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INSIDE



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UNSUNG HEROES

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New Crown land row allegations

Witness claims father's land ended up in hands of Tex Turnquest

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

FRESH new allegations of nepotism have surfaced before the Select Committee on Crown Land, with one witness asserting that three acres his father had been leasing since 1957 has now landed in the hands of the former director Tex Turnquest.

In his testimony before the committee at Police Headquarters yesterday, Reginald Rigby said that before his father died in 2003 they tried to have the land converted over to a grant without any success.

Since that date until now, Mr Rigby admits he has not kept up to date with the lease payments on the three-acre plot which was reportedly located some two miles west of the community centre in Clarence Town, Long Island.

However, travelling to the island in October of last year, Mr Rigby said he was surprised to see the land his father had farmed and tended to for nearly 50 years had already been divided up and staked out into lots.

"So I pretended as if I was interested in buying a piece and I spoke with a gentleman in the area and he said, 'Oh, I think you would have to speak with Tex Turnquest about that, because he owns the land'. So I was wondering how he could own the land - maybe he could tell you all how he came to own the land," Mr Rigby said.

When questioned by the committee's chairman Fred Mitchell for a further description of the property, Mr Rigby said he actually tried to get a copy of the map of the area from the Department of Lands and Surveys but was promptly given the runaround.

"I tried to get a copy of the plot, but they told me for some reason they couldn't

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CALL FOR PUBLIC TO SURRENDER FIREARMS

Felipé Major/Tribune staff



PASTOR CARLOS REID presents a shotgun to police firearm examiner Earl Thompson yesterday.

By **ALISON LOWE**
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

THE Commissioner and other senior police officers have appealed to the public to surrender firearms to aid the fight against violent crime.

Their appeal came during a conference held to thank local anti-crime and gang activist Carlos Reid for turning in a 12-gauge pump-action shotgun, which he said was surrendered to him by a young man who "didn't want to take the

SEE page eight

PLP by-election hopeful defends his right to dual citizenship

HOPEFUL PLP candidate for the Elizabeth by-election, Ryan Pinder, has defended his right to dual citizenship amid controversy over the right of a Member of Parliament to hold two nationalities.

The Constitution states in Article 48 that no person shall be qualified to be elected as a Member of the House of Assembly who is a citizen of another country having become such a citizen voluntarily, or is, by virtue of his own act, under any acknowledgment of allegiance, obedience or adherence to a foreign power or state.

But as Mr Pinder is a Bahamian born in Nassau, of a Bahamian father and American mother, he acquired US citizenship at birth automatically, rather than voluntarily, and therefore qualifies to serve as a Bahamian MP according to law.

He and attorney Craig Butler are in the running for the PLP candidacy in the upcoming Elizabeth by-election. The party will announce the chosen candidate tonight.

Mr Pinder maintains he

SEE page eight

PLP claims police complaint filed against PM and FNM Chairman



By **ALISON LOWE**
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

THE PLP claims a police complaint has been filed against the Prime Minister and FNM National Chairman Carl Bethel stemming from an alleged encounter between the pair and the PLP campaign team in the Elizabeth constituency at the weekend.

Speaking after he issued a statement commenting on the complaint yesterday PLP chairman Bradley Roberts said it was filed at the Elizabeth Estates police station on Sunday. An officer at that station denied any

SEE page eight

FNM hopeful aims to use Elizabeth as model for new healthcare system

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

FNM POLITICAL hopeful Dr Duane Sands has a plan to revolutionise the public healthcare system, using the Elizabeth constituency as a model.

Dr Sands, a noted heart and vascular specialist, hopes to decentralise public healthcare by offering services at the Elizabeth Estates' public clinic comparable to those available at Princess Margaret Hospital.

He feels this initiative, if copied throughout the capital, would help to relieve some of the burden from PMH and allow for earlier detection of chronic diseases.

Healthcare, along with community concerns over unemployment, crime, traffic, and infrastructure issues are some areas Dr Sands hopes to address if he is successful in his bid to secure the Free National Movement's nomination for the Elizabeth constituency and wins the area's by-election race.

He said the people of Elizabeth have a myriad of concerns which he feels can be better addressed by a representative who has the weight and support of the Government behind them.

"With someone who is passionate and has the support of

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LOCAL NEWS

The race for Elizabeth constituency kicks off

AFTER the announcement of MP Malcolm Adderley's resignation from the House of Assembly last week, his former party, the PLP, wasted no time in launching its campaign for the hearts and minds of Elizabeth residents, holding a walkabout in the area and a

meeting at Doris Johnson High School attended by around 400 people. Over the weekend, the FNM also hit the streets to rally its supporters, win over undecided voters and maybe even convince a PLP or two to change sides.



• MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 12



ABOVE: PLP leader Perry Christie speaks at the party's meeting in Doris Johnson High School.

RIGHT: PLP chairman Bradley Roberts speaks at the meeting.



PICTURED FROM LEFT: Dr Duane Sands, FNM chairman Carl Bethel and FNM secretary general Michael Foulkes.



FNM TORCHBEARERS proclaim their support to motorists as the FNM travelled through the Elizabeth Constituency on Sunday.



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Stuart Kelly named Financial Controller, at Family Guardian

Patricia Hermanns, President & CEO of Family Guardian, has announced the promotion of Stuart Kelly to the position of Financial Controller.

Mr. Kelly joined Family Guardian in 2000 and most recently held the position of Assistant Vice President, Finance. In his expanded role, he will have overall responsibility for supervising the fiscal management and financial reporting of the Company.

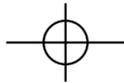
Mr. Kelly holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Accounting from St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and he is a Certified Public Accountant and a Fellow of the Life Management Institute of Atlanta, Georgia.

Family Guardian congratulates Mr. Kelly in his new position at the Company.

Stuart Kelly, CPA, FLMI
Financial Controller

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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Tribune Limited

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

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

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What does Roberts' warning mean?

DURING the 2002 election campaign, then Opposition Leader Perry Christie assured the Bahamian people that he was ushering in a "new" PLP and, if elected, victimization — for which the Pindling PLP administration was noted — would no longer be an issue to be feared.

"Bahamians know Perry Christie," said a PLP statement at the time. "They know that victimization would be alien to his character. As for PLP chairman Bradley Roberts, would FNM candidate Neko Grant be where he is today in corporate Bahamas if Bradley Roberts had a bone of victimization in his body?"

After the "New" PLP were elected Mr Christie announced that if he discovered any member of his government victimizing anyone, that person would be ordered to clear his desk immediately and vacate his post.

So what was Bradley Roberts shouting about in his infamous "prostitute-whore" harangue at what was billed as a "maiden rally" in the Elizabeth constituency on Thursday night?

First he lit on Kenyatta Gibson, a former PLP House member who early last year abandoned his party to cross the floor of the House to join the FNM. Mr Roberts alleged that Mr Gibson had been paid to abandon his party to embarrass its leader, Perry Christie.

This shortsightedness of not recognizing their faults, of course, is going to be the undoing of the PLP. It seems impossible for them to accept that the cause of these defections could be triggered by something rotten within their own body politic. But, no, no fault is to be found with them. A person who disagrees with them has no right to exercise his intelligence or free will to make a judgment and move on — somewhere in this corrupt world of "buy and sell", someone had to be bought.

"Time is now ticking on Kenyatta's political career," Mr Roberts claimed after Mr Gibson gave his party what Mr Roberts would have seen as the Judas kiss. It might be true that Mr Gibson's political career could be over should he lose his seat in the 1012 election, but certainly Mr Gibson's future would not end there ... unless, of course, forces could be in place at that time to block his forward motion.

"The story," said Mr Roberts, "will be similar for Malcolm Adderley in about three years at best. History will not be kind to either of these men..."

Unlike Mr Gibson, Mr Adderley will not be facing an election. So history cannot be unkind to him on the political front. What, therefore, could be the sinister thought behind Mr Roberts' warning?

Should Mr Adderley be appointed to the Supreme Court bench, he will have reached the age of retirement by the end of this year. Of course, with leave, his retirement could be extended by another two years, by which time he would be retired on pension.

Of course, in three years time should the PLP win the next election, Mr Adderley would be secure in his pension and retirement — hopefully beyond their reach.

According to Mr Roberts, Mr Christie protected both these men in their political careers. The innuendo was that should the occasion arise again there would be no more protection.

Whenever we hear such subtle threats we can't help but remember the good people of Turks and Caicos who settled in Inagua, and through the sweat of their brows help build the community, settled and had families. However, because they backed the wrong political party when the PLP took the island, they were sent packing.

Or Carlton Francis, who was man enough to stand up and be counted in an exercise of conscience. At the time Mr Francis was Development Minister in the Pindling Cabinet. However, he was also a Baptist minister, who was opposed to all forms of gambling.

Casino gambling was being bitterly debated on the floor of the House. Two other members of the Pindling cabinet were opposed, but agreed that when it came to the vote, they would quietly abstain. Not so Mr Francis. He announced that he was going to make it clear where he stood. The question then arose as to whether a Minister could break ranks on a matter of government policy when his conscience was in conflict. The argument grew heated. It got out of control. An angry Carlton Francis sat down, scribbled a note, stuffed it in a sealed envelope and handed it to Prime Minister Pindling. He had resigned.

Mr Francis' decision of conscience stalked him to his grave. An outstanding teacher, he could not get a teaching post at the College of the Bahamas under the Pindling government. Although the college board had approved his qualifications, a Minister of government vetoed his application "apparently for political reasons."

Should the PLP be returned to government in 1012 does a similar fate await Messrs Gibson, Adderley and any one else who might disagree with that political party? One cannot forget the arrogant words uttered many years ago from a public platform by a member of the Pindling Cabinet: "God gave this country to the PLP."

Heaven forbid!

A potential blow to the independence of judiciary

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Please allow me an opportunity to express my opinion on an issue that is of significant importance at this stage of the development of my beloved country.

Indeed, at the heart of any constitutional democracy is an independent, impartial and fearless judiciary which has as its foundation the guiding principle of integrity.

I have followed the saga involving Mr Malcolm Adderley and the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP), who both in my humble opinion have strayed from the ideology and philosophy of the pre-1967 PLP! Be that as it may, I vividly recall Mr Adderley's anecdotal story after the 2007 general elections about the difficulties he would have faced in being re-elected to parliament.

Mr Adderley with a degree of style and class has always demonstrated his disenchantment with the leadership of the PLP.

Now, with the artistry of Master Sun and the treachery of Machiavelli, the final arrow has hit its would be target. That is poetic politics, my dear public!

Article 94 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas provides that Justices of the Supreme Court shall

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

be appointed by the Governor-General by instrument under Public Seal acting on the advice of the Judicial and Legal Services Commission.

Lord Diplock in Thomas v AG of Trinidad and Tobago, emphasise the "crucial significance" of the selection process and the role of the commission.

The purpose is to insulate members of the Judiciary from political influence exercised directly upon them by the government of the day. The means adopted for doing this, was to vest an autonomous commission, to the exclusion of any other person or authority, power to make appointments to the Judiciary.

In respect of the autonomous commission, the Constitution contains provisions to secure its independence from both the executive and the legislature.

The aforementioned process was designed to eliminate what is known as the "spoil" system. A system by which the government of the day without the protection that our constitution offers would be able to use such appointments as political rewards and thereby subordi-

nate the sovereignty of the country to the furtherance of the political party's aims. Without condescending to the particular, considering all of the circumstances surrounding Mr Adderley's purported appointment one just might be able to say that in this case, "to the victor go the spoils"!

While I acknowledge the fact that true judicial Independence cannot be totally guaranteed by constitutional provisions, because judicial independence lies in the heart of the individual, I submit the following: Inherent in the Westminster model system is the separation of powers, security of tenure of justices and the selection process which all combine to secure the independence as well as the integrity of the judiciary. Having regard to the significant role that the judiciary is called upon to play as guardians of those sacred principles outlined in our constitution.

I submit, that the process by which it would appear that Mr Adderley is going to be admitted to the bench, should he decide to so do may make the entire process a mockery.

ELSWORTH
N JOHNSON
LLB, LL.M.
Nassau,
January 7, 2010.

When will we be free from a compromised parliament shackled to an archaic system?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

A piercing cry in the womb of destiny, in this Bahamas, alerts sage history that there will be much grief and travail to record in a few short years if this course of short-sighted flight is not aborted and these present, faulty political machines made redundant and obsolete.

During this unfolding season of our lives, one must choose to not let the pen be idle while bellies burn with hunger and minds become congested with frustration; we dare not break the trust of truth or promise of freedom while a people's salvation is lost in revelry and celebration.

But, we who thrive on the perspicuity of life are convinced that it is culture alone to speak restoration to a dying way of

living. The stifling reality in this Bahamas today is too many governments have failed to breathe new life into the "lungs of culture" in our ghetto communities; instead they promote empty transitions to remove subdivisions devoid of inner-city roots, thus widening the chasm between already tense and humiliated sectors of society.

A country that chose to not invest in its natural resources but rather subserviently patronised the flimsy and whimsical industries of banking and tourism, built on inflated egos.

Now we are confronted with the ugly sores of crime infesting our land — a disease left to breed in hearts of greed — youth born in the troubled eighties are now unleashing pent-up anger and hopelessness.

Are we as a nation intellectually misinterpreting this "spirit of lawlessness" with our juvenile approach to prevention and a lackluster application of punishment; is this the harbinger to Nostradamus' predictive "eruption of souls swallowing the far-flung isles."

Why do we foolishly and wantonly claim the despotic legacy of a third-world mentality bearing the painful signature of misguided freedom?

Culture is beginning and the end and therein we must find pleasure to exert our dreams; to plant our visions in the heart of every child whose voices will echo our victory in years to come.

In the next letter we will begin to dismantle this nation's

"dark house of secrets", from its crumbling foundation of self-ish ideologies to a structure, stone by oppressive stone and plank by ethnic plank, baring the soul of a people screaming for redemption — stripping away years of deception and decay.

This nation now collectively dials 919 with every fearful breath, heavy hearts tremble distrustful all that we have become.

But to whom have our religious leaders sown their prayers when all that we now derisively reap is a harvest of mockery and ridicule?

When did the fruits of labour from "the quiet revolution" become spoil and rancid to the taste of this generation; I personally would have preferred the ultra-studious minds and firm, but compassionate hearts of Paul Adderley and Henry Bostwick to have compassed and captained this great and promising country.

In closing I submit, when will we be free from a compromised parliament that is shackled to an archaic system and steeped in a tradition fraught with questions unanswered by colonisation?

Be assured, this nation's story is enshrined in our souls and ultimately depends on culture for its success or failure, its glory or lament.

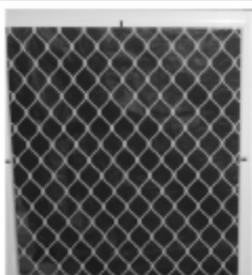
You decide. I pray for thee a happy, peaceful life.

GREGORY NEELY
Nassau,
January, 2010.

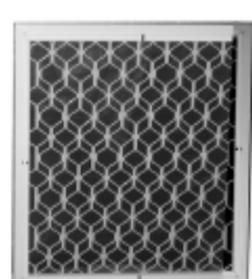
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LOCAL NEWS

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY SELECT COMMITTEE

Call for greater transparency in crown land applications

Former permanent secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister Maria Teresa Butler testifies



CALL FOR GREATER TRANSPARENCY: Former permanent secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister Maria Teresa Butler.

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

FORMER permanent secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister Maria Teresa Butler called for greater transparency and openness in the application and granting of crown land when she testified before the House of Assembly's Select Committee yesterday.

Flatly denying that she or any members of her immediate family ever received crown land during her tenure, Ms Butler said the idea of applying for land had never even crossed her mind.

Ms Butler, who is currently working as a senior policy advisor to Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham, said there needs to be a very detailed and clear policy governing the ability of public officers who work in the Department of Lands and Surveys (DLS) to apply for crown land.

"I think, today, and knowing what has transpired, there is a great deal more caution and people now have to indicate if they are public officers and where they work. And I think in some cases we are now leaning toward asking applicants if they are related to public officers and if they are related to someone in the department.

"I do not know if there should be a prohibition. What we do need is transparency, public declaration, and no suggestion that 'I am going to slip this in'," she said. In addition,

Ms Butler said, any new policies should also remove a lot of the discretion which has been left to senior officials in the granting of crown land, "so that people will know in advance that this is what happens - You send in the application, it is looked at by technical people and the process goes forward. You are taking away the flexibility for public officers or politicians to influence how an individual application is dealt with. And this of course can be transferred to every department of the government," she said.

Improvements

While her testimony focused on many of the issues relating to the inner workings of the Department of Lands and Surveys from a policy standpoint, Ms Butler also disclosed that there are a number of improvements in the process being implemented to assist with the problems that now face the DLS.

These improvements include, but are not limited to: a new computerised system for land applications, aerial photographs of the entire archipelago, and new administrative systems to cut down on the number of applications that are misplaced or erroneously filed.

"But all of these programmes are only as good as the people who are working them. And so we need good support staff - the technical people and the clerical people who are going to pay attention and ensure that

things are going in alphabetical order or by island, and that you are not putting an application for Andros on Abaco.

"And so we need a lot of those kinds of resources. It is not a big thing, it is a lot of small things to increase efficiencies and effectiveness and responsiveness to applications. And so the most important thing that we have to do now is to ensure that we put the financial and the human resources where we need them in the department," she said.

New crown land row allegations

FROM page one

find the map," he said.

In addition to Mr Rigby, the Committee also heard from Audley Greaves, the current undersecretary in the Department of Lands and Surveys, who was taken to task by Kennedy MP Kenyatta Gibson.

During a line of questioning by Golden Isles MP Charles Maynard over Mr Greaves' wife's application and subsequent granting of crown land in Treasure Cay, Abaco, Mr Greaves asserted that the MP's conclusions that preferential consideration had been given was in fact not true.

Information

However, when Mr Gibson retorted, Mr Greaves was unable to provide any precise information even as to when his wife's application was submitted.

"But I can say this to you, OK, in all sincerity, I have never asked anyone to do anything; specifically," Mr Greaves said.

Mr Gibson: "And no one on the committee is suggesting anything to the contrary. The difficulty is perception."

Mr Turnquest was forced to resign from his post last May after relatives of his, including his mother-in-law, were granted prime beachfront Crown land in Exuma for less than \$2,500. These lots were later resold for \$550,000 each. Mr Turnquest has maintained his innocence throughout these sessions.

The Committee is expected to present its final report before the House of Assembly at the end of this month.

INSIGHT

For the stories behind the news, read *Insight* on Mondays

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Bail

Rahming, who appeared before Magistrate Derrence Rolle in Court Five, pleaded not guilty to the charge and was granted bail in the sum of \$7,000.

The case was adjourned to April 7.

Defence Force apprehends 16 suspected illegal immigrants

A JOINT effort between the United States Coast Guard and the Royal Bahamas Defence Force resulted in the apprehension of 16 Cuban nationals in the southern Bahamas.

The suspected illegal immigrants were apprehended on Sunday afternoon and have been taken to the Carmichael Road Detention Centre.

Tip

After receiving a tip that a group of Cubans had been spotted on Elbow Cay in the Cay Sal Bank area, Defence Force command dispatched the vessel HMBS Bahamas, under the command of Lieutenant Commander Clarence Dean, to investigate.

When they arrived at the cay, the marines discovered the Cubans - 15 men, one woman - who all appeared to be in fair health.

They were taken onboard the vessel and transported to the capital shortly after 2pm on Monday, where they were turned over to Immigration authorities for further processing.

Governor General Arthur Hanna to preside over January 14 event

Investiture ceremony for Queen's Honours recipients

THE government has announced that on January 14, Governor General Arthur Hanna will hold an investiture ceremony for the recipients of this year's Queen's Honours.

The list of those receiving honours includes the current secretary to the Cabinet, members of the clergy, and heads of local insurance companies.



Governor General Arthur Hanna

The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire Member (MBE)

- Sandra Moore
- Canon Fits Goodridge
- Edna Mae Russell
- Basil Christie
- Frederick Solomon Ramsey
- John Rolle Sr
- Cecil Bernard Longley

The British Empire Medal (BEM)

- Dennis Lloyd Turnquest
- Arthur Sherman Jr
- Wendell Carver Grant Sr
- Doddridge MacLagan Hunt
- Oswald Cory Munnings
- Reverend Wilbur St Clair Outten
- Sheila McDonald.

Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George (CMG)

- Bishop Elgarnet Brendan Rahming
- Anita Doreen Bernard

The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire Officer (OBE)

- George Cox
- Lowell Mortimer
- Harcourt Lowell Turnquest

The Queen's Police Medal

- Assistant Commissioner Shannondor Harold Evans
- Chief Superintendent Sylvester Augustus George (retired).

PUBLIC NOTICE

URCA DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN PUBLISHED

URCA is pleased to publish its first Draft Annual Plan, pursuant to Section 41 of the URCA Act.

The Draft Annual Plan Outlines:

- Broad priorities of URCA for the three years 2009 - 2012
- URCA's strategy for the forthcoming financial year
- A series of key performance indicators which URCA shall use to measure its performance during the forthcoming financial year
- The level of remuneration to be received by non-executive and executive members for the forthcoming financial year and
- URCA's budget for the forthcoming financial year.

URCA invites and welcomes comments and submissions from members of the public, licensees and other interested parties on this Draft Annual Plan. The Plan can be downloaded from the URCA website.

Visit the website for more information
www.urcabahamas.bs

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LOCAL NEWS

Pastors Carlos Reid and Keith Grey give hope to our youth

By AVA TURNQUEST

JUXTAPOSED between government complexes on Thompson Boulevard there is a 66 x 660ft compound powered by hope.

And though its reach stretches into the lives of international stars and successful entrepreneurs, its positive social impact and accomplishments goes largely unnoticed and unwarded.

In a time where diminishing social programmes are directly correlated to the country's struggling economic stability, The Chance Foundation continues to maintain and exceed its commitments to Bahamian at-risk youth, making its two frontmen Pastors Carlos Reid and Keith Grey *The Tribune's* newest Unsung Heroes.

Both men were former gang leaders, drug-pushers, criminals, seemingly trapped by personal circumstances. Their re-birth as Christians not only renewed their own lives and purpose but today countless at-risk youth benefit from their actions, initiative and positive presence.

Pastor Reid shared: "One day I came across a picture I had taken with some friends of mine. There were five of us, and as I looked at it I realised everyone in the picture besides me was dead. Essentially, I was next."

Pastor Reid said that although he tore the picture up that day, he couldn't shake the realisation. "I was living a doomed lifestyle, and I knew I had to get out."

"On July 8, 1989, I gave my life to Christ at Central Gospel Chapel. It is a day that I will never forget"

Less than three years later, Pastor Reid said he got this "crazy dream" to provide an alternative to gangs.

Youth Against Violence is best described by its mission statement: "A powerful, passionate and transforming energy that loves the unloved, teaches the un-teachable, mentors the wayward, and sculpts misguided youth into productive, self-sufficient individuals."

Pastor Reid continued: "We launched Youth Against Violence (YAV) in 1994 and in 1995 over the space of six months we saw more than



UNSUNG HEROES

PRIDE OF THE BAHAMAS



HOPE MINISTRIES also has an auto body shop where youth can pick up a trade.

15,000 individuals give their life to Christ."

Among the 15,000 was Pastor Keith Grey, once the leader of a prolific street gang Rebellion Raiders (Sean's Corner/East Street), now president of Platinum, a subgroup of YAV that caters to young men aged nine to 25.

"A lot of my friends were dying," reflected Pastor Grey. "It seems as if month after month there was always someone new on a T-shirt."

However, Pastor Grey said it wasn't until 1995 when his own brother tried to stab him, that he made the ultimate decision to change his life.

"I gave my life to Christ that year" he said. "I'd seen what Pastor Reid was doing in the community and believed strongly in his vision. I'd found my purpose in life, and that was to help others who felt trapped by whatever circumstances, be it environment, domestic life etc. I wanted to show people 'hey, if I can do it so can you'."

Since then, Pastors Reid and

Grey have been partners in their ministry and the massive outreach programme known collectively by many as simply The Hope Centre.

It wasn't until 2006, that the small yet diverse facility on Thompson Boulevard was established.

Referred to as a "mini Hope Centre" by its ambitious founders, this structure houses a music recording studio, a computer lab, a gym, and a recreational centre- all of which made possible from second hand equipment and donated materials.

"The property also houses a car wash and a car mechanics bay. Every inch of the property is being put to productive use."

"The facility is open every day of the week. On Sundays The Hope Centre doubles as Hope Ministries, where we gather for praise and worship services. It is a real community centre which is available to all persons all of the time. With positive activities to occupy their time, countless lives have



PASTORS CARLOS REID and Keith Grey stand before an architectural drawing of the proposed Hope Centre.



YOUNG ARTISTS work on their music in the recording studio at the Hope Centre.

been changed for the better," Pastor Reid added.

Pastor Reid admitted that this mini Hope Centre has long since outgrown its physical structure due to enormous demand for the facility, and the ever-growing population and energy of at-risk youth.

"We currently assist the Government with its suspension programme," Pastor Reid maintained. "We receive over 100 kids from the various public schools throughout the year and although the benefit is invaluable, it is a commitment that we are struggling to meet."

The programme mandates suspended students to attend the Hope Centre during school hours, where they receive help specific to their individual needs such as conflict resolution or tutoring.

"People assume that with social work everything should be free, but in actuality no programme can survive on volunteers alone. People need to be paid, if they are giving their time to us during working hours, how are they to pay their bills?"

Limited resources, however,

is a factor that pastors Reid and Grey claim has never stopped their organisation from achieving its goals. Including one major long-term goal, the construction and operation of a halfway home extraordinaire, named The Hope Centre.

Pastor Grey explained: "We have found that many young people want to turn away from negative behaviour and some even make commitments to do so but return to the same communities and face the same problems. The Hope Centre will provide a much needed alternative and will be critical to the rehabilitative process of many of our misguided young people."

However, like the mini Hope Centre that preceded it, this estimated \$4.2million complex will also act as a hub for all social change endeavours of the Chance Foundation. Pastors Reid and Grey are confident that the bulky construction cost will not prove to be an insurmountable obstacle. Construction will be split up in phases which will allow the organisation to immediately begin to uti-

lize the structure as each section is completed.

Pastor Reid said: "To date, we have members that have come out of just about every gang in the Bahamas. Our team has been certified by the National Gang Crime Research Centre of America. We have also published numerous books on this anti-social lifestyle. We have been studying this social ill both here and abroad and we honestly believe that there is hope."

The Chance Foundation is a non-profit organisation and the financial provider for the rehabilitation programmes of Youth Against Violence, Operation Redemption, Diamonds and Platinum.

Its mandate is to facilitate the provision of positive opportunities or chances for the less privileged youth of The Bahamas, who may otherwise be inclined toward gang-related activity and other criminal behaviour.

For more information on how you can donate finances, time or talent, visit www.youthagainstviolence.com

OPINION

The following is an opinion piece submitted by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

PART III

"A message of confidence and hope" – The world was watching Copenhagen and China announced its firm commitment to advancing mankind's historical process of countering climate change.

At 8.30am on December 18, before attending the leaders' event, Premier Wen had a meeting with the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who had just flown in.

China and India are neighbors and major developing countries. At this important moment, whether the two countries could come together for close co-operation would affect not only the interests of the developing world, but also the progress of the conference.

Premier Wen and Prime Minister Singh are old friends. This was their second meeting for the year. They both knew that only solidarity and co-operation would bring about a true "Asian Century" of harmony, development and prosperity. And this would require the vision, courage and resolve of statesmen.

Premier Wen started by making an overview of the latest developments of the conference. He also shared his views on the situation and sought Prime Minister Singh's opinion. Touched by Premier Wen's sincere words and gesture, the Indian prime minister said he fully echoed Premier Wen's comments. The two leaders agreed that no matter what might happen, China and India would stay in close touch and co-ordination to uphold the interests of developing countries.

At 9.45am, Premier Wen arrived at the Bella Centre for the leaders' event scheduled to begin at 10am. The event attracted worldwide attention. However, neither the host nor the UN Secretary-General showed up at 10 and the stage was all empty. People began to speculate what had happened, but no one turned up to give an explanation.

The clock was ticking, wearing down people's enthusiasm and expectations. Seeing this, Premier Wen immediately made the decision to call another meeting among the BASIC leaders. There was no time to get a meeting room. The four leaders simply sat around a small coffee table in the lounge outside the plenary

hall and started their discussion. They were resolved to work for an outcome at this final moment.

Finally, at 11.30am the chair of the conference, Prime Minister Rasmussen, announced the opening of the event and invited Premier Wen to be the first to address the conference. The premier mounted the rostrum in his typical vigorous steps, looking calm, confident and determined. His speech, entitled "Build Consensus and Strengthen Co-operation to Advance the Historical Process of Combating Climate Change", contained a little more than 2,000 Chinese characters, but it was substantive, visionary and full of emotion.

"At this very moment, billions of people across the world are following closely what is happening here in Copenhagen. The will that we express and the commitments that we make here should help push forward mankind's historical process of combating climate change. Standing at this podium, I am deeply aware of the heavy responsibility upon us," he said.

Premier Wen went on to talk about China's contribution to the fight against climate change and put forward four principles to promote climate negotiations.

Towards the end of the speech, he raised his voice and solemnly pledged, "... it is with a sense of responsibility to the Chinese people and the whole mankind that the Chinese government has set the target for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. This is a voluntary action China has taken in the light of its national circumstances. We have not attached any condition to the target, nor have we linked it to the target of any other country. We will honor our word with real action. Whatever outcome this conference may produce, we will be fully committed to achieving and even exceeding the target."

The fair and reasonable principles outlined by Premier Wen represented the shared aspiration of developing countries. They were both realistic and forward-looking, and had taken into account the interests of all parties. They pointed the way forward at a decisive moment of the conference, gave a strong push to the efforts to safeguard and advance the negotiation process, and therefore received widespread endorsement.

A prolonged round of applause broke out from the audience. Some foreign

leaders went to Premier Wen's place, shaking his hand and congratulating him on the speech.

"As long as there is one percent hope, we will exert 100 per cent efforts." – At the critical moment when the conference faced the danger of ending with nothing, the Chinese government helped make the Copenhagen Accord possible with extraordinary efforts.

China is the biggest developing country in the world while the United States is the largest developed country. The meeting between Premier Wen and President Obama naturally became the focus of attention. The meeting was scheduled to take place after President Obama's speech at the plenary session. It was held in a makeshift room of a steel frame covered with drapes.

The two leaders exchanged views in a frank, in-depth and practical manner on the outcome of the conference, the long-term target, the MRV and other focal issues. They stated their respective views and also showed some flexibility. They agreed that the conference should speedily reach a political agreement and that China and the United States should maintain co-operation. They then instructed their chief negotiators to have further consultations and agreed to meet again later that day.

After the meeting, Premier Wen instructed his negotiating team to brief the BASIC countries and G77 on the China-US meeting and encourage developing and developed countries to work together and expedite the negotiation process.

Developed and developing countries held consultations on the final document of the conference, yet it was still hard to make any progress due to the differences among parties. The scheduled closing time of the conference had long passed.

Some countries started to prepare statements in the event of a breakdown and leaders of a handful of countries even made irresponsible remarks, pointing fingers at China.

At the Bella Centre, many leaders were seen making hasty departures with stern looks. Journalists were packing up equipment and deserted used paper was everywhere on the floor. People were paying more attention to when and how the Danish government would announce that this largest and highest-level conference in UN history had ended in failure.

China's role in the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference

At this final moment, Premier Wen Jiabao once again played a crucial role. He called a meeting of the Chinese delegation and made a clear and realistic analysis of the situation. He said that it was no longer possible to reach a legally binding document now, yet all parties knew full well what a fruitless conference would mean and no one wanted to be held responsible for the failure. Premier Wen said that as long as there was one per cent hope, we must exert 100 per cent effort. He decided on the spot to meet with President Lula, Prime Minister Singh and President Zuma again to make the last-ditch effort. At the same time, President Obama also proposed a second meeting with Premier Wen. Premier Wen agreed to meet with him after talking to the BASIC leaders.

Leaders of the BASIC countries shared the view that they could first reach consensus on the key issues and then talk to the Europeans and the United States with maximum flexibility on the basis of sticking to principles and upholding the interests of developing countries. They maintained that every effort must be made for some results at the conference. Premier Wen Jiabao laid particular emphasis on the need to keep in touch and enhance co-operation with the African countries, the G77 and small island states.

At 6.50pm, when leaders of the BASIC countries were doing the final review of their common position, they heard a clamor of voices outside. The door was opened and there stood President Obama. Although the scheduled time for the second China-US meeting had passed, Obama's presence at that moment still came as a surprise to the people inside.

President Obama must, too, have felt a bit awkward. With one foot inside the door, he smiled and asked Premier Wen whether he was early and whether he should wait outside or come in and join the discussion. Premier Wen stood up and welcomed him courteously. President Obama was apparently touched. He first walked around the room, shaking hands with everyone inside, and then sat down on President Lula's left and across the table facing Premier Wen.

Premier Wen started the discussion by stating that efforts must be made to adopt a decision at the conference to recognise the results and build consensus. He explained to President Obama the position of the BASIC countries on several key issues. President Obama also

updated the four countries on the US position. He said that the two sides were already very close on the wording concerning these issues. Leaders of the five countries then continued to have serious consultations.

Journalists watching outside had been watching what was going on in the room. Some shot pictures through the glass door. And soon they heard the sound of applause from inside the room. After consultations, the BASIC countries reached agreement with the United States on the formulations of several key issues in the draft document. The US side offered to consult with the EU about what was just agreed upon.

The United States then had consultations with the EU countries, and the BASIC countries also held discussions with other countries. Later, some countries held a small-group consultation on the draft text. Word came in an hour later that the relevant parties had reached consensus on a draft resolution and would soon submit it to the plenary for a vote. It was already nine hours behind the scheduled closing time of the conference.

The final outcome of the Copenhagen conference was in no way dictated by one or two countries. Rather, it was the result of the concerted efforts of all countries. Yet, one can see from the tortuous and hard process that China played a vital role.

International media have had different readings of the outcome of the Copenhagen conference in recent days, but one thing is certain – thanks to the joint efforts of the international community, international co-operation on climate change moved one step forward along the right track and a message of confidence and hope was sent out to the world. China made the utmost efforts with maximum sincerity, and played an important and constructive role.

History has shown once again that the biggest challenge of mankind is mankind itself. Unity is the source of strength and co-operation leads to a bright future.

The Copenhagen conference has put China on a higher and broader world stage. China has reason to be proud and China will work even harder.

Verdant mountains cannot stop water flowing; eastward the water keeps on going.

The Copenhagen conference is a new starting point and from here, the international process of combating climate change will keep forging ahead.

LOCAL NEWS

FNM hopeful aims to use Elizabeth as model for new healthcare system

FROM page one

the government that many of these things will get done," he told *The Tribune* yesterday.

"I think we have an opportunity to make Elizabeth the model of healthcare delivery for the country. The model that exists in healthcare is very PMH centred we have to make healthcare community based. Starting from the model of that clinic (with) adjustments of staffing, equipment, (longer) hours of operation, diagnostics and therapeutic facilities now you have the situation where you can move the fight of disease out of PMH and move it into the community.

"And that is going to be the model needed to take healthcare where it needs to go," said Dr Sands, adding he hopes to work alongside Health Minister Dr Hubert Minnis on the initiative if elected.

The PLP won the Elizabeth constituency for two consecutive terms - albeit by a narrow margin in 2007 of just 45 votes - and Dr Sands sees himself as the "underdog" in the looming by-election race.

A virtual newcomer to the political arena, Dr Sands - who currently serves as Chairman of the Bahamas Medical Council, a Director of the Central Bank of the Bahamas and Chief of Surgery at the Princess Margaret Hospital - said his team plans to speak to every voter and "gain their trust".

Yesterday Speaker of the House Alvin Smith, who returned to the capital on Saturday from a conference in India, told *The Tribune* he had not yet notified Governor General Arthur Hanna in writing of the vacant seat in the House



MORE NEWS ON PAGE THREE

of Assembly.

Last Wednesday former Elizabeth MP Malcolm Adderley resigned from Parliament and the Progressive Liberal Party - setting the stage a by-election which is expected to take place next month.

By law, Mr Smith must instruct the Governor General of the vacancy after which an order will be made to hold a by-election and a date set.

On Sunday, the FNM announced that Dr Sands was unanimously elected by the Elizabeth Constituency Association as its preferred candidate.

Last night he was scheduled to face the scrutiny of the party's Candidates Committee and later the Executive Committee. If successful, Dr Sands is expected to be ratified as the FNM's official Elizabeth candidate on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the PLP is expected to formally ratify its yet unannounced candidate tonight. Attorney Ryan Pinder is rumoured to be the party's pick, although PLP Treasurer Craig Butler is also vying for the nomination.

Last week Bahamas Democratic Leader Cassius Stuart officially announced his intent to run.

PLP claims police complaint filed against PM, FNM Chairman

FROM page one

knowledge of the complaint.

In a statement issued yesterday, Mr Roberts said: "It is with deep regret that we report, that an official police complaint has already been filed against two of the most senior leaders of the Free National Movement whom on Sunday sought to interfere with working members of the PLP's preliminary team. This kind of intimidation on the part of the leadership of the FNM will in no way be tolerated."

He said the PLP wishes to conduct a "clean, professional and respectful campaign - unlike what has already been demonstrated by members of the governing party."

In a phone interview with *The Tribune* subsequent to this release, Mr Roberts confirmed that the alleged subjects of the complaint are Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and Mr Bethel.

Asked exactly what kind of "interference" was perpetrated, Mr Roberts referred this newspaper to the Elizabeth Estates police station.

Yesterday Mr Bethel acknowledged a verbal exchange with PLP campaign workers but said "there was no interference."

"As I passed by some of their (PLP) workers who were putting a poster on a lamp pole I noticed that it appeared that they'd taken one of ours (an FNM poster) down to put up one of theirs.

"I parked my car about 150ft down the road and I said that they shouldn't do that. They came up verbally abusing me. I just walked away and went and sat in my car. I didn't say a word to them. Then the Prime Minister came along and I followed him in my car, and as he was driving off they said offensive things to him. It appeared to be offensive. They were gesticulating at his car as he turned the corner.

"However, he had nothing to say to them and neither did I, except to the original comment about taking down the posters."



BRADLEY ROBERTS, Hubert Ingraham and Carl Bethel.

When *The Tribune* contacted the Elizabeth Estates police station yesterday, an officer denied any knowledge of a complaint being filed at the station against Mr Ingraham and Mr Bethel.

In a later email after *The Tribune* requested a copy of the complaint, Mr Roberts said that the complainants "have requested their attorney to obtain a copy of the complaint that was filed by them with the Community Policing/Mobile Division of the Fox Hill/Elizabeth Division."

He said the complaint related to "bad language."

The PLP's release yesterday also confirmed that the party is still in the process of selecting its candidate to run in the Elizabeth Constituency by-election.

Mr Roberts said: "The Progressive Liberal Party wishes to advise its supporters and the general public that the Candidate's Committee is at present finishing its process of recommending a candidate for the Elizabeth Constituency."

"That committee will then be meeting tonight with the Leadership Council and Political Focus Group of the Party in

consultation with the Branch Chairman of the Elizabeth Constituency to seek a motion of assent so that the recommended candidate can be presented for ratification by the Party's National General Council tomorrow (tonight) evening.

"We wish to assure the public that this very tedious process of nominating a candidate in the face of this rushed fiasco, orchestrated by a Government compelled to distract the Bahamian people from the woes plaguing us as a country, has been done with the greatest degree of transparency and fairness.

"The long list of applicants anxious to represent the Progressive Liberal Party in the Elizabeth Constituency is a reflection that our party is very much alive and remains the most viable option to lead in our country," stated Mr Roberts.

On Sunday Mr Roberts told this newspaper it is "highly likely" either attorney and PLP vice chairman Ryan Pinder or PLP treasurer Craig Butler will be selected to run.

The candidate will be formally announced and introduced to the public at a mass rally on the Elizabeth Estates Park on Thursday evening.

PLP by-election hopeful defends his right to dual citizenship

FROM page one

would be an excellent representative for the people of Elizabeth, if selected to run in the area once served by his father Marvin Pinder.

But critics have cast doubt over Mr Pinder's right to serve in the House of Assembly, and a debate has stirred on the Internet attracting around 200 comments on a social networking website.

Web blogger Cammy LeFlage said: "It is not 'fine' to be a dual citizen and be a leader in government because it just begs the question: Whose side are you on? Who do you really represent?"

"The Bahamas and the US have a quite cozy relationship but the Bahamas must always look out for itself and its people.

"If he carries dual citizenship, how is this supposed to really work? Answer: It won't."

Voices Bahamian stated: "Whoever is in the House holding US citizenship is in the wrong."

However, others have defended Mr Pinder's position.

Carmichael Business League president Ethric Bowe said: "Google the Bahamian constitution and read it for yourself. Ryan has no impediment. We have racism or ignorance operating here. But look it up to settle this then let's move on to some issues."

The issue was also belittled by website user Misty Albury who asked: "Does holding dual passports make you any less capable of holding a position? My kids hold dual citizenship as well and if someday they want to hold office I would hope it wouldn't matter because of something so little."

Jamaican parliamentary hopeful Daryl Vaz was determined ineligible for election as MP in the country because he held dual citizenship. And Deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette's brother Robert 'Bobby' Symonette gave up the American citizenship he had been bestowed by virtue of his mother's nationality when he ran for Parliament in 1949.

However, Mr Pinder clarified how Bahamian law dif-

fers from Jamaican legalities and has changed in the 60 years since Mr Symonette ran for office and the Bahamas became independent of British rule.

Attorney Paul Adderley said Mr Pinder's dual citizenship does not disqualify him from running for a position in the House as he said other MPs also hold allegiance to two nations.

He said: "There are some very important people who are like that, so there is nothing in that. It's where he is born; you can't change that. So it's not an issue."

Mr Pinder is a tax and commercial law attorney for Becker & Poliakoff and as a US citizen is required to pay taxes in the US. He also lived in the United States for eight years before returning to Nassau in 2008 to head the firm's Bahamian office.

He said his employment by a US law firm is not an issue as many Bahamians work for foreign companies, particularly in the finance industry.

And his American citizenship does not compromise his rich Bahamian her-

itage nor his ability to serve the people of Elizabeth.

Mr Pinder said: "I am clearly Bahamian, I was clearly born here of a Bahamian father and based on the Constitution there is no issue of me being able to be a member of the House of Assembly.

"My allegiance is to the Bahamas, I don't feel torn in any way. My legacy in the Bahamas goes back to 1648 and the Eleutheran adventurers. My roots in the Bahamas are deeper than I propose most people in the Bahamas. My allegiance is clearly and unequivocally in the Bahamas as a Bahamian."

"This isn't an issue. There's no violation of the Constitution and it's not an issue that is relevant to the people of Elizabeth.

"If I am the chosen candidate I propose to provide proper representation to the people.

"They have issues such as job stability, economic stability and economic security. We should be discussing the issues pertinent to the people of Elizabeth."

Meeting of JPs on Tuesday

THE National Association of Justices of the Peace will hold its first regular meeting at 7:30 this evening at the Police Training College on Thompson Boulevard.



Pinder's Funeral Home
"Service Beyond Measure"

PALMDALE AVENUE, NASSAU, BAHAMAS
PHONE: 322-4570/ 393-1351 • CELL: 357-3617
RANNIE PINDER President

Funeral Service for

PHILLIP MOREE, 62



will be held at Calvary Bible Church, Collins Avenue on Tuesday, January 12th, 2010 at 11am. Pastor Allen Lee and other ministers officiating.

He is survived by his **mother**, Thelma Moree; **brothers**, Derek, Andrae and Craig; **sisters**, Bernice Fitz-Gerald, Cheryl Moree, Michelle Fitz-Gerald and Calisse Moree; **aunts**, Ramona Gonzalez, Angela Knowles, Janette Carroll and Naomi Carroll; **uncles**, Delbert and George Carroll; **nieces**, Nicole, Dakota and Brittany Moree and Lauren Fitz-Gerald; **sister-in-law**, Lisa Moree; **brother-in-law**, Lewis Fitz-Gerald and **close friends**, Peter and Elva Cartwright; he leaves behind a lot of relatives and friends. May he rest in peace.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by *Pinders Funeral Home, Palmdale Avenue, Palmdale.*

Police call for public to surrender firearms

FROM page one

chance of turning it in himself."

As he handed over the deadly weapon to a police firearms examiner at police headquarters, Mr Reid offered himself as a go-between for anyone who might wish to take a gun off the streets and into police hands but who may for one reason or another not feel comfortable taking it directly to a police officer themselves.

"It grieves my heart to see where we are as a nation, when we look at 87 murders last year and already four this year."

"We've been in the trenches with our 'Peace on the Street' campaign to try to get our young people to stay focused and live lives that are free from crime.

"A young man came to me and said that something I'd said on television touched his heart and somebody had

given him this gun and he didn't want to take the chance of turning it into the police himself so he asked me if I could do it for him and this is the reason why we're here."

"I want to make an appeal to the young men we have on our streets. I know that not everyone is bad and I know there are some who really don't want to live lawless lives. If you have weapons and you wish to turn them in to get rid of them, then my office is open. I will be a conduit between you and the police. We won't ask any questions, we just want to get some of these guns off the streets," Mr Reid stated.

The activist said he feels very confident that the police force is now "headed in the right direction" in fighting crime with the recent appointment of Mr Greenslade.

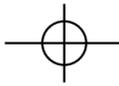
COP Greenslade said: "We wish to thank minister Carlos Reid for his hand of partnership as we work

together for a safer Bahamas. We are very, very encouraged by this gesture on his part this afternoon, his positive actions in reposing such confidence in members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

"We commend him for the excellent work he's done over the years and that we know he'll continue to do. We trust that other leaders in our community will follow his lead, step up take their rightful places and join us in resolute affirmation of the fact that we must as a matter of urgency reclaim our beloved Bahamaland."

The type of weapon handed over by Mr Reid is commonly used to commit crimes in The Bahamas, police confirmed.

COP Greenslade said that the weapon would be processed for any "evidential value" it may offer, which could point to its use in any crimes committed.



sports

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010

INSIDE • Local sports news



Knowles defeated in first round

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

TOURING tennis pro Mark Knowles was hoping for a much better season opener with his new American partner Mardy Fish at the Medibank International in Sydney, Australia.

But in their first match in their debut together as the newest doubles partner on the ATP circuit, Knowles – the Bahamas' Male Athlete of the Year for 2009 – went down to a gruelling defeat.

At the start of the first set, Knowles had to withdraw from further action after he suffered a left calf injury. He and Fish eventually

Withdraws from match after suffering injury to left calf

lost 0-1 to the Australian team of Carston Ball and Stephen Huss.

Knowles, 38, and Fish, 28, were the number two seeded team in the draw, while Ball and Huss came in a wild card entry, having played through the qualifying round.

It was definitely a big blow to Knowles and Fish, who have joined forces after Knowles split up with his Indian partner Mahesh Bhupathi in November.

The tournament was to have served as a warm-up for the Aus-

tralian Open, the first Grand Slam for the year. The Australian Open will begin in Melbourne on January 18.

While Knowles and Fish were the No.2 seeds, they followed the team of Daniel Nestor and Nenad Zimonjic, the top seeded team.

The American identical twins of Bob and Mike Bryan opted not to play in the tournament, as well as Bhupathi.

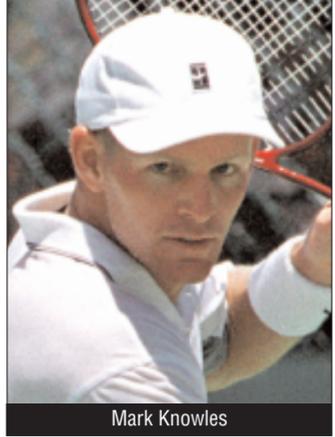
It's not certain how serious the injury was as Knowles was not avail-

able for comments. And it's not certain if he will be available for the Australian Open.

His mother, Vicki Andrews, when contacted today, said her son was to have had an MIR to determine exactly what happened, but she was waiting on the results.

Andrews said, in an email from Knowles, he told her that it was the second point in the first game when he turned to retrieve a ball that he suffered the injury.

"Definitely we are concerned. It's something he can recover from, but I'm not sure if he will do it in time to play next week," she said. "His partners have had a series of injuries that have hampered them. Now he has one. It's not too good for him."



Mark Knowles

sports NOTES

BASEBALL JBLN OPENER

• THE Junior Baseball League of Nassau opened its 2010 season over the weekend at the St. Andrew's "Field of Dreams" and despite the inclement weather, 12 of the scheduled 15 games were completed.
• Results of the matches played are as follows:

TEE BALL

Grasshoppers def. Raptors 17-16. Sidewinders def. Knights 15-3. Sand Gnats def. Blue Claws 21-7.

COACH PITCH

Cubs def. Padres 16-3. Diamondbacks def. Athletics 20-4. Angels def. Pirates 20-3.

MINOR LEAGUE

Mets def. Red Sox 8-6. Rockies vs Royals postponed due to rain. Orioles vs Brewers postponed due to rain.

MAJOR LEAGUE

Indians def. Reds 12-2. Marlins and Mariners played to a 6-6 tie.

JUNIOR LEAGUE

Dodgers def. Twins 12-2. Yankees vs Rays postponed due to rain. SENIOR LEAGUE Nationals def. Phillies 4-3. Tigers def. Giants 11-3.

TRACK

T-BIRD FLYERS CLASSIC

• FOLLOWING the Bahamas Association of Athletic Associations' season opening Odd Distance Track Classic over the weekend, the T-Bird Flyers will hold the first fully fledged meet this weekend at the Thomas A. Robinson Track and Field Stadium.

The 6th annual classic will begin on Friday at 6 p.m. and continue on Saturday at noon. It is being sanctioned by the BAAA and will have automatic timing and officiated by the Bahamas Association of Certified Officials (BACO).

Deadline for entry into the meet is today. Athletes can either sign up at the BAAA's office or with any T-Bird official at the TAR Stadium between the hours of 4-7 p.m.



GHS Magic centre Reno Moss wins the tip over CR Walker Knights' Alxio Newman. Moss finished with eight points in the Magic's 45-35 win yesterday at the D.W Davis Gymnasium.

Magic come from behind to beat Knights

By RENALDO DORSETT
Sports Reporter
rdorsett@tribunemedia.net

IN A test of wills, the methodical approach of the Government High Magic overpowered the constantly fastbreaking C.R Walker in GSSSA Senior Boys division play yesterday.

The Magic, last year's runners-up, continued a successful season with a 45-35 come from behind win over the Knights yesterday at the D.W. Davis Gymnasium.

Government overcame a dreadful first quarter when they shot 0-8 from the free throw line, and struggled to reach into a positive offensive flow.

The Knights opened up a 6-2 lead, and led 14-2 after a run capped by Prince Braynen's three point play.

Kenrico Lockhart halted the run, when he gave the Magic just their second field goal of the quarter with a tip in.

Antario Collie was the only other Magic player to reach the scoreboard in the first quarter when he nailed a three pointer from the baseline that just beat the quarter ending buzzer and brought his team within seven, 14-7.

After Lockhart scored on the opening possession for the Magic, the Knights went on a 7-0 run, with Braynen accounting for all scores.

The shifty swingman began with a three point play, finished strong in transition with a tomahawk slam, and split a pair of defenders for a floater to give the Knights their biggest lead of the game, 21-10.

The Magic responded in a major way, and ended the quarter on a defensively powered 10-0 run.

The Magic run was capped with a four point possession when Lockhart scored, but missed on a three point conversion free throw, but Leonardo Collie was able to tip in the miss to bring his team within one, 21-20.

Braynen raced ahead of the field on the ensuing inbound possession and beat the field for a fastbreak lay-up to give the Knights a 23-20 lead at the half.

The third quarter would prove to be the deciding period as the Magic defence limited the Knights to a single field goal and outscored them 12-2 to take a commanding lead.

SEE page 10



GHS guard Dudley Smith dribbles through traffic.

B-16 SENTRA

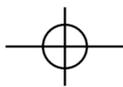
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SPORTS

Edwards joins Media Challenge TV Show

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

ALTHOUGH her athletic career is not yet officially over, long jumper Jackie Edwards is using her knowledge on the other side of sports.

The co-national record holder is completing the last of a two-week Media Challenge TV Show with 12 active and retired sporting personalities in Los Angeles, who have an interest in becoming Sports-casters.

"It's something that I have always been interested in because every time I speak, I'd get pretty good feedback about how it went and because I watch so much sports and I have so much information in my head that I feel like I have to do something with it.

"So it was like a natural progression in my mind to do sportscasting. So when this opportunity came up, I just couldn't pass it up."

Still in rehabilitation from a knee injury, Edwards said since last week she was on camera in a four-man team competing against two other teams.

She's on team two, comprising of former NBA point guard Gary 'the Glove' Payton and NFL players Ray Crockett and Josh Norman.

While Payton had had an extensive career that saw him make the All-Star nine times, Crockett is a two-time NFL champion with the Denver Broncos (1998 and 1999) and Norman played with the San Diego Chargers.

They are given a chance as a group to do a series of broadcast shows where they have to discuss a series of topics.

"We will be on a major sports network in June," said Edwards, who was not at liberty to disclose any other information of the show. "It

hasn't been finalised as yet."

All of the tapings are done over a ten-day period. It got started last Monday and the first week was completed on Friday. The second week began yesterday and will end on Friday.

"Every time you do a challenge, the team that wins gets ex-amount of broadcast bucks," Edwards pointed out. "At the end, the team with the most bucks can present it to their favourite charity.

"Once the TV Show is aired in June, people will see it and it's not to say that you will be guaranteed a job, but you are learning a lot if a job does become available."

Residing in LA, Edwards said she's in a better position to venture into Sports Broadcasting, if she is interested and even available, once she's officially retired.

Edwards, however, said her goal is to return to make her last appearance at the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, India in October. After that, she intends to officially hang up her shoes.

"In rehab, you get in shape," Edwards said. "You learn how to ride the bike and I'm doing weights. I just can't run yet."

But Edwards said she's a little peeved that she has been removed from the Government's subvention, although she indicated to the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture that this is her final year.

"I made them aware of what I've been doing, so I found it very disheartening that 8-9 months before I retire that they would choose to take me off the subvention," Edwards said.

"The thing is, I informed them of the injury that I sustained while I was at a competition last year getting ready to long jump. If I had gotten hurt fooling around at my



JACKIE Edwards is shown in front of the Staple Center during an interview.

house or somewhere else, I wouldn't mind. But I was at a meet competing."

Having represented the Bahamas all of her life, Edwards said she was applauded that she was treated in the manner in which she was when there are others who are hurt, who remain on the list.

"I know I didn't go to World's last year and that was because I was hurt, but there are others who didn't go as well and they are still on," she pointed out.

"At least I have a legitimate reason as to why I didn't compete. I was hurt. I had to have surgery. There's no disputing my injury. There were people who didn't go to World's and they are still able bodied. I don't understand that."



JACKIE Edwards is the rose among thorns as she is pictured above with from left: Ray Crockett, Josh Norman and Gary Payton.

Vixens finish season undefeated

THE New Providence Volleyball Association concluded its regular season at the DW Davis Gymnasium with either the pennant or playoff positions sealed.

In the ladies' match, the Scottsdale Vixens once again dominated that division with a perfect 10-0 record to convincingly secure the pennant for their fifth consecutive year.

Behind Cheryse Rolle's 14 points, the Vixens defeated the Johnson Lady Truckers in four sets 25-12, 25-19, 19-25 and 29-27. Anastasia Sands-Moultrie led all scor-

ers with 16 points in a losing effort as the Johnson Lady truckers had to settle for the pennant runners-up.

In the second match, the Technicians defeated the National Fence Intruders in three straight sets to clinch the pennant runners-up spot 25-15, 25-21 and 25-22.

Dwayne Roberts and Ron Demeritte led the Technicians with 9 and 8 kills respectively. Prince Wilson led the Intruders with 9 kills in the loss. Both teams will meet again on Friday in the first game of their playoffs series.

In the third match, the Police Crimestoppers failed to show up and make the playoffs this year, giving DaBasement the final spot in the men's playoffs.

The best-of-three first round playoffs, featuring the pennant winners versus fourth place and second place versus third place teams, will get underway on Wednesday with the schedule as follows:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13
7:30pm Johnson's Lady Truckers vs COB Caribs.
8:30pm Scotiabank Defend-

ers vs DaBasement.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15
7:30pm Scottsdale Vixens vs Champions Club
8:30pm Technicians vs National Fence Intruders

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17
3:30pm Johnson's Lady Truckers vs COB Caribs
4:30pm Scotiabank Defenders vs DaBasement

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20
7:30pm Scottsdale Vixens vs Champions Club
8:30pm Technicians vs National Fence Intruders



CR Walker guard Micheal Reckley brings the ball upcourt.

Magic come from behind to beat Knights

FROM page nine

Tavari Dorsette scored the Knights' lone basket on its first possession, but his team went scoreless for nearly eight minutes as they fell behind.

Darren Smith gave the Magic their first lead of the game with 3:53 left to play in the quarter with a running lay-up for a 26-25 lead.

Jerome McDonal stripped the ball from Braynen at half-court and finished at the other end with an uncontested lay-up to continue the magic run.

McDonal repeated the feat just several plays later and his ensuing lay-up gave his team a 32-25 lead at the end of the third quarter.

The Knights hoped for a comeback effort to open the fourth when Charae LaFleur scored first with a jumper, but Reno Moss followed with a key series of scores for the Magic to seal the win.

Moss slashed through the lane for a lay-up, followed with an offensive rebound

and putback, and capped a 6-0 with a crowd raising tip-in slam dunk.

Moss' play gave the Magic a 38-27 lead, while Lockhart, Moss and Collie protected the lead with stingy interior defence at the hoop.

Moss dominated the defensive boards, Lockhart, blocked two shots on a single possession and Collie swatted a third out of bounds which sent the Magic faithful into a frenzy.

Collie gave the Magic their biggest lead of the game fifth a running lay-up which made the score 40-27 with 1:26 left to play.

A balanced scoring attack for the Magic was paced by Lockhart who finished with nine.

Moss added eight, Darren Smith finished with seven, Dudley Smith with six, while McDonal, Antonio Collie and Leonardo Collie finished with four apiece.

Braynen led all scorers with 20 points, but Dorsette was the next highest scoring Knights player with six.

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LOCAL NEWS

COMING SOON.....

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Crime Doesn't Pay

Having a clean record is a key to success in the business world. In almost every industry, a clean record is a prerequisite for employment. Many employers will not hire someone with a criminal record, even if the crime was committed many years ago. This is because a criminal record is a public record and it is easy for employers to find out about it. This is why it is so important to have a clean record. If you have a criminal record, you should consider getting a lawyer to help you with your case. A lawyer can help you understand your rights and options, and can help you negotiate a plea deal or a sentence that will allow you to move forward with your life. It is important to remember that a criminal record is not a life sentence. It is a record of a past mistake, and it is possible to move forward and build a successful future. If you have a criminal record, you should not let it define you. You should focus on your future and work hard to make a positive impact on the world. This is the only way to truly overcome a criminal record and move forward with your life.

...the goal is to create a positive image for the brand and the local area. It is a long-term strategy that will help to build a strong reputation for the brand. There are many ways to do this, and it is important to choose the right one for your brand. One way is to create a unique and memorable logo. Another way is to use high-quality materials and craftsmanship. A third way is to offer excellent customer service. All of these things can help to build a strong reputation for your brand. It is important to remember that building a strong reputation is not an overnight process. It takes time and effort, but it is worth it in the long run. A strong reputation can help you attract more customers, increase your sales, and build a loyal following. So, if you are looking to build a strong reputation for your brand, it is important to focus on these things from the start. This will help you to succeed in the long run and build a successful future for your brand.

Race for Elizabeth

PARTIES OUT ON THE STREETS AHEAD OF BY-ELECTION



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Wesley Percentie named Senior Manager, Wealth Management, at Family Guardian

Patricia Hermanns, President & CEO of Family Guardian, has announced the promotion of Wesley Percentie to the position of Senior Manager, Wealth Management.

Mr. Percentie joined Family Guardian in 2007 as Manager, Investments. In his expanded role, he will give further management support to the continued growth and development of Family Guardian's investment and wealth accumulation products.

Mr. Percentie holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance from Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia. He has also completed the Canadian Securities Course and is a registered Securities Broker and Investment Advisor.

Family Guardian congratulates Mr. Percentie in his expanded management role at the Company.



Wesley Percentie
Senior Manager, Wealth Management

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WITH THE Torchbearers Association at the fore (below), the Free National Movement travelled through the Elizabeth constituency on Sunday handing out party t-shirts, greeting residents and encouraging support for prospective by-election candidate Dr Duane Sands.



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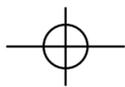
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Money transfer firms get \$1,000 exchange control delegated power

Industry executive: 'We've earned the Central Bank's trust'

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Bahamas-based money transmission providers will soon get the authority to conduct foreign exchange transactions "up to \$1,000" without the clients first having to obtain Central Bank approval, a leading executive with one firm telling Tribune Business: "We've earned their trust."

Dr Jonathan Rodgers, the 'eye doctor' and a principal investor in the Omni Financial Services money transfer business, said the company and others were working with the Central Bank to implement a system where the industry would effectively act as the monetary regulator's 'agents' for low-level foreign exchange transfers and remittances.

For transactions worth \$1,000 or less, licensed money transfer businesses will handle the exchange control administrative side themselves, filling out all the necessary paperwork and reporting these activities to the Central Bank.

Dr Rodgers told Tribune Business: "They're giving [us] delegated authority to send up to \$1,000 in foreign currency. We've earned their trust. They're [the Central Bank] in the process of doing it right now."

"They've eased up with exchange control on money transfer businesses, and are making life easier for them and us, and making the system more efficient and effective."

Dr Rodgers praised the Central Bank for its approach to the planned legislation and regulations to supervise all Bahamas-based payments systems, including the 'stored value' cards operated by Omni's affiliate, Transfer Solutions Providers (TSP), telling this newspaper that the regulator seemed willing to work with industry stakeholders to craft the best possible solution.

"They appear to want to work along with the stakeholders," Mr Rodgers said. "I think they've [the Central Bank] realised there are going to have to be some

SEE page 5B

Housing market 'down by 50%'

* Contractors head says home construction rebound, rather than major projects, vital to dragging sector out of recession
* Says vital to create work for smaller contractors that 'really make our industry tick'

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

A housing market rebound is critical to dragging the Bahamian construction industry out of recession, the Bahamas Contractors Association's (BCA) president said yesterday, telling Tribune Business it was "down at least 50 per cent" from pre-downturn levels.

Stephen Wrinkle, of Wrinkle Development, said housing construction - especially new-build starts - were in some respects more important to Bahamian contractors than major resort and infrastructure projects, as the former typically employed smaller firms with



STEPHEN WRINKLE

between five to 15 employees.

Developments such as the impending \$2.6 billion Baha

Mar project, the \$409 million Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA) redevelopment, and the \$1.3 billion Albany build-out tended to employ larger and medium-sized Bahamian contractors, Mr Wrinkle said, and the economic benefits did not always filter down to smaller contractors who did not have the capabilities or qualifications to become involved.

"The main factor in the restoration of the construction industry is the housing sector, and that's got to get going again to realise the number of jobs for all trades and realise a positive

SEE page 3B

Sales deal for critical CLICO asset in review

* Likely purchaser is major developer, the Hines Group
* Colina likely buyer of insolvent insurer's policy portfolio

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

CLICO (Bahamas) liquidator is now assessing a sales agreement for the real estate project that accounts for 63 per cent of the insolvent insurer's assets, with a view to selling the Florida-based property to a major international developer.

Tribune Business can reveal that the preferred buyer for Wellington Preserve is the Hines Group, and liquidator Craig A. "Tony" Gomez, accountant and partner in the Baker Tilly Gomez firm, is in negotiations with the company in a bid to finalise the initial sales agreement.

And this newspaper can also reveal that Colina Insurance Company is the likely purchaser of CLICO (Bahamas) remaining life and health insurance policy portfolio, with Mr Gomez hoping to finalise the transaction and transfer of those policies by month's end - before Supreme Court Justice Cheryl Albury, who has carriage of the liquidation, steps down from the bench.

SEE page 4B

Retailer's holiday sales increase by 'couple % points'

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

A leading Freeport retailer yesterday said it bucked the recession with Christmas holiday sales "up a couple of percentage points" over 2008 figures, although one of its leading executives expressed concern that an "artificial bubble" had been created through more Bahamians shopping at home.

Christopher Lowe, operations manager at Kelly's (Freeport), told Tribune Business that the housewares/hardware retailer had adjusted its product mix to account for changed consumer spending patterns, focusing on products used for renovations and repairs, as opposed to more "luxury" type goods.

"We had a good Christmas, up a couple of percentage points over December 2008," Mr Lowe told Tribune Business. "Fewer people were able to justify the expense of going away, and we shifted our product mix to respond to consumer demand - shifting to repairs and renovation-type goods, rather than new-build stuff."

"We had a good year, which

SEE page 5B

* Executive concerned industry saw 'artificial bubble' in holidays as result of more Bahamians shopping at home
* Says surviving recession 'not rocket science', and all about tracking trends and customer demand, plus keeping expenses down

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Cable Beach hotel in 10% revenue rise

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Business Reporter
crobards@tribunemedia.net

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico - Starwood yesterday said its Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort at Cable Beach had seen a 10 per cent revenue increase in 2009, and confirmed to Tribune Business its brands were still committed to the delayed \$2.6 billion Baha Mar project.

Andrew Neubauer, director of sales and marketing for the Sheraton Nassau

Beach Resort, said that despite the delay in the project, four Starwood brands will be present when the Baha Mar vision is realised.

According to Mr Neubauer, Starwood was committing its prestigious collection of St Regis, W and Westin resort brands to the project, which will be constructed alongside the newly-renovated Sheraton. The Sheraton will remain

SEE page 4B



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BUSINESS

Regulator to address the telecoms gap

A senior executive at the newly-formed electronic communications sector regulator will address this week's Business Outlook Conference on the way forward for the industry, with a presentation entitled, *2010-2020: Closing the Gap*.

Usman Saadat, director of policy and regulation for the Utilities Regulation & Competition Authority (URCA), said: "The customer wins through liberalisation and competition."

The Government last year passed three Acts that brought sweeping reforms and established a new, more robust regulatory regime for the electronic communications sector. These acts were the Communications Act 2009, the URCA 2009 Act and the Utilities Appeals Tribunal Act 2009.

Competitive

"The changes in the communications landscape with new legislation, sector policy and a new regulator in 2009 provide a platform for the Bahamas to close the gap and become more competitive. What can we expect from the recent changes in the sector in the Bahamas? What are the risks and opportunities? What is the regulator doing to ensure responsible regulation of



USMAN SAADAT

the sector? These are some of the questions I will address," Mr Saadat said.

Mr Saadat has 14 years of global communications experience, including five years in economic consulting with UK-based National Economic Research Associates (NERA) and Europe Economics.

He served as advisor on major regulatory projects for the European Commission, and led projects for European and Asian national telecommunications regulators, including OFTEL in the UK, ODTR in Ireland and OFTA in Hong Kong.

Mr Saadat also spent three years as an economist with the regulatory team in the head office of Cable & Wireless. His most recent responsibility was as chief executive of Cable & Wireless St Lucia, prior to which he served as business development director of Cable & Wireless International.

This year's Bahamas Business Outlook, themed *2010-2020: A Decade for Action and Accountability*, is organised by the Counsellors Ltd and sponsored by the Central Bank of the Bahamas, First Caribbean International Bank, NIB, Bank of the Bahamas International, BTC, British American Financial, Scotiabank (Bahamas), KPMG and Sun Oil.

Colina executive is second Bahamian to win designation

A Colina Insurance employee has become just the second Bahamian underwriter to receive a fellowship (FALU) from the Academy of Life Underwriting, a programme sponsored by the Association of Home Office Underwriters and the Canadian Institute of Underwriters.

Kenray Marsh has joining Angela Taylor, director of underwriting and new business at Colina, who earned the designation in 1995. Mr Marsh and Ms Taylor are among only five FALU recipients in the Caribbean region.

The FALU designation recognises Mr Marsh as an underwriting professional who has advanced qualifications in risk classification with legal and actuarial exposure. It gives him recognition for the core skills and



Kenray Marsh

"Colina congratulates Kenray on this standout achievement. The FALU programme is not an easy one, and we commend him for his dedication to developing his skills and contributing to the collective knowledge and experience of Colina."

knowledge acquired during the course of his professional development.

"Colina congratulates Kenray on this standout achievement," said executive vice-chairman Emanuel Alexiou.

Dedication

"The FALU programme is not an easy one, and we commend him for his dedication to developing his skills and contributing to the collective knowledge and experience of Colina.

"With these credentials on board in-house, we are equipped in a way that is unprecedented in the Bahamian insurance industry.

"Such professionalism will allow us to continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations and service delivery to clients."

Mr Marsh was required to undergo a four-part designation process as a prerequisite to become a Fellow of the Academy. Along with

the standard curriculum, he also completed courses from the Life Office Management Association (LOMA) programme.

"The process for earning the FALU was a bit strenuous at times, especially with the large amount of material that had to be covered for each examination," Mr Marsh said.

"However, the knowledge gained from preparing for the examinations has proven to be very beneficial as it prepared me for many of the different cases seen by an underwriter on a daily basis. I must admit that it feels great to achieve the highest designation in my profession, but I know there is so much more to learn that will only come with experience."

Mr Marsh has been employed with Colina in the underwriting department since 2006.

He is a 2004 graduate of Acadia University in Canada, where he obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

Minister to head seminar speakers

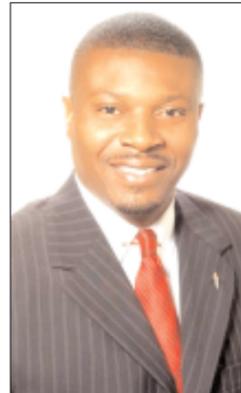
Zhivargo Laing, the minister of state for finance, will deliver the keynote address at this year's Bahamas Business Outlook on Thursday at the Wyndham Nassau Resort.

Mr Laing will give an overview of the country's economic performance, and outlook for the year and decade ahead.

Theme

This year's event is being held under the theme *2010-2020: A Decade for Action and Accountability*.

Other distinguished presenters will include the minister of tourism, Senator Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace; Algernon Cargill, director, National Insurance Board; Dr K. Jonathan Rodgers, ophthalmologist and businessman; Simon Townsend, partner, KPMG; Khaalis Rolle, president, Bahamas Chamber of Commerce; Dr Nelson Clarke, psychiatrist; Wendy Warren, chief executive and executive director, Bahamas Financial Services Board; Usman Saadat, director of policy and regulation, Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA); Dr Ian Strachan, associate professor, the College of the Bahamas; and Arts and Culture panellists Scharad Lightbourne, photographer, Allan P. Wallace, artists, and Terneille Burrows, recording artist.



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BUSINESS

Bahamas gains UK marketing boost through 500-store chain

By **CHESTER ROBARDS**
Business Reporter
crobards@tribunemedia.net

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico - The Ministry of Tourism and Aviation revealed yesterday that Canon UK has endorsed its '14 filmmaker' challenge, and will publicise the competition and this nation in its 500 stores across the UK.

Deputy director-general of the Ministry, Tommy Thompson, told Tribune Business that with the UK Tourism Office's budget slashed, the 14 filmmaker challenge is a way to turn 14 five-minute short films into 14 Bahamas ads at the cost of one traditional 30-second television spot.

Canon has seen the challenge as a mutually beneficial tool, and plans to donate the cameras the filmmakers will use to shoot their films.

"This promotion has many legs," said Mr Thompson.

The challenge brings 14 filmmakers to 14 islands across the Bahamas to shoot a movie of their choice in 14 days.

Mr Thompson said all of the films' scripts will be screened to ensure they follow strict guidelines set by the Ministry, including no violence, cursing or sex. According to him, five judges, including renowned UK filmmaker, Bharat Nalluri, who directed the People's Choice Award nominated *Mrs Pettigrew Lives for a Day*, will choose the winners of the challenge.

The winning film will then

be distributed throughout the UK, while all of the other films will be placed on the Ministry's website for viewing following the competition.

The burgeoning Bahamian film industry objected to the Ministry's idea, arguing that the competition should have included Bahamian filmmakers or, at the very least, used some of them as liasons or assistant directors. However, Mr Thompson, said the Ministry did not neglect Bahamian filmmakers, but designed a competition specifically for the appeal of the UK market.

He said the announcement of the challenge sparked immediate media and public interest within the UK, and moved Canon UK to come on as a

sponsor of the competition.

Mr Thompson said the film challenge appeals to the UK market because their own citizens are the filmmakers, and thus the marketing becomes focused in that country.

The UK office has also roused the market by recruiting armchair critics via their website, who will also judge the films. Canon will use the exposure from the movies to push its new line of cameras in the UK market, while carrying the Bahamas brand in its in-store marketing.

"This (the 14 filmmaker competition) is a non-traditional form of advertising and is a co-branding opportunity for Canon UK," said Mr Thompson.

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THE ORIGINAL RENDERING of what the Baha Mar development would look like.

Housing market 'down by 50%

FROM page 1B

rebound. It's down at least 50 per cent; it could be more," Mr Wrinkle told Tribune Business.

If the Baha Mar project's construction did finally begin, Mr Wrinkle said he hoped the economic impact would generate a rebound in the housing construction market, leading to positive growth for the industry.

"There's quite a bit of capacity here in the construction industry as far as work goes," Mr Wrinkle added. "If the housing sector gets going, it will absorb some of the smaller contractors."

"The larger projects like Baha Mar take care of the big and medium-size sector of the construction industry. It's that small contractor that has between five to 15 employees that really makes our industry tick."

"From those big projects, the hope is the economic environment is such that the next level projects start, and the next level contractors benefit. There's a number of contractors that have very little to do. They're scraping by and holding on."

Mr Wrinkle said the 2,500 Bahamian construction jobs foreshadowed by Baha Mar were "a very good number", and once the developer concluded its agreement with their Chinese partners, the BCA would look to meet with them and see "what steps can be taken to get Bahamians working on the main project, not just ancillary work".

The BCA president said the organisation and its members had "a natural concern" about the number of work permits set to be granted to Chinese construction workers, estimated to be at least 4,000 in total, but acknowledged: "It's going to be an extremely difficult situation to overcome."

China State Construction and the China Export-Import Bank were Baha Mar's partners, and wherever the Chinese participated

in major development projects globally, they sought maximum participation for their nationals in the workforce.

"It's silly to make noise on something you know is inevitable," Mr Wrinkle told Tribune Business. "At this juncture, the big picture is pretty important to us as a country." He added that Bahamian contractors needed to ensure they picked up the maintenance and ancillary work that Baha Mar would require in future once its \$2.6 billion resort campus was completed.

Still, Mr Wrinkle said Bahamian contractors would "keep our heads above water" if they picked up the multi-million dollar contracts for the West Bay Street re-routing and the Commercial Village.

Among the prospective residents in the Commercial Village were the three banks currently situated on West Bay Street - Scotiabank (Bahamas), Commonwealth Bank and Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) - plus the police and fire station, all of which have to move to make way for Baha Mar's resort campus.

Estimating that around five to six buildings would have to be constructed, and

that each would require 50 construction workers, Mr Wrinkle said the Commercial Village could employ a total of 250-300 Bahamians.

The BCA president said it was important to recognise that Sarkis Izmirlian, Baha Mar's chairman and chief executive, was a resident of the Bahamas. "It's not someone flying in in a jet to do a deal," he added.

"These people are committed, they are good corporate citizens, and I think they'll do everything they can to ensure maximum participation by Bahamians."

While the Baha Mar project would have "tremendous ramifications" for the Bahamian economy, Mr Wrinkle said its true impact on the construction industry would "depend on how much of the core project we get into."

"The Commercial Village is a substantial project," he added. "It'll have a substantial impact, but that will not lift us [out of recession]. We need to get a piece of the core development or see a large number of Bahamian employees on the core project."

NOTICE
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
NO. 45 OF 2000

TEENE ESTABLISHMENT LTD.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 137(8) of The International Business Companies Act No. 45 of 2000, notice is hereby given that TEENE ESTABLISHMENT LTD has been dissolved and struck off the Register in witness whereof the Registrar has issued a Certificate of Dissolution under his hand and seal on the 14th day of December, 2009

M. Laverne Nixon
LIQUIDATOR

BUSINESS

Cable Beach hotel in 10% revenue rise

FROM page 1B

untouched throughout the proposed three to four-year building period.

Negotiations

Starwood representatives attending Caribbean Marketplace 2010 said they could not say much about the status of Baha Mar's negotiations with its new prospective partners, the

China Export-Import Bank and China State Construction, but said the partnership might be finalised within a few weeks.

Baha Mar's chairman and chief executive, Sarkis Izmirlan, told Tribune Business in an exclusive interview on Monday that the project could create more than 2,500 Bahamian construction jobs when the project begins.

Mr Neubauer also confirmed that Baha Mar has not locked down a casino operator for the resort, but that the developer's executives would announce their choice prior to its opening. Starwood has casinos within a number of their properties but does not independently operate any of them.

Baha Mar executives recently revealed that the Sheraton property has become their highest revenue earner.

Renovations

The Wyndham Resort and Crystal Palace Casino, which also underwent renovations recently, has not performed as expected, having run sub-market revenue per available room rates and being closed for almost three months in the summer in an attempt to minimise operating costs.

Mr Izmirlan's comment that neither the Sheraton nor the Wyndham was "not doing very well" appear to conflict with Starwood's position on the former property.

However, Starwood and its Sheraton brand earn their money as a percentage of the resort's gross profit or revenues, whereas Baha Mar - which earns it on the net income - has to deal with property depreciation and a whole set of other factors.

Mr Izmirlan said Baha Mar's two existing Cable Beach resorts are only still open because his family has used their own money to cover "significant multi-million dollar losses", particularly over the last two years, something that has made the Izmirlans the "largest private investor in the history of the Bahamas".

Sales deal for critical CLICO asset in review

FROM page 1B

It is unclear whether any agreement with Colina, if reached, would just be an administration/transfer of the CLICO (Bahamas) policies in the first instance, with a sale to follow later, or an outright sale. Any sale would require Colina to back the policy liabilities with surplus assets, and its deep balance sheet is thought to be one of the factors that saw it selected as the preferred company to take on the portfolio.

Any agreement reached with Colina would require the approval of the Supreme Court and the Insurance Commission.

As at July 7, 2009, there were still some 28,215 CLICO (Bahamas) policies in force, covering a \$4.09 billion sum assured. There were some 10,297 medical and 15,892 life policies in force, accounting for \$2.088 billion and \$1.992 billion in sums assured respectively.

But in the four-plus months after the insurer was petitioned into liquidation, some 1,807 policies - 182 annuities, 843 pensions, 676 life and 106 medical - had been cancelled.

Some \$15.086 million of the \$20.995 million sum cancelled related to annuities, with pensions accounting for \$5.466 million worth.

On the Wellington Preserve front, its sale - and maximising the purchase price - will be key in determining how much CLICO (Bahamas) creditors - especially its policyholders - recover in terms of their investment.

While a successful deal with the Hines Group or any other bidder cannot be guaranteed, Mr Gomez said in a previous report to the Supreme Court that he had been presented with three different sales price estimates for Wellington Preserve, based on various timelines and scenarios.

A sale within three to nine months could realise an estimated sales price of around \$40 million, the liquidator had been told, with a sale in six months to one year generating possible proceeds of \$69 million. And a sale of Wellington Preserve one year from now could generate up to \$120 million, Mr Gomez said he had been advised.

CLICO (Bahamas) had advanced about \$73 million in loans to its affiliate, CLICO Enterprises, over a four-year period beginning at end-2003. In turn, the latter entity advanced these funds to various entities, but the lion's share went into Wellington Preserve.

The likelihood that CLICO (Bahamas) would recover that loan at full value, given that CLICO Enterprises' 2008 unaudited financial statements showed it had a solvency deficiency of \$21 million, with assets of \$108 million and liabilities of \$129 million, was a key factor behind why the insurer was petitioned into court-supervised liquidation.

Some \$70 million had been loaned by CLICO Enterprises to Wellington Preserve, in addition to a \$13 million direct investment, taking its total exposure to the Florida-based real estate project to \$83 million. While valued at \$127 million in January 2009, Wellington Preserve was said by Mr Gomez's report to now have an 'as is' value of \$62 million.

This illustrates why the project's sale, and Mr Gomez's ability to maximise its value - especially if he can achieve prices nearer to the two longer-term valuations - are key to CLICO (Bahamas) liquidation.

Currently, CLICO (Bahamas) has some \$124.484 million in assets and \$154.191 million in liabilities, rendering it insolvent to the tune of an \$29.707 million solvency deficiency. The greatest percentage of those assets are the loans to CLICO Enterprises, so achieving a purchase price for Wellington Preserve above what was invested in it will help

to close the solvency gap.

In his Supreme Court report, Mr Gomez said the 523-acre Wellington Preserve site, designed to incorporate 80 residential lots and an equestrian centre, had been acquired for \$55 million, a deal partly financed by a \$35 million mortgage. Only \$1 million was outstanding on the mortgage, which was due to be paid off in July. While a \$42 million investment was supposedly required to bring Wellington Preserve into a condition suitable for sale, Mr Gomez said the project owed \$150,000 to its suppliers. It also owed some \$1.3 million in county and local taxes, and \$500,000 in taxes were past due on lot sales. Wellington Preserve had also settled litigation via a settlement under which it was due to pay \$200,000 per year for eight years, one-and-a-half years remaining on the agreement.

NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 137 of the International Business Companies Act, (No. 45 of 2000) NOTICE is hereby given that PACIFIC GOLD CORPORATION is in dissolution and the date of commencement of the dissolution is December 31ST, 2009.

Lorna Kemp and Margaret Tatem-Gilbert
LIQUIDATORS
c/o EFG Bank & Trust (Bahamas) Ltd
#1 Bay Street, 2nd Floor Centre of Commerce
P.O. Box SS-6289
Nassau, Bahamas

NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 137 of the International Business Companies Act, (No. 45 of 2000) NOTICE is hereby given that WHITE RIVER CORP. is in dissolution and the date of commencement of the dissolution is December 31ST, 2009.

Lorna Kemp and Margaret Tatem-Gilbert
LIQUIDATORS
c/o EFG Bank & Trust (Bahamas) Ltd
#1 Bay Street, 2nd Floor Centre of Commerce
P.O. Box SS-6289
Nassau, Bahamas

LEGAL NOTICE

INTERCAPITAL MANAGEMENT FUND LIMITED

International Business Companies Act (No.45 of 2000)

In Voluntary Liquidation

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 138 (4) of the International Business Companies Act, (No. 45 of 2000), INTERCAPITAL MANAGEMENT FUND LIMITED is in dissolution. PANAMERICAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES (BVI) LTD. is the Liquidator and can be contacted at Vanderpool Plaza, 2nd Floor, Wickhams Cay I, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. All persons having claims against the above-named company are required to send their names addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the Liquidator before February 6, 2009.

PANAMERICAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES (BVI) LTD.
Liquidator

NOTICE

EXXONMOBIL EXPLORATION OFFSHORE AZERBAIJAN LIMITED

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 137 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000, notice is hereby given that the above-named Company has been dissolved and struck off the Register pursuant to a Certificate of Dissolution issued by The Registrar General on the 30th day of November, A.D., 2009.

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

Carol G. Gray
Liquidator of
EXXONMOBIL EXPLORATION OFFSHORE
AZERBAIJAN LIMITED

TOWN MEETING RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION OF BLUE HOLES IN THE BAHAMAS

When: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 7 pm

Where: Bahamas National Trust, The Retreat Gardens, Village Road, Nassau

Why: Proposed protection of blue holes on Abaco, with discussion on a national conservation effort.



The Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation/National Museum of the Bahamas has partnered with the Bahamas Caves Research Foundation, Friends of the Environment and the Bahamas National Trust in a large scale conservation proposal of 4 known blue holes containing more than 9 miles of underwater passages located on Southern Abaco. These amazing sites are considered the most highly decorated underwater caves in the world, and explorers and scientists have discovered the fossilized remains of the ancient animals that once roamed the islands of the Bahamas, long before man ever set foot here.

The sites are currently the primary focus of a National Geographic/Nova one hour documentary, as well as an upcoming feature article in National Geographic Magazine. The purpose of this presentation is to enlighten the general public about current conservation efforts for the protection of these highly sensitive windows into ancient Abaconian history and create dialog among stakeholders, both from Abaco as well as nationwide. Please join us to discuss your interest and concerns.

For more information, please call the Bahamas National Trust at: (242) 393-1317

NOTICE

Scotiabank*
(Bahamas) Limited

Wishes to advise all customers that effective February 1, 2010, a minimum transaction fee will be charged for certain in-branch and ABM transactions.

Visit your Branch for details.

Scotiabank*

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BUSINESS

Money transfer firms get \$1,000 exchange control delegated power

FROM page 1B

changes to the proposed legislation as it exists right now. They are waiting to meet with other stakeholder and get their response, and then they will make the appropriate changes.

"I get the feeling they're pretty flexible and willing to work with people as much as possible, if the money transfer legislation is anything to go by. That was a pretty fair Act that they came up with."

Dr Rodgers said the Central Bank's willingness to give delegated exchange control authority to licensed money transfer businesses provided further evidence that the regulator would "be reasonable and listen to the stakeholders".

"It's some pretty heavy stuff they have there right now," Dr Rodgers said of the proposed payments systems regulation, "but they're in the early stages and have to work things out."

"We want to work along with them, and them with us. Clearly, their [the Central Bank's] attitude has changed over the past few years. They're much more open to consultation, and that's good."

"They've impressed me with this new trend. They'll listen to reason where at all possible. There are a lot of different players involved in this, and getting rules and regulations to fit in with the majority of businesses."

Dr Rodgers added that rather than go for a 'one size fits all' approach, "you have to vary the rules and regulations depending on the size of the institution and what kind of institution it is".

His comments stand in stark contrast to those of former Bahamas Chamber of Commerce president Dionisio D'Aguilar, who last week told Tribune Business that the business community was concerned the Central Bank was "too laid back" in its approach to the development of electronic payments systems in the Bahamas.

Mr D'Aguilar told Tribune Business last week: "The business community felt extremely strongly that the Central Bank should take a much more active role in shaping and framing every aspect of the payments system, rather than sitting back and letting the banks determine how it looks."

"There was a feeling the Central Bank was being too laid back, and not helping to craft what it's going to look like. They've definitely left it in the hands of the banks. There were a lot of complaints that the Central Bank was too laid back. The Central Bank is not leading the charge. The charge is being led by the banks."

Arguing that the Central Bank "seems more interested in that than facilitating electronic payments and settlement between businesses, Mr D'Aguilar said: "There seems to be no push to get the business community to where it needs to be."

"There was a general sense of frustration that the Central Bank was not actively involved, or was not perceived to be actively involved, in moving the process along. Everyone wants to be where they are in the first world."

Retailer's holiday sales rise by 'couple % points'

FROM page 1B

I think is due to paying attention to customer demand and trends in the marketplace. We're holding our own, and that's quite an accomplishment in this economic environment knowing a lot of people are struggling."

The Kelly's (Freeport) executive said most shoppers did not have the discretionary income of years past to allow them to buy luxury-type goods, hence the company's focus on necessity items.

"I think it's a bit of an artificial bubble, more people shopping at home," Mr Lowe told Tribune Business. "A lot of retailers have taken a bit of a hit. At the end of the day, we think we did very well, all things considered."

"Freeport has been soft for a number of years now. We're toughing it out and staying as strong as we can."

Mr Lowe told Tribune Business that Bahamians appeared to be taking longer every year to recover from their Christmas spend, with the time taken in the New Year for disposable incomes to rebound - and debts

to be paid down - now stretching into April/May time.

"That's taking longer and longer," he said. "Every year, it's taking Bahamians longer to recover because they've spent beyond what they should."

"In terms of the general economy, we still expect the same sort of challenges, and that's where we need to be focused - holding the fort."

"I don't see anything new coming out of government, except increased taxation. They seem to have run out of ideas."

Mr Lowe added: "We'll keep plugging away."

"We're still looking at crunching the numbers, different departments. We'll just keep the ship tight and pay attention to the trends and what's going on."

"We've got to keep taking the risks and keep buying merchandise, because if you don't have it, you don't sell it. We've got used to being lean. Nassau, on the other hand, has hit the brick wall, as this is the first time they've been confronted by it [a recession]."

Kelly's (Freeport) was concentrating on tracking sales and replacing products in high demand, especially those

sought after for repairs and renovations. "There's not a lot of discretionary money moving around," Mr Lowe told Tribune Business. "It's not rocket sci-

ence. It's just unfortunate that so many people in retail don't pay attention. We're trying to keep expenses down and remain in good fighting order."

NOTICE

ESCAPEDE LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

(a) ESCAPEDE LIMITED is in voluntary dissolution under the provisions of Section 137 (4) of the International Business Companies Act 2000.

(b) The dissolution of the said company commenced on the 8th January, 2010 when the Articles of Dissolution were submitted to and registered by the Registrar General.

(c) The Liquidator of the said company is Credit Suisse Trust Ltd, Rue de Lausanne 17 bis, Geneva.

Dated this 12th day of January, A. D. 2010

Credit Suisse Trust Ltd
Liquidator



MINISTRY OF WORKS & TRANSPORT

NOTICE CORRIDOR 18

TEMPORARY ONE LANE TRAFFIC SYSTEM Saunders Beach - West Bay Street

JOSE CARTELLONE CONSTRUCCIONES CIVILES S.A wishes to inform the motoring public that effective **January 13, 2010** a portion of West Bay Street along Saunders Beach will be temporarily closed as one lane traffic system & diversions are in place. Motorists travelling eastbound should continue along West Bay Street and motorist travelling westbound should divert through Poinsettia Ave, exit through Bougainvillea Ave, and continue onto West Bay Street.

Please note that only **Heavy Duty Trucks** will be allowed to go through the one lane system at the instruction of the flagman from the Contractor.

We do apologise for any inconvenience & delays that may be caused. We look forward to the cooperation of the motoring public.



For further information please contact :

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

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

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **ANSENIO TOUSSAINT of P.O. BOX SB-5258, NASSAU, BAHAMAS**, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **12th day of JANUARY, 2010** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

Supreme Court GN 981



COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS
THE SUPREME COURT
PROBATE DIVISION 14th January, 2010

No. 2009/PRO/npr/00811

Whereas **MONIQUE CUNNINGHAM** of Plane Street, Pinewood Gardens in the Southern District of the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas has made application to the Supreme Court of The Bahamas, for letters of administration of the Real and Personal Estate of **ALBREY ROLLINGTON CUNNINGHAM** late of Plane Street, Pinewood Gardens in the Southern District of the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that such applications will be heard by the said Court at the expiration of **14** days from the date hereof.

No. 2009/PRO/npr/00812

Whereas **CAROLYN CURRY** of the Eastern District of the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas has made application to the Supreme Court of The Bahamas, for letters of administration of the Real and Personal Estate of **RALPH CURRY** late of Okra Hill in the Eastern District of the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that such applications will be heard by the said Court at the expiration of **14** days from the date hereof.

Nicoya Neilly
(for) Registrar

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF: MONDAY, 11 JANUARY 2010											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,565.42 CHG -0.03 %CHG 0.00 YTD 0.04 YTD % 0.00											
FINDEX: CLOSE 000.00 YTD 00.00% 2008 -12.31%											
WWW.BISXBAHAMAS.COM TELEPHONE: 242-323-2330 FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
1.49	1.03	AML Foods Limited	1074	1.74	1.17	0.00	0.283	0.000	4.1	0.00%	
10.75	9.90	Bahamas Property Fund	1074	10.74	10.74	0.00	0.992	0.200	10.8	1.86%	
7.00	5.77	Bank of Bahamas	5.90	5.90	0.00	0.244	0.260	24.2	4.41%		
0.63	0.63	Benchmark	0.63	0.63	0.00	-0.877	0.000	N/M	0.00%		
3.49	3.15	Bahamas Waste	3.15	3.15	0.00	0.168	0.090	18.8	2.86%		
2.15	2.14	Fidelity Bank	2.37	2.37	0.00	0.055	0.040	43.1	1.69%		
13.95	9.63	Cable Bahamas	9.99	9.99	0.00	1.406	0.250	7.1	2.50%		
2.88	2.72	Colina Holdings	2.72	2.72	0.00	2.562	0.249	0.040	10.9	1.47%	
7.00	5.00	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.419	0.300	16.7	4.29%		
3.65	2.21	Consolidated Water BDRs	2.82	2.78	-0.03	0.111	0.052	26.1	1.86%		
2.55	1.32	Doctor's Hospital	2.55	2.55	0.00	0.627	0.080	4.1	3.14%		
7.80	5.94	Famguard	6.49	6.49	0.00	0.420	0.240	15.5	3.70%		
11.80	8.75	Finco	9.28	9.28	0.00	0.322	0.520	28.8	5.60%		
10.45	9.80	FirstCaribbean Bank	9.99	9.99	0.00	0.631	0.350	15.8	3.50%		
5.53	3.75	Focal (S)	4.77	4.77	0.00	0.326	0.150	14.6	3.14%		
1.00	1.00	Focal Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%		
103.0956	100.0000	Freeport Concrete	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.322	0.000	7.7	0.00%		
6.13	5.00	ICD Utilities	5.59	5.59	0.00	0.407	0.500	13.7	8.94%		
10.50	9.95	J. S. Johnson	9.95	9.95	0.00	0.952	0.640	10.5	6.43%		
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.156	0.000	64.1	0.00%		
BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing Basis)											
1000.00	1000.00	Security	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity			
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00		7%	19 October 2017			
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022			
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00		7%	30 May 2013			
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015			
Fidelity Over-The-Counter Securities											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Weekly Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield	
14.60	7.52	Bahamas Supermarkets	10.05	11.06	14.00		-2.246	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
8.00	6.00	Caribbean Crossings (Pref)	2.00	6.25	4.00		0.000	0.480	N/M	7.80%	
0.54	0.20	RND Holdings	0.35	0.40	0.35		0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%	
Colina Over-The-Counter Securities											
41.00	29.00	ABDAB	30.13	31.59	29.00		4.540	0.000	9.03	0.00%	
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.45	0.55	0.55		0.002	0.000	261.90	0.00%	
BISX Listed Mutual Funds											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD%	Last 12 Months	Div \$	Yield %	NAV Date			
1.4387	1.3535	CFAL Bond Fund	1.4387	6.30	6.30			31-Dec-09			
2.8869	2.8266	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	2.8869	-11.81	-1.81			31-Dec-09			
1.5074	1.4336	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5074	5.14	5.14			1-Jan-10			
3.3201	2.9343	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	2.9618	-12.52	-1.21			31-Oct-09			
13.2400	12.6816	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.2400	4.93	5.90			31-Oct-09			
103.0956	100.0000	FC Financial Diversified Fund	103.0956	3.10	2.52			30-Sep-09			
100.0000	99.4177	CFAL Global Equity Fund	99.4177	3.12	3.12			30-Sep-09			
1.0804	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.0804	4.32	5.26			31-Oct-09			
1.0364	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.0269	-0.59	-0.19			31-Oct-09			
1.0742	1.0000	FC Financial Diversified Fund	1.0742	3.56	4.42			31-Oct-09			
9.4740	9.1005	Royal Fidelity Bah Intl Investment Fund	9.4740	4.17	4.18			31-Oct-09			
10.6301	10.0000	Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 1	10.6301	6.30	6.30			31-Oct-09			
7.4613	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Intl Fund - Equities Sub Fund	7.4613	35.40	29.64			31-Oct-09			
MARKET TERMS											
YIELD - last 12 month dividends divided by closing price											
Bid \$ - Buying price of Colina and Fidelity											
Ask \$ - Selling price of Colina and Fidelity											
Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price											
Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week											
EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mths											
NAV - Net Asset Value											
N/M - Not Meaningful											
FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index, January 1, 1994 = 100											
TO TRADE CALL: CFAL 242-502-7010 ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764 FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000 COLONIAL 242-502-7525											

WOMAN

The Tribune

B O D Y A N D M I N D

health

TIPS TO A HEALTHIER YOU

By JEFFARAH GIBSON

THE holidays are over and we are at the beginning of a new year, a time when most people make resolutions to eat healthy, exercise regularly, or even quit a habit that is detrimental to good health.

To help individuals achieve their health goals for 2010, *Tribune Health* spoke with Dr Chinyere Carey-Bullard, medical director and owner of the Advanced Family Medicine Centre and Medispa on Shirley Street, who has seven simple tips on how to become the "healthier, sexier you" in the New Year.

Get an annual physical

If you were to ask most people when they last underwent a thorough medical check-up they would probably say, "I can't remember." But annual check-ups are one of the most important things a person can do, says Dr Carey-Bullard, especially if your on that road to living a healthier, happier life. "Annual medical physicals are very important, patients are tested for a number of things. For instance, if one were to visit their family doctor they would be examined for hypertension, diabetes, breast cancer, and other illnesses," she said.

Examinations done are based on age, sex, medical history, family medical history. These examinations can make persons aware of ailments they have which could lead to serious health risks.

"With physicals there is a chance of nipping things in the bud before they become untreatable, or if a person is examined and they have a specific illness there is a good chance that something can be done about it. So I urge people to get check-ups, if you are having unprotected sex you should see the doctor, if diabetes, hypertension, or cancer runs in the family you should see a doctor," Dr Carey-Bullard said.

Also during an annual physical, immunisation shots might be updated as well. Dr Carey-Bullard explained that doctors should make sure a patient's tetanus shots are up to date. Expectant mothers should get an updated rubella (German measles) shot, young women should get a vaccine that helps prevent cervical cancer, and although there is no way to escape the flu virus completely, getting an influenza shot can decrease susceptibility to the illness, she said.

Drink lots of water

Everyone knows that water is essential and without it the body cannot maintain its daily functions. Drinking more water can

be beneficial in a number of ways, it can help with fat loss, and assist the body in combatting various ailments.

Dr Carey-Bullard said that in some cases the hunger pangs persons experience can be misinterpreted water cravings.

"It's best to drink at least eight glasses of water within a day. Sometimes people may feel as though they are hungry but most of time it is thirst really, so if a person drinks the required amount of water they would soon see that they are less hungry throughout the day," she said.

Get sufficient rest

The benefits of a good night's rest are often underestimated. Like water, sleep also plays an important part in the body's functions. If a person is sleep deprived they are unable to concentrate, their ability to physically perform is impaired and they may develop mood swings.

"Now the younger you are the more rest you need, and the older a person is the less sleep is needed. Children need lots of rest because they are constantly growing and older people tend to need less sleep," Dr Carey-Bullard said.

The average amount of sleep needed every night is approximately eight hours, however, this varies from person to person.

Persons should always ensure that they always get enough sleep to feel

refreshed and revitalised.

Exercise

The body needs exercise. This is universally known, yet many are guilty of depriving their bodies of a good workout. Dr Carey-Bullard recommends 35 minutes a day dedicated to a proper workout which she says should include cardio, weight and flexibility training.

"Cardio is necessary to burn fat, and weight training is especially important as well because muscles burn fat a lot quicker than any other part of the body. The other third of the work-out should be spent stretching, and this is also important because flexibility prevents the bones from being fracture easily," she said.

And if you are trying to get slim and trim you should replace the unhealthiest staples of your diet with fresh fruits and vegetables.

Don't smoke or drink

"Smoking is probably the worst thing a person can do to his or herself," Dr Carey-Bullard said. And while there is nothing wrong with enjoying a glass of wine or a cocktail now and then, do so in moderation. And if you are overweight, Dr Carey-Bullard said that consuming alcohol will only add to the problem.

Change sedentary lifestyles

Sedentary lifestyles have been known to contribute to obesity, said Dr Carey-Bullard. Watching television



Dr Chinyere Carey-Bullard

for hours on end or sitting at a desk using the computer for long periods of time can be harmful to the body.

"Sitting down for a great amount of time slows down the body's metabolism because the body is not actively engaged in any physical activity," she said.

When it comes to children, Dr Carey-Bullard said parents should regulate the time their kids play computer or handheld video games.

Don't stress

"Although it is easier said

than done, try your best not to stress, because everyone knows the damage that stress can do so. So when feeling stressed or pressured, relax and take at least ten deep breaths and you will feel a little better," Dr Carey-Bullard said.

While these are not overnight remedies to health related problems, Dr Carey-Bullard says if each tip is implemented and followed through with consistency, your body will feel refreshed, rejuvenated, and revitalised with time.



HEART Ball Committee members: Seated are (l-r) Elsa Johnson-Mackenzie, Lady Sheila Butler (co-chair), Ingrid Sears (public relations), Maria Symonette. Standing are (l-r) Rosemarie Thompson, Michelangelo Baccelli, Alexandria Newbold (co-chair), Portia Nottage (co-chair), Nadia Campbell (co-chair), Marilyn Cambridge, Claire Howorth, Inez Johnson, Coretta Owen, and Linda Lafleur (treasurer). Missing from the photo are Sue Riding, Rochelle Sealy, Charmaine Miller, Zelia Bethel, Barbara Sawyer, Marilyn Dean, Natasha Lightbourne, Marilyn Dean, and Valerie Clarke.

Preparations for the 46th Annual Heart Ball underway

PERSONS wishing to make a difference in a child's life and preserve a heart are called on to attend the upcoming 46th Annual Heart Ball or make a donation to the Sir Victor Sassoon (Bahamas) Heart Foundation.

The Heart Ball Committee recently met to jump-start preparations for the Heart Ball, an event that raises funds to help repair the hearts of primarily children.

Each year, many Bahamians die and suffer from heart disease and conditions.

Heart disease does not discriminate based on age, gender, religion or race. When it affects one person in a family, it directly and indirectly affects all. Sadly, many people can't

afford the healthcare they or their loved ones need when they are diagnosed with heart condition.

The Heart Ball Committee said it wishes to encourage the public to take preventative measures this February (Heart Month) and ensure they are heart healthy and help to repair the heart of a child.

Under the theme, "Give a Gift of Life - Preserve a Heart", the Heart Ball Committee will host the 46th Annual Heart Ball at Sheraton Nassau on February 13 at 7.15pm.

One of the highlights of the evening will be the presentation of the Lady Sassoon Golden Heart Award to an individual who is nominated for promoting human welfare and dignity. Nominations can be sub-

mitted until January 15, 2010.

The Heart Foundation is a non-profit organisation established in 1961 by Lady Evelyn Sassoon to assist persons in need with heart care. Today, the Heart Foundation primarily assists the children of the Bahamas who are medically challenged, specifically those who are born with heart defects.

The Heart Foundation gives support and understanding to parents and families of children who need heart care, whether in hospitals in the Bahamas or in Florida.

Additionally, the Heart Foundation works along with the Bahamas Heart Association to educate and inform people about heart care and heart healthy lifestyles.

Since its inception, the Heart Foundation has helped over 4,000 patients to obtain heart care.

Despite the Heart Foundation's best efforts, and an increase in local cardiologists and equipment, there is still a need to raise funds to assist children of the Bahamas receive heart care locally and at hospitals abroad.

The Heart Ball committee is the fundraising arm of the Sir Victor Sassoon (Bahamas) Heart Foundation.

Each year, the Heart Ball Committee hosts two major fundraising events: The Heart Ball and the Annual Tea Party and Fashion Show. Other fundraising activities include the giving of heart bracelets

and benefit performances.

In addition, the Heart Foundation accepts gifts, memorial donations and tax-deductible donations.

No amount is ever too small and everyone is invited to participate.

The Foundation runs primarily on a voluntary and contributory basis. Being a non-profit organisation, the Heart Foundation relies heavily on the generosity of others to meet their goals.

It encourages the public and the corporate community to lend their support, especially in these tough economic times.

For information on ticket purchases or donations please contact the Heart Foundation at telephone number 327-0806.

WOMAN

WOMEN & SEX

The history of female sexuality

HAVE you ever wondered why we were chosen to be born in a certain country and not another?

Why were we not born in the Congo living with the constant fear of gang rape?

Or in a Muslim country that believe in child brides?

Why we can wear clothing that exposes and accentuates our female curves and other women have to wear burquas?

Where we are born and the cultures we are born into predetermine our destiny. What is inconceivable to us is accepted as a way of life for others and vice versa. Nothing illustrates this more graphically as the practice of female circumcision, or mutilation as it is so vividly described.

Although widespread education and campaigning has produced the desired reaction, the practice still continues.

If we take a brief look at the history of female sexuality we start to understand where these attitudes have derived from.

From as early as 3000 BC women were considered property and only valued for reproduction.



By **MAGGIE BAIN**

In fact, in Greece women were called 'gyne' meaning 'bearer of children', in other words her womb defined her.

The Romans had similar views and in fact viewed infertility as grounds for divorce.

If we then travel further east the attitudes were much freer and the Kama Sutra describes the glorifying sexual pleasure of both men and women.

Back in the West, Christian traditions influenced people by the use of the chastity belt, which allowed husbands to 'lock up' their wives as their sexual property.

During the 16th century the Protestant Reformation, led by Martin Luther and John Calvin, gave permission that sex within marriage was permissible not only for procreation.

They consented that sex was allowed 'to lighten and ease the cares

and sadnesses of household affairs, or to endear each other'.

This was revolutionary and the Puritans carried this message when they migrated from England to America.

However, this progressed to the stage that Puritan clergy saw men and women as sinners and if found to have committed adultery were flogged, put in stocks and forced to publicly confess.

The 19th century and the Victorian era was a time for wives to endure sex for procreation only.

This resulted into a form of 'hysteria' due to sexual frustration. As unbelievable as it may seem, western doctors performed manual genital massage until women reached orgasm.

This was known as 'hysterical paroxysm'.

The vibrator, invented by a British physician in the 1880s, was a direct response to doctors wanting help with this problem.

By then women used some form of contraception. Rhythm and withdrawal were the most common methods, but couples also used condoms and vaginal sponges. The diaphragm was patented in 1846 under the title 'The Wife Protector'.

By early in the next century, Sigmund Freud, a Viennese neurologist and founder of psychotherapy, concluded that sex was a primary force in human life.

At the same time an English doctor, Havelock Ellis, wrote six volumes titled 'Studies in the Psychology of Sex'.

He believed in female eroticism and the need for women to fulfill their strong sexual needs.

By 1948 Alfred Kinsey published his 'Sexual Behavior in the Human Male', followed by 'Sexual Behavior in the Human Female'. His results shocked traditionalists but nothing compared to his findings that women were just as capable of orgasm as men.

Then, in 1966, William Masters and Virginia Johnson became internationally known with the publication of the 'Human Sexual Response'.

It was the first time that it had been classified and described in four stages - excitement, plateau, orgasm and resolution.

The 1960s brought the female oral contraception which, for the first time, severed sex from reproduction.

With this freedom grew an expectation that women should become sexually active sooner, be more

adventurous or at least multi-orgasmic.

The 1980s brought AIDS and also a new movement towards 'family values'.

Reading about the evolution of female sexuality we learn how far we have come, but are aware that the last chapter has not been written.

For example, in the area of women's sexual health we still lag behind men by about 20-30 years.

This can be seen by the amount of interest in pharmaceutical research directed towards male desire and arousal problems.

As for our sisters in less open societies we can only wonder what their future will hold. For our own future we need to enlighten ourselves about our own sexuality and to find the peace and contentment that we all deserve.

• Margaret Bain is an individual and couples relationship therapist. She is a registered nurse and a certified clinical sex therapist. For appointments call 364-7230 or e-mail her at relatebahamas@yahoo.com or www.relatebahamas.blogspot.com. She is also available for speaking engagements.

GREEN SCENE

By Gardener Jack

CLIMBING roses are particularly rewarding as they present their beauty at eye level.



ANGEL Face is a rose with subtle hues that forms a contrast to the mainstream colours.

Roses

THE average visitor from Europe or North America would not readily associate roses with the Bahamas, yet roses – the right roses – grow as well here as anywhere in the world.

The right roses are those bred to be able to withstand our summer conditions, Zone 10 or higher. Local nurseries often sell rose varieties that are unsuitable for our climate but that is not always their fault as they are at the mercy of their US distributors. There are several misconceptions about roses. One is they cannot withstand full sun.

The complete opposite is true and shade-grown roses are sickly and unproductive.

Another misconception is they are delicate plants. Roses are as tough as most shrubs in the garden and their

rate of flower production is prodigious.

It is also thought that roses are high maintenance, but this is not a misconception. Roses need work, right from the beginning. But treated right, roses are enormously rewarding. Roses are undemanding as to soil type but should be planted in full sun in soil that has been amended with at least half a bag of commercial cow manure.

Rose bushes need lots of water – it is impossible to over-water a rose – but should be well drained. A slight crowning assists with drainage.

Roses can be bought bare root or in pots. The latter is usual in the Bahamas.

Once established, rose bushes flower continuously except for short

breaks. Roses should be deadheaded regularly, at least every week.

Every Sunday my wife prepares vases of roses and selects the finest, those that are approaching full without being blown. Blown roses, those with puffy features or petal loss, should be clipped away using clean pass-through secateurs. This is called deadheading.

Carry a basket or other container with you to put the rose detritus in as it may spread disease if allowed to rot away near the parent plants.

When deadheading it is best to look for the first set of full leaves and make the cut just above them. On some roses this means a couple of inches, on others maybe eight to 10 inches.

In addition to deadheading, roses need to be pruned about twice a year.

I usually do this October/November and April/May, the beginning

and end of the cool weather period.

Pruning involves cutting away about one-third of the bush. Of particular importance is to remove small branches that grow sideways and rarely produce flowers, leaving the thicker, sturdier branches that bear heavily. Pruning will make your roses bushier and more attractive.

After pruning is a good time to give a side dressing of commercial cow manure or well-rotted compost.

For the rest of the year you can use Miracle Gro soluble rose fertiliser as a spray, applying it once every two weeks. Roses benefit from having parsley grown around their bases.

No matter how well you treat your roses you will almost certainly find them susceptible to blackspot.

This fungus disease quickly turns the leaves yellow and kills them. The disease is highly transmittable by rain and watering.

We cannot do anything about the

rain but we can take care to water the roots of our roses without spraying the foliage. Cut off infected leaves when you are deadheading and dispose of them well away from your rose bushes.

Insect predation can be controlled by the use of a systemic insecticide such as Orthene but you may want to think hard before doing this.

Roses may experience a few seasonal attacks of insects, such as aphids, but these usually are short lasting and do not justify the expense of a systemic insecticide.

Roses (the right varieties) can grow as well in the Bahamas as in France or England, the difference being that Bahamian roses bloom all year long, not just in the summer.

• For questions and comment contact gardenerjack@coralwave.com.

Foot pain increases in January

EACH year among those New Year resolutions is the desire to lose weight.

While many are anxious to get started, it is important that you are fitted with the correct exercising footwear for the physical activity recommended in your weight loss programme.

According to a recent article cited in the *Chicago Tribune*, foot and ankle surgeons predicted an increase in foot pain during the month of January as people try to keep fitness resolutions.

It was further suggested that the most common problems for those who go from couch potato to high intensity workouts are sore achilles tendons, heel pain and pinched nerves.



By **BERNADETTE GIBSON**

up of the foot, which is a complex structure composed of bones, muscles, ligaments, fascial structures, nerves, and blood vessels. The foot must support the entire weight of the body during walking and jumping. During running and standing, the forces on the foot can be several times greater than the weight of the body.

The human foot is truly a miracle of design, with the capacity to withstand the wear and tear of thousands of steps every day throughout life. Given the change in surfaces over

the past 100 years, it is essential that we realise how important it is to get the appropriate footwear to support the foot and avoid the injuries and discomfort to our feet.

Transition

In terms of our fitness programme, it is suggested that you ease into exercise. Alternating a hard workout one day with an easy workout the next day may help avoid some of the injuries associated with a rigid workout.

Appropriate equipment

Footwear today is designed for specific activities, having the support in the area where pressure may be present, given that particular activity. For example, if you are walking for fitness, then you should purchase a 'walker-sneaker'

because the pressures on the foot would be very different than if you were running.

Similarly, many walkers complain of knee pains, which may be because they are using footwear designed for other activities.

Many sports related injuries occur as a result of extrinsic factors such as footwear and surfaces.

Sprains, heel pain, interdigital neuroma and stress fractures of the foot are common results that athletes suffer in relation to these factors.

As a result, revolutionary footwear has been introduced to combat many problems related to the foot.

For example, the 'Reebok Easytone' and the 'Chung Shi' line of footwear have been scientifically designed as dynamic workout tools.

Their unique 'rocker/roller sole' design benefits the user by:

- Helping to reduce cellulite
- Toning muscles
- Increasing circulation
- Improving posture
- Reducing lower back pain
- Strengthening joints
- Diminishing spider and varicose veins

Avoid foot pain, seek professional help to assist you with the correct footwear and support (orthotic) to not only support your body and foot type but to adequately off load the pressure presented by the underlying terrain.

Runners, who want to continue running for many more years, need to ensure that there is enough support between your foot and the flat and hard surfaces you run on.

Depending on the activity to which you are doing, you need to seek the appropriate footwear and support for that purpose. A professional in the field of footwear can help you best with your selection.

• Bernadette D Gibson, a board certified and licensed podiatrist, is the proprietor of Foot Solutions, a health and wellness franchise that focuses on foot care and proper shoe fit, located in the Sandypoint Plaza, Nassau. The views expressed are those of the author and does not necessarily represent those of Foot Solutions Incorporated or any of its subsidiary and/or affiliated companies. Please direct any questions or comments to nasau@footsolutions.com or 327-FEET (3338).

WOMAN

Bahamian woman in Japan

PART 6

For one year and three months I had the opportunity to live and work in Tokushima, Japan. I worked as an English Language Coordinator at Seiko Gakuen for children ages three to six. Join me as I explore the land of the rising sun from a Bahamian's perspective.



By COFFI McPHEE

their bikes in long sleeved shirts, big hats and a visor and an umbrella. I have actually seen women in their air-conditioned cars with all of their body parts covered up with huge sun glasses.

It's a wonder they can see when they are driving.

To beat the heat in school, the day care teachers would run the hose over the kids. So on any given day in the summer I would see naked children outside playing, getting hosed down.

But seriously what is it with the Japanese and nakedness? They do not hug each other under any circumstances (after you reach a certain age),

but they have no problems in getting naked at an onsen (hot springs) with perfect strangers.

Culture differences have a whole new meaning since I've been over here.

The sexual harassment continues

Well instead of touching my hips they have moved onto my breasts. I swear you'd think that these kids were never breast-fed, but I've seen some of the mothers and I can now maybe understand their frustration.

They have even made up a song about my breasts to the tune of 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.'

Something about them being big was about all I could pick up. I've told them to stop it, but they are five years old.

I think that if were to see some Bahamians they would then totally freak out and make a movie about them.

Tai Kun

I have a student named Tai who always looked spaced out. We would be doing an arts and craft activity or playing a game or learning a song and he would just fall asleep.

I asked him if he works a late shift, of course he just looked at me with a blank look.

However, lately he seems to be off his meds and waking up a little. We were doing a work book exercise and he showed me what he did. It wasn't perfect but it did kind of resemble what it was supposed to. So I told him 'very good' and gave him a sticker. He smiled for the first time in the seven months that I've known him. It was really sweet, I didn't even know that he had teeth.

I think that I could make this into a MasterCard commercial. A ticket to Japan



\$5,000, my first sushi \$3, seeing a child understand what you are teaching them for the first time? Priceless.

A mother's love

I was really sick one day with a bad stomach ache. As soon as I got to school I ran to the bathroom.

It was a bit embarrassing because some of the parents could hear me throwing up in the bathroom.

I went home immediately and all I could do was cry from the pain. I wanted to call my mom but I didn't want to

worry her because there was nothing that she could do from her end. However, 20 minutes later the phone rang and it was mom!

She said that she just had a feeling something was wrong. It was 10.30am in the morning my time and 9.30pm her time.

After speaking with her I felt almost instantly better, physically and emotionally. I was amazed to know that my mother could sense that her daughter wasn't well from thousands of miles away and a 14-hour time difference.

That is truly a connection.

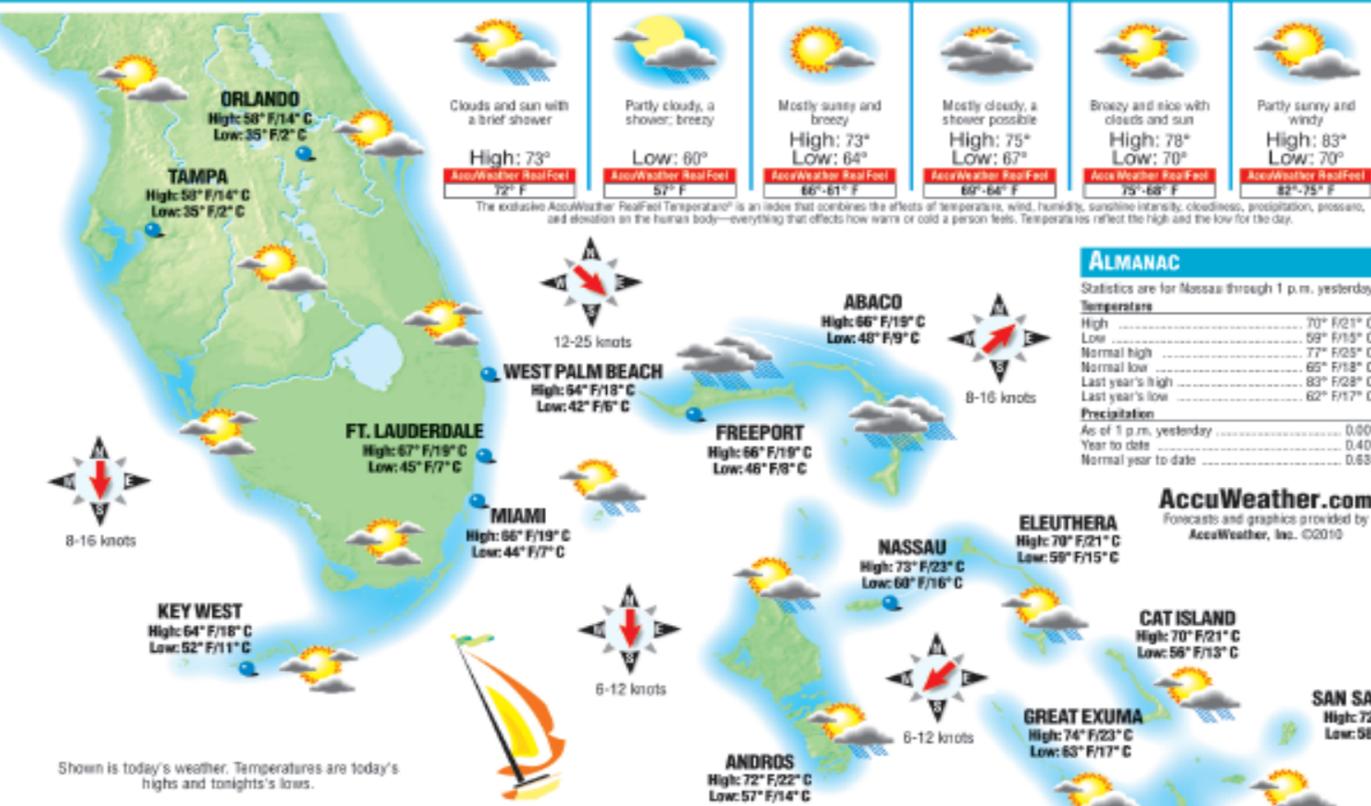
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THE WEATHER REPORT

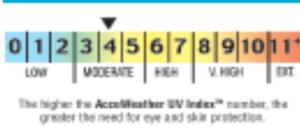


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INSURANCE BROKERS & AGENTS

5-DAY FORECAST



UV INDEX TODAY



TIDES FOR NASSAU

Time	High	HL (ft.)	Low	HL (ft.)
Today	5:40 a.m.	2.7	12:11 p.m.	0.1
	5:53 p.m.	2.0	11:56 p.m.	-0.3
Wednesday	6:25 a.m.	2.7	12:54 p.m.	0.0
	6:38 p.m.	2.1	-----	-----
Thursday	7:05 a.m.	2.7	12:40 a.m.	-0.3
	7:20 p.m.	2.1	1:34 p.m.	0.0
Friday	7:43 a.m.	2.7	1:21 a.m.	-0.3
	7:59 p.m.	2.2	2:11 p.m.	-0.1
Saturday	8:20 a.m.	2.7	2:01 a.m.	-0.3
	8:37 p.m.	2.2	2:46 p.m.	-0.1
Sunday	8:55 a.m.	2.7	2:39 a.m.	-0.1
	9:15 p.m.	2.3	3:20 p.m.	-0.1
Monday	9:30 a.m.	2.6	3:18 a.m.	0.0
	9:52 p.m.	2.3	3:54 p.m.	-0.1

ALMANAC

Statistics are for Nassau through 1 p.m. yesterday

Temperature	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low	Last year's high	Last year's low
As of 1 p.m. yesterday	70° F / 21° C	59° F / 15° C	77° F / 25° C	65° F / 18° C	83° F / 28° C	62° F / 17° C
Year to date	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Normal year to date	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

AccuWeather.com

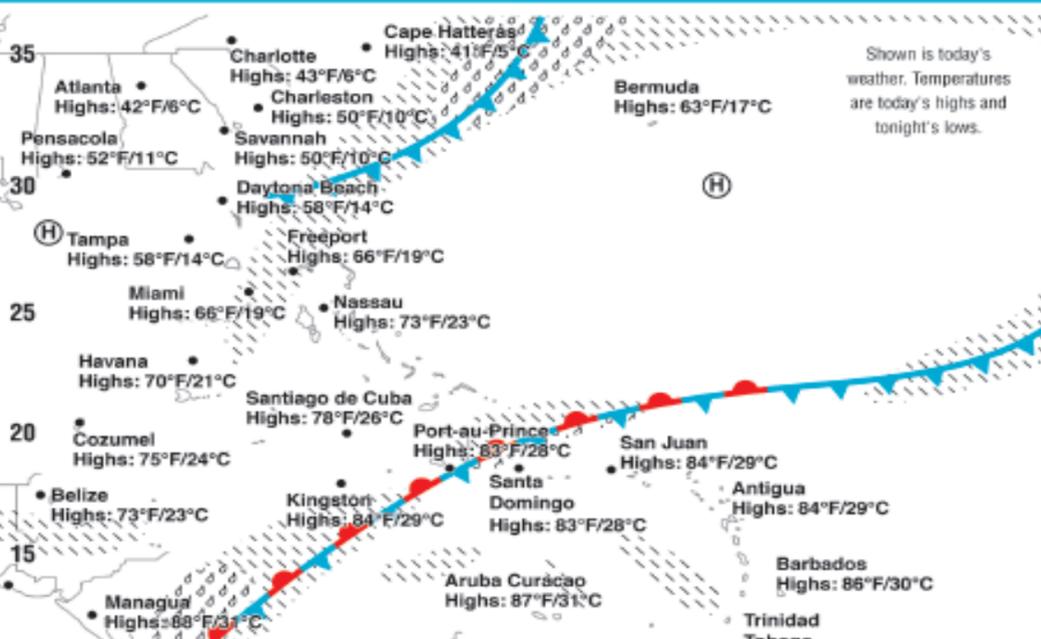
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2010

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
6:57 a.m.	5:40 p.m.	4:53 a.m.	3:30 p.m.

New First Full Last
Jan. 15 Jan. 23 Jan. 30 Feb. 5

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP



MARINE FORECAST

Location	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMPS.
ABACO	Today: SW at 8-16 Knots	3-6 Foot	10 Miles	64° F
ANDROS	Today: W at 6-12 Knots	3-5 Foot	10 Miles	74° F
CAT ISLAND	Today: NE at 4-8 Knots	4-8 Foot	6 Miles	76° F
CROOKED ISLAND	Today: NE at 10-20 Knots	3-5 Foot	10 Miles	78° F
ELEUTHERA	Today: ENE at 3-6 Knots	4-8 Foot	6 Miles	76° F
FREEPORT	Today: WNW at 10-20 Knots	3-6 Foot	10 Miles	75° F
GREAT EXUMA	Today: NE at 6-12 Knots	1-2 Foot	6 Miles	75° F
GREAT INAGUA	Today: NE at 10-20 Knots	4-7 Foot	10 Miles	79° F

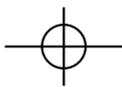
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Woman

THE TRIBUNE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010

SECTION B • HEALTH: Body and mind



'The Magic Grouper and Other Tales'

By JEFFARAH GIBSON

PRESERVING and renewing the tradition of Bahamian folk storytelling for future generations has become the goal of one young Bahamian woman.

These days it's difficult to find 'ole' Bahamian tales such as 'Bou Bokkie', 'B'er Rabbie', 'The Andros Chickcharnie', or the story about the legendary half shark-half octopus, 'Lusca'. It seems the tradition of Bahamian storytelling has all but vanished.

But author Arthia Nixon has made it her mission to change this.

Speaking with *Tribune Woman*, Ms Nixon said she wants to reintroduce the most treasured cultural tradition of storytelling to the youth of today.

With her newly released book entitled, 'The Magic Grouper and Other Tales', the author has written five Bahamian fairy tales set throughout the islands.

They include "The Magic Grouper" set in Long Island; "Hattie and the Iguana" in Inagua; "The Five Flamingos" in Exuma and Mayaguana; "Stone Salad" in Acklins, and "The Crab Prince" which takes place in Andros.

All of these stories are based on old superstitions and the imagination of the islanders.

For example, the story of "The Magic Grouper" is about a grouper who brings luck to a Long Island fisherman. "Hattie and the Iguana" is about a little girl who avoids being eaten by a giant iguana, and "The Crab Prince" is about a lonely straw weaver who rescues a crab who was put under a spell by a Chickcharnie.

Ms Nixon said of all the stories in the book

her favourite is "Stone Salad", which tells the tale of her spin on the local delicacy of conch salad.

And even though the book is targeted towards kids, adults seem to enjoy its humour as well.

"It's interesting that adults seem to enjoy the book more. When I had librarians telling me they enjoyed it and a bookstore manager inviting me to read stories I knew I had hit a market that had been overlooked," she said.

What is rather noteworthy is that although it is book primarily for kids, there are no pictures in it.

"My reasoning behind it was that kids today rely on images too often. I taught art one summer and asked the kids to draw me a mermaid living in a blue hole. All but one child presented me with their version of Disney's Ariel.

"By taking out the pictures I am giving children the chance to exercise their imaginations and giving parents and teachers more chance to dialogue, to explain things and open the door of communication", she told *Tribune Woman*.

Ms Nixon said her daughter was the inspiration for writing the book.

She explained that she wanted to find a

BJC I thought, yes, we all complain about it, but I refuse to sit back and do nothing. I thought that if kids were leaving middle school and high school not able to read then the problem must stem from the fact that they left primary school without the basics.

"(My) book starts off simple but gets harder with words. Every now and then I throw in a big word that a child can figure out if they read the supporting sentences. I am giving them something they can relate to, characters who talk like them, and something to laugh at and make reading fun."

The book officially debuted at the Haynes Library in Eleuthera late last year. Ms Nixon is a native of Eleuthera and she said it is the place where she received the most support for her many accomplishments.

She said that her love for the island and its people could not allow her to host the book launch anywhere else.

And it was motivating for her to see the love and support she received from former teachers and other persons.

"Haynes Library is where my literary navel string is buried and it would have been wrong to launch it anywhere else. It's

I grew up reading 'Bokkie' and 'Rabbie and Junkanoo'. It occurred to me that my child didn't know what conch or grouper were other than from photos

ARTHIA NIXON

way to expose her Canadian-born daughter to her Bahamian heritage.

"I grew up reading 'Bokkie' and 'Rabbie and Junkanoo'. It occurred to me that my child didn't know what conch or grouper were other than from photos. (To) put it simple, I needed something to link my child to her Bahamian culture. When I wrote the book I was married and living in Montreal, Canada so I decided to 'Bahamianise' her fairy tales, and lots of other people enjoyed them and asked if I could write the stories so they could have a copy. And it took off from there," Ms Nixon said.

And with the help of her daughter, the author was able to determine what worked in the book and what didn't.

"Children don't read because they aren't interested. I made this interesting because my daughter told me what was funny and what wasn't," she said.

With her book Ms Nixon strives not only to entertain, but also to help solve the reading problems that some kids are faced with.

"When I saw the 'D' average for the

such a historical landmark in the Bahamas and that was where I spent most of my childhood getting lost in books and learning to read and speak," she said.

Fresh off the success of "The Magic Grouper and Other Tales", which Ms Nixon said is a bestseller right now, she is planning to write second edition of the book.

This is the fourth book Ms Nixon has written so far.

One of her other books which she wrote while living in Montreal, entitled "The Beauty Within", focuses on being bi-racial. Her aim with this book was to explain to her daughter why they have a different skin colour.

For persons interested in obtaining a copy of the book, it is available in the Governor's Harbour Airport, in Montreal, Miami, Kansas, at the Chapter One Bookstore in Nassau or from Amazon. Persons can also contact the author at arthia.nixon@gmail.com or telephone number 535-4522.



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