their ability to do that is expected to decline over the next few years.

Morgan Stanley estimates that spare production capacity will be cut in half in two years, falling to levels seen in 2007 and 2008, once again raising tensions about supplies and the world's thirst for oil.

Already, the International Energy Agency notes that super-tankers are storing less oil offshore, and experts predict supplies will tighten elsewhere.

Independent analyst Jim Ritterbusch said Saudi Arabia and other OPEC members may increase production if oil grows any more expensive. Higher energy prices can stifle economic growth and force consumers to conserve fuel and turn to alternative energy sources. "They don't want high prices to create another crash in consumption," Ritterbusch said of OPEC. "They want stability."

In other Nymex trading in January contracts, heating oil fell less than a penny to settle at \$2.4702 a gallon, gasoline futures gave up 1.87 cents to settle at \$2.323 a gallon and natural gas lost 9.5 cents to settle at \$4.393 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent crude fell 6 cents to settle at \$91.39 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.



(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma) **GOING UP:** High gas prices on display at a Shell gas station in San Francisco, Monday, Dec. 6, 2010.

# STOCKS POP AFTER OBAMA, GOP AGREE ON TAXES

**CHIP CUTTER,**  
AP Business Writer  
NEW YORK

Stocks rose Tuesday after President Barack Obama and Republican leaders agreed to a package of tax cuts and an extension of unemployment benefits. Bond prices fell as traders anticipated rising budget deficits.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index and the Nasdaq composite traded above their closing highs of the year. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.12 percent, its highest level since July 13. Rising bond yields are a reflection of investors turning more bullish on the economy and also worrying about bigger deficits.

The extension of the Bush-era tax cuts,

which were due to expire at the end of the year, removed a major source of uncertainty for financial markets. The deal announced late Monday also included a one-year break on payroll taxes which will put money directly in Americans' pockets. The same is true for the extension of unemployment benefits, which economists see as an effective way to stimulate the economy by getting people spending again.

"The deal in Washington is a big deal," said Kim Caughey Forrest, equity research analyst at Fort Pitt Capital Group. "Investors really do like certainty, and they really do like certainty around taxes."

The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 54.75, or 0.5 percent, to 11,416.94 in midday trading.

The S&P 500 rose 7.08, or 0.6 percent, to

1,230.20. All 10 industry groups that make up the index rose, led by industrial companies. The Nasdaq rose 16.61, or 0.6 percent, to 2,611.53.

Treasury prices fell sharply, sending their yields higher.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.12 percent from 2.93 percent late Monday. The yield on the 10-year note is a widely used benchmark for interest rates on loans including mortgages.

Citigroup Inc. rose 4.2 percent to \$4.64 after the government said late Monday it reached a deal to sell its remaining stake in the bank for a \$12 billion profit. Nicor Inc. jumped 4.8 percent to \$49.02 after the natural gas distributor said it had agreed to be acquired by AGL Resources Inc. for about \$2.38 billion in cash and stock.

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF:											
TUESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2010											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,482.73   CHG -0.02   %CHG 0.00   YTD -82.65   YTD % -5.28											
FINDEX: CLOSE 000.00   YTD 00.00%   2009 -12.31%											
WWW.BISXBAHAMAS.COM   TELEPHONE: 242-323-2330   FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield	
1.26	1.00	AML Foods Limited	1.01	1.01	0.00	0.150	0.040	6.7	3.96%		
10.75	9.67	Bahamas Property Fund	10.63	10.63	0.00	0.013	0.200	817.7	1.88%		
6.18	4.50	Bank of Bahamas	4.90	4.90	0.00	0.598	0.260	8.2	5.31%		
0.58	0.18	Benchmark	0.18	0.18	0.00	-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%		
3.49	2.70	Bahamas Waste	2.70	2.70	0.00	0.168	0.090	16.1	3.33%		
2.15	2.14	Fidelity Bank	2.17	2.17	0.00	0.016	0.040	135.6	1.84%		
12.50	9.62	Cable Bahamas	10.46	10.46	0.00	1.050	0.310	10.0	2.96%		
2.84	2.36	Colina Holdings	2.40	2.40	0.00	0.781	0.040	3.1	1.67%		
7.00	5.40	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	6.85	6.85	0.00	0.422	0.260	16.2	3.80%		
3.65	1.83	Consolidated Water BDRs	1.82	1.82	0.00	0.111	0.045	16.2	2.50%		
2.55	1.60	Doctor's Hospital	1.60	1.60	0.00	0.199	0.110	8.0	6.88%		
6.99	5.94	Famguard	6.07	6.07	0.00	-0.003	0.240	N/M	3.95%		
10.20	7.23	FirstCaribbean Bank	7.23	7.23	0.00	0.287	0.520	25.2	7.19%		
11.40	8.77	Foccol (S)	9.39	9.39	0.00	0.645	0.350	14.6	3.73%		
5.51	3.75	Foccol (S)	5.46	5.46	0.00	0.366	0.210	14.9	3.85%		
1.00	1.00	Foccol Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%		
5.59	5.00	ICD Utilities	5.59	5.59	0.00	0.012	0.240	465.8	4.29%		
10.50	9.82	J. S. Johnson	9.82	9.82	0.00	0.971	0.640	10.1	6.52%		
10.00	10.00	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	Security	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity			
99.46	99.46	Bahamas Note 6.95 (2028)	BAH28	99.46	0.00		6.95%	20 November 2029			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00		7%	19 October 2017			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00		7%	30 May 2013			
100.00	100.00	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 Supermarkets	5.01	6.01	14.00		-2.945	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.35	0.40	0.55		0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%	
CFAL Securities Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)											
41.00	29.00	ABDAB	30.13	31.59	29.00		4.540	0.000	9.03	0.00%	
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.45	0.55	0.55		0.002	0.000	261.90	0.00%	
BISX LISTED Mutual Funds											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD%	Last 12 Months %	NAV 3MTH	NAV 6MTH	NAV Date			
1.5122	1.4076	CFAL Bond Fund	1.5122	5.11%	6.79%	1.490421	1.467397	31-Oct-10			
2.9265	2.8200	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	2.9187	1.10%	3.13%	2.910946	2.911577	30-Sep-10			
1.5668	1.4954	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5683	4.06%	4.67%	1.548897	1.532712	26-Nov-10			
3.2025	2.8522	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	2.8624	-8.16%	-7.49%			31-Aug-10			
13.6388	13.0484	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.5642	1.47%	2.95%			30-Sep-10			
104.3684	101.6693	CFAL Global Bond Fund	114.3684	9.98%	12.48%	109.392860	107.570619	30-Jun-10			
106.5528	99.4177	CFAL Global Equity Fund	106.5528	4.75%	7.18%	100.779540	105.776543	30-Sep-10			
1.1367	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.1367	4.30%	5.21%			31-Oct-10			
1.0000	0.9974	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.0074	2.75%	6.87%			31-Oct-10			
1.1363	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.1363	4.18%	5.78%			31-Oct-10			
9.7485	9.1005	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal	9.7458	4.35%	5.22%			31-Oct-10			
11.2361	10.0000	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal	10.6000	-1.59%	4.26%			31-Oct-10			
10.0000	9.1708	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal	9.5037	-4.96%	-4.96%			31-Oct-10			
8.1643	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Int'l Fund - Equities Sub Fund	8.1643	5.79%	9.42%			31-Oct-10			
MARKET TERMS											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX - 19 Dec 02 = 1,000.00											
52wk-Hi - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks											
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks											
Previous Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily volume											
Today's Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume											
Change - Change in closing price from day to day											
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today											
Div \$ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months											
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings											
(S) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/8/2007											
(S1) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/11/2007											
TO TRADE CALL: CFAL 242-502-7010   ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764   FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000   COLONIAL 242-502-7525											

# Consumer credit jumps by most in more than 2 years

**MARTIN CRUTSINGER,**  
AP Economics Writer  
WASHINGTON

Consumer borrowing rose in October by the largest amount in more than two years, led by a big rise in the category that includes student loans.

The Federal Reserve said Tuesday that consumer credit rose at an annual rate of \$3.4 billion in October, the largest increase since a \$5.7 billion gain in July 2008. Consumer credit was also up in September.

But the strength in both September and October is being heavily influenced as the result of a recently enacted law that makes the government the primary lender to students.

The increase of \$3.4 billion in overall credit surpassed the flat reading that economists had expected. The gain translated into a 1.7 percent rise and followed a 0.6 percent increase in September. Those were the first back-to-back monthly gains since mid-2008. Consumer credit had fallen for 19 straight months before the rise in September.

Americans have been reducing their borrowing since late 2008 as they have struggled to cope with a steep recession and high unemployment.

## Loans

For October, the borrowing category that includes auto loans and student loans rose 6.8 percent following a strong 7.6 percent increase in September.

Much of that gain was powered by student loans from the federal government. The law change makes the government the primary lender to students. Previously, the federal government had been the guarantor of student loans that were being provided by private lenders.

Some of the strength last month also came from a rise in auto loans, reflecting stronger auto sales. A separate report Tuesday showed that consumers with less than rock-solid credit were starting to get car loans again as lenders loosen standards a bit. The report from Experian, a credit reporting agency, showed that loans going to subprime buyers rose 8 percent in the third quarter, compared to the third quarter of 2009. It was the first year-over-year increase since 2007.

The Federal Reserve credit report showed that the category that includes credit card lending dropped 8.4 percent in October, a record 26th consecutive monthly decline.

Households have been borrowing less and saving more. This has been a major factor holding back overall economic growth because it has depressed consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of total economic activity.

The level for total credit in October stood at \$2.4 trillion, down 3.1 percent from a year ago and 7.1 percent below the all-time high for consumer credit hit in July 2008.

The Fed's measure of consumer credit covers such categories as credit card debt, student loans and auto loans. But it does not include mortgages or any other type of loan secured by real estate.

TASTE

# The Tribune Taste



**HEAD OF THE LINE:** 1st Walk In Customer Paul Fernander (left) enjoys lunch with his lovely wife Porcia. Also shown (centre) Akaur McPhee, Wendy's Hostess.

## Wendy's unveils new look

The Thompson Boulevard branch of Wendy's was the second of the chain's nine restaurants to unveil a fresh new look to support the brand's new image.

Beyond being aesthetically pleasing, the goal of the renovation was to upgrade the facility and cater more fully to the needs of the many different customers who fre-

quent it.

"This restaurant is the second in our chain of nine to undergo this kind of transformation," explained Chris Tsavoussis, president of Wendy's (Bahamas). "I announced at the grand opening of our Cable Beach Store in October that the Thompson Blvd location would be next in line to sport our new restaurant brand image, and we're quite proud of the results."

Additional group seating was added to accommodate the scores of students from the neighbouring College Of The Bahamas who patronise the business, as well as families wishing to dine in.

The new look features spacious new seating layout; plush, double-padded seats; crystal clear, state-of-the-art digital display menu boards; an alluring color scheme; and a contemporary new design.

Patrons saw the new look last week after the restaurant's doors reopened after an 8-day renovation period.

"Walking into the restaurant was a very pleasant surprise to say the least," said long time customer Paul Fernander, who was the first person to stop in for lunch. "I realised that something was going on with the temporary closure, but honestly I didn't expect all of this.

The restaurant looks really fantastic, and the digital menu boards are definitely a cut above the rest. I mean the burgers look true to life!"

For the owners of the company, Chris and Terry Tsavoussis, their motivation remains where it's always been, "we do it for the customers who've come to expect nothing but the best from their neighbourhood Wendy's."

## Flash Back

Just a few images of what we the Bahamas looked like 40...50...60... years in the past

BY ROLAND ROSE



White gloved elegance... 1955 a fashion show at the glamorous Royal Victoria Hotel.

Diane Symonette in black gown led local Bahamian ladies modeling the latest fashions.

The Tribune

# entertainment



**DA LAST LAUGH:** Young Jeezy came out in full force to entertain the crowd as they all celebrated the last laugh weekend.



3Lite Entertainment/Photos

## 'IN YA EAR'

Great turnout for Young Jeezy Concert

By ALESHA CADET  
Tribune Features Reporter

ALTHOUGH earlier detained by police officials, Atlanta hip-hop star, Young Jeezy still managed to put on a successful show at the Luna Night Club, West Bay Street, Saunders Beach last Saturday.

The American rapper was released by police hours before headlining the highly anticipated concert. A well-placed source told *The Tribune* that the rapper was taken into the Fox Hill area by friends and was simply "in the wrong place at the wrong time" when he was taken into custody.

Brought to the Bahamas by the Recession group, under the theme "Da Last Laugh weekend" the excitement started a bit earlier with a pre-party which was held on Friday at the Marley Resort, Cable Beach.

### Appearances

The all black affair at the Marley Resort featured appearances from Young Jeezy himself, as well as international DJ artist from the Miami area. There were also guest appearances by the finest DJ's from Nassau, Bimini, Freeport and Jamaica.

This outstanding music line-up kept the people entertained with a tasteful selection of music, that kept the crowd partying until the break of dawn.

The next best thing on the line up was the officially kick off of the concert on Saturday that offered the first 100 ladies free admission as a gift from the new promoters.

As promoters stated, this was one concert you did not want to miss. Although I'm not a huge fan of rap music, I was impressed with Jeezy's ability to connect with the Bahamian crowd. Also, his stage presence was awesome, I would agree that the entire night was well played out.

It was the aim of "Da Recession group" to come together to make the event a safe and successful

one. The venue was separated into four sections: general admission, VIP, and platinum area where tables were available at a cost. Even though the areas were filled with people, everyone seemed comfortable.

### Hyped

Guest were entertained with music by international DJs before Jeezy coming out on stage in an all black outfit gearing up the already hyped crowd.

He electrified the people with his number one hits: *Loose My Mind*, *Put On*, *Who Dat*, *Soul Survivor*, just to name a few.

In an interview with *Tribune Entertainment*, Jason Cartwright of Da Recession group said: "The concert turned out to be a huge success for us. Club Luna really had the adequate spacing and enough bars to cater to the crowd that we had at the event."

Speaking on the night itself, he added that the ambiance was filled with anticipation as the people waited to see if the man himself, young Jeezy, would show up on stage to perform. "Unlike many other artist that have performed in the Bahamas in the past young Jeezy came out of the back stage and onto the stage on schedule singing his first song as the crowd jumped at his arrival," he said.

"He really rocked the show that night and performed to our expectation of him. I am guessing that because of in the past where rap artist didn't show up to their concerts and we brought a top artist to the shores of the Bahamas, this shows that from now on once "Da Recession" brings a production, the Bahamian population can now say for a fact that when these guys say they are bringing it they bring it all or not at all!"

Mr Cartwright looked at The Last Laugh weekend as one of the best rap concerts that the Bahamas has ever seen. He went on to express that the Bahamas can look forward to Da Recession group bringing at least five concerts to the Bahamas. "Thanks again to the many Bahamians that supported us and all our sponsors as well," he said.



## 'Poetry on Stage', A fabulous evening for poetry lovers

By ALESHA CADET  
Tribune Features Reporter

LAST Friday was a fabulous evening for poetry lovers who attended *Poetry on Stage* at Government House.

This year's version of "Poetry on Stage" took the form of a lively soul stirring recitation of poems by Bahamian poet, Tyrone Sawyer, by an ensemble cast. The Selections included crowd favourites like "Cougars vs Colonels", "Letter to Ophelia", "Take Me Home", "Oh Gal", "Ya'll Man Is Do For More", "You Let Me Down" and "A Bum's Creed".

In an interview with *Tribune Entertainment*, Mr Sawyer said the show had an excellent turn out. "We had a full house, it was well executed."

He added: "It was greater than we all expected, we are trying to get a greater appreciation for our spoken word, to help keep the tradition alive."

Speaking on the performances, Mr Sawyer said: "It was so proud of my friends that recited my work, it was great. This is the fifth time that we did the show, and we did it to keep the work alive."

Mr Sawyer said that part proceeds from this event would benefit three charities, the St Martin's Convent Building Fund, the Sister Sister Breast Cancer Support Group and Clement

"Clem" Longley a member of the Cougars Sporting Club who has been recovering from the effects of a debilitating stroke over the past two years.

Veronica Duncanson of Sunshine Insurance and Marathon Bahamas said: "It really left me speechless, I knew Mr Sawyer and I was aware of his work but I did not expect what I got."

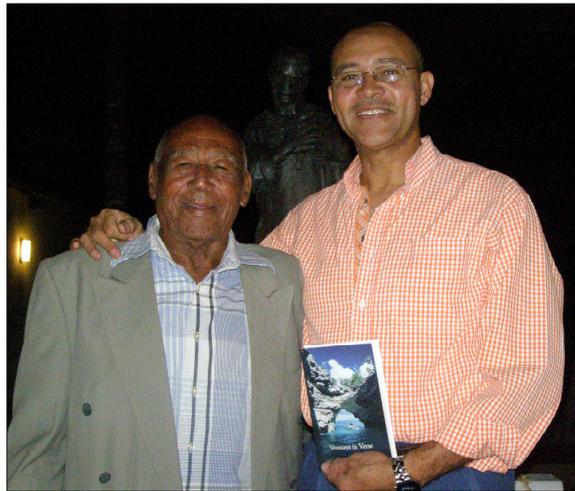
"It was an introduction to an entire new cast of brilliant performers who just brought alive Mr Sawyer's work and the range of the pieces really told the Bahamian story."

She continued: "It talked about the no good Bahamian man, the woman dying of breast cancer, that sort of stuff. All of the topics were real life topics. The show also introduced to us the depths of talents we have here in the Bahamas."

"They all were really good, the entire evening was really well done and I'm hoping Mr Sawyer will do it again. A lot of times we talk about culture but it is so much more."

Mr Sawyer stated: "For years and years, the spoken word was always cherished as a part of the Bahamian cultural experience from Abaco to Inagua. Poems, well done, allow us from the privacy of our seats to share in moments of joy, exhilaration, pain, rejection, melancholy, pride and yes even love."

He continued, "I would like to



**PROUD:** Tyrone Sawyer, Poet, poses with his father.

thank their Excellencies for their encouragement and kind consideration in providing such a lovely venue."

His work was recited by a group of amateur readers and friends who came together as an ensemble cast to share their love of the spoken word.

Entertainment for the event included

a Christmas medley by Zoash Boyd on trumpet, accompanied by Superintendent Sylvester George, recently retired Head of the Royal Bahamas Police Force Band. Talented sisters, Konica and Dagni Prosa, also provided a few featured musical selections.

## things 2DO

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 9TH ANNUAL ADVENTIST MEN'S CHORALE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Adventist Men's Chorale holds its 9th annual concert at a new venue: Hillside Seventh Day Adventist Church on Tonique Williams-Darling Highway. Accompanied by the Bahamas National Symphony Orchestra, the all-male chorus comprises more than 40 men and performs works by composers George F Handel, Harry Simeone, Norman Luboff and Peter J Wilhousky and more. Part proceeds aid the New Bahamas Academy on-going Building Project. Celebrate the joy of Christmas and the true meaning of Jesus' birth. Starts at 7pm. Admission is free, with a voluntary collection. Call 341-4022 or email: croach\_100@hotmail.com

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT AT ATLANTIS BY ARS NOVA MUSIC CLUB

The Ars Nova Music Club and Glee Performers present a fabulous night of seasonal joy and live music at Atlantis, Paradise Island. The 3rd Annual Butch Kerzner Summit Foundation Holiday Music Outreach and Benefit Concert is held in the Crown Ballroom, Beach Tower from 7.30-9.30pm. In this season of giving, support the Butch Kerzner Summit Foundation that supports Bahamian youth and many youth programs throughout the country. Tickets are \$15 - \$75 available from the Atlantis Box Office and many locations around the island.

### FRIDAY - SUNDAY DECEMBER 10-12 2ND INTN'L CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Bahamas hosts the 2nd International Chinese Martial Arts Championships that comprises of over 250 traditional and contemporary Kung Fu and Washu divisions for Open Hand and Weapons Forms, Push Hands, Chi Sao, Tai Chi and Weapon Sparring augmented by featured bouts of Sanda (Chinese Full Contact Kickboxing), Light Contact Conscious Fighting, Amateur Mixed Martial Arts, and Grappling. See <http://www.kungfuchampionship.com>.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 EVOLUTION: FASHION PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE RUNWAY SHOW

Experience the evolution of fashion with the first ever "Evolution: Fashion Past, Present and Future" runway show, an expose of fashion from different eras all designed by Bahamian fashion designers. Cocktails at 6pm. Show beings 7pm in Wyndham Crystal Palace Ballroom. Tickets: \$35/general; \$50/VIP.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Enjoy an evening of Christmas music with The Ebenezer Music Department at "The Spirit of Christmas", 7pm at Ebenezer Methodist Church. Proceeds in aid of Ebenezer Music Ministry. Telephone: 393-2936.

ARTS

By IMOGENE WALKINE

Art is all about relationships. Relationships between the artist and the subject, the artist and the viewer and the artist and the medium. The Cube West Gallery, a private gallery space in Old Fort Bay, once again explores those relationships as it opens "Luxe" by Imogene Walkine on December 7.

"Relationships are what we are building our gallery upon," says gallery co-owner Gillian Watson, adding: "We built our home with the idea that it would be a place where artists would come together to talk about art, and the gallery was just a natural step forward from those early conversations."

The newest show at The Cube West, "Luxe", by Imogene Walkine, is an example of another strong relationship built around art. "I learned about Imogene through a newspaper article that I read when I had just started the job as curator of another gallery six years ago," said Gillian.

"I loved the images I saw in the paper so I made a few calls, got Imogene's number and phoned her to let her know how much I enjoyed her work." That call was the beginning of a relationship that has spanned six years and at least a dozen art show and art events.

"We have grown with each other," Gillian explains. "Imogene has taught me how to relate to artists on both a personal and professional level. I am please to say that I think we have really become quite good friends. I love that art has that potential to create lasting relationships."

**Bold**

"Luxe" once again brings Imogene's brilliant, bold ceramics to the public. Her delicate, flowing organic shapes and level of detail are matched only by her expert understanding of her medium. "It is such a pleasure to watch Imogene work. She is so skilled but also so creative and open to experimentation. She displays the perfect balance between total control and a willingness to take risks and try something new," Gillian explains. "I have to admit that I get such a thrill unwrapping her work each time I hang one of her shows. Each piece is a surprise, like a shiny piece of beautiful candy or an exquisite gemstone. It really makes me giddy it does everytime."

The title of the show, "Luxe", stemmed from Imogene's desire to create wall art that was not only beautiful - but also elegant and classic - like fine jewelry. "In thinking about jewelry - I decided to actually make jewelry - for the home," Imogene explains. "I used sea glass to create precious stones and a luster to mimic mother of pearl. My usual inspiration of our beautiful Bahamian environment was used to create the forms - sea forms and flowers." The colour palette in "Luxe" is what stands out the most when compared to past exhibitions. "In "Luxe", I am focusing mainly on form and effect. Therefore, colour has been eliminated from most of the pieces. Instead, I aimed to create shimmering white jewels. This way, there can be more emphasis on light, shadow and form. In several of the pieces, I have extracted and isolated the forms which inspire me and present them as framed panels. I am so excited about the effect of such simplicity that my mind is racing towards my next show "Luxe II".

**Social Spot**

The Cube West Gallery is located in a small studio space inside the home of artist Arjuna Watson. On any given evening you can find local or visiting artists, students or clients enjoying good conversation and getting to know each other on one of the home's large front porches. Arjuna and Gillian's three children regularly join in on these conversations. "It was important for us to create a space where art was the focus and where our kids would have the opportunity to grow up surrounded by art and artists." Art show openings at The Cube West are a combination of meeting new people, reconnecting with other artists and hanging out with new and old friends.

"Luxe" is open to invited guests on Tuesday, December 7 from 6 - 9pm. It is also open by appointment only for anyone not able to attend the opening reception. For more information or to be added to the guest list for Dec 7 or to book a private viewing please contact The Cube West either by phone (242.362.4702) or email (gillian@thecubewest.com).



# The Cube West Gallery host Luxe



**BRILLIANCE:** "Luxe" brings Imogene Walkine's brilliant, bold ceramics to the public.



movie REVIEW

## Tangled

By JASON DONALD

**STARRING (VOICES):**  
**MANDY MOORE,**  
**ZACHARY LEVI,**  
**DONNA MURPHY**

LET'S be honest, when it comes to animation these days, no one, not even Disney, can compete with the quality of Pixar. I'm sure all those who had 'something in their eye' during this summer's *Toy Story 3* would agree.

But with this breezy update of a classic fairytale, Disney is definitely taking a step in the right direction.

Mandy Moore voices Rapunzel, a girl with impossible lengths of magical golden hair. Held captive by a woman pretending to be her mother (Murphy), Rapunzel knows little of the world outside until petty criminal Fly-

nn Rider (Levi) discovers her isolated abode.

This chance encounter gives Rapunzel an opportunity to leave and indulge her curiosity about what lies beyond her window - with her "mother" in hot pursuit . . .

After reverting to its original 2-D animation style for 2009's *The Princess and the Frog*, Disney has returned to super-slick CGI and to great effect. The landscapes are spectacular and the characters, despite having a traditional cartoon appearance, are more fluid and expressive than ever.

*Tangled* also sticks to the winning Disney formula of set pieces punctuated by songs - and there are a couple of real standouts in the musical numbers.

In particular, "Mother Knows Best" - a deceptively jaunty tune hides a pretty disturbing message about the psychology behind Rapunzel's imprisonment.

It's dark moments like this that give *Tangled* a real sense of classic Disney and perhaps an indication of a return to form.



DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC/AP Photo

**TIED UP:** In this film publicity image released by Disney, Rapunzel, voiced by Mandy Moore, right, and Flynn, voiced by Zachary Levi are shown in a scene from "Tangled."

INSIDE



Great turnout for Young Jeezy concert See page 10

The Cube West Gallery host Luxe See page 11

# The Arts



The Tribune SECTION B •

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2010

## transforming mud

Bahamian artists come together to represent mud as a feature of their exhibit

By JEFFARAH GIBSON • Tribune Features Writer



LARGE RIPPLE TURTLE

NAUTILUS SHELL AND FISH BOWL



GUARDIAN OF THE SEA SCULPTURE



PLATYER ON LEGS



LARGE MERMAID BOWL

**B**EFORE God created Adam he was clay. He was taken from an imagination, drawn into the dust of the earth and transformed into man - an object of inspiration.

A ceramicist works similarly. He sits comfortably in his studio, plunges his hands into cool moist clay, pinches, coils, or burnishes the clay, takes a perplex vision and transforms the unattractive bland medium into an intoxicating art piece - he simply transforms mud.

Four Bahamian artists have come together to represent mud as a feature of desire, inspiration and irresistible beauty. In "Transforming Mud," Neko Meicholas, Max Taylor, Monika Minnis, and Jessica Colebrooke make representations of sea themes and the conservation of marine and natural resources on ceramic clocks, tea pots, bowls, and handmade pieces.

"We tried to represent the beauty of the ocean in this showcase and bring awareness to our natural and marine resources. We have such a beauty here that we take for granted," said Neko Meicholas.

Neko teamed up with two of the artists in this exhibit during the Transforming Spaces bus tour. However, he said they wanted to give art enthusiasts an opportunity to view a larger body of work for a longer period of time.

"Myself and Jessica had exhibited before. But we wanted to have the ability to have a longer running event and we wanted to people to be able to view a larger body of work," he said.

In a few of his handmade pieces Neko used birds fish and turtles as embellishments.

Jessica Colebrooke's representation of the ripple turtle sheds a light on their conservation. A year ago, the killing of turtles for their shells sparked heat debates and controversy. However her ceramic portrayal of a molded turtle back will let people have one without having to actually harm a live turtle.

"A time ago people would kill the turtle just to have it shell to hang on the walls of their home but with Jessica's piece, which focuses on the extinction of the animals people can have the animal shell without killing it. So she has made something special that people can enjoy," he said.

While Jessica drew on the ripple fish and the ripple turtle, Neko was inspired by a Greek mythology based concept.

Monika on the other hand drew inspiration from mermaids which are the most prevalent themes in her pieces.

And although the exhibit is a ceramic showcase, Max Taylor painted a few pieces for the show.

The intriguing title for the show was based on the nature of clay. "Clay is considered mud and when you are first starting out it's grey or red- very boring. But as you begin to mold it and shape it, you make something out of something and your art piece becomes something inspiring," he said.

Neko said when he is engaged with his medium it becomes therapeutic. "I just use it for therapy and I have learnt that working with clay teaches one a number of life lessons," he said.

The ceramic show is open to the public, at Pink 'Un Cottage on East Bay Street from December 6 - 10 from 10-2pm.

For more information contact 393-3221.

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