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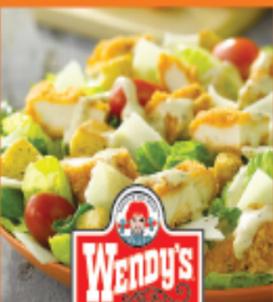
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SPICY CHICKEN CAESAR



Wendy's

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INSIGHT

Forty years of missed opportunities

SEE PAGE 12B



INSIDE

CARS FOR SALE, HELP WANTED AND REAL ESTATE

BAHAMAS BIGGEST

Classifieds Trader

BAHAMAS' BIGGEST FINDER



'Tour de Bahamas'

SEE SECTION E

Cyclist mowed down and killed

PLP 'WILL AGGRESSIVELY RENEGOTIATE' BTC SALE IF ELECTED

IF the PLP should win the next general election, it will "aggressively renegotiate" the terms of the sale of BTC which it deems "repugnant to the national interest," opposition leader Perry Christie said at the party's Grand Bahama conclave over the weekend.

"If the FNM administration proceeds against the

SEE page 10

Car chased down 51-year-old victim

A CYCLIST was mowed down and killed after being chased by the driver of a silver coloured Pontiac on East Street.

Witnesses saw the victim, a 51-year-old male resident of Sunlight Village, being pursued by the driver moments before he was hit and left lying on the side of the road.

The driver allegedly tried to leave the scene of the crime but crashed into another car, a 2001 Ford Taurus, which was travelling south on East Street.

Police have classified the death as a murder. A 44-year-old male of Lucky Hart Corner is assisting police with their investigation.

The victim's body is to be identified this morning, police said, declining to release further details until this process has been complete.

Press Liaison Officer Sergeant Chrislyn Skippings said the incident occurred around 10.35pm on Friday when police received information that a man was struck off his bicycle while riding at

the juncture of East Street and Sunlight Village.

Responding officers found the man, clad in khaki pants and a khaki shirt, lying on the side of the street.

Witnesses told police the victim was riding his bicycle north on East Street when the driver of a silver coloured Pontiac vehicle struck him from his bicycle.

"It is further reported that the driver of the Pontiac was observed chasing the male on the bicycle prior to him being struck," said Sgt Skippings.

Police are also investigating two shootings that occurred over the weekend.

Around 4am yesterday, police received information of a shooting in Lower Bogue, Eleuthera. Officers were told that a man was at home when he was awakened by another male inside his home armed with a handgun.

"It is reported that the culprit fired gunshots at the male which resulted in him receiving gunshot injuries to the

SEE page 10

14TH ANNUAL CACIQUE AWARDS



Felipe Major/Tribune staff



WHAT A SHOW: Pictured above is some spectacular entertainment from Friday night's 14th Annual Cacique Awards. Among the winners on the night was Ali Bain (inset with Minister of Tourism Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace) who won the Minister's Award for Hospitality.

SEE PAGE TWO

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DISAPPOINTMENT OVER SMALL NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS USING PLEA BARGAINING SYSTEM

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

LEGAL experts are disappointed in the small number of accused criminals who have used the plea bargaining system since its legislation was passed in 2008.

Government hoped the availability of plea bargaining would have prompted defendants to plead guilty to their charge and receive a recommendation to serve less than the maximum sentence. However Attorney General John Delaney told *The Tribune*

SEE page 12

CHRISTIE: GOVERNMENT MUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT CHANGING GRAND BAHAMA ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

OPPOSITION leader Perry Christie said while he feels the revenue that would come from the expiration of tax exemptions under the Hawksbill Creek Agreement would be a great benefit to the public treasury and to the Bahamian people, a government

must be careful about changing the economic structure of Grand Bahama so it does not "kill the goose that laid the golden egg."

Mr Christie made the statement during a PLP conclave in Grand Bahama over the weekend where he

SEE page 10

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LOCAL NEWS

14TH ANNUAL CACIQUE AWARDS

HOTELIERS, chefs, musicians, writers and airlines were among those recognised at the 14th Cacique Awards, where the country's youth received words of encouragement from Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Majestic Tours proprietor, William "Bill" Saunders.

Addressing young Bahamians, Mr Saunders told them they can do anything they can dream of if they have a vision.

The awards, which recognise individuals who have made a contribution to tourism in The Bahamas, were held at the Rainforest Theatre at the Wyndham Nassau Resort on Friday.

Ahead of the awards it was announced that Mr Saunders was to be the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, while George Markantonis, President and Managing Director of Kerzner International (Bahamas), which owns and operates the Atlantis resort, was recognised as Hotelier of the Year.

In addition to these two top awards, awards were announced in categories including Sustainable Tourism, Handicrafts, Manager of the Year and Cruise Line of the Year.

Accepting his award, Mr Saunders told young people: "You can be whatever you aspire to be, providing you have the dedication and the vision to make it happen."

"You don't have to be born into a family of wealth. I came from a poor family but I knew what I wanted to do at a point and time in my life. I aspired to



GEORGE MARKANTONIS, President and Managing Director of Kerzner International (Bahamas), which owns and operates the Atlantis resort, was recognised as Hotelier of the Year.

Felipé Major/Tribune staff

do it. I had a vision for it, and I had the dedication. Tonight I am happy to be here at 81, a Cacique.

"My blessings are from my heavenly father above. They are not only pertaining to my health, but they pertain to my success. And my message to the young people tonight is you can do it. Have the vision and the dedication, and you move forward with your life."

Mr Markantonis said everybody in the tourism sector, especially over the last two years, deserves an award for their hard work. He said whatever he and his team at Kerzner International Bahamas have done so far, will be done even better in the coming years.

"There is one way we are going to win," he said. "If we really believe in this country, we will succeed from tourism across the board, and that's because we are always going to be more aggressive and more creative than anybody else, and on top of that, we are going to do everything in a much more energetic fashion."

Others recognised during the evening were recently-departed tourism contributors, among them Sir Clement T Maynard, the former Minister of Tourism

for whom the Minister's Award for Hospitality is now named.

Tribute also went out to former Cacique sound engineers Lavard Curtis and Clarence "Nat" Williams, who died in a plane crash in October, 2010.

Winners in all categories were:

- Sustainable Tourism – Stuart Cove, Nassau
- Handicraft – Dorothy Miller, Long Island
- Transportation - SkyBahamas Sports, Leisure & Events – Justin Sands, Abaco
- Human Resources Development – Marilyn Brennen, Lyford Cay Club
- Creative Arts – Bahamas National Youth Choir, Nassau
- Minister's Award for Hospitality – Ali Bain, Nassau
- Lifetime Achievement – William "Bill" Saunders
- People's Choice Award, Gospel – Shaback, Nassau
- People's Choice Award, Secular – KB and The Sting, Nassau
- Supervisor of the Year – Vivienne Haynes, Kerzner International Bahamas
- Sales Executive of the Year – Molly McIntosh, Green Turtle Cay Club and Marina
- Employee of the Year – Micklyn Lightbourne, Sandals Royal Bahamian Spa and



WILLIAM 'BILL' SAUNDERS receives the Lifetime Achievement Award from Tourism Director General David Johnson.

Derek Smith/BIS



SHABACK won the People's Choice Award, Gospel.

Resort

- Chef of the Year – Michael Adderley, Kerzner International Bahamas
- Manager of the Year – Kressville P. Ritchie, Sandals Royal Bahamian Spa and Resort
- Hotelier of the Year – George Markantonis, Kerzner International Bahamas
- Tour Operator of the Year – CheapCaribbean.com
- Cruise Line of the Year – Royal Caribbean International
- Travel Writer of the Year – Thomas Haines, AOPA Magazine
- Airline of the Year – JetBlue Airways



THE Bahamas National Youth Choir won the Creative Arts award

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LOCAL NEWS

Christie: Stop PLP bickering in Grand Bahama

THE bickering and disunity within the ranks of PLPs in Grand Bahama should stop immediately so the party can concentrate on winning the next general election, opposition leader Perry Christie said at a PLP conclave in Grand Bahama over the weekend.

He said this was no time for there to be divisiveness or disunity within the ranks of PLP, and instead they must be cohesive and united.

"The PLP of Grand Bahama has to get out of the disunity business," he said.

"The bickering and in-fighting has got to stop. There is just too much of it, especially here in Grand Bahama. We need to work together. After all, we are joined together in a common cause and we all know who our common political enemy is. So why can't we keep those things that unite us at the forefront of our

"The bickering and in-fighting has got to stop. There is just too much of it, especially here in Grand Bahama."

Perry Christie

minds and lay aside the things that divide us?

"We have to unite to fight. Believe me, my brothers and sisters, there is no other way to succeed, there is no other way to win."

The opposition leader said party members need to put the party machinery in Grand Bahama, in the whole northern Bahamas, in a state of readiness.



"We need now to put it in a state of high alert. We are entering now the final phase of preparation for the next general election. As the party in opposition, we start off with a strategic disadvantage: we do not know when the next general election will be held.

"Since we don't know that, and won't know that, it behooves us all to get ready from now. We need



PLPs at Saturday night's party conclave in Grand Bahama.

to ensure that when the bell is sounded, we will find ourselves in full readiness for battle.

"We need to proceed on the premise that the next general election will be called sooner rather than later.

"If time proves us wrong and the election is actually called later rather than sooner we will have lost nothing by having prepared for an early contest," Mr Christie said.

Davis: FNM must say how much of \$63m will be invested in Grand Bahama



PLP DEPUTY LEADER Philip 'Brave' Davis speaks at Saturday's conclave on Grand Bahama.

PLP Deputy demands answers over tax revenue from sale of BORCO

THE FNM must tell the people of Grand Bahama how much of the \$63 million in tax revenue it received from the sale of BORCO to Buckeye Partners will be invested in the economically-strapped island, PLP deputy leader Philip "Brave" Davis said at a PLP conclave on the island over the weekend.

Mr Davis said considering the poor financial future facing the island, all of the money should go to the people of Grand Bahama.

The sale of BORCO was the biggest sale of any company in the history of the Bahamas. The deal, which was for the sale of a portion of BORCO to Buckeye Partners, amounted \$1.36 billion.

"This sale, my fellow PLPs, will give the government around \$63 million in tax revenue. The question you should ask the government is how much of this \$63 million will go to the people of Grand Bahama? What happened to the tens of millions in stamp tax that was collected from the sale of Vopak? Why aren't all those millions of dollars being spent right here where it is most needed? It is needed here in Grand Bahama. It is needed now," Mr Davis said.

He said if he should become the next deputy Prime Minister the PLP will move Grand Bahama forward and make Grand Bahama grand again.

Programmes

"We will reinstitute and create powerful and far-reaching educational, civic and community programmes to address growing social concerns. We commit tonight to help those that are destitute find employment and restore hope. We will empower our young men and women," the deputy leader said.

The PLP, Mr Davis said, will aggressively promote Grand Bahama as a place for commercial and tourist development.

"We will place a major focus on attracting offshore financial services companies and e-business to these shores.

"We will make Grand Bahama grand again," he said.

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THE MECHANIC	NEW	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:50
NO STRINGS ATTACHED	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:20	10:50
BLACK SWAN	C	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:45
THE GREEN HORNET	T	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
THE DAILEMMA	T	1:15	3:20	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:45
SEASON OF THE WITCH	T	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:25	10:50
YOGI BEAR	A	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:30
LITTLE FOCKERS	T	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:00	8:30	10:40
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS	A	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:45
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THE GREEN HORNET	T	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:45
YOGI BEAR	A	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:35
NO STRINGS ATTACHED	T	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:50
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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master

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Courts cooperating with the police

OPERATION Rapid Strike, launched on the night of January 20 by Commissioner of Police Ellison Greenslade, is starting to pay dividends as police target "prolific offenders."

As crime continues to escalate, police are confident that with the cooperation of the courts they can make a tremendous difference by taking repeat offenders out of circulation.

An investigation of most crimes committed today reveals that they involve persons with long rap sheets accused of murder, attempted murder, break-ins and numerous other skirmishes with the law — all out on bail awaiting their day in court. The police are starting to round them up, and with the cooperation of the courts, will get them before Justice as quickly as possible.

Mr Greenslade has said that the police are very pleased with the assistance being provided by the Office of the Attorney General and for its new policy of bringing those accused of gun crimes before the courts in a matter of weeks.

It is not unusual to hear a discouraged police officer, shrugging his shoulders in defeat, complain that as soon as the police take an offender off the streets, some lawyer gets the courts to grant him bail, and the police chase starts all over again. The police are getting tired of chasing the same old law breakers. It is hoped that the courts will get the message and, instead of being a part of the problem, will now make every effort to work with the police for the safety of the community. Magistrates can now stop their ears to the bail pleas of the lawyers.

It is only commonsense that it serves no purpose to return "prolific offenders" to the community. In fact it is forcing them back into crime. They can only survive if they can find employment. But who is going to employ anyone who is out on bail for murder,

attempted murder, gun possession or stealing? Not being able to earn an honest living, they cannot supply food for their table, nor find the down payment for their lawyer. Crime is their only profession. It is the only profession that they know of that brings returns, if they can escape the bullet of a rival.

How many of those persons, now deceased, would still be alive today if they were behind bars awaiting trial, instead of on the streets preying on the public? Among the homicides that we report are men on bail, gunned down by another, also on bail. While awaiting trial they are busy settling old scores.

A mother said to us recently after one such killing, that if it were her son, she would insist that he be kept behind bars until his case was called — at least in jail she would know that he was safe.

Many offenders laugh and brag about how quickly certain lawyers can spring them from jail. It is no wonder that they are not attracted to the new plea bargaining system, which became law in 2008. As long as they can get long stretches of freedom, hoping that the court system will get so bogged down that their case eventually will be forgotten, they won't be overly anxious to confess their sins and negotiate their prison time. However, with speedier trials, there is no longer an excuse for bail, but more incentive for them to sing and avoid court.

Last year there were only two criminal courts. By next week there should be four.

"With the immediacy of a trial, that tends to concentrate the mind and people will take opportunities to plead guilty or come to an arrangement by which they can pay for their crime," said Attorney General John Delaney.

Meanwhile, the police are back on the streets working hard to make them safe for law-abiding citizens.

Call for cost of living wage increases

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I WORK for a private company. One that has been in operation since the 1920s. It is a family run company with no public shareholders. As is the case for a lot of companies, our business has dropped off considerably over the past couple of years and we employees are in constant fear of losing our jobs and health insurance. As anyone alive today knows, these are hard times we are living in. The cost of everything has skyrocketed over the past couple of years. Everything goes up except our income! Unlike government workers who have the luxury of receiving increases every couple of years, we in the private sector are not all so lucky. I'm sure there are some companies that give regular raises, but the one I work for is not one of them.

We have people here who have not had an increase in take home pay for decades. One gentleman hired in 1987 is today still carrying home the amount he was hired at. I myself have not had an increase since 1997. I have been given more things to do, more responsibility, but no raise. We have received increases on paper, when Insurance goes up, but nothing extra in take home pay. Our bosses tell us we can consider it a raise when our health insurance goes up but they don't deduct any more from our wages.

One of our bosses actually made the following statements when we ask about wage increases. "There's no point in companies giving raises because it makes the cost of everything go up." Or, when being told of how hard his employees have it trying to save money, one said: "It's just as easy for a man making \$100 a week to save \$10 as it is for a man making \$1000 to save \$100!" One day a meeting was called, nobody knew what it was about, so when the boss came into the office one of the young men asked: "Are

LETTERS

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we getting raises?" Our boss said: "Yeah, turn around and bend over!" while he made a kicking motion with his foot.

Why continue working for such a company? Because many of us will surely lose our health insurance if we leave. We have medical conditions that will not be covered if we have to join another group. Some of us have illnesses that will prevent us from getting insurance at all if we leave. We don't stay because of our pension plans either, we don't have one!

I say all that to say this. The Government has become very proficient at squeezing Joe Public for every dime they can get. It's now time for the Government to ensure that Joe Public is not financially obliterated by doing so. Some employees in the private sector are not treated fairly by their employers. Government, in my opinion, must make it law that a company not giving its employees raises must give a cost of living increase at least biannually. Perhaps

government could give some incentive to companies to do so, ie, a reduction in business license tax for any company having given raises that year.

The increase should be tied to inflation. If inflation is 2 per cent the raise should be 2 per cent. This is not a raise really. All the employee would be doing is keeping pace with the ever increasing cost of living. It should not be possible for a person to work for years and years and become poorer and poorer every year. A person working for decades at a company should be able to progress in life, not regress. The last time I received an increase it was 1997. If you figure inflation averaged 2 per cent per year, times 14 years, that amounts to 28 per cent. In real terms I have received a 28 per cent pay cut since 1997.

We are diligently working ourselves into poverty! Our bosses don't care. Our Government must show that it cares. I call on the powers that be to address this wrong that is being done to Bahamians.

Nassau,
January, 2011.

Praise for Anglican bishops converting to Catholicism

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I commend the three Anglican bishops who converted to Catholicism on Saturday.

Their act marks the historical beginning of what promises to be a mass exodus of Anglicans over to the Catholic church. The movement is being spurred on by the growing acceptance within the Anglican communion of female bishops, practising homosexual clergy, and disagreements over the primacy of Sacred Scripture within the Church.

Sadly, some people want to measure the truth of the faith by modern society's standards.

They mistakenly believe that divine Revelation must adapt itself to the current mentality in order to be credible, instead of the current mentality converting in the light that comes to us from on high.

The result is a stripping of the Redeemer of man of his radical uniqueness, and classifying him as someone who can be managed and domesticated.

Anglican traditionalist should take heart.

They are always welcome back to the fullness of truth that resides, with all its pristine beauty and splendour, inside the Catholic Church. I encourage everyone — including agnostics, atheists and dissenting Catholics — who are tossed about by the waves of false doctrines, to climb aboard the barque of Peter for it will be their only safe haven in these troubling times.

PAUL KOKOSKI
Canada,
January 16, 2011.

Non-functioning traffic lights

These non-functioning traffic lights throughout the island are a serious traffic hazard. Despite the complaints of the public, there seems to be no solution. When some of the lights are repaired, the repair lasts two weeks at the most. There are lights that can be seen by motorists travelling in one direction, but not by motorists travelling in the other. In other words when a car arrives at a working traffic light, directing it from the south to the north, the driver travelling in an east west direction arriving at the same intersection cannot see the light that should be directing him across the path of the south-north driver. Therefore, the driver going from

the south to the north gets the green light, while the driver moving east-west can see no red light, because it is not directed in such a way that he can see it.

And then there is the intersection — Montagu, Village Road, for example — where nothing works, and the courtesy of drivers stopped in three lanes of traffic has to be relied on to prevent a collision.

Really this is not good enough. It would be appreciated if someone would at least give an explanation of what has gone wrong with our traffic lights. But even more important, someone should get to work and repair them urgently.

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'Very productive' 48 hours for 'Rapid Strike' operation

By TANEKA THOMPSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
tthompson@tribunemedia.net

RAPID Strike netted seven suspects, five illegal firearms and more than 100 rounds of ammunition within 48 hours, said Commissioner of Police Ellison Greenslade.

Law enforcement officials praised the Royal Bahamas Police Force's new crime-fighting operation as successful in getting illegal firearms and potential offenders off the streets.

"We had a very productive 48 hours. We recovered five illegal weapons and over 100 rounds of ammunition. We have seven persons in custody as a result and we are very optimistic that on Monday we will get some traction. We are very encouraged by what has happened thus far," said Mr Greenslade.

Mr Greenslade added that on Thursday night the operation was able to diffuse a potentially dangerous situation in the Carmichael Road area.

"Our officers drove right into an armed robbery in progress. The assailant had a pistol cocked with live rounds in the chamber and that could have turned out really bad.

"Fortunately no shots were fired, the man was arrested, the gun was recovered. We believe that our response is measured, it was professional, it is what is required and as commissioner I am satisfied that everything is being done properly."

Four persons caught under Rapid Strike are expected to be arraigned in Magistrate's Court today on gun crimes.

"We're very pleased with this collaborative effort and the assistance being provided by the Office of the Attorney General," added Mr Greenslade, applauding officials in the Attorney General's Office for their new pol-



PRODUCTIVE: Police Commissioner Ellison Greenslade

icy - which aims to bring those accused of gun crimes to trial in a matter of weeks - and co-operation.

Rapid Strike was launched nearly two weeks ago in a continued effort by the police to reduce the escalating number of serious crimes occurring throughout the Bahamas. Heavily-armed units were deployed to patrol "hot spot" areas throughout New Providence and caused 14 arrests in its first 24 hours of operation.

The unit will be concentrating on troublespots and targeted profiles, which include people suspected of engaging in unlawful activity such as murder, armed robbery, illegal firearm possession, house break-ins, stealing and stabbing.

\$21,000 worth of cocaine and illegal firearm found

POLICE seized \$21,000 worth of cocaine and marijuana and an illegal firearm during a search of a home on Shady Lane.

Officers from the Drug Enforcement Unit, acting on information, conducted the search around 9pm on Saturday. When they arrived at the home, located off Burial Ground Corner, the officers heard people inside the residence talking.

The officers reported they identified themselves as police and attempted to gain entry. When the officers heard movements inside the home they entered and discovered that the occupants had fled the scene. The DEU searched the home and found a handgun with an assortment of ammunition.

Officers also discovered 18 pounds of suspected marijuana and half a pound of suspected cocaine with a street value of \$18,000 and \$3,000 respectively.

Up to press time no arrests

were made but police say they are following significant leads into this matter.

FIREARM ARREST

Meantime police arrested a 21-year-old male resident of Lobster Avenue around 11.15pm Saturday for allegedly possessing a handgun.

Officers of the mobile division were on routine patrol on Hay Street when they saw the suspect "acting suspiciously." A subsequent search of the man allegedly uncovered a handgun with ammunition.

Police also report they recovered a shotgun hidden in bushes in Morrisville, Long Island. The find was made around 7am on Saturday after police, acting on information, searched the bushy area.

Three people were taken into custody. Police investigations continue.

STOLEN VEHICLES RECOVERED

Police also recovered six

stolen vehicles that were found as officers patrolled the area of Sir Milo Butler Highway off Carmichael Road.

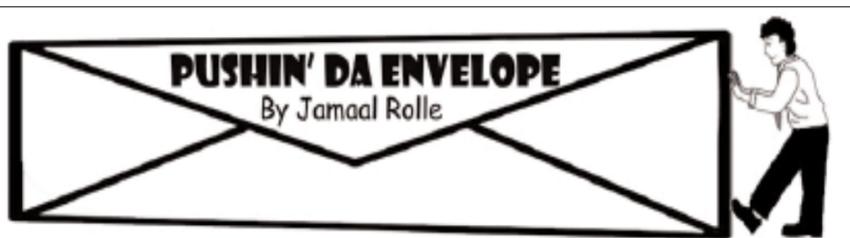
It was 10 am Saturday when officers of the Traffic Division found four Honda model cars and two Nissan Sentras - all stripped.

No suspects were taken into custody.

STOLEN VEHICLES

Police yesterday appealed for the public's help in locating the following stolen vehicles: a 2001 silver coloured right-hand drive Honda Accord licence plate number 236192 and a 1999 grey coloured right-hand drive Honda Accord.

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LOCAL NEWS

Phase two of the house numbering exercise begins

By KATHRYN CAMPBELL
Bahamas Information Services

THE Government has activated the second phase of its street naming and house numbering exercise.

The project is designed to make it easier to locate businesses and houses throughout New Providence and is a part of the six-month national jobs programme.

Delmar Bowe, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport supervisor, said he pleased with the progress of the project which began on January 10. He said to date, 1,500 houses and businesses have been numbered in the exercise which runs from the East West Highway to Coral Harbour. Twenty-four persons are employed on the house numbering and street naming projects.

Mr Bowe credits the success of the project to emphasis placed on the importance of clarity, accuracy and consistency of their job.

"We must be accurate and consistent and take each day at a time to get things done," he said.

He explained that once new numbers have been erected, the old numbers would remain for an indefinite period of time.

"Our employees compile the data on sight including the existing number and the new number that is assigned. All of the utility companies have to be informed of the changes and until such time

the old numbers will stay on the buildings.

"We distribute flyers to the owners advising them to make their properties accessible so that Ministry of Works employees can install the numbers. If a resident is not at home and we cannot access their property we would place the number on an outdoor wall. Otherwise we would leave the number and ask the residents to install the number themselves."

Mr Bowe said field surveys conducted during phase one reveal "there were deficiencies to buildings that have not yet been numbered and buildings that were wrongly numbered in the past".

Employees assigned to this task will be properly identified and due care will be taken not to damage the owners' property. Employees will have an identification card to indicate they are a part of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's house numbering team.

The official numbering system is north to south or east to west with even numbers on the right side of the street and odd numbers on the left side.

DELMAR BOWE, (far right) project supervisor for the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's house numbering exercise talks about the project as Valdeshia Bethel (centre) and Rebecca Russell look on.

Patrick Hanna/BIS



PROJECT SUPERVISOR Delmar Bowe (far right) gives instructions to John Bannister pictured in hat and Antoine Minnis who install numbers on a home in Bougainvillea Boulevard, South Beach.



COSTA RICA: NETWORK USED FISHERMEN 'TO SHIP COCAINE'

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica

COSTA RICAN authorities say they have dismantled a cocaine smuggling network that used fishing vessels to ship drugs from Ecuador and Colombia through Central America and into Mexico, according to Associated Press.

The Security Ministry says in a Sunday statement that the Colombian-run network paid fishermen to haul cocaine to Guatemala and Mexico.

The ministry says raids in the Costa Rican capital of San Jose and in the Pacific coast city of Puntarenas were carried out Saturday. Five Colombians and a Costa Rican national were arrested.

Costa Rican officials say powerful drug cartels are increasingly using the country as a transshipment point for cocaine — much of it ultimately bound for the United States.

CUSTOMS DEPT STAFF TREAT SENIOR CITIZENS TO LUNCH



ASSISTANT COMPTROLLER of Customs, Gary Smith (standing centre) poses with other staff members from the Customs Department, the Persis Rodgers Home for the Aged staff including Frances Ledee, administrator, (standing far right) and some of the senior citizens residing at the home, Thursday, January 26. Staff from the Bahamas Customs Department visited 12 senior citizens homes serving the residents lunch.

Derek Smith/BIS

By LLONELLA GILBERT
Bahamas Information Services

CUSTOMS department staff celebrated International Customs Day by serving lunch to senior citizens at various homes.

The Assistant Comptroller of Customs, Gary Smith, who was helping out at the Persis Rodgers Home for the Aged, said serving the senior citizens lunch has been a tradition for 22 years.

"The staff in the various sections of Customs donates the food, and we go to some 12 senior citizens homes throughout the island of New Providence where we honour those on whose shoulders we stand by providing them with lunch," Mr Smith said.

"Over the years, some of them have developed particular friendships with certain homes, so some staff members choose particular homes because the people know

them; but we also have some new people onboard and they are following in the tradition."

The celebrations started with a church service at St Matthew's Anglican Church Sunday.

On Saturday there was a fun day at Customs headquarters for children from various homes.

The World Customs Organisation was formed in 1947 with 13 European governments agreeing to set up a study group to examine the possibility of establishing one or more Inter-European customs unions based on the principles of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Out of this body the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) was born, being formally established in 1952. After many years of membership growth, the CCC adopted the working name of World Customs Organisation.

It was at a meeting in 1963 that the date of January 26 was formalised as a day set aside to honour and recognise the achievements of Customs Officers in their various administrations.

It was called "International Customs Day" and observed to honour long-serving officers, participation in community activities, town meetings, seminars and workshops to interact with and inform stakeholders about relevant Customs matters including changes in procedures and generally form mutual partnerships affecting Global Trade.

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REAL ESTATE: Preventing inspection delays

By MIKE LIGHTBOURNE

NO MATTER how much you prepare, real estate closings almost always take longer than they should.

Sometimes unbearably longer. Delays could fall into three major categories: financing, legal delays (sometimes just getting a simple sales contract agreed to) and possibly inspections.

Getting estimates and negotiating repairs can really hold up a transaction, but there are ways to speed up the process.

One option is for vendors to procure a pre-listing inspection and make repairs before the first potential purchaser sets foot in the home.

However, this can be a costly expense for vendors, especially when purchasers may arrange for their own inspection after making an offer, and there can often be great differences in estimated costs.

A better alternative is for the BREA listing agent to walk through the home with the vendors, noting the age and the condition of major components of the home and securing estimates for potential repairs.

Vendors may not have to fix the problems, but having an idea of the cost of repairs will help them price the home fairly, as well as reduce the time necessary for purchasers to negotiate the costs.

This is an excellent preventative and proactive step towards a successful and, hopefully, speedy closing.

(Mike Lightbourn is president of Coldwell Banker Lightbourn Realty).



Sean Connery immortalised with sculpture in Estonia

By JARI TANNER
Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — He's been honoured with an Oscar and British knighthood. As of Thursday, Sean Connery can count a bronze sculpture in the Estonian capital among his tributes.

The bust of Scotland's most famous actor was unveiled by British Ambassador Peter Carter outside Tallinn's Scottish Club, whose members include Estonians enamored with Scotland and a handful of expatriate Scots.

"Sir Sean Connery is, without a doubt, an icon," Carter told dozens of invited guests. "He is variously known as James Bond or the sexiest man of the century. He's a great British actor, a great Scot actor and a great symbol for Scotland."

The Scottish Club, which started as a whiskey sampling society in the early 1990s, got the idea of honouring "Scots who have made a difference" a few years back, said president Mart Haamer. It already has a bust of 18th century Scottish poet Robert Burns.

Haamer read a brief statement from the 80-year-old actor, who won an Academy Award for a supporting role in "The Untouchables."

"One cannot help but be flattered by the Scottish Club's gesture. My best wishes to the members of the club and to all the people who made this possible," the statement said.

A vocal supporter of the pro-independence Scottish National Party, Connery lives in the Bahamas and has said he will not live in Scotland again until it gains independence from the



BRITISH AMBASSADOR Peter Carter looks at a bronze bust of Oscar-winning actor Sean Connery, a prominent Scottish nationalist, after unveiling it at the Scottish Club in Tallin, Estonia. The bust was created by Estonia's most famous sculptor Tiiu Kirsipuu, and is intended to mark the year Sir Sean turned 80. The club itself was first founded in 1993 as a whisky society, but became associated with prominent politicians and top business figures. Based in the heart of Tallinn's Unesco heritage site, its staff serve guests dressed in kilts, while the carpet is tartan. (AP)

United Kingdom.

However, Carter noted that "the fact that he has accepted knighthood, suggests that he is also a great supporter of the queen."

Connery was knighted in 2000. The 10,000 (\$14,000) bust by Estonian sculptor Tiiu Kirsipuu was financed through private donations and depicts a bearded Connery at a mature age.

"I think the older he gets, the more charming he becomes," Kirsipuu said.

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LOCAL NEWS

The PLP 'would aggressively renegotiate' the BTC sale

FROM page one

advice of the PLP and sells to Cable and Wireless, we put Cable and Wireless on notice of our central position that the sale to Cable and Wireless is not in the national interest, and when we return to Government we will re-examine all of the provisions of the deal and we will aggressively renegotiate the terms of the agreement that we deem repugnant to the national interest," Mr Christie said.

The opposition leader said his party believes this course of action is in accordance with the wishes of the country and is consistent with the PLP's core values and constitution.

He said the party will

aggressively explore lawful ways and means by which Bahamian ownership of BTC can be enhanced, through the offering of shares to the Bahamian public, with appropriate controls to prevent the concentration of shares into the hands of one group or family, whether Bahamian or foreign.

"We believe that BTC should then be opened to competition and the telecommunications market liberalised as soon as is reasonably practicable thereafter. A BTC, owned by a wide cross-section of the Bahamian community, could purchase the best management expertise and technology to provide the Bahamian and foreign busi-

ness community a competitive world class and affordable service like the Bank of The Bahamas," Mr Christie said.

If Mr Christie wins the election and proceeds with this course of action, it would not be the first time the PLP renegotiated a contract between the Government of the Bahamas and a private investor.

The PLP found the terms of the Hawksbill Creek agreement, which delegated the powers of immigration control to a private company, to be repugnant to the national interest and negotiated that change which came into effect in 1969.

The result was that the Grand Bahama Port Authority returned immi-

gration control to the Bahamian people.

"We made the same principled point to the developers of the then proposed Clifton Cay, and when we came to office we changed the deal in the national interest. We are doing the same now with Cable and Wireless," Mr Christie said.

He said the PLP does not agree with, and will not support in the House of Assembly and the Senate,

the sale of any of the shares in BTC to Cable and Wireless.

"We do not believe that it (Cable and Wireless) is a trustworthy, reliable and capable strategic partner for the Bahamas and BTC. We call on the government to cease and desist in pursuing the sale as they have announced it," Mr Christie said.

Among the items that the party now finds repugnant

is the notion that the FNM administration has agreed that the Government of The Bahamas is to become a minority shareholder in BTC but will still have to fund part of the pension liabilities of the company in the first instance by advancing \$39 million from the treasury, with a continuing obligation to fund future losses.

• SEE PAGE TWO

Christie: government must be careful about changing GB economic structure

FROM page one

announced the opposition will be organising a group at Parliamentary level to begin informal discussions with interested parties in Grand Bahama about the tax exemptions that will expire under the provisions of the Hawksbill Creek Agreement.

The agreement was signed in 1955 between the government and Freeport developer, the late Wallace Groves, to establish a city and free trade zone on Grand Bahama Island.

Some of the provisions of the agreement, most notably the real property tax exemption, expire in 2015.

"Our committee ought to speak with the Grand Bahama Port Authority and also the Grand Bahama Chamber of Commerce and other groups, including church leaders and civic organisations. We need to hear your views. When we come to government, I intend to hit the ground running," Mr Christie said.

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham was in Grand Bahama on December 18 when he spoke about the

fact that certain tax exemptions will expire under the provisions of the agreement.

He said the Grand Bahama Port Authority has asked his government to begin discussions on the question of what the position of the government will be on those exemptions and whether they should be renewed.

Mr Ingraham said he did not want to speak to the organisation about the matter until the authority got "its house in order."

However, Mr Christie said the PLP holds a different view and a different approach in this matter.

"The thing is, it is simply bad manners not to talk to someone who is a major investor in your country. But I am sure that you are not surprised at that. That is the FNM's way, talk to people any kind of way and any kind of how.

"The PLP would, if it were the government, at the very least begin discussions with the Grand Bahama Port Authority at least at the technical level so that we can understand the issues, the revenue implications and the implications to the future for investment in

Grand Bahama," the opposition leader said.

Mr Christie said his initial thought is that the potential real property tax revenue that would come from the expiry of the exemptions would be a great benefit to the treasury and to the people.

"These therefore have to be studied carefully. But the economic structure and system in Freeport have benefitted our country greatly and we must be careful not to kill the goose that laid the golden egg," he said.

CYCLIST MOWED DOWN AND KILLED

FROM page one

arm. The victim was taken to the local clinic for treatment," said Sgt Skippings.

The other shooting happened around 2.30am yesterday in Nassau in the area of East and Lewis Streets.

Police were told that a man, wearing a yellow shirt and blue jeans, had fired the shots and was seen running from the area with a handgun.

Officers of the Tourism Police Unit responded and saw a man fitting the description running through McCullough Corner. The officers gave chase, but the culprit escaped them.

While at McCullough Corner, police spoke with a 27-year-old man of Fourth Terrace, in Centreville, who said that while walking on McCullough Corner he heard gunshots and realised that he had been shot in one of his wrists and shoulder.

The victim was taken to hospital by EMS where he was last reported to be in stable condition.

A short while later police received information that the culprit was seen leaving the area in a Honda car. Officers of Rapid Strike, patrolling Taylor Street, spotted the vehicle and stopped the car. A 33-year-old man of Foxdale was taken into custody.

Police investigations continue.

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3. Prepares and administers the Facilities Management and Operations budget; also monitors expenditures of the Departments.
4. Examines, evaluates and implements appropriate energy management measures to provide real returns on any investment required and long term savings for the Princess Margaret Hospital.
5. Regularly monitors the financial and operational results achieved and provide periodic reports to the Chief Hospital Administrator on performances, which includes benchmarking achievement using appropriate performance indicators;
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Lessons from Malaysia

insight WORLD VIEW

By **SIR RONALD SANDERS**

(The writer is a Consultant and former Caribbean diplomat)

I am writing this commentary in the airport in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia. To describe Malaysia as a vibrant, energetic country would be an understatement.

It is fast becoming yet another Asian Tiger joining the economies of Singapore, South Korea and Thailand.

Yet, it wasn't so long ago that Malaysia was regarded as a poor second cousin to other Asian states behind which it lagged economically.

The country has oil. But that natural resource – important though it is – is not the main reason for this country's transformation in the last 40 years into a middle-income country with a multi-sector economy.

Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak credits the country's transformation to the investment of its revenues from oil and gas in two areas – education and infrastructural development.

Malaysia now has a highly competent, skilled work force and significant physical infrastructure including highways along which its production is moved to its port and airport, and its people easily transported for work and leisure.

Apart from oil and gas, electronics is its biggest export and employer of both its skilled and semi-skilled population.

The Prime Minister is aiming to make Malaysia a high-income country by 2020, and it looks set to achieve it.

The government and the private sector have joined in an investment programme designed to produce millions of new jobs and to upgrade the skills of the existing work force.

While the government is the facilitator of the programme, the bulk of the investment is coming from the private sector, mostly local businessmen.

They have set themselves on a course to establish high technology industries, medical technology and pharmaceuticals.

Malaysia has recovered well from the global financial crisis which started in late 2008.

While in 2009 decreasing demand for consumer goods slowed economic growth, the economy has bounced back in 2010 and the foreign reserves of the Central Bank are healthy.

Kuala Lumpur is a hive of economic activity. Its roads are clogged with traffic, mostly one person to a car – an indication of years of state-subsidised gasoline, investment in roads and good salary levels.

The skyline is dominated by structures immediately reminiscent of New York and Toronto – twin towers, not unlike the targets of 9/11 and a tower that resembles the CN Tower in Toronto almost exactly.

The shops range from up market designer names – almost all of them, Gucci, Louis Vitton, name it and it is there – to market malls which also have designer name brands for items from handbags to clothing, except these are fakes made mostly in Korea, but enjoying a brisk trade

among Malaysian locals and foreigners alike.

English is the common language of the ethnic Malays and the Chinese community that have lived in Malaysia for decades.

It helps greatly in doing business.

And, while it might have been expected that China would be the dominant investor country, it is still the United States that is the source of the largest cumulative investment, followed by Germany and the United Kingdom.

The Prime Minister sports a large emblem of the number 1 on his lapel. So do most of the ministers and government employees.

"One" signifies "One-Malaysia", an attempt by the present government to make long-term residents of Malaysia, particularly the Chinese, feel that while they may not be Malay, they are Malaysian in a country whose society is one.

There is good reason for this. The Chinese are industrious in addition to being well educated and well trained.

They have made a significant contribution to Malaysia's development and the present government is trying to stem a tide of Chinese emigration which deprives the country of business talent and capital.

Years of preferences to the Malay population disadvantaged the Chinese who had to perform better to maintain their place in the society.

Now the effort is build a "One-Malaysia" society that is inclusive, keeps talent at home, and is focused on a strong economy.

Malaysia's population is also over 60 per cent Muslim, but that does not stop it from being open to busi-



SIR RONALD SANDERS

ness from Europe and North America. As the Chairman of a large conglomerate put it, "Muslims yes, Money makers too."

The country's membership of the Commonwealth is part of a valuable heritage.

English Common law and a parliamentary system similar to the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean and Britain make it easy for investors from the US and the UK to do business in the country.

And, if the high occupancy levels in the many top class hotels in the centre of City are anything to judge by, both investors and foreign contractors are taking a keen interest in Malaysia.

Sixty per cent of Malaysia's 27 million people are connected to the Internet, and Google Inc, the owner of the world's most popular search engine on the Internet, has just announced an investment of millions of dollars as part of its focus on south-east Asia.

While foreign investment is welcome, and several foreign companies are being awarded large infrastructural projects, the government is keen to promote local direct investment. It has announced plans to boost local direct investment through business linkages and domestic outsourcing.

There is little doubt that Malaysia will achieve its



MALAYSIA: Kuala Lumpur is a hive of economic activity.

ambition of making its people high-income earners.

Even if there is slippage from the projected date of 2020, it will be pretty close to it.

The secret of its success has been the effort by successive governments to use revenues for huge investments in education and the upgrading of skills so as to take advantage of internet broadband technology for the services sector and manufacturing industries.

Malaysia and its neighbour Singapore are Commonwealth countries that are doing very well in global economic terms which shows that developing Commonwealth countries can learn from each other's experiences in the development models they adopt.

Caribbean and Pacific Commonwealth countries should invite a combination of government and business people from Malaysia and Singapore to share the lessons they've

"Razak credits the country's transformation to the investment of its revenues from oil and gas in two areas – education and infrastructural development."

learned and the skills they've developed. Commonwealth countries of the South have shown they can be as successful as the rich countries of the North.

Responses and previous commentaries at: www.sirronaldsanders.com

ANNOUNCEMENT
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As we continue to grieve the sudden death of our colleague, friend and physician, we wish to thank you all for your cards, telephone calls and sympathy. We appreciate your kindness and wish you all God's richest blessings. Thank you.

This is to advise all patients of **Dr. Willard J.J. Thompson** who consulted with him at the Specialty Clinic at Doctors Hospital; that alternate specialist Orthopaedic care is now available at the clinic.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Fire, explosions at Venezuela arms depot; one killed



A SOLDIER stands guard outside a military arms depot after a fire in Maracay, Venezuela, Sunday, Jan. 30, 2011. A fire set off a series of explosions at a military arms depot, killing at least one person and leading authorities to evacuate about 10,000 people from the area. (AP)

MARACAY, Venezuela

A FIRE and a series of explosions tore through a military arms depot Sunday, killing one person and leading authorities to evacuate thousands of people, according to Associated Press.

About 10,000 residents fled their homes in areas up to several miles (kilometers) from the site as the burning ammunition produced powerful blasts, officials said.

The cause of the pre-dawn fire was unclear. Hours after the initial explosions, faint booms could still be heard in the distance as clouds of white smoke rose from the area alongside hills in Maracay, 60 miles (100 kilometers) west of Caracas.

"It's under control but there is still risk," President Hugo Chavez said as he visited firefighters and other officials in Maracay. He noted that the blasts hurled some explosives such as grenades long distances into surrounding communities, and urged caution.

Officials were searching nearby neighborhoods for any stray explosives, Aragua state Gov. Rafael Isea told the state-run Venezuelan News Agency.

Chavez praised officials for a swift response. "An event like this could have produced ... a much bigger tragedy," he said.

Chavez wondered aloud



SMOKE BILLOWS from a military arms depot after a fire in Maracay, Venezuela, Sunday, Jan. 30, 2011. A fire set off a series of explosions at a military arms depot, killing at least one person and leading authorities to evacuate about 10,000 people from the area. (AP)

what might have caused it, saying: "A fire there is odd, and at that hour."

Vice President Elias Jaua said earlier on state television that authorities were investigating — and suggested they weren't ruling out sabotage.

"We can't rule out any hypothesis since Venezuela is a country threatened by strong international powers," Jaua said. "We know of groups that act in a crazy manner within our territory, but it can't be determined yet if it was provoked or if it was an accident." He did not elaborate.

One woman in a house was killed by a piece of shrapnel that wounded her in the abdomen, the Attorney General's Office said in a statement.

Three people were injured in traffic accidents amid the chaos as people fled, Isea said.

"It seemed like they were bombing us," said Yandry Rey, 30, who lives with her husband, a military officer, and two chil-

dren in housing adjacent to the munitions storage area.

She said the explosions shook her house and woke her up, and that they fled with their children. Rey said she saw a "ball of fire" when she opened the door.

Hours later, she and several other people who fled the military housing complex were resting on the edge of a ditch in the shade. Rey's daughter still wore her nightshirt.

Another woman, 27-year-old Genesis Baricot, said her husband returned to their house and saw that the blasts had blown off their front door and caused part of the roof in the kitchen to collapse.

She said she didn't yet know where the family would go.

"What are they going to do with us?" she asked.

Soldiers and police blocked exits on a major highway that runs nearby.

Thousands of evacuees were taken to a sports stadium, a military barracks and a park, emergency management director Luis

Diaz told state television.

Chavez said the evacuees included Chinese and Russians who were working on projects in the area.

He said the Russians were building a rifle factory.

He did not elaborate on what the Chinese were involved in.

National Guard Maj. Gen. Luis Motta Dominguez said in remarks broadcast by Union Radio that authorities were waiting for the smaller blasts to die down and that what was left was "a lot of smoke."

State TV showed firefighters working to extinguish what remained of the fire.

Cavim, Venezuela's military arms manufacturer, said in a statement that the explosions began at 4:45 a.m. local time (4:15 a.m. EST; 0915 GMT).

The fire burned four artillery-munitions storage sites out of 20 that Cavim maintains in Maracay, Gen. Cliver Alcalá Cordones told the state news agency

Over 99 per cent in Southern Sudan vote for secession

JUBA, Sudan

SOUTHERN Sudan's referendum commission said Sunday that more than 99 percent of voters in the south opted to secede from the country's north in a vote held earlier this month, according to Associated Press.

The announcement drew cheers from a crowd of thousands that gathered in Juba, the dusty capital of what may become the world's newest country.

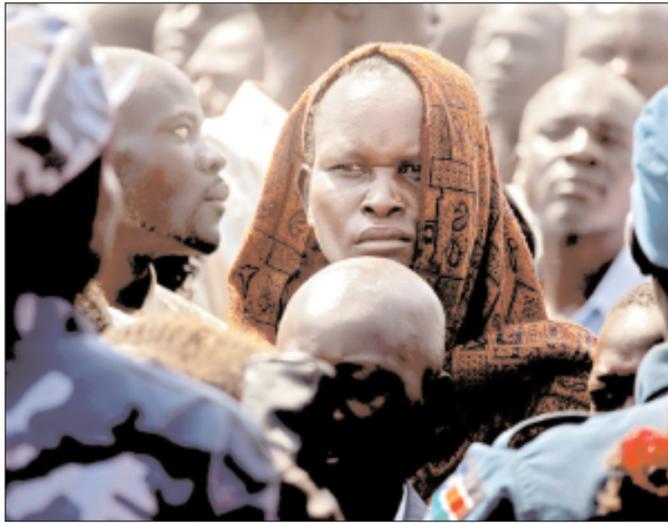
The weeklong vote, held in early January and widely praised for being peaceful and for meeting international standards, was a condition of a 2005 peace agreement that ended a north-south civil war that lasted two decades and killed 2 million people.

The head of the commission's southern bureau, Justice Chan Reec Madut, said Sunday that voter turnout in the 10 states in the south was also 99 percent. He said only some 16,000 voters in the south chose to remain united with northern Sudan, while 3.7 million chose to separate.

In northern Sudan, 58 percent of voters chose secession, said Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil, chairman of the referendum commission. He said some 60 percent of eligible voters participated.

Southern Sudanese voters in eight foreign countries overwhelmingly supported secession, he said, with 99 percent support for secession among the 97 percent of voters who participated.

In the United States, he said, more than 99 percent of the 8,500 southerners who cast votes chose secession.



A SOUTHERN SUDANESE woman stands in a crowd during the announcement of preliminary referendum results in Juba, southern Sudan on Sunday, Jan. 30, 2011. Referendum officials indicated that nearly 99 per cent of all voters cast ballots in favor of southern independence. Southern Sudan will remain united with the north until the expiration of Comprehensive Peace Agreement in July 2011. (AP)

"These results lead to a change of situation," said Khalil after he read the results. "That change relates only to the constitutional form of relationship between north and south. North and south are drawn together in indissoluble geographic and historic bonds."

Referendum commission officials did not announce an overall percentage total for all votes cast. The commission's website said Sunday that 98.8 percent of voters chose secession, but noted that the figure may change.

If the process stays on track,

Southern Sudan will become the world's newest country in July. Border demarcation, oil rights and the status of the contested region of Abyei still have to be negotiated.

U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon praised the conduct of the election, but said much still needed to be done.

"We are still very much concerned about post-referendum issues — border security, citizenship, wealth sharing, demarcation, popular consultations in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States, and most importantly the status of



SOUTHERN SUDANESE men line up to cast their votes at a polling center in Juba, Southern Sudan, in this Jan. 10, 2011 file photo. The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission said Sunday over 99 percent of the people in the south voted for secession in its first official primary results since the vote was held earlier this month. (AP)

Abyei," he said while addressing African leaders at an African Union summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. "Consolidating the peace in North and South Sudan will require statesmanship, wisdom, patience and the consistent engagement and support of the international community."

Southern Sudanese president Salva Kiir also gave remarks at the results ceremony, speaking mostly in Arabic.

"We are still moving forward," Kiir said in English. "The struggle continues."

Kiir thanked Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir for his leadership and for "making peace possible."

Kiir said the south will declare independence on July 9, but not before.

"We are not going to put down the flag of Sudan until July 9," he said.

The event marked the release of the first official primary results from the self-determination vote. The results will not be finalized until February.

But Sunday's announcement did not stop people from celebrating.

"I'm very happy because today we have determined our destiny," said Anna Kaku, 42, who dressed up for the ceremony and joined

the spontaneous dancing that followed Kiir's address. "We fought for so many years, and now we have done this peacefully."



Share your news

The Tribune wants to hear from people who are making news in their neighborhoods. 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.



THE TEAM: The Executive, Management and Leadership Team of the Force pose for a photo at the end of their Annual Planning Ceremony.

Defence Force gets planning for modern era

Three-day seminar at Coral Harbour Base

MEMBERS of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force's executive, management and leadership team kicked off the year with a three-day planning seminar at the Coral Harbour Base.

On the heels of Commodore Roderick Bowe's first year anniversary at the helm, the team converged to execute the first phase of planning aimed at moving the 30-year-old force into a modern era.

The Seminar took a look at the RBDF's overall missions, vision and objectives, which have been in existence since its inception, determining their relevance to today's tasking and challenges.

Specific departments also presented their individual plans for the future based on their leader's overall strategic intent and also were empowered to field additional recommendations from the participants.

Last year, the administration of the force concentrated on the morale and welfare of its men and women. The focus for 2011 will now shift to encompass training and re-education. With 32 persons presently on study leave, training in arenas as piloting, culinary

arts, construction, plumbing and electrical engineering technology to psychology and computer science, the force says it is well on the way to realising a more skilled organisation.

There are also six officers away at the United States Coast Guard officer candidate school and the Britannia Royal Naval College for training, and a number of others benefiting from a range of IMET (International Military Education and Training) and other overseas Courses around the world.

Representatives from partner agencies like the Police, Immigration, Customs, Fisheries, BASRA, and the United States Coast Guard were also invited to discuss their roles and methods of improved connectivity for 2011. Media training, divisional system review, inspirational speakers and spiritual charges were also incorporated.

The planning concluded with a breakfast with Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham, Minister of National Security Tommy O A Turnquest and the Secretary to the Cabinet Anita Bernard.



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham, Minister of National Security Tommy Turnquest and Secretary to the Cabinet Anita Bernard on a short tour of the RBDF base.



SENIOR OFFICERS listen to presentations during the seminar.

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RBC Gives Back!

RBC congratulates Jonathan Higgs!

As the grand prize winner of the "RBC Gives Back" credit card promotion, Jonathan Higgs of Marsh Harbour, Abaco won a **\$1,200** account credit plus an additional **\$1,000** for the charity of his choice – Every Child Counts. Congratulations to Mr. Higgs!

Pictured from left: Marva Mercius, Manager, Client Care, RBC Marsh Harbour Branch; Lynn Major, Administrator-Every Child Counts; Jonathan Higgs, Campaign winner.

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\$12m 'hostile offer' not in AML's interest

* BISX-listed food retail group's chair says largest shareholders 'definitively rejected' Finlayson offer, as would leave minority 'at mercy of unproven management'
* Proposed \$1.50 a share tender a 47%, or \$4m, premium to Friday close
* Potential purchaser believes 'prospects are pretty high'

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

AML Foods' chairman last night branded the \$12 million offer by City Markets principal, Mark Finlayson, to acquire 51 per cent majority control of the BISX-listed food retail group as "not in the best interests of all shareholders", telling Tribune Business it would leave them "at the mercy of an untried and unproven" management team.

CITY MARKETS TARGETS \$10-\$12M FOR STORES

* \$6m already raised for JFK Drive location
* Freeport 'key' to return to profit, with firm still on track for \$120m sales

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

CITY MARKETS will need to invest between \$10-\$12 million to get two new stores, on JFK Drive in Nassau and the Queen's Highway in Freeport, operational, Tribune Business was

SEE page 3B

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Merged City Meat-AML to have just 25% market share

* Finlayson says combined entity to gross \$150m in food sales per annum alone
* Says 'definitely not hostile'
* Hoping for Commission approval in seven-10 days
* But analyst sceptical, saying at least \$4 per share needed

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

A COMBINED City Markets-AML Foods would have just a 25 per cent market share of the Bahamian food retail market, Mark Finlayson



MARK FINLAYSON

told Tribune Business last night, adding that together the two companies would generate an annual \$150 million in food sales alone. Speaking to Tribune Business

SEE page 5B



AML FOODS' CHAIRMAN
Dionisio D'Aguilar

offering what it describes as a 50 per cent premium to AML Foods' existing share price, although the \$1.02 close on

SEE page 4B

WORKER TRAINING: CHAMBER 'KICKS BACK INTO GEAR'

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation (BCCEC) is aiming to "kick back into gear" on its workforce initiatives through the imminent hiring of an education and training manager, a senior official describing the shortage of trained Bahamian workers as "the single biggest limiting factor in our growth across the board".

Robert Myers, chair of the BCCEC's training and education division, said that while the restructuring caused by the Chamber/Employers Confederation merger had "set us back five to six months", the prospective education and training manager had been identified, and talks over terms and salary were now being finalised.

"With that, we should see the initiative kick back into gear," Mr Myers told Tribune Business. "We've done well, but did have some delay because of the shift to the BCCEC. That took a bit of time in that we had some changes with regard to the structure."

"There's a lot happening, and it will pick up momentum towards the end of the first and quarter and the second quarter."

Praising the ongoing Chamber Institute seminar series as "one of the most powerful initiatives" undertaken by the BCCEC, providing for career, business and vocational development, Mr Myers said a survey would soon be launched to

assess where companies saw labour force "deficiencies", and where they needed help in educating and training workers.

He added that April 6 had been "tentatively" pencilled in as the date when the Chamber would stage a Business Education Seminar in conjunction with the US Embassy, while further initiatives in alliance with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) were also planned.

Describing workforce education and training, and resulting labour productivity, as "hugely important", Mr Myers told Tribune Business: "It's the single largest limiting factor in our growth. We just have huge problems trying to get trained, efficient, consistent employees."

"It's a big, big problem. It's limiting growth all over the

SEE page 3B

AUTO SECTOR FEARS RISE OVER FALSE INVOICING

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

CONCERNS are growing in the Bahamian automotive industry about some car dealers who are allegedly offering imported vehicles at what are considered by many to be impossibly reduced prices.

Ben Albury of Bahamas Bus and Truck, and Fred Albury of Executive Motors, both told Tribune Business they believe some car dealers may be submitting false invoices to the Customs Department and clearing their vehicles without paying the proper duty.

This then enables the salesmen to attract customers by offering substan-

SEE page 5B



A SHOPPER looks at what's on offer inside Robin Hood on Prince Charles drive. Felipe Major/Tribune staff

Robin Hood targets 30k visitors for Jan

Set to 'top out' in 50,000-60,000 range on monthly customer count

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

ROBIN HOOD'S new Prince Charles Drive store is on target to attract 30,000 customers this month, and is set to "top out somewhere in the 50,000 to 60,000" range, with the groundbreaking for an

associated 44,000 square foot retail plaza on the same site set for March.

Sandy Schaefer, Robin Hood's president and co-owner, and developer of the plaza, said it was scheduled to be constructed before year-end. It is expected to contain a

SEE page 6B

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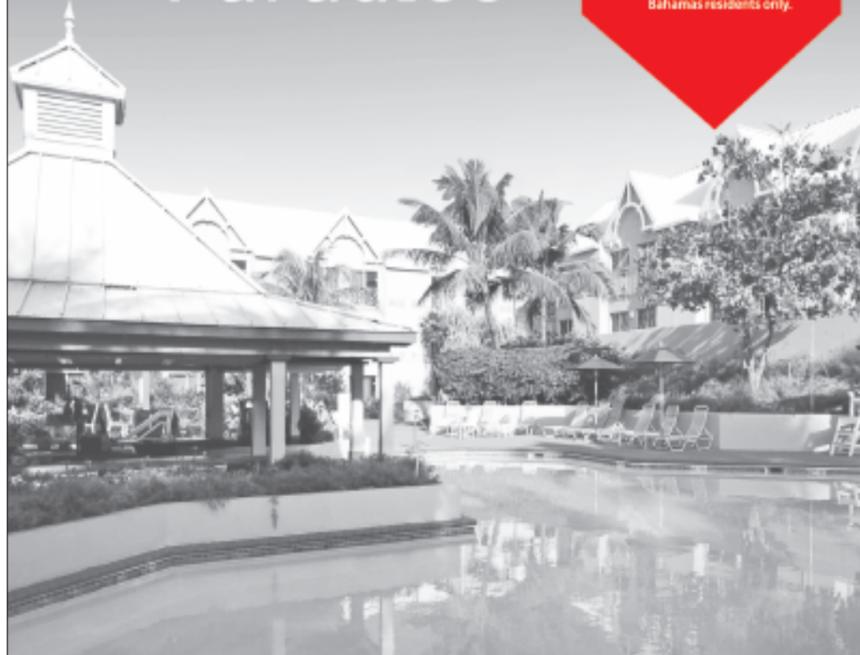
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BUSINESS

ROYALFIDELITY MARKET WRAP

By ROYALFIDELITY CAPITAL MARKETS

IT WAS another slow week of trading in the Bahamian stock market. Investors traded in three out of the 24 listed securities, with no advancers and two decliners.

EQUITY MARKET

A total of 10,023 shares changed hands, representing a slight increase of 3,745 shares compared to the previous week's trading volume of 6,278 shares.

Finance Corporation of the Bahamas (FIN) was the volume leader, trading a volume of 6,000 shares to close unchanged at \$6.51.

FamGuard Corporation (FAM) was the big decliner in the week, trading a volume of 1,000 shares and falling \$0.60 to see its stock close at \$5.47, a new 5-week low.

Commonwealth Bank (CBL) traded a volume of 2,223 shares to see its stock price decrease by \$0.04, closing at \$6.81.

BOND MARKET

No notes traded during the week.

COMPANY NEWS

Earnings Releases:

Focol Holdings (FCL) released its unaudited financial results for the quarter ended October 31, 2010.

FCL reported net income of \$4.8 million, an increase of \$261,000 or 5.7 per cent compared to \$4.6 million in the same period the previous year.

Revenues of \$68.5 million were up by \$8.9 million or 18 per cent in comparison to the prior period.

The cost of sales also increased by \$8.6 million or 18 per cent to \$56.3 million, resulting in gross profits of \$12.2 million that increased by \$320,000 quarter-over-quarter.

Earnings per share for the quarter were \$0.13, compared to \$0.12 in the comparative period.

Total assets and liabilities at October 31, 2010, stood at \$140.5 million and \$25.4 million respectively, compared to \$136.8 million and \$23.7 million at July 31, 2010.

EQUITY MARKET - TRADING STATISTICS

Week ending 28.01.11

BISX SYMBOL	CLOSING PRICE	WKLY PRICE CHANGE	VOLUME	YTD PRICE CHANGE
AML	\$1.04	\$-	0	7.22%
BBL	\$0.18	\$-	0	0.00%
BOB	\$4.90	\$-	0	0.00%
BPF	\$10.63	\$-	0	0.00%
BSL	\$5.01	\$-	0	0.00%
BWL	\$2.70	\$-	0	0.00%
CAB	\$10.21	\$-	0	-2.39%
CBL	\$6.81	-\$0.04	2,223	-2.71%
CHL	\$2.40	\$-	0	0.00%
CIB	\$9.39	\$-	0	0.00%
CWCB	\$2.18	\$0.11	0	19.13%
DHS	\$1.60	\$-	0	0.00%
FAM	\$5.47	-\$0.60	1,000	-9.88%
FBB	\$2.17	\$-	0	0.00%
FCL	\$5.48	\$-	800	0.37%
FCLB	\$1.00	\$-	0	0.00%
FIN	\$6.51	\$-	6,000	-9.96%
ICD	\$7.40	\$-	0	0.00%
JSJ	\$9.82	\$-	0	0.00%
PRE	\$10.00	\$-	0	0.00%

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

FOREX Rates

Currency	Weekly %	Change
CAD	0.9998	-0.73
GBP	1.5781	-1.42
EUR	1.3617	-0.05

COMMODITIES

Commodity	Weekly	% Change
Crude Oil	99.31	1.79
Gold	1,319.00	-1.82

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ANNOUNCEMENT

We are delighted to announce our continued growth and expansion by the opening of our new office at Lyford Cay, New Providence, The Bahamas, to serve our clients.

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BUSINESS

'No answer' for BEC's woe over transmission

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

THE Minister of the Environment "does not have an answer" as to why initial steps on installing a transmission line capable of carrying the required amount of energy from Abaco's new power plant to residents and businesses are being taken now, with the plant itself is in the final testing phase.

Earl Deveaux confirmed in a meeting with the Abaco business community and residents in Marsh Harbour on Friday that BEC's Board has "authorised a tender for the completion of an upgraded 60 MW transmission line from Wilson City to Marsh Harbour", with expectations that the power line could be completed by May 15 this year.

This comes over six months after the Wilson City power plant

had initially been scheduled for completion, as it now enters a final "reliability testing" phase before it comes on stream to provide the envisaged enhanced power supply.

The plant's four 12 megawatt-generating units will ultimately be capable of producing 48 megawatts of power. Current transmission lines are capable of carrying 14 to 16 megawatts of power, and Abaco's present power demands are around 11 megawatts at daily peak, said Mr Deveaux. In the summer, peak demand can reach closer to 25 megawatts.

Abaco residents yesterday questioned why BEC is only moving ahead with the tendering process for the transmission line at this late stage, and expressed fear that the tourism-dependent island will again suffer from the disastrous load shedding and power blackouts that saw resi-

dents and visitors faced with having to go without power on a daily basis for several days over summer 2010.

One resident, who declined to be named, said: "BEC is completely and utterly incompetent. Before they even broke ground in Wilson City they had the facts. They knew the new plant would generate up to 48MW. They knew the old power lines would not be able to handle much more than 12MW. Also, they said when they began the power plant it would be ready before summer last year. Here we are now looking at it maybe nearing completion when this summer starts. And that is just maybe!"

Initial pronouncements by BEC were that the Wilson City plant would be fully operational by summer 2010. The Government has pointed to the Judicial Review of the decision to go ahead with the plant as a signifi-

cant cause of delay in the project.

In his statement in Marsh Harbour, Mr Deveaux said he had travelled to Abaco to provide an update to residents on the status of generation at the Wilson City plant, and "the plans going forward to address the peak demand period for the summer".

He apologised to residents for "the nightmarish experiences suffered in the past, including the recent nuisances over the past few weeks" as it relates to power supply.

"Like you, we are disappointed in the performance of BEC and its reliability," he said.

According to Mr Deveaux, recent power outages in Abaco were attributable to "attempts to service Marsh Harbour from Wilson City and the old power plant interchangeably, and when switching between generators at Wilson City".

NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 137 (4) (a), (b) and (c) of the International Business Companies Act, 2000, notice is hereby given that:-

- (a) EGBAS INC. is in dissolution;
- (b) The date of commencement of the dissolution is the **19th day of January, A.D., 2011** and
- (c) the Liquidator is C.B. Strategy Ltd., of 308 East Bay St.

C.B. Strategy Ltd.
LIQUIDATOR

FROM page one

place. We've got Baha Mar coming on line; God knows where they're going to get the people. Kerzner is challenged by the same problem."

Worker productivity, and the Bahamas' inability to produce a labour force where all participants are attuned to the demands of the modern workplace, have been highlighted repeatedly in the studies conducted by Bahamian-based economist Ralph Massey. The issue becomes more urgent every year when 5,000 Bahamian students leave high school, some 3,000-4,000 of them going directly into the workforce.

Analysing the 2006 BGCSE maths and English grades among New Providence public school students, Mr Massey found that in English, 44 per cent of New Providence public high school students passed, with 56 per cent failing. A total of 17 per cent "both failed and were functionally illiterate", meaning they could not read or hear, then communicate thoughts coherently.

And it was worse for maths, where some 46 per cent - almost half of all New Providence public high school students who sat the 2006 BGCSE exam - were found to be "functionally illiterate", meaning they did not know the difference between addition and multiplication.

Mr Myers, who is president of Caribbean Landscape and also co-chair of the Bahamas Landscape

FROM page one

told last night, with the company poised to return to profitability once it "fixes" its three Freeport stores.

Mark Finlayson, City Markets principal, told this newspaper that \$6 million had already been raised to convert the former Burns House property on the corner of JFK Drive and Bethel Avenue, next to Royal Bank of Canada, into a replacement store for the former Oakes Field location.

"Right now, we have two of them finalised," Mr Finlayson said of new City Markets locations. "That was the difficult part of it. We did not want to do it all out of our own pocket, and Colina put a group together to get this financed."

"We already have \$6 million on the JFK property. Part of that's our money and part of that Colina raised for us. With a group like Colina, it's not difficult."

Mr Finlayson said Supervalue from the US would be assisting with the layout and design of the JFK Drive store, adding that a concrete shell needed to be put in, along with the correct fixtures and outfitting.

He added that the supermarket chain had been planning to construct two City Market Super Centres, one on the East-West

WORKER TRAINING

Association (BLA), told Tribune Business that the certification programmes the latter had established, where Bahamians in the sector were encouraged to obtain certification in posts such as horticultural and landscape maintenance technicians, were acting as a testing ground for wider initiatives.

"It's not such a problem in industries like banking, where you have got college graduates and people with degrees," Mr Myers said of the need for a trained workforce. "What we're finding in the service sector is, because there are very few if any programmes, nothing is coming out. In the horticultural sector, before we started the BLA, where were people going to get the training to be horticulturists? You couldn't."

Mr Myers said both the BLA and BCCEC focus was to "empower the people to empower the companies. That's the key; to let them earn certification, become knowledgeable employees, and let them empower business".

The absence of available, trained Bahamian workers linked directly to Immigration and the level of demand by companies for work permits. If Bahamian workers were not trained and unavailable, Mr Myers said, the likely consequence was an increase in the unemployment rate, which in turn was tied to the crime rate.

CITY MARKETS

Highway in Nassau, the other on the Queen's Highway in Freeport, but if his plans to acquire a 51 per cent majority stake in AML Foods came to fruition, the former would not be needed due to its proximity to the latter's Solomon's Super-Centre format in the Town Centre Mall.

Acknowledging that the East-West Highway plan had been "put on the shelf" for the time being, Mr Finlayson said City Markets was still pursuing plans to turn the old Butler & Sands building on Freeport's Queen's Highway into a Super Centre.

Analysing the investment required for that and the JFK Drive location, Mr Finlayson

told Tribune Business: "I think if you're talking about the one in Nassau and the one in Freeport, you're talking in the range of \$10-\$12 million, minimum. We're trying to raise \$6 million for both locations."

Mr Finlayson said the super-market chain was still on track to do \$120 million in sales during its first year under new ownership, with its three Freeport stores the key to profitability.

"We've got to get Freeport fixed. As soon as we get Freeport back, we'll be back in the black. Freeport is key," he said. "We've done a pretty good job so far, and are ahead of where we thought we were going to be. Just based on City Markets, I think we're going to hit around \$120 million in sales for the first 12 months."

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- Possess proficient computer skills;
- Have excellent communication skills with written and oral fluency in English and Arabic (fluency in additional languages would be a plus);
- Be able to work long hours and weekends as required.

Applications should be sent to arrive on or before the 11th February 2011 to Position Available, P.O. Box N-3937

THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BOARD**VACANCY NOTICE**

The National Insurance Board (NIB) invites applications from suitably qualified persons to fill the position of **ASSISTANT MANAGER - INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER & FACILITATOR**, in the Board's Training Department.

JOB SUMMARY

To be responsible for design, implementation and facilitation of instructional and e-learning programs, and other technical materials that provide performance based skills training for potential new and existing staff of the NIB.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Determine appropriate instructional design strategies for adult learning that would meet the organizational objectives.
- Design and implement high quality internal programs using curricula and testing format.
- Develop materials using multimedia learning environment integrating computer base training, web design, and metrics setting that evaluate content effectiveness.
- Ensure that programs and materials effectively meet the learning objectives.
- Design and facilitate orientation programs.
- Design, manage and update new e-learning training programs.
- Facilitate training courses that are creative and responsive to the training needs identified and are suitable to a number of different learning styles.
- Research and develop training material which will include writing session details/presenters notes so that the material can be presented by yourself and other trainers.
- Continuously assess and report effectiveness of materials and delivery mediums to determine learning and cost effectiveness to the organization.
- Implement a Career Path and Succession Planning Program that promotes long term individual career development that properly match employee interests with the present and future needs of NIB for the achievement of its strategic goals.
- Manage and maintain the Basis Skills Program.
- Works closely with the Training Department team to avoid communication barriers.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should have a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited College or University in Communication, Education or Human Resource Development and five (5) years experience. Certification in Business Education would be a plus.

REQUIREMENTS

- Excellent course design & development skills.
- Excellent oral and written skills.
- Strong interpersonal and team work skills.
- Experience in leading instructional e-learning design and training
- Proven experience in software tools: Flash, Photoshop, Dreamwaver, PowerPoint, MS Word, S-Forge

APPLICATION

Interested persons may apply by submitting a completed application form, along with the necessary proof of qualifications on or before Friday, February 4, 2011, to the:

Senior Manager
Human Resources Administration
THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BOARD
Clifford Darling Complex
P. O. Box N-7508
Nassau, Bahamas

BUSINESS

FROM page one

\$12m 'hostile offer' not in AML's interest

Friday means that, in effect, the \$1.50 being offered by Mr Finlayson to the latter's investors is now a 47 per cent premium. Collectively, he would be paying about \$4 million more than the shares are currently worth.

Mr Finlayson and Trans-Island Traders are now awaiting Securities Commission approval for their public tender offer, which they aim to

launch in February to acquire 51 per cent of AML Foods' outstanding 11,540,417 ordinary shares, a deal which - if successfully consummated - would create an enlarged player on the Bahamian food retail/supermarket scene.

Mr Finlayson yesterday told Tribune Business he thought his "prospects are

pretty high" in terms of the offer succeeding, adding that RoyalFidelity principals, Anwer Sunderji and Michael Anderson, had played a key role in setting the deal up by facilitating meetings between himself and three of AML Foods' largest shareholders.

It is understood that two of those Mr Finlayson met with were Craig Symonette, brother of deputy prime minister Brent Symonette, and businessman Frank Crothers. The other individual Mr Finlayson met with was likely to have been either Majestic Tours boss William Saunders or Franklyn Butler Jnr.

"Their position was very similar," Mr Finlayson said of the meetings. "They were not averse to it, but indicated their concern was: What about the smaller shareholders?"

"We have spent the last two weeks figuring out what was best for the small shareholder interests, and believe this tender offer, if approved by the Securities Commission, would be the fairest way to go about it."

Acknowledging that nothing formal had been submitted to the AML Foods Board, Mr Finlayson said that of his discussions with the company's larger shareholders, "there were those in favour of it, but I'm sure management will not be very much in favour of it."

Questioning how AML Foods' management could justify the current trading price of the company's stock, Mr Finlayson suggested that the BISX-listed food retail group's recently-announced share buy back program was an attempt to boost the stock and ward off the advances of an unwelcome predator, namely himself.

However, Mr D'Aguilar poured cold water on Mr Finlayson and Trans-Island Traders' prospects, telling Tribune Business: "The three main shareholders most defi-

nately rejected the offer because they did not feel it was in the best interests of all AML Foods' shareholders.

"If they were to sell out, they would leave the minority investors of AML at the mercy of an unproven management team, and did not think that was the ethical, justifiable and right thing to do. This is not in the best interests of all shareholders of AML, and the Board would not accept an offer like this."

Given that position, it is possible that Mr Finlayson and his team have gone public with their tender in a bid to go directly to AML Foods' minority investors, especially the smaller retail ones, thus circumventing the Board.

The key is whether AML Foods' shareholders believe they will do better by cashing out now, and that Mr Finlayson and his team will do a better job, or do they have more confidence that their future lies in better hands with the existing Board and management team, the latter headed by chief executive and president, Gavin Watchorn. This is the persuasion battle both sides will have to fight.

While AML Foods' investors had suffered heavily as a result of the company's sustained heavy losses between 2003-2008, the company has now returned to sustainable, consistent profitability, and is focusing on opening its \$4.5 million Solomon's Fresh Market store later this year.

Contrasting this with the approach of Mr Finlayson and his management team, Mr D'Aguilar said: "We're focused on the core business, they're focused on mergers and acquisitions that do not yield to the bottom line and dividends. Stick to the tried and proven team, not the untried and unproven team. This is not the time, in my opinion, for them to be wanting to take on another company."

Acknowledging that yesterday's announcement had "blindsided" him and "taken him by storm", first hearing of it when Tribune Business contacted him, Mr D'Aguilar - like many other business observers - questioned whether Mr Finlayson was trying to bite off too much, given that his plate was already full in trying to turn around the loss-making City Markets.

Acknowledging that Mr Finlayson was cash-rich following Heineken's \$120 million buyout of the Associated Bahamian Distillers and Brewers (ABDAB) stake in Burns House/Commonwealth Brewery, Mr D'Aguilar said: "This is about more than money. What is missing from the equation is who will manage this?"

"This is a very detailed, very precise, very difficult business to execute. You have to have a great deal of expertise to execute in this market. The Trinidadian investors at City Markets may have a lot of experience in the food business, but did not have the expertise in the food business, which you need to execute flawlessly."

"The only reason this is not in the best interests of the company is because no one knows who's going to run it. You have to make sure you have a management team on the ground to run this company."

And the AML Foods chairman asked of Mr Finlayson and his team: "Do they have the experience in the food business? Do they understand the complexities of this business? It's very easy to pay money for a business, but it's very difficult to manage this business."

Adding that the "proof was in the pudding", Mr D'Aguilar pointed to the fate of Solomon's Mines under the Finlaysons' management, and added: "Their management expertise is not proven."

He did concede, though, that AML Foods' share buy-back, where the company will repurchase up to 10 per cent of its outstanding stock over a three-year period, was a response to rumours about an impending unwelcome takeover offer from a predator.

"Maybe we heard the rumblings, and it was brought to our attention that the shares were undervalued," Mr D'Aguilar said. "We looked at other companies, Cabl Bahamas and Commonwealth Bank, and the way they used share buy backs to bring the value back."

The AML Foods chairman also took a pop at RoyalFidelity's involvement, pointing out that the investment bank had been "talking about synergies between City Markets and AML for the past nine years", even trying to get his company on board as investor in the BSL Holdings vehicle they put together for the disastrous \$54 million purchase of City Markets prior to selling to Mr Finlayson.

"We couldn't see the synergies," Mr D'Aguilar added, pointing out that the deal put together by RoyalFidelity cost investors \$75 million in equity "and left a company in tatters. The untold millions lost by investors and pension funds in that deal is not something that is talked about."

RoyalFidelity is the financial advisor to Mr Finlayson's tender offer, while CFAL is placement agent.

Adding that Mr Finlayson and his team had "not mastered the business they acquired three-four months ago", Mr D'Aguilar said AML Foods and City Markets had different structures, cultures and management philosophies.

His company, with its Solomon's SuperCentre and Cost Right formats, was in the "mega store and club business" while City Markets was a neighbourhood food store.

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Graham Thompson

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- The successful candidate will have a thorough understanding of Bahamian litigation practice and procedure, have good organizational skills with excellent attention to detail and the ability to multi task and handle a heavy workload.
- Excellent writing, telephone and interpersonal skills are essential as are excellent working knowledge of MS Office, Word and Outlook.

2. Paralegals or experienced litigation assistants

- Minimum 3-year post qualification with proven experience to provide support to GTC Litigation Group.
- Principal responsibilities will include opening and archiving files, monitoring filings and court dates, ensuring that all correspondence is responded to promptly, and preparing invoices.
- The successful candidate will have a thorough understanding of Bahamian litigation practice and procedure, have good organizational skills with excellent attention to detail and the ability to multi task and handle a heavy workload.
- Excellent writing, telephone and interpersonal skills are essential as are excellent working knowledge of MS Office, Word and Outlook.

3. Paralegals or experienced property assistants

- Minimum 3-year post qualification with proven experience to provide support to GTC Property Group.
- Principal responsibilities will include opening and archiving files, ensuring that all applications, requisitions and correspondence are responded to promptly, and preparing closing statements and invoices.
- The successful candidate will have a thorough understanding of Bahamian conveyancing practice and procedure, have good organizational skills with excellent attention to detail and the ability to multi task and handle a heavy workload.
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Applicants **MUST** apply by letter accompanied by a resume to be delivered to Graham Thompson, Sassoon House, Shirley Street & Victoria Avenue on or before **5:00 pm February 4, 2011** or by email to resume.ad1101@gtclaw.com. Telephone calls will not be accepted.

All applications will be dealt with in the strictest confidence. The Firm reserves the right to reject any or all applications.

THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BOARD VACANCY NOTICE



The National Insurance Board (NIB) invites applications from suitably qualified persons to fill the position of **SENIOR ASSISTANT MANAGER** in the Board's Legal Department.

JOB SUMMARY

To provide assistance to the Legal Department in the preparation and revision of all lease agreements and contracts as well as provide assistance in the timely preparation of legal matters for criminal and civil prosecution.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- To develop and provide assistance with facilitating programs on the National Insurance Act and Regulations and other Statutes and Laws of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas for the benefit of NIB staff members and stakeholders.
- Prepare lease agreements for the various health clinics and local offices.
- Review and prepare contract agreements.
- Assist in the preparation of matters for criminal and civil prosecution.
- Prosecute in the magistrates' criminal and civil courts in New Providence, Freeport and the Family Islands.
- Update prosecution status report.
- Prepare board papers for criminal prosecution.
- Conduct searches at the Supreme Court and Companies Registries.
- Assist external counsel with the conduct of matters for the Board.
- Manage outstanding warrants of arrest issued by the Magistrates Court.
- Perform any other duties that may be assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from an accredited college or university plus a minimum of two (2) years experience in an administrative and supervisory capacity.
- Admission to the Bahamas Bar with at least two (2) years practicing experience.
- Represent the National Insurance Board in legal matters outside of compliance (as required).
- Be familiar with the National Insurance Act and Regulations and other Statutes and Laws of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.
- Good judgment and sound reasoning ability.
- High proficiency in legal writing.
- Excellent verbal and written skills required.
- Strong organizational skills.

APPLICATION

Interested persons may apply by submitting a completed application form, along with the necessary proof of qualifications **on or before Friday, February 4, 2011**, to the:

Senior Manager, Administration
Human Resources
The National Insurance Board
Clifford Darling Complex
Nassau, Bahamas

BUSINESS

FROM page one

Merged City Meat-AML to have just 25% market share

ness after unveiling his plans to launch a tender offer to acquire 51 per cent majority stake in rival BISX-listed food group, AML Foods, offering a 47 per cent premium of \$1.50 per share to last Friday's close, the City Markets principal said he hoped to obtain Securities Commission approval within the next week to 10 days.

kets, given that no single majority controlling shareholder was involved, Mr Finlayson said the offer - and potential merger - was driven by the need to achieve greater economies of scale in food retailing, which was essential to cutting costs and reducing consumer prices.

kets, a company with myriad problems as evidenced by a collective \$27 million loss over the previous four years under previous ownership, Mr Finlayson said he was in an enviable financial position, given that no debt financing had been involved to date in turning that firm around.

Questioned as to why he was looking at expansion and another acquisition just three-four months after taking 78 per cent control at City Mar-

Flush with cash from the \$120 million sale of Associated Bahamian Distillers and Brewers (ABDAB's) stake in Burns House/Commonwealth Brewery, his family holding more than 60 per cent of the former, Mr Finlayson said that while focused on returning City Markets to profitability - something, he added, that would be achieved when its three existing Freeport stores were fixed - he was also assessing expansion prospects.

improvements in that regard," Mr Finlayson added. "The second thing we're going to do is take the focus off big ticket, larger items. In this business it's all about how many turns you can get in a year, and right now those big ticket items are not doing what they need to, and even at the peak, they stored cash rather than turned cash," he added, hinting that space may be sub-let to other retailers to supply items such as electronic appliances.

While unable to provide details on how a merger would be executed, Mr Finlayson said his tender offer was "definitely not hostile", and added: "I really don't think it will be difficult to get up to 51 per cent. There are a number of people involved there that I think would part with their shares, and in terms of the actual public out there, I think a number of them will cash out at a premium."

Mr Finlayson, and his Trans-Island Traders vehicle, appear to be banking on the fact that a large number of minority AML Foods investors, especially the retail ones, will be looking to cash out given the company's struggles in the 2003-2008 period, and the fact it has only recently resumed dividend payments.

However, one analyst, who requested anonymity, last night told Tribune Business bluntly on the Finlayson offer: "That ain't going to work, because no one will sell at \$1.50 a share. He's going to need \$4 a share to get control. The larger shareholders are not pleased with it at all. They're not willing to sell to the Finlayson team. It's a futile exercise."

By going public with the tender offer, it is possible that Mr Finlayson is looking to exert some pressure on AML Foods' management and Board. It is possible that, while not gaining majority control, Mr Finlayson could still acquire a large position in AML Foods' stock, enabling it to press for Board seats and a say in management.

Mr Finlayson is due to meet the Securities Commission today, and while acknowledging that "this is a whole new territory", is hoping to get regulatory approval to launch the tender within the next week to 10 days.

The tender is likely to last for a minimum of two weeks, and a maximum of one month, depending on the pace and level of investor response. It remains to be seen whether the Securities Commission will force him to make an offer for AML Foods' shares, something that would be tough to accomplish, given the diverse shareholder base.

Seeking to allay any competition and antitrust fears,

Mr Finlayson said a merged AML Foods-City Markets would only have a 25 per cent stake of the \$600 million-plus Bahamian food retail business. "It's one that makes sense for both companies, but if you talk about affecting the overall food business, it's only 25 per cent of the market," he added.

"You can't underestimate the independents, because they've stolen a big part of the market share since 2007, no doubt about it."

City Markets has nine stores, six in Nassau and three in Freeport, while there is a Solomon's SuperCentre and Cost Right in both Nassau and Freeport.

AUTO SECTOR FEARS RISE OVER FALSE INVOICING

FROM page one

tial reductions on the price of the cars they sell - in the process denying "legitimate" companies business, and the Government, revenue.

Fred Albury said the situation is creating "tremendous havoc" in the industry, where established dealers are finding it hard to compete with these firms.

"To ship an average Honda Civic from the US to the Bahamas would cost \$1,200 to \$1,500. If it is seven to eight years old, it should have value in Japan of at least \$2,000, so the actual value would be \$3,500 including freight to the dock in Nassau, but their invoice would show \$1,800. I don't mind competition but it's not a fair playing field for everyone in the industry," said Fred Albury.

The effect is particularly significant given the effect the depressed economy has had on demand for cars in the Bahamas. The Executive Motors dealer said that used car sales have gone from making up 15 to 20 per cent of his business to around 50 per cent in the last two years.

Ben and Fred Albury say the Customs Department is aware of their concerns, and has even made inquiries on a number of occasions to people such as Fred Albury, as the authorised Toyota dealer for the Bahamas, to ask about the value of a car of a particular year and model, apparently as a result of suspicions about false invoicing being done by other dealers.

Tribune Business understands that dealers have submitted to Customs what they believe is information relating to the price of used cars bought in Japan, which should provide the "black and white" evidence necessary for the Department to determine that cars are being undervalued on invoices.

Both men claim their suspicions were raised when certain suppliers offered to "do for us what they are doing for them" - that is, create false invoices that do not show the true value of the vehicle and what was paid, therefore paving the way for someone importing the vehicle not to pay the full tax on the car. An offer both say they refused.

To date, many dealers feel not enough has been done to stamp out illegality that may be taking place.

"The perspective we're getting from the Bahamas Motor Dealers Association members is: 'What more can you do'. We have offered to provide Customs with black and white information that's factual. It's not our information, it's information that's accessible publicly and proves that something fishy is going on, but they just don't seem to be willing to dig that deep," said Ben Albury.

Tribune Business attempted to reach the Customs Department for comment on Friday. However, all available phone numbers rang unanswered on the numerous occasions they were dialed.

The businessmen say it is not only they but the Government and the public who lose out. With false invoices, the Customs Department receives less than the proper amount of revenue.

In addition, not only are the cars below market price, they say, but some models being brought into the country also "cannot be supported" here from a mechanical point of view, with customers sometimes finding they are unable to get them fixed when something goes wrong, said Ben Albury.

"They are bringing in vehicles that can't be serviced or supported here, and I have a lot of their customers coming in at end of the day wanting us to support the vehicle or trade it in. They had looked at the price and think they're getting a great deal. These guys say they'll support them (if any problems should arise with the car), until they go back with an issue and then they're left out in the cold," said Ben Albury.

"If nothing is done, it will have an even bigger effect. We are providing jobs and paying taxes. These guys are not really putting anything back into the economy."

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"We're fixing City Markets, but we're also very involved with the expansion, because we see economies of scale as really necessary," Mr Finlayson told Tribune Business. "Along comes Anwer Sunderji and Michael Anderson of Fidelity, and they say: 'Maybe you can achieve this faster than you have. Rather than grow organically, grow by acquisition'."

If he was successful in obtaining 51 per cent majority control at AML Foods, and merging it with City Markets, Mr Finlayson said the combined entity would return the latter to its 2007 sales levels, generating around \$150 million in per annum food sales alone.

"When you look at the economies of scale, what it does for the overall company, it goes back to a very profitable organisation, and both sets of shareholders will do well from it," Mr Finlayson said.

If his tender proved successful, he said the first thing he would do was an examination of AML Foods' prices in its Solomon's SuperCentre and Cost Right formats. "I see where we can do some

NOTICE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT (No 45 of 2000) ALLIED CORPORATION INC. LIQUIDATOR'S NOTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 138 OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT. We, SOVEREIGN MANAGERS LIMITED, Liquidator of the ALLIED CORPORATION INC., hereby certify that the winding up and dissolution of ALLIED CORPORATION INC. has been completed in accordance with the Articles of Dissolution. Dated the 22nd day of December, 2010. Signed For & On Behalf Of Sovereign Managers Limited Liquidator

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT TREASURY BILLS Sealed tenders for B\$76,209,000.00 of 91-Day Treasury Bills, will be received by the Banking Manager, The Central Bank of The Bahamas, Frederick Street, Nassau up to 3:00 p.m on Thursday, February 1, 2011. Successful tenderers, who will be advised should take up their bills against payment on Tuesday, February 3, 2011. These bills will be in minimum multiples of B\$100.00. Tenders are to be on special forms obtainable from the Central Bank of The Bahamas or Commercial Banks. Tenders must state the net price percent (in multiples of one cent) and should be marked "Tender". The Central Bank of the Bahamas reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

Table with financial data including BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF: FRIDAY, 28 JANUARY 2011. BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,475.31 | CHG -1.83 | %CHG -0.12 | YTD -24.20 | YTD % -1.61. WWW.BISXBAHAMAS.COM | TELEPHONE: 242-323-2330 | FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320. Includes sections for BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES, RoyalFidelity Merchant Bank & Trust Ltd, and BISX Listed Mutual Funds.

BUSINESS

FROM page one

Robin Hood targets 30k vistors for Jan

Scotiabank, Sbarros Italian eatery, the "only fine dining" restaurant in eastern New Providence, a medical centre and a 22,000 square foot gym and spa, which will feature squash and racket-ball courts and more.

"It's going to have the works. We're moving aggressively on it," he told

Tribune Business. While no contracts have yet been signed, the gym may be opened under the "Magic Johnson brand", in conjunction with the former basketball star.

The shopping plaza is the next stage of the Prince Charles development project being undertaken by Mr

Schaefer and his business partner, Suresh Khilnani, who officially opened the new 45,000 square foot Robin Hood store in the former Pepsi plant off Prince Charles Drive on Friday.

Mr Schaefer said that so far the Robin Hood store, which quietly opened its

doors on January 8, is on pace to attract 30,000 customers this month, and set to "top out somewhere in the 50,000 to 60,000" range. Seventy people are now employed there.

After a "humbling" experience, which saw issues with the required installation of a fire sprinkler system cause Robin Hood to miss the lucrative Christmas shopping season, and millions of dollars in potential revenue lost, Mr Schaefer said traffic at the store since January 8 has "exceeded our expectations".

"It's been good and sales have been good," said the businessman in an interview with Tribune Business during the grand opening.

One of the store's strengths is its location immediately in the vicinity of Prince Charles Drive, a heavily-populated area, and the fact that he was able to obtain the property for a "steal".

Some \$3.5 million was then invested in the building, which has now been appraised at around \$8 million, said Mr Schaefer.

"We bought it for probably one-third of its actual value. That's part of the trick in being able to retail at lower costs. If you are paying higher rents the consumer pays for that," he noted, adding that the company's sourcing of "98 per cent" of its inventory directly from sources overseas, cutting out "middle man" wholesalers, also plays a huge part in lower prices offered.

Within the colourful and airy store, a range of groceries, electronic appliances, as well as hardware and kitchen, bedroom and bathroom products and furnis-

ings, are offered, as well as a "full service" butchers and bakery.

Within four weeks a Scotiabank outlet, Cash 4 Gold, music store and restaurant will be up and running within the store.

Asked to explain how the store can be differentiated by customers from the City Market or Super Value shopping experience, Mr Schaefer said: "The store is at least twice the size of any City Market or Super Value. In some cases it's three times the size. So, as a result of the increase in size, the variety of products we can carry in terms of selection is vastly different. For instance, you will see with us we have hundreds of teas, hundreds of different spices, a variety of cheeses and that will be increased, 75 different types of bread, coffees and hard goods as well - electronics, appliances, hardware.

"We aspire to be the Walmart of the Bahamas."

Meanwhile, Mr Schaefer stressed his company's commitment to offer products at lower prices than some of his competitors.

Speaking to the impact of the entry of Robin Hood into the food retail market as a whole, Mr Schaefer contended that "no one can deny" the introduction of Robin Hood "has changed the face of retail", having introduced greater competition into the environment.

"It forced everybody to lower their prices and improve their game, and the beneficiary is the Bahamian consumer. That's why we are constantly looking at ways to reinvent ourselves, otherwise you get stale. Now you see the foodstores doing a better job and the prices have gone down," Mr Schaefer said.

"The reality is that retail

is a battle, and in battle you are going to have some winners and losers, and you are going to have some casualties, but that's the way it is. The second you think retail is easy, non-confrontational or competitive, well that's only when there's a monopoly or an oligopoly, which essentially there was. The reality is now it's a competitive environment, and the direct result of that is prices drop and prices improve."

Yesterday, most customers approached by Tribune Business said they were generally pleased with what they found at the store and its location.

Edward Virgil, a retiree, said: "Anywhere where you can get stuff a little bit cheaper is always of interest to me. I used to go down the road to the one in Harrold Road, but I live in this area so now that this is here I really appreciate it and I believe in the future. I believe it will be well organised and stocked like the one down on Harrold Road.

"I look for cheaper prices and quality stuff, and anyone who is doing that is right up my alley. I can't say I am dedicated to any store, but if you are selling things cheaper I will come. If it's dearer, I will go elsewhere."

Meanwhile, Michelle Grey, 41, of Johnson Road, said: "It's different. There's a lot of variety in the meats and the bakery stuff."

Desmond Mason said he now expects to do "nine out of ten" of his grocery shopping trips at the store. "It's spacious, the price is right and it's nice," he said.

A 48 year-old Prince Charles Drive woman said she appreciated the specials on offer and the proximity.

"It's not as bountiful as the one out on Harrold Road, but we're happy to have it in the east. It will save us the gas that it would take to get out to the other shop," she said.

Mr Schaefer said he is continuing to survey New Providence for potential locations for more new Robin Hood stores. "We are looking everywhere," he said. However, any further expansion will not take place until the Prince Charles location is firmly established.

"We're looking to expand, but we want to get this one well situated first before we do that.

"Growing for the sake of growing doesn't make sense. Growing with your eye on the profit line does. So we will only expand if and when the situation is right," he said.

Franchising of Robin Hood into the Family Islands is set to get underway "in the next two to three months."



GN 1164

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC NOTICE

RELOCATION OF THE PUBLIC TREASURY DEPARTMENT

THE TREASURER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS WISHES TO ADVISE THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE PUBLIC TREASURY DEPARTMENT WILL BE RELOCATED TO THE NORTH BUILDING AT WATER

TOWER PLACE EAST STREET NORTH

DIRECTLY OPPOSITE THE ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE HEADQUARTERS

EFFECTIVE MONDAY JANUARY 17, 2011 THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS WILL BE OPERATING FROM THE ABOVE LOCATION:

- REVENUE SECTION
- PENSION SECTION
- PAYROLL SECTION
- STAMP EXEMPTION SECTION

EFFECTIVE MONDAY JANUARY 24, 2011 THE PUBLIC TREASURY WILL BE IN FULL OPERATION FROM THE ABOVE LOCATION.

CFA Society of The Bahamas & The Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA)

MONTHLY SPEAKER LUNCHEON

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Topic: "Trends in Insolvency and Asset Recovery"

Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Time: 12:00 pm General Meeting
12:30 pm Speaker's Address
Please arrive promptly!

Location: British Colonial Hilton
Windsor Room A
Downtown Nassau

Speaker: Edmund Rahming, CPA, CFE
Managing Director (Bahamas Office)
Krys Global

Cost: Members: \$50.00; Non-Members: \$60.00
Cheques payable to either: CFA Society of The Bahamas or Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA)

Reservations: PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED - by Friday, February 4, 2011, contact: bicaexecutive@hotmail.com, tel. 326-6619

Edmund Rahming is the Managing Director of Krys Global. Ed is a Certified Public Accountant, a Certified Fraud Examiner and is Certified in Financial Forensics by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He holds a MBA degree from the University of Florida.

He has over 13 years of experience across a broad range of insolvency, fraud and forensic accounting investigations and litigation-related financial analyses. This experience was obtained working for a Big Four accounting firm in the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, the U.S.A. and the U.K.. He has worked on and led a number of high profile insolvency and forensic accounting matters in a variety of industries, including financial services.

Ed is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and the Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants.

BICA Members: This event qualifies for 2 CPE hours

Legal Notice

MIRAGE SHIPPING COMPANY LIMITED

(In Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given in pursuance of Section 138 (8) of The International Business Companies Act, 2000 (as amended) the Dissolution of the above-named company has been completed, a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the above-named company has therefore been struck off the Register. The date of the completion of the dissolution was the 16th day of December 2010.

Bennet R. Atkinson
Liquidator

GN-1170



MINISTRY OF TOURISM & AVIATION
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION

PARTICULARS OF AN APPLICATION TO OPERATE SCHEDULED AIR SERVICES

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation 9 of the Civil Aviation (Licensing of Air Services) Regulations 1976, the Minister responsible for Aviation hereby publishes the following particulars of the under-mentioned applicant to operate scheduled air services to and from The Bahamas.

PARTICULARS OF APPLICATION

1. Application: WESTERN AIR.
2. Date of first publication: 26th January 2011
3. Routes: BETWEEN
 1. NASSAU ON THE ONE HAND AND JACKSONVILLE, FT. LAUDERDALE AND HAVANA ON THE OTHER.
 2. FREEPORT AND MARSH HARBOUR ON THE ONE HAND AND FT. LAUDERDALE ON THE OTHER.
4. Purpose of services: Passenger, mail and freight.
5. Provisional time table:

Local Times

NASSAU/JACKSONVILLE	1000/1130	WED/FRI/SUN
JACKSONVILLE/NASSAU	1200/1330	" " "
NASSAU/FT. LAUDERDALE	0700/0755	DAILY
FT. LAUDERDALE/NASSAU	0900/1030	WED/FRI/SUN
NASSAU/HAVANA	1200/1330	" " "
HAVANA/NASSAU	0900/1030	" " "
FREEPORT/FT. LAUDERDALE	1200/1330	DAILY
FT. LAUDERDALE/FREEPORT	0830/0900	" " "
MARSH HARBOUR/FT. LAUDERDALE	0900/1000	DAILY
FT. LAUDERDALE/MARSH HARBOUR	1100/1200	" " "

6. Frequency of flights: See above time-table.
7. Type of Aircraft: SAAB 340

Any representation regarding or objection thereto in accordance with Regulation 10 must be received by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism & Aviation & the Department of Civil Aviation within fourteen (14) days after the date of first publication of this Notice.

Signed:

HYACINTH PRATT
PERMANENT SECRETARY