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USA TODAY

BAHAMAS EDITION

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2009

PRICE - 75¢ (Abaco and Grand Bahama \$1.25)



South Ocean foreclosure bid defeated

SEE BUSINESS FRONT

CARS FOR SALE, HELP WANTED AND REAL ESTATE

BAHAMAS BIGGEST



Boxers enter Hall of Fame

SEE PAGE 11

Mum's fight over 'vacuumed' baby

Five armed robberies in one day

By TANEKA THOMPSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
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POLICE intend to step up their patrols nationwide in an effort to thwart would-be armed robbers.

The move comes in the wake of five armed robberies — all of which occurred on Wednesday — added to the recent spate of attacks on businesses throughout New Providence.

A pedestrian and a string of businesses — including a clothing store, a wash house and a convenience store — were targeted on Wednesday.

Police suspect the crimes are related to the approaching holiday season. With the trend expected

SEE page eight

Claim that hospital procedure left her child disabled

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
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ELAINE WRIGHT and her son Kenneil

A MOTHER who cried out for help in childbirth at Princess Margaret Hospital had her baby sucked out of her with a vacuum in seconds leaving him disabled, she claims.

Elaine Wright, 41, told *The Tribune* how she endured a nine-hour labour while, she claimed, the ward nurse slept in her chair until a doctor arrived, tired and angry.

The mother-of-two had a forceps delivery with her first child in Jamaica and knew she would not be able to birth her second baby on her own.

Her medical history had been recorded at PMH and given her age and high blood pressure she believes she required a Caesarian section, but said the doctor went ahead and used a suction

device without her consent to extract the baby.

The baby was born in seconds with a "an awful whoosh-

SEE page nine

CARNIVAL DREAM WELCOMED

THE CARNIVAL DREAM cruise ship is welcomed to the Bahamas yesterday on its inaugural voyage. Minister of Tourism Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace said, according to a 'rule-of-thumb' estimate, the ship and its 3,800 passengers brought in more than \$380,000.

• SEE PAGE TWO and BUSINESS SECTION



Felipe Major/Tribune staff

BUT president's suspension is declared 'null and void'

THE suspension of Bahamas Union of Teacher's (BUT) President Belinda Wilson has been declared "null and void" by the union's executive committee.

The ruling was announced yesterday at a special call meeting at BUT headquarters. The committee also stated that there are no missing or misappropriated union funds as reported. Mrs Wilson had appealed a decision to suspend her for two weeks,

SEE page nine

AG's Office 'did not act improperly' over suspected drug proceeds

THE Attorney General's Office said it "did not act improperly" when it made an application before Magistrate Carolita Bethel to detain more than \$850,000 of suspected drug proceeds from Keva Major.

In a notice published in a local daily yesterday, the AG's office provided what it termed "the factual basis" around media reports that Magistrate Linda Virgill hit out at fellow magistrate Carolita Bethel for issuing an order to seize the funds.

Said the AG's notice, in part: "The Office of the Attorney-General on Sep-

SEE page eight

Man charged with church building site stabbing death

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A 26-YEAR-OLD man, charged with stabbing another man to death during a fight on the building site of a local church, was arraigned in Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Police have charged Phaniel Charles of Burial Ground Corner with the murder of Leonard Lionel Johnson. Johnson, 21, of Misty Gardens was fatally stabbed around 3pm during a fight with another construction worker on the building site of

SEE page eight

Police investigate man's suspicious disappearance

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

POLICE investigators were in Long Island yesterday investigating the suspicious disappearance of a man from Lower Deadman's Cay.

Central Detective Unit officers travelled to the family island to follow up on the case of Emerson McHardy, Assistant Commissioner in charge of crime, Raymond Gibson, confirmed.

Mr McHardy, a labourer who is understood to be in his late thirties or early forties, disappeared five weeks ago yesterday.

While details were sketchy

SEE page eight

New administrative director at Lands and Surveys department

IN A move hoped to bring synergy and stability to the embattled Lands and Surveys department, a new administrative director has been appointed in the person of Mr Alexander Flowers.

As a former Family Island administrator, Mr Flowers is said to be bringing in his administrative abilities at a time when the department is desperately seeking to turn around its image.

Following the resignation of the former Lands and Surveys Director Tex Turnquest, the House of Assembly has ordered a Select Committee to investigate all matters relating to the dis-

SEE page eight

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LOCAL NEWS

Carnival Dream

CRUISE SHIP VISITS BAHAMAS ON ITS INAUGURAL VOYAGE



Felipe Major/Tribune staff



SCENES from the arrival of the Carnival Dream cruise ship yesterday, including a musical welcome (above right); a performance from the Royal Bahamas Police Force Band (left), a view of the pool area (above left) and the casino (below). At the bottom of the page is a golfing treat for passengers aboard the company's largest ship. • SEE BUSINESS SECTION FOR FULL STORY

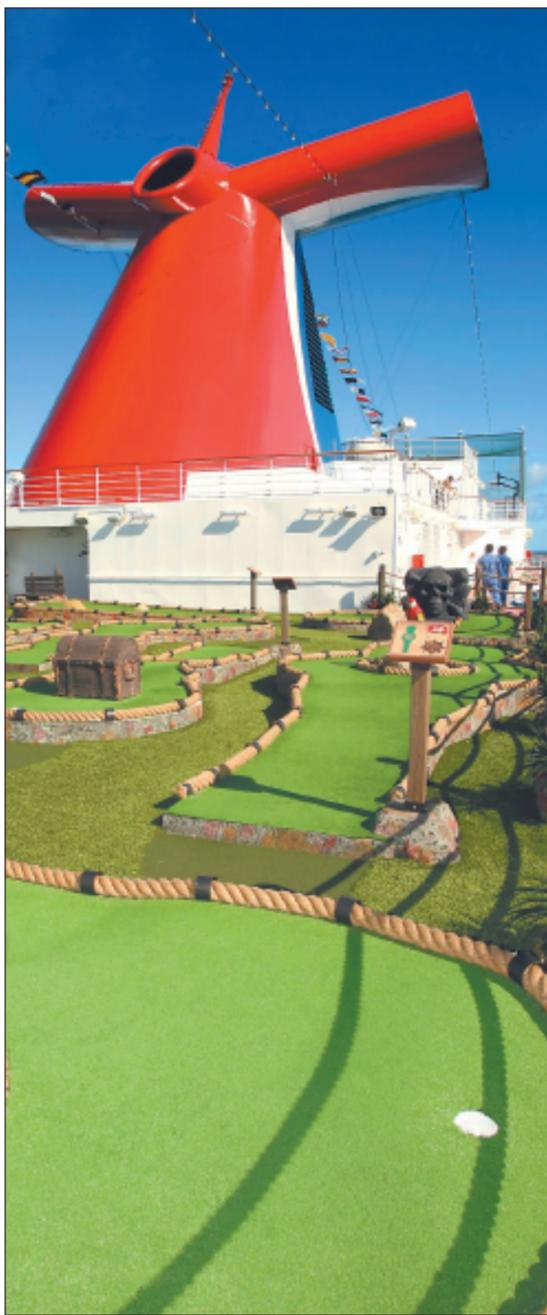


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The management and Staff of CFAL congratulate Tamara Evans, Assistant Vice President, Trading & Brokerage, on the successful completion of all the requirements for the Certified Financial Planner Certification.



C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

Tamara joined CFAL in 2000 and has more than 9 years of experience in the financial services industry. She serves as the firm's brokerage and trading liaison and assistant portfolio manager. During her tenure, Tamara has served as brokerage administrator, portfolio assistant, trader, senior securities trader and currently assistant portfolio manager. She received her educational training at the College of the Bahamas and holds Series 7, BISX Registered Trader and SCB's stock broker licenses. Prior to joining CFAL, she served in the accounting department of ColinaImperial Insurance Ltd.

We look forward to Tamara's bright future with the company.



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INDEX

MAIN/SPORTS SECTION

Local News.....P1,2,3,5,6,8,9,12
Editorial/Letters.....P4
Advt.....P7
Sports.....P10,11

BUSINESS SECTION

Business.....P1,2,3,4,5,8,9,11,12
Advts.....P6,7
Comics.....P10

CLASSIFIED SECTION 32 PAGES

INSERTS - MALL AT MARATHON

USA TODAY MAIN SECTION 12 PAGES

LOCAL NEWS

CHILDREN BEING PULLED FROM PRIVATE SYSTEM BY STRUGGLING PARENTS Government to hire 45 new teachers for growing public school classes

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
alowe@tribunemedia.net

GOVERNMENT will soon hire 45 new teachers to cope with public school classes that have grown as children are pulled out of the private system by struggling parents.

Also joining the public school system in New Providence and the Family Islands at the primary level will be 250 literacy and numeracy aides who will come on stream for six months as part of the Government's temporary work programme.

The aides will have to hold BJC education certificates in mathematics and English. Those who are placed in New Providence will be required to have achieved a "C" or above in those exams, while those to be stationed in the Family Islands can be recruited with a "D".

New Providence will receive 96 aides, Grand Bahama, 37, while the rest will be stationed throughout the Family Islands.

The Prime Minister outlined these additions to the education system yesterday in Parliament as he led off debate on

two supplementary appropriation or spending Bills.

Having received a large and unexpected one-off payment to the public treasury in October, the Government is seeking Parliamentary approval to spend \$26.5 million of the money received on a temporary jobs programme, hiring a number of people to new permanent public sector posts, doing numerous small infrastructural projects and meeting financial obligations to unionised teachers, nurses and doctors.

A total of \$2 million will be spent this year on hiring the

teachers with other permanent employees for "specific urgent needs" in the areas of civil aviation, finance, treasury, business licence, real property tax, physical planning, public works and lands and surveys, health, labour and social services.

About \$14 million is to be spent on the temporary jobs programme, under which the literacy and numeracy aides will be hired. While speaking on the matter of the new teachers, who he noted would include 19 College of the Bahamas graduates as well as other subject teachers in technical and vocational sub-

jects, agriculture, science and English, the Prime Minister warned that in the future Government "will not be able to continue to hire large numbers of general" non-subject specific teachers into the public school system. "An argument could be made that we have a sufficient number of teachers today, in terms of bodies. (The problem is that) we don't have enough in specific areas," said Mr Ingraham. There needs to be some rationalisation. We can't just continue to increase the numbers without regard to what the needs are."

In brief

Jamaican court jails Bahamian on ammunition, gun charges

A Jamaican court sentenced a Bahamian man to 10 years in prison on gun and ammunition possession charges on Wednesday.

Glenroy Russell had pleaded guilty to the charges on November 12 before being sentenced in the St Ann's Bay Circuit Court.

A joint police-military operation caught Russell with another Bahamian, Desmond Hepburn, aboard a go-fast boat on the Rio Bueno Coast off Trelawney, Jamaica, on July 18, 2009.

A search of the vessel resulted in the seizure of an intra tech submachine gun and an M14 rifle with ammunition.

Spokesman for Operation Kingfish, Sergeant Jubert Llewellyn said he believed Russell and another Bahamian, Desmond Hepburn, were involved in the guns for drugs trade.

Hepburn was also charged in connection with the seizures.

Encouragement drawn from progress of the Professional Engineer's Board

BY AVA TURNQUEST

AN ENGINEERING society was encouraged by the progress of the government-appointed Professional Engineer's Board after hearing from its chairman at a luncheon meeting yesterday.

PEB chairman Michael Moss told the Bahamas Society of Engineers of the steps taken to secure timely registration of professional engineers. He also gave a brief synopsis of the amended Profession Engineers Act, explaining requirements for the various registration categories.

Engineers present voiced concerns about the time limits on certain clauses, such as registration by virtue of corporate membership in the Bahamas Institution of Professional Engineers.

As the time is counted from the date the act received its assent, because registration is still unavailable, engineers speculated whether this time limit is realistic.

Mr Moss acknowledged that although the time allocated has already started to run, his board will act with the necessary urgency to register all engineers under this clause within the given constraints.

Registration

Former board member Lelawatee Manoo-Rahming said she is confident in the current board's ability to bring timely registration to the engineering community.

"I am very hopeful moving forward," said Mrs Manoo-Rahming, "it feels as though we are finally getting sorted and progressing towards developing a national standard for our profession."

While the support for the board and confidence in its counsel was resolute, engineers also voiced concerns that perhaps the registration process and requirements could be tailored to the Bahamian context.

"Look at our counterparts in Trinidad and Tobago," said one engineer. "They have an exam established by their government that is tailored to their community. Why not in the Bahamas?"

Another engineer added: "The benefits of registration are undeniable. I think this is wonderful for us to have now. This accreditation will provide security and opportunity for a lot of Bahamian engineers who were before unable to attain international accreditation with foreign institutions."

THIRD HIV TESTING DAY AT COB



(BIS Photo/Patrick Hanna) **MINISTER OF HEALTH** Hubert A. Minnis chats with students attending the third HIV Testing Day which was held at The College of The Bahamas, Thursday, November 19, 2009. The event was organised by students of the Sociology of Human Sexual Behaviour and Social Dimensions of HIV/AIDS Classes at The College of The Bahamas. Two hundred persons tested negative for HIV/AIDS during the 2008 event. Organizers were anticipating that many more persons would take up the challenge and be tested this year.

Young people between the ages of 10-25 years of age represent 50 per cent of the persons who become infected with HIV/AIDS in the English-speaking Caribbean, Minister of Health Hubert Minnis said on Thursday.

Addressing the opening of the third HIV Testing Day at The College of The Bahamas, Dr Minnis said AIDS is the leading cause of death among young men between the ages of 15-44.

"Therefore, getting the education and awareness message out to young people in these age-group categories is a key element in the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS in The Bahamas," Dr. Minnis said. "Young people need to have the motivation, understanding, skills and tools that will help protect them from HIV infection and AIDS," Dr Minnis added.

The Health Minister lauded the organisers of the

event for encouraging Bahamian students to get tested.

He said too many persons who should be tested for HIV/AIDS are not coming forward to be tested for fear of discrimination.

"Events such as this galvanize students to come forward and get tested," Dr. Minnis said.

The event was organised by students in the Sociology of Human Sexual Behaviour and Social Dimensions of HIV/AIDS Classes at the College of The Bahamas.

Negative

Organisers say more than 200 persons tested negative for HIV/AIDS during a similar exercise in 2008.

"It is hoped that many more would take up the challenge this year," they said.

Health officials say HIV/AIDS is unique among

diseases in that it spreads very quickly; primarily affects young people between the ages of 15-49 and that persons who contract HIV may remain infectious for many years without knowledge of having the virus or showing any symptoms, which further increases the chances for spreading the disease.

The disease also reduces life expectancy, which is related to productivity and education; breaks down social cohesion while challenging value systems and results in prolonged illness, resulting in greater, extended costs on public health-care services, individuals and their families.

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BLIND SIDE	NEW	1:15	N/A	4:15	7:15	N/A	10:00
PLANET 51	NEW	1:20	3:40	N/A	6:20	8:35	10:35
2012	T	1:00	N/A	4:00	7:00	N/A	10:00
2012	T	2:00	N/A	6:00	N/A	9:00	N/A
A CHRISTMAS CAROL	A	1:15	3:45	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:35
THE BOX	T	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:45
IP MAN	T	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:55
MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT	A	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:45
LAW ABIDING CITIZEN	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:20	10:45
I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF	B	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	N/A	N/A

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BLIND SIDE	NEW	1:10	N/A	4:10	7:10	N/A	10:10
PLANET 51	NEW	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:35
2012	T	1:15	N/A	4:00	7:00	N/A	10:00
A CHRISTMAS CAROL	A	1:05	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:30
MICHAEL JACKSON	A	1:00	3:35	N/A	6:00	N/A	N/A
LAW ABIDING CITIZEN	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:25	10:45

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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Tribune Limited

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Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master

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CCTV cameras show worth in crime solving

NATIONAL Security Minister Tommy Turnquest, speaking at the recent FNM convention, talked about the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) programme that is being launched in the downtown area and in the South-Eastern New Providence Division.

“As we advance this initiative, we say to criminals, lawbreakers and those that aid and abet them, ‘Smile, you may well be on CCTV. We will tape you, and we will apprehend you,’” said Mr Turnquest.

In reply, PLP chairman Bradley Roberts seemed dismissive of this idea, which included government going ahead with electronic monitoring of lawbreakers and an expanded forensic police lab. From his comments it was not clear whether Mr Roberts was dismissive because he did not consider these methods effective in fighting crime, or whether it was because they were “either started or took root under the PLP government of Perry Christie.” In other words, the FNM was stealing PLP ideas. As if it mattered whose ideas they were as long as they worked and helped in getting criminals off the streets.

Whatever Mr Roberts’ thoughts on the subject, the police certainly think that CCTV cameras have greatly assisted them in their investigative work.

“It has assisted us greatly in identifying persons. Quite a number of businesses and residences are now using these cameras, and it is helping us,” said one officer.

Another police officer thought the cameras an excellent idea, particularly if used in business areas and school zones.

“These cameras play a double role,” he said. “By being able to play the footage back, it allows us to revisit an area and identify something that we might have missed before.”

“We have been able to deal with a number of matters with these cameras,” he said, adding that they have shown their worth in public disturbances.

“In these incidents, when we review the footage later we can identify persons participating and persons nearby who we can call as witnesses.”

So the cameras certainly have the backing of the police as another weapon in their arsenal against the criminal, and in their efforts to make our homes, businesses and streets safer.

Mr Tony Hosey, proprietor of Mobile Cell Phones on Village Road, who had the bright idea of putting the break-in at his store at 2am on November 8 on YouTube, where up to last night it had had 11,535 viewers, certainly believes in the worth of the CCTV camera.

The culprit breaking into his store, dressed in a baggy, long sleeved t-shirt, looks straight into the camera as he works fever-

ishly with a long crowbar to pry off the store front’s metal shutters. Sitting in the corner is his young lookout man, well covered in a hooded jacket, baggy trousers, white socks and thonged sandals. He seems very nervous as he peeps from beneath his hood, keeping his head well down, squatting, standing up, looking around a corner of the building, folding his arms and squatting again. He acts almost as if he is aware of a camera. But not so our main man. He appears to be a pro, without fear, determined to get the shutters down and complete his mission of raiding the store of as many cell phones as he can carry off.

Although, no arrests have been made as yet, the young man looking into the camera and exerting so much muscle on his important enterprise, has been identified. Police confirm that they have had many calls from persons who know him. He is also well known to several police officers. We were told that he is in the RBPF’s system and is wanted for questioning in about 50 other matters.

Mr Hosey, who posted his CCTV footage on YouTube asking for anyone who knows these two criminals to call the police, is well pleased with his cameras. Not only are they of help in identification, he said, but police do not have to dust the whole premises for fingerprints. “The cameras will show them exactly where the person touched — what he picked up, where he picked it up from — and they can concentrate on that spot,” said Mr Hosey.

“Also where the image of the person on camera might not be clear, the police can follow the places he has been and pick up his fingerprints. Even if his image is not clear on camera, he can’t deny that he was there, because he has left his fingerprint behind. If he was not there, how did his fingerprint get there?”

The film of the break-in at Mr Hosey’s store is of such high quality that if nothing else these cameras should act as a deterrent to even the boldest of criminals. It must have shaken this young man, who still looks a teenager, to see his face staring back at him from the web site. The camera does not lie. This is once that a young man can run, but he certainly cannot hide for long. He is now on camera.

“Do you believe that your cameras will help you and the police?” Mr Hosey was asked. “Absolutely!” was his reply.

So it does not matter who first had the idea — seems the idea was launch several years ago in this very column, but rejected by many because of the belief that Bahamians’ privacy would be invaded. “No Big Brother for us!” was the cry.

Maybe, now is the time that “Big Brother” could be put to good use.

Discussing capital punishment and a rising murder rate

EDITOR, The Tribune.

As the number of people killed in our community escalates groups are rallying in support of the one penalty they hope can halt the recurring “senseless and violent acts.” These people represent the families, friends and concerned neighbours of the victims of these street killings. Each day I find out about some tragic incident leaving persons in anguish when their loved ones are murdered whom they or others depended on as providers. Thus the harsh call of the organisation to resume capital punishment should be melted with sympathy even from the abolitionist like me who denounce any law that allows criminals to be hanged.

The relatives, sufferers of post traumatic stress syndrome are to have their concerns addressed in a swift and jurisprudential manner in conveyance of the fact that their relatives unnecessarily had their lives extinguished. For those who are not proponents of capital punishment, God’s love should be present in every endeavour of resistance to the affected individuals of homicides. It is the moral duty of every citizen of this small nation to serve and protect each other from the hands of lawbreakers.

It is possible that even

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

Bahamians living by strict religious and moral codes have not studied the criminal process near enough, therefore ceding a prison inmates’ right to life. It is their thought that hanging would be their elixir for our high murder rate. Yet this is not the way to display our love for these victims.

A homicide can fall into five categories: a felony murder; a suspected felony murder; an argument — motivated murder; non-felony, non argument related killings and lastly those with unknown motives. The first three seem to be the most common in our land which has adopted the English legal system in the administering of justice. The fourth has motives which are identifiable. Generally the fourth type has motives revealed only to the affected parties, i.e. relatives and friends of the victims and the accused which the public may never discover unless demonstrators take to the streets to protest a killing. (S Mactire 1995 c.)

Two political conventions only recently show the contrasting ideals of the political

elements that must decide whether we take the lives of murderers as payment to society or pursue the same options leaving them to serve lengthy sentences. And beside each headline covering the loss of human lives at the hands of these killers are stories that should leave every soul greatly disturbed.

What is either read or heard are extensive reporting on financial and real estate fraud; child molestation amongst the educators and law enforcement officers; extortion; drug trafficking; road traffic injuries and traffic related fatalities of the most gruesome sort; medical malpractice suits or unaffordable health care.

Union grievances are chronic handicaps to hopes of peaceful interaction between professional occupations and energy plagues everyone without exception. For many years we occasionally saw solutions to these problems, but they were ignored.

The hope of our islands lies not in the taking of previous human lives, but in God, the Father Almighty who is the creator of heaven and earth. Only with him can one have lasting, long term and lasting peace.

TROY DRUMMOND
Nassau,
November, 2009.

An open letter to Phenton Neymour

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Everyone seems to want to produce energy by the most expensive means, nuclear, difficult, salt water, tidal, mirrors, excessive space, ecologically destructive, and wind turbines kill birds, etc, when we have had a simple, cheap solution staring us in the face for years, it may be in use, but I have never heard of it. When my sister and I were young back in the 1930’s we often used to play with a magnifying glass, either surreptitiously on each other, or to burn wood, etc, either way it was very hot. I am not an electrician or engineer, but I am sure the concept could be used, with the right engineering, to produce ample steam to run turbines.

With large, sun directed magnifying glasses set over a boiler, our climate of 350 days of sun a year, 351 in a leap year, would supply enough steam to power each island at a fraction of the cost we do now, with no ecological damage.

After all, steam was a driving force of the Industrial Revolution. You may need a back up for any extended period of cloud, but as batteries improve the problem is not insurmountable. The water used would either recycle or be distilled. What more could you want, and we would be sticking to those nasty people who have been holding the world to ransom for years?

I won’t bother to patent the idea as I want the world to benefit!

W GRATTAN
Nassau,
November, 2009.

Islands of the Sun

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Further to my earlier letter of today’s date, I am moved to write again – in high praise and commendation of the newly launched book ‘Islands of the Sun’ by John A Thompson and Nikita Shiel-Rolle.

This lovely tribute to the northern Exuma Cays is a complete delight: stunning photography, accompanied by extremely well-written and exceptionally informative narrative.

Congratulations to these two young people and well done to the many persons and institutions who supported, nurtured and mentored them during the course of their three-year odyssey.

M JACKSON (Ms)
Nassau,
November 16, 2009.

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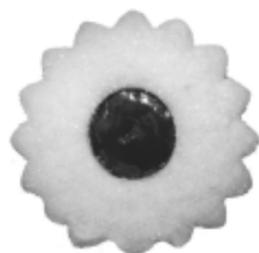
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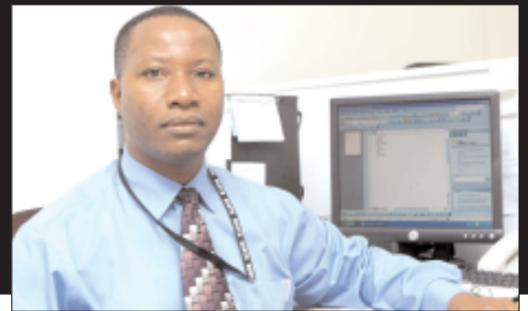
The Staff of Solomon's Mines wishes to express Sincere Condolences to all Family and Friends on the untimely passing of Mr. Christopher Gill

May He Rest In Peace



LOCAL NEWS

Carpooling pilot project initiative to reduce traffic congestion



MARC INGRAHAM, economist in the Ministry of Transport, Policy and Planning Unit of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

By Kathryn Campbell
Bahamas Information Services

A carpooling initiative implemented by Government is aimed at alleviating traffic congestion in New Providence.

A survey for the pilot project is presently being conducted with 500 parents of students who attend Aquinas College to determine how many of them carpool.

"If we can get 10,000 cars off the streets in the early morning and afternoon hours we can reduce congestion by two or three per cent," said Marc Ingraham, Economist in the Transport, Policy and Planning Unit of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

"People in New Providence car pool, we just don't know how many," said Mr Ingraham. "As a measure to reduce congestion we must take all of the economic alternatives for transport seriously. The number of vehicles registered is approximately 12 per day so the number of vehicles on the streets is growing."

Advanced Logistics Group, a contracted transport research group from Spain that conducted an urban transportation congestion reduction study and strategic plan for The Bahamas recommended the pilot project in 2006.

"Car pooling was one of the initiatives recommended as an economic alternative," said Mr Ingraham. "We decided that we would start with the schools because many of the parents who drive their children to school live in the same neighbourhoods."

"The road improvement projects would facilitate 30 per cent of the congestion problem, the other 70 per cent would have to come from economic measures for alternative transport use."

To date one hundred questionnaires have been returned and one week remains before the deadline. Other schools included in the survey are Woodcock Primary and Our Lady's Catholic Primary School. Mr Ingraham said they have received "valuable" information from the questionnaires returned. "We've found that about 60 per cent of the people surveyed average about five miles on a one way trip to the school. We do not know if it is because Aquinas has moved. We also found that about 60 per cent of the people surveyed live within a 10-mile radius of the school."

Survey results from parents have also revealed that the main factors in selecting means of transportation are travel time, convenience, flexibility, comfort and safety. Almost 60 per cent of those surveyed said that what prevents them from using a commute alternative is they prefer to drive their own vehicle. Survey participants said incentives to carpooling include flexibility of work schedule, financial subsidies, guaranteed ride home in case of an emergency and assistance in locating a carpool partner.

Carpooling advocate Elva Laing-Carey has been carpooling with two families for more than a year. "It really works," she said. "Friendships, more time for household chores, stress reliever, saves time and money, networking opportunity for children and parents and reduces congestion on the roads."

THE BAHAMAS DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT PUTS PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT Call for action to protect health of Grand Bahamians near Vopak plant

BY AVA TURNQUEST

THE Bahamas Democratic Movement is demanding immediate Government action to secure the health of Grand Bahamians living near the Vopak plant.

Party chiefs claim emissions are poisoning people at Lewis Yard and Pinder's Point, and they called for an immediate independent commission to investigate all allegations.

The BDM spent three days in Grand Bahama at the request of residents who claim they have been "abandoned, and forgotten by successive PLP and FNM governments."

After touring the settlements and seeing their proximity to such industrial equipment as oil tankers, the party charged that it cannot tolerate double standards in environmental policy while the people of Lewis Yard and Pinder's Point are suffering in third world conditions.

Ignored

Health spokesman Dr Dexter Johnson said: "This problem has been ignored for decades and even today you (government) are slow to do what you ought to consider it your pressing duty to do—protect the health and well being of our people first and foremost."

"Why is the Government intent on preserving the life of every single turtle by an absolute ban on turtle fishing, and not at least as equally concerned with guaranteeing the life of Bahamians by ensuring that all of us have clean air to breathe?"

"Why have industrial pollutants from this source been allowed to poison the air and ground water for decade after decade?"

Dr Johnson maintained that the problem has now reached a critical point, referring to the closure of Lewis Yard Primary School as an indicator of gov-

BDM drive to help 'emaciated' GB residents

BY AVA TURNQUEST

THE Bahamas Democratic Movement has started collecting non perishable goods to send to the "emaciated" people of Grand Bahama.

BDM Leader Cassius Stuart said that during recent trips to the island, his team encountered numerous individuals living without bare necessities, overwhelmed by mortgage and utility bills.

"The Department of Social Services is giving out \$250,000 per month to assist residents on the island with mortgage and utility payments," said Mr Stuart.

"What we found was that after these obligations are met, people are still struggling to secure basic needs like food," Mr Stuart said

that this inspired the party's \$100,000 food drive, which they plan to distribute to residents of Grand Bahama.

"In times like this talk is cheap," said Mr Stuart. "People need action."

Awareness

The party has already collected and is planning a canvas of local supermarkets to raise awareness of their drive.

"Politics have to be practical. We need to come to the aid of these people, the children, as citizens not politicians. Lending a hand to our fellow Bahamians is the least we can do for the country. When one part hurts, all parts hurt, and Grand Bahama has been hurting."

ernment's failure to monitor the toxic emissions from the industrial park.

"The people of Lewis Yard and Pinder's Point are tired of the delay and double talk of Vopak authorities, and the shifting of blame by the Grand Bahama Port Authority."

Dr Johnson estimated that a civil suit against the corporation would be futile due to a slow judicial system and financial constraints of those affected. He charged that Government will always have the ultimate power and the ability to effectively mandate a timely resolution.

"What worries me is," Dr Johnson added, "as we start to increase development in Abaco, these policies and standards need to be solidly enforced. We can gather these experiences

and be tough on legislation. "Companies will factor these things into their budgets, its not unaffordable to comply with

environmental standards. However, if we are lax and depend on self-governance, why would they make the expense?"

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LOCAL NEWS

Govt in bid to collect outstanding taxes

By LINDSAY THOMPSON
Bahamas Information Services

THE Government is moving to enforce provisions under the Real Property Tax Act to collect outstanding taxes.

For a number of years only approximately 62 per cent of the billed amount has been collected each year, thus leaving 38 per cent outstanding, said Joseph Nathaniel Mullings, Chief Revenue Compliance Officer at the Business Licence and Valuation Unit of the Ministry of Finance.

On July 13, Government amended the Real Property Tax Act to allow owner-occupied, commercial and other property owners relief from real property taxes.

The amendment states that owner-occupied properties with a market value of up to \$250,000 shall be exempt from the payment of real property tax.

The surcharge on owner-occupied properties that exceed a value of \$250,000 shall also be waived if the outstanding real property tax is paid on or before December 31, 2009.

Other properties shall have the surcharge waived by 50 per cent if the outstanding real property tax is paid before December 31, 2009.

However, if after December 31, 2009 any real property tax remains outstanding in respect of owner-occupied properties with a market value of up to \$250,000; owner-occupied properties exceeding \$250,000; and other properties, the owners of such properties shall be liable to pay a new surcharge of five per cent per annum on the outstanding tax.

Mr Mullings confirmed that as of October 28, there was a substantial number in uncollected real property taxes.

The main reason for not

paying real property taxes is that most persons do not correlate the payment of property taxes with services received, he said.

Therefore property owners have to be educated to know that collections from real property taxes are used to fund education, libraries, police, hospital and other services, Mr Mullings said.

"Persons who live in countries which have a taxation system, understands this correlation quite well," he said.

"The Bahamian public at large demand these services which cost hundreds of millions of dollars, but they are delinquent in paying their taxes."

"It is therefore prudent for property owners to pay their taxes on an annual basis." Persons are encouraged to take advantage of the existing arrangements and settle their taxes before December 31, 2009.

All property taxes outstanding must be paid before the property is sold, he said. Property cannot be transferred if outstanding property taxes exist.

Each year that owners do not pay taxes, they are losing ownership in their properties, he warned.

When property taxes outstanding become excessive, the property can be sold to satisfy real property tax debt, he said.

During the life of a mortgage, the lender owns the property. After the borrower has made the last mortgage payment, title cannot be transferred to the borrower, if there are outstanding property taxes.

Individuals should be aware that they could enter into an arrangement with the Real Property Tax Office to pay the outstanding tax by instalments. The public should be reminded that credit cards are acceptable for the payment of real property tax.

The Bahamas signs Tax Information Exchange Agreement with New Zealand

By KHYLE QUINCY PARKER
Press Attaché
Embassy of the Bahamas

THE Bahamas has signed a Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) with New Zealand, concluding a negotiation process aimed at developing a legal instrument that could be used to establish effective exchange of tax information.

The TIEA is an instrument developed by a Working Group of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and represents the standard of effective exchange of information for the purposes of the OECD's initiative on harmful tax practices.

New Zealand Ambassador to the US Roy Ferguson said his country's government was "delighted" to sign the TIEA with The Bahamas. Mr Ferguson offered congratulations on what he said his government saw as the "forward-looking steps" being taken by The Bahamas with respect to tax information exchange matters.

He also noted that New Zealand pledged continued cooperation with The Bahamas on tax matters.

Negotiations

Bahamas Ambassador Cornelius A Smith thanked the New Zealand ambassador for the speed with which the negotiations for the TIEA had been concluded.

"The signing of this agreement between the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and New Zealand for the exchange of Information with respect to taxes bears witness to the Government of The Bahamas' commitment to implement the evolving international standards of transparency and effective information exchange in tax matters," Ambassador Smith said.

"It is the fifth tax information exchange agreement concluded by the Government of The Bahamas and the third it has concluded with an OECD country."

"As The Bahamas and New Zealand adjust to the ever-changing global financial and economic landscape," he added, "we look forward



BAHAMAS AMBASSADOR CA Smith (l) and New Zealand Ambassador Roy Ferguson exchange copies of the newly signed Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) inked on Wednesday. The signing marked the fifth such Agreement signed by The Bahamas.

to a productive and cooperative relationship with New Zealand in this and other areas."

The first TIEA signed by The Bahamas was with the United States in 2002, and since then the country has concluded TIEAs with the UK, Monaco, San Marino and now New Zealand.

There are 15 articles in the TIEA, covering areas such as definitions, which taxes are covered by the agreement, and the possibility of declining a request for tax information.

Under Article Seven of the TIEA, for example, the parties agree that the Requested Party not be required to obtain or provide information that the Applicant Party would not be able to obtain under its own laws for purposes of the administration or enforcement of its own tax laws.

"The competent authority of the Requested Party may decline to assist where the request is not made in conformity with this Agreement," the article says.

Article Seven also imposes protections on trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade processes, and allows the parties to decline a request for information if the disclosure of the informa-

tion would be contrary to national security or public policy.

Article Nine of the agreement protects citizens in both countries from "prejudicial or restrictive measures based on harmful tax practices."

Measures

Prejudicial or restrictive measures are defined in the TIEA as measures applied by one Contracting Party to residents, nationals or transactions of either Contracting Party on the basis that the other Contracting Party does not engage in effective exchange of information and/or because it lacks transparency in the operation of its laws, regulations or administrative practices, or on the basis of no or nominal taxes and one of the preceding criteria.

The OECD created the Agreement on Exchange of Information on Tax Matters to address harmful tax practices.

A 2008 OECD report titled, "Harmful Tax Competition: An Emerging Global Issue", identified "the lack of effective exchange of information" as one of the key criteria in determining harmful tax practices.

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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

Armed robbery

to continue into December, police yesterday intend to increase patrols to deter criminals.

"We have Christmas coming up and I know the police force will be beefing up our patrols in an effort to cause a decrease in the armed robberies. We are going to be very vigilant," said police spokeswoman Sergeant Chrislyn Skippings.

This week, Chamber of Commerce President Khaalis Rolle told Tribune Business that crime is a serious concern for businesses in the Bahamas.

"It is something that has to be addressed and the solution isn't an easy one," he said.

He added that he is not convinced that the typical alarm system provides the adequate security that most businesses need, but said they are not to be discounted as an immediate deterrent.

According to him, the criminal mind is often just as sharp as the mind that dreamt up the security system, which is its major flaw.

The latest incident happened around 9.16pm Wednesday at Select Wash House on Providence Avenue and Farrington Road. Police were called to the scene and were told that two men, of brown complexion, entered the wash house and held it up.

They escaped with an undetermined amount of cash and tokens. About an hour earlier, around 8.20pm, two men armed with handguns entered Munnings Supplies on Farrington Road. Both wearing dark clothing, they demanded cash and terrorised the store when they were refused.

"Their request was denied, and as a result, the men caused damage to items before leaving the store. On leaving, a male who was entering the establishment was also robbed by these persons," said Sgt Skippings.

The suspects fled in a gold coloured Honda car.

A few hours earlier, around 6.55pm, a man brandishing a handgun burst into Muck-a-Mucks clothing store on East Street. The suspect — who wore a white shirt and blue jeans — demanded cash and was given an undetermined amount from the cash register. The man then ran off.

Around 2.10pm police received information of an armed robbery at Johnson's Convenience Store on Malcolm Road. A store employee told officers they were attacked by two men, one of them posing as a customer.

Clad in a pair of denim shorts, an orange and yellow shirt, with plaits at the back of his head, the "customer" entered the store and purchased an item. As he was about to leave, a man, also wearing denim shorts, a grey shirt and a stocking mask over his face entered the store armed with a handgun and demanded cash. The armed man fled the store with his accomplice along with an undetermined amount of cash from the register and a pack of cigars. They fled in a grey coloured Honda car, license plate 87071.

The first incident involved a male student of BTVI who told police he was robbed by three men around 7.50am Wednesday. The student claimed that as he walked in the area of Old Trail and Soldier Road — near the school — three men riding bicycles approached him.

Armed with a knife, the thieves demanded cash but only escaped with the victim's jewellery.

Police said two youths, aged 17 and 18, are being questioned.

Sgt Skippings said: "If you have noticed a vehicle circling the area twice or is hanging around, notify police so they can check it out. Also try not to keep plenty of cash on you and do not make frequent deposits during the day."



PHANUEL CHARLES

FROM page one

Evangelistic Temple on Collins Avenue on Monday. He is the 76th person to be murdered in the Bahamas this year. Mr Johnson was rushed to the Princess Margaret Hospital in a private vehicle, but died of his injuries within two hours.

Charles was not required to enter a plea to the murder charge during his arraignment before Deputy Chief Magistrate Carolita Bethel in Court 8, Bank Lane. His attorney Crystal Rutherford-Ferguson told the court that she had been instructed by her client that he was suffering from injuries to his lower hip and left shoulder. She said that Charles also indicated that he had received med-

Man charged

ical treatment on the day of the murder but still suffered from pain and needed further medical attention. The magistrate ordered that he receive further medical attention. Charles's attorney also indicated that while he had been in police custody, he was threatened by police officers. Magistrate Bethel said that his complaints would have to be directed to Complaints and Corruption's Unit of the police force.

Charles was remanded to Her Majesty's Prison. His case was adjourned to December 8 and transferred to Court 10, Nassau Street for a trial date.

FROM page one

position of Crown land dating back to the early 1950's up until this present date.

With Fox Hill MP Fred Mitchell leading the delegation of MPs, which includes PLP deputy leader Philip "Brave" Davis, FNM MP's Branville McCartney and Kenyatta Gibson amongst others, public hearings have been held periodically at the Paul Farquharson Conference Room at Police Headquarters.

Amongst many of the revelations that this committee has made during its work this far is the fact

Lands and Surveys

that Mr Turnquest was forced to resign from his post by Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham after he failed to give a satisfactory answer for why numerous beach front lots were awarded to members of his family and fast-tracked through the backlogged system.

Mr Turnquest also could not reasonably explain to the Prime Minister, who is the minister with responsibility for lands, why the applicants in question all used the same lawyer and realtor for the transactions.

Man's suspicious disappearance

FROM page one

up to press time, some reports were that two men who were "drinking buddies" of Mr McHardy were assisting police with their investigations and may have been brought back to New Providence for further questioning, although police could not confirm this.

Mr Gibson said that police travelled to the island after receiving information that led them to believe that the case might have more to it than they first suspected. One Deadman's Cay local said: "When (McHardy) first went missing there was a lot of talk, people were trying to track him down. They were wondering, was he in Nassau? Did he hop on a mail-boat? As time passed, people started to think that maybe something might've happened."

FROM page one

tember 22, 2009 made an application before the Learned Deputy Chief Magistrate Mrs Carolita Bethel for a detention order for the subject funds contained in (Ms Major's) case of 2002.

"The Learned Deputy Chief Magistrate Bethel granted an order dated September 22 to detain for a period of three months the sum of \$805,505 seized from Mrs Major."

The notice said that due to a *nolle prosequi* (no prosecution) order from the Attorney General issued on September, 23 the proceedings of the case in question were discontinued.

"The Office of the Attorney General in making the application before...Magistrate Bethel did not act improperly. It is the Attorney General's unfettered prerogative to enter a *nolle prosequi* in any matter,"

AG's Office

said the notice.

Magistrate Virgill ordered that the money be returned to Keva Major after the prosecution entered a *nolle prosequi* (no prosecution) which was dated September 23.

The prosecution, however, also presented an order issued by Magistrate Carolita Bethel dated September 22.

This was the date the matter was last heard before Magistrate Virgill, and stated that the \$850,000 be held when the matter was withdrawn. Magistrate Virgill, however, questioned how her fellow magistrate knew that the matter was going to be withdrawn and said she would disregard the order as they both have equal jurisdiction.

Last week, Mrs Major's attorney Michael Kemp said Magistrate Virgill was simply protecting the process of her court when

she hit out at Magistrate Bethel for issuing the order to seize the funds.

"You can't condemn her from that, every court has a duty to protect its process from abuse. The only people to blame are the Crown. The Crown put them in this position," Mr Kemp said in a previous interview.

"I think the Crown has placed the judiciary in a very compromising position."

Mrs Major was tried in 2002 before Magistrate Linda Virgill on charges of possession of the proceeds of drug trafficking and assisting another to conceal proceeds of drug trafficking.

The proceeds of crime case was still pending against Keva Major, 40, when she was extradited to face drug charges in the United States last April.

She pleaded guilty to the charges against her in August 2008 and was placed on three years probation meaning she cannot leave the United States during that period.

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Notice is hereby given that the above-named Company is in dissolution, which commenced on the 18th day of November 2009. The Liquidator is Argosa Corp. Inc., P. O. Box N-7757 Nassau, Bahamas.

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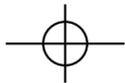
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ARGOSA CORP. INC. (Liquidator)



LOCAL NEWS

BUT president's suspension is declared 'null and void'

FROM page one

effective November 1st, for unauthorized use of money from the union's pension fund.

"The enacted suspension against the office of the President is null and void as it breached the disciplinary procedure and asserted an incorrect breach on behalf of the concerned officer," the committee's ruling stated.

The committee found that, "The funds were never missing and were transferred from one account to the next and all executive members were informed, but only one responded."

Mrs Wilson was ordered to pay \$1 to the union's strike funds for operating union funds in excess of the amount allowed.

Mrs Wilson told The Tribune: "This is a great day for the Bahamas Union of Teachers because it shows how our internal mechanism works. The facts have been made clear. The appeals committee has made the decision null and void and I just want to thank the hundreds and thousands of teachers, retirees and the public who, during these couple of weeks, have been giving me support. I just want to work even harder now for the protection and welfare of our members."

FROM page one

Mum's fight over 'vacuumed' baby

ing sound" and rushed to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) where he breathed with the aid of a ventilator for his first week of life and then remained in hospital care for a further two weeks before he could return home.

Kenneil Wright is now 14 months old and unable to roll over, sit up, or hold his head up as a healthy child of his age should.

He also suffers from seizures, for which he takes medication, and is unable to focus his eyes or see properly.

Miss Wright puts his slow development down to his traumatic birth.

She said: "It hurts my heart to know I go there for help and then I get this treatment."

"I'm so vex, I'm so cut up, I'm so hurt because when I went there to have my baby it was as if I had a dog puppy because they mind nothing about it."

Miss Wright had gone to the hospital 4.5cm dilated just before 10am on October 12 last year, and waited until 9 o'clock that evening to be taken to a hospital bed. She described how she cried out for help until the nurse woke up and told her to push, and the doctor arrived at 4.45am.

"I was crying out for mercy because there was no way the baby was coming, it would not move," she said.

"When the doctor came she said 'Come on Elaine, push — I'm tired and hungry!'"

"Then the baby came out so fast, it happened in a second, and they rushed the baby out so I knew there was something wrong."

Miss Wright was in so much

pain after the birth she was unable to walk, and her blood pressure was "sky-high", but hospital staff discharged her that day without providing her with a wheelchair, she said. The new mother walked slowly to the car supported by her friend and her sister to be taken home without a healthy child.

After spending two weeks in the Infant Critical Care Unit and a further five days in the Infant Intensive Care Unit, Kenneil was taken home three weeks later. He did not cry, nor did he take her breast to feed. He has a scar on his head, which is lopsided, with one side large while the other is flat, and he is now unable to hold his head up, sit, roll over or crawl as he should.

Miss Wright claims doctors in the Infant Critical Care Unit told her that her son would not live because of what he had endured during the birth, including oxygen deprivation.

She believes the delivery was a "botched job" conducted by a physician who, she said, gave her the impression that she did not care about the best interests of the mother or child.

In the months since Kenneil's birth Miss Wright has been fighting to retrieve her medical records without success. A letter of request sent in December last year was replied to in July, and Miss Wright was told she should have the records by August or September, but has received nothing. It took 10 months to be told the name of the doctor who delivered her child, Miss Wright said.

She has also visited her doc-

tor in Jamaica who said she should have had a Caesarian section right away, given her high blood pressure, her age and her history.

And if the vacuum had to be used it should have been done slowly and gently to avoid harming the baby, Miss Wright said.

She said: "The doctor didn't ask me if she could use it and if I knew anything about that vacuum she could never have used it on me. The vacuum caused all of this."

"It hurts me every day I look at my child because while I was pregnant I did everything right."

"I went for my check-ups, and then when I went to get help they did this to me, and it's not fair."

"I don't have the money to go to a lawyer because I'm doing domestic work, and after 14 months I can't get a report from the doctor about what happened. That's not right."

"They fold their hands and they drag their feet. They say they don't have the file, and they cover up, and cover up."

Miss Wright sent a letter to Dr Minnis detailing her plight in December 2008. She asked him to investigate the matter so that no more women would suffer as she claims she and her son have.

Yesterday Dr Minnis said he recalled receiving Miss Wright's letter but did not get personally involved, forwarding the matter to the hospital. He said he did not keep up with the outcome of the matter, but added that "all complaints are investigated."

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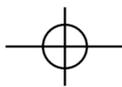
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SPORTS

Bannister: 'McPhee has exhausted his contractual period'

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

Minister Bannister about the situation concerning Coach McPhee.



Bannister

FREEPORT – Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Desmond Bannister said Coach Gladstone "Moon" McPhee's contract had expired and could not be renewed as he had already exhausted his contractual period.

Mr Bannister stated that Coach McPhee was not fired. He indicated that further renewal of his contract would violate government policy.

Under the current policy one is only allowed to serve at a maximum of nine years on contractual terms.

Coach McPhee served as Regional Sports Coordinator for Grand Bahama and the Northern Bahamas since 1996. He was requested to demit office on November 2.

Former educator Joseph Darville expressed strong disappointment over the decision taken by the Ministry of Sports concerning Coach McPhee.

"This is a bitter, much too bitter pill for this nation, and especially the Grand Bahama community to swallow," he said.

Mr Darville said "there is no individual in the country with greater passion and sense of dedication to sports in the country, and specifically in Grand Bahama than Coach McPhee."

He said it is a "shame" that persons would concoct such a despicable course of action.

"When Gladstone (Moon) McPhee intimated to me a few days ago that he was being unceremoniously dismissed...I told him that in no way, shape or form would I believe such an atrocity until I saw it in writing.

"It is, therefore, almost impossible for me now, having heard the dictum, to pen the words necessary to express my total surprise, disgust and disappointment at such a reprehensible and evil act," said Mr Darville.

"I, therefore, beg our Prime Minister to rescind this unfortunate and grim decision and thus restore the respect and honour due this sports icon, noble citizen and compassionate human being," said Mr Darville.

The Tribune contacted

In a faxed press statement to The Tribune Office, the minister noted that Coach McPhee was first appointed on contract under the FNM administration for a period of three years with effect from October 1, 1996.

A second three-year contract was granted under the FNM administration on October 1, 1999. McPhee's contract was once again renewed for a period of three years with effect from October 1, 2002. That third contract expired on September 30, 2005.

Mr Bannister noted that before the expiry of Coach McPhee's third contract, and several months before he had completed nine years of service, the condition of service for contractual officers in the public service were amended on January 20, 2005.

He said the Department of Public Service advised all ministries in writing that the new policy was that contracted officers would be entitled to receive a maximum number of nine years on continual contractual service.

"I am advised that this policy determination came about because under the former administration a government ministry wrongly issued a fourth contract to contractual officer, and that there was a great concern that this erroneous action would cause confusion in the application of government policy so that other contractual officers would have had the opportunity to claim some entitlement to a fourth contract," Mr Bannister said.

Mr Bannister said the then Minister of Youth, Sports, and Culture, under the former PLP administration attempted to have Coach McPhee's contract renewed, even though he had already served nine continuous years under contract.

"This was in clear violation of government policy," he said.

He stated that on November 22, 2005, the Department of Public Service wrote to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, advising that it was against the current policy as McPhee had exhausted

his contractual period.

Minister Bannister said Cabinet considered the matter in April 2006, after Coach McPhee had worked without a contract for close to seven months. Cabinet approved the appointment on April 19, 2006, but specified no salary.

"Under the former administration, the then Minister of Youth, Sports, and Culture, again applied to Cabinet on April 24, 2007 for a renewal of Coach McPhee's contract, even though his ministry had already been advised in writing by the Department of the Public Service that a fourth contract could not be issued.

Minister Bannister said just days before the general elections, Cabinet approved a fourth contract for Coach McPhee for a further period of three years. The contract, he said was made retroactive with effect from October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2009.

Mr Bannister said as of September 30, 2009, it would mean that Coach McPhee would have served a total of 13 years in the public service, 12 of them under four contracts.

"Regrettably, there is no basis upon which he can be appointed under contract unless Cabinet again seeks to defy the very same policy directives which it has put in place for the public service.

"Coach McPhee was not fired. He has been issued with four contracts contrary to established government policy, and his fourth contract has now expired. Government has no lawful avenue for the issuance of a fifth contract," he said.

Knights, Lions dominate early in the season

By RENALDO DORSETT
Sports Reporter
rdorsett@tribunemedia.net

DEFENDING champions in both girls divisions continue to dominate early in the season on the long road to a successful Government Secondary Schools Sports Association title defense.

H.O NASH LIONS – 35
C.H REEVES RAPTORS – 2

• With just one returning player from last season and a completely new cast of the characters, the perennial champions of the junior girls division still managed to produce a result in typical fashion.

Kaylicia Laing, the lone experienced player on the Lions squad moved to the forefront to lead her team.

Laing scored the first six points of the game and nine of her team's first 11 points.

Effortlessly coming up with steals and weaving through the Raptors defense Laing began distributing the ball to her teammates.

Kevanique Simmons used her size inside to finish at the basket at the tail end of a series of assists from Laing.

The two players combined to score each of the team's points as they raced out to a

19-0 lead with 8:34 left to play in the half.

A third player in on the team didn't score until Nigea Rolle scored a fast break lay-up for a 21-0 lead.

Rolle made one of two free throws at the line with no time remaining to make the score 26-0 at the half.

Cyntese Cooper finally put the Raptors on the scoreboard early in the beginning of the second half with a running lay-up to make the score, 27-2.

The lead reached 30 for the first time on a lay-up by Simmons which gave her team a 33-2 advantage with 10:23 left to play.

The Lions closed out the second half on an 8-0 run.

Laing led all scorers with 13 points, while Simmons added 12 and Rolle finished with 10.

C.R WALKER KNIGHTS – 65
C.V BETHEL STINGRAYS – 12

• The Knights have yet to be challenged as they dominated their way to a second untested win of the season.

Seniors Pamela Bethel and Keedra Hanna once again established themselves early and set the tone for the Knights both in the paint and from the perimeter.

Bethel finished with a game high 24 points while

Hanna finished with 12. A late lay-up by Theodora Bain gave the Knights a 28-6 heading into the half.

In the second half, the Knights full court trap forced a series of turnovers, leading to easy baskets on the offensive end.

Toniquea Martin's three pointer from the right wing gave the Knights a 37-6 lead, giving them their first 30 point lead of the game.

After a basket by Tawanna Prosper on the next trip up court for the Stingrays, the Knights went on a game changing 21-0 run.

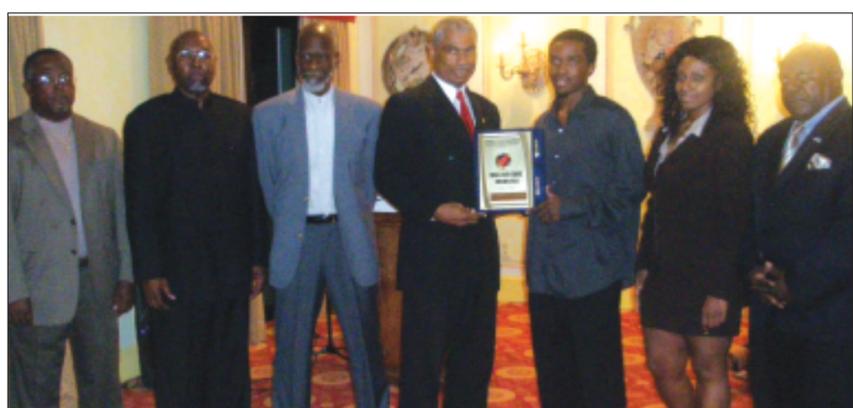
Bethel scored eight consecutive points to spark the run and capped the scoring slurry flurry with a lay-up to give the Knights a 50 point advantage, 58-8.

With time left on the clock she ended a standout performance with two scores from the charity stripe to finalize the lopsided win.

Bain chipped in with nine for the Knights, while Leasha Grant, Martin and her twin sister Tameka Martin each finished with four points apiece.

Prosper led the Stingrays with six points.

The Knights improved to 2-0 while the Stingrays fell to 0-2.



PICTURED from left are commissioner Paul Moxey, secretary Fred Sturup, commissioner Dr. Munir Rashad, commission chairman Pat' the Centreville Assassin' Strachan, Gomeo Brennan's grandson Andre Brennan, his mother and Brennan's daughter Annette Baham and commissioner James 'Kid Freeport' Tynes.

Bahamian boxers inducted into the Hall of Fame

FROM page 11

an impressive 76-14-3 win-loss-draw record with 25 knockouts in a career that started at the age of 21 in 1954 and ended at 34 in 1967.

His daughter Penny Butler, who came from Bimini to accept his plaque, said it was a wonderful gesture by the commission and her only regret was that he wasn't alive to receive it himself.

"He fought before my time, but I've seen a lot of pictures from his fight," she said. "I think he has done a lot for the Bahamas, putting the Bahamas on the map. So I'm really proud that he is being recognised for his achievement."

Brennan, another Biminite who also fought the majority of his fights in the United States, posted a 82-21-7 record with just one knock-out in his career from 1958 to 1972.

His grandson Andre Brennan, who came from Miami with his mother – Brennan's daughter, Annette Baham – said their family have a rich legacy.

"I feel it's a good thing and I'm glad that they put this together to recognise all of his accomplishments," said Brennan, who noted that his grandfather was unable to attend, but sent his regards to

the organisers.

A football player in his sophomore year at Miami Dade, the younger Brennan said the older Brennan has brought a lot of pride to their family and the Bahamas and they are elated that he's getting some national recognition for it.

The last, but not the least, to be inducted was Elisha Obed, who was the first Bahamian to win a world title when he beat Miguel de Oliveira in Paris, France for the WBC light middleweight title on November 13, 1975 before he relinquished it to Echarh Dagge in Berlin, Germany on June 18, 1976.

Obed, who posted a 88-20-4 record with 20 knockouts from 1973-1988, was represented by his sister, Nomi McKenzie, who had mixed reactions as she indicated that her brother was not feeling well at all.

"We're proud and grateful and the family do appreciate it this and we would like to say thank you," said McKenzie, who tried to hold back the tears of emotions.

Among those in attendance was Al Hamilton, the founder of the CASI Awards; Bahamas Olympic Association president Wellington Miller and Bahamas Basketball Federation's president Lawrence Hepburn.

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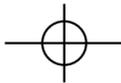
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INSIGHT

For the stories behind the news, read Insight on Mondays



sports

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2009



INSIDE • Local sports news

sportsNOTES

SOFTBALL
WEECH RETURNED AS MASTERS PRESIDENT
 THE Masters Softball League held its annual general meeting and election of officers on November 10. At that time, Anthony 'Boots' Weech was returned as president. All of his executive team were also re-elected. However, there was one addition with Ken O'Brien coming on as the new assistant secretary. The league, now into its seventh season, will commence play on Saturday, November 28 at the Archdeacon William Thompson softball Park at the Southern Recreation Grounds.

BASKETBALL
NPBA OPENING
 THE New Providence Basketball Association will have a 'soft opening' tonight at the Cl Gibson Gymnasium starting at 7 p.m. with a double header on tap. A total of 14 teams have registered to compete this year, bringing the total up from 10 last year. The new teams are the Real Deal Shockers, the College of the Bahamas Caribs, the B-Reddie Reddies, the Stars and the Royal Bahamas Defense Force Mariners.

They will join returning teams: Electro Telecom Cybots, Commonwealth Giants, Y-Care Wreckers, Sunshine Auto Ruff-Riders, Coke Explorers, the Jumpers, Ultimate Stars, Police Crime-Stoppers and the Outdoor Lighting Falcons. The official opening will be held on Saturday, December 5 at the Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium. The season will be dedicated to the memory of the life and legacy of the late Vincent L. Ferguson, the architect of modern basketball in the Bahamas. "We will presenting a plaque to his family to accentuate his work and contributions to basketball and a floating trophy will be unveiled which will be awarded to the champions of the seasons," league president Kweith 'Belzee' Smith revealed.

Smith also released the following stats from the past season:
 Pennant winners – Giants and Cybots.
 Champions – Electro Telecom Cybots.
 Runners-up – Commonwealth Bank Giants.
 MVP-Season – Michael 'Ferry' Bain – Giants.
 MVP-Championship – Brian 'Tucker' Bain – Cybots.
 Coach-of-the Year – Courtney Stubbs – Jumpers.
 Sponsor-of-the-Year – Deanzler 'Sonny' Cox.
 Sportsman – Breston 'Horsey' Rolle – Wreckers.
 Long Service Awards:
 Leo Carey – Y-Care Fashion Centre.
 Nat Adams – Caribbean Bottling Co. (Bahamas) Ltd.
 Royal Bahamas Police Force.
 Commonwealth Bank.

CHESS
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
 The Bahamas Chess Nationals is taking place from 3rd to 21st November. The Nationals is a ten player round robin tournament with a time control of 40 moves in 75 minutes then 15 minutes to make all remaining moves (40/75 then G15). The first eight rounds took place at the CC Sweeting Sr. High, Oakes Field and the final round will take place at the Auditorium of CW Sawyer Primary School. At the start of Round 7 four (4) players were sharing the lead. Among those leaders only defending champion Ken Gibson and Yan Lyansky won last evening. Round 7 results: Ken Gibson won over Leroy McLean; Yan Lyansky defeated Joseph Ferguson; Byron Small and Kean Smith played to a strong draw; Elton Joseph won against Chappel Whyms and Wilshire Major beat Umar Newry. The current standings are now as follows:
 1. Ken Gibson and Yan Lyansky – 6 points each.
 2. Kean Smith – 5.
 3. Chappel Whyms – 5.
 4. Joseph Ferguson – 4.
 5. Elton Joseph – 3.
 6. Umar Newry – 2.
 7. Byron Small – 1.
 8. Leroy McLean and Wilshire Major – 1 each.

Three legendary Bahamian boxers inducted into the Hall of Fame

By BRENT STUBBS
 Senior Sports Reporter
 bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

BAHAMAS Boxing Commission chairman Pat 'the Centreville Assassin' Strachan said they couldn't find three more talented Bahamians to induct in the first class of the Hall of Fame.

Although none of them were present, the Commission inducted the late William 'Yama Bahama' Butler, the ailing Oswald 'Elisha Obed' Ferguson and Gomeo Brennan on Wednesday night at the SuperClubs Breezes.

Strachan said all three boxers have left an indelible mark on the sport and this is just the beginning of the recognition that they hope to heap on each of them.

"In my opinion, Elisha Obed deserves a statue. We will work tirelessly towards making that become a reality," Strachan said.

"Plans are afoot for a gym to be built in Bimini to honour the great Yama Bahama. Additionally plans are in place for Gomeo Brennan to receive further recognition."

"This is the first time in the history of our commission that we've had a shot at a British Commonwealth title or a world title," said Strachan mentioning boxers such as Sherman 'the Tank' Williams and Meacher 'Pain' Major.

Strachan, a former cruiser-weight champion of the

Bahamas, said the Commission is in the process of honouring a long list of Bahamian boxers who have made their mark in the sport.

They included Baby Boy Rolle, Ernie Barr, Ray minus Sr, Ray Minus Jr., Stevie 'the Heat' Larrimore, the late Renny Pinder, the late Bert Perry, Sammy 'Kid' Barr, Al Moss and Arthur Clarke.

"I believe it is imperative that we recognise those boxers for the part that they did in the sport of boxing," Strachan stressed.

Strachan thanked former Minister of Sports, Byron Woodside for giving them a lending ear and current Minister of Sports Desmond Bannister for the grant he has promised to give to the commission in January.

The commission's induction was held as a part of the CASI Awards week that will climax with a banquet tonight when the most outstanding athletes in the Caribbean will be honored.

One by one, Dr. Rashad read a profile of all three inductees before Strachan presented their representatives with a plaque.

The first inductee was middleweight Yama Bahama Butler, a native from Bimini, who fought the majority of his fights in the United States.

Butler, who passed away on June 29 in Miami, Florida as a result of cancer, had amassed



PICTURED from left are boxing commissioner Paul Moxey, secretary Fred Sturup, commissioner Dr. Munir Rashad, commission chairman Pt 'the Centreville Assassin' Strachan, Elisha Obed's sister Naomi McKenzie and commissioners James 'Kid Freeport' Tynes and Fernley Palmer.



PICTURED from left are commissioner Paul Moxey, secretary Fred Sturup, commissioners Dr. Munir Rashad and Fernley Palmer, Yama Bahama's daughter Penny Butler, commission chairman Pat 'the Centreville Assassin' Strachan and commissioner James 'Kid Freeport' Tynes.

SEE page 10



PICTURED seated from left are Miguel Cuello, Trinity Christian Academy's head baseball coach; Brandon Murray and Cindy Ansell, Trinity Christian Academy's Principal. Standing is Fred Erdman, Trinity Christian Academy's Athletic Director.

Murray set to head to Charleston

CRAIG 'Salty' Kemp, president of the Bahamas Baseball Federation and his executives extended congratulations to Brandon Murray as he prepares to take another giant step in his life.

Murray, a former member of the BBF, signed the national letter of intent to attend the College of Charleston in the fall of 2010.

Murray is one of the Bahamas future bright stars in the sport of baseball and Kemp said the BBF is extremely proud of him and his accomplishments.

"Congratulations to his proud parents Bertram and Michelle Murray as their son is excelling on and off the baseball diamond," said Kemp, through a press release issued by the federation.

Murray has been a straight 'A' student and is in the Honors programme at Trinity

Christian Academy and for the last three seasons, the Palm Beach Post has recognised Murray as a first team All-Country member.

Dan Roszel, head coach of the Charleston Cougars noted: "I am very excited Brandon will be joining the Cougars this fall."

Murray recently represented the Bahamas in July at the Little League 16-18 Latin American Qualifying Tournament in Maracaibo, Venezuela.

He played local baseball for Junior Baseball League of Nassau. This is another proud moment for the league executives as they witness one more of their young stars continue on this very promising journey.

"We pray for God's continued blessings in young Brandon Murray's future," the federation stated in its release.

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2009

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Grand Tasting (Nassau & Freeport): \$25 (\$30 at the door)
Cognac Lounge (Nassau Only): \$50 (\$60 at the door)
Tattinger Lounge (Freeport Only): \$45 (\$60 at the door)

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 Burns House Head Office on Queen's Highway & House of Rum, Port Lucaya.

LOCAL NEWS

MISS BAHAMAS WORLD AND FELLOW CONTESTANTS VISIT ABU DHABI IN UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Joanna Brown's Miss World quest continues

MISS Bahamas World Joanna Brown's quest for the Miss World title continues as she and her fellow contestants visit Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

More than 100 Miss World contestants have descended on Abu Dhabi for a stopover on their way to the final competition in South Africa.

The contestants are there for the official opening of the prestigious five-star Yas Hotel.

They were the special guests at a gala dinner at the hotel with more than 300 people upon their arrival, and participated in a fashion event.

The 110 beauty queens, who will battle for the Miss World crown in Johannesburg next month, strutted down a catwalk on the grounds of the newly constructed Yas Hotel, showcasing gowns by South African designers.

The fashion show featured the work of seven designers, including JJ Schoeman, Haroun Hansrot and Diamond Face Couture. Earlier in the day the competitors were given a sightseeing tour of Abu Dhabi, including a visit to Sheikh Zayed Mosque. Joanna continues to make her presence felt — she is one of the most stylish contestants at the pageant.

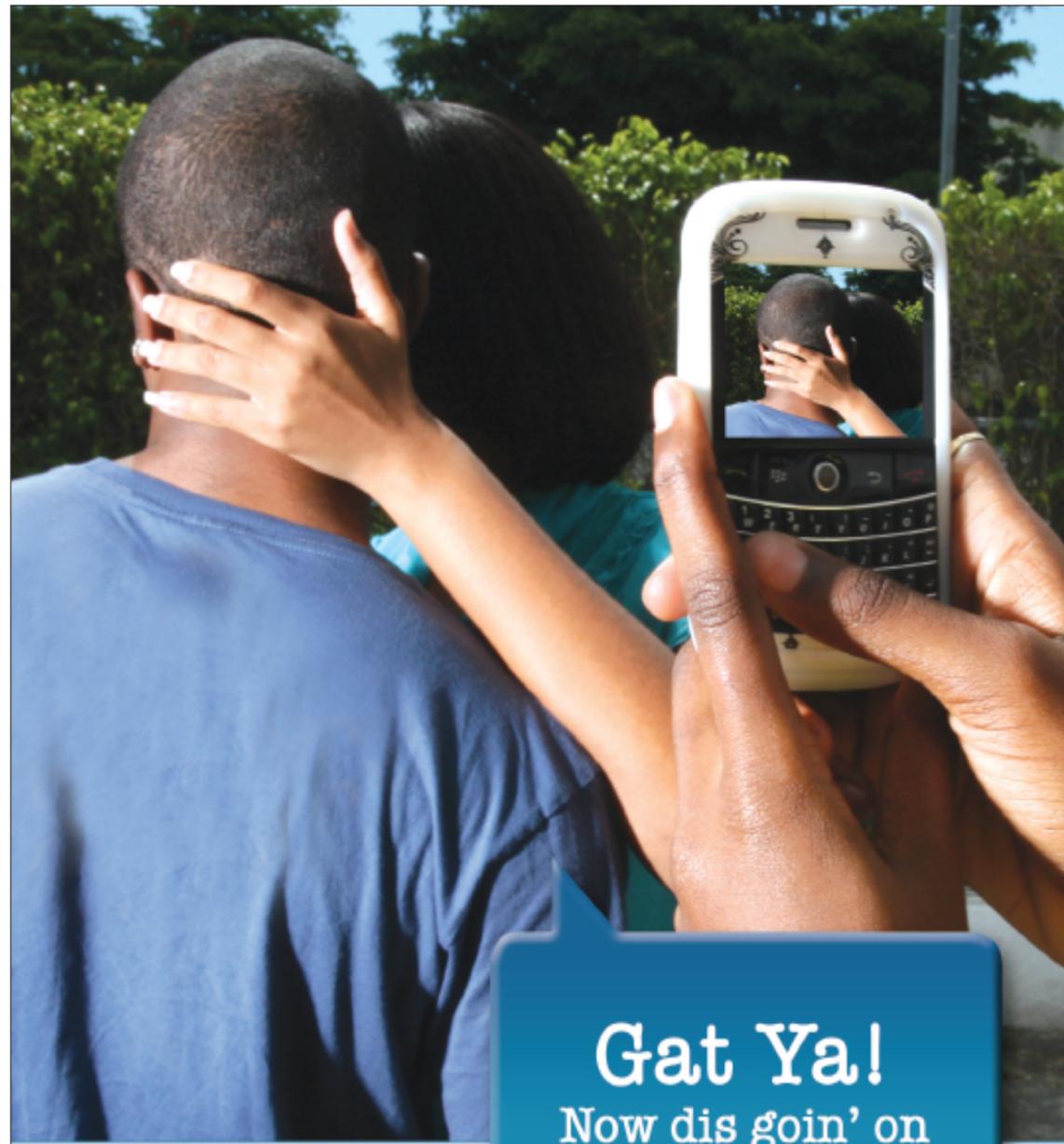
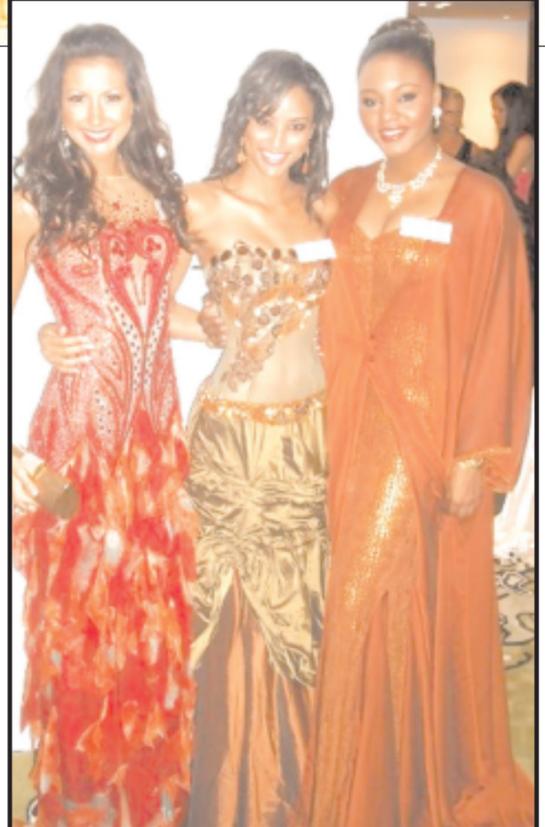


JOANNA, pictured with Miss Barbados, was a knockout at the Miss World Travel awards banquet.



ABOVE MISS WORLD contestants with the South African designers of their Abu Dhabi fashion show gowns.

RIGHT CARIBBEAN QUEENS attend a dinner banquet in Abu Dhabi. From L-R: Miss Jamaica Kerrie Baylis, Miss Barbados Leah Marville, and Miss Bahamas Joanna Brown.



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Nautilus Water presents cheque to Cancer Society

DURING a spectacular evening of classical music, Nautilus Water presented the Cancer Society of the Bahamas with a cheque for \$4,335 raised through its In The Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign in October.

Nautilus Water sponsored the concert, "A Pristine Affair", along with the Cancer Society in an effort to raise funds for the organisation and cancer victims.

The funds presented to the society during the event were raised during the month of October through sales of special pink bottles of water produced by Nautilus Water.

"Five cents for every bottle sold was donated to assist cancer victims and also to improve the patient facilities at The Cancer Society building.

"This was our second year with the campaign, and we were able to raise \$4,335.60 for 2009.

"It is our customers who made this such a success —

businesses, retailers, home delivery recipients - anyone, really, who purchased at least one of our pink bottles.

"We are greatly appreciative of the patronage and support we have received from the community, and look forward to their continued support as we lend a hand in creating a healthier Bahamas, one step at a time," said a Nautilus Water spokesperson.

Performing at Thursday's concert were baritone vocalist Dr Cleveland Williams, soprano, Nikita Wells-Thompson and pianist Audrey Dean-Wright.

"With a blend of operatic performances, among which highlighted excerpts from George Gershwin's Porgy & Bess, the evening was truly spectacular," Nautilus Water said.

Marking the beginning of the partnership between The Cancer Society and the water manufacturing company, the event was of "significant importance to both organisations," the company added.

Treat for reggae fans at Wyndham Nassau Resort

By REUBEN SHEARER
Tribune Features Reporter
rshearer@tribunemedia.net

REGGAE lovers are looking forward to the weekend's most talked about event, A Night of Love in the Crystal Palace ballroom at the Wyndham Nassau Resort on Saturday evening.

At 9pm, host comedian Damon Williams will bring on Grammy-nominated artists Beres Hammond who is the featured artist performing for a last time, before taking a short break from the music scene.

The highly-anticipated show will showcase a star-studded line-up of special guest artists, including Buju Banton, Taurus Riley, Morgan Heritage, Sammi Star and Jaheim.

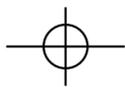
More than 1,600 people are expected to fly in from the Turks and Caicos Islands, the family islands, and New York, for the concert which will top off 25 years of Above the Rim productions company.

A production company spokesman said the audience can "expect a great show".

"Beres is not going to do A Night of Love next year," he said. "Next year we've decided to bring in some R&B groups. We would've done him two months back to back, but he needs a break."

Rumour had it that Hammond, 54, would be taking a break before preparing to record his last album.

"By Friday, we expect tickets to be sold out," he said.



THE TRIBUNE
business

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2009

SECTION B • business@tribunemedia.net



'Lost opportunity to clarify murky' approval process

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE attorney representing opponents of the \$500 million Guana Cay mixed-use resort development yesterday said it was "regrettable" that the Privy Council did not determine in its ruling whether developers and the Government could sue each other under a Heads of Agreement, describing the case as "a lost opportunity to bring clarity to the murky development process in the Bahamas".

Fred Smith QC, the Callenders & Co attorney and partner, said the four-year legal battle waged by his clients, the Save Guana Cay Association, against the Baker's Bay Golf

Attorney says 'regrettable' Privy Council ruling failed to address whether Heads of Agreement parties could sue each other, and bring certainty to Bahamas' development process

& Ocean Club project had "highlighted and focused the need for the Government" to legislate this nation's development approvals processes, bringing clarity to both this and the rights of affected residents.

Responding to the Privy Council's ruling, which prevented his clients from blocking Discovery Land Company's development on the grounds that the project's Heads of Agreement was 'ultra vires' or improper, Mr Smith said: "Regrettably, the case does not analyse what a Heads



FRED SMITH

of Agreement is, and whether a Heads of Agreement is binding and lawful - a public expression [of intent] more than a binding document.

"Regrettably, the Privy Council has not clarified the issue of whether a developer could sue the Government to enforce a Heads of Agreement or vice versa."

Mr Smith questioned whether, for instance, if a Heads of Agreement contained provisions for a developer to clear up any environmental damage if they failed to meet their

obligations and abandoned the project, the Government "would be able to sue them to enforce these provisions or not".

The newly-named QC added: "Unfortunately, at the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal and the Privy Council, there was a lost opportunity for bringing clarity to the development process in the Bahamas, as murky as it is, without legislation that explains a step-by-step approach."

SEE page 4B

South Ocean foreclosure bid defeated

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE six-month receivership for the disputed \$867 million South Ocean redevelopment was discharged by the Supreme Court earlier this week, Tribune Business can exclusively reveal, after a judge dismissed an attempt by one of the property's investors to place it in foreclosure.

Justice Stephen Isaacs dismissed the foreclosure action brought by Propco, an investment vehicle owned by the Canadian Commercial Workers Industry Pension Plan (CCWIPP), on the grounds that the resort's immediate holding company, New South Ocean Development Company, did not have Central Bank of the Bahamas approval - as a foreign-owned entity - to repay its loan debt to Propco.

- * Supreme Court rules against \$85m mortgage holder's application because resort did not have Central Bank exchange control permission to repay loan
- * Judgment discharges six-month receivership, sources say
- * Southwest New Providence resort's future remains on hold and uncertain, as control now back in hands of warring parties not wanting to invest more funds

Multiple sources with knowledge of the matter confirmed events in the Supreme Court earlier this week, after CCWIPP - through Propco - attempted to foreclose on the \$85 million first mortgage/debenture it holds on the 375-acre South Ocean property.

CCWIPP's foreclosure attempt, though, was opposed by the New South Ocean Development Company's financing partner, Connecti-

cut-based hedge fund Plainfield Asset Management and its Seaside Heights investment vehicle, which holds the second mortgage/debenture over the southwest New Providence resort's real estate. That is understood to be for a sum in the "high" \$50 millions range.

And it was Plainfield's attorney, Brian Moree QC, senior partner at McKinney,

SEE page 4B

Bahamas First set to acquire Cayman firm

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

BAHAMAS First, the Bahamian general insurer, is poised to expand into the Caribbean through the acquisition of Sagikor General Insurance Company (Cayman), Tribune Business can reveal, in a deal likely to be confirmed imminently.

Insurance industry sources confirmed to this newspaper yesterday that a Letter of Intent for Bahamas First's purchase of the Caymanian company had been signed, and that the deal could be announced as early as today.

That was unconfirmed yesterday, though. When contacted by Tribune Business in Miami, Ian Fair, Bahamas First's chairman, replied: "It's premature for us to make any comment."

It was also unclear whether Bahamas First was acquiring 100 per cent of Sagikor General Insurance Company (Cayman) share capital, or just the 75 per cent stake held by its ultimate parent, Sagikor Life Jamaica. The latter

holds its stake in the Cayman firm through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Sagikor Life of the Cayman Islands.

The purchase price is also unknown, although insurance industry sources expressed doubt as to whether Bahamas First would pay book value - or match the \$15 million in net shareholder equity that Sagikor General Insurance Company (Cayman) had according to its 2008 year-end accounts - due to the fact that the company had performed relatively poorly in recent years and not been very profitable.

There were also questions as to why Bahamas First would seek to enter the Cayman general insurance market, given that property and casualty, plus auto rates, were falling.

This was coupled with the fact Cayman was viewed as having the highest risk profile in the Caribbean, given its relatively flat geography (storm surge exposure) and high concentration of development (meaning risk) in a small area.

Tribune Business was told that according to its 2008 financials, Sagikor General Insurance Company (Cayman) wrote \$46 million of gross premiums that year, some 31 per cent of which were health premiums.

Insurance industry sources believe Bahamas First, which is solely a general insurer, will either sell or spin-off the health portfolio given that it does not fit its business model. Some 69 per cent, or \$31.74 million of its premiums, were on the general side in 2008.

Still, the Bahamian insurance industry has been this economy's most aggressive sector when it comes to overseas expansion, and Bahamas First follows just several weeks behind BAF Global Group.

British American Financial's parent unveiled its acquisition of British American Insurance Company (Cayman) from the receivers earlier this month.

Meanwhile, some 24.2 per cent of the remaining Sagikor

SEE page 5B

Bahamas ranked 11th out of 12 in 'attractiveness to wealthy' survey

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE Bahamas would have ranked 11 out of 12 major international financial centres had it been included in a survey designed to measure the attractiveness of these nations to 'mobile' high net worth individuals.

Stephen Wall, director of the Scorpio Partnership, an international wealth management consultancy, presented to the Nassau Conference a survey that analysed the factors influencing high net worth individuals when it came to deciding which jurisdiction to base themselves in.

The Mobile Wealth Resi-

dency Index (MWRI), Mr Wall said, focused on 11 jurisdictions, but had the Bahamas been included it would have placed 11th out of 12, ranking only ahead of Guernsey. The others rated were among this nation's chief competitors: Cayman, Singapore, Switzerland, Dubai, Hong Kong, Isle of Man, Jersey, London, New York, and Monaco.

Mr Wall said Switzerland's 'all-round appeal' had placed it at number one, even though it was ranked only fifth for tax appeal, since its "multi-faceted" qualities were "attracting a wide range of mobile wealthy". Switzerland, he said, ranked at the top for economic and political stability, legal considerations, proximity and convenience, education for children and culture/infrastructure.

In contrast, the Bahamas was ranked bottom out of 12 by the MWRI Index when it came to economic and political stability, and employment/business opportunities. It was also placed 11th for legal considerations and 10th for sophistication/culture/infrastructure.

However, Mr Wall said the Bahamas enjoyed "strong positioning" in areas such as tax and immigration, where it was third; availability of quality housing, where it was second; security, where it was third; and education for children, where it was fifth.



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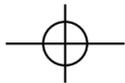
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FUEL

The information contained is from a third party and The Tribune can not be held responsible for errors and/or omission from the daily report.



BUSINESS

'Don't ignore the lifeblood of a business'

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Business Reporter
crobar@tribunemedia.net

merce, Mr Tate went through several workshops and seminars with a packed room, and encouraged networking in several breakout sessions.

He said the participants in yesterday's seminar were some of the most enthusiastic and eager business owners he has worked with, adding that Americans are often sceptical about hearing the same old marketing schemes.

"The thing I love is the enthusiasm, the energy. The people here are completely engaged," said Mr Tate. "In the United States we have a lot of people who are cynical and they have this attitude like

'I've heard this before'.

"But there is a difference between having heard it before and having done it before, and what research shows is people may have heard something, but they've never done anything about it. My sense here is that these people are hungry and they want fresh ideas."

Mr Tate said there were many free to inexpensive marketing concepts that can be used to drive business, but argued that individuals have to be creating and imaginative in order to adapt them to their own businesses.

He added that businesses

should have niche markets and aim to be atop their sector by initiating strategies constructed around the Guerrilla Marketing model.

"Marketing is the lifeblood of a business. Especially during these turbulent times, one of the biggest mistakes a business could make is to cut expenses and to cut marketing," said Mr Tate.

He said for most small businesses, if people don't know about it they will not visit the business. He suggested people pick up a copy of J Conrad Levinson's 'Guerrilla Marketing Attack' in order to change that dynamic.

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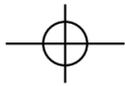
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BUSINESS

NOTICE

IN THE ESTATE of GUSTAVOUS BERKLEY ROLLE late of the Eastern District of the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that all persons having any claim or demand against the above Estate are required to send their names, addresses and particulars of the same certified in writing to the undersigned on or before the 11th day December A. D., 2009, and if required, prove such debts or claims, or in default be excluded from any distribution; after the above date the assets will be distributed having regard only to the proved debts or claims of which the Administrator shall have had Notice.

And Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the said Estate are requested to make full settlement on or before the aforementioned date.

MICHAEL A. DEAN & CO., Attorneys for the Executrix Alvernia Court, 94 Dowdeswell Street P.O. Box N-3114 Nassau, The Bahamas

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2009 IN THE SUPREME COURT No. CLE/QUI/01509 Equity Side

NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE QUIETING TITLES ACT 1959

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF LENNARD MAURICE ASHWORTH GULSON

TO

ALL THAT piece parcel or tract of land situate at Split Rocks about Four (4) miles Southeast of the Treasure Cay Airport and about Two (2) miles Northwest of Treasure Cay on Great Abaco Island in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas containing Fifteen and Thirty-four thousandths (15.034) acres or thereabouts

ALL that piece parcel or tract of land comprising of Fifteen and Thirtyfour thousandths (15.034) acres or thereabouts situate in the vicinity of Split Rocks on Great Abaco Island in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and which is bounded on the North by the high water mark of the Sea and running thereon Six hundred and Thirty-one and Eighty-two hundredths (631.82) feet more or less on the East by land the property of Sugar Plantation Limited and running thereon One thousand and Fifty-nine and Forty-three hundredths (1,059.43) feet more or less on the South by the road known as the Great Abaco Highway and running thereon Six hundred and Fifty-one and Eighty-eight hundredths (651.88) feet and on the West by land formerly the property of Home and Auto Supplies Limited but now the property of John Wayne Darville and running thereon One thousand One hundred and Thirty-four and Fifty-one hundredths (1,134.51) feet more or less

Lennard Maurice Ashworth Gulson claims to be the owner in fee simple in possession of the parcel of land hereinbefore described and the Petitioner has made application to the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas under Section 3 of The Quieting Titles Act, 1959 to have his title to the said land investigated.

Copies of the filed plan may be inspected during normal business hours at:-

- (a) The Registry of the Supreme Court
(b) The Commissioner's Office at Coopers Town, Abaco
(c) The Chambers of the undersigned.

NOTICE is hereby given that any person having dower or right to dower or an adverse claim or a claim not recognized in the Petition shall before the 11 day of January, A.D. 2010 file in the Supreme Court and serve the Petitioner or the undersigned a statement of his claim in the prescribed form verified by an Affidavit to be filed therewith. Failure of any such person to file and serve a statement of his claim on or before the 11th day of January, A.D. 2010 will operate as a bar to such claim.

E. DAWSON ROBERTS & COMPANY Attorneys for the Petitioner, Magna Carta Court, Parliament & Shirley Streets, Nassau, Bahamas.

SOUTH OCEAN, from 1B

Bancroft & Hughes, who successfully argued that CCWIPP was unable to place the resort into foreclosure because New South Ocean Development Company did not have a letter from the Central Bank giving it permission to repay the loan to Propco.

Under exchange control regulations, the judge found that CCWIPP/Propco and New South Ocean Development Company needed to have this Central Bank permission to repay the loan. Any loan arrangement in this nation that involves either a foreign-owned mortgage or mortgagee requires Investments Board and Central Bank approval.

Sources told Tribune Business that while Propco had received Central Bank permission to make the loan, and New South Ocean Development Company had been authorised to execute a promissory note for the loan's repayment, the third piece of documentation was lacking.

It is understood that Propco's attorney, PLP MP and former Cabinet minister, Alfred Sears, argued that permission for New South Ocean Development Company to repay, and for Propco to receive the payments, was contained in the existing documentation, but Justice Isaacs disagreed.

In dismissing the foreclosure action, Justice Isaacs also discharged South Ocean's receiver, Anthony Kikivarakis, the Deloitte & Touche (Bahamas) partner, who took control of the resort in May 2009.

The Supreme Court ruling also creates further uncertainty over South Ocean's future, especially in the short-term, as it hands control back to New South Ocean Development Company, whose investors

are locked in an intense arbitration battle currently under way this week in New York.

Plainfield is engaged in an acrimonious battle with its South Ocean developer partner, Roger Stein and his RHS Ventures company, over ownership and control of the project. Now, the Supreme Court's ruling means that the entity in which they both have an ownership stake is back in charge of the Bahamian resort.

In documents filed with the New York Supreme Court, Mr Stein and RHS Ventures had alleged that Plainfield was attempting to use its position as financing partner to squeeze them out.

The New South Ocean Development Company is controlled by a Cayman-based partnership, which is owned 51 per cent by Plainfield's Seaside Heights, giving it majority control, 1 per cent by RHS Ventures and 48 per cent by one of the latter's affiliates, RHS Holdings.

Yet Mr Stein was alleging that through designing its financing participation in the South Ocean project with loans, rather than equity, Plainfield had positioned itself as New South Ocean Development Company's lead creditor - and could squeeze him out at any time by calling in those loans.

Mr Stein's court and arbitration filings alleged that he had financed his participation with 100 per cent equity, playing \$7.56 million for land acquisitions and other pre-development costs. Plainfield, on the other hand, through Seaside Heights had lent \$75 million and injected a further \$42.7 million as equity, taking its total participation to almost \$100 million.

In return, Plainfield has alleged that RHS Ventures did not properly use the financing it advanced for the South Ocean project, and failed to provide it with audited financial information.

Informed observers believe Plainfield opposed the foreclosure, and is seeking control, because it wants to hang on to South Ocean until the credit and real estate markets improve. That, in turn, would improve the property's value, and the hedge fund would likely then seek a new development partner or sell the resort.

Mr Stein and Plainfield are understood to have 'locked horns' in the hearing forum provided by the American Arbitration Association this week, and with both parties understood to be reluctant to finance the project until their dispute is settled, South Ocean's short-term future looks bleak.

Propco is understood to have been paying staffing costs, and financing the property's upkeep, infrastructure and utilities while the battle rages, but this week's ruling likely puts a stop to that. Effectively, South Ocean's redevelopment has been placed even further on to the back burner, with the resort firmly mired in 'limbo'.

Some sources suggested that this week's ruling could cause problems for all lending arrangements in this nation involving non-Bahamian residents or entities, as they would now be required to get Central Bank permission every time they had to re-pay or receive loan monies. That, though, could not be confirmed.

The South Ocean redevelopment was originally scheduled to include a 140-room five-star resort; 400-room four-star resort; a 40,000 square foot casino; fractional villas; 180 timeshare units; second homes; a convention centre; marina; tennis facilities and spa.

The draft economic impact study for the South Ocean project projected that it would create 1,358 full-time jobs when fully open, plus 1,200 construction jobs.

GUANA, from 1B

The Association's four-year fight, Mr Smith said, had been "highlighting and focusing the need for the Government to legislate process and rights in regard to all development initiatives. It's not going to away. They're repeating it with the BEC Abaco power plant.

"It's sad that three levels of the judiciary did not take a more proactive approach in helping to guide the development process in the Bahamas."

In its ruling, the Privy Council acknowledged previous findings by Court of Appeal president, Dame Joan

Sawyer, who noted that the Bahamas had "no comprehensive legislation for environmental protection, or public consultation on the disposition of public land".

In other words, major chunks of the Bahamas' development approval process, especially as it relates to major mixed-use resort projects, is not contained 'in stone' via statute legislation. Rather, it is in policy, which can be changed at a stroke by public officials.

The Privy Council, in its judgment, found the Guana Cay Heads of Agreement was intended to provide a frame-

work for the planning and decision-making that would guide the development going forward.

"It is common ground that the provisions as to the granting of leases were too uncertain to be legally enforceable. Other provisions of the Heads did probably create legally enforceable obligations. But it is unnecessary to form a final view on that, since on any view the Heads constituted a considered political commitment on the part of the Government of the Bahamas, matched by the Developers' financial commitment to investment in the project," the

Privy Council found.

"The proposed development was on any view a major development with far-reaching economic, social and environmental consequences. It involved an investment of the order of \$500 million. It involved large-scale infrastructure projects, both on land and in the sea. The population of the Cay was going to increase greatly, and the pattern of its economic life was going to be transformed.

"Any complex project of that sort requires a strategic framework of planning and decision at the outset, followed by detailed planning and detailed decisions on particular matters as it goes forward. In such a situation there is no fettering of official discretion in starting with a carefully-formulated general policy. Indeed, to start without a carefully-formulated general policy would be a recipe for bad administration."

Mr Smith yesterday told Tribune Business that the Association wanted the Government to pass a Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Protection Act, especially since there were no statutory provisions requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be published prior to a major development being approved.

And the Association's legal battle is not over yet, Mr Smith telling Tribune Business they were awaiting a hearing date from the Court of Appeal for their second bid to block the Guana Cay project, which is directly challenging the permits, approvals and licences given to the developers.

Warning that the project's opponents were "not going to disappear into thin air", Mr Smith pledged that the developers would still be subjected "to an awful lot of scrutiny" as they moved forward with what he described as a "10-year project".

Asked to recall what the Association had achieved so far, Mr Smith said the Government's Planning and Subdivisions Bill appeared to be attempting to codify and legislate, via statute, a much clearer development process. The Bill, he added, dealt with issues such as EIA publication, town planning input and public consultation.

"The success that we have had so far is that there has been a substantial revamping of the EIA, a substantial revamping of the EMP," he said. "There has been a lot of scrutiny and focus on environmental issues by the developers and the Government.

"The case has also caused the Government to implement a lot of the provisions in its Planning and Subdivisions Bill. The Government, through this Bill, is going away from this overarching Heads of Agreement and is going back to more localised input and statute."

In the meantime, the Association was going to monitor the developers to ensure they complied with local and local government rights, plus environmental laws, and assess their compliance with other obligations.

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BUSINESS

Cruise ship's \$380k visitor spend impact



A VIEW of the Carnival Dream in Nassau harbour...

Photos by Felipe Major/Tribune staff

By CHESTER ROBARDS
Business Reporter
crobarads@tribunemedia.net

THE CARNIVAL Dream, the company's largest ship, called on the port of Nassau with more than 3,800 visitors on its inaugural voyage, bringing in more than \$380,000 yesterday, according to a "rule-of-thumb" estimate by the Minister of Tourism.

Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace said cruise ship passengers spend on average \$100 per passenger at various ports

of call. Three Carnival ships were moored at the Prince George Dock for the Dream's first visit to the Bahamas.

Captain of the Carnival Dream, Carlo Queirolo, said Nassau was one of the most beautiful ports of call he has sailed to and touted the dredging efforts to increase the turning basin in the Harbour.

"It is easier, especially when the weather is not so good [to be able to pivot the ship in the harbour]," said Captain Queirolo. "It is very important for us. We could do it, but we would have to pay a lot more attention."

He added that the dredging of the Harbour and the addition of two mooring dolphins, built for the arrival of Royal Caribbean's Oasis of the Seas next month, will make it much easier and be a "much better arrangement in the harbour".

Mr Vanderpool-Wallace said the visit of mega cruise ships, such as the Carnival Dream and the Oasis of the Seas, shows need to redevelop the city.

He added that once the city was up to the standard of many competing cruise ports, there was a potential for even greater revenue per passen-



CARLO QUEIROLO (centre) presents a plaque to Brent Symonette, the deputy prime minister, as Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace (left) looks on...

ger.

"What is most important is to make sure we have sufficient attractions in Downtown Nassau, so that the maximum number of people leave the ship and we see that that expenditure goes up in terms of the total volume," he said.

"We have two tasks: To increase the number of visitors coming but also to increase the expenditure per visitor, and that's part of the whole purpose of the redevelopment of downtown."

The Carnival Dream is a 130,000 tonne ship that debuted last September, dwarfed only by the Genesis Class ship, of which there is

currently only one.

As the largest purveyor of passengers, Carnival is a major player in this country's tourism industry. However, they have recently been at loggerheads with local tour operators, who feel too much business is being sent to Atlantis.

The Dream's itinerary takes it on alternating week-long cruises to the Eastern Caribbean, and it will call at Nassau, St Thomas/St John, USVI, and St Maarten and Netherlands Antilles, while its western itinerary will take it to Cozumel, Belize, Costa Maya and Nassau.

With unique facilities, the Dream brings a different cruising experience. New attractions include four scenic whirlpools, an open deck with a tropical, resort-style pool and a seaside theatre (LED screen).

"Sure to be a hit with guests will be Carnival WaterWorks, an expansive aqua park offering exhilarating water slides and various water spray apparatus. Carnival Dream will also be the first 'Fun Ship' to feature a two-level miniature golf course," said a release from Carnival.



A VIEW from the Carnival Dream...

Bahamas First set to acquire Cayman firm

FROM page 1B

General Insurance Company (Cayman) share capital is understood to be owned by the Caymanian government, which effectively took over the firm in its previous guise, Cayman General, when the firm hit financial trouble as a result of enormous Hurricane Ivan-related payouts.

Tribune Business was told yesterday that it was widely understood that the Cayman government accepted a lower claims payout from Cayman General, \$70 million instead of \$140 million, in return for taking over effective control and its equity stake. Sagcor Life of the Cayman Islands then entered the picture two months after Ivan had passed, taking an initial 51 per cent stake in November 2005.

Patrick Ward, Bahamas First's president and chief executive, recently told Tri-

bune Business that Bahamas First General Insurance Company will pass the "important milestone" of \$50 million in capital by year-end.

General

He added that Bahamas First General Insurance Company, the main subsidiary of Bahamas First Holdings, was "tracking better than 2008" when it came to its bottom line net income for 2009, although the swing in the unrealised value of its investment portfolio remained a concern largely due to its substantial holdings of Commonwealth Bank stock.

Mr Ward said: "By the end of 2009, the capital of Bahamas First General Insurance Company will be in excess of \$50 million, and the risk profile we have on the books will not be significantly different from the year

before. "We will have a much more superior balance sheet capital position that we had the year before. That's an important milestone for us to have, \$50 million in capital.

"We have followed a strategy in the last two to three years of increasing Bahamas First General Insurance Company's capital by not sending any monies to the parent via dividends. That, with good results, has allowed us to build up the capital of Bahamas First General to the level we enjoy today."

And Mr Ward said the company's financial performance for year-to-date was ahead of 2008, when Bahamas First General Insurance Company sustained an 86.4 per cent decline in net income to \$1.656 million, almost entirely due to a \$12 million swing into the red on the unrealised losses suffered on its equity portfolio.



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BUSINESS

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Auditor 'wages' salary increases driving inflation

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

Says 70% of Bahamian firms unable to pay NIB contributions and BEC bills on timely basis

INFLATION in the Bahamas has been driven by salary increases rather than business profits, a senior accountant told Tribune Business yesterday, as companies move to retain valued employees through wage rises despite the recession's impact on their top and bottom lines.

Disputing assertions by former minister of state for finance, James Smith, that some Bahamian companies had engaged in "profiteering" by raising prices to compensate for declining consumer demand and sales revenues, Raymond Winder said some companies had gone as far to

give their workforces 2-5 per cent annual salary increases despite the increasing pressures they were facing.

The Deloitte & Touche (Bahamas) managing partner told Tribune Business: "There is no evidence in the current environment that would lead me to believe that there are a number of companies making huge profits. In fact, the cumulative profits of companies in the Bahamas have declined."

"What has happened is that even if a company has raised its prices, the increase in prices

on a cumulative basis has not gone to profits, but gone to salaries. If one was to analyse cumulative annual salaries as a percentage of revenues, the figure would be higher than it was yesterday."

Mr Winder said many Bahamian companies, viewing lay-offs as a last resort in the current recession, had moved to increase salaries as an incentive for their best staff to stay with them, creating what is known as 'cost-push' inflation.

As for the inflation issue, he added: "It will be due primarily to the fact that businesses have tried their best to retain their employees in the face of declining revenues."

"Even though businesses are not doing well, because many Bahamians are used to annual pay rises, some businesses have been giving 2-5 per cent increases in salary even in the face of declining profits. If anything, there's been a reduction in the contribution the amount of profit has made to the inflation index."

Mr Winder said the Bahamian private sector's weakness had been highlighted by the fact that "more businesses have closed their doors", with 70 per cent of companies unable to pay their National Insurance Board (NIB) contributions and Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC) bills in a timely manner.

He also pointed out that Bahamian commercial banks had "gone to great lengths" to avoid a "fire sale" of foreclosed commercial and residential properties, instead preferring to work out restructured loans and payment arrangements with borrowers.

Mr Winder said that placing a "mass" of foreclosed properties on the real estate market at once would have created "a mass drop in prices", depressing the entire market.

Salary-driven inflation was also being fuelled by the relative lack of worker productivity in the Bahamas, Mr Winder told Tribune Business, as companies were forced to carry excess workers to perform tasks that should be carried out by a smaller number of personnel.

"There's a lack of productivity, which is continually declining, and which weighs you down and results in businesses carrying additional persons to carry out the same work," he explained. "Once you've had to hire additional persons, that also has an impact on the inflation index."

Mr Winder's analysis was backed by Christopher Lowe, a former Grand Bahama Chamber of Commerce president, who branded Mr Smith's analysis as "incomplete and misleading".

Mr Lowe, who is Kelly's (Freeport) operations manager, told Tribune Business: "His main, if overly simplified synopsis, is that businesses are compensating for a drop in revenue or sales by increasing prices, and for the ignoble purpose of keeping profits high."

"The worst travesty is that he omits the other action that



RAYMOND WINDER

businesses can take if revenue falls. Lay-offs, shift rotations and closure, with the latter being opted for far more frequently by challenged hotels, businesses and even government itself.

"Also, in tying profit motive into overcoming revenue decreases, he is being entirely disingenuous. While profit does indeed come from the prices charged for goods and services, profit also covers repairs and renewals, and inward business re-investment."

"Profit does not equate directly to 'pocketing' Profit is the last reality for most, even well run, Bahamian companies these days. We are all preoccupied with survival in spite of Government policies."

Mr Lowe said that when faced by declining revenue streams and a fixed cost base that stays the same, businesses had three options - to lower operating costs, increasing margins or going out of business.

In addition, reduced cash flow resulted in lower inventory purchasing power, something that worked against a company's solvency and forced it to rely on previously earned profits.

Mr Lowe also accused Mr Smith of placing too much emphasis on the Bahamas' import ties to the US, arguing that prices in our northern neighbour bore no relation to those charged in the Bahamas due to increased shipping and utility costs in this nation, its lower productivity and staff education levels, increasing internal and external theft, increased staff benefits costs and "ever increasing interference in trade by government".

"Perhaps when all US citizens receive their national health insurance coverage, there will be no effect on the Bahamas? Bollocks," Mr Lowe said.

"It will be passed directly on to the consumer, both domestic and foreign. Every US business will have added to their costs of doing business medical insurance cover for their employees. What of our own governments increase in NIB contributions?"

Meanwhile, Mr Winder said: "I do agree that we have had inflation, and that is due to salary increases, and not due to an increase in profits. To the extent that we have inflation in the Bahamas, the majority of it goes to salaries and not profit."

"And while I do agree we do not have enough information to do a proper analysis, what is clear is that revenues have dropped and salaries have not decreased by the same proportion, while profits have also dropped."

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*Includes double occupancy stay in the Royal Towers at Atlantis Hotel & Resort from Dec. 25th - 27th, 2009.
**Includes costumes, food, drinks and entertainment for 2 on Feb. 15th 2010 with the Island People band.



Friday, November 20th, 2009
McHappy Day™
Turn a BIG MAC® into a smile
Buy a Big Mac® and help kids with severe illness.
we hope to see you!
Javon Knowles