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FEATURES

Talented tiny tots

ARTS AND ENTS IN SECTION C



SPORTS

Team Bahamas gets set for 40th Carifta Games

SEE SPORTS IN SECTION E



Union threatens BTC in docked pay row

WOMAN KNOCKED DOWN BY 'HUSBAND' AFTER ALLEGED DOMESTIC DISPUTE

By **TANEKA THOMPSON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A WOMAN was knocked down by a man believed to be her husband near a shopping centre in eastern New Providence yesterday morning. The scene stunned workers and customers of the Seagrapes Shopping Plaza on Prince Charles Road, and left a 48-year-

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Demand for 450 workers to be reimbursed

By **TANEKA THOMPSON**
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new owner Cable and Wireless Communications. According to the unions, the affected workers were on legitimate vacation, sick or casual leave. They also claim some of the employees were out of the country at the time in question, in hospital or are retirees. Others reported to work, the unions claim, but could not sign in or carry out their duties. So far, only 20 of these workers have been reimbursed after "strong-arming" CWC executives to reverse the decision, according to the unions. The unions said the company wants the remaining employees to prove they were on legitimate leave before they are reimbursed, a practice BCPOU President Bernard Evans said is in violation of agreed policies for taking sick or compassionate leave and vacation. He, along

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BAY STREET BLAZE RUBBLE REMOVED



WORKERS yesterday made headway on removing rubble left over from the fire which ravaged Bay Street on Valentine's Day, destroying several commercial properties including the more than 90-year-old Betty K Agencies. Two months on, there is still no official report on what started the devastating blaze.

Felipe Major/Tribune staff

GOVT MONITORING APPEAL HEARING OF CONVICTED MURDERER 'VERY CLOSELY'

By **NOELLE NICOLLS**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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ATTORNEY GENERAL
John Delaney

THE Government is monitoring the appeal hearing of convicted murderer Maxo Tido "very closely", confirmed Attorney General John Delaney. Whatever the implications of the court's ruling,

Mr Delaney said the Government is prepared to abide by the rule of law laid down by the country's highest court. Last month, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council heard an appeal of the judgment of the Bahamas' Court of Appeal's October 2008 ruling against Tido. A jury found Tido

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FIRM COMMITTED TO OIL WELL IN BAHAMIAN WATERS EARLY NEXT YEAR

BAHAMAS Petroleum Company is still committed to its timeline to have an oil well drilled in Bahamian waters by the "second quarter" of next year, according to company CEO Dr Paul Crevello. The company, which last month raised \$75 million for its oil exploration, wants to drill in the southern Bahamas near Cuba. "We're beginning a new exploration phase over the coming months in 3D seismic surveys. We will be down in

the southern area adjacent to Cuba. "We hope that in the second quarter of next year we will be able to be in a position where we can go forward and drill a well. We've just raised \$75 million on the London market last month to apply towards our exploration purposes," Dr Crevello said during a meeting of the Rotary Club of Nassau yesterday. It is doubtful that this timeline will be met as Government has said it will not lift its

SEE page nine

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LOCAL NEWS

Urgent plea as Humane Society swamped with dogs and puppies

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

THE Bahamas Humane Society issued a desperate plea yesterday, urging members of the public to open their hearts and homes to a lovable dog or puppy in urgent need of adoption.

Speaking with *The Tribune* yesterday, Humane Society president Kim Aranha said the shelter is struggling to cope with an unusually large influx of dogs over the last few weeks.

There are now more than 30 adult dogs and 40 puppies at the shelter and time is of the essence – if homes can not be found for these helpless animals soon, they will have to be put down, Mrs Aranha said.

“These dogs are amazing, healthy, happy and loyal. People really need to take a step back and see how beautiful they are,” she said.

In an effort to jump start its adoption drive, the Humane



Cross chow, terrier, male, three months old, Francis

Society has decided to waive adoption fees on all dogs and cats in addition to providing free vaccination shots and spay and neutering services as usual.

According to Mrs Aranha, no healthy dogs have been euthanised by the society since 2008, however because of the large number of dogs at the shelter, it may come to that if homes can not be found.

“I am begging people to open up their hearts” said Mrs Aranha. “It breaks my heart that people are still importing dogs when so many lovable ani-

mals are in need good homes”.

The Humane Society is also appealing to public to support the shelter in any way possible – through adoption, fostering dogs until permanent homes are found, volunteer work, donations or sponsorship.

The Humane Society is located on Chippingham Road next to the back entrance of the Botanical Gardens and is open daily from 8am to 5pm.

For further information on how to assist the society, call 323-5138 or visit www.bahamashumanesociety.com



Very smart - already showing very good cognitive skills - Hilton



Shepherd mixes, male and female - fluffy, six weeks old



Neutered male, 'Butch'



Pot cake supreme, six months old female, spayed, 'Fergie'



Cute or What? Cross shepherd, six weeks old, male and female

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- DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS JUNE 30, 2011.** All entries are submitted at the owner's risk and will not be returned.
- All entries are to be delivered to Family Guardian's Corporate Centre, Village Road and East Bay Street, Nassau, between 9:00a.m and 5:00p.m weekdays only. Envelopes should be marked "Calendar Contest".
- All entries must be accompanied by a signed and completed official entry form, available at any Family Guardian office, as published in the newspapers or on the website (www.famguardbahamas.com).
- Only colour images will be considered. Images must be provided as digital files on CD. Digital images must be of high quality (2700 x 2100 pixels or larger). Digital images showing signs of photo manipulation, resolution enhancement or compression will be rejected. To ensure the best colour reproduction, digital images should be supplied in RAW, TIFF or high quality JPEG and in the original colour format the camera uses (LAB or RGB). **All entries must be supplied with colour prints (8 x 10) which will be used in the judging process. (Note: prints submitted without CD's will not be eligible and vice versa). The photographer's name, photo subject and photo location must be written on the reverse of the print.**
- Judging of entries will be based on beauty, interest, composition, colour, originality and quality of photograph. Particular areas and subjects of interest are detailed on the website (www.famguardbahamas.com). **The photographs selected will appear in FamGuard's 2012 wall and desk calendars.** The decision of the judges will be final.
- A gift certificate valued at \$400.00 will be presented for each of the photographs selected. Photographic credits will be given in the wall and desk calendars. The number of entries per photographer is limited to a maximum of 5 photos.
- The winning photographs, along with all publication and reproduction rights attached thereto, become the property of FamGuard Corporation Limited and the Company reserves the right to use such in the future. **Photos will not be returned.**
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Visit www.famguardbahamas.com for special hints and contest details!

entry form deadline June 30, 2011

Return this form with photos and CD to:
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Four month old, male, Lester



Highly intelligent cross rottweiler, female, three months old

LOCAL NEWS

PLP denies 'shoving match' over missing funds complaints

THE Progressive Liberal Party has denied claims that a shoving match broke out at a party meeting over complaints of missing funds.

Blaming *The Tribune* for the reports, the party issued a statement yesterday claiming that no such altercation took place.

It said: "In the middle of Holy Week when Christians around the globe are focusing on the sacrificial death of Christ, *The Tribune* persists in peddling lies about the PLP. By its own admission in its editorial section of today, it called the reports a rumour.

"The report of an alleged shoving match at a PLP meeting is false."

The party also dismissed calls for the claims of missing campaign contributions to be investigation, saying it has no intention



Party discussions on cash issue 'got heated and passionate'

THE STORY appeared in yesterday's Tribune.

of going on a "wild goose chase entirely manufactured by *The Tribune* and its correspondents".

It said: "The leader of the PLP has no obligation

to chase after shadows.

We repeat: There was no shoving match and there is no investigation into any missing funds and no complaint of any missing

funds."

According to the PLP, "the evidence" is clear: "*The Tribune* continues to deflect, on behalf of the failed FNM government,

CARIBBEAN NEWS

MAN FOUND GUILTY OF KILLING PUERTO RICO TOURIST, 14

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands Associated Press

A MAN accused of killing a 14-year-old tourist from Puerto Rico who was caught in a crossfire last year while visiting St. Thomas has been found guilty of felony murder.

Steve Tyson, a St. Thomas resident, is scheduled to be sentenced on June 21. His attorney, Leonard Francis, could not be immediately reached for comment. It's unclear if he plans to appeal.

Assistant Attorney General Michael Motylinski praised the verdict, which was announced after nearly two days of jury deliberations. "The evidence was overwhelming," he said.

PLP: Cassius Stuart made a political mistake joining FNM

THE nation is facing serious issues and will not be distracted by the "political mistake" Cassius Stuart made in joining the governing party, according to the PLP.

In a statement issued yesterday, the opposition said the addition of former BDM leader Mr Stuart does not change the fact that the FNM is nothing but a "copy cat" party.

It said: "Today people see what a bad copy the Free National Movement is. People are more and more turning to the real thing: the Progressive Liberal Party."

According to the PLP, despite the FNM's protestations, it is the governing party – not the opposition – that is making a big issue out of the defection of Mr Stuart.

"He is past history and having made a political mistake by joining the FNM, he must live with it," the party said. "Of more urgent note and import is what is to be done about unemployment; about the fact that people cannot pay their mortgages and school fees and power bills; that people are sleeping in cars in Grand



THE PLP said the addition of former BDM leader Cassius Stuart does not change the fact that the FNM is nothing but a 'copy cat' party.

Bahama and throughout the Bahamas because they have been put out of their homes and have no place to live."

The PLP said that orchestrating the crossover of Cassius Stuart does not resolve any of these problems.

"BTC is still gone from the Bahamian people.

"Unemployment is still at record levels.

"There are unprecedented requests for money from Members of Parliament because people simply have no jobs and no cash to take care of their basic needs.

"One consequence of all of this is that crime is out of control and seems to be getting worse every day," it said.

The PLP said it has "no doubt" that the FNM fought to get Cassius Stuart because they saw that the PLP got Dr Andre Rollins.

"The FNM was taken by surprise with the choice of Dr Rollins and had to act quickly to copy the PLP's success in recruiting from the next generation of leaders.

"Standby FNM. There is more to come but we do not buy support. We win friends and influence people. We fight for hearts and minds of the Bahamian people," the PLP said.

FNM CLAIMS PLP 'MANUFACTURING LIES' ABOUT NEW BTC PARTNERSHIP

HAVING lost the national debate on the privatisation of BTC and the further liberalisation of the telecommunications sector, the PLP has been reduced to manufacturing lies about the new BTC and Cable and Wireless partnership, the governing FNM said.

In a statement issued yesterday, the FNM noted that the opposition's propaganda machine – which it said has become "a factory of lies and distortions" – released a "false"

statement claiming that BTC was set to dismiss 600 BTC employees.

The statement further claimed that a number of BTC employees had already received notice of their dismissal.

The party said: "These bold-faced lies by the opposition have been emphatically refuted by the management of BTC.

"These lies are a part of a PLP campaign intended to frighten employees at BTC and sow unrest in the country.

"This latest fabrication from the opposition's factory of lies is an extension of their prior reckless and irresponsible behaviour during the BTC debate.

"That behaviour included paying demonstrators, among them individuals with known criminal backgrounds, to create havoc during protests on Bay Street which threatened to overrun a police barricade and the precincts of the House of Assembly."

The FNM said the PLP's willingness to "stoop so low as to frighten BTC employees" merely for its own "narrow and selfish political gain" deserves the contempt of the Bahamian people and the employees of the company.

"It is also a further indication, as has been previously stated, that the opposition cares little about the employees at BTC, except as pawns in its attempt to grab power at any cost," the FNM said.

POLICEWOMAN IN COURT ON BRIBERY CHARGES



CHARGED: Lorraine Mortimor outside of court yesterday. Felipe Major/Tribune staff

By NATARIO MCKENZIE Tribune Staff Reporter nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

A POLICEWOMAN was arraigned in a Bank Lane Magistrate's Court yesterday on bribery charges.

Lorraine Mortimor, 38, of Obediah Avenue, was escorted by police to Court One yesterday afternoon, her face partly concealed under the hood of a black jacket.

Mortimor, who was reportedly attached to the East Street South Police Station, pleaded not guilty to all charges during her arraignment before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez.

Mortimor has been charged with one count of stealing and three counts of bribery. It is alleged that Mortimor on Saturday, April 9, stole \$1,007 cash from Evelyn Haughton.

It is also alleged that on the same day she accepted

\$500 from Haughton for abstaining from performing an act in her capacity as a public servant. It is further alleged that Mortimor accepted a bribe of \$1,000 from Mark Cooper and another bribe of \$400 from Evelyn Haughton on Saturday, April 16. Mortimor is represented by attorney Murrio Ducille.

Mortimor was granted bail in the sum of \$9,000 with one surety. She was ordered to report to the Fox Hill Police Station every Saturday before 6pm.

The case has been adjourned to May 4 for a fixture hearing.

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Motorists should avoid this area during peak hours when possible and seek an alternative route to their destination.
We do apologize for any inconvenience caused and we look forward to the cooperation of the motoring public.

LOCAL NEWS



Govt to sign contract for roads, utilities, parking lots for new stadium

By NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

THE Government is expected to sign a contract for the second phase of the Sports Centre Redevelopment Project today, confirmed Minister of State for Culture Charles Maynard. The government is responsible for the development of the green zone, which consists of utilities and the landscaped area surrounding the new stadium, parking lots and new roadways.

The green zone construction was intended to run concurrently to the development of the actual stadium, or red zone, according to the original plan. Work on the red zone started months ago and is on track for completion by the end of July this year. The Chinese construction company Qilu Construction Group Corporation handled the construction. A town meeting was scheduled to be held last night to update neighbouring business owners and residents on the imminent

development work. Mr Maynard yesterday did not wish to disclose the name of the contractor for the green zone prior to the town meeting. The signing will take place today. When Mr Maynard announced the plans for the green zone in February of last year, he said work should be completed within two to three months ahead of the red zone. No budget allocation had been made at that time, however, Mr Maynard said the Government would use savings from the 2009/2010 Budget and funds allocated in the 2010/2011 Budget. Work is finally expected to commence, 14 months after the initial announcement.

Among the projects associated with the stadium are several new road corridors, including a road to divert traffic around the stadium. Mr Maynard said traffic will no longer have to pass through the stadium to go from Thompson Boulevard to the Tonique Williams-Darling Highway. Long-term plans for the stadium include a new grand entrance with a "Hero's Park" that will recognise local sports icons; and a new baseball stadium. Plans also include adding a diving centre to the Betty Kenning Aquatic Centre, moving the race track, and building an athlete's village. Last year, Mr Maynard said the vision for the final sports complex is to have a facility capable of hosting international sporting events such as the Pan American Games and Commonwealth Games.

Woman on most wanted list for years claims she was living in New Providence

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

A WOMAN who was on the police's most wanted list for three years in connection drug and firearm possession charges was denied bail yesterday after claiming she was living in New Providence all along. According to her attorney Willie Moss, Danella Nixon, 29, of Stapeldon Gardens, knew that she was wanted by police since 2008 and had been living in a Yorkshire Street, Cable Beach apartment. Nixon was arraigned

before Deputy Chief Magistrate Carolita Bethell on Monday on drugs and weapons charges dating back to 2008, for which Melvin Maycock Sr and two others have already stood trial and been acquitted. It is alleged that on May 17, 2008 Nixon was found in possession of 1,250 pounds of marijuana, a 9mm Baretta, a 9mm Ruger pistol and a 9mm Browning pistol. It is also alleged that Nixon was found in possession of 21 live .62 rounds, 14 live .357 rounds and 63 live rounds of 9mm ammu-

munition. The drugs and weapons were reportedly seized from an apartment in Westridge Estates. Magistrate Bethell will not try Nixon's case, having already heard evidence in the matter. Ms Moss noted at the bail hearing yesterday that Nixon, who has other children, is presently seven and a half months pregnant. He asked the magistrate to exercise her discretion in considering bail, claiming that Nixon has substantial ties to this jurisdiction. Inspector Erzell Dorsette told the court that according to information he had received, Nixon has been living in Freeport and only recently returned to New Providence. Magistrate Bethell denied Nixon bail, noting that she had eluded police for three years despite knowing a warrant had been issued for her arrest. Nixon was remanded to prison and her case was adjourned to May 2 at 2pm, when she will be informed to which court her case will be transferred.

Woman, children injured after domestic dispute

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
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FREEPORT - Police are continuing their investigations into a domestic dispute involving a married couple that resulted in serious injuries to the wife and their three children on Monday. Asst Supt Loretta Mackey reported that police were called to a residence on Explorer's Way sometime around 10.43pm on Monday, April 18, regarding a domestic argument. According to reports, the wife was assaulted during an argument with her husband. The children, aged 16 through 22, became involved and were also injured during the fight. The mother and children were taken to Rand Memorial Hospital for medical treatment. ASP Mackey said that the injuries to the mother and one child were described as serious, however they were all discharged from hospital. The father has been arrested and is expected to be arraigned in the Magistrate's Court this week.

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LOCAL NEWS

Coastal Awareness Month observed in Mangrove Cay

DURING the month of April, the Bahamas observes "Coastal Awareness Month", an initiative that promotes good coastal environmental stewardship.

The National Coastal Awareness committee, which is the motivating team for this effort, said it aims to increase awareness throughout the Bahamas of the importance of protecting and preserving the country's coastal environment. Currently there are a number of islands implementing activities that commemorate the value of our coast.

Last week, Sharon Henfield from the Ministry of Tourism and Felicity Burrows from the Nature Conservancy visited Mangrove Cay High School in Andros to speak to students about overfishing which is this year's theme for Coastal Awareness Month as well as conservation in general.

Ms Henfield spoke about the ecological value of the island's natural resources and how the health of these resources contributes to the local economy.

She explained how tourists from around the world pay hundreds and thousands of dollars to visit Andros just to swim in the blue holes, participate in fly-fishing, bird-watching and other eco-tourism activities which feed directly into the local economy. Yet there are still persons that do not truly understand how invaluable these resources are and the quality of life that it provides,



SHARON HENFIELD from the Ministry of Tourism speaks to students about conservation of the Bahamas natural resources.

she said. As a result persons tend to be nonchalant about their actions towards the environment and thus contribute to the deterioration of the country's coastal surroundings and the resources they offer.

Ms Burrows added by saying that violations of the country's fishery laws and regulations is one example of poor actions that lead to reduced fish populations and can hurt the economy. This includes the illegal netting of Nassau grouper spawning aggregations during closed seasons as well as harvesting undersized lobsters.

To make sure that the students truly understood

the effect these unlawful actions have on fish populations and the country's economy, Ms Burrows provided more detailed information on the biology of spiny lobsters. She stated that one adult female lobster depending on its size can produce up to 500,000 eggs. If only five per cent of the eggs survive and is allowed to mature, then there will be at least 25,000 more lobsters in Bahamian waters. If one juvenile lobster is harvested and not afforded the opportunity to mature and reproduce, how many potential adult lobsters were killed," she asked the students. Another point raised was that the

Bahamas earns up to 70 million dollars a year from exporting about five million pounds of lobster tails.

"If even 20 juvenile lobsters are harvested and not allowed to mature or reproduce, knowing how many potential adult lobsters can originate from one adult



FELICITY BURROWS from the Nature Conservancy visited Mangrove Cay High School in Andros to speak to students in an outdoor setting on the topic of overfishing and illegal fishing.

female lobster, how much money has been lost," she said. One of the students blurted out with "wow, well taking the baby lobsters just

don't seem to make sense." The motto of Coastal Awareness states "If Not Now...When? and If Not Us Who?"

Police sergeant 'arrested accused near robbery scene'

By **DENISE MAYCOCK**
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT - A police sergeant told the Supreme Court yesterday he arrested Marcus Bailey near the scene of a robbery on Explorer's Way on December 20, 2009.

According to the evidence of Sgt Advardo Dames, Bailey was discovered at Supreme Dry Cleaners sitting on the ground with a leg injury. A gun and beige mask were also nearby.

Bailey, 33, is on trial for the armed robbery of Julius Lewis, the owner of Doc's Conch Stand on Explorer's Way.

It is alleged that at about 2am on December 20, 2009 he robbed Lewis of cash, and while fleeing accidentally shot himself in the leg.

Mr Lewis testified that he was robbed at gunpoint of \$270 cash by a man wearing a tan-coloured Halloween mask. He said the suspect fled across the street to Supreme Dry Cleaners. He heard a gunshot and saw the suspect fall to the ground.

Sgt Dames was the first officer on the scene. He said he observed a young man, whom he identified as Marcus Bailey, sitting on the ground. He was wearing a white T-shirt and red shorts.

"I saw a pistol a few feet away and a beige mask," he told the court.

Sgt Dames said he cautioned Bailey and told him that he was under arrest for armed robbery and possession of an unlicensed firearm.

He said Bailey then told him someone had robbed and shot him in the upper thigh.

Sgt Dames radioed for medical assistance. He said two officers accompanied Bailey in an ambulance to the hospital.

While at the scene, Sgt Dames said he observed a pair of Tommy Hilfiger jeans, size-10 black Clarks shoes and a fired bullet casing where Bailey had been sitting.

He stated that officers from the Central Detective Unit and Scenes of Crime Unit arrived and collected several items, including a .45 Desert Eagle pistol, serial number 333111251, a magazine clip and nine .45 bullets.

Sgt Dames examined the pistol and put his initials on it. In court, he identified the pistol, magazine clip and the nine bullets as those he observed at the scene.

Detective Corporal Billy Ferguson said he arrived at Doc's Conch Stand around 3.30am.

He said he collected several items and marked them with his initials, then swabbed the inside of a beige mask for forensic analysis.

Defence attorney Carlson Shurland asked Sgt Dames if he asked Bailey who had shot him.

"No, sir," the officer replied. "I didn't ask who shot him."

"Didn't you think you should have taken a statement from him? Didn't you think you should have asked what happened, how did he get shot?" asked Mr Shurland.

Sgt Dames explained that he arrested Bailey after he saw a weapon nearby.

Mr Shurland then accused Sgt Dames of inhumane and cruel treatment, in not calling for an ambulance right way.

Dames insisted he immediately called for assistance after Bailey informed him he had been shot.

Dr Catherine Francisco, a doctor at Rand Memorial Hospital, was on duty on December 20, 2009 when Bailey was brought in.

Dr Francisco said Bailey's vital signs were stable, but he was in a lot of pain.

She said he had sustained a severe wound to the mid thigh.

"There was an entrance wound but no exit wound," she recalled, adding that X-rays revealed the leg bone was "shattered."

Dr Francisco explained that a person with such an injury would not be able to walk and/or stand on the leg.

The doctor said Bailey had told her he was accidentally shot in the leg by someone he knew.

Bailey came to court using crutches yesterday and on Monday.

The trial continues before Justice Hartman Longley today. Vernal Collie and Erica Kemp of the Attorney General's office are appearing on behalf of the Crown.

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Palm Sunday: 17th April 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Week night services from Monday, 18th April 11, 2011 Thru

Thursday evening, 21st April 2011, 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday morning, 22nd April 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Good Friday evening, 22nd April 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Guest Speakers:

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Wednesday, 20th April 2011 at 7:30

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LOCAL NEWS

Airport expansion continues to benefit local contractors, construction workers

AS the Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA) moves into stage two of a three-stage airport expansion project, local contractors and construction workers continue to benefit from the \$409.5 million redevelopment project.

Stage one, construction of a new 247,000 sq ft US Departures Terminal, came in under the budget of \$198 million and was completed in less than two years.

During that period more than \$50 million was channeled to local contractors and subcontractors, airport officials said. The new terminal opened on schedule on March 16, 2011.

"We completed stage one with approximately one third of the work going to Bahamian contractors, another third to American contractors and the final third to Canadian contractors," said Stewart Steeves, president and CEO of Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD).

"We completed stage one with approximately one third of the work going to Bahamian contractors, another third to American contractors and the final third to Canadian contractors."

During stage one, more than 70 per cent of the total labour was Bahamian.

At peak periods up to 700 workers were on site, including tenant contractors.

A total of 2,600 construction jobs were created in the first stage of the airport redevelopment project. According to Mr Steeves, the same level of Bahamian participation is expected in stages two and three.

Stage two construction began within days of the airport management company opening the new US Departures terminal.

It involves the selective demolition of the old US Departures terminal and construction of a new International Arrivals Terminal and Pier at a cost of \$129 million and will be completed in the Fall of 2012.

Approximately \$36 million will be awarded to Bahamian contractors and subcontractors.

NAD said it expects at least 70 per cent of labour will once again be Bahamian, with an equivalent number of total jobs to those generated in stage one.

Stage three involves the construction of a new Domestic/International Departures and new Domestic Arrivals Terminal at a projected cost of \$84 million and will open in the Fall of 2013.



MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE Charles Maynard delivered his inaugural address to the Governor General Youth Award's Annual General Meeting held at the British Colonial Hilton.

MINISTER TOUTS THE GGYA AS 'NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME'

IN HIS inaugural address to the Governor General Youth Award's Annual General Meeting recently, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Charles Maynard outlined the government's rationale in partnering with the programme for the development of the nation's youth.

"We want to be able to use the government's muscle to ensure that we expand the network that the GGYA built so well over the years," said Minister Maynard.

Speaking to the GGYA's Board of Trustees, programme volunteers and other relevant stakeholders at the British Colonial Hilton, Minister Maynard applauded the GGYA for its 24 years of "proven good work" in the Bahamas, strong international affiliation, stable and reputable board and management and bona fide success stories.

in October 2010. The agreement paved the way for the programme to receive well over a quarter of a million in funding. Essentially, the partnership is only three months old, as the GGYA received its first financial instalment this January.

This partnership, named the GOLD Initiative, not only provided the GGYA with a much-needed financial boost, but also brought "the muscle" of central and local government to the table in a way that's never been done before.

Initiative

GOLD is an acronym for "Greatness, Opportunity, Leadership and Development." The initiative aims to bring every school in the Bahamas into the GGYA programme and will help the programme to accommodate the subsequent increase in demand.

Chairman of the GGYA Board of Trustees, Sir Orville Turnquest called the partnership a "valuable endorsement."

"This programme provides tremendous value to the positive development of all our youthful participants," said the former Governor General.

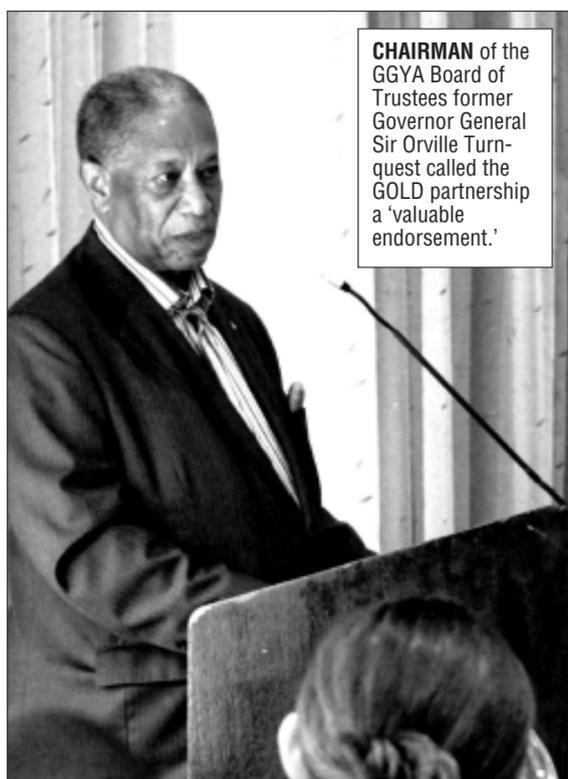
"This training of the young citizens in our land... has continuously proven to be an important, positive contribution in developing a great sense of responsibility for community service, in addition to encouraging and cultivating personal and vocational life skills, resourcefulness, physical perseverance, a healthy lifestyle, a spirit of adventure and proper citizenship."

Adaptable

The self-sustaining GGYA programme enjoys community support, in addition to being expandable and adaptable. More importantly, the minister noted that GGYA participants found the programme "exciting" and "fun."

The award programme is based on the successful completion of hiking expeditions, coupled with community service, mastering new skills and physical activities. After fulfilling time requirements, participants are eligible for a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

As a part of its national youth development strategy, the government signed a contract with the GGYA



CHAIRMAN of the GGYA Board of Trustees former Governor General Sir Orville Turnquest called the GOLD partnership a 'valuable endorsement.'



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Debt, deficits and income inequality

By LARRY SMITH



“We should all be concerned about the unintended social consequences of widening income differences. They include more violence, falling educational performance, higher prison populations, rising teenage birth rates, higher child mortality and increased drug abuse, mental illness and obesity.”

are reaping huge tax windfalls.

But, as with so much in life, things are not quite as black and white as they seem. As Nick Clegg, the deputy leader of Britain's new coalition government, recently pointed out, "Social mobility is what characterises a fair society, rather than a particular level of income inequality. Inequalities become injustices when they are...passed on, generation to generation."

A libertarian economist speaking at a Nassau Institute event last week sought to reinforce that view. Dr Steven Horwitz, of St Lawrence University in New York, argued that even if the relative income shares of the poor declined, this doesn't take account of the overall growth in income. The distinction between one ninth of a pizza and one

sixth of a pizza depends on the size of the pie, he said.

"Poor people are not the same people one year to the next," Horwitz told an audience of business people and professionals at the British Colonial Hilton. "The real policy question is income mobility: how easy is it for folks who start poor to move their way up? Most of those who start out poor don't remain poor. We go through a life cycle of income, with the poor getting a lot richer and the rich getting a little richer."

He backed up this argument with figures showing that household consumption in the US had increased over time, with the average family noticeably better off and the poor having more appliances, cars and mod cons in 2005 than the average household did in 1971.

He attributed this to a



DR STEVEN HORWITZ of St Lawrence University, New York, says the poor have gotten richer.

reduction in the cost of goods made possible by the free market. "It is true that prices are higher because of inflation, but more important is the amount of labour time needed to purchase the goods we use. Our standard of living is higher if less labour is involved, and by this measure a wide variety of goods and services are substantially cheaper today – one of the best signs of increasing well-being."

For example, a washing machine that cost \$285 in 1975 and \$400 in 2009 was actually 70 per cent cheaper today because the amount of work time needed to buy it had fallen from 69 hours to under 22 hours. But again, things are not quite as simple as they seem.

Researchers at the London School of Economics have compared social mobility in eight advanced countries, and their data shows that the more equal countries have higher social mobility. In other words, the American Dream is more likely to remain a dream for Americans than it is for people living in Canada or Scandinavia, because greater inequality in the US makes it easier for rich parents to pass on their advantages – particularly as it relates to education.

And we should all be concerned about the unintended social consequences of widening income differences. They include more violence, falling educational performance, higher prison populations, rising teenage birth rates, higher child mortality and increased drug abuse, mental illness and obesity. We can see these consequences playing out before our eyes in the Bahamas.

The conclusion these researchers draw is that in societies with smaller income differences between rich and poor, community life is stronger, levels of trust are higher and there is less violence overall.

In other words, most people seem to benefit from greater equality, and preventing excessively high incomes and concentrations of wealth at the top is as important as pulling up the incomes of those at the bottom.

This brings us back to the histrionic debate in the US

over debt and deficits. In a speech last week, President Barack Obama acknowledged the scale of the problem. "Our debt has grown so large that we could do real damage to the economy if we don't begin a process now to get our fiscal house in order."

But he also expressed a vision for America "where we live within our means while still investing in our future; where everyone makes sacrifices but no one bears all the burden; where we provide a basic measure of security for our citizens and rising opportunity for our children...We have to think about what's required to preserve the American Dream for future generations."

The competing vision on the libertarian right calls for reducing government, dismantling public services, and cutting taxes on the rich, putting more of the burden on the poor, elderly and disabled. According to Republican congressman Paul Ryan's economic roadmap, these measures are necessary to avert fiscal disaster and "an erosion of prosperity and the American character itself...The government's current fiscal path has put (our) legacy very much in doubt."

Both perspectives are valid. America's fiscal course is clearly unsustainable (as is ours if the national debt is not brought under control). This means that policymakers must strike a difficult balance between austerity and investment. But it is equally important for the burdens and costs to be shared fairly, and for policies to be implemented that are based on reality rather than ideological dogma.

Last December, the Simpson-Bowles fiscal commission offered a deeply considered bi-partisan approach for the US, much of which has been embraced by the president.

According to the commission, the long-term Federal budget deficit "is a severe threat that calls for serious and prompt attention. At some point, bond markets are likely to turn on the United States – leading to a crisis that could dwarf 2008."

So there is clearly wide

agreement among the American political class about the targets for serious deficit reduction as part of a long-term strategy for economic growth and continued US leadership in the world. The Bowles-Simpson commission proposed a responsible mix of spending cuts and revenue increases, including adjustments to major social programmes and tax increases for all but the most vulnerable.

The Obama administration has proposed a balanced approach to achieve \$4 trillion in deficit reduction over the next 12 years, along with a fail-safe mechanism that kicks in as insurance. This reduction includes a further \$400 billion cut in military spending (over and above what has already been agreed), significant reforms to retirement and public health programmes, limiting tax breaks for the wealthy, and simplifying the tax code.

Currently, US public debt stands at 97 per cent of gross domestic product – the 12th highest in the world. But the US is also the world's greatest economy with the world's safest currency. Our 2010 debt of \$4.2 billion is already more than 56 per cent of GDP and rising, but our economic productivity is negligible and our revenue base limited. As we recover from the recession, steps must be taken to reduce this debt while protecting our social safety net and investments in the future.

Efforts must also be made to reform and broaden the tax base, taking account of wealthy lawyers, doctors and financial professionals, as well as other service providers. And there are several ways to do this. Currently, the government collects about a billion dollars a year in tax revenues – some 15 per cent of GDP – while most experts say that, to support a cohesive and properly functioning society, the tax burden should be about 20 per cent of total output.

But the best way to address poverty and fairness in our society is through a radical overhaul of our failing education system.

We may disagree on economic policy, but there is a wide consensus out there that education and job training are the keys to attacking our social ills by creating a more equal and just society.

This is what the term "empowering Bahamians" is really all about.

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Tribune Trivia

Yesterday's Question

Which Bahamian athlete recently qualified for the IAAF World Games?

Yesterday's Answer

Leevan Sands

Yesterday's Winners

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Nakera Jarvis	2pts
Doris Gibson	1pt

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Union threatens BTC in row over docked pay

FROM page one

with BCPMU President William Carroll, is calling for BTC to repay the affected workers and, if the company can prove that some employees were not on legitimate leave, penalise them after due diligence is done.

"Our recommendation was to reimburse all staff and then go through the process to ensure that they docked those persons who were deserving. This morning they came back and they say they hold fast to going through the tedious task of going through all the information first.

"They are trying to force us to prove our own innocence when they should have done due diligence and cut people who were deserving to get cut. Already the management of Cable and Wireless/BTC is failing to abide by legally-binding contracts agreed to between the company and both unions," Mr Evans said yesterday, describing BTC's tactics as "bullish" and "shameful".

The union head argued that BTC executives, in their "zeal to squash" employee protests against privatisation began indiscriminately docking the pay of hundreds of workers who - according to Mr Evans - complied with company requirements for legitimate leave.

"Many of our members have followed any such procedure that is outlined to them in the industrial agreement. They have complied with them. Some of our members who were docked were in hospital on their backs, some were on legiti-



BCPMU President Bernard Evans

mate vacation in the States, some were retired - so obviously they didn't follow the rules," Mr Evans.

"If we had those 500 on demonstration it would have been much more people than you saw at the protest," added Mr Carroll.

"So plenty of those people had compassionate day or sick leave. And they want us to prove that, how can we prove that? Aside from filling out the form and it going to the VP and the VP says 'No I'm not accepting it' and the manager and immediate supervisor already accepted it. Those are the violations."

BCPMU executive Denise Wilson claimed some of the affected employees showed up to work on the day in question.

"Not all of them were off the job. We have persons that we know of who worked the whole day and were docked. We have persons who went to work and by

virtue of (a) manager taking the attendance register and carrying it to his or her office, the staff couldn't sign in.

"The security department did not allow them to get the keys for their vehicles.

"So here you have people on the job milling about they can't get access to the tools they need to do the job and you cut them because you made a bad decision," she said.

Last night Marlon Johnson, BTC's vice-president of marketing, said the union executives abruptly walked out of negotiations before the company could fully explain its position. He added that the company following proper policy and is committed to reimbursing employees, provided they can prove they were wrongly penalised.

He said: "Before the company had an opportunity to really explain what the company's position was, the union executives left the meeting. The company's stance is that the company would deduct the individuals who did not show up to work on the day in question as is. There are some cases in which the union contends that persons were deducted who had a valid reason to be off of work.

"The company asked for these cases to be brought forward, several cases have been brought forward and are under review and if found that the persons were deducted in error they will be reimbursed."

He said he hoped negotiations can continue with unions at a meeting planned for today.

WOMAN KNOCKED DOWN BY 'HUSBAND' AFTER ALLEGED DOMESTIC DISPUTE

FROM page one

old woman in hospital nursing wounds to her legs and arms.

According to police, the couple had been embroiled earlier in what is believed to have been a domestic dispute that ended violently near the plaza's parking lot at about 9am.

The woman left her

home after the argument and went to work, according to police, but was knocked down moments later.

A police source said: "She reported that she and her husband were involved in an altercation at a residence. She then went to work. He then allegedly knocked her down and she received injuries to her leg to her arms. She is in stable con-

dition."

A 42-year-old man is assisting police with their investigations.

Meanwhile, police also confirmed that a young child was knocked down by a car driving on Thompson Boulevard yesterday evening.

According to police, the child's injuries were not life-threatening.

Investigations into both incidents continue.

GOVT MONITORING APPEAL HEARING OF CONVICTED MURDERER 'VERY CLOSELY'

FROM page one

guilty of brutally murdering 16-year-old Donnell Conover in 2002. Her body was discovered battered and bruised and her skull crushed. Evidence also revealed that parts of Ms Conover's body was burnt after her death.

Tido was convicted and sentenced to death only days after the Privy Council ruled in March 2006 that the mandatory death sentence in The Bahamas is unconstitutional.

During her ruling, Supreme Court Justice Anita Allen said she was satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that the appropriate sentence in this case was death.

In 2009, the Committee for the Prerogative of Mercy decided the law should take its course, as it did not see Tido's case as "an appropriate one for the Prerogative of Mercy to be exercised." The Minister of National Security had advised the Governor General of the decision at that time.

However, the Government also said no further action would be taken pending the outcome of the appeal at the Privy Council.

Mr Delaney said the Privy Council is the highest court in The Bahamas. He called it a "well respected" institution with "able judges."

Being a "country of laws", Mr Delaney said "the Government is under the rule of law" and cannot carry out any punishment without it being in a lawful manner.

He said the Government is "watching very closely to see the ruling," and whatever the outcome it would abide by the judgment.

An earlier ruling of the Privy Council overturned the death sentence on two Jamaican men, finding the length of time they had been on death row prior to the execution of their death sentence was "cruel, inhumane and degrading." The high court instituted a five-year limit on the time within which a condemned person must be executed.

Mr Delaney said the Government was making every effort to have armed robbery and murder cases expedited, to enable "relevant cases to be completed within the time parameters laid out by the Privy Council within which a person should be executed if that is the sentence."

FIRM COMMITTED TO OIL WELL IN BAHAMIAN WATERS EARLY NEXT YEAR

FROM page one

moratorium on drilling any time soon.

"Well it's nigh impossible for this (the passing of legislation relating to oil drilling) to be accommodated within this Parliament," Environment Minister Earl Deveau told The Tribune last month.

The minister added that any potential legislation framework would not be finalised without opportunity for public input, putting off its implementation.

"We have received a good bit of information, in terms of similar legislation, from several countries of interest. We then have to do the work in order for me to take it (draft legislation) to my (Cabinet) colleagues for them to review. It is also something that will require broad, broad consultation with the public, so it's... nigh on impossible for this legislation to be accommodated within this Parliament," Mr Deveau said.

The disastrous BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is one reason why Government is hesitant to relax the oil drilling regulations.

"We have an experience with the Deep Water Horizon oil spill and the grave concerns it represented to our country and environment, and we also know and are aware of concerns expressed by the US with regard to ongoing drilling in Cuba and the likely impact on Key West. We don't think its prudent (to lift the moratorium) unless we have the most rigid protocols in place to inform any decisions we make in that regard and to manage any outcome," Mr Deveau said.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

A YEAR AFTER OIL SPILL, GULF COAST IS HEALING, HURTING

NEW ORLEANS
Associated Press

IT WAS the catastrophe that seemed to crush a way of life, an oil rig exploding in the darkness and plunging the Gulf Coast and its people into months of chaos.

One year after the nation's worst offshore oil spill began, solemn ceremonies will mark the disaster Wednesday and underscore the delicate healing that is only now taking shape. Oil still occasionally rolls up on beaches in the form of tar balls, and fishermen face an uncertain future.

But traffic jams on the narrow coastal roads of Alabama, crowded seafood restaurants in Florida and families vacationing along the Louisiana coast attest to the fact that familiar routines are returning, albeit slowly.

"We used to fuss about that," said Ike Williams, referring to the heavy traffic headed for the water in Gulf Shores, Ala., where he rents chairs and umbrellas to beachgoers. "But it was such a welcome sight."

Although life is getting back to normal, many questions linger: Will the fishing industry recover? Will the environment bounce back completely? Will an oil-hungry public ever accept more deep-water drilling?

"It seems like it is all gone," said Tyler Priest, an oil historian at the University of Houston. "People have turned their attention elsewhere. But it will play out like Exxon Valdez did. There will be 20 years of litigation."

On Tuesday, the federal government reopened the last of the waters that were closed last year after the massive spill, about 1,040 square miles near the sunken rig. And fresh revelations from a BP engineer's email exchanges with his wife highlighted the missteps made on the ill-fated rig before the explosion.

In the months since the April 20, 2010, blast aboard the Deepwater Horizon, an administrator has handed out \$3.8 billion from a \$20 billion claims fund set up by BP. The number of cleanup workers went from 48,000 at the height of the spill to 2,000 today.

Most scientists agree the effects "were not as severe as many had predicted," said Christopher D'Elia, dean at the School of the Coast and Environment at Louisiana State University. "People had said this was an ecological Armageddon, and that did not come to pass."

Still, biologists are concerned about the spill's long-term impact on marine life.

"There are these cascading effects," D'Elia said. "It could be accumulation of toxins in the food chain, or changes in the food web. Some species might dominate."

Meanwhile, accumulated oil is believed to lie on the bottom of the Gulf, and it still shows up as a thick, goopy black crust along miles of Louisiana's marshy shoreline. Scientists have begun to notice that the land in many places is eroding.

For example, on Cat Island, a patch of land where pelicans and reddish egrets nest among the black mangroves, Associated Press photographs taken a year ago and compared to those taken recently show visible loss of land and a lack of vegetation.

"Last year, those mangroves were healthy, dark green."

"This year they're not," said Todd Baker, a biologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Land is eroding on sites where the oil has killed vegetation.



A LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT employee stands in the parking lot of the store after it was hit by a tornado in Sanford, N.C., Saturday. (AP)

Storm's death toll rises to 23 in North Carolina

BONNETSVILLE, N.C.
Associated Press

Shards of glass from old bottles and furniture smashed by a tornado that tore through town littered the concrete floor of Rhonda Carter's antique store, shattering her plans to open an auction house in nearby Salemburg. A storage area in the back was flattened.

"I just had a feeling something bad was going to happen, and it did," Carter said of Saturday, when storms raged through Bonnetsville and other parts of North Carolina, killing at least 23 and damaging or destroying more than 800 homes. "Now I'm starting over."

From remote rural communities to the state's second-largest city, thousands of residents hit by the most active tornado outbreak recorded in North Carolina's history were clearing away rubble and debris, repairing power lines and facing a recovery that will cost tens of millions of dollars. Gov. Beverly Perdue on Tuesday requested a federal disaster declaration for 18 counties, which would open up federal aid.

The storms that chugged across the South last week killed at least 46 people in six states, but the worst devastation came over about four hours Saturday in North Carolina. A confirmed tally had been difficult to reach because of the far-flung destruction and multiple government agencies involved.

The Associated Press confirmed the identities of each of the 23 who died in North Carolina with relatives, local officials or state troopers.

"In the blink of an eye, so many people have been plunged into grief and crisis," said Preston Parrish, executive vice president of ministry at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, which dispatched its disaster-response teams to four areas of the state.

One was Bertie County in the state's northeast corner, where the ministry also deployed volunteers just seven months ago, after floods devastated the county seat of Windsor and surrounding communities.

At least two tornadoes hit the county in rapid succession, one doing enough damage to kill 11 people. The twisters descended suddenly, with only about 15 minutes of warning.

"I saw it coming, we got in



A LADY INSPECTS HER HOME and car in Raleigh, N.C., Sunday. Homes and businesses were badly damaged Saturday by a severe storm system that whipped across North Carolina, bringing flash floods, hail and reports of tornadoes from the western hills to the streets of Raleigh. (AP)

there, and as soon as we hit the door, boom, it hit," said Roy Lee, whose house was destroyed. "About three minutes max it was over."

When it was over, Lee's neighbor, 60-year-old Peggy Leary, was dead.

The National Weather Service said Tuesday that its preliminary analysis has identified 25 different tornadoes in North Carolina. That's three more touchdowns than during a March 1984 event that included more powerful systems and killed twice as many people but was largely isolated to the Interstate 95 corridor.

Saturday's outbreak spread across more than half the state, from near Winston-Salem to the Outer Banks.

Perdue and other officials toured the damage Monday, pledging prompt support to rebuild. Charities, religious groups and emergency shelters sprang into action, offering their services to residents well-versed in disasters like hurricanes, who suddenly found themselves in the path of a very different type of storm.

Bertie County's property damage was at least \$2.5 million, but that figure doesn't include infrastructure damage or the loss of crops. Bertie

County produces tobacco, peanuts and soybeans, among other staples. Statewide, costs will likely be at least in the tens of millions because the weather raged through densely populated cities, trashing homes, businesses and public buildings.

Employees in Wake County, where Raleigh is located, estimated Monday that local costs will be around \$65 million, county commission Chairman Paul Coble said, an estimate he expects to rise.

One mobile home in Raleigh was the site of four deaths, including 6-month-old Yaire Quistian-Nino, who had been listed in critical condition at a nearby hospital. Yaire was killed along with her 9-year-old brother, Daniel Quistian-Nino, and two cousins, 8-year-old Osvaldo Coronado-Nino and 3-year-old Kevin Uriel Coronado-Nino.

Authorities have said that Yaire's mother moved all the kids into a closet when the storm came in but that a large tree fell on the home. Police have said the mother was momentarily knocked unconscious but survived.

In Roseboro 60 miles south of Raleigh, Larry Tanner had

at home with his wife and two of his three children, he looked outside and it was sunny.

He thought he was safe until his son, Jonathan, 19, a volunteer firefighter, walked in and his pager went off. A tornado had just touched down in Ammon about 10 miles away. Tanner walked outside and spotted a funnel cloud headed toward the house.

"Turn around," he shouted at his son.

Jonathan was trapped inside the front door. The column from the front porch hit him on the head, cutting a deep gash. The windows blew off, sending shards of glass flying like shrapnel.

Tanner was knocked on his back and watched as the winds ripped the roof off the house.

It lasted about a half-minute.

"It was terrible. I couldn't breathe. The dirt and debris got in my lungs," Jonathan recalled Monday, his voice trailing off. He was quiet for a moment.

"I thought we were going to die."

More than a quarter-million people lost power during the storm, but by late Monday that had dropped to a few thousand. The storm not only

brought down power lines, but crews responding to outages found the storm had been so strong that some wires had simply vanished.

Emergency workers took damage estimates to see if uninsurable losses reach \$10.3 million, the minimum amount needed for North Carolina to qualify for federal disaster assistance. Residents without insurance were advised to take photos of the damage before they clean up. And the emergency workers tell everyone to put debris in two piles: construction materials and vegetative materials.

But beyond the material losses are injuries that won't be remedied as quickly.

Gary Cary, 46, who lives in Roseboro, got his wheelchair up a ramp into his mother's house moments before a tornado blew through the area, shattering the home's windows. Both he and his mother lived, but his own home was obliterated. Worse, he said, was the death of Possum, the 8-year-old calico cat he called "my right arm."

"I could have lost my life," he said. "My mother could be gone."

"It's just rough. Real rough."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SYRIA LIFTS STATE OF EMERGENCY LAWS BUT WARNS PROTESTERS

BEIRUT
Associated Press

SYRIA'S government approved lifting the country's nearly 50-year-old state of emergency Tuesday to meet a key demand of anti-government protesters, but opposition leaders dismissed it as an attempt by President Bashar Assad to claim reforms but maintain his hard-line rule.

The blunt response suggested the month-old uprising could be entering a more volatile stage: protesters now aiming higher to seek Assad's ouster and his regime warning that the demonstrations must now end.

"We want freedom!" chanted thousands of people in the southern city of Daraa and coastal town of Banias, according to witnesses.

A prominent Syrian writer Yassin Haj Saleh, who spent 16 years in jail for his links to a pro-democracy group, claimed Assad was looking for a "maneuver to gain time" by removing emergency rule, which gives authorities almost boundless powers of surveillance and arrest.

"They are basically telling the people, 'We have fulfilled your demands, so go home and if you don't we will break your head,'" he told The Associated Press by telephone from Beirut. "But in reality nothing will change."

The announcement signaling the end of the much-reviled emergency rule came just hours after a show of strength by authorities. Security forces stormed an occupied square in Syria's third-largest city. Then officials issued a stern warning on national TV for the protesters to back down.

The ultimatum-style message appeared to show that ending emergency laws will not ease the increasingly harsh blows against opponents. Assad's regime has labeled the protest movement as an "armed insurrection" and a power grab by Islamic extremist — descriptions that could give authorities the cover to continue the crackdown.

Assad last week had told his cabinet to remove the state of emergency — in place since his Baath Party took power in March 1963 — but added that such a move would give protesters no more reason to take to the streets.

This could give Assad further pretext to move against any further marches or rallies.

Syria's official news agency SANA said the cabinet also approved abolishing the state security court, which handled the trials of political prisoners, and approved a new law allowing the right to stage peaceful protests with the permission of the Interior Ministry. The changes need parliament approval, but no objections are expected at its next session planned for May 2.

"Repealing the emergency law would do little to restrict the power of various security agencies because Syria has other laws that guarantee members of the secret police immunity for virtually any crime committed in the line of duty," said Mohamad Bazzi, a regional expert at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

British military advisers to advise Libyan rebels

TRIPOLI, Libya
Associated Press

EUROPE is ready to send an armed force to Libya to ensure delivery of humanitarian aid and Britain said Tuesday it will dispatch senior military officers to advise the opposition — signs that Western nations are inching closer to having troops on Libyan soil.

The proposal by the European Union to deploy the armed force to escort humanitarian aid drew an immediate warning from Moammar Gadhafi's regime that this would be tantamount to a military operation. France's foreign minister also said he was hostile to such a deployment.

The new tactics seem to have been spurred by the continued deadlock after two months of fighting between Gadhafi's army and rebel forces. There has also been growing international concern over the fate of the besieged rebel city of Misrata, where NATO has been unable to halt heavy shelling by Gadhafi's forces with airstrikes alone.

Misrata, Libya's third-largest city, has been under siege for nearly two months, with rebels holding on to seaside positions in the port area. In recent days, Libyan troops have pounded the city with shells and rockets. On Tuesday, rebels and troops clashed in central Misrata, and explosions and gunfire were heard.

NATO officials acknowledged Tuesday that they are having trouble destroying Gadhafi's mortars and rocket launchers from the air, for fear of inadvertently harming civilians in such strikes.

"It's not a conventional war," said Adm. Giampaolo Di Paola, chairman of NATO's military committee. He would not say just how much of the regime's firepower has been eliminated or put out of action by NATO's operations so far.

The fighting in Libya has been deadlocked for the past month. Gadhafi is holding on in the west, while the rebels control the east. NATO airstrikes have kept Gadhafi loyalists in check, but the rebels, poorly trained group with little military experience, have not been able to score military gains, either.

As the allies seek ways to break the battlefield stalemate, British Foreign Secretary William Hague said Britain will send a team of up to 20 senior military advisers to the rebel stronghold of Benghazi to help organize the country's haphazard opposition forces.

Hague insisted the advisers would not be involved in supplying weapons to the rebels or in assisting their attacks on Gadhafi's forces. He said the advisers would work with British diplomats already cooperating with the National Transitional Council, the political wing of the rebel movement, which has been officially recognized by Italy, France and Qatar.

Britain has said it would not become involved in directly supplying weapons to Libya's rebels; it has already sent non-lethal support, such as 1,000 sets of body armor and 100 satellite phones.

The EU, meanwhile, said it could deploy an armed force to Libya within days to ensure the delivery of humanitarian supplies, said Michael Mann, a spokesman for EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton.

Mann said a "concept of operations"



A LIBYAN REBEL FIGHTER waits for deployment orders for reinforcements along the western gate of Ajdabiya, Libya Tuesday, April 19, 2011. Europe is ready to send an armed force to Libya to ensure delivery of humanitarian aid and Britain said Tuesday it will dispatch senior military officers to advise the opposition — signs that Western nations are inching closer to having troops on Libyan soil. (AP)

has been approved by the European Union's 27 countries, outlining various possible courses of action. But Mann said the details of the operation, including how many people and what equipment would be needed, would await the specifics of any U.N. request.

The EU has no standing army, and the personnel and equipment would have to be donated by member countries.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said he is "totally hostile to the deployment of troops on the ground."

Juppe made his remarks at a lunch for diplomatic journalists, which was reported on the website of the daily Le Figaro. He was responding to a question over a proposal by the head of the foreign affairs commission in France's lower house to send 200-300 special forces "who wouldn't be ground combat troops" to help designate targets for NATO planes.

Juppe said the rebel forces "can play this role without it being necessary to deploy troops on the ground."

The leader of the rebels' transitional

government, Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, will meet in Paris with President Nicolas Sarkozy on Wednesday, the president's office announced.

Ashton made the offer of military aid to protect humanitarian groups on April 1, but so far no U.N. request has been forthcoming.

Over the weekend, the U.N. reached agreement with Gadhafi's government on carrying out aid operations in areas of Libya he controls. A key destination for such aid would be Misrata, where hospitals were said to be overwhelmed with wounded.

Libyan Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Kaim, asked about the possibility of foreign troop escorts of aid convoys, said "if there is any deployment of any armed personnel on Libyan ground, there will be fighting, and the Libyan government will not take this as a humanitarian mission" but as a military one.

Asked whether he would rule out such deployment, he told reporters in Tripoli: "Yes, because we are doing our utmost

not to resort to such things." He said the Libyan government has repeatedly offered to help humanitarian agencies do their work.

Kaim also said NATO airstrikes have knocked out telecommunications in the central Libyan towns of Sirte, Brega and Ras Lanouf. He alleged the strikes were meant to help the rebels advance westward, into areas controlled by Gadhafi's forces.

In Misrata, NATO strikes only targeted radars and air defenses Tuesday, said Abdel-Salam, a resident who identified himself only by his given name for fear of retaliation.

NATO Brig. Gen. Mark van Uhm said fighting has been intense in the city for the past 10 days and that his forces have destroyed more than 40 tanks and several armored personnel carriers there.

"The situation on the ground is fluid there, with ground being won and lost by both sides," van Uhm said at NATO headquarters in Brussels, adding: "Gadhafi's forces have shelled Misrata indiscriminately."

But he cautioned that "there is a limit to what can be achieved by airpower to stop fighting in a city."

"We are doing everything to prevent civilian casualties by our own attacks (while) degrading (Gadhafi's) ability to sustain forces there," he said.

Concerning the EU's contingency plans, he said that "there has been no need for armed escorts until now."

"Until now, it has not been necessary to use armed escorts, and since the port of Misrata is still open, we don't see the need," he told reporters.

NATO's Di Paola said in Rome that even though NATO operations have done "quite significant damage" to the Libyan regime's heavy weaponry, what Gadhafi has left is "still considerable."

Asked if more NATO air power and bombing are needed, Di Paola said any "significantly additional" allied contribution would be welcome.

Given NATO's humanitarian mandate reflecting the U.N. Security Council resolution on Libya, which does not allow ground forces, "it's very difficult" to stop the regime's firepower on Misrata, he said.

"What is significant is we're preventing Gadhafi from using the full potential of his firepower. Unfortunately we're not able so far to deny him use of all his firepower," Di Paola said.

Di Paola said the alliance had "yet to succeed" in neutralizing the mortars and rocket launchers, especially inside Misrata, where it is "very hard" to destroy that firepower without inflicting civilian casualties.

World Food Program spokeswoman Emilia Casella says the U.N. agency signed an agreement with the Libyan Red Crescent to establish a humanitarian corridor in western Libya and "we received an indication that the government did not have any objection."

Casella said WFP trucks are already bringing food to feed 50,000 people for one month. The food will be distributed by the Libyan Red Crescent in Tripoli, Zintan, Yefrin, Nalut, Mizda, Al Reiba and Zawiya.

Separately, the U.N. humanitarian chief said she was assured the U.N. would be permitted to visit Misrata and other towns to assess the humanitarian need.

CHERNOBYL DONORS CONFERENCE FALLS SHORT OF GOAL

KIEV, Ukraine
Associated Press

A DONORS conference seeking euro740 million (\$1.1 billion) to clean up the Chernobyl disaster site fell well short of its goal Tuesday, but officials remained optimistic that money will be found to make the world's worst nuclear accident site environmentally safe.

Pledges from nations and organizations at the conference totaled about euro550 million (\$785 million), along with euro29 million (\$41 million) from Ukraine.

The money is being sought to complete the construction of a gargantuan long-term shelter to cover the nuclear reactor that exploded April 26, 1986, and to build a facility to store waste from the plant's three other decommissioned reactors.

Japan had been one of the top donors in previous years, contributing euro72 million (\$103 million) in total. But this year, after last month's devastating earthquake, tsunami and ensuing crisis at the Fukushima nuclear power plant, Japan held back from pledging money.

Several other major donors in the past also did not announce pledges Tuesday, citing their own economic difficulties or impending national elections. Among them were Ireland, Spain and Canada.

But "undoubtedly, the countries that were not ready to offer today are still with us," said French Prime Minister Francois Fillon, whose country pledged euro47 million (\$67 million). France is the strongest defender of using nuclear power in Europe.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich reached out to

countries not at the conference, saying, "We will always be thankful for timely assistance."

Other top pledging countries at the conference included the United States, promising \$123 million, Germany with euro42.4 million (\$60.5 million) and Russia, a latecomer to decades of Chernobyl contributions, pledging euro45 million (\$64 million). Russia's pledge doubled the amount it has donated since it began contributing in 2005.

The European Commission pledged euro110 million (\$157 million) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and

Development, which is directing the Chernobyl projects, promised euro120 million (\$171 million).

The international community already has poured euro864 million (\$1.2 billion) into the fund to build the shelter over the reactor. In the months after the blast, workers hastily built a so-called sarcophagus to block off the radiation being spewed from the reactor, but it has already exceeded its proposed service life and has been plagued by structural problems.

The new shelter, which will look like a giant Quonset hut, is

LOCAL NEWS

'JAZZ AT THE PINNACLE'

PINNACLE Seekers Toastmasters Club 1513325 celebrated its 'Jazz at the Pinnacle' event at the Garden of Eden in Nassau on Friday.

Under the patronage of Governor-General Sir Arthur and Lady Foulkes as well as Housing Minister Kenneth Russell and Georgina Russell, the venue came alive to the sounds of the Royal Bahamas Police Force Pop Band and Her Majesty's Prison Pop

Band playing jazz and rake n' scrape music. The night included selections by Joan Lockhart Culmer and saxophonist Garvin Clarke. It was also a night of poetry, with poets like Chester Robards and Arthur Seymour sharing their work with the guests.

Among the 150 persons in attendance were Fox Hill MP Fred Mitchell and Jason Springer, president of Pinnacle Seekers Toastmasters Club.

HER MAJESTY'S PRISON POP BAND provides musical entertainment.



SAXOPHONIST Garvin Clarke.



THE POLICE POP BAND entertains at 'Jazz at the Pinnacle'.



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BAHAMIAN CONTRACTORS 'WAY DOWN FOOD CHAIN'

By ALISON LOWE
 Business Reporter
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BAHAMIAN contractors are "way down the food chain" on the Lynden Pindling International Airport re-development project, which the President of the Contractor's Association yesterday suggested has "steadily brought to light" all the reasons why the government must mandate Bahamian contractors involvement in FDI projects and pass the Contractor's Bill.

Although insisting that he does not blame prime contractor, Canada-based Ledcorp, for facilitating a situation where Bahamian contractors have primarily been engaged as "subs to their subs" - sub contractors to the foreign sub-contractors they engaged to work on the project - at the airport, Stephen Wrinkle said the fact that this has happened proves why the government must not "turn a blind eye" to the reality of the "global construction industry."

His comments came as the Nassau Airport Development Company released a statement in which it said that about 28 per cent of the \$129 million earmarked for stage two construction at the Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA) will go to Bahamian contractors and 70 per cent of labour involved in the project is likely to be Bahamian.

These percentages roughly mirror those seen during stage one construction, which involved the development of the new US Departures terminal. Of the total value of that project, which was \$198 million but came in "under budget" to an unspecified degree, "more than \$50 million" in funds allocated went to Bahamian contractors and subcontractors, and 70 per cent of workers were Bahamian.

Mr Wrinkle said Bahamian contractors and workers have "clearly benefited" from the project but not to the degree that they could have.

"On the face of it, it looks like a substantial number of foreign contractors, and that's the problem we run into: The Bahamian contractors are only coming into that project as sub-contractors to Ledcorp's foreign sub-con-

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Canada investment promotion tour labelled 'very positive'

■ Prime Minister to lead similar tour to Brazil this summer

By ALISON LOWE
 Business Reporter
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A TRADE and investment promotion tour undertaken by the Government and private sector representatives in Canada "went extremely well", according to a government minister involved, inspiring expressions of interest by potential investors with a variety of local companies and the government itself.

On it heels, the Government is now planning another such tour, to be led by Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham, to South American "tiger" economy, Brazil, which has been experiencing an economic boom.

Minister of State Zhivargo Laing said the government and financial services sector see The Bahamas as offering



HUBERT INGRAHAM

some natural "fits" for Brazilian investment interests.

Speaking of the Canadian trade and investment effort, also led by Mr Ingraham, who was joined by Mr

Laing, other key Cabinet ministers, representatives of the financial services, real estate and maritime industries, along with Grand Bahama stakeholders, Mr Laing said he believes the outcome will "be very positive for The Bahamas."

"We thought the trade mission went extremely well. The response to the invitations - the people who accepted our invitations, and attended the meetings - were extremely good both in Calgary and Toronto. We had a number of persons who had expressed an interest in further investigation and inquiry into doing business in this country."

"We had some of the properties - for instance Albany - indicated they had gotten a number of inquiries

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Labour Minister: More people being employed

By ALISON LOWE
 Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net



DION FOULKES

WHILE asserting that he "does not wish to prejudge" the upcoming outcome of The Bahamas' first survey to determine the unemployment rate in two years, Labour Minister Dion Foulkes is confident "the economy has stabilised and things are getting better".

"I think that anecdotally, based on all evidence received, we have a clear indication that less people are being laid off every month which means more people being employed," charged Mr Foulkes.

The Minister suggested the "drastic decrease in amount of unemployment benefit claimants", which most recent data shows fell from its peaks of 5,475 in April 2009, to a peak of 884 in June 2010, to 296 claims made in February 2011 with 203 awarded, plays a key role in this assessment.

The ability to use the data attached to the unemployment benefit program as a "barometer" of the economy's health has been an "unintended positive benefit" of the social security initiative implemented two years ago, suggested Mr Foulkes.

However, there is some argument to be made over whether decreased claimants equates to more employment or simply more people who have used up the benefits for which they are eligible but have yet to find a job.

In the last labour force survey in May 2009, it was determined that New Providence had an unemployment rate of 14 per cent, while Grand Bahama's unemployment level had risen to 17.4 per cent.

Another survey is now due to take place next month, after the Department of Statistics postponed last year's survey while it undertook the national census.

Speaking with Tribune Business yesterday, Mr Foulkes said: "We feel, and the Prime Minister stated several times, that the economy has stabilised and things are in fact getting better."

"The Baha Mar project has already employed close to 600 Bahamians on Baha Mar itself. Over 100 truckers are also working and some 80 vendors have also been engaged and five major contracts have already been given out to major construction companies to rebuild build-

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PARTNERSHIP AN 'INSPIRING MODEL' FOR BAHAMIAN COMPANIES



PARTNERSHIP: The joint campaign between Hands for Hunger and Starbucks is hailed as an example of how businesses can engage to each other's mutual benefit.

By ALISON LOWE
 Business Reporter
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AN innovative partnership between Starbucks coffee and non-profit food rescue group, Hands for Hunger, could be "an inspiring model" for how other companies and non-profits in The Bahamas can "add value" to each other, one of its organisers has suggested.

Alanna Rodgers, founder of Hands for Hunger, heralded Starbucks for "having the courage to break out of the template" that mostly sees Bahamian companies "writing cheques" to local charities when they wish to be good corporate citizens.

She suggested that other companies and non-profits or charitable groups could use the joint campaign between Hands for Hunger and Starbucks as an example of how they can engage to each other's mutual benefit.

Starbucks, the franchise for which is owned by the John Bull Group of Companies in The Bahamas, is partnering with Hands for Hunger as part of its Global Month of Service initiative, which is taking place in Starbucks' coffee shops all over the world in recognition of the company's 40th anniversary.

The idea is that through-

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BUSINESS

Labour Minister: More people being employed

FROM page 1B

ings that will be demolished. "Albany continues to grow in terms of their development and they have many people employed there. "The Balmoral development on Sanford Drive are also increasing their employment levels there. "There were around 100 employed there, there may be around 200 now and there are numerous other small businesses opening that may not get the type of attention that some of the bigger projects are. "For example in the new Wing Zone business, he estimates that directly and indirectly he will employ close to 100 people and there are similar small businesses opening up in the Carmichael road area."

On the public sector side, the Minister pointed to the continuing development of the new Nassau Straw Market, where "around 100 people" are working at present, as well as the New Providence Road Project, on which employment levels have been "redoubled" to speed up the pace of the work as important contributors to economic activity.

The ongoing construction of new facilities at the Lynden Pindling International Airport is also providing employment for hundreds of Bahamians.

"Some may say those are construction jobs but the fact of the matter is that salaries paid to construction workers predominantly goes directly into

the economy which stimulates other economic activity," added Mr Foulkes.

The Minister noted that there is also notable employment being created outside of New Providence.

"There's massive economic activity in the Abaco.

"Whether it's the Schooner Bay development or Bakers Bay there's several big developments going on, and you also have Bahamians from Grand Bahama and New Providence also being employed in Grand Bahama and Abaco.

"In Exuma, Sandals has hired 400 plus people (to work at Sandals Emerald Bay) and they are in the process of hiring another 150 Bahamians for their expansion programme.

Developed

"In the Exuma cays there are about four major cays which are now being developed and are even employing people from Long Island, for example Over Yonder cay there are approximately 60 long islanders working there in addition to residents from Exuma Cays."

In Grand Bahama, where the Our Lucaya Beach and Golf Resort recently shed an additional 200 employees from its pay roll, Mr Foulkes acknowledge there is "an exception to the general rule" of economic stabilisation the government believes is taking place in the country.

However, he said that while jobs have been lost in the hotel sector, there

has been an increase in employment in the industrial sector, in companies such as Statoil, BORCO and the Grand Bahama Power Company.

Looking ahead, Mr Foulkes noted that the government will be mopping up some more Grand Bahama unemployment in the summer through the implementation of a six month training/apprenticeship program which will see a number of unemployed Grand Bahamians taken on for paid training/apprenticeship experience, to be funded by the Government.

"My ministry (of labour) is about to embark on training programme for former employees of Our Lucaya, the Home Centre, Freeport Concrete and Rick Hayward's restaurants."

Companies which have signed on to take onboard apprentices include the Grand Bahama Power Company, the Harbour Company, Grand Bahama International Airport, Statoil and BORCO. "We've been very pleased with the response," said Mr Foulkes of company's decision to work with the government in the implementation of the program.

"Participants will engage in a training programme at BTVI at Freeport for four to six months and at the end they will have work experience and a certificate to say they are certified in a trade. It's a significant program," added the Minister, although stating it is too early to say exactly how much will be allocated towards it.

BAHAMIAN CONTRACTORS 'WAY DOWN FOOD CHAIN'

FROM page 1B

tractors.

"They brought their whole team of contractors and sub contractors and those subs have utilised Bahamian contractors to whatever extent they see fit.

"Bahamian contractors are way down the food chain which means a big chunk of money is going out and we are not playing a pivotal part in the work because we do not have a mandated part of the work.

"It's not Leducorps fault, it's the industry standard: Foreign contractors are not here to help our industry move forward they are here to build the airport. They are also inherently at risk because they have entered into a contract and they have to execute that. Nation building is not their priority and the Government must recognise this going forward," said Mr Wrinkle.

Mr Wrinkle has been very vocal in his support and appreciation for the government's decision to mandate that 20 per cent or \$400 million of the total value of the work to be done on the Baha Mar project go to Bahamian contractors.

The BCA called for the mandate and says that having had it put into the agreement between the Government and Baha Mar, the domestic construction industry and the economy as a whole stands to benefit hugely if local contractors can successfully play their anticipated role.

However, he is now on a campaign to ensure that the mandate is not a one-off - but becomes policy in future agreements between foreign developers and the government.

"It is the responsibility for the government to ensure the mechanism in place for local tradesmen and the construction industry to properly benefit from these projects. They have an obligation to do that, they can't just write it off as capital growth, they must ensure Bahamian contractors are fully involved at the equity level."

"It's a learning curve and we are moving in the right direction. We have moved from phase one of Atlantis where very few Bahamians were involved, to Albany where we had a pretty good chunk, there's the current situation at the airport, and we have graduated now to Baha Mar and we are clearly moving in right direction. The government heard the cries of industry and responded by ensuring Bahamian participation in Baha Mar and by watching airport we see reasons why it needed to be done."

Nonetheless Mr Wrinkle again reiterated that in conjunction with a mandate, the government must pass the Contractor's Bill which will pave the way for contractors to be certified and registered, and therefore to become much more easily identifiable based on their skill level and capacities to foreign developers, as potential joint venture partners, general contractors or sub contractors.

"Right now people have no idea who's who other than hearsay because there's no legislation in place to ensure they can do what they say," added the BCA President.

FEMA chief says economy adds to storm challenges

ERRIN HAINES, Associated Press ATLANTA

Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Craig Fugate on Tuesday stressed how important it is for newly elected public officials to learn how to respond during hurricanes and other powerful storms.

"As much as we talk about the public, this team is constantly changing," he said. "There has been a tremendous turnover. How many of the elected leadership are going to participate — and not just for the photo op?"

Speaking to attendees at the National Hurricane Conference, Fugate said that governors, mayors and others must participate in hurricane preparedness drills to understand the decisions they could have to make this summer.

Emergency

He also stressed the need for emergency management community to take advantage of social media to engage the public and work more with the private sector to fill in the gaps in support when responding to disasters.

Fugate dismissed the notion that states and local governments facing budget woes would be reluctant to respond to disasters like hurricanes, pointing to the response to last week's devastating tornadoes across the South.

"Just because the economy's horrible doesn't mean hurricanes stop," Fugate said. National Hurricane Center Director Bill Read also spoke at the conference. He recapped the 2010 season, which he said had the highest number of hurricanes without a U.S. landfall. Read said that among his priorities this year is outreach to prepare communities and empower the public. He said his top concern for the upcoming season is Haiti, where 1.5 million people are still living in tents and are highly vulnerable to a major hurricane.

"That's going to be my biggest gut check," he said. "I don't know how many people can be safely dealt with in a hurricane of that magnitude."

The conference continues through Saturday.



STEPHEN WRINKLE

IBM earnings up 10%, helped by weak dollar

PETER SVENSSON, AP Technology Writer NEW YORK

IBM Corp. on Tuesday reported stronger-than-expected net income and revenue for the first quarter, helped by the weak dollar and strong performance in the U.S. and emerging markets. IBM also raised its full-year forecast for operating earnings. Net income rose 10 percent to \$2.86 billion, or \$2.31 per share. In the year-ago period, IBM earned \$2.6 billion, or \$1.97 per share.

Excluding mostly acquisition-related charges, earnings were \$2.41 per share, beating the average analyst estimate as polled by FactSet of \$2.29. Revenue rose 8 percent to \$24.6 billion. Analysts expected \$24.02 billion. The increase would have been 5 percent at a constant currency, IBM said.

IBM said it expects full-year operating earnings of "at least" \$13.15 per share, up from an earlier forecast of \$13.

In extended trading, after the release of the results, IBM shares were down \$2.65, or 1.6 percent, at \$162.75. The shares are close to their all-time high of \$167.72.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

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BUSINESS

New association for contractors formed

By ALISON LOWE
Business Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

A POLITICAL hopeful is set to launch a new association of contractors, citing the need for "more representation in the industry" and grievances over the proposed Contractor's Bill.

Delroy Meadows, who has announced his intention to stand as an independent candidate for the Fort Charlotte constituency, said his decision to form the New Providence Contractors Association (NPCA) came about as he canvassed local contractors in search of job opportunities for young men in the constituency which he hopes to eventually represent.

"This is something formed out of some of the grievances I've heard. I am not a contractor but I went to some of the small contractors and they have told me a lot of their issues and the fact that they feel left out of the system, despite being the majority of those in the industry," said Mr Meadows.

He said in particular that many contractors expressed concern about the proposed



DELROY MEADOWS

Contractor's Bill, which is intended to regulate the industry, and see that contractors are able to be certified to perform certain types of work at particular levels.

Bahamas Contractor's Association President Stephen Wrinkle is pushing the Bill on behalf of the industry, saying it will bring some order and ultimately, more opportunities, to the sector, which he likens an unregulated "Wild Wild West."

"From what I've heard,

the majority of people who are going to be affected haven't even read it and don't think it's really fair to have one organisation responsible for presenting a Bill like that that will affect the entire industry without those to be affected to having input. Some others take issue with some of the things it would demand, like certification and so on. They are not interested in it and they don't want it forced upon them," said Mr Meadows.

Concerning

He said he finds it concerning that he has struggled to find a copy of the Bill.

"You can't even go on a government website and download that Bill. You've got to go through hell just to find a copy of it and I don't think it should be that way because you have thousands of contractors working in this industry. It should be easily available to review and be informed properly about how it will affect them," said Mr Meadows.

In a press release announcing the formation of the association, it is stated that the group intends to "unite Bahamians within

this industry together as one body for the effort of creating their own investments", to "ensure that equal access and opportunities for all local contractors are given with respect to small and large scale investment projects within the Bahamas" and to "prevent special interests, associations and groups which are formed with the intent of controlling and monopolizing this industry."

The association is "committed to the creation and maintenance of consistent work and revenue generation for all local contractors through innovative jobs schemes and investment initiatives" and hopes to "establish a new trend of fairness in the requested requirements needed to qualify contractors for acceptance of work, as well as fairness and transparency in bidding processes and in policies created to regulate the industry."

The association is open to all licensed Bahamian contractors, laborers and industry suppliers. Its headquarters are in Fort Charlotte on Providence Avenue and Howard Street.

Canada investment promotion tour labelled 'very positive'

FROM page 1B

from investors, for example in Calgary, following upon our meeting.

"Some of the banks said people had approached them in terms of being able to fund some acquisitions in the Bahamas in terms of property acquisitions and what have you so how those have panned out I don't know but these were the initial pieces of information given to us.

"Of course this is a process so one does not expect investors to make decisions on such a short period of time but you follow up and you monitor and you see what happens. I think it's going to be very positive for the Bahamas," said the minister.

Ensuring The Bahamas "continues to have its name out there as an investment option" in an increasingly competitive market is key, he added.

"You can't expect others to be out there as an investment option, telling their story, and for you not to tell your story and for investors to have you in their consideration when they are thinking about investing.

"Every now and again the country has to put itself out there, especially when you have done reforms, when you have made changes in your environment, so people get to understand where you are now relative to where they may have seen you before," said Mr Laing, referring to some of the legislative changes the Government has enacted to modernise The Bahamas' business and investment environment.

Such changes include the new Business License Act, adjustments to the National Investment Policy, upgrades to the country's legislation relating to tax information exchange transparency and upcoming changes to the legal framework governing the securities industry.

As for the Government's intention to lead a delegation of public and private stakeholders to Brazil this summer to promote investment and trade in The Bahamas, first announced by Mr Ingraham in parliament on Monday, Mr Laing said it makes sense for a number of reasons.

"There's no question that the private sector industry in The Bahamas in particular, the financial services sector, is very high on Brazil. Everybody is. Brazil is doing extremely well economically. There's a great deal of wealth in Brazil that people are seeking to tap into and Brazilians are seeking investment opportunities outside.

"So they are trying to do some things and we think that we have some fits for what they are doing. And so we believe it's a great place to go and launch ourselves again and to take advantage of some business opportunities that might arise," said Mr Laing. The date of the promotional tour has yet to be determined.

PARTNERSHIP AN 'INSPIRING MODEL' FOR BAHAMIAN COMPANIES



FROM page 1B

out the month of April 2011, Starbucks employees and customers worldwide will participate in local community service projects to make an impact for youth, the environment and/or the community. The volunteer hours will contribute to Starbucks Shared Planet goal of one million hours of community service per year by 2015.

In The Bahamas, Starbucks chose to support Hands for Hunger, which was formed by Ms Rodgers in 2008 to address hunger and food wastage.

Hands for Hunger collects fresh, surplus food from local food donors that would otherwise go to waste on a daily basis and delivers this food to service agencies throughout New Providence that provide meals to Bahamians in need.

Ms Rodgers, a 24-year-old graduate of the University of Miami's School of Business, said: "One of the ways that it's exciting is that it's such a large corporation that has such capacity who is using that to create value in another way in the community by partnering with an NGO.

"Although 'cause marketing', the partnering of a company and a not-for-profit, has been taking place in Europe, Canada and the US - where rather than a cheque being issued an organisations partner together for specific period of time - it is new to The Bahamas.

"In my opinion it's a very pioneering and important step forward in The Bahamas with a large organisation engaging beyond just writing a cheque.

"It takes a lot of courage for them to break out of that template and hopefully it will be very inspiring model to suggest there are options out there for companies who want to be involved in the community beyond just writing a cheque and in a way

that is meaningful for their own customers and employees."

Throughout April six participating Starbucks locations - in Harbour Bay, Palmdale, Cable Beach, Marathon Mall, Marina Village, and Wyndham Crystal Palace Casino - will be competing against each other to try to raise the most financial donations for Hands for Hunger, in addition to the greatest quantity of goods in a food drive and volunteer hours by employees.

The overall goal of the campaign, which was launched on April 1st, is to raise a minimum of \$10,000 from customer donations, which will be matched by a 25 per cent donation from Starbucks.

"By 11am on day one we had raised \$1,000. After 12 days we were up to \$5,000, said Ms Rodgers. "Up to last Friday, Harbour bay is leading with \$2,604 in donations, Palmdale is in second with \$2046, Cable Beach has \$985, Marathon Mall has \$835, Marina Village has raised \$708 and the casino location, \$443," said Ms Rodgers.

At the end of the campaign, on April 30th, an event will be held at Starbucks in Harbour Bay in which the winners of the competition will be announced from amongst the various Starbucks locations, and donated food will be packaged and donated to food agencies that will distribute it to hungry people in the community.

Ms Rodgers said: "While there are 40,000 Bahamians dealing with hunger issues, food security and hunger are not spoken about much at all in the public domain and the ability for us to communicate through this campaign with Starbucks is far greater than by ourselves so we are most grateful for the communication channels this affords us and the benefit it will bring to our recipient agencies (who use the food Hands for Hunger delivers to feed hungry people in the community)."

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BUSINESS

STOCKS LOSE SOME GAINS AFTER MIXED EARNINGS



FRANCESCA LEVY,
AP Business Writer
NEW YORK

Stocks drifted in a tight range Tuesday after earnings reports came in mixed and worries lingered over a warning from Standard & Poor's about U.S. government debt.

Zions Bancorporation rose 6 percent, the most of any company in the Standard & Poor's 500 index.

The Utah bank reported a first-quarter profit after posting a loss a year ago. It also said customers were getting better at paying back loans, allowing the bank to set aside less money to cover defaults.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 19 points, or 0.2 percent, to 12,220. The Standard & Poor's 500 was flat, at 1,306. The Nasdaq composite fell 4, or 0.2 percent, to 2,730.

Major stock indexes posted their largest one-day drop in over a month Monday after S&P said it might lower its rating on U.S. government debt if Washington didn't get control of its deficits.

While the ratings agency kept its U.S. debt rating at AAA, the highest possible, it warned that there was a one-in-three chance it would downgrade U.S. debt within two years.

Expectations

Health care heavyweight Johnson & Johnson rose 2 percent. The company beat Wall Street's earnings expectations and raised its full-year earnings forecast.

The Commerce Department reported that builders broke ground in March on more new homes than analysts

expected. Home construction rose 7.2 percent from February. United States Steel Corp. rose 4 percent after announcing the sale of its 841-foot (256-meter) U.S. Steel Tower, Pittsburgh's tallest building, to a New York-based investment group.

Trucking company Paccar Inc. rose 4 percent after its income and revenues beat analysts' expectations.

Harley Davidson reported its income more than tripled, but missed Wall Street estimates. The motorcycle maker's stock fell 2 percent.

Texas Instruments Inc. fell 1 percent after the chip-maker said late Monday that the Japanese earthquake and tsunami set its production back, limiting first-quarter income and likely cutting into second-quarter growth. A number of tech giants, including Intel Corp. and IBM Corp., are expected to report after the end of trading.

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Study: Fossil fuels plays limited role in West

CATHERINE TSAI,
Associated Press
DENVER

A report Tuesday by a Montana-based research group said the economic impact of the fossil fuels industry comes from tax revenues, not energy-related jobs for workers who can be transient, and recommended maximizing those revenues by raising rates.

The report by Headwaters Economics said government data show energy-related jobs including coal mining jobs made up less than 3 percent of the total employment in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico and Utah and about 8.5 percent in Wyoming in 2008.

The study acknowledged the data might have missed some seasonal oil and gas workers or ones categorized in other industries.

Mining workers' annual wages are typically far higher than average, the study noted.

A PriceWaterhouseCoopers study in 2009 for the trade group Western Energy Alliance said the oil and gas industry alone provided at least 7 percent of jobs in each state, with Wyoming getting about 29 percent of its jobs — about 71,000 positions — from the industry.

Kathleen Sgamma, director of government and public affairs for the group, said the Headwaters study focused on a time of severe recession.

"Headwaters Economics research is always geared toward a certain agenda, and they continue to try to minimize the economic contribution of oil and natural gas, rather than celebrating the fact that it is one of several industries that together create significant jobs and economic activity across the West," she said.

Headwaters said it gets funding from grants, foundations and agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management.

Its report charted monthly changes in rig counts against changing oil and natural gas prices and concluded that price is the primary driver of development.

Price

"It's price, not policy decisions, that determine the number of people employed in mining industries and the size of the paychecks they bring home," said the study's author, Julia Haggerty, adding that Colorado didn't see a significant difference after an overhaul of drilling regulations in 2008.

The report's recommendations included setting aside money to deal with environmental impacts and reforming distribution of energy revenue so that money goes not only to commu-

nities affected by mining or drilling but also to those flooded with industry workers.

It recommended raising tax rates on the industry and scrapping state revenue and spending limits, like Colorado's Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, that could force communities to forgo revenue. While oil and gas prices can fluctuate, tax revenues can accrue even after jobs leave, the study said.

Doug Flanders, director of policy and external affairs for the Colorado Oil and Gas Association, said any review of tax policies should be broad-based.

"To ensure a strong economic recovery in Colorado, we must continue to attract oil and gas company investment to the state. That requires stable taxes and sensible regulations and policies," he said.

JURY CONVICTS EXEC IN \$3B MORTGAGE FRAUD CASE

MATTHEW BARAKAT,
AP Business Writer
ALEXANDRIA, Virginia

A jury has convicted the majority owner of what had been one of America's largest mortgage companies on all 14 counts in a \$3 billion fraud trial that officials have said is one of the most significant prosecutions to arise from the U.S. financial crisis.

The jury returned its verdict late Tuesday after more than a full day of deliberations.

Prosecutors said Lee Farkas led a fraud scheme of staggering proportions as chairman of Florida-based Taylor Bean & Whitaker.

The fraud not only caused the company's 2009 collapse and the loss of jobs for its 2,000 workers, but also contributed to the collapse of Alabama-based Colonial Bank, the sixth-largest bank failure in U.S. history.

Farkas testified in his own defense at the trial and claimed he did nothing wrong.

BUSINESS

CASH-STRAPPED BELARUS ALLOWS ITS CURRENCY TO FLOAT

YURAS KARMANAU,
Associated Press
MINSK, Belarus

Cash-strapped Belarus announced Tuesday that it would allow its beleaguered national currency to float, effectively permitting its devaluation in a bid to ease a spiraling currency crisis.

International financial institutions have been calling for a sharp devaluation of the Belarusian ruble to help the former Soviet republic's foundering economy. The move was the latest blow to authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko's attempts to show he can still deliver economic stability after 17 years in power.

The currency crisis, an increasingly severe crackdown on the opposition — including the arrest Tuesday of a human rights activist on suspicion of involvement in a subway bombing last week — have spawned a sense of rising panic and disorder in this nation of 10 million, often labeled the last dictatorship in Europe.

Belarus' first post-Soviet leader, Stanislav Shushkevich, told The Associated Press that Lukashenko's political survival now hinges entirely on another Russian loan.

"He will be able to ease social tensions if the Kremlin gives him another loan," Shushkevich said. "Otherwise people will start protesting. What we are seeing now begins to resemble the collapse of the Soviet system."

The government's hard currency reserves plunged 20 percent in the first two months of the year to less than \$4 billion, and staples such as vegetable oil and sugar started vanishing from stores as people started to hoard.

Starting next week, banks will be able to buy and sell the Belarusian ruble at a rate determine in open trading, Central Bank deputy chief Nikolay Luzgin said, adding that the government will "take extra steps to balance the situation on the domestic currency market" after next week's trading.

The U.S. dollar stood at 3,074 Belarusian rubles on Tuesday. Stanislav Bogdankevich, former chief of the Belarusian central bank, told The Associated Press that he expects the ruble to drop by one-third after the float.

Importers of medicine and Russian natural gas will be able to buy foreign currency at privileged rates.

Even before the announcement, frightened citizens had been lining up for hours in the past few weeks to exchange their rubles for euros and dollars. Since the free float will initially affect banks, it was unclear how currency rates on the street will be affected.

"My short-term plan is to emigrate to Poland," said Pavel Korchevsky, 37, a businessman. "It's impossible to do business in a country where the president personally determines the dollar rate."

Belarusian authorities also announced sharp budget cuts Tuesday, reducing financing for investment programs by 30 percent and state office construction by 20 percent.

A long-standing social contract that asked Belarusians to give up their political freedoms in exchange for safety and a modest standard of living now appears to be fraying. The April 11 explosion in the capital's busiest subway station during an evening rush hour killed 13 and wounded more than 200 — the first deadly bombing in a nation where the opposition has been largely peaceful and militant groups have been unheard of.

Authorities quickly arrested a man accused of placing the bomb and four suspected accomplices, but haven't said who ordered the attack. Lukashenko responded to the subway blast by ordering prosecutors to interrogate opposition activists.

That made some bloggers speculate that authorities may have carried out the attack in order to distract Belarusians from the country's rapidly worsening economic situation.

Lukashenko responded with characteristic bluntness.

"Only idiots and scoundrels can allege that, only scum can do that," he said, arguing that the economic troubles and the subway attack had been carried out by unspecified forces seeking to subdue the nation.

Minsk, a city of drab suburban apartment blocks and broad central avenues lined with monumental Stalin-era buildings, looks tense, with police and military patrols deployed on the streets and the subway.

"Belarus has always been known for its stability and order, but the explosion has filled me with fear and anguish," 46-year-old Dr. Zhanna Pankratova said as she walked past the explosion site. "Whom can we trust now?"

Opposition leader Anatoly Lebedko expected the government to intensify its crackdown on dissent.

"If they announce a decision tomorrow to brand all members of the opposition with a hot iron, I will not be surprised," said Lebedko, who was released from a KGB prison earlier this month after 3 1/2 months in custody.

As if on cue, a top human rights advocacy group said Tuesday that one of its members had been arrested on suspicion of involvement.

The Belarus Helsinki Committee said that police were holding Pavel Levinov. Police could not be reached to confirm the arrest, but the head of the committee, Oleg Gulak, said he had visited the police station in the capital, Minsk, where Levinov was being held.



INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS

Finnish PM-elect calms fears over Portugal bailout

HELSINKI

Finland's prime minister-elect said Tuesday his country would not block plans for helping debt-ridden Portugal although difficult coalition talks in Finland might mean changes to that bailout program.

Outgoing Finance Minister Jyrki Katainen, who is trying to form a new majority government after Sunday's parliamentary election, said he will demand that all coalition members accept Finland's commitments for aid to Portugal as a precondition to joining the government.

As the head of the largest party, Katainen has the task of forming a majority government. But the popularity of the two euroskeptic parties, which came in second and third in the poll, has sent fears through Europe that Finland could derail eurozone plans for bailout packages — including the one that is being negotiated for debt-ridden Portugal — decisions that require unanimity in the 17-member eurozone.

Experts from the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund are currently in Portugal to thrash out a strict program of budget cuts and economic adjustment.

"The Portugal package is something that no one can escape," Katainen said. Other government partners "must take a stand on it, and it must be such that Finland doesn't create problems but helps solve them."

Katainen, who negotiated Finland's commitments to other eurozone aid packages, including Ireland and Greece, said some changes might have to be made to Portugal aid. However, it was unclear what he meant as nothing has yet been agreed.

"Let's see what those might be but in any case they can't be very major changes," Katainen told reporters. He gave no details.

Katainen's conservative National Coalition Party won most votes on Sunday, giving



(AP Photo/LEHTIKUVA, Markku Ulander)

RALLYING THE FAITHFUL: National Coalition Party chairman and Finnish Finance Minister Jyrki Katainen greets supporters as he re-enters the party's election night reception in Helsinki, Finland, after the Finnish Parliamentary Elections on Sunday April 17, 2011. Finnish voters dealt a blow Sunday to Europe's plans to rescue Portugal and other debt-ridden economies, ousting the pro-bailout government and giving a major boost to a euroskeptic nationalist party.

it 44 seats in the 200-member Parliament, just ahead of the opposition Social Democrats with 42. The nationalist True Finns won 39 seats in an unexpected surge from 5 seats in the previous election.

Finland has pledged about euro8 billion (\$11.5 billion) in guarantees of a total euro440 billion (\$634 billion) in the eurozone's main bailout fund.

Boost

Those likely will increase significantly as the currency union completes a promised boost of the fund's lending capacity.

If the small Nordic country, where government decisions on major EU policy are subjected to parliamentary approval, votes against a Portuguese bailout program the European Financial Stability Facility would be paralyzed. If it merely abstains, the remain-

ing eurozone countries could in theory go ahead with a bailout without Finnish contributions.

Both the Social Democratic Party and the True Finns have said they want to be in the next coalition, but have acknowledged that finding common ground on a government program with the conservatives would be difficult.

The Social Democratic Party, which steered Finland into the European Union in 1995, doesn't oppose bailouts but has demanded that European banks and creditors be made more responsible when planning funding for debt-ridden eurozone members.

True Finns leader Timo Soini, who is a member of the European Parliament, doesn't see why Finnish taxpayers should help "squanderers" like Greece, Ireland and Portugal. He said that Finnish money "mustn't be splashed out on mechanisms that don't

work," but added that Finland won't dictate "conditions for the rest of Europe."

The conservatives' main partner in the outgoing coalition, Prime Minister Mari Kiviniemi's Center Party dropped from top spot to fourth in the election and said it would go into the opposition. It approves of the funds.

Political compromise is common in Finland which has been ruled by decades of consensus politics, including unlikely coalitions that have comprised former communists, conservatives and greens. Jan Sundberg, professor of political sciences at the University of Helsinki, said a coalition of the three largest parties, which would mean a clear majority in Parliament with 125 seats, is not implausible.

"Stranger things have happened," Sundberg said. "Finnish politics has been full of similar compromises."

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(No.45 of 2000)

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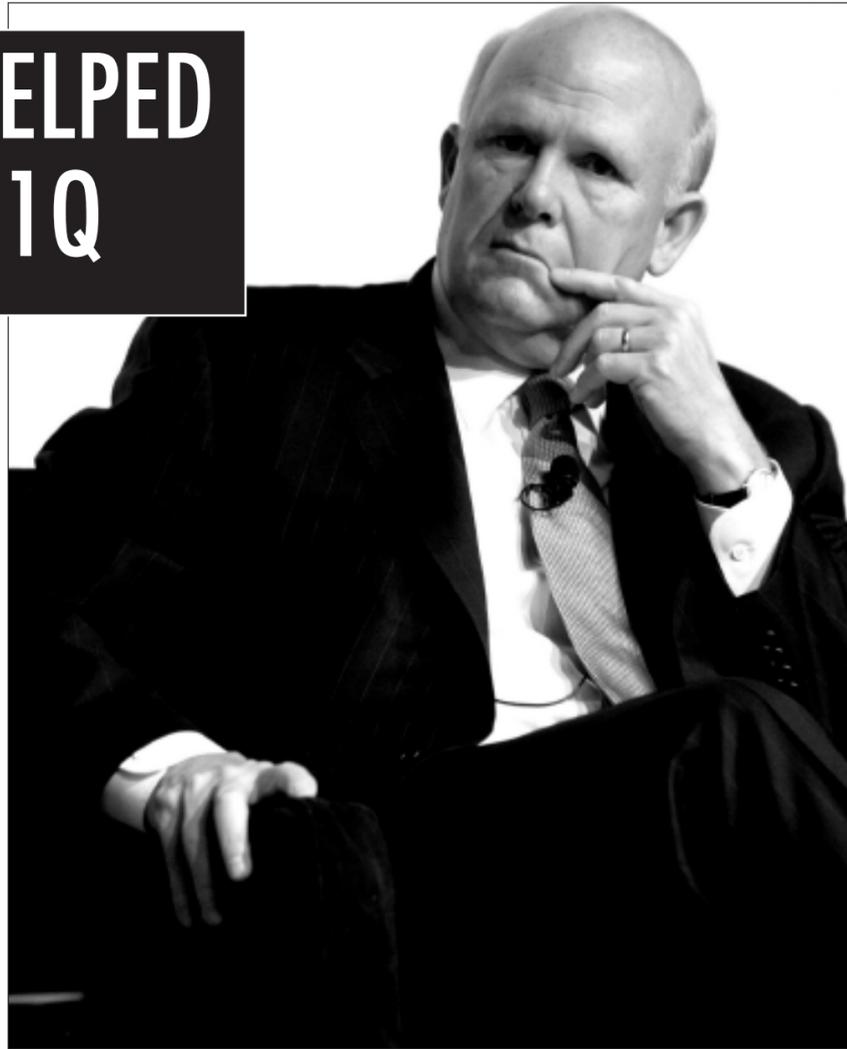
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LIQUIDATOR

BUSINESS

GM CEO: DISCOUNTS HELPED SELL MORE CARS IN 1Q



(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

PENSIVE: General Motors Chairman and CEO Dan Akerson ponders a question after his address to the NADA/IHS Automotive Forum 2011, in New York, Tuesday, April 19, 2011.

DEE-ANN DURBIN, AP Auto Writer NEW YORK

General Motors Co. CEO Dan Akerson said he doesn't regret the company's decision to increase spending on rebates and other deals earlier this year even though it has contributed to the company's tumbling stock price.

GM surprised the industry — and Wall Street — when it raised discounts by \$400 per vehicle in January and February. Most automakers didn't raise them because demand for new vehicles has been rising in line with supply.

that. I think we're in pretty good shape," Akerson said at an automotive conference Tuesday in New York.

Akerson said the increased incentives helped GM sell 100,000 more cars in the first quarter than it did in the same period last year. It also caught GM's competition off-guard.

"I don't want to be a predictable competitor," Akerson said. "I don't want the other guy to know exactly what I'm doing."

GM pulled back on its incentives in March, spending \$600 to \$800 per vehicle less on the deals. But it was too late for some investors, who shied away from the company's stock because

higher rebates lower car companies' profits.

GM's stock was trading at \$29.56 Tuesday afternoon, 10 percent below the company's \$33-per-share initial public offering in November. The stock opened the year Jan. 3 at \$37.32, but have fallen 21 percent since.

Hurt

That could hurt the government's effort to recoup the \$50 billion it gave GM to survive. The U.S. government got back \$13.5 billion from the sale of some of its shares in November's IPO. But to break even, it needs to sell its remaining shares for \$53 each. The government still owns a 26.5 percent stake — about 500 million shares — in GM.

Akerson said he hasn't had discussions with the U.S. Treasury on when it might sell its remaining stake.

"They will tell us when they're getting out. I will not tell them when they're getting out, and I don't know what's going to go into their calculus.

Besides the rebates, GM's stock has been hit by rising oil prices and concerns about parts shortages from Japan, Akerson said.

Akerson said that just after the IPO, GM's management team told him that higher oil prices were the biggest threat to the company. GM then put a plan in place to counter the effect of higher gas prices, including moving up the release of the new, higher-mileage Chevrolet Malibu by several months.

The Malibu, which is expected to get up to 35 miles per gallon (14.8 kilometers per liter), will come out early next year.

The Energy Information Administration predicts that retail gas prices could peak at \$3.91 per gallon this summer.

GM believes the March 11 earthquake in Japan will have little effect on the company. Akerson, a former telecommunications executive, said

relationships he forged in that field helped him identify alternate suppliers for some electronics parts, although the company hasn't yet had to switch to new suppliers.

Investors also have expressed concern about management changes at the company. The most recent high-profile departure came April 1, when Chief Financial Officer Chris Liddell resigned after just 15 months with the company. Akerson also named a new product chief in January.

Akerson didn't directly address the changes, but acknowledged that he has tak-

en some heat. "If I'd changed nothing at General Motors I would have gotten criticized. If I change anything I get criticized," he said. But Akerson said he has helped change the insular corporate culture at GM, encouraging executives to sit on the boards of companies outside the industry so they can learn other ways of doing business. He also said board meetings are more open than they used to be.

"I do think we have a more collegial, open debate and arguments. No one wants to leave the room angry. We want to solve the problem," he said.

PANAMA DEAL OPENS WAY FOR OTHER TRADE AGREEMENTS

JIM ABRAMS, Associated Press WASHINGTON

Administration officials said Tuesday that a free trade agreement with Panama is ready for congressional consideration and that they hoped it will be part of a larger trade agenda that also includes completion of long-pending free trade treaties with South Korea and Colombia.

The administration has already said it wants to begin working with Congress to ratify the South Korean pact, and progress on Panama removes another sticking point in what has been an ongoing feud with congressional Republicans on trade policy.

Republicans have said that all three deals, which were signed by the George W. Bush administration, must be sent to Congress before they will act on any one of them.

Colombia has been the most difficult of the three because of its history of suppressing labor rights, but earlier this month the U.S. and Colombian governments agreed on an action plan related to labor rights.

Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Mariam Sapiro, in a telephone interview with reporters, said the Obama administration will be monitoring Colombia's adherence to that action plan in the coming weeks. While not committing to any time frame, she said the Colombia agreement "could be ready for the next step soon."

Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee that oversees trade issues, urged the administration to begin negotiations with Congress on all three pending agreements "so that Congress can consider all of them by July 1."

As a first step, the White House and Congress must work out language on implementing the treaties. Once that is accomplished, President Barack Obama will submit the agreements to Congress for ratification.

PUBLIC NOTICE
INTENT TO CHANGE NAME BY DEED POLL
 The Public is hereby advised that I, **NICOLA NERISSA GIBSON**, of Misty Gardens, P.O. Box CR-56831, intend to change my name to **NICCOLA NERISSA GIBSON**. If there are any objections to this change of name by Deed Poll, you may write such objections to the Chief Passport Officer, P.O. Box N-742, Nassau, Bahamas, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE
 NOTICE is hereby given that **JESSICA REID**, of **Stapledon Garden, Nassau, Bahamas**, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **13th day of April, 2011** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
INTENT TO CHANGE NAME BY DEED POLL
 The Public is hereby advised that I, **SHEVRON LAMARD MARTIN** of the Settlement of Martin Town, Eight Mile Rock in the Island of Grand Bahama one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, intend to change my name to **SHEVRON LAMARD FORBES**. If there are any objections to this change of name by Deed Poll, you may write such objections to the Chief Passport Officer, P.O.Box N-742, Nassau, Bahamas no later than thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE
 NOTICE is hereby given that **MOISE MERIZER of YELLOW ELDER GARDEN, NASSAU, BAHAMAS**, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **20th DAY of APRIL, 2011** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE
 NOTICE is hereby given that **PHANUEL SANON of JOE FARRINGTON ROAD, NASSAU, BAHAMAS** is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **13th day of April, 2011** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF:											
MONDAY, 18 APRIL 2011											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,440.10 CHG 4.06 %CHG 0.28 YTD -59.41 YTD % -3.96											
FINDEX: YEAR END 2008 -12.31%											
WWW.BISXBAHAMAS.COM TELEPHONE: 242-677-BISX (2479) FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield	
1.19	0.95	AML Foods Limited	1.19	1.19	0.00		0.123	0.040	9.7	3.36%	
10.63	9.05	Bahamas Property Fund	10.63	10.63	0.00		0.013	0.200	817.7	1.88%	
6.50	4.40	Bank of Bahamas	6.00	6.50	0.50	3,200	0.153	0.100	42.5	1.54%	
0.53	0.17	Benchmark	0.18	0.18	0.00		-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
2.84	2.70	Bahamas Waste	2.70	2.70	0.00		0.168	0.090	16.1	3.33%	
2.20	1.96	Fidelity Bank	1.96	1.96	0.00		0.016	0.040	122.5	2.04%	
12.40	8.69	Cable Bahamas	8.75	8.75	0.00		1.050	0.310	8.3	3.54%	
2.85	2.35	Colina Holdings	2.55	2.55	0.00		1.031	0.040	2.5	1.57%	
7.00	5.80	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	6.96	6.96	0.00	4,000	0.488	0.260	14.3	3.74%	
2.86	1.90	Consolidated Water BDRs	2.05	2.07	0.02		0.111	0.045	18.6	2.17%	
2.54	1.40	Doctor's Hospital	1.40	1.40	0.00		0.107	0.110	13.1	7.86%	
5.99	4.75	Famguard	4.75	4.75	0.00		0.357	0.240	13.3	5.05%	
9.10	5.65	Finco	6.78	6.78	0.00		0.682	0.000	9.9	0.00%	
11.40	8.75	FirstCaribbean Bank	8.76	8.76	0.00		0.494	0.350	17.7	4.00%	
6.00	4.57	Fooco (S)	5.50	5.50	0.00		0.452	0.160	12.2	2.91%	
11.1	1.00	Fooco Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00		0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
7.30	5.50	ICD Utilities	7.30	7.30	0.00		0.012	0.240	608.3	3.29%	
10.50	9.80	J. S. Johnson	9.82	9.82	0.00		0.859	0.640	11.4	6.52%	
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate	10.00	10.00	0.00		1.207	0.200	8.3	2.00%	
BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing basis)											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity			
99.46	99.46	Bahamas Note 6.95 (2029)	BAH29	99.46	0.00		6.95%	20 November 2029			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00		7%	19 October 2017			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00		7%	30 May 2013			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015			
RoyalFidelity Merchant Bank & Trust Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield	
10.06	5.01	Bahamas Supermarkets	N/A	N/A	14.00		-2.945	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.35	0.40	0.55		0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%	
CFAL Securities Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)											
41.00	29.00	ABDAB	30.13	31.59	29.00		4.540	0.000	9.03	0.00%	
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.45	0.55	0.55		0.002	0.000	261.90	0.00%	
BISX Listed Mutual Funds											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD%	Last 12 Months %	NAV 3MTH	NAV 6MTH	NAV Date			
1.5487	1.4525	CFAL Bond Fund	1.5487	1.48%	6.06%	1.526164	1.505557	31-Mar-11			
2.9814	2.8300	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	2.9814	1.15%	2.40%	2.947425	2.918697	31-Mar-11			
1.5820	1.5141	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5820	1.14%	4.53%	1.574964	1.555464	1-Apr-11			
3.2025	2.8522	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	2.7049	-0.56%	-15.54%			31-Jan-11			
13.6388	13.0484	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.5016	1.08%	0.02%			31-Mar-11			
115.7622	101.6693	CFAL Global Bond Fund	115.7622	9.58%	9.58%	114.368369	109.392860	31-Dec-10			
111.4697	99.4177	CFAL Global Equity Fund	111.4697	11.32%	11.32%	106.552835	100.183340	31-Dec-10			
1.1465	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.1465	5.20%	5.20%			31-Dec-10			
1.1185	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.1185	4.73%	4.73%			31-Dec-10			
1.1491	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.1491	5.35%	5.35%			31-Dec-10			
9.9952	9.1005	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 1	9.9952	1.51%	6.08%			31-Mar-11			
11.2173	10.0000	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 2	11.2173	1.50%	6.41%			31-Mar-11			
10.4288	9.1708	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 3	10.4288	4.03%	4.29%			31-Mar-11			
8.4510	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Int'l Fund - Equities Sub Fund	8.5559	1.88%	8.41%			31-Mar-11			
MARKET TERMS											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX - 19 Dec 02 = 1,000.00						YIELD - last 12 month dividends divided by closing price					
52wk-Hi - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks						Bid \$ - Buying price of Colina and Fidelity					
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks						Ask \$ - Selling price of Colina and Fidelity					
Previous Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily volume						Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price					
Today's Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume						Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week					
Change - Change in closing price from day to day						EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mths					
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today						NAV - Net Asset Value					
Div \$ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months						N/M - Not Meaningful					
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings						FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index, January 1, 1994 = 100					
(S1) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/9/2007											
(S1) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/1/2007											
TO TRADE CALL: CFAL 242-502-7010 ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764 FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000 COLONIAL 242-502-7525											

New-home construction rises 7.2% in March

DEREK KRAVITZ,
AP Real Estate Writer
WASHINGTON

Builders broke ground on more new homes last month, giving the weak housing market a slight boost at the start of the spring buying season.

Home construction rose 7.2 percent in March from February to a seasonally adjusted 549,000 units, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. Building permits, an indicator of future construction, rose 11.2 percent after hitting a five-decade low in February.

Still, the building pace is far below the 1.2 million units a year that economists consider healthy. And March's improvement came after construction fell in February to its second-lowest level on records dating back more than a half-century.

Millions of foreclosures have forced home prices down. In some cities, prices are half of what they were before the housing market collapsed in 2006 and 2007. And more foreclosures are expected this year. Tight credit has made mortgage loans tough to get. Many would-be buyers who could qualify for loans are reluctant to shop, fearing that prices will fall even further.

A sign of the battered industry is the number of new homes finished and ready to sell dropped in March to a seasonally adjusted 509,000 units, the lowest level on records dating back to 1968. And the number of homes now under construction has fallen to a four-decade low.

"Housing starts remain at an extraordinarily depressed level," said Dan Greenhaus, chief economic strategist at Miller Tabak + Co. "To put this in further perspective, a doubling of (new homes) from here would still put starts at the lowest level of any other recession." During previous housing recessions, in the early 1980s and 90s, new home construction fell to more than 1 million homes per year. This year's pace is slightly more than half those levels.



INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

And the lack of any meaningful rebound in housing is stunting the broader economic recovery. In past modern-day recessions, housing accounted for 15 to 20 percent of overall economic growth. In the first post-recession year, between 2009 and 2010, housing only contributed 4 percent to economic growth.

Detracted

Since the mid-part of last year, home construction and sales have instead detracted from the economy. Joshua Shapiro, chief U.S. economist at MFR Inc., said that's a "large reason for the sub-par nature" of the rebound. New-home construction is down 6 percent since the recession ended nearly two years ago.

Single-family homes, which make up roughly 80 percent of home construction, rose 7.7 percent in March. Apartment and condominium construction rose 14.7 percent. Building permits increased to its highest level since December, spurred by a more than 28 percent jump in permits granted for apartment and condo buildings.

That increase in permits could signal a turnaround in the coming months, said Steven A. Wood, chief economist with Insight Economics. New homes typically take six months to build and the number of new permits is higher than the number of homes starting construction.

The increase in home construction activity was felt in most regions of the country.



(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

SIGN LANGUAGE: In this Feb. 20, 2011 photo, a sold home site is shown in Canonsburg, Pa. Builders broke ground last month on the most new homes in six months, giving the weak housing market a slight boost at the start of the spring buying season.

It rose 32.3 percent in the Midwest, 27.6 percent in the West and 5.4 percent in the Northeast. Construction fell 3.3 percent in the South.

New homes can spur job growth. Each new home built creates the equivalent of three jobs for a year and generates about \$90,000 in taxes, according to the National Association of Home Builders.

The trade group said Monday that its index of industry sentiment for April fell one notch, to 16. That followed a one-point increase in March and four straight months of 16 readings. Any reading below 50 indicates negative sentiment about the housing market's future and the index hasn't been above that level since April 2006.

Most economists expect home prices — and by extension home sales and construction — to slip even further in 2011 before a modest recovery takes hold.

Gold tops \$1,500 an ounce on economic concerns

NEW YORK

Gold prices topped \$1,500 an ounce Tuesday as investors looked for more stable assets because of worries about U.S. government debt, European financial problems and inflation.

Gold for June delivery settled at \$1,495.10 an ounce Tuesday after hitting \$1,500.50 an ounce earlier in the session. May silver rose 95.7 cents to settle at \$43.913 an ounce.

The gains came a day after Standard & Poor's Rating Service lowered its long-term outlook on U.S. government debt over concerns about the massive budget deficit, which is projected to run a record \$1.5 trillion this year. The change means that S&P could lower its rating on U.S. government debt in the future. If that were to happen, the U.S. government would have to pay more to borrow money when it issues bonds.

Investors also are worried about the impact that inflation may have on the global economy. China already has taken several steps to curb inflation, which could slow its economic growth. Europe, meanwhile, is dealing with financial issues in a number of countries, including Portugal.

"I think it's going to be more in the forefront...of investors' minds here going forward," LaSalle Futures Group analyst Matt Zeman said. "The bottom line is the going looks good for precious metals going forward."

Most commodities also

AT A GLANCE *associated press*

GOING FOR GOLD: Investors sent gold prices above \$1,500 an ounce on concerns about the U.S. government debt, European financial problems and inflation. Gold later settled at \$1,495.10 an ounce.

ECONOMIC WORRIES: Investors are worried after Standard & Poor's Rating Service lowered its long-term outlook on U.S. government debt because of the massive budget deficit. Europe is dealing with financial issues and several countries are coping with inflation.

DRY-WHEAT: Wheat prices rose after a government report showed 36 percent of the winter wheat crop was in good-to-excellent condition. That compared with 69 percent a year ago.

benefited from a weaker dollar. Since commodities are priced in dollars, a weaker dollar makes them more of a bargain for buyers using other currencies.

In other metals trading, May copper rose 3.15 cents to settle at \$4.2295 a pound, July platinum fell \$11.50 to \$1,771.30 an ounce and June palladium dropped \$8 to \$731.10 an ounce.

In agriculture contracts, wheat prices rose after an U.S. Agriculture Department report showed 36 percent of the winter wheat crop was in good-to-excellent condition for the week ending April 17. That compared with 69 percent in the comparable week a year ago.

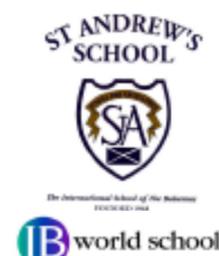
About 38 percent of the crop was in poor-to-very-poor condition, compared with 69 percent a year ago. The rest was in fair condition.

Unless there is improvement in next week's report, "the likelihood of the damage already being done is very, very high at this point," Global Commodity Analytics & Consulting LLC President Mike Zuzolo said.

In May contracts, wheat rose 10.75 cents to settle at \$7.8575 a bushel, corn fell 2.75 cents to \$7.49 a bushel and soybeans lost 2.25 cents to \$13.42 a bushel.

In energy trading, benchmark crude for June delivery gained 59 cents to settle at \$108.28 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

In Nymex trading for May contracts, heating oil gave up 2.43 cents to settle at \$3.1585 per gallon, gasoline futures fell 1.97 cents to \$3.2331 per gallon and natural gas rose 12.4 cents to settle at \$4.262 per 1,000 cubic feet.



Principal and CEO

St Andrew's School, The International School of The Bahamas, was established in 1948 and is governed by an 11-person, elected board of directors. It is accredited by both the Council of International Schools and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and authorized to offer both the Primary Years Programme and the Diploma Programme of the International Baccalaureate Organization. The school's motto is Ethics and Excellence and its mission statement, philosophy and aims, as well as much other relevant information, may be accessed on its web site: www.st-andrews.com.

The principal is the school's chief executive officer, responsible to the board for the administration of the school in all its aspects. The successful candidate will:

- be a qualified teacher, who possesses an advanced degree, preferably in education.
- be able to document successful experience as the head or divisional leader (e.g. primary school; secondary school) of a good international school and/or a leading independent school in The Bahamas or elsewhere. In any case, international experience is essential.
- have particular aptitudes in the areas of: school improvement; international accreditation standards; curriculum; administration; faculty/staff evaluation and human resources management; school finances.
- have an intimate knowledge of the programmes of the International Baccalaureate Organization and of the accreditation protocols of both the Council of International Schools and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.
- be a person of personal and professional integrity.
- be capable of recruiting outstanding teachers and of leading a talented and disparate group of faculty and staff members in the pursuit of excellence.

The salary and benefits offered will be dependent upon the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate. In addition to a tax-free salary, benefits include pension payments, a contribution to health insurance and discounted tuition for children.

Applications may be sent by express mail or fax: (1 242 364 1739) but the preferred means is by e-mail attachment to: principalsearch@st-andrews.com. Telephoned enquiries are discouraged.

The deadline for applications is **Friday 29th April, 2011.**

It should be noted that the search committee and the board reserve the right to curtail the process if the right candidate is identified during the process or to re-open the search if the initial process does not identify a suitably qualified candidate.

Principal Search Committee
St Andrew's School
The International School of The Bahamas
P O Box EE 17430
Yamacraw Hill Road,
Nassau
New Providence
The Bahamas

Fax: + 1 242 364 1739

E-mail: principalsearch@st-andrews.com

BUSINESS

McDonald's hiring day draws crowds and high hopes



JOB HUNGRY: As part of McDonald's National Hiring Day job seekers fill out applications before being interviewed during the lunch hour at a downtown Pittsburgh McDonald's restaurant Tuesday, April 19, 2011. Pittsburgh area McDonald's are looking to hire 1,500 new crew and restaurant management positions. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)



PAPERWORK: Rosaland Hemphill, 48, of Atlanta, fills out a job application at an Atlanta McDonald's restaurant Tuesday, April 19, 2011. McDonald's hopes to hire 50,000 new workers nationwide on April 19, 2011. (AP Photo/John Bazemore)

CHRISTINA REXRODE,
AP Business Writer

McDonald's Corp. for years has fought back against critics who complain it's making people fat. On Tuesday, it went on the offense against those who assail it as a lousy place to work.

Thousands showed up to restaurants nationwide to apply for jobs on the hamburger giant's first National Hiring Day, creating lines at some restaurants. The world's largest burger chain planned to use the day to add 50,000 new workers.

McDonald's painted the event as a boon for an economy where more than 13 million Americans are still looking for work. But the company usually staffs up for summer anyway. It added 50,000 new workers in April last year, so the blitz amounts to typical hiring, albeit compressed into a day.

The real purpose of the hiring campaign, industry experts said, was to portray the fast-food chain as a good employer.

"There are worse things an economic rebound could ask than, 'Welcome to McDonald's — may I take your order please?'" Jan Fields, president of McDonald's U.S. operations, wrote in an opinion piece for the company.

Fighting the "you-want-fries-with-that" jokes will be a challenge for a company whose name is often synonymous with cautionary tales



WE WANT WORK: As part of McDonald's National Hiring Day job seekers fill out applications before being interviewed at a downtown Pittsburgh McDonald's restaurant Tuesday, April 19, 2011. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

about dead-end jobs. "McJob" even has a place in The Oxford English Dictionary, defined as "an unstimulating, low-paid job with few prospects."

But to people who need work, any stigma is beside the point. Managers at a McDonald's in Cincinnati said a dozen or so applicants had lined up by 7 a.m., an hour before the restaurant planned to start interviews. By 10 a.m., the store had interviewed 100 people and had 25 more waiting.

Tiwan Irby, 28, was hoping for a full-time job and wasn't particular about what it would entail. He said he'd had trouble finding regular work since getting laid off from his construction job two years ago.

"A job is a job to me," said Irby, a father of three. "I'll take whatever is available."

Cortney Gatewood, 16, was looking for part-time work to save for college and didn't hesitate to consider McDonald's.

Good

"I think it's a good place to work," Gatewood said. "I come here almost every day to eat anyway."

Danitra Barnett, the company's U.S. vice president of human resources, said she couldn't specify what proportion of the 50,000 new jobs will be full-time, or what they will pay.

About 90 percent of McDonald's restaurants are owned by franchisees, and the

company doesn't control what they offer in wages or benefits. Barnett said most franchisees pay more than minimum wage, which is \$7.25-an-hour nationally.

McDonald's said it and its franchisees will spend an additional \$518 million in the coming year because of Tuesday's hiring. That amounts to just over \$10,000 per new employee.

Spokeswoman Danya Proud said the company preferred to emphasize the total economic benefit of the campaign, including the money that new workers will spend in their local economies.

"It's not just the money that we're going to be spending putting back in the economy," Proud said, "but what these individuals and others will be

spending and putting back into the economy."

Proud said that salaried managers for company-owned restaurants can make between about \$32,000 and \$50,000 annually.

The company said last year that about 75 percent of employees at company-owned restaurants are part-time, averaging 18 hours a week.

But it also touts how those jobs can grow into bigger opportunities. According to the company, 30 percent of its executives started in restaurants, as well as more than 70 percent of restaurant managers.

With 14,000 U.S. restaurants, Tuesday's planned additions amount to about three or four new employees per restaurant — the amount

that each store is probably usually looking for anyway, said Sara Senatore, an analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein.

For Richmond, Va., area franchisee Sue Durlak, the event was an opportunity to expand the applicant pool for her 10 restaurants, and maybe even find someone who can follow in her footsteps.

She started part-time in 1982 while working as a middle-school health teacher in Illinois to supplement her income. She has since worked her way up to owning several locations.

"I do look at anyone who applies, as well as the rest of my team, as the potential as a lifer," Durlak said.

McDonald's is expected to release the final hiring count next week.

NIBA

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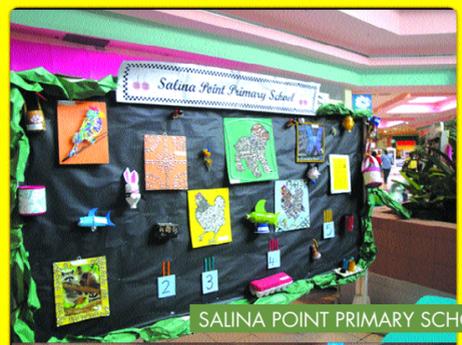
arts

& ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2011



URIAH MCPHEE
PRIMARY SCHOOL



SALINA POINT PRIMARY SCHOOL



GERALD CASH PRIMARY SCHOOL



PALMDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE TALENTED TINY TOTS

By JEFFARAH GIBSON and ALESHA CADET
Tribune Features Reporters

IMAGINATIVE PRIMARY School students of various ages gathered all the recyclable items they could possibly find, whether it is was soda cans, paper, plastic, or cloth, and displayed their creativity at an exhibition that took place last week April 11-15 at the Mall at Marathon.

From the scraps of materials salvaged, these students made creations of some of the most beautiful art pieces to compete in the Ministry of Education's 13th Annual Visual Arts Exhibition for Primary Schools under the theme Creating Art Through Recycling.

This year, eighteen schools entered their pieces in the show to become the winners of art showcase. Sadie Curtis Primary School emerged victorious once again. Coming in second for the New Providence division was Yellow Elder Primary School, and taking third place was Ridgeland Primary.

Though Gerald Cash Primary School did not place in the top three, they were an honourable mention for their depiction of a life size house made of cans.

In the Family Island division Farmer' Cay Primary School came first, Salina Point Primary came second, and Emma E Cooper Primary came third.



RIDGELAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



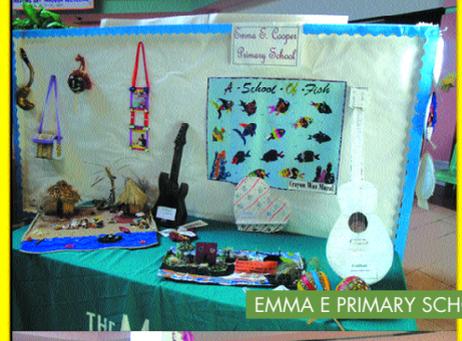
SADIE CURTIS SCHOOL



FARMER'S CAY ALL AGE SCHOOL



CLEVELAND ENEAS PRIMARY SCHOOL



EMMA E PRIMARY SCHOOL



COLUMBUS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Miss Teen Plus Bahamas looking for new recruits

Esteem Productions will host the 2nd Annual Miss Teen Plus Bahamas Pageant, August 7th, 2011 at the Rain Forest Theatre. The organisation is now looking to recruit young ladies ages 15-19 to compete in this year's competition, under the theme "ladies in waiting".

The young ladies in this year's completion are guaranteed to embark on one of the greatest experiences of their lives, as they will participate in many developmental tutorials, as well as fun activities.

The winner of Miss Teen Plus Bahamas will take over from the present titleholder Miss Jacklyn Frazer, who has had a stellar reign. Miss Frazer

has made history this year as she walked the runway at Islands of the world fashion week, fashion for a cause, Dent The Runway. She was also a presenter at the Cacique Awards and participated in the bridal show. One thing that is evident is that the young ladies in search of the title must bring with them a great sense of confidence, intelligence, class and humility.

The winner takes home a two year partial scholarship at the College of the Bahamas and will go on to represent the Bahamas in an international teen pageant. Interested young ladies that are interested can collect a form at La Chica Caliente, East Street or Fabulous Plus Boutique, opposite Ridgeland Bakery or call the office at 393-258.

Esteem Productions is the premier organiser of events and

initiatives aimed at empowering and transforming the lives of full figured women, through the promotion and advancement of a more expansive, redefined and revolutionary global standard of beauty.

"The vision of our leadership is expressly articulated in our company name. We seek to elevate the level of self esteem and self worth of teenage girls and full figured women who may look different from the stereotypical mold that society considers beautiful. Our goal is to provide platforms that celebrate true beauty which are a woman's unique qualities and gifting, her talents, and abilities in addition to her physical appearance.

"Our desire is to develop and mentor women towards superior standards and excellence. This would be evidenced by their ability to make positive

contributions in every field of endeavour, and by standing with elegance, confidence and pride in the beauty of their being. Ultimately our aim is to encourage women to value and appreciate themselves as complete and whole beings; mentally, physically, intellectually and spiritually. They will be fully aligned with our mission, vision and core values in both their personal and professional lives.

As a company, Esteem Productions' leadership, staff and volunteers remain committed to striving for perfection in all that we do. We endeavor to display ourselves as caring, professional and respectable individuals in all facets of this organization. We accept the mandate that has been given to us to change this nation and the world one woman at a time," organisers said.



Jacklyn Frazer Miss Teen Plus Bahamas 2010-2011

THINGS 2 DO

APRIL 21- THURSDAY

PLAYBOYS AND BUNNIES

• Show Gun Entertainment presents Playboy and Bunnies- The Pre Easter Party at the Balcony. There will be a special guest DJ. Ladies are free until 11.30pm and then \$10, gentlemen are \$15.

APRIL 22 - FRIDAY

NASSAU CITY OPERA: "THE PASSION AND CRUCIFIXION OF THE CHRIST"

• The Nassau City Opera presents a showing of "The Passion and Crucifixion of The Christ", 8pm at Christ Church Cathedral. Cost: \$20. Proceeds in aid of the Porgy and Bess production.

APRIL 23 - SATURDAY

TOWN CENTRE MALL'S EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

• Town Center Mall presents an Easter Egg-Stravaganza, 2pm-5pm in Centre Court. Join them for fun, games, face painting and an exciting Easter egg hunt! Also, come on out and see your favourite characters and have your photo taken with the Easter Bunny. Telephone: 326-6920.

APRIL 22 - APRIL 24

ROCKSOUND HOMECOMING

• Rocksound, Eleuthera hosts its annual Homecoming with a full slate of exciting events, such as a pool party at Rock Sound Club, an all-Bahamian concert, and an exciting Easter egg hunt. Reunite with family, meet friends and just have fun!

APRIL 25 - EASTER MONDAY

ADVENTURE LEARNING CENTRE EASTER MONDAY FUNDAY

• The Adventure Learning Centre holds a Funday on Easter Monday. Bring the kids, youth groups and the neighbours for a day of family fun from 11am to 6pm. \$5 admission (under 2s are free).

Ticketed events to enjoy are Easter Egg Hunts, Train Rides, Horse Rides, Carnival Games, Planetarium Shows, Rock Climbing Wall, Food Galore Cotton Candy, Popcorn and Music!

Easter Egg Hunt times: 1-3 yrs old- 1pm and 3pm, 4-6 yrs old- 1.30pm & 3.30pm, 7-9 yrs old 2pm and 4pm. Enjoy for free: Petting Farm and Nature Centre self tours, Playground, Obstacle Course, 40 ft. Superslide, Kiddie Movies. Located Marshall Road, South Beach. Telephone: 361-2120. www.alcbahamas.org.

APR 25 - MONDAY (ABACO)

MISS WORD BAHAMAS 2011: SWIMSUIT "FAST TRACK" COMPETITION

• The Miss Bahamas Organization presents the Swimsuit "Fast Track" Competition for the 2011 Miss World Bahamas, 1pm at Casa De Essence in Abaco. Cost: \$25/general seating; \$50/VIP; \$135/general seating and round trip airfare; \$160/VIP ticket and round trip airfare. See www.2010.missbahamas.net.

APRIL 25 - APRIL 26 & APRIL 27 - APRIL 28

SKYCLIMBERS' EASTER BREAK CAMP

• SkyClimbers presents its Easter Break Rock Climbing Camp, with two two-day sessions, 9am-5pm daily. Activities include climbing at SkyClimbers, climbing at Climbers Rush, tour of Dolphin Cay, meet the sea lions, feed the sting rays, tour of Aquaventure, and fishing lessons. Cost: \$40. Space limited to 20 students. Telephone: 363-0626.



BRISTOL

WINES & SPIRITS

SALE

BUY 2 GET 1
FREE

ON SELECTED ITEMS

APRIL 18 - 21, 2011

COUNTRY WIDE
AT ALL LOCATIONS



Stop the
boat
 and let me off in
bimini



DANCING IN THE STREETS:
 People are being entertained by last year's performance of the marching bands.

By **ALESHA CADET**
 Tribune Features Reporter

EVEN IF you're not from the islands, there is always something about homecoming and Regatta festivals that create a sense of community spirit.

The festivities that hold these events together have always been special for many Bahamians more so now than before. Many Bahamians return home to their roots to reunite with family members, and friends to celebrate the "coming home." And then some people simply make the decision to escape the fast paced city life for peace and tranquility.

These events also allow for the exposure of the culture and culinary talents of the particular island.

This year, Bimini natives are calling all Bahamians to come and join them as they hold a festival that will be the biggest and best of all time, according to Bimini natives. This year will top the previous years, as organisers have made the event much more attractive for the wider community.

The event will begin with a grand opening and gospel showdown which will be held on Friday, April 22. On the following day there will be entertainment from the Legend marching band out of Grand Bahama, a fifty piece marching band which is very popular in Bimini.

In an interview with *Tribune Entertainment*, the chairman of the homecoming committee, Mr Lloyd "Duda" Edgecombe said: "We also have our local marching band which we call the community band, We are having something in which we call the battle of the bands on Saturday. We also have our Junkanoo parades on Saturday also, as well as the float parade with the young kids and a fashion show with a bridal theme."

"We would climax with KB on Saturday, through the day we would have our regular jump n rope, hola hoop, conch cracking contest and all of the other activities."

We all know there wouldn't be a highlight at a homecoming in the Bahamas without the wonderful melodies of Bahamian artists. People can look forward to live performances by Stiletto, Geno D, KB and special guests. "Friday afternoon is a more religious thing, we have the Bimini Men For Christ who will be holding their annual parade and gospel concert," Mr Edgecombe said.

"We have been preparing for the homecoming since last year's homecoming, we held a few functions leading up to this one."

When asked what committee members are doing differently this year for the event, Mr Edgecombe said: "We added a few more entertainment segments and basically what we found out is we have a lot of kids that come home to enjoy this time of the year, people bring their families and kids, so we have a kiddies corner with the clowns doing a painting of the face and so on."

Speaking on this year's theme "Stop the boat and let me off in Bimini", he added that the name came about during a DJ contest where Mr D'ano Duncombe, a Bimini native DJ won them over with the exciting theme.

Mr Edgecombe added: "The expectations for this year's homecoming is very high and we hope to have a bigger crowd this year than last year cause there are also one or two family reunions planned for this time, you can come and enjoy the festival and the reunion activities."

Going further: "On Sunday there is a big beach party that will be going down on Radio Beach, located in the back of the homecoming site." The "L.O.L Wete Fete" beach party that is said to be hosted by D'ano Duncombe and DJ Vybez will have music by Bimini, Nassau and Miami's Hottest on the line up. People can also look forward to fun and games such as different contest shows and ticket give a ways.

"We are excited and we call on Biminities who have not been home in a while to come out and enjoy," Mr Edgecombe said.

STOP THE BOAT
LET ME OFF IN BIMINI
 HOMECOMING 2011
4.22 - 4.23
 ::FRIDAY:::SATURDAY::
 LIVE PERFORMANCES BY:
 STILETTO, GENO D., K.B
 & SPECIAL GUESTS

via caffè

Delicious Euro-Caribbean Dining & Authentic Italian Coffee, Pastries & Gelato!

Daily Happy Hour
 5-8pm

Live Entertainment
 [Selected Nights]

WiFi™
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Visit us on Facebook Located at Cruise Ship Exit
 Corner of Parliament & Woodes Rogers Walk
 242 322 7209 . Info@viacaffebahamas.com



ABC cancels two longtime soaps from daytime lineup

NEW YORK
Associated Press

ABC canceled two of its three long-running daily daytime TV dramas on Thursday, consigning "One Life to Live" and "All My Children" — and Susan Lucci, daytime's most famous actress — to television history.

The move leaves "General Hospital" as ABC's only daytime drama, one of only four that will remain on ABC, CBS and NBC's daytime schedule.

"Soap operas" -- so-called for the detergent makers that often sponsored them -- have slowly been fading as a TV force, with many of the women who made up the target audience now in the work force. In place of the two canceled dramas, ABC will air shows about food and lifestyle transformations.

Brian Frons, head of ABC's daytime department, went to the Cali-

fornia set of "All My Children" to deliver the news on Thursday, where a video link was also set up to the New York set of "One Life to Live." He said the shows were doing well creatively, but falling ratings indicated they had a bleak future.

"If you have a show in severe decline, you're trying to catch a falling knife," Frons said.

Daytime dramas have suffered recently as cable networks like TLC, Bravo and Oxygen aggressively seek viewers in those morning and afternoon hours, he said. Soaps are popular with viewers from the post-World War II baby boom, but younger viewers are more interested in other programming, he said.

Both canceled shows were created by Agnes Nixon, one of daytime TV's most famous creative forces, and modeled after fictional Philadelphia-area towns. "One Life to Live" debuted on July 15, 1968, as a half-hour, expanding to an hour 10 years

later. "All My Children" premiered on Jan. 5, 1970, expanding to an hour seven years later.

They were both known for incorporating social issues into their stories, with Lucci's character of Erica Kane the first regular TV character to undergo a legal abortion in 1973, said Carolyn Hinsey, author of "Afternoon Delight: Why Soaps Still Matter," due to be published next month.

Lucci became more famous for an offstage drama when she was nominated 18 years in a row for a Daytime Emmy Award as best actress without winning, until she finally took home a trophy in 1999.

"It's been a fantastic journey," Lucci said.

"One Life to Live" is the last soap opera produced in New York, once the thriving center of the industry. Two New York-based dramas on CBS, "Guiding Light" and "As the World Turns," went off the air with-

in the past two years.

"All My Children" is averaging 2.5 million viewers a day, down 9 per cent from the last TV season, and the median age of a typical viewer was nearly 57, the Nielsen Co. said. "One Life to Live" is at 2.6 million, its numbers off only slightly.

Hinsey said the schedule changes are risky for ABC stations.

"Why would you drive millions of other people away from your lineup?" she asked. "If you want to save money, cut your costs, cut your sets. You can't be so cavalier with your daytime eyeballs that you let two, three, four million people disappear."

Besides "General Hospital," ABC's decision will leave CBS' "The Young and the Restless" and "The Bold and the Beautiful" and NBC's "Days of Our Lives" as the only daytime dramas left on the air. Each appears to be in no imminent danger, Hinsey said.



ACTRESS Susan Lucci from "All My Children," poses for a portrait in New York. Lucci is the author of a new memoir titled "All My Life." (AP)



The Game must call a TIME-OUT!

By JEFFARAH GIBSON
Tribune Features Writer

MELANIE had an abortion! That was the shocking finish viewers were left with after the thirteen episode season of "The Game" season four ended. And to be honest I felt cheated. Cheated simply because we the fans waited two years for the series to return to television to be served with a short season and premature episodes.

But the season in its entirety was not bad. However, one major contention surrounding this season of BET's new hit show "Game" has been its inclusion of a laugh track.

Before "The Game" made its comeback on BET after it was canceled on the CW in 2009, it found a very nice balance between its serious and humorous gears. Week after week fans gathered in front of television just to hear Tasha Mack say "Too soon Med School or Emotional Walls Emotional Walls". This season, the two elements are off-balance, and if the show has been weak anywhere, it's been its jokes. And for someone like me — a "Game" fanatic the show only had one memorable joke.

There was also a good amount of drama in this season as well. But not enough to keep me excited about the upcoming episodes. I think the new writers play a major role in this flatline of the show. They murdered the cama-

raderie between the characters that audiences fell in love with.

Season 4 has been a season in which we've watched the writers destroy all of the relationships between the six main characters. And in a somewhat soap opera kind of way they tried to build storylines around all six characters separately. The original show was tons of fun and incredibly well written and performed, this new season is half the fun and not executed that well.

After "The Game" was canceled by the CW in 2009, fans took to the Internet demanding its return. The protests, zines, homage videos and 2 million Facebook followers fell on deaf ears at the CW, but BET heard the call and decided to answer.

Though this season hit some lows I am still looking forward to the new season on "The Game" because I have to know whose baby Melanie aborted. Could it be her husband Derwin's, Trey Wiggs, Jerome, or Mr Mchottie?

Biopic with Travolta: 'Gotti: Three Generations'

By STEVE LOEPER
AP Entertainment Writer

A HIGHLY anticipated film starring John Travolta as the leader of the legendary Gambino crime family has a name: "Gotti: Three Generations."

Film spokesman Steve Honig confirmed the title Saturday and says the biopic about "Dapper Don" John Gotti will be shot on a budget of about \$75 million this year.

A person with knowledge of the film who spoke on condition of anonymity because it hadn't been announced has said it will be produced by Marc Fiore and directed by Nick Casavetes.

The famous mobster died in prison in 2002. His son, 47-year-old John "Junior" Gotti, sold film rights to Fiore last year for an undisclosed amount.



Actor John Travolta

ABC latest to try all-comedy night, and does well

NEW YORK
Associated Press

IT'S hardly the golden age of sitcoms, but ABC is now the second network to fill an entire night's prime-time schedule with them.

ABC last week devoted its Wednesday night schedule to six sitcoms — taking the lead from NBC, which does the same thing on Thursday nights. For its first try, ABC had bragging rights, with its comedies delivering an average of 6.4 million viewers to NBC's 4.7 million, the Nielsen Co. said.

ABC's "Modern Family"

was the week's most popular comedy for only the second time in the show's history. It helped that CBS' "The Big Bang Theory," which is generally more popular, showed a rerun.

The networks' experiments have less to do with the strength of comedies than with declining ratings for expensive dramas, which typically fill the 10 p.m. Eastern hour on ABC, CBS and NBC. In fact, only two sitcoms, "Modern Family" (No. 17) and CBS' "Mike & Molly" (No. 25), finished among Nielsen's 25 most popular prime-time programs last week.

NBC's "The Office," approaching the exit of star Steve Carell, has been inching up in the ratings and was seen by 7.9 million people last week.

The two editions of Fox's "American Idol" topped the week's popularity list, although CBS was the most-watched network.

For the week in prime-time, CBS averaged 9.2 million viewers (5.8 rating, 10 share), Fox had 7.9 million viewers (4.6, 8), ABC had 7.8 million (4.9, 8), NBC had 5.2 million (3.3, 5), the CW had 1.5 million (1.0, 2) and ION Television had 1.2 million (0.8, 1).

Cherry tomato overload

It all started three years ago when Mike Wheeler of Crossing Rocks gave me a container that incidentally included a Mexican cherry tomato plant. The cherry tomatoes were small, a little over half an inch in diameter, but were very tasty. I deliberately spread a few seeds around.

Bad idea. Cherry tomatoes now surround my septic tank. They are in the watermelon patch, the lawn, the front planters, the flowerbeds – even the tomato garden. They are smothering the roses. My biggest garden chore these days is picking the darned things.

I know I am not alone. Several gardening friends have complained about their cherry tomato overload. Early on, there was no problem because as the cherry tomatoes appeared you could pop them into your mouth and enjoy them. When they got too many I filled baggies and gave them away. Problem there was I had to pick them before bagging them. I made the job somewhat easier by clipping ripe bunches from the vines. These filled the baggies faster. In the end I made sauce.

Most cherry tomatoes have wonderful flavour and plenty of juice, but have tough skins and lots of seeds. Get rid of the skin and seeds and you have the essential flavour of tomato left. If you are suffering from a cherry tomato overload you may like to try my recipe.

For every quart of tomatoes, add 1 teaspoon fennel seeds, a small yellow onion cut small, several sprigs of parsley, several sprigs of celery leaves, and a bay leaf. Bring to the boil over medium heat and then turn to simmer. After half an hour mash the tomatoes with a potato masher then cook for 15 minutes longer. Use a wire strainer or food mill and squeeze out the juice.

At this point you could add hot sauce, lime juice, vodka and ice and forget about the rest of the day.

Pour the juice into a saucepan and simmer gently, stirring often, until it is as thick as you like. There will be distressingly little sauce compared to the number of tomatoes you started with (what I call the cooked spinach syndrome), maybe ten or twelve ounces, but it will taste exquisite.



DELICIOUS: Into the pot and onto the stove! The first stage of a delicious tomato sauce.

GREEN SCENE

By GARDENER JACK

ingredients is tomato paste, used to both flavour and thicken dishes. You can get great tomato paste from your cherry tomato sauce by thickening it in a double boiler and then pouring it into a soup plate and placing in a 250 degree oven until it turns like a fruit leather. When cool, cut into squares and wrap in wax paper. Your tomato paste will last indefinitely in the refrigerator.

Once you have tomato paste you are a mere step or two away from pizza sauce, which is merely seasoned oil, tomato paste and water. Mix 6 ounces of tomato paste with one-third cup of olive oil, then add one and a third cups water.

Season your sauce as you wish, the

only must ingredients being dried oregano and salt and pepper to taste. You may add parmesan cheese, garlic, rosemary, thyme, sugar – whatever your heart desires. Leave the sauce to absorb the flavours overnight if possible.

If you like pickles you can try pickled cherry tomatoes. Make a brine with a cup of sea salt to half a gallon or more of water. Make a slit at the stem end of each cherry tomato, add to the brine and soak for 24 hours minimum. Place the cherry tomatoes in glass jars and cover with your favourite boiled pickling mix. I use sherry vinegar, thyme sprigs and tarragon. Store refrigerated for three weeks then enjoy.

You can make virgin cherry tomatoes more interesting for guests by spritzing bunches with lemon or lime juice and then dipping into fine sea salt. A bowl of cherry tomatoes treated this way goes well beside chips and a cheese-base dip.

Large cherry tomatoes like Tommy Toe can be quartered or halved and used in regular salads and are particularly good in Greek salad. Most are too seedy and juicy to use for chili salsas but pear and grape varieties are mealy and do the job fine. I particularly enjoy the mild Yellow Pear in salsa.

•gardenerjack@coralwave.com

Flash Back

“Many years will pass before the widespread and well established use of plants in medicine will be forgotten in the Bahamas. “It is a privilege for me to record in book form possibly for the first time, this study of local plants used in medicine.” Excerpt from “Bush Medicine in the Bahamas” by Mrs Leslie Higgs.

“The Most High hath created medicines out of the earth and a wise man will not abhor them.” Ecclesiasticus ch 38 v 4.

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

BY ROLAND ROSE



BUSH MEDICINE IN THE BAHAMAS



INya ear

by LESH & FARAH



Sabali

(PATIENCE)
A SONG OR PROPHECY?

By FARAH

BOB Marley lives on! It almost feels that way after listening to his son Damian Marley's single *Sabali* (Patience). He and his "distant relative" Nas came together to produce a thought provoking track which features the African voices of Miriam & Amadou.

The two are no strangers to collaborations. Last year they made a studio album titled "Distant Relatives" which fused the musical elements of hip hop and reggae. The album also featured lyrical themes regarding ancestry, poverty, and the plight of Africa. The album debuted at number five on the US Billboard 200 chart, selling 57,000 copies in its first week. Upon its release, Distant Relatives received positive reviews from most music critics.

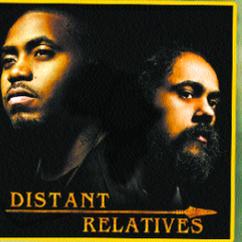
Patience by the duo is also receiving positive views by fans as well. The song as well as the video provides a deeper look into the world we live in today, highlights and questions the priorities of leaders of the world. It is somewhat a charge for individuals to reconsider and spend time and effort into the thing of greater value.

This song is like listening to an audio version of the book of Proverbs. Some listeners are even saying the song is "no longer a song it is a prophecy".

"This song is no longer a song it is a prophecy. I have listened to this over and over and over again and Damian Marley has really made a great song this time." Another listener said: "This may be the greatest song ever." "Simply amazing and powerful symbols and messages, truly two musical prophets of our time and era."

Damian Marley like his father sure knows how to tell a meaningful story!

"Some of the smartest dummies can't read the language of Egyptian mummies, An' a fly go a moon, and can't find food for the starving tummies Pay no mind to the youths cause it's not like the future depends on it, But save the animals in the zoo, cause the chimpanzee dem a make big money This is how the media pillages on the TV the picture is savages in villages, And the scientist still can't explain the pyramids, huh, Evangelists making a living on the videos of ribs of the little kids, Stereotyping the image of the images, And this is what the image is"



Damian Marley

2011 CHIT CHAT

The first guy to go

By LESH

AFTER that big elimination shocker a few weeks ago, when America voted off one of the greatest, Miss Pia I don't think anything else that happens will come as a surprise to me.

On the elimination edition of American Idol, the show opened up with a duet between Lauren Alaina and Scotty McCreery, my favourites, one of the two has to win the competition, hands down. With the contestants performing in smaller groups, you get a chance to know their characters better.

Of course they had to give us another Ford commercial trailer, these are always fun to watch. The viewers got to watch a behind the scenes look in detail at the Ford music video before the video was aired. The contestants, James,

Haley, Stefano and Scotty were disguised as zombies, Scotty was such a sexy zombie!

Next up to perform their duet was Casey Abrams and Haley Reinhart, not favorites of mine, but their fans are definitely keeping them in the competition. Haley is really getting herself together though.

Ryan comes to center with the first round up of results, he calls Lauren and Scotty to join Casey and Haley. Scotty was sent to safety, Lauren and Casey are also safe and Haley landed in the bottom three for like the fifth time.

Soon after, the AI team bought back their very first idol, Kelly Clarkson. She performed along with some guy, I had no idea who he was but the entire performance was great, the vibe was on point.

Next up, was a performance

from Paul, James, Jacob Lusk and Stefano Langone, they did a little medley from a Simon and Garfunkel "Graduate" song. One would have noticed they had trouble mixing their voices and blending together, but they pulled it off.

Of the four studs, James is safe, Stefano is in the bottom three again, Jacob is safe and Paul is in the bottom three. Right after these results, my gal Rihanna graced the stage with a beautiful performance of one of her hits "California King."

After Rihanna's performance, Ryan delivers the news that Haley and Stefano are safe and Paul is sent packing, the first guy to leave the show.

This week on American Idol, the remaining top 7 contestants will sing songs from the 21st century.



TOP TEN R&B/HIP HOP SONGS

LOOK AT ME NOW
Chris Brown Featuring Lil Wayne & Busta Rhymes

ALL OF THE LIGHTS
Kanye West

DID IT ON'EM
Nicki Minaj

MOMENT 4 LIFE
Nicki Minaj Featuring Drake

6 FOOT 7 FOOT
Lil Wayne Featuring Cory Gunz

LOVE FACES
Trey Songz

ROLL UP
Wiz Khalifa

FAR AWAY
Marsha Ambrosius

SURE THING
Miguel

WHERE YOU AT
Jennifer Hudson