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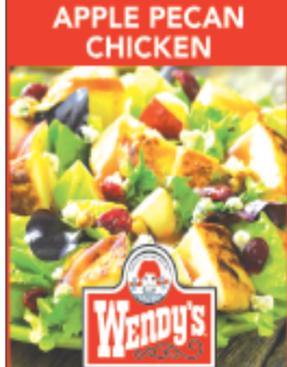
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SEE SECTION E



School in shock suicide bid rate

THREE MAJOR HOUSE BREAK-IN RINGS SMASHED

POLICE officers from the South Western Division have broken up three major house break-in rings, and are searching for the leaders of two other gangs.

Showcasing thousands of dollars worth of electronics, jewellery, and other household items stolen from homes over the past few months, Superintendent Paul Rolle said officers have 10 people in custody in relation to 44 house break-ins.

They also expect to charge another six people they have in custody with a number of other

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Ministry team attempts to find reasons for trend

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

A SPATE of teenage suicide attempts at a Bahamas high school forced Ministry of Education officials to dispatch a research team to find out if there are common socio-economic threads behind the disturbing trend.

Six students in the public high school system have tried to kill themselves during the fall term – from September to December – said adolescent psychologist Sterling Gardiner, of the ministry's Special Services Unit.

Four of these students attend the Anatol Rodgers High School, at Faith Avenue South, Nassau.

"It has increased. For instance, right here in New Providence we've had two last week at one of the high schools, and that will make that the fifth or sixth for the term, most of them at one

particular school, Anatol Rodgers. Compared to last year, we had about two and both were in the out islands," said Mr Gardiner, who did not have more detailed statistics.

In September, a distressed 15-year-old student at the school was thwarted by an administrator but not before the teenager injured himself with a pair of scissors. The boy was talking to an official about his personal problems shortly before he began cutting himself. Education Minister Desmond Bannister called the incident a "cry for help" from the student.

Education officials want to know if the worrisome development is a symptom of deeper issues affecting southern New Providence. Students enrolled at the school come from nearby South Beach, Carmichael and Cow Pen Road.

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POLICE LAUNCH ISLAND-WIDE NIGHT PATROL



PATROL: Chief Superintendent Emerick Seymour (below) speaks to the media last night about the new night patrol which is underway (main picture).

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

AFFIRMING their commitment to keeping the streets safe in the midst of a surge in violent crime, police launched an island-wide night patrol in the capital.

Commanding officers and top offi-

cial from each of the seven major districts in New Providence hit the streets last night in an effort to deter criminal activity through increased presence.

Each night patrol teams led by top officials from each district will execute road checks in different areas within their precinct.

Emerick Seymour, Chief Superintendent and officer in charge of the



Central Police Station, said: "This is just the tip of the iceberg, we're starting tonight but we are going to go into the foreseeable future – we're going to be in different areas every night throughout the island of New Providence. Each

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CUSTOMS 'CANNOT ALLOW AIRPLANES IN COUNTRY WITHOUT PAYING DUTY'

By **NOELLE NICOLLS**
 Tribune Staff Reporter
 nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

THERE is no policy or legal provision giving anyone in customs the authority to allow people to bring in airplanes without paying duty, Glenn Gomez, Comptroller of Customs, said yesterday.

"There appears to have been some reason as to why the taxes were not collected. I am not privy to those reasons.

I am not going to go back to try to find those people in retirement and ask them why. It happened. It is not my fault. It went on. My job is to correct that," said Mr Gomez, who assumed the head office in the Department of Customs last year.

Members of the Bahamas Aviation Association claim it has "always, always" been the stated position of customs that

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GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING STEPS TO REGULATE GOLD-BUYING INDUSTRY

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

THE Government is actively considering steps to regulate the gold-buying industry in the Bahamas, according to Minister of Finance Zhivargo Laing.

Police note that there is no substantial evidence at this time to link the increase in break-ins and

robberies to the increase of operators in the gold-buying industry.

However, residents and victims of theft on two islands insist the growing number of robberies are directly correlated to the proliferation of gold merchants.

Hulan Hanna, assistant commissioner of police,

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LOCAL NEWS

AUTOPSY COMPLETED ON MAN SHOT IN BAIN TOWN

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

POLICE announced yesterday that the autopsy on 19-year-old Sharmoco Newbold, who was shot and killed in Bain Town last week Monday, has been completed.

Assistant Commissioner Hulan Hanna told *The Tribune* that Newbold's file has now been sent to the Coroner's office in preparation for an inquest into his death.

Disturbance

Newbold was reportedly shot in the head while fleeing from police in the Hospital Lane and Meadow Street area on November 20.

His death sparked a heated disturbance in the area, which led to police officers being attacked by a crowd and pelted with rocks.

Police initially promised to make a statement on his death by Wednesday last week, but then said they had to await the completion of the autopsy.

However, now that the pathologist's report is complete, it is unlikely that there will be a further statement from the police before the matter goes before the Coroner's Court.

Bain Town confrontations 'could escalate unless social issues addressed'

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

AGGRESSIVE confrontations between police and Bain Town residents will continue and possibly escalate unless the area's underlying social and economic issues are addressed, Rev CB Moss warned.

In a press conference held yesterday, Rev Moss said the anger, grief and frustration expressed by the community following the fatal shooting of 19-year-old Sharmoco Newbold on November 20 was fueled by "long standing major social and economic structural deficiencies."

Economic hardship, lack of discipline and a severe shortage of youth programmes, the breakdown of the family, limited and decaying infrastructure and

the heavy-handedness of police were listed as some of the sources of unrest.

Although thankfully averted, the situation threatened to "explode into a bloody riot" said Rev Moss.

"The incident in all of its ugliness should be viewed as a wake-up call to the government and other authorities that unless these failures and deficiencies are urgently addressed, similar and even more serious incidents will occur.

"The residents of Bain Town were traumatised by the tragedy and the effects are still widely felt," said Rev Moss.

Conducting walkabouts and issuing press statements will do very little to reduce the high emotions still present in the community.

Rev Moss called for a transparent investigation into the death of Newbold



BAIN TOWN: Rev CB Moss at the scene of the recent disturbance.

and for the results, in their entirety, to be made available to the public.

The Bain Town Advancement Association and other residents of the community have requested a meeting with Commissioner of Police Ellison Greenslade and Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham to discuss various necessary improvements to law enforcement protocol and other developments that the

community deems critical to the orderly and peaceful development of the community.

Rev Moss went on to say that the Bain Town community recognises its responsibility and obligation to contribute to its own advancement and has plans to develop several new initiatives and expand on programmes already in place in this regard.



THE RED CROSS' newest Christmas card depicts a Royal Poinciana in 'May Bloom'.

Red Cross 'Celebrating the Colours of the Bahamas'

THE Bahamas Red Cross Society is "Celebrating the Colours of the Bahamas" in its Christmas card selection for 2010.

The newest card depicts the splendor of the Royal Poinciana in "May Bloom" – an oil on canvas painting by artist Anthony 'Big Mo' Morley.

A limited selection of cards remain from the 2009 and 2008 issues, the Red Cross said.

The cards are available for purchase and early mailing at Red Cross Headquarters on John F Kennedy Drive.

Sales support the ongoing relief efforts of the Red Cross Society throughout the Bahamas.



'THE JUNKANOOER' is one of the designs of the limited selection of cards that remain from 2009 and 2008.



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LOCAL NEWS

OPPOSITION LEADER, PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES TOUR \$198M FIRST PHASE OF EXPANSION

Christie 'relives' Airport vision

OPPOSITION Leader Perry Christie, along with a number of his parliamentary colleagues, toured the \$198 million first phase of the expansion of the Lynden Pindling International Airport yesterday.

Noticeably proud at what he called the fulfillment of plans he left in place before his party left office in 2007, Mr Christie said it was pleasure for he and his colleagues to "relive" the original vision.

Addressing the media outside of the new multi-million dollar US departure terminal, Mr Christie said the project is one that the Bahamian people can be "very, very proud of".

The first phase of the project, which is expected to be completed and open by March of 2011, includes the construction of a 247,000 sq ft US departure terminal and pier.

The second phase will begin in October 2012, and includes the transformation of the existing US Departure terminal into an international terminal, while phase three will involve the construction of a new international and domestic arrivals terminal.

At the time of the signing of the multi-million dollar management contract with the Canadian airport management company Vancouver



PERRY CHRISTIE

Airport Services (YVRAS), then minister of aviation, Glenys Hanna-Martin, said the move will transform the country's main gateway by giving LPIA a "sense of place".

After touring the facility yesterday with her party colleagues, Mrs Hanna-Martin said she was filled with pride.

"This airport is meant to illustrate, exhibit, and exemplify the importance of our economy and our archipelago configuration. To hear that our artists, our sculptors are going to have pride of place in this airport is such a wonderful experience of pride for me.

"So I am just very, very pleased. It is in itself an experience - as you move through

it, they will have bands outside playing Bahamian music. But also, we are an archipelago, this will be the central hub for our archipelago and all of our people will interconnect with each other through this place. And I think it will in that way serve to enhance our oneness," she said.

Endorsing what his colleagues had already said, former minister of tourism, Obie Wilchcombe, added that Grand Bahama likewise needs a company like YVRAS that can create an airport that will bring new business to the Bahamas.

"So you will have the partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, the partnership with the airport operator, and the government generally, and you will then ensure that your numbers will continue to improve, that your country's economy continues to grow, and that you are presenting what they said already will be the best in the entire Caribbean," Mr Wilchcombe said.

Mr Christie added: "This is clearly a project that the PLP envisioned and left in place. It began when we came to power and had a disastrous experience when briefed that runway 1432 was a disaster waiting to take place. And we had to therefore embark on mak-

ing that ready for the kind of industry that we have. And so truly beginning with that experience, and moving through the management

agreement, the appointment, and where we are today, we are pleased as a political organisation," he said.

JUDICIAL REVIEW TO BE SOUGHT OVER BELL ISLAND DECISION, SAYS LOCAL ATTORNEY



EARL DEVEAUX

A JUDICIAL review will be sought over the decision to allow for the redevelopment of Bell Island, according to a local attorney.

In a press release, attorney Keod Smith stated that steps will be taken to start a judicial review of the decision by Environment Minister Earl Deveaux to grant permission to dredge and excavate more than 12 acres of land and sea at the 349-acre island in the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park.

Plans to dredge three areas to accommodate vessels up to 150 ft long, excavate a marina and redevelop a barge landing, were submitted by Islands of Discovery Ltd after Prince Karim Aga Khan bought the island last year.

The permits will allow developers to excavate 4.32 acres of upland area for the yacht basin, 2.56 acres of marine area for an outer channel, 4.28 acres of marine area for a barge landing and 1.9 acres of marine area for the outer area of the barge landing within 11 months.

Mr Smith said: "I have been authorised to say that steps will be taken to commence judicial review of the decision of Dr Deveaux in his capacity as minister to allow for the redevelopment of Bell Island in the manner which has been announced by him, his ministry and the BNT."

"The impact upon my clients, who are Bahamian citizens, is that the pristine nature of the park and the marine and land habitat of creatures inclusive of those that are endangered and/or under statutory protection will be put in jeopardy.

"This decision therefore will have a grave economic impact upon my clients and followed a process which we assert is both illegal and procedurally unfair."

Mr Smith did not name his clients, stating only that he was approached by concerned citizens who wanted to explore the legal options available to them.

COURT NEWS

Six in court in connection with seizure of drugs and the possession of firearms and ammunition

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT - Six men were arraigned in the Eight Mile Rock Magistrate's Court in connection with the seizure of a large quantity of illegal drugs and possession of firearms and ammunition.

Ezra Rolle of Bailey Town, Bimini; Shirlin Woodside of South Beach, New Providence; Jeffrey Rolle and Valentino Barr of Lowe Sound, Andros; and Grand Bahama residents Rafael Valdez of Freeport and Lincoln Johnson of Holmes Rock, appeared before Magistrate Gwen Claude.

The men were charged with possession of illegal drugs with intent to supply.

It is alleged that on Novem-

ber 28, Valdez being concerned together with others was found in possession of over 400 pounds of suspected marijuana.

The men were also accused of possessing illegal firearms and ammunition. It is alleged that on November 27, at Bottle Bay, the accused were found in possession of a Magnum and ammunition.

It is also alleged that Valdez was found in possession of a 9mm pistol with 16 live rounds of ammunition.

The men pleaded not guilty to the charges. Valdez was denied bail and remanded in custody at Fox Hill Prison.

The other five men were granted \$10,000 bail with sureties. The matter was adjourned to July 13, 2011.

In other court matters, Andrew Pinder was charged with possession of an illegal

firearm. He pleaded not guilty to the charge and was granted \$7,500 bail. The matter was adjourned to March 1, 2011.

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Fred Cadman served his community well

IN HISTORIC Trinity Methodist Church yesterday afternoon the last chapter in the life story of a little Welshman, who touched the lives of so many generations of Bahamians, came to an end.

Fred Cadman, 89, a man with an easy smile, a constant chuckle and a hand always extended in friendship, was born in the remote parish of Cileau-Aeron on the river Aeron in Wales on June 10, 1921.

His early life was not easy and during the depression years he had to work hard with his parents, and elder brother to survive. The boys planted the vegetables and coaxed eggs from the chickens.

Matriculating at 15 he entered St David's College in the nearby town of Lampeter where at 19 he earned his Bachelor's degree, and starred as a long distance runner, a soccer player — receiving his soccer colours at 17 — and winning several trophies in track and field.

But before his degree could be conferred upon him, he was drafted into the Royal Air Force — that famous air squadron of which Winston Churchill once said: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

He served in England, Scotland, Wales and Norway before joining the RAF station in Nassau during the second world war. He was one of several young RAF boys — about 12 in all — who met their future wives here and put down permanent roots in the Bahamas. With his death their numbers are fast dwindling, thus ending a glorious chapter in the fight for a free world played out on the shores of the Bahamas. The only ones of their number now left are Roy Smith in Spanish Wells, Ron Hicks in Nassau, Fred Ross in Harbour Island, and Lynn Jones who moved to Canada.

Fred Cadman had many strings to his versatile bow.

He worked his way through college as a freelance reporter, and after the war was given a refresher teachers' course at Nottingham University. After demobilization, he taught at a private school in Wales.

But for almost two years after the war the memory of a beautiful young girl — Yvonne Curry — who he had met at a dance during a rest and recuperation weekend at Spanish Wells disturbed his slumbers.

He returned to the Bahamas in 1947 and a few days later Elizabeth Yvonne Curry

and Charles Frederick Cadman were married in a ceremony that was attended by the whole Spanish Wells community. He was 26 years old. For the next 63 years he truly became an integral part of the fabric of life in the Bahamas. In 1975 he was made a "Belonger" will full citizenship.

Mr Cadman taught at Queen's College for a number of years, and several of his former students, themselves now gray of hair, walked behind his coffin yesterday. From "Mr Cadman," their teacher, he became "Fred" their friend when as grown men they were taken into his inner circle.

In recent years, he was a part of the "coffee group," made up of former presidents of Rotary, who met on a few Saturdays each month to chat and share companionship. Dr Sidney Sweeting, Trevor Sunderland, and other faithful friends always made certain that he was collected for the meetings and taken home afterwards. Dr Sweeting, one of his students at Queen's College, said that the last time he took him home he did not think that 10 days later he would be delivering the eulogy over the coffin of his old teacher and friend.

Fred Cadman was active in the community belonging to groups and associations that would give him a wide circle of friends who he cherished and who cherished him.

Sitting in Trinity Church yesterday we thought of the miracle of one man who touched so many lives and felt at ease across a span of several generations. For example, in our family the late Sir Etienne Dupuch — who was born 111 years ago was 22 years older than his dear friend Fred; his late son-in-law, Roger Carron, a fellow Rotarian, was 10 year's younger, and Roger's son, Robert, 49 years younger still, yet all called him friend and felt as comfortable with him as if they were of one age.

That was indeed the miracle of Fred Cadman — he was indeed a true friend to many. He came to the Bahamas and what he saw he loved. He became a part of a Spanish Wells family and identified with a cross-section of the Bahamian community to which he made a great contribution.

The Bahamas is indeed richer for having had this cheerful Welshman amongst us. He has left behind a fine Bahamian family to continue in his tradition of service and friendship.

May his soul rest in peace.

A bronze statue in memory of Sir Lynden Pindling? Give us a break

EDITOR, The Tribune.

In the 23rd October edition of The Nassau Guardian appeared a letter from a senior resident of San Salvador, who had no problem signing his name to an article, calling for the erection of a statue in memory of the late Sir Milo Butler, and gave his reasons for making such a call. I disagreed with his call, and wrote to the press giving my reasons for so doing. In today's publication (16th Nov. 2010) in the Letters to the Editor column of The Nassau Guardian is another letter, whose author chose not to use his/her moniker, but rather hide under the blanket of a "Concerned Citizen" while making an impassioned plea for the erection of a 25 or 30 foot bronze statue to commemorate the late Sir Lynden Pindling.

I am obliged to repeat the same question that I asked of the senior citizen of San Salvador: "For what?" The writer did say that he/she was making what many would consider a strange and somewhat startling proposition. I for one do not find it strange or startling. It would appear to me that the writer must have had a nightmare that he/she had mistaken for a dream. He/she said that some may say that it sounds unworkable, and even ridiculous; it really is.

There is nothing, and I mean nothing that is historical about the round-about at East Street; Lynden Pindling was not born in East Street. There is no documentation to be found anywhere in this country confirming his birth, except an affidavit in 1948 by a Justice of the Peace, claiming that he was born in the Bahamas. It has been claimed that he attended school in Jamaica until he was about twelve years old, when he came to Nassau on a three-masted schooner, The Vera P Thornhill, which plied between The Turks and Caicos, Nassau and Kingston, Jamaica, in care of one Mr Williams, the cook. He lived with his father on East Street until he left for the UK in the late 1940's to study law.

While reading this letter, I was wondering if the writer was really referring to the Lynden Oscar Pindling whose father was a member of The Bahamas Police Force, who used to reside on the corner of Odle Corner and East Street next to the Coakleys. There must be another person with the same moniker whom the writer is referring to.

To call the terms in reference to Lynden Pindling's status that were posthumously bestowed on him by political counterparts, viz: Father of the Nation, bringing into being Majority Rule, Fighting for Independence, and many more myths, meagre, is sheer lunacy.

Lynden Oscar Pindling did make some substantial contributions to our social structure, but those mentioned above that are commonly referred to as contributions of his, are not among them. National Insurance, educating of the masses and the creation of a number of black millionaires, were his major contributions.

He did absolutely nothing to earn the title of Father of the Nation, except being in the right place at the right time. Sir Randol Fawkes and Sir Alvin Braynen were responsible for bringing about Majority Rule, and as far as Independence for the Bahamas is concerned, no one had to fight for that.

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

During the 1967 and 1968 General elections, Pindling and his party, the PLP campaigned against Independence, telling the masses that if the UBP won the election, they would take the country into Independence and make slaves out of all black people. There are a number of persons involved in those elections still alive and who can attest to that fact.

It was after winning the 1968 elections and realising that Independence was inevitable and sensing an opportunity to gain political mileage and glory from it, that he made an issue out of it. In fact, in his speech from the throne in 1968, he said that his government would not seek Independence.

There are a large number of young people in this country who are under the impression that Lynden Pindling was one of the founding members of the PLP; he was not. All of the members of the PLP, barring none, that rose to fame and glory as members of that party, were band wagnons; they hopped on when they saw that it was a very promising vehicle on which they could ride to Fame, Glory and Riches. Those who formed the entity, one of whom is still alive today languishing in an old folks home (William "Bill" Cartwright) in dire circumstances, are forgotten by the Fat Cats of the party, who are enjoying the fruits of the sacrifices and hardships rendered to them by the mercantile oligarchy of that era.

Yet we have an unknown writer calling for a 30-foot bronze statue, in these hard financial times, to be erected to one of the usurpers of the party, who became a political tyrant, and reversed racist, who victimised, intimidated and destroyed a galaxy of promising politicians in this nation, while victimising and destroying untold numbers of Bahamian families in his ruthless governance by victimisation, nepotism, cronyism, intimidation and corruption. A man whose Government appointed a Blue Ribbon Commission of Enquiry, that, in a minority report condemned him. A man who brought this nation into disrepute in the eyes of the international community and earned this nation the reputation of "A Nation for Sale."

If you, unknown writer, are so intensely interested

in erecting statues to deserving Bahamians who fought, bled, sweated, suffered and shed tears while in the forefront of the battle to bring about most of the changes that created the Bahamas of today, that so many of us enjoy without knowing how we have reached to this point, and a large number of us who were deluded by glory seekers and their gofers as to why we are here, suppose you look carefully at the following and make a choice:

Sir Randol Fawkes, the Father of Labour Unions and one of the men who was responsible for Majority Rule and the formation of the first and only Coalition Government in this nation up to this time.

Sir Alvin Braynen, the other man responsible for Majority Rule or Sir Etienne Dupuch, the man whose Resolution in Parliament in 1956 was responsible for the ending of discrimination in this country.

Sir Stafford Lofthouse Sands, the architect of our successful financial system and Sir Henry Milton Taylor, Cyril St John Stevenson, William "Bill" Cartwright, Urban Knowles, and Charles Rodriguez, who were the founding fathers of the PLP.

I can assure you that you will find very few Bahamians, if any, of yesteryear who would object to the choice of any one of them; but I can assure you that there are tens of thousands, like me, who are in disagreement with what you are now suggesting.

I am not denying the fact that Lynden Oscar Pindling does have a place in history; in fact, I will be the first to admit that he stands alone and, in my opinion is unequalled in the art of victimization, intimidation, reverse racism and corruption. Also in my opinion he could stand tall beside the likes of Idi Amin, Mugabe, Gadaffi, Charles Taylor and Sadam Hussein. I am of the opinion that, but for Lynden Pindling, this archipelago called The Commonwealth of the Bahamas would have been a far better place in which to live.

He single handedly destroyed discipline and the morale in our once disciplined and efficient police force, and, again in my opinion, bears some responsibility for the wholesale corruption in the civil service.

Please letter writer, give us a break.

ERRINGTON

W I WATKINS

Nassau,
November 17, 2010.

I SUGGEST BAHAMAR MAKE PUBLIC THEIR MARKETING STUDY

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I suggest Baha Mar needs to make public their marketing study which can show and prove that both Baha Mar and Atlantis can in 2010 and futuristically after their opening co-exist.

Whoever they used, be it Global Insight or HVS, to do their Strategic Studies, I suggest Bahamian Joe Public needs to know. The Opposition is supporting their position that both can co-exist based on a study written pre-2007 and the financial crisis of September, 2008.

Check, Editor, rather than having more and more of our journalists swinged by the PR and simple propaganda of Baha Mar — the truth is just a goggle away!

Is Las Vegas doing better than Orlando at this time? Las Vegas mega resorts are all changing their marketing to include family whilst we hear that Baha Mar is going to do the opposite.

Risque whatever that means — so the couples-only marketing which Sandals does so very successfully is under fire and the hedonistic approach of Breezes also, so will Baha Mar put both of those hotels out of business?

The spin that Mr Sands continues to use that there will only be 1,500 "new" rooms is a mirage as Baha Mar will be relaunched or launched as a 3,500 roomed comprehensive resort experience — yes it is convenient now to say 1,500 rooms, but, in my opinion, it is a tall story of the truth.

H HUMES

Nassau,
November 26, 2010.



Employment Opportunity

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Bahamas aims to be more 'competitive' as destination

THE Bahamas is positioning itself to become a more competitive and attractive tourist and investment destination, Ambassador Joshua Sears told the Americas Competitiveness Forum 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Taking part in the forum's Regional Market Opportunities (RMO) panel, Ambassador Sears discussed national projects and competitiveness priorities over the next five years in terms of infrastructure, innovation, education and other sectors of strategic economic importance, as well as the best prospects and market opportunities.

The Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF) is the Western Hemisphere's pre-eminent event for government and business leaders to discuss innovative methods to achieve economic competitiveness and promote innovation in the Americas.

At the ACF, held November 14-16, more than 1,000 participants had the opportunity to contribute and learn how to improve the way business is done in the Americas.

The Bahamas is listed at 64th in the annual competitiveness ranking of the world's leading financial centres. Its financial services sector is the second

Ambassador speaks at forum in the US

strongest pillar of the economy, contributing more than 20 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product.

Ambassador Sears, who is Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, listed a number of initiatives the Bahamas is undertaking to set itself up as a competitive and attractive place for doing business, and for economic growth and development.

The Bahamas is seeking membership in the World Trade Organisation, which will result in major reforms in foreign trade, internal trade, intellectual property, trademarks, copyright and industrial property, government procurement and investment.

"The government is seeking to introduce laws that will significantly enhance the Bahamas' competitiveness in the above-mentioned areas," Ambassador Sears said.

"The Bahamas is an open economy and we fully expect the Bahamian market for foreign goods and services to grow from current levels in line with

the overall continuing growth and development of the Bahamian economy."

The government has also embarked upon a major infrastructural development programme, which when completed will improve access to services and significantly improve the overall development and competitiveness of the Bahamian economy, the ambassador said.

Other projects in the works are the implementation of an e-Government system - allowing access to business licenses online; the Nassau Harbour Development Project and Port Relocation; the City of Nassau Revitalisation Project, to include the rebuilding of the straw market; the redevelopment of the Lynden Pindling International Airport; and the New Providence Road Improvement Project.

Ambassador Sears also told the forum that plans are underway for Abaco, the third largest economy in the Bahamas, where a \$19.2 million government administrative office is to



COMPETITIVE: Ambassador Joshua Sears

be constructed. This island will also get a new power plant to meet the energy needs of that fast-growing community.

In terms of the private sector, the Bahamas Oil Refinery Company in Freeport is up for expansion, which Vopak-Grand Bahama will undertake to the tune of \$300 million.

And in New Providence, the Baha Mar Cable Beach redevelopment project - a \$2.6 billion venture encompassing the construction of 2,200 new rooms, casinos and a golf course - should soon be under way, Ambassador Sears said.

HAITI: LEADING CANDIDATES BACK OFF CALLS FOR VOTE CANCELLATION

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

INTERNATIONAL observers played down allegations of widespread fraud in Haiti's critical post-quake election as ballots began to be counted at an industrial park in the capital Monday, according to Associated Press.

At the same time, a pair of leading presidential candidates, each sensing a potential berth in a likely runoff, broke with rivals who had said in the midst of voting Sunday that the election was illegitimate and should be thrown out.

The largest observer mission, a joint effort by the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community, said in a report Monday that the election was marred because many people were blocked from voting by rampant disorganization.

It also cited fraudulent repeat voting facilitated by poll workers and party agents, "deliberate acts of violence and intimi-

ation to derail the electoral process" and other infractions. But after considering those problems, the mission concluded that it "does not believe that these irregularities, serious as they were, necessarily invalidated the process."

The mission's 120 observers had planned to visit about 40 percent of the 1,500 voting centers, OAS Assistant Secretary-General Albert Ramdin said before the vote. Other observers included a small European Union team, a much larger group of national observers and visitors including a delegation of 12 U.S. Congress members.

Concerns about the potential for unrest have risen since many of the 19 presidential candidates gathered at mid-afternoon Sunday to allege that the voting fraud was designed to help President Rene Preval's preferred successor, state construction company chief Jude Celestin.

Second man charged in BTC armed robbery

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

A SECOND man charged in last Friday's armed robbery of BTC's Shirley Street office was arraigned in Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Police have now charged 19-year-old Desmond Pratt of Elizabeth Estates in connection with the incident.

Pratt, who was arraigned before Deputy Chief Magistrate Carolita Bethel, is accused of robbing Janet Cooper of \$787.69 while being concerned with another and armed with a handgun.

The accused is represented by lawyer Calvin Seymour and was not required to enter a plea to the charge.

He is charged with 27-year-old Godfrey

Hepburn of St James Road. Hepburn was arraigned on the charge on Tuesday.

Another man, 35-year-old Owen Rolle, who was also arrested in connection with the incident, collapsed and died while in custody at the Central Detective Unit (CDU).

Police said the man was sitting quietly waiting to be questioned when it was noticed that he was breathing heavily and then he suddenly collapsed.

Pratt was remanded to Her Majesty's Prison.

He and Hepburn are expected back in court on December 13 when prosecutors will indicate whether they will proceed with a Voluntary Bill of Indictment in this case, fast-tracking it to the Supreme Court, or by way of preliminary hearing in the Magistrate's Court.

Drop-off in unemployment assistance claimants 'signals economy recovery'

THERE has been a 45 per cent decrease in the number of Bahamians applying for the unemployment benefits assistance for the months of August, September and October compared to the same months last year, Labour Minister Dion Foulkes said.

"The significant drop-off in applicants for the unemployment benefits indicates that the economy is improving," he told those in attendance at the opening ceremonies of the National Congress of Trade Unions' (TUC) Triennial General Meeting this week.

"We firmly believe that we have seen the worst of the recession and as the prime minister recently said, we are now in the recovery mode."

Giving details about the unemployment assistance programme, Mr Foulkes said in August 2009 there were 1,118 claims made; for September, 1,079 claims, and for October, 880; for a total of 3,



ECONOMY: Labour Minister Dion Foulkes

077 claims made during that three-month period in 2009.

"For this year the claims were as follows; August, 644; September, 623, and October, 441. This total is 1,708," the minister said.

"As in all relationships there have been areas of disagreement but we have been able to work through them.

This is primarily because the government has maintained an open door policy and also helped to mediate a number of disputes, most recently the workers of Kentucky Fried Chicken and Bahamas Restaurants."

Mr Foulkes said he has also given formal recognition to the Bahamas Communications and Public Managers Union as the bargaining agent for the middle management employees of the Central Bank of the Bahamas.

"Within the last month the government has successfully negotiated a million-dollar training programme for Bahamian workers, who will be employed in the construction of Baha Mar.

"I believe that the combined efforts of this government and the National Congress of Trade Unions of the Bahamas will ensure that the best days of the Bahamian worker lie ahead," he said.

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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

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TOO MANY CATS & KITTENS!!!

The Bahamas Humane Society is overflowing with cats and kittens who desperately need loving homes.

All adoption fees on cats and kittens are being waived until Monday December 6th.

Please stop by Mon-Fri during the hours of 11pm -4pm or on Sat from 11pm-1pm. For more information Call 323-5138 or 325-6742.

LOCAL NEWS

CUBAN EMBASSY TO REINFORCE CHOLERA FIGHT IN HAITI



MICHELET COMPERE, 14, suffering cholera symptoms, is carried on a stretcher by relatives during a four hour trip from their remote village of Pond Chevalier to the hospital in Grande Riu Du Nord village, Haiti, Monday Nov. 29, 2010. The cholera epidemic has killed at least 1,600 people. (AP)

THE CUBAN Embassy in the Bahamas has announced that the Cuban Medical Brigade fighting the cholera epidemic in Haiti is to be reinforced with the addition of 300 doctors, nurses and health technicians.

The addition of this contingent, part of the "Henry Reeve Brigade", will bring the number of Cuban medical personnel working to stem the tide of the outbreak to 1,200.

The announcement comes less than a week after United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Valerie Amos, declared that 350 doctors and 2,000 nurses were urgently needed in Haiti.

A statement from the Cuban Embassy said: "Haiti needs the help of the international community for fighting its cholera epidemic."

"Different UN officials were lamenting the fact in the last few days that the response from the international community to the call for aid made to confront the situation was not even reaching 10 per cent of the

\$164 million urgently being requested."

According to Haiti's Ministry of Health, as of November 29, the death toll as a result of the epidemic was 1,721.

The head of Cuban Medical Brigade in Haiti has said almost 40 per cent of the sick have been treated by Cuban doctors.

"They have managed to reduce the number of dead to less than one for each 100," the embassy's statement said. "As a norm, the people dying were extremely weakened by malnutrition or other similar causes. Children, who are detected on time, generally do not die."

The embassy said the Cuban Medical Mission is looking after 37 centres dealing with the epidemic, and have so far cared for 26,040 persons affected with cholera.

They reportedly plan to add 12 more centres immediately, with 1,100 new beds in purpose-built tents made in Norway, which have been purchased with earthquake relief funds by Venezuela and donated to the Cuban efforts in Haiti.

Minister of Education hails new 'landmark' programme

MINISTER of Education Desmond Bannister hailed the new Academic Resiliency Leadership Programme which seeks to offer students all the necessary guidance and resources during their tertiary education as a "landmark undertaking".

"Not only have we piloted it here in the Bahamas, we have also pioneered the programme in both Jamaica and St Lucia and in the process have helped hundreds of students," Mr Bannister said during the ceremony to announce the conclusion of the programme on Monday.

The aim of the three-year project, which was coordinated by the College of the Bahamas' Counselling Department and funded by the Organisation of American States, was to ensure students benefitted from the guidance and resources made available to them.

"There are a number of pundits who claim to be experts on Bahamian education who are prescribing their own quick fixes for some of the concerns which impact upon our education system in the Bahamas. Those naysayers are seemingly unaware of projects such as this one, which along with the outstanding leadership throughout the Bahamas are making a tangible difference for many of our students; and in this regard I'm pleased to acknowledge the outstanding successes which we



DESMOND BANNISTER

have experienced recently such as the improved BJC and BGCSE examination results throughout the Bahamas," Mr Bannister said.

The minister especially singled out and congratulated C R Walker Senior High School and S C McPherson Junior High in New Providence, and St George's Senior High School and Sweeting's Cay All-Age School in Grand Bahama for their achievements.

Mr Bannister said that the ministry is seeing an emerging "tangible difference" for many of their students.

The Ministry of Education's Guidance Counselling Unit as well as student tutors and mentors were also a part of the Aca-

dem Resiliency Leadership Programme, which incorporated students from New Providence, Exuma, Grand Bahama and Long Island, Mr Bannister noted.

The project provided comprehensive data to access students' mindset relative to tertiary education and what needs to be done to ensure that as many of them throughout the Bahamas have an opportunity to pursue higher education, the Education Minister said.

"This programme seeks to create a 'tipping point' so that its children can stay on track through college and go on to the job market prepared to meet the demands placed on them," he said.

"Our Academic Resiliency Programme is providing critical support at the school level and first year of college. The day may soon come however, to involve the entire Bahamian community at a greater level because too many of our students are falling through the cracks."

Mr Bannister said resiliency is very important at every level of students' progression (from kindergarten to college) to ensure that each and every student receives the support and encouragement that will enable them to thrive in education.

"We know that all of them do not have the same learning abilities, the same learning styles nor do you come from

the same environment," he said.

"It is therefore imperative that those of us who are charged with education should employ innovative techniques and create sparks of zeal in our students so that they can look within themselves and realise that they have the potential to go further than they or others think they can."

COB's vice-president of Student Affairs Colyn Major said the college's Counselling and Health Services Department led by the project's coordinator, Dr Suzanne Newbold, discovered learning deficits and worked "tirelessly" to provide solutions to aid young Bahamian students.

Mr Major said over 200 students and a total of 15 institutions benefitted from the programme.

"During the course of three years, students were assessed and their collective strengths and weaknesses were documented as it pertained to study skills, retention and recall of information," he said.

"Students were provided with information as to how to improve their learning ability."

"Peer mentors and tutors provided support for students with academic difficulties and at the end of the programme, students were able to use computer-based technology to enhance their career and academic abilities," Mr Major said.

BANK OF THE BAHAMAS SPONSORS ALL SIX 'CATEGORY A' JUNKANOO GROUPS



FROM LEFT: DION Miller, vice-chairman of the Shell Saxon Superstars; Shelley Sweeting, treasurer of One Family; Toby Austin, chairman of the Saxons; Beverley Farquharson, deputy managing director of BOB; Brian Adderley, chairman of the Valley Boys; William Brown, Music Makers chairman; Laura Williams, manager of Corporate Affairs at BOB; and Dencil Rolle, chairman of the Prodigal Sons.

THE Bank of the Bahamas announced last week that it will sponsor all six 'Category A' Junkanoo groups this year, donating \$1,000 to each.

"We thank God for Bank of the Bahamas," said Dion Miller, vice-chairman of the Shell Saxons Superstars.

"We're going to be on Bay Street full force this year and put on a spectacular show, thank you."

While the Saxons with some 3,000 members has secured sponsorship, most of the groups have not.

A weakened economy has left many struggling.

Leaders of the Music Makers, One Family, Prodigal Sons, Roots, Saxons and Valley Boys shared stories of the hard work, drama and fun that go into making Junkanoo one

of the most anticipated events of the year.

"As a chairman, I've inherited new caps. I'm a guidance counsellor, marriage counsellor and detective," said William Brown, chairman of the Music Makers.

"I am baffled at what we are committed to. It's far more than a parade. It's a social phenomenon of helping families, neighborhoods and children."

Other leaders echoed his words, talking of helping out entire communities, finding money for medical needs, funerals, births. "We take care of them all from the guttermost to the uttermost," said Dencil Rolle, chairman of the Prodigal Sons.

Preparation for next year's parades begins soon after the last street sweeper finishes cleaning up.

Months of costume designing, dancing

and band practice all come together for two days of cultural excitement. The events are local, but they reach the far corners of the globe. Prodigal Sons chairman Mr Rolle recalls seeing an American wearing a Saxons T-shirt while travelling to New York this past summer.

When Mr Rolle told him he was from the Bahamas, the New Yorker announced proudly that he was a Saxon supporter.

Beverley Farquharson, BOB deputy managing director, said the bank is "very pleased to lend our support to such an essential part of our culture."

"The Junkanoo groups perform a valuable service to our country and we trust that our contribution will go a long way toward assisting them in their preparation for another great season."

BARBARA JESUBATHAM & MARTHA CARTWRIGHT

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Venue:
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DATE:
Friday, December 3rd 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday, December 4th 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sunday, December 5th 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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Pinder's Customs Brokerage Ltd. is looking for a Delivery Department Manager. The qualities of the successful applicant will need to include:

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Additional qualities might include:

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Applicants should drop off their resume to: Pinder's Customs Brokerage at Mackey St & Roosevelt Ave. Telephone 393-3795. Resumes are received in confidence and will be evaluated before calling candidates to arrange an interview.

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 its customers and stakeholders, that all efforts will be made to have the works concluded as quickly as possible.

Billy Scavella
 General Manager
 The Bridge Authority

LOCAL NEWS

US, Bahamas remain strong partners in HIV/AIDS fight

By NICOLE AVANT
US Ambassador to the Bahamas

ON World AIDS Day, we pay tribute to the millions of people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide and continue to spread the word that in spite of much success, too many lives are still being devastated by this deadly disease. We have a shared responsibility to build on the success achieved to date by making smart investments that will ultimately save more lives.

For the US Embassy, it is particularly exciting to say that thanks to our many partners, the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEP-

YOUR SAY

FAR) has provided treatment and support to more than a million men, women and children around the world. Launched in 2003 to combat global AIDS, PEPFAR is the largest commitment in history by any nation to combat a single disease.

This year, through PEPFAR, the US government committed more than \$1.6 million in assistance to the Bahamas in the areas of prevention, strategic information and laboratory strengthening as well as human capacity development and

strengthening. This figure does not include additional assistance that is available through regional programmes operating in the wider Caribbean. The US commitment to the Caribbean region is on the order of more than \$67 million. We hope that these resources will have a cumulative, positive and enduring impact on the national public health system through the increasing access for all Bahamians, especially on the Family Islands.

The Department of Health and Human Services through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Bahamas' Ministry of Health recently signed a five-year joint co-operative agreement

through PEPFAR, to assist in strengthening the Bahamas' national HIV/AIDS response with a view to ensuring sustainability. In addition, under PEPFAR, health experts from partnering US government agencies will work hand-in-hand with government officials, civil society, the private sector and community leaders to support plans, improve oversight and enhance management of the National HIV/AIDS Programme and supported activities, as progress is made in meeting the combined goals of the 2010-2014 Caribbean Regional Partnership Framework and the Bahamas' National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan. It is anticipated that this new partnership between the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Bahamas' Ministry of Health under the PEPFAR umbrella will prove beneficial to both entities.

The United States looks forward to continuing our support of successes like these, and we are committed to furthering efforts that curb the spread of HIV in the Bahamas, and by extension the Caribbean region. However, we also know that there are a number of obstacles that threaten the success of future HIV prevention, treatment and care efforts, and we need your help to ensure that we overcome these barriers. This is a global fight and, as

PEPFAR moves forward, the United States looks forward to working with you and our partners around the world to support the Bahamas' leadership in its quest to end this epidemic.

Over the next five years, the United States will continue to renew its commitment to partnering with the Bahamas in strengthening the Bahamas' national HIV/AIDS response. The US Embassy in the Bahamas has seen first-hand the importance of country ownership, and will continue to work together with all sectors of the Bahamas as strategies are crafted and programmes expanded to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. And through PEPFAR, the United States lends support to the Bahamian leadership in its efforts to make universal access a reality.

We know that an HIV/AIDS programme alone will not defeat this disease. As part of the United States' Global Health Initiative outlined by President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, PEPFAR funding will seek to support the Bahamas' National Health Services Strategic plan to fully integrate and expand access to other health care services, including those that address tuberculosis, malaria, maternal and child health, chronic non-communicable diseases and family



US AMBASSADOR NICOLE AVANT

planning, with HIV/AIDS programmes.

As we work together to defeat HIV/AIDS, we must also remember to ensure that the work we do addresses the human rights challenges that drive the spread of HIV – those of stigma and discrimination against vulnerable, most-at-risk populations. It is hoped that through our combined efforts more Bahamians will be able to access the care they need, and that we will assist in strengthening the Bahamas' public health system to be able to withstand the challenges of the future.

The United States is committed to the fight against HIV/AIDS, and is unwavering in its support. And today, on World AIDS 2010, we recommit ourselves to furthering our achievements and re-emphasise our continued commitment to the Bahamas as we partner to fight HIV/AIDS in the Bahamas and by extension, the Caribbean region.

MINISTER AND AIDS FOUNDATION PRESIDENT TEAM UP TO BRING AWARENESS

By MATT MAURA

MINISTER of Health Dr Hubert Minnis and AIDS Foundation of the Bahamas president Lady Camille Barnett teamed up Monday to bring the message of HIV/AIDS awareness to sixth-grade students of the Columbus Primary School in a novel way – through book reading.

Dr Minnis and Lady Barnett's collaboration was part of a national effort involving officials from the AIDS Foundation and 17 guest readers who read excerpts from the book "Under the Calabash Tree" to sixth-grade students throughout the country.

The effort was part of an AIDS Foundation initiative to "Combat HIV/AIDS through a Culture of Literacy and Learning" and was organised just days ahead of World's AIDS Day which will be observed today.

AIDS Foundation officials targeted sixth-grade students throughout the Bahamas, as adolescents are the fastest growing population segment of HIV-infected persons in the Bahamas.

Research shows that, on average, boys in the Bahamas are sexually active as early as 11 years of age, while girls have their first sexual encounter at the age of 12.

"And so this is the age-group that is most vulnerable," Lady Barnett said.

"Literacy and education and awareness go hand-in-hand and we thought we had to find creative ways to get the information across to the younger children in a way that they can comprehend it best, and what better way to do it than through a book and a guest reader to read to them.

"They say knowledge is power, and so we want to give them the knowledge, the information, so that they can make better decisions," she added.

Lady Barnett said one of the primary objectives of the initiative was "to get to students at an early age" so that they can be aware of the pitfalls of having pre-marital sex, and to dispel some of the myths and/or taboos associated with the disease.

"Today provided us with an opportunity to get to them while they are still young and before the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS really sets in. That stigma and discrimination actually prevents people from going in and getting the medication that can save their lives," Lady Barnett said.

"People will not go into the clinic at the Princess Margaret Hospital for their medication if they see someone they know in the clinic or sometimes just on the compound. What I liked about today's session was that the kids have the knowledge, they are not being shielded, which is often the case, and so we did not have to tip-toe around some of the issues."

Health Minister Dr Minnis said he was "most impressed" with the level of the questions asked by the sixth-graders regarding HIV/AIDS.

"The questions were very intelligent and show that they have an understanding of how HIV/AIDS is contracted and that you cannot get it by touching individuals, by hugging, by eating from them or being in the same room with them," Dr Minnis said.

"Kids can now relay this message to their parents because some parents still have it stigmatised, but now that the kids know better, they can have open, positive



MINISTER OF HEALTH Dr Hubert Minnis was one of 17 guest readers who joined the AIDS Foundation of the Bahamas in a national reading effort involving officials from the Foundation who read excerpts from the book "Under the Calabash Tree" to sixth-grade students throughout the Bahamas.

discussions with their parents on HIV/AIDS which may lead to some of the stigma being detached from HIV/AIDS."

Dr Minnis said the education and awareness programme instituted by the AIDS Foundation of the Bahamas is in line with his ministry's belief that prevention is always better than cure.

"Once the children understand prevention, they can be your messenger. They are the ones that we must protect; they represent tomorrow and if they understand aspects of the disease – how it is transmitted; what is HIV/AIDS – they will protect themselves which can lead to a reduction in the number of HIV/AIDS transmissions in our country – particularly considering the research on adolescents and HIV/AIDS," Dr Minnis added.

Lady Barnett said there is an "added value" for the

AIDS Foundation.

"The added value is that sometimes when children have to listen to older persons, the message can get lost," Lady Barnett said.

"Now these children (those across the Bahamas whose schools participated in the programme) can go into their various communities and have positive conversations about HIV/AIDS with other children their ages and so the message is more relevant coming from a peer."

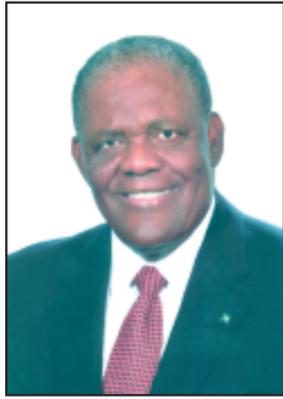
Lady Barnett said there is a secondary benefit as well.

"They now know what the truths and myths are with regards to HIV/AIDS and so when their peers start telling them things that are untrue, they can say 'I know what the truth is; I know what the situation truly is.'

"It empowers them to be able to make wise decisions (with regards to sex and sexuality)," Lady Barnett said.



The Rotary Club of West Nassau
will have as its guest speaker
The Rt. Hon. Hubert A. Ingraham
Prime Minister of The Commonwealth of
The Bahamas



Thursday December 2nd at 1pm
In The British Colonial Hilton Hotel
Victoria Room

Luncheon tickets at \$35.00 per person

for more info contact Pat Strachan at
Tel. 323-1983
or
Harry Kemp at Tel. 361-6668.

SECURITIES COMMISSION OF THE BAHAMAS

PUBLIC NOTICE

No. of 2010

November 25th, 2010

FACTS RELATING TO THE CALCULATION OF THE RATE OF INTEREST TO

BE CHARGED UNDER THE RATE OF INTEREST ACT, 1990

This NOTICE is issued by the Inspector of Financial and Corporate Services pursuant to its authority under Section 11(3) of the Financial and Corporate Service Providers Act, Chapter 369 ("FCSPA"). The Securities Commission of The Bahamas was appointed as the Inspector on January 1, 2008 and is therefore responsible for ensuring all persons operate in accordance with the Act, which provides for the licensing and regulation of Financial and Corporate Services.

One such type of financial service which is captured by the FCSPA and is subject to regulation by the Inspector is money lending services. Money lending is the lending of loans at prescribed interest rates by non-bank companies or private individuals whose business, is that of providing loans or who advertise or hold themselves out in any way as carrying on that business. Money lending services that may be offered by a non-bank company or private individual may include:-

- Salary advances;
- Cash advances;
- Cash Loans;
- Fast cash / Fast loans;
- Bad credit loans;
- Debt collection;
- Same day lending;
- Credit extension and/or
- Short term loans to consumers, e.g. Government employees.

The purpose of this Notice is to advise the public of the maximum rates of interest which may be charged under the Rate of Interest Act ("RIA") 1990, Chapter 341, and to provide guidance on the calculation of interest rates to be charged to consumers.

The RIA regulates the rate of interest which may be charged by any person on any loan of money except:

- Loans made in the currency of The Bahamas by any bank licensed under the Banks and Trust Companies Regulation Act, 2000; and
- Loans made in a currency other than the currency of The Bahamas.

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LOCAL NEWS

Customs 'cannot allow airplanes in country without paying duty'

FROM page one

they were not going to enforce the 10 per cent tax on aircraft. Some members claim the practice dates back to the early 1990s.

Randy Butler, president of the association, said there has been "no evidence" to indicate customs decided to do otherwise, until last week that is, when the Comptroller distributed letters to dozens of aircraft owners indicating the intention of Customs to collect.

"However it was done, it was not correct. If there are persons who gave them that impression they were wrong. I have found nothing in the Tariff Act or

(internal) policy that would permit aircraft to be brought in domestically and to be used and not be required to pay the tax," said Mr Gomez.

Locally registered and licensed aircraft operators are expected to bear the brunt of the financial impact. This includes the dozens of charter companies and local airlines serving the Family Island market. Some companies may be expected to pay hundreds of thousands in back taxes.

"Even though it is hurting me, we are law-abiding citizens, and I believe reasonableness will be the order of the day. I don't think they are out there to kill us, but at the

end of the day the law is the law. I too am impacted by this situation. I guess we had a good ride and we were able to get away with something, but now it is catching up," said Steve Mitchell, owner of Regional Air.

"It was only a loophole that allowed this to happen from the beginning. I am just hoping they will be lenient," said Mr Mitchell, who read with great interest what the Prime Minister had to say on the matter.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said it "goes without saying" that any duty owed needs to be paid. However, he said, questions about "how much you pay,

over what period of time" are matters that are subject to discussion.

Mr Gomez echoed these sentiments. "We would like them to come in and then we can sit down and tell them what it is we expect from them. Based on that they would tell us what their position is in terms of how or when they can pay, or whether they would like a staggered payment schedule."

"It is understandable that with some of them it is quite a large sum of money. We would not want them to break the bank," he said.

Industry members wrote letters this week to the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance seeking a tax exemption. The Comptroller was

also asked to hold and said the requests were "under consideration."

Lori Roach, owner of Golden Wings Charter, said members of the association are seeking similar treatment from the government to that of taxi drivers and other commercial motor transportation operators. The Tariff Act exempts taxi drivers from paying duty on imported vehicles used for public transport. The commercial aircraft operators say they are "air taxis" and should be treated similarly. They point to the government's recent change to the Tariff Act to allow exemption on aircraft parts.

Police launch island-wide patrol

FROM page one

division will be represented throughout the streets of New Providence to ensure we keep the streets as safe as possible."

Two fatal weekend shootings have pushed the country's homicide count to 88, breaking the Bahamas' overall record for the second consecutive year.

With still one month left in 2010, the year's homicide count has already passed last year's record-setting number of 87.

Last night, top officials could be seen at major roundabouts including: Village Road, Fox Hill, East Street and Soldier Road, Carmichael Road and Baillou Hill Road, and the Independence roundabout.

As the country moves into the holiday season, it is believed the increased patrol will prove effective not only to prevent crime by limiting the mobility of culprits, but also provide a greater sense of security to citizens.

Mr Seymour said: "It's not only crime, but it's the fear of crime that negatively impacts us as well. When a person cannot go about their normal activities because they are afraid to go out at night - that is a problem. What we are doing here tonight - we are enforcing the laws of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and we are preventing - what we seek to do is ensure that the Bahamas is safe."

Mr Seymour added: "We also want to invite members of the public, those of you who have information and can assist us in carrying out our laws, our duties and responsibilities, to come forward with any information - any information you have that can help us arrest a wanted person or know where any criminality is being perpetrated within your community, it is your job as a citizen to assist the police force in making the Bahamas a safe place for us to live, work and play."

Government considering steps to regulate the gold-buying industry

FROM page one

said: "We have no knowledge of any outbreak of jewellery theft in the Family Islands. We don't have any information that would suggest there has been any increase."

Meanwhile in Harbour Island, residents allege frequent visits from gold merchants have created a definite market for stolen gold items.

One resident said: "A gold trader comes here regularly from Nassau inviting people to sell their gold. Everyone knows his agent from the mainland. The taxi drivers know when he comes, everyone else knows when he is here - all except the police."

In response to yesterday's article concerning residential crime fears on the island, one Tribune reader, wrote: "Sorry to disagree with the police but there are more break-ins. There is more crime, and the criminals are back on the streets shortly after being arrested. The gold buyers are on the corner buying anything you have to sell with no one checking. It's the 'Wild Wild West' in 'Briland'."

Concerns towards the growing industry were raised earlier this year after a pawn shop in New Providence was raided by police less than one month after it re-opened.

Although their confiscated goods were returned, due to stringent record-keeping and security policies, Corey Rolle, manager of Nassau Pawn, located at the eastern end of Bay Street, said the time had come to regulate the quickly growing gold-buying



REGULATE:
Zhivargo Laing

industry in the Bahamas.

In August, Mr Rolle said: "Gold-buying operations are springing up all over. Unfortunately, many of these are temporary. Generally, they pay cash on the spot, there are no records, the gold is melted down and since no one knows where it came from or if it is stolen, there is no way to trace it or ever return it to the rightful owner. Such quick-buy, no-records-kept businesses can encourage theft. We know how often this can happen because we turn down the majority of persons who come into Nassau Pawn, where we will not purchase anything without a photo ID of the seller."

In response to concerns placed towards the lack of regulation yesterday, Mr Laing said: "This matter is being given active consideration by the Government, with extensive deliberations having taken place to this point. We are looking at very specific steps to regulate this area of activity and expect to be in a position shortly to announce and proceed upon those steps."

Three major house break-in rings smashed

FROM page one

related matters. The majority of those in custody, he said, are in their early 20s.

Detectives are seeking the public's help in apprehending David Cunningham Cooper, of Life Boyd Street, and Keno Johnson, of Coconut Grove, who they believe are the leaders of the remaining two gangs.

These men, police said, are well known to investigating officers, with Cooper

currently on bail for a number of armed robbery charges.

"For these persons who don't know how to behave themselves, we have a place for them," Supt Rolle said.

With these break-ins being targeted in the southern part of New Providence predominantly, Supt Rolle asked for residents who have any information that might lead to the apprehension of these persons to contact the Carmichael Road police station at 361 0481 or

him directly on 357-9585.

Adding a general warning to residents in view of the upcoming Christmas holiday, Supt Stephen Dean, of the National Crime Prevention Office said shoppers should be on their guard.

"Be on the alert. Be on the alert to make sure your homes are properly secure," said Supt Dean.

"Make sure that your items are secured, because these housebreakers will be coming out. They will be coming to try and steal your

items. They know that you have gifts. So we are asking you to take care of your surroundings.

"If you don't have an alarm system, put an alarm system in your place.

"Make sure you have the proper locks on your doors, and make sure you know who all is visiting your home. This is Christmas time, but we don't want to just get mixed up in the Christmas spirit; we must make our personal safety first."

School in shock suicide bid rate

FROM page one

The research team's findings will be used to develop a model that will be applied throughout the school system to identify suicidal students and hopefully prevent future incidents.

"We want to look at some of the elements in that particular community that is generating that kind of behaviour. We are keeping an open mind, we are approaching it scientifically, we don't know the answers," Mr Gardiner, told *The Tribune* yesterday.

A team of psychologists, headed by Nadia Cash, has been assigned to Anatol Rodgers to assess the situation and document their findings. The ministry also plans to have suicide awareness discussions within the public school system.

"We were just discussing some new measures that we can put in place throughout the public school system. There are some socio-economic things that are going on in the community that are putting some extra strain on the family and as a result the school.

"We can add a new element to that after we find out what is going on at the Anatol Rodgers High School."

Mr Gardiner suspects the attempted suicides were spurred by strife within the home. He thinks the others could have been cries for attention or copycats.

"There are some suspicions, as researchers we're trying to keep an open mind but my personal belief is family problems. The family is undergoing socio-economic strain and the kids tend to see that in the family and take it on. Then there is the copy cat

element (and) other causes, I don't want to jump to any conclusions.

"With teenagers there is this mysterious kind of aura with them about life and death. Most of the teenagers that (try to kill themselves) don't understand the gravity of what they are doing. They want to get away from what's going on at the moment unlike an adult who is like 'I've had enough of this (life) I want to check out of here.'

"A lot of it is a cry for attention. If I do this then they are going to think about me, feel sorry about me, not thinking about the finality (of death)".

Two of the students have been evaluated by doctors at Princess Margaret Hospital's adolescent ward. The department of Social Services has also been brought on board to assess the teenagers' home lives.

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ROBBIE MCKENZIE, IT manager at Bristol Wines and Spirits head office, enjoyed meeting patrons at the Jollification. He is seen pouring Krystal Smith a generous serving of Firefly Sweet Tea Vodka.

National Trust 2010 Jollification 'biggest yet'

LAST month's Christmas Jollification saw "probably the biggest crowd ever," according to public relations executive Keith Parker, who has covered the event since its inception.

"The cars filled practically all of Village Road, all the side roads and Queen's College car park, it was amazing!" he said.

The event is organised by the Bahamas National Trust, and BNT officers were delighted with the turnout - as were main sponsor Bristol Wines and Spirits, which were joined this year by Asa H Pritchard, The Nassau Florist, Something's Different, Edible Art and Bahama Rentals.

During the pre-jollification members' night, a constant flow of delightful "finger foods" was provided by Alexandra's catering.

The Something's Different "edible art" stall, with literally hundreds of brightly decorated and uniquely flavoured cup cakes, also proved to be popular, especially with the youngest BNT members.

Once again the silent auction of art pieces, donated by exhibiting artists, proved to be a major fundraiser for the Trust.

Recently elected National Trust president Neil McKinney said: "It was a hugely successful event, and we at the Trust really appreciate the support of the Public for 'Jollification,' which is a major fundraiser for us and enables us to continue our work.

"It is also an opportunity for



SIDNEY FRANCIS of Alexandra's Catering did his part in serving a seemingly endless supply of "finger food" delicacies at the members' night. Enjoying his offerings is Marcella Dean, a Jollification exhibitor of original Bahamian jewellery.

dozens of Bahamian artisans, artists and crafts persons, to display and sell their creations to a wider public.

"Our continuing major sponsor, Bristol Wines and Spirits, obviously contributes to the increasing success of the event and we are happy to report that a record number of attendees became new members or renewed their membership in the Bahamas National Trust."



"NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL COFFEE!" says hospital worker Marilyn Major as she samples the Patron Tequila XO Café. Serving at the Patron booth were Vanessa Walkes and Hazel Johnson.

Kid Scoop News FREE!

Holiday Senses
We enjoy the holidays with all our senses. This month, Kid Scoop News gets the scoop on senses and how they help us enjoy bells, decorations, cookies, pine trees and presents wrapped in paper.

How old is your Christmas tree?
A dendrochronologist explains how you can learn a lot by looking at a cross-section of a tree.

This copy of Kid Scoop News belongs to:

Find the two identical Woodward Christmas cookies on this cover.

DECEMBER 2010

Dog Partners
What if a person doesn't have one of their senses? Learn how dogs can be trained to help and become a person's eyes, ears or nose.

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MINISTRY ASSESSES BUILDING PERMIT PROCESS REFORMS

But adamant 'public safety is not compromised'

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

The Ministry of Works yesterday said it had undertaken a review to assess how the building permit process could be speeded up while complying with existing legislation, but warned that its key goal was to ensure that "public safety is not compromised".

Defending itself in the face of claims from the Institute of Bahamian Architects that "bottle-necks and delays" in approving building construction permits were unnecessary and cost the Bahamian economy "millions of dollars" each year, the Ministry of Works told Tribune Business in a statement that it has "in recent years placed particular emphasis on improving efficiency in meeting the needs of its customers".

The Bahamas recently ranked 107 out of 183 countries when it came to the ease of obtaining a construction permit in the World Bank's 'Doing Business' report and the IBA's president, Amos Ferguson, lamented how unfavourably the average three-six month waiting period in this nation compared with major US cities and rival Caribbean destinations.

Mr Ferguson criticised the BCD for "trying to operate as a qualifying agency, rather than one that processes permits", for making the approval process "more intensive and complicated" with "redundancies", and for allowing "unqualified individuals having the power to stop and query the registered architect or engineer's documents".

The IBA noted that in New York it took an average of between one hour to 14 days to get a construction permit, while in Atlanta the process could take between one and 60 days.

Mr Ferguson highlighted the potential for money earmarked for construction projects to be spent elsewhere when approvals are not forthcoming and for delays in the process to

'Core' focus over revised hotel deal

Deal to sell Lighthouse Club, last government-owned hotel, radically revised to avoid upfront sale of thousands of acres to developer, after Cabinet turns down initial proposal

Initial bidder still interested and expected to submit revised offer this week

Philosophy of 'no land give away' will 'permeate everything we do'

Italian developer/hotel owner interested in Eleuthera site, as government seeks to reclaim prime Mayaguana beachfront land

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Efforts to sell the last government-owned hotel have been radically restructured to focus solely on the initial development of the "core hotel and marina", Tribune Business can reveal, a senior government minister confirming that avoiding massive upfront real estate sales to developers was "a philosophy that's going to permeate everything we do".

Implying that the initial Scheck Industries proposal for the Andros-based Lighthouse Yacht Club & Marina had



VINCENT VANDERPOOL-WALLACE

been dropped, Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, minister of tourism and aviation, told Tri-

bune Business that the Illinois-based developer was still interested in the site and was expected to submit another bid this week.

Tribune Business contacts this week said Cabinet had rejected the initial Scheck deal, which aimed to transform the Lighthouse property and surrounding real estate into the Andros Sporting Club, on the grounds that it did not want to convey to the developer the estimated 6,000-7,000 acres surrounding the resort - property owned by the former Hotel Corpo-

SEE page 2B

YVRAS still interested in airport equity stake



UPBEAT: NAD executives recently gave an Airport progress report.

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

Vancouver Airport Services (YVRAS) is still considering taking an equity stake in the Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD), the Government-owned company through which it presently manages the Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA) and oversees its \$409.5 million redevelopment.

While declining to go into further details on what stage Vancouver Airport Services

SEE page 4B

BTC demands that regulator overturn SRG's 'block allocation'

* State-owned incumbent urges URCA to reverse decision by PUC predecessor to grant key rival two 'en masse' wireless spectrum allocations, arguing this is 'anti-competitive'

* SRG hits back, alleging that past spectrum allocations favoured BTC, which enjoyed different set of rules from rest

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) is urging industry regulators to overturn a decision taken by their predecessor and reverse the "block allocation" of wireless spectrum to a key rival, arguing that the current situation is "anti-competitive" and "inefficient".

Outlining its concerns in response to the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) consultation on the opening of new spectrum bands, BTC said Systems Resource Group (SRG), which does business as IndiGo Networks, had received far more WiMAX spectrum that it could use efficiently via the "en masse assignment" of two frequency bands.

Railing against this, the 100 per cent state-owned incumbent said: "BTC's biggest current spectrum issue with URCA is the en masse assignment of WiMAX frequencies to a competitor, SRG, who have been assigned the bands 2150-2162MHz and 2500-2690MHz."

"BTC considers that this assignment was anti-competitive and resulted in one operator having far more spectrum suitable for broadband wireless access than they could ever use efficiently. A frequency disaggregation of the said frequency band

SEE page 4B

Developers 'short change' Ministry

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Some developers use the Ministry of Works building permit approval process to obtain financing for their projects, but never go through with paying for the permit once it is approved, the Bahamian Contractors Association's (BCA) president has charged.

Stephen Wrinkle, defending the Ministry's Building Control Department (BCD) after it came in for criticism by the Institute of Bahamian Architects (IBA) over its relatively long approval processes, said the permitting process was often clogged by applications from developers who either dropped projects or had no intention of paying for their final permit.

Pointing out that to initiate the BCD process, applicants only had to pay 10 per cent of the final permit's value, Mr Wrinkle said some developers - once they received notification their project had

SEE page 4B

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BUSINESS

'Core' focus over revised hotel deal

FROM page 1B

ration. The Government, Tribune Business understands, was concerned to avoid what might be perceived as another 'land/real estate giveaway', and huge tracts of Bahamian land being tied-up for decades with no development if the Scheck project failed.

Mr Vanderpool-Wallace effectively confirmed this to Tribune Business, also acknowledging that the previous Scheck proposal - which called for the redevelopment of the Lighthouse property in a project covering 600 acres, 350 freehold and 250 leasehold - had involved the surrounding acreage.

"The property is obviously still available, and we're likely to put it up for sale," Mr Vanderpool-Wallace said of the Lighthouse Yacht Club & Marina. "I believe Mr Scheck is very much interested in putting an offer in for it. That's imminent, and should be received this week."

He added: "We have cut back significantly on what was offered. We want to make sure the marina and hotel get going as the core part of Fresh Creek, and thereafter other people can come in" and develop the surrounding land in planned phases.

The minister indicated that the Government wanted any development at the Lighthouse Yacht Club & Marina to take place in carefully staged, managed phases, keeping pace with Andros's infrastructure and population, rather than a developer getting their hands on all the real estate at once.

"The Bahamas has so many examples of development that has not worked out, and the land lies barren for decades with no development," Mr Vanderpool-Wallace told Tribune Business. "We think it's in the best interests of the Bahamian people and the best interests of developers to make sure the core part gets developed, and once that gets going we will give consideration to getting the land developed."

"That philosophy is going to permeate through everything we do, so we will not find ourselves approving the give away of large acreages of land to people that lie undeveloped for a long period of time."

The initial Scheck project was said to include a marina, marina villas and shopping/retail facilities, fishing lodges and boutique hotels. The Lighthouse Yacht Club & Marina currently has about 30 employees, and features a 20-slip marina, beach frontage and a 20-room hotel. Yet the average occupancy at the Fresh Creek project is only about 35 per cent.

Meanwhile, Mr Vanderpool-Wallace said negotiations with the Boston-based I-Group to revise the Heads of Agreement struck with the former PLP administration for the \$1.8 billion Mayaguana project were continuing.

Adding that the main framework of a deal involved the Government relinquishing its 50 per cent joint venture equity stake in the project in return for the I-Group handing back 50 per cent (some 5,000 acres) of the initial 9,999 acres it received, the minister told Tribune Business that some of the land being sought for return was Mayaguana's prime beachfront real estate.

"We're certainly interested in getting a significant part of it," Mr Vanderpool-Wallace said, after Tribune Business sources said the Government wanted to reclaim all Mayaguana's prime beachfront real estate from the I-Group.

"We don't want to get back all of it," he added, saying the Government had embarked on this course "so future developers and the people of Mayaguana have some prime beachfront land available to them".

Mr Vanderpool-Wallace also confirmed that an Italian developer and resort owner, Mira, which took over the Rocco Forte resort brand, was among those interested in developing the 3,500 acres of land formerly owned by the Hotel Corporation in the Winding Bay area of Eleuthera.

"They are among others who have expressed an interest," the minister confirmed, adding that "the same principles" laid down with respect to Lighthouse Yacht Club & Marina would apply.

The Government, he added, was "steadfast" in its determination that any development at Winding Bay focus on a core, high-end, luxury boutique resort first before the surrounding real estate was built-out.

Development, though, would not happen "until we find a group to do precisely what I've described in Andros".

Telecoms rivals at odds on key spectrum band

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) and a major Bahamian rival are at odds over when a key wireless spectrum band should be opened up, the state-owned incumbent wanting this to happen immediately to meet cellular demand, with its competitor advocating a "strong argument" for this to be delayed.

Paul Hutton-Ashkenny, president of Systems Resource Group (SRG), which trades as IndiGo Networks, urged the Utilities Competition & Regulation Authority (URCA) to delay opening the 700 MHz wireless spectrum band until there was clarity on when BTC's cellular monopoly would end, adding that this would better serve the interests of the wider sector.

Nor surprisingly, BTC disagreed, adding that "since demand for broadband mobile [cellular] access is growing rapidly, the whole of the 700 MHz bands should be made available by URCA for use in the future".

Mr Hutton-Ashkenny, though, said that in opening new wireless spectrum, potential bidders needed to know the cost, islands covered, and restrictions that could be placed on any licence.

"Of particular relevance to the 700 MHz spectrum is the position regarding BTC's mobile speech monopoly, since the technology available for deployment is specifically designed for mobile," the SRG president wrote in his response to URCA's spectrum opening consultation.

"The cost of constructing a network is not less simply because the regulations in the Bahamas favour BTC's monopoly in mobile speech, and a highly important factor for interested parties will be whether mobile speech will be permitted under the spectrum licence at the end of BTC's monopoly period.

"In the event that BTC were to successfully bid for 700 MHz spectrum, what would be the regulatory position regarding BTC's own use of the spectrum for mobile speech? After all, were BTC in a position to utilise an allocation in 700 MHz for mobile speech, they would be handed a significant competitive advantage in the event that other 700 MHz operators were denied the same right."

Indeed, BTC confirmed in its own consultation response that it had a "strong interest" in the 700 MHz band, and that its main use would be for broadband access and cellular services.

Based on all this, Mr Hutton-Ashkenny said it would be virtually impossible for rival operators to deter-

BTC aims for 4G/LTE technology introduction well before 2015



"The cost of constructing a network is not less simply because the regulations in the Bahamas favour BTC's monopoly in mobile speech, and a highly important factor for interested parties will be whether mobile speech will be permitted under the spectrum licence at the end of BTC's monopoly period."

PAUL HUTTON-ASHKENNY

mine whether "a sound business case" existed for developing their own network and services, and suggested that "a strong argument exists for introducing a delay in the opening of the spectrum".

Other considerations, he suggested, were that Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology, the Internet Protocol (IP) based technology upon which all global cellular operators plan to migrate their networks to, was in its infancy and had yet to be rolled-out commercially in the US.

"LTE is mobile technology, and yet BTC has a mobile monopoly that does not yet have a finite end date," Mr Hutton-Ashkenny said. "Operators will be loath to commit to investment in the absence of clear direction surrounding BTC's mobile speech monopoly and the services to be permitted under the available licences.

"Interest in the spectrum, and therefore fees to be collected by the Treasury, will be much higher once the technology is fully established, fees are accurately known and permitted services are properly understood.

"SRG respectfully submits that the sector may be better served by delaying the opening of the 700 MHz spectrum until such time as URCA's review of spectrum fees has been concluded, there is a known end date for BTC's mobile speech monopoly, and a decision has been made with respect to the position regarding mobile speech in 700 MHz (and other spectrum bands) following the end of the monopoly period."

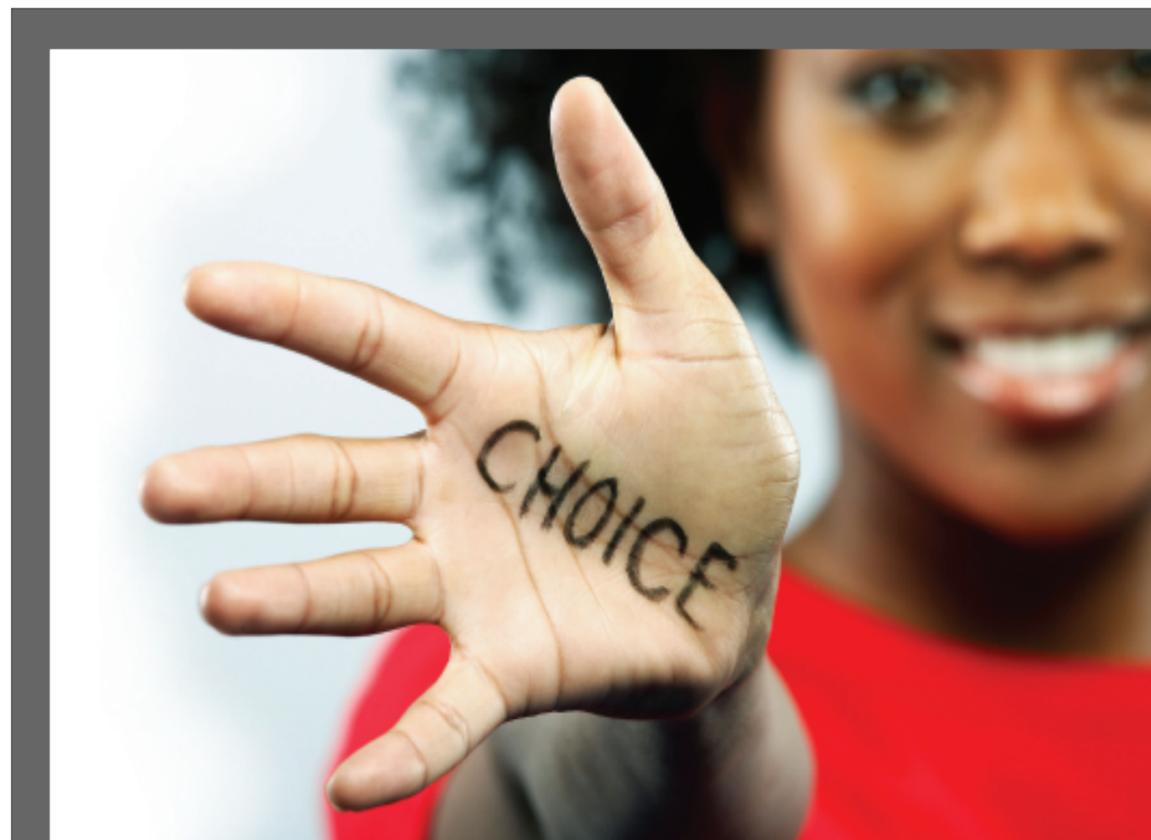
Stating that it was "premature" for URCA to invite expressions of interest in using the 700 MHz band, SRG said it would not bid, simply because its licence prevented it from providing cellular services, and any winner would likely be similarly restricted until BTC's monopoly in this area was lifted.

BTC, though, acknowledged that its cellular network would have to adopt LTE/4G (fourth generation) technology "to provide consumers faster speeds to support a wide range of multimedia services, particularly web browsing and video applications".

Urging that 700 MHz not be limited to fixed and broadband services, BTC said estimates that LTE technology subscribers could pass the 200 million mark worldwide by 2015 "could well prove conservative", with Verizon and NTT in Japan indicating their LTE services could be available by year-end, and other operators eyeing 2011 for commercial launch.

"BTC is assured that the probability of trials could be pursued shortly after the spectrum has been awarded, and it will provide coverage in New Providence and the other highly populated areas before expanding the coverage to rural areas," BTC said.

"LTE services should be commercially available much earlier than 2015 to ensure that the Bahamas is in step with other countries in offering high-speed mobile services, and can support roamers in the tourism and finance sectors as soon as they start arriving in any numbers."



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BUSINESS

MINISTRY ASSESSES BUILDING PERMIT PROCESS REFORMS

FROM page 1B

introduce greater potential for BCD employees and applicants to be swayed by graft/corruption. The Ministry of Works said yesterday that delays in the approval process occur "for many reasons", with submission of "incomplete applications and drawings in fact the most common reason for delay" in the processing of applications by the Buildings Control Division.

It added that because the building permit is a "legal document" issued by the Building Control Division on behalf of the Minister of Public Works, which describes "what will be built and how", it is necessary for the BCD "to ensure that all approved drawings are thoroughly examined".

The statement highlighted how the present review procedure for obtaining a Building Permit consists of an application being viewed by "as many as three different ministries, and sometimes more than one department or section in a ministry".

The Ministry called this a "one-stop-shop" process, adding that if at any stage of the review the application is found to be incomplete, "all efforts are made to contact the applicant or his agent by either telephone or postal mail on resultant queries during the review", increasing the number of steps in the process.

Meanwhile, suggesting that the high standards of the Bahamas Building Code factor into the length of time it takes to approve permits to construct buildings, the Ministry charged that if "the standards imposed by the national building code" were taken into consideration, the Bahamas' score in the World Bank ranking would have been "considerably higher".

"It is necessary to ensure that drawings are in compliance with the minimum Code standards of the Bahamas Building Code for construction, regardless of whether or not the drawings are submitted by a licensed architect, engineer or draftsman. The Bahamas Building Code has served us well in recent years when the country has been confronted with some of the most severe hurricane conditions," said the statement.

The Ministry of Works admitted that with a view to service improvement it did undertake a "review of processes several months ago" to explore where enhancements could be made to the building permit approval process.

"In this regard, proposed revisions to the process were collated and the Ministry has subsequently been engaged in discussions with the Office of the Attorney General on the extent to which existing legislation would permit the suggested revisions," it said.

"We will continue to seek ways in which we may satisfy the needs of our clients. However, we are committed to ensuring that public safety is not compromised during this process."

Speaking with Tribune Business following the publication of the Doing Business report last month, Minister of State for Finance, Zhivargo Laing, said the Government recognises the need for "significant reform" in the area of construction permit approval.

Attempts to reach IBA president Mr Ferguson for comment on the Ministry's release yesterday were unsuccessful.

Road project on target for 2012

By KATHRYN CAMPBELL
Bahamas Information Services

A projected 2012 deadline for the New Providence Road Improvement Project (NPRIP) is still being targeted.

"We are still targeting our 2012 deadline for the NPRIP," said Charlene Collie-Harris, engineer and public relations representative. "The contractor, Jose Cartellone Construcciones Civiles, is still covering approximately 1 per cent of the contract per month. This has been consistent for the past several months and we are working towards that remaining the same."

Ms Collie-Harris acknowledged that they are working on several corridors at the same time, but she said the only way to meet the specification is to progress with different road ways at different stages.

"Paving work on the eastern side of Baillou Hill Road has begun, which means the contractor is progressing in line with what is expected of them in the contract. As we move north on Baillou Hill Road we will move west on Robinson Road. It is working in a systematic way," she said.

There are plans to begin night work on some of the road projects in 2011. "We started at night in the Robinson/Claridge Road area, but that caused a lot of challenges with the unknown. It actually

doubled the time. So we try to prevent doing night work. We are aware that the costs double, but the safety aspect is paramount in night work," Ms Collie-Harris said.

She explained that the Ministry of Public Works and Transport tries to minimise traffic impact as best as possible, but when this is not possible, a full closure must be implemented.

"The intention for the full road closure is not only for safety and for the work to proceed. It is also when we go under a closure that you can expect to see what we have completed and what we needed to do once we release traffic to that area," she added.

Reopened

As of December 5, Claridge Road to Mollie Street, the first area closed for road works on this corridor, will be re-opened for traffic flow.

Drainage systems and water and sewerage facilities are presently being installed on Robinson Road near to R M Bailey Park and in front of the Mall at Marathon. It is anticipated that this work will be completed before December 15.

The discovery of underground utilities posed a delay in completion of roadworks, particularly on Baillou Hill Road and Robinson Road, beginning from Claridge Road to Mollie Street.

"There were additional unknown utilities that were

unknown to us even after our underground investigations took place," said Ms Collie-Harris. "We anticipate those challenges as we work on the urban roads, including East and Market Streets. However, we do have measures in place with how we deal with them. We apologise for the closures beyond the scheduled time, but most of them are due to

unknown underground utilities. We have noticed challenges with persons finding their way through subdivisions on to the main thoroughfares. This is causing a challenge as it hinders the flow of traffic. We're asking the general public to stay on the main thoroughfares and eventually they will find their way to their destinations."

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BUSINESS

BTC DEMANDS THAT REGULATOR OVERTURN SRG'S 'BLOCK ALLOCATION'

FROM page 1B

should be pursued, forthwith, by URCA to allow for other operators within the sector to have this preferred option and propagation advantage within the aforementioned spectrum band."

Just in case URCA had not got the message, BTC, in bold text later in its submission, added: "BTC's biggest current concern is the block allocation of WiMAX spectrum to the competitor SRG."

"BTC would like to see this decision made by the URCA predecessor reversed. 190 MHz is far too much for one operator. The decision was made when WiMAX was new and evolving."

WiMAX refers to the deliver of communications services, such as broadband and cellular, over a wireless network, and competition for spectrum is likely to intensify as companies seek to deploy expanded services to Bahamian consumers and businesses as the market liberalises.

BTC added that it agreed with URCA's position that an entire spectrum band should not be allocated to just one operator, and said: "BTC does not object to multiple operators per band; in fact, BTC supports this so that competition may be established."

"BTC would want to be convinced of the arguments band by band for premium and standard designations. Such designations automatically determine potential future competition in each band and for each service."

Yet in its own response to the URCA consultation, SRG hit back by alleging that past spectrum allocations in the Bahamas appeared to favour BTC, which enjoyed a different set of rules compared to those applied to other operators.

"Past practice with respect to spectrum allocation to the Bahamas Telecommunications Company appears not to have adhered to the same requirements as those applied to other operators," SRG's president, Paul Hutton-Ashkeny, alleged.

"Specifically, in the past it would seem that the PUC [Public Utilities Commission, URCA's predecessor] apparently awarded spectrum in the 1900 MHz and 3.5 GHz to BTC without any public consultation or other transparent process. SRG believes that BTC should be required to adhere to the same set of rules as all other operators with respect to allocation of radio spectrum."

And, for good measure, he added: "SRG respectfully submits that industry stakeholders must be able to have confidence that the past decisions and positions taken by the regulator, whether or not its predecessor, will survive."

Meanwhile, commenting on specific bands, BTC said in its consultation response that while the 850 MHz band was versatile, making it good for both area and indoor coverage, the 1900 MHz band was "not so good for building penetration, and is only really useful if held in parallel with sufficient 850 MHz spectrum".

And the state-owned incumbent added: "Since the Bahamas is relatively flat with low buildings, and since the traffic generated in mobile networks is relatively low, upper bands above 2GHz are significantly less useful in the Bahamas for mobile services than in more dense countries like the UK or US. BTC trusts that URCA will consider such local considerations when designing packages of spectrum to ensure fair competition."

Mindful

BTC also urged URCA to be mindful of its Universal Service Obligation (USO), implying that spectrum frequency would be required for it to service some outlying communities in the Family Islands.

"Given that BTC's USOs require BTC to provide service to all requestors in settlements of 10 households or more, BTC must be in a position to ensure it has the resources, including spectrum resources, to meet these obligations," BTC said.

While the USO currently requires the provision of basic telephone and broadband Internet services over a fixed infrastructure, the telecoms provider warned that "the rapid evolution of mobile services and the migration of users on to the mobile network without fixed-line connections will require BTC to provide new and faster services using more spectrum-intensive technologies."

"Hence BTC requires additional planning certainty as to the availability of spectrum for the present and future provision of services that include a USO component."

BTC also urged URCA to avoid "per-island licensing" of spectrum bands, arguing that this was not practical economically. "In addition to the resulting diseconomies, it would demand coordination of spectrum allotment and assignment between islands, and an additional overhead for URCA for no real benefit," it argued.

"BTC therefore suggests that for commercial use, national assignments or allotments are superior in that they are more efficient in the use of spectrum; co-existence management between islands is avoided; and the cost-effectiveness of small markets, which would result from an island-by-island approach, would be poor."

YVRAS still interested in airport equity stake

FROM page 1B

(YVRAS) is at regarding an equity buy-in, Stewart Steeves, NAD's president and chief executive, told Tribune Business the matter was "under evaluation" during a recent interview.

YVRAS currently manages 18 airports globally, including Nassau's LPIA, and has equity stakes in several airports including Jamaica's Sangster International airport in Montego Bay, Jamaica, the Arturo Merino Benitez airport in Santiago, Chile, and the Larnakos and Pafos International Airports in Cyprus.

YVRAS currently has a 10-year agreement to manage NAD and LPIA, with the airport's assets having been transferred from the Airport Authority to NAD for a 30-year period. At the time the management agreement was finalised, George Casey, YVRAS's chief executive, told Tribune Business that the Canadian-based company remained interested in obtaining an equity stake in NAD.

Minister of Tourism and Aviation, Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, said the fact YVRAS was considering buying into the airport operator showed the company's confidence in its ability to generate revenue going forward.

"The fact it is something they are considering is beginning to speak quite well about what they think about the future of that airport and its success. I can understand why they would think quite favourably about that. We believe it will be a spectacular success and a wonderful help for the



REDEVELOPMENT: The new \$198 million US departures Terminal set to open in early March.

Bahamas," said Mr Vanderpool-Wallace.

The Minister, however, said he has not had any formal discussions with the company regarding the proposition. Asked whether he felt the Government would be in favour of the idea of the Canadian company taking a stake in what is currently 100 per cent government-owned, Mr Vanderpool-Wallace declined to comment.

"I can't say until I see something formal put forward," he said.

In its annual report released last week, the Nassau Airport Development Company showed a \$1.1 million reduction in its operating expenses, coupled with a \$4.4 million increase in its revenue and a \$12.1 million rise in retained earnings over 2009. It is ahead of schedule with the redevelopment of the airport, with the new \$198 million US departures Terminal set to open in early March.

Developers 'short change' Ministry

FROM page 1B

been approved - used this to obtain financing without ever picking the permit up and paying the full fee.

This, the BCA president explained, deprived the Ministry of Works and BCA of significant revenues, and meant the latter was often not compensated for the time and work it put into reviewing a specific application.

"They're using the Ministry of Works to get themselves financing via the approval, and taking up a lot of energy and resources for projects that do not move forward," Mr Wrinkle explained, adding that permit applications could "go right through, and the client decide not to proceed. The Ministry never gets paid".

Mr Wrinkle suggested that the BCD and Ministry of Works might soon increase the upfront payments associated with building permit applications, "so their work does not go to waste if the client decides not to proceed".

The BCA president said the increasing professionalism of the construction-related professions, with the architects and engineers both having their self-regulating Boards, and the Contractors Bill set to follow shortly, should enhance the quality of applications to the BCD and reduce its workload.

"Those Boards are bringing a new level of professionalism to the application process, and I'm sure the Ministry is looking for-

ward to that," Mr Wrinkle said. "Anyone can go down there and throw their application on the table."

"Unless there's unique or specific elements to an application, the process chugs along at a good pace," he added, pointing out that in past years the BCD had been "overwhelmed by the amount of work" it faced, with projects such as Atlantis Phase III, Albany and the airport redevelopment going through the system.

Larry Treco, the BCA's treasurer, added of the building permit system: "That's been a problem, and is not a new issue. That's been a problem for 25 years."

The Institute of Bahamian Architects' report, noting that about 5,000 construction projects were approved in 2006 by the BCD, taking an average time of six months, said: "If the average construction cost for each project was \$100,000, that would equate to \$500 million that flowed into the construction industry."

"If the average processing time had been three months, while still not an acceptable time, the money in the construction industry would have been doubled and would have trickled down through most sectors of the economy."

As for the delays being experienced in approving construction permits, the Institute added: "Before the 1990s, it took substantially less time for building permits applications to be approved, they were

approved with substantially less set backs and queries. This was also despite the fact that during this time there were more, less qualified people submitting plans and reviewing the plans at BCD."

Now, with Bahamian engineers and architects both required to be registered, most applications to the BCD were being submitted by qualified professionals.

Yet the Institute said: "In spite of this, the BCD has made the building permit process much more intensive and complicated, with the added problem of unqualified individuals having the power to stop and query the registered architect or engineer's documents."

"This has led to a dumbing down in the construction industry documents by the architects and engineers."

"Instead of using the most innovative and cost-effective solutions, professionals instead choose systems that are top heavy with elements that often times are unnecessary."

Reiterating that "while other locations have been busily trying to streamline their processes through new programmes and eliminating steps and redundancies, BCD has been doing the opposite of instituting more steps and redundancies," the Institute's report said this expansion had resulted in an increased staff level at the Department that was not tied to the number or speed with which permit applications were processed.



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ALL STUDENTS

Surnames beginning with	Dates
A - C	Monday, December 6, 2010
D - G	Tuesday, December 7, 2010
H - L	Wednesday, December 8, 2010
M - P	Thursday, December 9, 2010
R - Z	Friday, December 10, 2010

TIME: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Holy Trinity Activity Centre
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BUSINESS

GLOBAL ECONOMIC NEWS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADRID — Investors sold off government bonds from Spain, Portugal and Italy amid worries that Europe's debt crisis has not been contained by Ireland's bailout, which is putting even more pressure on other weak economies.

Spain and Portugal, deemed the next weakest links in the eurozone economy, have continually denied they will need outside help but investors have become skeptical that the bailouts will stop.

At the heart of the problem is that the austerity measures these countries need to take to reduce their deficits threaten to backfire by weakening economic growth and hurting state revenues. That is what's happening in Greece, which has been able to drastically cut its spending but is struggling to raise tax income as economic and corporate activity wilts.

LONDON — Worries that Portugal or even Spain will have to seek outside help for their debts continued to unsettle European financial markets.

The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares closed down 0.4 percent, Germany's DAX fell 0.1 percent and the CAC-40 in France ended 0.7 percent lower.

TOKYO — Earlier in Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average dropped 1.9 percent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.7 percent and Australia's S&P/ASX200 index shed 0.7 percent.

Chinese shares trimmed some losses after volatile trading that took the Shanghai benchmark down 3.4 percent at one point on worries over fresh inflation-fighting measures.

The Shanghai Composite Index closed down 1.6 percent. Soaring prices in China, the world's No. 2 economy, are so far limited mostly to food, but analysts say price pressure could spread to other areas unless Beijing hikes interest rates and further tightens credit. Investors worry that might slow economic growth or reduce the amount of money flowing through the economy that is helping to finance stock trading.

DUBLIN — Carrying cardboard boxes groaning with crockery and clothes, Kylee O'Brien clears a space at her makeshift market stall and lays out her wares — trappings of a life in Ireland brought to an abrupt end by the country's economic crisis. The 34-year-old is selling almost everything her family owns — from a vintage telephone to a child's bicycle — and heading overseas, just like thousands of others fleeing the debt-racked country, pushing emigration to a level not seen since Ireland's financial gloom of the 1980s.

A look at economic developments and activity in major stock markets around the world Tuesday:



WORRYING TIMES: Brokers work at the Stock Exchange in Madrid Tuesday Nov. 30, 2010. Investors sold off government bonds from Spain, Portugal and Italy on Tuesday amid worries that Europe's debt crisis has not been contained by Ireland's bailout but is putting pressure on other fiscally weak countries.

LONDON — Inflation in the 16 countries that use the euro remained below the European Central Bank's target of 2 percent, but only just.

BERLIN — The number of people unemployed in Germany fell again in November as the job market benefited from the country's rebounding economy.

TOKYO — Japan's factories cut production for the fifth straight month in October, but the decrease wasn't as bad as expected and a turnaround may be on the horizon.

NEW DELHI — India's economy expanded 8.9 percent in the latest quarter, exceeding expectations and indicating the country's recovery is on track despite turbulence globally, particularly in Europe and the U.S.

WARSAW, Poland — Poland's economy, one of Europe's strongest, grew 4.2 percent in the third quarter from a year ago. That's up from a 3.5 percent annual growth rate in the second quarter. Poland, the largest among the European Union's ex-communist members, managed to keep its economy growing over the past two years thanks to upbeat shoppers even while the rest of Europe slipped into recession. Now it is getting a further boost from a stronger-than-expected recovery in neighboring Germany, a major trade partner, while domestic demand remains strong.

JERUSALEM — Israel is charging toward 4 percent growth in 2010 — more than twice the rise forecast for Western Europe and nearly three times that projected for the U.S. — according to the International Monetary Fund.

The country got high marks from the IMF this week. They reflect economic stability that weathered both the years of Palestinian uprising and the more recent global economic crisis.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysia's leader unveiled plans for tax incentives to bolster the country's oil and gas industry as well as new multibillion-dollar projects to build energy plants, a massive energy hub and hotels with the aim of becoming a developed nation by 2020.

DUBLIN — An Irish government minister who had dismissed as fiction reports Ireland was seeking an international bailout said he planned to quit on health grounds, days after an economic rescue package was sealed.

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich has vetoed a tax bill that sparked mass protests across the country.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — The stock exchanges of Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand will link via an electronic trading system, giving investors access to all three markets simultaneously by the second half of 2011.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — War-ravaged Afghanistan will see at least \$10 billion in government spending and outside investment in the coming years, the country's foreign minister predicted after a major conference meant to stir business interest.

NIGERIA: ANTI-GRAFT AGENCY SEEKS SHELL COMMENT

JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press LAGOS, Nigeria

Nigeria's anti-graft agency wants to question the local managing directors of Royal Dutch Shell PLC and oil service firm Halliburton over allegations they bribed authorities in Africa's most populous nation, an official said Tuesday.

The investigation by the nation's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission comes after U.S. authorities found those firms and others encouraged massive corruption within the troubled Nigerian Customs Service and elsewhere. The U.S. cases uncovered that Shell and other oil firms paid millions of dollars in bribes to customs officials to circumvent import rules for offshore rigs, ships and other equipment coming into the nation's notoriously slow ports.

However, officials in oil-rich Nigeria, a major source of easily refined crude for the U.S.' gasoline demand, have been slow to launch their own investigations into the allegations.

"It will always start from somewhere," said Femi Babafemi, a spokesman for commission. "Since it started there, it is necessary for us to take actions on our own part. It is a different thing (than if we have the information and we look the other way.)"

The requests to speak with Shell and Halliburton come from two different cases brought forward in the U.S. under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. That law makes it unlawful for companies doing work in the U.S. to bribe foreign government officials or company executives to secure or retain business.

The Halliburton case involves its former subsidiary KBR, a major engineering and construction services firm based in Houston. In February 2009, KBR pleaded guilty in U.S. federal court to authorizing and paying bribes from 1995 to 2004 for contracts in Nigeria, an OPEC-member nation.

KBR split from Halliburton in 2007. It agreed to pay more than \$400 million in fines in the plea deal.

In the Shell case, U.S. authorities accused the oil firm of bribing Nigerian customs officials with \$3.5 million to quickly process needed equipment for its offshore Bonga field. That field can provide Shell and its partner, the state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corp., with 225,000 barrels of oil and 150 million cubic feet of gas a day.

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NOTICE

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(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Pursuant to Section 137(4) of the International Business Companies Act, 2000 notice is hereby given that the voluntary winding-up and dissolution of the Company commenced on the 30th day of November, 2010 and that Pine Limited of Devonshire House, Queen Street, P.O. Box N-3918 Nassau, Bahamas has been appointed Liquidator.

Dated this 30th day of November, 2010

Pine Limited Liquidator



The National Insurance Board of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

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Qualified Contractors are required to collect a proposal from the Customer Service Desk, located at the National Insurance Board, Clifford Darling Complex, Baillou Hill Road, Nassau, Bahamas, from Monday to Friday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.

For further information, please contact Mr. Dave Neymour, Facilities/Buildings Department at telephone number 502-1833.

All proposals should be properly sealed, marked "Tender For Services," and must be DELIVERED BY HAND no later than 4:00 p.m., on Friday, December 10, 2010, to:

Mr. Algernon Cargill
Office of the Director
THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BOARD
3rd Floor, Clifford Darling Complex
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Nassau, Bahamas

The National Insurance Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.



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BUSINESS

GM, CHRYSLER EACH TO HIRE 1,000 ENGINEERS

TOM KRISHER,
AP Auto Writer
HAMTRAMCK, Michigan

General Motors and Chrysler, two companies that nearly died last year before getting government bailouts, showed further signs of recovery Tuesday as each announced plans to hire 1,000 engineers and researchers.

GM's hiring will begin immediately and run through the next two years as it adds staff to work on the next generation of electric vehicles. Chrysler said it will hire during the next four months to help handle global growth as well as expansion of its small and midsize vehicle lineup. The moves each are a sign of confidence as the automakers come back from stays in bankruptcy protection last year. GM is making money and Chrysler has narrowed its losses, both operating with far less debt and lower labor costs than when they were near the brink of financial ruin.



(AP Photo/Paul Sancya) **GENERAL MOTORS** chief executive officer Dan Akerson raises his arms next to the Chevrolet Volt.

The GM hiring was announced by CEO Dan Akerson during a ceremony as the company prepares to deliver the first Chevrolet Volt rechargeable electric cars to customers. Akerson also disclosed that GM is selling the \$41,000 Volt at "close to cost," but said its vehicles of the future will benefit from Volt technology.

Legal Notice

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(No.45 of 2000)

ASHERIDGE LIMITED

In Voluntary Liquidation

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

The date of commencement of dissolution is the 29th day of November 2010.

Epsilon Management Ltd.
Suite 13, First Floor, Oliaji Trade Centre
Francis Rachel Street, Victoria, Mahe
Republic of Seychelles
Liquidator

Legal Notice

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(No.45 of 2000)

ANDROMEDA MARITIME LIMITED

In Voluntary Liquidation

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The date of commencement of dissolution is the 29th day of November 2010.

Epsilon Management Ltd.
Suite 13, First Floor, Oliaji Trade Centre
Francis Rachel Street, Victoria, Mahe
Republic of Seychelles
Liquidator

EU launches antitrust probe into Google

GABRIELE STEINHAUSER,
AP Business Writer
BRUSSELS

European Union regulators will probe whether Google Inc. has been manipulating its search results to stifle competition, funnel more traffic to its own services and protect its global stranglehold of the online search market.

The European Commission's move, announced Tuesday, is the first formal investigation by a major regulatory agency into these issues and could potentially result in billions in fines, as in the recent cases of Microsoft Corp. and Intel Corp.

Several competitors, one owned by Microsoft, say that links to their services appear too low on Google's general search results. They also claim that when Google offers similar services, such as online price comparison, it puts its own links higher on the sponsored search results, the ones companies have to pay for.

In addition, the Commission will look into whether Google prevented advertising partners from posting ads from Google's competitors on their sites and whether it was making it more difficult for customers to move data from their advertising campaigns to other ad platforms.

The issue could boil down to whether Google has a right to program its search engine the way it wants or whether it is abusing the market power it has



INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

accumulated by processing about two out of three search requests made worldwide.

This much is clear: Google's own services consistently have ranked at or near the top of its search results. In some cases, there's clear logic to the rankings because some of Google's properties, including its mapping service and YouTube video site, are considered to be among the best and most authoritative in their categories.

But other Google services, such as finance and health, that aren't as widely used or as well regarded also tend to get high rankings in the search results.

Google has steadfastly insisted that it avoids bias in its search results by using a closely guarded formula for determining rankings. But at other times, Google executives have conceded they sometimes give

their own services preferential treatment, and have argued if users aren't happy with the results, they can easily migrate to another search engine such as Bing. The three companies that lodged complaints in February are U.K.-based price comparison site Foundem, French legal search engine ejustice.fr and shopping site Ciao, owned by Microsoft through its own search engine Bing — which has struggled to wrestle online market share away from Google.

The investigation does not imply any wrongdoing by Google, which controls about 90 percent of the online search market in Europe, but shows that the antitrust watchdog is taking the complaints seriously enough to launch a detailed examination of the company's practices.

Several websites in the U.S. have also complained that their links have been unfairly buried in Google's search results and, in some instances, have even filed lawsuits in the United States. The company has also been the target of national antitrust probes in Germany, Italy and France.

The Commission has notified the U.S. Department of Justice of its investigation, which is likely to take "at least a few months," said Amelia Torres, the spokeswoman for Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia. It is too early to say whether Google might have to disclose its closely guarded

search algorithm to regulators, Torres said.

Speaking to the European Parliament, Almunia said it was "far too early to say" whether there was definitely a problem with Google's conduct. "But we will investigate in-depth potential concerns as regards Google's conduct, notably on the way in which search results are set out," Almunia said. "Vigorous competition of all players, including smaller and innovative ones must be preserved for the future."

In a Tuesday statement, Google reiterated its belief that it hasn't done anything wrong. "Since we started Google we have worked hard to do the right thing by our users and our industry — ensuring that ads are always clearly marked, making it easy for users and advertisers to take their data with them when they switch services, and investing heavily in open source projects," Google said in an emailed statement.

"But there's always going to be room for improvement, and so we'll be working with the Commission to address any concerns," the company said.

Google also said that "there were compelling reasons" why the complaining companies "were ranked poorly." It said Foundem "duplicates 79 percent of its website content from other sites, and we have consistently informed webmasters that our algorithms disadvantage duplicate sites."

GOOGLE SIGNS AGREEMENT TO TRANSLATE EUROPEAN PATENTS

PARIS

Google announced an agreement Tuesday to use its technology to translate patents into 29 European languages, a deal officials hope will smooth the way toward a simplified European patent system after years of infighting.

Google Inc.'s deal with the European Patent Office, or EPO, will make it easier for inventors and scientists from across the continent to read and understand patents. The EPO has 38 member countries.

Disputes about which languages should take precedence on official documents has long prevented the move to a European Union-wide standard patent. The European Commission has been pushing for a unified system, but Spain and Italy have refused to accept its contention that it should be enough to have patents translated into English, French and German.

The European Commission says the agreement with Google should help do away with the huge translation fees that prevent growth and hurt small businesses. It is presently 10 times more expensive to apply for a patent in Europe than in the United States.

Officials say they hope the Google translation will also appease some countries' fears that they will be at a language disadvantage. Benoit Battistelli, president of the European Patent Office, said for those countries the deal is "a kind of compensation, so they can accept the idea that for economic reasons it's necessary to choose only a few languages and not to use all of them."

Carlo d'Asaro Biondo, Google's vice president for southern and eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa, said the company did not expect any immediate financial profit from the deal.

Sergio Dompe, chairman of the Italian Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers, called Google's project "an interesting idea" — but one that could run into legal issues.

"Anything that brings the cost of innovation down is very welcome," he said. "On the other hand, I fear there are too many lawyers involved in the patent field for automatic translations to be granted legal value anytime soon."

The agreement benefits Google by giving it access to a vast body of patents already translated into different languages. That will improve the Mountain View, California-based company's machine translation technology, which "learns" languages by comparing translations that have already been carried out by professionals.

The EPO will feature the Google translation service on its website.



TRANSLATION SERVICE: Internet search giant Google Inc. Director of Development Chewy Trewhella delivers a presentation of Google translator for patents during a press conference in Paris, France, yesterday.

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT, 2000
(No. 45 of 2000)

In Voluntary Liquidation

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 137 (8) of the International Business Companies Act, (No. 45 of 2000), **BEEHIVE INVESTMENTS LTD.** has been completed, Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the Company has therefore been struck off the Registrar. The date of completion of the dissolution was October 25th, 2010.

Mr. Marcos Antonio Mubez
Liquidator



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BUSINESS

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Wary meeting: Obama, GOP leaders pledge tax talks

STATE TAX REVENUES RISE FOR 3RD STRAIGHT QUARTER

DAVID ESPO, Associated Press JIM KUHNHENN, Associated Press WASHINGTON



TOUGH TALKS: President Barack Obama makes a statement in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, on the White House campus in Washington, Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010, about his meeting today with Republican and Democratic Congressional leaders.

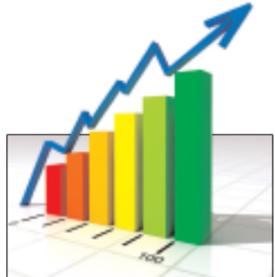
Heralding a new era of divided government, President Barack Obama and congressional Republicans pledged warily to seek common ground on tax cuts and reduced spending Tuesday in their first meeting since tumultuous midterm elections.

Obama also made a strong plea to Senate Republicans to permit ratification of a new arms control treaty with Russia by year's end, raising the issue first in a session in the White House's Roosevelt Room and then in a follow-up meeting without aides present, officials said.

No substantive agreements on essential year-end legislation emerged from the session, and none had been expected. Instead, the meeting was a classic capital blend of substance and style, offering a chance for Obama, House Speaker-in-waiting John Boehner and Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell to become more comfortable in one another's presence.

"The American people did not vote for gridlock. They didn't vote for unyielding partisanship. They're demanding cooperation and they're demanding progress," the president told reporters, referring to elections that gave the GOP control of the House and a stronger say in the Senate.

Back at the Capitol after the meeting, Boehner said, "I think that spending more time will help us find some common ground," and he credited Obama with opening the session by saying he had not reached out enough in the past to Republi-



INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

can leaders. Even so, there was little or no attempt to minimize the differences that divided the parties during the election campaign, including a disagreement on legislation to extend Bush-era tax cuts due to expire at year's end.

"It is the view of 100 percent of Senate Republicans, and a number of Senate Democrats

as well ... that we ought to treat all taxpayers the same," McConnell told reporters. Obama and most Democrats, by contrast, want to extend existing tax cuts to all workers with family incomes under \$250,000 but allow them to expire for those at higher levels.

In a sign of urgency, Obama and leaders of both parties appointed a small group to begin talks immediately on resolving the issue so lawmakers can approve a compromise before wrapping up their work. One possible compromise is for Democrats to agree to extend the tax cuts for all, and for Republicans to drop their insistence that the lower tax rates be made permanent. An extension for a few years would allow both sides to claim victory while limiting the cost to the government at a time when deficit reduction is a major priority of both parties.

Officials said there was relatively little discussion of another major issue confronting law-

Stocks pared their losses Tuesday after President Barack Obama and Republican lawmakers promised to seek a compromise before the end of the year on extending Bush-era tax cuts.

The Dow recouped most of its losses and was down 25 points in afternoon trading. It had been down as many as 110 points earlier on concerns that Europe's debt crisis was spreading. President Barack Obama

CHIP CUTTER, AP Business Writer NEW YORK

Board said its index of consumer confidence jumped to a five-month high of 54.1 in November from 49.9 in October. That's better than analysts expected but still well below the level of 90 that indicates a healthy economy.

The euro briefly fell below \$1.30 for the first time since mid-September after investors sold off government bonds from Spain, Portugal and Italy. A bailout of Ireland's banks announced Sunday hasn't been enough to assuage worries that other weak Euro-

NOTICE is hereby given that CAROL LOWE OF 212 HARBOUR HOUSE II, P.O. BOX F-41736, 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 24TH day of NOVEMBER, 2010 to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, P.O.Box F-41085, Grand Bahama, Bahamas.

NOTICE is hereby given that OKEEF JARRETT of P.O.Box CR 56777, QUEEN'S COURT, YELLOW ELDER 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 24th day of November, 2010 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

Table with financial data including BIXX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF: TUESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2010. Includes columns for Security, Previous Close, Today's Close, Change, Daily Vol., EPS \$, Div \$, P/E, and Yield.

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makers in the current postelection session, the need for a new spending bill so the government can run without interruption. Current spending authority expires on Dec. 3, and majority Democrats intend to extend that to Dec. 17.

The next steps are unclear, though, and a struggle is possible between Democrats who are about to lose their majority in the House, and Republicans who won the election with a call for significant spending cuts.

In addition, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said it was important for Congress to pass an extension of unemployment benefits before heading home, officials said, adding that Obama concurred.

The president has called repeatedly in recent days for the Senate to ratify the proposed new START treaty with Russia. In remarks to reporters, he called it essential for the national security and said it would permit the United States to "monitor Russia's nuclear arsenal, reduce our nuclear weapons and strengthen our relationship with Russia."

Ratification requires a two-thirds vote, meaning Republican support is essential. Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona, the GOP point man on the issue, said in the meeting that Democrats should quickly resolve the tax and spending issues to allow time for a debate on the treaty. Kyl did not say whether he intended to vote for or against the pact, according to officials.

He and other Republicans have been involved in intensive negotiations with administration officials and Senate Democrats over terms of accompanying legislation covering the modernization and security of the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

Revenue rose in 42 of the 48 states that have reported data for the third quarter, the report said. Personal income and sales taxes both rose, while corporate tax revenue declined. Part of the increase in revenue is due to tax increases, but the rise also reflects "a slowly recovering economy" that is increasing income and sales, the report said.

New York reported the biggest dollar increase in total tax collections, with a rise of \$577 million, or 4.5 percent. North Dakota experienced the largest percentage jump, with an increase of 29.5 percent. That was due to a large rise in corporate income tax revenue. Utah, West Virginia, Connecticut and Delaware saw the next biggest gains.

Of the six states to report declining tax revenue, Alaska's fell 48 percent. That was the biggest drop, mostly because of a decline in oil and gas production taxes. The price of both commodities fell and less of each was produced during the period, the report said. Hawaii, Louisiana, South Dakota, Virginia and Alabama were the other states to report drops.

After climbing throughout September and October on hopes that the Fed's plan would lift the economy, the Dow and other indexes have been falling since hitting 2010 highs on Nov. 5, two days after the Fed announced its program.

NOTICE IN THE ESTATE of BETTY FRANCES HEDDEN domiciled and late of Joe's Creek Subdivision, Abaco, The Bahamas, deceased. Notice is hereby given that all persons having any claim or demand against or interest in the above Estate should send same duly certified in writing to the undersigned on or before 19th January, 2011 after which date the Administrator will proceed to distribute the assets of the Estate having regard only to the claims, demands or interests of which he shall then have had notice AND all persons indebted to the above Estate are asked to settle such debts on or before 19th January, 2011.

MICHAEL A. DEAN & CO., Attorneys for the Administrator Chambers Don Mackey Blvd. P.O. Box AB-20377 Marsh Harbour, Abaco The Bahamas

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The Tribune Taste

Vegetarian dishes to warm you up this season

A drop in temperature as we move into winter when makes it easier to enjoy hearty, cold weather friendly vegetarian dishes that will warm you on chilly nights with no stifling heat to prevent you from pouring over a hot stove. In anticipation of a drop in temperature as we move into winter, I have been experimenting with dishes I would normally avoid during the summer months.

From rustic roasted vegetables, soups made of inexpensive ingredients like butternut squash and pumpkin and comforting casseroles are all simple enough to prepare and are very filling. Here are some of my favourite dinner recipes that I enjoy during the cooler months.

ROASTED VEGETABLES *(from allrecipes.com)*

INGREDIENTS

- 1 small winter squash, peeled and cubed
- 1 sweet potato, peeled and cubed
- 1 small turnip
- 2 large carrots peeled and sliced into chunks
- 1 red onion, quartered
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- salt and ground black pepper to taste
- sprinkle of cayenne pepper (optional)

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 475 degrees
2. In a large bowl combine the squash, sweet potato, carrots and turnips. Separate the onion quarters into smaller pieces and add them to the mixture.
3. In another bowl stir together thyme, rosemary, olive oil, cayenne pepper, salt, and black pepper. Toss with vegetables until they are coated. Spread vegetables evenly on a large roasting pan.
4. Roast for 35 to 40 minutes in the preheated oven - turning every 10 minutes - or until vegetables are cooked through and browned.



WARM AND TASTY: Winter makes it easier to enjoy hearty, cold weather friendly vegetarian dishes that will warm you on chilly nights

BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP

INGREDIENTS

- one butternut squash
- 3 cloves garlic
- 3 cups of vegetable stock
- a little water

Preheat oven to 350. Pour water in baking dish so that it's about half an inch deep.

Cut the unpeeled squash in half, scoop out and discard the seeds. Place squash in the baking dish, skin side up. Place the garlic cloves, unpeeled, in the dish next to the squash.

Bake until the squash is soft - about an hour. After cooling for a few minutes, then scoop filling into in a blender or food processor. Squeeze the roasted garlic out of its skin and into the blender or food processor. Blend the ingredients for a minute or two, until smooth.

Heat vegetable stock over medium heat and slowly add the squash along. Simmer for 10 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Flash Back

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

BY ROLAND ROSE



A policeman's work is never done. Music makers, traffic patrol, funeral bearers, stop and look at those wonderful uniforms.

entertainment

The Little Miss Bahamas beauties

By ALESHA CADET
Tribune Features Reporter

AFTER weeks of preparation, five year old Syngular Journee Brown walked away with the Little Miss Petite Crown at the this year's 2010 Little Miss Bahamas Pageant held on November 28, at the Rainforest Theatre.

In an interview with *Tribune Entertainment*, Syngular's mother Ms Patricia Chatti said while Syng Syng, as she is often called, has been modeling since the age of three, this is the first pageant she has entered.

Filled with excitement, Ms Chatti said after winning, her daughter told her, "Mommy I was crying because my brain felt so happy, I was proud of myself."

Ms Chatti continued: "She was sponsored by Just For Me hair products, Phil's Food Service, Mario's Bowling Alley, Shell Gas Station and Jared Cyrus."

"I was using all of my online accounts to promote her in the pageant, my Cia Monet company as well as my Make Em Listen account. To date, this would be the first major thing I've done in terms of managing my daughter, I think parents should support their children no matter what, I support her in everything she does" Ms Chatti said.

Little Queens

Under the theme "It's A Princess Affair", there were also six contestants in total that were awarded with official titles.

Prior to the final show, all of the girls took part in a number of rehearsals and pre pageant activities which included the photo shoots and the preliminary competition.

A few of the exciting places they all visited were Dolphin Encounters, Dominoes Pizza, Gala Princess Float Parade, Filming of Opening at Ardasra Gardens and Worship at Mt. Tabor Full Gospel.

Pageant Director Gaynell Rolle

told *Tribune Entertainment* that this year's competition was very competitive and by the end of the night they had crowned six beauties.

"We were proud to say that all of them were all honour roll students. We crowned Syngular Brown, Little Miss Petite. She was also the national costume winner, winning the overall of all age categories. She also won overall Miss Popularity and Miss Public choice," she said.

Winners

Ms Rolle added: "We also crowned Little Miss La Petite, Allison Taylor and following her was "Our Little Miss", Dajanell Dixon and she also won little Miss Glitz and Glamour in Freeport."

"We also had another age category called "Ideal Miss" won by Alexis Dean and the Little Miss Pre-teen Bahamas was won by Kendicia Clarke. The overall winner of the entire show was Angel Knowles, winning the Little Miss Bahamas 2010 title," she explained.

"The categories that we have are the same as our International Pageant, all of the little beauties are official title holders. All of them will be competing in International Pageants."

She continued: "The parents this year was so awesome, they all worked so hard."

Ms Rolle also said she is so pleased with the accomplishment of the outgoing queens, the reigning Little Miss Bahamas, Adria Albury and Rikendra King the reigning Miss Pre-Teen Bahamas whom both achieved international titles at International Competitions, as well as Angel Pride who received a number of awards.

The Little Miss Bahamas Organisation recorded a major success as Adria advanced to the finals to capture the title of World's Mini Miss in Phoenix, Arizona.

Adria Albury was the lucky contestant who not only won the title, but also, together with her mom, won in the Mother/Daughter category.

A group of over 30 Bahamians attended the international pageant event and celebrated with Adria and her family.



LITTLE QUEEN: Angel Knowles crowned the Little Miss Bahamas 2010!



FULL OF SMILES: Syngular Journee gets crowned Little Miss Petite!



TAGS ON EVERYTHING: The crew from Collage Entertainment recently joined forces with 100Jamz DJ Natural Empress for a charity drive at the Luna Nightclub.

Stop Liking Man

By CARA BRENNEN-BETHEL
Tribune Features Editor

WHAT began as a short video to encourage persons not to follow the crowd and bow to peer pressure has now become a Bahamian cult following with persons from all walks of life telling people to "stop liking man" and having "tags on everything."

Three members of Collage Entertainment- the masterminds behind the craze- brothers Tyrone and Valentino Burrows and their friend Valentino Burrows, recently sat down with *Tribune Entertainment* to discuss how the message came to be.

"Basically, we used to be really involved in dramas at the Youth Alive conference held every year from 2004. We would do skits and

then short plays," said Tyrone.

"What we realised is that people had nothing to do and were looking for positive entertainment and so they would really look forward to our performance and then we started winning talent shows with our positive message and it grew from there."

They chose the name Collage Entertainment to symbolise a blending and variety of the talents in the group.

"We work under a common purpose to provide quality Bahamian based entertainment something that people can be proud of," said Tyrone.

He explained that the "Stop Liking Man" concept came from youth pastor Corey DJ Counsellor who would always tell the Youth Alive audience not to follow fashion or the

crowd and to be yourself.

"He would say be yourself, be a real man or woman, and make your own decisions. So that is how the "Stop Liking Man" concept came about, we wanted to poke fun at some of the things that people do just because other people do it.

Some of the things featured in the videos are guys wearing their pants tucked into their socks, buying Oakley sunglasses to wear without the lenses, staring people down just for fun of it and guys dressing alike wearing the colour of the day.

They also poked fun at guys who refused to remove the labels off their hats and clothing prompting the phrase "Tags on everything"

The message took off and became a cult following prompting a sequel and generating media attention when a government member in the House of Assembly shouted "Stop Liking Man" to opposition member Glennys Hanna-Martin as she made a contribution to a debate on cul-

ture.

"We knew our friends would like it and we had a lot of people asking for a part two, but what surprised us with the second one was the broad spectrum of people who liked it. The first one, most people were between the ages of 15-25 and the second one people of all ages enjoyed it," Valentino said. He added that it was a big surprise to hear leaders of the country echoing their phrase.

The Stop Liking Man response has been "a humbling experience said Glenn who said people stop him all the time to tell him how much they enjoy it."

They agree that what makes it so humorous is that it does depict things that people do without thinking about.

"You know you look at the video and you are like yea ya know, people do that for true," said Tyrone.

The group promised that have something exciting in the works and encouraged people to stay tuned.

things 2DO

DECEMBER 2 - THURSDAY
"BRINGIN' BACK DA GOOD OLE DAYS" ART AUCTION, EXHIBITION AND SALE

• Capital City Marketing presents "Bringin' Back Da Good Ole Days", an art auction, exhibition and sale told through the eyes of Bahamian artist, Nicole Angelica. The show begins 7pm-10pm at the Balmoral Club. Proceeds will benefit the Young Arts Foundation for the Advancement of Art. For more information contact 323-5589 or kathy@ccmbahamas.com.

DEC 1 - 5
7TH ANNUAL BAHAMAS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

• The acclaimed Bahamas International Film Festival returns for its 7th year. In addition to showing films that might not otherwise be released theatrically, BIFF provides unique cultural experiences, educational programs, and forums for exploring the past, present and future of cinema. BIFF aims to raise the level of filmmaking, participation and education through The Bahamas. For more information contact 325-5747 or see <http://www.bintfilmfest.com>.

DEC 3 - FRIDAY
NATIONAL DANCE SCHOOL OF THE BAHAMAS' CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

• The National Dance School of the Bahamas hosts its annual Christmas Open House performance, 6.30pm at the school, 5th Terrace Centerville. For more information contact children 323-4380 or email nationaldanceschool@yahoo.com.

DEC 4 - SATURDAY
4TH ANNUAL WAHOO CHALLENGE (LEG 1)

• Lightbourne Marine presents the 4th annual Wahoo Challenge with the first leg set for Entrance fee: \$500/per boat (4 anglers); \$100/additional angler. Sign up at Lightbourne Marine, T: 393-5285 or 393-5549. E: rachel@lightbournemarine.com.

DEC 5 - SUNDAY
37TH ANNUAL NIGHT OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

• The Rotary Club of West Nassau presents the 37th annual Night of Christmas Music under the theme "Telling the Story of Christmas", 8pm at the Rainforest Theatre. Entertainment provided by National Youth Choir, National Children's Choir, Royal Bahamas Police Force Band, The World Famous Glee Club, Freddie Munnings Jr and much more! Tickets: \$25. Available at Watson Construction, The Juke Box, Ezzo on The Run (Baillou Hill), Shell Service Station (Marathon) and Centre for Specialized Dentistry.

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Young Jeezy all set to Rock Da Last Laugh Weekend in Nassau

By ALESHA CADET
Tribune Features Reporter

ATLANTA hip-hop star, Young Jeezy, is set to put a massive show at the Club Luna Night Club, West Bay Street, Saunders Beach this Saturday, December 4.

Under the theme "Da Last Laugh Weekend", The Recession group presents Young Jeezy Live in Concert. "Da Recession" is a promotion company that is based in Miami Florida but it is said to be headed by a Bimini born native DJ extraordinaire D'ano, also known as King D'ano Duncombe.

The entire weekend is slated to be full of excitement, with the pre-party kicking off at the Marley Resort on Friday December 3, with doors opening at 8pm. The concert on Saturday will offer the first 100 ladies a free admission as a gift from the new promoters.

In a statement, The Vendetta Group informed *Tribune Entertainment* that over his many years working in Florida, D'ano has been involved in quite a number of big shows and has made many valuable contacts

"As DJ King D'ano, he has gained quite a bit of notoriety in south Florida for his mixing skills. His mix was originally broadcasted on Riddim 94 and Mix 96 but he has now moved on to the digital era and mixes on 3kingsradio.com."

Mr Duncombe explained this reason for giving his company the name "Da Recession." He says, "it was because of the socio-economic environment the world is presently in." He went on to further elaborate that even in these tough times, he still wants people to be entertained by top class performers.

Speaking on the reasons for choosing Young Jeezy for this particular concert, Mr Duncombe said: "The streets demanded his presence after producing three classic albums and one classic mix tape."

He continued: "Jeezy is true to the words in his songs and never seems to switch on his roots and that is why the people love him."

With the holiday season just getting in, "The Last Laugh Weekend will be a proper way to kick it all off," promoters said.

Tickets prices for the event are \$50 and \$100 for VIP. They are available at Alpha Sounds, Jukebox, Parts World and Sunshine Auto.



Wesley Snipes

Prosecutors: No bail for Snipes

OCALA, Fla.
Associated Associated

FEDERAL prosecutors object to actor Wesley Snipes' request that he remain free on bail while he appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court his three-year prison sentence for failing to pay taxes.

Prosecutors filed a motion objecting to the request on Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Ocala, Fla.

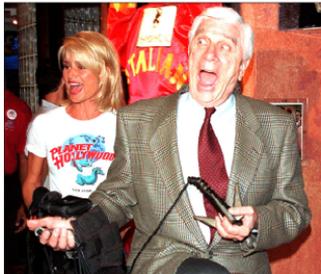
Prosecutors say Snipes' request is premature since he hasn't even yet filed a petition with the Supreme Court. They also say his case doesn't raise any questions of law that the Supreme Court likes to tackle when picking cases, and that he has failed to show that the conviction likely will be reversed.

Snipes was recently ordered to begin serving his sentence, but the judge did not set a surrender date. Snipes has been free on bail while appealing his 2008 conviction for willful failure to file income tax returns.

REMEMBERING LESLIE NEILSON



THE Canadian-born Nielsen, who went from drama to inspired bumbling as a hapless doctor in "Airplane!" and the accident-prone detective Frank Drebin in "The Naked Gun" comedies, has died. He was 84. His agent John S. Kelly says Nielsen died Sunday, Nov. 28, 2010, at a hospital near his home in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., where he was being treated for pneumonia.



MUSIC REVIEW

Benet loses sexy on 'Lost in Time'

Eric Benet
'LOST IN TIME'
(Reprise)

The latest effort from Eric Benet is titled "Lost in Time," and we can only imagine that the crooner is alluding to the disappearance of his "sexy."

The 44-year-old Benet got off to a great start with first single, "Sometimes I Cry," using his butterscotch vocals to narrate the shaky first steps of life after a break-up. Unfortunately, there's not much else like it on the disc, heavy with retro soul.

Benet puts his falsetto to work on the saccharin sweet "Always a Reason." But it, like the album's title track, has the previously silky R&B singer sounding like the leader of a Temptations cover band. Benet hustles alongside Christette Michele on the disco-ready, flute-inflected "Take It." And he's outdone by the O'Jays' Eddie Levert on the cool "Paid," which has the worldly sophistication and sound of the legendary funk-soul group's 1972 hit "Backstabbers." He also has a sweet song with his daughter India on "Summer Love."

Craig Ferguson welcomes French copycat to his show

NEW YORK
Associated Press

CRAIG Ferguson uncorked an on-air rant last week after finding out that portions of his "Late Late Show" were being hijacked and copied by a French TV host.

But then on Monday, Ferguson buried the hatchet and introduced America to the boyish cutup known in France simply as Arthur, as he made a surprise guest appearance.

At the top of the CBS show, Arthur was seen solo, wearing a wide grin and greeting the audience.

"What are you doing?" squawked Ferguson, stepping into the picture.

"I'm doing the show," replied Arthur.

"You're doing MY show," said Ferguson. "You're copying ME!"

As proof, he presented the title sequence of "Tonight With Arthur," which was almost identical in side-by-side comparison to that of "The Late Late Show"—only with snippets of Paris substituted for Los Angeles, and Arthur (also pounding on a drum kit and splashing in a fountain)

swapped for Ferguson.

"That was not a COPY," Arthur argued in his thick accent. "It was an homage."

"What about this morning, when I saw you walking my dog?" Ferguson pressed on.

"Also a tribute to your unique talents. And your dog really needs a bath."

"And what about last night, when I caught you kissing my wife?"

"Another tribute to you. And, by the way, your wife also really needs a bath."

"You're just copying everything I do," said Arthur. Tribute, schmibute. Ferguson had radiated comedic ire on his Nov. 22 show, taped just hours after he learned on Twitter about Arthur's so-called homage.

That night Ferguson shared with viewers another clip displaying Arthur's fondness for hand puppets, including a sassy shark, that seem lifted from Ferguson's own prop closet.

"If you're going to steal from a show," Ferguson appealed to Arthur in his self-mocking monologue that night, "what about a GOOD

show like 'Lost' or 'The Wire'?" Don't steal from THIS show! That's like taking pants from a hobo!

A guest that night happened to be TV personality and wide-ranging commentator Ben Stein, who, as a lawyer, among other things, prompted Ferguson to ask if he had legal recourse against Arthur.

"I think I've got whiplash," Ferguson explained.

Replied Stein, characteristically deadpan, "I strongly recommend you sue."

Here, it seemed, was brazen theft of intellectual property without so much as a "S'il vous plait!"

"Our first reaction had been: You gotta be kidding me!" said producer Michael Naudus on Monday. "But then, as with pretty much everything that happens to us on the show, we looked for the best way to make it funny and entertaining. And in this case, that didn't seem to involve lawyers."

Executive producer Peter Lassally added, "At one point Craig asked us, 'How should I be feeling about this?' And we said, 'You should be amused by this.'"



IN THIS Nov. 29, 2010 photo provided by CBS, Craig Ferguson, fourth from right, stands next to Jacques Essebag, the host of "Ce Soir Avec Arthur," fifth from right, on the set of the "Late Late Show" in Los Angeles.