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PM names date for by-election

Tribune produces network TV show

FNM to hold four mass rallies before Elizabeth contest

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



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham gives the date for the by-election yesterday.

THE FREE National Movement will hold a mass rally on January 28 opposite their constituency headquarters in Elizabeth as the party gets ready to challenge former MP Malcolm Adderley's vacant seat on February 16.

Announcing in the House of Assembly yesterday that nomination day for candidates has been set for February 11th, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said the FNM will hold four mass rallies before the election. With the first on January 28, the party will hold its second rally on February 4th, then on February 11th, and the final one on February 15 — the night before the by-election.

Currently Mr Ingraham said, the FNM is canvassing the area and seeking to locate voters who are on the Parliamentary

register. However, the party has reportedly had some difficulty in finding some individuals who are still on the register.

"We are double checking where those persons might be," Mr Ingraham said. "We have

SEE page eight

PASSPORT TO PARADISE



PASSPORT TO PARADISE host Rachael Carr gives steel drumming a go. See story above.

THE Tribune and USA Today are set to make history this weekend when its pilot TV show *Passport to Paradise* is introduced at the pilot TV convention in Las Vegas.

All top American networks, cable companies as well as other worldwide networking executives will attend the NATPE convention to shop for new programming. *Passport to Paradise*, the first of its kind to be produced by a Bahamian company — will be there to discuss an international syndication deal.

The show will feature history, culture, shopping, nightlife and fun in a hip, creative and fresh manner in locales throughout the Bahamas will get massive international exposure. But the ambitious project doesn't end there, as in its first season the show will search for paradise in 13 countries

SEE page two



THE PILOT SHOW CAN BE SEEN AT
www.tribune242.com

Select Committee on Crown land tables its final report

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

AFTER nearly six months of work and nine public hearings, the House of Assembly's Select Committee into the disposition of all publicly held land tabled its final report in the House of Assembly yesterday.

As the chairman of the committee, the PLP's Member of Parliament for Fox Hill Fred Mitchell presented the report to Parliament, which called for the creation of a new National Land Agency to deal with Crown land matters from this point on.

In addition to this new agency, the committee suggested that a legislative framework for appli-

SEE page 10

Former teacher wanted in Bahamas 'still held in US'

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
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FREEPORT — John Delaney, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, said former teacher Andre Birbal, who is wanted in the Bahamas, is still being held in the United States.

Mr Delaney spoke with the media while in Grand Bahama on Wednesday. There have been concerns regarding reports that Birbal may have been released on bail.

"Mr Birbal is in the United States in New York where he was arrested on a traffic violation that was not connected with the Bahamas. He is detained there

SEE page eight

Former Immigration Minister criticises decision to release Haitian detainees

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

ADMITTING that he does not fully understand what "Temporary Protected Status" involves, former Immigration minister Loftus Roker hit out at government for releasing Haitian detainees from the Carmichael Road Detention Centre.

Mr Roker criticised the

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LOCAL NEWS

Tribune produces network TV show

FROM page one

around the world, including Australia, South Africa, Thailand, Brazil and Cuba.

The project was produced using a combination of Bahamian and world-class international talent.

Tribune president Robert Carron is keen to emphasise that the show – the first of its kind to be produced in the Bahamas – has the potential to propel a number of Bahamians into the limelight.

He said: "For the first time, I hope we have shown that Bahamians can produce network quality shows with video and audio that can rival the best."

Passport to Paradise, an upbeat and entertaining travel and leisure TV magazine inspired by *The Tribune's* print version of the same name, will take viewers on a virtual vacation to places they've only dreamed of.

"Everybody has a dream of where they want to go and we hope we can fulfil those fantasies," said producer, Lou Maggio. "Each week we're going to go some place exotic. We're going to take you some place that you've never seen before."



PASSPORT TO PARADISE will show the Bahamas' natural beauty.

In the pilot episode, our host Rachael Carr and correspondents Clair Cooper, Miss Great Britain 2009, Sean Nottage, Bahamian voiceover and Phillip Sands, Bahamian radio personality and associated host, help viewers discover paradise in the Bahamas. On the way, they will play tug-of-war with sharks, race a pig drinking beer, skydive, help direct traffic with a Royal Bahamas Police Force officer on Bay Street and learn the secret of making a good conch salad.

But the show is about more than attractions. As Rachael the host explains in the pilot, "It's all about the people, it's all about the culture, it's all about the history, it's all about the fun, it's all about the shopping and nightlife but most of all it's all about you!"

Rachael has been in the spotlight in one way or another since she was a teenager, producing her first chart topping single in her native Britain at age 16 in the group called *Boom!* She followed this on by being selected as the human face of the Cloe Bratz doll on the Bratz World Tour.

She is the current body double for internationally-acclaimed Australian singer Kylie Minogue and has also body doubled for Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera. She told *The Tribune*, though, that she has never done anything quite like this.

"It is just amazing getting the chance to go to all these places. Who wouldn't want to work in sea and sun? I never thought I would get paid to see places that people only dream of," she said. "I can't wait, I want to go everywhere in the world, like Phileas Fogg – around the world in 80 days!"

Rachael said that after the Bahamas, the team will head to Mexico and then to Jamaica. After that, it's on to Dubai and Las Vegas.

"Even though it's called 'Passport to Paradise', it is not necessarily beaches," she pointed out. "Anywhere can be paradise, right?"

The producers believe the show will outshine its competitors because it appeals to a broad demographic.

"It's geared towards everyone from families, to young people to executives – it's a little more classy," said Mr Maggio.

Rachael couldn't agree more: "The opportunities presented by this project are just immense. I can't wait to see what happens," she said.

Robert Carron explained how the idea came about: "After we launched our magazine, someone in the entertainment industry said, 'Passport to Paradise is a great title, it should be a TV show.' Rachael gently reminded me about this on numerous occasions, and the more I thought about it, the more I realised that this was a great opportunity.

"There were only two problems: first, I know nothing about TV, so it would be the blind leading the blind. Second, we have no TV equipment.

"Then I remembered that my friend Lou Maggio produced *Wild on 'E!*' so I talked to Lou, who said it's a great idea if we can get it paid for – that was

problem number three."

Mr Carron explained how he then approached his father, *Tribune* managing director the late Roger Carron, who gave the project the green light.

"Now we have come to a point I never thought we would have," Robert Carron said, "A pilot funded by USA Today and ourselves; a network pilot based on *Passport to Paradise of The Tribune*."

Mr Carron will be travelling to Las Vegas this weekend to attend the convention.

Mr Carron said that throughout the project, his philosophy was to rely on "smart people who know what they are doing, and get out of the way."

The show was produced by a team with decades of experience in the film, television and entertainment industry.

Robert Carron serves as the show's executive producer, with the talented and accomplished Rob Mason signed on as director and editor, and UK videographer Andres Lesauvage overseeing photography.

Mr Maggio – a former director of photography and product promotion for Venus Swimwear, the largest swimwear company in the US – has produced two major motion pictures, including "The Year of Getting to Know Us" starring Sharon Stone and "The Six Wives of Henry Lefay", starring Tim Allen, set to be released this spring.

He also executive produced the documentary "Thespians" recently screened in Los Angeles and New York and in negotiation for a distribution deal.

Mr Carron is keen to emphasise, however, that the point of utilising top international experts is to facilitate a "transfer of talent" to local journalists, allowing them to gain valuable experience in cutting edge, multi-disciplinary media production.

Tribune news editor Paco Nunez said: "The opportunity to work with cutting-edge TV producers, editors and videographers will be hugely beneficial to our news team as it evolves into a fully-fledged multimedia unit."

Mr Carron also spoke of the opportunities that will be presented to Bahamians who work on the project, for example co-host Philip Sands and voice-over talent Sean Nottage.

"We wanted to show there are Bahamians that can produce whatever this country needs. You can get outside people if you want to – the point is you don't have to. We may not have the experience, but if we have drive and self-belief, anything is possible," Mr Carron said.

"We wanted to take Bahamian ideas and Bahamian drive and match it with the talents of the best graphic artists, the best videographers, to create the best *Passport to Paradise* possible. I can say we have done that and I am proud to be a part of it."

He said the show is intended to be a launching pad for the future of *The Tribune*, and that he plans to reinvest the proceeds into expanding the multimedia scope of the company, including a television presence, while retaining the newspaper as the core of the business.

He added: "We feel this is a tremendous achievement and I would like to invite everybody to please watch the trailer for the show on the homepage of tribune242.com, enjoy it, and share your views – both positive and negative – with us."

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LOCAL NEWS

Hotel union's executive council 'complies with Court of Appeal order'

THE Executive Council of the Bahamas Hotel Catering and Allied Worker's Union has complied with last week's order by the Court of Appeal, lawyer Keod Smith said yesterday.

According to him, Tuesday, April 27, is the new date for union nominations. The union's executive council will then fix a date for the court ordered election.

During a press conference at the House of Labour yesterday afternoon, Mr Smith, who represents several members of the union's executive council, denied media reports that he said seemed to suggest that there had been non-compliance with the judgment of the Appeal Court.

Last Tuesday the Court of Appeal set aside the decisions of two separate judges in the protracted union dispute and ordered that the union's executive council meet and set new nomination and election dates.

Previous media reports had suggested, however, that during the court ordered meeting of the council Tuesday afternoon no dates had been set. Mr Smith noted that no unanimous decision was made, but that a date was set for nominations.

"It is my instructions, which I take as being unequivocal, that the executive Council, at its meeting yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon, took a decision by resolution moved by Mr Ian Neely, trustee of the union, seconded by Mr Lionel Morley, second vice-president of the union and carried by a majority of 6-4," Mr Smith said. Mr Smith said that the council is based on the democratic principle of majority rule.

According to Mr Smith, the resolution passed was that in accordance with the judgment by the Court of Appeal, the nomination date for persons vying for officer or member positions on the executive council is Tuesday, April 27, and that the time for the ordered re-election shall be established by the Executive Council.

"Following the audit that is expected to be commissioned tomorrow when the Executive Council once again meets on its adjourned date, the register is expected to be prepared by the Executive Council.

"Prior to being approved and lodged with the Registrar of Trade Unions, the register will be made available to all members so that that would be able to confirm that their names are indeed listed as members and it is expected that this process, which is estimated to take upwards of 10 weeks, is to be completed prior to the fixed nomination date," Mr Smith said.

The court last week set aside the decisions of Senior Justice Jon Isaacs and Justice Neville Adderley. Senior Justice Isaacs had declared the May 28 elections null and void. Nicole Martin had won that election by a landslide.

More than a month after that decision, Justice Adderley ordered a new nomination process that paved the way for new elections in late September.

Those elections yielded similar results for Ms Martin and her team. According to Mr Smith, there was no motion advanced to amend or change the resolution.

Memorial service for Andrew Curry

THE memorial service for Andrew Curry will be held at Loyola Hall on Gladstone Road this evening at 7pm. See Religion Section for details.



FRED MITCHELL



CHARLES MAYNARD



BRANVILLE MCCARTNEY



PHENTON NEYMOUR

How MPs spent their \$200,000 allocation

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

HERE *The Tribune* presents the third part of its series of reports detailing how MPs say they spent the two \$100,000 allocations made available to each of them for discretionary constituency enhancement projects between 2007 and 2009.

All 40 MPs were asked to provide the information, however, fewer than half did so and only one of those was a member of the PLP.

See tomorrow's *Tribune* for the final part of the report:

Fred Mitchell - PLP - Fox Hill

In records provided by Mr Mitchell on how he made use of the \$200,000 available to him for projects in his constituency, it is disclosed that he has so far utilised \$110,416.75 of the total sum.

In a breakdown of the disbursements, it is recorded that \$7,800 was paid to P C Engineers to buy ten computers for the L W Young High School.

Separate payments were made to an individual identified as Trevor Pratt of \$840 towards the renovation of Gleniston Park; \$1,113.75 for the renovation of Foxdale Park; \$5,500 to assist with renovations to Eastwood Park, and \$420 to assist with renovations to Gleniston Park.

An individual identified as Gary Kerr received \$10,275.5 for a number of projects.

This total was made up of payments of \$4,378.50 for renovation of Freedom Park; \$4,797 for the renovation of Canterbury Park with a further \$1,100, also for assistance with the renovation of Canterbury Park.

The record reflects that a number of payments were made to the law firm of Gibson, Rigby and Co from the constituency allowance.

This included \$1,280 to assist with renovations to the Fox Hill Parade, another \$6,720 for the same purpose, \$8,062.50 for renovations to Freedom Park, a further \$10,000 for the same purpose, and \$18,750 for renovations to Canterbury Park. Gary Kerr was identified as the contractor for this work.

A further \$21,100 and \$8,000 was disbursed from the allowance to assist the Fox Hill Festival Committee, \$2,205 and \$8,000 for contract work to be done at the Fox Hill Community Centre, paid to Good Deal Builders and \$1,030 was paid to the CWT Sales Agency for supplies for the Sandilands Primary School.

Charles Maynard - FNM - Golden Isles

Mr Maynard said the \$200,000 "went a long way in filling various voids throughout" his constituency. "Golden Isles is an emerging area and there are many amenities left undeveloped," he noted.

As such, the money was utilised to develop "from scratch" three community parks, to fund an after-school computer programme, provide instruments for the creation of a community band managed by the Carmichael Police Division, to aid the development of a picnic area in Coral Heights east and refurbish the Coral Harbour Community Park.

Branville McCartney - FNM - Bamboo Town

Mr McCartney reported that the \$100,000 constituency allowance for the provided in 2007/2008 budget was spent on refurbishing four parks in Bamboo Town: Zion Boulevard Park, Mary Ingham Park, Seven Hills Park and Southern Heights Park.

In 2008/2009, the MP said the entire allowance has been used

to develop a park in Fairview Heights, off St Vincent Road.

Phenton Neymour - FNM - South Beach

Of the \$100,000 allocated in the 2007/2008 budget, Mr Neymour said approximately \$98,500 has been spent to date on the rehabilitation of the South Beach Park and several smaller enhancement projects.

Work on the park involved site clearance, including the demolition and removal of derelict concrete works and fencing, the installation of a walking track, a 30 by 30 foot elevated gazebo and sidewalks. A new constituency office sign was also purchased.

\$73,990 of the \$100,000 made available to Mr Neymour in the 2008/2009 budget has been spent to date, and approximately \$26,000 has been allocated but not spent. From these funds, two sets of playground equipment and park benches for the Pastels Gardens Park and South Beach Park were purchased.

A contract for a 20 by 20 foot elevated gazebo for South Beach Park has been awarded but not completed. Plans are in place to contract out associated landscaping of the South Beach and Pastel Gardens Parks. This will occur upon completion of the gazebo and a nearby sidewalk in the South Beach Park, said Mr Neymour.

Mr Neymour added that all works were procured in the government tendering process under the Ministry of Works, unlike many of the projects commissioned by other MPs using the constituency allowance funds.

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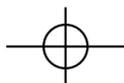
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Is Mass. win a stop sign for Democrats?

WASHINGTON — Reeling from the loss of a long-held Massachusetts Senate seat, Democrats are rethinking the lessons of Barack Obama's 2008 election, with the GOP cheerfully suggesting they scale back their ambitions and agenda.

Republican Scott Brown's win in a liberal state will do more than vastly complicate Obama's bid to overhaul the U.S. health care system. It will send his party into a painful re-examination of voters' anger and desires ahead of the November elections for Congress, governorships and state legislatures.

Questions will include whether Americans really want more government help in matters such as obtaining health insurance, even though Obama campaigned on that very issue.

Most immediately, Brown's win Tuesday over Martha Coakley to replace the late Edward M. Kennedy will deprive Democrats of a filibuster-proof Senate majority. That could kill the Democrats' effort to revamp health care unless House Democrats reluctantly embrace a previously passed Senate version that many of them dislike. It would require no new Senate action, although liberal groups might be furious.

Gleeful Republicans warned against such a move. The message from Massachusetts, said Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., is: "Go back to the drawing board" on health care.

Democrats didn't go quite that far, but some were clearly chastened.

"In many ways the campaign in Massachusetts became a referendum not only on health care reform but also on the openness and integrity of our government process," said Sen. James Webb, D-Va. He urged that "we suspend further votes on health care legislation until Sen.-elect Brown is seated."

Democrats may spend months trying to divine the lessons of Tuesday's setback. Many of them saw the 2008 election as a repudiation of George W. Bush's presidency, with Obama as the fresh new leader promising to harness the government to expand health coverage, discipline banks and stimulate the moribund economy. But Brown's victory suggests that many voters still harbour suspicions or outright resentment of the federal government, no matter who's in charge.

Conservatives, perhaps sensing the mood better than liberals, have accused Obama of Big Brotherism and even socialism as he pushes his health plan and pours billions of dollars into economic stimulus programmes.

The president rightly notes that he campaigned precisely on those issues. But that's small comfort to nervous and perplexed Democratic lawmakers who now expect stiff anti-incumbent winds in November and heightened GOP attacks against big government. It's unclear how much Democrats will change their tactics.

Rep. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, head of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said his colleagues will continue

to blame the previous administration for driving the economy "into a ditch" and running away. The Senate's Democratic campaign chief, Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey, seemed more humble. "We will sort through the lessons of Massachusetts," he said, including "the need to show that our commitment to real change is as powerful as it was in 2008."

American voters rejected Republican control in the 2006 congressional elections and the 2008 presidential election. Democrats widely assumed that a top priority, and a winning political issue, was to make health insurance more accessible and competitive.

But now, just 14 months later, voters are snarling at the Democrats they put in charge, leaving them to wonder how to expand services without invoking public wrath.

John Triolo, a Massachusetts independent who voted for Obama in 2008 and for Brown on Tuesday, exemplified the confusing message. "I voted for Obama because I wanted change," said Triolo, 38, a sales manager from Fitchburg. "I wanted change, I thought he'd bring it to us, but I just don't like the direction that he's heading."

Everyone should have health coverage, Triolo said, "but I think we should take the time to look at it, but not ram it down our throat."

Obama may be as puzzled as anyone by his party's inability to keep the seat held by Kennedy, a liberal icon, for nearly a half-century. The president was "surprised and frustrated" by the course of the Coakley-Brown contest, spokesman Robert Gibbs said before polling places closed Tuesday.

Democrats were dismayed last November to see the GOP take over the governorships of New Jersey and Virginia, states that Obama had carried the year before. Tuesday's results were more painful and troubling.

Massachusetts is among the nation's most liberal states, and the candidates made it clear that a Brown victory could kill the Democrats' health care push in the Senate.

Democrats now must ask: Did Massachusetts voters register their discontent based on a decent understanding of the complex health care legislation? Or did conservatives do a better job of framing and spinning the debate, starting with raucous public meetings in August that caught Democrats flat-footed?

The latest AP-GfK poll showed an even split between Americans who support the health care package and those who oppose it. But Republican lawmakers say Brown's victory proves that public intensity and momentum are on their side.

If Democrats can find any solace in Tuesday's results, it's this: Massachusetts pollsters detected a strong anti-incumbent mood among voters, which could hurt Republican officeholders as well as Democrats in November.

(This article was written by Charles Babington, an Associated Press Writer).

A cataclysmic catastrophe or global jolt?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Over the period of a few shorts years, humanity has witnessed and experienced a number of massive and catastrophic events: "911" and the destruction of the world's symbol of financial control; "the Tsunami" and consequential loss of thousands of lives and now the greatest of the three, "Haiti."

Following "911", the global meltdown occurred indicating the necessity for yet further normalisation and equalisation within the world economy.

However, following that event too much energy and time were spent on retribution. "The Tsunami" elicited a greater heart and mind response to the plight of a significant sector of humanity; and now the saga continues with "Haiti." Will this island in the sea then become the catalyze to finally awaken humanity and draw focus on the need for greater equity for all peoples on a global scale?

These situations are not visited upon us as retribution for some sins we may have committed; they come as natural results of human mass consciousness and thus are not interfered with by the Creator God. They are the actions of an angry God. They are rather humanity's free-will way of bringing back into focus our own angelic/divine nature and its role in establishing "God's Kingdom on Earth." As goes the consciousness of humanity, so goes the Earth. The scenes out of Haiti, almost too horrific for human eyes to behold, can only be viewed as redemptive acts on behalf of Divine Order.

Will this disaster in the series of events be sufficient to fully awaken us to the reality of our purpose/role here on this Earth.

Amidst all the scenes of misery, pain, loss of human lives and property, is there a greater story being told? As former President Clinton so rightly says, "Haiti is not a lost cause." Indeed, she is THE cause to resurrect in the heart of humanity that spark which will enlighten the way to a new, glorious and harmonious world. So brief and sudden was this momentary cataclysmic event. Just as sudden, but forever lasting could be the jolt into an enlightened mindset of all humanity and a

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

new world order.

It may be eons of time before the human tears are dried which will be shed for the thousands, especially the children, who have so willingly opted to go back Home for the good of all humanity. Such a little while these beautiful angels spent among us. But it should not be difficult to imagine, sense and feel the glowing lights of these precious souls as they commence their heavenly lightsome task to restore Haiti as an enviable jewel in the Caribbean. One of the most powerful responses evoked from humans is that of compassion when innocent children suffer loss of life. Imagine then the crescendo of passion and compassion emanating from the heart of humanity at this moment in time.

Haiti will arise glorious again with the energy, light and focus of the entire world community. Her people are noble and proud beings, endowed with incredible intelligence, talent, beauty, grace and charm. Thus she has been chosen as one of the special nations who will catapult humanity into a new awakening of consciousness for a whole new order globally. A leading nation in the recognition of the universal and inalienable rights and dignity of every human being, Haiti set the standard for humanity long time ago.

In the meantime the Bahamas has a unique opportunity to play a significant role in this event, for among all the nations in the world, proportionally, we have the largest population of Haitians and Haitian Bahamians outside of Haiti.

We certainly should expect this number to increase and should not be hesitant to permit such. Indeed the wide world will be looking at us and judging our spirit in terms of our accommodations in this regard.

However, since this event has occasioned a global response, we should not be afraid, for indeed we will earn and receive the necessary financial, technical and infrastructure assistance to do our part.

Haitians and Haitian Bahamians have struggled side by side with us to build our Bahamaland, and thus have earned the right and privilege to share our good fortunes. We should never be unmindful of the universal fact that we are just stewards of God's Earth and no owners thereof.

Therefore, when the exodus out of Haiti begins, we should not panic, but rather be prepared to do our part in a humanitarian and godly manner.

Undoubtedly, as this present situation is of gigantic proportions and attracting world-wide attention, then we will benefit from the United Nations protocols in whatever we are called upon to do. It is indeed very easy to call upon the compassion our Bahamian people; we have proven it time and time again. Thus our hearts are laid wide open at this critical moment.

Today we may very well say: "The Haitians are coming," but tomorrow, Florida and the US may very well be sounding the warning: "The Bahamians are coming." We know not the day our own migration may begin. The mere threat or warning of a possible tsunami rolling across the Bahamas should be sufficient to alert us to the fact of our own vulnerability for a similar massive event as has descended upon our sister island nation Haiti.

Our sentiments of love, shared sorrow and appreciation go out to all our beloved Haitian brothers and sisters at this time of their extreme pain and untold loss of so many and so much.

JOSEPH DARVILLE
Grand Bahama,
VP Grand
Bahama Human
Rights Association,
January 14, 2010.

Help for our sister nation

EDITOR, The Tribune.

In my humble opinion I think it is time for the countries of the Caribbean to come together under the auspices of CARICOM to take care of the administration of Haiti. In the absence of a clear governmental body to oversee the running of disaster management in Haiti, I think it is time for us to take care of our sister country until the government can take over again. An Administrative team can be put together with persons from member countries.

I also think it is terrible that people are being loaded into trucks and taken away without at least taking pictures to show to survivors who can then identify their family members.

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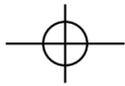
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LOCAL NEWS

Making a difference in stricken Haiti

Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church and Rotary Club join forces

WITHIN 24 hours after the devastating earthquake which struck Haiti on January 12, staff and executive officers of the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church (BMC) were in meetings, coordinating the response to the disaster.



Disaster in HAITI

the Rotary Club is headed by past rotary district governor Richard McCombe.

The strength of the Methodist Habitat has been its ability to organise a fleet of aircraft to fly the emergency supplies to Haiti, while the Rotary Club provided much of the funding and used its extensive distribution and logistics network within Haiti to deliver the supplies to medical facilities and relief camps in the region. Director of Methodist Habitat Abraham McIntyre said he sees the partnership between the two organisations as an excellent one.

"Methodist Habitat and the Rotary is a match made in heaven. Only God could have orchestrated such a move. Not only

have we been blessed with access to so many airplanes but with the Rotary alongside us we have been able to accomplish five times as much as we would have separately."

Matt Hansen and Cameron King, Methodist Habitat long-term volunteers and trained pilots, lead the way in coordinating the flight plans of the air fleet. In the five days of operations, the aircraft have made 29 successful trips into Cap Haitien - the hub of the Rotary's distribution network. Methodist Habitat flew its recently donated Beechcraft Barron, while other local and international pilots joined in the effort. Dave Spangler, a missionary pilot out of North Eleuthera, was a part of the first flight to Haiti and committed his plane to the ongoing effort in Haiti.

"Our disaster relief programme is all about partnerships. This is how we get to help so many people so quickly. We learned this in our successful relief efforts after Hurricane Ike," said Henry Knowles, general secretary of the Methodist Conference.

"Not only have we partnered with the Rotary Club of the Bahamas, but we have established successful partnerships with Odyssey Aviation, who pro-



MATT HANSEN, Methodist Habitat pilot; Abraham McIntyre, director of the Methodist Habitat; Charles Stites, volunteer pilot, and Henry Knowles, Methodist Conference general secretary.

vide us with the logistics and ground crew for our airplanes, and Pinder's Customs Brokers, Bahamas Waste and Martin's Trucking and Brokers have volunteered ground transportation for us in New Providence."

Queen's College and the Bahamas Methodist Conference recently held a successful donation drive for Haiti at the school's campus. Hundreds showed up to contribute to the effort.

Student and faculty of Queen's College and members of the Methodist community sorted and packed the items into boxes and labelled them in English and French. The boxes were then transported to the Methodist/Rotary staging area at the Western Medical Plaza, where scores of Rotarians from clubs throughout New Providence were on hand to unload the delivery trucks, consolidate the boxes and reload the trucks with supplies bound for the airport to be flown out to Haiti.

The Methodist Conference's first deliberate response to a natural disaster came in 1992 in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew

on the island of Eleuthera. The early beginning of the Methodist Disaster Relief Programme led to the establishing of a formal organization now known as Methodist Habitat, a full time outreach programme of the BMC, based at Camp Symonette in James' Cistern, Eleuthera.

Once the emergency phase of the Haiti disaster has passed, the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church has already organised itself to place volunteer teams within the communities to assist in the rebuilding process.

According to president Higgs, "The BMC has offered great assistance in the immediate relief efforts for Haiti through our airplanes but our other strong area is our ability to provide long-term, sustainable aid in the areas of home repairs and re-construction. We look forward to the opportunity to help rebuild Haiti."

"Our message for the people of the Bahamas in the wake of

the devastating earthquake is a simple one", said Mr Knowles. "Spread the word. Get involved. Commit to making a difference."

The Methodist Conference is making a plea for more financial support from the general public to assist with the fuel cost for the continual operation of the airplanes into Haiti. Donations can be made to the Methodist Habitat, Royal Bank of Canada, Mackey Street Branch, account number 1284553.

Haitians respond to Senegal offer of free land

By NOELLE NICOLLS Tribune Staff Reporter nicollsn@tribunemedia.net

THE Haitian community is expressing mixed reactions to the offer of free land and repatriation by the Senegalese president for people affected by the earthquake.

"For me that is a good idea. Every black comes from black Africa. Haitians come from Africa," said Marjorie Pierre, a Haitian-Bahamian, whose son has been living on the streets in Port-au-Prince after his home was destroyed in the earthquake.

The 7.0 magnitude earthquake, which struck the island nation last week, killed tens of thousands and left even more homeless.

The BBC reported Sunday that President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal committed to donate \$1 million in emergency aid to help Haiti, and was ready to offer Haitians parcels of land and voluntary repatriation to the West African nation, also a former-French colony.

"The president is offering voluntary repatriation to any Haitian that wants to return to their origin. If it's just a few individuals, then we will likely offer them housing or small pieces of land. If they come en masse we are ready to give them a region," said Mr Wade's spokesman, Mamadou Bemba Ndiaye.

Marim Jean said she was touched by the president's desire to help, but said she would not be interested in the offer.

"They have poverty over there too, and it is too far away. People might want to visit their family, but it is too expensive," she said.

Recalling the ancestral ties between Haiti and West Africa, President Wade said Haitians are entitled to a home in Africa. European colonisers extracted Africans from the continent, taking them to the Americas to work as slaves. While the offer by Senegal is appreciated, many feel that the geographical distance to Africa is too great.

"For me, I think that is too

far away. Africa is too far. They care now, but later on what is going to happen? They might feel different later on and then what will happen. I think it is better to send them closer," said a Haitian-Bahamian business owner.

The Senegalese president said African states should also move to naturalise those Haitians wishing to migrate, and if the numbers are sufficient, to create a new state entirely. He plans to put his proposals to the 53-nation African Union to solicit a buy-in from other African leaders.

The move would not be unprecedented. Liberia was created in 1821 to provide a home for freed Africans enslaved in the United States. Israel was formed in 1947 to provide a homeland for Jews displaced during the Holocaust.

With a population of 13 million, Senegal sits on the West African coast, bordering Mauritania, Mali, Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Gambia. Several African countries pledged help for Haiti. Rwanda and Liberia

pledged \$100,000 and \$50,000 respectively. The Democratic Republic of Congo pledged \$2.5 million. South Africa sent doctors and search and rescue teams.

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LOCAL NEWS

GB Red Cross coordinating committee to solicit Haiti aid



Disaster in HAITI

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – As the call continues for relief aid for the earthquake victims of Haiti, the Grand Bahama Red Cross has announced the establishment of a coordinating committee to officially solicit aid here on the island.

Dr George Charite, Grand Bahama Red Cross president,

said that the association has charged several adjunct committees with going into the community to solicit supplies on behalf of the Red Cross.

Those organisations are the Haitian Earthquake Assistance Committee headed by Jetta Baptiste, Operation TOUCH headed by community activist Troy Garvey, and the Grand Bahama Haitian Relief Committee headed by Jean Simon.

Dr Charite said that all disaster relief supplies on Grand Bahama are being directed to the Red Cross and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

“The international federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society has started a massive disaster response and recovery operation for the people of Haiti. It is imperative that the international community and humanitarian

organisations such as the Red Cross work together to tackle the survivors’ urgent needs and ensure that they can recover and move towards a safer future,” he said.

Dr Charite reported that more than 500 aid workers from the Caribbean and Central and South America national societies have arrived to assist with rescue, feeding and sheltering as well as assessment.

He said that plans are also underway for a team from Grand Bahama to travel to Haiti.

Dr Charite said a website has been established to help families reunite with loved ones in Haiti. The website is www.ICRC.org.

The Red Cross, he said, is also in the process of setting up a telephone service at their facility on Jobson Avenue in Freeport so that persons can contact their relatives in Haiti.

Jetta Baptiste said that free telephone service has been



JETTA BAPTISTE

established by the Haitian Earthquake Assistance Committee at 37 Hearn Lane. She urges persons wishing to make contact with relatives to stop by.

She said that support has been great from residents on Grand Bahama.

“We have gotten a lot of support from people across

the board and I want to thank everyone who has supported the relief effort.

“The response has been overwhelming and we want to encourage everyone to continue to donate because every little bit helps,” she said.

Ms Baptiste said that \$5,000 was raised and \$3,000 was pledged on Monday night during a special church service at St John’s Jubilee Cathedral. A bank account is open at Bank of the Bahamas.

But she said there is also need for volunteers to assist in Grand Bahama.

“We need trucks, we need persons to help with lifting boxes and we are trying to put together teams to go into Haiti and coordinate several fundraising activities,” she said.

Ms Baptiste said plans are being made for a special memorial service for those who have lost their loved ones. Persons who have lost relatives and friends in the earthquake are asked to contact the committee office at 352-2384 or 352-2407.

Grand Bahama resident David Wallace, co-chairman of relief efforts, said he felt compelled to assist after seeing the devastation in Haiti.

“We are attempting to, under the Grand Bahama Red Cross, to bring all donations together for Haiti.

“We want to make an appeal to the churches through the GBCC, schools, service clubs, business and corporate community to lend a helping hand,” he said.

Mr Wallace said a meeting was scheduled to be held at the Christ the King Church yesterday for all bodies here on Grand Bahama - churches, schools and the business community - to discuss the way forward in getting relief to Haiti.

“Our concern is that the supplies that are donated get out of Grand Bahama as quick as possible through the Red Cross.

“We wish that this effort can be duplicated in every island of the Bahamas, from Abaco, New Providence, Eleuthera, Exuma, and Long Island, because the reality is any ship that leaves Grand Bahama has to pass all of those islands to get to Haiti,” he said.

Mr Wallace said a meeting will be held tomorrow in Eight Mile Rock at the Mount Zion Baptist Church and next Monday in the Pinder’s Point area.

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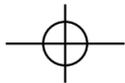
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LOCAL NEWS

Ministry, BAIC join forces to push artisans' products

MINISTRY OF TOURISM and Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation have joined forces to advance Bahamian-made handicraft internationally.

Additionally, well-known operatic performer Cleveland Williams has been named to head the Authentically Bahamian Unit in Tourism's Visitor Experience Department.

"The handicraft industry of the Bahamas is going to play an even greater role in the economy of this country," he said, "because more and more visitors are asking for these products."

"They hate to go into a store, pick up something, and see it is made in China or Thailand, or go into the straw market and, as opposed to buying Bahamian straw products, they are being sold knock-off bags and other things."

Mr Williams was a guest at the graduation ceremony last weekend for 25 South Andros students who took the BAIC course in coconut craft creation.

He said artisans are being urged to tap into the internet and utilise e-commerce to get their products to the international community.

"Our role is to promote and create opportunities, to promote the artisans and showcase them so they can sell their products not just nationally, but also internationally," said Mr Williams.

"We are looking into getting our artisans to attend international craft shows and, when we have craft shows, bringing international journalists from various craft magazines to write about them."

One of their goals, he said, is to have hotels and stores that sell souvenir goods to carry authentically Bahamian-made products.

"Artisans can now look forward to a better working relationship between the Ministry of Tourism's Authentically Bahamian Department and BAIC," he said.

"We are going to create more opportunities for them locally and internationally as we try to help them improve on their products through training."

He said it is important for vendors to consider e-commerce.

"The way of the world now is that everything is internet posting," Mr Williams said. "We are looking at some options like eBay."

"Buyers see the products online, contact the artisans, set up a payment system, and the products are shipped out to them. We encourage artisans to become business persons."

The Ministry of Tourism's Authentically Bahamian Craft Show continues this year, along with the BAIC BahamArts Festival, and regular Family Island community craft fairs.

BAIC executive chairman Edison Key encouraged graduates to tap into the estimated



Gladstone Thurston/BIS

SOUTH ANDROS Administrator Francita Neely (right), a graduate of BAIC's coconut craft course, presents executive chairman Edison Key and his wife Katie with a coconut boat.



CLEVELAND WILLIAMS (left), the head of the Ministry of Tourism's Authentically Bahamian Unit, BAIC's Handicraft Development and Marketing manager Donnalee Bowe (centre) and Emily Rahming, president of the South Andros Handicraft Manufacturers Association, admire products during last weekend's coconut craft graduation ceremony.



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\$300 million spent each year importing souvenirs.

"The excuse is that there are not sufficient Bahamian-made products for the millions of tourists who visit our islands each year," said Mr Key. "Well, I don't believe that for a moment."

"Last year alone we trained some 500 persons generally in straw, coconut and shell craft creations."

"Their works were all showcased at our internationally acclaimed BahamArts Festival."

Mr Key noted that steps are

being taken to rebuild the straw market in downtown Nassau.

"It is our hope that exclusively authentic Bahamian products will be sold there," he said.

The trainer for the South Andros coconut craft course was Emily Munnings of Savannah Sound, Eleuthera.

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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

PM names date for by-election

found some persons who have been placed in the wrong polling division in the same constituency.

"When we have completed our assessment we will make our information available to the registrar who has the authority to correct the register up to a certain period before the election day."

Noting how one can never be "confident" going into an election, the Prime Minister said that his party is neither presumptuous or arrogant, and will continue to appeal to voters to support them.

"Because we think we are the better of the two major parties to represent their interest

and promote their interest in Parliament in the governance of the Bahamas," he said.

As to how he was characterised by the PLP at their rally on Tuesday night, Mr Ingraham said that the people of Elizabeth are familiar with him — much more so than PLP leader Perry Christie.

"The people of Elizabeth, on the Elizabeth Estates side where the PLP got the majority of its support from, they know me. I am the one who created that subdivision. I did so within a year of being the Minister of

Housing. Mr Christie had been the Minister of Housing for five years before that and I don't think it ever entered his head to produce a subdivision called Elizabeth or by whatever name in that part of the island.

"The people of the Bahamas know me. I know the area fairly well. I travel it with some regularity as I do other parts of the Bahamas. Mr Christie would have great difficulty finding his way around that constituency because they are not places that he would normally frequent. So I know the area fairly well, and I am reasonably comfortable that people in Elizabeth will be responsive to our candidate who we think is a very good candidate who has some hands that are trusted," he said.

The Prime Minister also added in his defence that he is not dividing the country as the PLP has asserted.

"If the PLP is not the government of the Bahamas, everything else is wrong with the Bahamas. It is only when they win that things are all right. In every election since I have been leader of the FNM, the PLP has found fault with the election, the election process, you name it — except the one they won in 2002. So to divide the Bahamas in their



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham speaks to the media yesterday.

point of view means that they are not running the Bahamas.

"They have great difficulty coming to this reality, that is why Mr Christie said last night words to the effect that it is 'Hell now', which means he is living in Hell now because he is not the government.

"To live like an ordinary citizen as the Leader of Opposition is Hell for Perry Christie. And I can imagine because he really misses the job, that is why he puts these signs up there that says 'still the right man for the job'. Never mind that the Bahamian people said, 'no you are not', and 'no, we chose not to make you Prime Minister again'. He still thinks he is that.

He acts like that, sounds like that."

In fact, Mr Ingraham said that he did not need to consult with Mr Christie on his decision to release the detainees from the Detention Centre.

"If he was the PM of the Bahamas, they would still be going through consultation, and committees, while those Haitians languished down there at the Detention Centre," he said.

Former teacher wanted in Bahamas

FROM page one

as far as I am aware," he told reporters.

"We have made a request for his extradition. I am advised that his extradition hearing was to have a step in its proceeding and that some hearing was today, but I have no idea what transpired."

According to Mr Delaney, Birbal might be seeking to challenge his extradition to the Bahamas.

Birbal, a native of Trinidad, is one of three teachers accused of sexual misconduct with students at the Eight Mile Rock High School. He is wanted in the Bahamas on charges of unnatural sexual intercourse.

Last January, two former male students claim that Birbal molested them while they were students at the school.

Birbal, who has denied the accusations, fled the Bahamas last February. He was arrested on a traffic violation in New York last May.

During a check, US authorities discovered that Bahamian police had issued a warrant of arrest for Birbal with Interpol.

The Attorney General's Office in the Bahamas has since applied to US officials for Birbal's extradition.

Mr Delaney said the proceedings regarding Birbal extradition is an American matter.

"It is not a Bahamian matter at this point. It is an American proceeding, but it concerns the Bahamas so far as the Bahamas is requesting of the American jurisdiction that this person that is in their jurisdiction be delivered up and transferred to the Bahamas to stand trial for charges here," he explained.

The House of Assembly select committee to investigate alleged sexual molestation concerning the two former students at the Eight Mile Rock High School presented its report to Parliament on Wednesday.

The committee, chaired by Englerston MP Glenys Hanna Martin, convened hearings in Freeport on Friday, interviewing more than a dozen witnesses.

Mrs Hanna-Martin said the committee had written to the Attorney General four weeks ago inquiring as to what steps were being taken to procure the return of Birbal and the status of any proposed extradition proceedings, but had received no response.

Mr Delaney said the select committee would have received a hand delivered response to its inquiries today.

He noted that the Attorney General's Office had to make inquiries and was obtaining information from the United States.

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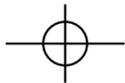
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LOCAL NEWS

The fourth annual Dr Martin Luther King Jr Essay Competition announced

JANUARY 15, 2010, marked what would have been the 81st birthday of Dr Martin Luther King Jr, American civil rights activist.

Martin Luther King Jr Day is celebrated in the United States on the third Monday in January. To honour the legacy of Dr King, the US Embassy has invited the youth of the Bahamas to participate in the Fourth Annual Martin Luther King Jr Essay Competition.

The contest is open to high school students in grades 10 through 12 in public and private schools in New Providence and the Family Islands. The competition will honour the memory of Dr King by challenging students to show how his philosophies and principles can address today's societal ills and challenges.

The theme of the essay competition is 'personal integrity', a principle that Dr King strongly believed in.

Dr King said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of com-

fort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Using this quote, students are asked to write an essay on the following:

"How can you or how have you demonstrated personal integrity and responsibility to improve conditions in your community?"

Students are asked to submit an essay of 750 to 1,000 words, typewritten and double spaced. The essays will be judged on originality, clarity of thought and organisation, grammar and spelling. Applicants are asked to provide the Committee with their full name, telephone contact, e-mail and mailing addresses, school name, and grade level.

The applicant's name should appear on each page.

All pages should be numbered. Applicants will be required to append a signed statement to the end of the essay attesting that it represents their original work.

Essays may be forwarded to one of the following addresses to be received on or before 12noon on Tuesday, January 26, 2010:

By e-mail:
• MLKessay@state.gov
• gibsonk@state.gov
• moxeyea@state.gov

By post:
• Martin Luther King Essay Committee; US Embassy; PO Box N-8197

By facsimile:
• 242-328-3495 or 242-326-5579

This year's contest will again award two first place

winners, one from New Providence and one from a Family Island with a laptop computer.

Overall prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place winners.

US Ambassador Nicole Avant will make the presentation of awards at a special ceremony on Friday, February 5.



Student collapses and dies during basketball game

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT - A 16-year-old student of Tabernacle Baptist Christian Academy collapsed and died during a basketball game last week Thursday.

According to reports, a game was in progress when the teen collapsed. He was taken to the Rand Memorial Hospital.

The student had a heart condition and was being treated for his condition by a local cardiologist in Freeport.

Efforts to reach Principal Norris Bain and other school officials were unsuccessful on Friday.

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LOCAL NEWS

Select Committee on Crown land

FROM page one



FRED MITCHELL

ications for any government held lands to be created along with proper time lines and the ability for the application to be tracked online.

“Your committee also believes that there ought to be stricter rules with regard to conflict of interest provisions, including rules which would obviate allegations of the equivalent of ‘insider trading’ as it is known in the area of publicly traded shares.

“In other words, there ought to be policies which limit or prohibit those who are directly responsible for the allocation of publicly held lands from benefiting or their family and friends benefiting from the disposition of those lands. It appears to us that this is the central complaint with regard to the disposition of the land at Forbes Hill and other lands. We believe that there is support for criminal sanctions including restitution and forfeiture where this is violated by any political figure or public servant,” Mr Mitchell said.

This entire ordeal was first brought to the public’s attention through a series of articles appearing in The Tribune from April 20, 2009 to June 3, 2009. During this period, the then Director of Lands and Surveys Tex Turnquest resigned from his post after it was revealed that members of his family and friends close to him obtained Crown land for less than \$2,500 a lot, then resold them for more than \$550,000 each.

Since then a number of other senior personnel within this department and the office of the Prime Minister were called to testify before the committee. Amongst the many issues that were raised, the report also highlighted that those with the political leadership were not paying close enough attention to what was transpiring directly under them.

Additionally, Mr Mitchell highlighted that some 500 acres of land on Norman’s Cay is still in the possession of the government. This question of Norman’s Cay was first raised by the former Minister and MP for Exuma George Smith who voiced his concern about the alienation of this land.

“The Permanent Secretary, Mr Davis, assured your Committee that the land in Norman’s Cay is still in the hands of the government. He said that the developers had pulled back as a result of the economic situation.

“With regard to the public owned lands at Norman’s Cay, your Committee supports the view that this is very valuable land that there ought to be full disclosure of all parties who are applying for the use of this land the government ought to be slow to alienate such significant portions of public held land on Norman’s Cay having regard to the heritage that ought to be left to Bahamians and any use of public lands at Norman’s Cay must be used to empower Bahamians,” he said.

Former Minister criticises decision to release detainees

FROM page one

move by the government to release 102 detainees and give them temporary status as one that will not “help people suffering in Haiti,” but will encourage a new wave of immigration from the earthquake-struck nation that could result in more Haitian deaths on the high seas.

Mr Roker suggested that those released and granted Temporary Protected Status will either take jobs that struggling Bahamians need, or may not be able to find jobs and will become a burden on Bahamian society.

While seeking to assert his empathy for the Haitian people and respect for their history of struggle, he raised the point that the Bahamas is experiencing the highest unemployment levels ever, and last year had a record murder rate.

He suggested that if government wants to help Haiti it should coordinate relief efforts and send donated supplies on Defence Force boats to the country and “those of us of Haitian abstraction can volunteer to go along and make sure those who need the goods get them.”

“The good thing about defence boats is that they don’t have to worry about the clogged up airport. They can get in a various points,” he added.

Mr Roker, who entered into the annals of Bahamian immigration history for his strict – some say over-zealous – enforcement of immigration laws during his

two-year stint as minister of immigration under Sir Lynden Pindling’s PLP government, made his comments at a press conference yesterday.

He stressed that he was not politically motivated and denied that his sentiments are “hard hearted.”

Mr Roker said that his empathy for the plight of the Haitians is revealed by the fact that in 1964 he provided successful pro-bono legal representation for four Haitians seeking political asylum in The Bahamas after fleeing their country, which was then under the control of dictator François Duvalier — “Papa Doc.” He added that he has “always had a Haitian barber.”

Sympathetic

“I’m sympathetic to Haiti. I’ve been there. I’ve seen how people live a terrible life. Poverty is everywhere.

“We are sympathetic to them, we ought to be, but the government of The Bahamas has an obligation to the people of the Bahamas.

“The first obligation. I don’t think we should take any action that will put at risk the Bahamian people,” he said.

Last week Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said that 102 Haitian detainees would be released from the Detention Centre and repatriations to Haiti suspended in view of the devastation sustained following the catastrophic magnitude 7.1 earthquake that struck just

over a week ago.

Hundreds of thousands are now estimated to have died as a result of the natural disaster and despite a vigorous international relief effort, thousands of people in affected areas are still without water, food, medical assistance and shelter.

Mr Ingraham noted that it is not known when any semblance of normalcy will be brought to Haiti and for this reason no timeline on when repatriation will begin again can be given.

“So it makes sense and it is compassionate not to keep them incarcerated indefinitely,” the Prime Minister said. He cried shame on those who criticised the “humane” move given the circumstances in Haiti.

In a slight shift in tone, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham told the Bahamian media on Sunday that any Haitians who come to The Bahamas illegally subsequent to the earthquake will find themselves charged before the courts with illegal entry and detained.

Minister of Immigration Brent Symonette said the

government will “review on a case-by-case basis” applications for work permits made by the 102 individuals, who will get Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in the Bahamas for six months.

The U.S. has also determined to make TPS available to Haitians living in the U.S. as of January 12, 2010 — the day the earthquake struck — for a period of 18 months.

Rights

The status gives them the same rights as U.S. citizens but does not apply to any Haitians who arrive illegally in the U.S. after the announcement was made.

Speaking of those detainees who were released in The Bahamas, Mr Roker asked: “How are they going to live while you have them here? At least at the Detention Centre they got food and shelter.”

“What will they do if they can’t find work? Don’t think those Haitians you let out of the Detention Centre will sit down and die.”

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- Preparation and Presentation of reports for senior management in Nassau, Zurich and New York.
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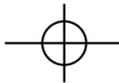
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sports

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2010

INSIDE • High School sports action



Warriors outlast Aces in overtime

By **RENALDO DORSETT**
Tribune Sports Reporter
rdorsett@tribunemedia.net

SHORTHANDED without leading scorers Leslie Wilson and Tivaughn Gibson, the Faith Temple Christian Academy Warriors, squandered a late lead in regulation, but with hot shooting in overtime, outlasted the Aquinas College Aces to escape with a narrow overtime win at home.

The Warriors outlasted the Aces for a 79-77 win at home in an attempt to keep pace with the pennant leading and defending champion Westminster Diplomats.

Chres Darling missed two possible game winning free throws at the end of regulation, but made a key free throw in overtime to give the Warriors a 77-74 lead with 18 seconds left to play.

Darling missed the second free throw, but Shavez Rolle grabbed the offensive rebound and scored to put the Warriors ahead 79-74 with just seconds to play.

Giovanni Sturupp made a late three pointer as time expired for the game's final margin.

The Warriors led 11-7 after the first quarter, but the Aces opened the second on a 9-3 run and took their first

lead of the game on a Cycarreo Colie layup for a 16-14 lead.

Javis Knowles regained the lead for the Warriors with a pair of baskets and Richard Munroe pushed the lead to four with a fast break layup, which capped a 6-0 run.

John Fowler scored on a pair of baskets in the paint to tie the game at 20, however the Warriors ended the half on a 6-0 run to take a 26-20 lead at intermission.

Munroe pulled up for a fast break three pointer midway through the third quarter to give the Warriors their biggest lead of the game, 42-34, but the Aces would again respond.

Fowler's put back sparked an 8-0 run capped by a John Wesley Ingraham jumper to tie the game at 42.

The final minute featured two ties and three lead changes and a buzzer beating layup by Ingraham gave the Aces a 47-46 lead headed into the fourth quarter.

Munroe took over much of the scoring load with Wilson and Gibson sidelined, and scored 21 of his game high 28 points in the second half.

Munroe opened the fourth with his own 7-2 run with a pair of layups followed by a three point play to take a 54-49 lead.

Darling nailed a fade away jumper and Munroe followed with a running layup to take a 60-52 lead with 1:41

left in regulation.

The Aces charged back with a frantic half court trap which forced a series of turnovers and an 8-0 run.

Collie tied the game at 60 with an acrobatic layup just before Darling was fouled and sent to the line with three seconds remaining.

Both teams scored at a much higher rate in the overtime period with the Warriors missing just two shots from the field in the final five minutes.

Overtime featured five times and six lead changes before the Warriors took charge for good.

Cooper gave the Aces a 72-71 lead, Stuart made one of two free throws and Fowler scored on an offensive rebound and put back for a 75-71 lead with 1:21 left to play.

Rolle scored on a timely three point play to pull the Warriors within one and Malone scored the go ahead layup on the next possession to give Faith Temple the lead for good.

Malone led four Warriors in double figures with 28.

Knowles finished with 17, Darling added 12 and Rolle chipped in with 10.

Fowler led the Aces with 24 points, Collie finished with 20, Sturupp added 11 and Charles Miller finished with nine.

More pictures on pg 14

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
No.46 of 2000

ROYMILLION HOLDINGS LIMITED

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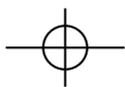
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SPORTS

Rattlers squeeze Stingrays

BY RENALDO DORSETT
Tribune Sports Reporter
rdorsett@tribunemedia.net

A PAIR of lopsided wins for playoff contenders highlighted play in the Government Secondary School Sports Association's Senior Girls division yesterday at the DW Davis Gymnasium.

CI GIBSON RATTLEERS - 32
CV BETHEL STINGRAYS - 15

The Stingrays scored on the opening and closing possessions of the first half, but went scoreless for almost 19 minutes in between which created an ultimately insurmountable deficit.

After Stingrays' guard Shatyna Stuart scored off the opening tip, the Rattlers responded with a 21-0 run over the remainder of the half.

Shaquille Bain's jumper with five seconds remaining in the half, ended the drought, but the Rattlers took a commanding 21-4 lead into the half.

Robin Gibson and Stevandre Wells were the early catalysts for the run, with most of their work on the defensive end of the floor.

Gibson started the run after she took a rebound and sparked her own fastbreak and finished with an assist to Wells to tie the game at two.

Wells harassed the Stingrays ballhandlers with constant pressure at halfcourt, taking them out of the halfcourt offensive set and forcing turnovers on steals or bad passes.

Her steal and subsequent fast-break lay-up, pushed the run to 12-0 as the Rattlers took their first ten point lead of the game midway through the first half.

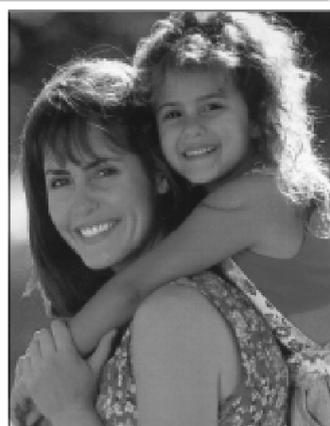
She fittingly scored the final two points of the run from the free throw line as the Rattlers took a 21-2 lead just before Bain's late jumper.

The Stingrays again reached the scoreboard first in the second half however maintained

SEE page 14

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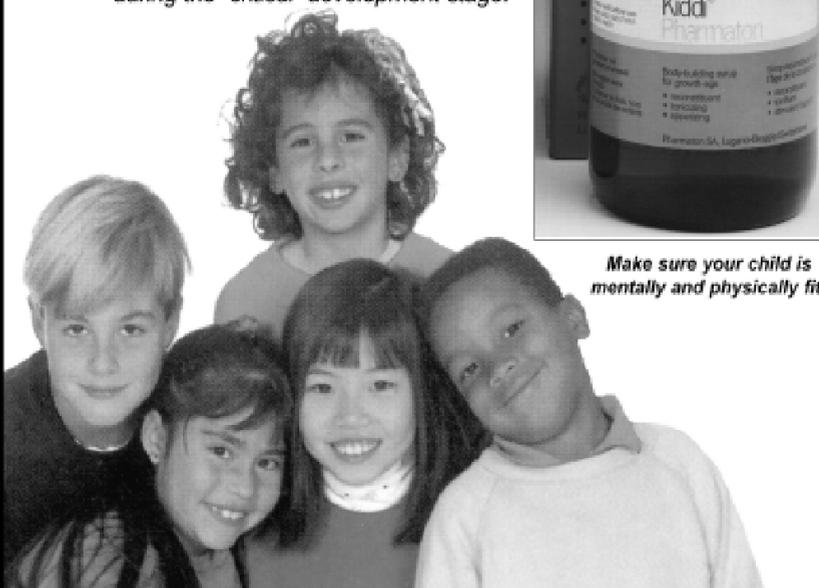
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Applications will be accepted until the registration deadline of 3:00 p.m. Friday, 29th January 2010.

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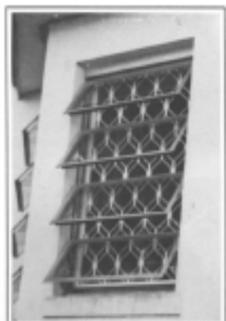
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SPORTS

WARRIORS OUTLAST ACES IN OT

(RIGHT) Faith Temple Richard Malone tries to get pass the Aquinas Aces defender.

(FAR RIGHT) Faith Temple Richard Malone pass the ball pass two Aquinas Aces defender.



FELIPE MAJOR/Photos



Rattlers squeeze Stingrays

FROM page 13

momentum to trim the deficit to single digits.

Kennisha Hart opened with a trio of free throws and Stuart came up with consecutive steals and fastbreak lay-ups.

Bain added another lay-up, followed by one of two free throws as the Stingrays came within nine, 21-12, early in the half.

The Rattlers finally reached the scoreboard when Wells made a pair from the line.

She scored seven of the Rattlers 11 points in the half as they maintained the advantage throughout.

Gibson finished with a game high 13 points, while Wells finished with 12 and Lornicka Seraphin added seven. Stuart led the Stingrays with six.

GHS MAGIC - 38 RM BAILEY PACERS - 15

Two of the hottest teams in the senior girls division came into yesterday's contest with winning streaks, however the Magic looked more like top contenders hoping to wrestle the title away from the defending champions.

The Magic led 19-8 at the half and gave up just two field goals in the second half to pull away in the route.

The Magic lead reached 20 for the first time when Marcelene St. Jean came up with a steal at half court and dished a behind the back pass to Nekythra Gilcud who finished for a 31-11 lead with 5:18 left to play.

With several players forced to leave the game due to injuries the Pacers were left without primary ballhandlers and feel victim to the Magic half court trap.

A runaway second half featured the Magic recording steal after steal and force feeding the ball to their bench players in an effort to have them reach the scoreboard.

St. Jean led the Magic with 11 points, while Gilcud added 10, while Chiquita Ferguson finished with nine, 3-3 from beyond the arch. Tonia-Kaye Johnson led the Pacers with six.



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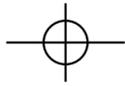
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2010

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Bahamian law not enforcing copyright 'to a large degree'

Bahamas required to amend civil law procedures for both EPA and WTO, report says, showing mammoth task ahead of nation on rules-based trading agreement compliance

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The Bahamas will have to amend its civil law procedures if it is to fully comply with its intellectual property rights obligations under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and World Trade Organisation (WTO), a confidential report has revealed, with its existing legislation "to a large degree" not tackling enforcement issues.

A report on whether Bahamian law complied with the WTO's Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) obligations, and those of the EPA, said the Bahamas needed to amend its civil law procedures to ensure they met the enforcement provisions demanded under both free trade agreements.

The report, written by Gabriel Stern and May Cheng of the US-based Fasken Martineau law firm, noted that Part III of TRIPS detailed issues such as "civil procedure, injunction, damages and indemnification of defendants in intellectual property (IP) infringement actions".

As a result, they concluded: "The Bahamas must therefore ensure that its general civil procedure is compliant with the enforcement obligations under TRIPS.

"Certain important issues that should be noted include the obligation under Article 43 to ensure that confidential information can be adequately protected during proceedings concerning IP infringement, as well as the obligation under Article 50 to ensure that provisional measures (such as to prevent IP infringement from occurring and to preserve evidence relevant to an alleged infringement) falls within the powers of the Bahamian judiciary."

The story was the same when it came to the EPA. The trade agreement that the Bahamas signed with the European Union (EU) and other Caribbean states requires this nation to implement intellectual property rights enforcement measures, something the report said "would need to be addressed by governmental policies or legislative changes beyond the scope of this review".

"Articles 153-160 of the EPA set out the enforcement measures that must be provided in national legislation for the protection of IP rights," the Fasken Martineau report said.

"These rules deal with issues including the evidence to be used during IP proceedings, injunctions and damages. The Bahamas must therefore ensure that its general civil procedure allows for the measures contemplated by the EPA. This is important, as Bahamian IP statutes apart from the Copyright Act do not deal with enforcement issues to a large degree."

The IP/copyright compliance report indicates just what a sizeable task the Bahamas faces in getting its legislation, regulation and government policies into compliance with its obligations

SEE page 12B

'Unlock' private capital to meet 20% GDP spend

- * Government has 'no choice' but to seek private investment for infrastructure projects
- * Bahamas 'as far as it wants to be' for fiscal comfort, and must 'catch' developed world on private finance initiatives

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The Bahamas has no choice but to enter into private-public partnerships (PPP) for the financing and management of key infrastructure assets, a senior accountant said yesterday, with its five-year investment in this area projected to be equivalent to almost 20 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Simon Townsend, KPMG Corporate Finance's managing director and a partner in KPMG (Bahamas), told Tribune Business that by entering into more PPPs with private sector capital and investors, the Government could "unlock a lot of capital" in this nation that was looking for a secure, but higher rate of return, destination.

He suggested that PPPs for physical assets such as airports, ports, roads and utilities, which normally lasted for several generations and improved both a country's capital stock and gross domestic product (GDP), would be attractive investments for the likes of Bahamian pension funds and life/health insurance companies, which were seeking long-term assets to match long-term liabilities.

"I don't think it does. It's got to look at innovative ways to develop the country's infrastructure," Mr Townsend said yesterday, when Tribune Business asked whether the Bahamian government had any choice but to enter more infrastructure PPPs, given its deteriorating fiscal position.

"We're not so much

behind, but we want to catch up with countries like the UK and Canada, where PPP has been in place for some time and successfully."

KPMG's latest study, *Island Economies and their Infrastructure: An outlook 2010 and beyond*, estimated that based on a capital expenditure budget of around \$200-\$300 million, the Bahamas' infrastructure spending for one year was equivalent to 4 per cent of GDP. Combined over five years, this infrastructure spend amounted to almost 20 per cent of GDP.

When measured against the Bahamas' national debt, the KPMG report said this nation's projected 2010 infrastructure investment was equivalent to almost 10 per cent of the national debt.

SEE page 10B

Bahamas 'lost much economic freedom' in '09

Nation downgraded over tax system, investment and copyright concerns, plus 'poor investment climate, characterised by government interference and lingering corruption'

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The Bahamas was among five Latin American/Caribbean nations that "lost significant amounts of economic freedom in 2009", dropping three points as a result of lower rankings in the areas of trade, investment and property rights.

The 2010 Index of Economic Freedom, released jointly yesterday by the right-wing US think-tank, the Heritage Foundation, and the Wall Street Journal, found that while this nation still ranked higher than the world and regional averages when it came to economic freedom, the Bahamas' needed to reform its tariff regime and reduce "government interference and corruption" that was undermining investment conditions.

While the Bahamas was ranked seventh out of 29 nations in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 47th out of 183 countries surveyed overall, beating the global and regional average, the 2010 Index of Economic Freedom report said: "Burdensome tariff and non-tariff barriers remain an area that needs proactive reform.

"A poor investment climate, characterised by government interference and lingering corruption, also undermines the Bahamas' overall economic freedom score."

When it came to trade freedom, the report gave the Bahamas a 42.2 per cent rating, compared to a global 74.2 per cent average, largely due to its tax regime, which is heavily reliant on import duties - perceived as a tariff barrier to trade.

Drawing on 2006 World Bank data, which said the Bahamas' weighted average tariff rate was 23.9 per cent, the 2010 Index of Economic Freedom report said: "High tariffs

SEE page 9B

Law reform to remove 'all doubt' on Freeport

- * Government to make amendments to enable Planning and Subdivisions Bill to be enforced in Freeport by July 1, 2010, deadline
- * Move intended to eliminate 'grey areas' and ensure 'there's no doubt as to who Government of the Bahamas is'
- * But designed to ensure no 'sacred cows' taken away from Hawksbill Creek Agreement

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The Government will "make all the legal arrangements" necessary to enable the Planning and Subdivisions Bill to be enforced in Freeport by the time it is implemented on July 1, 2010, a government minister told Tribune Business yesterday, amid concerns it could be challenged for conflicting with the Hawksbill Creek Agreement.

Dr Earl Deveaux, minister of the environment, who has responsibility for the Bill, said the Ingraham administration was planning legislative amendments to

SEE page 5B



EARL DEVEAUX

FAST plan over finance literacy

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Business Reporter
crobards@tribunemedia.net

A US-based financial literacy firm has offered to introduce its curriculum, Financial Advice for Students Today (FAST), to the Bahamas in order to help curb the 90 per cent financial illiteracy rate cited by a well-known Bahamian Businessman.

Director of FAST LLC, Joseph Johnson, yesterday said the programme has been well received in New York schools, where it has spread rapidly through area schools.

According to Mr Johnson, he encountered Tribune Business' article 'Bahamas 90% rate of finance illiteracy', which featured Dr Jonathan Rodgers' insight into the state of Bahamians' financial know-how.

SEE page 11B

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BUSINESS

Creating the best designer package

McKINNEY, BANCROFT & HUGHES ANNOUNCEMENT



The Partners of the law firm of **McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes**, Mareva House, 4 George Street, Nassau, The Bahamas are pleased to announce that **Timothy A. Eneas** has joined the partnership with effect from 1st January, 2010.

Mr. Eneas joined the firm in 2000 as an Associate engaged in a general commercial practice involving conveyancing, real estate development and commercial transactional matters. In 2004 Mr. Eneas joined the firm's litigation department where he continues to practice in collaboration with the firm's Senior Partner and head of the litigation department, Mr. Brian M. Moree, QC. Mr. Eneas' areas of expertise include commercial, corporate, trust and real estate litigation.

Mr. Eneas graduated from Boston University, Massachusetts, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History in 1995. He subsequently received a Bachelor of Laws Degree (LL.B., Hons.) from the University of Reading in England in 1998. He completed his formal legal studies at the Eugene Dupuch Law School where he obtained a Legal Education Certificate and was honoured for excellence in his final year. Mr. Eneas was admitted to The Bahamas Bar in 2000.

The Partners, Associates and Staff of McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes join in congratulating him on this achievement.



In today's competitive market, it is harder than ever to attract a consumer's attention. It is estimated that the average consumer spends less than a second scanning shelves and, in that time, will make a decision on whether or not to purchase any given product.

If you are that product's manufacturer, you want to make sure that in that critical timeframe the consumer will be drawn to your merchandise, have a desire to select, inspect and make a decision to buy it right away. Really? Absolutely. The discipline of package design focuses on producing a container that will get noticed immediately.

By skillfully teaming colourful graphics, a unique shape or any other eye-arresting method, the package designer is a key player in any company's marketing effort. No matter how beneficial the product inside the container may be, unless a consumer decides to pick it up, that product will never get tested.

Retailers are not allowing things to remain on the shelves very long unless they sell. Because of packaging and product competition, you've got to do more to attract a buyer to your product.

Simply defined, package design is the discipline of creating the container, graphics and visible outer presence of a product, which may range from a simple bottle and label to an elaborate box or system of boxes and inner packaging.

Although graphic designers and others might dabble in it, the three-dimensional nature of package design separates it from other creative disciplines. In addition to the visual element, other considerations such as the material to make the package and the manufacturing capabilities come into play.

To the uninitiated, the practice of package design may seem simple. As far as I know, no one has ever died of poor package design, but I think some products have failed because of this.

While there is an esthetic element involved, package design is first and foremost an important component in



THE ART OF GRAPHIX

DEIDRE M BASTIAN

the designer is involved early on, we can give a full range of ideas and ensure that each design solution is appropriate for that audience. So in order not to disturb the integrity of the package, we strongly recommend that the job is supervised all the way through production by the designer.

When a product goes global, package designers are faced with a new set of parameters. Not only might the product be sold in a place where English is not spoken but, more than likely, the western alphabet is not used either. The truth of the matter is: You've got to do a lot more homework in that environment to design packaging that's appropriate and communicates to the consumer what's inside that packaging.

From wherever the design work originates, companies are more aware of the need to have the right sort of packaging to make a visual impact in the fraction of a second the consumer's eye meets the product on a shelf. Research has shown that the greater percentages of products that are being packaged and put out there for the 'first time' don't usually succeed.

In this critical instant, the success or failure of a product rests on the skill, knowledge and talent of the package designer. As I noted earlier, there is an esthetic element involved. Thus 'package design' is first and foremost an important component in creating sales.

Nonetheless, it is wise for distributors or manufacturers to research the entire fundamentals of packaging, team up with a good designer, tap the market to feel the competition and randomly scan the labelling on some shelf-items to see if certain product packaging actually catches the eyes at first glance. Even so, it is known in this industry that package design can either sink the product, or make it fly.

Have fun and stay on top your game.

The author can be contacted at either:
deedee2111@hotmail.com
or deedeemb@gmail.com

"From wherever the design work originates, companies are more aware of the need to have the right sort of packaging to make a visual impact in the fraction of a second the consumer's eye meets the product on a shelf."

creating sales. Repeat sales and follow-up business require the product inside the package to meet the expectations that the package sets up.

Whatever communication the product sets up with the consumer, it has to follow through and the product has to match that visual representation.

Indeed, there's more to package design than creating an interesting looking box. When a package designer is hired for a job, they usually receive a 'design brief' from the client, which provides basic information about the product, its target audience and its uses, as well as container-specific information such as the volume it needs to hold and how it will be packed and displayed. Budget information will also provide the designer with parameters needed to determine the necessary materials and manufacturing process for the package.

The skills required for package design go beyond a good sense of design. To do a proper job, a package designer needs to combine the knowledge of a structural engineer with the esthetic sense of a graphic designer.

Packaging design is not just about looking good, it is technically oriented and requires a fairly in-depth knowledge of printing and production as well. I believe it is beneficial if the designer is involved in a project from the early stages. When

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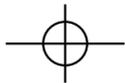
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BUSINESS

Law reform to remove 'all doubt' on Freeport

FROM page 1B

was planning legislative amendments to ensure "there's no doubt in law as to who the Government of the Bahamas is", eliminating "grey areas" and making sure it has jurisdiction over the entire Bahamas - including Freeport.

The minister was responding to concerns put to him by Tribune Business, after this newspaper was informed that the Planning and Subdivision Bill's wording indicated it was designed to apply to Freeport - implying that it might conflict with the Hawksbill Creek Agreement and the Grand Bahama Port Authority's (GBPA) ability to run the Port area.

Intention

"It is our intention to bring the law into effect by July, and by July we will have made all the legal arrangements to avoid the predicament you indicated," Dr Deveaux told Tribune Business.

"We will resolve that matter legally, so there's no doubt in law as to who the Government of the Bahamas is, without renegeing on any sacred cows in the Hawksbill Creek Agreement. If they have any intent to challenge, I hope it will be clarified before then."

One attorney with intimate knowledge of the Hawksbill Creek Agreement, Fred Smith QC, the Callenders & Co attorney and partner, said the language in the Planning and Subdivisions Bill indicated that the Government wanted it to apply to Freeport with the Port Authority administering it.

While commending the Government for attempting to bring proper management and due process to development in the Bahamas, Mr Smith said Freeport had a "peculiar jurisdiction" under the Hawksbill Creek Agreement.

"Many cases in the Supreme Court repeatedly held that matters which are governed by the provisions of the Hawksbill Creek Agreement cannot be the subject of legislation which applies to the rest of the Bahamas," he added.

"One of the areas which is reserved to the GBPA and the Grand Bahama Development Company is the management and purchase of real estate." Also under the GBPA's preserve was the regulation of architects, contractors, the building code, waste management, utilities and public spaces.

"To the extent this Bill attempts to override the Hawksbill Creek Agreement, I have no doubt it will be held void and not apply to Freeport," Mr Smith told Tribune Business.

However, he acknowledged that under the 1968 amendment to the Hawksbill Creek Agreement, by statutory instrument the minister responsible could make a law applicable to Freeport, provided that the GBPA wanted and had requested it. This, Mr Smith said, could be the situation in regard to the Planning and Subdivision Bill.

Wording

"It depends on the ultimate wording of the Bill when it becomes an Act, and depends on whether there's been co-operation and engagement between the Government and Port Authority in signing a statutory instrument that does not have to go to Parliament," he added.

"There is provision for co-operation, the adoption of by-laws drafted by the Port Authority, or legislation the Port Authority wishes to incorporate by reference.

"I do hope that at this stage there is some active engagement between the Port Authority, Devco and the Government on the Planning and Subdivisions Act. It would be a great pity if the Government was acting without regard to the Port Authority, and also if the Port Authority was not initiating proactive steps to ensure there is co-operation in the development of the regulations and laws on this issue."

Dr Deveaux confirmed there had been consultation with the GBPA, adding: "The Port has no objection to the Bill and

supports the main tenets of the Bill.

"The Port does not want to give up its rights under the Bill, and we do not want to take

them away."

However, Dr Deveaux said there were "certain grey areas" the Government wanted to amend to "be clear the

Bahamas is the Bahamas. We are seeking to ensure the Government has full authority to do this".

He pointed out that a similar

situation had arisen with the Communications Act, as the sale of the Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) via privatisation would effec-

tively licence the GBPA, which has the right to provide phone services under the Hawksbill Creek Agreement, to do exactly this.



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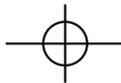
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BUSINESS

Business community unveils Haiti telethon

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

THE BAHAMAS Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Associations in the Bahamas announced yesterday a two-day telethon and concert to rally Bahamian donations for

Earthquake Victims in Haiti. President of the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce, Khaalis Rolle, said response to the devastation had been overwhelming and there was now no "way you can question the relationship between Haiti and the Bahamas". He said this initiative to

raise money for the people of Haiti underscored how important Haiti was to the Bahamas, and how important the Bahamas is to Haiti.

"This plan began with a simple phone call and has mushroomed into a massive event with so many individuals, media houses and businesses contributing time and energy, because of the importance of the mission, to help provide funds for the search and rescue, for medical attention and, once the initial shock has begun to ebb, to begin the lengthy process of rebuilding," said Mr Rolle.

The Telethon will be aired next Monday, January 25, and Tuesday, January 26, and will be simulcast live by ZNS, JCN and Cable 12 from the telethon's headquarters at the British Colonial Hilton from 8 to 10 pm.

Chairman of Disaster relief, Rotary Bahamas, Janet Johnson, said monetary donations were extremely important for the relief effort in Haiti, as many of agencies on the ground need to purchase supplies.

She said Rotary associations from across the Caribbean have partnered with their local Chamber of Commerce to assist in the relief effort.

She said the two-hour telecast was being made possible by local television stations and a 50-receiver phone bank donated by the Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC).

Marlon Johnson, BTC's vice-president of marketing, sales and business development, said the donation of the phones and numbers was the least they could do for the telethon initiative. They were also running a text-to-donate drive beginning today.

Haiti's Ambassador to the Bahamas, Louis Joseph,

SEE page 8B

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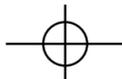
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- **Be cheerful, enthusiastic, punctual and presentable**
- **Have worked in the General Insurance Sector for at least five years.**

Please apply **by email only** to info@picinsure.com.
No phone call or faxes will be entertained.

BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce Philip Simon (left seated), Diane Phillips of Diane Philips and Associates and the Chamber's President, Khaalis Rolle, look on as BTC's Vice President of Marketing Marlon Johnson speaks to the media about the upcoming National Telethon.

Financial Controller

A Bahamian owned group of companies is seeking a financial controller. Applicants should possess the following qualifications.

Knowledge and Education:

- 1) A professional accounting designation (CA or CPA)
- 2) A minimum of five years industry experience as a financial controller in managerial capacity.

Skills:

- 1) Excellent interpersonal skills
- 2) Excellent managerial skills
- 3) Strong computer skills
- 4) Strong analytical skills
- 5) Strong oral and written skills
- 6) Able to work in a very dynamic environment

Job responsibilities include the following:

- 1) Supervising the complete accounting cycle for five companies
- 2) Preparing monthly financial statements for five companies
- 3) Human resources function including payroll for 120 plus employees
- 4) Co-ordinating all other areas of the business to ensure optimal efficiency
- 5) Dealing with all government reporting requirements
- 6) Dealing with all shareholder inquiries

Interested persons should apply no later than February 15, 2010.

Apply to:

DA 61942
c/o The Tribune
P.O. Box N-3207
Nassau, Bahamas

Haiti telethon**FROM page 7B**

thanked the Bahamas for contributing to the relief efforts in his country. He recounted the stories of countless dead and missing countrymen, which he is kept abreast of on a daily basis.

"The Haitian government and the people of Haiti are touched to see the response of the international community, including the Bahamas," said Mr Joseph.

Tuesday's telethon will be broadcast from both the Hilton and Arawak Cay, where a Haiti Relief concert, devised by Ronald Simms and Fred Ferguson, will be going on live. Entertainers such as Tada, Visage, Ira Storr and Sammi Star are expected to perform, as well as many well-known Bahamian spoken word artists.

Executive director of the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce, Philip Simon, said the Barbados Chamber of Commerce raised up to \$1.3 million in five hours with a similar initiative.

Telethon Coordinator, Diane Phillips, said there were many entities who have come together to make the telethon possible, and lauded the level of support from the Haitian community from the people of the Bahamas.

"The immense outpouring of support is a reflection of the heartfelt sympathy by people in the Bahamas for victims of the tragedy that continues to unfold before our eyes," she said.

INSIGHT

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



Position Announcement General Manager Airport Authority

The Airport Authority at Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA) seeks a full-time General Manager to support the activities of the Airport Authority's Board and to manage and direct the safety and security operations of LPIA.

All Candidates must possess:

A college degree and a minimum of five years successful experience in a senior management level position.

- * Experience with airport aviation and security matters is desirable but not essential.

The General Manager will serve as Secretary to the Board and will be responsible to the Board for:

Liaisons with Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD), for planning, development and maintenance of LPIA in accordance with contractual matters.

Planning, organizing and managing the affairs of the Airport Authority.

Oversight for safety, security and maintaining security at accepted international standards.

Working in concert with the CEO of NAD, securing and maintaining a high level of cooperation and coordination between all airport stakeholders, including Bahamas Customs and Immigration officials, the Royal Bahamas Police Force, United States officials, airline operators and others.

Ensuring that disaster preparedness and crisis management plans are in place and appropriate training is provided.

Competitive salary and benefits offered. Applications are to be received no later than Friday 17th February, 2010. Interested applicants should forward a cover letter and resume to:

**General Manager's Position
Attention: Office of the Chairman
Airport Authority
Lynden Pindling International Airport
P.O. Box, AP-59222
Nassau, Bahamas**

Or Hand Deliver To:

**General Manager's Position
Attention: Office of the Chairman
Airport Authority
Lynden Pindling International Airport
Nassau, Bahamas**

LIQUIDATOR'S NOTICE

CLICO (Bahamas) Limited (In Liquidation)

The properties listed below are being sold by Mr. Craig A. (Tony) Gomez, Official Liquidator of Clico (Bahamas) Limited (In Liquidation).

Sealed offers should be sent to the following address:

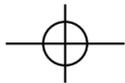
Mr. Craig A. (Tony) Gomez
Official Liquidator
The Deanery
No. 28 Cumberland Street
P.O. Box N-1991
Nassau, Bahamas

Attention: Real estate

Lot details	Property description	Property location
Lot #1, Block 19	2 - storey office building - 5,335 sq. ft.	Western side of Mount Royal Avenue and Talbot Street, 2 blocks south of Madeira Street
Lot #s 2, 9, 10 & a portion of lot #3, Block 19	Two (2) 2 - storey office buildings - 9,468 sq. ft.	Western side of Mount Royal Avenue and Carew Street, 3 blocks south of Madeira Street
Lot # 30, Block 6	Office building and a small rental office on ground floor - 3,092 sq. ft.	Northern side of Thompson Blvd., opposite the western end of the Police training College
Lot # 583	2 - storey office building - 2,780 sq. ft.	Carmichael Road, opposite Bahamas Faith Ministries' entrance.
Lot # 5, Block L	2 - storey office building - 5,065 sq. ft.	Freeport Grand Bahama, west side of West Atlantic Drive, 1/6 mile south of Adventurers Way
Lot #s 1, 2, 25 and 26, Block 15	Centreville Medical Centre, rental office space - 15,313 sq. ft.	Southwestern corner of Collins Avenue and Sixth Terrace (Gibbs Corner)
Lot #s 20, 21 and 22, Block 18	Building No. 111, yellow one storey family residence converted into an office building - 2,734 sq. ft.	Northeastern corner of Mount Royal Avenue and Carew Street
Lot #s 29 and 31	Vacant pink house and apartments, adjacent to Clico's office building - 4,668 sq. ft.	Western side of Montrose Avenue, (Sears Hill) North, 1/8 mile north of Rosetta Street
Vacant parcel of land	Vacant parcel of land - 42,750 sq. ft.	Western side of Montrose Avenue, (Sears Hill) North, at the rear of Clico's office building, 1/8 mile north of Rosetta Street
Lot # 1, Block 1	Vacant parcel of land - 8,650 sq. ft.	Regency Park Subdivision, Northwestern corner of Soldier Road and Prince Charles Drive
Vacant parcel of land	Vacant parcel of land - 34,994 sq. ft.	125 feet east of Mount Royal Avenue, opposite The Bahamas Immigration Office, 1/8 mile south of Shirley Street

For further information or to view properties, kindly contact Mr. Craig A. (Tony) Gomez or Mr. Edward R. Rolle at telephone (242) 356-4114.

The Liquidator reserves the right to refuse any or all offers submitted.



BUSINESS

The Bahamas 'lost much economic freedom' in '09

FROM page 1B

and a 'Stamp' tax on certain imports, high duties that protect a few agricultural items and consumer goods, occasional import bans, and some import licensing and permits add to the cost of trade.

"Ten points were deducted from the Bahamas' trade freedom score to account for non-tariff barriers."

On investment, another low point for the Bahamas as far as the Heritage Foundation was concerned, this nation was downgraded as a result of the National Investment Policy exclusively reserving numerous industries - such as wholesale and retail operations - for Bahamian ownership only.

And the 2010 Index of Economic Freedom report added: "New foreign ventures perceived as competing with existing Bahamian businesses may face loss or refusal of business licenses."

Other factors that contributed to the Bahamas suffering a 30 per cent score on investment freedom were the need for government approval for foreigners to buy commercial property or land greater than five acres, the need for approval of all foreign direct investment, and the existence of exchange control.

When it came to property rights, the 2010 Index of Economic Freedom reduced the Bahamas' rating not because of difficulties when it came to land transactions, but copyright/intellectual property rights. "Copyright laws are widely ignored, and there is widespread piracy of video and music recordings and broadcasts," the report said. While the Government implemented anti-corruption laws effectively, the 2010 Index of Economic Freedom added: "Piracy of software, music and video is a problem."

Ultimately, the Bahamas only enjoyed a 55 per cent score when it came to freedom from corruption, albeit a rating higher than the 45 per cent global average. Although he had not

seen the 2010 Index of Economic Freedom, Rick Lowe, an executive with the Nassau Institute, which is involved in a similar annual exercise with the Canada-based Fraser Institute, said: "It's obvious that there's more government interference."

"We keep expanding the wrong areas of government. The Government is taking more and more control, and trusting the entrepreneur less and less. Economic freedom helps grow a country, and when you get the Government clamping down it slows growth down."

"Obviously, things are headed in the wrong direction, and instead of government paying attention to this they're ignoring it at our own peril."

Pointing to the various trade agreements the Bahamas was signing on to, such as the Economic Partnership Agreement

(EPA), and seeking full World Trade Organisation (WTO) membership, Mr Lowe added: "As the world gets tighter and we sign on to more of these things, we're going to be held more accountable."

"We're going to be faced with more of it, so it's time for the Government to become more transparent."

On the plus side, the 2010 Index of Economic Freedom acknowledged that the Bahamas was one of the Caribbean's "most prosperous countries", with "a very competitive tax regime", flexible labour market and somewhat efficient regulatory environment. Government spending, pegged at 23.4 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), was described as "relatively low", with tax revenues coming to 21.8 per cent of GDP.

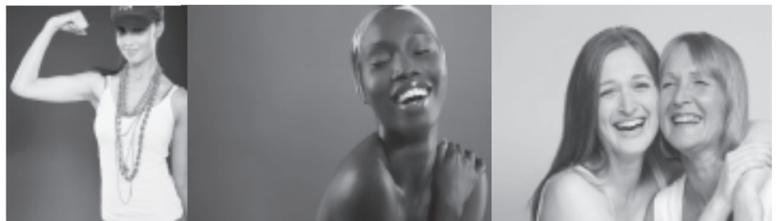
JOB OPPORTUNITY

Building Engineer / Superintendent - to oversee day-to-day management, maintenance and repairs of a leading office building, coordination of maintenance providers, coordination and supervision of repairs and maintenance.

Must demonstrate a continuous effort to improve operations, decrease turnaround times, streamline work processes and to work cooperatively and jointly to provide quality seamless customer service.

Qualifications: Basic hands-on knowledge and experience with air-conditioning systems, plumbing systems, electrical systems, fire & safety systems, standby emergency power systems and related preventative maintenance programs. At least five years experience in senior management position, excellent communication skills, excellent organizational skills, must possess a "hands-on" approach and must be self-motivated.

Qualified applicants are to fax (394-7069) a current and complete resume by January 22nd, 2010.



DOCTORS HOSPITAL DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

THIS MONTHS TOPIC: You CAN Prevent Cervical Cancer!



SPEAKER:
Dr. Jamil Minnis
Obstetrics & Gynecology

LECTURE DATE

Thursday, January 21st '10 @ 6PM
Doctors Hospital Conference Room
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Please join us as our guest every third Thursday of the month for this scintillating series of the most relevant health issues affecting society today.

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To educate the public about the important health issues, presented by distinguished physicians.

Screenings:

Get your *Free* Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, and Glucose testing between 5pm & 6pm.

RSVP:

To ensure available seating
Phone: 302-4603

LECTURE SERIES SCHEDULE

January 21 '10

Cervical Cancer Screenings
Dr. Jamil Minnis

February 19 '10

Heart Health
T B A

March 19 '10

Kidney Health
Dr. Ada Thompson

April 16 '10

Cancer Awareness
Dr. Wesley Francis



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JOB OPPORTUNITY

A leading resort has a career opportunity for an experienced **Manager of Engineering**. You should be an experienced maintenance professional who is proactive and able to develop, coordinate and assist with supervision of an engineering team of approximately 14 staff. Previous Hotel maintenance experience and a proven track record of success are required.

- Implement and help to manage and uphold a maintenance program for the property and all of the equipment in compliance with corporate standards and regulations to ensure the safety, convenience and satisfaction of all guests, managers and employees to protect the assets and maintain the property in first-class condition.
- Ensure compliance with safety and sanitation standard.
- Communicate, respond and attend to guest repair requests.
- Fix minor plumbing problems and perform miscellaneous minor repairs.
- Maintain daily logs of operation, maintenance, and safety activities as well as follow all company and safety and security policies and procedures;
- Report when engineering/maintenance work orders are completed and ensure that all departments are advised of completion.
- Fill in for staff where necessary.
- Assist with department to attract, retain and motivate the staff; hire, train, develop, empower, coach and counsel, conduct performance and salary reviews and resolve problems.
- Administrative functions such as assigning staff to specific duties and tasks, scheduling, reports, disciplinary issues and implementing engineering operations policies and procedures.
- Create a courteous friendly, professional, work environment through open line of communication.
- Other duties as required

Job Qualifications:

- Minimum 4 years of experience in a similar position.
- Electrical and/or plumbing and/or carpentry certified.
- Superior leadership and management capabilities including a proven ability to work in a dynamic and challenging work environment.
- Attention to detail and personal integrity.
- Attributes include strong interpersonal skills, organization, self-motivated, assured, persuasive and positive personal image.
- Effective communication skills with individuals at all levels of the organization.
- Excellent computer skills including MS Word, Outlook, PowerPoint & Excel as well as time-keeping.
- Union experience helpful.

For consideration please fax a current resume along with references to:
Attention: - Human Resources Manager - 242-363-6822 or e-mail to HRRecruitment@starwoodvo.com

BUSINESS

'Unlock' private capital to meet 20% GDP spend

FROM page 1B

Over five years, the Bahamas' projected infrastructure investment - based on a capital expenditure budget of \$300 million per year - would be equivalent to about 40-50 per cent of the national debt.

The Government, given its deteriorating fiscal position, with the national debt-to-GDP ratio above 50 per cent and the fiscal deficit estimated to be at least 4.5

per cent, has little room to increase its capital spending budget. This, in turn, is creating a financing gap, with the Bahamas' infrastructure needs estimated by KPMG to total \$2.1 billion over the next five years - a gap that could be filled with private capital.

Mr Townend said it was difficult to compare debt levels between countries, "but certainly the Bahamas is as far as it wants to go from a comfort perspective,

and to protect its credit rating and so forth".

In addition, the responses of Bahamian officials "fell within the majority" of the 15 countries surveyed when it came to the adequacy of the existing infrastructure. Some 89 per cent of respondents to the KPMG survey said the state of existing infrastructure in their countries was either "average or below average", with almost all believing their nation's strategy in this area was

"either not very well defined or managed, or very short-term in nature".

Some 66 per cent of officials surveyed said the execution of infrastructure projects was "average or inefficient", with 60 per cent stating that projects were "never or rarely" finished on time. Some 60 per cent of projects were never or rarely completed on budget.

Mr Townend said: "Infrastructure not only creates jobs and economic activity,

it also has the impact of making a country more competitive and increasing GDP."

A modern infrastructure, and better/more efficient delivery of services, both boosted GDP and encouraged more foreign direct investment.

Pointing out that "a true PPP" involved the private sector managing infrastructure assets to ensure services were delivered more efficiently, Mr Townend said: "If the Government entered into more PPPs, it allows us to accelerate the infrastructure build-out and hopefully makes the delivery of services better."

He added: "Infrastructure is a great investment for institutions and pension funds with the right balance of risk and reward. A lot of money could flow from the private sector into infrastructure projects from pension funds, who are looking for a stable, long-term project to invest in with a higher rate of return than government securities.

"There's a lot of capital in the Bahamas that could be unlocked to invest in infrastructure, and the Government will have less onus on its finances. But it takes PPPs to make these things happen."



Temple Christian High School

Temple Christian High School

Entrance Examination 2010 - 2011

Temple Christian High School will hold its Entrance Examination on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6th, 2010 at the school on Shirley Street from 8:00a.m. - 12noon for students wishing to enter grades, 7,8,9 and 10.

Application forms are available at the High School Office. The application fee is twenty five dollars (\$25.00). Application forms should be completed and returned to the school by Friday, February 5th, 2010.

For further information please call 394-4481 or 394-4484

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that ROSE KENNY JOSEPH ROMAIN of PINEDALE, EIGHT MILE ROCK, GRAND BAHAMA, BAHAMAS, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 21st day of JANUARY, 2010 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

IN THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL DEWESE SWEETING (aka Michael Dewees Sweeting) late of York Avenue, Gleniston Gardens in the Eastern District of the Island of New Providence, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claim or demand against the above Estate are required to send the same duly certified in writing to the Undersigned on or before the 15th day of February, A.D. 2010, after which date the Executrix will proceed to distribute the assets having regard only to the claims of which she shall then have had notice.

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

E. DAWSON ROBERTS & COMPANY
Attorneys for the Executrix
Chambers,
P.O. Box N-918
Magna Carta Court,
Parliament & Shirley Streets,
Nassau, Bahamas.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS IN THE SUPREME COURT

Probate Side

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF In the Estate of Leroy Hutchinson late of Golden Gate #2 in the Western District of the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having claim or demand against the above Estate are required to send the same duly certified in writing to the undersigned on or before Wednesday the 24th day of February, A.D. 2010 after which date the Administratrix will proceed to distribute the assets having regard only to claims of which she shall there have had notice.

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

CHILCOTT CHAMBERS
131 Shirley Street
P.O. Box SP-60737
Nassau, The Bahamas
Attorneys for the Administratrix



SAINT AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE

2010 ENTRANCE EXAM

The Entrance Examination for students wishing to enter Grade Seven at St. Augustine's College for September, 2010 will be given **Friday, January 29th, 2010**

Deadline for registration for this examination is Friday January 22nd.

Eligible students may register at their Primary Schools or at St. Augustine's College. **Only** Students in Grade Six will be allowed to sit the Entrance Exam.

SUPREME COURT
AUG 04 2009
COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2009
IN THE SUPREME COURT
NASSAU, BAHAMA/EL/GEN No. 01169
Common Law & Equity Side

IN THE MATTER of the real property comprised of 27 acres situated approximately one mile Northwest of the Settlement of Simms, Long Island in The Commonwealth of The Bahamas and having such position, boundaries, marks and dimensions as are shown on the diagram or plan attached to a Deed of Partition dated the 25th day of June 1993 and made between Ronald Winston Simms and others and now of record in the Registry of Records in Volume 6256 at pages 40 to 52 and edged thereon in yellow.

AND IN THE MATTER of the Conveyancing and Law of Property Act, Chapter 138 of the Laws of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

BETWEEN
LAWRENCE CASE Plaintiff
AND
MICHAEL COLIN QUIRKE Defendant
TO: Michael Colin Quirke

Let the above-named Defendant within 14 days after service of this Originating Summons on him inclusive of the day of such service, cause an appearance to be entered for him to this Summons which is issued on the application of the Plaintiff, Lawrence Case of 1511 South East Twenty Fourth Terrace, Pompano Beach, Florida 33062, USA via Glinton Sweeting O'Brien, Chambers, 303 Shirley Street, Nassau, Bahamas.

By this Summons, the Plaintiff seeks the following relief:-

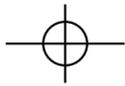
- Delivery by the Defendant to the Plaintiff of possession of all that real property comprised of 27 acres situated approximately one mile Northwest of the Settlement of Simms, Long Island in The Commonwealth of The Bahamas and having such position, boundaries, marks and dimensions as are shown on the diagram or plan attached to a Deed of Partition dated the 25th day of June 1993 and made between Ronald Winston Simms and others and now of record in the Registry of Records in Volume 6256 at pages 40 to 52 and edged thereon in yellow.
- Foreclosure of the said real property referred to above.
- Further and other relief.
- Costs.

If the Defendant does not enter an Appearance, such judgment may be given or Order made against or in relation to him as the Court may think just and expedient.

Dated this 4th day of August A. D. 2009.

REGISTRAR

This Originating Summons was taken out by Messrs. GLINTON | SWEETING | O'BRIEN of Chambers, 303 Shirley Street, Nassau, Bahamas, Attorneys for the Plaintiff.



BUSINESS

FAST plan over finance literacy

FROM page 1B

With world economies in a slump, Mr Johnson said now was a great opportunity to educate high school-aged children on banking, credit cards and paying for college.

"In my view, financial matters impact everyone, but they are not taught how to balance a cheque book or how credit cards work," he said.

He added that FAST was a four-session financial literacy curriculum that can be integrated into a mathematics, social studies or economics classroom.

Dr Rodgers told the Bahamas Business Outlook recently that the financial illiteracy rate was crippling the

Bahamian economy, and he called for the Government to tackle this by bolstering tertiary education institutions.

Mr Johnson added that the cause of the financial crisis - the bursting of the US housing bubble - could have been avoided if consumers were more knowledgeable about mortgages and financial best practices.

"If more people were educated [on mortgages] the crisis would not have been as extreme," he said.

He echoed Dr Rodgers' sentiment that a lack of financial prowess can lead to predatory banking practices.

FAST was in development for one-and-a-half years, and has been in effect for six

months. Mr Johnson said the programme, piloted in one or two schools, is now in 35 schools across New York.

He said his company would be willing to negotiate a package deal with Bahamian schools that would allow them to use the programme, which consists of 30 power point presentations, 30 supplemental workbooks, a teacher's manual and a teacher's work shop. For a 30 class package, the cost of the curriculum is \$600. The FAST team plans to market the curriculum throughout the US and other countries with the assistance of the World Bank.

"In my view, financial matters impact everyone," Mr Johnson said.



BROADCASTING CORPORATION OF THE BAHAMAS

VACANCY NOTICE CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas invites applications from suitably qualified individuals to fill the position of Chief Accountant.

This is a senior management post in the Corporation's Accounts Department.

The position is responsible for overseeing daily operations of the Accounts Department and reports to the Financial Controller.

Candidates should, at a minimum, possess a bachelor's degree in accounting or finance with seven (7) years minimum experience.

The ideal candidate will possess professional accounting qualifications (ACCA, CA or CPA) and will be proficient in Microsoft and IFRS applications, with automated financial reporting experience.

Interested individual should hand deliver letters of interest, together with comprehensive resumes, marked "Strictly Confidential" and addressed to the attention of the Deputy General Manager - Human Resource and Training at the Corporation's offices, Harcourt "Rusty" Bethel Drive, Nassau, Bahamas not later than 25th January 2010.

Applications received will be treated in the strictest confidence.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

A leading resort has a career opportunity for an experienced **Assistant Director of Engineering**. This position is responsible for all aspects of the Engineering Department to include the proper property maintenance, operation, repair and maintenance of all heating, refrigeration and mechanical equipment.

We are seeking a proactive candidate to develop, coordinate and monitor an engineering maintenance program to ensure guest satisfaction from a safety and comfort standpoint. In addition, this candidate must supervise, train and manage all Engineering staff. Hotel experience and a proven track record of success are required.

Candidates must have the following competencies and qualifications:

- Manage the daily operations of all Engineering and Maintenance functions for the property including the maintenance of all physical facilities and routine inspections.
- Direct the activities and manage the performance of the Engineering & Maintenance team.
- Partner with Corporate and Property Senior Management to develop and implement Engineering and Maintenance policies, procedures and practices for the property.
- Prepare and administer the Engineering and Maintenance departmental budget.
- Research new developments and technologies used in the Engineering and Maintenance field.
- Ensure regulatory compliance within the Engineering and Maintenance function, ensuring that all policies and practices are in compliance with required regulatory standards.
- Manage conservation issues such as air emissions consolidation, permitting, and tracking for the property. Accountable for tracking and remaining compliant with all government codes pertaining to the operation of the resort.

Job Qualifications:

- Education: Bachelor's degree in Business Management, Engineering, a related field or equivalent experience required.
- Experience: Minimum of ten years progressive, well-rounded maintenance & engineering management experience required.
- Hospitality experience preferred, Union environment helpful.
- Must have demonstrated the ability to manage project execution and follow-up, balance multiple priorities, work under time constraints and approach work proactively.
- Licenses/Certifications: MEP, Eng'r and/or general contractor's license preferred Valid Driver's License and a satisfactory driving record required.

For consideration please fax a current resume along with references to:

Attention: Human Resources Manager - 242-363-6822 or e-mail to HRRecruitment@starwoodvo.com



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Bank of The Bahamas International, the institution of first choice in the provision of financial services, seeks to identify suitable candidates for the position of:

Core Banking Application Analyst (2)

Core Responsibilities:

- Provide Production Support of the bank's core-banking business application software
- Investigate Core banking systems' issues reactively as escalated and analyze / diagnose for resolution according to established guidelines
- Perform post-mortem activities for any breaks in system availability
- Perform trend analysis to identify and highlight recurring problems. Carry out root-cause analysis and determine and document solutions for review and further implementation
- Perform issue testing and evaluation of fixes for resolutions provided with necessary change control
- Participate in application testing and evaluation for new products, as directed by the bank's strategic goals
- Assist with improving core-banking application system efficiency by recommending changes to parameterization, work-flows, reporting
- Assist project management and development teams for new implementations. Participate in change management activities

Job Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science (preferred) or Business Management
- Proficient systems analytical skills to perform tasks including, root-cause analysis, develop, execute, assess test plans and test cases, and recommend issue resolutions
- Knowledge and adept use of select programming language(s), preferably PL/SQL, SQL, and working knowledge of Oracle and RDBMS
- Practical knowledge of systems life cycle and systems development
- Knowledge of specific financial industry and banking laws and regulations to appreciate the operational implications when developing, reviewing and testing for the bank's core banking application system software.
- Specific and detailed knowledge of core-banking system setup and settings, both technical and application-based
- Solid appreciation of the bank's infrastructure setup, including computer, LAN and WAN communications
- Excellent oral and written communication skills to interact with internal customers in sharing and explaining information; gathering user requirements for new and change requests, and root cause analysis with/ from associates and supervisors. These skills are also needed for all areas where documentation is required e.g. root cause analysis, testing reports, regular updates, issues and direct for prepare necessary documentation
- Ability to multi-task in a frame-work of assigned task priority and importance
- Ability to be innovative in problem solving approach, self-motivated; have great initiative
- A team player

Benefits include: Competitive salary and benefits package, commensurate with work experience and qualifications. Interested persons should apply no later than **January 25, 2010** to:

**Email: hr.apply@bankbahamas.com
or fax to: 242-323-2637**



NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT ELIZABETH HARBOUR EXUMA

1. The Water & Sewerage Corporation invites proposals from suitably qualified Companies for the design and construction of a wastewater facility at Elizabeth Harbour Exuma. The Scope of Works include the provision of all labour, equipment and other necessary services for the design and construction of a cost effective and appropriate reception, storage and treatment of sewage from water crafts.

2. Proposals from potential Companies must be accompanied by comprehensive details from the Qualified Questionnaire out-lining:

- Experience on similar projects
- Personnel to be assigned (including their experience on similar projects)
- Financial capacity to execute the works.

Qualifications, bid price, and selected technology will be evaluated for award of Contract

3. Bidding Documents will be available on request beginning January 20, 2010 from the Engineering & Planning Department of the Water & Sewerage Corporation .

4. Completed documents must be returned to the address below, no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday February 10, 2010.

**General Manager
Water & Sewerage Corporation
87 Thompson Blvd.
P.O. Box N-3905
Nassau, Bahamas**

Attn: Engineering & Planning Division

**Telephone: (242) 302-5548
Facsimile: (242) 302-5547**

BUSINESS

Bahamian law not enforcing copyright 'to a large degree'

FROM page 1B

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **NATASHA TELSON** of **BAHAMA AVE, P.O.BOX 10326, 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 **21st day of JANUARY, 2010** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **JONEL TELSON** of **BAHAMA AVE, P.O.BOX 10326, 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 **21st day of JANUARY, 2010** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

GN-983



GOVERNMENT NOTICE

TREASURY DEPARTMENT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Treasurer of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas advises all pensioners, Parliamentary, Judicial, Official, World War 1 Veterans & Widows, Bahamas Widows' & Orphans' and Re-employed, whose pension payments are paid directly into their bank accounts that verification for the January 2010 verification exercise commenced January 4th, 2010.

Pensioners' are advised to visit the Pension Section of the Treasury Department situated on the first floor of the British American Insurance House, Marlborough St. and Navy Lion Road, Nassau, during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays, bringing with them a valid form of identification such as Passport, Voters card, National Insurance card or Drivers' license.

Pensioners' unable to appear in person may submit the appropriate Life and Payment Certificate duly signed by one of the persons designated on the said form assuring that the signed date falls within the designated period.

The following Life and Payment Certificates are available at the Treasury Department, Nassau, Treasury Department Freeport, and at Family Island Administration offices:

- Parliamentary Pension Life & Payment Certificate - for retired Parliamentarians.
- Official Pension (Judicial) Life & Payment Certificate - for retired Judges.
- Official Pension Life & Payment Certificate - for retired Public Officers.
- World War 1 Veterans and Widows Life & Payment Certificate - for Veterans & Widows of World War 1.
- Bahamas Widows' & Orphans' Pension Fund Certificate - for Widows' & Orphans'.

Pensioners residing within the Bahamas should also note that submission of Life and Payment Verification certificates on a monthly basis are no longer required. However, all pensioners are required to verify during January and July of each year to avoid any inconvenience.

For further details please contact the Pension Section, Treasury Department at telephone numbers (242) 302-0539, 302-0565 or 302-0524. Life and Payment Verification Certificates may be forwarded via facsimile to (242) 323-1459.

under rules-based trading systems such as the EPA and WTO.

And all these amendments are under just one heading, copyright, and there is far more to do in other areas, such as competition law, phyto-sanitary and health measures, and rules of origin.

The Government has repeatedly said it has an implementation plan for all its EPA obligations, but it is understood that this has yet to be shared with the private sector.

When it came to TRIPS and the WTO, the Fasken Martineau report suggested that the Bahamas amend its existing Industrial Property Act to state that industrial designs were protected by 'industrial design', rather than the existing 'design copyright'.

Confusion

"Such a change is required because there is the possibility of confusion, because copyright in a design is different and distinct from the protection afforded to industrial designs," the report said.

"Explicit language" was also required in the same Act to give patent owners the right to "assign, license or pass a patent on by succession".

And the duration for which patents are protected must be extended to 20 years, the report said.

Elsewhere, both the EPA and WTO TRIPS require the Bahamas to implement certain customs measures to protect the rights of copyright and trademark rights holders.

"At present, the provisions under the Customs Management Act dealing with prohibited goods only apply to copyright material (accordingly, there are provisions to this effect in the Copyright Act)," the report said.

"As such, amendments are required in order to extend protection for trade mark rights holders in compliance with the requirements of Articles 51-60.

"Border measures must also be implemented in accordance with Article 163 of the EPA."

SUPREME COURT
JAN 19 2010
NASSAU, BAHAMAS

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2009
IN THE SUPREME COURT CLE/GEN No. 1169
Common Law & Equity Side

IN THE MATTER of the real property comprised of 27 acres situated approximately one mile Northwest of the Settlement of Simms, Long Island in The Commonwealth of The Bahamas and having such position, boundaries, marks and dimensions as are shown on the diagram or plan attached to a Deed of Partition dated the 25th day of June 1993 and made between Ronald Winston Simms and others and now of record in the Registry of Records in Volume 6256 at pages 40 to 52 and edged thereon in yellow.

AND IN THE MATTER of the Conveyancing and Law of Property Act, Chapter 138 of the Laws of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

BETWEEN

LAWRENCE CASE
AND
MICHAEL COLIN QUIRKE

Plaintiff
Defendant

ORDER OF FORECLOSURE NISI

Before the Honourable Justice Cheryl Albury of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth Of The Bahamas

Dated the 23rd day of November A. D. 2009

ON THE APPLICATION of the Plaintiff by Summons dated the 27th of July A.D. 2009;

AND UPON READING the Affidavit of the Plaintiff sworn the 22nd day of July A. D. 2009;

AND UPON HEARING Mr. Roy W. M. Sweeting of Counsel for the Plaintiff, with him Mr. Patrick H. Ryan;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

- That the Defendant do stand absolutely debarred and foreclosed of and from all right title interest and equity of redemption of and in the mortgaged property described in the Schedule hereto **UNLESS** on or before the 28th of January A.D. 2010 the Defendant pays to the Plaintiff in full the sum of US\$877,000.00 owing under the said mortgage.
- That the Defendant do forthwith deliver up to the Plaintiffs possession of the properties described in the schedule hereto **UNLESS** on or before the 28th of January A.D. 2010 the Defendant pays to the Plaintiff in full the sum of US\$877,000.00 owing under the said mortgage.
- Failing payment by the Defendant of the aforementioned sum owing under the mortgage, the hearing of the Plaintiff's application for an Order of Foreclosure Absolute is hereby set for the 27 of January A. D. 2010 at 12 'o' clock noon.
- That the Plaintiff have and is hereby given leave to effect substituted service of the Originating Summons by which these proceedings were commenced (as Amended) and this Order of Foreclosure Nisi, within sixty days of the date hereof by:
 - Prominent advertisement thereof in the Gazette on five consecutive weekdays, and;
 - Delivery of copies thereof to the chambers of Wayne & Associates, Leckhart & Murroe and Shurland & Co.
- Proof that substituted service has been effected is to be provided by means of an Affidavit of Service sworn and filed on behalf of the Plaintiff within 21 days after such service, giving details of the advertisement and the dates thereof.
- That the costs of and occasioned by this application be costs in the cause.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT,

REGISTRAR

This Order was drawn by Messrs. Glinton Sweeting O'Brien of Chambers, 303 Shirley Street, Nassau, Bahamas, Attorneys for the Plaintiff.

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BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF: TUESDAY, 19 JANUARY 2010											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,565.45 CHG 0.10 %CHG 0.01 YTD 0.07 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 \$	P/E	Yield	
1.49	1.03	AML Foods Limited		1.15	1.16	0.01	1,500	0.283	0.000	4.1	0.00%
10.75	9.90	Bahamas Property Fund		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		10.00	10.00	0.00		1.406	0.250	7.1	2.50%
2.88	2.72	Colina Holdings		2.72	2.72	0.00		0.249	0.040	10.9	1.47%
7.00	5.00	Commonwealth Bank (S1)		7.00	7.00	0.00	295	0.419	0.300	16.7	4.29%
3.65	2.21	Consolidated Water BDRs		2.73	2.77	0.04		0.111	0.052	25.0	1.88%
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	First Caribbean 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%
0.30	0.27	Freeport Concrete		0.27	0.27	0.00		0.035	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	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	Last Sale	100.00	0.00		7%	Interest	19 October 2017	Maturity
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%		19 October 2022	
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00	0.00		7%		30 May 2013	
1000.00	1000.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00	0.00	15	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	7.92	Bahamas Supermarkets	10.06	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	-1.81	-1.81			31-Dec-09			
1.5087	1.4336	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5071	0.08	5.23			8-Jan-10			
3.3201	2.9343	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	3.1168	-7.94	-7.94			31-Dec-09			
13.2400	12.6816	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.2400	4.93	5.90			31-Oct-09			
103.9873	93.1999	CFAL Global Bond Fund	103.9873	3.41	3.41			31-Dec-09			
101.7254	96.4070	CFAL Global Equity Fund	101.7254	5.52	5.52			31-Dec-09			
1.0898	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.0898	5.22	5.22			9-Dec-09			
1.0680	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.0680	3.39	3.39			9-Dec-09			
1.0907	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.0907	5.15	5.15			9-Dec-09			
9.5705	9.1005	Royal Fidelity Bah Intl Investment Fund	9.5705	5.33	5.33			31-Dec-09			
11.2361	10.0000	Royal Fidelity Bah Intl Investment Fund	11.2361	12.36	12.36			31-Dec-09			
7.7171	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Intl Fund - Equities Sub Fund	7.7171	40.05	40.05			31-Dec-09			
MARKET TERMS											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX - 19 Dec 02 = 1,000.00						YIELD - last 12 month dividends divided by closing price					
52wk-Hi - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks						Bid \$ - Buying price of Colina and Fidelity					
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks						Ask \$ - Selling price of Colina and Fidelity					
Previous Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily volume						Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price					
Today's Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume						Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week					
Change - Change in closing price from day to day						EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mths					
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today						NAV - Net Asset Value					
DIV \$ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months						N/M - Not Meaningful					
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings						FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index, January 1, 1994 = 100					
S1 - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/9/2007											
S1 - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/11/2007											
TO TRADE CALL: CFAL 242-502-7010 ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764 FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000 COLONIAL 242-502-7525											

BUSINESS

Developer moves to aid home ownership

Arawak Homes has moved to aid home ownership by administrative assistants and secretaries, offering them a 2.5 per cent downpayment deal - a 50 per cent reduction on the normal minimum equity contribution required.

And for those who already own lots or have equity in a lot, the 2.5 per cent will be deducted from construction costs. Franon Wilson, Arawak Homes' president, said: "I believe that everyone would agree that adminis-

trative assistants are very valuable persons, and most bosses would be lost without them. These are the persons who organise their bosses' professional and personal lives. For the most part they work tirelessly behind the scenes, and keep the organisation's engines running."

Mr Wilson said this initiative was Arawak Homes' way of saying to all administrative assistants and secretaries: "We value your contribution to the business community. You are a

special group of persons and we want you to know that you are appreciated."

Michelle Bain, president of the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP), said owning a home was often the largest single investment an individual can make. In return, it offered the largest return: a sense of stability and security, collateral by way of home equity, and a sense of accomplishment and pride. Since 2003, Arawak Homes has

been offering special discounts to various sectors of the business community to assist in them owning their own homes. In 2003, the focus was on the uniformed officers (police, Defence Force officers and prison officers). In 2005, the focus was on teachers and, in 2009, pharmacists, nurses and lab technicians benefited. The newly-launched Arawak Homes administrative assistants and secretaries' initiative will end on International Administrative Professionals Day, April 21, 2010.

SPECIAL DEAL: Franon Wilson, Arawak Homes president, and Michelle Bain, IAAP president.

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THE WEATHER REPORT

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT (BAHAMAS) LIMITED
INSURANCE BROKERS & AGENTS

5-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Breezy with increasing clouds High: 84° AccuWeather RealFeel: 82° F	Mostly cloudy, breezy and humid Low: 72° AccuWeather RealFeel: 82° F	A couple of afternoon showers High: 84° Low: 71° AccuWeather RealFeel: 81° F	Mostly sunny and pleasant High: 83° Low: 71° AccuWeather RealFeel: 82° F	Partly sunny High: 83° Low: 72° AccuWeather RealFeel: 85° F	Mostly cloudy, showers possible High: 84° Low: 67° AccuWeather RealFeel: 80° F

ALMANAC

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

Temperature	79° F/26° C
High	84° F/29° C
Low	64° F/18° C
Normal high	77° F/25° C
Normal low	65° F/18° C
Last year's high	81° F/27° C
Last year's low	67° F/20° C
Precipitation	0.00"
As of 1 p.m., yesterday	0.46"
Year to date	1.14"
Normal year to date	1.14"

AccuWeather.com
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2010

UV INDEX TODAY

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
LOW MODERATE HIGH VERY HIGH EXTREME

TIDES FOR NASSAU

Time	High	MLLW	Low	MLLW
Today	11:19 a.m.	2.2	5:22 a.m.	0.3
Friday	12:03 p.m.	2.1	6:12 a.m.	0.4
Saturday	12:46 a.m.	2.4	7:08 a.m.	0.4
Sunday	1:45 a.m.	2.5	8:11 a.m.	0.4
Monday	2:46 a.m.	2.5	9:17 a.m.	0.3
Tuesday	3:48 a.m.	2.7	10:21 a.m.	0.1
Wednesday	4:48 a.m.	2.9	11:20 a.m.	-0.1
Thursday	5:05 p.m.	2.3	11:14 p.m.	-0.7

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise: 6:58 a.m. Moonset: 11:20 a.m.
Sunset: 5:46 p.m. Moonrise: 11:21 p.m.

First: Jan. 23 Full: Jan. 30 Last: Feb. 5 New: Feb. 13

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP

Shows today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Cape Hatteras	Highs: 56° F/13° C
Charleston	Highs: 45° F/7° C
Atlanta	Highs: 60° F/16° C
Birmingham	Highs: 64° F/18° C
Savannah	Highs: 66° F/19° C
Daytona Beach	Highs: 80° F/27° C
Tampa	Highs: 75° F/24° C
Miami	Highs: 82° F/28° C
Nassau	Highs: 84° F/29° C
Havana	Highs: 85° F/29° C
Santiago de Cuba	Highs: 82° F/28° C
Port-au-Prince	Highs: 91° F/33° C
San Juan	Highs: 85° F/29° C
Santa Domingo	Highs: 85° F/29° C
Antigua	Highs: 83° F/28° C
Barbados	Highs: 85° F/29° C
Trinidad	Highs: 90° F/32° C
Caracas	Highs: 88° F/31° C
Panama City	Highs: 91° F/33° C
Managua	Highs: 94° F/34° C
Belize	Highs: 88° F/31° C
Kingston	Highs: 87° F/31° C
Aruba	Highs: 89° F/32° C
Curacao	Highs: 89° F/32° C
Limon	Highs: 84° F/29° C

MARINE FORECAST

Location	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMPS.
ARABCO	Today: S at 8-16 Knots Friday: WSW at 12-25 Knots	Today: 3-5 Feet Friday: 3-5 Feet	Today: 10 Miles Friday: 10 Miles	Today: 69° F Friday: 73° F
ANDROS	Today: SE at 8-16 Knots Friday: SW at 8-16 Knots	Today: 2-4 Feet Friday: 2-4 Feet	Today: 10 Miles Friday: 10 Miles	Today: 72° F Friday: 72° F
CAT ISLAND	Today: SE at 8-16 Knots Friday: SW at 8-16 Knots	Today: 2-4 Feet Friday: 2-4 Feet	Today: 10 Miles Friday: 10 Miles	Today: 72° F Friday: 72° F
CROOKED ISLAND	Today: ESE at 10-20 Knots Friday: SSW at 6-12 Knots	Today: 3-5 Feet Friday: 1-3 Feet	Today: 10 Miles Friday: 4 Miles	Today: 78° F Friday: 79° F
ELEUTHERA	Today: SE at 8-16 Knots Friday: SW at 10-20 Knots	Today: 2-4 Feet Friday: 2-4 Feet	Today: 10 Miles Friday: 10 Miles	Today: 75° F Friday: 75° F
FREEPORT	Today: S at 10-20 Knots Friday: WSW at 12-25 Knots	Today: 2-4 Feet Friday: 2-4 Feet	Today: 10 Miles Friday: 7 Miles	Today: 68° F Friday: 77° F
GREAT EXUMA	Today: SE at 8-16 Knots Friday: WSW at 7-14 Knots	Today: 2-4 Feet Friday: 1-3 Feet	Today: 10 Miles Friday: 10 Miles	Today: 72° F Friday: 70° F
GREAT INAGUA	Today: ESE at 8-16 Knots Friday: SW at 3-8 Knots	Today: 2-4 Feet Friday: 1-3 Feet	Today: 10 Miles Friday: 5 Miles	Today: 72° F Friday: 79° F
LONG ISLAND	Today: ESE at 8-16 Knots Friday: SSW at 6-12 Knots	Today: 1-3 Feet Friday: 1-3 Feet	Today: 10 Miles Friday: 10 Miles	Today: 73° F Friday: 77° F
MAYAGUANA	Today: SE at 8-16 Knots Friday: SW at 7-14 Knots	Today: 2-4 Feet Friday: 1-3 Feet	Today: 10 Miles Friday: 10 Miles	Today: 72° F Friday: 72° F
NASSAU	Today: SE at 8-16 Knots Friday: SW at 10-20 Knots	Today: 1-3 Feet Friday: 1-3 Feet	Today: 10 Miles Friday: 10 Miles	Today: 71° F Friday: 70° F
SAN SALVADOR	Today: SE at 10-20 Knots Friday: SSW at 4-8 Knots	Today: 1-3 Feet Friday: 1-3 Feet	Today: 10 Miles Friday: 10 Miles	Today: 74° F Friday: 78° F
RAGGED ISLAND	Today: SE at 8-16 Knots Friday: SW at 8-16 Knots	Today: 1-3 Feet Friday: 1-3 Feet	Today: 10 Miles Friday: 10 Miles	Today: 72° F Friday: 70° F

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BUSINESS

Realtor launches division to target first-time buyers



Pictured L to R: Mario A. Carey, president and chief executive; Nancy Knowles, office associate; Miekio Smith, marketing associate; Sidney Bethell, sales associate; and Ryan Knowles.

A Bahamian real estate broker has launched a new business division targeting the first-time buyer market for properties valued at \$500,000 or less, moving away from his traditional focus on high-end, luxury properties.

Less than two years after opening his own firm, Mario Carey is launching MCR2 to target a new market segment.

"We opened Mario Carey Realty trading on my experience in the luxury market, but the office has had so many requests, including several from lending institutions encouraging us to drive business their way by tying into the mid-range market for appraisals, listings and sales, that we launched a separate division, MCR2, to concentrate on the \$500,000 and under range," said Mr Carey.

He will personally continue to focus on premiere properties in communities such as Ocean Club Estates, Lyford Cay, Old Fort Bay and private islands.

Mr Carey said the new division, MCR2,

driven by its "young energy", will benefit from the company's existing 20,000-plus person database, comprised largely of Mr Carey's previous and existing clients.

"I realized early on how important building a database is and, more importantly, how critical it is to form strong personal relationships," he said.

"The satisfied client is not going to look for a new broker when he or she is buying additional property or even considering buying a first home for their son or daughter."

"If they were happy with your service the first time around, they are going to stick with you the second, third and ninth time."

Mr Carey said the separate division had been created for two reasons - branding and a selective process.

"MCR2 will be distinctive in the sense that we will review every listing offered thoroughly before putting the MCR2 stamp on it," Mr Carey said.

"For instance, we just handled a sale of an \$84,000 lot on Fire Trail Road, which we took on because we felt it had value based on zoning, asking price and surrounding properties. We sold it within two weeks of taking the listing

"When you see a sign that says MCR2, you will know the listing has undergone scrutiny. It's our own brand just like Mario Carey has become a brand."

As for the luxury market, Mr Carey said business has remained steady. "We went through a period where we saw a few persons list their homes because they wanted to convert investment into cash. But they were not panicking, which meant prices weren't falling significantly. So while the high-end market lost as much as 20 per cent of its value initially, it has begun to stabilize. The good sign is that we are seeing a demand for luxury properties as we enter our peak season," he added.

Mario Carey Realty and MCR2 will share the same office on East Bay Street.

McKINNEY, BANCROFT & HUGHES ANNOUNCEMENT



The Partners of the law firm of **McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes**, Mareva House, 4 George Street, Nassau, The Bahamas are pleased to announce that **April N. Turner** has joined the partnership with effect from 1st January, 2010.

Mrs. Turner joined the firm in 1997 as an associate and currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer of MB&H Corporate Services Ltd., the firm's corporate service provider. Mrs. Turner's expertise include corporate and commercial law, banking, regulatory and compliance governance. Mrs. Turner is the firm's Compliance Officer and Anti-Money Laundering Reporting Officer. She recently authored a chapter on The Bahamas in A Guide to International Financial Centers on *Segregated Account Companies and Foundations*.

Mrs. Turner holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and holds a dual honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Law and Criminology from the University of Keele, Stafford, England. She is a member of the Bar of England and Wales and the Bahamas Bar.

The Partners, Associates and Staff of McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes join in congratulating her on this achievement.



McKINNEY, BANCROFT & HUGHES ANNOUNCEMENT



The Partners of the law firm of **McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes**, Mareva House, 4 George Street, Nassau, The Bahamas are pleased to announce that **Genell K. Sands** has joined the partnership with effect from 1st January, 2010.

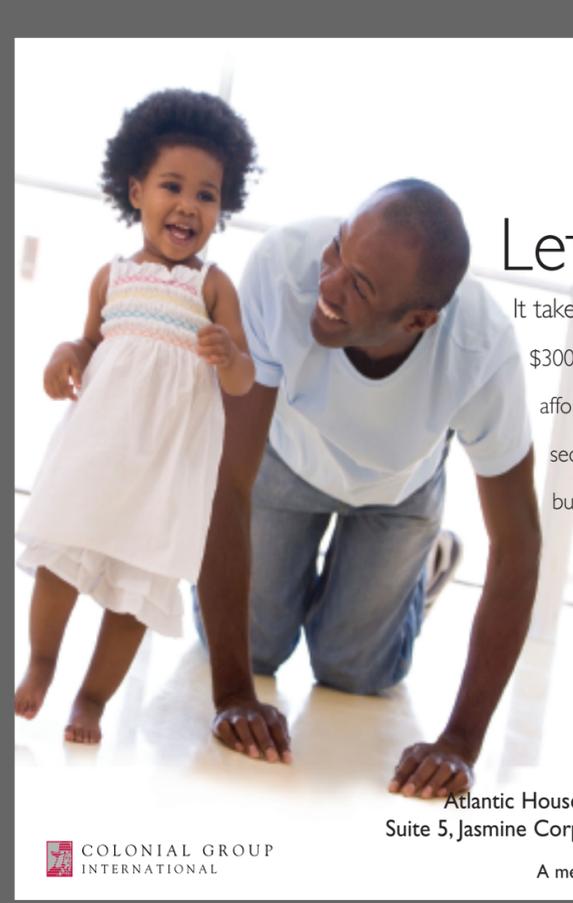
Mrs. Sands joined the firm in 1998 as an Associate in the Litigation Department. Her practice areas are civil and commercial litigation, arbitration, dispute resolution, company liquidations and employment law. Her areas of expertise include insurance law, personal injury litigation, fatal accident claims, industrial accidents and employment law.

Mrs. Sands obtained an Associate of Arts Degree in History with Distinction from the College of the Bahamas in 1994. She received a Bachelor of Laws Degree with Honours from the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom in 1997. She achieved a grade of Very Competent on the Bar Vocational Course at The College of Law in London. She was also awarded the 4 Stone Buildings Prize for obtaining the highest results in the Civil Litigation examination. In July, 1998 Mrs. Sands was admitted to the Bar of England and Wales as a member of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. In September, 1998 she was enrolled as a Counsel and Attorney of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Mrs. Sands has subsequently attended seminars and workshops in her field as a part of her continuing education. She has also delivered presentations to large institutional clients in the areas of insurance and personal injury and constructive trusts.

Mrs. Sands currently serves as the Vice President of the College of the Bahamas Alumni Association.

The Partners, Associates and Staff of McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes join in congratulating her on this achievement.







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Andrew Curry

A musical talent silenced

By JEFFARAH GIBSON

ANDREW CURRY is being remembered as an a multi-faceted artist, impeccable educator and humanitarian and as someone who leaves behind a profound impact not just on the Catholic community, but everyone he came into contact with.

Mr Curry who died on Sunday was a fixture at Francis Xavier Catholic Church, where he was the organist as well as the choir director for many years.

Culture guru James Catalyn told *Tribune Religion* that Mr Curry was a family oriented man, an excellent educator and musician.

“Family meant everything to Andrew, he loved his wife, and his kids. He would have done anything for them and no matter what they

were first in his life,” he said.

Mr Curry was also the founder of Diocesan Chorale, and the driving force behind the Soulful Groovers, who have been an anchor band for the Chorale for a number of years.

As music in particular was his passion, he surrounded himself in any and everything that involved music.

Mr Catalyn who said he has known Mr Curry for more than fifty years has worked with him on a number of occasions including a recent revival of the musical *Guanahani* for which Mr Curry composed the music.

“He was the musical director for James Catalyn and friends, and he made a few songs for the mass setting of the Catholic Church.

“Andrew was also a no-nonsense person. He was very strict, and when I say strict I mean it in the sense that he believed in discipline. He believed in being on time, and he believed in

“

“He wasn’t just a teacher he was a father figure to me and the rest of the students, he was always concerned about us and the progress we made in our school work.

”

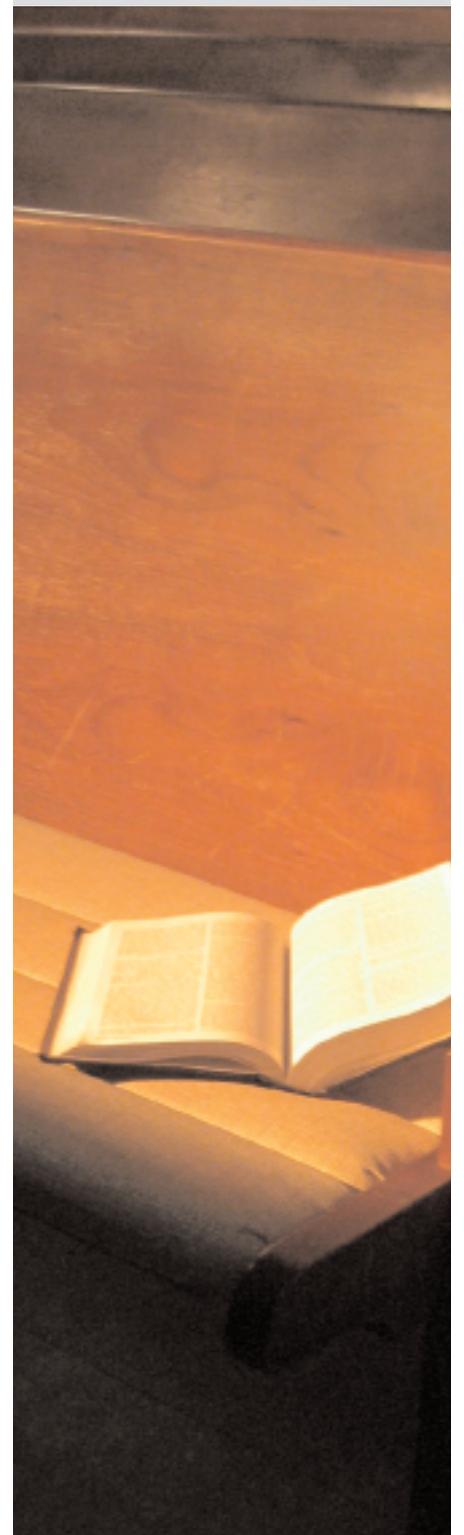
ROSE RICHARDSON

doing things the right way,” Mr Catalyn added.

Rose Richardson can second that comment since Mr Curry was her math, and music teacher when she attended Aquinas College.

“He wasn’t just a teacher he was a father figure to me and the rest of the students, he was always concerned about us and the progress we made in our school work. For instance if we did not understand the lesson that was being taught he made sure that by the end of the day we knew what

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The Tribune's
RELIGION
SECTION

PG 35

Was Haiti cursed?

Local pastors weigh in

By REUBEN SHEARER
Tribune Features Reporter
rshearer@tribunemedia.net

It is difficult for anyone to judge accurately and fully the cause and source of such massive natural human disasters such as the earthquake in Haiti. Some deem it a scientific event that has deep historic roots.

Haiti, shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, and sits on fault line making it prone to earthquakes.

But some in the Christian community have taken a different view, saying that the earthquake was the wrath of God being poured out on sinful people.

People around the world were shocked by popular US Reverend Patrick Robertson's statement that the catastrophic 7.0 earthquake was a result of Haiti making a pact with the devil so that it could gain independence from the French.

Others have said that it is God's revenge for Haitians practising voodoo.

Whether the earthquake was God's judgment or not, three leading pastors suggest that rather than worry about why this happened people should instead focus on how to help the Haitians in their time of trouble.

Here are their thoughts:



DR MYLES MUNROE,
Pastor of Bahamas Faith Ministries International

"Moments after I heard the comments, I dropped my pen, my jaw fell open and my spirit sank in deep disappointing shock as Dr Robertson attempted to analyse and explain the massive devastating earthquake hours after its impact.

"I am not sure what he was thinking or his intent or how to react to this. I wish to therefore emphatically state that I am deeply saddened, disappointed and do not agree with the statements made by Rev Pat Robertson and I hope he would urgently extend an apology to the nation of Haiti and the Haitian people and the Haitian church community and the church worldwide."

Dr Munroe said that the supposed covenant that the Haitians made to gain victory over the French in their war for freedom and independence cannot be justified until all the historical facts are interpreted

"Emails flooded my inbox from my ministry partners all over the world about the accident.

"It is rare that I would find it necessary to respond publicly to the actions of a member of the church community, but due to the fact that the statements were made in a global media context, and could convey a misrepresentation of the perspective and conviction of many other constituencies of the global church community, it is necessary to clarify our position.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sin entered the equation the entire creation was impacted. All creation fell and "groans and labours with birth pangs together until now" (Romans 8:22).

"It is difficult for anyone to judge accurately and fully the cause and source of such massive natural of human disaster such as this earthquake in Haiti or the September 9/11 tragedies.

Perhaps the question should or could be asked-- "Was America under a curse when the terrorist extremists bombed the Twin Towers in New York?" I would not imagine making such statements to the people of the United States. It is important that we always err on the side of compassion, love and caring for the human image of God no matter what."



REV. PATRICK PAUL,
President of the Christian Council

"The cause of the Haiti earthquake runs much deeper than the casual look in respect to what Rev Robertson had to say.

"We believe the earthquake was a natural phenomenon that took place in Haiti. In the book of Matthew, Jesus referred to an exhilaration of earthquakes in the last days.

Since the age is aging and coming to a climatic end, earthquakes in places will be one of the signs of the coming of the age."



BISHOP NEIL ELLIS,
Pastor of Mount Tabor Full Gospel Baptist Church

"I don't necessarily agree with Pastor Robertson's remarks. I think the 'why' as it relates to Haiti is not the issue at this time," said Bishop Ellis.

"I told my members on Sunday the story of Jesus in the boat with his disciples during the storm. The disciples woke up Jesus to see if they were in trouble. Jesus calmed the storm and the first order of business was to see if the issue was troubling them.

"The real issue here in Jesus' eyes was not to propagate the 'why' but to focus on the needs. The people of Haiti need all of our assistance."

"Sometimes the 'why' takes second place to the need. But if that's the way he [Pat Robertson] sees it, that's up to him. But that should not have been the first order of business for him."

"The approach should've been let us deal with these people and help them with the basic necessities like food, water, clothing and shelter.

"These are all God's people. That should've been Robertson's first order of business. Not the why, but what you can do," he said.

"I am really proud of the Bahamian people and their response to this, because we can miss a major moment in this country as a people if we're not careful. Each of us has a responsibility to be a decent human being. This is a time for all of us to do whatever we can to reach these people."

Developing a Vision for Your Youth or Children's Ministry

By RICARDO MILLER

NO ONE plants a tree and doesn't expect it to grow. You cultivate it. You protect the tree from the blistering heat and the frigid blasts. You zealously guard it keeping pests away. When the tree was dry and thirsty you watered it. Lastly you pruned it as it grew, coaxing the sapling with your shears. You clipped sucker branches, strengthening the tree for growth in the right direction. Finally you created the tree you imagined when you first planted the sapling. This whole wonderful process began with your beginning vision. You planted the little tree thinking about the large tree it would become. Maybe you thought about its cool shade and sweet fruit while you were planting it.

Your Youth or Children's Ministry is like a young sapling, a baby tree. It's full of possibilities, full of potential. It only needs you to do all things required to make it grow. That starts with a vision.

Developing a vision for your Youth or Children's Ministry is just like that process. You start with a vision and make corrections as you go. You give sustenance and protection as needed to your ministry. But even as you first begin to dig, you have a dream in your

heart, a vision in your spirit.

What is it? That's your vision!

Here are some practical steps you can take to developing your vision.

Developing Your Vision

Sit down with pen and paper. Write your vision. Don't worry about grammar or trying to sound spiritual. Write down what you are trying to do. Give yourself a whole page to do that.

Next look at what you've written. Focus that page down to a paragraph. Shave off everything not related to the direct vision. Finally whittle that paragraph down to a sentence or two. That should be the heart of your ministry. This should be your standard, your compass point.

While you are developing your vision keep in mind, some visions are progressive. God may start you here but want to grow you to reach all the way there. You'll need to be sensitive to Him in that regard.

Share and Proclaim

Always include your senior pastor in what's happening in your ministry. Share with senior leaders the vision

of your Youth or Children's Ministry. For the most part if you are involved in the, 'in house' ministries your vision should line up with theirs. It should compliment it. If your Youth or Children's Ministry is evangelical in nature and you aren't part of an 'in house' ministry this may not apply. However, you should share the vision with your covering or apostle. Proclaim the vision. Share it with the people involved in working in your ministry. Let them proclaim the vision with you.

Pray Over the Vision

Now that you have a clear vision, pray over it. Ask God to give you details you might need. Thank Him for what you have seen. Ask for His help making the vision come true. Finally ask for favor to rest on your ministry.

Your Youth or Children's Ministry should be like no other. Not a copy, not an imitation, uniquely yours from God. From time to time, go back to your vision. Remember it. Declare it. Most of, all stay true to it. Let God change the vision and define it as he sees fit. Follow Him wherever He takes you and your ministry.

Get Ready Bahamas!!!! If you are in Youth or Children's Ministry, you don't want to miss the "Raising the Standard in Youth & Children's Ministry" Workshop, a special 1 and 1/2 Day training workshop to be held at First Step Academy on Fire Trail Rd on January 22 - 23, 2010. Visit www.ricardomiller.com and reserve your seat today! Or call Ms. Eunice Miller at 361-0887.

The workshop will include teachings on:

1. Recruiting Workers Like Jesus Did
2. Getting Parents Involved In Your Ministry
3. How Do We Teach about Homosexuality
4. How to Effectively Evaluate Your Ministry
5. Leadership: Duplicating Yourself in Others
6. Special Events That Reach Young People
7. How to Get The Money You Need For Ministry
8. The 7 Signs of A Healthy Children's & Youth Ministry
9. Operating a Law-Abiding Children's and Youth Ministry
10. Building a Culture that Appreciates Children's & Youth Ministry.

A music talent silenced

FROM page 35

we were doing," she explained.

And while reminiscing on her days in school and working with Mr Curry she said when it came to school productions "strict" was an understatement.

"Most of the productions that Mr Curry headed I was part of, and he wanted us to practice about 2-3 times every day because he believed that every performance should be a stella one. And even after school was done the students who played the leading roles had to practice after that," she said.

"One thing that I would always

remember was when practice was finished after school, anyone who did not have a ride he would take it upon himself to drop each student home. That was just him."

She said that she would always remember when Mr Curry told her "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence, and the biggest mistake that can be made is giving up."

To Ms Richardson, Mr Curry ignited hope, passion, and a positive energy that made anyone leap to their highest altitude.

Mr Curry had a long career in education. He served as the principal of Aquinas College from 1971-1977 becoming the first lay headmaster of

the institution.

After this he worked at the Ministry of Tourism as the senior coordinator for product development. In 1984 he left tourism and accepted a position with a large local wholesale liquor distributor as assistant vice president of marketing.

In 1987 Mr Curry joined the staff of another large merchant where he held the position of executive vice president until his appointment at Butler and Sands.

He obtained a Bachelors of Arts degree in philosophy in 1957 from St Johns University in Minnesota.

In 1973 he received a Master's Degree in business from the University of Daytona.

Mr Curry successfully completed another Master's Degree in business administration from the University of Miami.

And in 1983 he was installed as the president of Kiwanis Club Cable Beach.

"He was one of those unsung heroes of the Bahamas who hardly get recognition for their good works. I will always hold him dear to my heart because he was a great friend and a great person", Mr Catalyn said.

Mr Curry had four children- three sons and one daughter -with one son predeceasing him. He is survived by his wife Lynn, his daughter Helaena, and his sons Andrew II and Aemile and thirteen grandchildren.

A memorial service for Andrew Curry will be held tonight at the Loyola Hall located on Gladstone Road at 7pm. His funeral mass will take place on Saturday, January 23 at St Francis Xavier Cathedral at 9am.


 THE HISTORY OF RELIGION IN THE BAHAMAS

History of Rhodes Memorial Methodist Church Nassau

OVER THE past century, Nassau has known rapid growth through the movement of Bahamians from the Family Islands and immigrants from abroad. Among the churches established as a result of this growth was Rhodes Memorial Methodist Church, Montrose Avenue.

Rev Willie Rhodes worked in the Bahamas from 1952 to 1955. He came when the Church was going through a period of crisis - the racial problem severe and serious. In this situation, Rev Rhodes fought valiantly to bring about racial harmony between the black and white members of the Bahamas Methodist community. Rev Rhodes was under serious difficulties in his ministry and faced much opposition. He died in Harbour Island, as a result of drowning. His body was found floating in the water.

Among others, Rev Willie Rhodes was instrumental in the development of the Methodist Church as a major religious denomination in the Bahamas.

The name Rhodes also has historical significance:

Rhodes ranks among the most brilliant of the many brilliant cities of ancient Greece. The city was founded in B.C. 408 at the extreme north-eastern point of the Island of Rhodes. Rhodes was a city of real power - mentioned in the New Testament as the point where St Paul touched at his voyage from Trous to Ceasarea:

Acts 21: 1, "And when we had parted from them and set sail we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara.

Under the chairmanship of the Rev William T Makepeace, and the then Society Steward of Wesley Church, the



JIM
LAWLOR

late Audley E Thompson, a Leader's meeting was held to discuss a problem of a number of people living in the Shirley Heights area, in the Eastern District of New Providence. They had to cross over Collins Wall to attend worship services at Wesley.

The Meeting decided to start a new Society in that area. All Methodists living in that area were asked to come and worship on a piece of land where Rhodes now stands.

The first service was conducted by the late Locksley Bethel, on Easter Sunday morning 1956 under the almond tree. All who attended this service were from Eleuthera.

Audley Carey remembered, "We worshipped under the almond tree when the weather was good, and in bad weather we went across the street to the late George Moxey's porch".

(He was the senior organist).

Shortly after the services began, a group from Ebenezer joined us, including the late Carl Bethel, L.E. Sands, Alfred Knowles and others. Among the others who were active during the early period were the late J.T. Mills, J.P., the late Dora Culmer and Bro Anthony Allen.

After services continued for some time, the Rev Makepeace, and Bro Audley Thompson spearheaded groups

from the church and made plans to build Rhodes Church. Working parties were arranged by the groups to collect stones and build while lime kiln in the area of Soldier Road just south of Holy Cross Church which Rev Makepeace got permission from the landowners to gather the stones which were later transported to the church site, for filling the foundation.

The building progressed so far, then arrangements were made to engage the contractor, Kenneth Moss to finish it, under a mortgage granted by the late RT Symonette.

It was dedicated by the Bishop Ivan Lee Holt of the United Methodist Church, USA, on Easter Sunday in 1958.

The groups worshipping there were very small for years, and everybody knew everyone by first names, and where they lived.

"I can now see three generations worshipping at Rhodes", said Audley Carey. The number of members was only 15 - they gave their time to the building of the Church. Since all of them were from Eleuthera they wanted the church to be named "Eleuthera Methodist Church".

But after the death of the Rev Willie Rhodes, Sir George Roberts asked to name the church after him.

The ladies of the church continued their custom of selling conch fritters, etc. under the almond tree to raise monies for church funds. Many members worked to build the Church.

Rhodes Memorial Church Hall was built at a cost of \$50,000. Its facilities include an auditorium to accommodate 300 people, two small classrooms, a stage, a kitchen and lavatories. Construction was begun in December

1973 and completed in January 1976.

It was dedicated on Easter Sunday (April 1976) by the Chairman Rev Eric St C Clarke during the ministry of the Rev J Emmette Weir.

During the ministry of Rev James Timothy, very extensive renovations were carried out. These included a new roof, new windows, new carpeting, tiling, light fixtures, painting and general renovations.

Some of the Ministers stationed at Rhodes were:

Revs W T Makepeace, Harold Slater, WP Blackburn, LE LePage, Dennis Magnus, Donald Urwin, J Emmette Weir, James Timothy, Patterson A Deane and Rev Gesner Paul.

In 1986, Rhodes Memorial had over 300 members.

Rhodes Memorial was another church profoundly affected by the move to Autonomy. Rev Edwin Taylor refused to join The Bahamas District of Methodist Churches and elected to remain with the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas. The two factions of supporters were adamant in their support and police had to be called in to stop fights between them.

Thankfully, Rhodes Memorial Methodist Church under the guidance of Bishop Raymond Neilly has weathered the storm and flourished with the many ministries and choirs to assist the church and the community.

The members can safely say:

We give God thanks for His blessings. His hand is writing over history, men sow, He makes the growth. To Him be the Glory!

Ferguson to perform benefit concert for St John's College

ST JOHN'S College school band will be the beneficiary of the proceeds from the annual Epiphany Organ Recital to be given by Dr Sparkman Ferguson on Thursday January 28 at 7.45 pm at Christ Church Cathedral.

The sixty minute organ recital will feature Dr Ferguson performing works of JS Bach, Eugene Gigout, Sir Edward Elgar, Antonin Dvorak, and Sigfrid Karg-Elert. Music by the modern American composer James Kasen and

the African-American composer Dr Ralph Simpson will also be featured. There is no admission charge for the concert and all are welcome to attend.

The proceeds from Dr Ferguson's recent recitals have benefited St Anne's High School Band, and the College of the Bahamas scholarship fund. It is anticipated that this 2010 recital will provide new trumpets, clarinets, saxophones and trombones for the St John's band.



ORGANIST Dr Sparkman Ferguson



Responding with love

THE earthquake in Haiti has left us heartbroken as we look yet again into the face of suffering as a result of a natural disaster. Not long ago it was hurricane damage, and now it is death and destruction that is itself off the Richter scale.

As we consider their plight, and that of other victims of tragedy of whatever kind around the world and here at home, we can all see that the need for a caring heart and listening ear is increasing. There are so many national and personal battles being fought these days.

Along with monetary and material gifts, another way for the church to assist is to mobilise pastoral troops and send them out into the field to tend to the wounded.

Dr Mel Steinbron, founder of the Lay Pastor's Ministry, has created a grid that is a visual presentation of biblical and theological insight into the caring ministry.

Even while we send teams abroad, we need to engage in the training of even more persons to offer ongoing support through friendship, family ties, and working relationships as a basis for providing better emotional care for one another.

We are called by Jesus to care for His sheep (John 21:16). He called His disciples and He calls us in our consciences. Appeals for help by those involved in the counseling and caring ministry, requests by hurting people, and general informa-

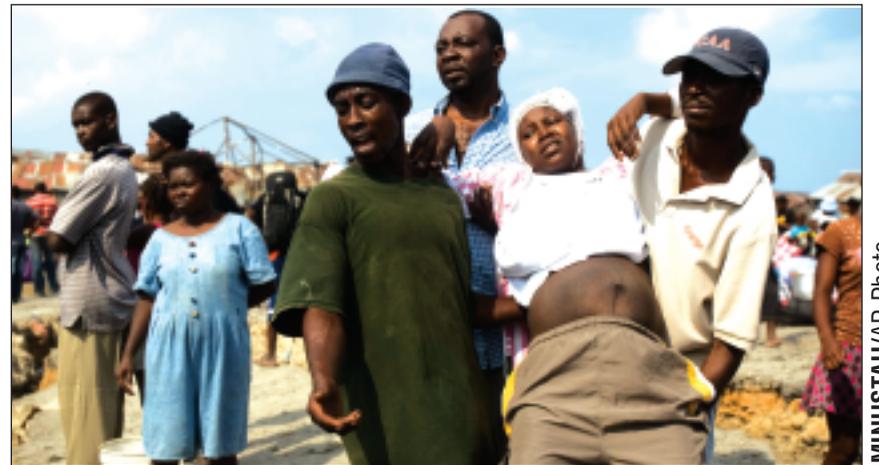


REV. ANGELA
C BOSFIELD
PALACIOS

tion about the rise in acts of desperation and stress related illness, together serve to confirm the validity of such a ministry. The result is often a great joy when we reach out and make a difference.

You are gifted (Rom. 12:4-8) to love others and to bless them with your spiritual gifts. The Holy Spirit empowers you, your leaders encourage you, and the people you help appreciate you for the most part. You are sent out on assignment and you are confident that God will meet your every need. The result is an integrity and credibility that is a blessing, and an accountability that keeps you humbly obedient.

We have to stop waiting to be asked, waiting to be thanked or waiting to be worthy. How can you make a contribution as a volunteer in the Lord's Army of rescue workers, paramedics of the soul, and CPR experts reviving the spirit. A broken heart is a serious thing. A wounded spirit is a devastating condition. Let us move alongside and then call for back up if



MINUSTAH/AP Photo

IN THIS photo released by the MINUSTAH, men help a pregnant woman to a boat at the port in Port-au-Prince, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010. With the city left in ruins after last week's deadly earthquake, many of the displaced people are leaving town and traveling to stay with relatives in outlying towns.

needed.

The terrible vision of the streets of Port au Prince will remain with us forever. It teaches us about geology and the presence of faults and fissures below the earth's surface. These images can make us look inward to admit the spiritual truth that some of us build our lives, and that of our families, along the 'faults' of sin. In time, our worlds crumble and we are left

in the ruins.

Let us love one another, drawing from the love of God so freely available to all of this. Let us rebuild the city and the lives of our brothers and sisters, even as we seek to rebuild our own nation according to godly principles. Like Nehemiah, we can, with God's help, rebuild that which has been torn down to the honour and glory of God.

A year of teaching

THE BIBLE tells us that Christ learned obedience through the things that He suffered.

Some of the things that we go through are for us to learn lessons that are necessary for living.

We don't understand that principle until the lesson is over, if we got the lesson.

First and foremost I would like to say 'Happy New Year' to all and God's choice blessings to you in the coming year.

I trust that Christmas was a time of thanking and praising God.

Regardless if we got what we wanted or not. Regardless if situations went our way or not, God is still worthy of our praises and He was the reason for the season.

The events that took place last year, I would have never guessed that they would happen in a million years.

I saw someone's wall post on



ALLISON
MILLER

Facebook was, "If you want to see God laugh tell Him your plans."

I thought to myself, "so true". That is because God plans are so far from our plans, and I am a living witness to that.

You realise that God truly has the last say. Really that is the best way, God plans. 2009 will be a year that I will never forget because of its events.

The place that I had been employed at for the last ten years terminated my employment. It was unexpected, nevertheless, God worked it out. First lesson is you have to trust and have faith in God. He orchestrates everything and

nothing can be done without His permission.

About two years ago I connected with an old friend whose family is a pack (like a wolf pack).

They took me in as one of their own. These are the type of people that think, "once a part of the pack, always a part of the pack", you become one of them.

Last year death came to our house and left our family in disbelief.

It was so hard to believe that two of us at the same time would leave our family. Tears come to our eyes when we think about our fallen soldiers. We knew that it could happen to anyone at any time, however, not one of us within the family thought that we would have to deal with the loss of our loved ones.

Which leads me to lesson two, a lesson that I have been taught all of my life: No one knows when their life will end, only God knows that. All you can be is ready the way He says we are to be ready. Which is to except the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and personal saviour.

As I get older I thank God for all the exposure He allowed me to have. I learned so much and see situations in a

different light.

The exposure gave me more options and allows me to open my mind rather than box myself in.

Honestly, some of the things I have learned I can't even put into words.

There were all sorts of lessons that I learned.

Regardless to what happens God has the last say. Truly God won't put more on your shoulders than you can bear. Even though a situation may be bad it could have been a whole lot worse, therefore God is still good and faithful.

Whatever little you have it is much, so just thank God for it.

Also the last lesson that I learned that I would like to share is this: As long as there is life there is hope.

It is a blessing to be in this new year. I could have been like many who were stilled in death, but thank God I'm here in the land of the living. I'm excited about what He is doing and going to do.

I know that God is going to blow my mind in 2010, so to God be the glory.

Great things He has done and will continue to do. Blessings and all of God's best in this year and always.

Arthur's Town celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany

AS voices chanted the ancient hymn of the "We Three Kings of Orient Are", youngsters clad in warm clothes because of the wintry weather conditions outside bore the three wise men and processed to the nativity scene located in the courtyard of the quaint Anglican Church in the northern settlement of Arthur's Town, Cat Island, known as St Andrew's.

This procession represented the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus in Bethlehem bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

At the arrival at the crèche, the young church members placed the wise men (Magi) in their designated places. This was the only church Christmas Nativity scene on Cat Island.

Although Epiphany is celebrated on January 6 in the Anglican and Catholic faiths, Father Chester Burton, priest in-charge of the Anglican churches in Cat Island, held the celebration on Sunday, January 10 so that it would impact a greater number of worshippers and would create a lasting impression in the minds of the young people so that they will continue to cherish the rich legacy of the Anglican Church.

In the celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Jesus last Sunday, Father Burton shared with the congregation that throughout the liturgical season of Epiphany the church will highlight the miracles that Jesus wrought, manifesting Himself among the onlookers found within the pages of the Gospels.

Epiphany simply means manifestation or revelation (revealing), he said.

On this particular Sunday, Luke's gospel, chapter three from verse 15 to the end, was the focus as it tells of the baptism of Jesus and how was He saluted as God's beloved son.

Throughout the years the church has adapted the approach that the three wise men symbolise the three distinct races of God's creation - Negroid, Mongoloid and Caucasoid.

"People of Negro descent, people of Asian descent and white people - these three wise men came primarily with one objective to worship the baby



CAT Island's nativity scene



Jesus," Father Burton said.

"So, as Jesus bares His all to humanity it reminds believers of the apt words of St Augustine of Hippo, who once posited, 'the Son of God became son of man, so that the son of men could become sons of God'."

YOUNG Anglicans lead a procession to Cat Island's only nativity scene during the Feast of the Epiphany.