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FEATURES



Evolving art of junkanoo
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INSIDE

CARS FOR SALE, HELP WANTED AND REAL ESTATE
BAHAMAS BIGGEST



SPORTS



Johnson makes history
SEE PAGE TEN

PLP's cash fears over by-election

Pharmacies cast doubt on govt's new drug plan

By **AVA TURNQUEST**
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

LOCAL pharmacies have cast doubt on the workability of the government's new drug prescription plan. Major distributors have admitted being unsure about joining the initiative because of the "limited" information surrounding the programme since its presentation to Parliament last month. They also claim that while the Chronic Disease Prescription Drug Plan is seemingly ideal, more forums are needed to clearly outline the programme and how it will affect participating pharmacies. One of the main concerns voiced by the private sector

SEE page 11

Party weighs up options to contest seat

By **PAUL G TURNQUEST**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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THE Progressive Liberal Party is weighing its options as to whether it will put up a candidate in the Elizabeth by-election, sources within the party have confirmed to *The Tribune*.

Currently the party is faced with a dilemma because the FNM has essentially taken a lead in the area having had representatives from its party

on the ground for the past three weeks. As for campaigning, the PLP is concerned that it has to find at least half a million dollars to put up a formidable challenge to the FNM's machinery in the area. According to sources within the PLP, the party has containers that are still filled with PLP T-shirts and other election paraphernalia, but the actual funding of a by-election

SEE page eight

FRANCIS FARRINGTON IS LAID TO REST



A FORMER CLASSMATE of Francis Farrington, Nathan Adderley, places a rose on the coffin yesterday. Mr Farrington was laid to rest after a funeral service at St. John's Native Baptist Cathedral. The St Andrew's School graduate was found dead on December 23, after going missing on November 24. He was 27.

• SEE PAGE 12 and SPORT SECTION

Police 'will try to disrupt' the trade in fake goods

By **MEGAN REYNOLDS**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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POLICE have expressed determination to crackdown on the illicit trade of pirated and counterfeit goods after the US government dubbed the force complicit in such illicit trade. The United States Trade Representative's Office report on the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA) which presents the official view of the Obama administration describes the enforcement

SEE page eight

Christie: offering Adderley judge post would undermine democracy

By **TANEKA THOMPSON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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IF THE Government offered Malcolm Adderley a post as a Supreme Court judge in exchange for his seat in Elizabeth it would "undermine" Bahamian democracy, charged Opposition Leader Perry Christie. The former prime minister argued that judicial appointments are "one of the most sacred appointments" that defines

SEE page 11

Man injured in daytime shooting

POLICE reported that a man was shot multiple times about the body sometime around 3.20pm yesterday. According to police press officer Chrislyn Skippings, police received information of a shooting at Plantot Street. Information received, she said, is that a man was shot multiple times by another man who was riding in a Black Honda Accord. The licence plate of this vehicle is unknown at this time. The victim of this shooting was taken to the hospital by a private vehicle and his condition is unknown at this time. Police investigations into this matter continue. In other crime related news, police recovered a 20-gauge shotgun on Prison Lane sometime around 6.45am yesterday. According to officer Skippings, officers from the Drug Enforcement Unit executed a search warrant on a home in the area and retrieved the weapon along with one live round. A occupant of the home was taken into police custody and is assisting the police with their investigations.

Laing slams Senator over 'reckless misinformation'

By **ALISON LOWE**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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Jerome Fitzgerald in *Tribune Business*, when he suggested that the recent downgrading of the Bahamas' long-term sovereign credit-rating by international agency Standard & Poor's (S&P) could herald an oncoming fall in the value of the Bahamian dollar that would see it "unpegged" from the US currency with

STATE Finance Minister Zhivargo Laing yesterday condemned a PLP Senator for issuing "reckless misinformation" that he claims could threaten the global reputation of The Bahamas' economy. Mr Laing was responding to comments made by

SEE page 11



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LOCAL NEWS

Promotions in the Royal Bahamas Police Force

NEW Commissioner of Police Ellison Greenslade and members of the Force's executive management team have congratulated 29 officers who have received promotions.

In accordance with Article 119(2) of the Constitution and with the recommendation of the prime minister after consultation with the Police Service Commission, Governor-General Arthur Hanna has approved the following promotions with effect from January 4, 2010:

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Samuel Butler
Hector Delva
Edgar Bain
Samuel McKinney
Maxine Leary
Kendal Strachan
Dereck Burrows
Rodney Smith
Bernard K Bonamy Jr



NOEL CURRY



STEPHANIE DEMERITTE



ISMELLA DAVIS



RONALD CAMPBELL

INSPECTOR TO ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Kendal Deveaux
Craig Stubbs
Bradley Sands
Michael Moxey
Floyd Bastian
Kirkwood Andrews
Kenwood Taylor
Dennis Sturrup
Allan Emmanuel
Stewart Curtis



MOREY EVANS



SAMUEL BUTLER



HECTOR DELVA



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OTHER INFORMATION:

- May require some travel
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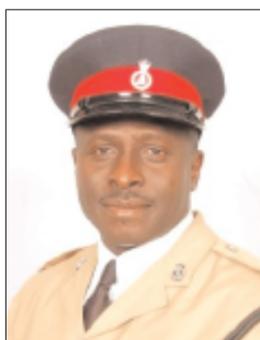
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STEWART CURTIS

LOCAL NEWS

Baha Mar working to close financing deal

By NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

Baha Mar executives are confident about the progress being made in securing financing for the billion dollar development, but want to be careful about creating false expectations.

Negotiations are continuing between the resort developers and two Chinese entities: China Export-Import Bank, the potential financier, and China State Construction, the potential construction company.

Robert Sands, Baha Mar senior vice-president of external affairs and administration, said although he was hoping to conclude negotiations by the end of December, he is not concerned about the extended timeline, because progress is still being made. "It is unwise for us to make comments about the project until we are absolutely satisfied it is a go. Although we are cautiously optimistic we are making good progress, speculating about what is and what could be until it is done is not a wise thing," he said.

Mr Sands said all parties are still committed to the original vision of creating some 7,500 full time jobs, diversifying the tourism product and building the Bahamian economy with significant capital investments.

He pointed to the fact that the Bahamas has not increased its room inventory since the 1990s and stressed the need to introduce new innovations to the industry, particularly in a climate where the Bahamian economy contracted by four per cent in 2009. Despite the evolving market conditions locally and globally, plans to develop new road networks, a commercial village and resort complex are unchanged. Once a deal is finalised, construction on the Baha Mar project will proceed as originally planned under the former arrangement with hotel and casino operating partners Harrah's Entertainment and Starwood Hotels.

We are proceeding on the basis that we have done our due diligence, based on the premise that we have done market research and business analysis. We believe recessions are cyclical, and if and once the project is completed, by that time the Bahamas will be in a position to take off economically and we will be the recipients of that economic condition," said Mr Sands. The negotiating points delaying an agreement have not been disclosed by the resort developers or the Chinese entities. Mr Sands declined to comment, despite recent reports that the Chinese negotiators are seeking to finalise the number work permits available to them and an equity share. Jian Tan, first secretary in the Chinese Embassy and head of commercial affairs, said he would comment only after further consultation with the ambassador.

Plans for RBDF leadership to be revealed 'before end of week'

Government set to make announcement, says National Security Minister

THE government intends to reveal its plans for the future of the leadership of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force before the end of the week, Minister of National Security Tommy Turnquest said.

Current Commodore of the Force, Clifford Scavella, saw his contract come to an end on November 2, 2009, but has continued to serve at the helm of the organisation.

Asked yesterday whether the government has selected a replacement for Mr Scavella, Mr Turnquest said the government "should make a statement some time this week."

Commodore Scavella took the top post at the RBDF in November 2006, after serving for 11 years at the rank of lieutenant commander.



Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY Tommy Turnquest speaks to the media outside of Cabinet yesterday.

Throughout his time at the head of the Defence Force, Mr Scavella has been described as a strict disciplinarian, with this

borne out most vividly in the last few weeks with his decision to keep a group of 14 officers on lock-down onboard their vessel and later at the Defence Force base over the Christmas holidays after a 9mm pistol belonging to the force disappeared during an official mission to Ragged Island.

Despite a police investigation being launched into the whereabouts of the gun and the circumstances surrounding its disappearance, the weapon has yet to be found.

The men have now been allowed to leave the base but last week Mr Turnquest warned that all could face disciplinary action if no one admits responsibility for the loss of the gun.

In brief

Three charged with drug possession

THREE men were granted bail yesterday after being charged with possession of two pounds of marijuana.

Andre Lewis, 28, of Emmanuel Way; Danrico Carey, 19, of Sibal Road West; and Francisco Masena, 21, of Lobster Avenue, appeared before Magistrate Carolita Bethel in Court Eight, Bank Lane.

Lewis, Carey, and Masena are accused of being found on December 29 with 2.1 pounds of marijuana with the intent to supply.

They all pleaded not guilty to the charge and were granted bail in the sum of \$7,500 with two sureties. The case has been adjourned to June 23, 2010.

Warrants of arrest was issued for Isaiah Clarke, 19, of Emmanuel Way and Ashton Newbold, who failed to appear in court yesterday.

Ryan Pinder hoping to realise PLP ambitions

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
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POLITICAL ambitions could soon be realised by PLP vice-chairman Ryan Pinder if he is nominated to run in an expected by-election following the formal resignation of Elizabeth MP Malcolm Adderley today.

The tax and commercial law attorney believes he would be an excellent candidate for the seat his father Marvin Pinder held from 1987 to 1992 when the area was called Malcolm Creek.

But the lifelong Progressive Liberal Party supporter who grew up with many residents of Elizabeth owing to his father's position, is careful not to preempt the sensitive decisions of the party. Ken Dorsett, who ran for the position of party chairman at the PLP convention in October, and attorney Craig Butler have also expressed interest in the post. And before nominations are made the party will have to consider Mr Butler's assertions that he also has support in Elizabeth following his efforts over the last year.

It is also for the party to decide whether or not to run a candidate in Elizabeth at all. (See story, page 1).

However, if a candidate is to be chosen, Mr Pinder is reportedly a front-runner for the PLP's nomination and a party member who would accept the challenge with enthusiasm.

Mr Pinder said he would work to find a long-term solution for the social and economic woes facing residents and business people in Elizabeth if he were to become their Member of Parliament. He said:



"People are very concerned about their livelihood and their ability to make a living with long-term sustainability. That is first and foremost for the people in Elizabeth."

RYAN PINDER

"The economic state of the country and the affect on jobs and small businesses has been rather dire in that constituency.

"People are very concerned about their livelihood and their ability to make a living with long-term sustainability.

"That is first and foremost for the people in Elizabeth.

Crime

"There are also concerns about crime and social issues weighing heavily on the people in Elizabeth, and that needs to be addressed also.

"The two issues are related; the state of the economy and the state of crime, and I think they're looking for a vision to address those issues on a long-term basis, not a short-term fix.

"They are looking for someone to lead them in the right direction."

Although Mr Pinder declined to comment on where incumbent MP Mr Adderley has fallen short in his position, he feels he would be an excellent can-

didate if given a chance to take up the reins. He said: "I was a teenager back when my father was running in that constituency and represented it, and a number of the people in that constituency I grew up with and are like family.

"If the nomination was extended I feel I would be an excellent representative.

"I would recognise the issues that we are dealing with today and construct an outline of how to effectively govern to the people of Elizabeth, taking into consideration the challenges we face today, both social and economic.

"Certainly I think I have the experience and the vision on these issues to provide a course for the people in Elizabeth and provide them with some hope for economic sustainability."

Mr Pinder was elected vice-chairman of the PLP in October and sat as co-chairman of the party's foreign affairs and foreign trade policy committee over the last year, helping to develop party policy in those areas. The married father-of-two said his political ambitions stem from his desire to effectively provide governance to the Bahamian people with a vision for their betterment.

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The month of March is traditionally companies' registration month at the Road Traffic Department. In an effort to expedite and ensure a smooth registration process the department advises that registration will commence February 1, 2010. All companies with a fleet of five (5) or more vehicles are encouraged to prepare and submit the required documents on the second (2nd) floor to the Controller's Office in the Clarence A. Bain building to ensure an appointment for Inspection. The department further wishes to advise that applications will be processed on first on first come, first serve basis.

The following documentations are required:-

- (1) Cover note stating the make, model, year, and chassis number
- (2) Total number of all vehicles to be licensed
- (3) A copy of the current disc for each vehicle
- (4) Original certificate of insurance (**no copies will be accepted**)
- (5) Special Permit Letter (Ministry of Works) for all miscellaneous vehicles.

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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master

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We have a duty to save our planet

WHETHER you are one of those who believe Earth is going through a natural evolutionary cycle and — instead of humans heating it up and making it uninhabitable — it is freezing itself into a new Ice Age, no one can deny that our environment is changing and we are assisting in that change.

One only has to do the bumper-to-bump drive to work in the morning, the afternoon creep to pick up the children from school in the afternoon, or the exhausted haul home in the evening to know that this country is cursed with one of a community's greatest polluters — the personal automobile. Not only do the carbon dioxide fumes of an idling car clog our lungs — even the lungs of those motorists who think they are protected because they do not smoke — but the time wasted raises a person's blood pressure and anxiety level — the cause of much of the road rage we see today.

As for some of the jitneys spewing polluting black fumes from their exhausts, and the landfill trucks enveloped in black smoke as they pick up speed, one wonders if some in Road Traffic's inspection department are doing a Nelson on the community — that is focusing a blind eye on these offences.

And so for those who do not think we are killing the planet, we are certainly killing ourselves.

One only has to drive past the BEC plant at Clifton to see the ribbon of sulphur rising skyward from its chimneys to know that all is not environmentally well in our country. If there are those who claim that this pollution has no adverse affect on our climate, then certainly it is destroying the health of the nation. Regardless of who, or what is at fault, something has to be done about it.

Although our carbon dioxide emissions might be minuscule in a global context, taken per capita — according to the United Nations — if all countries were to emit CO2 at the same level as the Bahamas, the world would exceed its current CO2 output by 200 per cent.

According to the UN's 2007/2008 Human Development Report, the Bahamas' carbon dioxide emissions per capita exceed those of many industrialised countries, such as France, Sweden, Switzerland and Portugal.

With each resident producing 6.7 tonnes

of CO2, says the report, the Bahamas outstrips even Hong Kong in its emission rates per capita. Again, per capita, the Bahamas is way ahead of all other Latin American and Caribbean countries with similar population sizes.

It is only because the Bahamas has a very small population that its contribution to global emissions is almost insignificant. However, that does not mean that Bahamians can shrug off their individual responsibilities to clean up their act.

According to Environment Minister Earl Deveaux it is hoped that within the year the Road Traffic Department will be able to test the pollutants emitted by buses, trucks and cars to improve the Bahamas' air quality. He said the quality of fuel being brought in will be controlled by testing to ensure that it meets Environmental Health standards.

He recognised that the lack of clean air affected the tourist product. Visitors, he said, had the perception that as a tourist economy the Bahamas had clean air, and a green and healthy environment. This, he said, is what makes the Bahamas "special and unique and we seek to protect that."

Vehicle emissions are the main cause of the grubby look of Bay Street as store owners fight an expensive battle to keep their store fronts clean.

On December 14 Prime Minister Ingraham joined representatives from 192 nations in Copenhagen, Denmark, to find solutions to global warming. Many respected scientists believe that it is the greatest threat facing mankind.

The Bahamas, a low lying, archipelagic nation, sitting atop subterranean mountains, is the world's fifth most vulnerable country threatened by rising sea levels. Scientists have predicted that if sea levels rise by 1.5 to two feet, 80 per cent of the Bahamas' land mass could be submerged. Over the years those who have lived near the water's edge are aware of the constant rise of the ocean. We are among those who believe the scientists who say that man is destroying his planet. Man has not been a good trustee for future generations.

Not only do we have to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels — and thus on our dependence on oil — for our own health and safety, but the world would be a safer place if it could free itself from the threatening grip of the oil rich Arab world.

Opposed to new BEC power plant at Wilson City

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I am writing in opposition to the Wilson City Power Plant which is currently scheduled to use a toxic fuel known as Bunker C in an extremely environmentally sensitive location.

After attending the September 10, 2009 town hall meeting with other concerned residents of Abaco, my research about the location and fuel choice has brought to light the distressing economic and environmental impact this project will have on Abaco.

The more I learn about the location the more I can't understand how and why the decision was made.

Having grown up near the Bight of Old Robinson and often giving tours of the blue holes in the mangrove creeks, I always knew that they were very deep holes and linked together by catacombs below the surface of the sea floor, however, I did not realise until recently that these holes are also linked to blue holes and catacombs under and near the new power plant. The few hundred yards would normally be enough of a buffer from the power plant site to the mangroves, however when the "Swiss cheese" nature of the ground is considered, it is obvious that the oil and chemicals that will be in the plant cooling water and future oil spills and storm water runoff will not only pollute the ground under the power plant but will also affect the fresh water lens and the mangrove creeks.

The really amazing thing that highlights the poor deci-

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

sion to locate the power plant at Wilson City is that the main area of mangroves and densest number of blue holes in the sea of Abaco is the area next to the power plant site. That is the reason that the Bahamas National Trust and Friends of the Environment has proposed the area as a National Park, which would protect the habitat required for reproduction of marine life for tourists to see at Sandy Cay reef and for the benefit of local and tourist fishermen alike.

Beyond the negative implications to tourism from the return of tar balls in the Sea of Abaco when the inevitable spills occur, the emissions from Bunker C are some of the worst.

With very little research effort on the internet, I learned that Bunker C is what is left over after diesel, kerosene and gasoline are refined out of a barrel of Crude Oil and that all the especially toxic ingredients that are banned in cleaner fuels, to protect our health, are left behind in the Bunker C in a concentrated form. What is the point of distilling these substances from auto and boat gas and then breathing them in anyway when they are burned in a Bunker C power plant? Even worse, other countries now have cleaner fuel and therefore air while Bahamas residents will get a bigger dose of the bad stuff.

This is an especially hard outcome to fathom when one realises that the additional costs of using Bunker C vs diesel fuel in generators likely cancels out any savings from the actual cost of the fuel, something BEC has obviously not factored in.

It is obvious that with the current methods or lack of methods the Bahamas Government is using to decide how to develop the country, Abaco has become a risky investment for many past and current investors.

This is evidenced by a number of people that have shelved plans to buy or build in the Wilson City area.

I can only assume that the area will be economically depressed in the future if others are like me and would not consider buying property or building a house near a Bunker C power plant, no matter how low the purchase price.

If this plant is constructed as planned without the emissions controls and monitoring that are needed to protect the health of all residents, families that rely on rain water for drinking water will not be able to drink the water due to the toxic particulate matter that will be deposited on roofs, not to mention in their lungs.

Is there really any compensation, such as supposed lower energy prices, that will offset the damage to the health of all Abaco residents and their children?

DAVID PITCAIRN
Abaco,
December 26, 2009.

Ministry of Labour needs to be reorganised

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Bahamas Information (BIS) had a interview with the Minister of State, Immigration who falls within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and it hit me just how ridiculous this was.

Immigration requires a Labour Board/Office certificate before they even process a work permit.

I suggest immediately Prime Minister Ingraham reorganise totally the Ministry of Labour and absorb the work permit aspect into that ministry but retain in a reorganised manner The Department of Immigration within Labour. I really don't think we then need a Minister of

State, Immigration.

Permanent residence — citizenship will be transferred to Ministry of National Security.

Why?

Simple having Labour and Immigration in one area you have the best of chances that you will create a quicker and far more efficient mechanism for the processing of work permits.

If the labour office is not on-line it must be within a week so people can register — facilities, a desk should be available at every NIB or BTC office throughout The Bahamas. A PR programme has to be initiated which will teach everyone who is out of work that they must register and register their skills.

Immigration has to be weeded out — I regret no civil servant should be spending their whole career in Immigration or any other revenue area — like a bank every so often the personnel has to be moved around.

What will this proposal achieve?

Firstly we should effectively and immediately see a speeding up of all work permits as there will be no excu-

ses for the department to the current delay — you will be under one roof. I would second a Ministry of Finance Revenue Officer to Immigration to handle and manage finally all aspects of the correct and immediate collection of all permits fees — pay first then the permit.

Secondly, with permanent residence and citizenship at national security this will reduce the work load of immigration and bring this process up-to-date. I see absolutely no reason for the delays of years in processing these...six-months on the outside, which might even include an Interpol background check is a reasonable time frame for this process.

Hoping as we move into 2010 Prime Minister Ingraham will agree and announce this in the Speech from the Throne at the upcoming opening of a new parliament.

Leave it as it is simply confirms we have no willingness to clean up the corruption and slap-happy process — 2012 is not far away now.

ABRAHAM MOSS
Nassau,
January 1, 2010.

Why are so many incorrect licensing and use applications approved?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Your Editorial concerning the house on the Eastern Road and that is being used for commercial use in the middle of a residential area is far from uncommon today all over New Providence. Seemingly one call to the police should have shut that offender down, but probably there was no police vehicle or a spare police person to go to the premises and advise the offenders to close down as they were disturbing the peace.

East-West, specially on Cable Beach this occurrence is very common and many ask — why does the Liquor License Board and Town Planning Board approve so many obviously incorrect licensing and use applications?

Where are the police? Many residential areas have not seen a police car except to come around to get the details from the last robbery!

Wasn't it Minister Deveaux who recently commented in the House of Assembly — Why should owners in a residential sub-division suddenly find commercial activity as their neighbour.

He is so correct, but Editor this goes on daily and once an approval is given just try to rescind it — almost impossible even if everything is on your side and the party who got the approval is 1000 per cent wrong.

Why are we simply unable to manage such a simple matter? I hope Liquor — Shop & Music Licensing and Town Planning clamp down effectively in the New Year.

PATRICIA SAWYER
Nassau,
December 31, 2009.

MARINE NAVIGATION COURSES

There is no substitute for training and at sea there is little room for error so plan to attend the **free first class** of the **Terrestrial Navigation Course** offered by **The Bahamas School of Marine Navigation** at BASRA Headquarters on East Bay Street on Monday, January 11, 2010, at 7 p.m. then consider enrolling in the 3-month course. Other courses include **Seamanship** and **Celestial Navigation**.

Visit www.bsmn.biz for details.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the construction of the new Straw Market, effective 4th January 2010, the bus lay-by/bus stop on Bay Street in the vicinity of the Straw Market, will no longer be used as a lay-by/bus stop. All bus drivers and passengers are encouraged to use other bus stops along Bay and Frederick Streets.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

The Controller Road Traffic



PRICE INQUIRY

PI-190 A-Furnishings, B-Appliances & C-Commercial Seating

Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD) has a requirement for the Supply and Delivery of Furnishings (PI-190 A), Supply and Delivery of Appliances (PI-190 B) and Supply and Delivery of Commercial Seating (PI-190 C), for Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the Lynden Pindling International Airport Expansion Project. These Supply and Delivery Price Inquiries are to be in accordance with the required schedule and specifications, with Stage 1 being awarded at this time.

PI-190 A Furnishings Scope of Work includes:

- Supply and Delivery of Specified Furnishings

PI-190 B Appliances Scope of Work includes:

- Supply and Delivery of Specified Appliances
- Warranty and on-land Service for warranty period

PI-190 C Commercial Seating Scope of Work includes:

- Supply and Delivery of Specified Appliances

Price Inquiry Packages will be available for pick up after

1:00 pm, on Thursday, November 19th, 2009.

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

LOCAL NEWS

Hotel union dispute: outcome of two pending appeals awaited

Attorney raises possibility of no need for new elections

DEPENDING on the outcome of two pending appeals in the ongoing hotel union dispute, there may be no need for new elections, attorney Damian Gomez explained yesterday.

On Monday Court of Appeal Justice George Newman granted a stay of Justice Neville Adderley's ruling that had paved the way for a hotel union election last September.

"A team" leader Nicole Martin had emerged victorious during the first elections late last May, however she was forced to give up her post when the elections were declared null and void by Senior Justice Jon Isaacs.

She also won the second election in September, but now the ruling that paved the way for that contest has been

stayed following an application by attorney Keod Smith, who represents the union's former first vice-president Kirk Wilson.

Setback

Mr Gomez, who represents Ms Martin, admitted that the latest development is a "setback" for his client, however he noted that the substantive appeals on the matter have yet to be heard.

"Justice Newman granted a stay of the order of Justice Neville Adderley pending the outcome of the appeals of the Registrar of Trade Unions and Mr Colebrooke, Douglas and McKenzie from the order of Isaacs and the appeal of Kirk Wilson and others from the decision of Mr Justice

Adderley," he explained. "If Colebrooke and the Registrar win their appeal or are successful in resisting the appeal of Mr Wilson and others, then there will be no need for fresh elections," he said.

"He (Justice Newman) made an order that the hearing of the appeal be expedited," Mr Gomez said, adding, however, that he could not say when the hearing would be.

Mr Gomez said that Ms Martin will be co-operating with former President Roy Colebrooke and his team, who have essentially been reinstated by this latest court development.

When contacted yesterday, Ms Martin declined to comment on the matter but said a statement would be released some time today.



YOUNG PEOPLE are welcome at the seminar with their dogs.

Special dog obedience classes this weekend

The Nassau Dog Obedience and Agility Club will be holding special obedience and agility seminars on Saturday, January 9 and Sunday, January 10 at the Retreat on Village Road.

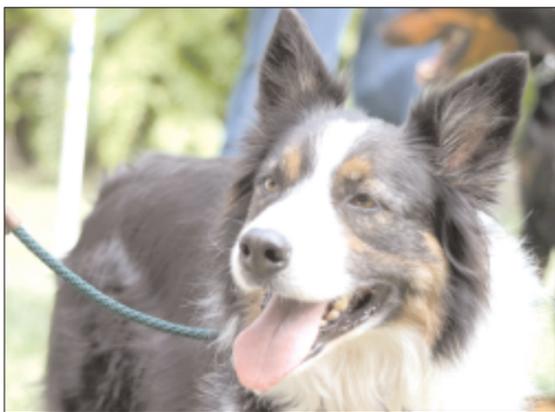
AKC Obedience Judges Jon and Carol Mett from Savannah, Georgia will conduct the classes.

The seminars on Saturday include two beginner classes at 9am and 10.30am at a price of \$30 per seminar. At 11.30am there will be a special Beginners Rally Obedience seminar.

Sport

According to Lynn Gape, NDOAC member, "AKC Rally is a new dog sport that has grown rapidly in popularity. Rally offers both the dogs and handlers an experience that is fun and energising. The canine team moves at their own pace, very similar to rally-style auto racing. Rally was designed with the traditional pet owner in mind, but it can still be very challenging for those who enjoy higher levels of competition."

According to Tonya Gay of Follow the Leader Dog Training, "These seminars are a great opportunity to get some professional training tips from dog obedience experts. We have been running begin-



WENDDALE SKYE, a border collie, is looking forward to a weekend of work and fun.

ner classes this year and want to encourage people to learn about training their dogs. Basic obedience can make handling your dog on an every day basis easier and creates a wonderful bond between the owner and their canine friend."

The Metts will also be conducting an agility seminar on Sunday. Owners and their dogs who would like to participate in this seminar must have had some previous obedience training.

Participants will also be able to sign up for the upcoming Bahamas Kennel Club Dog Show scheduled for March 2010.

The organisers are urging would-be participants to call Amanda at 324-1302 or Tonya Gay at 394-3086 to reserve a spot.

Synergy Bahamas

2010 Training Schedule

It's Time To Get Certified!

	Course	Description	Schedule
DESIGN	Adobe Photoshop Graphics Designer	Create professional-looking images for high-end printing and commercial print shops and for the web.	Jan 23—May 8 Saturdays 9am—12:30pm
	Professional Web Designer	Learn to create and modify web pages and web sites like a professional web designer.	Feb 13—May 8 Saturdays 1pm-4:30pm
BUSINESS	QuickBooks Professional	Learn how to use the world's most popular small business accounting software to manage your company	Jan 23—Feb 6 Saturdays 1pm to 4pm
	Certified Office Administrator	This course equips the business professional with the best office administration practices and develops business communication, customer service and business etiquette as a discipline.	Jan 23—May 8 Saturdays 9am—12pm
	Introduction to Personal Computers	Learn how to use your personal computer to create documents, send email and use internet.	Jan 23—Feb 27 Saturday's 9am—12pm
	Microsoft Office 2007 (MCAS)	Get Certified in the latest Microsoft Office program - including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook.	Jan 19 - May 6 Tues & Thurs 6pm - 9pm
LANGUAGE	Sign Language	Learn the fundamentals of communicating in Sign Language and become a certified interpreter.	Jan 19 - May 8 Mon & Saturday 6pm- 9pm & 3pm - 6pm
	Conversational Spanish	Learn to speak Spanish using some of the latest and most proven methods for language learning	Jan 20 - Mar 31 Wed & Saturday's 6pm-9pm & 12pm - 3pm
TECHNOLOGY	CompTIA Network +	Learn the principles of computer networking design and implementation.	March 29 - May 5 Mon & Wed 6pm - 9pm
	CompTIA A+	Want to become an I.T. Professional? First you need to learn how to build and troubleshoot computers	Jan 18 - Feb 24 Mon & Wed 6pm - 9pm
	CompTIA Security+ Certification	Learn the field of network security and understand how it relates to other areas of IT.	March 6 - May 8 Saturday's 9am - 1pm
	Certified Computer Technician	Jumpstart your career in Information Technology by earning three of the most sought after IT certifications today!	Begins Feb 9th

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7. Engage in new product development
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On or before Jan. 21st., 2010

The first six months of 2010

By LARRY SMITH

AS we start the new year hoping for better times ahead, here is a selective calendar for the first six months of 2010.

JANUARY

By-election for Elizabeth constituency.

Estranged Progressive Liberal Party MP Malcolm Adderley resigned from the party and from his parliamentary seat, reportedly to become a Supreme Court justice (he acted as a judge from 1999 to 2000). A bye-election to fill the vacant seat must be held within 21 to 30 days. The cash-strapped PLP opposes a poll. Bye-elections are generally perceived to favour the party in office, but there have been exceptions to this rule. In 1960 PLP candidates were elected to four new constituencies on New Providence set up as a result of electoral reforms piloted by the British following the 1958 general strike. The PLP's Warren Levarity also won a bye-election on Grand Bahama that year. However, the PLP went on to lose the general election two years later. The UBP's Basil Kelly won a hotly-contested bye-election in 1967 in Crooked Island and Acklins, and the FNM won a 1990 bye-election in Grand Bahama held after the death of then FNM leader Sir Cecil Wallace-Whitfield. Hubert Ingraham replaced Sir Cecil as leader and went on to win the 1992 general election.

The World Economic Forum takes place in Davos, Switzerland. This annual, invitation-only meeting has engaged leaders from all walks of life to help shape the global agenda for the last four decades. This year they are being asked to "Rethink, Redesign and Rebuild". Co-chairs include Melinda Gates (of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), Erich Schmidt



of Google and Joseph Ackerman of Deutsche Bank. Among the 2500 participants are top executives, senior government representatives, academic experts and journalists. Last year, participants agreed with former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan's assessment that "the current architecture of managing global affairs is broken and needs to be fixed...new players have to be integrated and the poor have to be given a voice." His advice was acted upon with the emergence later last year of the Group of 20 nations (including the top developing countries) as the chief global kitchen cabinet.

Obama's first State of the Union address is likely to take place on January 26. It will mostly be about creating jobs, especially in the energy sector. Political insiders say he will also start a conversation about deficit reduction measures. Although health-care reform may still be subject to talks in Congress, passage of something resembling the Senate bill seems assured. Obama's job approval rating slumped 15 points since the start of the year to around 50 per cent at the end of 2009. His predecessor, George W Bush, left office with a 34 per cent approval rating. Ronald Reagan's approval stayed below 50 per cent for two years after 1981, but he won re-election in a landslide. Jimmy Carter and the elder George Bush had approval ratings well over 50 per cent at the end of their first year in office, but lost their re-election bids.

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham will prorogue Par-

liament sometime this month, and any unpassed bills or motions will die unless special arrangements are made. A new parliamentary session will start in February with a ceremonial Speech from the Throne read by the governor-general outlining the government's new legislative agenda. The last time parliament was prorogued was in January 2006 when Perry Christie was prime minister. There is speculation in some quarters that the prorogation is designed to kill two sensitive House committees — one investigating abuse of Crown lands and the other looking into paedophile teachers, but insiders say it is all about adjusting the legislative calendar. According to FNM Chairman Carl Bethel, prorogation merely helps the government to focus on its achievements and determine priorities for the next session in advance of the general election, which must be called by 2012. "Prorogation is an efficient means of clearing an agenda that can become cluttered with Bills that have been tabled which the government no longer intends to proceed with, etc," Bethel said.

FEBRUARY

The Bahamas mid-year budget report may be postponed. In his 2009-2010 budget communication last May, the prime minister talked about modernising the government's financial administration, privatising public corporations, and rationalising taxes, tariffs and licensing. He also announced unemployment benefits combined with re-training for jobless work-



ers. "Expectations are that the key tourism and foreign investment sectors will remain weak in 2009, resulting in further weakness in the construction sector and a further increase in the unemployment rate," he said. "However, some tempering to this outcome is expected to occur from the government's accelerated capital works programme." In his mid-year report he can be expected to update Bahamians with the latest financial statistics. In mid-2009 government debt was over \$2.9 billion — or 39 per cent of GDP — while the deficit was 4.7 per cent of GDP. Both of these key measures are approaching unsustainable levels and public spending may have to be restrained sooner rather than later. Total recurrent spending for this fiscal year was supposed to be \$1.53 billion, with \$255 million earmarked for capital works. The PM is expected to revise these figures to take account of current circumstances, but the budget exercise cannot take place while parliament is prorogued.

The next big protest opportunity for the Iranian opposition is February 11 — that's the 31st anniversary of Iran's 1979 revolution, when the Shah's forces finally surrendered. The opposition has been engaged in a running battle with the Islamic government since elections six months ago that many believe were rigged. The government has threatened a sharp crackdown on future demonstrations, and experts say street demos will not be enough to dislodge the regime. Things could get interesting if workers go out on strike, but the current opposition goal is not to overthrow the Islamic system, which they themselves helped build, but to reverse what they say was a fraudulent election, and make pro-democracy reforms. After fleeing Iran in 1979, the deposed Shah spent time in a villa on Paradise Island before undergoing surgery in the US, which helped provoke the US embassy hostage crisis in Teheran. Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi died of cancer in Egypt the following year.

Parliament reconvenes this month when the traditional Speech from the Throne outlining the government's new agenda will be read in the Senate by Governor-General Arthur D Hanna. The last Throne Speech was delivered on May 23, 2007, just after the FNM was elected to a third non-consecutive term in office. In that speech the government promised to set appropriate standards of conduct for cabinet ministers and parliamentarians, provide regular public reports on the state of the nation, ensure media access to information, disclose all agreements with international investors, and guarantee public service responsiveness to the concerns of citizens. At the top of the government's legislative list were enactment of a code of ethics for ministers and creation of an ombudsman — neither of which has been pursued. In 2002, the newly elected PLP administration also promised a code of conduct for ministers and top civil servants, but failed to deliver.

MARCH

The 82nd Academy Awards will be presented in Hollywood. Founded in 1927 by film industry leaders, the

Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences made the first awards at a dinner in the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel in May 1929. The event was televised for the first time in 1953 and since 1969 has been broadcast internationally, reaching fans in over 200 countries. The gold-plated Oscar statuette is the world's most recognised trophy and more than 2700 have been awarded. Slumdog Millionaire won last year's Best Picture award.

The Southern Hemisphere Naked Bike Ride takes place in Australia, South Africa, Argentina and Peru. Don't want to travel that far to see a nude cyclist? Then head for Miami, Tampa, Montreal or Toronto in June for the northern hemisphere ride. The event aims to put a stop to "the indecent exposure of people and the planet to cars and the pollution they create." Since 2004 people have been participating in the "largest naked event promoting cycling in the history of humanity," promoters say. "It's a free, non-sexual, fun bike ride, and the dress code is 'As Bare As You Dare'." Support for this event comes from cycling advocacy and social nudity circles.

International Women's Day is observed on March 8. The event originated in 1908 when New York garment workers began demanding better conditions. Two years later, an international conference of women determined that a day should be set aside to press for women's demands. International Women's Day promotes equality between women and men. The United Nations is also working to merge several existing offices into a single authoritative body to tackle women's issues that will be comparable to other major UN funds and programmes. Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon is expected to appoint an under-secretary-general to head the new entity and lead the UN's efforts in this field.

APRIL

The 2010 Bahamas Weather Conference has been cancelled by the Ministry of Tourism, but is expected to reconvene in 2011. Tourism Minister Vincent Vanderpool Wallace says the funds were needed to support an advertising promotion scheduled to be launched in January. The promotion offering a "companion flies free" premium based on a minimum length of stay at a participating hotel. During the last 14 years the weather conference has grown from a small meeting of the minds to a "widely respected and coveted event."

In 2009 it brought together top officials from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association and the National Hurricane Centre in Miami, as well as emergency managers and academic experts at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort.

Disney's Oceans documentary premieres on April 22 (the 40th anniversary of Earth Day). *Oceans* has been described as "a movie that has to be seen to be believed."

The footage, which was painstakingly gathered over several years, is nothing short of remarkable." Part proceeds from the first week of showings will be donated to The Nature Conservancy's Bahamas office to support the expansion and management of new marine parks

through the Adopt-a-Coral Reef project. The Conservancy and its partner — The Bahamas National Trust — aim to protect 500,000 acres of important marine habitat throughout the archipelago. These new and expanded protected areas will contain miles of vital coral reefs that provide natural habitat and feeding grounds for hundreds of marine species. The film is expected to premiere in Nassau at the Atlantis and Galleria cinemas. Disney's earlier release - *Earth* - was its first feature-length nature documentary, grossing over \$100 million.

MAY

The Department of Statistics will conduct Census 2010 beginning on May 3. This will be a massive exercise to provide socio-demographic data on the entire population of The Bahamas — every household, subdivision, cay, island and marina will be canvassed. For the first time there will be questions on crime, to determine trends and possible solutions to the problem. The last census in 2000 cost about \$3 million, and \$5 million has been budgeted for Census 2010. The Bahamas' current population is estimated at 350,000.

The 2010-2011 Bahamas budget will probably be the most significant economic plan announced by any Bahamian government in decades. Following its 2009 meetings with the government, the International Monetary Fund called for "structural reforms to promote economic diversification and private-sector-led growth over the medium term." The IMF stressed the need for diversification and a broader tax base, calling specifically for a goods and services (VAT) tax to help reduce public debt to a targeted 30-35 per cent of GDP. It remains to be seen now much of a financial revolution we are in for as a result of the current unprecedented economic downturn. In December, the international credit rating agency, Standard & Poor, downgraded the Bahamas' rating due to our deteriorating fiscal position as a result of rising public spending and falling tax revenues. "Following three years of economic contraction" the agency said, "growth prospects beginning in 2011 are modest."

JUNE

The United Kingdom general election is due to take place on or before June 3. The number of seats in parliament will rise from 646 to 650, with the governing Labour Party seeking a fourth consecutive term in office. The Conservative Party hopes to regain the dominance it held before 1997, while the Liberal Democrats hope to hold the balance of power in a hung parliament. Various opinion polls conducted in December show the Conservatives with at least a 9 point lead over Labour, which won the 2005 general election with just over 35 per cent of the popular vote.

The current seat total is 349 for Labour, 193 for Conservatives and 63 for the Liberal Democrats.

The remainder are held by small parties.

Canada will host 10,000 participants at the G8 and G20 summits June 26-27 in Toronto. South Korea will host a subsequent G20 summit next November in Seoul, and the future role of the G8 as an organisation will be downgraded to a minimum. The Group of 8 is made up of the world's most industrialised countries and until now has been the leading forum dealing with global issues. The Group of 20 includes finance ministers and central bank governors from the G8 as well as top emerging economies like China, India and Brazil.

The G-20 has been designated as the leading global forum for economic co-operation going forward.

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



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LOCAL NEWS



UNSUNG HEROES

PRIDE OF THE BAHAMAS

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Cold weather prompts advice for Grand Bahama

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freepoint Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPPOINT – Due to the frigid air and winds moving in from the continental US, Grand Bahama will continue to experience unusually cold weather this week.

Grand Bahamians should wear warm clothing when venturing outside because the wind chill will dip 10 to 15 degrees below the already low temper-

atures forecasts predict.

The forecast for today calls for mostly sunny, windy and chilly conditions, with a high temperature of 60 degrees and wind chill in the mid to upper 40s.

Fire officials are advising everyone to be extremely careful when using portable space heaters or other heating devices in their homes.

Fire Officer Richards warned that residents should keep space heaters away from any com-

bustible material, such as bed sheets, drapes and carpets, which could be easily ignited.

"Many persons here have the portable heaters in their homes and they should turn those off before going to sleep," he said.

Officer Richards advised residents not to use ovens to heat their homes as this can be dangerous – especially when there are young children around.

He also noted that lighting a fire in one's back yard is against the law. "We do not encourage

residents to do that as it is against the law to light fires anywhere other than your kitchen," he said.

Heading into the weekend, temperatures on Grand Bahama are expected to remain cold, with a high of 69 F and a low of 55 F on Friday, January 8.

On Saturday, the temperature is expected to drop to 62 F, with a low of 49 F. And on Sunday, January 10, temperatures will drop to 59 F with a low of 54F.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO KEEP IN MIND

- Try to stay indoors as much as possible when the weather is extremely cold, especially if there are high winds
- While inside, try to monitor the indoor temperature carefully as infants and the elderly lose body heat much faster than adults and should never sleep in a cold room
- Dress warmly and stay dry. Wear layers of wind resistant clothing. Wool, silk and polypropylene inner layers hold more body heat than cotton.
- Always wear a warm hat that covers your ears; wear gloves or mittens that cover your wrists, and a scarf or ski mask to protect your face and neck.
- Avoid exertion during cold weather because it can put extra strain on the heart.
- Be on the lookout for signs of hypothermia. Symptoms include trembling, stiff muscles, puffiness in the face, poor co-ordination, confusion, and low consciousness and reactivity. If hypothermia is suspected, seek immediate medical attention.

LYFORD CAY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL TO HOLD TEACHER RECRUITMENT FAIR



LCIS TEACHER and student

LYFORD Cay International School will hold a teacher recruitment fair on Saturday, January 16, beginning at 10am at the LCIS Campus.

LCIS is an independent and accredited school for nursery through grade 12 students.

It is the only school in the Caribbean region, and one of only 139 schools worldwide, authorised to offer the full International Baccalaureate Programme, which includes the Primary Years Programme, the Middle Years Programme, and the Diploma Programme, as well as supporting students who wish to enter for BGC-SEs.

The event will require any interested persons to submit their resumes at 10am, then attend a presentation by the principal Stacey Bobo before being interviewed.

Ms Bobo said: "We hope that our fair will be well attended again this year."

"We are proud of the professionalism of our staff and we are committed to maintain, develop and support teachers and leadership teams to ensure continuity and longevity of service, commitment to high standards of teaching and learning, and the desire to improve and grow as professionals."

The principal said LCIS offers excellent professional development opportunities for its teachers, the goal being to ensure the continuous improvement in the quality of the IB programmes and develop high performing professional staff.

She said LCIS also offers an excellent benefits package.

US softball players sail into Bahamas



Derek Smith/BIS

FROM LEFT: Tyrone Sawyer, director of sports development in Ministry of Tourism; Jeff Dubel, acting deputy chief of mission, US Embassy; Archie Nairn, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Sports; and Anthony "Boots" Weech, president of the Masters Softball Association.

MORE than 50 Americans sailed into town for the fifth annual Senior Moments Softball Game at the Southern Recreation Grounds. The event brought 24 players from Florida and eight other US states. They were accompanied by their wives and other guests. The game received support from the Bahamas' Masters Softball Association, the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation and the US Embassy.

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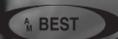
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LOCAL NEWS

PLP's cash fears over by-election

FROM page one

tion campaign will be difficult to find at such short notice.

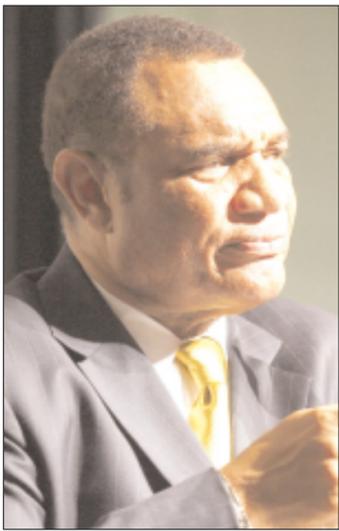
Additionally, if these monies could be found, the party is faced with the reality that even if it were to win the by-election it would not change the balance of power in the House of Assembly as the PLP would still be in Opposition. In effect it would have essentially "wasted" \$500,000 that could be used for the 2012 general elections.

While all of these issues are reportedly being discussed at the highest levels within the party, there is also a growing concern amongst some PLP Members of Parliament about what the perception would be if the party were not to run a candidate in the area.

"We need to have a representative in the area, anybody, so we can show the people that we care about them, and that we want to represent them in the House of Assembly. Now how do we do this? We could run a Ryan Pinder or Craig Butler in there, but elections cost money, and when you are up against the FNM and all of its machinery it is very difficult to win this one seat. So what do you do?" the source asked.

Today the PLP's former Member of Parliament Malcolm Adderley is expected to resign from his seat in the House of Assembly, causing the first by-election in at least a decade. In his departing speech, Mr Adderley is expected to take aim at his former party leader, Perry Christie. It is not known at this time what Mr Christie's response will be, but sources close to the leader claim that Mr Christie is "more than ready" to answer Mr Adderley "blow-for-blow."

PLP to hold meeting in resignation aftermath



BRADLEY ROBERTS (left) and Perry Christie

By PAUL G TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
pturnquest@tribunemedia.net

THE PLP will be holding a special meeting in the Elizabeth constituency tomorrow night to discuss its plans with residents following the resignation of their representative from the House of Assembly.

According to well placed sources within the party, PLP leader Perry Christie and PLP chairman Bradley Roberts are expected to speak.

The party is bracing itself for the fall-out that will come when its former MP Malcolm Adderley resigns from his seat during this morning's Parliamentary session.

Mr Adderley will be the second PLP MP to either resign or quit the PLP since the May 2007 general elections. Former PLP MP for Kennedy Kenyatta Gibson left the PLP in January of 2008 and then joined the governing FNM.

Having officially tendered his res-

ignation from the Progressive Liberal Party with effect from January 1, Mr Adderley is reported to be drafting a speech that will bring the leadership of his former party "to its knees" this morning.

While this news is alarming to many within the party, the PLP's leadership is reportedly watching to see what Mr Adderley will say – as this will determine how the party will respond.

The party is also concerned about how the development is affecting supporters in the Elizabeth constituency, which is why the party is also reportedly holding a special call meeting at Gambier House tonight.

This meeting, sources confirmed, was organised to allow the leadership to speak directly with supporters in Elizabeth who want to hear from their party as to what can be done to ensure that the constituency remains in the hands of the PLP.

Elizabeth residents interested in attending will be bused to PLP Headquarters some time around 7.30pm.

FNM reject constitution 'manipulation' suggestion

By PAUL G TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
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THE Free National Movement yesterday rejected suggestions that there has been "manipulation" of the constitution in connection with the resignation of MP Malcolm Adderley.

In a statement issued to the press late last night, FNM chairman Carl Bethel said FNMs understand why PLP Leader Perry Christie and chairman Bradley Roberts are in a state of "panic" as Mr Adderley will be the second MP that the PLP has lost since the 2007 general election.

"So that is why they are making extreme and desperate

statements and seeking to place the blame on others for the state in which they find themselves. And of course, it is easy to blame Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham for their political woes.

"But the truth is that Mr Ingraham is in no way responsible for the state of affairs in which the PLP leaders find themselves, and their allegation of constitutional manipulation is utter nonsense. The facts of the matter are very simple and easy to understand.

"In the first place, it has been public knowledge ever since the general election in 2007 that Mr Adderley was no longer happy with the PLP and the leadership of Mr Christie, for whatever reasons.

"Secondly, it has also been public knowledge that Mr Adderley was interested in serving his country on the Supreme Court having acted in that capacity previously. So it should surprise no one that upon his resignation from the House he may still be interested in becoming a judge. No one – not even Mr Christie and Mr Roberts – has challenged his qualifications," Mr Bethel said.

The FNM's chairman added that the PLP's "talk" about politicising the judiciary is further "rubbish" as the Judicial Services Commission, recommended the appointment of Mrs Ruby Nottage to serve as a Justice, presumably with no objections from Mr Ingraham.

"There was public unease about that appointment not because she was PLP-affiliated but because of an alleged problem with the American government. Both former Chief Justice Burton Hall and Justice Jon Isaacs are known to have strong PLP family connections, and Justice Neville Adderley ran in elections twice on the PLP ticket before becoming a judge. And there were others with political backgrounds who have sat on the Supreme Court.

"The FNM did not object to any of them because they are qualified Bahamians. The PLP should try to be just as gracious when it comes to judges who may have had a connection with the FNM. After all, they are Bahamians too," the statement read.



MALCOLM ADDERLEY

Police 'will try to disrupt' the trade in fake goods

FROM page one

of Intellectual Property Right (IPR) laws in the Bahamas as "lax".

It further states how anecdotal evidence suggests, "the police are complicit in the buying and selling of pirated movies, songs and fabricated high-end purses to residents and tourists".

But spokesman for the US Embassy in Nassau Jeff Dubel said the terminology used in the report required by Congress to continue funding for the Caribbean initiative simply relates to the fact that pirated and counterfeit goods are bought and sold openly in the country.

He named two local operations where, he said, copyright films are duplicated and sold without returning profit to the filmmakers. As the businesses are allowed to continue without interception by police the police must be termed complicit, Mr Dubel said.

In addition independent vendors freely sell pirated DVD's in Nassau's streets and in the Bay Street straw market where an array of faux name-brand bags and purses.

Intercept

But police maintain that the force does not condone such activity and is determined to intercept it where possible having been trained in how to approach operations, take evidence and build a case with assistance from the US Embassy.

The US Embassy in Nassau worked with the police and the Attorney General's office to draft legislation and rules for the enforcement of IPR's two years ago and facilitated a two-day workshop on IPR law enforcement at the Police Training College in November.

A total of 25 members of the police force, the Bahamas Customs Office, Attorney General's Office and department of the Public Prosecutor shared ideas and developed strategies to enforce

existing IPR laws during the course so officials can designate and protect intellectual property.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Hulan Hanna said: "We know there is a problem, and the Americans engaged us positively whereby a number of officers received training in bootlegging, piracy and counterfeit goods trade, and that is something we will work at diligently to try to disrupt this illegal process.

Training

"It is not something that is condoned by the Royal Bahamas Police Force and the training our officers received from the Americans provoked a positive response from both sides."

The enforcement of IPR laws is not only important for the protection of filmmakers in Hollywood, but they are also vital for local artists and the survival of local arts and culture, Mr Dubel said.

He praised Bahamian police for their enthusiasm in enforcing IPR laws and clarified the terminology of the report.

Mr Dubel said: "The police are doing a lot to try to enforce these things, but there is also a lot more work to be done by everybody.

"Working together is the best way to fix it and the Bahamian authorities have been very cooperative, and wanting to do more.

"The CBERA report on the whole is very positive and by complicit we should be clear that we do not think the police are involved, but there are all these things going on here.

He named an outlet that he said "is selling bootleg DVD's and no one has closed it down, and when you walk into the Straw Market the first few stalls are full of counterfeit music and DVD's, so it's not being enforced.

"It does not mean to imply that the police are corrupt or have done anything to aid it, it just means that they're there and no one has enforced it on them."



VACANCY

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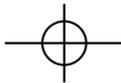
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sports

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2010

INSIDE • Senior Moments Softball by Sea



SADLY MISSED: Francis Farrington (pictured at left) was remembered at his funeral yesterday at St. John's Native Baptist Cathedral.

Francis Farrington

laid to rest

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@trbunemedia.net

ALTHOUGH he was just 27 years old, Francis Farrington had inked an impressive resume, both academically and athletically, that made an impact on the local and international scene.

Laid to rest yesterday, Farrington was remembered at his funeral service at St. John's Native Baptist Cathedral as an exceptional student and a gifted athlete.

Glenys Hanna-Martin, the Member of Parliament for Englerston, said Farrington was a young man full of life and incredibly gifted and wonderfully grounded.

"His story is inspiring," said Hanna-Martin, indicating that Farrington was able to pick himself up by his bootstraps and with great discipline and hard work, "set about taking the world by storm."

However, Hanna-Martin said she's deeply burdened that his life was short cut and that his "infectious humor, his big broad smile, his humble spirit embedded in such a talented being," would no longer be seen or felt by his friends or his family.

"Today, we feel an enormous loss," said Hanna-Martin, who noted that his death has been a tragedy.

She hoped it would spark an urgency to see where the Bahamas was found wanting.

She offered her heartfelt condolences on behalf of her family, including her daughter Indiera who attended school with Farrington.

A long-time friend of Farrington, Herbert Cash, in his tribute, said their relationship began in the 1980s when they attended the CW Sawyer Primary School where they played softball together.

"He was a smart young man, an

"Nothing really changed. He was still the academic scholar, he was a voracious athletic student, particularly in basketball and he was indeed the ladies' man," Cash said.

Cash asked the audience to remember and keep Farrington's memories alive by the qualities that he possessed and shared with everybody.

Among those who attended the funeral was Peter Wilson, the head of the Physical Education Department at St. Andrew's; Mario Bowleg,

"He was a smart young man, an academic genius, he was a tenacious athletic competitor, he was a lady's man. He was the big man on campus."

Herbert Cash

academic genius, he was a tenacious athletic competitor, he was a lady's man. He was the big man on campus," Cash said.

Although they split up after primary school, Cash said they were reunited at St. Andrew's High School where they both attended on scholarships.

one of Farrington's coaches at St. Andrew's and on the junior national basketball team, as well as Lawrence Hepburn, the president of the Bahamas Basketball Federation.

Also present were a lot of former students, who attended St. Andrew's

SEE page 11



VETERAN softball player Hyacinth Farrington places a flower on the casket of her deceased brother Francis Farrington yesterday.

The Big Red Machine rolls over Cougars 67-24

By RENALDO DORSETT
Sports Reporter
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THE calendar has turned to a new year, but the St. Augustine's College Big Red Machine continue to plough through the competition on their way to an almost certain run at the Bahamas Association of Independent Secondary Schools basketball title.

The Big Red Machine took full use of a home court advantage to rout the C.W Saunders Cougars, 67-24 to remain perfect on the season.

Despite their lowest scoring output of the young season, they managed to place four players in double figures and keep the game far from contention.

Anthony Pratt led all scorers with 21 points, Charles Sealy added 18, Nikita Higgins finished with 14 and Justin Symonette added 10.

Yorick Sands finished a basket away from placing all SAC starters in double figures with eight, while Kirkland Culmer came off the bench to finish with six.

In typical Big Red Machine fashion this season, they

opened the first quarter with a 14-0 run and led 18-2 at the end of one.

The Cougars fought back in the second quarter with their best stretch of offensive output in the game as they outscored SAC 13-11 in the period.

Dane Rolle, had eight of his team high nine points in the quarter, as he took advantage of the Big Red Machine's second unit and virtually scored at will in the open floor.

Despite Rolle's efforts, the Cougars still trailed 29-15 at the half.

SAC widened the margin

considerably in the third period when they opened on a 19-0 run on the strength of a stifling 1-3-1 trap.

With the guards making it virtually impossible to advance the ball beyond half court, and Pratt swatting away shots at the rim, the Big Red Machine held the Cougars scoreless until 2:20 left in the period when Jamie Crawford broke the drought with a running layup.

Sealy opened the quarter with a score and Sands capped the run with a baseline jumper to give the Big Red Machine a 48-15 advantage before the

Cougars scored.

A late layup by Pratt gave the Big Red Machine a 55-19 advantage headed into the final period.

The beginning of the fourth featured another SAC run with a pair of baskets by Symonette that gave his team a 59-20 lead.

His sixth point of the quarter increased the advantage, 63-20, with the 43 point margin, their largest of the game.

In an early season interview, Big Red Machine head coach John Todd said the win was just another in a long list of goals his team set out to

accomplish before the season began.

"We played the first team, the second team and the third team so I love the depth we have. Eventually as the season goes on we will change some things but right now we are not changing anything while the team is playing like this," he said. "Last year we had a nine-man rotation but this year we are deeper. I see us going to the playoffs, beyond that I wont count my eggs before they hatch but we will be in the playoffs. Once we get there we will see what happens."



SPORTS

Johnson makes history at Senior Moments Softball

By BRENT STUBBS
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Outfielder hits three HRs to help his team to victory

THE Senior Moments Softball by Sea's fifth consecutive trip to the Bahamas turned out to be an historic outing for Ray Johnson.

The outfielder, known for his defensive prowess, belted three home runs in the last of the two games played between the visiting players from the United States and members of the New Providence Old-timers Softball League and Masters Softball League.

Johnson's hat trick helped his team, managed by Joe Burgass, pull off a 23-22 victory to complete a sweep of the two games. The opposing team, managed by Bill Nelson, lost the opener 22-20.

"I don't think I've ever had the hat trick," said Johnson, who played left field. "I don't play slow pitch, so once he dropped it short, I just swung hard and it left the park."

Although he left the park with three homers, Johnson had to play second fiddle to his pitcher Larry Herself from Michigan, who ripped five homers.

At one point in Johnson's stretch, he followed Lester Dean with back-to-back homers in the same inning.

Also playing on their team with Johnson and Dean was Adlai

'Mossah' Moss.

"It's nice to be a part of it, just to see the elderly folks come out and play and have fun, good clean fun," Johnson said. "But it was really nice to hit the home runs to help us win."

Playing on the opposing team were Bahamians Anthony 'Boots' Weech, Gary 'Super' Johnson, Bertie Murray Sr., Sonny 'Jiggy' Haven and Anthony 'AJ' Johnson.

Murray Sr., who came off the bench, got some of the spotlight as well as he cracked a two-run homer as well and he made a couple of key defensive plays at second along side Gary Johnson.

While they didn't win, Gary Johnson and Sonny Haven both turned in a couple of defensive plays.

Shelby Simmons, the coordinator for the visiting team, said they brought about 24 players and about 59 in total including the wives, on the trip.

Prior to playing here, he noted that they were in Grand Bahama yesterday where they split the two games they played.

Simmons noted that they are not necessarily concerned about the scores as the players are split up to play on the two teams. The whole objective, he said, was to have fun.

"It was very successful. We had two very close ball games and we enjoyed the camaraderie with the local players on the islands," he said. "The bond between us have grown since we first came here."

"We have given them a standing offer that whenever they come to the United States, we will be able to accommodate them just as they have done with us."

The visiting team, which is based in Orlando during the Winter, comprised of players from nine different states. They included Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida, Alabama and North Carolina.

Simmons said the players who are at least 60 years and older play around 200 games a year. He noted that the majority of them are retired and so they have the time to devote to the game.

Weech, the president of the Masters Softball League, offered his gratitude to all of the persons who made the trip here a success for the



Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

BAHAMIAN Gary 'Super' Johnson swings his bat at the Senior Moments by Sea softball game yesterday at the Archdeacon William Thompson Softball Park.

visitors.

He noted that they were pleased that Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture's Permanent Secretary Archie Nairn, along with executives from the Ministry of Tourism,

showed up.

"We want the players in the Masters League to see what we are trying to build," Weech said. "These guys are very old, but they still play at a very competitive level."

Roberts, Pratt set to join ITF/Grand Slam Junior Touring team



Simone Pratt



Justin Roberts

JUSTIN Roberts and Simone Pratt have been named for an ITF/Grand Slam Junior Touring team which will compete in a series of junior tournaments during January and February in South America.

The team is part of the ITF Development Programme, which is financed by the ITF and Grand Slam Development Fund (GSDF).

The Team will be coached by Guillermo Stevens (MEX) and Belkis Rodriguez (CUB) and the tournaments will include:

14-17 January in Training Camp, Cali, Colombia; 18-24 January in Colombia (Cali); 25-31 January in Ecuador (Guayaquil); 1-7 February in Peru (Lima) and 8-14 February in Bolivia (TBC).

Stephen Turnquest, president of the Bahamas Lawn Tennis Association, said:

"This is a great opportunity for two of our outstanding junior players who are working very hard to take their tennis games to the next level. 13 year old Justin finished 2009 as the #1 player in the U14 Boys division for COTECC and 13 year old Simone is currently ranked #811 U18 Girls ITF World Junior Ranking," said Mr. Turnquest.

"They are setting the pace for our next generation of junior players and it gives them an opportunity to be recognised and rewarded by the ITF for their success in international events. They are following in the footsteps of other Bahamian junior tennis players who had the opportunity to play on the COSAT Circuit, so wish them all the success in their tournaments."

During the period 1986 - 2007 more than US\$63million has been invested by the ITF and the Grand Slam Nations in tennis development activities in 150 countries worldwide.

In 2007, US\$4.1million was spent on the Development Programme with US\$2.6million being invested by the ITF and the balance of US\$1.5 million contributed by the Grand Slam nations to the Grand Slam Development Fund partly from proceeds generated from the Tennis Masters Cup.

The Tennis Masters Cup is co-owned by the ITF, Grand Slams and ATP and this year's event will take place in Shanghai, China from 9-16 November 2008.

Francesco Ricci Bitti, president of the International Tennis Federation, said:

"We are delighted to be able to direct these funds

specifically towards the development of competitive tennis and deeply appreciate that the Grand Slam nations are in a position to support our programme," he said.

"It is fitting that these great tournaments, which are showcases of our sport and provide stability for the professional game, are able to help by some tangible means to extend the competitive frontiers of tennis."

With the aim of raising the level of tennis worldwide and increasing the number of countries competing in mainstream international tennis, the ITF Development Programme includes a broad range of initiatives in less developed countries ranging from the grass roots to Grand Slams.

Activities include ITF/Grand Slam touring teams, funding for junior and professional tournaments, training centres, coaches education, the supply of tennis equipment and the ITF Junior Tennis Initiative - a 14 & under player development programme, which encompasses the School Tennis Initiative and Performance Tennis Initiative programmes.

Special emphasis has been placed on junior tennis where regional tournament circuits

have been developed and teams of young players compete outside their own region.

In 2007, 23 regional circuits were supported by the Development Programme providing much needed competition for the best players at 18, 16 and 14 & Under age groups across the globe (Central America & Caribbean, South America, Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and Pacific Oceania).

Players who perform well at these regional circuits are invited to join an international touring team.

The ITF/Grand Slam touring team programme aims to facilitate the transition of talented players through regional and international competitions and onto the professional ranks.

In 2007, there were 20 ITF/Grand Slam Touring Teams involving 183 players from 75 different countries.

GSDF Travel grants are also awarded to talented players from developing nations for a specific programme of tournaments.

In 2007, 21 players from 15 countries benefited from grants to play in events outside their country. In addition prize-money grants are awarded to assist developing nations with the hosting of entry-level professional events for men and women, to help provide competitive opportunities throughout the world.

In 2007, the GSDF provided grants for 61 weeks of Men's professional events and 28 weeks of ITF Women's Circuit Events.

Coaches' education continues to be a priority for the Development Programme and with more and more ITF member nations keen to put in place their own coaches certification programme, the ITF's role is to help them become self-sufficient by helping to run courses, assessing coaches, selecting future course tutors and making sure the latest coaching informa-

tion is easily accessible to them.

To-date more than 80 countries worldwide are using the ITF's recommended Level 1 and Level 2 syllabi as part of their own programme.

In 2007, 58 coaches courses (national and regional) took place. In addition, the ITF's coaches' education flagship event - the 15th ITF Worldwide Coaches Conference was held in Asunción, Paraguay in October 2007.

The biennial event, which was held for the first time in South America, attracted more than 350 coaches from 90 countries - recording the event's highest ever attendance figure in its history.

The theme of the Conference was 'An integrated approach to coaching advanced players' and attracted many of the world's leading experts in sport science and medicine, psychology, biomechanics, player development and coaches' education.

Speakers at the conference included Bruce Elliott, Paul Roetert Ph.D, Gustavo Luza, Antoni Girod, Victor Pecci, Machar Reid Ph.D, Steven Martens, Todd Ellenbecker, Beni Linder, Randy Snow, Ivo van Aken and Ann Quinn.

The ITF Equipment Distribution Programme provides tennis equipment and educational materials to approved national programmes. During 2007 approximately 17,140 rackets, 134,673 balls as well as nets and strings were distributed to more than 100 countries worldwide.

The implementation of many of the tennis development initiatives relies on the work of the 10 ITF Development Officers who are 'out in the field' advising and assisting national associations on their activities. They each spend an average of 30 weeks on the road working with national associations, players and coaches in more than 100 countries to develop the game.

Farrington laid to rest

FROM page nine

when Farrington was there, as well as those from CA Sawyer and AF Adderley Junior High School.

On the athletic front, Farrington represented the Bahamas at the Carifta Games in St. Vincent and the Grenadines at the age of 11. He also played on four junior national basketball teams in Guyana, Panama, the Dominican Republic and here at home.

In addition to basketball, Farrington also excelled in volleyball, soccer and softball.

Through his athletic prowess, Farrington was the first Bahamian to receive a full scholarship from a Canadian University where he went on to attend St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, graduating in June, 2003 with

a Bachelor of Arts in Economics.

Farrington went on to receive a Master of Arts in Business Economics (Co-Op Option) from Wilfred Laurier University at the Laurier School of Business and Economics in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada in 2005.

From 2005-2008, Farrington worked as an Economist with the Securities Commission of the Bahamas where his former boss Hilary Deveaux said he made an impact with his "keen and witty" attitude.

And his brother, Kevin Farrington, said having spent so much time together as "bachelor" room-mates, they shared everything together.

But he was delighted when his brother expressed to him his faith in God.

Francis Farrington was also the brother of veteran softball player Hyacinth Farrington.

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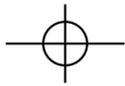
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LOCAL NEWS

Jamaica will monitor extremist Muslim cleric

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico

A JAMAICAN-BORN Muslim cleric once jailed in Britain for urging the killing of Americans, Hindus and Jews will be a security concern for his Caribbean homeland when he is deported from Kenya, an official said Monday, according to Associated Press.

Glenmore Hinds, Jamaica's assistant police chief, said Sheik Abdullah el-Faisal has committed no crime in Jamaica, but will be scrutinized because of his documented history of calling for violence in other nations.

"There isn't a radical Muslim community in Jamaica, but certainly this gentleman has been known to preach radicalization in other countries, so he will be a concern while he is here," Hinds said from Kingston in a phone interview.

Earlier Monday, Kenya's immigration minister, Otieno Kajwang, said the East African nation would soon expel el-Faisal to Jamaica for preaching in mosques in violation of his tourist visa. The content of his sermons was not immediately known.

Kajwang said el-Faisal entered Kenya from Tanzania on Dec. 24, but officials did not know at the time that he was on an international watch list because of computer errors.

In 2003, the cleric was sentenced to nine years in Britain after being convicted of incitement to murder and stirring racial hatred by urging followers to kill Americans, Hindus and Jews. Upon his parole in 2007, he was deported to Jamaica.

He apparently remained on the island for less than a year. Hinds said law enforcement officials were aware el-Faisal left Jamaica for Africa more than a year ago and he was known to have traveled in South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya.

Gilbert Scott, former permanent secretary of Jamaica's Security Ministry, said agents monitored el-Faisal during his time on the Caribbean island.

"Our security apparatus remained quite alert to his activities to make sure he was not creating any breaches," said Scott, who left the ministry in November 2008. He said he didn't recall anything that caused "security agents to be overly concerned with him."

Scott said el-Faisal had been "somewhat active" in Jamaica's small Muslim community — roughly 5,000 adherents among the tropical island's population of 2.8 million.

Mustafa Muhammad, president of the Islamic Council of Jamaica, did not return calls Monday seeking comment.

Angel Rabasa, a senior policy analyst at the U.S.-based Rand Corp. think tank, described el-Faisal as having been an "influential extremist teacher" in Britain.

"He definitely preached violence," and Jamaican officials will "want to pay close attention," said Rabasa, who has researched radicalization in Europe.

Contractor voices concern over theft of copper wire

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
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FREETOWN — A local building contractor is concerned about the continuing theft of copper wire on Grand Bahama.

Vernon Wells, owner of Reef Construction, is calling for something to be done to stop thieves who are in the business of stealing copper for resale abroad.

The College of the Bahamas' new campus, which is being constructed by Reef Construction, was recently targeted by thieves over the New Year's holiday.

According to reports, some 20,000ft of installed wiring was

stolen from the construction site.

This is the second time that vandals have broken in at the new campus located in East Grand Bahama.

In addition to electrical wiring, Mr Wells said thieves also took one of the dry transformers that supplied temporary power at the site for workmen.

He said the transformer has a large amount of copper.

"Obviously, this problem with the stealing of copper seems to be the thing of today, and I am still trying to figure out how they can get it off the island without detection.

"I think someone needs to put a stop to this. You would think that you have to go out of the country and I can't figure out why they (the

authorities) can't figure that out, why they can't put a stop to that," Mr Wells said.

Asst Supt Emrick Seymour, the second in command of the Grand Bahama District, said the police are very concerned about the theft of copper.

He noted that there have been similar incidents reported by several entities here on the island.

"We are doing everything in our power to bring these persons to justice. We had some successes recently, but we are going to be stepping up our efforts to minimize these occurrences in the future."

Mr Wells said the Reef Construction is in the process of hiring security officers at the site.

"We were in the process of doing that, but I guess the people beat us to it," he said.

Mr Wells expects no major delays in completion of the new campus, which is being built at a cost of some \$10 million.

"We do expect some delay because they took one of the dry transformers so we have to re-order that and replace the other items that were stolen, but I don't think it would have a drastic affect on the completion date," he said.

Mr Wells said that copper thieves are relentless.

"Even with security in place, there is still no guarantee because the main thing they are after is copper," he said.

Laing slams Senator over 'reckless misinformation'

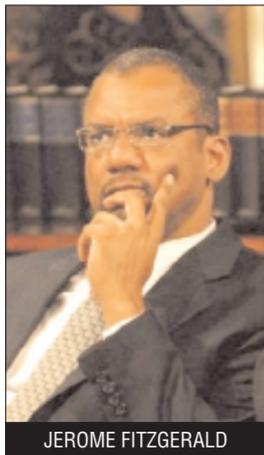
FROM page one

which it shares a "one to one."

If steps to redress the situation are not taken now, proposed Mr Fitzgerald, Bahamians could find themselves with a dollar worth a fraction of the US dollar "within a year or two."

Mr Fitzgerald, also Chairman of RND Holdings, suggested that part of the reason for the downgrade by S&P — which makes it more expensive for the government to borrow money on the international markets — was because of the increase in the foreign currency component of the Bahamas debt.

Even as foreign currency reserves have risen, this has been supported to a significant extent by a doubling of foreign currency borrowings by the government — up



JEROME FITZGERALD

from 10 to 20 per cent in the last two years.

If The Bahamas cannot find foreign currency to make principal and interest payments on that debt in the future that "puts the peg

under pressure," the PLP Senator told *Tribune Business*.

"This downgrade is the first step in that threat. This is the first step in the chain of events that, if not addressed in an urgent manner and not taken seriously — and the Government has been lackadaisical in its approach to these issues — and if we do not come up with strategies and policies to address this, I fear this thing will be upon us in a year or two."

Yesterday Mr Laing called this assessment "nonsense", retorting that there is "no such threat to the value of the Bahamian dollar."

Aside from the issue of foreign currency debt, Mr Laing said that what is important is that the Bahamas' level of foreign reserves, which support the value of the Bahamas dol-

lar, remain high.

"That comment was irresponsible, it was reckless. Those of us who have an interest in the national development of this country would not want to put out misinformation to The Bahamas or the world that the Bahamian dollar is in jeopardy," said Mr Laing.

"When you want to see what is happening to the Bahamian dollar check your level of foreign reserves. Today that level stands at some \$872 million, which is almost \$300 million more than where it was when we came to office.

"The liquidity in the banking system \$300 million banks are adequately capitalised.

"There is nothing to suggest that the Bahamian dollar value is under any threat of devaluation and anyone who suggests any such thing

is being reckless and injurious to the reputation of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas."

In December, Central Bank of the Bahamas governor Wendy Craigg stated that the Bahamas foreign exchange reserves, critical to this country's ability to purchase imports and maintain the one to one peg with the US dollar, were "holding up quite well", standing at that time at around \$840 million.

"We will end this year significantly ahead of where we ended last year (2008)," Ms Craigg told *Tribune Business* on the level of foreign currency held.

"Liquidity is holding up. As long as we have the slowdown in credit and have the inflows from foreign currency borrowing, that has allowed liquidity to be maintained at relatively robust levels," she noted.

Pharmacies' drug plan doubts

FROM page one

is reimbursement, as many are reluctant to believe that the government will be able to maintain and adhere to a strict payment schedule.

"In this industry, at any given time, you can sell thousands of dollars worth of products," explained a pharmacist.

"If we join this plan, how fast will the turnaround be? Generally, in the private sector, insurance companies can take anywhere up to a month or more to render compensation. This is an already uncomfortable situation because we have to restock and waiting for reimbursement can tie up a lot of capital. The government is notorious for tardy payment, what can we expect from them?"

Another pharmacist continued: "I think the turnaround time will prove to be impractical and the sheer volume overwhelming.

"It is obvious that everyone will go to private clinics so as to avoid long lines and also so they can get everything they need as insufficient or unavailable medication is a common problem in the public sector. If the government cannot keep up with the current demand in the public sector, how will they be able to effectively manage commitments to the private sector?"

The government has touted this plan as the first step towards a more comprehensive national health insurance plan and estimates that they will be ready to launch the limited first phase on or before April 2010.

This step is estimated to provide publicly-funded medication to a select target group including NIB pensioners, invalids, and Bahamians pursuing full-time education under 25 years old — an estimated 32,000 people.

Christie: offering Adderley judge post would undermine democracy

FROM page one

constitutional democracy and claimed that such a move would be political "manipulation" of the judicial system.

"I happen to believe (if) that is played out tomorrow and the next several days in our country then I believe it is the most damning indictment of our system of government where this manipulation can take place and it means that you have an in depth manipulation going on that has truly, I think, undermined the democracy that we live in," Mr Christie said, when he called to weigh in on Love 97 FM's talk show Issues of the Day.

His comments came after speculation in some quarters that Government wooed Mr Adderley to give up his seat with promises of a plum job as a judge, which would set the stage for a by-election in the Elizabeth constituency.

In the statement released

Monday, the FNM said it respects Mr Adderley's "personal decision" to cut political ties with the PLP adding that it did not know the reasons behind the decision.

The FNM also alluded to Mr Adderley's reported interest in joining the judiciary but did not confirm whether he has been offered or accepted the job.

"We understand that Mr Adderley is willing to continue in the service of his country as a Justice of the Supreme Court, a position for which he is well qualified, especially at a time when there is urgent need for qualified Bahamian judges willing to serve. If that is so, we highly commend him."

Over the holiday weekend Elizabeth MP Malcolm Adderley quit the PLP with effect from January 1, 2010. Mr Adderley is expected to resign from his seat in the House of Assembly when Parliament meets today.

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LOCAL NEWS

PHOTOS: Felipé Major/Tribune staff

FUNERAL OF FRANCIS FARRINGTON

Laid to Rest

Francis Farrington was laid to rest after a funeral service at St. John's Native Baptist Cathedral. The St Andrew's School graduate was found dead on December 23, after going missing on November 24.



FAMILY AND FRIENDS paid respect to Francis Farrington yesterday as he was laid to rest.



PALLBEARERS carry the body of Francis Farrington out of St Johns Native Baptist yesterday.

MOURNERS at the funeral of Francis Farrington.

KEVIN FARRINGTON brother of the late Francis Farrington attends the funeral.

CARIBBEAN NEWS

Cuba protests US screening of airline passengers

PAUL HAVEN, HAVANA

Cuba summoned the top U.S. diplomat on the island Tuesday to protest extra screening for Cuban citizens flying into the United States, calling the rule a "hostile action" meant to justify America's trade embargo, according to Associated Press.

several setbacks that have all but snuffed out hope for a quick resolution to the half-century of antagonism between Cuba and the United States, and as Cuban officials have been increasingly sharp-spoken about their disappointment in President Barack Obama.

Josefina Vidal Ferreiro, director of the Cuban Foreign Ministry's North American affairs office, said the new security controls were "discriminatory and selective."

"We categorically reject this new hostile action by the government of the United States against Cuba," she told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview.

Vidal Ferreiro said she lodged the protest in an afternoon meeting with Jonathan Farrar, the head of the U.S. Interest Section, which Washington maintains in Cuba instead of an embassy.

Cuba's top diplomat in Washington delivered a similar message to State Department officials earlier in the day, she said.

The United States imposed the airline security measures Monday following an apparent attempt by a Nigerian man to blow up a passenger jet as it approached Detroit on Christmas Day.

Among the 14 nations whose citizens will face increased scrutiny are four — Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Syria — that the U.S. government considers state sponsors of terrorism.

Cuba has been on that list since the 1980s, but has always maintained its inclusion had more to do with the United States' antagonistic policy toward the communist-governed nation than with evidence that it sponsors terrorism.

Washington and Havana have been at odds since shortly after Fidel Castro took power in Cuba on New Year's Day 1959. The United States has maintained a trade embargo on the island — which the Cuban government refers to as a blockade — for 47 years.

"The arguments the U.S. uses to keep Cuba on the list of state sponsors of terrorism are totally unfounded," Vidal Ferreiro told the AP. "Everyone knows they are politically motivated and only designed to justify the blockade against Cuba."

She said Cuba has a spotless record against terrorism, adding that Washington maintains a double standard because it harbors several individuals Cuba considers to have committed terrorist acts on the island.

Gloria Berbena, a spokeswoman at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, had no comment on Vidal Ferreiro's statement, and said she could not confirm whether Cuba had lodged a formal protest.

Speaking before news of Cuba's protest came out, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said Havana's inclusion on the terror sponsor list was justified.



JOSEFINA VIDAL, director of the Cuban Foreign Ministry's North American affairs office, speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in Havana, Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010. Cuba summoned the top U.S. diplomat on the island Tuesday to protest extra screening for Cuban citizens flying into the United States, calling the measure a "hostile action" meant to justify America's trade embargo.

"Cuba is a designated state sponsor of terrorism, and we think it's a well-earned designation given their long-standing support for radical groups in the region," he said, highlighting Havana's support for Colombian rebel groups.

While there are no direct commercial flights between Cuba and the U.S. because of the trade embargo, several companies operate charter services to take Cuban-Americans to the island. The security measures would presumably apply to such flights.

The new dispute over air security measures is the latest sign that a once promising effort at U.S.-Cuban rapprochement may be in danger.

Obama took office offering to extend a hand of friendship to America's traditional enemies. He quickly lifted financial and travel restriction on Cuban-Americans wishing to visit relatives on the island, and the two governments initiated talks to restart direct mail service.

Discussions on counternarcotics and disaster relief cooperation appeared to be in the offing, and there were fresh calls in Congress to lift travel restrictions on all Americans wishing to visit Cuba.

But the good feelings didn't last. In November, the State

Department denounced an alleged assault by Cuban security agents on a dissident blogger, and Cuba later held war games that it said were meant to defend the nation from a possible U.S. invasion.

Last month, Cuba jailed an American citizen accused of providing communications equipment to dissident groups while working as a U.S. government contractor. Cuba waited three weeks to allow the man access to U.S. consular officials, and President Raul Castro said the case showed Washington still actively seeks to topple the island's communist government.

Cuba's stance toward Obama has also changed. After initially praising the U.S. leader as a breath of fresh air, Cuban officials have turned highly critical. Fidel Castro lashed out at Obama in December, saying his "friendly smile and African-American face" are hiding Washington's sinister intentions for Latin America.

The former Cuban president also criticized Obama's performance at the climate conference in Copenhagen and said the U.S. leader's acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize was "a cynical act" — since it came after his decision to send 30,000 additional troops to Afghanistan.

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AP Photo/Franklin Reyes

The Tribune Taste

Favorite foods without the extra calories

(ARA) - During the colder season, our hunger instincts can emerge causing us to seek out the cozy foods we knew and loved as children. These days those same foods impact our waistlines, rack up thousands of calories and are high in fat. You can still nestle up with your favorite foods this winter without sacrificing flavor and compromising diet by making a few easy modifications.

"People think the words 'delicious' and 'healthy' can't be used in the same sentence, and I can hardly blame them since so many foods billed as 'good-for-you' are so disappointing in flavor and taste," says registered dietician Ellie Krieger, a New York Times best-selling author and Food Network host. "Food is such a joyful part of life. In my world, there is no fear or guilt about it, only pleasure and balance."

pepper or sea salt. "It is about finding that sweet spot where healthy and delicious meet. With the right tools you can get both and the Actifry can help bring it all to your table with ease."

"We desire foods that are familiar and satisfy our immediate craving," Krieger explains. "Learning how to keep fat in check and promote healthy alternatives without giving up taste is important to improving our overall quality of life."

While the cold of winter may cause us to retreat and fall victim to some of our food cravings, Krieger believes healthy variations are easily achievable and easy to do.

"You can have it all - food that is bursting with flavor that delights your taste buds and benefits the rest of your body."

Ellie Krieger shares her lower-fat and delicious recipe for Macaroni and Cheese. For more information and recipes, visit T-falUSA.com.

MACARONI AND CHEESE

INGREDIENTS:
8 ounces (2 cups) uncooked elbow macaroni
3/4 cup milk, divided
2/3 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese (2 ounces)
1/2 cup pureed winter squash, thawed if frozen
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon dry mustard

DIRECTIONS:
 Cook the macaroni "pasta al dente" according to the package directions. Drain.

Place 1/2 cup of milk, cheddar cheese, squash, Parmesan cheese, salt and the dry mustard into the Actifry pan and stir with a wooden spoon to combine. Cook for five minutes, until the mixture is hot and the cheese is melted. Add the cooked macaroni and cook two minutes more. Add the remainder of the milk (1/4 of a cup) and cook for another two minutes.

Serves four
 300 calories, 7 grams total fat per serving

Courtesy of ARAcontent



BAHAMA Grill Café owner Eric Gibson (centre) with staff at the new restaurant's entrance.

A new taste of the islands

By REUBEN SHEARER
 Tribune Features Reporter
 rshearer@tribunemedia.net

THERE is a new restaurant in town that promises fresh and uniquely prepared Bahamian favourites.

Located a quarter of a mile up the road from Arawak Cay on West Bay Street, the Bahama Grill Café offers grilled and baked dishes.

The restaurant opened its doors just last month and so far business has been a lot better than anticipated.

"We feel fortunate to be in this position," restaurant owner Eric Gibson told *Tribune Taste*.

"We were under the illusion that we could have a soft opening and just kind of trickle into things, but from day one we've been busy."

The menu is very stream-lined as they wanted to be sure they could handle offering quality dishes on a daily basis before expanding to more choices.

"The big shock for me on the menu is that we do all this Bahamian food, and you think people want to eat all the starchy stuff, but we've been selling a whole lot of our vegetables and fresh roast corn. They've been flying off the shelf," Mr Gibson.

"We've had to change our ribs three or four times because we've run out of the product. We've encouraged customers to give objective criticism, and we haven't had any negative comments. And that's encouraging and means that people are liking our menu."

"All of the recipes were developed

Bahama Grill Café gets off to a great start

by me and my wife. Traditionally, you would roast corn on the open fire, but the cooks at Bahama Grill Café roast corn on the grill.

"We just wanted to bring something that is new. We thought that we could do it and we offer it with a slight twist," Mr Gibson said.

The restaurant's motto is 'taste the islands'.

Mr Gibson said that their menu features flavours from throughout the Caribbean.

Two of the staples they carry are chicken and ribs. They are available in the form of hickory smoked barbecue (pork, baby back, or beef) ribs; grilled and barbecue chicken, and rotisserie chicken.

"I know what I want to taste, and I like to see things done right," Mr Gibson, an IT specialist for the last 25 years, said.

Visiting the Bahama Grill Café, *Tribune Taste* got to sample the delicious grilled conch.

The conch is tenderised and simmered on the grill, after which it is smothered with onions, sweet peppers, celery, plantains, and seasoning. It is served with two sides which include the options of macaroni, potato salad, peas n' rice, or coleslaw.

"I like to see things done right," said

Mr Gibson. He stresses that the meat doesn't hit the grill until the customer comes in to order.

This makes the waiting time a bit longer, but the payoff are freshly made dishes.

With your choice of meats, you can have two sides of fresh vegetables, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, peas n' rice, French fries, fresh roasted corn, and corn bread, which is baked fresh every morning.

There are also family meals available which come with three family-sized sides.

Mr Gibson said customers will soon be able to order online at their website which will be up in a few weeks. Catering started from day one, and you can reach them at 356-GRILL (4745) for more information on that.

Delivery began within the restaurant's first week of operations. Corporate bank employees have been particular customers of this service.

While they try to deliver to most places, Mr Gibson said that the restaurant's delivery drop-off must be within a reasonable distance. Their boundaries are between the Montague Beach and the Sir Lynden Pindling International Airport.

Anywhere beyond that zone there is a \$5 service charge attached to your order.

Bahama Grill Café has long-term plans for expanding the restaurant to the Family Islands and beyond into other countries, Mr Gibson said.

"We wanted to do good consistent food, fresh Bahamian stuff, and a friendly environment. We are more interested in making our customers happy," said Mr Gibson. "It's not good until the customer says its good."

TASTE

The Tribune

entertainment

New video spreads the 'message of love' in the Bahamas

By JEFFARAH GIBSON

BAHAMIAN reggae artist Gesner Dalmond, also known as 'Mr J', is spreading the message of love through his first official video entitled "More Luv" which will be launched this Saturday night at the New Life Christian Centre on Prince Charles Drive.

The song is a collaboration between Mr J and fellow reggae artists Deacon Culture and Golden Fox.

The three came together to make a video that Mr J said will show Bahamians what true love is all about.

Directed by Patrick Miller, the video was shot in the Peach Street and Rolle Avenue area, off Wulff Road, and gave persons of that community a chance to be a star for a day.

The video is based on a series of occurrences through alleyways in the area.

It depicts the story of a homeless mother who is struggling to raise her kids.

There is also a scene in the video

where two young men are arguing and pull guns on each other. Mr J, Deacon Culture and Golden Fox intercept and show the young men a better way of resolving problems.

Speaking with *Tribune Entertainment*, Mr J said it is his belief that through his message of love the ills that plague society can be cured.

"As humans we all experience love, and love stems from God. If we can take the mindset that it is better for us to love one another than to inflict harm on each other then there is a possibility that we would be headed on path to changing the country that we live," he said.

Mr J said his message of love is universal and everyone can relate to what he is trying to communicate.

While the song "More Luv" has already hit the local airwaves, Mr J is working towards getting the video played on all the local television stations as well as on the Caribbean music channel Tempo.

Mr J said even though making the video was a tough task, he is very optimistic that the outcome will be satisfying for the viewers.

"The day of shooting was great. We had an awesome turnout and tremendous support from persons that live in the community, and they were not reluctant to participate in the video with us," he told *Tribune Entertainment*.

The "More Luv" video is targeted

towards young teenagers in particular, and it is Mr J's hope that they will be the ones who digest and act upon the message of the song.

"Because of ignorance and lack of knowledge people perish, and some of the youth of our nation are particularly ignorant when it comes to certain things and we want to evangelise to them so that they would be aware of the things they should know," he said.

Mr J said there is a small charge for the video launch event which will assist in helping the artists raise funds to purchase equipment so that they can continue to make music and can "bless persons with words of wisdom."

Mr J is Bahamian-born of Haitian descent and has been a reggae artist since 1996.

However, becoming a reggae artist was not always a dream of Mr J's.

But listening to other artists like Christian Massive and Peter Runks who tell their stories through music encouraged him to enter the profession.

He has written eight songs so far that he said will be recorded on an album he plans to release sometime in the near future.

In the meantime, he plans to travel abroad to collaborate with DJ Evangelist of Canada.

The launch for "More Luv" begins at 7.30pm.



Gesner 'Mr J' Dalmond

Tryouts begin for 'Supermodel of the Bahamas' Model Search 2010



Lyndah Wells Photography/Photos

CONTESTANTS from Grand Bahama at the International Bazaar in Freeport who will be competing in the Supermodel of the Bahamas competition.

YOUNG women, men and even children who believe they have what it takes to become a supermodel are asked to come out and try for the 'Supermodel of the Bahamas' Model Search 2010.

The organisation, founded by OilinSha Coakley, is now in its third year and is searching for young men, women and children (ages three to 21) for their competition in April 2010.

Open casting calls have already been held in Nassau, Abaco and Grand Bahama, but organisers are still searching for persons with the looks, style and grace required of a supermodel.

The next open calls will take place in Nassau on January 9 and 16 at Bally Total Fitness from 1pm to 4pm.

The competition has grown to become an extremely popular model search in the Bahamas, even branching into a reality television in 2008 in the form of a show on JCN network - the show has been confirmed to begin airing on January 16 running to the finals on April 24.

This year, the organisation further expanded its event with a children's category, looking to find children ranging in ages from three years through 13.

"All individuals will be given the training and the tools to compete in front of seasoned professional judges from New York, Los Angeles, Florida and Jamaica; from agencies like Elite Model Management, and Pulse Models," organisers said.

The title categories that will be awarded are

as follows: "Little Supermodel Bahamas" which will go to one lucky boy and girl; "Commercial Model winner" will be given to one man or woman with the best voice, looks and personality; "Supermodel of the Bahamas" will be awarded to one man and woman.

Supermodel of the Bahamas is the overall title and the winners will be awarded with cash and prizes worth \$3,000, a complete portfolio, representation with OilinSha's Models and Talent Agency and the opportunity to compete in the "Top Model of the Universe" competition in Europe.

The overall title winners will be flown to New York and accommodated in the OilinSha's Models and Talent Agency apartment.

Requirements: Must be between the ages of three to 24 years; must be Bahamian or a permanent resident; bring a comp card or portfolio if you have one, otherwise photos will be taken; no tattoos; must have smooth skin; must have a great personality and a great attitude; dress in fitted jeans and a white or black T-shirt; girls, no makeup and hair must be pulled in one pony tail (unless short hair) - no weave.

Preliminaries begin in Nassau on March 28th with the finals set for April 24th. Supermodel of the Bahamas wishes to thank The Bahamas Weekly, Lyndah Wells Photography, the International Bazaar, Basheva Eve, the Abaco Beach Resort and SkyBahamas Airlines.

For more information visit www.OilinShaModels.com.



THE 2010 Kalik Calendar girls with Kalik managing staff.

Kalik hosts 2010 calendar launch

SEVEN beautiful women were the centre of attention at Kalik's 2010 calendar launch event this past Saturday.

Each of the girls featured in the calendar were contestants in the Miss Bahamas 2009 pageant and were used to commemorate Kiara Sherman's hosting of the Miss Universe pageant, Jannifer Thurston, Kalik brand manager told *Tribune Entertainment*.

In addition to showing off the beautiful Bahamian girls, Kalik also intends to give back to the community, donating part of the proceeds from the sales of the new calendar to the Crisis Centre.

Although attendees of the launch party at Compass Point had to brave chilly weather conditions it didn't stop anyone from enjoying the exclusive event.

After Miss Bahamas 2009 Kiara Sherman made her entrance, special presentations were given and the party officially kicked off with entertainment by the Trix Band led by Ed Albury.

Guests were then entertained by a music mix by DJ Broke As Hell.

The Trix Band was a particular hit as they played a cross-section of Bahamian and old school music.

All seven calendar girls, wearing cocktail dresses sponsored by La Rose, mingled with the crowd. Their individual photoshoots for the calendar were taken by Scharad Lightborne. Mr Lightborne also photographed all of the models that vied for the Miss Bahamas crown last year.

The line-up for the calendar includes Allyssa Knowles, Crystal Brown, Crystal Brown, Camille Kenny, Amanda Appleyard, Aisha Delaney, Gabelle Hudson and Kiara Sherman.

Lorielle Cole of Final Accents store did the accessories, Creative Relations did the graphics and production, and La Rose Boutique sponsored the fine gowns that the Miss Bahamas Universe contestants wore for the evening.

The calendars are sold at Burns House and Butler and Sands Company Ltd.

bookREVIEW

'The Middle Theory: A Guide to Balance'

By CHESTER ROBARDS

WHEN I first met the author of 'The Middle Theory: A Guide to Balance' it was the beginning of my first year of high school and he had been elected captain of his intramural sports team just as he prepared to graduate.

By some twist of fate I was placed on Deshon Fox's sports team, and in our initial encounter was asked by him to run a long distance race that would earn points for our house.

A chubby child, I immediately rejected the notion that I could run such a race, but Deshon convinced me that it was about the greater good of the team and not whether I won the race or not. He told me I was already a part of the success of the team, exuding an almost fatherly spirit though he was only 16 or 17 years old at the time.

Deshon's first book, 'The Middle Theory: A Guide to Balance', talks of the equilibrium we all crave to achieve while traversing life's obstacles.

The book is a pilgrimage through the pass between the spiritual and secular world and attempts to show that there is an attainable truce possible that is often disregarded and shunned by religious and atheistic zealots.

Furthermore, Deshon shows within the confines of the book's pages that the idea of religion is a microcosm shared by all worldly people and not a war of the gods and ideals as so many spiritual leaders believe and teach.

"I realised that God is the God of all peoples, the source of every divinely inspired religion," he says in 'The Middle Theory'.

"Truth became my 'religion'. I realised then that the truth could be found in the sacred texts of religions other than Christianity."

Deshon, in his book, also explores the balance of romantic relationships, parent-child relationships and a relationship with God.

'The Middle Theory' is an easy read, with an easy to follow structure - almost an instruction manual on how to achieve and live with that "balance."

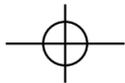
Though written with spiritual sentiments, the book is easily accessible to persons who are unsure of their religious stance.

"The essence of the human being is spiritual and yet many of us live as if we are no more than physical creatures," Deshon writes.

The book does not disregard the existence of fear or pain, neither does it dismiss them as the result of life's trials, but shows them to be necessary tools to a greater appreciation of good things, good times and people.

Deshon Fox is a professional engineer and columnist. Trained in the United States, he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the Florida International University and a Master of Civil Engineering degree from the University of Minnesota.

He presently serves on the Board of the Bahamas Society of Engineers. He lives in the Bahamas with wife and two children.



ARTS

things 2DO

- Stand Up Comedy**
Tomorrow night at 9pm, Phat Groove Entertainment and Galleria Cinemas present 'Stand Up Comedy at the Movies'. The event features Smokey and Malik, and is hosted by Ivan with music by DJ Clean Cuts. Tickets can be purchased from the Galleria Cinemas box office. Call 677-4970 for more information.
- FigureGround Exhibition Opening Night at Popopstudios**
The exhibition which opens this Friday features experimental drawings from Max Taylor, Antonius Roberts, John Beadle, Heino Schmid, Toby Lunn and Danielle Brown. A reception for opening night will be held from 6pm to 9pm. The exhibition runs until February 13 at the Popopstudios Centre for the Visual Arts on Dunmore Avenue in Chippingham. Opening hours are from Wednesday to Saturday, 1pm to 5pm. Call 322-7834 or visit www.popopstudios.com for more information.
- Historical drama for the Alliance Francaise Movie Night**
The Alliance Francaise's French Cine Club presents "Manon des Sources", the second part of "Jean de Florette", a historical drama by Claude Berri, based on the novel by Marcel Pagnol. The movie is in French with English subtitles. The movie night runs from 6.30pm to 9pm at Alliance Francaise in the SG Private Banking Building on West Bay Street. A donation of \$5 is asked of attendees. Visit www.afbahamas.org for more information.



Uprising Vol. 2

Christian reggae artist Ricardo Clarke hopes to go international with the release of his new album

UP and coming Christian reggae artist Ricardo Clarke returns with a new album in an attempt to crack the international market with his 'positive message music'.

"Wasting No Time" is the first single from the Bahamian artist's upcoming album 'Uprising Vol 2', the official follow-up to last year's 'Uprising Vol 1' which featured hits like "Not Settling", "No Minutes" and "Once I'm In Zion."

'Uprising Vol 2' features productions from House of Riddim and the Far East Band, the production team and backing band for Reggae Superstar Gentleman.

The album also features Bahamian reggae artist Christian Massive, who is known for his single "Pull Ya Pants Up", as well as Monty G whose hit single "Top Model" is burning up inspirational international charts everywhere and is the theme song for the Tyra Banks Show.

The new album 'Uprising Vol 2' will be released worldwide on iTunes, Amazon, Rhapsody

and GospelReggae.com in March and will be released in the Caribbean in February 2010. Reviewers who have already had a listen-in said the new CD is a "must-have for all reggae lovers", featuring a mix of soul, acoustic piano and live roots reggae tracks.

Over the years, Ricardo has been involved in many social, spiritual, community, youth and entertainment efforts.

He said he is seeking to empower, uplift, encourage and enlighten humanity in the Bahamas.

Recently, Ricardo has been enjoying a budding music career locally and has had his music air on local and some Caribbean stations.

Ricardo is now entering a global market where he hopes his messages of Christ and positivity will be heard and embraced. Coming from a musical family, singing, song-writing and composing music are a second nature to him.

Ricardo has always been involved in the music scene, however, he found himself unexpectedly in the spotlight when his song "Last Days" became popular on local radio stations and enjoyed airplay in the Caribbean and London.

THE WEATHER REPORT



5-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Breezy with clouds and sun High: 71° Low: 59°	Breezy with patchy clouds High: 69° Low: 56°	Sunshine and patchy clouds High: 75° Low: 62°	Increasing cloudiness High: 77° Low: 62°	Rather cloudy with showers possible High: 69° Low: 56°	Mostly cloudy, windy and cold High: 68° Low: 58°

ALMANAC
Statistics are for Nassau through 1 p.m. yesterday

Temperature	69° F/21° C
High	69° F/21° C
Low	63° F/17° C
Normal high	78° F/25° C
Normal low	66° F/19° C
Last year's high	81° F/27° C
Last year's low	72° F/22° C

AccuWeather.com
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UV INDEX TODAY
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
LOW MODERATE HIGH V. HIGH EXT.

TIDES FOR NASSAU

Today	High	Hi (ft.)	Low	Lo (ft.)
12:05 p.m.	2.6	6:05 a.m.	-0.1	8:30 p.m.
12:51 a.m.	2.7	7:09 a.m.	0.0	1:04 p.m.
1:53 a.m.	2.6	8:18 a.m.	0.1	2:05 p.m.
2:56 a.m.	2.6	9:23 a.m.	0.3	3:07 p.m.
3:57 p.m.	2.1	9:21 a.m.	-0.3	4:08 p.m.
4:50 a.m.	2.6	11:22 a.m.	0.1	5:03 p.m.
5:40 a.m.	2.7	12:11 p.m.	0.1	5:53 p.m.
6:33 p.m.	2.0	11:56 p.m.	-0.3	

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	6:58 a.m.	Moonrise	none
Sunset	5:05 p.m.	Moonset	11:07 a.m.

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP

MARINE FORECAST

STATION	Today	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMPS.
ABACO	Today: NW at 12-25 Knots	6-10 Feet	5 Miles	85° F	
ANDROS	Today: NW at 12-25 Knots	3-6 Feet	10 Miles	75° F	
CAT ISLAND	Today: NW at 10-20 Knots	3-5 Feet	10 Miles	77° F	
CROOKED ISLAND	Today: NW at 10-20 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	79° F	
ELEUTHERA	Today: NW at 12-25 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	75° F	
FREEPORT	Today: NW at 12-25 Knots	3-5 Feet	10 Miles	75° F	
GREAT EXUMA	Today: NW at 8-12 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	75° F	
GREAT INAGUA	Today: NW at 8-16 Knots	3-8 Feet	7 Miles	80° F	
LONG ISLAND	Today: NW at 8-16 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	77° F	
MAYAGUANA	Today: NW at 8-12 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	77° F	
NASSAU	Today: NW at 8-12 Knots	4-8 Feet	10 Miles	78° F	
SAN SALVADOR	Today: NW at 8-16 Knots	1-2 Feet	10 Miles	75° F	
RAGGED ISLAND	Today: NW at 8-8 Knots	1-3 Feet	10 Miles	75° F	

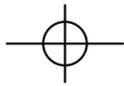
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Ricardo Clarke releases new album
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The Arts

The Tribune SECTION B •

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2010

The evolving art of



Felipe Major / Tribune Staff

EDISON 'Eddie' Dames rushes during the New Year's Day parade.

jankanoo

By JEFFARAH GIBSON

EVER changing and characterised by vibrant colours, larger-than-life costumes and pulsating music - this is jankanoo.

And just as the rules and traditions of jankanoo are constantly evolving, so is the process of creating elaborate vibrant lead pieces and off-the-shoulder costumes for the parades.

Time has wrought many changes, and today jankanooers have at their disposal the means to produce the most elaborate costumes that express the chosen themes of the groups in astonishing and creative ways.

Sitting down with *Tribune Entertainment*, Edison 'Eddie' Dames, acting director of the Department of Culture and veteran jankanooer of 30 years, said that there is much history behind the creation of the costumes.

During the 1930s, he said, jankanooers used sea sponge to construct and create costumes.

"At this time the sponging industry flourished in the Bahamas and because of its easy accessibility jankanooers took advantage of obtaining the product. After the sponging industry declined the use of tissue and newspaper came into play," Mr Dames explained.

Now crepe paper in a whole array of vibrant colours is used to make costumes.

If one wants to see the underrated creative talent of the Bahamian people,

attend a jankanoo parade because this is where most Bahamians give expression to their artistic leanings.

And as each group hits Rawson Square during the Boxing Day or New Year's Day jankanoo parade, attendees witness the final product of months of planning and work that has gone into the producing such a spectacle.

All the groups go through a long and arduous process in selecting and giving form to a special theme.

Mr Dames said that the brainstorming for a new theme takes place almost immediately after a jankanoo parade is over.

So after the streets are cleared and the hype from the parade has died down, the following day specific members of a group begin "locking onto ideas," he said. "There is a particular section within each group which is the design team and almost immediately they begin exchanging ideas and planning for the theme," he told *Tribune Entertainment*.

"They then review these ideas and select a theme where they can obtain the most variations of costumes."

After a theme is selected and modified prototypes of costumes for specific sections are established, the colours have to be coordinated.

Colours play a major role in the parades, and if the right colour scheme is

not selected then it can take away from the beauty of the costumes.

"The colour concept must blend with the patterns of each costume. People may not know it, but selecting a colour is very important because the rhythm of colours must bring out the costumes and at the same time bring out each section," Mr Dames said.

Costumes take approximately seven to nine months to complete, and if one were to visit the 'shacks' one would see group members cutting, pasting, and constructing elaborate pieces far ahead of the winter season.

For people who are curious as to how those huge lead pieces are made, Mr Dames explained that materials like cardboard, PVC pipe and wires are used.

"We also make use of aluminum rods, and then we begin to construct the frame for the lead pieces," he said.

Mr Dames said that back in the old days costumes were sewn together with a sail needle, then the new method of gluing with flour pap came along.

"We used white glue for a period. Then contact cement came along which actually does a great job at keeping the costumes together," he said.

Ever wonder what happens to the costumes after the parades?

Well unfortunately if one or two aren't snatched by someone who appreciates their artistry, those brilliantly intricate

creations are thrown in the dump.

"It's very unfortunate because costumes like those lead pieces can range from \$500 - \$1,000 dollars to create. If those pieces that are stored in the shack are not used then they will be thrown away because space is needed for the next set of costumes," he said.

Mr Dames said he agrees with the opinion that a special jankanoo museum is needed where costumes can be preserved.

And preserving costumes is very difficult because of the materials they are made from.

"The minute they are exposed to direct sunlight or water gets on them, the colour begins to fade," Mr Dames said.

Designers have been experimenting with different methods to find a solution to the problem, but have so far been unsuccessful in their efforts.

As a proud member of the Shell Saxons Super for the past 30 years, Mr Dames also took the opportunity to talk about the group's recent win in the New Year's Day parade.

"The win feels awesome and we are a team that never says 'die'. So if you beat us during the Boxing Day parade you better gear up because we coming to take it over on New Year's Day," he said. And that is exactly what they did this year.