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# The Tribune

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## THE PEOPLE'S PAPER BIGGEST AND BEST



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**BUSINESS**  
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**CARS FOR SALE,  
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BAHAMAS BIGGEST



**Trio back  
on track in  
Switzerland**  
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# Bran: God is guiding DNA

### BAHAMIANS 'PARTIALLY TO BLAME' FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ISSUES

By LAMECH JOHNSON

IMMIGRATION director Jack Thompson has said Bahamians are partially to blame for the country's illegal immigration woes.

Mr Thompson said the successive waves of Haitian illegals who find their way to our shores are encouraged by the fact that Bahamians are willing to employ them.

Speaking at the New Providence Association of Public High Schools principals forum at the Breezes Resort yesterday, he said: "We have persons who come here with work permits. They have been approved by the Immigration Board and so they have been granted a work permit for a year and

SEE page eight

## Reaction to party 'beyond human' claims leader

DIVINE intervention and God's guiding hand are behind the traction the Democratic National Alliance has gained since its launch six weeks ago, said leader Branville McCartney.

The Bamboo Town MP suggested he has been hand-picked as an "instrument" of God to lead the newly-formed third party, evidenced by the huge public interest in his organisation.

"I believe what is going on is far beyond human, no one man, myself or other members of the DNA, would be able to attract this type of support.

"I think this is divine, this has nothing to do with me or with the DNA quite frankly. I think this is something that the Almighty has His hands in," said the former Cabinet minister while a guest on a radio talk show.

"I always asked to be an instrument of the Lord, I always asked that, and for what has happened over the

last six weeks since the formation of the DNA has been incredible," he added. He noted that the DNA attracted an estimated 1,000 new members within 24 hours of its May launch - who each paid \$40 to join the group.

"The membership continues to grow, the membership involves PLPs, stalwart councillors, FNMs (meritorious council members), persons who have never been involved in the political process and it is phenomenal."

Hundreds of people are attending the party's town meetings, he claimed.

"The paraphernalia which we have sold, we can't keep in stock," he added.

Mr McCartney also spoke of his party's "Bahamian first" vision for the country, should the DNA be victorious in the next election.

"We want to ensure that

SEE page six

### STRAW MARKET NEARS COMPLETION

FELIPE MAJOR/TRIBUNE STAFF



HARD AT WORK: Finishing touches are made to the new Straw Market on Bay Street. The new venue is scheduled to open in August.

SEE PAGE TWO

### PM HEADS TO ST KITTS FOR CARICOM MEETING

PRIME Minister Hubert Ingraham left Nassau yesterday morning for St. Kitts, where he will attend the Caricom Heads of Government meeting.

Prime Minister Ingraham is accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette and Bahamas Ambassador to Caricom Sidney Collie.

The Prime Minister and his delegation will return to Nassau on Sunday.



### DNA UNDECIDED ON RODNEY MONCUR, DISMISSES STEVE MCKINNEY SPECULATION

ACTIVIST Rodney Moncur and radio personality Steve McKinney will not be introduced as Democratic National Alliance candidates when the party rolls out new hopefuls in Grand Bahama tomorrow.

DNA leader Branville McCartney said Mr Moncur, an outspoken activist for the death penalty, had applied to be a member of the party and a candidate for the upcoming general election.

Mr McCartney said his party's candidate selection committee has not yet made a decision on Mr Moncur's application.

"No, they won't be introduced as candidates (during the DNA's Grand Bahama launch)," said Mr McCartney on a radio talk show.

SEE page six

### GOVERNMENT OUTSOURCES GARBAGE COLLECTION ROUTES TO PRIVATE FIRM

By SANCHESKA BROWN

THREE years after spending millions of dollars on 10 new garbage trucks that were expected to solve Nassau's waste management woes, the government is now having to outsource collection routes to a private company.

The Department of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) confirmed yesterday that it has temporarily contracted the services of Bahamas Waste Management to assist with the collection of household waste in New Providence.

In January 2008, Minister of Health Dr Hubert Minnis commissioned five new

SEE page eight

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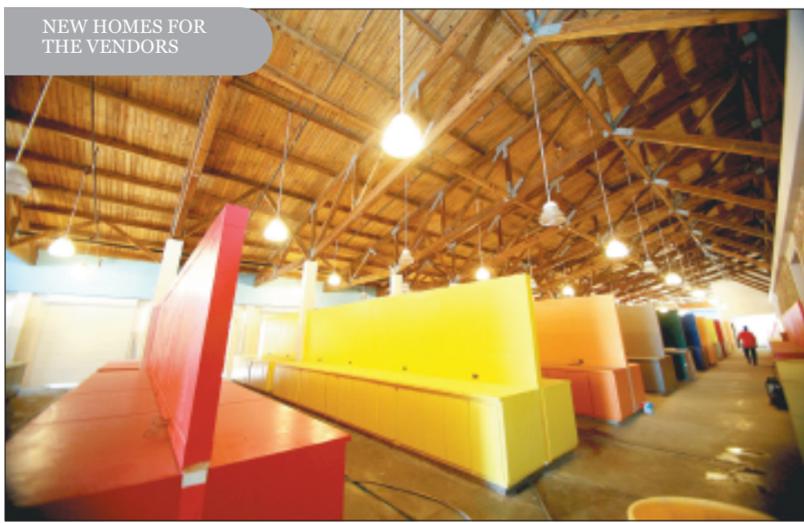
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LOCAL NEWS

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# FINISHING TOUCHES TO THE STRAW MARKET

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INSIDE THE NEW MARKET



**TOURISM HOT SPOT:** Despite raids on the straw market the illegal hand bags always seem to come back. Government, however, said this would not be allowed in the new straw market.

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LOCAL NEWS

**PUNCH EDITOR AND TWO WOMEN SET FOR COURT APPEARANCE**

PUNCH editor Ivan Johnson and two women are expected to appear in court today to answer allegations that they made a false declaration to a US Customs officer.

According to police reports, the tabloid boss was arrested just after 5pm in the pre-clearance section of Sir Lynden Pindling International Airport on Monday.

Court dockets further claim that Johnson, 58, of West Hill Street; Christine Tooté, 22; and Michell Gomez, 21, made a false declaration to a US officer just prior to entering the US Customs area.

It is alleged the three falsely claimed they were not carrying in excess of \$10,000, but were found to be in possession of \$13,685 US and \$90 in Bahamian currency. Johnson is expected to appear in Court 10, Nassau Street today.

**UNIONS OPPOSING BTC SALE DENIED LEAVE TO APPEAL**

THE two unions that opposed the sale of the Bahamas Telecommunications Company have been denied leave to appeal a judge's decision to the Privy Council.

The application by the Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union (BCPOU) and the Bahamas Communications Public Managers Union (BCPMU) for leave to appeal Justice Neville Adderley's ruling was dismissed by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The court is expected to give the reasons for its decision at a later date. The unions had sought leave from the court to appeal Supreme Court Justice Adderley's decision to strike out their application. The BCPOU and the BCPMU had filed a joint action in the Supreme Court questioning the government's right to sell 51 per cent of the phone company to Cable and Wireless.

Justice Adderley ruled, however, that the action was a nullity and that the unions lacked the legal capacity to institute and maintain the action in their own names for the declarations sought.

That decision was subsequently upheld by the Court of Appeal. The unions were seeking leave to appeal the appellate court's decision and have the writ, which was struck out by the judge, reinstated. Attorney Loren Klein represented BTC and the Attorney General.

Attorney Maurice Glinton represented the unions. The government's \$210 million sale of the majority shares of BTC to Cable and Wireless Communications was finalised two months ago and Cable and Wireless Communications (CWC) has assumed control of the telecommunications company.

**Police Commissioner: majority of homicide victims were criminals**

Ellison Greenslade responds to criticism over rising crime

By LAMECH JOHNSON

RESPONDING to public criticism of rising crime – more than 60 murders in the past six months – the chief of police said the majority of the country's homicide victims were criminals with a history of offences.

Police Commissioner Ellison Greenslade said it is not his intention to bad mouth deceased victims as he respects the dead and their families. However, with the police coming under constant fire for rising crime, he wants the press and the public to understand the situation from the police force's point of view.

"We just had a matter coming out of Carmichael, near Checkers. If you go back to 2010, you'd get a murder report. We arrested a man with a gun in his hand, for killing a man. Well we did our bit, but no charges were brought against him."

The man argued, said Commissioner Greenslade, that the shooting was in self



defence. "Well, two-three days ago, the victim's brother comes back now and kills him."

**Arrested**

"So you can call me a million times and say 'Commissioner the number is 64, what are you doing?' I'm going to turn back to you and say, 'Excuse me, we arrested him, we charged him, what did you do with him?' I mean that's real."

In an appearance at the

New Providence Association of Public High School Principals forum consisting of school administrators, the commissioner reviewed information from a report compiled on homicides between January 1 and June 16 this year.

"I brought along a document showing people murdered from January 1st of this year to the 16th of June – the victims and it shows the accused and you'll be amazed at what this document says," said the Com-

missioner. "Victims in and out of the system, long rap sheets. Accused, in and out of the system, long rap sheets."

"Bahamians – not Haitians and Jamaicans – Bahamians."

assailants have criminal backgrounds.

"All of these (list of details under profile) are antecedents of the victim, bad boys is what that means."

"And this is the culprit and the antecedents of the culprit. So the victim hurts some people, court gets him there, some time elapses, another bad boy shoots him."

**Profile**

Though a copy of this report could not be provided to the press, the Commissioner explained to the press after the forum, how each homicide is recorded in the report with a profile and photo of the victim as well as the culprit and his history. Most of the victims and their

1,200 EMPLOYEES HAVE UNTIL 5PM TODAY

**DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR DECISION ON BTC VOLUNTARY SEVERAGE PACKAGES**

By SANCHESKA BROWN

BAHAMAS Telecommunications Corporation employees have until the end of the day to inform Cable and Wireless whether they want to accept voluntary severance packages.

By 5 pm, all 1,200 BTC employees will have given an answer to CWC regarding their future employment at the company.

Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union (BCPOU) vice president Mario Curry said most of the employees want to take the package and the number of applicants will probably be higher than CWC anticipated.

Union executives were locked in meetings all day yesterday going over and finalising agreements.

Over the last couple of weeks, BTC officials have been travelling around sev-

eral islands, including New Providence, holding seminars about the pros and cons of the packages.

Although an exact number has yet to be confirmed, it is estimated that around 400 or 30 per cent of BTC's staff will be cut.

CWC is offering five weeks salary per year of service to employees ages 45 and under. The maximum payment is 104 weeks salary.

Employees 45 to 50 will be offered five weeks salary for every year of service

with a maximum payment of 110 weeks.

Employees who have been with the company seven to 10 years will be offered a minimum incentive payment of 52 weeks pay.

All employees will also receive a lump sum payment to cover medical coverage for one year following separation.

BTC employees will have to wait four to six weeks to find out if they have been selected to receive a package.

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MONTE CARLO	NEW	N/A	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:20	10:35
LARRY CROWNE	T	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:40
CARS 2	A	1:30	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:30
BAD TEACHER	C	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:50
GREEN LANTERN 3D	B	1:30	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:50
MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS	A	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:40
THE HANGOVER	C	1:35	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:25	10:45
X-MEN FIRST CLASS	T	1:35	4:45	N/A	7:05	N/A	10:00
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MONTE CARLO	NEW	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:40
LARRY CROWNE	T	1:05	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:50
BAD TEACHER	C	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:55
CARS	A	1:15	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:30
MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS	A	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:15	N/A	N/A
GREEN LANTERN 3D	B	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:25	10:45

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## Here's a late royal wedding gift: A pay cut

LONDON — After the pricey glitz of Britain's royal wedding celebrations, Queen Elizabeth II must prepare for a pay cut under the country's austerity measures, lawmakers warned Thursday.

Treasury chief George Osborne said plans being put for approval to lawmakers would see public funding to the royal family fall by about 9 per cent by 2015.

Under the government's plan, the queen's household would receive an estimated £34 million (\$55 million) in the financial year 2013-2014. The figure is roughly the same as now, and in effect would be a cut in her funding once inflation is taken into account.

Under new rules, the amount the queen receives from taxpayers to meet the costs of salaries, palaces, travel and functions would more closely reflect the state of the public finances. "Basically, they will do as well as the economy is doing," Osborne told the House of Commons.

Osborne said that, in a change to current practice, the queen had already agreed to allow Britain's National Audit Office to examine her family's accounts.

"This is a big and historic extension to parliamentary scrutiny and I would like to thank Her Majesty for opening up the books," he said.

Osborne said the current cost of supporting the royal family was the equivalent of 51 pence (82 cents) per person each year.

Labour lawmaker Paul Flynn urged the queen to show prudence at a time when the British public are wrestling with pay freezes and job losses.

Britain's government is cutting £81 billion (\$130 billion) from public expenditure over the next four years under a strict programme to reduce the country's budget deficit.

"We must apply the same financial discipline as we apply to the poorest in society to those who are in the royal family," Flynn said.

Other legislators warned that the proposals risked leaving Britain with a cut price monarchy, which could no longer command international attention with lavish displays of pomp and ceremony.

"We want a glamorous monarchy that befits the status of our nation," Conservative Party lawmaker Jacob Rees-Mogg

said. Rees-Mogg said Parliament would need to carefully consider whether it wanted a "proper and well-funded monarchy."

"When I see the coronation coach being pulled through the streets of London, I want to see it pulled by the finest horses money can buy. I want to see it gilded with the finest gold that can be bought," he added.

The proposals are scheduled to be debated in full by legislators in the coming months.

••••

Meanwhile in Lisbon, Portugal's prime minister announced a new batch of austerity measures, including an additional tax on private income this year, as the country struggles to break free of its ruinous debt burden.

Portugal's high debt load and frail economy have alarmed investors who have demanded unsustainably high returns for loans, forcing the country to take a 78 billion (\$113 billion) international bailout this year.

The budget deficit stood at 7.7 per cent of gross domestic product in the first quarter — way off the target of 5.9 per cent for 2011 — despite a year of belt-tightening that included unpopular tax hikes and welfare cuts.

••••

And in Greece lawmakers have faced down street violence and strikes for the sake of the financial aid it was promised and needs to avoid bankruptcy. Now its fellow European countries will be expected to come up with a second rescue package to convince investors that the 17-nation euro will survive the debt crisis.

While in Washington it was announced that the number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits was mostly unchanged last week, evidence that the weak economy is struggling to generate jobs.

In the meantime the US Senate has cancelled its planned Fourth of July recess for Thursday in an effort to strike a deal to avoid a government default and trim huge federal deficits.

(Associated Press reporters).

# Privy Council ruling leaves more questions than answers

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Maxo Tido's sentence of death was overturned by the Privy Council, according to an article in The Tribune on Thursday, June 16h, 2011. According to the council, it was not the worst of the worst murders.

Despite the explanation given, the ruling has left more questions than answers and has opened up a new line of discussions amongst Bahamians of all sectors of society.

The Privy Council is the last arm of the law in the Bahamas and decisions made by the Privy Council are final. Some may say that we should do away with the council while others say that the council provides a form of stability for the criminal justice system. What is evident though is that the Privy Council is the final rule of law that governs the Bahamas.

On a morning talk show recently, there was a heated discussion about this case. Mr Rodney Moncur has been an advocate of the death penalty for murderers for a number of years in the Bahamas.

## LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

Conversely, a lawyer on Chrissey Love's Immediate Response talk show disagreed with the views of Mr. Moncur as it related to the law. This created a perfect storm.

I think that both parties made convincing points as they vehemently defended their differing points of view. Their views I believe represent a wide cross section of the Bahamian society. As a result of this discussion, I have listed several points of interest below.

(1) The Privy Council is not the problem. They have powers under the constitution to make rulings on cases that affect Bahamians and this is exactly what they are doing.

(2) Only a referendum can change the laws of the Bahamas as it relates to hanging and it is evident that none of the major political parties have any interest in taking this route.

(3) The government alone

cannot take the full blame for the murder count in the Bahamas, but it has become evident that the loose policy of successive governments has contributed to the lawlessness that we see in our society.

(4) Lawyers are in charge and have been in charge of our parliament since our early beginnings and we as a society cannot expect them to make laws that will cause their income to dwindle.

(5) I repeat that the Privy Council is not the problem. The crux of the problem lies in the people that we elect.

Maxo Tido joins a line of other Bahamians whose death sentences have been overturned by the Privy Council ultimately resulting in a sentence of life in prison. And more will come. The question is whether we as a country have what it takes to stiffen penalties for heinous crimes or pussy foot around and cast unwarranted blame on the Privy Council. The choice is ours.

DEHAVILLAND MOSS  
Nassau,  
June 29, 2011.

## LAWYERS WHO WITHDREW FROM CASE HAVE SHORTCHANGED CLIENTS

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I write in relation to the story appearing in today's Business section under the caption "Companies 'lose faith' in Courts."

One of the spokesmen of the Coconut Grove Business League is reported to have said that the group has lost faith in the courts and does not want to put up the additional money that would be needed for new attorneys after their current representatives withdrew from the case this week.

On that issue I would say that in my opinion the lawyers who withdrew from the case have shortchanged their clients and that there is an obligation for them to refund the Business League most, if not all, of the monies paid. Nowhere in the common law world do litigants get to cherry-pick the judicial panel before whom they appear or are allowed to do so by merely writing a letter

airing whatever misgivings they may have as to process by which judges are appointed. There is a proper process for this to happen, and this did not occur, either prior to or at the hearing. In my opinion the purported withdrawal action by the lawyers was a great breach of professional behaviour, and the accession by the court to that conduct, nothing short of pusillanimous.

Further, the League should consider that if they chose not to defend the appeal, and the appeal is determined against them, there can be no recourse to the Privy Council.

MATTHEW EDWARDS  
Nassau,  
June, 2011.

## What promotions for callous jerks?

EDITOR, The Tribune

Re: Those involved in crime scene photos leak 'have been dealt with'.  
The Tribune  
June 15, 2011.

EDITOR, The Tribune.

NOW that "action has been taken against those involved in the leak", I wonder if the public can soon expect to learn where the callous jerks have been promoted to.

KEN W KNOWLES, MD  
Nassau,  
June 20, 2011.

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LOCAL NEWS

# Minister of Environment announces regulations under review by AG's office

By MEGAN REYNOLDS  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

SHARKS will be afforded protection in Bahamian waters thanks to new legislation under review by the Attorney General's Office, Minister of the Environment Earl Deveaux announced yesterday.

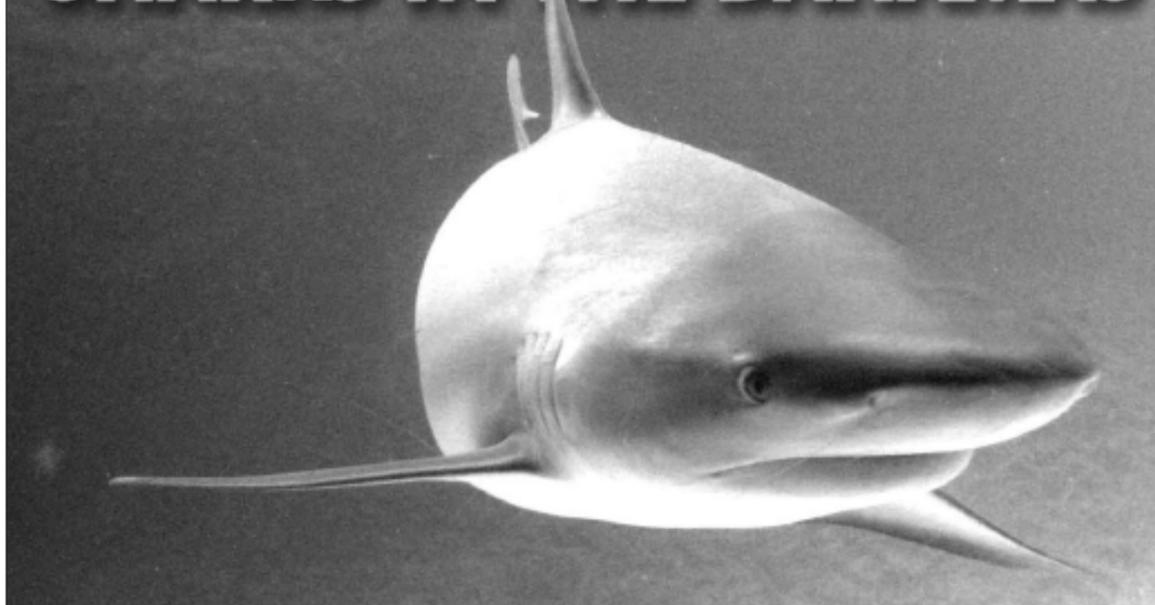
His announcement follows 10 months of campaigning by the Bahamas National Trust and the PEW Environment Group to make the Bahamas a sanctuary for sharks.

The islands are home to one of the world's healthiest shark populations, while global populations are in decline. And there are currently no laws to prevent shark fishing or the export of shark meat and fins.

Before giving a keynote address at the Marina Operators of the Bahamas annual general meeting and training session in the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort yesterday, Mr Deveaux said: "The government of the Bahamas has addressed the Attorney General's Office to formally complete the regulations to ban the export of sharks from the Bahamas."

Deborah Fraser, director of legal affairs at the Attorney General's office, said

# LEGISLATION TO PROTECT SHARKS IN THE BAHAMAS



amendments were made to the Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conversation) Act, and these are understood to have been approved by Cabinet Ministers on Tuesday.

Legislation must now be formalised by the AG's office, and relevant changes will be made before the laws can be signed off by the responsible government minister.

## Published

Ms Fraser said the legislation will not be debated in the House of Assembly, but notices will be published in local gazettes and then enforced.

Following Mr Deveaux's announcement yesterday, Bahamas National Trust executive director Eric

Carey said: "We're optimistic, we are pleased this has reached this stage and we look forward to in very short order being able to celebrate this legislation."

Final drafts of the legislation have yet to be seen by the ministers or campaigners from PEW and the BNT who have called for a ban on the commercial exploitation of sharks.

An estimated 73 million sharks are killed every year for their meat and fins, served in the expensive East Asian delicacy shark fin soup.

However their slow reproduction rate means 38 per cent of shark species are threatened or near threatened with extinction.

The Bahamas boasts one of the healthiest shark populations in the world in both diversity and abundance

and the campaign to protect them was launched soon after *The Tribune* revealed a seafood export company in Andros, exporting sea cucumbers to Hong Kong, was also considering exporting shark meat and fins.

## Support

It has since gained widespread support from thousands of people around the world including celebrity shark fan Pierre-Yves Cousteau, son of oceanographer Jacques Cousteau; and marine wildlife artist Guy Harvey, who visited the Bahamas to promote the campaign this year.

Shark tourism draws an estimated \$78 million annual income for the national economy, and reef sharks

are estimated to be worth around \$250,000 each in shark tourism and shark related activities.

Matt Rand, Director of Global Shark Conservation of the PEW Environment Group, told *The Tribune* yesterday: "The Bahamas are considered one of the top dive destinations for sharks in the world and this would be a crown jewel for global shark conservation, so we are very encouraged by the progress."

The government of Honduras banned shark fishing in their waters, and the import and export of sharks, last week, making the country a shark sanctuary.

Mr Rand said: "The global momentum for shark conservation is building and all eyes are on the Bahamas for the next major step in shark conservation."

POLICE NEWS

## SHOOTING VICTIM IDENTIFIED BY POLICE

By CELESTE NIXON  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

THE man gunned down in Yellow Elder Gardens on Tuesday night has been identified as 38-year-old Ernest Lacroix, a former police officer. Officer-in-charge of the Central Detective Unit Superintendent (CDU) Paul Rolle said Mr Lacroix's body was found around 12.20 yesterday morning.

Police reported that residents called the police shortly after hearing gun shots in the area. When they arrived at the scene, police found that Mr Lacroix had been shot several times. There are currently no leads in the matter, but police say investigations continue.

Anyone with information relevant to this matter is asked to contact police on 911, CDU at 502-9991, or Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS.

• TWO men are in police custody after Mobile Division officers searched a vehicle and found a handgun and ammunition.

The officers arrested the men at 1.20am while on routine patrol in the Palmdale area. Police said the occupants of the Nissan Maxima were in the area of the Palmdale Plaza when they were seen acting suspiciously.

The men, ages 26 and 25 years old, were taken into custody for questioning. Active police investigations continue.

• A car chase between police and two suspects in the Yellow Elder Gardens area ended in both men being arrested.

The men were taken in to custody at 10pm on Wednesday at Major Road after Rapid Strike officers responded to a report of gunshots being heard in the area.

They arrived in time to see a Honda Accord occupied by two men speeding away.

The officers chased the vehicle and brought the car to a stop. A search of the car led to the discovery of some ammunition, police said.

The men, ages 25 and 26 - years-old, are both residents of Yellow Elder Gardens. Police investigations continue.

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LOCAL NEWS

DNA LEADER  
Branville McCartney



# Bran: God is guiding DNA

FROM page one

Bahamians come first, that people come first in their country. We want to be able to have persons empowered in their country and be in a position whereby fairness is abound.

"We want to ensure that we live in a country that should be a country that's good to live in, right now that's not happening. It's not good to live in the Bahamas at this stage, the misery index in the Bahamas is perhaps the highest it's ever been in recent history and we want to be in a position where we can change that."

Mr McCartney said he is in favour of foreign direct investment, which is needed in an economy such as the Bahamas, once it does not damage Bahamians' chances of economic advancement. The lawyer also lamented the plight of many small businesses, which he

said have been taxed out of operation.

"We must continue to encourage (foreign direct investment) but not to the detriment of Bahamian society, the environment as well.

"Foreign direct investment is necessary for a country like our country, we encourage that and we look for that.

"To do business in the Bahamas is difficult," he said.

"I am more of a businessman than I am a lawyer.

The concessions that foreigners would get far outweigh the concessions that Bahamians would get - it's unfair.

"We have to change that, businesses today have been taxed out of business, that needs to be looked at.

He added: "Doing business in the Bahamas is terrible, it ain't bad, it's terrible."

# DNA UNDECIDED ON RODNEY MONCUR, DISMISSES STEVE MCKINNEY SPECULATION

FROM page one

"Rodney Moncur has applied as a member and has also applied to the candidacy committee to become a candidate. A determination has not been made in that regard.

"There's nothing on Steve McKinney. No applications on Mr Steve McKinney," said Mr McCartney, dispelling speculation that the radio show host was a DNA candidate.

In late May, Mr Moncur dissolved the Worker's Party - after a 30-year history - to join forces with Mr McCartney's new DNA.

Yesterday, Mr Moncur was tightlipped about the selection process and his future with the new group.

He did say he is committed to the DNA and ensuring the party wins the next general election.

"I am not authorised by the Democratic National Alliance or its leader to comment on the question of nominations," he said.

"I can confirm that I have

applied for a nomination and as a new member of the DNA and a former leader of a political party I will not comment on party issues without proper authority."

He added: "I'm a financial member of the DNA and I'm committed to staying with the DNA and doing everything that is possible to have that party become the next legitimate government of the Bahamas."

The DNA will introduce another slate of candidates during its Grand Bahama launch.

Defence attorney Wayne Munroe, SkyBahamas CEO Randy Butler and Galleria Cinemas CEO Chris Mortimer have also been picked to run in the Mount Moriah, North Andros and Sea Breeze constituencies respectively.



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

The following policyowners are asked to contact their respective sales office at Family Guardian Insurance Company Limited as soon as possible.

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1067606	Kensell Burrows	1186476	Marsha Scott	1075194	Derek Cartwright
8019509	Dwayne B. Rolle	1189759	Donavan Bethell	1077993	Francis St. Goie
1067608	Ethen Burrows	1192641	Simeon Rolle	1079175	Nethera Delancy
1067610	Kenton Burrows	1196599	Sharon Mortimer	1079618	Stephen C. Woodside
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2106352	Alberta Black	2108963	Jessica L. Poitier	2111749	Sterlyn Martin
2107467	Anjelica Humes	2110725	Fredricka Joseph	2113557	Sterlyn Martin
2108118	Don Pierre	2110727	Fanel Joseph Jr	2118870	Kevin Jones
2108120	Gerard Pierre	2110729	Joel Joseph	38826	Robert A. Davis
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218872	Donald Hanna	996137	Dwight Clarke	1093630	George Micklewhyte
282159	Oscar L. Hepburn	1000949	Wendy R. Johnson	1117700	Kennardo McPhee
244610	Willis R. Sweating	1019590	Shirley Clarke	1133850	Tyrone Mackey
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### A Memorial Service For



## LINDA E. WASSITSCH

will be held on Tuesday, 5th of July, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at The Royal Nassau Sailing Club, East Bay Street, Nassau.

Linda had requested that family and friends attending her memorial service be dressed casually.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Bahamas Humane Society, P.O. Box N-242, Nassau, in her memory.

Arrangements by Kemp's Funeral Home Limited.

LOCAL NEWS

GRAND BAHAMA PORT AUTHORITY AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

# SHAREHOLDERS HONOUR GRADUATING TOP ACHIEVERS

ELEVEN of Grand Bahama's top scholastic achievers were awarded four-year college scholarships by the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA).

A scholarship was given to each top achiever from every 2011 Grand Bahama high school graduating class.

Under its 'Making it Happen' initiatives, the Top Achiever Scholarship award is a significant banner programme of GBPA, created to recognise the academic excellence of high school graduates annually.

The awards are valued in excess of \$156,000. Recipients may choose any field of study; however, GBPA encourages students to pursue careers that will invigorate and fuel the development of the City of Freeport and Grand Bahama.

The scholars are also encouraged to begin training at the College of The Bahamas before traveling abroad.

Special presentations were arranged at Jack Hayward Secondary High School (JHS) and St George's High School (STGHS) by their patrons, Sir Jack Hayward and the St George family, to reward the schools' highest performing graduates for their hard work, dedication and



**JOB WELL DONE!** – Valedictorian and Head Boy for Jack Hayward Secondary High School, Leroy Seymour is presented with the GBPA Top Achiever Scholarship award by GBPA Vice President Ginger Moxey. He also received a special gift from Sir Jack Hayward, patron of the school in recognition of his outstanding performance.

academic aptitude.

"The world is an adventure, and the opportunities that are available to you are endless. In the midst of your quest to pursue your goals and aspirations, it is hoped that you will continue to be a part of the growth and development of Grand Bahama Island, and by extension, the Bahamas," said Mrs Ginger Moxey,

GBPA vice-president.

She was restated words of encouragement by Sir Jack in a personal letter to the graduating class of JHS.

Valedictorian and JHS Head Boy Leroy Seymour was awarded the GBPA Top Achiever Scholarship and a laptop, compliments of Sir Jack.

Geneva Rutherford, GBPA's director of com-

munity relations, told graduates that while they pursue their dreams they should remember the foundation from which they came - Grand Bahama and Freeport.

"Freeport is just a babe,



**ALL SMILES!** – Presenting on behalf of the St George family, patrons of St George's High School, was Geneva Rutherford, community relations director for GBPA. Valedictorian Aaron Adderley received the GBPA Top Achiever Scholarship award and a special plaque in honour of his achievement as the most outstanding graduate.

and as it continues to develop, it will need its children of the soil to return with knowledge, skill and a passion for its advancement. Without these it cannot be

globally competitive," she said, as she presented a scholarship to Top Achiever Aaron Adderley on behalf of the St George family.

## ICAN initiative offers summer of fun for Emergency Children's Hostel residents

### Horseback riding, costume building and agriculture skills will be free of charge

By AVA TURNQUEST  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

CHILD abuse victims are gearing up for an activity-filled and self-driven summer as a not-for-profit organisation sets out to instil an "ICAN" spirit.

Horseback riding, costume building and agriculture skills are among the many opportunities offered free of charge to residents at the Bahamas Emergency Children's Hostel for the entire summer.

Nakita Smith, administrative assistant, said: "This camp is a very positive opportunity for the children. It would help to empower the children and let them know that nothing is impossible and they can do and become whatever they dream."

The ICAN initiative is a not for profit movement formed to facilitate the growth and development of children into positive well rounded adults.

Through consistent affirmation and programmes that will target key aspects of a child's development, the organisation is committed to empowering the young victims.

Tehranique Miller, director, said: "The movement is committed to providing diverse and creative support services and programmes to children and families throughout the Bahamas to ensure that no child is left behind and that "Every Child Counts."

Programmes to be offered at the "full-service children's institute," include art development, agriculture and farming, environmental sustainability, tutoring and academic support, and counselling for children and their families.

In the first four weeks, child victims will learn costume design and construction under the tutelage of Junkanoo group Barabas and the Tribe at their headquarters, Junkanoo World.

Summer activities will begin on July 4 and continue until August 26.

The hostel was founded in 1962 as a temporary child care facility in the Oakes Field area; however financial problems forced its closure.

Partnering with the government, it was reopened by the Kiwanis Club of Nassau at its current location on McKinney Drive.

The quasi-government facility can host up to 30 children, with current occupancy at 28.

Ms Smith said: "All of our children come in through the Department of Social Services. Children are taken out of parent's care because of some abusive situation - neglect, abandonment, sexual issues."

The youngest child is six months old, and the eldest, a disabled child, is 13. Children that do not return home, and are not placed in foster care, remain at the hostel until age 12 or they complete primary school.

Ms Smith said: "Donations are very important, without it we can't survive. We only have a little grant, which usually only covers salaries. Schooling, clothing, food, mostly everything comes from donations."

Sponsors of the camp include: Dairy Queen, Wendy's, Royal Bank of Canada, Lombard Odier Hentsch Darier, Ronald Atkinson and other anonymous persons.

Organisers hope to raise \$12,000, \$500 per child, to fund activities such as junkanoo costume building, agriculture and farming, and facilitators, for the entire summer.

Ms Smith said: "A lot of times when they take the kids out of the family home and put them in the hostel, they are scared and don't know what's going on."

"It gives them something to look forward to, a lot of times they don't have the opportunity to do much," she said. "It's good for them to know that 'hey we're in this situation, we still can do something for ourselves.'"



### Share your news

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*Ashley Megan Pratt*

**MOST DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVER**  
**JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT NEW PROVIDENCE**

Miss Pratt is a third year achiever of the programme and a 2011 Graduate of St. Augustine's College in Nassau, Bahamas. She is the President of the Junior Achievement Company, M.A.G.I.C. sponsored by Deloitte and the Financial Controller of Junior Achievement New Providence's Achievers' Association.

She obtained a general exam score of 96%, high attendance and participation and sales, a Finalist position in the Junior Achievement/Toastmaster Speech Competition and an astounding interview score of 91%. Ashley is to be commended for her outstanding efforts during this programme year.

Junior Achievement is a non-profit economic educational program for high school students established internationally in 1919. The Junior Achievement Bahamas programme was established in 1979.

She was awarded the tittle of Most Distinguished Achiever - New Providence at the 32nd Annual Junior Achievement Awards Presentation held last evening under the theme, "Blazing New Trails To Success".

Ashley is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ashton Pratt.

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# Government outsources garbage collection routes to private company

FROM page one

"state-of-the-art, fully automated garbage trucks" which were expected to improve the garbage collection capabilities of the DEHS. Five additional trucks were added to the fleet a month later at a total cost of \$2.5 million.

Melanie McKenzie, DEHS director, said the trucks were not added to an existing fleet, but held back to replace older vehicles as needed.

She also confirmed that about 10 trucks, at least half of the department's existing fleet, are currently not functioning.

Ms McKenzie refused to say how much the department is paying to rent the trucks or how much the old trucks will cost to repair.

She said: "The trucks are not working for a variety of reasons. What people don't understand is that garbage trucks get beat up just like cars do, maybe even more."

"The trucks have to make at least 120 stops in different neighbourhoods a day, to thousands of households. Just driving on the streets alone can cause damage, not to mention the acidity of the garbage that goes into the trucks."

Ms McKenzie said the incapacitated trucks should be up and running soon and

the department has only outsourced routes until the end of July.

Currently, garbage is collected once a week, but Ms McKenzie says she hopes that in a few months this can increase to twice a week.

Until then the public should be aware the day their garbage is collected will change.

"If your garbage is normally collected on Tuesday, they might get it on Thursday. If it usually gets collected on Monday morning, they will now come Monday night."

The department has set up a collection complaint hotline, 341-1995.

# Bahamians 'partially to blame' for illegal immigration issues

FROM page one

that permit is never renewed."

Mr Thompson said this scenario leads many illegals to move from job to job, employed by Bahamians who are willing to pay them under the table.

"So what happens is, we're here and they are just working all over the place. They just go where money is and we allow it to happen because we're paying them," he said.

Mr Thompson said the Bahamas cannot deny certain rights to human beings - Bahamians or non-Bahamians - because of the country's agreements with certain international agencies.

"One of the things you cannot deny under the conventions of which we are a part of is education, health and the social services," he said.

The job of the Immigration Department is to protect the country from illegal immigrants, but this task must be carried out with sensitivity, said Mr Thompson.

"We are never to send any immigration officers to the schools. The schools, the church, and the hospitals are off limits," said Mr Thompson.

"We're going to deal with the home and the community. While we have a job to do and a mandate, we have to do it with sensitivity and sensibly."



IMMIGRATION DIRECTOR Jack Thompson

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

# CHAVEZ SAYS SURGERY REMOVED TUMOUR IN CUBA

**CARACAS, Venezuela**  
**Associated Press**

VENEZUELAN President Hugo Chavez told his countrymen Thursday night that he underwent a second surgery in Cuba for the removal of a cancerous growth.

Chavez said in a televised talk that the operation took out a tumor in which there were "cancerous cells." He said the second surgery was done after an initial June 10 operation in which a pelvic abscess was removed.

He called his situation "this new battle that life has placed before us."

It was unclear what type of cancer is involved or what Chavez's treatment will be. He said it had been a "fundamental error" to not have taken better care of his health through medical checks.

"What a fundamental error," Chavez said.

Chavez did not say how much longer he expected to remain in Cuba recovering.

He said the first surgery was for a "strange formation in the pelvic region that required an emergency operation due to the imminent risk of a generalized

infection."

After that first surgery, Chavez said, doctors began to suspect other problems. A series of tests "confirmed the presence of an abscessed tumor with the presence of cancerous cells, which made necessary a second operation that allowed for the complete extraction of the tumor," he said.

Chavez said his condition has been "evolving satisfactorily while I receive a complementary treatment to combat the different types of cells found, and thereby continue on the path to my complete recovery."

His appearance came after government efforts, including Tuesday's release of photos and video showing Chavez with Fidel Castro, failed to quell growing speculation among Venezuelans that he may be seriously ill.

His aides and family had tried to assure the country that the socialist president was recovering well from his surgery for the pelvic abscess, but they provided no details about his condition and gave no specific time for his return home.

There was no information on when and where Chavez's message was recorded.

# Time out from time out?

By INIGO 'NAUGHTY' ZENICAZELAYA

What is this cultural phenomenon of "time out"

when it comes to disciplining children? In all honesty, this modern practice didn't matter one hill of beans to me until I became a father.

Now, however, the "time out" approach has become a source of great interest—and humour—to me.

I have tried and tried again to understand the theory behind this method of "punishment" rationally. I have weighed it against the traditional Bahamian system of "go pick ya switch!" and have found that one is definitely more effective than the other.

In my day, there was no time out. (And if there was, I missed that memo!) Until about the age of 23, I remained firmly enrolled in the Cut Backside Institute (hello, fellow alumni out there!) where I graduated with honours; Magna Scream Loudly.

My mother—a born and bred Bahamian—used to spank me anytime and anywhere, if I deserved it, and she would use whatever device was within her reach to enhance the experience. I have been spanked with an extension cord, a tyre iron, an igloo cooler, a microwave oven, a satellite dish—and not one of those cute little DSS dishes today's kids are used to. I'm old school. I'm talking about a huge, round, bigger than your house "SATELITE DISH" that came complete with a galaxy and two aliens.

The worst spanking I ever got was when my mother beat me with my cousin. I was eight and little Tommy was four. She picked him up by the ankles and spanked the living daylight out of me with Tommy! Needless to say, he hasn't been the same since. We've remained very close over the years, and I go shopping with him all the time because he gets really good parking.

But I digress. Every time my mother spanked me, I would walk off thinking, "Hmmm,

maybe I don't want to try that again!" And according to conventional wisdom, that is the whole point. Spanking sends an immediate stimulus to the brain—via a shock to the backside—of what we should and should not do.

Modern "Time Out Kids" live on the opposite end of the discipline spectrum. They are banished to their rooms where they languish with all the amenities modern technology can provide; I'm talking internet, X-boxes, iPods, Playstations and Blackberries. They spend their time clicking their thumbs, texting their friends and probably plotting world domination. They walk away from their "Timeout Parents" think-

## COMIC'S VIEW



INIGO 'NAUGHTY' ZENICAZELAYA

ing, "Hmmm, I might just try that again!"

I know a few "Time Out Kids" who are now adults. Some of them are model citizens and others—well let's just say I've enjoyed watching them on Cops, Flavour of Love, and (sigh) I Love New York. My own research has yielded countless articles by very smart people in support of both time outs and spankings. So, at the end of the day,

which disciplinary method really works?

Here's my take: If you're going to be a Time Out Parent, make sure the designated time out spot is void of electronic toys, games and mp3 players. (Hey, it is supposed to be punishment after all!) On the other hand, if you decide to go with the age old method of spanking, I've found that Lignum Vitae makes the best "switch."



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All offers should be forwarded in writing in sealed envelope, addressed to the Manager, Royal Bank Commercial Financial Services, P.O. Box N-7549, Nassau, Bahamas and marked "Tender 7939". All offers must be received by the close of business 4:00 p.m., 8th July, 2011.

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### MULTI-MEDIA THEATRICAL EVENT 'SALVATION STORIES' OPENS TODAY

SALVATION STORIES, a multi-media theatrical event, will premiere today at the Kingdom Life Church on Chesapeake Road.

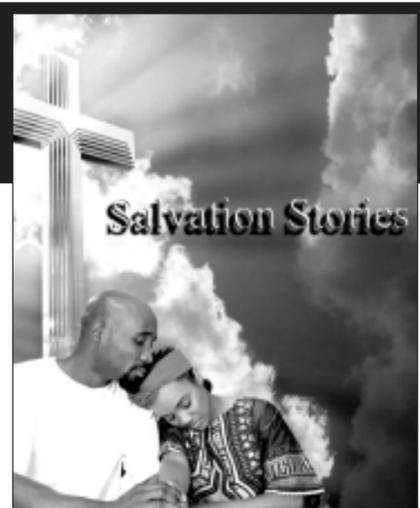
The unique form of drama is the latest project from Clarence Rolle, writer and director of films such as Crazy Love and plays such as The Web Shop Horror. The production also marks Mr Rolle's return to the stage after a three-year absence.

"My last role on stage was as Big Blue in 'Da Rally'," he said. "That was three years ago at the Dundas. Since then, I've been behind the scenes, writing, directing and producing. I am eager to get my acting legs back now, especially since this is such a unique production and for such a worthy cause."

Salvation Stories combines oration and recitation with other elements of drama. Technological components are also key parts of the production. The first act of the production is a screening of Fresh, a short movie and the first film produced and directed by Mr Rolle.

The second act is a live theatrical presentation that will take audiences through the book of Jonah and other passages of Biblical scripture.

"We have been like the millions of Jewish people throughout history who have committed the Torah – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy – to memory," said Rolle



about the style of the production. "Although I have not yet had to commit five books of the Bible to memory, there are substantial portions that have been memorized."

"That includes the entire book of Jonah, which happens to be a short book of only four chapters."

The performance, which also includes musical numbers, is a benefit for two members of the church community. All of the money raised will go to support medical and recovery needs. The production is suitable for children and adults. The play runs until July 2.

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#### Educational Requirements & Skills:

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A Master's degree in respective fields above and training in Industrial Relations and Labour matters would be an advantage. Excellent people management, listening and communication skills, good negotiation, conflict resolution and computer skills.

All submissions will be kept confidential.

Qualified persons should apply before July 18, 2011

DA 91924  
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Human Resource Manager  
P.O.Box N3207  
Nassau, Bahamas

## Tribune Trivia

### Yesterday's Question

Which Tribune reporter was named Championship MVP in the Bahamas Flag Football League title game?

### Yesterday's Answer

Renaldo Dorsett

### Yesterday's Winners

Jillian Mullings	3pts
Jacqueline Brown	2pts
Tasia Blair	1pt

Click the 'Like' button on the Tribune News Network Facebook page to play Tribune Trivia

\*Nassau Residents Only



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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## TSA updates list, sex toys allowed in carry-on luggage

AMERICA'S Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has updated the list of items allowed in carry-on luggage — with some of the additions set to create a stir.

The security agency announced that sex toys, including vibrators, are now safe to pack in carry-ons. So are whips, chains, leashes, restraints and handcuffs.

An article on AOL's travel site Gadling.com notes that not everyone should pack their 'goodies' in their overnight bag.

It advises that if you are shy and discreet, you should pack them in your checked luggage because you will be flagged when the items are spotted and they will be taken out and inspected in full view.

The TSA also reminds travelers that any item that is "club-like" or objects that are "anatomically correct cylinders of roughly a foot or so in length" are still prohibited. In other words, size matters, keep it under seven inches and you should be fine, says the travel site.

The TSA also recommended these travel tips for more discreet flying:

- Remove the batteries. It will prevent your travel companion from going off unexpectedly and in inopportune places — like the security line and overhead bin.

- Make sure all liquids and gels are 3-1-1 compliant. You may want to transfer that KY into an unmarked container as well.

- Handcuffs are legally allowed, but you may want to check them ... or opt for a less conspicuous silk or cotton variety.

- Whips and leather floggers are legal. Do not back down

- Be careful where you are travelling — foreign countries may have different restrictions.

In Saudi Arabia, the article notes, alcohol, weapons, pork and pornography are not permitted.

Screwdrivers, wrenches and other "hand tools" may also be brought aboard in carry-on luggage if they are less than seven inches in length.

## ● In brief

### Irish boat drops out of flotilla, cites sabotage

ATHENS, Greece  
Associated Press

AN IRISH ship on Thursday dropped out of the pro-Palestinian flotilla planning to break Israel's blockade of Gaza, citing sabotage, and a U.S. ship declared it may set sail from a Greek port for Gaza without permission, activists said.

Up to 400 international activists had been due to sail this week to Gaza aboard 10 ships leaving from Greece to protest the naval blockade that Israel imposed on the Palestinian territory after Hamas militants overran it in 2007.

An Israeli raid on a similar flotilla last year killed nine activists on a Turkish ship and each side blamed the other for the violence.

The Irish ship MV Saoirse had to abandon plans to set sail because of what it called Israeli sabotage. Activist Huwaida Arraf told Israel's Army Radio that the ship's engine was damaged while in port and could have led to deaths on board.

"When the engine was started, it completely bent," Arraf said. "While out at sea, if this would have happened, if it would have bent in this way, the boat would have started taking on water and it could have led to fatalities."

The alleged sabotage occurred at the Turkish coastal town of Gocek where the MV Saoirse has been berthed for the past few weeks, organizers said.

Earlier this week, activists said Israeli agents damaged the propeller of a Swedish ship in the Greek port.

Israel has refused AP requests for comment on the allegations.

# Raid opens window into notorious Puerto Rico slum

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico  
Associated Press

IT WAS always Puerto Rico's most famous slum, and the most picturesque, but the extent of criminality in La Perla apparently extended far beyond the colonial walls and cobblestone streets of Old San Juan.

U.S. federal agents and Puerto Rican police swept through La Perla on Wednesday, breaking down doors and rousting people from sleep in what authorities said was the largest and most comprehensive raid ever in the community perched at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean.

Nearly 70 people had been arrested on drug and weapons charges by Thursday and several dozen more were being sought, said Javier Pena, special agent in charge of the Caribbean division of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

La Perla, a warren of tightly packed homes just a short walk from Puerto Rico's best known tourist district and main government offices, has long been known as a retail drug bazaar. But Pena said a two-year investigation also revealed that the chief drug gang based there was receiving large shipments of South American narcotics and distributing them across the island, becoming the largest heroin supplier in the U.S. territory. An



A RESIDENT of San Juan's seaside slum of La Perla walks through the main access as two police officers guard the entrance in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Wednesday, June 29, 2011. La Perla has long been known as a drug bazaar, a warren of tightly packed homes and narrow streets that is next to Puerto Rico's main tourist zone and most important government buildings but considered off-limits to everyone except locals and people looking to engage in illegal activities. (AP)

indictment alleges they cleared at least \$20 million though officials say that's likely a conservative estimate of their total earnings.

The scope of the organization made it a target of law enforcement, and so did its location, just below the colo-

rial ramparts where thousands of tourists stroll and take photos, gawking at La Perla from a safe distance, after disembarking from the nearby cruise ship piers.

"It's more of an affront, more of an insult to the island that we have one of

the biggest drug organizations operating in one of the prettiest places in Puerto Rico and where our government is," Pena said in an interview with The Associated Press.

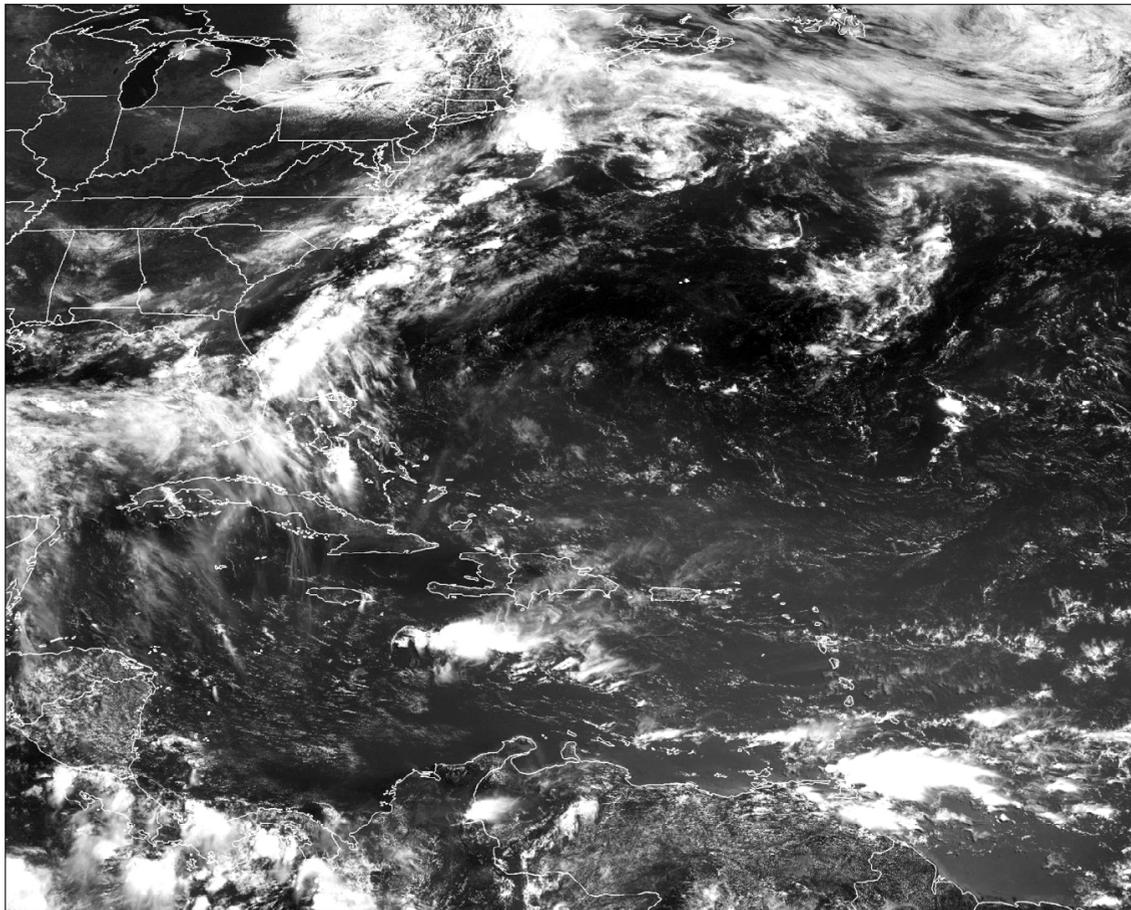
Some local politicians were surprised by the arrest of Jorge Gomez Gonzalez, president of the Association for the Rescue and Development of La Perla, who was charged in an indictment with being the leader of the drug trafficking organization. Gomez has been the acknowledged community leader of the slum, has been widely quoted in local media and has represented the people in meetings with Gov. Luis Fortuno.

Gomez has not yet entered a plea, but he told reporters covering his arrest that he had nothing to do with the drug trade.

Natividad Gomez, a social worker who has helped run a community center in La Perla for 17 years and is not related to the jailed community leader, said she couldn't talk about the charges but that Gomez was esteemed in the neighborhood as someone who could help resolve disputes or problems.

"He's just a person who helps his community and he works very hard," said Gomez, as she took a break from running a summer camp for children from La Perla hours after the police raid. "He defends the people and gets them what they need."

## Tropical Storm Arlene moving toward Mexico in Gulf



THIS NOAA satellite image taken Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at 10:45 AM EDT shows Tropical Storm Arlene spinning in the Gulf of Mexico bringing heavy showers and thunderstorms across southern and eastern Mexico, as well as, parts of Central America. The tail end of this system is pushing widespread showers to Cuba, the Bahamas, and most of Florida. At the same time, a tropical wave positioned to the south of Honduras is triggering showers over most of Central America. To the east, another tropical wave over the Dominican Republic is bringing scattered showers over most of the Greater Antilles. (AP)

VERACRUZ, Mexico  
Associated Press

The first tropical storm of the Atlantic hurricane season gained force as it headed for Mexico's central Gulf coast Wednesday evening, bringing a threat of floods and mudslides.

Tropical Storm Arlene could become a weak hurricane before hitting land north of the coastal city of Tuxpan early Thursday, said the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami. Officials in the states of Veracruz, Tamaulipas and San Luis Potosi said they were monitoring the storm and preparing for possible flooding.

The state oil company, Petroleos Mexicanos, said it was considering whether to evacuate its oil platforms off the Veracruz coast but had made no public announcement by Wednesday night.

Rain was falling along the coast ahead of the storm, and officials warned residents about impending winds and rain. Officials said 6 inches (150 millimeters) of rain were possible in northern Veracruz state.

Some mountainous areas could get up to 15 inches of rain, the hurricane center said.

Forecasters said extreme south Texas also could get rain.

The main threat to Mexico comes from heavy rains that could cause flash floods and mudslides in 13 states, the government said.

## Clinton urges world democracies to stand together

VILNIUS, Lithuania  
Associated Press

THE United States and fellow democracies on Thursday encouraged newly energized political activism in the Arab world and the older resistance movements in repressive corners of Europe, offering some practical tutorials on how to organize online and how to cover one's tracks.

"I know some of you are here at great personal risk," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told participants in the "Community of Democracies" gathering in Lithuania's capital. "But we come here for our common commitment to human rights and freedom."

The meeting was deliberately held only a short distance from Belarus, Europe's last autocratic stronghold.

Some participants traveled the approximately 20 miles from Belarus, where authorities are cracking down on demonstrators amid the country's worst financial crisis since the fall of the Soviet Union two decades ago.

Belarusian police violently dispersed a peaceful rally Wednesday by thousands of people protesting the authoritarian regime of President Alexander Lukashenko. Police beat and detained dozens of people after crowds defied official warnings and torrential rain to march down a central street of the capital, clapping in unison.

Much of the democracy meeting's opening day dealt with the new mechanics of protest, such as social media networks. At one event, civil society groups from Africa to Asia to Eastern Europe



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton seen during the conference 'Women Enhancing Democracy: Best Practices' in the President palace in Vilnius, Lithuania, Thursday, June 30, 2011. (AP)

stepped up to tell America's top diplomat that government repression is on the rise.

At another, bloggers, human rights activists and protest organizers were coached in techniques to get their messages past government censors and onto the Internet, while masking their electronic footprints so as to avoid reprisal.

Clinton told participants at a "tech camp" that governments

were constantly coming up with new ways to curb Internet freedom.

"We need to add to our numbers and find new ways to get over, around and through the walls," she said in a surprise appearance to a room full of young activists.

For Clinton, it was the second leg of a European swing to promote human rights and democracy. She visited Hungary earlier Thursday to inaugurate a human rights institute named after the late Rep. Tom Lantos of California. She will travel to Spain before returning home.

The choice of Hungary and Lithuania was symbolic. Both countries offer an example to peaceful demonstrators elsewhere, having shaken off the yoke of authoritarian regimes during the last great wave of liberal upheaval, when the Iron Curtain came down in 1989.



## BROKERS AWAIT REGULATOR OVER 'AUDIT REVIEW'

- \* Say full audit too costly and unnecessary for small Bahamian insurance players
- \* Jury still out on whether new Act to spark consolidation
- \* Pressure for all salesmen to be full-time, despite nothing in Act

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor

The Bahamas Insurance Brokers Association (BIBA) is awaiting the regulator's response to its lobbying for smaller brokers/agents to be subject to an annual audit review, as opposed to full audit, with the jury still out on whether the new Act will spark consolidation in the sector.

Vaughn Culmer, BIBA's president, told Tribune Business the organisation felt a full audit would be too costly for smaller Bahamian-owned insurance brokers and agents, and suggested this was not necessary since they acted merely as collectors, passing on premium income to carriers, and had little to no liabilities.

SEE page 4B

## PORT 'SOON' IN SOUTH BAHAMAS



EARL DEVEAUX

By ALISON LOWE  
Business Reporter  
[alow@tribunemedia.net](mailto:alow@tribunemedia.net)

An southern Bahamas island will "soon" become home to a "first rate deep-water port", a Cabinet minister revealed yesterday, suggesting this will transform its economy and those of islands around it.

Minister of the Environment, Earl Deveaux, said the port will provide services to passing ships heading through the Bahamas chain, in the process "dramatically diversifying" the economies of the commercially quiet southern islands.

Mr Deveaux was addressing the Marina Operators of the Bahamas (MOB) association as a guest speaker yesterday at the Sheraton Nassau Beach hotel.

In an interview after his

SEE page 5B

## 'Underdeveloped' \$46m marina visitor spending

- \* Sector 'has potential to sustain us even longer than land-based tourism'
- \* Marina stopovers offer 'best value' for spreading wealth and promoting Bahamas

By ALISON LOWE  
Business Reporter  
[alow@tribunemedia.net](mailto:alow@tribunemedia.net)

Growing the "underdeveloped" maritime tourism sector was yesterday branded critical to the industry's future, with marina visitor spending second only to hotel-based visitors at \$46.3 million annually.

Seeking to advance marine tourism in a strategic way, industry association, the Marina Operators of the Bahamas (MOB), have accessed \$40,000 in funding from the European Union's Centre for Development and Enterprise

(CDE) to complete a nine-month project aimed at developing a master plan for the sector.

Meanwhile, the director-general of tourism, David Johnson, said the Ministry of Tourism is committed to partnering with the MOB to grow boater arrivals.

"It is time that we really treat this sector as having the sort of business potential it has, and begin to develop a very clear cut plan to drive it," Mr Johnson said.

He was speaking at a Strategic Development and Positioning Workshop held by the MOB yesterday at the

Sheraton Nassau Beach resort, in which challenges, opportunities and developments facing the marina industry were discussed

Mr Johnson said the sector's importance to the Ministry of Tourism comes in large part from a recognition that it is the Family Islands, rather than New Providence and Grand Bahama, which the Bahamas should focus on to maximise tourism revenues going forward.

"We have been talking about the marina industry within the context of the new

SEE page 3B

## GOVERNMENT SET TO INCREASE FUEL MARK-UPS

- \* Increases likely to come in next month, and be fixed rise rather than percentage rise
- \* Boost for gas stations and marinas

By ALISON LOWE  
Business Reporter  
[alow@tribunemedia.net](mailto:alow@tribunemedia.net)

The Government is to permit an increase in the mark-up fuel retailers can add to each gallon of gasoline and diesel sold, in response to pleas from land-based service stations and marina operators for "relief" from dwindling to non-existent profit margins.

What remains unclear is when the change in the price-controlled mark-up fuel retailers can add to each gallon of gasoline and diesel sold will take place, or by how much it will be adjusted.

Whether or not it leads to increased costs for consumers

SEE page 5B

## Arbitration bid can emulate Singapore

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor

The Bahamas is assembling the "foundations" to emulate Singapore and become an international arbitration centre for the Americas and Caribbean region, after this nation's Chapter "accomplished a milestone that usually takes 10 years" in becoming a Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Branch.

Bertha Cooper-Rousseau, the branch's chairperson, told Tribune Business yesterday that the Bahamas Chapter had been able to upgrade to its new status in less than a year, providing a significant stepping stone towards furthering this nation's international arbitration centre ambitions.

Backed by its "cutting edge" legislation, and the branch's training and education activities, Ms Cooper-Rousseau said the Bahamas was positioned to establish itself as an arbitration centre that attracted business from other Caribbean nations.

And, with its existing, well-established maritime and financial services industries, and unique position in the US east coast time zone, Ms Cooper-Rousseau said the Bahamas could easily act as a complement to existing arbitration centres such as Singapore.

Describing the branch and its existing 35 members as being "absolutely elated" after the London-based Institute's 12 trustees voted to upgrade the Bahamas to branch status, Ms Cooper-Rousseau said: "What we have done in essence is to have accomplished a milestone that usually takes 10 years.

"We've accomplished that in less than a year. This is a remarkable achievement, not only in the Bahamas but among the international arbitration community. It means the Bahamas will be viewed in the same light as the Hong Kong branch, the Singapore branch and the newly-recognised Mauritius branch, as a recognised body of professionals in arbitration and alternative dispute

SEE page 2B

- \* Bahamas attains 'milestone that usually takes 10 years' to become Institute branch
- \* Can be arbitration 'bridge' for Americas and Caribbean

## CANADA TIEA TO HAVE 'JUST AS MUCH IMPACT' AS TRADE DEAL

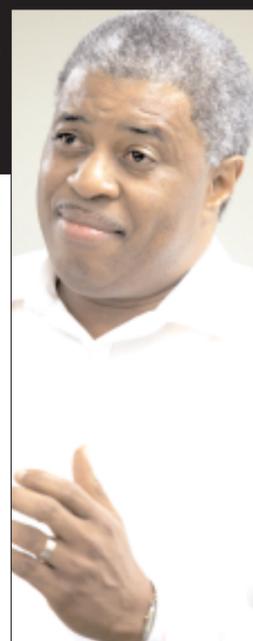
- \* Chief WTO negotiator implores private sector to 'do homework' and be more involved with free trade, not rely only on government
- \* Bahamas 'handicapped' by WTO late start, but making progress

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor

The Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) signed with Canada will "have just as much or greater impact" on the Bahamas than the trade agreement being negotiated with that country on our behalf, the nation's lead World Trade Organisation

SEE page 4B

"We're likely to find ourselves being just as competitive in attracting Canadian business, which primarily in the past went to Barbados."



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## BUSINESS

By SIMON COOPER  
Res Socius

# Business buyers looking for more

The Law of Supply and Demand is an economic fundamental which dictates that the scarcer things are, the more people can stand to pay, and therefore the more they will cost. This is why truffles cost a fortune, and ordinary mushrooms cost a whole lot less. It also explains why homes with uninterrupted sea views cost a whole lot more than those that look up at their blank back walls.

Statisticians like to make a lot of mileage out of what they call a normal distribution curve, too.

This is based on the theory that in any population of, say shoes or motor cars, the majority will be priced evenly around a midpoint.

To the extent that what they say is true (and this is 99.99 per cent likely), this should also be reflective of house selling prices.

This same law probably applies, to some extent, to what business buyers are prepared to stand, although the two curves do not share the same scales.

The reason for this is that



SIMON COOPER

expectations vary. Closing this gap through impartial negotiation is what business brokers do to deserve their

commissions. Without this service, many businesses never sell at all. Instead, their owners lose interest

and drift away with nothing.

A classic example of the rule is the huge inventory of real estate that's clogging up markets all over the western world. Why is this? It is because the distribution of what sellers must receive to pay off mortgages is way off beam from what buyers can afford.

There are some overlaps with business inventories here. Sellers want more than their businesses are worth. Buyers want to strike a bargain in what is a special case of a business deal.

I have a queue of ready investors wanting to pick up businesses with demonstrable track records, and verifiable cash flows, too.

Demand for decent busi-

nesses has always outstripped supply.

The difference this time, though, is that fewer people have much ready cash, and most are looking for a measure of seller-financing. Because a bird in the hand is worth two in a bush, this possibility is worth turning over more than twice in a keen seller's mind.

Many buyers who I come across typically have up to \$50,000 in their hands ready to invest.

Given that the sellers on my books expect to finance no more than 50 per cent to 75 per cent of the agreed selling price, this puts the price range that businesses will sell relatively quickly for in the Bahamas between

\$100,000 and \$200,000, after allowing for the fact that demand exceeds supply.

Those on the market that actually sell will also have to prove track records and verifiable cash flows as well.

**NB: Res Socius was founded by Simon Cooper in 2009, and is a business brokerage authorised by the Bahamas Investment Authority. He has extensive private and public SME experience, and was formerly chief executive of a publicly traded investment company. He was awarded an MBA with distinction by Liverpool University in 2005. Contact him on 636-8831 or write to simon.cooper@ressocius.com.**

Please be reminded that donors have to eat at least 4 hours before giving blood

## MORE BLOOD MORE LIFE

New  
registration  
process!  
See details below \*

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## Arbitration bid can emulate Singapore

FROM page 1B

resolution (ADR)."

The Bahamas was now the third largest branch in the Americas region, and Ms Cooper-Rousseau said its training sessions in Nassau and Freeport over the past week, had gone very well, attracting in total some 56 persons.

Some 22 persons participated in the Nassau arbitration training, and 15 in mediation, while in Freeport around 19 took the arbitration course and 12 mediation.

"Today, we have 35 members. We had 11 last year. We set out to achieve at least 70 members, and reaching 30 allowed us to submit our application to become a branch," Ms Cooper-Rousseau said.

She added that branch status gave the Bahamas "complete autonomy" in proceeding with its training and education plans, "in line with the national objective for creating an international arbitration sector in the Bahamas".

As a Chapter, the Bahamas had to report to Jamaica on everything it did, delaying its plans. Now, it reports directly to the Institute's headquarters in London.

"It brings in the backbone, the foundation in training and education," Ms Cooper-Rousseau said.

"The legislation is very much cutting-edge." Branch status, she added, showed the Bahamas was serious, allowed it to work closely with fellow branches, and specialise in dispute resolution areas such as the maritime industry.

Apart from providing ADR services to the domestic Bahamian economy, particularly in areas such as construction, insurance and commercial contracts, Ms Cooper-Rousseau said an international arbitration centre would also bolster the Government's efforts to attract foreign direct investment.

Freeport's presence also made the Bahamas a natural for oil and gas industry arbitration.

### Mechanism

Investors would be more likely to come to the Bahamas if "there is a mechanism to resolve very quickly any form of dispute", while the competitive advantage afforded by this nation's updated legislation could attract commercial players in other Caribbean jurisdictions to use this nation as a dispute resolution centre.

"The model we look at very closely is that of Singapore, and how it has created a niche market in south-east Asia," Ms Cooper-Rousseau said. "It bring in arbitration markets from Thailand, from India, and encourages businesses to relocate from Hong Kong to Singapore."

Building on its extensive maritime and financial services links, and exploiting its time zone, Ms Cooper-Rousseau said the Bahamas could "complement other arbitration centres around the globe. It can be a feeder to encourage foreign direct investment, for people to come and invest, and can be used as a centre for disputes pertaining to parties in Latin America and Europe, or Asia.

"They would like a neutral point, and the Bahamas can represent those business aspects..... The position of the Bahamas makes it an ideal gateway, not only to Asia or the Americas, but the fact it sits in a different time zone, which complements other centres.

"It takes time, and having a branch allows us to train, educate and build capacity and the international profile of the Bahamas.

"Today, the Bahamas is admired by many of the branches and what has taken place has made news and impact internationally.

"We are concerned there is quality in the training, quality in the process and usage of ADR domestically as well."

Apart from Ms Cooper-Rousseau, the executive committee that led the drive for branch status included Justice Rubie Nottage; Caryl Lashley of Dupuch & Turnquest, Ivylyn Cassar of Equity Trust; Simon Townend of KPMG; Anthony Ferguson of CFAL; Richard Demeritte; Nicolette C. Gardiner; Captain Sunil Chopra, shipping consultant and former director of Dockendale Shipping Company.

The effort was heavily backed by the Bahamas Shipowners Association and Bahamas Financial Services Board (BFSB), and among the branch's sponsors are KPMG, KPMG Advisory Caribbean, CFAL, Colina, Lennox Paton, Cooper-Rousseau, Equity Trust and the Grand Bahama Port Authority.

## BUSINESS

# Baha Mar marks core project start



**BAHA MAR MILESTONE:** A ceremony was held marking the driving of the first of 5,700 pilings. It was attended by Ministry of Works officials and the developer's executives.

Baha Mar celebrated another milestone yesterday with the driving of the first of 5,700 pilings that mark the construction start on its core project.

The event, which marks the beginning of construction for Baha Mar's core project, was witnessed by officials from the Bahamas Ministry of Works and the developer's executives.

The ceremony included the embedding of a gold commemorative Baha Mar coin as a symbol of good luck for the \$3.4 billion resort, gaming and entertainment complex slated to open in late 2014.

"With the start of construction on our core project, Baha Mar continues on its planned timeline to deliver the largest resort development presently under construction in North America.

## Economy

Today's ceremony is yet another milestone in the development of a project that is vital to the economy of the Bahamas, and will go a long way to help address the current economic challenges facing the country," said Don Robinson, president

of Baha Mar. The placement of the first piling of the core project is another significant accomplishment in the construction phase.

In February, Baha Mar held its groundbreaking ceremony, and in the intervening four months, significant work has been done on both a new Commercial Village and substantial roadworks surrounding the resort, both of which are slated for completion by November.

Baha Mar has so far provided employment for almost 900 Bahamians, and has awarded over \$90 million in contracts to Bahamian firms. The ceremony was attended by

Baha Mar executives, Don Robinson, president; Tom Dunlap, executive vice-president of construction and development; Rick English, senior vice-president of sales and marketing; and Robert (Sandy) Sands, senior vice-president of external affairs and government relations. Also in attendance from the Bahamas Ministry of Works were Craig Delancy, chief building officer, and Edwin Yuklow, senior structural engineer; and from China Construction America (Bahamas), Tiger Wu, executive vice-president.

# 'Underdeveloped' \$46m marina visitor spending

FROM page 1B

strategy of the Ministry of Tourism going forward, which says that the future growth of tourism will rely far more heavily on the Family Islands rather than Grand Bahama and New Providence," he said.

Also presenting at the MOB workshop was Gary Young, director of planning, research and statistics for the Ministry of Tourism.

Mr Young revealed figures he said proved that marina boaters provide "the best value in promoting" the Bahamas, and offer "significant value to the economy, second only to hotel visitors". He said they are the best visitors for "spreading that economic value around" the various islands of the Bahamas, and represent the "best brand loyalty", being the most likely to return to this country multiple times.

Mr Young said the average marina boater surveyed in 2009 had visited the Bahamas nine previous times, and would be 84.6 per cent likely to recommend this nation as a destination to others.

Average spending for marina visitors in 2009 was \$150 per person per night, more than those staying in rented homes, apartments or time-shares.

Mr Young noted that in terms of their contribution to the Bahamian economy, marina visitors form 2.5 per cent of all stopovers to the islands of the Bahamas. While this may not seem large, it is twice as much as the category of people who identify gambling as their primary purpose for coming to the Bahamas, and 10 per cent greater than the number of people who come to the Bahamas to get married or attend a wedding.

They also stay longer on average than anyone based in a hotel or on a honeymoon, and even those who came to visit a friend or relative.

Some 74 per cent of marina

stopovers have been to the Bahamas before, 2.6 times more than those coming to the Bahamas on a cruise, almost twice as many as hotel stopovers, and more than those visiting a friend or a relative.

From 17 categories of visitor, including those coming on a cruise, for a casino excursion, for business purposes, a wedding or a honeymoon, marina boaters rank third in terms of their likelihood of recommending the Bahamas to others. Only private flyers and mixed-used accommodation boaters ranked higher.

Mr Young said there were 34,001 marina stopovers who stayed in the Bahamas in 2010. This was a 15 per cent decline from 2009, when 40,085 marina stopovers came to the islands.

Around 42 per cent of marina boaters travel in parties of five to ten, 27 per cent in parties of two and 18 per cent in parties of four. The overwhelming majority of visitors come from the US and are from the Miami/Fort Lauderdale or West Palm Beach/Fort Pierce areas.

The islands they visit most often are: Bimini (as the gateway to the Bahamas, and often the first point of call, it received 14,493 visitors in 2010), Grand Bahama (6,774), Abaco (6,174), New Providence (2,699) and Exuma (1,641).

Speaking of the EU-funded MOB project being led by consultant Jeffrey Beckles, vice-president of the Bahamas Hotel Association, Frank Comito, said it will create "baseline data which will be a powerful tool to understand the sector, and to give us focus on the directions we can take, and the Government can take, to grow the sector".

Mr Comito added that there will also be a major environmental focus, determining what can be done to ensure the development of the sector takes place in a sustainable way that does not

threaten the very assets that cause people to come to the Bahamas in the first place.

Mr Beckles said: "When you look at the total economic impact, there's tremendous opportunities in the Bahamas from growing this sector.

## Potential

"It's an underdeveloped sector. Economically, it has the potential to sustain us even longer than land-based tourism.

"We've got 100,000 square miles of water and tremen-

dously beautiful islands and cays in support of that. Many people are passing us to go to more southern islands for things they can easily find here, so it really puts us in a tremendously good position."

"In addition, when you look at the economic impact, you don't get better than luxury boat owners. They today are what we used to look at when we looked at the golfer, with his disposable income. Luxury mariners are the same times ten, which is a huge opportunity."

He said the CDE project will provide the MOB with a

"specific strategy" through which it can advance the sector.

Addressing the MOB as a guest speaker during their workshop lunch break, Minister of the Environment, Earl Deveaux, suggested a public-private partnership between the MOB and the Government to create a "network of marinas" throughout the islands, which are currently lacking facilities to service yachts as a means of expanding economic opportunities throughout The Bahamas (see story, page one.)



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## NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT, 2000  
No. 45 of 2000

### VISUALSERVICES LTD.

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 137 (8) of the International Business Companies Act, No. 45 of 2000, the Dissolution of VISUALSERVICES LTD has been completed, a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the company has therefore been struck off the Registrar. The date of completion of the dissolution was the 2nd June, 2011.



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BUSINESS

# BROKERS AWAIT REGULATOR OVER 'AUDIT REVIEW'

FROM page 1B

Expressing hope that "every-one will be OK", and that the Insurance Act and its regulations would not prompt consolidation among Bahamian brokers and agents, Mr Culmer said BIBA was still working with the Insurance Commission of the Bahamas (ICB) to clear-up perceived anomalies in the legislation prior to the September 30 implementation deadline.

"We felt that unless you earned a certain income, there was no need for an audit," Mr Culmer explained to this newspaper. "We've approached the Insurance Commission on it, and feel they're considering it - an audit review, as opposed to a full audit for the smaller companies."

"It's new to us as brokers. We have no liabilities, earn commissions and collect premiums that come in and out. There's no need for an audit. We feel an audit review would be satisfactory. To pay for a full

**"As far as being in compliance with the Act's requirements, we may be OK without consolidation."**

audit would be very costly.

"It's mainly regarding the smaller brokers and agents. We hope we can get a response before the September 30 deadline."

The BIBA president told Tribune Business the organisation had heard a full audit would cost anywhere between \$7,000-\$10,000 depending on the size of the company being examined, and how long auditors had to spend on the task.

While relatively insignificant for large firms, such a cost represents a big cash flow chunk for many smaller players. Mr Culmer said BIBA had been informed that, in contrast, an audit review - involving fewer in-depth investigative procedures than an audit - would cost less than \$3,000.

Bahamian insurance brokers

and agents were yesterday rushing to meet the June 30 deadline set by the Insurance Commission for them to submit their re-registration documents under the new Act.

While September 30 was the deadline for the Insurance Act and accompanying regulations to come into effect, Mr Culmer said the regulator had moved up the re-registration deadline, first to end-July, and then until the end of business yesterday.

This has been done to avoid a last-minute rush by Bahamian agents and brokers to comply, and several industry sources told Tribune Business there had been more than ample warning of the new Act was coming, giving people plenty of time to prepare. Mr Culmer described the renewals and re-registration procedure as "pretty big" and "the whole nine yards", adding that it was "a very detailed process" where Bahamian brokers and agents had to almost "start over from scratch" by submitting information such as their business plan.

Pointing out that the audit issue was "the only remaining one" that BIBA had to resolve with the Commission, Mr Culmer said: "The other points we feel everyone will be fine on."

"There are small areas of the Act that we have sub-committees working on, such as salesmen, but they are not major items. One of them was where they were requiring salesmen to be full-time; they wanted to do away with part-time salesmen, but this was not referred to in the Act.

"They're asking for it to be

done away with, but it's not stated in the Act, so it's little inconsistencies like that we're working through."

Asked whether the Act and its new requirements, such as a minimum \$50,000 capitalisation for brokers and agents, would prompt mergers and acquisitions among Bahamian brokers and agents, Mr Culmer said that while "some have been talking" about consolidation, "it looks as if it will not be necessary".

"As far as being in compliance with the Act's requirements, we may be OK without consolidation," Mr Culmer told Tribune Business. "About a month ago, we had a major meeting that went over the major obstacles that might be in our way, particularly the smaller brokers, and it looks as if everyone will be OK."

However, Guilden Gilbert, a principal in insurance brokerage, Chandler Gilbert Insurance Associates, told this newspaper yesterday that the jury was still out on whether consolidation would take place among Bahamian insurance agents and brokers.

"I think the potential is there," Mr Gilbert said. "Whether it actually happens or not, I don't know the finances of other brokerage operations.... Some may not be able to afford it, and some may not have prepared for the legislation. "I think it just comes down to the cost of doing business, and whether existing brokers can absorb these costs and stay doing business on their own. It's all going to come down to the cost of doing business."

"At this time I think it's just wait and see.... Any dramatic changes in a market, consolidation is a fairly natural phenomenon."

# Canada TIEA to have 'just as much impact' as trade deal

FROM page 1B

(WTO) negotiator told Tribune Business yesterday.

Responding to criticism of the Bahamas' approach to free trade by Hank Ferguson, a trade economist, Raymond Winder who is also Deloitte & Touche (Bahamas) managing partner said that instead of continually relying on the Government, the private sector needed to be proactive and "do its own homework" to prepare and exploit potential business opportunities.

When it came to concerns over the Bahamas' involvement, or alleged lack of it, in the negotiations between CARICOM and Canada over a replacement for the existing CaribCan agreement, Mr Winder said the recently-signed TIEA with that nation - which provides 'double tax' benefits for Canadian-owned companies doing physical business here - would be just as, if not more, important to this nation.

"The Government just signed a TIEA agreement with Canada which is going to have a far greater impact on trade and the likelihood of attracting investment into the Bahamas," Mr Winder told Tribune Business.

"The tax agreement is likely to have just as much, or greater impact, because of the incentives embedded in the agreement between the Bahamas and Canada. We're likely to find ourselves being just as competitive in attracting Canadian business, which primarily in the past went to Barbados. We're in a position to get that share of those investment dollars."

Confirming that the Bahamas was "moving forward" on its bid to accede to full membership in the WTO, Mr Winder conceded that "one would always like to have more funds allocated and have more individuals" working on it.

That came in response to Mr Ferguson's concerns over just \$40,000 being allocated in the 2011-2012 Budget to the WTO effort, a rise of \$10,000 from the \$30,000 the year before. However, Mr Winder said that rather than just criticise and depend totally on the Government, the private sector needed to become more involved of its own accord.

"One of the things continually lacking in this process is that the private sector still needs to do its own homework on how it will go forward relating to these policies," the WTO chief negotiator.

He urged Mr Ferguson to "make the case" and provide consulting services to Bahamian companies, "so they can be more creative in starting or exploiting existing business opportunities."

"It is not the Government's responsibility to create business opportunities. It is the private sector's responsibility to create opportunities, based on the policies presented. As we move forward on these matters, we will continue to leave the door open for the private sector's concerns and issues, so we can include them in the discussions going forward."

"I understand Hank's concerns," Mr Winder added, "and agree we could clearly have more resources and individuals devoted to this, but to say things are not happening and Bahamian enterprises are being put at a disadvantage, those are not the facts."

"We went through a lot of this dealing with the EPA. That is now behind us, and what we need now is for people like Hank to identify opportunities for his clients or potential clients....."

"We still rely too heavily on government in every respect, and this is both individuals and companies. Government can merely set up the infrastructure. When we ask for feedback from the private sector, we do not always get it in time to help us make decisions in their best interests."

While the Bahamas was drafting numerous amendments and legislation to meet its WTO and EPA obligations, Mr Winder conceded this nation had placed itself at a disadvantage by waiting so long to move for full membership in the former organisation.

"The fact we've waited so long to begin the process is clearly a handicap for us," he added, "but considering where we are and where we started, we're clearly doing well."

Mr Winder rejected Mr Ferguson's concerns that the Government was not including or seeking the input of the private sector, telling Tribune Business he and the Ministry of Finance officials working on the WTO had divided them into numerous different business sub-groups.

Meetings had been held with 10 different groups in Nassau, he added, plus groups in Abaco and Grand Bahama over the WTO. The focus had been on the goods side, and talks had been held "with those individuals likely to have some impact with policies regarding goods".

Services was still fresh from the EPA, and the issues impacting those sectors had "not changed dramatically".

"We have met with them and shared with them the strategy and issues, and how we will approach their concerns," Mr Winder said. "We told them that while we cannot guarantee them anything, we guarantee we will keep them abreast of what comes out that's relevant to them and impacts them, so it will not come out at the last minute."

## NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **RODENCIE CORENILE of MARSH HARBOUR, ABACO, 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 **1<sup>st</sup> DAY of JULY, 2011** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

# VACANCY

Major law firm is immediately seeking a detail oriented, hands-on individual to fill the post of temporary Accounts Receivable Clerk. Ideal candidate will be primarily responsible for collection of delinquent accounts. Solid collections experience necessary. This individual must work well independently, take initiative, be a team player, and have excellent organizational and communication skills in addition to strong Excel skills.

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### NOTICE UNION TEXAS (TRANSNATIONAL) LIMITED (In Voluntary Liquidation)

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of the above-named Company duly convened and held on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011 the following resolutions were passed:

**RESOLVED** that Union Texas (Transnational) Limited be wound up voluntarily.

**RESOLVED** that Delano Aranha be appointed the Liquidator for the purpose of such winding up.

Dated the 28<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2011.

**DELANO ARANHA  
LIQUIDATOR**

**SUPREME COURT**  
 MAY 31 2011  
 NASSAU, BAHAMAS

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS  
IN THE SUPREME COURT  
Common Law and Equity Division

**BETWEEN**

**NEWPORT HARBOUR LIMITED** Plaintiff

AND

**SUE MULLEN-DAVIS** 1<sup>st</sup> Defendant

AND

**OSCAR DAVIS** 2<sup>nd</sup> Defendant

**NOTICE OF REFERRAL  
TO CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the provision of Order 31A Rule 8 of the Rules of the Supreme Court (Amendment) Rules 2004, this case is hereby referred to the Honourable Justice Stephen Isaacs for a Case Management Conference, such Conference to be conducted on FRIDAY the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of JULY A.D., 2011 at 11.00 o'clock in the forenoon.

Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May A.D., 2011

**REGISTRAR**

To: The Law Partnership  
c/o Newport Harbour Limited

Mr. Billy Wayne Davis  
1455 Windward Drive  
Kennesaw, GA  
30144

Mr. Kenneth Toppin  
Nassau, Bahamas

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2010/CLE/gen/01294

IN THE SUPREME COURT  
Common Law and Equity Division

**BETWEEN**

**COMMONWEALTH BANK LIMITED** Plaintiff

AND

**ALYSSA LITITIA CLEARE** Defendant

TO: **ALYSSA LITITIA CLEARE**

TAKE NOTICE that:

- A Summons and Supporting Affidavit both filed on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2011 have been issued against you in the Supreme Court of The Bahamas being Action No. 2010/CLE/gen/01294 by Commonwealth Bank Limited, the Plaintiff herein. The Hearing date of the Summons has been adjourned and is now set to be heard on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August A.D., 2011 at 12:00 p.m. before Deputy Registrar Marilyn Meeres whose chambers is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor in the Ansbacher House, East Street and Bank Lane, Nassau, Bahamas. Details of the claim are set out in the Affidavit of Merrit A. Steer filed on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June A.D., 2011.
- On the 27<sup>th</sup> day of June A.D., 2011 the Court ordered that the Summons and Affidavit are deemed to be served on you by this advertisement.

Otherwise Judgment will be entered against you pursuant to Order 73 rule 3 of the Rules of the Supreme Court 1978.

Dated the 27<sup>th</sup> day of June A.D., 2011.

**CHANCELLORS CHAMBERS**  
Samana Hill  
No. 14 Village Road (North),  
Nassau, Bahamas  
Attorneys for the Plaintiff

## NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **SAMUEL DORCENT of TARPUM BAY, ELEUTHERA, 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 **24<sup>th</sup> day of JUNE, 2011** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

## LOST NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Bahamas Government Registered Stock Certificates as follows:

Stock	Interest Rate	Certificate No.	Maturity Date
2013	1.0000% APR	44-091	18/05/2013

I intend to request the Registrar to issue replacement certificates. If these certificates are found, please write to P. O. Box CB-12356, Nassau, Bahamas.

## BUSINESS

# Government is set to increase fuel mark-ups

FROM page 1B

and fuel-dependent businesses, compared to current costs, depends on the extent of the increase and whether, at the time it is introduced, wholesale prices are lower than they are now.

Last week, oil prices fell significantly globally after the US and other industrialised nations announced they would flood the oil market with 60 million barrels of fuel. However, since then the price per barrel has again been on the rise.

The margin decision, announced yesterday by Minister of the Environment, Earl Deveaux, at a workshop held by the Marine Operators of the Bahamas (MOB) at the Sheraton Nassau Beach resort, comes after much lobbying by the MOB and the Bahamas Petroleum Retailers Association, led by service station operator, Oswald Moore.

Speaking to the MOB, Mr Deveaux said: "Some time ago the Government received a comprehensive request from the fuel operators, and agreed in principle to review the margins for diesel and gas, and to do so between the distributors and the retailers.

"The agreement carried with it a prescribed implementation date, which I think is some time in the next month, but don't hold me to that. The Government has agreed to do it and will be implementing it."

He declined to comment further on the changes.

Speaking with this newspaper after Mr Deveaux's comments, John Bethell, MOB president, said: "I think it's great, but I would really like to know what the changes will be. We've all been sitting

around and speculating all day, and no one can really tell us. We don't know if they're going to raise it by cents or if it will be a per cent (of the cost of the fuel purchased). We would prefer a per cent. It's nice to know that they have made a decision and that something will happen."

Mr Moore said he would prefer not to comment until the change has been "effected and we know what the numbers will be".

Under current price-controls, fuel retailers can add 44 cents to the cost of each gallon of gas, sold and 19 cents on each gallon of diesel. They proposed to the Government in March of this year that these margins be increased to 74 cents and 47 cents, respectively, given that higher oil costs mean that although consumers are paying more at the pump, they are receiving less in profit.

## Costs

Some suggested that retailers would simply go out of business if recent trends continued. Several made changes to their operations to try to cut back costs in other areas, such as eliminating pump attendants, credit accounts or by stopping selling diesel altogether.

The MOB said members were particularly impacted due to the lower demand for their fuel inventory at Family Island marinas, meaning prices in the market could often fall before they are able to sell their inventory, causing them to have to adjust their prices downward despite having bought at a higher cost.

The prevalence of credit card use by boat customers to buy fuel also saw them

take a further hit to their profit margin in the form of the card fee.

Consequently, marina operators complained they had seen profits "vaporise", often having to sell fuel for less than what it cost to buy.

They met with the Prime Minister and minister of state for public utilities, Phenton Neymour, in May to put forward their concerns and make recommendations on how the industry could be placed on a more sustainable footing.

During yesterday's MOB workshop, several participants, including Bahamas Hotel Association vice-president, Frank Comito, and Preben Olson, owner of the Grand Bahama Yacht Club and the country's largest marina slip holder, said they had "heard informally" that an increase in the fixed margin, rather than the introduction of a percentage-based margin, is the way the Government has decided to go on the fuel price issue.

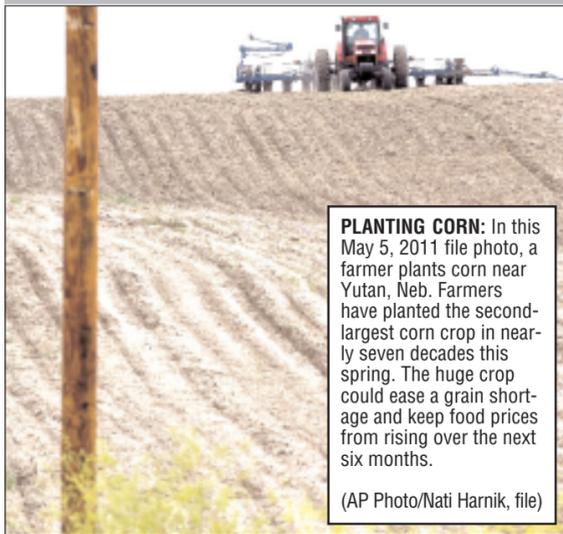
Speaking at the workshop prior to Mr Deveaux's address, Mr Olson said: "We did ask for a percentage. What I've heard is that we will get a fixed amount that will be higher than what we have today."

Joseph Dargavage, general manager of the Great Harbour Cay Marina, said he would have supported a percentage.

"(The fuel issue) has heavily affected our business in the Berry Islands and our future plans as we move forward," he said, referring to future development plans.

In March, the Prime Minister said the Government intended to be "fair to petroleum retailers while seeking to protect consumers" as it considered what it would do in response to requests for margin rises.

## LARGER CORN CROP COULD SLOW FOOD INFLATION



**PLANTING CORN:** In this May 5, 2011 file photo, a farmer plants corn near Yutan, Neb. Farmers have planted the second-largest corn crop in nearly seven decades this spring. The huge crop could ease a grain shortage and keep food prices from rising over the next six months.

(AP Photo/Nati Harnik, file)

**CHRISTOPHER LEONARD,**  
AP Agribusiness Writer  
ST. LOUIS

U.S. food prices may ease later this year now that farmers have planted the second-largest corn crop in nearly seven decades.

The size of this year's corn crop will be 92.3 million acres, the U.S. Agriculture Department said Thursday. That's 9 percent larger than the average annual corn crop over the past decade. The only crop bigger in the past 67 years was planted in 2007.

Many analysts had worried that wet weather this spring would cut the number of corn acres. But record-high prices are encouraging farmers to use more acres for corn, and less for soybeans and wheat.

A greater crop estimate drove corn futures down 30 cents to close at nearly \$6.21 per bushel. That's the maximum price change allowed by futures exchanges. Corn rose to a record high of \$7.99 per bushel earlier this month.

More expensive grain has led to food price increases this year. That could ultimately make everything from beef to cereal to soft drinks more expensive at the supermarket. For all of 2011, the USDA predicts food prices will rise 3 percent to 4 percent.

A huge harvest in August could ultimately slow food inflation. It typically takes six months for changes in commodity prices to affect retail food prices in the U.S. Analysts say consumers could see some relief at the supermarket by early 2012.

"All of us who perceived tighter (corn) supplies up to this point, all of us were proven wrong today," said Jason Ward, an analyst with Northstar Commodity in Minneapolis.

## NOTICE

### HALMON LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

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

(b) The dissolution of the said company commenced on the 28th June, 2011 when the Articles of Dissolution were submitted to and registered by the Registrar General.

(c) The Liquidator of the said company is Blue Seas Administration Ltd., The Bahamas Financial Centre, Shirley & Charlotte Streets, Nassau, Bahamas

Dated this 1st day of July, A. D. 2011

**Blue Seas Administration Ltd.**  
Liquidator

# PORT 'SOON' IN SOUTH BAHAMAS

FROM page 1B

address, the Minister said that such a development has been in the "policy considerations" of the Government "for quite some time". However, he is now "very confident" that the major infrastructural project will take place in the not too distant future.

The project would be a private sector-led one. Mr Deveaux would not go into details about who may be involved at this stage.

Tribune Business sources indicate that a private company is currently conducting "exploratory work" to determine the way forward at this time.

Mr Deveaux told this newspaper: "The idea behind it is to create an economic opportunity for the southern Bahamas. There are significant portions of Crown Land in the southern Bahamas, not unlike the example of the I-Group (the company which entered into a 50/50 arrangement with the previous PLP administration to build a resort in Mayaguana) but based essentially on exploiting the islands' natural resources.

"Say with the shipping lane in Inagua, for example. You find a strategic partner who's prepared to put on shore the facilities to make Inagua what it used to be many years ago, with a port there that can service passing ships."

In his presentation to the MOB, Mr Deveaux noted that Defence Force bases in Inagua and Ragged Island would be able to "provide extra security to boaters" using the port.

He said the Bahamas is looking to grow its maritime industry as a whole, mentioning the introduction of a yacht registry under the Bahamas Maritime Industry to add to the ship registry that it has operated for many years.

"During 2010, my Ministry concluded, among other legislation, the Merchant Shipping (Yacht) Regulations or the 'Yacht Code', enhancing the BMA's ability to extend its registration of yachts," added Mr Deveaux.

He told the MOB that its members have "a unique opportunity to help grow the Bahamian economy and broaden our base".

He added that there is a need to create a string of

marinas and safe harbours to serve the current base of visitors who cruise through the Bahamas on their speedboats and yachts, and those who the BMA is hoping to attract to its yacht registry.

A public-private partnership could facilitate the development of new marinas, said the minister, which could allow for other islands, visitors and business owners to benefit from the economic potential the yachting industry holds for this nation.

"More than half of the potential yachting and cruising areas in the country are almost completely isolated, and rarely visited by yachts and pleasure craft. The reason is twofold: Partly because of long sea distances, but mainly the lack of safe harbours and marinas. With no locations to purchase fuel, spend the night and to buy food, a number of large islands are facing dwindling populations and losing out on tourism and related prosperity," Mr Deveaux said.

## Solution

"The solution to this problem is to create a string of marinas and safe harbours to serve this market," added the Minister, noting that this development "must be balanced with protecting the environment because we do not want to damage this very remoteness and clarity and beauty of the water that attracts yachts and cruising boats in the first place."

Mr Deveaux told MOB members that the number of registered pleasure boats in Florida is indicative of the growth potential in developing a such a network of marinas throughout The Bahamas.

While in 1993 in Florida there were 41,000 vessels registered in the range of 26 to under 40 feet; 7,129 registered in the range of 40 feet to under 65 feet; and 334 vessels registered over 65 feet, in 2009 these numbers jumped to 78,823 vessels registered in the range of 26 to under 40 feet; 13,015 registered in the range of 40 feet to under 65 feet; and 817 vessels registered over 65 feet.

"The combined effect of the adoption of the Yacht Code, the development of a comprehensive national marina policy and the aggressive pursuit of this market will also

create significant opportunities for Bahamians as seafarers and guides, and downstream opportunities in marina management," said Mr Deveaux.

"The Government of the Bahamas will work with you to ensure that the right conditions exist for you to adopt guidelines to steer the development of the marina industry. Substantial and permanent rewards are before you. Let us, together, focus on

completing the implementation of the comprehensive master plan strategy to combine all the elements for a vibrant, thriving, sustainable Bahamian marina sector."

The Minister said the Government will seek to ensure the appropriate regulations, qualified Bahamian manpower and service capabilities, promotional efforts and focus on environmental sustainability to provide for successful growth.

## Bahamas Property Fund Limited

### Consolidated Income Statement For The Quarter Ended 31 March 2011 (Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended 31 March 2011 \$	Three Months Ended 31 March 2010 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Rental revenues	1,024,866	1,007,362
Other income	14,458	9,272
	<u>1,039,324</u>	<u>1,016,634</u>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Bank Interest	207,553	210,338
Preference share dividends	87,500	87,500
Other expenses	239,173	258,253
	<u>534,226</u>	<u>556,091</u>
<b>FUNDS FROM OPERATIONS (FFO)</b>	<b>505,098</b>	<b>460,543</b>
Amortisation of deferred expenses	(37,372)	(32,401)
Bad debt expense	-	-
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>467,726</b>	<b>428,142</b>
<b>FFO PER SHARE</b>	<b>\$0.21</b>	<b>\$0.19</b>
<b>EARNINGS PER SHARE</b>	<b>\$0.19</b>	<b>\$0.18</b>
<b>NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE</b>	<b>\$13.55</b>	<b>\$14.17</b>

# BUSINESSREVIEW

# To be, or not to be

## The dilemma of the Family Island mega resort

The Bahamas, and Eleuthera in particular, have seen it all before. Especially between 2002-2007, when the Family Islands were almost overwhelmed by an influx of developers who, having signed Heads of Agreements with the then-Christie administration, descended on communities pledging jobs, development and infrastructure in record-breaking time. Hope sprung eternal.

But just how many delivered the goods? For those Family Island resort developers with "skin still in the game", progress by most has been painfully slow. The "credit crunch" and subsequent recession put paid to the aspirations and representations of many others, who may or may not have had the wherewithal to do what they promised anyway. Prime example was the \$4.9 billion-billed Ginn sur mer project. Promises were unfulfilled, and the already-raised expectations of many Bahamians went unmet.

### Scepticism

Given this background, it is not surprising that a large dose of scepticism, to say the least – and much of it healthy – greeted Tribune Business's front page story earlier this week about Beka Development's designs for a large resort-based development in south Eleuthera. Involving a first phase investment of \$900 million, and pledging 600-700 permanent, and 500-1,000 construction jobs, the company announced its intentions – after a 12-year search – to apply for government approvals for a project involving resorts, a cruise port, retail and entertainment district.

And to think there were those of us (your humble editor included) who thought the days of the "Family Island mega resort" were numbered. The "poster boy" for failure in this regard was the Four Seasons Emerald Bay in Exuma. Bloated construction costs, together with the need

for all supporting infrastructure to be created from scratch, meant it was impossible for the developers to even come remotely close to earning a return on their investment.

### Rescued

Lack of airlift and amenities compounded the problems, while the character of Exuma was completely altered. The resort, and possibly the island, were rescued when Sandals bought the property from the receivers. Although it is still early days, Sandals seems likely to prove again that it is the "second or third party in" that usually makes it, picking up a Bahamian resort at the right entry price to turn a profit.

Beka's principal told Tribune Business they had learnt the appropriate lessons from the Four Seasons' demise, and would apply them to their project once they got the government go-ahead and all their pieces in place. And, trying to separate his project from the land speculators and fly-by-nights who have come to the Bahamas before, he said Beka had worked to put its debt and equity financing in place before going to government.

Still, plenty of disbelievers remain. And who can blame them given the "mega resort" track record? Some even castigated Tribune Business for running the articles on Beka, arguing that this newspaper should not be promoting such "speculative" developments that are "pipe dreams" and have no chance of success. Constructive criticism is good for the soul, and all this newspaper would say is: "We report, you decide."

When it comes to projects such as those proposed by Beka, as many diverse opinions as possible are needed. Bahamians and residents alike must ensure development, in all its forms, is a net benefit for their communities and does not decimate the surrounding environment. Coming back to Beka specif-

ically, Tribune Business has received both documentation and independent oral verification to indicate the developers have made good progress in putting together resort, construction and financing partners for its project, although much more remains to be done. It is far from being a done deal, or slam dunk.

Suffice to say, could Beka pull it off? Possibly. We just don't know yet. Is the project too big for south Eleuthera? Maybe. Are Bahamians right to be sceptical? Yes. Should every development proponent be written off? No. Tribune Business's final word: The proof of the pudding will be in the eating, and we will know soon whether Beka is for real. If they do what they say it could be quite good but, in the meantime, expectations must be managed and Bahamians must not get their hopes up.

It will certainly be interesting to see how Beka's plans square with the strategy outlined by Michael Scott, the Hotel Corporation's chairman, as the template he and minister of tourism and aviation, Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, are following for the development of the Corporation's Family Island properties – the Lighthouse Yacht Club in Andros, and those 3,500 acres in Eleuthera.

### Boutique Resorts

Mr Scott told this newspaper last year the Corporation, and minister, had determined that low-density, niche boutique resorts were the way to go when it came to Family Island development. They would be sufficiently high-end to attract the top-spending visitors, but small enough not to alter the very character and environment that attracted them to these islands in the first place. Beka's plans, though, seem to run counter to this.

In truth, the over-zealous development policy pursued by the Christie administration between 2002-2007, when



PERRY CHRISTIE

almost everyone who walked through the door seemed to obtain a Heads of Agreement, has made it somewhat difficult to separate the wheat from the chaff.

Stung by FNM charges that it was anti-foreign and would drive away overseas investors, the Christie-led PLP administration seems to have regarded this as a personal challenge. The media and cameras were summoned every time such a deal was signed or groundbreaking held, the then-PM and his Cabinet ministers often basking in the fanfare and giving the image of doing everything possible to create jobs for all.

True, they did hook some good ones. Joe Lewis's Tavistock Group and golfing buddies, Discovery Land Com-

pany at Baker's Bay (despite what the Save Guana Cay folks may say), and the Izmirians with Baha Mar come to mind. But sadly, in other cases, agreements were made with investors who either lacked the financial capability or track record to make good on their promises. Hence the large real estate tracts now tied-up in litigation, or lying unused, that are sprinkled through the Family Islands, together with environmental damage in some cases.

### Smoke and Mirrors

The Christie administration merely picked up the economic template left in place by the first Ingraham administration and ran with it, but much of the growth

they boasted about has proven to be smoke and mirrors. The "anchor resort" concept was ill thought-out and too ill-defined, then poorly executed.

Perhaps wisely, Prime Minister Ingraham has shied away from Heads of Agreement signings and ground-breakings, realising that for every project that succeeds at least one other – and possibly five – fails. It is not a precise science, and with much relying on the bonafides of the developer, the Government must be much more selective in who it does business with, making sure they have the necessary proven track record and financial capability. To do otherwise would be a disservice to the Bahamian people.

# Month in Review

By ALISON LOWE  
Business Reporter  
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### BONDING AND SHARING

Hot on the heels of the Commonwealth Brewery Initial Public Offering (IPO), would-be investors were promised further activity in October with the issue of \$8 million in shares in the Arawak Cay Port Develop-

ment Company.

The IPO will result in 20 per cent of the company being owned by the public, with the remaining 80 per cent shared equally between the Government and the 19 private sector stakeholders who make up the company. Providence Advisors and CFAL were later contracted to act as joint placement agents.

Meanwhile, days after the

Port IPO was announced, there was a \$31.7 million College of the Bahamas (COB) private placement bond offering. The offering was ultimately over-subscribed three days before it was due to close, its placement agent, Michael Anderson, RoyalFidelity Merchant Bank & Trust's president, suggesting this was likely related to the cut in the Prime rate impacting the attractiveness of oth-

er investment opportunities.

### PRIMING THE ECONOMY

Following through with a move that even the Prime Minister hinted he would have preferred to have seen take place at an earlier date, the Central Bank of the Bahamas surprised some by announcing a cut of 75 basis points in the Discount rate - the rate at which it lends money to its licensee banks - on June 6.

The rate cut was followed by a drop in the Prime rate by banks, meaning that borrowers, the Government included, would save money

on interest payments. At the same time, savers who had funds in fixed deposits will lose out. The Central Bank Governor, Wendy Craig, said the decision was taken at this time to support the economic recovery.

### MAJOR FORECLOSURE

With the developers \$78 million in arrears, it was revealed on June 9 that lenders led by Credit Suisse have moved to foreclose on 1,476 acres of prime Bahamian real estate that was initially intended to be developed as part of the Ginn Sur Mer project in Grand Bahama.

Documents filed in the Bahamian Supreme Court last month showed the lending syndicate is demanding that if Ginn fails to make good all sums owing under their \$276.75 million loan facility, they should be permitted to foreclose on the bulk of its resort development site in Grand Bahama's West End.

The developers, who signed a Heads of Agreement to develop the site with the former Christie administration in 2005, had missed 16 loan payments. Their initial plans were to develop 4,400 condo units, a tower resort, 800 single family residential lots, mega yacht and marinas, and two signature championship golf courses among other amenities.

### DOWN IN FLAMES

A staple of the Bahamian business community, Automotive Industrial Distributors (AID), saw tragedy strike on June 9 when their Wulff Road location caught fire. The building was ultimately destroyed, leaving the business - which was covered by insurance - confined to its Blue Hill Road location alone. AID executives said they were struggling to find a building that could act as a temporary home for a second location until they could

rebuild the store on the Wulff Road site at an estimated \$4 million to \$4.5 million cost.

### THE "BAHAMAS ADVANTAGE"

The second pillar of the Bahamian economy is to receive a face lift, it was revealed on June 1. The Bahamas Financial Services Board told stakeholders that the 're-branding' of the financial services industry in this nation should create growth for the sector, maintain current customers and attract new business from today's more competitive marketplace.

BFSB executive director, Wendy Warren, said the success of the initiative will depend on "buy in" from those in the industry.

### FROM A FUNERAL HOME TO PARADISE

The Government may well take a second look at a proposed deal to sell two Bahamian resorts - the Paradise Island Harbour Resort and the Nassau Palm Resort - to Canadian investors after it came to light that they have been embroiled in legal battles in Canada and the US.

Rick Benisia and Prabhjot "Jyoti" Johal, funeral home owners/operators who are understood to be the beneficial owners of Bensiasia Investments and Properties, were described by their Canadian attorney as having the "utmost integrity and honesty."

A lawsuit against them, alleging among other things that they "asset stripped" a New York resort to finance their Bahamian deal, has been dismissed on technical grounds. Ms Johal is also said to be appealing a decision by the License Appeal Tribunal of the Board of Funeral Services of Ontario to revoke her funeral director's license, after that Board came to the conclusion she had engaged in "fundamental" deception and professional misconduct.

BISK LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF:											
THURSDAY, 30 JUNE 2011											
BISK ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,410.58   CHG -0.03   %CHG -0.01   YTD -38.83   YTD% -5.83											
FINDEX: YEAR END 2008 -12.3 1%											
WWW.BISKBAHAMAS.COM   TELEPHONE: 242-677-BISK (2479)   FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320											
52w-Hi	52w-Low	Security	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield	
1.38	1.35	ABC Foods Limited	1.38	1.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.50	4.91	Bahamas Property Fund	3.92	3.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
1.58	0.17	BankOne	0.18	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2.86	2.70	Bahamas Bank	2.70	2.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
1.83	1.77	Fidelity Bank	1.77	1.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
11.39	3.42	Celia Bahamas	3.42	3.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2.85	2.85	Celia Holdings	2.85	2.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3.00	3.00	Commonwealth Brewery	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7.00	3.00	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2.18	1.80	Consolidated Water BDRs	1.80	1.80	-0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5.82	1.81	Dorco's Hospital	1.81	1.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5.83	4.75	Farmcorp	5.40	5.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3.00	5.40	Fino	5.40	5.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
118.549	3.25	First Caribbean Bank	3.25	3.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3.00	4.57	Frost (S)	5.50	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
1.00	1.00	Frost Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7.00	5.50	ICE Trusts	7.90	7.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
0.00	0.00	J. S. Johnson	3.82	3.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
0.00	0.00	Premier Real Estate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
BISK LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing Basis)											
52w-Hi	52w-Low	Symbol	Par	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity			
100.00	100.00	Bahamas Note 2009 (2023)	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	3.85%	20 November 2023			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00	0.00	7%	8 October 2017			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00	0.00	Prime + 175%	8 October 2022			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 19 (Series C) +	FBB19	100.00	0.00	0.00	7%	30 May 2019			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00	0.00	Prime + 175%	29 May 2015			
Royal Fidelity Merchant Bank & Trust Ltd. (Client-The-Counter Securities)											
52w-Hi	52w-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield	
0.00	0.00	S&P Bahamas Superfund	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	S&P Bahamas Superfund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CFAL Securities Ltd. (Client-The-Counter Securities)											
52w-Hi	52w-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield	
0.00	0.00	20.00 AEDAE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.40 RND Holdings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BISK Listed Mutual Funds											
52w-Hi	52w-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD%	12m Change	NAV 5/31/11	NAV 6/30/11	NAV Date			
1.5579	1.4976	CFAL Bond Fund	1.5374	2.04%	3.18%	1.52995	1.512265	30-Apr-11			
3.0185	2.8020	CFAL High Preferred Fund	3.0185	2.47%	4.01%	2.82239	2.997482	30-Apr-11			
1.5579	1.5283	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.5278	1.59%	4.59%	1.51949	1.51949	28-Apr-11			
3.2025	2.8392	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G.I. Fund	2.9387	-4.49%	-13.23%			31-May-11			
11.2149	10.0999	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	10.0999	1.09%	0.02%			31-May-11			
118.549	100.000	CFAL Global Bond Fund	118.549	0.77%	3.33%	115.79222	114.83998	31-May-11			
116.1288	101.7254	CFAL Global Equity Fund	101.7254	2.82%	7.83%	111.498744	109.552945	31-May-11			
11.1918	10.0000	FC Preferred Preferred Fund	10.0000	1.89%	5.18%			30-Apr-11			
11.1214	10.0000	FC Preferred Growth Fund	10.0000	0.77%	3.11%			30-Apr-11			
11.1918	10.0000	FC Preferred Dividend Fund	10.0000	1.89%	5.18%			30-Apr-11			
3.2852	3.2479	Royal Fidelity Bond Fund	3.2479	0.89%	4.59%			31-May-11			
11.2179	10.0000	Royal Fidelity Bond Fund	10.0000	0.89%	4.59%			31-May-11			
0.4229	0.1709	Royal Fidelity Bond Fund	0.1709	2.07%	3.00%			31-May-11			
0.4229	0.1709	Royal Fidelity Bond Fund	0.1709	2.07%	3.00%			31-May-11			
0.4229	0.1709	Royal Fidelity Bond Fund	0.1709	2.07%	3.00%			31-May-11			

# The reluctant suitor

WE'VE seen them at every party. The guys and gals who sit alone on the fringes, quietly sipping their drinks as they look at the floor, wanting to be some place else.

Such a description could also apply to the Bahamas' policy approach to international trade, or at least outside perceptions of it, for the past decade. Across three successive administrations, this nation has often given the impression of being a reluctant participant in negotiations such as the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), not really wanting to be at the table, and often arriving at the last minute in seemingly disorganised fashion.

This is a pity, given the increasing importance of this subject to the Bahamas and its economic well-being. This nation will, almost inevitably, become ever-more integrated with the outside world, and it is vital that the Bahamas exploit opportunities presented by agreements such as the EPA to modernise its economy and generate net jobs and growth.

Hence the concerns expressed in this newspaper last week by Hank Ferguson, who was the Chamber of Commerce and private sector's chief adviser on the EPA negotiations with the European Union (EU), that, notwithstanding the many positive things done by the Government, Bahamian trade policy was "disjointed" and placing this nation's business community at a disadvantage.

## International Trade

To understand why we have reached this point, we must know the past. This requires a potted history of the Bahamas' approach to international trade, as laid out here.

Towards the tail end of the first Ingraham administration, Zhivarago Laing, then minister of economic development, began the process of applying on the Bahamas' behalf for full membership in the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

To make the WTO this nation's trade priority was probably the right move, given that it is the body that makes the rules governing all rules-based trading systems. Had the Bahamas continued with the process, it would probably have become a full WTO member by the time EPA negotiations reached a critical point in 2007, and the terms of its accession could have formed the foundation, the baseline offer, for all other trade agreements it entered into. But it was not to be.

For the Government changed in 2002, and the WTO application died with it, at least for the time being. The PLP administration handed responsibility for trade to Leslie Miller and the ministry of trade and industry. During a ministerial

It is time for the Bahamian government and private sector to show they are serious on trade, and position the economy for maximum benefit for current and future generations

tenure marked by much sound and fury, but precious little concrete achievement, the Bahamas' position in international trade was relegated to a distant policy backwater.

This state of affairs was not helped by the ice-cold relations between Mr Miller and the private sector. When the Chamber of Commerce and others began raising concerns about legislation devised by his ministry, namely the Standards Bill and Consumer Protection Bill, the minister ultimately reacted by completely ignoring them.

Such a dangerous stand-off nearly proved fatal for the Bahamas when it came to the EPA. A private sector executive, who attended the grand opening of the EPA talks in 2003 with Mr Miller and his officials, told Tribune Business: "I thought it would be the beginning of a beautiful public-private partnership....." His voice tailed off, which said everything.

What was done to prepare the Bahamas for the EPA under Mr Miller's tenure? The short answer is: Nothing. Much of the blame for the present state of affairs must thus be laid at his door.

Following the 2006 Cabinet reshuffle, the trade baton was picked up by Fred Mitchell in his capacity as minister of foreign affairs. While he quickly realised the gravity of the situation, and the need to do something, especially with respect to the Bahamas' chief exporters, fisheries and Polymers International, Mr Mitchell – in trying to move swiftly – faced two key handicaps as he sought to fill the hole left by Mr Miller.

First, when then-Prime Minister Perry Christie altered the structure of government in his reshuffle, all the trade expertise built up among Ministry of Trade and Industry officials was transferred to the Ministry of Finance, not Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This left Mr Mitchell and Leonard Archer ploughing a relatively lonely furrow.

And, to cap it all, Mr Mitchell also faced credibility problems with the private sector, this time over his failed one-man effort to bounce the Bahamas into Caribbean Single Market & Economy (CSME) membership. Anyway, before Mr Mitchell could do too much on foreign trade, another general election intervened....

To drop the ball back into Mr Laing's hands, some seven months

before the EPA agreement deadline and five years after he last possessed it. There is no doubt that both he and Mr Mitchell were handed a lemon, so to speak, by Mr Miller, but it cannot be said that the FNM covered itself in glory either.

## Trade Issues

True, the incoming Ingraham administration needed time to read the files and see where the PLP government had left things. After several months of seeming indecision, and amid concerns from some that the Ingraham administration would not sign on to the EPA, the Government finally agreed to commit to the agreement with the EU, following intense pressure from the Chamber, fisheries sector and other private sector representatives. It was agreed that issues such as the Bahamas' services offer could be dealt with at a later date, although Mr Ferguson told Tribune Business last week that even this still has not been squared away.

Despite coming to the dance late, the Government to its credit has made some moves to comply with its EPA obligations – a reformed Customs Management Act, draft competition (antitrust) and intellectual property rights legislation, amendments to the Tariff Act.... the list goes on.

But it would be helpful to all if the Government adopts a more inclusionary approach and makes public the timelines and goals contained in its EPA Implementation plan. If what Mr Ferguson says is true, that the Trade Commission is merely being used as a "briefing" shop by government to tell the private sector what it is doing on their behalf despite getting no input from them, then we have problems. The Trade Commission should be the primary forum for galvanising private sector involvement in trade processes, obtaining different industry wish lists and working to achieve them, while conducting much of the analytical and technical work.

This state of affairs must be remedied, and quickly. The private sector and Bahamian civil society must be brought into the fold, and quickly, and all Bahamians must get to grips with trade issues and what it could mean for them.

Time is running out. The Government has restarted the acces-



ZHIVARGO LAING



FRED MITCHELL

sion process that leads to full Bahamian membership of the WTO. Meanwhile, talks between CARICOM and Canada over a replacement for the existing Carib-Can agreement, from which the Bahamas benefits, are moving rapidly and have reached the third round, according to Mr Ferguson. They are now on services and investments, and he told Tribune Business last week that while numerous baseline negotiating positions have been advanced by CARICOM and its members, nothing has come from this nation – at least, not yet.

In fairness to Mr Laing and his senior officials, such as Simon Wilson, director of economic planning, they have so much on their plate in terms of other responsibilities that it is impossible for them to devote all their time to keeping on top of the myriad trade negotiations faced by the Bahamas. It is simply impossible for them to keep on top of the reams of paperwork, documents and meeting minutes that pour from these processes.

## Trade Unit

All the more reason for a dedicated Trade Unit to be created within the Ministry of Finance, staffed by attorneys and economists well-versed in international trade. The Trade Unit (not a stand alone department, as Mr Mitchell and the PLP have called for), will be tied as closely as possible to the Trade Commission, and the Government should consider reviving the Ambassador for Trade position (not necessarily James Smith, the last incumbent) to head the unit.

The Trade Ambassador must be someone with real standing and clout, not only nationally but internationally, and have direct access to both the responsible minister and the Prime Minister at a moment's notice. It is to be sincerely hoped

that just some of the estimated \$22-\$23 million in interest debt servicing costs the Government is set to save as a result of the recent Prime rate cut can be spent on establishing a dedicated Trade Unit.

And not all the blame for our present predicament can be laid at the Government's door. True, free trade is not a sexy topic. It is incumbent on the private sector, as those who will ultimately benefit or lose from these agreements, to take much more interest – and become far more involved – than they have to date. Take responsibility for your own futures, people, with one or more notable exceptions who are doing just that.

Truth be told, free trade will happen to the Bahamas with or without the WTO, EPA and such like. Whether we like it or not, the rules of the game will change, and many Bahamians will admit that they are not good at playing by the rules. Structural – and big – changes to the economy are likely to be in the pipeline, and we must be ready. The Bahamas has to step up to the plate and show it is serious.

For instance, how many knew that WTO pressures were an important, but not the main, factor behind the BTC privatisation process (Tribune Business has seen documents to this effect). Was the recent change in the National Investment Policy to open up the restaurant and entertainment sector to foreign companies driven, at least in part, by the free trade agenda? You get the picture....

Now is the time for the Bahamas to plan, prepare and make ready as a matter of urgency. With a new trade agreement with the US, our major trading partner, also over the horizon, we must all play our part in devising a strategy to position the Bahamas and its people for maximum benefit in the constantly evolving global environment. If we fail to do so, future generations are unlikely to forgive us.

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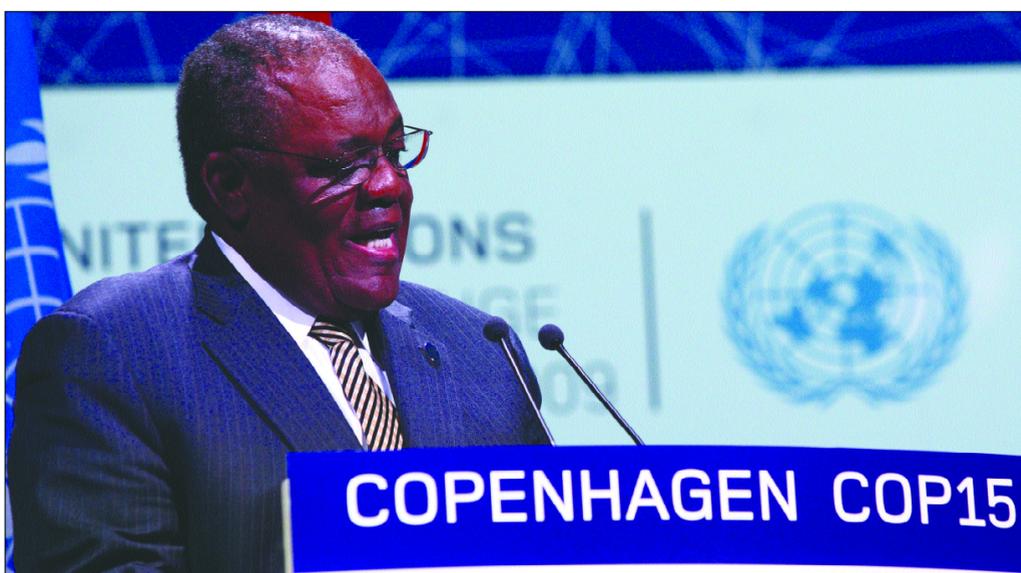
## TO BE, OR NOT TO BE

• SEE PAGE 10B



## THE RELUCANT SUITOR

• SEE PAGE 11B



HUBERT INGRAHAM



WENDY CRAIG



DIONISIO D'AGUILAR

# Past its Prime

While welcome, last month's interest rate cut is not a panacea for the Bahamas' economic woes and is unlikely to be much of a short-term stimulus

THE call for action has finally been heeded. Private sector representatives had been clamouring for a Discount Rate reduction for some 18 months, following the lead established by other central banks, and in early June the Central Bank of the Bahamas gave them their wish with a 75 basis point cut. But that's where the agreement stops, and differences over what this really means for the economy take hold.

Former Chamber of Commerce president, Dionisio D'Aguilar, said the subsequent cut in Bahamian prime from 5.5 per cent to 4.75 per cent would effectively pump \$60-\$70 million back into the economy, giv-

ing hard-pressed homeowners, consumers and businesses some relief from their debt burden.

Just as enthused was retired banker Al Jarrett who, like Mr D'Aguilar, had been a leading proponent of interest rate cuts as a means to stimulate the Bahamian economy and ease it through the recession. "I believe it's the right thing to do," he said at the time. "It should have been reduced

about a year ago."

Others, though, were more sanguine. The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation's (BCCEC) chairman, Khaalis Rolle, was sanguine in describing the Prime rate reduction as "no silver bullet", although he agreed with Messrs D'Aguilar and Jarrett that the Central Bank should have acted much sooner. Those arch-libertarians, the

Nassau Institute, were also sceptical of claims that reduced borrowing costs, which is essentially what an interest rate reduction is, would result in a stimulus to Bahamian economic growth on the grounds that individuals and businesses would save lots of money.

They, in turn, were supported by Ray Winder, Deloitte & Touche (Bahamas) managing partner, who said the cuts in the Discount and Prime rates would likely have "minimal" impact when it came to stimulating the Bahamian economy. So, which side is right?

### Interest Rate Cut

One thing we can all agree on is that an interest rate cut, by itself, is not a panacea to the Bahamas' economic woes. Much of these have been caused by the global recession, but others are connected to deeper structural issues, such as labour productivity, high energy and utility costs, cumbersome bureaucracy and other deep-rooted inefficiencies that will be tackled by Tribune Business at another time and place.

And we can also agree that the interest rate cut represents a wealth transfer from "savers" to "borrowers". Given that there are easily more borrowers than savers in the Bahamas, this means the Central Bank's actions will certainly result in a net benefit to the nation in the short-term. But, given the general lack of savings in the Bahamas, and the relatively small capital pool available for investing in the productive areas of the economy, was it fair to penalise the minority who are thinking about their financial futures and retirement? Among the biggest losers is the nation's social security system, the National Insurance Board (NIB), which sees the disappearance of \$9 million in projected revenues from its annual income, something that may or may not have implications for its asset-liability matching efforts.

The situation was summed up eloquently by Mr Winder, who said many Bahamians "do not have sufficient levels of savings to ensure they have a sufficient level of income after they retire", and the rate cut would impact savers with bank deposits and fixed income securities.

Effectively, the rate cut would penalise Bahamians who had "made sacrifices to succeed, and chosen not to build big houses. Those who have built big houses beyond their means, they are getting the benefit from not being financially prudent. Those businesses not operating prudently, they are receiving benefits from being poor businesses." Quite so.

As for stimulating the economy, Tribune Business comes down on the side of Messrs Rolle, Winder and the Nassau Institute. This is because the savings resulting from the Prime rate cut are likely to be insignificant, in the grand scheme of things, for most people and businesses, with very little of this money sent back into the economy in the form of new savings and investments.

Too many players are already leveraged up to the hilt, so companies and households are likely to use the interest savings they gain to pay down existing debts and loans, rather than engage in any new investment or consumption spending.

And those pesky intangibles, consumer and business expectations, will also play their part. With the Bahamian economy largely flat at best, despite some encouraging signs, and indicators from the US and rest of the world mixed to say the least, many while likely hang on to their new "income" while uncertainty remains high.

### Objective

All this is not to say the Central Bank shouldn't have acted, and Tribune Business would agree with those who called for it to move much sooner. Given that there is little history of monetary policy as an economic tool in the Bahamas, and the natural conservatism of central bankers, it is not surprising the regulator took its time, especially when you consider that the overriding objective is the exchange rate – ensuring we have enough foreign currency

reserves to maintain the one:one peg with the dollar.

Although strongly denied by Governor Wendy Craigg, the suspicion remains in some quarters that the Central Bank came under political pressure to act with a general election imminent. With interest rate cuts said to be occupying key posts in the PLP and DNA manifestos, last month's move certainly enables the FNM to steal much of that thunder.

### Fundamentals

Whatever the truth in those claims, there is little doubt that economic fundamentals were also forcing the Central Bank's hands. Foreign exchange reserves, boosted by foreign currency inflows from the Bahamas Telecommunications Company's (BTC) privatisation, the Government's foreign currency borrowings and the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) special drawing rights allocation, hit a record \$1.134 billion at end-April 2011. That represented a \$153.39 million year-over-year rise compared to April 2010, and a \$273.27 million increase during the first four months of 2011. And excess liquid assets in the Bahamian commercial banking system at end-April 2011 hit \$918.4 million, following a \$105.09 million rise during the first four months of this year.

Such pressure needed to be relieved, and with the economy being what it is, not too much is expected to leak out in the form of increased import consumption. The Government was also a big winner in terms of receiving much-needed fiscal relief, its interest debt servicing costs set to drop by between \$22-\$25 million per year, a nice spending reduction when it most needs it.

So, it is what it is. Although welcome, the Prime rate reduction will not make a radical difference to most individual or company situations, and nor will it be much of an economic stimulus. The Bahamas, as Mr Rolle says, must lift its head above "one shot" or miracle cures for its economic ills, instead fixing what lies within its control, riding out the storm and looking long-term at positioning itself to counter future downturns when they come along, as they inevitably will.

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KHAALIS ROLLE



RAY WINDER

# SPORTS

THE TRIBUNE • SECTION E

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2011

## INSIDETRAK

### TAMARA MYERS SETS NEW NATIONAL RECORD



TURN TO 3E...

### NATIONAL TEAMS OFF TO CAC AND WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

TURN TO 3E...

### 1st ANNUAL PHIL SMITH CELEBRITY CHARITY EVENT SET

TURN TO 2E...

### CAVS TRADE JJ HICKSON TO KINGS FOR CASSPI



TURN TO 5E...

### ASAFA POWELL SETS SEASON-BEST IN THE 100

TURN TO 5E...

### YANKEES BLANK THE BREWERS 5-0

TURN TO 5E...

### WIMBLEDON: SHARAPOVA TO FACE OFF WITH KVITOVA



TURN TO 7E...

## Trio back on track in Switzerland

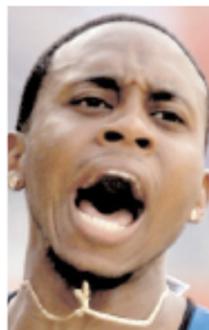
By BRENT STUBBS  
Senior Sports Reporter  
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

FOLLOWING a successful showing at the Bahamas Association of Athletic Associations' BTC National Open Track and Field Championships in Grand Bahama over the weekend, three Bahamian athletes were back on track Thursday in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Demetrius Pinder, who delighted the home crowd in pulling off back-to-back titles in the men's 400 metres, made his debut in his post-collegiate career on the international circuit with a fourth place finish in his specialty.

His time of 45.99 seconds could be attributed to fatigue as he trailed former collegiate arch rival Tabarie Henry of the British Virgin Islands, who was third in 45.57.

Jermaine Gonzales, a fourth place finisher at the Jamaican National Championships over the weekend in Kingston, won the event in 45.27,



ON TRACK: Pinder, Ferguson-McKenzie (centre) and Sands (right).

ahead of Kévin Borlée, who ran 45.37.

Double female sprint champion Debbie Ferguson-McKenzie, however, got a second place finish in the women's 200. Her time of 22.93 was faster than the 23 seconds she ran over the weekend to complete the sprint double.

Mariya Ryemyen of the Ukraine

took the tape in 22.85.

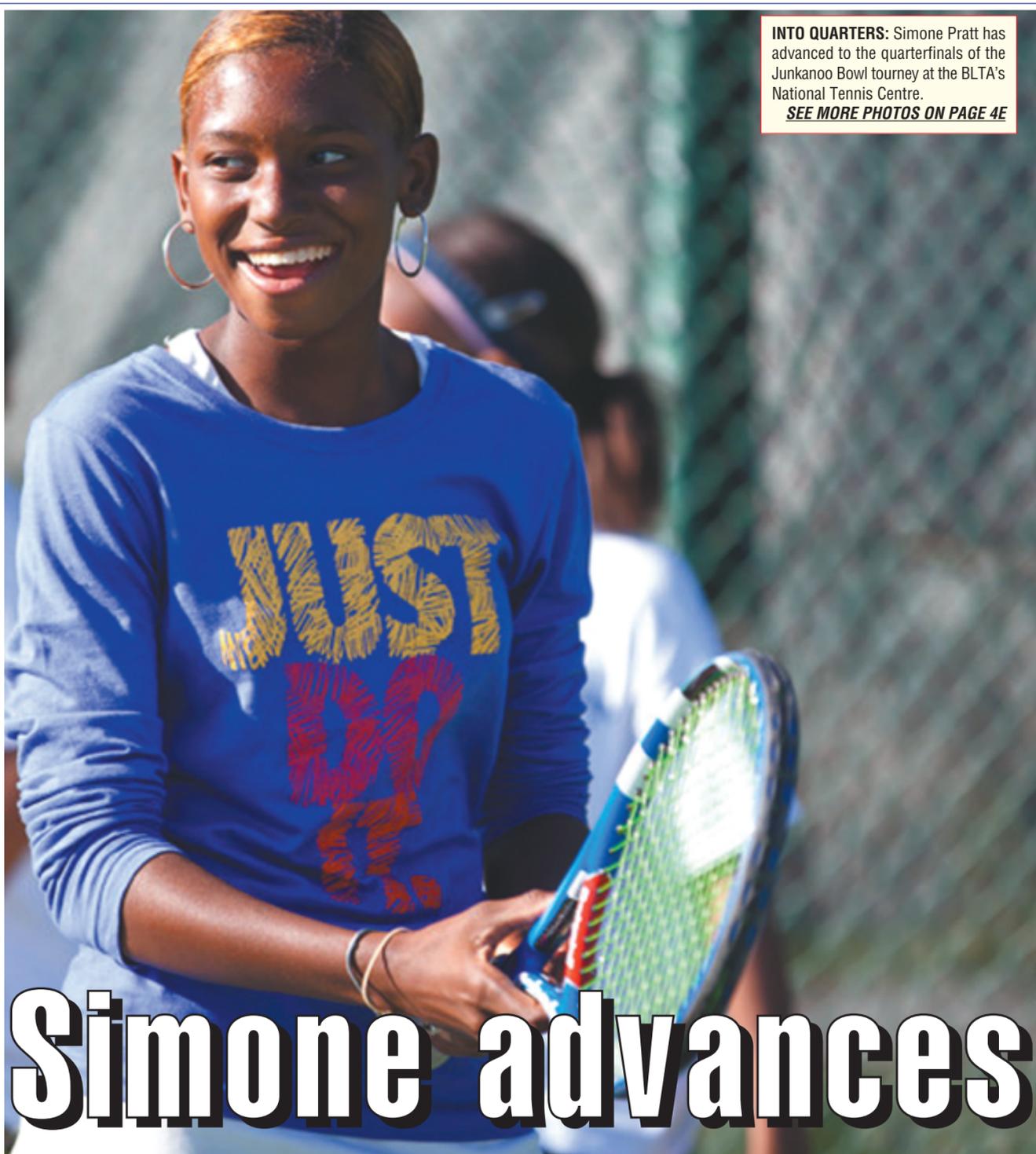
Leevan 'Superman' Sands, the national triple jump champion, was the other Bahamian to compete in the meet. He too may have suffered from fatigue as he could only soar 16.83 metres or 55-feet, 23/4-inches for seventh place.

Winning the event was Frenchman Teddy Tamgho who managed

- Ferguson-McKenzie places 2nd in 200
- Demetrius Pinder fourth in 400
- Leevan Sands settles for seventh

to beat out a full fledged, world-class field with his leap of 17.91m or 58-9 1/4, the best mark posted so far this year. He surpassed his previous best of 17.67m or 57-11 3/4.

Phillips Idowu of Great Britain was second with 17.52m or 57-5 3/4, Cuban Alexis Copello placed third (17.06m or 55-11 3/4), Marian Oprea of Romania got fourth (17.00m or 55-9 1/4), Cuban Arnie David Girat finished fifth (16.97m or 55-8 1/4) and Sweden's Christian Olsson was sixth (16.86m or 55-3 3/4).



INTO QUARTERS: Simone Pratt has advanced to the quarterfinals of the Junkanoo Bowl tourney at the BLTA's National Tennis Centre.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 4E

## Simone advances

Day four of the 2011 Junkanoo Bowl produced mixed results for Bahamian seeds. Simone Pratt, the highest ranked local player in the girls' main draw, advanced to the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Fausthyara Pietersz of the Netherlands Antilles, the fourth ranked seed of the draw.

Pratt has won each of her matches in the opening rounds

with relative ease after a straight set win 6-1, 6-2 win over Olivia Hauger of the United States. She will face Rianna Valdes of the United States in the next round.

In the boys' main draw, Shaquille Taylor's wild card streak ended against the second ranked player in the draw, Dekel Bar of Israel, 0-6, 2-6.

Taylor took advantage of his position as a wild card entry and carried the flag proudly for the

Bahamas into the second round. Taylor defeated Kevin Carpenter of Mexico, 6-1, 4-6, 7-5 to advance to the match against Bar.

In girls' doubles, Danielle Thompson paired with India Hart of Canada and advanced to the quarterfinal and will face Alexandra Clark of Great Britain and Blair Shankle of the US. Pratt and Shao also advanced to the quarterfinal and will face Peeraya Charoensirisutthikul of Thailand

and Katarina Guarino of the US.

In 2010, Rodney Carey Jr reached the final of the Junkanoo Bowl but fell in the tournament finale. Carey Jr, the tournament's second seed, lost to the top seed of the main draw, Shaun Bernstein of the United States, 3-6, 4-6.

The Grade 4-Hard Surface tournament is sanctioned by the International Tennis Federation and features players ranked within the top 200 in the world.

## McKayla leads relay team to victory in 800 free

DAY three of the CCCAN Championships saw a return to the medal podium for Team Bahamas, this time with the relay effort outshining the individual performances.

At the meet in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, the Bahamas increased its medal total by six due in large part to the work of veteran team member McKayla Lightbourn who continued her stellar showing at the meet.

The girls 18 and over team of Lightbourn, Jenna Chaplin, Ashley Butler and Ariel Weech swam to a first place finish in the 800m free relay in a time of 8:47.4s.

Lightbourn's busy day also included individual medal winning performances.

In the 200m backstroke, she finished with the silver medal in 2:20.17s, and in the 100m breast-

stroke she took a bronze medal in 1:14.77s.

Evante Gibson finished with the team's fourth medal of the day with a bronze in the boys' 15-17 50m breast in 30.57s and Laura Morley took second place in the girls 13-14 200 individual medley in 2:28.25s and Taryn Smith took second in the girls 13-14 100m free in 1:00.23s.

Other finals on day three includ-

ed:

- Dionisio Carey, fourth in the boys 13-14 50 backstroke in 28.69s
- Jared Fitzgerald, eighth in boys 11-12 100m breaststroke in 1:22.39s
- T'Auren Moss, eighth in the boys 13-14 100m free in 54.76s
- Michael McIntosh fifth in 1:06.86 and Chadeau Wilson eighth in 1:10.01s in the boys 18 and over breaststroke

## SPORTS

# Celebrities to appear at 1st Phil Smith charity event

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

AS a means of giving back to a sporting icon and community which he called "key to his success," one young Bahamian entrepreneur plans to give back while honouring the name of a broadcasting giant who was influential in the lives of so many.

Jason Edgecombe, CEO of Strong Arm Fitness, is scheduled to host the first annual Phil Smith Celebrity Charity Event in New Providence July 8-10.

Now based in Houston, Texas, Edgecombe is an elite personal trainer for athletes and public figures, which he credits for his contacts and ability to successfully plan this event.

The weekend event will feature appearances by current free agent guard J R Smith, Washington Wiz-

ards forward Rashard Lewis, former journeyman guard Mike James and model and party promoter Kele Helm.

"I've been in Houston for a long time and I've come across a lot of good contacts. I want to use those contacts to make people aware of the situation with Phil Smith. He has helped a lot of people in this country, not just me, so I feel as if it's only right for me as a fraternity person to come back and give to him so everyone can know we still appreciate everything he did for us," Edgecombe said.

"He is a hero to me and I feel as if it was not for him, my life wouldn't be what it is today and I wouldn't be in a situation to host this event. I feel like I'm doing it not only for him but for everyone he has helped in this country so I feel it is important for everyone to come out and support the event."

The weekend will feature three

events, including "Bowling with the Stars" at Mario's Bowling and Entertainment Palace July 8 hosted by Smith, Lewis and James, the "All White Platinum Party" at Luna nightclub July 9 hosted by the aforementioned trio along with Helm and Tony Danzaa.

## Extravaganza

The event concludes with a Fashion Show Extravaganza hosted by Le Gang De La Mode on July 10.

Edgecombe, a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, said his life was changed for the better due to the personal influence of Smith.

The former basketball standout at St Anne's High School, Edgecombe was guided by the late Godfrey McQuay to Walsh University in Ohio where he studied finance. He returned home and was employed at First Caribbean Bank while continuing his basketball

career in the New Providence Basketball Association with the Real Deal Shockers.

Smith, the veteran broadcaster who died in December of 2008, attended an NPBA game to showcase scouts on the talents of Judson Stubbs but noticed Edgecombe's performance as a standout player.

The following Monday, Smith made arrangements for Edgecombe to attend Langston University where he was able to complete his basketball career at the university level and a degree in finance.

Edgecombe said the proceeds from the event will go toward establishing a programme to assist students abroad whose families take on the additional financial burden.

"I pledge to donate something back to the Bahamian people. One of the things I am going to do is to create a book scholarship for this event. A lot of people go to school and they don't have the books to

succeed and that is a big time problem," he said. "We get government loans and other things but we do not get that book scholarship. The little I can do, I feel like I can give back to those that deserve it."

To receive the scholarship, applicants would need a 2.5 GPA, a background in sports and other requirements.

Edgecombe said the event was his means of passing along the goodwill offered to him by Smith many years ago.

"We have to help each other out as a people. I put Phil Smith's name on it so he can have the honour and not me. It is just the first of many events to come," he said. "Every year, it is going to be bigger and bigger and it is going to be successful and it is going to honour him as a legendary sporting icon in this society. I will be able to help another young person the way Phil was able to help me."



Photos by Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

# Ballin' By Da Beach

## Girls' basketball clinic becoming more popular

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

IN its third edition, the Ballin' By Da Beach girls' basketball clinic opened with greater numbers and excitement as the event continues to grow in popularity.

Hosted by Jurelle Nairn, in conjunction with the Bahamas Basketball Federation (BBF) and the New Providence Women's Basketball Association (NPWBA), the clinic ends today at the Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium.

Nairn hosts the camp, which is free of charge for all participants, alongside members of her Salisbury Seagulls coaching staff and players.

"So far so good. We have the numbers we expected, everyone is excited about it. We're just happy to get it off the ground and running. A lot of the kids are here earlier than last year. We pushed for them to be on time...we had a lot more people register online so that was why the numbers inflated," Nairn said. "Not only do we want to cover the on-the-court aspect of it but we want to cover the teaching aspect of basketball in the classroom."

This year's event features approximately 20 instructors to facilitate the growing interest in the clinic among young aspiring female basketball players.

Today, the clinic is slated to conclude with the aforementioned

classroom session and an awards ceremony.

Nairn, who was also a one-time coach at Queen's College, said the inspiration for the event came from a need for her to give back to the community and the sport of basketball.

"This movement was birthed from my passion to serve and inspire change in the Bahamas through basketball. Since I started playing basketball, God has just graced me with His favour over and over again. I can truly say that I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for basketball. It has opened doors that would have never been opened had I not played for the right people, in the right place, at the right time.

"If I am unable to help these kids get the opportunity to play basketball on the collegiate level, I want to at least assist in preparing them for whatever opportunities come their way. Ultimately, these opportunities don't even have to be basketball related, because there are so many important life skills that a kid can master through participation in team sports, skills that will help them in any situation. I know that it is my purpose to serve and help the young people of our nation by offering them this experience," she said.

"This event is critically important. Not only is it important, but also it is necessary. For a lot of the young ladies that attend, this will



**LAYUP DRILL:** Young girls (top) take part in the third annual Ballin' By Da Beach basketball clinic at the Kendal Isaacs Gym. The clinic ends today.

be the only constructive event that they participate in all summer. Not only is that a sad fact for the basketball players in regard to their

development, that's a sad fact for any young person. A wise man told me, 'Satan always finds mischief for idle hands to do.' With that said,

it's a start for the development of women's basketball in the Bahamas and we all know how important starting is."

SPORTS

# COB student athlete Tamara sets new national record in U-20 triple jump

COLLEGE of the Bahamas (COB) student athlete Tamara Myers continues to achieve new standards of excellence in her sporting discipline.

This past weekend, she set a new national record in the women's under 20 triple jump at the BAAA track and field meet in Grand Bahama.

Tamara's remarkable leap of 12.90 metres surpassed a two-year record of 12.73 established by Keythra Richards.

Proud of her accomplishment, Tamara said she has her sights set squarely on the Olympic Games.

"I continue to go to practice Monday through Saturday and I get assistance from Peter Pratt who won the first medal at CARIFTA. He is one of the best there is and just to be near him inspires me," she said.

"I preferred the long jump and triple jump really wasn't my favourite but as I got into it, I learnt my technique and improved on it. And because I love it so much, I am able to do better each time I perform. I hope to make it to the Olympics next year, I just need [to jump] 13 metres. I



**NEW RECORD:** Tamara Myers set a new national record in the women's under 20 triple jump at the BAAA track and field meet in Grand Bahama.

jumped 12.90, so couple more inches and I'll be there."

Kimberley Rolle, director of athletics at COB, believes that with Tamara's skill, agili-

ty and commitment, she will achieve that goal.

Rolle continues to be impressed with the 17-year-old's athletic prowess.

"This is indeed an outstanding feat for Tamara and a very significant milestone for the Athletics Department," she said.

"For Tamara to be competing at a senior level competition at the age of 17 speaks directly to her talents and what her potential is as she continues to develop. We are, indeed, very proud of her."

Born in New Providence but raised in Conch Sound, North Andros, a young and ambitious Tamara always enjoyed challenging her friends to a race.

Her love of track and field grew over the years and after watching Tonique Williams-Darling capture the coveted Olympic gold medal in the 400 metres in 2004, her passion for the sport ignited.

In 2009, Tamara won the CARIFTA silver medal in the triple jump, a crowning achievement that her ailing mother celebrated just before she passed away.

Now a student athlete at COB, Tamara has already distinguished herself as a rising star, embracing the best of both worlds - she is receiving a world class education and top-notch athletic training while continuing to represent COB and her country.

"I want to continue to represent the Bahamas, and now

the College of the Bahamas, in the future at a high level. When COB's Athletics Department looks back on its history, I want them to remember our graduating class for the impact we made on our teams and the athletics programme in general," Tamara said.

And her current track and field coach, Bradley Cooper, assistant director of the Wellness Centre and former Olympian and national record holder, is a big motivating force.

"Tamara demonstrates outstanding maturity for her age. Her focus complements her athletic ability. One of the reasons why Tamara has improved so tremendously is because of the weight training component that was added to her training regimen this year," Cooper said.

"However, we are looking for great things from her as she continues to develop," he says.

Balancing athletics and academics can be a daunting task, but Tamara, an accounting major whose 3.50 GPA placed her on the President's List, is determined to succeed in both.

**DARLING FAMILY DAY**

BAHAMIAN professional football player Devard Darling was in town recently to finalize plans for the "Darling Family Day" - a one-day fundraiser with activities for the entire family.

The family fun day event is scheduled to take place at D W Davis Jr High on Saturday (July 16).

Activities include a flag-



football tournament, a steak-out and party boat cruise. The day begins from 10am and runs until 4pm for the steak-out and flag-football tourna-

ment. The party boat leaves Potter's Cay Dock at 9pm.

**BSC'S JASON SAUNDERS VOLLEYBALL TOURNEY**

THE Baptist Sports Council has announced that it will hold the 2011 Jason Saunders Volleyball Classic Saturday (July 2) at the D W Davis Gymnasium.

Saunders, a director in the

league, is being honoured for his long and dedicated service to the sport. Not only has Saunders played the sport in the league, but he also coached and assisted in its organisation. He is now coaching at the national level. The league will feature the men, women and 17-and-under divisions. Interested persons can contact league president Brent Stubbs at 502-2363 or bstubbo@yahoo.com for more details.

**BSC'S JEFFERY BURNSIDE CYCLING CLASSIC**

THE Baptist Sports Council has announced that the 2011 Jeffery Burnside Cycling Classic is slated to take place Saturday (July 9) at the National Cycling Track at the Baillou Hills Sporting Complex.

Burnside, a former director of the league, is being recog-

nised for his long and dedicated service to the sport. He was a former national cycling champion.

Categories for the event, starting at 10am, are male and female masters, open, 19-and-under, 15-and-under, 10-and-under and five-and-under.

Interested persons can contact league president Brent Stubbs at 502-2363 or bstubbo@yahoo.com for more details.



**SPONSOR:** Shown (l-r) are BAAA public relations officer Alpheus 'Hawk' Finlayson, Liz Russell of the Mailboat Company and BAAA chief Mike Sands.

## National teams off to XIV CAC, World Youth Championships

By BRENT STUBBS  
Senior Sports Reporter  
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

FRESH on the heels of a hectic month of trials in June, the Bahamas Association of Athletic Associations (BAAA) is eager to see how well their athletes compete on the international stage during the month of July.

Already off are the teams to the XIV Central American and Caribbean Age Group Championships that is slated to begin today in Tortola and the World Youth Championships in Lille, France, July 6-10.

At the completion of the BTC National Open Track and Field Championships over the weekend in Grand Bahama, the BAAA ratified the teams to travel to the Senior CAC Championships, set for July 15-16, in Puerto Rico and the Pan American Junior Championships team in Miramar, Florida, July 22-24.

"The Sr CAC, we think, is going to be a very well-balanced team," said BAAA president Mike Sands.

"We have some depth and going into the meet with some very fine performances from the trials. We also have the team going to the Jr Pan Am Championships. As we speak, we have teams getting ready to compete at the CAC Age Group and the Jr Pan Am Championships. So it's going to be a busy month of competition for us."

Three of the four most outstanding athletes from the

BAAA Nationals head the team named to the Sr CAC Championships that will be sponsored by the Mailboat Company.

Sprinter Debbie Ferguson-McKenzie, the most outstanding open female athlete as well as quarter-milers Shaunae Miller, the most outstanding junior athlete and Grand Bahamian Demetrius Pinder, the most outstanding open male athlete, head the list for the Sr CAC.

Joining Ferguson-McKenzie and Miller on the female side are sprinters Sheniqua 'Q' Ferguson, Nivea Smith, Anthonique Strachan, Lanece Clarke and V'Alonee Robinson, quarter-miler Cache Armbrister, middle distance runner Hughnique Rolle, hurdlers Ivanique Kemp, Petra McDonald and Katrina Seymour, triple jumper Tamara Myers, long jumper Bianca Stuart and veteran javelin thrower Lavern Eve.

• High jumper Kenya Culmer is expected to be added to the team, subject to verification of her performance.

Along with Pinder, the men's team will feature sprinters Adrian Griffith, Jamial Rolle, Rodney Green II, Trevorvano Mackey and Warren Fraser, quarter-milers Ramon Miller, Michael Mathieu, Avarad Moncur, Andrae Williams and Latoy Williams, half-miler Wesley Seymour, middle distance runner Oneil Williams, hurdlers Nathan Arnett and Jeffery Gibson and jumpers Donald Thomas, Trevor Barry, Troy Bullard, Leevan

'Superman' Sands and Jamal Wilson.

Foster Dorsett will serve as head of the delegation. The team manager will be Ray Hepburn. Rudolph Ferguson will be the head coach, assisted by Fritz Grant, James Rolle (vertical jumps), Jason Edwards (horizontal jumps) and Fredrick Bastian (coach).

Ryan Ingraham, the most outstanding under-20 male athlete at the Nationals, along with Miller, the female counterpart, will head the team to the Jr Pan Am Championships. They will compete July 20-25.

Miller will compete along with V'Alonee Robinson, Devynne Charlton, Carmisha Cox, Anthonique Strachan, Hughnique Rolle, Kenya Culmer., Katrina Seymour, Tamara Myers and Pedra Seymour.

Joining Ingraham on the men's side are Trevorvano Mackey, Shavez Hart, Blake Bartlett, Andrae Wells, Julian Munroe, Michael Lockhart, James Audley Carey, Andre Colebrooke, Nejmi Burnside, Patrick Bodie, Tre Adderley, Latario Collie-Minns, Lathone Collie-Minns, Delano Davis and Jonathan Farquharson.

Anya Dorsett will be the team manager, assisted by Elva Davis. The head coach is Dianne Wooside, assisted by Rayvanno Ferguson (coach), James Rolle (vertical jumps), Antonio Saunders (horizontal jumps), Dexter Bodie (coach), Greg Cash (coach), Lynden Johnson (coach) and Luther Rolle (chaperone).



**MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**RE: TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE NOTICE - THE NATIONAL MARCH AND NATIONAL PRIDE DAY FLAG RAISING CEREMONY.**

**INFORMATION**

A National March will be held on Friday 01<sup>st</sup> July, 2011 at 9 00am, Archdeacon William Thompson Park (Southern Recreation Grounds) Baillou Hill Road.

**ROUTE.**

The march will leave Archdeacon William Thompson Park (Southern Recreation Grounds) Baillou Hill Road and travel north on Baillou Hill Road to Cumberland Street, north along Cumberland Street to Navy Lyon Road, north along Navy Lyon Road to Bay Street, east along Bay Street to Rawson Square.

**ROAD CLOSURE**

From 9:00am until the march passes, the following streets will be closed temporarily to vehicular traffic:-

**BAILLOU HILL ROAD BETWEEN COCKBURN STREET AND CUMBERLAND STREET.**

**CUMBERLAND STREET BETWEEN BAILLOU HILL ROAD AND NAVY LYON ROAD.**

**NAVY LYON ROAD BETWEEN CUMBERLAND STREET AND BAY STREET**

**BAY STREET BETWEEN NAVY LYON ROAD AND BANK LANE**

**TRAFFIC DIVERSION**

From 9:00am until the march passes, vehicular traffic not a part of the march will be diverted through side streets.

**PARKING**

From 9:00am until completion of the ceremony, parking will be permitted on Parliament Street for dignitaries.

SPORTS

# Junkanoo Bowl *highlights*



**ON THE COURT:** International players take part in this year's Junkanoo Bowl tennis tourney at the Bahamas Lawn Tennis Association National Tennis Centre.

