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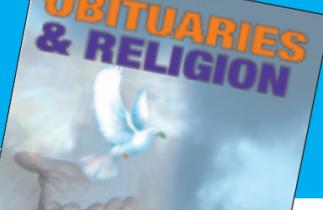
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INSIDE TODAY

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'Significant' cost of BTC walkout

BAHAMIANS WARNED OVER SEAT BELT LAW

By CELESTE NIXON
 Tribune Staff Reporter
 cnixon@tribunemedia.net

BAHAMIANS have been warned to take the new seat belt law seriously as police announced an additional 50 officers will hit the streets to help enforce it.

At a press conference yesterday, Sergeant Garland Rolle said the officers will be posted at various points throughout New Provi-

SEE page 14

Minister hits out at 'offensive' remarks by union chief

By TANEKA THOMPSON
 Tribune Staff Reporter
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REVENUE:
 Tommy Turnquest

tion barring union officials from encouraging staff to walk off the job. "It's affected BTC's revenue, they haven't been able to collect any money, all the customer service outlets were closed," said Mr Turnquest, who has responsibility for the telecommunications company.

He said he has no idea why the unions are incensed, adding that government liaised with union officials before signing its Memorandum of Understanding with Cable and

SEE page 14

FNM: BAHAMIANS WILL BE INFORMED OF BTC TERMS BEFORE VOTE IN PARLIAMENT

IN A statement late last night the FNM said that, unlike the "secrecy" surrounding the PLP's agreement to sell BTC to Blue Water, when the terms now being negotiated for the sale of 51 per cent interest in BTC to Cable and Wireless have been completed, Bahamians will be informed before the required vote in parliament.

SEE page 16

WORKERS CONTINUE PROTEST AGAINST SALE



PROTEST: The BTC workers' motorcade makes its way along Bay Street yesterday.

By TANEKA THOMPSON
 Tribune Staff Reporter
 tthompson@tribunemedia.net

such, they accused us as first defendant and second defendant of BCPOU and BCPMU. We are not restraining our workers, our members, we asked them to go to work they obviously have not listened to us so if they are charging us saying that we are causing them not to go to work they are incorrect and wrong," Mr Evans said yesterday, referring to BTC's court order against BCPOU and management union Bahamas Communications and Public Management Union.

ANGRY BTC workers protested for a second day against sale conditions of the telecommunications company to Cable and Wireless.

They staged a motorcade to Bay Street despite a Supreme Court order restricting union officials from encouraging industrial action.

BCPOU President Bernard Evans said employees who did not show up to work were not coerced by the unions, adding that union officials did not violate any clause of their industrial agreement with BTC during the two days of protest.

"We're not guilty of

SEE page two

WATER CHIEFS CUT OFF SUPPLIES TO SOME PIGEON PEA HOMES

By NOELLE NICOLLS
 Tribune Staff Reporter
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PUBLIC health fears were voiced after the water chiefs cut off supplies to several homes in Pigeon Pea, Abaco, in an exercise of "mass disconnection" by the Water and Sewerage Corporation.

Officials at the utility denied installing pipes and pumps for new clients, and said the company merely engaged in the "usual" exercise of disconnecting delinquent meters and illegal hook-ups.

Philip Beneby, assistant general manager in the Family Island and Business Development Division, said: "The only thing we did there was disconnect some accounts that had no ownership through the normal business exercise."

"There were about 10 meters or so that were consuming water but the customer could not be identified. As for new accounts, if we don't have any ownership we can't install a meter."

Tribune sources claimed water was disconnected from the Pigeon Pea area last month. In light of the recent cholera outbreak in Haiti, and warnings from the Ministry of Health for Bahamian communities to take precaution-

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LOCAL NEWS

SCENES FROM yesterday's BTC workers' motorcade in the capital. The workers staged a second day of protest against the proposed sale.



Workers continue protest against sale

FROM page one

to several BTC locations on Monday.

The unions want the majority stake of BTC to remain in the hands of Bahamians – government plans to sell 51 per cent of the company to Cable and Wireless – and is pushing for attractive severance packages for downsized staff.

"We can accept that a number of persons might need to leave (when BTC is sold) but we have to leave in decency as Bahamians with three or four years salary with attractive packages with training elements included in that.

"Let's treat those who have to leave with respect, let's give them what is due to them," said BCPMU official Talbert Collie during the meeting.

He argued that for years BTC has been smothered by government involvement. He added that the staff is among the best in the telecommunications industry and should be treated accordingly.

"Batelco has one of the most trained and skilled

workforce in the entire world, on the planet.

"Our success over the past ten years or so has been stifled due to everything being on hold – privatisation coming, this project is on hold, the next project is on hold – in spite of all of that we have been able to thrive, excel and make millions of dollars," he said.

The motorcade came after an emotional meeting at the Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union headquarters on Farrington Road yesterday morning and ahead of a mass rally last night.

While waving placards and shouting words of protest, scores of employees drove from the Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union headquarters on Farrington Road to Bay Street.

Police blocked traffic along Bay Street and temporarily diverted cars as the motorcade headed downtown but later allowed the protesters to continue along the thoroughfare.

The protest forced the closure of BTC customer service centres and Cyberworld outlets for the second day in a row.

Last week Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Cable and Wireless to sell 51 per cent of the company for \$210 million. Government will retain 49 per cent of BTC.

It is anticipated the company will shed a significant portion of its workforce once privatised.

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LOCAL NEWS

PLP: Selection process of BTC buyer 'not transparent'



PHILIP 'BRAVE' DAVIS

THE Progressive Liberal Party is calling on government to immediately make public the details of its Memorandum of Understanding with Cable & Wireless.

The PLP claimed the selection process of a buyer for BTC "has not been transparent" and urged government "to cease and desist from the secrecy."

The party added that a contingent of opposition members met with Cable & Wireless officials and were displeased that company officials did not divulge business plans for BTC and its future operations.

PLP deputy leader Philip 'Brave' Davis, along with opposition MPs Dr Bernard Nottage and Shane Gibson, met with Cable & Wireless Caribbean CEO David Shaw and the company's local representative Sharon Brown during the "cordial" meeting.

To the PLP's displeasure, company officials did not reveal the details of its Memorandum of Understanding with government. While Mr Shaw spoke candidly "about the difficulties and successes" of the company, he "was unable to share any details of its proposed business plans for BTC and its future operations in the Bahamas."

The PLP is also disappointed about the selection process of Cable & Wireless to take over BTC and government's decision to sell 51 per cent of the state-run telecommunications company for \$210 million.

"The Progressive Liberal Party also reiterates its principle that the controlling interest of BTC should remain in the hands of the Bahamian people," said the statement.

Three men arraigned on armed robbery charges

THREE men were remanded to Her Majesty's Prison after being arraigned on armed robbery charges yesterday.

Police have charged Dario Smith, 27, of Garden Wells Corner, Tokel Tynes, 22, and Gregory Taylor, 25, of Podoleo Street with six counts of armed robbery.

It is alleged that the three men while armed on Friday, November 26, robbed Shedrick McPhee of a \$300 cellular phone, Sidney Bowleg of a \$500 gold chain, Charles Walker of his wallet, containing his driver's license and \$3 cash. It is also alleged that the men robbed Kevin Woodside of a \$250 gold chain, Allen Adderley of \$175 gold chain as well as \$20 cash. The men are also charged with assaulting Corporal 2511 Evans and Reserve Constable 128 Dean with a handgun.

The men who were arraigned before Magistrate Derrance Rolle-Davis in Court 5, Bank Lane were not required to enter a plea to the charges. They were remanded to Her Majesty's Prison. Their cases have been adjourned to April 26 and 28, 2011.

Police probe shootings

POLICE are investigating two shootings that took place on Tuesday night.

At around 8pm, a 27-year-old man was shot on Augusta Street after being approached by a black Honda occupied by two men.

One of the men reportedly pulled out a hand gun and fired at the victim, hitting him in the chest.

He was rushed to hospital by ambulance, where he is said to be in stable condition.

The second incident took place just after 1am near Wilson Track off Wulff Road.

The 19-year-old male victim was on McCartney Lane when he was approached by a man wearing dark clothing and armed with a handgun.

The man opened fire on the victim, hitting him in the arm.

He was taken to hospital in a private vehicle and is listed in stable condition.

Mother's pleas for infant injured by hit and run driver

Cook-out this weekend to raise funds for medical expenses

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune STAFF Reporters
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

AN unemployed mother is desperately seeking financial aid for her 22-month-old baby after a near-fatal hit-and-run accident destroyed his chances for normal development.

Latrell Lewis, 19, faces more than \$30,000 in medical expenses for her son Kilano Capron. Ms Lewis recently learned that her son will have to undergo reflux surgery for a second time.

She is making a plea for contributions to assist with the surgery expenses that are expected to be upwards of \$50,000, in addition to other continuously mounting medical costs.

Diagnosed with cystic encephalomalacia – "legal retardation" according to his mother – Kilano had to be referred to a neuro-developmental facility outside the Bahamas and must travel to Joe Dimaggio Children's Hospital in Miami, Florida every six weeks for check-ups.

Kilano was only seven weeks old when an S10 truck hit his grandmother's truck broadside last year.

The impact pushed the truck, occupied by Ms Lewis, her grandmother and the infant, off the road and onto a wall, causing Kilano to fall from his strapped car seat onto the floor.

Unconscious

As Ms Lewis' mother pulled her unconscious daughter and grandson from the smoking wreck, the two occupants of the S10 truck, who had stolen a boat engine and were being chased by its owner, fled the scene on foot.

At hospital, severely injured and presumed dead, doctors told Ms Lewis that Kilano had "a one in 10 chance" of survival.

The infant spent the next three weeks in hospital, suffering from a broken leg, swollen heart, lung problems and bleeding in his skull.

It would not be until much later that Ms Lewis would learn that the S10 truck that hit her was reported stolen two hours after the accident.

Both vehicles involved were uninsured and those at fault are still at large more than a year later.

Although the family's medical insurance covers 80 per cent of the baby's fees, it does not cover the cost for flights, hotel rooms and specialists who do not accept insurance, such as Kilano's gastroenterologist.

Born healthy and without any complications, Kilano will have to undergo an intense therapy for his physical and mental development. And as he gets older his chances for a full recovery lessen.

In an effort to raise funds for the emergency surgery, the family will be hosting a cook out/family day this Saturday at L W Young Junior High School from 11am to 5pm.

There will be food, games for the children, face painting and a bouncing castle.

Any financial contribution, legal advice or support would be greatly appreciated. Persons can contact Latrell Lewis for details at 448-9180.

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THE WARRIOR'S WAY	C	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:20	10:45
TANGLED	A	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:35
BURLEQUE	C	1:30	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
UNSTOPPABLE	T	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:50
FASTER	C	1:10	4:05	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:35
FOR COLORED GIRLS	C	1:05	4:05	N/A	7:05	N/A	10:05
MEGA MIND - 3D	A	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:05	8:20	10:30
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TANGLED	A	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:25	10:30
HARRY POTTER	B	1:00	4:00	N/A	7:00	N/A	10:00
FASTER	C	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:20	10:40
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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Tribune Limited

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Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master

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\$210m for BTC 'nothing to sneeze at'

WE ARE shocked at the behaviour of Bahamas Telecommunication Company's union members. They behave as though they — and not the Bahamian people — own this nation's telecommunications company.

Although we say we are shocked, we quickly amend that statement on recalling the smug attitude in dealing with BTC when The Tribune was granted the first private radio licence and BTC officials felt we were trespassing on their hallowed ground. It was a fight every inch of the way to get the station running as they tried to block all growth with the smug reminder that BTC was protected by an Act that secured its telecommunications monopoly. It was only the Ingraham government's determination to free the airwaves — and hence strengthen freedom of speech — that made private radio possible in this country.

There are many stories that we could tell of the blocking tactics of certain individuals, which, because of the territorial attitude of many of them, explains the present behaviour of some of them.

Even in those days BTC was overcrowded with staff. By the time an order worked its way down through the various layers of managers it was so garbled that the man who was to carry out the instructions probably didn't understand what he was to do, and so did nothing. There was then no follow-through as to why a customer's needs were not met. The top man was left with an embarrassed smile on his face and a promise that his staff would perform better next time.

The union is agitated about redundancies. What it does not appreciate is that no company can succeed if more is going out in salaries than is coming in in revenue. BTC has always been overstaffed and whether it continues under the ownership of Bahamians, or foreigners, or a Bahamian-foreign combination, the size of the staff has to be reduced for it to succeed.

National Security Minister Tommy Turnquest, whose portfolio includes telecommunications, was surprised at what can only be called an "illegal strike" against the company, because, he said, government had liaised with union officials before signing its Memorandum of Understanding with Cable and Wireless for the sale of 51 per cent of the company. He shouldn't be surprised when he realises what politicians are working overtime behind the scenes.

He is also alarmed by BCPOU president Bernard Evans' declaration that "we don't

want to answer to the white man again." One has to pity such insecure people, because with that kind of plantation attitude there is little place for them in today's world.

Union leaders maintain that Bahamians have over the years proven that they are capable of running BTC, so why should they not continue? Here we pause to acknowledge that there are many fine, well trained staff at BTC, staff that can make a tremendous contribution to a better operated, updated and modernised telecommunications company.

However, to date, BTC has not demonstrated that it can carry the company to new heights. This will be particularly true when it loses its cellular monopoly, which accounts for at least two-thirds of its present business. It desperately needs an injection of capital, of expertise and technology that is not available here, and, which is desperately needed if it is to become a significant part of an international organisation.

If the union, and its political handlers, were so interested in owning BTC why didn't they get together, formulate a business plan and submit a bid when the bidding process opened?

Three days before it was voted out of office the PLP government had planned to sell 49 per cent of BTC to Bluewater Ventures, a foreign company. According to Mr Ingraham, it had no "track record in telecommunications — a hedge fund, which could have been owned by anybody."

Instead Cable and Wireless will acquire 51 per cent majority equity in BTC, including management control of the business, for US\$210 million plus stamp tax.

Mr Ingraham fought hard to protect Bahamian staff, which reduced the final sale price of a company that the longer it sits on the "for sale" block is diminishing in value. Cable and Wireless wanted to fire one-third of BTC's staff.

Mr Ingraham refused, instead insisting on redundancy negotiations for those who wanted to leave.

However, if some of the staff continue with their present behaviour, they are, in our opinion, taking their future out of the hands of CWC and firing themselves.

We agree with Mr James Smith, minister of state for finance (2002-2007), that the \$210 million purchase price that the Bahamas got for a 51 per cent controlling interest in BTC is "nothing to sneeze at."

Just how low and ungrateful can some of us get?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

On the Editorial page of today's (December 4th) edition, appeared a letter written by one Rev Esther Thompson, President of the Straw Business Persons Society. After looking at the name of the author of the letter, I had to wonder if this was a new group or just a change of name from the old moniker of the Straw Vendors Association, if it is the same, then why the change? Is it to enhance some kind of special status? The answer to the Rev's question in para two of the article is, a seasoned or unseasoned minister of the government, any government not only can, but must prohibit the sale of counterfeit goods which is an illegal product, from any entity that falls under his portfolio.

It is true that the straw vendors carry a variety of products from China, Taiwan and other places most of which would look far better in a garbage bin than on a vendor's stall. You said that the late Diana Thompson cleared the way to sell products other than Bahamian made products. Rev Esther Thompson, let me say that you should have, at all cost, avoided mentioning that facet in the industry's history. But, you were not satisfied with ending that segment there, you had to dramatized the occasion of such folly, by reminding the media that Diana Thompson was a straw legend and that the government of the day was responsible for the introduction of foreign and illegal products to the detriment of Bahamian made goods in our straw markets.

The late Diana Thompson was a legendary straw vendor, but not a straw legend. The Bahamian legends in the straw industry are Bertha Brown, Ivy Simms, a few in Red Bay Andros, Mrs Pratt in O'Neils, Long Island, the late Avis Cartwright of the Berries, Long Island, and indeed too many that space does not allow to be listed here.

When the PLP government,

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

in its indiscriminate use, abuse, and misuse of power, like in so many other instances, during that era, allowed the straw vendors to depart from the standing regulations of their predecessors of being able to sell any and all types of foreign products in a Bahamian entity whose only purpose for being in that enterprise was to sell Bahamian products to tourists visiting these shores.

The Rev is lamenting the fact that they are being called ingrates, of course, in my opinion you all are less than ingrates. A segment of our society who can afford asues of throwing up to \$400 per day per hand, operate a money changing business in the straw market at a higher rate of exchange than the commercial banks, while engaging in the illegal trade of selling counterfeit goods, and hiring illegal migrants.

Who, when a disastrous fire destroyed their venue for business some years ago, collected untold hundreds of thousands of dollars of our (people's) money for aid, that most, if not all, really did not need and when a number of them got caught in a foreign country engaging in illegal activities, the government of this country went way beyond the call of their duties in providing legal assistance to them, which invited a lot of criticism that they, government, could have done without.

But when the same government, puts in place rules and regulations for an entity that costs this nation some eleven million plus dollars, you, a so-called woman of God is making demands and dictating your terms to the elected government of this country to the extent that, if your terms are not met, starting "a war"?

Just how ungrateful and low can some of us get?

As president of these people, you, my dear reverend should be assisting the government in

(1) keeping illegal migrants out of the venue instead of condoning the illegal hiring of them.

(2) Ensure that your members stop selling illegal counterfeit goods instead of defying the authorities and supporting the illegal trade and

(3) See that the indiscriminate disposal of left over food and food containers by vendors is discontinued in order to decrease the number of unwanted inhabitants, (rats) in the market.

In days gone by it was a pleasure to see the late Bertha Brown in places like London and New York displaying Bahamian straw work. Not only were the items labelled as Bahamian made; but the producers name and the Island from which they came. The representatives from areas like Long Island and Andros are partly to blame for not pushing to eradicate the presence of foreign items in our straw market.

The teaching of inmates males and females at H M Resort (Fox Hill Prison) can be an asset to this industry. Whilst at BAIC and the prisons, we started such a programme and it was successful. Miss Donalee Bowe of BAIC is quite familiar with it. It is time that we as a people must stop looking at everything foreign, as superior and expecting the Government to support our venture into criminal activities.

My dear Reverend, crime in this country is like a run-a-way train, instead of condoning you, as a woman of God should be in the vanguard of those trying to reduce or eradicating it completely.

ERRINGTON

W I WATKINS

Nassau,
December 4, 2010.

The media deserve thanks for highlighting plight of animals

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Christmas is a time for giving selflessly and a time to take stock before heading into the New Year.

The Bahamas Humane Society would like to thank most sincerely the press of the Bahamas for being so very interested and supportive of the plight of animals in our country. I want to publicly thank The

Tribune for their countless articles, and (listed alphabetically) The Bahamas Local, the Bahamas Weekly, Cable TV Channel 12, Island FM (radio and TV), Jones Communications, Love 97 (radio and TV), the Nassau Weekly, the Punch, and ZNS (radio and TV). I will not name names because I am sure to leave somebody out and you are so numerous.

I am sure that the general public has noticed the countless radio, TV and newspaper articles appearing over the year reporting the good news and the sad news regarding the animals of the Bahama Islands. Without this constant coverage, we, at the shelter, would not be able to get the word out and inform people of our needs. The press has made the difference!

I honestly wish that we had the money to give you all a Christmas gift, but alas, even though we have expanded our

work, and we save many more animals and travel more through the islands, our bank account is no bigger.

It is a constant battle to keep the doors open and the work ongoing...the burden is bigger than ever.

Several times during 2010 we have been faced with over crowding of dogs and cats, thanks to the media (and hats off to The Tribune who always publishes immediately).

You have reported the plight and we were able to avert disaster more than once and not have to put any healthy, adoptable animals to sleep.

My goal as President of the Bahamas Humane Society was to turn the negative perception around that people had of the Society, and to try and ensure that every healthy and adoptable animal that comes into the shelter has a good and very reasonable chance of finding a home (Isaac lived at the shelter for nine months before he found this forever home...and many animals — especially dogs — reside for four to six months before being matched up)...Just last week we sent out a plea (stop the press) announcement to The Tribune and the very next day it was published...Thank you Tribune for your prompt action... We still have many cats and kittens for adoption, but thanks to the quick media response no healthy adoptable cat or kitten was put down. That in itself is a cause for celebration.

So, I wish every man and woman of the press and media who has stepped forward during 2010 and interviewed a Bahamas Humane Society representative, run a BHS photo, visited the shelter, and helped us to make a difference in an animal's life a very blessed and Merry Christmas from the Board and staff of the Bahamas Humane Society and from the very bottom of my heart. Thank you and God bless you...

KIM ARANHA

President,
Bahamas Humane Society.

First Baptist Church
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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"And He shall bring forth a son and thou shall call His name Jesus."

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Xmas Gifts for Your Literary Friends!

By Daphne Du Maurier
Jamaica Inn, Rebecca, My Cousin Rachel.

Claude Mckay (A Black Poet's Struggle For Identity)

Eleanor Roosevelt - Vol. 1 1884-1933
Eleanor Roosevelt - Vol. 2, 1933-1938

Longfellow's Poetical Works, C 1906

The Personal History & Experiences Of David Copperfield, The Younger, By Charles Dickens. C 1892. First Edition Reprint.

'Gorgeous Old Book' Art Edition Of Shakespeare. All Of His Great Works With Beautiful Illustrations. C 1889

The New Testament C 1881.

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LOCAL NEWS

BIFF closing film makes waves around the world

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

the speech of his lifetime, is making waves around the world and topping Oscar tip-lists.

Director Tom Hooper's period piece won over audiences at the Toronto International Film Festival to earn

REVIEW

the festival's People's Choice Award, and was shown at the Atlantis theatre on closing night of the Bahamas International Film Festival (BIFF) on Sunday as it swept the prize for best picture, and five in total, at the British Independent Film Awards (BIFAs) in London.

Historical, allegorical, and deeply human, this simple story adapted from an original theatre production by American screenplay writer David Seidler (awarded the BIFA for best screenplay) proves cinema need not require the grand scope of special effects to have a profound impact on its audience.

Although scenes of Buckingham Palace and Westminster Cathedral were generated

with CGI technology, the greatest sense of action takes place within the characters.

In a crumbling studio of peeling painted walls and threadbare furniture, eccentric Australian speech therapist Lionel Logue (played by BIFAs best supporting actor Geoffrey Rush) peels away the layers of King George VI's stifling regal exterior to reach the vulnerable young boy who developed a stammer when neglected by his parents and abused by his nanny.

Moving

The moving performance by Colin Firth earned him the best actor award at the BIFAs, an honour said to preempt Oscar success.

As Logue stirs the King's long-buried emotions and unhinges his stiff-upper lip, he feels safe enough to release the anger seething beneath the surface through outpourings of expletives and share his quick, explosive wit.

It was the king's devoted wife who sought out Lionel Logue when King George VI had given up hope, and Helena Bonham Carter won the best actress award at the BIFAs for her performance



(AP Photo/The Weinstein Company, Laurie Sparham) **INTIMATE PORTRAYAL:** In this film publicity image released by The Weinstein Company, Colin Firth portrays King George VI in "The King's Speech."

in the role. Her interplay with the king shows his love and humanity as husband and father, while Logue brings out the boy in him, to tell a complex human story that results in triumph.

As the king connects with his true self to fill the emptiness left by his father's death and brother's abdication of the throne, he rises to overcome his personal challenge and serves as an inspiration to the nation he calls to war in his first wartime broadcast on September 3, 1939.

The broadcast made from a recording booth with Logue's support set the pace for broadcasts throughout the war, which became a symbol for national resistance and were all made with Logue's support.

They remained lifelong friends and Logue was made

a Commander of the Victorian Order in 1944.

The King's Speech provides a well-researched insight into an important period of history, but it also brings to light the universal nature of our humanity, as we are invited to share in every joke, gesture and stammering word uttered by the king that led Britain through the war.

Daniel Guando, head of acquisitions for the Weinstein Company, told the audience at Atlantis in an interview with Jeffrey Lyons how Weinstein made the film with the UK Film Council and shot it in just six weeks.

The King's Speech premiered in London on September 4, was given limited release in the United States on November 26, and will go on general release in the United Kingdom on January 7.

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(AP Photo/The Weinstein Company, Laurie Sparham) **MAVERICK THERAPIST:** In this film publicity image released by The Weinstein Company, Geoffrey Rush portrays Lionel Logue in "The King's Speech."

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(AP Photo/Stuart Ramson) **PREMIERE:** From left to right, actors Colin Firth and Helena Bonham Carter, and film director, Tom Hooper, arrive to the premiere of "The Kings Speech" in New York, Monday, Nov. 8, 2010. The film is based on the true story of King George VI and his remarkable friendship with maverick Australian speech therapist Lionel Logue.

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LOCAL NEWS



2010 SIR GERALD CASH NDTA WINNERS PICTURED L-R: David Mindorff-Lyford Cay School, Josette Green-Thompson-Moore's Island All Age School, Carolyn Wright-Mitchell-Garvin Tynes Primary School, Lynn Gibson-L.W.Young Jr. High, Gaynell Funes Padilla Burrows-Palmdale Primary School, Ramona Wells-C.H.Reeves Jr. High, Joan Knowles-Turnquest-Oakes Field Primary School, Alexya Young-Willard Patton Pre-School, and Lenora Brown-Gambier Pre-School.

10 inducted into the Teachers Hall of Fame

THE Sir Gerald Cash National Distinguished Teachers' Awards culminated in a ceremony at Government House recently awarding 10 teachers \$1,000 each and the honour of being inducted into the Sir Gerald Cash National Distinguished Teachers Hall of Fame.

Sponsored by Fidelity Bank, in partnership with The Tribune Media Group, Cable Bahamas, Ministry of Education and the Bahamas Union of Teachers, NDTA's purpose is to recognise and reward outstanding teachers throughout the Bahamas.

This year, 10 teachers were selected for exemplary conduct at a high and consistent level, qualities traditionally expected and revered of their profession. They were each awarded \$1,000.

Winners were - Lenora Brown - Gambier Primary; Alexya Young - Willard Patton Pre-school; Joan Knowles Turnquest - Oakes

Field Primary; Gaynell Funes Padilla Burrows - Palmdale Primary; Lynn Gibson-L.W. Young Junior High; Ramona Wells - C.H. Reeves Junior High; David Mindorff - Lyford Cay; Demetra Rolle - Anatol Rodgers; Josette Green-Thompson - Moore's Island, Abaco; Carolyn Wright Mitchell - Garvin Tynes.

The National Distinguished Teachers' Awards came about when the sponsors realized the need to inspire and encourage the nation's teachers.

"We are very pleased to be able to partner with Fidelity Bank, The Tribune, Ministry of Education and The Bahamas Union of Teachers to make the Sir Gerald Cash National Distinguished Teachers' Awards possible. It is imperative that we, as a society, recognize our teachers. We must say thank you and we must continue to support them," said Dr. Keith Wisdom, Secretary of the Cable Bahamas - Cable Cares

Foundation.

Education Minister Desmond Bannister further noted that "while we are extremely delighted that National Distinguished Teacher's Awards (NDTA) provides a public platform for the acknowledgment of our exceptional educators, I want to encourage our parents to form partnerships with their children's teachers.

"Talk to them, find out how you can also help your child excel, make sure your child completes homework, goes to school regularly and knows how to act appropriately in a classroom. This shows our teachers that we appreciate them on a daily basis and it shows our children that we endorse education - and that we expect excellence."

Nominations will open for the Sir Gerald Cash National Distinguished Teacher's Awards again in 2011. For more information about the NDTAs, please email ndta@fidelitybahamas.com

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Disgusted with condition of

By WARREN ARMBRISTER

OPINION

I WOULD like to express my disgust with the filthy conditions in which our public beaches and parks are left after cookouts, junkanoo practices and holiday functions.

One of the main areas I want to call to your attention is the Western Esplanade (Long Wharf Beach), this can be considered our "front yard" here in New Providence, and this beach is widely used by visitors as well as the Bahamian people. What disturbs me is the amount of garbage that is left on the grounds of these public spaces after such functions.

It is a known fact that our people love to litter and have very little respect for the environment in which we live and it is the Government's responsibility to clean up after us. It appears that neither the vendors nor the patrons care about the spaces that they are using. I have made numerous inquiries to the government department, as well as

The Grounds and Beautification Division of Environmental Health Services Department, on the proper procedures when holding a function at one of these public parks. Quite frankly, the requirements are unbelievable in my personal opinion when it comes to using these parks. Kindly see below.

- Apply for Health Certificates for persons preparing foods for the function, at a cost of \$50 for the permits. A medical function is a "no charge" with a letter from a doctor.

- An inspection of the place where the food for the said function is being prepared has to be done prior to the function.

- If selling alcohol, a letter has to be taken to the Central Police Station for normal fee.

After begging the staff to please give me more informa-

tion and requirements that are needed, she bluntly replied that there were none, and that she had stated everything that has been put in place. The cleaning and protection of these public spaces appears to be no one's concern from either the Government or the end user.

The Government must be applauded for improving the infrastructure and green spaces on the northern side of New Providence for the benefits of all to enjoy. This is a full time effort by the Environmental Department Ground Teams who keep these spaces in order. Why should they be raking and picking up garbage on Monday morning left by the persons who have held functions at these parks? It is just unethical. If I may, here are some suggestions to protect and make these parks environmentally friendly.

The time is now, to regulate and enforce codes/rules on parks in this country and to establish proper policies to protect the public investments. The present departments cannot do this job, Minister for the Environment we must launch a new department to manage our parks and public beaches similar to the Antiquities and Monuments Department. I see lost revenue to the Government that is putting large amounts of public funds into these areas.

Without the proper management there is room for vandalism from the public and neglect from the Government respectively. Parks and beaches are places where massive numbers of persons gather with multiple events taking place, which can be a nightmare for public safety and security for all within the space and the surrounding roads and businesses. Control of these public spaces is a must.

The Environmental Department needs to revamp the process for permits, in order to use these parks to cover not only health, also the environment cleanup, rules and public safety. Here are some points and



'Put in place "No Bottle Zones" for functions granted liquor permits.'

general codes/rules to assist in establishing good order in these spaces.

- Persons applying for permits must have in place a cleanup contract to include bins and transportation of garbage from the site.

- Portable toilets on site.
- Portable fire extinguisher for those who are using flammable appliances.

- Put in place "No Bottle Zones" for functions granted liquor permits.

- Appointment of Park Rangers by the Government through the Police Department, (for example, the Beach Wardens that we had in the past).

- Dogs are only allowed if they are muzzled and are on a short leash.

- Control of parking.

DISCARDING REFUSE AND TRASH

It shall be unlawful for any person in a park to bring or have brought in or to dump, deposit or leave any bottles broken glass, ashes, paper, boxes, cans, dirt, rubbish, waste, garbage, refuse, or other trash on park property. No such refuse or trash shall be placed in any waters in/or contiguous to any park, or left anywhere on the grounds thereof, but shall be placed in the proper receptacles where these are pro-

vided. Where receptacles are not so provided, all such rubbish or waste shall be carried away from the park by the person responsible for its presence, and properly disposed of elsewhere.

WATER POLLUTION, CONTAMINATION

It shall be unlawful for any person in a park to throw, discharge, or otherwise place or cause to be placed in the waters of any fountain, pond, lake, bay or other body of water in or adjacent to any park or any tributary, stream, storm sewer, or drain flowing into such waters. Any substance, matter or thing, liquid or solid, which will or may result in the pollution, discoloration or contamination of said waters.

PARKING

It shall be unlawful for any person at a park to park a vehicle in other than an established or designated parking area, and such use shall be in accordance with the posted directions thereat and with the instructions of any attendant who may be present.

PICNIC AREAS

(a) Use generally. It shall be unlawful for any person in a park to picnic or lunch in a place other than those designated for that purpose. The director shall have the authority to regulate the activities in such areas where necessary to prevent congestion and to secure the maximum use for the comfort and convenience of all. Visitors shall comply with any directions given to achieve this end.

(b) Availability. It shall be unlawful for any person in a park to violate the regulation that use of the individual fireplaces together with tables and benches follows generally the rule of "first-come, first-served," except in those cases where prior reservations have been made with the director.

(c) Non exclusivity. It shall be unlawful for any person in a park to use any portion of the picnic areas or any of the buildings or structures therein for the purpose of holding picnics to the exclusion of other persons, or to use such area and facilities for an unreasonable time if the facilities are crowded, except in those cases where prior reservations

have been made with the director.

(d) Duty of picnicker. It shall be unlawful for any person in a park to leave a picnic area before the fire is completely extinguished and before all trash in the nature of boxes, papers, cans, bottles, garbage or other refuse is placed in the disposal receptacles where provided. If no such trash receptacles are available, then refuse and trash shall be carried away from the park area by the picnicker to be properly disposed of elsewhere.

EXHIBITION OF PERMIT

It shall be unlawful for any person in a park to fail to produce and exhibit any permit from the Recognised Authority he claims to have upon request of any authorised person who shall desire to inspect the same for the purpose of enforcing compliance with any ordinance or rule.

LOITERING, DISORDERLY CONDUCT

It shall be unlawful for any person in a park to sleep or lounge on the seats, or benches, or other areas; or to engage in loud, boisterous, threatening, abusive, insulting or indecent language; or to engage in any disorderly conduct or behaviour tending to a breach of the public peace.

RESTRICTED AREAS

It shall be unlawful for any person in a park to enter an area posted as "Closed to the Public"; nor shall any person use, or abet the use of any area in violation of posted notices.

APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

It shall be unlawful for any person in a park to appear at any place in other than proper clothing. With the exception of the restricted bathing area, "properly clothed" shall be construed to prohibit the wearing of trunks or clothing that does not cover the upper portion of the body.

FIREWORKS AND EXPLOSIVES

It shall be unlawful for any person in a park to bring, or have in his possession, or set off, or otherwise cause to explode or discharge or burn, any fire-crackers, torpedo, rocket, or other fireworks or explosives of



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DATES	ACCOUNT NUMBERS	DATES	ACCOUNT NUMBERS
November 1	001 – 700	November 25	7501 – 7800
November 2	701 – 1200	November 26	7801 – 8100
November 3	1201 - 1800	November 29	8101 – 8400
November 4	1801 - 2400	November 30	8401 – 8700
November 5	2401 - 3000	December 1	8701 – 9000
November 8	3001 – 3600	December 2	9001 – 9500
November 9	3601 – 4200	December 3	9501 – 10000
November 10	4201 – 4500	December 6	10001 – 10500
November 11	4501 – 4800	December 7	10501 – 11300
November 12	4801 – 5100	December 8	11301 – 12100
November 15	5101 – 5400	December 9	12101 – 13000
November 16	5401 – 5700	December 10	13001 – 14000
November 17	5701 – 6000	December 13	14001 – 15000
November 18	6001 – 6300	December 14	15001 – 16000
November 19	6301 – 6600	December 15	16001 – 17000
November 22	6601 – 6900	December 16	17001 – 18500
November 23	6901 - 7200	December 17	18501 - 19000
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our public beaches and parks

inflammable material, or discharge them or throw them into any park area from land or a highway adjacent thereto. This prohibition includes any substance, compound, mixture or article that, in conjunction with any substance or compound, would be dangerous from any of the foregoing standpoints, except under the sponsorship of organized groups and with the permission of the director

tion shall not apply to any dog in a dog running area established by this section; provided, that the dog is under the control of a competent person and obedient to the command of such person. The following areas are designated as dog running areas, except that the parks department may designate leash areas within the areas:

DOG WASTE IN PARKS

(a) No person owning or responsible for a dog shall permit the dog to defecate on any public property or right of way or on any private property other than property owned or leased by the person owning or responsible for the dog.

(b) It is a specific defense to a charge of violating this section that the person charged immediately removed the excrement and properly disposed of it in a sanitary manner.

(c) It is a specific defense to a charge of violating this section that the dog involved is a certified working dog trained to assist disabled individuals and that the person charged has a disability which prevents the individual from removing the excrement and properly disposing of it in a sanitary manner.

GAMES

It shall be unlawful for any person in a park to take part in

or abet the playing of any games involving thrown or otherwise propelled objects such as balls, stones, arrows, javelins or model airplanes, except in areas set apart for such forms of recreation. The playing of rough or comparatively dangerous games such as football, baseball and quoits is prohibited except in the fields and courts or areas provided

PARK PROPERTY BUILDINGS and other PROPERTY

No person shall wilfully mark, deface, injure in any way, displace, remove or tamper with any park buildings, bridges, tables, benches, grills, railings, paving or paving material, waterlines or public utilities or part or appurtenances thereof, park signs, notices or placards, whether temporary or permanent, monuments, stakes, posts or other boundary markers, structures, equipment, facilities, park property or appurtenance whatsoever, whether real or personal.

TREES, SHRUBBERY, LAWNS, etc.

Tree shrubbery, lawns, etc. are real property assets of the park; and no person shall cut, carve, injure the bark, break off limbs, branches or mutilate in any way, or pick the flowers or seeds, of

any tree or plant. Nor shall any person dig in or otherwise disturb grass areas, or in any other way injure or impair the natural beauty or usefulness of any area; nor shall any person pile debris or material of any kind on or about any tree or plant, or attach any rope, wire or other contrivance thereto, whether temporary or permanent in character or use, except that scientists or students of botany may procure from the manager or designee special permission to collect plant specimens.

PUBLIC NUISANCE & DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Whoever commits such acts that are of a nature to corrupt the public morals, outrage the sense of public decency or affect the peace and quiet of persons who may witness same, or

engages in brawling or fighting, or engages in abusive or indecent language, or engages in such conduct to constitute a hazard to the health, safety or welfare of other park visitors, or violates the rules and/or regulations of any park area, shall upon due notice of violation be classified as a trespasser, and ordered to leave the park.

Whoever engages in any activity which creates a disturbance or nuisance in a county park, including but not limited to using a loudspeaker or other amplified equipment without authorization of the Parks and Recreation Manager shall be upon due notice of violation be classified as a trespasser, and ordered to leave the park.

In closing we have seen many cases of destruction, vandalism

and neglect of beaches and parks such as dumping rubbish and vandalizing the Bone Fish Park signs on the south side of New Providence, not to mention the horrifying litter on Coral Harbour and Cabbage Beach.

People of the Bahamas you must remember that visitors to this country are users of these delicate spaces; also these are our selling points, what kind of message is being projected here?

Parks and beaches are supposed to be a country's treasure in maintaining nature, if you have had the opportunity to travel to other countries and see how much value and the protection that they place on their parks and beaches then ask yourselves one serious question: Why can't our country do the same?

FIRES

It shall be unlawful for any person in a park to build or attempt to build a fire except in such area and under such regulations as may be designated by the director. No person shall drop, throw, or otherwise scatter lighted matches, burning cigarettes or cigars, tobacco paper or other flammable material, within any park area or on any highway, road or street abutting or contiguous thereto.

INTOXICATING BEVERAGES

It shall be unlawful for any person in a park to enter or be in a park with open Bottle Alcohol/ Beverages in areas Zoned as "NO Bottle Zones."

VENDING AND PEDDLING

It shall be unlawful for any person in a park to expose or offer for sale any article or thing, or to station or place any stand, cart, or vehicle for the transportation, sale or display of any such article or thing. An exception is made as to any regularly licensed concessionaire acting by and under the authority and regulation of the director.

POSTING SIGNS

It shall be unlawful for any person in a park to paste, glue, tack or otherwise post any sign, placard, advertisement or inscription whatever, or to erect or cause to be erected any sign whatever on any public lands or highways or roads adjacent to a park.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Except for unusual and unforeseen emergencies, parks shall be open to the public every day of the year during designated hours. The opening and closing hours for each individual park shall be posted therein for public information. The parks below are open hours other than the standard of 6am to 11pm.

CONFINEMENT OF DOGS

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person keeping, harbouring, owning or responsible for a dog to permit the dog to be off of the premises of the person keeping, harbouring, owning or responsible for the dog unless the dog is held on a leash by a competent person. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a dog in a vehicle being driven or parked upon a street if the dog is secured in a manner that prevents escape.



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Furniture Plus Grand Bahama - (L-R) Chantel Robinson (Sales Manager), Ottemine Mott (Wk 4 winner), Cynthia Robinson (Sales Associate). Ms. Mott chose the Grand Bahama Children's Home for her donation.

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Bahamas Chamber of Commerce OUTSTANDING BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD 2009

LOCAL NEWS

First Baha Mar contracts will be awarded to Bahamian firms soon

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
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FREEPORT – The first round of contracts for the Baha Mar project, together valued at between \$60 and \$70 million, will be awarded to Bahamian companies in the next two weeks.

Robert “Sandy” Sands, senior vice president of external affairs for the Baha Mar project, said a joint venture Bahamian company will get

the contract for the reroute of West Bay Street.

He also noted that contracts for the construction of the police and fire station, Commonwealth Bank, Fidelity Bank, and Scotia Bank will also be awarded to Bahamian construction companies.

“That is the first phase of work to be announced on December 21, and that value of work is between \$60 and \$70 million,” Mr Sands said at a town meeting in Grand Bahama.

Work on the \$2.6 billion Baha Mar project is set to begin in January 2011 and will provide 4,000 jobs during the construction phase. It is expected to be completed by December 2014.

Mr Sands stated that there are tremendous opportunities for Bahamian contractors of various sizes.

He noted that some \$400

million in work packages has been designated for Bahamian contractors and trade package contractors.

“We have identified over 65 work packages in this project that companies of different sizes can bid on and will be awarded, in an effort to spread the economic pie over a wide range of construction companies so that everybody can benefit from the project,” Mr Sands said.

Village

According to Mr Sands, contracts for a 200,000 square foot ballroom/convention centre, a timeshare building, villas, pools, an entertainment village comprising of restaurants and shops, multiple areas within the port area, a golf course, landscaping work, and security buildings will all

go to Bahamian contractors.

Mr Sands said that Baha Mar is going to do its best use workers from as many islands as possible.

“We will provide bid forms with return-stamped envelopes for contractors, and construction employment application forms for persons want to participate,” he told persons attending the town meeting at the Foster B Pestaina Hall.

Some \$8 million will be allocated for training of Bahamians in the construction phase.

One million will be seeded as an initial contribution immediately on the deal being officially closed.

Mr Sands said the Baha Mar project will provide tremendous economic benefits to the Bahamas.

During the first year of operation, he said, \$878 mil-

lion will be paid in the form of taxes.

Mr Sands further noted that the development will contribute \$14.8 billion to the Bahamas’ Gross Domestic Product over 20 years, and generate \$500 billion in incremental government taxes over 25 years.

Labour Minister Dion Foulkes said Baha Mar is a national project.

He stated that all Bahamians who meet the requirements will be given the opportunity to work in the construction phase and apply for jobs when the resort opens.

“We want to congratulate Baha Mar for their approach to this project. It is not common that a private corporate citizen would go to the extent that they are going through... to be inclusive as possible,” he said.

Attorney named honorary chair for Susan G Komen Bahamas Race for the Cure

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

WELL-KNOWN Bahamian attorney Willie Moss has been named honorary chair for the first Susan G Komen Bahamas Race for the Cure, which will be held January 15, 2011, in New Providence.

Veronica Duncanson, chief operating officer for Marathon Bahamas, made the announcement in Grand Bahama on Wednesday at the Graham Thompson and Co law firm,

where Mrs Moss is a partner.

Ms Duncanson said she believes that Mrs Moss, who is a breast cancer survivor, is the ideal Bahamian to fill such a prestigious role at the event, which aims to bring greater awareness of breast cancer in the Bahamas.

The Sunshine Insurance Marathon Bahamas Race weekend will be held January 15 and 16.

A 5K race will be held on Paradise Island on Saturday, January 15. This event is in partnership with the Susan G

Komen for the Cure – the largest worldwide grass-root organisation dedicated to eradicating breast cancer in the world.

The marathon will be held on Sunday, January 16.

“We are pleased that Mrs Willie Moss, who is an outstanding Bahamian, has consented to serve as honorary chair. With the Susan G Komen comes a number of different prestigious roles that need to be filled and we were very delighted to be able to say we had the ideal Bahamian to fill this role.

“Because it is in the Bahamas everyone wanted to be honorary chair for this event, including some names from overseas, and we insisted that we wanted this to be a Bahamian,” said Ms Duncanson.

Marathon Bahamas forged a relationship with Susan G Komen for the Cure in July of this year.

Ms Duncanson said the joint ongoing partnership will help to assist with funding and education for breast cancer awareness in the Bahamas.

She noted that the Bahamas has the one of the highest incidences of breast cancer in the world.

“The statistics reveal that whereas in other parts of the world it is detected in the early stages, for the most part, in the Bahamas it is detected in stage two, three, and four, and it is being detected in younger women than in other parts of the world,” she said.

“So breast cancer is really an issue in the Bahamas, and this partnership from Marathon Bahamas is very positive as we seek to help cause there to be early detection of breast cancer.”

Ms Duncanson said last year Marathon Bahamas was very successful and attracted over 500 participants in 18 countries.

She reported that the numbers for 2011 have tripled.

Mrs Moss said she is very pleased to be serving as honorary chair for Susan G Komen Bahamas Race for the Cure.

“I am absolutely humbled by

it all. I have for years heard about the Susan G Komen Foundation, and I know the story of how the founder made a promise to her sister, and it is a very touching story.

“I can’t read it without getting all teary eyed, but what is important about it is she is doing something for me and for every other person who has been faced with being told that they have breast cancer.

“She is trying to bring awareness to people so they can deal with diagnosis earlier, so they can get treated earlier, and possibly be able to overcome the disease and be a survivor as I am.

“And so I am tremendously honored to have been asked to participate in this very important event for the Bahamas,” said Mrs Moss.

“I think the Susan G Komen Race for the Cure is a wonderful partnership that will mean so much for the Bahamas going forward and persons who are stricken with breast cancer,” she said.

Tyrone Sawyer, director of Sports Tourism Development, said the event is extremely significant for the Bahamas. He said last year’s event was executed in accordance with international standards.

“The Ministry of Tourism is impressed with the quality of the organisation putting on this event.

“We think that Marathon Bahamas is going to be a template for how the Bahamas goes about promoting sports tourism.

“We are here to give our full support to the event,” he said. Mrs Duncanson said Sunshine Insurance is the lead sponsor for the event.

“We are happy to be part of this. We are about promoting healthy lifestyles and this is our way of showing our commitment to a healthier Bahamas, she said.

She also thanked other sponsors such as Spirit Airlines, Atlantis, Cable Bahamas, *The Tribune* and 100 JAMZ, and other sponsors that have come onboard.

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LOCAL NEWS

HEALTH AND EDUCATION OFFICIALS JOIN ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS TO MARK OCCASION

SC McPherson Junior High School observes World AIDS Day

HEALTH and Education officials joined administrators, teachers and students from S C McPherson Junior High School to observe World AIDS Day last week.

In attendance was Minister of Education Desmond Bannister, who delivered the official World AIDS Day Message.

He emphasised the need for increased awareness about the disease, how it is contracted and how it can be prevented; and highlighted the urgent need for fundraising to help its victims.

The minister admonished government officials, faith based organisations, businesses and community activists to help raise awareness about the epidemic, because statistics suggest the number of cases are on the rise around the world.

Care

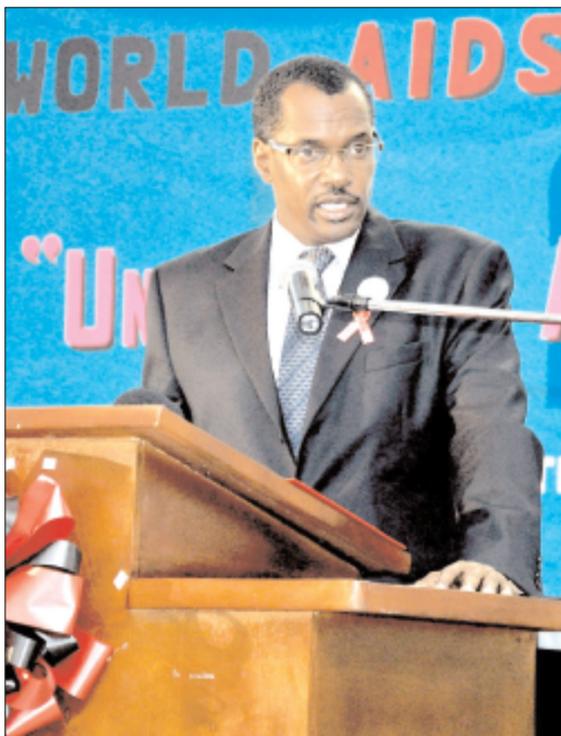
The minister noted that in the Bahamas, HIV/AIDS patients have been receiving quality medical care since the establishment of the National AIDS Programme in 1988.

He said patients now have access to free counselling, free testing and free medication from the Princess Margaret Hospital, the HIV/AIDS Centre and several government clinics in Nassau and in Grand Bahama.

Despite these successes, the minister said, there is much more that can be done to ensure access to treatment and care in the Family Islands, and a safe and supportive environment for patients.



ATTENTIVE: Students hear about the need for increased awareness about HIV/AIDS.



RAISING AWARENESS: Minister of Education Desmond Bannister, who delivered the official World AIDS Day Message.



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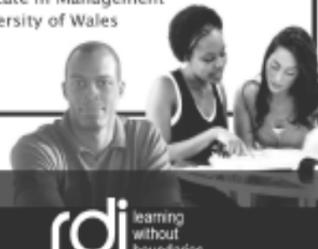
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LOCAL NEWS



BTC employees at the BCPOU Hall yesterday.

FROM page one

Wireless for the sale of 51 per cent of the company.

Mr Turnquest said the government has worked hard to preserve as many jobs as possible, and he told how he was "offended" by public statements from Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union President Bernard Evans who stated earlier this week that he was not satisfied with BTC's sale conditions and did not want to answer to the "white man again."

"I found it offensive to listen to the union president talk about 'the white man'. It was a very racist statement," Mr Turnquest said. He continued: "We've always talked to them (BTC's unions), they met with the prime minister before December 1, before the MOU was signed. We improved the deal to make sure there were no forced redundancies and that's at a cost to the Bahamas but we wanted to ensure we preserved jobs."

"What we are doing is in the best inter-

'Significant' cost

est of the vast majority of Bahamian people – cell phone rates will go down (and) there will be better telecommunications service. Cable and wireless, through LIME, has reinvented and re-engineered itself over the last decade and they are a respected telecommunications giant."

For the second day in a row, the BTC stores were closed due to "ongoing illegal work stoppage organised by the company's management and non-management unions," said acting President and CEO Kirk Griffin yesterday. Up to press time, there were no reports of the industrial action reaching BTC offices in Grand Bahama or the other family islands.

Yesterday, BTC employees convened at BCPOU Hall for a meeting with union officials and then took part in a motorcade throughout the capital in protest of BTC's sale conditions ahead of a mass rally last night.

On Monday more than 200 BTC work-

ers protested against the impending sale of the company to Cable and Wireless.

This forced the company to petition the court for an injunction. Mr Griffin said BTC's executive team was "not happy" it had to seek legal recourse against the unions involved but hopes the court order will end the work stoppage.

"We believe that there is a much more productive way to serve the interests of all BTC stakeholders and that is through open and honest dialogue with all the parties involved," said a statement released by Mr Griffin. "We hope this injunction would bring an end to the illegal work stoppage and we know the parties in this process are open to discussion on all matters of mutual interest."

The injunction calls for the unions to stop "interfering with or impeding the employees of BTC from engaging in their lawful occupations." The court order also restricts the unions involved from "inducing employees of BTC to break their respective contracts of employment by taking part in any unlawful industrial action against BTC."

Bahamians warned over seat belt law

FROM page one

dence, checking vehicles and handing out information pamphlets.

According to Superintendent Carolyn Bowe, there will be a two-week "grace period" in which the public will be allowed to adjust to the law.

She said that during this time, all persons should ensure their motor vehicles are fully equipped with proper safety belts and that children under five have car seats.

With 40 traffic fatalities already this year, and an expected increase in accidents during the month of December, it is hoped the enforcement of the seat belt law will lessen the severity of injuries and assist in saving lives, said Sgt Rolle.

The legislation, which will come into effect on Monday, was passed in Parliament in March, 2002, but implementation of the act was postponed.

Section 42 of the Road Traffic Act, chapter 220, provides that any person driving in a motor vehicle must be secured by a seat belt and ensure that any passengers in their car are similarly secured.

Children under five must be in child safety seats and secured in the car's back pas-

senger seats.

The law further states that "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".

Any person found driving a motor vehicle at the time of breach, who permits a child to ride without a seat belt or secured in a child seat will be liable upon conviction to a fine of \$500 under the act.

These provisions will not apply to motorcycles, tractors, buses and trucks (except for the driver's seat and front passenger seat). Vehicles designed for physically or medically handicapped or disabled persons will also be exempt, provided they have necessary certificates.

When asked whether police expect compliance to prove difficult for some drivers, including those whose vehicles are lacking seat belts, Inspector Anthony Curtis said the public "has had eight years to prepare for this; I see no reason why they shouldn't be ready. This law was enacted to save lives."



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 29th November to the 10th 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 it 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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Only persons being interviewed for this position will be contacted.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

St. Stephen's Episcopal School is an Independent Co- Educational College Preparatory Boarding & Day School for Grades 6-12



St. Stephen's School will be visiting and holding a reception on Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 5:00 pm at the Sheraton Cable Beach Hotel. (Taino Room)

We would like to invite students and their parents to attend this programme. The school will be sending the Director of Admissions and the Soccer Coach.



BTC WORKERS gather for a rally last night at the BCPOU building.

Felipé Major/Tribune staff



FNM: Bahamians will be informed of BTC terms before vote in parliament

FROM page one

It is expected, said the FNM, that this will take place by the end of the second week in January next year. Following is the text of the statement: "The Government has taken note that the Opposition

delegation which met with the CEO of Cable and Wireless Wednesday included Mr. Brave Davis, the attorney for the company (Blue Water) to whom the PLP Government had agreed to sell the Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) and Mr. Shane Gibson, a part owner of a telecommunications company.

"It is also noted that Blue Water was a foreign entity with no experience in the telecommunications sector anywhere.

"Further, there was never clarity on the ownership and beneficiaries of Blue Water.

"Opposition Leader Christie recently commented that he regrets not having sold BTC. Had such a sale gone through to a company that was not publicly traded and had no track record in telecommunications, BTC in all likelihood would now be in ruins financially, stripped of its assets and technological capacity.

"It will be recalled that the Prime Minister has on more than one occasion said, and subsequently caused to be put into law, that any sale of BTC would require the approval of Parliament. The Prime Minister has also advised the general public that all matters concerning the sale of BTC would be made public prior to the required vote in the House of Assembly. It is expected that a minimum of two weeks will elapse between the disclosure of all the terms of the sale and the vote being taken in Parliament.

"It should be noted that the FNM informed the Bahamian public that it had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Cable and Wireless on the day of the signature of the MOU - 2nd December, 2010.

"The contract for the sale of 51 per cent interest in BTC is now being negotiated. When its terms are agreed and the contract has been signed, it will be publicly disclosed. It is now expected that this will take place by the end of the second week in January, 2011.

"An FNM Government will continue to act in an accountable and transparent manner as regards the sale of BTC. In stark contrast the

Christie administration acted in a reckless, unaccountable and shadowy manner as they prepared to sell BTC to a group that seemed more like a financial scheme than a telecommunications company.

"The public will recall that when the PLP Government agreed to sell BTC to Blue Water it was done in the strictest secrecy and not even the Agreement for Sale was made public. Indeed, it was only following the 2007 general election that the FNM government discovered and revealed to the Bahamian people that the PLP had determined to sell BTC to Blue Water, a foreign company, and that part of the purchase price would be paid in instalments over a number of years!

"The Opposition have complained that Cable and Wireless was unable to discuss its Business Plan with them.

"Of course Cable and Wireless was not in a position to discuss the Business Plan because it is not yet finalized.

"As made clear in the Government's press release advising of the signing of the MOU between the Government and C&W, the MOU provides for CWC to work with the Government and the management of BTC to finalize a business plan for BTC, addressing its plans for the modernization of telecommunications throughout The Bahamas, for the development of BTC following privatization, and how service rates charged to Bahamian consumers could be reduced in the period leading up to the liberalization of cellular services.

"Those discussions are now taking place.

"The Bahamian public may be assured that as is its custom and practice, their FNM Government will make all details of the sale of 51 per cent of BTC to C&W available to them on the same day that the contract for sale is signed.

"Unlike what the PLP did with various secretive heads of agreements on a number of foreign investment projects, an accountable and transparent FNM will continue to conduct the people's business in the sunshine."

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Jobless benefit claimants fall 85% between July-November

* More than 100 unemployment benefit fraud cases referred to police
* Some 19,465 unemployment benefit claims awarded since scheme start, with \$29.6 million paid out
* Benefit spending set to exceed contribution income in 2010

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

The number of people awarded unemployment benefits by the National Insurance Board (NIB) fell by 85 per cent between July and November of this year, according to figures from the agency.

Data obtained by Tribune Business reveals that July 2010 saw the greatest number of unemployment benefit claims awarded for any month of 2010

SEE page 4B

Bahamas Ferries 'frustration' over lost phone service

Firm without phone for going on four days, after Water & Sewerage Corporation accidentally cuts major cable link to Potter's Cay, with strike hampering BTC repair efforts

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Bahamas Ferries, the inter-island transportation company, yesterday expressed its "annoyance and frustration" after being left without any telecommunications services during what is one of its busiest periods, after the Water & Sewerage Corporation accidentally cut through the main T1 cable connecting Potter's Cay on Saturday.

Khaalis Rolle, Bahamas Ferries' chief marketing officer, told Tribune Business that the severance of the phone cable, which happened as the Water & Sewerage Corporation carried out maintenance work at the eastern edge of the Paradise Island 'off' bridge on East Bay Street, had left the company without any phones.

Unable to call out, or for customers to call in, Mr Rolle said of the phone out-

SEE page 9B

1,000 employers face NIB legal action in '10

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

The National Insurance Board (NIB) has sought to take legal action against "just under 1,000" employers this year for alleged failure to pay national insurance contributions.

This came despite the NIB considering legal recourse a "last resort, with our first course of action being always to negotiate arrangements with employers", said NIB director Algernon Cargill.

"Only when negotiation fails do we pursue legal action. The amount of prosecutions is down this year from last year, but NIB is continuing its efforts to ensure that there is an accounting of contributions for all employed persons and self-employed persons in the country," said the NIB director.

"Each contribution is important as it could mean the difference between a claimant being awarded a benefit or being denied."

Mr Cargill revealed yesterday that for the second year running, benefit expenditure by the board in 2010, includ-



ALGERNON CARGILL

ing unemployment benefit, is set to exceed contribution income.

However, he said that contribution income for the year "remains strong and in line with budget estimates".

"We expect to surpass last year's total of \$160 million, due in part to a combination of the increase in the contribution rate that took effect in June 2010 and continued compliance efforts. Even without the contribution rate increase, budget is performing slightly ahead of last year's results," said Mr Cargill.

Notwithstanding expenditures outweighing contribu-

tion income, the National Insurance Fund overall remains "very strong", according to the director, standing at \$1.6 billion.

The NIB is now looking forward to the implementation of further key changes in January, in addition to the introduction of the permanent phase of the Unemployment Benefit Scheme, which took place earlier this year, along with the National Prescription Drug Plan that allows certain categories of individuals to access prescription medication for particular ailments for free.

Such alterations include a wage ceiling increase from \$400 to \$500.

"This increase will not just affect the amount of contributions paid by the majority of workers, who earn more than \$400 weekly, that is, higher paid workers. More importantly, it will also impact positively the amount of benefit those workers will be eligible to receive when they involuntarily lose employment income," said Mr Cargill.

SEE page 4B

November key to \$1.135bn bad loan drop trend

Top banking executive warns it will take 'two to three years' to reverse bad loan trend back to pre-recession levels, given 100% increase over that time



PAUL MCWEENEY

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

A top Bahamian banking executive yesterday said a trend of improvement in the sector's non-accrual loan situation will be established if November produces the third consecutive month of decreases, the October figure having dropped by \$18 million or 1.6 per cent to \$1.135 billion. Yet he warned that it would take "two-three years" to reduce the "more than 100 per cent" increase in bad loans to pre-recession levels.

Paul McWeeney, Bank of the Bahamas International's managing director, told Tribune Business that the October data, disclosed in the Central Bank of the Bahamas' report on economic developments for that month, showed the arrears/non-performing loan situation was moving "in the right direction" and that "we can start to see the signs of a turnaround".

SEE page 9B

CLICO LIQUIDATOR RECOVERS \$527,341 FROM TRINIDAD BANK

* Court orders return of assets to Bahamian insurer's liquidator, who alleged 'there were no records' to even indicate account's existence
* Reasons for maintaining account 'presently unknown', as liquidator also wins document provision
* US entity seeks CLICO Enterprises records to prove real estate project's \$73m debt to it, as row over \$1.45m 'preferential' judgment rages on

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

CLICO (Bahamas) liquidator has obtained an uncontested US court order requiring a Trinidad bank to hand over some \$527,341 plus accumulated interest, which allegedly belongs to the insolvent insurer's main asset, to himself.

A December 7, 2010, order by the US Bankruptcy Court for the southern district of Florida has ordered First Citizens Bank, which did not oppose the order, to turn over the funds to Craig A. 'Tony' Gomez, the Baker Tilly Gomez accountant and partner, on the grounds that this asset belonged to Wellington Preserve, the real estate development that accounts for 63 per cent of CLICO (Bahamas) assets.

Ordering that the funds be wire transferred to Wellington Preserve's account at City National Bank in Miami, which is under Mr Gomez's control, the US court also ordered the Trinidad bank to produce records relating to the account, including "account opening documentation, all regular periodic statements issued by the bank with respect to the account up to the present, and records of all transfers made into and out of the account". The latter is also intended to include cancelled cheques and wire

SEE page 8B



CRAIG GOMEZ

CITY MARKETS FOOTFALL RISES 13% PTS AFTER OWNER CHANGE

* Supermarket chain sees customer count hit 62% of prior year figures over weekend, up from 49% when new majority shareholder took over last month
* Targeting \$120m in sales in first year of ownership
* Believes 'stars aligning in our favour', although 'quite concerned' about increased food retail competition

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

City Markets' customer count hit 62 per cent of prior year levels last weekend, the highest it has been since its majority ownership changed hands last month, as it targets getting total sales up to \$120 million over the next 12 months.

Telling Tribune Business that customer foot-

SEE page 7B



MARK FINLAYSON



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BUSINESS

Designers get picture through camera usage

BY DEIDRE M. BASTIAN

What is the relationship linking the graphical world to a Digital Camera? Digital cameras and the graphical world can hardly exist in isolation, as digital cameras have helped to make photography easier and faster for millions in the technological era. If this is so, how much do graphic designers and web developers really know about them? "Well, I know that they are small and compact, not like a biggie burger that takes two hands. They have the ability to zoom in and out, and also have something called an auto flash mode".



THE ART OF GRAPHIX

DEIDRE M. BASTIAN

units of squares or dots, otherwise known as the pixels. Pixels are programmable units of images which can be processed through a computer".

Really?

Graphic designers ought to be versed in production, electronic imaging and computer graphics using a scanner, plus a variety of software packages along with digital cameras. Digital means a "photographic image divided into small

So what is a Digital Camera? Digital cameras store the photographed image electronically, rather than on film, in a format that is readable by a computer.

When did this all start? Photography, which started in the mid-1800s, has continued to evolve over the last two centuries and has

changed the way we collect, store, modify, disseminate and display images.

In the year 1913, the 35mm still-camera was created.

Then came the Polaroid camera, which was known for its instant photography in 1948. In 1991, Kodak introduced the first digital camera that was aimed at journalists and professionals.

Digital cameras represent one of the most remarkable shifts, as they are truly different from their predecessors and have rapidly become more popular as imaging technology improved. These amazing digital-era devices are a major boost to the computer graphic technology.

teries you need only plug in, recharge and save.

Sadly, like everything else in life you can only get what you pay for. This is an important point. For example, you might accept a great deal on digital cameras, which results in a poor selection. Remember to always research, scan or read camera analysis to ensure the camera can meet your expectations.

Camera Etiquette:

Whether you consider yourself a newbie or a hobbyist, brush up on your digital photography etiquette skills.

Do respect the signage. If a sign says: "No Photography" or "No Flash" then obediently put your camera away. It's pretty straightforward. While it might seem cute or legally sound to photograph people in public places, it is polite to seek their permission.

While vacationing, I snapped a few shots of smiling street kids, as they've always been fascinating to me, and their innocence was cute and priceless... Well, at least I thought so. Minutes after the shutter flew up they chuckled, requested compensation and scheduled another date for further picture taking.

I've remembered to always ask permission thereafter.

What happens now that we've photographed cute pictures, and how do we transport them to the computer? The easiest and fastest way to ensure your memories are preserved is to transfer them on to your computer, which offers two viable options: Plug the camera into the computer, or purchase an additional memory card reader:

What To Look For in a Digital Camera?

One of the factors a photographer looks for when shopping is a large amount of Megapixels. Essentially, more megapixels implies more dots and not better image quality.

Extra Megapixels don't make better pictures, and very few people really grasp why. For example, a 10 megapixel camera is not "twice as good" as a five megapixel camera; it simply means that the images will be twice as large.

Higher megapixels do determine print size, that's all.

Anything above five megapixels should be capable of producing an image you'll be satisfied with. On the other hand, the newer, higher Megapixel cameras are more advanced with much more to consider.

Now comes the cool part: Deciding the bells and whistles that may make using your camera much more robust and amusing.

Things you absolutely need

Memory Card: Most cameras come with some internal memory of at least 512 MB or 1 GB of data, allowing you to capture hundreds of images without the need of deletion for added space.

Rechargeable Batteries: Using the traditional alkaline 'AA' Batteries is a big pain and only indicates that you're still in the pony league, or occupied on a field trip with the Girl Guide or Boy Scout team.

A digital camera drains alkaline batteries and requires a lot of cash to stay powered up. Nonetheless, by using rechargeable bat-

a) Memory Card Reader option: If you are willing to make a small additional investment, a memory card reader is your guy.

First, insert the card into the USB slot of your computer and plug your camera card into the suitable-sized slot of the adapter.

You may want to take your camera card along with you to the store, to ensure you get the right size adapter, but pretty much they are usually standard.

Your computer will now identify the camera card as a disk, and you will be able to access the card as you would one of the disks on your computer.

For example, say you now have a C and D drive. It will add another drive, probably called E. Go to My computer, double click on the new drive, and you will see your pictures.

Now copy the pictures to your computer, verify that the computer can identify them, and then delete from your camera card if you wish. Remove the card from the card reader and pop it back into your camera, and you're done.

b) The USB Cable option

Another option for transferring photos is the use of the USB cable that came bundled with your camera. Follow these simple steps:

Step 1: Make sure your camera is off before connecting.

Step 2: Connect the USB cable to the camera and computer.

Step 3: Switch the camera on.

Step 4: Your camera may immediately show up on your computer's desktop. Use your mouse to drag your photos to a folder, called My Pictures.

Alternatively, your camera may appear via a pop-up window, giving you multiple importing choices. Thereafter, organise, rename and share your photos.

Use this link for demonstration if you are experiencing difficulties: Just click Arrow on video. <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows7/How-to-Import-pictures-from-my-camera-to-my-computer>.

There is little disagreement over the fact that the worldwide web, the software industry and the camera in today's world are now irrevocably interlinked with each other, empowering the users of digital cameras to experience their full potential usage.

Based on this premise digital cameras will definitely take an important place and make an unforgettable mark in the history of graphic development. This is easily acceptable, but have you ever found yourself taking so many pictures that you miss the experience itself?

Well, it happens, but it's OK to put the camera away and take some time to live in your moment.

So until we meet again, enjoy life, have fun and stay on top of your game.

NB: Author encourages feedback at deedee2111@hotmail.com

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BUSINESS

TOP LAW FIRMS IN MOOT FACE-OFF



PICTURED (Back row: L-R): Samuel Haven, Randol Dorsett, Leif Farquharson, Sean McWeeney QC, Samantha Symonette, Karen Haven, Brian Moree QC, Timothy Eneas, Sean Moree, Beatrice Miranda, V. Moreno Hamilton, Timothy Colclough, Paul Winder
(Front row: L-R): Joanne Pyfrom, Earl Cash, Lorris Ganpatsingh, Thomas Evans QC, Tanya Hanna.

The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) Bahamas branch held its first ever moot competition on Tuesday, November 30, between Graham, Thompson & Company and McKinney Bancroft & Hughes.

The moot was of relevance to attorneys and trust and estate professionals alike, as it involved Section 7 of the Wills Act, which relates to Bahamian Wills made by non-domiciled persons from forced heirship jurisdictions.

The judges for the moot were Lorris Ganpatsingh, former Court of Appeal judge and consultant at Lennox Paton; Thomas Evans QC, senior partner at Evans & Company; and Dr Earl Cash, partner, Higgs & Johnson.

The moot competition was won by McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes based on the decision of the judges.

Airlines' 'wait and see mode' as Customs 'D-Day' arrives

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

Bahamian aviation operators yesterday said they were in "wait and see" mode on the day that the Customs Department threatened it could seize their aircraft over allegedly unpaid import duties.

While the majority of airlines who received letters from the Customs Department two weeks ago, asking for them to contact it by today to arrange payment or else risk their planes' seizure, had up to yesterday reached out to the agency on the issue, some were still scrambling to do so - leaving it unclear whether the department will act on its threat today.

For those who did within the 14 days they were given, many said they had yet to receive a response from the Customs Department and are therefore unsure what happens next.

"Most got letters saying that their letters had been 'duly noted'," said Bahamas Aviation Association (BAA) president, SkyBahamas chief executive, Captain Randy Butler.

The Customs Department alleged last month that an investigation had revealed a large number of aviation operators in the Bahamas were using aircraft on which import duty had not been paid. It is now attempting to recoup these funds, which could add up to millions of dollars, according to some estimates.

However, Bahamian aviation operators claim they were previously informed no duty applied to these aircraft.

Several airline or aircraft operators expressed optimism yesterday that they had staved off any drastic action by the Customs Department for the time being. However, some, like Mr Butler, said he remained in "wait and see" mode, given the "unpredictability" of the revenue collection agency.

Paul Harding, owner of smaller operator, Take Flight Charters, said he believed many operators are "holding their breath" to see what might hap-

pen. Meanwhile, Mr Butler said he was still hoping to receive a formal response to a letter the BAA wrote to Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham, as Minister of Finance, asking that the airlines get an exemption from the duty "like other public transportation operators, such as taxis"

He said such an exemption should be considered not only because of the hard-hitting economic impact the collection of the duty - estimated to amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars for some airlines - would have on the industry at present, but also as a means of encouraging the future growth of the Bahamian aviation sector.

Mr Butler added that on a daily basis local aviation operators carry local travellers and tourists who Bahamasair does not have the capacity to fly, further evidence of their importance to inter-island tourism.

Mr Ingraham previously stated that he did not feel Bahamian aviation operators had any right to claim an exemption from paying the duty it is said they owe on the planes.

"What does the Prime Minister of the Bahamas say to those people who have brought stuff in that required duty to be paid, who didn't pay it, other than to say talk to Customs and seek to make arrangements. What else can he say? That it's OK for you? When I buy a boat, I have to pay duty. When you buy a car, you have to pay duty. What is it about an aircraft that says they do not have to pay duty?" said Mr Ingraham.

However, Mr Butler said Mr Ingraham had not received the industry's letter on the issue at the time he made his statement, and he remains hopeful the Prime Minister may consider the operators' position favourably. He suggested no move should be made by the Customs Department to collect any allegedly outstanding import duty on aircraft until the Prime Minister responds formally to the industry's request.

Meanwhile, Mr Butler said he has referred the Customs Department's request that he pay up duty on the planes SkyBahamas operates to his attorney for legal advice.

Chief among his objections are the fact that he leases his

planes, and therefore believes that the owner of the planes, rather than SkyBahamas, should pay whatever duty is owing if it is found that funds are owing.

SEE page 4B

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Nassau Assemblies of God Bible College is an accredited school recognized by the Ministry of Education. A new semester will begin Monday, January 10th. Classes are held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. for a ten week cycle. This semester will include: World Civilizations and Bible Doctrine Survey on Monday evenings; Principles of Teaching and Children's Ministries on Tuesday evenings; Old Testament Literature and Foundations of Health on Thursday evenings.

Persons may register at the Assemblies of God Headquarters in Shirlea (behind Sun Tee) January 3 -6 from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. or at the first session of the course. For further information call 393-3453/383-3141 or email us at agbahamas@coralwave.com.

BUSINESS

1,000 employers face NIB legal action in '10

FROM page 1B

"The amendments also allow for bi-annual increases in the wage ceiling - from \$500 to \$600 in July 2012, and every two years thereafter at

the inflation rate plus 2 per cent. This change is an example of how National Insurance will continue to maintain its relevance to workers," said Mr Cargill.

The amendments that will take place in January do not include a

rate increase, and no increase in the contribution rate is being considered at this time.

On the launching of phase two of the National Prescription Drug Plan, a contribution rate increase will be likely, but it is not clear when this

will take place. "NIB anticipates being ready on January 3, when most of the recently-made amendments will take effect. Changes to internal forms, procedures and computer programs are nearing completion. Our public education began in

November and will continue through the New Year.

"Changes for pensionable civil servants and hotel sector workers will take effect July 2011," Mr Cargill told Tribune Business.

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Jobless benefit claimants fall 85% between July-November

FROM page 1B

- 912 - and the highest number since September 2009. This then saw a month-on-month decline to reach 138 in November 2010.

Meanwhile, the NIB said it has "acted quickly" after detecting a number of cases of unemployment benefit fraud, and has so far referred 100 such cases to the police for "further action" since the inception of the scheme in April 2009.

Figures from the NIB show an overall decline in the number of unemployment benefits awarded in 2010 compared to 2009.

To date, 19,465 unemployment benefit claims have been awarded since the inception of the benefit scheme in April 2009, with a total value of \$29.6 million.

Some \$22.38 million was paid out in the nine months in which the unemployment benefit was

available in 2009, and \$7.18 million has been paid out for 2010 to November 30.

April 2009 registered the largest number of claims awarded under the Unemployment Benefit Scheme - 5,010 - with an average weekly benefit of \$134, adding up to a total of \$8.103 million paid out that month.

This fell in May 2009 to 1,957 claims paid (\$3.12 million). Between May and December 2009, the number of claims awarded monthly averaged 1,140, with a weekly pay out of \$133.

Payout

For the entirety of 2010, the monthly average number of claims awarded has been 473, with a mean weekly payout of \$140 per person.

The greatest number of unemployment benefits were awarded in New Providence (13,054), Freeport (3,757), Exuma (656), Marsh Harbour (498), Governor's Harbour (333) and Eight Mile Rock, Grand Bahama (331).

Speaking at the Rotary Club of West Nassau's weekly luncheon last week, the Prime Minister suggested figures such as these from the National Insurance Board suggest that unemployment may have "levelled off", with NIB statistics on unemployment and contributions implying the rate of lay-offs "has slowed and some companies have begun hiring".

Yesterday, Algernon Cargill, NIB's director, said that benefit expenditure by the Board in 2010, including unemployment benefit, was set to exceed contribution income.

Airlines' 'wait and see mode' as Customs 'D-Day' arrives

FROM page 3B

Another concern is that evidence has emerged that prior to 2008, planes imported into the Bahamas were duty-free, and it was only in 2008 that the 10 per cent tax was applied. In this case, said Mr Butler, there would be "very few" planes in the Bahamas on which duty would be owing even if it was not paid at the time of importation.

Mr Butler added that operators remain concerned that they have yet to have questions regarding the attempt to levy the tax answered, primary among them, who is being asked to pay, how much and on what basis.

Answers

Operators are looking for answers on whether the duty would apply to leased or owned planes, or both; Bahamian-registered aircraft only, or planes owned by Bahamian-registered companies only; and whether private aircraft owned by the likes of wealthy residents, second homeowners and investors would also be caught in the net. Wolf Seyfert, director of operations at Western Air, added: "There's an issue of value of the assets and there's no established value per se. It goes up and down over the years. It might have been worth \$1 million a year ago but \$100,000 now...I'm not sure what the Customs Department has actually come to the conclusion on what they will assess on each asset."

"We presented our case and proposal to Customs, and we got a notification that they received correspondence and will respond back. Things are in motion and we are trying to work something out. We don't know what it is yet. We reminded them that we have paid stamp duty before and we are seeking clarification on what we owe," said Mr Seyfert.

Mr Harding, of Take Flight Charters, said: "We sent a letter to Customs noting our request to the Minister that he consider an exemption for the industry, but we have yet to receive a response. "We are trying to edify ourselves as to exactly who is involved with their request. They did not specify, and have not yet specified, which category in the aviation world they are trying to collect revenue from."



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BUSINESS

CITY MARKETS FOOTFALL RISES 13% PTS AFTER OWNER CHANGE

FROM page 1B

fall equivalent to 62 per cent of 2009 levels was a 13 percentage point improvement over when Trans-Island Traders took majority control at the 10-store supermarket chain, principal Mark Finlayson said that while top-line recovery would "not happen right away", the general economy was showing signs of improvement, prompting him to state: "The stars are aligning for us."

He told Tribune Business: "The footfall over the weekend was increased - it increased drastically over the weekend compared to the weeks before. It's still not at the level of the year before, but it got up to 62 per cent over the weekend. It was 49 per cent when we bought the company, and now it's up to 62 per cent."

Winning back its former long-time customers, who gradually deserted the chain over the past two years as its financial woes under the previous ownership resulted in a lack of inventory and uncompetitive pricing, is critical to returning City Markets and its operating parent, Bahamas Supermarkets, to financial sustainability and, eventually, profitability.

Mr Finlayson told Tribune Business that apart from the ongoing marketing and sales promotions, the restocking of the 11-store chain with a full inventory complement would also help entice Bahamian and resident customers back to City Markets.

"The numbers have been getting better," he added of footfall and top-line sales. "Over the weekend, we've been monitoring it very closely. It's promising. It's not going to get up to where

it was, or where we want it to be, right away. Sales levels are moving in the right direction, not as quickly as we want them to, but that has all been based on the fact that the inventory has not been there.

"We've stocked out the perimeters of the stores, the meats, the dairy, the frozen food. This week, we're putting in the dry goods, so by the end of the week, the stores will be properly stocked out and then we'll be competitive again."

Rebuilding

Acknowledging that rebuilding City Markets' top line was "going to take a while", with the company unlikely to achieve the \$144 million record achieved during its 2008 financial year for some time, Mr Finlayson told Tribune Business: "Our target for this year - what we're trying to do on a 12-month basis - is get up to \$120 million. Everything is working very well, so it seems as if we're going to get to our target at this point."

The \$120 million sales target is for the 12 months between now and next December 2011, not Bahamas Supermarkets' financial year, which ends at end-June next year. As for returning to the black, Mr Finlayson used a football analogy to describe his expectations here.

"I think we've got to work on our basics, blocking and tackling. Once we get this right, everything will take care of itself," he told this newspaper. "What we've got to do is get the customers back into the stores, give them what they want and get the sales up."

"The good news for us is that the economy is recov-

ering. The stars are aligning for us, things are coming together for us."

Mr Finlayson praised former chief executive Derek Winford, who headed the company under BSL Holdings' disastrous ownership, for "trimming the company down pretty well", both on the employee front and other things that had been put in place. He acknowledged, though, that there was "concern" about the increased level of competition in the Bahamian food retailing market, which had seen numerous new entrants - such as Robin Hood and Phil's Food Services - since he first looked at acquiring City Markets in 2005-2006.

The traditional retail/wholesale relationship has also been put under pressure by these new entrants, and Mr Finlayson admitted: "There is some concern." He added that City Markets had been positioned at the higher end of the Bahamian food retailing market, with Supervalve just below that and AML Foods pitching firmly at the middle market.

Now, with Phil's Food Services and Robin Hood targeting the middle and lower ends of the market, Mr Finlayson said: "Quite frankly, the truth is that there's enough to go around in the market, but I think City Markets is not fighting at the same end that Phil's is fighting at and that Mr Schaefer is fighting at, and when you take a look at it, the amount of variety put into City Market as opposed to Phil's and Robin Hood is very different

"We are quite concerned about it, no two ways about it, but we're not going to lay down and will keep fighting."

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IN THE MATTER OF THE Petition of WELLINGTON LEONARD FORBES

NOTICE

WELLINGTON LEONARD FORBES by Power of Attorney of Alexander Julius Rolle, claims to be the beneficial owner in fee simple in possession of the parcel of land hereinbefore described and such ownership arises by virtue of possession of the said land.

Copies of the filed plan of the said piece parcel or lot of land may be inspected during normal office hours at the following locations:-

(a). The Registry of the Supreme Court, Anasbacher House, East Street, North, Nassau, Bahamas;

(b). The Chambers of Messrs. Richard L. Boodle & Co., 1st Floor, K. G. Malcolm Building, Bay Street & Victoria Avenue, Nassau, The Bahamas

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

Failure by any person to file and serve a statement of such claim on or before the said date will operate as a bar to such claim.

RICHARD L. BOODLE & CO.
Chambers,
1st Floor, K. G. Malcolm Building
Bay Street & Victoria Avenue
Nassau, Bahamas

Attorneys for the Petitioner

BUSINESS

CLICO LIQUIDATOR RECOVERS \$527,341 FROM TRINIDAD BANK

FROM page 1B

transfer confirmations. Mr Gomez had applied for the Order to recover the funds after discovering the Trinidad-based account during his probe of Wellington Preserve's affairs, having alleged that when he began his role as liquidator, "there were no records" to even indicate it existed.

In his December 1, 2010, motion seeking the Order from the US Bankruptcy Court, Mr Gomez, pointing out that he was Wellington Preserve's current president and director, said the Florida-based real estate development was a direct subsidiary of CLICO Enterprises, the Bahamian-registered affiliate of the insolvent insurer.

"During the course of his investigation of the financial affairs of CLICO Enterprises and Wellington, it has come to the attention of Gomez that, for reasons presently unknown, Wellington maintained a US dollar bank account no. 1619246 in First Citizens Bank," the liquidator alleged in his pleading to the court.

"As of July 31, 2010, Wellington's denominated bank account statement from First Citizens Bank indicated an ending balance of \$526,340."

Alleging that these funds belonged to Wellington's bankruptcy estate, and that First Citizens Bank maintained records relating to deposits into, and payments made, from that account, the Bahamian accountant added: "When Gomez, as liquidator of Wellington's parent company, CLICO Enterprises, took over possession of the assets of Wellington, there were no records with respect to the account at First Citizens Bank."

The Trinidadian institution, Mr Gomez said, and its attorneys had indicated they would not oppose his motion, given that Wellington Preserve was the account holder and owner of the funds on record.

The CLICO (Bahamas) liquidator's recovery of these assets, relatively small as they may be, should provide further encouragement to long-suffering Bahamian policyholders and creditors that he is making progress on their behalf in terms of returning assets and funds to them.

Meanwhile, Mr Gomez also remains

embroiled in efforts to prevent a US creditor enforcing a 'preferential' \$1.45 million judgment against Wellington Preserve, something that would deplete the asset pool and reduce the funds recovered for Bahamian creditors and shareholders.

However, Brennan Financial, the entity that obtained the default judgment, has filed a motion with the US Bankruptcy Court for the southern district of Florida seeking an extension to court-imposed case management instructions, and also wants it to compel CLICO Enterprises to hand over discovery documents to it.

Alleging that it had served CLICO Enterprises with six separate discovery requests, Brennan alleged in its December 2, 2010, filing: "The discovery sought in the Rule 2004 exam is narrowly tailored to production of documents evidencing the \$73 million indebtedness scheduled by [Wellington] in favour of CLICO."

Deadline

Brennan alleged that CLICO Enterprises' response deadline had been December 1, 2010, but claimed that it had failed to do so.

It had received communication from CLICO Enterprises' attorneys on the same day, advising that the insolvent company needed more time to respond to Brennan's request.

In return, Brennan said it would agree to more time if CLICO Enterprises agreed to a 30-day extension for other case management deadlines, but claimed that the latter had not consented to this.

Brennan Financial obtained its judgment on January 27, 2010, entering this into the public records the following day.

Given that the judgment was handed down within 90 days of Mr Gomez placing Wellington Preserve into Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, in a bid to safeguard CLICO (Bahamas) main asset from its creditors, the liquidator's attorneys are arguing that it is tantamount to Brennan Financial getting a preference payment in full of its claim, rather than being made to stand in line with other creditors and receiving a percentage of every \$1.

Therefore, Mr Gomez and his attorneys are asking the US Bankruptcy Court for the southern district of Florida to determine that Brennan Financial's judgment lien is avoidable under Chapter 11 laws, and therefore can be cancelled.

Brennan, though, is challenging the "presumption of insolvency".

The case, which was filed on September 2, 2010, also sheds further light on the actions of CLICO (Bahamas) ultimate controlling mind, Trinidadian Lawrence Duprey, who headed the Bahamian insurer's parent, CL Financial.

Brennan, at the request of Mr Duprey and his Dalco Properties entity, was alleged to have negotiated the purchase of property that formed the 545-acre Wellington Preserve in 2004.

But, prior to closing the deal, Mr Duprey formed Wellington Preserve and took title to the acquired real estate in that company's name, thus allegedly denying Brennan Financial its sales commission.

As a result, it sued Mr Duprey and Dalco Properties to recover the unpaid sales commission in the Broward County 17th Judicial Circuit Court.

The matter was settled, but the deal saw Dalco and Mr Duprey "released from responsibility in the action", with Wellington Preserve (by extension, CLICO (Bahamas) and CLICO Enterprises) substituted as the entity obliged to pay Brennan Financial what was owed.

"Wellington made the first two payments of the settlement pursuant to the terms of a confidential settlement agreement, but its parent company, CLICO Enterprises, was unable to fund the third, due to its insolvency and that of its affiliate, CLICO (Bahamas)," Mr Gomez's lawsuit alleged.

"Wellington owes total debts of approximately \$78 million.

At all relevant times, Wellington was insolvent in that the total value of its assets in less than the amount of its debts.

"The judgment lien would enable Brennan to receive more than it would have received had it not recorded its judgment, and Wellington filed for relief under Chapter 7 of the bankruptcy code; ie, payment in full rather than Brennan's pro rata dividend as an unsecured creditor."



Bank of The Bahamas

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BUSINESS

November key to \$1.135bn bad loan drop trend

FROM page 1B

Total Bahamian bank loans past due account for 18.1 per cent - almost one in every five dollars - extended by the commercial banking sector to households, consumers and businesses, and Mr McWeeney said the Central Bank's October numbers were consistent with the trends Bank of the Bahamas International had seen internally with its arrears/non-performing loan portfolio.

The BISX-listed bank, Mr McWeeney said, was "definitely below" the 10 per cent threshold when it came to this indicator, and was "in line with the industry average", bad credit being in "the high 8 per cent region" as a percentage of its total loan portfolio. "It's high for us based on historical patterns," he added.

Asked whether a trend had been established when it came to reduced arrears/non-performing

loans, Mr McWeeney, while cautiously optimistic, said that it was too early to say just based on September and October 2010 figures.

"If November's figures continue to move in that direction, I would say yes," he told Tribune Business, explaining that he wanted to see three consecutive months of improvement. It's not dramatic movement, but it's positive movement and movement in the right direction.

"If we can conclude fairly soon that this is a bottoming out, and move in a sustainable, positive direction, we can look forward to a better year next year."

He added: "It's difficult to use December as a barometer, as it tends to be a month of movement in a negative direction, as people use their money for other purposes."

But, asked how long it would take to get arrears/non-performing loans in the Bahamian commercial banking sector back to pre-recession levels, Mr McWeeney said it would be

"at least two years; two to three years from now", given that the volume and size of such loans had more than doubled over the past two years.

"Prior to this economic meltdown, the high point of the average non-performing loans was 4-5 per cent, and it's more than 100 per cent above that now, so to get back to that level will take a little time and more provisions will be involved," the Bank of the Bahamas International managing director said.

The Central Bank, in its monthly report, said the \$18 million or 1.6 per cent decline in bad loans to \$1.135 billion at end-October had resulted in a 22 basis point fall in the arrears ratio, as a percentage of all loans, to 18.2 per cent.

Loan arrears in the 31-90 days past due category fell by \$23.1 million or 4.4 per cent to around \$500 million, dropping to 8 per cent of all loans. But non-performing loans - those more than 90 days past due and upon

which the banks have stopped accruing interest - rose by \$5.1 million or 0.8 per cent to \$635.8 million, increasing these as a percentage of the total loan portfolio by 12 basis points to 10.2 per cent.

The Central Bank attributed the reduction in total arrears to a \$29 million or 4.7 per cent drop in mortgage delinquencies to \$593.6 million, with short-term arrears (31-90 days past due) narrowing by \$35.1 million or 10.5 per cent, offsetting the \$6.2 million or 2.2 per cent gain in the non-performing segment.

This indicates that while commercial banks are doing a good job in clawing back loans that slip into arrears, more are falling into the non-performing category due to borrowers' inability to repay.

Consumer loan arrears fell by \$8.8 million in October or 3.2 per cent to \$267.4 million, with the 31-90 day and non-performing segments dropping respectively by \$4.1 million (3.4 per cent)

and \$4.7 million (3 per cent).

However, bad loans to Bahamian businesses increased by \$19.7 million or 7.8 per cent to \$274.1 million, led by a \$16.2 million (24.6 per cent) rise in 31-90 days past due loans, and a \$3.6 million or 1.9 per cent rise in non-performing loans.

Total loan loss provisions increased by \$12 million or

4.9 per cent to \$258.1 million in October, increasing the ratio of provisions to arrears and non-performing loans by 1.4 and 1.6 percentage points respectively to 22.7 per cent and 40.6 per cent.

Some \$17.5 million worth of loans was written off in September, with recoveries totalling \$3.7 million.

Bahamas Ferries 'frustration' over lost phone service

FROM page 1B

age: "It has a tremendous impact. If people can't reach us for information, it's not

an easy proposition to come down to Potter's Cay to find it, so they're more than likely to go to the next best

alternative for travel."

While customers were still able to book travel to various destinations via Bahamas Ferries on the Internet, Mr Rolle said the company had to date been unable to get anyone to repair the damaged cable because of the ongoing industrial unrest at the Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC).

Critical

Describing December as "a critical month" for Bahamas Ferries, and a time when it wanted to enjoy good cash flow, Mr Rolle said: "If this continues, the numbers that we're projecting will not look as good as they should."

"Our pre-bookings thus far have been good, but we're concerned this may have an impact."

"We're annoyed, and the biggest concern is that it may not have an impact on

sales, but it has a major impact on convenience for the customer and our ability to communicate with customers."

"It does appear that we're on target when compared to last year, based on pre-bookings to date, but if this thing remains a problem, there's no guarantee where we're going to end up."

BTC, Mr Rolle said, had informed Bahamas Ferries it was "working on it", and trying to marshal the resources to address the problem at Potter's Cay.

Yet there was no clear plan on how BTC was going to respond, when work would start, and how long it would take to repair.

Island West

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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

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

The Bahamas Electricity Corporation wishes to advise the public that it has commenced electricity service disconnections of ALL accounts with overdue balances. This includes the accounts of customers who have payment arrangements with BEC but are not honoring their commitments.

The public is also advised that payments can be made directly to the Corporation's payment centres in New Providence and the Family Islands or at any major banking institution (either online or over the counter).

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Every week five Bahamian businesses are closing. Bahamian families now finding it harder to pay electrical bills, water bills, new private schools and mortgages for their homes. Concern also about the 4 billion dollar debt, repaying the 1 billion dollars of US currency debt and low foreign reserve. Government revenue is down significantly behind the Budget Forecast and the government having to borrow money to pay for government workers' salary. Some Bahamian financial experts have expressed concerns in The Tribune, Bahama Journal and Nassau Guardian about the possibility of the Bahamian dollar devaluating.

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BUSINESS

Hackers strike at MasterCard to support WikiLeaks

JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press
RAPHAEL G. SATTER, Associated Press
LONDON

Hackers rushed to the defense of WikiLeaks on Wednesday, launching attacks on MasterCard, Swedish prosecutors, a Swiss bank and others who have acted against the site and its jailed founder Julian Assange.

Internet "hacktivists" operating under the label "Operation Payback" claimed respon-

causing severe technological problems at the website for MasterCard, which pulled the plug on its relationship with WikiLeaks a day ago.

MasterCard acknowledged "a service disruption" involving its Secure Code system for verifying online payments. It was not clear how widespread the problem was. Earlier, MasterCard spokesman James Issokson said consumers could still use their credit cards for secure transactions.

The online attacks are part of a wave of support for Wik-

Internet. Twitter was choked with messages of solidarity for the group, while the site's Facebook page hit 1 million fans.

MasterCard is the latest in a string of U.S.-based Internet companies — including Visa, Amazon.com, PayPal Inc. and EveryDNS — to cut ties to WikiLeaks in recent days amid intense U.S. government pressure.

The leaks of secret U.S. diplomatic cables have embarrassed U.S. allies, angered rivals, and reopened old wounds across the world. U.S. officials in Washington say other countries have curtailed their dealings with the U.S. government because of WikiLeaks' actions.

Visa said it was having no

problems Wednesday. PayPal said it faced "a dedicated denial-of-service attack" Monday but had no problems with its website Wednesday.

PayPal Vice President Osama Bedier said the company froze WikiLeaks' account after seeing a letter from the U.S. State Department to WikiLeaks saying that its activities "were deemed illegal in the United States."

"It's honestly just pretty straightforward from our perspective," he told a web conference in Paris.

Offline, the organization is under pressure on many fronts. Assange is in a British prison fighting extradition to Sweden over a sex crimes case. Moves by Swiss Postfinance, Master-



Card, PayPal and others that cut ways to send donations to the group have impaired its ability to raise money.

Neither WikiLeaks nor Assange has been charged with any offense in the U.S., but the U.S. government is investigating whether Assange can be prosecuted for espionage or other offenses. Assange has not been charged with any offenses in Sweden either, but authorities there want to question him about the allegations of sex crimes.

Undeterred, WikiLeaks released more confidential U.S. cables Wednesday. The latest batch showed that the British government feared a furious Libyan reaction if the convicted Lockerbie bomber wasn't set free and expressed relief when

they learned he would be released in 2009 on compassionate grounds.

Another cable revealed that American officials lobbied the Russian government to amend a financial bill the U.S. felt would "disadvantage U.S. payment card market leaders Visa and MasterCard."

Yet another U.S. memo described German leader Angela Merkel as the "Teflon" chancellor, but she brushed it off as mere party chatter. She was also called risk-averse and rarely creative.

The pro-WikiLeaks vengeance campaign appeared to be taking the form of denial-of-service attacks in which computers are harnessed — sometimes surreptitiously — to jam target sites with mountains of requests for data, knocking them out of commission. xPer Hellqvist, a security specialist with the firm Symantec, said a network of web activists called Anonymous — to which Operation Payback is affiliated — appeared to be behind many of the attacks. The group, which has previously focused on the Church of Scientology and the music industry, is knocking offline websites seen as hostile to WikiLeaks.

PUBLIC NOTICE

INTENT TO CHANGE NAME BY DEED POLL

The Public is hereby advised that I, **FLORINDA ARMSTRONG** of Bain Town on the Island of Cat Island intend to change my daughter's name from **TATIANNNA MARIE ARMSTRONG** to **TATIANNNA MARIE MAJOR**. If there are any objections to this change of name by Deed Poll, you may write such objections to the Chief Passport Officer, P.O.Box N-742, Nassau, Bahamas no later than thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **CHRISTENA CAMPBELL of 982 LISKEARD AVENUE, P.O.BOX F42282, FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA, BAHAMAS** is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/ naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **9th** day of **DECEMBER, 2010** to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, P.O.Box N-7147, Freeport, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **JOHNNY GEORGE of GOLDEN GATES #1, P.O.Box N1739, NASSAU, BAHAMAS**, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **9th** day of **December, 2010** to the Minister responsible for nationality

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **RONY JOSEPH OF KEMP ROAD, P.O. BOX SS-5343, NASSAU, BAHAMAS**, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/ naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **2ND** day of **DECEMBER, 2010** to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, P.O.Box N-7147, Nassau, The Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **SHIRIN SUHASINI SWARNA of Crocket Drive, Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas**, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **2nd** day of **December, 2010** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **RAVINDRANATH BENERJI SWARNA of Crocket Drive, Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas**, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **2nd** day of **December, 2010** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.



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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 or fax at 393 5740.

Please submit applications no later than December 17, 2010

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BUSINESS

GOOGLE IN TALKS WITH BOOK PUBLISHER



(AP Photo/Jacques Brinon)
IN TALKS: Google Books Director Dan Clancy, right, talks with Hachette Book director Arnaud Nourry in Paris, Wednesday Nov. 17, 2010. Internet search giant Google Inc. says it is in talks with Europe's biggest book publisher on a deal to digitally scan and distribute some of the company's estimated 1 million out-of-print French books. Clancy says Google would share in revenue generated by sales of the books through its Google Books platform.

Stocks edge higher, Treasuries fall on Obama's tax-cut plan

MATTHEW CRAFT,
 AP Business Writer
 NEW YORK

The compromise backed by President Barack Obama and Republican leaders on extending tax cuts crushed bonds Wednesday as traders expected the plan to lead to higher budget deficits and a pickup in economic growth. Stocks posted modest gains.

Congressional Democrats could still scuttle the tax agreement, but bond traders are acting like it's a done deal. Treasury prices dropped sharply, sending their yields higher for a second day. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.23 percent, the highest level since June 21 and a huge jump from the 2.93 percent it was trading at Monday before the tax deal was announced.

Part of the reason bonds are selling off is that investors now expect the tax package, which also includes an extension of unemployment benefits, to lead to better growth in the U.S. economy. That means less incentive to keep money parked in ultra-safe investments like Treasuries and also a greater likelihood of inflation, which would erode the value of the fixed payments from bonds.

Economists are already raising their estimates for economic growth as a result of the tax-cut package. Goldman Sachs economists released a rough estimate Wednesday saying that the tax relief could wind up adding between 0.5 and 1 percentage point to economic growth next year.

"There is no question that near term this tax deal will be a net positive for the economy because it will help growth," said Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at IHS Global Insight.

Another reason the tax package is pushing bond prices lower is that it will lead



INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

to a greater supply of Treasuries in the marketplace as the U.S. government issues more debt to finance its increasingly large budget deficits. Estimates of the total cost of the tax-cut package vary widely but go as high as \$900 billion over the next few years.

Higher Treasury rates ripple through every corner of the economy, raising borrowing costs for the government, business and consumers. The Treasury Department auctioned another \$21 billion in 10-year notes Wednesday at a rate of 3.34 percent, the highest since May. The Treasury will sell \$13 billion in 30-year bonds Thursday. Selling long-dated bonds is often tricky: investors like the higher yields, but 30-year bonds would get hit the hardest if inflation picks up.

The Mortgage Bankers Association also reported that mortgage applications slipped last week as refinancing activity fell. The average rate for a 30-year fixed loan rose to 4.66 from 4.56 percent the previous week.

Stock indexes opened higher but turned mixed in early afternoon trading.

The Dow Jones industrial average edged up 10.94 points, or 0.1 percent, to 11,370.10. The broader Stan-

dard & Poor's 500 index rose 3.91 or 0.3 percent, to 1,227.66. The Nasdaq composite index rose 10.14, or 0.4, to 2,608.63.

The higher rates in the Treasury market helped push the dollar up against other currencies including the Japanese yen and the euro. The dollar rose 0.3 percent against an index of six other major currencies.

Large U.S. companies that rely heavily on overseas sales were among the biggest

decliners as the dollar rose. The higher dollar reduces the value of earnings those companies make in other countries. Boeing Co. fell 1 percent and Caterpillar Inc. lost 0.7 percent.

In corporate news, McDonald's Corp. fell 2.3 percent to \$78.50, making it the biggest decliner among the 30 stocks that make up the Dow Jones industrial average. The company reported November sales figures that fell short of analysts' expectations.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **SAMSON FRANCILLON CHATELAIN, BARTLETT HILL, EIGHT MILE ROCK, GRAND BAHAMA, BAHAMAS** is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/ naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **9th day of DECEMBER, 2010** to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, P.O.Box N-7147, Freeport, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

OF

LILI FIVE LTD.

Notice is hereby given that liquidation of the above company on the 29th day of December, 2009. **Triangle Administration Limited** of Bahamas Financial Centre, Shirley & Charlotte Streets, Nassau, The Bahamas has been appointed Liquidator of the Company.

Triangle Administration Limited
 Liquidator

NOTICE

UNGAVA MANAGEMENT LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

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

(b) The dissolution of the said company commenced on the 7th December, 2010 when the Articles of Dissolution were submitted to and registered by the Registrar General.

(c) The Liquidator of the said company is Credit Suisse Trust Ltd, Rue de Lausanne 17 bis, Geneva.

Dated this 9th day of December, A. D. 2010

Credit Suisse Trust Ltd
 Liquidator

COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

EUGENE DUPUCH LAW SCHOOL (The Bahamas)

The public is advised of the Qualifications for Admission to the Eugene Dupuch Law School, namely:

(a) the Degree of Bachelor of Laws from The University of the West Indies;

or

(b) an approved university degree in law subject to such conditions as the Council of Legal Education (the Council) may require;

or

(c) a university degree from an approved University in which the course leading to that degree involved a study of law and other disciplines subject to such conditions as the Council may require;

or

(d) a university degree in a discipline other than law, together with a certificate under the hand of the Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of West Indies that the student has satisfactorily pursued a course of study in law over a period of not less than two years in the Faculty of Law of The University of the West Indies and is a fit and proper person for admission to the School subject to such conditions as the Council may require.

The public is further advised that in relation to paragraph (b) above, to date, the Council of Legal Education has not recognized any degree offered by any institution in The Bahamas as an approved university degree in Law nor has it recognized any such institution as an approved University for the purposes of paragraph (c).

COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FOR ADMISSION IN 2011 TO:

NORMAN MANLEY LAW SCHOOL (Jamaica)
 HUGH WOODING LAW SCHOOL (Trinidad & Tobago)
 EUGENE DUPUCH LAW SCHOOL (The Bahamas)

Legal Education Certificate - Two Year Programme

Applications are invited from holders of a first degree in Law obtained in a common law jurisdiction, except holders of the University of the West Indies LL.B. degree or who are holders of the Common Professional Examination Certificate (UK) together with vocational training, and who wish to be considered for selection for the Two-Year Legal Education Certificate Programme. Persons who will attain this qualification by **September 1, 2011**, may also apply and sit the examination. **ALL APPLICANTS** will be required to sit an entrance examination which will be in July 2011.

This examination will serve to provide priority placing to the Law Schools and is subject to the availability of places.

The examination will consist of testing in basic core courses. The courses are:

- Law of Contract
- Law of Tort
- Real Property
- Equity
- Criminal Law

The application form, information sheet and information on how to download the forms are available from the website:

www.nmls.edu.jm

or

The Registrar, Admissions Board
 Norman Manley Law School
 P.O. Box 231
 Kingston 7
 JAMAICA

The Registrar
 Hugh Wooding Law School
 P.O. Bag 323,
 Tunapuna
 TRINIDAD

The Registrar
 Eugene Dupuch Law School
 P.O. Box SS 6394
 Nassau
 THE BAHAMAS

All applications must be submitted to the Convenor, Admissions Board, Norman Manley Law School, Mona, Jamaica along with a non-refundable fee of US\$150.00 and one recent passport size picture by no later than January 31, 2011.

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

BUSINESS

Obama facing tough sell in his own



AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais

TOUGH TIMES: President Barack Obama gestures during his news conference at the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Dec., 7, 2010.

STEPHEN OHLEMACHER,
Associated Press
WASHINGTON

President Barack Obama on Wednesday rejected claims that he betrayed Democrats by cutting a deal with Republicans on Bush-era tax cuts and implored his party to back the compromise, arguing it could jump-start the economy.

Speaking to reporters at a joint appearance with Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski, Obama said economists predict higher job growth in 2011 and 2012 if Congress passes the agreement and urged lawmakers to examine the details of the deal and "get this done."

The White House has been leaning hard on fellow Democrats to support the tax deal that would extend the cuts at all income levels for two years, extend jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed and cut the Social Security payroll tax for a year.

But House Democratic leaders protest that the overall package gives up too much to the wealthy. They're putting Obama on the defensive, even as the deal picks up support among GOP lawmakers and business groups.

The president forcefully rejected suggestions he had abandoned his allies to strike an agreement with the GOP.

"I think it is inaccurate to characterize Democrats, writ large, as quote-unquote betrayed," he said.

Obama was sending Vice President Joe Biden to Capitol Hill Wednesday afternoon to urge resistant House Democrats to support the package. Biden lobbied Senate Democrats on Tuesday.

Some Democrats are unhappy that Obama agreed to extend expiring tax cuts not just for the middle class but also for higher earners, and that he agreed to impose a lower estate tax on wealthy heirs. Both provisions are seen by many Democrats as giveaways to the rich that will

do little to help the economy.

In return, Democrats would get extended jobless benefits for people who have been unemployed for long stretches. Workers would also see their share of Social Security payroll taxes cut by nearly a third for the coming year, a boost in take-home pay meant to encourage spending and aid the economy.

"So far, the response has not been very good," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said. She called the estate tax provision "a bridge too far."

If Democrats kill the package, it would mark a stunning defeat for Obama and a huge

political bet that voters will blame Republicans as much as Democrats for an impasse that would lead to higher taxes starting Jan. 1. Many congressional insiders doubt that Democrats will take that gamble. But liberal lawmakers' discontent is hard to measure in the wake of last month's big election setbacks.

The potential for additional job growth was a key talking point at the White House Wednesday and officials released independent economic analyses that supported

SEE page 13B

GN 1143

CABINET OFFICE



OBSERVANCE OF THE 2010 CHRISTMAS AND 2011 NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAYS

The Cabinet Office wishes to advise the general public of the decisions taken by the Government with respect to the Christmas and New Year's 2011 Holidays.

Christmas Day will be observed on the day it falls, which is Saturday, 25th December, 2010. Stores are not allowed to open on Christmas Day. Further, Boxing Day will be observed on Monday, 27th December with stores being allowed to open for business.

The New Year's Day Holiday will be observed on Monday, 3rd January, 2011 with stores opening at that time. Saturday, 1st January, 2011 is considered a regular day and stores may also open for business as usual.

GN 1144



MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

FAMILY ISLAND ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

The Government of The Bahamas through the Ministry of Works & Transport seeks to continue its annual road maintenance program by engaging suitable parties for the procurement and distribution of road maintenance material to the Family Islands.

The Ministry of Works & Transport now invites interested parties to collect the Request for Proposal (RFP) documents and to complete and submit same in accordance with the instructions therein.

RFP documents may be obtained by interested parties as of **Thursday, December 2nd, 2010** from:

The Civil Engineering Section
1st Floor East Wing,
Ministry of Works and Transport,
John F. Kennedy Drive,
P.O. Box N-8156,
Nassau The Bahamas
Telephone: (242) 302-9772 or 9

Between the hours of **9:30 am and 5:00 pm Monday to Friday.**

The **original and one (1) copy** of the completed proposal must be placed in a sealed envelope and clearly marked on the outside.

"RFP Family Island Road Maintenance Programme"

to be deposited in the Tender Box at the Ministry of Finance, Cecil Wallace Whitfield Building, West Bay St, Nassau Bahamas no later than **10:00 a.m.** on or before **Tuesday, December 14, 2010.**

Applicants will be notified of the results after the submissions of the documents and evaluation.

Signed
Colin Higgs
Permanent Secretary

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	Symbol	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%
10.20	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	1.63	Consolidated Water BDRs		1.80	1.80	-0.02		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%
11.40	7.23	Finco		7.23	7.23	0.00		0.287	0.520	25.2	7.19%
5.51	3.75	FirstCaribbean Bank		3.99	3.99	0.00		0.645	0.350	14.6	3.73%
1.00	1.00	Foocl Class B Preference		1.00	1.00	0.00		0.366	0.210	14.9	3.85%
5.59	5.00	ICD Utilities		5.59	5.59	0.00		0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%
10.50	9.82	J. S. Johnson		9.82	9.82	0.00		0.012	0.240	465.8	4.29%
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate		10.00	10.00	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%
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity			
99.46	99.46	Bahamas Note 6.95 (2029)	BAH29	99.46	0.00		6.95%	20 November 2029			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	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			
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%	
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD%	Last 12 Months %	NAV 3MTH	NAV 6MTH	NAV Date			
15122	14076	CFAL Bond Fund	1.5122	5.11%	6.79%	1.490421	1.467397	31-Oct-10			
2.9265	2.8300	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	2.9187	1.10%	3.13%	2.919946	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			
114.3684	101.6693	CFAL Global Bond Fund	114.3684	9.98%	12.49%	109.392860	107.570619	30-Jun-10			
106.8528	99.4177	CFAL Global Equity Fund	106.8528	4.75%	7.18%	100.779540	105.776543	30-Sep-10			
11.367	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.367	4.30%	5.21%			31-Oct-10			
1.0974	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.0974	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											
S1 - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/6/2007											
S1 - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/1/2007											
YIELD - last 12 month dividends divided by closing price											
Bid \$ - Buying price of Colina and Fidelity											
Ask \$ - Selling price of Colina and Fidelity											
Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price											
Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week											
EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mths											
NAV - Net Asset Value											
N/M - Not Meaningful											
FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index, January 1, 1994 = 100											
TO TRADE CALL: CFAL 242-502-7010 ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764 FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000 COLONIAL 242-502-7525											

LEGAL NOTICE

THE PUBLIC is hereby NOTIFIED that as of the First day of January, A.D. 2011, the name DOCKENDALE HOUSE, West Bay Street, Nassau, The Bahamas will be changed to:

CAMPBELL MARITIME CENTRE

Mortimer & Co.,

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

TOWE WEALTH MANAGEMENT LTD., AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANY

Notice is hereby given that the voluntary dissolution of the above company commenced on the 07th day of December, 2010. Articles of Dissolution have been duly registered by the Registrar General's office, P.O. Box N532, 50 Shirley Street, Nassau, Bahamas. The Liquidator is A.J.K. Corporate Services (Bahamas) Limited, whose address is Suite 11, Bayparl Building, 18 Parliament Street, P.O. Box AP59205/3352, Nassau, The Bahamas.

Legal Notice

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT (No. 45 of 2000)

OSTEN INTERNATIONAL LTD.

In Voluntary Liquidation

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 137 (4) of the International Business Companies Act (No. 45 of 2000), OSTEN INTERNATIONAL LTD., is in Dissolution.

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

Lutea Trustees Limited,
of 9 Burrard Street,
St. Helier Jersey JE4 5UE
Liquidator

BUSINESS

party on tax deal



AP Photo/Alex Brandon

SPEAKING OUT: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., speaks to the media after House democratic caucus meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010.

FROM page 12B

their contention that the agreement would contribute to economic expansion.

"This is the right thing to do," Obama said. "I expect everybody to examine it carefully. When they do, I think they're going to feel confident that this is the right course — while understanding that for the next two years, we're going to have a big debate about taxes."

Senior White House adviser David Axelrod said Wednesday he believes disenchanted Democrats will decide to vote for the package when they realize how angry voters will be "if they wake up on Jan. 1" with a substantial tax increase, roughly \$3,000 a year for a typical family.

He said Obama had no choice but to accede to Republican demands for continuing existing rates for the wealthy in order to spare higher rates for the middle class. He also said the president was forced to make concessions to protect the jobless.

In an interview on NBC's "Today" show, he said it would be "borderline immoral" to allow taxes to go up in the midst of economic hard times.



INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

If Congress fails to act this month, taxpayers at every income level face a significant tax increase at the start of the year. The new Congress — with Republicans controlling the House and Democrats the Senate — still could extend the tax cuts retroactively next year. But that would make it difficult for employers to withhold the proper amount of taxes from workers' pay.

Payroll companies say it's already too late for many employers to adjust withholding by the start of the year, meaning many workers will have to make adjustments, regardless of what Congress does.

Despite their minority status, Senate Republicans last

week blocked Obama's long-promised bid to end Bush-era tax cuts for households earning more than \$250,000. Republicans insisted that all the tax cuts be extended, for rich and poor alike.

Under the proposal cutting back Social Security payroll taxes, workers would pay a 4.2 percent tax rate instead of 6.2 percent — a \$120 billion tax cut for workers, starting on Jan. 1. Households making between \$40,000 and \$50,000 would get an average tax cut of \$810 next year, according to an analysis by the Tax Policy Center, a Washington research group. Households making between \$100,000 and \$200,000 would get an average tax cut of \$2,162.

The package would continue other programs such as enhanced tuition tax credits and tax breaks for businesses that hire new workers. It would impose a 35 percent federal estate tax, but each spouse could exempt up to \$5 million from taxation.

Under current law, the estate tax, which was repealed for 2010, is scheduled to return next year with a top rate of 55 percent.

Officials said that, overall, the proposal could increase federal borrowing by \$900 billion.



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) a tractor
- (b) a motor cycle
- (c) an omnibus, except the front seats used by the driver and any other persons sitting alongside the driver's seat
- (d) 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
- (e) 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.



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

The following persons are asked to visit the Department of Immigration, located on Hawkins Hill, Nassau, on Saturday, 11th December, 2010, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Alicime, Felicia
 Anglin, Nathan
 Anglin, McCall
 Aris, Rostin
 Ambrister, Richardette
 Bipat, Devi Rajsri
 Bipat, Vedita
 Bishop, Keith
 Bolton, Shane
 Braconi, Nerina S.
 Brisson, Louisena
 Brown, Andrew
 Brown, Jeremy Elroy
 Brown, Verona D.
 Bullard, Deborah
 Burnside, Donna
 Campbell, Stella
 Cant, Dominic
 Cant, Shelly
 Capron, Michael
 Capron, Michael
 Carne, Ernst
 Cash, Careo
 Chamberlain, Kenneth S.
 Chambers, Lekita
 Charlow, Leagester
 Cherenfant, Altagrace
 Chichester, Loraine
 Chichester, Rusel W. T.
 Clarke, Jacob
 Cleare, Collin
 Collins, Douglas

Deleveaux, Leroy
 Dorcent, Kimsly
 Dorestin, Kenison
 Elie, Ronald
 Fenalus, Seneck
 Ferguson, Tristan
 Forbes, Brendalee
 Francis, Margaret
 Frederique, Nelson
 Gardiner, Charles
 George, Bagaitta
 George, Marie H.
 Gordon, Javon Ricardo
 Gordon, Richard
 Gordon, Sylvia Sandra
 Gray, Humphrey
 Gray, Jeanne
 Griffin, Maria del Carmen
 Gibson, Shawn

Halbert, Alexis B.
 Hall, Lloyd McDillan
 Hall, Rosheke
 Hamilton, Deadria
 Hamilton, Tencie
 Hanna, Brinell
 Hanson, Joel
 Hartley, Natasha
 Henfield, Ruby

Jarvis, Caitlin
 Jeantil - Homme, Johnny
 Johns, Christopher Patrick
 Johnson, Dario
 Johnson, Douglas

Johnson, Kelvin A.
 Joseph, Fedner
 Joseph, Lynda
 Joseph, Marie – Maud
 Joseph, Rodna
 Joseph, Ronald
 Johnson, Meka Antonia
 Jerimere, Julienne

Knowles, Dale Andrew

Lebrant, Fannette
 Lloyd, Michael
 Loriston, Monique Eugene
 Louissaint, Kevin

Major, Beulah
 Marshall, Colin A.
 Matthews, Dorothy
 McPhee, Sherwin
 Miller, Vixianne
 Moore, Derek
 Munroe, Miguel

Oscar, Lawrence
 Owen, Anghard

Laschiazza – Paul, Vincent A.
 Pinder, Melika
 Pierre, Alonzo

Ritchie – Ramsarran, Olinda
 Reckley, D. Redino
 Richardson, Torrie
 Richardson, Tamars
 Rodgers, Roy A.

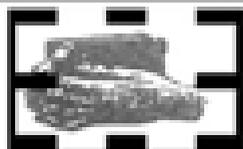
Salvant, Vivie

Sanchez, Jackson
 Seymour, Dorothy
 Seymour, Sandra
 Sharif, Muhammed
 Sharif, Aisha
 Sharp, Khama
 Sirra, Fiona
 Skinner, Veroica Gloria
 Smith, Jahmal Christian
 Smith, Sonia
 Strachan, Lyjia
 Sweeting, Channell
 Symonette, Shaquille

Telefort, Charnotte
 Thomas, Martin Laroda
 Treco, Brasley James

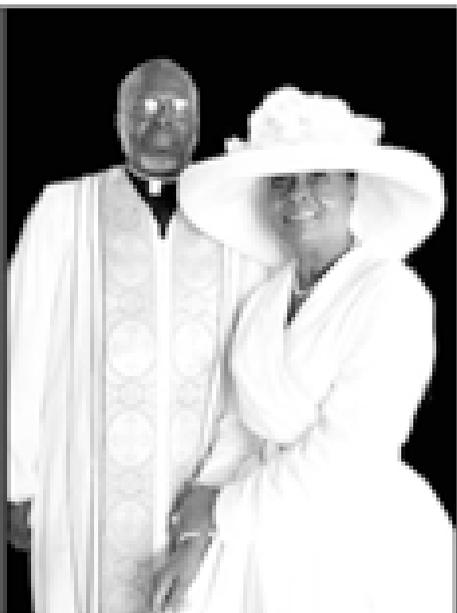
Wallace, Llie
 Wilson, Shanay
 Wardle, Alan
 Webster, Dale
 Wells, Chanel H. O.

Williams, Sidoni
 Wood, Albert Jonathan
 Woodside, M. Nkoma



St. Paul's Baptist Church Inc
 Bernard Road, Fox Hill
 Tel: (242) 324-2871 Fax: (242) 364-8391

"The Church Where Everybody Is Somebody"



**Rev. Dr. J. Carl Rahming
 and Minister Evangeline Rahming**
Host Pastor

**Invites you to the Ordination/Commission
 Service on Sunday December 12th, 2010
 At 4:00 pm**

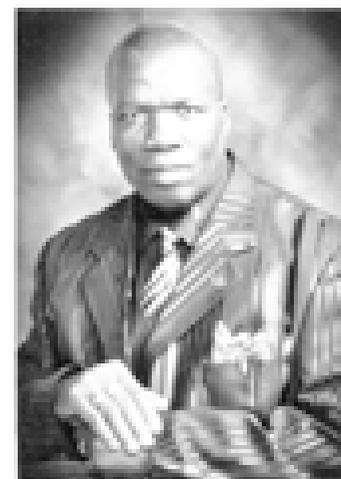
**GUEST SPEAKER- BISHOP SIMON B.HALL- THE ACT OF ORDINATION
 REV.DR. WILLIAM THOMPSON PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF THE
 BAHAMAS NATIONAL BAPTIST & EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION.**



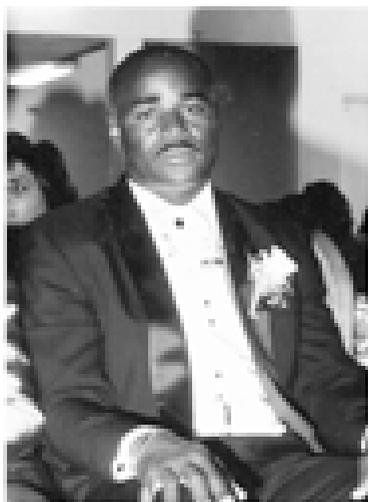
Sis. Kimberley Deleveaux
 Evangelist



Sis. Brenda Carey
 Evangelist



Deacon Garth Cash
 Minister



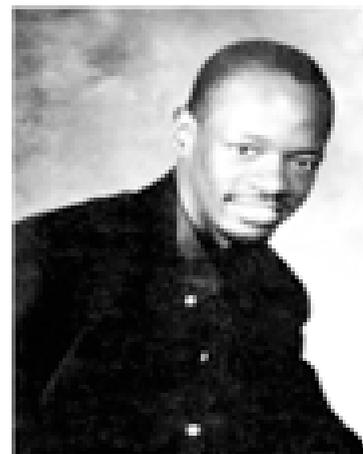
Bro. Ezekiel Pratt
 Deacon



Bro. Patrick Smith
 Deacon



Bro. Ricardo Taylor
 Deacon



Bro. Kendal Williams
 Deacon



Bro. Ricardo Brice
 Deacon

First Agriculture Bible College opens in Andros

By JEFFARAH GIBSON
Tribune Features Writer

FOR individuals living on the island of Andros seeking to pursue tertiary education, traveling to the capital city is no longer the only option.

With the introduction of the Agriculture Bible College, the first of its kind located in Johnson's Bay, South Andros, individuals will have the opportunity to further studies.

Agriculture Bible College was founded by retired Pastor Jeremiah Duncombe. It is supported by a non-profit organisation called the City of Refuge as well as the Seventh Day Adventist church. As the name indicates it has a bend towards agriculture and bible.

Pastor Jeremiah Duncombe was born and raised in South Andros. At the age of 13 years he left the island and moved to the capital.

Vision

He had hopes of returning to his home. However he did not want to return without anything. So he decided to launch the Agriculture Bible College which was his way of giving back.

In an interview with *Tribune Religion* Pastor Duncombe explained how his vision for the college came about.

"I have discovered that youngsters are coming out of school with no marketable skills. And some of them don't have the scholastic skills to get into college. And those who are in college sometimes leave college lacking the discipline and we want them to develop discipline and good work ethics. We want our young people to pursue higher education as well as learn discipline and work ethic which is the reason we opened the college," he explained.

The college is connected with three highly recognised Seventh Day Adventist universities in the United States. They are Andrews University, Oakwood University, and Griggs University. This connection allows individuals in the Bahamas to pursue programs not offered initially by Agriculture Bible College. "Students can get up to their PHD with these universities through the college based in South Andros. We have been liaising constantly with the colleges and they assigned certain lecturers to teach these programs at our school. Some will be taught locally while other courses will be taught online," Pastor Duncombe said.

The uniqueness of the educational experience offered at the tertiary level institution is seen in its work study program. This, Pastor Duncombe said sets the Agriculture Bible College from oth-

ers.

"Although other colleges offer a work study program it will be compulsory for all full-time students. They will work part of the day, and attend classes part of the day," Pastor Duncombe explained.

Pastor Duncombe also told *Tribune Religion* that after the completion of their program no student will be left unemployed.

"We are making a proposition that none of our graduates will be unemployed. Either they will find a job on their own or the institution will keep them on to work. Our program is designed as such that we can employ all of our graduates," he said.

When asked why the college is agriculturally based, he explained the significance of agriculture as it regards to character building.

"We at the Seventh Day Adventist Church believe that the most foundational learning tool with greatest character building benefits is agriculture. It was the first profession given to man by God. In agriculture you learn that what you sew you will reap. Some young people think that things just come easy but it doesn't and the life long lessons that can be learnt from agriculture are significant."

Additionally Pastor Duncombe said that there are massive acres of land on the island that can be utilised and students attending the institution will help fill the free land.

"It is believed that agriculture will be a great nation building tool. We will see our economy increasing while our communities grow stronger," he said.

While the college is geared towards young men, in the near future they will be expanding their facilities to accommodate females as well.

"We are operating a boarding facility that will enhance the ability to mold the young men."

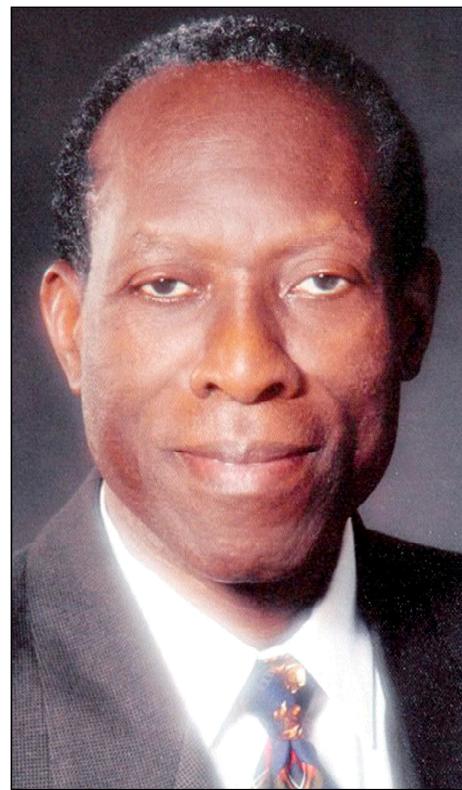
Course

During the course of the program, students of the boarding school will be occupied with activities throughout their day. They will have a time for bible study and worship, a time to attend to classes, a time to eat, a time to study, and time for leisure activities.

"The program is designed to train and discipline the young men. They are going to learn skills that will allow them to be positive contributors to society. We will also offer entrepreneurial courses to encourage those to start or pursue lucrative business ventures," he said.

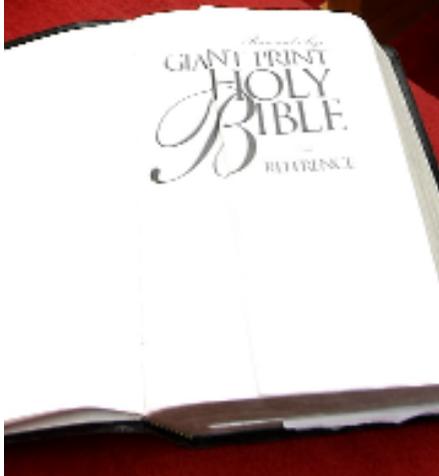
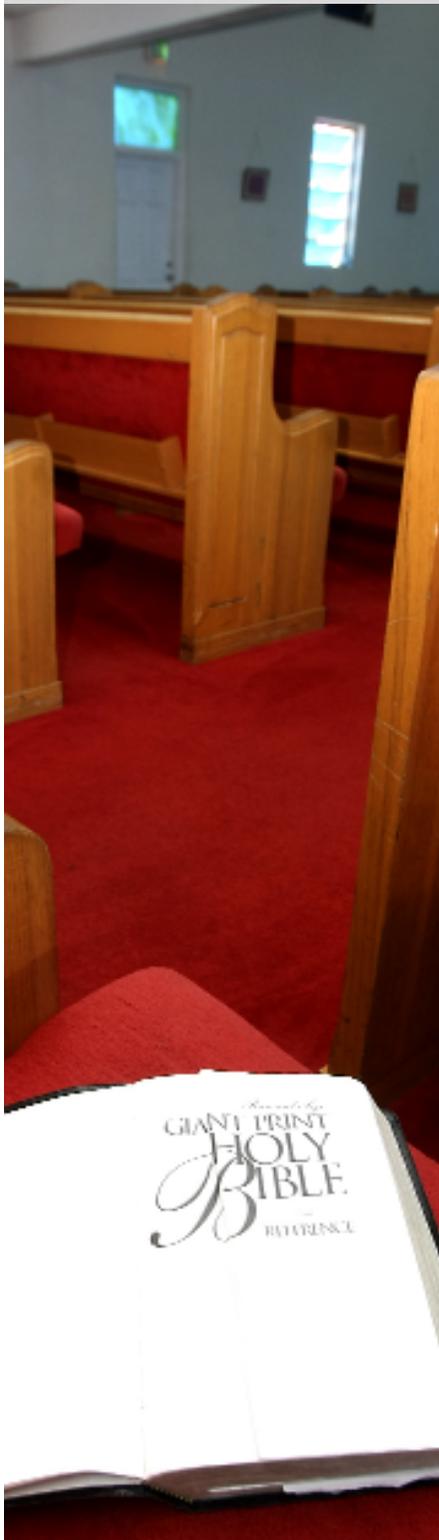
Classes are set to commence during January 2011.

For more information log onto www.southandroscollege.org.



OPENING NEW DOORS: With the institutionalisation of the Agriculture Bible College in South Andros, Pastor Jeremiah Duncombe is giving young people the opportunity to achieve the scholastic skills necessary to excel in job market.

“The program is designed to train and discipline the young men. They are going to learn skills that will allow them to be positive contributors to society. We will also offer entrepreneurial courses to encourage those to start or pursue lucrative business ventures.”



A singing, swinging, ringing Christmas special

By ALESHA CADET
Tribune Features Reporter

The renowned St Matthews Sunrise Choir and Friends will be swinging to the sounds of the season, singing out the sounds everyone loves to hear and ringing out the bells of joy to everyone, in a swinging, singing, ringing in a brand New Year concert extravaganza.

This year, the group will present renditions from Noel, a musical collection of Christmas moments created by David T Clydesdale and Deborah Craig Claar. The choir is known for performing at Government House and the Rainforest Theatre with performances such as "Repeat the Sounding Joy", "Noel Then and Now" and "Christmas on Broadway."

This year they will also feature various performing artists including Claudette "Cookie" Allens, Irrington "Minky" Isaacs, Dr Austin Davis and will also be accompanied by the distinguished organist, pianist and musical director, Dexter



St Matthews Sunrise Choir

Fernander. Kervinique Ferguson, Nathaniel Bosfeild and Lawrence Antonio as well as instrumentalists Ryan Higgs, Shavelle Darling, Gerrad Hepburn and Brittney Bullard and others, will all have you swing-

ing and singing this Christmas season.

The concert will be held under the distinguished patronage of the Reverend Father James B Moultrie and Mrs Moultrie and Social Minister Loretta Butler Turner and Me Edward Turner.

The concert will be held on Friday December 10, and Saturday December 11, at the Church on Shirley and Church Streets at 7.30 pm.

Tickets are available at a cost of \$20 at the church office or at the door.

EAGLE'S NEST COMMUNITY CHURCH

ISAIAH 40:31 "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

Under the Leadership of
PASTOR DAVE LAMB



WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES
on Sunday at 10:00am

"AT OUR NEW LOCATION"
In the Royal Palm Mall Mackey Street
upstairs over Michael Anthony Jewelers

Join us in our Praise and Worship services and hearing from God's word where
"We Love God and Love People"

For more details: Email: revdavidlamb@yahoo.com

NJ09

Under the Distinguished Patronage of Rev. Wilton A. McKenzie - 1st Assistant Superintendent and Six. Stephanie McKenzie

The New Providence District Youth Department
of The New Providence District
of The Bahamas Baptist Union of Churches
presents its

11th Annual Gala Awards Banquet

Theme:
"Celebrating Faithful Servants"


REV. HEUTER ROLLE


MS. GENEVA ROLLE


MRS. JANNIE MOXEY


MIN. DENO CARTWRIGHT

Friday, 10th December 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Enoch Backford Auditorium
Carmichael Road

Tickets: \$50:00

MRS. SHARMAINE BAIN - President, The New Providence District Youth Department
 REV. CEDRIC FARQUHARSON - Parent Body President, The New Providence District
 REV. DR. CHARLES W. SAUNDERS - Superintendent, The Bahamas Baptist Union of Churches

The Nassau Renaissance Singers present a concert for Christmas

THE NASSAU Renaissance Singers, under the direction of Mrs Audrey Dean - Wright, a gifted musical director, pianist, and composer, returns to performing at the Government House Ballroom in Nassau this month.

Under the distinguished patronage of the Governor General Sir Arthur and Lady Foulkes, the choir will present "A Concert for Christmas" on Saturday, December 11 and Sunday December 12 at 8pm. At the conclusion of the concert the audience will be invited to join the singers for concert wine and chat.

Over the years, the Renaissance Singers have ushered in the traditional annual Christmas festivities for many in the Bahamas. This year's concert promises to be no different. Based on the programme selections, it will be a most memorable concert. The programme includes classical and traditional Christmas music as well as music from around the region and, the style of which former Choir Director, E Clement Bethel was noted for.

The choir is proud to announce the wonderful mix of singers with the addition of new members. This year the Singers will feature some of the young



ENCHANTING: The Nassau Renaissance are set to enchant patrons at their Christmas concert.

artists of the Bahamas as special guests, which include Nikita Wells on the 11th, Dicey Doh Boys on the 11th and 12th and Osano Neeley on the 12th. This year the choir is grateful to have well known

Raymond Antonio accompany them on the piano.

Tickets for the Nassau Renaissance Singers concert may be purchased from Logos Bookstore at the Harbour Bay

Shopping Plaza, East Bay Street or from choir members.

Proceeds from the Concert to benefit the Nassau Renaissance Singers Scholarship Fund.

Loose him!

JOHN.11: 44. Loose him, and let him go.

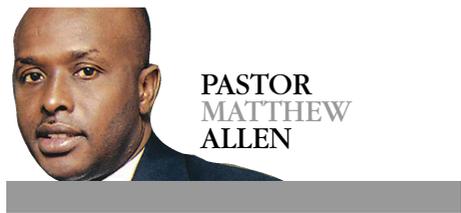
AS WE close out 2010, and walk into the New Year 2011, it's of the utmost importance that you be freed from whatever negative situation or negative friends holding you hostage.

What you were able to get away with in 2010, you most certainly will not be able to do so in 2011.

This new year will bring about a zero tolerance for mediocrity; therefore you've got to be fruitful and multiply; it's no longer just trying to survive, but rather you've got to win; and win big.

It's time that you leave those issues / challenges and memories of the past that you're struggling with right where they are -in the past. Once you've already confessed them to the Lord and have repented, He has forgiven you. So don't you allow anybody to hold you hostage by that which the Lord has forgiven set you free of.

No matter how vile your past issue /



PASTOR MATTHEW ALLEN

challenge may have been, it could have been something that really stunk; but your sincere confession and repentance put you in a position for Yahshua Messiah (aka. Jesus the Christ) to do for you, that which only He can.

Watch this -Lazarus had passed away, he'd been dead for four days and when Yahshua Messiah showed up to work on his behalf; He was told that Lazarus' situation had 'stinketh' by now.

John.11: 39. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

At times, people (especially religious-

folks) or close relatives would have a problem with your restoration by the Lord, and would give good reasonable comments as to why you should not be restored. But God, looks beyond our faults and despite the naysayer's His grace and mercy reaches to the lowest valley and touches us.

Here's what Yahshua said to the people after He resurrected Lazarus from the dead, that stink situation.

John.11: 44. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave-clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

Okay, you might say to me: "Pastor Allen, you don't know my situation; I'm about to lose my home to the bank, I've lost my job, my child / children are in private school or away in college and I don't have a dollar" "I'm getting pressure from all sides and now my wife / husband is threatening to leave due to our financial hardship / situation.

Well, it's in times such as these that God (Yahweh) wants to show you that He is God, and despite your doubt or unfaithfulness in the past He would yet do for you, that which only He can do.

2Tim.2:13. If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

There is not a man or woman (dead or

alive) that hasn't had their share of challenges and as we continue to live; life's test, trials and challenges will always seek to hold us hostage. But you've got to authoritatively command these challenges to "loose me, and let me go"

Please note: I'm not talking about religion, nor do I care which religion you follow; as life's challenges care not if you're a Baptist, Anglican, Catholic, Methodist, or whatever other kind.

This is solely about a move of God, His intervention into your situations. Your obedience to receive what God is doing and speaking to your spirit as you're reading this article will determine the outcome of your situation.

As Yahshua spoke to them (the people) present at Lazarus' resurrection "Loose him, and let him go (John.11:44)" So do I speak to every negative spirit / force that's trying to hold you hostage "Loose him / her, and let them go"

If God be for you, who can be against you:

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 • For questions or comments contact us via E-mails: pastormallen@yahoo.com or kmfci@live.com or phone 1-242-441-2021
 Pastors Matthew & Brendalee Allen
 Kingdom Minded Fellowship Center Int'l.

The inauguration of the Daughters of Zion

THE Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church recently hosted the inauguration of the "Daughters of Zion" at Shaw Temple AME Zion Church located on Peter Street and Blue Hill Road.

The mission of the Daughters of Zion is to renew the mindsets of the workforce.

According to the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society: "The Daughters of Zion is an organisa-

tion being birthed by venerable public servants who have been anointed to reach the masses throughout the Bahamas, giving attention to the strategic roles of government, the church and civil servants, to combine our efforts to ensure the sustainability of our nation for the future. The meticulous focus is geared to youth and women through sharing, caring and empowering lives as God directs and as the Holy Spirit leads.

"We are humanitarians and hand-

maidens commissioned to ensure that the mandate of government is carried out through effective programs and initiatives in order that God's glory is manifested on earth."

Stating their vision in a statement, the church said: "The Daughters of Zion are nation builders of great affluence and influence. They are strategically positioned, mentally equipped and physically prepared in our various portfolios to revitalise our government's ministries, Departments,

Judicial and Social services with special emphasis on women and youth."

"We will galvanise strong women of faith from throughout the public and private sectors, networking toward one common goal, recovering our nation, regardless of one's religious, political or socio-economic background."

The Daughters of Zion must by example demonstrate a renewed commitment to good governance as stakeholders uniting toward one common goal, a better Bahamas."

Northern Star Burial Society celebrates 70th anniversary

IN CELEBRATION of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Northern Star Burial Society, a special Mass of Thanksgiving was recently held at Saint Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, Mastic Point North Andros.

The Reverend Father Jude Edomwonyi, Priest-in-Charge of Saint Mary Magdalene and Saint Margaret's Parish was the preacher and celebrant. Present at the service was Vincent Peet, MP North Andros and the Berry Islands and many government functionaries and corporate citizens

The Northern Star Burial Society was established on November 9, 1940, by Gertrude Simms; who saw the need for the women in the Andros community to organise themselves. The first meeting took place at Wesley Methodist Church Mastic Point North Andros. Eight women were present at the meeting. They were Amelia Rolle (deceased) who played a pivotal role in shaping this organisation into what is it today. Mildred Munnings, Aramina Bain, Irene Wilson (deceased), Emerald Bowleg (deceased), Juanita Oliver (deceased), Enid Storr (deceased) and Iris Munnings (deceased).

A few years after the establishment of the society, doors were open for men to become part of the organisation. Today under the leadership of Carlton Bowleg as president and pastor Joseph Oliver as vice president, the Northern Star Burial Society has become one of the fastest growing organisations in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas with over eight hundred active members nationwide.

To their credit, the society now has their own meeting hall and a chapel for performing funerals for members with no church affiliation. With only two dollars monthly dues members receives five thousand dollars death benefit. The society offers many social programs to members and to the wider community such as Sick Aid, Emergency Fund, Bread Basket and Scholarships.



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: From left, Carlton Bowleg (President, Northern Star Burial Society, Andros), Rev Fr Jude Edomwonyi (Priest-in-Charge of St Mary Magdalene and St Margaret's Anglican Church, Andros), and Vincent Peet (Member of Parliament North Andros and Berry Islands).



Long Island Schools celebrate the District Carol Service

MELODIOUS songs of Christmas belted through the air of the Highway Church of God as students in Long Island presented the annual District Carol Service under the theme "A promise of Hope."

A cross section of students from all the Long Island schools showcased their talents after many weeks of practice.

The Annual District Carol Service was moderated by Jermaine 'Turkey' Adderley who is the ministry of youth liaison officer for the island. The musician for the entire event was music teacher at the North Long Island School accompanied by a band ensemble comprised of North Long Island High. He along with his band led the praise and worship segment just before the 10am start time. District superintendent and veteran educator Basil McHardy brought greetings on behalf of the Ministry of Education and reminded teachers and students that Jesus is still the true meaning for the Christmas season. Fr Chester Burton, rector of St Peter's Anglican Parish brought the message.

Fr Burton began by saying as a boy growing up in St Barnabas Church in Nassau, he could remember his rector Fr Gilbert Thompson always saying: "The Son of God became Son of Man, so that the sons of men can become sons of God." He further went

on to state that this is the mystery of the incarnation which took place when Jesus came to the earth to dwell with humanity.

Fr Burton took youngsters on a virtual tour of the creation story and reenacted the event so the youngsters could understand why Jesus was sent to restore the bond corroded by the act/sin Adam and Eve committed. All throughout the pages of the Old Testament, prophet, priest and king wonder and questioned in their heart about this God who created humans and left them to fend for themselves until prophets like Isaiah for example started to proclaim that Jesus would be born. Isaiah chapter 9 verse 6 "...and He shall be called wonderful, counselor, mighty god, everlasting father, Prince of Peace."

The birth of Jesus initiates the salvation process of humanity and John's gospel records in the prologue: "And the word became flesh and dwelt among us."

The day's event ended on a high note with the district of Long Island paying homage to one of its own- Sherry Fox for her long years of dedicated service to the Long Island District and to the students of Mangrove Bush in particular where she served as principal for many years. The day ended and light refreshments were served to all in attendance.



YOUNG VOICES: The children of Long Island belted out Christmas selections at a special holiday concert.