WEATHER

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

HIGH 85F
LOW 72F

BREEZY, SUNSHINE

The Tribune

LATEST NEWS ON WWW.TRIBUNE242.COM

THE PEOPLE'S PAPER
BIGGEST AND BEST

Volume: 107 No.3 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2010 PRICE – 75¢ (Abaco and Grand Bahama $1.25)

FREE IN YOUR TRIBUNE:
YOUR VERY OWN 40-PAGE
NFL THANKSGIVING ROUND-UP

Woman murdered in 'lover's lane'

Police hunt pair who stole car

By NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

THE Adelaide Village beachfront property is known as "The Farm" – the area of its location is also a "lover's lane" and the scene of the country's latest murder.

Shandie Cartwright, 22, of Johnson Road, a bank employee, was attacked and fatally stabbed by two armed thugs. A man, believed to be her boyfriend, received wounds to his arm.

According to police, the couple were approached by the men – one had a knife and the other a handgun – who attacked and robbed them.

The culprits, who wore dark clothing, also stole their car, a black Hyundai Accent, licence plate 223079.

Police are questioning a 23-year-old man in relation to the incident.

Neither of the victims is thought to be from the Adelaide community.

While the police top brass visited the scene of the crime with the lead investigator, other divisional officers participated in a walkabout of the community.

The blood of the victims still stained the sand on the beach yesterday, as investiga-

SEE page eight

BAHA MAR CHINESE WORKERS 'WILL GET MINIMUM WAGES, ALL BENEFITS REQUIRED'

THE 8,150 Chinese workers set to enter the country to help construct the $2.6billion Baha Mar project will be paid minimum wages and receive all benefits required under Bahamian law, Labour Minister Dion Foulkes confirmed yesterday.

Mr Foulkes made the announcement before heading to a Cabinet meeting.

It follows concerns raised by the Opposition and several union leaders over whether the rights of the Chinese will be pro-

SEE page 10

THE BAHAMAS BACKS REMOVING PROTECTION FOR GAY PEOPLE IN UN RESOLUTION

THE Bahamas has voted in favour of removing gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons from a United Nations resolution that would condemn their extra-judicial or arbitrary execution because of their sexual orientation.

Along with Iran, Saudi Arabia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and 75 other mostly African and Muslim countries, the Bahamas helped see the amendment approved 79 to 70, with 17

SEE page 10

HATS OFF TO GAMBIER STUDENTS

Felipé Major/Tribune staff

WALKABOUT: Four-year-old Roston Thurston, a Gambier Primary School student, wearing Police Commissioner Ellison Greenslade's hat yesterday, said he would love to be the Commissioner for a day. Members of the police force held a walkabout in the area.

• SEE PAGE TWO

PM backs police force in Bain Town aftermath

By TANEKA THOMPSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
tthompson@tribunemedia.net

SUPPORT: Hubert Ingraham

PRIME Minister Hubert Ingraham yesterday voiced his support for the Royal Bahamas Police Force in the aftermath of the disturbance in Bain Town.

Mr Ingraham also hit back at criticism from Opposition leader Perry Christie who claimed the current administration failed to put its finger on the pulse of crime and spearhead community outreach projects.

He called the PLP leader a "forgetful man" who was silent when crime rose under his watch during 2002 to 2007.

The nation's chief also touched on inefficiencies within the judicial system, such as delays in bringing those charged with serious offences to trial, thus allowing accused criminals to

SEE page 10

FATALLY SHOT EX-POLICEMAN 'HAD WEAPONS'

By NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

OFFICERS found three potentially-lethal weapons on the ex-policeman who was shot dead by police on Robinson Road Tuesday night.

Walden Mitchell, 38, was wanted in connection with the attempted murder of Police Constable 3331 Johnson. Earli-

SEE page 10

MAN CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH SHOOTING

FREEPORT: A man wanted in connection with a shooting incident at Garden Villas on October 25 was arraigned in Freeport Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Rodnell Octavien, 25, of Imperial Gardens, was charged with causing grievous bodily harm. He was not required to plea to the charge. He remanded in custody at Fox Hill Prison until January 26, 2011.

LOCAL NEWS

POLICE WALKABOUT IN GAMBIER

WORDS OF WISDOM: Commissioner of Police Ellison Greenslade speaks to students at Gambier House during a police walkabout.

HAVE A GO: Young RostonThurston hold the stick of the Commissioner of Police Ellison Greenslade.

HAVING A CHAT: Sergeant 2021 Rolle talks to four-year-old Roston Thurston, a student of Gambier Primary School, during a police walkabout of the Gambier community yesterday.

TAKING TIME OUT: Sergeant 2021 Rolle along with Assistant Commissioner Hulan Hanna took time out to talk to the students of of Gambier Primary School during a police walkabout of the area yesterday morning.

PHOTOS: *Felipé Major/Tribune Staff*

Roadside vendors urged to visit Business License Unit for information on legislation

ROADSIDE vendors unsure of the stipulations they will have to satisfy come January 1 when new legislation comes on stream should visit the Business License Unit for more information, State Finance Minister Zhivargo Laing said yesterday.

Under the new Business Licence Act, the fee imposed for a licence will depend on each street vendor's declared income and will be waived for those making less than $50,000 a year, said Mr Laing. Still all vendors have to apply for a licence.

"Anyone in the Bahamas who is selling or trading has to have a licence, that's what the law requires," he said. "Most of them, if they declare (income) under $50,000, will be exempt anyway – or they pay $100, I think that is the minimum amount that people, very, very small businesses would pay," he said when asked if vendors selling low-end products like newspapers, fruit and peanuts would pay the same price as large businesses.

ZHIVARGO LAING

Mr Laing said individual circumstances – such as those applying to roaming vendors with no set place of operation – may be taken into consideration at the time of application.

"Once the Secretary of Revenue examines the application and understands the nature of that business he can apply conditions to that licence. When they go into the Business License Unit they will be able to inquire about their requirements and there would be attached to their application forms the requirements of that particular business," Mr Laing told *The Tribune* ahead of yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

At a town meeting earlier this month, Mr Laing said once the act is implemented, government intends to develop a "tighter working relationship with police" that will ensure swift action in response to complaints about infractions by businesses. This is part of a plan for "stricter and stronger enforcement than in times past" of rules relating to business licence infractions, the Marco City MP said.

Pair arraigned on armed robbery counts

By NATARIO McKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

TWO men were arraigned in Magistrates Court yesterday on armed robbery and attempted armed robbery charges.

Raymond Pratt Jr, 18, of Fourth Street, the Grove; and Roderick Strachan, 19, of Palm Beach Street were arraigned before Deputy Chief Magistrate Carolita Bethel in Court 8, Bank Lane on several counts of armed robbery and attempted armed robbery.

It is alleged that the two men attempted to rob Eugene Cook and also attempted to rob Super Wash on Robinson Road on November 19. It is also alleged that on September 9, Pratt, while armed with a handgun, robbed Sabrina Heastie of cash, electronics and cell phones together worth $4,412, the property of the Sporting House.

It is further alleged that he robbed Darcell McKinney of a $200 cell phone the same day.

Pratt is also accused of attempting to rob Huling Minnis on October 27. Court dockets also allege that on November 19, Pratt attempted to rob Super Wash on Robinson Road.

He is also accused of robbing Jelva Roxbury of a gold charm and chain valued of $910. It is also alleged that he robbed Charles Sweeting of his wallet and $25 cash the same day.

Pratt is also accused of robbing Colin Thompson of $500 cash on October 31. Police have also charged Pratt with the armed robbery of New Kids Sports Wear, where shoes and clothing altogether valued at $1,193 were taken. Pratt is also charged with the November 5 armed robbery of Shoe Land. Pratt and Strachan were not represented by an attorney and were denied bail due to the nature of the charges. The case has been adjourned to December 15.

FREE IN SATURDAY'S TRIBUNE

BODY & MORE, YOUR VERY OWN MONTHLY 24-PAGE GUIDE TO A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE. BE SURE YOU GET YOUR COPY.

COURT NEWS

Man admits manslaughter at retrial

By NATARIO McKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

A MAN pleaded guilty to manslaughter at his retrial yesterday, just two weeks after his first trial ended in a hung jury.

Two weeks ago jurors were deadlocked in the case of James Valentino Adderley, voting 6-6 on the charge of murder. Adderley had been charged in the April 2007 murder of Lavardo Collie, 28. After several witnesses had taken the stand at his retrial yesterday, including the wife of the deceased, Adderley asked to enter a plea.

He pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the death of Collie who was stabbed to death during an altercation on the night of April 2, 2007 in the Grove.

Mr Collie's wife Crystal testified yesterday that her husband had left her mother's apartment on Palm Tree Avenue around 9.45pm to go to a nearby gas station to get lunch for their children.

Mrs Collie testified that 15 minutes after he left, she heard a commotion outside.

She further told the court that she and her brother went outside to see what was going on and that she observed Adderley – whom she recognised from the area – sitting on the torso of a man; "jabbing" him in the chest. She told the court that she watched as Adderley stood over the body and said, "Die boy die, you joking."

She said that she did not realise that the victim was her husband at that time but was subsequently informed by her brother.

According to an autopsy report, Mr Collie died from hemorrhagic shock due to blood loss from stab wounds to the chest. Joyanne Ferguson-Pratt prosecuted the case. Adderley was represented by attorney Dorsey Mcphee.

Adderley, who has been on remand since 2007, is expected to be sentenced on December 3 before Senior Justice Jon Isaacs.

Sex abuse complaint: removal of school security guard 'not disruptive'

By NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

THE removal of a security guard in connection with a sexual abuse complaint did not disturb routine operations at Gambier Village Primary School, according to administrators.

"It was not a serious outbreak where it has disrupted the movement of the school," said Phyllis Johnson, principal.

She said some students may have noticed "someone missing," but it is has not been a topic of open discussion.

While the security guard was arrested last week, it is unclear whether he is still being detained by police, or if they plan to file formal charges.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Hulan Hanna was unavailable for comment up to press time.

An investigation by education and social services officials into the sexual abuse claims unearthed further concerns about incest and sexual exploitation in the wider Gambier community.

Mr Hanna said the close relationship between the police and the primary school played a vital role in this regard.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER: Hulan Hanna

"The relations between the police and the school in Gambier historically have been positive. The bulk of the children in our summer youth programme come from Gambier. We have a constant presence there," said Mr Hanna.

"The very fact that there have been so many recent disclosures is a testament of the work done by the police in the community," he said.

The assistant commissioner praised parents and teachers in the community for "empowering" the children to speak up.

"A lot of children may know (the abuse) is bad, but they may not know it is okay to tell," said Mr Hanna.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Education (MoE), the school initiated a series of workshops and forums on inappropriate behaviour, during which concerns about the behaviour of some students were first voiced.

The statement said that shortly after one of the sessions, a teacher brought to the attention of the principal an accusation involving a female student and an adult man, which led to a security guard being removed from the school and later questioned by police.

The statement said another student came forward to report a claim of incest after further forums were established by the Special Services Unit of the MoE.

Young victims are said to be receiving medical and psychological assistance from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, whose officers continue to monitor the situation.

AUTOPSY RESULTS AWAITED AFTER FATAL SHOOTING

BAIN TOWN MAYHEM: Pictured above is the patrol car which was burnt to a shell on Saturday following the fatal shooting.

INVESTIGATORS looking into the fatal shooting of 19-year-old Sharmoco Newbold are awaiting the results of an autopsy.

During a walk-about in the Bain Town community on Monday, Commissioner of Police Ellison Greenslade told residents and relatives of the deceased that an update would be given yesterday.

However, due to a scheduling conflict, the pathologist could not complete his findings.

Police officials said last night that further details would be released as soon as more information is available.

The Tribune Limited

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

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

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

Publisher/Editor 1919-1972
Contributing Editor 1972-1991

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

Published Daily Monday to Saturday

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

TELEPHONES
Switchboard (News, Circulation and Advertising) 322-1986
Advertising Manager - (242) 502-2352

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

A policeman's awesome task

EVERY TIME crime becomes an issue — and today it's a constant issue, growing worse — the phrase "Urban Renewal" echoes from the sidelines as a soothing balm to heal all community ills.

It was an idea recreated by the PLP and staunchly believed to be the solution to crime by Opposition Leader Perry Christie. As a concept there was much merit in urban renewal. However, as it was practised it was a political tool that provided jobs for party "generals" and supporters, and distracted the police from their role as policemen. It was good for the men and women of the force to get to know their communities and to try to understand the residents of their precincts, but they were not social workers, nor baby sitters, nor garbage removers. As the 2007 election neared they were further distracted from their policing duties by politicians who needed their presence to make them "look good" in their districts. No. Urban renewal as practised had to go. The police had to return to policing, and social workers had to step up the pace and get into the communities.

Police Commissioner Ellison Greenslade on the whole has a good force. However, like all organisations, bad apples can be found among its ranks — these are the weak links that eventually snap and bring the force down. The Commissioner is not slow in weeding them out.

The police force is fortunate to have a well trained young man at its helm. A man whose strength is tempered by compassion. He knows how to deal with people, he knows how to pour oil on troubled waters. But he has an overwhelming job, which despite all of his attributes, he cannot achieve without the full support of his force and the community – and this includes the courts and the lawyers.

A policeman's job is not easy. Individuals define the way they should perform their duties. If they deviate from this in any way, they are dismissed as corrupt officers. And, mind you some of them are, as the ones who break the law and stand in line at the number man's window, or the drug dealer's back door, or shake down the illegal immigrant for a bribe, and the list goes on.

We constantly get angry comments from Fox Hill residents about "yinna can't trust dem policemen; we does always see dem talking with dem drug boys under de tree, why ain't they lock 'em up? Dey does know dey's our problem!"

Now are these policemen practising "urban renewal," or are they consorting with criminals?

There are so many guns on the streets today and so many out-on-bail criminals willing to use them that when a policeman has to confront them it is understandable that he will be quick on the trigger — often with tragic results. But, as he puts himself on the front line to protect the community, it is natural that he is also concerned for his own life. Lawyers are severely criticised for getting bail for persons accused of murder, gun possession and other serious offences — the ones who are now causing havoc in the community. Everyone knows that while they are out on the streets awaiting their day in court, no one is going to employ them. Circumstances force them to commit crimes against the community to feed themselves and meet their lawyer's fees.

We agree that every accused person is entitled to his day in court and should have a good advocate to plead his case. However, the advocate has to draw the line, which, in many cases among some lawyers today is so smudged that it no longer exists.

We recall many years ago a young civil servant — a fine young man, talented and of good reputation — who was accused of stealing by reason of employment. He sought out one of this country's leading advocates — the late Hon. Eugene Dupuch, QC. Mr Dupuch agreed to take his case. However, during the course of debriefing, the young man confessed his guilt to Mr Dupuch. Mr Dupuch immediately declined his case, but briefed him on the points of law on which he should rely. He charged him no fee. The young man took his own case and was acquitted. We are certain that no jury would have believed that a young man of such sterling reputation would have done such a thing. It was a close call and so frightened the young man that he lived up to the fine reputation that the community had of him, made a mark for himself in his chosen calling and never looked back. He is now dead.

We find today that many lawyers, knowing that their client has no case, will lead him on, collecting his fees and getting him further into debt.

Today the police are being frustrated by the courts. They are tired of chasing the same criminals, only to have some smart lawyer get them out on bail. Even policemen are human and there is a tremendous temptation that if the courts won't assist in keeping criminals off the streets, then — well, maybe justice should be exacted on the sidewalks.

Something has to be done about the courts for the protection of the community. The police cannot do it alone.

Sometimes a rebellion is necessary to be heard

LETTERS
letters@tribunemedia.net

EDITOR, The Tribune.

After being bombarded with face book statuses, twitter updates, and negative press attacking the participants of the fiasco in Bain Town, and their blatant disregard for legal authorities following the police shooting of a 18-year-old resident across the street from his family's residence, I thought it fitting to express my support for them and their actions in spite of its unpopularity.

While the masses verbally attack the actions of the community referring to them as "ignorant" and "products of poor parenting," I passionately disagree and feel obligated to go against popular opinion on this one. Even though I am a law-abiding citizen I firmly believe that sometimes a rebellion is necessary in order to be heard and taken seriously. This is a proven and successful tactic that has been employed throughout the history of the Bahamas, and the history of the world.

Without fail we see it annually whenever unions engage in talks with higher authorities to request better work conditions or salary increases. How do they respond when their negotiations reach dead ends, and requests fall on deaf ears? They so often resort to strikes, sick outs and in some circumstances sabotage! Is this not rebellion, a clear statement that we will not stand for this and something must be done immediately!

A riot even though frowned upon because of the presence of violence is often an emotional reaction to certain variables. In this case the variables include the shooting death of a young man a few meters away from his home, and a police officer's decision justifying the use of deadly force. This uproar was an emotional response by friends and relatives and neighbours expressing their extreme dissatisfaction with the outcome of this event.

While accounts of the event vary depending on the source, it was alleged by the authorities that the victim was carrying a firearm and an exchange of gunfire resulted in the death of the teenager. On the other hand onlookers claim that the victim was fleeing from the scene of a gambling game when he received the fatal gunshot wound to the head. Wherever the truth lays the events that unfolded afterward even though lawless in nature, highlights a serious concern citizens have with the authorities. Without placing blame on anyone we ought to hold our law enforcement officers to a higher standard of professionalism and accountability. They are tasked with an extremely hard job and are often placed in extremely hazardous environments and are asked to use their discretion, in an extremely urgent manner plus achieve the best possible outcome.

This is not an easy job and many people tasked with these duties do not possess the skills and/or intelligence to carry out this mandate effectively without supervision. The chances of these arduous tasks being accomplished are only improved with the recruitment of high character individuals and extensive training beyond the initial basic recruit training phase. Also going back a few weeks when a man was shot and killed in downtown Nassau after a verbal altercation with officers escalated at a nearby bus stop. It made me wonder again if deadly force was necessary. How long will we accept the primitive mediocrity of firearms as the first and only resource for law enforcement?

Technology has afforded us more forgiving options of dealing with an aggressor and yet we allow our men and women of law enforcement to go to work daily unequipped.

In the state of Ohio where I study, the utility belts of police officers look like something from inspector gadget cartoon with everything from chemical and acoustic irritants to tasers in order to compel compliance before resorting to a firearm.

This riot loudly professes that enough is enough, and something must be done immediately! These "ignorant products of poor parenting" are saying it is not acceptable, and has successfully magnified a serious problem that could have been swept away by a manipulative nudge of the legal system to favour one of their own without a proper investigation.

These are the effects of a riot and even though they have the potential to cause serious harm and property damage they also have the power of bringing about positive changes through a bold statement of unity and rebellion. I wonder if the same remarks were made of Sir Lynden Pindling when he and his cohorts aggressively rebelled against a regime and subsequently tossed the symbol of authority out of the House of Assembly. It is important to remember that while violent acts of war and rebellion are often frowned upon, the only difference between a revolution and an act of terrorism is the winner!

ALEX HALEY
Former Law Enforcement Officer
Bain Town Resident (now a college student in the USA).

November 22, 2010.

Thanks to police for easing Eastern Road frustration

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I would like to send thanks to the police who direct morning traffic on Eastern road. Because of you the level of frustration involved in our "morning shuffle" is at an all time low. Gone are the panic attacks and stress of "am I going to be late again?" to be replaced by "wow, you mean I have time for Starbucks?". Thank you for a job well done.

On a further note, I want to send a big thank you to the phone card and newspaper vendors on the corner of Shirley Street and Mackey Street. You make my mornings when I see you sharing your good nature with everyone who is lucky enough to make eye contact with you. There are different routes I could take to work, but I choose to pass that junction just to get a dose of what I know is in the heart of our Bahamian people. Thank you for reminding us. Your positive energy is contagious and heart warming. You are a great example to other men and women that it is not about the job, but rather how you perform on the job. You guys are an inspiration. Keep it up !

Proud to be a Bahamian.

GREGORIA
Nassau,
November 22, 2010.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **ROBINSON PIERRE of DUNDAS TOWN, P.O. BOX AB-20191, ABACO, BAHAMAS** is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **17th day of November, 2010** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

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.

LOCAL NEWS

Minister hopeful of COB, union agreement

DION FOULKES

LABOUR Minister Dion Foulkes is hopeful that an agreement between the College of the Bahamas and the union representing its educators will be signed by early next week.

This could end two years of wrangling over an industrial agreement between the two parties.

Negotiators met with college officials to decide on clause numbering and a signature date on Monday.

According to Jennifer Isaacs-Dotson, president of the Union of Tertiary Educators of the Bahamas (UTEB), the faculty voted unanimously to sign the document during a poll last month.

"The vote on whether or not to accept the lump sum package was close, but the majority voted in favour of signing the document," she said.

In September, UTEB made public their discontent with the $500 lump sum offered by arbitrators of their new industrial agreement with the College of the Bahamas.

In a press statement, the union described the sum – which would be the only increase received by faculty over the course of the proposed four-year agreement – as an "egregious wrong" and "an insult to the professional faculty of the College."

Minister Foulkes yesterday said it is his understanding that the union wants three points renegotiated.

"We are hopeful that very shortly, not the end of this week, by the beginning of next week, that the agreement between UTEB and College of the Bahamas will be signed," Mr Foulkes told reporters before he headed into a Cabinet meeting.

"The three arbitrators have already signed the report, it was an unanimous agreement that was about a month ago but as a result of that report the union wanted to consult their membership. That consultation has taken place and their president Ms Jennifer Issacs-Dobson has written to the Tribunal asking them to reconsider three points. None of the points are fundamental," he said.

He declined to divulge the points the union wants changed but said he thinks two of those concerns "are legitimate".

In April, a stand-off between the two parties led to a strike of unionised faculty members at the college before a deal was made that sent COB and the union back to the drawing board.

Eleven COB faculty members have contested the legality of pay cuts following the three-and-a half day strike. The case began this month in the Magistrate's Court.

Exuma celebrates jet upgrade

EXUMA welcomed faster air service to George Town last week when American Eagle replaced its daily turboprop flights to the island with jet service.

Minister of Tourism and Aviation Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace welcomed the flight on Thursday evening.

He said the arrival of the jet helps his ministry's effort to strengthen the individual awareness and reputation of each island.

For too long, many people thought of the Bahamas as just Nassau and Paradise Island, he said.

"The only way the customer understands that we are a great deal more than that is by having products and services that demand this kind of attention and this kind of attraction," he said.

Minister Vanderpool-Wallace gave credit to Sandals' chairman Gordon "Butch" Stewart for helping to attract jet service to the island.

Without Mr Stewart's investment in a Sandals Resort on Exuma, the island would not have attracted jet service from Canada, Atlanta and Miami, Minister Vanderpool-Wallace said.

Mr Stewart pointed out that travellers always prefer to fly on jets. Destinations always try to offer jets to satisfy customers, he said.

"People want jet service. That is the ambition for all of us in the travel business. This jet service to the island, I think it also signals to the outside world that Exuma is now on the map."

Brian and Lisa Dickerman travelled to Exuma on Thursday evening on the American Eagle ERJ 145 jet. The Connecticut couple was pleased that the trip to Exuma was finally by jet.

"It was beautiful, smooth, very low noise," Mrs Dickerman said. "It was just a brief, very quick flight."

"The jet is a smoother ride, a faster ride, and we feel safer on a jet," Mr Dickerman added.

Betty Wilson, country manager for American Eagle, said this is only the beginning of new service options in the Bahamas.

Tropical Exterminators
Pest Control
322-2157

Odessa Garden
"A Step Back in Time"
#8 Murphyville Road
Telephone: 322-8493
LET US MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS MERRY AND BRIGHT!!!
Christmas Aprons, Embroidered Xmas Cloth with Matching Napkins, Taperstry Xmas placemats, Tapestry Xmas Runners, Tapestry Xmas Cushions. Hanukkah cushions, Hanukkah Bell Pulls, Dreidel Dishes, Antique Style German Feather Xmas Tree 3ft tall.
Vintage Xmas Cards.
Vintage German Glass Ornaments.
Embroidered White Linen Dinner Napkins.

POTCAKE SAYS

THE BAHAMAS' VERY OWN STREET PHILOSOPHER

WOW!!! Now that's A low PRICE!
EMBROIDME COLLECTION
Polo starting from
$12.00
Our White Polos are Perfect for the office. The Finest weaves create the signature Luster & Lasting Strength.
EmbroidMe
COLLECTION
Buy one or buy 1,000. We've got you covered!
Uniforms • Embroidery • Screen Printing • Promotional Products • Career & Casual Wear
East Shirley Street • Ph: 393-1004/393-3104 • www.sun-tee.com
Sun Tee
EmbroidMe

SALE
$9.00
SIZES 7-11
COLORS:
BLACK
BROWN
WHITE
BLUE
PINK
YELLOW
GREEN
ORANGE
RED
BIG ONE
SHOE STORE
121 EAST ST. PH 322-5276

The history of the 1,000 acre Baha Mar project

By LARRY SMITH

AFTER years of manoeuvering over the 1,000-acre Baha Mar project on Cable Beach, the Ingraham government (in its own words) has finally made sweet lemonade from the sour fruit left on the table by the Christie administration.

In April 2005 the newly formed Baha Mar Development Company (owned by a Lyford Cay-based property developer named Sarkis Izmirlian) bought three aging hotels on the Cable Beach strip with a $200 million loan from the Bank of Nova Scotia. The venerable Nassau Beach was subsequently closed, while the Crystal Palace and Cable Beach Hotels were renovated and re-branded.

That same year Baha Mar concluded an agreement with the Christie administration for a $1 billion-plus development, including several hotels, a casino, retail village, convention centre, expanded golf course, and beach and pool amenities. Ironically, had the project got underway when it was supposed to, it would have opened in the midst of the Great Recession – with potentially devastating consequences.

Side agreements to the 2005 agreement included deferred taxes that could later be paid in instalments, a $20 million marketing contribution from the Ministry of Tourism, and a commitment to upgrade the airport and other infrastructure.

There was also an agreement to transfer to the developer hundreds of acres of both Crown and government land on Cable Beach worth an estimated $150 million.

However, Baha Mar proved unable to raise $400 million in capital, show evidence of further financing, produce detailed plans, or attract world class partners by the agreement's stated deadline of October 2006.

With an election approaching, the Christie government scrambled to revive the project. And by early 2007 it had been reorganised as a joint venture with Harrah's Entertainment. The planned capital spent more than doubled to $2.6 billion (along with more than a quarter billion dollars in government concessions) and promoters were hailing the project as unprecedented in scope and character.

The revised project included a larger casino, double the meeting room space, and 1200 more hotel rooms.

But despite "vigorous negotiations" a deal could not be finalised before May 2007. And when the electoral dust had settled, Perry Christie was replaced as prime minister by Hubert Ingraham, who immediately launched a review of the project.

Although the new government eventually decided it would abide by the 2005 terms, Baha Mar insisted on further negotiations, according to the prime minister. And by February 2008 he unveiled a supplemental Heads of Agreement that trimmed some of the concessions given three years earlier.

"There is high expectation by the Bahamian public about the Baha Mar project," Ingraham acknowledged in March, 2008 during passage of a parliamentary resolution to authorise the transfer of public lands to the developer. "We will do all we can to facilitate it, but I do not want to oversell it."

March 2009 was the new deadline set for the government's conditions to be met so that the deal could be finalised. But long before that could happen, Harrah's got cold feet due to the economic downturn and pulled out of the partnership, putting the whole project in jeopardy. Unable to obtain regular financing in the capital markets, Baha Mar turned to the cash-rich Chinese government to save the development.

Earlier this year, China's Export-Import Bank agreed to arrange $2.5 billion in financing, and Beijing's state-owned construction corporation signed on to build the project, which will feature six hotels and add 3,500 hotel rooms and condos to the country's current inventory of 15,000 – more than half of which in Nassau.

Following the prime minister's recent trip to China to firm up the details of the construction arrangements, the House of Assembly unanimously passed a government-sponsored resolution to approve the project, including the unprecedented issuance of up to 8,150 work permits for non-Bahamian construction workers.

PLP leader Perry Christie, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and Kerzner International CEO Sir Sol Kerzner

After talks with the Chinese, Ingraham was able to announce that he had doubled the share of business for Bahamian subcontractors, with more than construction 4,000 jobs now on offer, and that some $8 million would be spent on training programmes for Bahamian workers.

"We put down some benchmarks, like the $400 million in Bahamian contracts, and said if they accepted our terms we would approve the project by the end of November," the prime minister told me.

"We always disclose the terms of deals – not like the PLP when they signed the 2005 Baha Mar Heads of Agreement with a confidentiality clause, and contemporaneously issued side letters containing larger exemptions from taxes and committing even more public money in violation of the (phase three) deal they had agreed with Kerzner two years earlier."

In fact, this last point has proven to be the only remaining fly in the Cable Beach lemonade.

The prime minister does not accept that the current Baha Mar deal violates the guarantees to Atlantis developer Sol Kerzner that no subsequent investor would get more favourable terms. Kerzner's complaint focused on the ratio of Bahamian to non-Bahamian construction workers, presumably because Baha Mar will benefit from a cheaper, more skilled, and more productive labour force.

"Among the many requirements that the government imposed (on us) was a strict rule that at least 70 per cent of the total construction labour force would be Bahamian. However, this new (Baha Mar) deal will constitute a complete reversal of (that) standard," Kerzner said angrily.

The prime minister's response is that "the government will review Kerzner's claim and seek to resolve all issues."

The question of whether the Bahamas can accommodate thousands of new hotel rooms opening at the same time is another issue for Atlantis.

"The reason is that the tourism infrastructure needs to catch up to additional demand.

"Airlift is not going to grow and develop in one day just because another 3,000 luxury rooms are opened. And I think that is very critical...and not easily done," Managing Director George Markantonis told The Tribune recently.

The Baha Mar project will get underway before the end of this year, with contracts awarded to Bahamian firms. The China State Construction & Engineering Company should begin work by the spring, and the project could be substantially completed by 2014.

In response to market concerns, Baha Mar has agreed to stagger the opening of the new hotels over a five-month period stretching into 2015, and close the Crystal Palace Hotel during renovations.

According to the Chinese, the project relies on being developed, marketed and operated as a single phase "to induce demand that would not otherwise exist for a series of standalone hotels."

They point out that the Hyatt, Morgan's and Rosewood hotel companies are investing $62 million of their own money into the project, and note that the airport will be redeveloped by the time Baha Mar opens. Expectations are that the tourism market will have rebounded by then.

Another issue that has received somewhat less attention in the media is the provision of water and power for such a massive project being built and brought on stream at one time. As we all know, these commodities are relatively scarce on New Providence these days, and there are fears that our infrastructure will be further strained in the short-term.

In fact, BEC will need to generate an additional 25 megawatts of electricity to accommodate the projected power demand for Baha Mar.

And the developer is supposed to cover the cost of a new BEC substation, as well as build a central sewerage system, and a reverse osmosis plant for potable water.

Although there was understandable shock and dismay when Baha Mar's requirement for such a large foreign labour component first became known, public opinion seems to have quickly moved to accept the inevitable – no doubt fully motivated by the recession.

For example, in June of this year the PLP said it would not involve itself in the decision to allow thousands of Chinese workers into the country and seemed determined to let the government twist in the wind. But only two months later they were singing a different tune, based on the state of the economy.

And from the sense of jubilation conveyed by the government since the Baha Mar deal was approved, it seems that the studied scepticism of the past few years was aimed not only at getting the best deal possible in a difficult environment, but also at drawing the opposition into a full embrace of the project's current framework in order to minimize the obvious political risks.

As one well-connected insider told me: "I'm sure there was some political thinking involved, but for the most part it was to get a doable deal."

What do you think?
Send comments to
larry@tribunemedia.net
Or visit
www.bahamapundit.com

THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BOARD HAS IMPORTANT NEWS FOR YOU

SPECIAL BROADCASTS ON THE 2010 AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BENEFITS AND CONTRIBUTIONS REGULATIONS

Three Opportunities for In-depth Information about the 22 Amendments:

● TUESDAY, **NOVEMBER 23**
NIB presentation broadcast live from the J. Whitney Pinder Bldg, Collins Avenue on ZNS TV 13 and 1540 radio beginning at 8:00pm.

● WEDNESDAY, **NOVEMBER 24**
Special NIB Show on 1540 radio at 8pm **(Call in)**

● THURSDAY, **NOVEMBER 25**
Special NIB show on 1540 radio at 8pm **(Call in)**

Bringing you not-to-be-missed information about the amendments will be **Derek Osborne**, *NIB Consultant Actuary*, **Gregory Collie**, *NIB Senior Manager for Compliance*, and **Pandora Butler**, *NIB Public Relations Officer*. *Insurance expert* **Keith Major** will be your host.

Don't miss this opportunity to tune in and call in to make your contribution to progress.

CONTACTS:
TELE: 322-7505/6 322-1000 322-4740
FAX: 325-2482
TEXT: 466-8899

the NATIONAL INSURANCE BOARD

Senior Bahamian Marine completes US Navy Senior Enlisted Academy

CHIEF Petty Officer (CPO) Lloyd Ferguson has become the most recent senior non-commissioned officer of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force to graduate from the United States Navy's Chief Senior Enlisted Academy in Newport, Rhode Island. Mr Ferguson recently returned home following successful completion of a six-week course which was designed to prepare senior enlisted leaders to face new leadership challenges as they fulfill their expanded leadership and management roles in their armed force.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER LLOYD FERGUSON
Photo courtesy/RBDF Files

The training was made possible through the International Military Education Training (IMET) scheme, which is facilitated by the United States Embassy.

Studies in subjects such as management, organisational behaviour, management principles, leadership, personal and physical development, written and oral communications, interpersonal relationships, team building, national and international studies, and human resource development were undertaken.

In order to encourage full participation by students, the classroom instructional methods employed by the trainers included lectures, discussions, case studies, problem solving, and much more.

As participants are expected to perform in a greater leadership and management capacity upon successful completion of the training, they were taught personal counselling and advising techniques.

As a result of Mr Ferguson's readiness to accept change, and his diverse approach to leadership responsibilities, coupled with his demonstrated courage, he was awarded a "Commendation for Military Excellence".

Mr Ferguson said that by having successfully completed the US Navy Senior Enlisted Academy Programme he has enhanced his capacity to provide leadership to the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Enlisted Force, and offer advice to his command that is well founded and linked to mission accomplishment.

Mr Ferguson is a 29-year veteran who is currently assigned to the Defence Force Headquarters.

Bahamas seeks support from Spain in WTO

By LINDSAY THOMPSON

THE Bahamas is seeking the support of Spain for full membership in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and in the area of renewable energy.

Governor-General Sir Arthur Foulkes made the request as he accepted Letters of Credence presented by Marìa Celsa Nuño Garcìa, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the Bahamas, during a ceremony at government House last Thursday.

Ambassador García also paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration Brent Symonette; president of the College of the Bahamas Dr Betsy Vogel and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

In welcoming Ambassador Garcìa, who is resident in Jamaica, Sir Arthur said he hoped that she would visit the site of the "encounter of two worlds" that brought both countries together 518 years ago on San Salvador.

"Our two countries have shared much since that encounter in 1492. The full potential in our bilateral relations is still developing, although our interaction at the multilateral level has been more active," Sir Arthur said.

Both countries share a mutual commitment to and an appreciation of the benefits of multilateralism and regional integration as mechanisms to intensify the pursuit of prosperity, particularly in the face of the challenges of globalisation, he said.

Dialogue and collaboration between both countries take place in international bodies such as the United Nations, the Organisation of American States, the European-Latin America and Caribbean summits, also through mutual support of international candidacies and bilaterally through established cooperation agreement with the Caribbean Community, and the Tax Information Exchange Agreement signed in March 2010.

"The Bahamas would welcome the support of the Kingdom of Spain for a fair and universal solution to the existing international financial architecture, as well as for the full accession as a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)," Sir Arthur said.

Spain is also offering assistance in tourism, culture and energy technology.

Ambassador Garcia noted that Spain and the Bahamas share common values and aspirations; the commitment to democratic values the adherence to the tenets of social justice and a transparent and independent judicial system.

"The recent signature in March this year of a bilateral agreement for exchange of information related to tax matters is the best testimony to our mutual commitment to transparency in line with the international trend for a new economic governance," she said.

The ambassador said that there are a number of areas where both countries could and should explore closer cooperation, such as renewal energy/environmental protection, energy security and diversification.

"The Bahamas has great potential and has already taken important steps in this regard with the recent inauguration of a bio-diesel plant," she said.

Ambassador García, 46, served in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, having direct concern for Asian affairs. She joined the Spanish Diplomatic Service as a career diplomat in 1989 and has also as diplomatic advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister of Spain.

Ambassador García was awarded the Order of Civil Merit of Spain (Rank of Dame) in 1992 and made Commander of Order of 'Isabel La Católicá of Spain in 2004.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration Brent Symonette (right) welcomes Marìa Celsa Nuño Garcìa, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the Bahamas, during a courtesy call at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thursday, November 18, 2010.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL Sir Arthur Foulkes (left) accepts Letters of Credence presented by Marìa Celsa Nuño Garcìa (right), Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, during a ceremony at Government House on Thursday.

Job Vacancy

An established Nassau based company seeks to fill the position of **Assistant Administrator in the Procurement and Asset Management/ Logistics Dept**. All applicants MUST possess the following:

- College degree in Business.
- IT knowledge.
- The ability to learn quickly.
- Excellent communication and team work skills.

Only committed, hard working and self motivated persons need apply.

Resumes should be submitted to:

jobvacancybs@hotmail.com

All resumes must be received by December 1st,2010

ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

THE Information Technology Department of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force visited the Gambier Primary School last week as part of its continued effort to give back to the community.

The IT section of the RBDF assessed the immediate needs of the school's computer lab and facilitated repairs and upgrades.

Basic IT needs were identified and the team rendered assistance in the areas of software applications and servicing.

All computers in the Gambier Primary School Computer Lab were updated with current anti-virus programmes and desktop publishing software.

In addition, the lab was networked so that the sharing of resources was made possible.

Members of the team also took some time to interact with the students and staff of the school.

COMMISSIONER of Police Ellison Greenslade and Assistant Commissioners Hulan Hanna and Glen Miller join detectives to view the site of the country's latest murder. A woman was fatally stabbed on a property known as 'The Farm' in Adelaide.

Felipé Major/Tribune staff

Woman murdered in 'lover's lane'

FROM page one

tors returned to the scene in the hunt for clues.

The incident is said to have happened at about 9pm on Monday. It is reported that the male victim sought help from nearby residents. At least two heard a knock on the door or calls from someone seeking assistance, but opted not to respond, according to *Tribune* sources, because it was late and they were home alone.

The man was finally able to get assistance from a resident who called the police. He was said to be "bleeding extensively" from his arm.

His main concern, according to sources, was for his girlfriend, who he left on the beach to get help after the stabbing occurred.

He was treated and released from hospital yesterday.

The abandoned-looking beach house is known by some in the area as a "lover's lane" and a place for parties.

"We were not expecting something like that. This is a quiet community. More town people are coming this way, and obviously their problems follow them," said a community member.

"I only found out this morning, but I should have known something was suspicious last night, because I heard a car burn rubber," he said.

Superintendent Prince Albert Smith, officer in charge of the Carmichael Division that shares responsibility for Adelaide, said many of the community members did not know of the murder until police informed them during the walkabout.

"The people of Adelaide feel safe in the community. They do not have major concerns.

"The incident last night is seen as an isolated incident by the community," said Superintendent Smith.

"This community has always had rigid patrols. There are not many complaints coming from Adelaide, and when there are complaints they are mainly domestic disputes," he said.

Even at night, Mr Smith said Adelaide is "a safe place to come," but people should exercise reasonable precautions when going to "isolated" places at night.

The murder victim was an employee of the Palmdale branch of the Royal Bank of Canada. Upon learning of her death, sources say co-workers were shocked.

The office was closed for the day as a mark of respect, and employees were provided with grief counselling.

Death Announcement

Mrs. Manon Grau Rodriguez

The family of the late Mrs. Manon Grau Rodriguez of Edgewater Drive, Lyford Cay, Nassau, Bahamas announce her passing on 14th November, 2010 at Doctor's Hospital, Nassau. She is survived by her son Guillermo Pedro Rodriguez, grand daughter Alexandra Rodriguez, daughter-in-law Elizabeth Badimon Rodriguez, and many friends and acquaintances particularly members of the Bacardi family resident in Nassau and Florida. According to her wish she was buried at sea in Bahamian waters on 20th November, 2010.

May she rest in peace.

The Saint Andrew Society

Invitation to Members

On the historic occasion of the 200th Anniversary of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, which the Society, under the leadership of Mr. Michael Malcolm is credited with founding in 1810, Society Member's are invited and encouraged to attend the bicentennial celebration and thanksgiving at the St. Andrew's Day worship service at the Kirk on Sunday, 28th November 2010. Service time is 10:30 a.m. All Society Members are encouraged to attend.

Secretary, St. Andrew Society

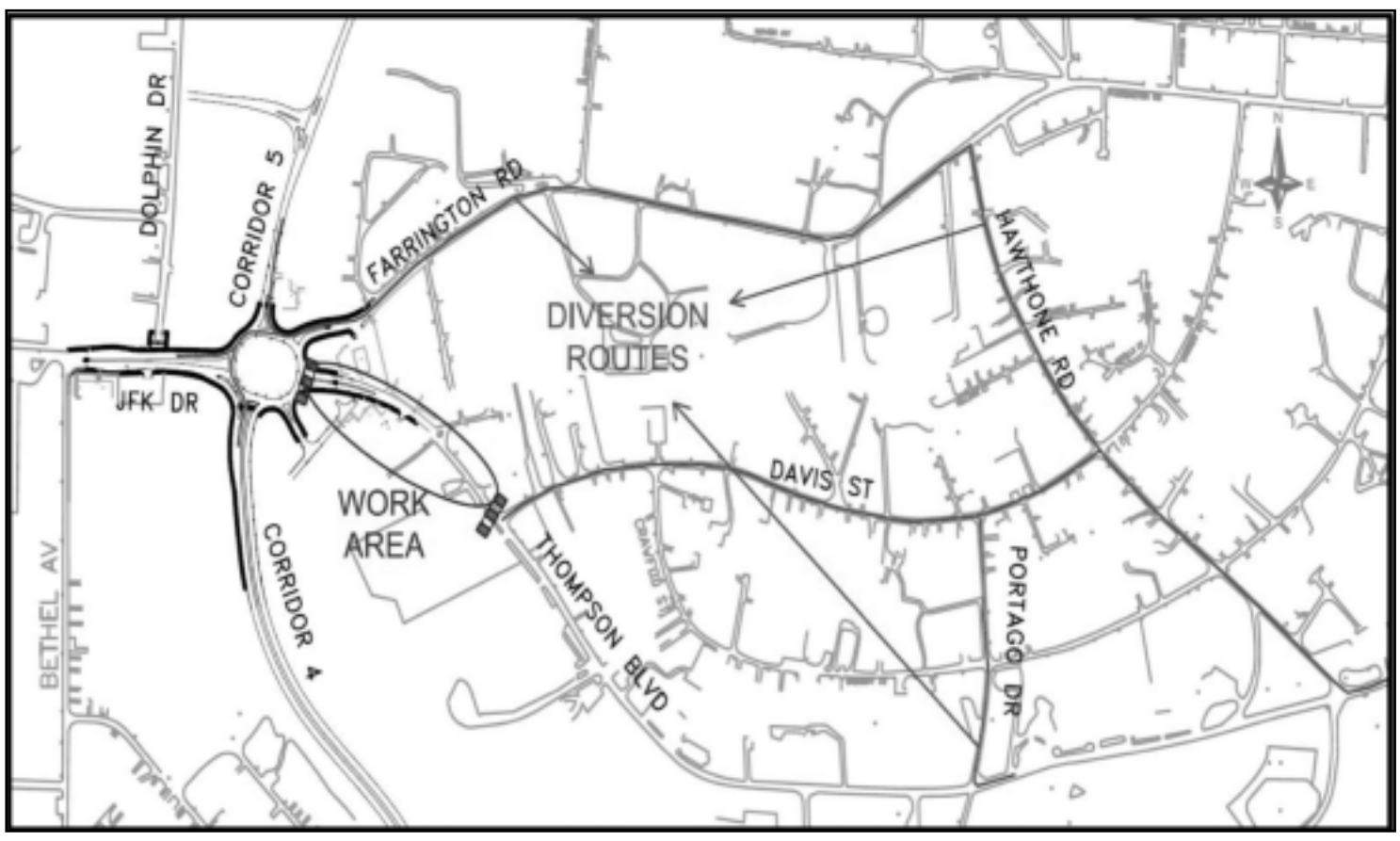
MINISTRY OF WORKS & TRANSPORT

NOTICE

THOMPSON BOULEVARD & JFK DRIVE

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE & DIVERSION

(FINAL ROAD PAVEMENT WORKS)



Jose Cartellone Construcciones Civiles S.A wishes to inform the motoring public that Road Pavement Works will be carried out on sections of **Thompson Boulevard & JFK Drive** on **Wednesday November 24th to Friday November 26th, 2010 between the hours of 9:00am to 5:00pm.**

Motorist travelling along this vicinity should use the following alternative routes:

Eastbound - JFK DRIVE

- FARRINGTON RD.

↔HAWTHORNE RD.

↔DAVIS ST. /PORTAGO DR.

Westbound – THOMPSON BOULEVARD.

•PORTAGO DR. / DAVIS ST. ↔ HAWTHORNE DRIVE ↔ FARRINGTON RD.

Proper signage will be in place outlining the work zone. Detours will be clearly marked to allow the safe passage for pedestrians & motorist. Access will be granted to residence & businesses that may be affected during construction. A safe route will be provided for pedestrians as an alternate for the closed footpath.

Your patience throughout this project is greatly appreciated. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience and delays caused.

For further information please contact :

Jose Cartellone Construcciones Civiles S.A
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Office:(242)322-8341/322-2610
Email: bahamasneighbor@cartellone.com.ar

Ministry of Works & Transport
The Project Execution Unit
Hotline: (242) 302-9700
Email: publicworks@bahamas.gov.bs

PM backs police force in Bain Town aftermath

FROM page one

be released on bail and have the opportunity to reoffend.

"Many of the persons who have been charged recently have been on bail for some time ... plenty people have plenty things they need to do. We will do the best we can. One of the things we do not do is control the courts but we will give them the resources they need and we do call upon them to act effectively and to take account of the reality of this society and to apply the law when persons are charged before them.

"That is what the issue is right now, the trying of cases in a reasonable period of time that a person charged with possession of guns and drugs should not have to wait a year, 18 months for the case to be tried. That is wrong and unacceptable and that must change in the Bahamas."

Speaking to reporters before entering a Cabinet meeting, the Prime Minister also expressed his sympathy to the families of murder victims and those killed by police.

"First of all let me express my condolences to the families of all those who've been killed by criminals and to those who have lost their lives as a result of police action, and to wish the police officer who was shot a speedy recovery. Secondly, I want to express my appreciation and thanks to the police force for the work which they are doing under very challenging and difficult circumstances.

"It is the right of citizens to feel safe in the Bahamas, and residents and visitors, and we shall do all in our power to ensure that that happens. Those who are in the front-line on that fight – our police force – they have our support and the backing of the government to rid this country of the violence which is afflicting us at this time," the Prime Minister said.

Despite this support, he said officers are not above reproach and would be held accountable for infractions if found culpable.

"The police officer has rules, which have been established, as to when they may use their weapon. Anytime there is a killing as a result of police action there is a public inquiry, public inquest so that all the circumstances are known. Policemen are not above the law, they are subject to the laws of the Bahamas like everybody else. Policemen also put their lives at risk every day and the least they ought to expect from the state and those who occupy high office is support.

Mr Ingraham insisted the police have adequate resources to do their job, and if there is something they lack "all they need to do is whisper it to myself."

Responding to increased calls for the death penalty, the Prime Minister said that if the courts allow it capital punishment will be carried out, pointing out there is no law that stands in the way of capital punishment.

"I cannot hang anybody unless the court say yes, otherwise I will be committing murder also. What stands in the way of capital punishment being inflicted is the courts. If, or when, they permit it, hanging will take place in the Bahamas as it did on my watch before," Mr Ingraham said.

He also lambasted Mr Christie for his recent statements on crime.

"He is a forgetful man. When they had the riot in Nassau Village on his watch or on Kemp Road, the public of the Bahamas couldn't hear a word out of his mouth. He had his Urban Renewal programme then, crime has been increasing in the Bahamas for some years and it is important for those of us in public office to support our law enforcement officials to ensure that they act in accordance with the law. "

• SEE PAGE THREE

Serving Great Bahamian Food

CHECKERS CAFÉ

Celebrate Thanksgiving with us

Thur. Nov. 25th, 2010 - 11am

- Turkey & Ham Dinners Rice, two sides, with stuffing & cranberry sauce $12.99
- Ham or Turkey Dinners $10.99

Carmichael Rd. 361-2401
Mackey St. 393-7214
Fox Hill 364-7020
Robinson Rd. 356-5820

FROM page one

countries abstaining from the vote, and another 26 being absent.

The United States and Britain, with most of Europe and South America, voted against removing protection from gays.

Caribbean countries such as Jamaica and St Lucia joined the Bahamas in supporting the amendment, while others, such as Trinidad, Barbados and Antigua, abstained.

This amendment will ultimately replace a resolution which has stood for the past 10 years that has included sexual orientation in the list of discriminatory grounds upon which such genocidal killings are often based.

According to a Reuters report, Western delegations expressed disappointment in the vote, noting that the 2008 declaration included an explicit reference to killings committed because of a victims' "sexual preferences."

This "explicit reference" which referred to a persons sexual orientation was replaced with the words "discriminatory reasons on any basis."

According to an International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) report, the vote is a "dangerous and disturbing development" for the gay community.

Cary Alan Johnson, executive director of IGLHRC said: "It essentially removes the important recognition of the particular vulnerability faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people – a recognition that is crucial at a time when 76 countries around the world criminalise homosexuality, five consider it a capital crime, and countries like Uganda are considering adding the death penalty to their laws criminalising homosexuality."

Here in the Bahamas, the vote has also drawn criticism from those who say it flies in the face of the stated position of Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham on such matters.

When addressing a question about homosexual tourists visiting the Bahamas in March 1998, Prime Minister Ingraham said: "The

The Bahamas backs removing protection for gay people in UN resolution

future of the Bahamas is not threatened by foreign persons of homosexual orientation. Homosexuality is not a contagious disease; and it is not a crime in the Bahamas.

"Government has not been authorised to judge man for sin; God is the judge; so let us leave to God, the only righteous judge, the judgment of sin.

"Whether a private sexual act between consenting adults is homosexual or heterosexual is not my business, and I do not think it is your business either. We cannot, and ought not, try to dictate or to legislate morality. In any event, all past efforts to do so have always failed miserably," he said.

Calls to the Bahamas' Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for an explanation of the vote were not returned last night.

CHINESE WORKERS

FROM page one

tected as mandated by Bahamian law.

Mr Foulkes said: "All workers in the Bahamas have to receive the benefits compliant with our employment act, whether it's minimum wage or whether it is vacation or sick leave or other benefits, they have to comply with the employment act.

"So the China State Construction Company has to comply with the provisions of our labour act."

20/30% OFF Sale NOV. 24TH – DEC. 31ST

GEOFFREY JONES & CO

Sales & Full Service Department
Rosetta & Montgomery Streets
322-2188/9
www.geoffreyjonesandco.com

imagination at work | CASH SALES ONLY!

Ex-policeman 'had weapons'

FROM page one

er that day, Police sources claim, Mitchell pistol-whipped his girlfriend, and shot a motorcyclist before stealing his vehicle.

Hulan Hanna, assistant commissioner of police, said a hand gun, pistol grip, shaved-off shotgun, and motor bike were confiscated at the scene.

A second man was apprehended without injury during the incident.

Both were riding the motorbike on First Street, when police officers were tipped of about their whereabouts.

Uniformed and plain-clothed officers responded. The shooting occurred after requests for the men to voluntarily disarm themselves and surrender were refused.

Mitchell's last known address was Ronald Street, in New Providence. It is unclear how and when he left the police force.

Mr Hanna said he was known to the police "professionally" and otherwise.

Mitchell's daughter was on the scene at the time of the shooting. "They killed my daddy," she cried, while being held by family members.

Despite the exchange of gun fire, Mr Hanna said no members of the public were "threatened" in any way. He said the community showed no "aversion" to the presence of the police, who handled the situation. He thanked the public for providing necessary intelligence in the matter.

Is the Bahamas mature enough to vote for a white political leader?

By ADRIAN GIBSON
ajbahama@hotmail.com

YOUNG MAN'S VIEW
ADRIAN GIBSON

This is my final column before entering my final examination period for the Christmas term. I will resume writing after exams.

LOCALLY, although the unambiguous and overt forms of racism may have receded since Majority Rule and constitutional changes, in the political realm, clearly race continues to be a relevant feature of the political rhetoric. The concept of race has greatly shaped our society and national identity and its study provides us with a framework to address issues that may linger on and persist in dividing our nation.

Race remains a prickly subject in the Bahamas.

In the years since the UBP's dismantlement/Majority Rule, black Bahamians have become apprehensive about white Bahamians ascending to political power, mainly due to the angst that these Bahamians could have a stranglehold on both the economic and political structure, turn the country into some kind of racist backwater where the masses are oppressed and/or accrue more wealth in the process.

Whilst there is a maturing air of racial harmony in the Bahamas, there are occasions where antipathy and racism surfaces, particularly when self-seeking, narrow-minded politicians exploit the psychological effects of slavery and the racist injustices of the past. Indeed, in the Bahamas, race issues and classism go beyond the sphere of political discourse, but also influence attitudes, social interaction and settlement patterns.

In the mid-1990s, PLP senator Franklyn Wilson maintained that racial division is a part of Bahamian history, and a part of his resolve as a senator was to "build bridges within our community to help us come together as a people."

The fact that American voters rejected worn-out Republican orthodoxy and elected Barack Obama in 2008—while in many instances overlooking race—demonstrates the evolution of the American electorate and leaves a monumental question about the evolution of the Bahamian electorate. Would a majority of Bahamian voters rise above racial stereotypes and, in many instances, misplaced fears/prejudices and elect the nation's first white Prime Minister post-Majority Rule/Independence?

Is the Bahamas now mature enough to vote for a white Bahamian to lead a political party and eventually the country? Does the rhetoric of racial propaganda in any way reflect the real world social values inherent in Bahamian society today?

Are Bahamians ready to move past the lingering resentment of being shut out of public places/activities and leadership roles in a bygone era?

Would Brent Symonette or any other white politician have the ability to galvanize people across the political spectrum and lead their respective parties to an electoral victory?

During the 2007 general election, one PLP MP asserted at a rally that Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham would turn over the government to "the UBP heir" (Brent Symonette).

Of course, rather than addressing the issue, now Deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette was dismissive, saying:

"They have opened this up and exposed themselves for what they are, and I have no intention of entering a discussion of race any further."

In a 2005 interview with another daily, when addressing his heritage and culture, Mr Symonette was again dismissive and seemingly asserted his disconnect and apparent cultural demarcation, stating: "My heritage is France, hence the name "Symonette.' France to England and possibly to Bermuda and then here. When Alfred Sears stood up and talked about Clifton, he painted this very emotional picture of the black slave captured in Africa (sic) and landing into freedom in The Bahamas. I didn't come that route. So my cultural history isn't based in the navel string of Mother Africa, so how can you ask me to celebrate that heritage?"

As was eloquently stated by Helen Klonaris—a white, Greek Bahamian—at that time:

"After reading this sentence, I felt winded, the breath knocked from me. I had read a portion of it in Dr. Russell's letter (on ontological whiteness), but reading the entire conversation trounced me. 'I didn't come that route,' said Mr. Symonette. As if African slavery and the arrival of white colonialists were not connected; as if the two histories are not integrally, irreversibly intertwined and still to this day rub up against each other and hurt when rain is coming, when hurricanes start brewing, when it is just another ordinary day in a small place and we don't know how to look each other in the eye and tell the truth."

"I cannot identify with Mr. Symonette's feeling. I am only the granddaughter of immigrants, still arriving in so many ways, and yet, my own experience has rooted me in an African and Greek cultural reality which I could not shake if I wanted to. I do feel that the history of my sisters and brothers of African descent in this place is now a part of my history, and that my Greek history must also be a part of theirs. I not only want to celebrate 'that heritage', I want to love the people connected to it, people I consider to be my people. I am no longer one, here in this new world. I am more than one," she said.

She went on to further state:

"Know also that I have grown up in this body, in this white skin, and am conscious of what racism feels like, looks like, the power it has to keep me from wanting to tell the truth. I am conscious of what white privilege feels like, how it can separate me from Black people, because it is supposed to; how if I don't see it for what it is, I too could be duped into believing that whiteness and all that comes with it is the way; see everything and everybody not white through that white light that distorts faces, cultures, histories, makes them all seem less than 'mine'."

Expounding on the issue in a recent interview, Christopher Curry, my former college lecturer and a white Bahamian historian who recently returned from university where he pursued his doctoral studies, stated:

"Brent Symonette at times appears to lack a sensitivity regarding how our national identity is construed as one that is very much related to black consciousness and our diasporic identity. (When it comes to ascending to the leadership) it would be a rare individual! To find a white Bahamian who could truly empathize with and understand and appreciate the whole gravity of what colonialism did for the Bahamian psyche and trying to be sensitive to that. Generally, they're not interested in reading about this stuff.

"It will take a different kind of 'Conchy Joe' to be accepted by blacks. And more importantly, even more practically than that, would you see Brent Symonette in Nassau Village, would you see Brent Symonette around Mason's Addition, would you see Brent Symonette walking around Bain Town? Ya see, the thing is there is still that social stigma, there's still that social distancing that we have going on where whites either because of class or race don't feel comfortable around blacks in certain places and situations. And so, you would have to have someone who is embraced by blacks as being from the grassroots, at least who they can identify with in a way that they feel as if their concerns are at heart. I mean, Brent Symonette, what's his constituency? St. Annes? What is St. Annes? I mean that constituency is tailor-made for him, I don't believe it includes some of the more ghetto areas right? He had it easy, he was campaigning in an area that represents his ethnic identity! If that's the area you find whites, so that's it—that wasn't a big challenge," he said.

Mr Curry went on to say:

"The day you see a white fella could run in a black belt area and successfully win then I would start considering that maybe this guy could possibly be a Prime Minister."

"From some of the comments I've heard him say, he doesn't seem to be too sensitive to what black Bahamians have experienced. He comes off as too white! He needs to show a greater appreciation of the struggle," the historian asserted. Former Director of Culture and College of the Bahamas lecturer Nicolette Bethel, whose family is of mixed heritage, when asked about the prospects of Brent Symonette or another white Bahamian becoming Prime Minister in the near future (maybe 2017), and how far removed one must be from the notion of being a UBP heir or tied to UBP/Bay Street interests, said:

"I don't think that Brent Symonette has good prospects at this point, unless the Bahamian voting public has returned to the time when it wants a white Massa to look after it. Part of the problem is his 'whiteness' (which is compromised in any event, as his father was not a white man) but part of the problem is also his UBP/Bay Street heritage. I can't say how far removed one must be, but he isn't anywhere near removed enough."

Asked whether she felt the outlook of white Bahamians and the perception of their involvement in local politics had evolved in the wake of President Obama's ascendency to the US Presidency, she wrote in response:

"I have no idea, but I don't think it's changed all that much. There is a fundamental difference between the sort of minority that Obama represents and the sort of minority that white Bahamians represent — blacks don't have nearly as much control about their lot in society as white have in any part of the world. We can't separate ourselves from the global hierarchy that continues to expect white skin to be equated with power and dark skin to be equated with powerlessness or servitude. Whites have chosen to remove themselves from local politics, for the most part, and I don't see a whole lot of change there. Here, of course, I mean true white Bahamians, rather than fair skinned Bahamians of colour, who have a very different perspective and outlook, if one can imagine that they share such a thing."

She stated that "it's not impossible" for a white Bahamian to ascend to the Prime Minister's post and/or be embraced by black Bahamians particularly if they recognize the historic struggle of blacks, slavery, etcetera. She notes that this can happen, but only "as long as he isn't a Symonette (or a Pindling or a Maynard or, nowadays, a Christie or an Ingraham)."

Previously, Dr Bethel noted the inherent fears of some Bahamians asserting that the appointment of a "self-identified white Bahamian as Deputy Prime Minister has raised the fear that the oppressive force that was fractured in 1967 will return and change the Bahamas back to what it was before Majority Rule."

Law professor Michael Stevenson—son of PLP founding father Cyril Stevenson—took a somewhat divergent, socio-legal perspective towards addressing the question of race and politics and the role of Brent Symonette and whites.

He said:

"Minister Symonette today could become, de facto, the Prime Minister of The Bahamas under a limited set of conditions set out in the Constitution. I say 'de facto' because technically the Deputy Prime Minister can never assume the office of Prime Minister because of conditions that would authorize him to perform *the functions* of Prime Minister. Of course, there is a huge difference in the Bahamian imagination between the possibility of Minister Symonette being the Prime Minister and him being authorized to perform the functions of Prime Minister as Deputy Prime Minister. Still, I believe it is significant that the heir of a quintessential Bay Street Boy now has the authority to perform the functions of the Prime Minister if the occasion requires, and that this authority has nothing to do with the psychological question whether black Bahamians are prepared to accept a white Prime Minister or whether the outlook of white Bahamians has changed since 1967. There has to be something comforting in that thought, whether you are a fan of Minister Symonette or not; or whether you believe the majority of Bahamians would accept him as their legitimate leader or not."

WOULD Brent Symonette have the ability to galvanize people across the political spectrum and lead their respective parties to an electoral victory?

It is not lost on me that other predominantly black countries in the Caribbean basin with an even more dreadful racial past have risen above the colour/ethnic/gender lines and elected whites, Indians and women to high office. However, locally, any white politician seeking to lead the country must have a transcendent political aura about him and demonstrate that he can embrace the country's African cultural and genetic heritage whilst preaching a message of unity and inspiring citizens. Indeed, the current political leadership must encourage ethnic/minority political participation and bridge-building. Rather than alienating whites, or whites themselves choosing not to participate in the affairs of the state, it will take a coalition of blacks and whites to build a unified and prosperous country.

It is high time we disregard partisanship and race/class to incorporate the brightest talent in any administration to work towards developing a country and formulating a progressive national plan that is free of the divisive politics that continue to plague this nation. For far too long, local politics has been dominated by parochial figures who cannot see beyond their backyard, which is a stark contrast to the broad-based perspective so desperately needed in establishing a different social and political ethos.

TRIBUTE TO TRACEY STRACHAN

Last Monday morning, I received shocking news that my friend and former colleague Tracey Strachan had died from complications during child birth. "Strachany", as I sometimes called her, was the most outspoken, passionate and hilarious combination ever to come out of Fox Hill. Her hilarity and mischievous smile was unmatched!

I met Tracey when I first entered the service at the LW Young high school and I was a little apprehensive as I had heard that she was a head of department who was quite stern and vocal. Indeed, she had a no nonsense persona and took no prisoners! However, before long we hit if off and, as they say, the rest is history.

Tracey's crowning glory probably came after the 2007 general election as I can vividly remember her exclaiming and jokingly chanting "we red and they scared!" However, regardless of her political choices and playful teasing, she embraced all people. If you could take a good ribbing, you would easily fit in as she was comedic, with vivid descriptions and gestures and a mischievous way of speaking that was nothing short of riotous. I could see her "full" eyes popping open and shutting as she laughed or was having a good time. I am still chuckling at the jokes she cracked at the Fox Hill day festivities in 2009.

Tracey was a kindred spirit and an educator extraordinaire. Indeed, the DW Davis family and indeed the world of education has lost a hard working, dedicated teacher who positively impacted so many children as an agent of change during her tenure. Life is short and we are nothing more than vapor. Indeed, this tells one how important it is to cherish each day like it's our last.

I extend my condolences and sincerest sympathies to her husband and young, school-age children and to her entire family. Tracey – "I is a Fox Hill gal" Strachan – rest in peace my friend!

I also wish to extend my condolences to the family of Joel "Uncle Joel" Pratt of O'Neal's, Long Island. Rest in peace "Uncle Joel!"

Aruba: Jawbone not that of Natalee Holloway

MISSING TEEN: Beth Holloway, mother of Natalee Holloway, speaks during the opening of the Natalee Holloway Resource Center (NHRC) at the National Museum of Crime & Punishment in Washington, USA, Tuesday, June 8, 2010.

DANICA COTO,
Associated Press
SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico

A jawbone found on an Aruba beach does not belong to missing Alabama teenager Natalee Holloway, prosecutors in the Dutch Caribbean island said Tuesday.

The jawbone is human, though it is unclear who it belongs to.

Dutch investigators compared the lone tooth on the bone with dental records supplied by Holloway's family and "it can be ruled out that the bone fragment came from Natalee Holloway," the prosecutors said.

The bone was found recently by a tourist on a beach, and Aruba prosecutors had asked forensic scientists in the Netherlands to analyze it.

They assured that the Holloway case has "the constant attention from law enforcement on the island."

But John Kelly, an attorney for Holloway's mother, Beth Twitty, hinted that the media apparently found out first about the test results.

"Beth accepts the forensic conclusions, is emotionally exhausted from the inexplicably long wait and deeply disappointed in the time and manner in which she learned of the results," he said in a statement. "Apparently Aruban prosecutors were more sensitive to media concerns than the painful vigil of a mother."

It is unclear how exactly Twitty learned of the results. Family spokeswoman Sunny Tillman did not immedately return a message seeking comment.

Tuesday's announcement once again eliminates a hope of evidence about the fate of the Mountain Brook, Alabama, student who disappeared while on a high school graduation trip in 2005, when she was 18.

Aruba's attorney general, Taco Stein, told The Associated Press that officials do not know how old the bone is or where it might have come from.

"It's anybody's guess," he said. "We're a small island."

He speculated that it could even have come from nearby Venezuela or Curacao, given the intense hurricane season that churned the ocean.

Stein said authorities will check with police to see if the jawbone might belong to a missing person or the victim of an unsolved murder, but he said it was unlikely because Aruba only has a handful of those types of cases.

Holloway's parents, Dave Holloway and Beth Twitty, did not respond to calls for comment. Family attorney Vinda de Sousa told The Associated Press that the family might issue a statement later. Earlier in the day, Carol Standifer, who said she is a close friend of the teen's mother, told CBS's "The Early Show" that if the bone did belong to the missing teen, "there will be some semblance of closure."

Holloway was last seen leaving a bar with Dutchman Joran van der Sloot, the prime suspect in her disappearance, on the final night of her trip.

Aruba prosecutors have repeatedly said they lack evidence to charge Van der Sloot, who is in jail in Peru on charges of killing a 21-year-old woman last May 30 — five years to the day after Holloway's disappearance. He has denied killing Holloway.

U.S. law enforcement officials have charged Van der Sloot with trying to extort money from Holloway's mother to reveal the location of Holloway's body.

Vatican shifts ground on condoms, HIV, conception

NICOLE WINFIELD,
Associated Press
VICTOR L. SIMPSON,
Associated Press
VATICAN CITY

(AP Photo/Osservatore Romano, HO)

CONDOM CONTROVERSY: In this picture made available by the Vatican newspaper Osservatore Romano Pope Benedict XVI, flanked by German journalist Peter Seewald, left, and by Monsignor Rino Fisichella holds a copy of the book "Light of the World" during a private audience at the Vatican, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010. The Vatican broadened the scope of the pope's comments about condom use being a lesser evil than transmitting HIV by saying the concept also applies to women. The Pontiff said in the book that condom use by people such as male prostitutes was a lesser evil since it indicated they were taking a step toward a more moral and responsible sexuality by aiming to protect their partner from infection.

In a seismic shift on one of the most profound — and profoundly contentious — Roman Catholic teachings, the Vatican said that condoms are the lesser of two evils when used to curb the spread of AIDS, even if their use prevents a pregnancy.

The position was an acknowledgment that the church's long-held anti-birth control stance against condoms doesn't justify putting lives at risk.

"This is a game-changer," declared the Rev. James Martin, a prominent Jesuit writer and editor.

The new stance was staked out as the Vatican explained Pope Benedict XVI's comments on condoms and HIV in a book that came out Tuesday based on his interview with a German journalist.

The Vatican still holds that condom use is immoral and that church doctrine forbidding artificial birth control remains unchanged. Still, the reassessment on condom use to help prevent disease carries profound significance, particularly in Africa where AIDS is rampant.

"By acknowledging that condoms help prevent the spread of HIV between people in sexual relationships, the pope has completely changed the Catholic discussion on condoms," Martin said.

The change came on a day when U.N. AIDS officials announced that the number of new HIV cases has fallen significantly — thanks to condom use — and a U.S. medical journal published a study showing that a daily pill could help prevent spread of the virus among gay men. "This is a great day in the fight against AIDS ... a major milestone," said Mitchell Warren, head of the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition.

Theologians have debated for years whether it could be morally acceptable for HIV-infected people to use condoms to avoid infecting their partners. The Vatican years ago was reportedly preparing a document on the subject, but it never came out. The groundbreaking shift, coming as it does from the deeply conservative pontiff, would appear likely to restrain any public criticism from Catholic conservatives, who on Tuesday insisted the pope was merely reaffirming the church's moral teaching..

Conservatives have feared that a comment like this would give support to Catholics who want to challenge the church's ban on artificial contraception in an environment where they feel they are under siege from a secular, anti-Catholic culture.

George Weigel, a conservative Catholic writer, said the Vatican was by no means endorsing condom use as a method of contraception or a means of AIDS prevention.

"This is admittedly a difficult distinction to grasp," he told The Associated Press in an e-mail. What the pontiff is saying is "that someone determined to do something wrong may be showing a glimmer of moral common sense by not doing that wrong thing in the worst possible way — which is not an endorsement of anything."

Orthodoxy

Benedict's comments come at a time when bishops in the United States are intensely focused on upholding the strictest views of Catholic orthodoxy, emphasizing traditional marriage, natural family planning based on a woman's menstrual cycle and making abortion the most important issue. In the book, "Light of the World: The Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times," Benedict was quoted as saying that condom use by people such as male prostitutes was a lesser evil since it indicated they were moving toward a more moral and responsible sexuality by aiming to protect their partner from a deadly infection.

His comments implied that he was referring primarily to homosexual sex, when condoms aren't being used as a form of contraception.

However, questions arose immediately about the pope's intent because the Italian translation of the book used the feminine for prostitute, whereas the original German used the masculine. The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, told reporters Tuesday that he asked the pope whether he intended his comments to apply only to men. Benedict replied that it really didn't matter, the important thing was that the person took into consideration the life of another, Lombardi said. "I personally asked the pope if there was a serious, important problem in the choice of the masculine over the feminine," Lombardi said. "He told me no. The problem is this: ... It's the first step of taking responsibility, of taking into consideration the risk of the life of another with whom you have a relationship."

"This is if you're a man, a woman, or a transsexual. ... The point is it's a first step of taking responsibility, of avoiding passing a grave risk onto another," Lombardi said.

Those comments concluded the press conference, and Lombardi took no further questions about how broadly this interpretation could be applied.

The clarification is significant. UNAIDS estimates that 22.4 million people in Africa are infected with HIV, and that 54 percent — or 12.1 million — are women. Heterosexual transmission of HIV and multiple, heterosexual partners are believed to be the major cause of the high infection rates.

Benedict drew harsh criticism when, en route to Africa in 2009, he told reporters that the AIDS problem couldn't be resolved by distributing condoms. "On the contrary, it increases the problem," he said then. In Africa on Tuesday, AIDS activists, clerics and ordinary Africans alike applauded the pope's revised comments.

"I say, hurrah for Pope Benedict," exclaimed Linda-Gail Bekker, chief executive of South Africa's Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation. She said the pope's statement may prompt many people to "adopt a simple lifestyle strategy to protect themselves."

In Sierra Leone, the director of the National AIDS Secretariat predicted condom use would now increase, lowering the number of new infections.

"Once the pope has made a pronouncement, his priests will be in the forefront in advocating for their perceived use of condoms," said the official, Dr. Brima Kargbo.

Lombardi said Benedict knew full well that his comments would provoke intense debate. Conservative Catholics have been trying to minimize the scope of what Benedict said since excerpts were published this weekend in the Vatican newspaper. Lombardi praised Benedict for his "courage" in confronting the problem.

"He did it because he believed that it was a serious, important question in the world of today," Lombardi said, adding that the pope wanted to give his perspective on the need for greater humanized, responsible sexuality. Luigi Accatoli, a veteran Vatican journalist who was on the Vatican panel that launched the book, put it this way: "He spoke with caution and courage of a pragmatic way through which missionaries and other ecclesial workers can help to defeat the pandemic of AIDS without approving, but also without excluding — in particular cases — the use of a condom," Accatoli said.

The launch of the book, which includes wide-ranging comments on subjects from the sex abuse crisis to Benedict's belief that popes should resign if physically unable to carry out their mission, drew a packed audience to the Vatican press room. Making a rare appearance, Benedict's secretary, Monsignor Georg Ganswein, sat in the front row — an indication of event's significance.

In the book, the pope reaffirms Vatican opposition to homosexual acts and artificial contraception, as well as the inviolability of marriage between man and woman.

Producers acknowledge voting issues at 'Dancing'

DANCING WITH THE STARS: In an effort to show their improvement over the course of the season, all three couples danced for redemption by re-choreographing and doing a previously performed dance chosen by the judges with new music for a better score.

SANDY COHEN,
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES

Is a voting bloc of Sarah Palin supporters enough to give daughter Bristol the mirrorball trophy on "Dancing With the Stars"? Will Jennifer Grey's perfect score and superior dance skills land her the win? And how will voting issues at ABC Monday night affect the outcome?

"Dancing" producers said Tuesday that "a record amount of activity" overloaded its online and telephone voting systems after Monday's episode.

"Some viewers reported experiencing difficulties registering their votes for the Dancing with the Stars finale, which affected each finalist equally," show producers said in a statement. "The issue was promptly addressed" and voting times were not extended.

Finalists Grey, Bristol Palin and Kyle Massey performed their last dances for viewer votes on Monday's episode, which count for half of their overall scores toward the title.

Grey comes into Tuesday's season finale in first place. The 50-year-old actress and her professional partner, Derek Hough, earned a perfect score of 60 for their two dances on Monday's show. Massey finished in second place with 56 points, while Palin landed in third with 52 points. All three will perform two dances on Tuesday's show before a new "Dancing" champ is named.

Palin has made it to the finals despite so-so and at times poor performances. She said it was challenging to overcome the flurry of media coverage that erupted when she was voted in over Brandy — who had received a perfect score for her tango — on the hit show, prompting some viewers to question the veracity of the "Dancing" voting system. At the announcement of Brandy's elimination on that particular episode, Brandy was speechless, and Hough's jaw quite literally dropped.

Palin's improbable run to the finals has been championed by websites such as conservative blogger Kevin DuJan's Hillbuzz.org, who have been leading get-out-the-vote campaigns for Palin and partner Mark Ballas.

"Are you planning on hosting a Team Bristol Monday Night Dancing Watch party?" reads a post on his website. "You ... can actually vote together and send Bristol over the top ... while sending Leftist heads into meltdown."

"Dancing" executive producer Conrad Green said it would be fair game if Palin's voters send her to victory Tuesday.

"If she ends up winning the show, she ends up winning the show because more people decided to make the effort to vote for her — for whatever reason they're passionate about her — than they did for other people, and that is a valid part of the show," he said.

Though Palin said on Monday's episode that "there's lots of haters out there that are waiting for me to fail," the 20-year-old single mom said after the show that she feels she and Ballas deserve to win.

"We've been working our butts off," she said.

Grey said she won't consider the mirrorball trophy until Tuesday's dances are done.

"I think it's bad juju," she said after earning a perfect score Monday.

Massey and his partner, Lacey Schwimmer, said they've been having so much fun dancing together, they can hardly believe they actually have a chance at the title.

UK imposes new permanent immigration quota

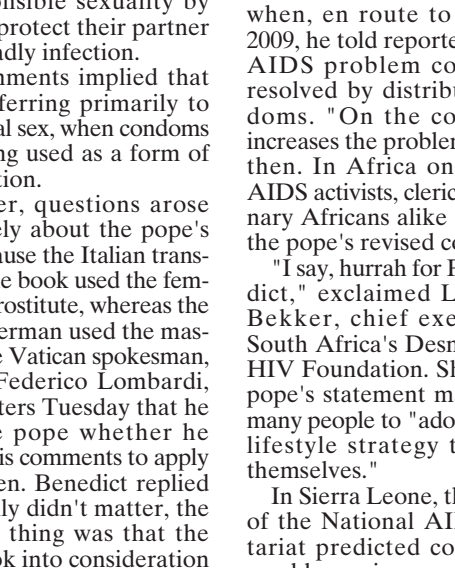
DAVID STRINGER,
Associated Press
LONDON

Britain will impose a tough annual limit on the number of non-Europeans allowed to work in the U.K. and slash visas for overseas students as it seeks to dramatically reduce immigration, the government said Tuesday.

Home Secretary Theresa May told the House of Commons that the number of non-EU nationals permitted to work in the U.K. from April 2011 will be capped at about 22,000 — a reduction of about one-fifth from 2009. But thousands of people who are allowed to work in Britain on intra-company transfers aren't included in those figures — or under the new quota. Critics said that means it's unclear how Prime Minister David Cameron's government will meet a pledge to cut net immigration, which also includes students and families of visa holders, to below 100,000 by 2015, from about 196,000 last year.

"We can't go on like this, we must tighten up our immigration system," May told legislators as she announced details of the new rules. Public anxiety over immigration — and the burden on public services caused by new arrivals — was a key issue during the country's national election, when then-leader Gordon Brown was angrily challenged by an elderly voter over workers arriving from eastern Europe.

As a member of the European Union, Britain must allow citizens of most other member states freedom to live and work in the U.K. Business leaders had urged Cameron's government against stringent restrictions on non-European workers, arguing vital sectors would be left short of staff — particularly in health care and for energy infrastructure projects.



BRITISH PRIME MINISTER: David Cameron

Warned

Indian officials also warned Cameron over restricting the rights of their citizens to study and work in the U.K. during his visit in July. May said Britain would reserve 1,000 visas each year for talented scientists, academics and artists.

"Business will be pleased to see that the government has taken its concerns onboard," said David Frost, director of the British Chambers of Commerce.

May said her changes would limit the number of staff that international corporations are permitted to transfer to Britain from offices overseas.

In the future, no staff member who earn under 40,000 pounds (US$63,500) per year will be eligible to stay for longer than 12 months — though they will be able to carry out shorter contracts in Britain.

May did not specify how many people the policy would affect, but figures for 2009 show that half of the 22,000 admitted under the category earned less than the new salary criteria. Labour Party legislator Ed Balls criticized the government for failing to set a limit on intracompany transfers. "Can she confirm her supposed cap is in fact a con, a guess, a fig leaf, no cap at all?" he asked May in the Commons.

May's quota will have only a limited impact on Britain's overall immigration rate — as work-related visas account only for about 20 percent of migration.

Families of those with rights to live and work in Britain claim about 20 percent of visas, while non-European students arriving to study in the U.K. account for 60 percent of immigration. May said those seeking a marriage visa will in the future need to prove they have a minimum standard of English. Her ministry will also develop plans to drastically reduce Britain's foreign student population, likely allowing entry only to those working on college degrees, or more advanced qualifications. She told lawmakers there would be a more stringent regime to check the credentials of schools that offer visas to overseas students. Police and security officials have recently raised concerns over the education system being targeted by terrorists to gain permission to live in Britain.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Obama pledges US to defend its ally South Korea

ANNE GEARAN,
AP National Security Writer
WASHINGTON

President Barack Obama on Tuesday pledged the United States would defend South Korea after what the White House branded a provocative, outrageous attack by North Korea on its neighbor. Its options limited, the U.S. sought a diplomatic rather a military response to one of those most ominous clashes between the Koreas in decades.

"South Korea is our ally. It has been since the Korean war," Obama said in his first comments about the North Korean shelling of a South Korean island. "And we strongly affirm our commitment to defend South Korea as part of that alliance."

Working to head off any escalation, the U.S. did not reposition any of its 29,000 troops in the South or make other military moves after North Korea fired salvos of shells into the island, setting off an artillery duel between the two sides.

The president, speaking to ABC News, would not speculate when asked about military options. He was expected to telephone South Korean President Lee Myung-bak late Tuesday night. He met earlier with his top national security advisers to discuss next steps.

Washington has relatively few options when dealing with Pyongyang. Military action is particularly unappealing, since the unpredictable North possesses crude nuclear weapons as well as a huge standing army. North Korea exists largely outside the system of international financial and diplomatic institutions that the U.S. has used as leverage in dealing with other hostile countries, including Iran.

Pressure

North Korea has also resisted pressure from its major ally, China, which appears to be nervous about the signs of instability in its neighbor.

"We strongly condemn the attack and we are rallying the international community to put pressure on North Korea," Obama said in the ABC interview, specifically citing the need for China's help. Obama said every nation in the region must know "this is a serious and ongoing threat."

An administration official said Tuesday evening that U.S. officials in Washington and in Beijing were appealing strongly to China to condemn the attack by arguing that it was an act that threatened the stability of the entire region, not just the Korean peninsula. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates phoned South Korea's defense minister to express sympathy for the deaths of two of the South's marines in the artillery shelling of a small South Korean island and to express appreciation "for the restraint shown to date" by the South's government, a Pentagon spokesman said.

Obama called North Korea's action "just one more provocative incident" and said he would consult with Lee on an appropriate response.

In his phone call to South Korea's defense minister, Gates said the U.S. viewed recent attacks as a violation of the armistice agreement that ended the Korea War in 1953, and he reiterated the U.S. commitment to South Korea's defense, said Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell.

Obama was awakened at 4 a.m. Tuesday with the news. He went ahead with an Indiana trip focused on the economy before returning to the White House after dark. State Department spokesman Mark Toner said the U.S. would take a "deliberate approach" in response to what he also called provocative North Korean behavior. At the same time, other administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe the emerging strategy, said the White House was determined to end a diplomatic cycle that officials said rewards North Korean brinksmanship.

THOUGHTFUL: President Barack Obama walks on the South Lawn as he leaves the White House in Washington for a trip to Philadelphia Saturday, Oct. 30, 2010.

In the past, the U.S. and other nations have sweetened offers to North Korea as it has developed new missiles and prototype nuclear weapons. North Korea is now demanding new one-on-one talks with the United States, which rejects that model in favor of group diplomacy that includes North Korea's protector, China.

"We're not going to respond willy-nilly," Toner said. "We believe that it's important that we keep a unified and measured approach going forward."

Both Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill accused North Korea of starting the skirmish.

The violence comes as the North prepares for a dynastic change in leadership and faces a winter of food and electricity shortages. It is the latest of a series of confrontations that have aggravated tensions on the divided peninsula.

The incident also follows the North's decision last week to give visiting Western scientists a tour of a secret uranium enrichment facility, which may signal an expansion of the North's nuclear weapons program. Six weeks ago, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il anointed his youngest son, Kim Jong Un, as his heir apparent.

The administration official said the U.S. did not interpret North Korea's aggression as a desire to go to war, but as yet another effort to extract concessions from the international community.

Pentagon spokesman Col. Dave Lapan said no new equipment or personnel have been relocated to South Korea, while Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz seemed to shrug off the latest incident as something that Seoul can handle on its own.

"The North Koreas have undertaken over time a number of provocations that have manifested themselves in different ways," Schwartz said.

Drill breakthrough in NZ mine; robot finds helmet

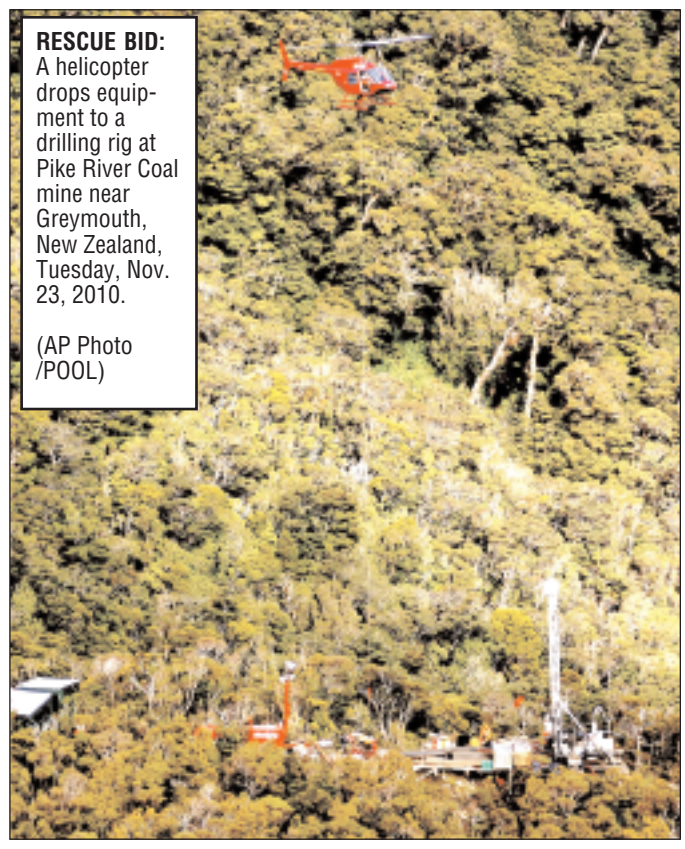
JOE MORGAN,
Associated Press
RAY LILLEY,
Associated Press
GREYMOUTH, New Zealand

A drilling team on Wednesday broke a narrow shaft through to the section of a New Zealand coal mine where 29 workers have been missing for almost six days, and was greeted by a blast of potentially deadly gases from inside.

Officials have become increasingly pessimistic about the chances of pulling the men alive from a network of tunnels some 1 1/2 miles (2 kilometers) deep in the side of a mountain, following a powerful explosion on Friday.

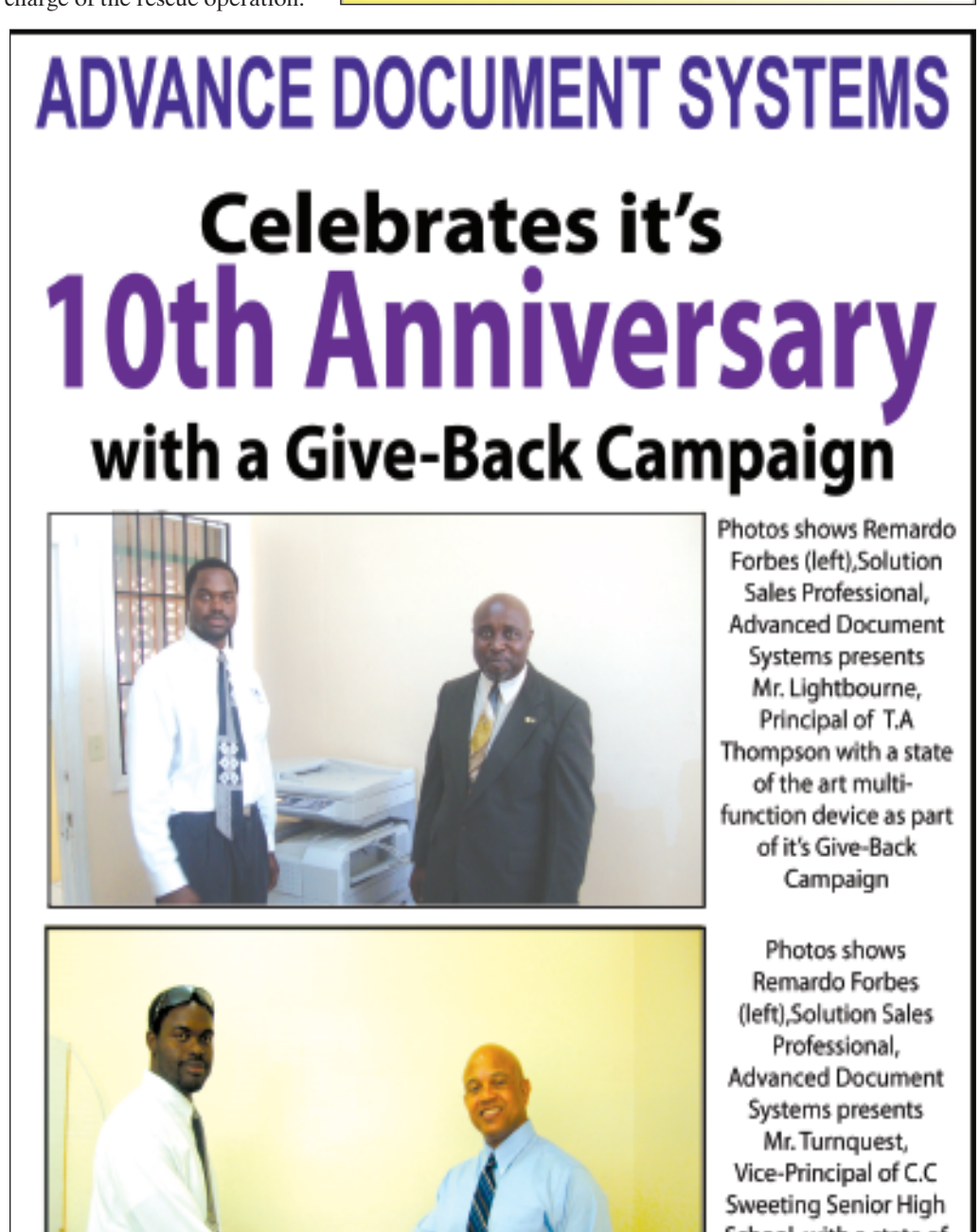
Nothing has been heard from the missing miners since the blast. Toxic and potentially explosive gases have kept rescuers from entering the mine, though an army bomb disposal robot crawled two-thirds of a mile (1 kilometer) into the tunnel on Wednesday and found a miner's helmet with its fixed light still glowing. Drillers using a diamond-tipped drill bit to prevent sparks finished boring a 530-ft. (162-meter) hole to the mine's main tunnel, close to where the missing men are believed to have been at the time of the blast. It was a key step, giving officials their first information from that section of the mine and allowing testing for levels of dangerous gases.

Hot air and gas rushed the hole when the chamber roof was punctured, and Pike River Coal Ltd. chief Peter Whittall said initial tests showed it was "extremely high in carbon monoxide, very high in methane and fairly low in oxygen." Carbon monoxide — the polluting gas from car exhausts — is extremely poisonous, while explosive methane is the gas believed to have ignited in Friday's blast. "The environment is still unstable, it is unsafe and it is not appropriate to send rescue teams underground at this time," said Gary Knowles, the police superintendent in charge of the rescue operation.



RESCUE BID: A helicopter drops equipment to a drilling rig at Pike River Coal mine near Greymouth, New Zealand, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010.

(AP Photo /POOL)



Students commended for their views on honesty and choice

FROM LEFT: ELMA Garraway, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education; Mena Griffiths, Templeton Foundation; Dr Pena Templeton; Minister of Education, Education Minister Desmond Bannister; Warel Smith, senior winner; Dante Wilkinson, junior winner; Lashie Cleare, second place overall finisher; Dr Jack Templeton, Templeton World Charity, and Pastor Allen Lee of the Calvary Bible Church.

Edgar Arnette/MOE

WINNERS of this year's Templeton World Charity 'Laws of Life Essay Competition' had their say on the benefits of honesty and how to use the power of choice wisely.

Education Minister Desmond Bannister commended the students who took part in this year's Templeton Foundation essay competition which allowed them to discuss pertinent issues with regards to ethics and virtues on which the 'laws of life' are based.

The awards ceremony for the 2010 Templeton World Charity/Ministry of Education 'Laws of Life Essay Competition'

was held on November 10 at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort.

Speaking at the event, Mr Bannister applauded the participants for their ability to draw from someone else's work and combine it with their life's experiences to develop their own masterpieces.

He also thanked Sir Jack Templeton, son of the late philanthropist and founder of the Templeton Foundation, for reviving the competition.

Dr Templeton acknowledged that his father would have been proud to know of the response to this year's competition.

The entries for this year's contest doubled and saw participation from both private and public schools in New Providence, Grand Bahama and the Family Islands.

Dante Wilkinson, an eight grade student of Queen's College, was the winner of the junior division of the competition, while Lashie Cleare of Temple Christian Academy was the second place finisher.

Warel Smith, also of Queen's College, was the winner of the senior category, while fellow student George Zonicle tied with Nakandria Neymour of Central Andros High School (Andros) for second place.

Students in the junior division were required to select from the topics: 'As you give, so shall you receive'; 'Honesty is the best policy' and 'Where there is no vision, the people perish'.

The senior students were challenged to write on the topics: 'Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative'; 'Use wisely your power of choice' and 'A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger'.

In his essay Dante explained that "the simple truth is fast becoming an elusive phenomena frequently overshadowed by the dark clouds of dishonesty."

He questioned the wisdom of telling the truth as in the case of a soldier who is caught behind enemy lines.

"Should he tell the truth knowing that the outcome could be death or betrayal," Dante asked.

The eighth grade student admitted that there were a few occasions when he told white lies to avoid punishment, but when he was eventually caught his father made him aware that the penalty for lying was severe.

He noted that the late Sir John Templeton in his book 'Laws of Life' stated that "deceit often takes a terrible toll on our sense of integrity and self-worth."

He concluded his essay stating that he would like to be like George Washington, the first president of the United States who held the most enviable of all titles of an honest man and agreed with Benjamin Franklin who is credited with coining the phrase, "honesty is the best policy".

Warel Smith addressed the topic, "Use wisely your power of choice", stating that the power of choice distinguishes us from following a leader and being that leader.

She said that the power of choice enables persons to conjure up anything they want to see in society.

Likewise, power of choice can be detrimental as in the case of Adolf Hitler who used his power of choice to killed six million Jews during the period of Nazi Germany, Warel said.

He cited Martin Luther King Jr, the American civil rights activist who along with persons such as Malcolm X and Rosa Parks fought against discrimination of African-American and other ethic minorities in the US, as a case of positive power of choice.

The senior and junior winners received laptops and the runner-ups were given Apple iPods and digital cameras.

All participants were awarded certificates of participation. Queen's College was rewarded with a cheque towards a White Board for entering sixty students in the competition; thirty-four who were recognised for their work including the two winners in the competition.

Temple Christian High School's participation was also recognised with a LCD projector and screen for its students' efforts in the competition.

FAMGUARD CORPORATION LIMITED

2011 FAMGUARD CALENDAR WINNERS

Displaying their winning photos in FamGuard's 2011 Celebration of Nature calendar *(back row, left to right)* are Anthony Hepburn, Ronald Lightbourn, Paul Harding, Peter Pateman, Olga Stokes, Dominic Cant, Paul Hage-Chahine; *(front row, left to right)* Katherine Lightbourn, on behalf of daughter Julie Lightbourn, and Roland Rose. Missing from this photo are Julie Lightbourn and Roston McGregor

FamGuard Corporation recently hosted a reception for the winners of the company's 2011 Calendar Photo Contest and officially launched the 25th edition of its popular Celebration of Nature calendar. The 14 winning photographs were selected from over 650 entries in the annual photo contest which ran March through June.

This year's contest and resulting calendar signify two notable changes: the subject matter has expanded to include historical structures and idyllic Bahamian scenes to complement the flora and fauna which have been the primary focus in the past, and the calendar has been rebranded under FamGuard's logo to represent the company's expanded family of financial services companies.

FamGuard's calendar is distributed to the company's clients and the general public each year and is eagerly awaited by nature enthusiasts and photographers. The company is especially pleased that students and teachers request copies for their classrooms as the calendar provides a unique anthology of Bahamian nature.

FAMILY GUARDIAN | BAHAMAHEALTH | FG CAPITAL MARKETS | FG FINANCIAL | FG INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS

Open house held as part of 'Deaf Awareness Week'

MEMBERS of the public are invited to participate in 'Deaf Awareness Week' by attending the Centre for Deaf Children's open house today where arts and crafts made by the students will be on display.

The students from the Centre for Deaf Children kicked off the activities for Deaf Awareness Week with a courtesy call Education Minister Desmond Bannister on Monday.

This year's Deaf Awareness Week is being held from November 21-26 under the theme "Networking Hand in Hand".

The Centre's principal Tessa Nottage said wood and straw craft as well as Christmas wreaths and ornaments made by the children will be on display beginning today from 10am.

She also announced that the Centre will hold its Thanksgiving Service on Friday.

During the courtesy call, the Centre's vice-principal Sonja Rolle updated the minister on the students' progress by informing him that six of their students at the senior level have successfully worked for brief periods in several areas which include: banking, accounting, computer repair, farming and cosmetology.

She said that her wish was for each student to have the opportunity to work for a short while at each of the government's ministries.

Minister Bannister told the students that he was happy to see them once again, and that he took careful note of the many talents and abilities they displayed when he visited them earlier in the year.

He expressed that he would like to see more children in the Bahamas learning sign language and he encouraged the students to teach the hearing students sign language.

Thanking the educators of the Centre for Deaf Children and the corporate community, the Mr Bannister encouraged all stakeholders to provide even more opportunities for the students to shine.

THE TRIBUNE
business
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2010
SECTION B • business@tribunemedia.net

ROYAL FIDELITY
Money at Work
RBC / Fidelity Joint Venture Company
NASSAU
(242) 356-9801
FREEPORT
(242) 351-3010
MARSH HARBOUR
(242) 367-3135
royalfidelity.com

Building permit delays cost Bahamas 'millions'

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

- Architects say three-six month wait for Building Control permission leaves nation well behind major US cities like New York, Miami and Atlanta
- Says many projects 'cancelled or postponed' due to long wait, with process having 'stranglehold' on construction sector

THE Bahamian economy is "losing millions of dollars" in economic activity due to the lengthy delays and bottlenecks experienced in obtaining construction permits from the Ministry of Works' Building Control Department (BCD), a leading architect charged yesterday, the average three-six month waiting period in this nation comparing unfavourably with major US cities and rival Caribbean destinations.

Amos J. Ferguson, president of the Institute of Bahamian Architects, told Tribune Business that many of the delays resulted from the fact that the Building Control Department was trying to be a "qualifying agency", routinely raising numerous "queries" over plans submitted to it, rather than seeing its true role as the speedy processing of such applications.

"Most jurisdictions are reducing the number of steps to speed up the process," Mr Ferguson said of competitors' approaches to construction permitting, "which stimulates the industry. They [the BCD] are putting more in.

"The main problem is that we have persons down there processing these things and coming up with queries, which means they are putting themselves forth as experts and knowing more than people qualified in the industry. Yet they are not qualified to do that. They [the BCD] are trying to operate as a qualifying agency, rather than one that processes permits."

An Institute report that compared the building permitting process in the Bahamas to those in major US cities, focusing on time taken and the number of steps involved, found that while it took between three to six months in this nation if the project was "uncomplicated," in New York it took an average of between one hour to 14 days.

And New York regulators, according to the Institute, accomplished this even with applicants there required to fulfil 31 steps, as opposed to the 24

SEE page 2B

TARIFF CUTS URGED FOR SECURITY PRODUCTS

Firm calls for FNM to fulfill Manifesto commitment, after 30% rise in inquiries

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

A Bahamian security services firm yesterday urged the Government to reduce or eliminate import duties on security-related products as a means to curb the country's crime problem.

Clint Harding, president of Harding Security, said that despite a 30 per cent increase in inquiries from homeowners and businesses regarding upgrading their security systems over the last two years as the economy declined and crime rates rose, cost remains a major obstacle to customers enhancing their preventative measures. A tariff reduction, he added, would "help tremendously".

"In the Government's manifesto in 2007, one of their items under 'Crime' said they would reduce tariffs on security products because they understood there was a greater demand. They've not done that. We want to know if it's on the back burner or been taken off the table. I thought it was a great idea that would really help this country, as there are people who want (extra security) but can't afford it. Price is one of the biggest concerns," said Mr Harding.

His comments came on the same day as Bahamas Chamber of Commerce president, Khaalis Rolle, said that in his opinion, crime in the Bahamas was "completely out of control", and advocated for the Government and other stakeholders to develop a "clear strategy addressing every aspect of the problem", which he views as a major impediment to economic development.

In its 2007 election manifesto, the Government outlined nine steps it would take as part of a "comprehensive plan to reduce crime", one of which stated it would "assist homeowners and businesses to help prevent crime by reducing import duties on security equipment, components and supplies".

Minister of National Security, Tommy Turnquest, has repeatedly advised business owners that installation of upgraded security equipment, such as surveillance and alarm systems, and quality locks in their establishment, is considered one way in which the private

SEE page 3B

New car sales at 'acceptable level' if back to 75-80% of pre-bust data

- BMDA president says that although new auto sales currently at 50-60% of pre-recession levels, data shows sector moving in right direction
- New auto sales up 17.76% year-over-year for October, and 1.84% rise for 2010 to date
- Industry in for 'long haul', as duty rate rises and manufacturer price increases raise consumer prices by five figures
- Bank lending unlikely to return to previous levels

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE Bahamian new auto market would have recovered to an "acceptable level" if it returns to 75-80 per cent of pre-recession sales levels, the Bahamas Motor Dealers Association's (BMDA) president said yesterday, as current sales levels - although 50-60 per cent behind pre-recession levels - continue to show improvement.

Andrew Barr, who is also Friendly Ford's sales manager, said the 17.76 per cent year-over-year new auto sales increase reported by BMDA members for October 2010, coupled with the 1.84 per cent improvement for the first 10 months of the year compared to 2009, indicated the economic climate facing the industry was "becoming more positive".

However, he cautioned that it was too early to tell if this would continue to translate into a sustained month-over-month, year-over-year sales recovery, telling Tribune Business that employment and income levels still had a way to recover, while Bahamian commercial banks were unlikely to lend at pre-recession levels.

"We are in this for the long haul," Mr Barr told this newspaper. "We'll see some improvements from time to time. Any improvement is a good sign, but if it improves month-to-month, year-to-year, remains to be seen.

"It's becoming more positive, judging by the numbers, not hugely so but any step in that direction is a good step. The last nine months have certainly been a little bit better percentage wise than last year. That is a significant improvement.

"The first nine months of this year have shown a reasonable growth. It's not what anyone would like, but it's reasonable growth, and if that continues in the future we're on the right track."

Mr Barr suggested that the main factors driving October's sales increases were moves by consumers to purchase autos that were imported pre-Budget, thus attracting lower Excise Tax rates, making their prices cheaper.

Others, he suggested, were being attracted to the smaller engine size, value-driven vehicles that dealers were now importing, since these attract lower duty rates following the 2010-2011 Budget, which based Excise Tax rates on engine size - a move designed to push both dealers and consumers to more fuel efficient, smaller cars.

Friendly Ford, Mr Barr explained, had already made such adjustments to its inventory, having just cleared an order of Ford Fiestas with a 1.6 engine size.

He added that the increase

SEE page 2B

PLAN REQUIRED FOR BAHAMAS' $2.3BN INFRASTRUCTURE GAP

- Leading KPMG (Bahamas) partners says 'sooner the better' for government to attract private investors into public-private partnerships
- Adds that legislation and procurement process reforms needed, along with clear government strategy
- Bahamas spending needs more than one year's government revenues and 10 times capital budget

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

Strapped for cash and with little capacity for more debt, the Government was yesterday urged that "the sooner" it can do what is necessary to attract foreign investors to partner with it to develop much-needed public infrastructure projects, "the better".

Simon Townend, partner

SEE page 2B

SIMON TOWNEND

DIONISIO D'AGUILAR

COMPANY'S OUTLETS ROBBED FIVE TIMES IN 10 DAY-PERIOD

- Laundromat boss describes Bahamas as 'Wild, Wild West' where 'everybody is in fear' and crime situation likely to get worse
- Political parties blasted for 'lack of vision' in combating crime problem
- 'Mind boggling' failure to date to move Bahamas to 'cashless society'

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE Superwash laundromat chain suffered five armed robberies in a 10-day period, prompting its president yesterday to describe the Bahamas as a "Wild, Wild West" society where

SEE page 3B

ROYAL FIDELITY
Money at Work
RBC / Fidelity Joint Venture Company
[Learn more at royalfidelity.com]
Santa has an early Gift for You!
A PRE-APPROVED MARGIN LOAN AT A LOW
7.5%*
Royal Fidelity Margin Loans
• Borrow against stocks and bonds at a low 7.5%*
• No commitment or account fees for first year
• No fixed repayment terms
• Easy & convenient application process - just give us a call.
OFFER VALID through December 31st, 2010
*Special terms and conditions apply
ROYAL FIDELITY
Money at Work
BAHAMAS
Nassau: 242.356.9801
Freeport: 242.351.3010
BARBADOS
St. Michael: 246.435.1955

GAS TRACKER
Shell $4.36
Esso $4.35
FUEL
Texaco $4.36
The information contained is from a third party and The Tribune can not be held responsible for errors and/or omission from the daily report.

Plan required for Bahamas' $2.3bn infrastructure gap

FROM page one

with KPMG (Bahamas), and who heads the firm's corporate finance office, said there was growing interest from private investors in funding public infrastructure developments, and urged that the Bahamian government create a "clear strategy and plan" for infrastructure in this country that will help attract outside investors to come and join it in public-private partnerships (PPPs) for this purpose.

His advice, he noted, comes against a backdrop that has seen the Bahamas' national debt rise to over 50 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), and government revenues and lending opportunities shrink even as infrastructural needs - such as a new hospital, investment in school buildings, roads and the water supply - multiply.

Illustrating the magnitude of the burden, analysis by KPMG indicates that "short to mid-term" infrastructure needs over the next five years in the Bahamas will require an estimated $2.3 billion in financing, Mr Townend pointing to education, healthcare, roads, airports, sea ports, the prison, solid waste, government buildings and alternative energy as areas to be addressed.

Putting this in perspective, he said this sum was more than a year's revenue for the Government, and 10 times the capital expenditure budget for 2010-2011, which came in at $228 million, meaning that it would take 10 - rather than five years - to fund all of these areas based on the Government's current capacity.

Referring to the importance of timely maintenance and ongoing development of a country's infrastructure investments, Mr Townend described this as "building for the future".

"It's not just about building things", but "enabling efficient and modern delivery of services to the public," he said.

Investment in infrastructure also has a multiplier effect, wherein good infrastructure plays a role in attracting further foreign direct investment. A recent World Bank survey pointed to the quality of a country's infrastructure as more important to potential investors in the Caribbean than "any other investment parameter", said Mr Townend.

Speaking at a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Society of the Bahamas luncheon, Mr Townend said of attracting investors to invest in public infrastructure projects in The Bahamas: "I think (the Government) needs to have a clear strategy and plan, and the legislation that facilitates it.

"For instance, in the energy sector we know the current legislation and laws just don't accomodate private investment, so I think fundamentally there's the legislation issue.

"I think the Government needs to clearly establish its strategy so investors can know what to look for, and by doing so the Government can put the word out, such as they have done in the UK, and you will get a lot of attraction from investors who are looking at this and can say: 'OK, The Bahamas is serious about doing this and we'll come and take a look'."

The KPMG partner suggested the Government must begin by "clearly defining the mid to long-term needs across all sectors", including education, health, roads, energy and more before it can expect to attract partners.

"I would say it appears this government has made it its mission to put the infrastructure in place and there's a plan there, but not in the same way the UK government and the Canadian government have done, where they've set up groups and have come together and looked at infrastructure needs in those countries over the long term. I don't think the Bahamas has such a plan yet," Mr Townend said.

Aside from a strategic plan which can be accessed by potential investors, and reforms to legislation governing the ability for foreign investors to enter the Bahamas for such purposes, Mr Townend also highlighted upgrades to the country's public procurement processes as key to encouraging PPPs.

"The Government should look at revisiting and modernising the procurement process," said Mr Townend.

Referring to the process used in the Bahamas, he suggested it lacks flexibility and "does not so much look at all the risks in the project and make sure there's a fair allocation of risks" between the Government and the private company providing the service being purchased, or address the issue of performance adequately.

"There's not necessarily harsh enough penalties for lack of performance or incentives for good performance," he suggested, adding that a more modernised procurement process could also have a "budgetary impact on how efficient the Government is" when it comes to capital expenditure.

Mr Townend explained that for the year-to-date, $23 billion has been raised worldwide to fund infrastructure projects - more than in 2009 - with "many more players entering the infrastructure markets", including private equity funds, pension funds, insurance companies, sovereign wealth funds and state-owned infrastructure banks/funds.

As to why investors would be interested in public infrastructure, he noted that as it relates to essential public services, investors can be assured of "strong, predictable, inelastic demand" for the development they are funding. Benefits can include long-term high profit margins following a high initial investment, often with regulatory and stable pricing concessions attached to it, and low volatility.

"It's less risky than equity, less risky than corporate bonds but better than government returns," said Mr Townend.

He feels the Bahamas has the potential to be an attractive investment ground for international entities interested in public infrastructure, with the airport redevelopment project - a "quasi" PPP between the Government and a company owned by it, but managed privately by Canadian company Vancouver Airport Services - and the $70 million Arawak Cay Port, which is jointly funded by the Government and the private Arawak Cay Port Development Company, "good examples" of how such initiatives can work in the Bahamas.

"I think people will look at the airport and say that's going well. It's a good success story to be able to talk about.

"Then you've got the port and all of these things that are happening that investors can see, which show the country knows what it's doing, it's progressive and the Government is working hard and is really driven to make these things happen. I think investors will look at that and say: 'This is a government we can deal with'," Mr Townend said.

Higgs & Johnson partner takes top legal position

Higgs & Johnson partner, Surinder Deal, has been re-elected to the Board of Directors, reappointed regional vice-chair for the Caribbean and Central America, and accepted the position of Meetings Committee Chair of TerraLex, a large global legal network of law firms.

Surinder Deal has over 20 years of experience in real estate, trust law and corporate and commercial law. She is a member of the Bar Associations of Malaysia and the Bahamas, and of the International Bar Association. She is also a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

TerraLex has 160 member law firms in 100 countries and 41 US states, and is the one of the largest international legal networks. As a member of TerraLex, Higgs & Johnson has access to expertise around the world from leading law firms in each member country.

New car sales at 'acceptable level' if back to 75-80 per cent of pre-bust data

FROM page one

in Excise Tax duty rates, coupled with rises in manufacturer prices as the car companies added new technology to their models, had increased prices to Bahamian consumers by up to $10,000-$12,000 in certain cases.

Asked by Tribune Business about the medium-term outlook for the BMDA and its industry members, Mr Barr replied: "We'll never get back to the status quo as it was before, but we will certainly show some improvement as the year [2011] goes on. I think it will be small improvements; I don't think it will be a huge improvement.

"It's going to take a long time for job creation to come back, and for the banks to be willing to lend money.

"Are the banks willing to lend on a general basis to people who want that type of car. Quality [of borrower will need to] be a lot higher, and the banks' ability to lend on volume will not be there."

Asked by Tribune Business how current Bahamian new car sales compared to pre-recession levels, Mr Barr said: "I would say that across-the-board, in general, the market is down by anywhere from 50-60 per cent compared to pre-recession.

"Having said that, we're seeing increases of 1-2 percentage points on a monthly basis. If we get back to a level of 75-80 per cent of pre-recession sales, that will be an acceptable level to be at."

Yet he warned that it would be impossible for "the economy to support" the high level of commercial bank lending that aided the Bahamian new car industry in the past, as institutions would now demand that borrowers provide proof of job security, employment history and show their income levels were sufficient to service the loan.

Mr Barr suggested that the $2.6 billion Baha Mar redevelopment of the Cable Beach strip, which appears to be moving towards some sort of start, was the "only hope" and "only thing left to lift the Bahamas out of recession".

And he added: "All the dealers need to focus on the new government regulations. There's no point in loading up with large vehicles to the extent of high prices and hoping for the best."

Emphasising that Friendly Ford was focused on delivering "true value" to consumers, he added that buyer purchasing power had been eroded by almost 25 per cent, due to a combination of inflation and reduced/stagnant incomes.

Building permit delays cost the Bahamas 'millions'

FROM page one

in the Bahamas, according to the BCD's website. New York, on average, also processed some 43,000 construction permits per year, compared to the 2,000 stated on the Ministry of Works' website.

The Bahamas' construction permit processing time was also well behind Atlanta, where between one to 60 days were required, and just seven-nine steps involved, and Miami, where it took between 23-103 days and 14-17 steps were involved.

Asked what this is costing the Bahamas, both in terms of economic activity and a seeming lack of competitiveness, Mr Ferguson told Tribune Business: "It's huge. I don't have a figure, but I'll give you an example. I have an application that's been in there since last October, and it's not passed the planning process yet. That's 13 months.

"In many instances, these projects are cancelled or postponed. They never get on track, so there are jobs for construction workers they never do, they never get, so the cost is certainly in the millions of dollars."

The Institute's 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.

In addition, it warned that the numerous delays and bottlenecks being experienced could result in an increased temptation for both BCD employees and applicants to exploit the situation through graft/corruption.

There was a perception in some quarters, the Institute said, that offering to "tip" or "buy lunch" for some BCD officials could result in faster processing of a permit applications.

It added that the hold-up of construction projects, due to the long wait for permits, could have "an adverse affect on the economy" by "putting untold scores of construction workers out of work and taking their income out of the marketplace."

Contractors were deprived of "continuous work", with delays impacting both Bahamians and foreign investors. Both might be forced to use finances previously reserved for their construction project elsewhere if there was a long wait time, resulting in the development being abandoned.

Mr Ferguson yesterday lamented to Tribune Business that the Bahamas was ranked 107th out of 183 nations in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business report when it came to construction permitting, adding that this ranking had been dropping "every year."

"Every country in the region is ranked above us, and most of them are rated in the top 40, with the exception of Trinidad, which is in the 80s, so we are not competitive at all," he added. "It is not a good situation, and they (the BCD) are very content with it, rather than aiding the industry and economy. We've been fighting it for years. They've got the construction industry at a stranglehold."

Mr Ferguson said he was due to discuss the situation this Friday with Stephen Wrinkle, the Bahamian Contractors Association's (BCA) president, and Robert Reiss, head of the Bahamas Society of Engineers.

BANK AIDS RED RIBBON BALL

SCOTIABANK (Bahamas) joined with the Bahamas AIDS Foundation in hosting the 2011 Red Ribbon Ball. Hosted under the theme, 'I am Accepted,' the Ball is the Foundation's single largest fund-raising initiative, now in its 17th year.

An annual supporter of the AIDS Foundation, Scotiabank was an executive corporate partner at this year's gala.

Scotiabank's marketing & PR senior manager, Leah Davis, said: "Our partnership with the Bahamas AIDS Foundation underscores our commitment to be socially responsible in this community. We will continue to embrace our role as a global partner in creating a healthier world."

Pictured (L-R): Sandra Smith, co-chair, Red Ribbon Ball and Leah R. Davis, marketing & PR manager.

Company's outlets robbed five times in 10 day-period

FROM page one

"everybody is in fear", with the crime situation likely to get worse - not better - in coming months.

Dionisio D'Aguilar, a former Bahamas Chamber of Commerce president, while praising the police and civic-minded Bahamians for helping to catch the suspects alleged to be behind one of the armed robberies afflicting his business, blasted the two main political parties for lacking "vision and ideas" to combat this nation's crime crisis.

He again called for the Government and Bahamian commercial banks to execute urgently on strategies to make this nation "a cashless society", explaining that this would not only benefit the conduct of commerce, but also help to reduce violent crime by eliminating the volume of cash businesses and persons currently carry.

The failure to move forward on this to date was described by the former Chamber president as "mind boggling".

Recalling Superwash's recent armed robbery nightmare, which saw its Nassau Street establishment held-up three times, while its Blue Hill Road and Robinson Road/Minnie Street premises were attacked one time apiece, Mr D'Aguilar said he was "troubled" by the fact that the most money stolen in any one of these events was a relatively meagre $200.

Superwash outlets, he added, carried minimal sums of cash, and the fact that the alleged robbers had "decided this was the way they were going to make their living" - risking everything, including the lives of his staff and customers, for relatively little gain had disturbed him.

"I think everybody is in fear," the Superwash president said of the general crime situation. "Christmas is coming, which is a tough period for businesses as it relates to crime.

"I think that businesses have to take steps to ensure their business is not attractive to be robbed."

And he added: "It's the feeling of helplessness. It's sad our country has deteriorated to this, and there's no clear plan, no path out of it. There's this sense of helplessness that it can't get any better. Our political directorate have no new ideas, whether it's PLP or FNM, and have no vision..... No one has any vision on how to address this problem."

Part of such a vision should be moving the Bahamas to a "cashless society", where banking was done via debit cards and electronic forms, such as cell phones. This, Mr D'Aguilar, could remove one of the main motivations for armed robberies of businesses - namely that they were perceived to have large sums of cash on the premises.

"It's mind-boggling to me that we have so much cash, and the banks are not motivated to diminish the amount of cash used," Mr D'Aguilar told Tribune Business.

While cash was often the cheapest form of payment, Bahamian commercial banks needed to find ways to make it a little more expensive, or reduce the costs associated with various forms of electronic.

Railing against what he said were banking industry plans to level a per debit card transaction fee equivalent to 3 per cent of the sales price, Mr D'Aguilar told Tribune Business: "Bahamian businesses would be prepared to absorb some costs, at a reasonable level, to take cash out of the system.

"I've always said that if we can come up with a plan to draw cash out of the community, and drive persons who live here to use as a little cash as possible, the natural roll-on effect is that crime against businesses will inevitably diminish. Take cash out of the community and I'm pretty damn sure it would cause a reduction in crime against businesses and people robbing people for cash."

Bahamians needed to be shown the advantages of e-banking and cell phone banking, and carrying less cash, to ensure they bought into the concept, Mr D'Aguilar said.

He urged the Government to develop its plans, talk to relevant parties and then "make it happen", adding: "Crime is a problem. Everyone is screaming from the rooftops that crime is a problem. There's nothing to indicate to me it's going to get better.

"Nothing pops into my mind to say there's hope. There's nothing on the horizon from the political leadership to give us hope."

The former Chamber president called for a "greater police presence on the streets to give the people the impression they're in charge of this town, not the criminals", adding that he was disappointed not to see more roadblocks and a greater street-level presence.

Describing the Royal Bahamas Police Force as "very much a police car and station type of force", as opposed to one with a street presence, Mr D'Aguilar said it "certainly isn't the impression in this town" that the authorities were in control of the streets.

"They need to give the perception that they are in charge, whereas right now it's the Wild, Wild West," he added.

Mr D'Aguilar said he was convinced that some businesses, especially at night, were electing not to conduct commerce in certain areas because they were perceived to be too dangerous.

The private sector was also incurring increasing costs, in terms of security cameras, bars and guards/dogs to protect their premises against crime.

Armed robberies had a traumatic effect on staff who had to deal with them, Mr D'Aguilar saying: "You have to go through the consoling process, calming staff down. I think it's important to speak to staff, find out what happened, that you feel their pain, and let them know what's going on.

"I've been held up twice, and been a victim of violent crime twice. You have to walk them through the process, and be seen to be taking steps to ensure their safety."

Tariff cuts urged for security products

FROM page one

sector can assist the Government in reducing crime levels and help to protect their own assets.

Mr Harding, whose firm specialises in lock, safe and vault installation, access control equipment installation and alarm and surveillance systems, said yesterday that apart from a pre-2007 reduction to 10 per cent on the duty on CCTV cameras - the cameras themselves, and not the related equipment that is necessary for their complete installation - "90 per cent" of all the security products he imports for his customers still attract a 35 to 45 per cent duty rate.

"The interest today is stronger certainly than if we go back two years," Mr Harding said.

"We are doing a lot of estimates, and so I think people are now starting to take these measures seriously, but they have half as much to spend. I think people would get better systems if the tariff were reduced," he said, adding that people are going more often for "stripped down versions" of the security systems they were initially interested in due to cost.

Stacy Lindsay, security manager at Maximum Security Services, told Tribune Business that she, too, has seen interest in alarm and surveillance systems grow, often in the case of business owners who find they can no longer afford to employ as many security guards as they might have had before the recession.

Attempts to reach Minister of State for Finance, Zhivargo Laing, were not successful yesterday and an e-mail message was not returned.

THE BAHAMAS SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS

The Public Is Cordially Invited To Attend

THE MONTHLY LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

Hosted by The Bahamas Society of Engineers

On

Wednesday, 24th of Nov. 2010

MEMBERS' FORUM

Eng. Barry Iseard
Island Projects Lt

Mr. Guilden Gilbert
Alternative Power Sources

PLACE:
GRAYCLIFF HOTEL & RESTAURANT
East Hill Street

Time: 12:00 - 12:15 p.m.
Registration and Networking

12:15-1:15 p.m. Luncheon

Financial Members: $20.00
Student Members: $15.00
Public : $25.00

If possible please confirm your attendance by email
crreiss@reiseng.com -or- pdec@coralwave.com

P.O. Box SS-6533, Nassau, Bahamas
Tel: 242-394-5544
www.bahamasengineers.org

The National Insurance Board
of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

PROPOSALS FOR
MAINTENANCE & OTHER SERVICES

The National Insurance Board [NIB] invites proposals from suitably qualified contractors to provide maintenance and other services for the National Insurance Board Offices in New Providence and Grand Bahama.

SERVICES FOR TENDER:
Electrical Generator Maintenance
Female Sanitary Unit Services
Fire Extinguisher & Equipment Maintenance
Heat, Ventilation and Air Conditioning [HVAC] Maintenance
Janitorial Services
Landscaping & Ground Maintenance
Pest Control
CCTV [Closed Circuit Television]
Elevator Maintenance
Indoor Plants
Storm Drain Maintenance
Garbage Collection
Interior & Exterior Building Glass Cleaning
Security Alarm Monitoring
Fire Alarms Systems

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., and from the Freeport Office Complex on the Mall Drive, Freeport, Grand Bahama, from Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 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
Baillou Hill Road
Nassau, Bahamas

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

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Economy sees growth, but unemployment stays high

WASHINGTON

THE ECONOMY grew a little faster over the summer than the government first thought. That modest pickup wasn't nearly enough to significantly lower the nation's high unemployment rate, and the Federal Reserve doesn't expect the economy to improve much over the next couple of years, *according to Associated Press.*

The economy expanded at a 2.5 percent annual rate in the July-September quarter, the Commerce Department reported Tuesday. That was up from the 2 percent pace initially estimated, and better than the 1.7 percent growth rate in the April-June quarter.

Stronger spending by U.S. shoppers and better overseas sales of U.S. goods were the main forces behind an upward revision.

Still, the hiring picture hasn't improved much — even with U.S. companies reporting their best quarterly profits after taxes on records dating back to 1947. After-tax profits climbed to $1.22 trillion in the July-September quarter, according to the Commerce report.

The nation's unemployment rate has been stuck at 9.6 percent unemployment rate for the past three months. The Fed's latest projections suggest that won't change much for a few years.

The Fed predicts roughly 2.5 percent growth and between 9.5 percent and 9.7 percent unemployment for the rest of this year. Those are both downgraded forecasts from its June projections.

Growth will strengthen over the next three years, but not enough to bring unemployment back down to more normal levels of around 5.5 percent to 6 percent, according to the Fed's forecasts. At best, the Fed projects 3.6 percent growth in 2011, and 4.5 percent growth in 2012 and 2013.

The latest Fed projections also suggest no better than 8.9 percent unemployment next year, roughly 8 percent in the 2012 presidential election year and, at best, just under 7 percent for 2013.

Analysts generally say the economy would need to grow 5 percent for a full year to push down the unemployment rate by a full percentage point.

The Fed's acknowledged that progress in reducing unemployment has been "disappointingly slow."

IN THIS photo taken Saturday, Nov. 20, 2010, a sign proclaims a residential home sale has been made in Marborough, Mass. The National Association of Realtors said existing-home sales dipped 2.2 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.43 million units. (AP)

The housing market hasn't fared much better. The latest reading showed sales of previously owned homes slipped slightly in October.

The National Association of Realtors said existing-home sales dipped 2.2 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.43 million units. That's 38.9 percent below their peak of 7.25 million units set in September 2005 during the height of the housing boom.

High unemployment and tight credit kept buyers away, even with mortgage rates near the lowest levels in decades.

The median price for a home sold in October was $170,500, down 0.9 percent from a year ago. Prices continue to be depressed by weak sales and a huge overhang of unsold homes.

Americans are spending a little more, and that has helped give the economy a boost. In the third quarter, consumer spending grew at a 2.8 percent pace, the most in nearly four years. That was a stronger showing than the 2.6 percent pace first estimated.

Even with the improvement, consumers would need to spend more to have a significant impact on the jobs market. That's because consumer spending accounts for roughly 70 percent of all national economic output.

Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics, said a "meaningful acceleration" in consumer spending seems unlikely while job growth remains muted and Americans are struggling to repair their finances at a time when their home values are dropping.

On Wall Street, investors looked past the better reading on third-quarter economic growth.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 142.21 points, reflecting investors concerns about a Korean military conflict and economic problems in Europe.

Sales of U.S. exports to foreign customers grew at a 6.3 percent pace in the third quarter, another factor in the third-quarter bump-up.

That compared with a 5 percent growth rate first estimated. A weaker value of the U.S. dollar is helping those sales.

The falling dollar makes U.S. goods cheaper — and thus more attractive — to foreign buyers.

The housing market, which led the country, into recession, remains a weight on the economy. Builders slashed spending on housing projects at a pace of nearly 28 percent.

The National Insurance Board of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

Request for Contractors Pre-Qualification

The National Insurance Board (NIB) is seeking to pre-qualify contractors to bid on works to provide furniture (fit out) for the Government Complex, Freeport, Grand Bahama; the project is a joint venture of NIB and The Bahamas Government. Contractors must be in compliance with the National Insurance Act (social security programme), and in good standing with the relevant Government agencies.

Pre-qualification documents may be collected from the Security Booth at NIB's Clifford Darling Complex, Blue Hill Road and NIB's Freeport Local Office, East Mall Drive during the period November 22-29, 2010, or downloaded from the Board's website at www.nib-bahamas.com.

Pre-Qualification documents should be signed, sealed and returned to the Security Booth, Clifford Darling Complex, Blue Hill Road or NIB's Freeport Local Office, East Mall Drive in an envelope addressed to The Director, The National Insurance Board, with the caption ***Pre-Qualification Document - Furniture for Government Complex, Freeport, Grand Bahama***, on or before 12:00 Noon on November 29, 2010.

PICTET 1805

PICTET BANK TRUST LIMITED

Invites qualified applicants for the following position:-

SENIOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRADER

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:-

-Excellent knowledge of foreign currency trading.
-At least ten years experience.
-In-depth knowledge in trading:-
Spot and Forward currency transactions
Currency swaps
Precious metals
Currency and precious metal options
-Ability to speak/write French would be an asset.
-Bachelor's Degree in Finance or related subject.
-Proficiency in a variety of software applications including Microsoft Office Suite.

REQUIRED SKILLS:-

-Ability to work independently.
-Strong organisational skills.
-Commitment to excellent customer service.
-Must be a team player.
-Excellent oral and written communication skills.
-Excellent problem solving skills.
-Ability to work under pressure and to meet strict deadlines.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2010

Please hand deliver Resume and two (2) references to:-
The Human Resources Manager
Bayside Executive Park
Building No. 1
Nassau, Bahamas

ABSOLUTELY NO TELEPHONE CALLS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Offices in
Lausanne, Geneva, Zurich, Luxembourg, London, Montreal, Nassau, Singapore, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Frankfurt, Florence, Milan, Madrid, Paris, Rome and Turin

Baker's Bay GOLF & OCEAN CLUB

Great Guana Cay, Abaco
The Bahamas

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

You are invited to apply for the following position currently available.

Executive Chef

Key Responsibilities

- Ability to skillfully prepare international cuisine
- Plan, design and cost menus for a variety of outlets
- Recruit, manage, and train culinary team.
- Manage the culinary budget and food cost.
- Maintain an effective inventory and supplies vendor list of local and international suppliers.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Culinary Arts or related subject; professional certifications
- Minimum ten (10) years experience at a five-star club, resort or restaurant with at least three (3) years international or off-shore experience.
- Previous experience with a start-up property a plus.
- Must be innovative, demonstrate strong leadership and culinary skills, must be able to train others and execute ideas and standards.
- The successful candidate will have the opportunity to work in a growing and dynamic organization and must be a self-starter, team player, work at the highest standards of performance, and meet deadlines.

If you are progressive and prepared to advance your career, submit your resume to the attention of the VP Human Resources, **hr@bakersbayclub.com** or by fax at 242-367-0613.

"Becoming the Employer of Choice in The Bahamas!"

Political chaos engulfs Ireland, threatens bailout

A WOMAN clears debris from the office of Ireland's Minister for Transport Noel Dempsey TD of the Fianna Fail party that was vandalized and painted with the words 'traitors' in the village of Trim, 30 miles north west of Dublin, Ireland, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010. (AP)

DUBLIN

POLITICAL infighting has engulfed Ireland, threatening to trigger a quick election and delay a massive EU-IMF bailout. Rebels from Prime Minister Brian Cowen's own party pressed to oust him and opposition leaders demanded an election before Christmas, *according to Associated Press.*

Despite the discontent, Cowen survived a meeting of his Fianna Fail party lawmakers on Tuesday without a direct challenge to his leadership — even though several told Cowen to his face he should quit because he lied to Ireland about secret bailout negotiations.

"I'm sick of it now. I'm sick of having to face people. I feel humiliated, frustrated and betrayed myself," said one of the Fianna Fail rebels, Noel O'Flynn.

Budget

A downcast Cowen told Dail Eireann, the parliament, he wouldn't call an election until Ireland's emergency 2011 budget, to be unveiled Dec. 7, is fully enacted in law. He said that process would require several close votes running into February at least — which would mean no election until March.

That's too long a delay for many within his own unraveling government.

But Cowen refused opposition calls to bring the budget forward a week, to extend parliamentary sessions from their current leisurely three days a week, and to fast-track votes on tax-raising legislation so that the effort could be finished before Christmas — and before Ireland's banks run out of money.

"This will bring some measure of certainty to a government that is out of control," Enda Kenny, leader of the main opposition Fine Gael, told Cowen during his vain appeal for an accelerated timetable.

Cowen countered that he couldn't even get Kenny and other opposition chiefs to pledge to support the budget. If opposition lawmakers vote against the budget rather than abstain, a single vote either way could decide the outcome.

"It is a matter of personal responsibility for us all to decide if this country is going to put forward the budget or not," Cowen told lawmakers.

At stake is the fate of the reported euro85 billion ($115 billion) European Union and International Monetary Fund rescue of Ireland, a nation heading toward bankruptcy next year because the government cannot pay an ever-escalating bill to save its state-backed banks.

Irish state broadcaster RTE reported Tuesday that IMF experts want Ireland's banks to boost their cash reserves dramatically using much of the proposed euro85 billion for this purpose.

Ireland's deficit this year is 32 percent of GDP, the highest in Europe since World War II. Its banks are running short of cash because they can't borrow on open markets, and instead have been relying on short-term loans from the European Central Bank and Irish Central Bank exceeding euro120 billion that they want back.

Analysts increasingly warn that Irish taxpayers' bank-bailout bill could ultimately reach euro90 billion — double the government's current forecast — because of defaults looming down the road, particularly in residential mortgages.

"The problem here is not that the government is funded into next year. It's that the banks are funded, probably, into next week. Do you hear that sucking sound? It's the sound of the deposits leaving the banks," said David Roche, president of investment consultants Independent Strategy.

He warned that, if Cowen were ousted now or the opposition shoots down the 2011 budget next month, Ireland "won't have a banking system. So if the opposition really thinks that's an intelligent exercise, somebody has lobotomized them of their IQ."

Crisis

The Irish political and economic crisis, and its uncertain solution, also drove up borrowing costs Tuesday for Portugal, Spain, Greece and Italy, all of whom face their own debt-financing struggles. The rising interest rates on eurozone bonds reflect fears that a third member of the 16-nation eurozone might soon join the bailout club alongside the Greeks and Irish.

Cowen said his government on Wednesday would publish a four-year plan spelling out how it intends to slash its deficit by 2014 to just 3 percent of GDP, the limit for eurozone members. The plan proposes to slash euro15 billion ($20 billion) from the country's 2011-14 budget deficits through a combination of cuts and tax hikes, and the biggest correction of euro6 billion is set for next year.

Cowen, who rose to power in 2008 just as Ireland's vaunted Celtic Tiger economy was unraveling, has conceded he must call an election next year but is seeking to delay it as long as possible.

His hand was forced Monday when the junior party in his coalition, the Greens, said it would withdraw support once the 2011 budget passed.

The Greens said they expect the country to hold an election by late January, not the March timeline suggested by Cowen's more deliberate schedule.

The Fianna Fail minister for tourism and the arts, Mary Hanafin, accused the Greens of undermining Ireland at a critical moment.

"I'm very annoyed. ... I'm not sure they (the Greens) have shown they have the best interests of the country at heart," Hanafin told RTE.

Hanafin added she wouldn't back any push to oust Cowen — but would put her name forward if the leader's post became vacant.

At the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, EU monetary and financial affairs minister Olli Rehn gathered Ireland's 12 European lawmakers for a confidential briefing — and stressed they must stop the political infighting long enough to pass the 2011 budget.

"It is essential that Ireland pass the budget in the timeline foreseen, and sooner rather than later, because every day that is lost increases uncertainty," Rehn said.

Shares in Ireland's three remaining banks on the Irish Stock Exchange tumbled for a second day Tuesday as investors foresaw increasing bailouts and state control as inevitable.

Patrick Honohan, the Irish Central Bank governor, fueled those fears with a speech Tuesday to Dublin accountants. He said Ireland's bank-rescue efforts were right in theory but had failed to restore the confidence of foreign investors, who have withdrawn tens of billions' worth of deposits since the summer.

He said Irish banks must greatly increase their own reserves in response and actively seek foreign buyers.

"They're all for sale as far as I'm concerned," he said of Ireland's six banks, three of which have already been nationalized.

Bank of Ireland shares plummeted 33 percent to a new record low of euro0.26 and closed at euro0.30. Allied Irish Banks fell 19 percent to euro0.33.

Insurance and mortgage specialist Irish Life & Permanent — Ireland's only bank yet to receive a state bailout — shed 11 percent to euro0.75, also a record low.

The government already owns 36 percent of Bank of Ireland and 18 percent of Allied Irish.

The latter bank expects to hand more than 90 percent ownership to the government next month after it offers euro6.6 billion in new, overpriced shares for sale — and finds the government is the only buyer.

ANSBA

Ansbacher (Bahamas) Limited, a specialist in private banking, fiduciary services and wealth management has an opening for the position of:

PRIVATE BANKING ADMINISTRATOR

Duties include:

- Assisting with the processing of payments & the receipt of client funds
- Processing pay away, renewal and amendment of fixed deposit transactions
- Assisting Relationship Officers with processing client related security transactions
- Tracking/monitoring all homeowner's insurance policies
- Updating mortgage tracker
- Performing annual reviews of facilities
- Assisting with the preparation of credit submissions
- Liaising with attorneys, appraisers, inspectors and other professionals on credit matters
- Assisting managers and officers with projects as required

Candidates should possess:

- An Associate's Degree or equivalent with at least two years' experience working in the financial services industry
- Series 7 designation
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Proficiency with computer applications (Microsoft Office Suite)
- Strong customer service, mathematical & organizational skills with an eye for details
- The desire to develop and grow as a Private Banker
- Knowledge of money laundering prevention principles and procedures
- Fluency in French or Spanish

All interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to the attention of:

Human Resources
Ansbacher (Bahamas) Limited
P. O. Box N-7768
Nassau, Bahamas
E-mail: vacancies@ansbacher.bs

The deadline for all applications is
Friday November 26, 2010

JOB VACANCY

IT Infrastructure Maintenance and Support

In this challenging position you will be responsible for system, network and database operations. Candidates for this role should have initiative, proven leadership experience, with strong project management and documentation skills, strong analytical background, communications and organizational skills with the ability to work with local and international team members.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

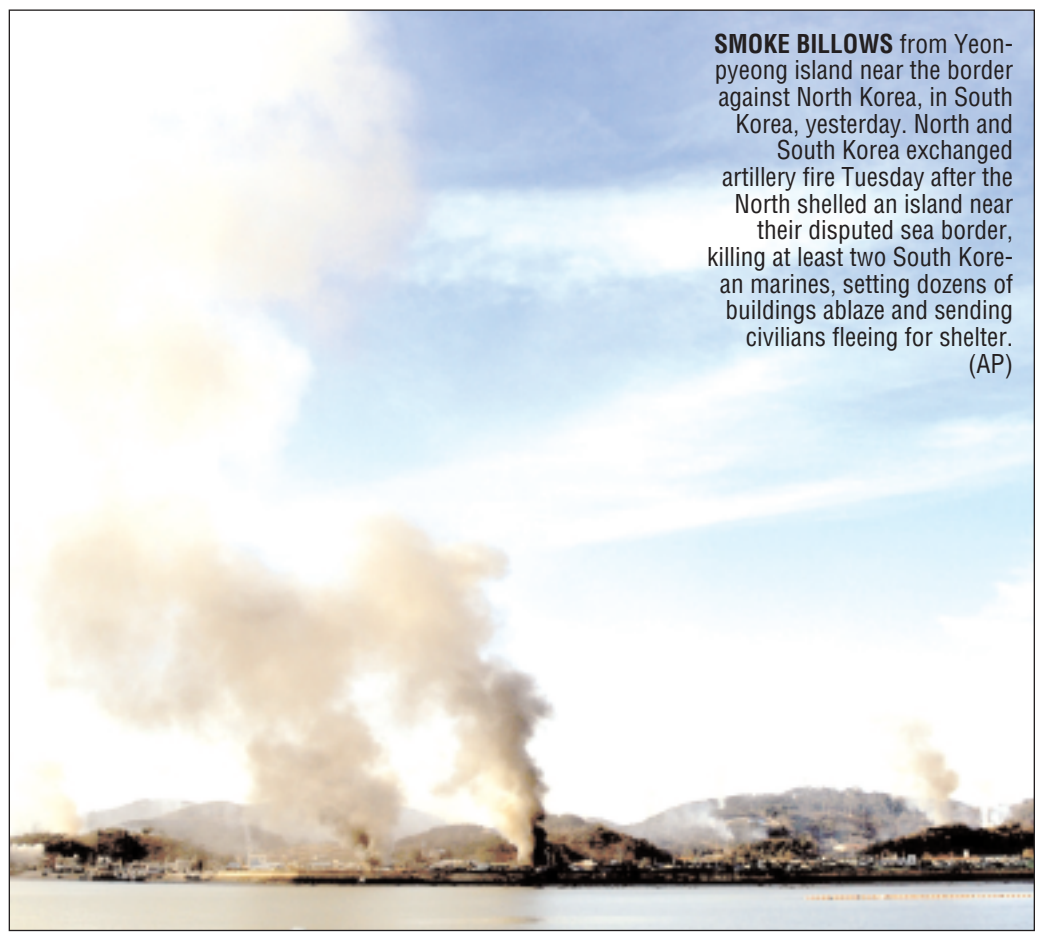
- Installing, building and configuring Unix Servers (Solaris), as well as server builds and patch upgrades.
- Installing, building and configuring Wintel Servers, as well as server builds and patch upgrades.
- System monitoring, alerting and problem resolution.
- Ensure baseline of middleware, OS and hardware.
- Oversee and coordinate business applications deployment.
- Document and manage the Business Continuity Plan.
- Collaborate with application development team on roadmap, automation and roll out process improvement across multiple environments.
- Interact with customers and developers to troubleshoot problems.
- Provide administration of Solaris and Wintel based servers.
- Support server environments for PROD, UAT and BCP environments.
- The support of the core Network consisting of routers, switches and firewalls.
- Maintains and documents all production and UAT systems.

Minimum Requirements:

- 3-5 years experience with UNIX systems administration, as a Systems Engineer or Unix Administrator.
- Advanced understanding of UNIX Operating Systems (Solaris 10 is essential).
- Broad knowledge of best practices pertaining to UNIX distributed systems.
- Broad knowledge of Sun and HP hardware.
- 3-5 years experience with IP Networking, Cisco IOS based routers and switches, LAN/WAN technologies.
- Experience with Cisco or Juniper Netscreen firewalls, as well as Cisco switches and routers.
- Experience with Operating System installation and rebuilds.
- Extensive experience with patch upgrades and firmware upgrades.
- Familiar with fundamental networking/distributed computing environments and concepts, with the ability to write scripts on at least the administrative language, PERL.
- B.S. Computer Science, M.I.S. or related field.
- Working back ground in (Banking or Insurance applications is a plus).

Please send your resume on or before December 3rd, 2010 to:
ITJOB2011@LIVE.COM

Korean conflict, European worries weigh on stocks



SMOKE BILLOWS from Yeonpyeong island near the border against North Korea, in South Korea, yesterday. North and South Korea exchanged artillery fire Tuesday after the North shelled an island near their disputed sea border, killing at least two South Korean marines, setting dozens of buildings ablaze and sending civilians fleeing for shelter. (AP)

NEW YORK

STOCKS FELL Tuesday as a flare-up of tensions between North and South Korea combined with downbeat news on the economy gave investors plenty of reasons to sell ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. The dollar and gold rose as investors sought safe places to park money, *according to Associated Press.*

North Korea and South Korea exchanged artillery fire, killing at least two South Korean marines. That came as investors were already concerned that a bailout of Ireland may not be enough to contain Europe's debt crisis. Borrowing costs for Portugal and Spain rose, leading Spain to trim the size of a debt sale.

In the U.S., sales of previously-owned houses dipped 2.2 percent in October. Also, Federal Reserve officials became more pessimistic and lowered their outlook for economic growth for the next year.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 142.21, or 1.3 percent, to 11,036.37.

The Standard & Poor's 500 lost 17.11, or 1.4 percent, to 1,180.73. The Nasdaq composite index fell 37.07, or 1.5 percent, to 2,494.95

The clash between North and South Korea was one of the most dramatic between the two rivals since the end of the Korean war. Fifteen South Korean soldiers and three civilians were injured in the artillery exchanges.

The escalating tensions came shortly after the reclusive North Korean regime claimed to have a new uranium enrichment facility and six weeks after the country's leader Kim Jong Il anointed his youngest son as his heir apparent.

The showdown between the two countries raises tensions in Asia, but was seen as less of an immediate danger in the U.S. Traders said the showdown was seen by many as an excuse to pare back exposure to risk ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday Thursday. Trading is expected to be light Wednesday as people leave early. Markets will be open for an abbreviated session on Friday.

"Investors don't want to go into the holiday with any lingering doubts," said John Derrick, director of research for U.S. Global Investors. "The tensions in Korea just gave them another excuse to sell."

Hewlett-Packard Co. was the only one among the 30 stocks that make up the Dow Jones industrial average to rise. Shares gained 2.2 percent after the technology company beat Wall Street's expectations for revenue and income thanks to strong corporate spending.

Energy shares led the decline as the price of crude oil fell. Chevron Corp. fell 2 percent, while ExxonMobil Corp. lost 1.7 percent.

Probe

A widening probe into insider trading was still weighing on financial shares Tuesday, a day after FBI agents raided the offices of three hedge funds. JPMorgan Chase & Co. was the worst-performing major bank with a 2.3 percent decline, followed closely by Goldman Sachs Group Inc. with a 2 percent fall.

In other gloomy news on the economy, the Federal Reserve lowered its forecast for growth through next year.

In a report releasing minutes from its last meeting Nov. 3, the Fed predicted that the economy will grow only 2.4 percent to 2.5 percent this year. That's down sharply from a previous projection of 3 percent to 3.5 percent. Next year, the economy will expand by 3 percent to 3.6 percent, the Fed said, also much lower than its June forecast.

The darker view helps explain why the Fed decided at its meeting earlier this month to launch another round of stimulus. The central bank plans to buy $600 billion in Treasury bonds over the next eight months in an effort to lower interest rates and spur more spending.

Yields

Treasury prices rose, sending their yields lower. The yield on the 10-year Treasury slipped to 2.78 percent, down from 2.80 percent late Monday.

That rate is a widely used benchmark for business and consumer loans including mortgages.

The dollar rose 1.3 percent against an index of six other currencies and the euro fell 1.8 percent against the dollar. Gold rose 1.5 percent to $1,377.60 an ounce.

The VIX, a measure of volatility in U.S. stock prices, jumped 14 percent to 21.

The index had been steadily falling since May 20 when it went as high as 45, its highest level of the year.

Among gainers was retailer J. Crew Group Inc., which is being taken private in a $3 billion deal with two investment firms. Shares rose $6.34, or 17 percent, to $43.99.

Wednesday will bring an unusually large amount of economic data since several reports that normally come out Thursday are being moved up because of the holiday.

Reports are due out on weekly claims for unemployment benefits, durable goods and personal income.

Falling shares outpaced rising shares by four to one on the New York Stock Exchange. Consolidated volume was 4.2 billion shares.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Maine economy is picking up

AUGUSTA, Maine

IMPROVED state budget estimates combined with falling unemployment rates suggest that Maine's long-suffering economy is beginning to lurch out of the doldrums, but a few caveats are also being issued, *according to Associated Press.*

A nonpartisan state panel of tax and economic experts on Tuesday gave its blessing to significantly improved revenue projections, which suggest that Maine's $1 billion-plus budget gap may not be that big after all.

The Revenue Forecasting Committee endorsed figures that shrink the shortfall through the next two-year budget cycle by more than $470 million, which could ease prospects of more deep budget cuts. The figures will be included in a report due Dec. 1.

Forecasts

The healthier revenues stem from improved forecasts of individual income taxes and corporate profitability, said Grant Pennoyer, director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review and member of the forecasting committee. Economist Amanda Rector of the State Planning Office told the committee that wage and salary estimates are turning more positive, and by the end of 2013 employment should get back to pre-recession levels.

The upbeat news came as the state Labor Department reported that Maine's preliminary unemployment rate was 7.4 percent in October, down from 7.7 percent in September and from 8.1 percent a year earlier. The number of unemployed totaled 51,100, down 6,000 from a year ago, state Labor Commissioner Laura Fortman said.

Fortman noted that unemployment declines over the last three months are due to a combination of factors, including modest job growth and people leaving the labor force.

Gov. John Baldacci credited "hard decisions made at the state and national level since the global recession began" in 2007 for the improved economic scenario. Action in Maine that laid the foundation for a recovery included holding the line on broad-based taxes, "smart and targeted investments" and government restructuring, he said.

Baldacci said companies in Maine, after shedding more than 30,000 jobs, are rebounding and profits are improving.

"While job creation is still lagging, Maine's unemployment level is dropping. There are still too many people out of work, but at least the unemployment rate is heading in the right direction," he said.

Figures

The Revenue Forecasting Committee's upgraded figures are subject to a number of assumptions that aren't guaranteed to bear out, according to a panel of experts from outside government that reports on key economic indicators.

The Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission said in a statement that the positive revenue forecasts are based in part on assumptions that tax cuts passed during George W. Bush's presidency will be extended and that the Federal Reserve Bank will expand monetary policy support for the economy. The recurrence of the European debt crisis also looms as a potential influence on the positive trends, the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission added.

"Perhaps more importantly, the uncertainty in the current economic climate is substantial," the commission warned.

WANTED

Financial Company seeks Administrative Assistant

A small, leading, local financial institution seeks an entry-level administrative assistant to assist with daily operations. This opportunity will provide the successful applicant with training and a great oversight into operations of financial business. Candidates with computer, accounting and securities background are preferred.

Please email resume to:
financialposition2010@gmail.com

NAD
Nassau Airport Development Company

PRICE INQUIRY

PI-210 Canopies

Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD) has a requirement for the design, manufacturing and installation of fabric canopies for Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the Lynden Pindling International Airport Expansion Project, with Stage 2 being awarded at this time.

The Scope of Work includes:

- Design-build of fabric canopies (removable canopy, structure, solar lighting) in accordance with the Bahamas Building Code for parking lot and airside passenger walkways;
- Preparation of design shop drawings and fabrication of canopy structure; and
- Site installation of structure, solar powered lighting and removable fabric canopy, in coordination with other contractors on site.

Price Inquiry Packages will be available for pick up after 1:00 pm, on Thursday, November 11th, 2010.

Contact: Traci Brisby
Contract & Procurement Manager
LPIA Expansion Project
Ph: (242) 702-1086 | Fax: (242) 377-2117
P.O. Box AP 59229, Nassau, Bahamas
Email: traci.brisby@nas.bs

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2009/CLE/gen/01910

IN THE SUPREME COURT

Common Law & Equity Division

BETWEEN

SCOTIABANK (BAHAMAS) LIMITED

Plaintiff

AND

JEFFREY V. ALLEN

Defendant

To: Jeffrey V. Allen

TAKE NOTICE that:

1. An action has been commenced against you by Scotiabank (Bahamas) Limited in the Supreme Court of The Bahamas by Writ of Summons filed on the 9th day of December A.D. 2009 being Action No. 2009/CLE/gen/01910, wherein the Plaintiff's claim is for the sums due and owing under a Scotia Loan numbered 1162667.
2. It has been ordered that service of the Writ of Summons in the said action be effected on you by virtue of this advertisement.
3. You must within 21 days from the publication of this advertisement inclusive of the day of such publication, acknowledge service of the said Writ of Summons by entering an Memorandum of Appearance on the Attorneys whose name and address appear below, otherwise judgment may be entered against you.

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

Graham, Thompson & Co.
GRAHAM, THOMPSON & CO.,
Chambers,
Sassoon House,
Shirley Street & Victoria Avenue,
Nassau, Bahamas.
Attorneys for the Plaintiff

BUSINESS NEWS IN BRIEF

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Federal officials are becoming more aggressive in targeting insider trading. In the latest example, three hedge funds were raided in what legal experts say appears to be one of the biggest probes in Wall Street history.

But as investigators delve into an ever more complex financial world, they are also entering a legal gray area, and perhaps even redefining insider trading itself.

41 STATES SEE JOB GAINS IN OCT., MOST IN 5 MONTHS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Businesses and other employers added jobs in 41 states in October, the best showing in five months, the Labor Department said Tuesday.

The figures indicate the job market is picking up a bit in most parts of the country. Even the nation's hardest hit states — Nevada and Michigan — showed declines in their unemployment rates.

But the gains weren't enough to broadly reduce unemployment rates. The Labor Department said the jobless rate fell last month in 19 states, remained the same in 17 and rose in 14. Unemployment can rise when jobs are created if more people begin searching for work.

PORTUGAL, SPAIN BECOME MARKET TARGET AFTER IRELAND

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Europe's efforts to contain its debt crisis came under increasing strain Tuesday as bond market jitters shook Portugal and Spain, seen as the 16-nation eurozone's next weakest links now that Ireland has followed Greece by accepting a massive international rescue.

The nations' borrowing costs rose, suggesting investors are more worried about default, while Spain limited the size of a bond sale because traders demanded sharply higher premiums.

Stock traders panicked and dumped shares across all sectors, sending Portugal's benchmark stock index down 2.2 percent by the close, while Spain's sank 3.1 percent to a level not seen since July. The euro slid below $1.34 for the first time in two months.

Spooked by the scale of Greece's bailout requirements in May and Ireland's banking failures, international investors are looking much closer at the public finances of eurozone countries and they don't like what they're seeing, particularly in Portugal.

J. CREW MAKES DEAL TO BE TAKEN PRIVATE FOR $3B

NEW YORK (AP) — Preppy fashion retailer J. Crew Group Inc. on Tuesday agreed to be taken private in a $3 billion deal that would be the second multi-billion dollar specialty retail buyout launched in two months.

The announcement of an offer from two investment firms — including one that used to own J. Crew — came as the retailer reported Tuesday that its third-quarter net income fell 14 percent, hurt by weaker women's clothing sales. The company also lowered its guidance for the year.

Under the deal as proposed, J. Crew shareholders would receive $43.50 per share from private equity firms TPG Capital and Leonard Green & Partners. That is a 16 percent premium to the stock's closing price Monday of $37.65.

TREASURY GETS $11.7 BILLION FROM GM STOCK SALE

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Treasury Department says it has received $11.7 billion from the sale of 358.5 million shares of General Motors stock.

Treasury announced that the net proceeds from the GM stock sold last week were delivered on Tuesday.

Treasury officials said that the government could receive an additional $1.8 billion assuming the bankers exercise options to purchase an additional 53.8 million shares of GM common stock within 30 days of the initial stock offering.

The government put $49.5 billion into GM as part of its bailout of the giant automaker.

In addition, Treasury said it will receive another $2.1 billion from GM when the automaker repurchases preferred stock that was issued under the government's $700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program.

That sale is supposed to take place in December.

TESTS ON TOYS FIND FEW PROBLEMS THIS SEASON

WASHINGTON (AP) — Only a small fraction of children's toys tested for toxic substances and choking risks have been found to violate federal safety regulations as holiday shopping shifts into high gear, consumer advocates said Tuesday.

The U.S. Public Interest Research Group credited a 2008 law that set stronger limits and standards for children's products for helping to make many of the products on store shelves safer for youngsters. The law was passed in the wake of a wave of recalls of lead tainted toys.

PIRG had 260 toys and other children's products from major retailers and dollar stores tested for toxic substances such as lead and antimony as well as for the risk of choking presented by small parts.

Four of the items tested violated federal safety regulations for children's toys.

■ The Dow Jones industrial average fell 142.21, or 1.3 percent, to 11,036.37.

The Standard & Poor's 500 lost 17.11, or 1.4 percent, to 1,180.73.

The Nasdaq composite index fell 37.07, or 1.5 percent, to 2,494.95.

Benchmark oil for January delivery lost 49 cents to settle at $81.25 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

In other Nymex trading in December contracts, heating oil gave up 1.90 cents to settle at $2.2496 a gallon, gasoline dropped 1.77 cents to settle at $2.1342 a gallon and natural gas fell 0.7 cent to settle at $4.264 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent crude lost 71 cents to settle at $83.25 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Janus receives inquiry in insider trading probe

BOSTON

MUTUAL FUND COMPANY Janus Capital Group Inc. says it has received an inquiry in an investigation of insider trading on Wall Street, *according to Associated Press.*

In a regulatory filing Tuesday, Janus said the inquiry seeks "general information" in a probe that widened when federal investigators raided offices of three hedge funds on Monday.

The Denver-based manager of $161 billion says it intends to cooperate with the request.

Media reports on Tuesday also identified other mutual fund companies in connection with the probe, including Wellington Management, MFS Investment Management, Deutsche Bank and Prudential Financial.

An MFS spokesman told The Associated Press that the company has not received any requests for information in the probe. Representatives for Wellington, Deutsche Bank and Prudential declined to comment to AP.

Chemical firm to pay $270M for enviro cleanup

WASHINGTON

AN OKLAHOMA company that makes specialty chemicals used in paints and other products has agreed to pay $270 million for cleanup of contaminated sites in 22 states, *according to Associated Press.*

Tronox Inc. agreed to the payments as part of a bankruptcy settlement announced Tuesday.

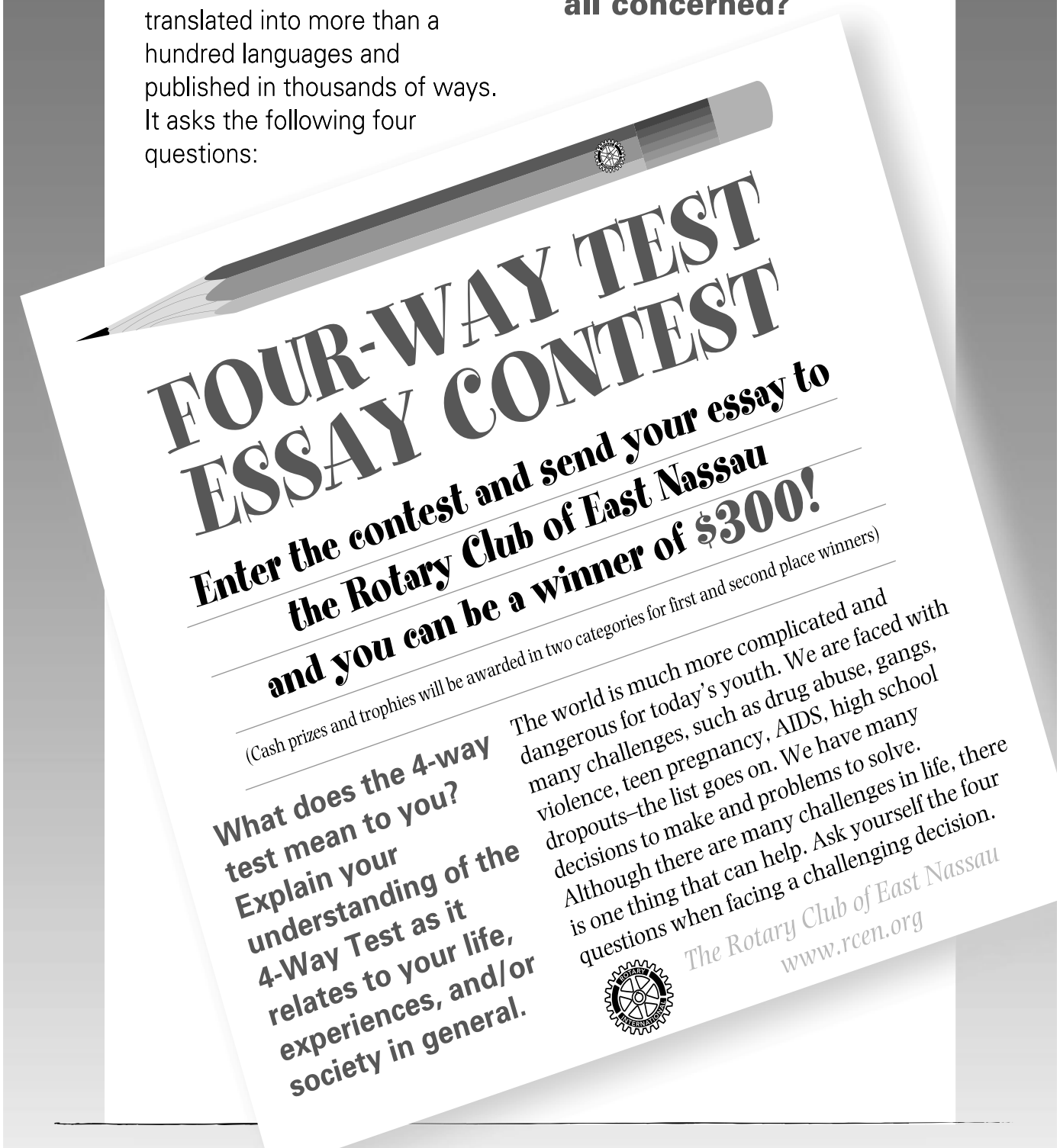
The company will pay the money to states, the federal government and court-approved trusts for future cleanup and administration at sites contaminated by Tronox and its predecessor companies.

Tronox also will transfer to the governments and trusts an 88 percent share of its interest in a pending lawsuit against the company's former parent company, Kerr-McGee Corp., and its parent company Anadarko Petroleum Corp.

The Four-WAY Test

From the earliest days of the organization, Rotarians were concerned with promoting high ethical standards in their professional lives. One of the world's most widely printed and quoted statements of business ethics is The Four-Way Test, which was created in 1932 by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor. This 24-word Test has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways. It asks the following four questions:

The Four-Way Test
"Of the things we think, say or do
1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?"



Rules:

1. Children ages 10-16 may enter. Judging will be in two age categories: 10 - 13 years and 14-16 years for a first and second place winner in each category.
2. Write a essay answering the following subject: "What does the Four-Way Test mean to me." Explain your understanding of the 4-Way Test as it relates to your life, experiences, and/or society in general." Your essay must include the four principles.
3. The body of the essay must not exceed 1,000 words. Adults may assist the child in filling out the entry form, but not in writing the letter.
4. Limit one essay per child. All entries must be received by the Rotary Club of East Nassau before Nov 30, 2010.
5. Only essays accompanied by original entry forms clipped from the newspaper will be accepted. Photocopy, fax, carbon or other copies will not be accepted.
6. One winner will be chosen from each age category. The decision of the judges is final.
7. Winner must agree to a photo presentation which will be published in the newspaper.
8. Mail essay and completed newspaper clipping to The Four-Way Test Essay Competition, Attn: Joanne Smith, The Rotary Club of East Nassau, P.O. Box N-1299, Nassau, Bahamas

The Tribune
My Voice. My Newspaper!

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Child's Name:

Age:

School:

Address:

P.O. Box:

Email Address:

Parent's Name:

Parent's Signature:

Telephone contact: (H) (W)

All entries become property of the Rotary Club of East Nassau and can be used and reproduced for any purpose without compensation.

Rotary Club of EAST NASSAU
BAHAMAS, District 7020

BUSINESS

Chrysler invests in US plants, more GM jobs

Automaker plans to pump another $843 million into three factories

DETROIT

HARD-HIT Kokomo, Ind., got a big boost from Chrysler on Tuesday when the automaker announced it plans to pump another $843 million into three factories to build a new front-wheel-drive transmission, *according to Associated Press.*

General Motors, meanwhile, will announce Wednesday that it will invest $163 million in two Michigan plants and an Ohio foundry to make small-car engines, according to a person familiar with GM's plans.

The person was not authorized to talk about the plans ahead of the formal announcement and asked not to be identified. GM says the moves will retain 184 jobs.

Both companies are recovering from last year's auto industry meltdown when they were forced to take government bailouts to make it through bankruptcy protection.

The Kokomo announcement came just hours ahead of a visit to the plants by President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, who promoted the benefits of the auto industry bailout.

Chrysler said it will pay for equipment to modernize the two Kokomo transmission factories and a casting plant.

Plants

The investment will extend the life of the plants and help retain nearly 2,250 jobs, equipping them to build a new front-wheel-drive transmission for unspecified future vehicles, the company said.

The automaker already has announced that it will build a new 8-speed automatic transmission in Kokomo in 2013.

Chrysler said the new investment, to start early next year and run through the third quarter of 2012, would raise the company's commitment to the Kokomo plants to $1.1 billion, pushing its total U.S. factory investment to nearly $3 billion since it emerged from government-funded bankruptcy protection in 2009.

The Auburn Hills, Mich.-based automaker, now run by Italy's Fiat Group SpA, was near death before getting a $12.5 billion bailout from U.S. taxpayers to make it through bankruptcy. In exchange, the government got a 10 percent stake in the company, which still owes taxpayers roughly $5.7 billion in loan payments.

Declared one of "America's fastest-dying towns" by Forbes magazine in 2008, Kokomo hit bottom in June 2009 when unemployment in that midsize city in north-central Indiana reached 20.4 percent. Unemployment is still higher than the national average, but it dropped by nearly 8 percentage points to 12.7 percent in September.

The Chrysler bailout helped keep the company's Kokomo transmission plants open. The Kokomo area also benefited from about $400 million in stimulus money, including an $89 million Energy Department grant to help Delphi Automotive Systems develop electronic components for hybrid vehicles.

The Kokomo investment would be Chrysler's largest in a single year. It's contingent on the city approving tax breaks.

Chrysler Group LLC has said it will partner with German-based ZF Group on the next generation front-wheel drive transmission. ZF is providing design and technology.

Strategy

"For years, Kokomo has been at the center of our powertrain strategy and the potential of an additional investment reaffirms that position," Sergio Marchionne, CEO of Chrysler and Fiat, said in a statement.

The Indiana Transmission Plant I in Kokomo now makes a rear-wheel-drive transmission for the Jeep Grand Cherokee, Jeep Liberty, Dodge Dakota and Ram Trucks and a transmission for heavy-duty trucks. Transmission Plant II makes a five-speed transmission for the Chrysler 300, Jeep Grand Cherokee, Dodge Nitro and Dodge Charger. The Kokomo Casting Plant manufactures aluminum parts for transmissions and other components.

Chrysler's finances have been improving, although it still is losing money. The company cut its third-quarter net loss to $84 million but said it expects to make a pretax profit of $700 million this year, up from a previous forecast of $200 million. It also expects to end the year with $500 million in positive cash flow. Previously, it expected to burn through $1 billion in cash.

GM will announce Wednesday that it's rehiring or retaining 184 workers to make 1.4-liter, four-cylinder engines for the Chevrolet Volt electric car and Chevrolet Cruze compact. The company said it will invest $163 million at its Flint Engine South plant, a parts plant in Bay City, Mich., and a foundry in Defiance, Ohio. In Flint, the company will rehire 135 workers; it will retain 49 jobs in Bay City and Defiance.

Engines

The jobs are in addition to the 160 people already hired at the Flint Engine South plant, which will begin making the engines early next year. The new hires will come from a pool of workers laid off earlier this fall when GM closed down a neighboring engine plant in Flint.

GM currently makes engines for the Volt and Cruze in Austria. It has invested $250 million in the Flint South plant to make the engines there. GM will be able to produce 400 engines per day initially, but will gradually increase production. The plant has the capacity to make 1,200 1.4-liter engines per day. In another part of the plant, 400 workers make the 3.6-liter, V-6 engine used in the Chevrolet Traverse, GMC Acadia, Cadillac CTS and other vehicles.

The plant will make two versions of the 1.4-liter engines: A 100-horsepower base engine for the Volt, which is electric but has the gas engine as a backup, and a 138-horsepower, turbocharged version that is offered as an option on the Cruze.

GM's fortunes also have been improving. The company made $4.2 billion during the first three quarters of the year and pulled off an initial public stock offering last week. It, too, had to be rescued by the U.S. government. GM got a $50 billion bailout to get through bankruptcy protection.

NOTICE

In the Estate of Carl Granville Treco O.B.E. late of No. 18 Brace Ridge Road in the Eastern District of the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claim or demand against the above Estate are required to send the same duly certified in writing to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of December A.D. 2010, after which date the Executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased having regard only to the claims of which they shall then have had notice.

AND NOTICE is hereby given that all persons indebted to the said Estate are requested to make full settlement on or before the date hereinbefore mentioned.

HARRY B. SANDS, LOBOSKY & COMPANY
Attorneys for the Executors
CHAMBERS
Shirley House
Fifty Shirley Street
Nassau, Bahamas.

STEP

Society of Trust & Estate Practitioners

STEP BAHAMAS, Goodman's Bay Corporate Centre, 1st Fl., P.O. Box N-1764, Nassau, Bahamas
Tel: (242) 323-6612 * Fax: (242) 326-7087 * robyn@stepbahamas.org

The Board of Directors of **STEP** *Bahamas Branch*
In association with
The Bahamas Financial Services Board

Cordially invites

All members and friends
To the first ever
Moot Competition
between
Graham, Thompson & Co.
and
McKinney Bancroft & Hughes

The moot relates to Section 7 of the Wills Act and Bahamian wills by non-domiciled persons from civil law jurisdictions with forced heirship rules.

The Judges for the moot will be:

- **Lorris Ganpatsingh,** *Retired Justice of the Court of Appeal, consultant to Lennox Paton & Co.*
- **Thomas A.E. Evans QC,** *Senior Partner, Evans & Co.*
- **Earl Cash,** *Partner, Higgs & Johnson*

At 12:00pm

On

Tuesday, November 30th, 2010
At

*** BRITISH COLONIAL HILTON ***

Session price: **$60.00** per member
$65 .00 per non-member

RSVP by: **Friday, 26th November 2010**
To: Robyn Davis, STEP Tel: 323-6612
or robyn@stepbahamas.org

Since the hotel requires payment in advance, we have incurred unwarranted expenses at recent events because of "no shows". Please note that you must RSVP and forward your cheques to us before the date of the event. Any arrangement for payment must be made prior to the event.

Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed by presenters at STEP-sponsored events or in STEP-sponsored publications are not necessarily the views and opinions of STEP, its officers, or any of its constituent members. In particular, the fact that STEP may provide a forum for, or may otherwise facilitate the expression of, such views and opinions should not be interpreted to mean or imply that STEP accepts, adopts, or encourages the acceptance or adoption of any of such views and opinions either wholly or in part.

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF:
TUESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2010
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,483.20 | CHG 0.00 | %CHG 0.00 | YTD -82.18 | YTD % -5.25
FINDEX: CLOSE 000.00 | YTD 00.00% | 2009 -12.31%
WWW.BISXBAHAMAS.COM | TELEPHONE:242-323-2330 | FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320

52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS $	Div $	P/E	Yield
1.26	1.00	AML Foods Limited	1.01	1.01	0.00		0.150	0.040	6.7	3.96%
10.75	9.67	Bahamas Property Fund	10.63	10.63	0.00		0.013	0.200	817.7	1.88%
6.18	4.50	Bank of Bahamas	4.90	4.90	0.00		0.598	0.260	8.2	5.31%
0.58	0.18	Benchmark	0.18	0.18	0.00		-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%
3.49	2.70	Bahamas Waste	2.70	2.70	0.00		0.168	0.090	16.1	3.33%
2.15	2.14	Fidelity Bank	2.17	2.17	0.00		0.016	0.040	135.6	1.84%
12.50	9.62	Cable Bahamas	10.46	10.46	0.00		1.050	0.310	10.0	2.96%
2.84	2.36	Colina Holdings	2.40	2.40	0.00		0.781	0.040	3.1	1.67%
7.00	5.40	Commonwealth Bank **(S1)**	6.85	6.85	0.00		0.422	0.260	16.2	3.80%
3.65	1.63	Consolidated Water BDRs	1.85	1.85	0.00		0.111	0.045	16.7	2.43%
2.55	1.60	Doctor's Hospital	1.60	1.60	0.00		0.199	0.110	8.0	6.88%
6.99	5.94	Famguard	6.07	6.07	0.00		-0.003	0.240	N/M	3.95%
10.20	7.26	Finco	7.26	7.26	0.00		0.287	0.520	25.3	7.16%
11.40	8.77	FirstCaribbean Bank	9.39	9.39	0.00		0.645	0.350	14.6	3.73%
5.51	3.75	Focol **(S)**	5.46	5.46	0.00		0.366	0.210	14.9	3.85%
1.00	1.00	Focol Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00		0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%
5.59	5.00	ICD Utilities	5.59	5.59	0.00	100	0.012	0.240	465.8	4.29%
10.50	9.82	J. S. Johnson	9.82	9.82	0.00		0.971	0.640	10.1	6.52%
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate	10.00	10.00	0.00		0.991	0.800	10.1	8.00%

BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing basis)

52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity
99.46	99.46	Bahamas Note 6.95 (2029)	BAH29	99.46	0.00		6.95%	20 November 2029
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00		7%	19 October 2017
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00		7%	30 May 2013
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015

RoyalFidelity Merchant Bank & Trust Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)

52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid $	Ask $	Last Price	Daily Vol.	EPS $	Div $	P/E	Yield
10.06	5.01	Bahamas Supermarkets	5.01	6.01	14.00		-2.945	0.000	N/M	0.00%
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.35	0.40	0.55		0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%

CFAL Securities Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)

41.00	29.00	ABDAB	30.13	31.59	29.00		4.540	0.000	9.03	0.00%
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.45	0.55	0.55		0.002	0.000	261.90	0.00%

BISX Listed Mutual Funds

52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD%	Last 12 Months %	NAV 3MTH	NAV 6MTH	NAV Date
1.5122	1.4076	CFAL Bond Fund	1.5122	5.11%	6.79%	1.490421	1.467397	31-Oct-10
2.9265	2.8300	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	2.9187	1.10%	3.13%	2.919946	2.911577	30-Sep-10
1.5655	1.4954	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5655	3.87%	4.48%	1.545071	1.530224	12-Nov-10
3.2025	2.8522	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	2.8624	-8.16%	-7.49%			31-Aug-10
13.6388	13.0484	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.5642	1.47%	2.95%			30-Sep-10
114.3684	101.6693	CFAL Global Bond Fund	114.3684	9.98%	12.49%	109.392860	107.570619	30-Jun-10
106.5528	99.4177	CFAL Global Equity Fund	106.5528	4.75%	7.18%	100.779540	105.776543	30-Sep-10
1.1367	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.1367	4.30%	5.21%			31-Oct-10
1.0974	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.0974	2.75%	6.87%			31-Oct-10
1.1363	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.1363	4.18%	5.78%			31-Oct-10
9.7485	9.1005	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 1	9.7458	4.35%	5.22%			31-Oct-10
11.2361	10.0000	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 2	10.6000	-1.59%	4.26%			31-Oct-10
10.0000	9.1708	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 3	9.5037	-4.96%	-4.96%			31-Oct-10
8.1643	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Int'l Fund - Equities Sub Fund	8.1643	5.79%	9.42%			31-Oct-10

MARKET TERMS

BISX ALL SHARE INDEX - 19 Dec 02 = 1,000.00
52wk-Hi - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks
Previous Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily volume
Today's Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume
Change - Change in closing price from day to day
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today
DIV $ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings
(S) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/8/2007
(S1) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/11/2007
YIELD - last 12 month dividends divided by closing price
Bid $ - Buying price of Colina and Fidelity
Ask $ - Selling price of Colina and fidelity
Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price
Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week
EPS $ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mths
NAV - Net Asset Value
N/M - Not Meaningful
FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index. January 1, 1994 = 100

TO TRADE CALL: CFAL 242-502-7010 | ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764 | FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000 | COLONIAL 242-502-7525

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME BY DEED POLL

The Public is hereby advised that I, **RAMADAN KARIM MUHAMMAD and CHARLES ANDREW McKENZIE** of #42 Paisley Place, South Bahamia, Freeport, Grand Bahama, have legally changed my name by deed poll to **RAMADAN KARIM MUHAMMAD McKENZIE.** The Deed Poll has been duly recorded at the Registrar General's Office.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **EMMANUEL EUGENE of MARSH HARBOUR, P.O. BOX AB-20291, ABACO, BAHAMAS** is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **17th day of November, 2010** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

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.

The Tribune **entertainment**

One More Night With Busy Signal!

BY ALESHA CADET
TRIBUNE FEATURES REPORTER

AFTER a near two year absence in the Bahamas, Dancehall lovers can look forward to "One More Night With Busy Signal."

The event will take place on November 27 at Mario's Bowling Alley and Entertainment Palace.

A newly formed promotion company SiDy Production is responsible for the dancehall superstar's return to the Bahamas.

Since his last concert in the Bahamas, Busy Signal has become a more profound artist with a string of wildly popular song such as, Tic Toc, One More Night and many more.

SiDy Production is an event promotion company consisting of two phenomenal young ladies, Siddeeqah Beneby and Dynasty Rolle.The two have individually been deeply involved in entertainment in the Bahamas around America.

According to the duo, the whole process of organising this particular show was a " long and tedious" process that was met with a slew of problems but the pair chose to take on the concert with the utmost grace and confidence.

In a statement, the Vendetta Group told Tribune *Entertainment* that the ladies have recently combined both their knowledge and skills to create the soon to be entertainment Juggernaut SiDy Productions. " One More Night with busy is the first in a long list of major concerts and events the pair intend on bringing to the Bahamian public in the coming year," it stated.

In addition to Busy Signal, there will also be performances by local rap-reggae sensation MDeez, whose breakaway hit "Times Hard" has sized a spot in high rotation on local radio stations and Ipods.

Also set to entertain the crowd will be street acclaimed DJ Selector Chronic and TG Movements who is said to most defiantly keep the crowd moving and entertained.

Promoters said: " Saturday night and Mario's will be one no one should miss for this is for one night only."

The ladies behind SiDy Productions are keeping with their goal of bringing innovation to Bahamian concerts by currently hosting a competition for all interested young ladies who are interested in competing to win the opportunity to spend a day with Busy Signal and also attend the concert with him. The winner will be awarded an exclusive photo shoot with renowned Bahamian photographer Sasha Dunn. Applications available online on Facebook at Si Dy or the Vendetta Group.

THAT SiDy FEVER- Siddeeqah Beneby and Dynasty Rolle gives us just One More Night With Busy Signal.

things 2DO

November 26 - Friday
Rotary Club of West Nassau's "Soiree on The Deck"
The Rotary Club of West Nassau presents "Soiree on The Deck", a night of art, food and music, 7pm at Poop Deck West. Donation: $50. Proceeds in aid of Rotary International Foundation. Telephone: 326-2430.

November 26 - Friday
"Autumn Leaves" Concert
The Nassau Chapter of The Links, Inc invites you to attend "Autumn Leaves", an evening of elegant music from home and abroad. Concert features 2010 Marlin award-winning Mount Tabor Full Gospel Praise Team, The Bahamas National Youth Choir, Pat Rahming and Antoine Wallace and Nikita Wells from the Best of Broadway. 8pm at College of the Bahamas' Performing Arts Centre. Dress: informal. Cost: $25/adults; $12/children. Proceeds in aid of projects of the Nassau Chapter of The Links, Inc

November 27 - Saturday
St Cecilia's PTA Souse-Out, Fun Run/Walk and Health Fair
St Cecilia's Parents-Teachers' Association hosts its 3rd annual Souse-Out, Fun Run/Walk, and Health Fair on the school grounds. Walk-a-thon begins 6am. Come out and get your blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol checked while enjoying some native souse at the Health Fair, 8am-12pm. Souse: $8/chicken, sheep-tongue or pig feet. Hope to see you there! E: charlenecollie@gmail.com

November 27 - Nov 28
3rd Annual Bahamas Real Estate Expo
All parties involved in the Real Estate selling/purchasing process gather under one roof at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort. 11am-6pm. Here's your chance to check out the local exhibitors!

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. 7pm-10pm at the Balmoral Club. Proceeds to benefit the Young Arts Foundation for the Advancement of Art. Telephone: 323-5589 E: kathy@ccmbahamas.com

BAHAMAS FILM FESTIVAL

BIFF announces competition jury and panels

64 films from 17 countries in 5 days, including 12 Bahamian Films, 26 Feature Films and 38 Short Films From Around the World.

Films in Competition

New Visions Film
Crackie, directed by Sherry Wood, in attendance
Hello Lonesome, directed by Adam Reid, in attendance
Immigration Tango, directed by David Burton Morris, in attendance
Norman, directed by Jonathan Segal, in attendance
Pinoy Sunday, directed by Wi Ding Ho

New Vision Jury
Peter Belsito – executive vice president of Film Finders Division at IMDb
Scott Budnick – producer ("The Hangover," "Starsky & Hutch")
RJ Millard – vice president of publicity at Focus Features

Spirit of Freedom Narrative Films
Atletu, directed by Davey Frankel, Rasselas Lakew
Elisa K, directed by Judith Colell and Jordi Candena, in attendance
Master Harold and the Boys, directed by Lonny Price, in attendance
Little Rose, directed by Jan Kidawa-Bionski, in attendance
Refractaire, directed by Nicolas Steil

Spirit of Freedom Narrative Jury
Morris Ruskin – CEO of Shoreline Entertainment
Rani Sitty – Paradigm Talent Agency
Hannah Fisher – Veteran Film Festival executive

Spirit of Freedom Documentary Films
Revolution 2012 , directed by Christian Kohlert and Christoph Lehmann, in attendance
Bouncing Cats, directed by Nabil Elderkin
From Somewhere to Nowhere, directed by Villi Hermann
War Don Don, directed by Rebecca Richman Cohen, in attendance
Budrus, directed by Julie Bacha, in attendance
Bhutto, directed by Duane Baughman, Johnny O'Hara, in attendance
Salam Rugby, Faramarz Beheshti, in attendance

Spirit of Freedom Documentary Jury
Loredana Boboli de Lama – Owner of Duna Film International
Sandy Cioffi – Documentary Filmmaker ("Crocodile Tears," "Sweet Crude")
Karina Rotenstein – Programming Manager at Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival

BIFF will showcase over 30 Short Films in Competition

Short Film Jury
Norman Golightly – Producer ("Ghostrider," "Shadow of the Vampire")
Sara Nodjoumi – Film Producer/Programmer ("Santa Smokes," "Duke's House")
Craig Woods – Bahamas Film Commissioner

Panel Discussions
Industry panels at this year's festival will cover a wide range of topics including Acting, Directing, Film Finance and Distribution, How to Pitch your Script, and the Art of Collaboration

Monday, November 29
Master Class in Acting
with Raymond Forchion, Actor/ Director/ Writer
College of the Bahamas (Performing Arts Center)
5:30pm - 8.30pm - $25 (Student) $30 (General Admission)

Tuesday, November 30
Master Class in Screenwriting and Directing
with Wil Shriner, Actor/ Director/ Writer/ Producer
College of The Bahamas
5.30pm - 8.30pm - $25 (Student) $30 General Admission)

Saturday, December 3
Art Of Collaboration
Panelist: Ryan Fleck and Anna Boden (Half Nelson, Sugar, It's Kind Of A Funny Story)
Galleria Cinema JFK
noon - 1pm - $10

Pitch This
Panelist: Peter Belsito - Executive Vice President of Film Finders Division at IMDb
Galleria Cinema JFK
4pm - 6pm - $10

Sunday, December 4
The Festival / Market Circut Year
Panelist: Peter Belsito - Executive Vice President of Film Finders Division at IMDb
Galleria Cinema JFK
4pm - 5pm - $10

Film Financing and Distribution
Panelist: Morris Ruskin, CEO Shoreline Entertainment, Page Ostrow, CEO Ostrow and Company
Galleria Cinema JFK
5.15pm - 6.15pm - $10

For more information visit our events page at www.bintlfilmfest.com

Filmmaker Residency Program
Mentors:
Raymond Forchion – actor/writer/producer/director ("Will and Grace," "Last Breeze of Summer")
Kelly Moore – independent producer
Andrew Trapani – producer ("The Haunting in Connecticut")
Wil Shriner - director/ actor/writer/producer (Hoot, Fraiser, Becker, Gilmore Girls, Everybody Loves Raymond)

Participants:
Karen Webb, writer of Arthur's Salvation (US)
Sara Van Acker, writer of Bloodlust (US)
Sonia Castang, writer of Windward (UK)
Mark Cerulli, writer of Sunburn (US)
Andrew Beckford, wrtier of Slavery in the Bahamas (Bahamas)
Christina Smith, writer of Fearless (US)

The complete program line-up can be found online at www.bintlfilmfest.com. Book ending the festival this year are Sony Pictures Classics' acclaimed comedy "Tamara Drewe," which will open the festival, Thursday, December 2 and The Weinstein Company's Oscar® contender "The King's Speech," which will close out the Festival on Sunday, December 5th with Harvey Weinstein in attendance.

ARTISTS OF THE BAHAMAS

Please join us for the Official Opening of Nassau's City-Wide Art Exhibitions showcasing the artwork of Bahamian Artists from the film *'Artists of The Bahamas.'*

John Beadle
Stan Burnside
Jackson Burnside
John Cox
Amos Ferguson
Kendal Hanna
Brent Malone
Eddie Minnis
Antonius Roberts
Dave Smith
Max Taylor

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2010
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

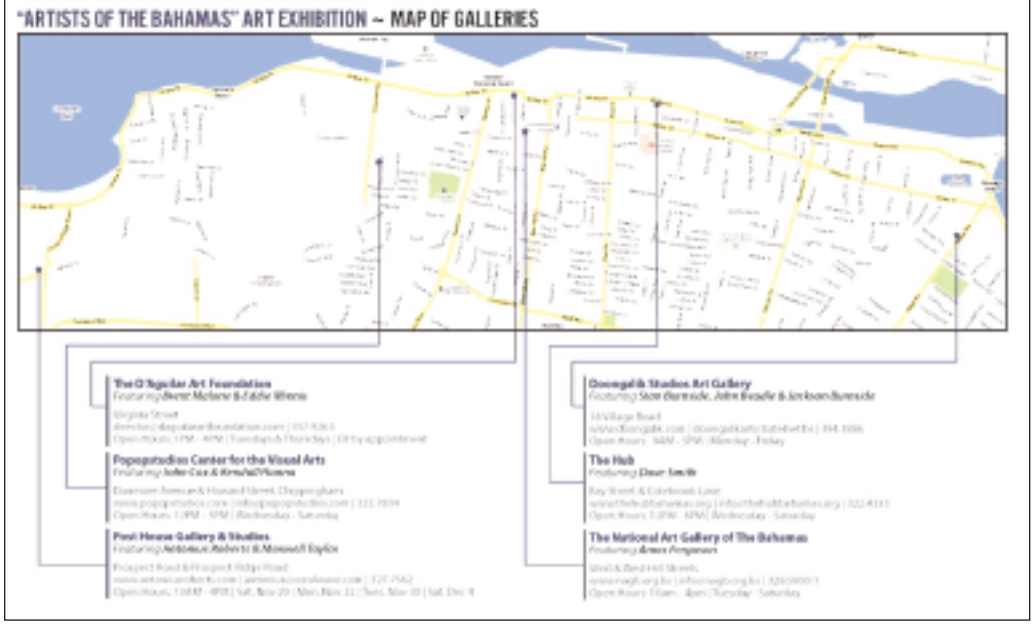
Showcasing the artwork of Bahamian artists from the film
'Artists of the Bahamas'

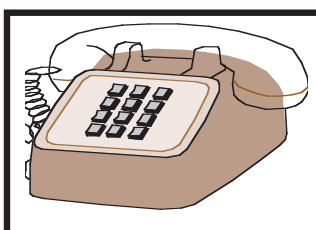
Produced, Directed & Photographed by Karen Arthur & Thomas Neuwirth

Stan Burnside
John Beadle
Jackson Burnside — Doongalik Studios Art Gallery, #18 Village Rd, 394-3886
Amos Ferguson — National Art Gallery of The Bahamas, Revd St, 328-5800
John Cox
Kendal Hanna
Brent Malone — Popop Gallery, Chippingham, 322-7934
Eddie Minnis — D'Aguilar Art Foundation, Virginia Street, 357-8363
Dave Smith — The Hub, East Bay Street, 322-4331
Max Taylor
Antonius Roberts — Pond House Gallery, Prospect Ridge, 327-7562

Exhibitions continue until Friday, Dec. 10, 2010
For further details and opening hours contact the galleries or visit
http://www.artistsofthebahamas.com

"ARTISTS OF THE BAHAMAS" ART EXHIBITION ~ MAP OF GALLERIES



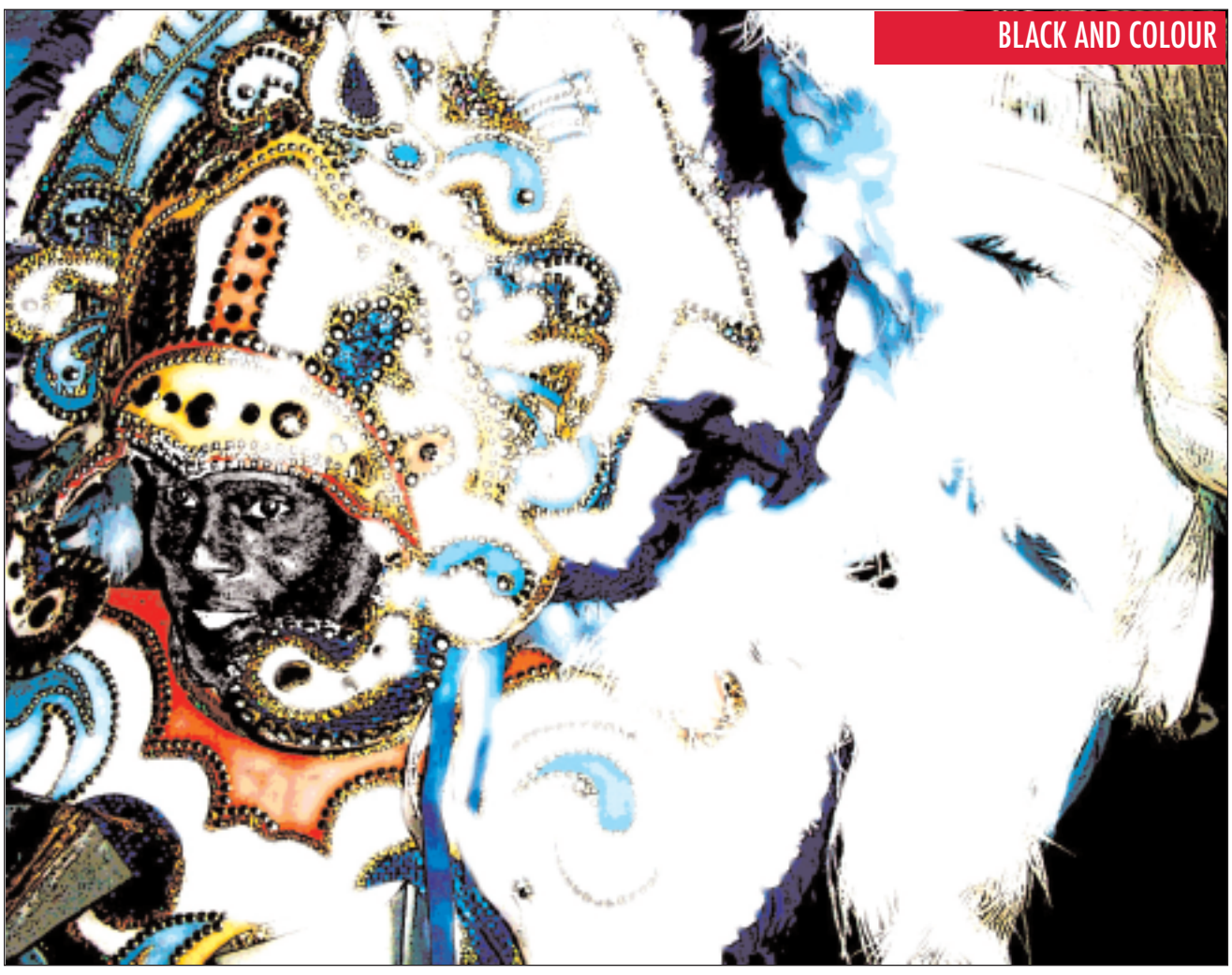


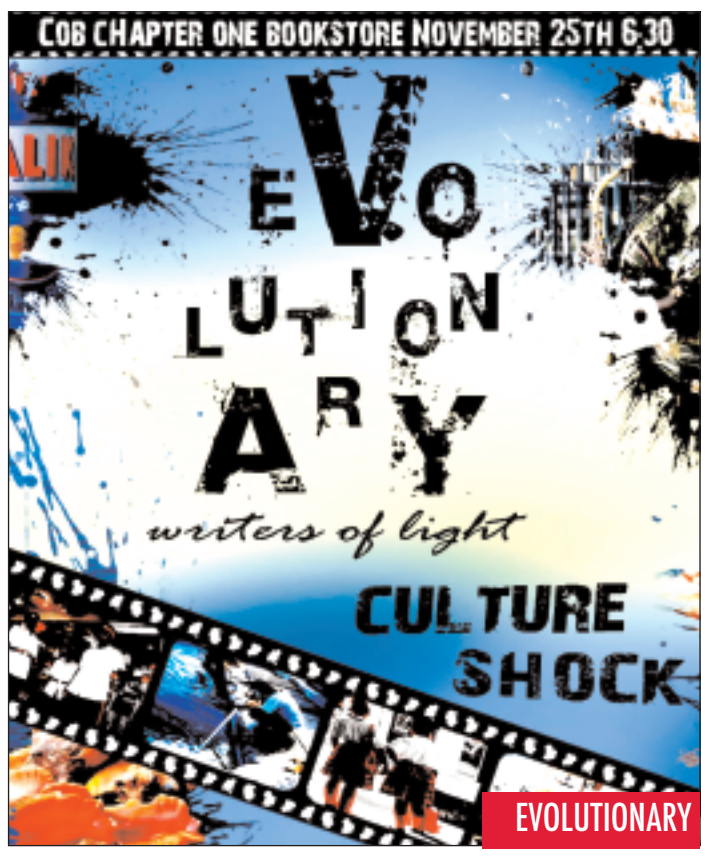
Share your news

The Tribune wants to hear from people who are making news in their neighbourhoods. Perhaps you are raising funds for a good cause, campaigning for improvements in the area or have won an award.
If so, call us on 322-1986 and share your story.

PHOTO DOCUMENTARY ON BAHAMIAN CULTURE

The College of The Bahamas Writers of Light presents 'Culture Shock'





By ALESHA CADET
Tribune Features Reporter

THE College of The Bahamas Writers of Light will present "Culture Shock", a photo documentary highlighting beloved Bahamian Culture.

The event will take on Thursday, November 25 at the Chapter One Bookstore, Thompson Boulevard, starting at 6.30 pm with free admission.

Since 2006, when Professor Hugo Zarate first pitched the idea of turning this particular course's final project into a full-fledged photography exhibition to his students, the class has been highly sought after by non-majors.

COB student, Anna Moss told *Tribune Entertainment* that deciding on the name of the exhibition was a task. "There was this one photo that was taken by a student with a chain which depicted slavery and from that we decided to look at the Bahamian aspects that are still under slavery."

" Mr Z loved this idea and when we realised that idea wouldn't not work, we still continued to look at Bahamian aspects but we decided to go with Bahamian culture and how it has changed and that's is how the idea of "culture shock" came about," she said.

The students of this photojournalism class had the chance to take pictures at Potters Cay Dock, the Fort Charlotte and the downtown area.

Speaking on her experience in the class, Ms Moss said: " I have a greater experience with photography and I now look at different aspects of it."

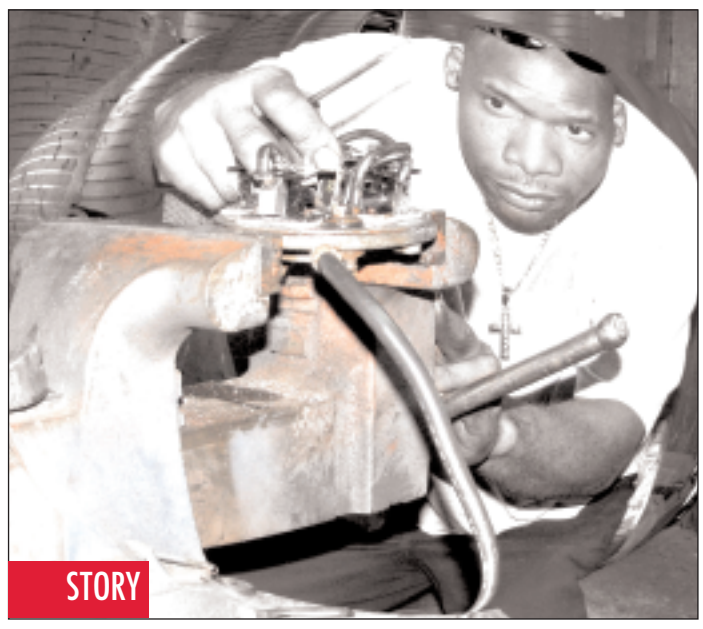
Another student, Lewis Major said photojournalism is so much more than simply taking a picture. " After researching and realising that people actually lose their life for taking pictures, seeing their passion made me become appreciative of it."

Mr Major added that in all of his photos, his theme was " the way we worship". " I am pretty pleased with all of my photos, and there is one photo I call the money shot because it is so intense."

Katie Pratt, a communications major in the class told *Tribune Entertainment* that she has always enjoyed taking photos. " I go out take photos that I know would inspire people. I am very prepared for this exhibition, most of my photos were taken at Potters Cay Dock."

She continued: "I am probably going to sell one, but I'm going to put the rest on display at my home. One of the photos I took consist of a man with a pole in the water bring up conch, when I took this particular picture I wanted to focus on the blues and the man actually putting the pole into the water."

Noel Henderson said he is now prepared for the exhibit, but it was indeed a task for him. " I decided to go with a theme of "island breeze" for my photos, simply showing the beauty of Nassau. If people are willing to buy my photos I will sell them, I think they are good enough to be sold."



IN THE PICTURE: The College of the Bahamas photo journalism students will highlight the art of photography as they bring you a Culture Shock!

AUTHENTIC CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT SHOW

Craftsmen and artisans to showcase Christmas pieces

By JEFFARAH GIBSON
Tribune Features Writer

LOCAL craftsman and artisans are getting ready to showcase one of a kind handmade pieces at this year's Authentic Christmas Ornament Show to be held this weekend at the Wyndham Nassau Resort and Crystal Palace Casino.

The event is being presented by the Authentic Craft Market in partnership with the Wyndham Hotel.

The ornament showcase will feature special handmade Christmas pieces. "This weekend is for the early Christmas shoppers. They will have the opportunity to view as well as purchase authentically Bahamian made items," said Rowena Rolle organiser of the event.

As always, artists who are showcasing pieces in this year's show have tapped into their creative genius and are using Bahamian products.

"Ornaments are made from pink and white sand. Some of the pieces are also made from straw and there are also some that are made from crepe paper. Conch shell and sea shells have been used as well and I must say that the ornaments are very beautiful," Ms Rolle told *Tribune Entertainment.*

Ms Rolle also said the Christmas ornaments should be favoured as they are just as beautiful as the American ornaments.

"These ornaments are just as beautiful as the ones that people buy in the store so why not purchase something beautiful that is Bahamian. These ornaments can also be combined with the store bought ones. They are very beautiful, different and authentic and they last very long," she said.

Culinary

There will also be a culinary tasting at the event. And because it is the Thanksgiving season attendees will get to sample turkey dishes as well an assortment of Bahamian desserts. There will also be prizes and giveaways.

This is the first time the Christmas show presented by the Authentic Craft Market will focus on ornaments. However attendees will also be able to purchase other gifts.

The local craftsmen are seeking the support of the public and they encourage individuals to come out to the event.

"We are inviting the Bahamian public to attend the event because artisans and craftsmen need support. It is time the Bahamians people give support to local craftsmen and this show provides the opportunity to that," Ms Rolle said.

Admission is free and the show starts at 9am until 6pm on Saturday, November 27.

INSIDE

One More Night With Busy Signal

See page ten

Thanksgiving the Bahamian way

See page nine

The Arts

British Colonial Hilton

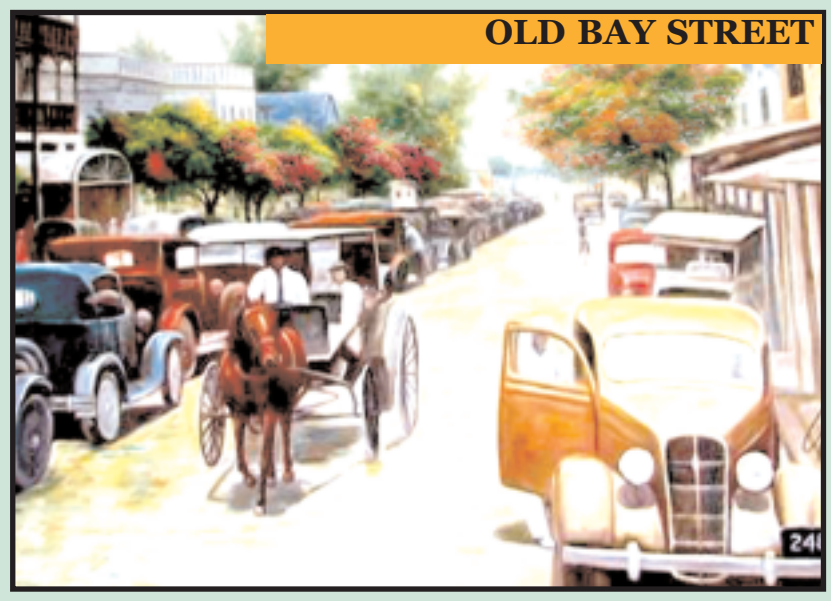
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

ART EXHIBITION:

NICOLE ANGELICA:

Bringing Back da Good Ole Days

CONCH BAIT



OLD BAY STREET

By ALESHA CADET
Tribune Features Reporter

THE ORIGINAL ST. FRANCIS CATHEDRAL

Internationally recognised Bahamian artist, Nicole Angelica will launch her 2011 tour Bringing Back the Good Ole Day's with an exciting exhibition held on Friday, December 3 at the British Colonial Hilton. As is always a part of the agenda of the artist, part proceeds from the show will assist high school seniors in their quest to continue their education at the College of The Bahamas.

Nicole is known to her global collectors for producing representational realism at its finest. She is a self taught and self published artist.

Her journey of establishing her career as a professional artist began after she graduated from college and worked on creative advertising and marketing campaigns. At this point of her career, the artist who is in her mid forties thinks being an artist is one of the few vocations where age is an asset.

Nicole Angelica sat down in an interview with *Tribune Features* and said the idea for an exhibition came from a combination of factors.

"I've had some very strong challenges in my life for the past few years and I have also been observing what has been happening with the Bahamas in particular in terms of the development of our country. My personal life challenges encouraged me to find a mechanism to bring back that old Nicole Angelica and I found that it was through my paintings."

Going further, she said more specifically it was through her paintings of things that she remembers were very pleasurable to her as a younger person. "

SUNDAY BEST

Those paintings are inspired by people and places back in the day in Nassau and also the other islands in the Bahamas."

Climbing

" I do have a daughter and some other family members that are young that think that the world is what it is today and they don't know the things like climbing the dilly tree, picking tamarind and eating coco plum, walking on the beach basically having a naturally fun time and I wanted to be able to share that through my work to not just the youth of today but to those that have forgotten how yesterday used to be, so you'll see in my paintings a reflection of what I call the good old days," she said.

She continued: " I would very much like to encourage artists. I would like for them to come out to the show so that they can have an opportunity to chat with me, I personally have some things I would like to share with them in terms of encouragement.

" I do believe that a part of my processing in the world of art is that I share that talent with others. I would also like to encourage the general public to come out and see what it is I do have to offer and I want at this time to extend my appreciation to the support they have shown me for the past several years."

This specially themed series will exude an immeasurable sense of "the real, the human, and the historic view of Bahamian times" with over fifty paintings chronicling our changing society and offering a reassuring visual haven during a time of momentous transformation as our country evolves into a complex modern society.

Angelica's shows are known for elegance, style and the ability to attract anyone who is anyone in the world of art collection and appreciation.

Each painting from the artist's easel is a masterpiece created from her research of her subjects. She sometimes uses old black and white photos as reference material and for ideas. Pencil sketches and small colour studies help her to determine how to get the most impact before painting the larger pictures.

The paintings of Nicole Angelica reflect a quality of narrative peacefulness.

Her paintings of people and places unobserved speak to Nicole's appreciation for the moments in life which are so overlooked in the hubbub of modern experience. She works with oil on canvas, spending hundreds of hours on her paintings with the ultimate goal of presenting a fresh, unique, and elegant approach to familiar subjects. The detail in each painting is remarkable, but the mood in each one is equally impressive.

Nicole Angelica's paintings have won her international acclaim of Best of Show (Museum of Americas), first place awards (International Guild of Realism) and Artwalk (Santa Fe, New Mexico) along with numerous grants and honourable recognitions globally. Her tour will continue into next year with Angelica's scheduled participation at The Dubai International Art Fair 2011; Artexpo New York and Las Vegas 2011; Lineart SGent, Belgium; CArrousel du Louvre (Paris); Holland Art Fair (The Haye, Holland); and the Shanghai (China) International Art Fair.