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AN HISTORIC RECORD

SWIMMING IN SPORTS SECTION E



NOTORIOUS GANG LEADER'S FAMILY TELLS THE TRIBUNE...

'Emperor' murder 'not revenge killing'

DENGUE FEVER OUTBREAK 'APPEARS TO BE SLOWING'

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

THE dengue fever outbreak seems to be slowing down, Health Minister Dr Hubert Minnis said. According to the Ministry of Environmental Health, while there are 34 laboratory confirmed cases of dengue, there are 195 clinical confirmed cases with another 561 persons who showed symptoms over the last six days.

SEE page nine

THE grieving family of notorious murder victim Dion "Emperor" Knowles last night denied his death was a revenge killing. They also defended Knowles's record and hit out at media reports that said he had been on the police's most wanted list for murder. Up to press time last night, family members had not yet identified the body of Knowles, which was found riddled with bullets at Milo Butler Highway and Fire Trail Road shortly before 10pm. It is believed Knowles - who was feared as a Fox Hill

gang leader - had been riding a trail bike when he was knocked off by a car, chased down and shot repeatedly. The family will not acknowledge the reports until an identification is made, according to Knowles' mother, Beverley Knowles. Mrs Knowles, 70, told *The Tribune* that discovering about her son's death through the media added even greater insult to injury. She said: "We haven't confirmed that. That's my child, don't you think I

SEE page two

MP'S 'LIFE WAS CHANGED' AFTER 'ASSASSINATION THREAT'

By NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
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OBIE WILCHCOMBE, Member of Parliament for West End, said his life was changed in 2007 after he was threatened with assassination. "I became very cautious after that. I don't go out very much when I am in Nassau. An experience like that, when someone threatens your life, changes your life, and it did."

SEE page nine

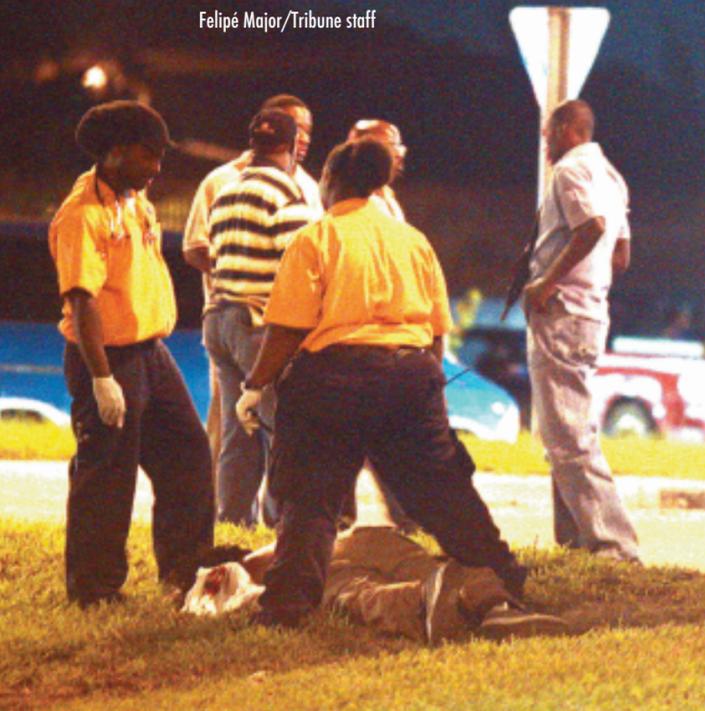


OBIE WILCHCOMBE

SCENE OF SHOOTING

EMERGENCY SERVICES STAND OVER THE BODY OF DION 'EMPEROR' KNOWLES (INSET) ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

Felipe Major/Tribune staff



ESCAPED PRISONER STILL ON THE LOOSE

NO UPDATES were issued concerning the prisoner who escaped custody on Tuesday.

Prison officials could not be reached for comment and the police said they did not have an update on the situation.

As a result, the details of the incident are still sketchy, but it would seem the man is still on the loose.

On Wednesday, a source close to the matter said that the escape involved two inmates.

One was reported to have been captured, but the other - a Jamaican according to the source - evaded law enforcement officers.

The man's name has not been released, nor has a description.

MURDERED FATHER 'WAS A GOOD MAN'

By SANCHESKA BROWN

THE family of the 27-year-old father who was shot and killed Tuesday night say he was a victim of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

A sister of George Ferguson, who did not want to be named for fear of her life, claims her brother was a "good man who did not hang on the blocks and mostly stayed home."

Ferguson and another man, 20-year-old Rashad Paul, were attacked in a drive-by shooting. Police did not find Ferguson's body until the next day around 6am.

Paul, 20, was also shot in the leg and

SEE page nine

MASS UNEMPLOYMENT 'IMPACTING CRIME'

By AVA TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
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MASS unemployment is directly impacting the level of violent crime experienced in the country, according to local pastors, who claim that poor economic conditions are "tempting" Bahamians.

Outraged by the spate of "revenge" and "vigilante" killings occurring in New Providence, victim's rights organization Citizens for Justice (CFJ) appealed to both the public and private sectors to implement change.

Bishop Walter Hanchell, chairman

SEE page two

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LOCAL NEWS

NOTORIOUS GANG LEADER'S FAMILY TELLS THE TRIBUNE...

'EMPEROR' MURDER 'NOT REVENGE KILLING'

FROM page one

should be the one to confirm that that was my child?"

"Dion was broadcast as the most wanted criminal without even contacting the next of kin. He wasn't wanted by police, he was not on bail, he had no cases, he was a free man.

"You're not supposed to put a person name on the air, on the television, until

you have contacted next of kin. That was not done, it hasn't been done as yet, so we don't even know if that's him. No police came to say nothing. We haven't even seen the body, so that's propaganda."

Residents in Fox Hill say Knowles's death was part of an ongoing cycle of revenge killing which was sparked after he was wanted for the murder of his nephew in 2007.

One resident said: "Peo-

ple in Fox Hill respected him, feared him and you knew to never mess with him or people near him.

"A lot of young guys wanted to work for him. I can't say that he forced them, he had such a pull that people wanted to work for him - he gave them money and respect. Sometimes he would pay his people in motorbikes.

"He would war with other guys in the (Fox Hill) park. His faction was the centre



EMERGENCY SERVICES attend to the body of Dion 'Emperor' Knowles.

of a lot of problems."

It is claimed there has been no communication between the police and Knowles's family until relatives sought out investigators concerning the incident, at which point they were given an appointment to meet with detectives today.

In a heated moment, one family member said: "They had it on the media like he was the worst person in the world. He wasn't wanted, he would be (at his home in Fox Hill) all the time. The police are in and out of here - when they weren't in here looking for money from him. Who does beg more money from him than the police?"

Supt Stephen Dean,

director of the National Crime Prevention Office, dismissed rumours circulating in Fox Hill that the police had been involved in Knowles's death.

"They have no evidence to suggest that," said Supt Dean.

Care

"We don't subscribe to that. We don't subscribe to a police state. We treat every citizen with care, respect and trust."

As investigations are conducted in the Fox Hill area, Mr Dean advised that police efforts are not limited to that community.

He also maintained there was insufficient evidence at

this time to suggest that Knowles's death or those committed in recent weeks were revenge killings.

Knowles's sister, Donna Knowles, said: "If you can't say nothing nice about anybody, you just bring up the past - I don't care who it is - don't do it. You have to have compassion for other people."

She added: "You can't publicise what you feel like to try to discriminate, you still have to go about doing things the right way - and it's wrong what they is doing, to everybody. Let bygones be bygones, let the past be the past."

Police last night confirmed two men are helping them with their inquiries.

MASS UNEMPLOYMENT 'IMPACTING CRIME'

FROM page one

of CFJ, said: "This crime situation with joblessness, unemployment and the crime, it's so closely connected to poverty. They are hurting, they don't have and they have to eat.

"We are asking political leaders, the church - every church right now should reach out to the community right around you."

The group also called for local churches to make a difference in their surrounding communities. They said that the more than 2,000 religious institutions in the country could make a greater difference.

Belief

"I have a strong belief that if every church would take their street, walk their street, talk their street, know what's going on on their street, touch the young people on their street, touch parents on the street, I believe that we can bring change to our nation, one street at a time," said Pastor Henry Higgins, a member of the group.

While maintaining that they did not advocate criminal activity, Bishop Hanchell explained that the lack of jobs paired with limited opportunities has created a breeding ground for crime.

"We realise that with this angry generation that we have now," said Bishop Hanchell. "We need persons to go in the community to deal with conflict resolution and anger management and train these people. We need programmes for young people, we need initiatives.

"We need business people to join up with us and finance some different initiatives for the youth. We need people who will create some

jobs, we need investors to come now and do things that are different.

"We talk about diversification for so long, but nobody is doing it.

"We need to create some jobs, some industry to put some young people to work."

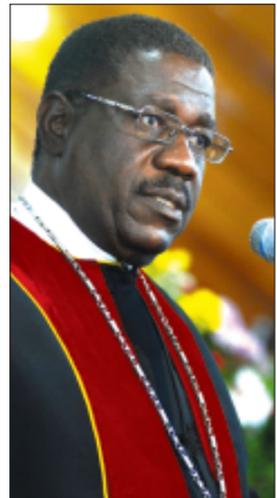
The organisation has some 200 persons on its job register, the majority of whom have skills in the hotel and construction industries. Jobs in both industries remain scarce, according to CFJ, which maintains that the level of unemployment is not due to a lack of want.

Bishop Simeon Hall, New Covenant Baptist Church, said: "Personal responsibility is part of the problem, but 38 years after independence, and we still have scores of persons who lack the qualifications for even menial tasks - is a reflection on the government, and both political parties. The people are marginalized."

Training

The marginalization stemmed from deficiencies in the educational system and training resources. Bishop Hall said that in order for the government's job-readiness training and employment programme to be more than "pre-election rhetoric", it will have to provide an update to the thousands of applicants in a timely manner.

"We have a lot of people who lack the qualifications and the government must take some responsibility for that," said Bishop Hall, because there have been very little or minimal training programmes and we have got to depend in some ways on foreign labour because our training programmes have not been as diversified as it ought to be."



BISHOP SIMEON HALL



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McCartney panders to Bahamians' base emotions

IT IS a tragedy when a politician, so anxious to win an election, panders to the base emotions of an electorate. And in doing so ignores the damaging consequences that his divisive message could have, not only on this generation, but on many generations to come.

Apparently Mr Branville McCartney is so anxious to become the next prime minister of this country that he is willing to use the sorry plight of illegal Haitians, and their Bahamian-born children to pander to the fears of voting Bahamians. Such a campaign of hatred will not only split this community, but will eventually build up such an emotional force that when it breaks in years to come this nation's way of life would be completely destroyed.

One would have thought that the mass killing that targeted young teenagers in Norway these past few days would have been a sufficient tragedy to send a warning signal of what can happen when suspicion and division is built up in a community. Such an atmosphere can inspire one madman to destroy a nation's whole way of life.

Seventy-six people — most of them teenagers — were killed in Oslo last week because of one man's fear that Islam threatened Europe's Christian culture. Anders Hering Breivik, himself a young man, was against his country's "multiculturalism," which he believed enabled "the ongoing Islamic colonisation of Europe." And so he wrote a 1,500 page treatise on his beliefs, pleaded not guilty to committing any crime, and almost gloated over the killings, because as a self-proclaimed Christian nationalist he believed it his duty to recreate a Knights Templar in Europe to fight a holy war against Islam.

This bizarre behaviour is usually the end game in an atmosphere of hate and suspicion that can send evil sparks flying in a madman's fevered brain. One only has to read history to understand the underlying racial hatred that has sparked centuries of unrest and most of this world's wars.

Mr McCartney, founder of the Democratic National Alliance (DNA), which he promises will be the next government, says that he will fight to change the country's constitution so that children born here to illegal immigrants will not be eligible for citizenship. If elected he will push for a referendum to carry out his plans.

Under the constitution, persons who are born in the Bahamas to illegal immigrants

have the right to apply for citizenship between their 18th and 19th birthdays.

We agree with former PLP cabinet minister George Smith who accused Mr McCartney of "trying to pander to the xenophobia of many Bahamians who want to blame some of our social ills on people who by virtue of their circumstances find themselves in the Bahamas illegally."

And warned Mr Smith: "Political leaders should never pander to ignorance and people who are motivated by fear and this is probably what Mr McCartney... is doing."

We agree with Mr Smith. We also agree with retired Anglican Archbishop Drexel Gomez who sees Mr McCartney's "final solution" for Haitian children as "inhuman."

"I cannot understand anyone who is going to seek leadership in this country who is not going to deal with the situation in a humanitarian way," said the Archbishop.

And it is true what the Archbishop says. This country does owe much to immigrants. Many immigrants — teachers, policemen, doctors and nurses — helped build the Bahamas. Many of them came as immigrants from other Caribbean islands — and never forget: our first black member of parliament was a Haitian.

As the Archbishop pointed out these children up to the age of 18 have known no other home.

They speak our language, they belong to our culture, their friends are Bahamian. As far as they are concerned they are also Bahamian. At the age of 18 are they to be thrown into a world that they do not know, because of the myopic prejudice of Bahamians who just a few generations before were also foreigners in a foreign land? Many of the forebears of our present Bahamians were not even born here, yet they became one with us — flesh of the same flesh — and put much effort into the building of this nation. What none of us must forget is at some stage or another — and this includes Mr McCartney — our forebears were strangers in a foreign land. Today we are all Bahamians. Were our forebears more humane than we are today?

Yes, the Haitian question is a troubling one, but Mr McCartney's solution lacks humanity. It is not the right way to go, and if through this election he builds up an even greater foreign phobia, future generations will not bless his name for lighting a spark that allowed hatred to spiral out of control.

Come forward and step up to the plate

EDITOR, The Tribune.

PLEASE allow me to write a few lines to the good and caring people of Bain and Grant's Town Constituencies by way of your Editorial page.

My Brothers and Sisters,

The time is now for those of you who are unemployed and/or unemployable or that you wish to start your own business to come forward and step up to the plate, take advantage of Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham, and the FNM government's new budget and reap the benefits.

The new budget, among other things, is designed to assist thousands of Bahamians to become employed and/or self employed. Over \$25 million has been allocated for the said purpose and so Bain and Grants Town must get its share of the pie. Contact Eddie Dawkins Jr. for assistance. You are quite aware that I am interested in becoming

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

the FNM candidate for the Bain and Grants Town Constituency and to become the next elected Member of Parliament for the said area. In that same vain our detractors have gone on record criticizing the PM's new budget. The present MP for the area Dr BJ Nottage is of the view that it is a political Budget and that the Government is using the Budget to help it win the next General Election, scheduled for 2012.

Never mind Dr. Nottage making noise, in my view he does not have the people of Bain and Grants Town's interest or their well being on his agenda. He is politically unschooled and has past his time in politics. It is my opinion that he criticises the Rt. Hon Prime Minister's administration out of jealousy and envy. He, B.J.,

did not deliver good and effective representation to the people of Bain and Grants Town; in fact, it is my opinion that B.J. has been a total political failure and a disaster in Bain and Grants Town.

Like I said before that you the people of Bain and Grants Town, and I together with the Free National Movement are the right combination for success in Bain and Grants Town while the detractors are talking, criticizing, and making promises. The learned P.M. and his government are delivering economic opportunities and economic independence to Bahamians.

In 2012 general elections B.J. Nottage will become history in Bain and Grants Town. I thank you for taking a few minutes of our time to read this letter and I hope that you will respond to me favourably.

EDDIE DAWKINS, JR.,
Nassau,
July 2011.

Former hotel union staff 'yet to be paid'

EDITOR, The Tribune.

PLEASE ALLOW me this opportunity to air my concern about a situation in the hotel industry which I believe is not widely known to most members.

The President of The Bahamas Hotel Catering and Allied Workers Union has gone on record as saying that she is concerned about all workers, particularly female workers and will do all to ensure that the rights of all persons are maintained. How then is it, two years later, former employees (two of whom are females) of the said union have yet to be paid monies owed to them, including vacation pay? How is it, no attempt was even made by the present executive team to contact the former employees to resolve the matter? Why is it, after giving years of long, dedicated and loyal service to the organization, that former

employees who are also members will now have to resort to court action in order to get from the union what is rightfully their due?

I know if this was to happen to any member employed in any hotel, Madam President will be using all of the newspaper/media and any other means at her disposal to resolve the situation. I would therefore truly like to know why, in the case of these former workers, there is a difference, even discrimination, in the manner in which these persons are being treated. Based on the President's position when she came into office, I expected a higher standard of behaviour and as a female myself, I am most disappointed.

CONCERNED HOTEL WORKER
UNION MEMBER
Nassau,
June 22, 2011

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'COMMITTING POLITICAL SUICIDE'

EDITOR, The Tribune.

THIS LETTER is dedicated to the memory of Branville McCartney, because that is all he will be after the election (whenever it is called).

Forty years of political experience tells me you have committed political suicide by listening to the echoes round you because that's all they are, if you don't believe me ask Dr. Bernard Nottage. He heard the same echo back in the day. See what he had to do? The same thing his buddy Perry Christie did, swim in his vomit. I hope you are cool with Dr. Duane Sands and company (Laing, Bethel, Fawkes etc.) and you are a good swimmer.

Speaking of Dr. Sands, you are looking great in Elizabeth. Keep up the good work! Senator today, definitely Member of Parliament tomorrow, who knows the next day as they say "The sky is the limit" my brother. No offence PAPA.

COMRADE DAVID
THOMPSON
Nassau,
July 2011.

LOCAL NEWS

'AN HISTORIC DAY FOR THE LABOUR MOVEMENT'

BAHAMAS CUSTOMS IMMIGRATION & ALLIED WORKERS UNION CERTIFIED

By NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

THE Bahamas Customs Immigration and Allied Workers Union was certified by the Ministry of Labour this week, making it an official bargaining agent.

The union will represent the 1,140 workers employed by the customs and immigration departments, although to date, only 584 workers are registered members.

Members of the executive called it an historic day for the labour movement.

"For years we have been represented by the Bahamas Public Service Union (BPSU). From July 15, after the poll we had, it was clear the workers wanted a different level of representation – one that is apolitical, one that is focused and one that is specific to their needs. So what you see here is the culmination of that process," said Sloane Smith, BCIAWU vice president.

Union executives said they are looking forward to forging a relationship with the executive management at customs and immigration. They said the union is not interested in an "antagonistic" relationship; rather, it wishes to work together to increase government revenues through col-

"From July 15, after the poll we had, it was clear the workers wanted a different level of representation – one that is apolitical, one that is focused and one that is specific to their needs. So what you see here is the culmination of that process."

Sloane Smith,
BCIAWU vice president

lections and enhance the protection of the country's borders.

The process will not be without its challenges however. Union officials claim the executive management has given it the cold shoulder in the past, and at times has even participated in intimidation and victimisation tactics.

"Even though they have treated us as rejects, we just want to say, we are not going to hold it against you, we are going to sit down and allow ourselves to heal and get to the business of the country; ensuring our constitution is upheld, revenues are collected and our borders are protected,"

said Coderro Edgecombe, Sergeant at Arms.

One of the top priorities for the union will be securing medical coverage for clerical workers such as cashiers and registrars. In the departments of customs and immigration, clerical workers have not had access to the same benefits as uniformed workers, said union executives, and their issues had never before been represented.

"The reality is this: the process seemed to have treated them as second class citizens. We are here to say, they are not second class citizens at all. They stand shoulder to shoulder with us and we are here to ensure all of the rights and privileges that come to us as uniformed officers come to them as well," said Mr Smith.

Asked about the relationship with the old representatives at the BPSU, Mr Smith said: "The simply truth is this, it is what it is. We have moved on. The marriage is over. The divorce is settled. The ancillary matters have even been divided. What I would say is that BPSU is not one individual. There are thousands of people in that body that deserve to be properly represented. They have elections coming up and hopefully they will follow suite and salvage a beautiful entity that is designed to represent the workers. That is all I will say on that one."

UNION MEMBERS 'WON'T SIGN' WITHOUT AMENDMENTS

PROPOSED CODE OF ETHICS CLAUSES 'IMPEACH STAFF'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS'

By NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

A PROPOSED code of ethics for customs and immigration officers contains clauses that "impeach the constitutional" rights of staff, claimed the new bargaining agent for the nation's border employees.

The newly-formed Bahamas Customs Immigration and Allied Workers Union (BCIAWU) put the government on notice, warning union members would not sign the proposed code of ethics without amendments.

Union leaders confirmed they were not happy with the existing document, but they would not discuss it in detail, stating they had not received an official copy from the government as yet.

"There are a lot of issues with the code of conduct that we need to address, issues which impeach our constitutional rights. Those issues we are going to go through one by one. We are not going to discuss it in any great detail with you. We are not going to move forward with it until we secure an official copy from the government," said Coderro Edgecombe, Sergeant at Arms.

Tribune sources claim the proposed code of ethics has "explicit clauses" that limit a worker's right to freedom of association and freedom of speech.

The code, for example, limits the rights of uniformed staff to have any form of political affiliation, claimed a source. Also, a worker could be dismissed on the grounds of having a political affiliation.

General Orders "is somewhat vague", and would not prevent workers from attending political rallies, but it would restrict them from getting on a platform and speaking, said a source.

Mr Edgecombe said the union did not have a problem with the initiative itself, as it sought to regularise customs services to bring them in line with international standards. However, he maintained some of the clauses are "questionable."

Customs officers were introduced to the new code over the past four months during a department wide training for the new Customs Management Act. The Customs Modernisation Committee spear-headed the training, according to union officials. They plan to submit a formal request for a copy of the code.

"Staff were trained in the code of ethics. They were able to view it, but they were not able to take copies. No one has been asked to sign it as yet, but it has been implied that it will be given to staff to sign, and if it is not signed they are going to deploy you to another organisation," said Mr Edgecombe.

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ALLEGED UNLAWFUL SEX CASE ADJOURNED

By LAMECH JOHNSON

THE arraignment of a man accused of having sex with an underage girl was adjourned to next month.

Kzeno Kevin Kemp, 36, of Whitaker Avenue, Millers Heights appeared in Magistrate's Court to face the charge that he had unlawful sex with a girl under the age of 16 sometime between 2006 and June 2010, according to court dockets.

However, the matter was adjourned due to the absence of Magistrate Carolita Bethel of Court 8.

There are eight witnesses listed on court dockets. Kemp remains on bail until August 15.



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MAN IN COURT ON RAPE CHARGE



DOUGLAS EDEY, 26, hides his face from the camera after leaving Court 6 where he was charged with rape of a woman on July 4.

By LAMECH JOHNSON

A RESIDENT of Nassau and Dean Streets went before the Magistrate's Court facing a rape charge yesterday afternoon.

Douglas Edey, 26, appeared before Magistrate Carolyn Vogt-Evans in Court 6, Parliament Street, to be charged with raping a woman on Monday, July 4.

The accused was on bail in connection with other matters when the incident is alleged to have occurred.

Edey was not required to enter a plea and was remanded to prison until his bail hearing on September 12.

By that time, the prosecution will make a decision on whether they wish to present a Voluntary Bill of Indictment transferring the case to the Supreme Court, or a preliminary inquiry to determine if enough evidence exists for a Supreme Court trial.

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LOCAL NEWS

BAHAMAS SUMMER MUSIC CAMP AND MENTORING PROGRAMME

THE Bahamas Summer Music Camp and Mentoring Programme wants to help young Bahamians exchange the world of troubles they often face with a fulfilling journey inspired by music.

Considered by many to be the most prestigious music camp in the country, the BSMMP has added a new programme in this its fourth year.

"The Rhythms of Africa" is a programme geared towards young drummers who participate in Junior Junkanoo. The drumming

sessions will take the students on a musical odyssey from Nigeria to Ghana, through the Ivory Coast and North Africa, across the Atlantic to Brasil, Cuba, New Orleans, Jamaica and Trinidad, culminating in the Bahamas.

The camp covers a broad spectrum of musical disciplines including instruction on various instruments, vocal coaching, music theory, understanding music harmony, and taking jazz ensemble direction.

There are also career work-

shops to prepare students for the professional world of music, including management, marketing, booking, recording, packaging, and the difference between a record label and an independent label.

Improvisation workshops help build confidence and character as the students rise to new heights with student jam sessions and group performances.

The camp is for students between the ages of 12 to 21 but will consider younger music enthusiasts. All participants should have some experience with instruments.

The camp will be held from Monday, July 25, to Friday, August 5.

More information can be found at: bahamasmusiccamp@gmail.com.



PRESENTATIONS MADE AT AWARD CEREMONY AND LUNCHEON

'OUTSTANDING' GB STUDENTS RECEIVE CASH SCHOLARSHIPS

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – Sixteen high school students on Grand Bahama were awarded cash scholarships for outstanding achievement in academics, sports, and humanitarian service on Wednesday.

Asue Draw, a web café company, made presentations of \$500 and \$1,000 to the recipients at its first annual Outstanding Achievers Award ceremony and luncheon at Maryann's Restaurant.

Scott Miller, island manager and scholarship committee chairman, said the establishment of a \$50,000 fund was provided by the Partners of Asue Draw to assist deserving Bahamian students.

The award is intended to help with purchasing school materials/supplies, uniforms, books, and to pay for other school-related fees and expenses.

"Asue Draw is constantly looking at ways to give back to the Bahamian community, and today we are living up to our pledge to give \$50,000 to Bahamian students," said Mr Miller.

"Education is in need of a shot in the arm in the Bahamas, and we decided that we will give cash awards to outstanding achievers."

Mr Miller said they received applications from many students in the Bahamas.

In order to qualify, applicants were required to have a GPA of 3.0 and to submit reference letters. They were also required to write and

submit a 500 word essay on how they intended to use the award to better themselves while positively impacting the community.

After reviewing all of the applications, 16 students were selected from Grand Bahama, and eight were selected from New Providence.

Kim McIntosh, human resource manager, said \$1,000 was awarded to private school recipients, and \$500 to those recipients attending public schools.

"We want to give back to the community and we want to build a better community, and what better way than to assist the youth."

"Asue Draw is supported by the entire Bahamas and it is our way of giving back, to ease the burden of parents who are always supporting us," McIntosh said.

Mr Miller said Asue Draw operates various web cafes in Freeport and the Family Islands.

The proceeds that are earned from customers, he said, will be used to benefit the community, in areas such as education.

He stressed that the businesses, social clubs, and the community all need to step in and do their part, no matter how small, to assist in the education of young people.

Mr Miller was very impressed with the essays that were submitted by the students.

"We had such interesting essays from the students, and I believe if they can live up to their word (in those essays) we will have a better country," he added.

Mr Miller said the \$50,000 pledge that Asue Draw is making will ensure that "the best and brightest students get a chance to attend the private school of their choice, or in the case of government school recipients, to afford the necessary supplementary materials, books, uniform, and to pay for national examinations they will undertake at the end of the school year."

The recipients in Grand Bahama are: Jordan Bartlett, Latess Bartlett, Delisa Cooper, Theronique Cooper, Tyrone Davis, Avedis Ferguson, McDonald Jean Louis, Trevor Johnson Jr, Kenisha Knowles, Courtney Martin, J'Nelle Moss, Rickell Munnings, Aiko Pyfom, Paige Rolle, J'Nya Seymour, Kyra Weech.

The recipients for New Providence are: Christopher Fernander, Rhavae Forbes, Ariel Kirlaw, Diamond Pearson, Anfrenee Pratt, Judy Smith, Perresha Sweeting, and Maraisha Thompson.

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Memorial Service For

Tracy Marie Cartwright, 39



of Sans Souci and Brooklyn Heights, New York, will be held on Saturday, July 30th, 2011 at 11.00a.m. at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Shirley Street. Officiating will be Rev. Father Tom Brislin of Holy Family Parish and Rev. Father Robert Powers of Saint Paul and Saint

Agnes, Brooklyn, New York.

She is survived by her **parents:** Allington and Carol Cartwright; **brother:** Scott Cartwright; **sisters:** Kelly Cartwright-Meister and Erin Cartwright-Niumata; **brothers-in-law:** Robert Meister and Foster Niumata; **niece:** Claire Niumata; **nephews:** Xavier Niumata and Aidan Meister; great aunt: Helen Sheedy; aunt: Sharon King; **uncles:** Michael Mulrooney, John Mulrooney, Scott Mulrooney and Dennis Mulrooney; numerous cousins; and a host of other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Tracy's name to the Cancer Society of the Bahamas, East Terrace Centreville, P.O. Box N 4296, telephone 323-4482.

There will be no viewing. Arrangements are being handled by **Butlers' Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Ernest and York Streets.**

LOCAL NEWS

CRUISE TO THE CURE: The fundraiser will include a car and motorcycle solidarity tour around New Providence.



CRUISE TO THE CURE

By **CELESTE NIXON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

PROSTATE cancer – the “silent killer” of Bahamian men – will again be the target of the fundraising effort Cruise to the Cure.

In a press conference yesterday at Doctor’s Hospital, the Friends of Distinction Riders Club (FODRC) and the Antique Auto Club of the Bahamas (AACB) announced that they will be coming together for the second annual Cruise to the Cure (CTTC) fundraiser to benefit the Cancer Society of the Bahamas.

The main focus of the effort is a car and motorcycle solidarity tour around New Providence, and while there will be a large number of vintage and collectable vehicles on display, the organisers say ordinary cars are more than welcome.

Dwain Wallace, co-organiser for CTTC, said the primary focus of this year’s campaign will be increasing awareness of cancer among men, in particular prostate cancer.

Putting into perspective how many lives are taken by the disease, Mr Wallace said that while the murder count in the Bahamas has just exceeded 80 – the major-

ity of victims men who died from gunshot wounds – prostate cancer is a silent killer, probably ending the lives of 80 men every two to three months.

He said: “Prostate cancer is stealing many of our brothers at the stage of their lives when they should function as an asset to their families and thereby the country as a whole. By the time a man associates pain with cancer, it is usually too late”.

This year, Doctor’s Hospital will again be joining the front lines in the fight for cancer by providing special concessionary screening rates for early detection testing, said Mr Wallace.

Charles Sealy, CEO of Doctors Hospital, said it is a major problem that only 2,000 men are screened on an annual basis. He said the numbers are probably so low because of the stigma that surrounds prostate cancer.

“There is a whole macho image that they believe will get tarnished when they get tested, the beauty of the programme is that we are doing a PSA test which is a blood test,” said Mr Sealy.

Mr Wallace said: “This initiative is a key element in the process, permitting and encouraging those who would ordinarily

not be able to afford such a screening, to now participate in this special promotion at Doctors Hospital.”

According to Us Too, a prostate cancer education and support group, 91 per cent of prostate cancer cases are detected in stage one or two with an 100 per cent five year survival rate.

Early detection, monitoring and treatment is essential to preventing cancer from spreading to neighboring organs, said Us Too chapter leader Valentine Maura.

The event will take place on Sunday September 18.

All participants will meet at the Kelly’s Home Centre entrance at the Mall of Marathon. Registration begins at 9am.

Each participant is required to declare a rate of sponsorship per mile for the 50 mile course. The tour will leave the mall at 12.30pm.

The Friends of Distinction Riders Club and the Antique Auto Club of the Bahamas invited the entire community to join them to cruise the streets of New Providence and raise money for an important cause.

Cancer survivors are especially encouraged to take part.

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Funeral Service For

Anthony Prowler Christopher Gibson, 35



of Sandilands Village who died on Friday, May 27th, 2011 will be held on **Saturday, July 30th at 2:30pm at Church of God, Bernard Road.** Officiating will be Rev. Julia Patricia Bain assisted by other Ministers of the Gospel. Interment will follow in the Lakeview Memorial Gardens, John F. Kennedy Drive.

Precious Memories will forever linger in the heart of his **Mother:** Barbara Mary Bastian; **Stepfather:** Kennedy Bastian; **Father:** Joseph Gibson; **(1) Daughter:** Paris Gibson; **(1) Son:** Rocquim Gibson; **(1) Adopted-son:** Clemont Baptiste “Inch”; **(7) Sisters:** Lolitta, Lithozier Cash, J’Jitana Ingraham, Jameka Stubbs, Josephine Turner, Joanna Bain & Jessica Gibson; **(6) Brothers:** Lionel Cash, Kemico Sands, Obafemi, Omar Gibson, Delano & Brian Cash; **(3) Adopted-sisters:** Kara Miller, Giovanni, Gabrelle, Valencia Moss-Evans; **(2) Step-sisters:** Kendra, Kejuan Beneby; **Grandparents:** Elizebeth Gibson & Mr. & Mrs. Vensent Dorsett; **(3) Nieces:** Lakeisiza, Trinity Cash & Kalia Sands; **(1) Nephew:** Limar Mackey; **(20) Aunts:** Rosemary, Theresa Capron of Freeport, Grand Bahama, Margaret Robinson, Antinet Moss, Valencia Brown, Marilyn Robinson, Katrina Burrows, Bonita Wood, Dr. Judith Dorsett, Dr. Evet Carter, Dr. Sherry Storr, Attorney Donna Major, Attorney Abigail Farrington, Nikki, Jessica, Sharlene, Shantel, Bernadet Dorsett, Dynettea & Vernel Sands, Joyce Kemp, Dr. Jessie Dorsett; **(7) Uncles:** Patrick, Derek Gibson, Alexander, Attorney Timothy Dorsett, Vinny Dorsett, Ivan King & John Robinson; **(1) Sister-in-law:** Keishla Goodman-Cash; **(5) Uncle-in-laws:** Newton Brown, Jeffery Moss, Audley Storr, Andry Wood & Micheal Major, **(1) Grandaunt:** Francis Ramsey; **Granduncles:** Alpheaus & Philip Ramsey; **Numerous Cousins including:** Erica, Arginal, Deangelo, Astrick, Ameko, Lamm, Charlton, Hendrick, Julian, Philip, Rodger, Larreane, Shantel, Basil Jr., Diann, Godfery, Kevin, Ekela, Albraneak, Albria, Jamal, Steven, Gregory, Sheliqye, Nivorii, D’Llontez, Terral, Tasha, Vernet, Dereka, Abbey, Kenneth Jr., K.J., Jeqquera, Kenellis Gibson, Monique, Ricardo, Terrance Capron, Kendal, Justin, Dessire, Angel, Tekka, Shantel, Jessica, Junior, Quatino, Glendesha, Susan, Ashlie, Charleia, Jackie, Judy, Rionda, Leotha, Cario & Judy Hill of Fort Lauderdale, Karenique; **Special Friends:** Nicola Ewing, Maltese Lewis-Davis, Anthony “Tony”, Perese “Bobo”, Jamal “Pun”, Attorney Ian Cargil, Macklyn & Dion “Buju”; **a Host of other Relatives and Friends including:** The Major family, Shelia Rolle & family, Shena Rolle, the Ewing family, Latanya Dorsett, Darren Wesley, Tina, Tina, Anita, Syntesh, Tamineka, Bernard, Ievas, Kiki & Betty, Rev. Julia P. Bain and the offices and members of Church of God, Bernard Road and the entire Sandilands Village community.

Friends may pay their respects by signing the Book of Condolences at **Clarke’s Funeral Home #10 Tonique Williams-Darling Highway** on Friday, July 22nd from 1:00pm to 6:00pm and on Saturday from 1:30pm at the church until service.

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Outbreak of dengue fever 'appears to be slowing'

FROM page one

While these numbers appear high, Dr Minnis said that less than 100 persons were reported to have come into hospitals on Wednesday night, with less than 30 of them meeting the criteria for dengue – which suggests that the numbers are decreasing.

Dr Minnis said the country must work together to bring the outbreak to an end.

During a press conference at the Ministry of Health yesterday, Dr Minnis said many people are showing up to clinics because of fear of the disease, however the outbreak is manageable and can be brought to an end if the government and the public work together.

"This outbreak is manageable, and the resources are available in both the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Environment and other governmental agencies and departments – dengue fever is not endemic to the Bahamas," said Dr Minnis.

Dr Minnis said dengue fever is a viral illness that is transmitted by the Aedes Aegypti mosquito. The recent rains have produced favourable breeding conditions for them.

The Ministry of Health is currently monitoring persons who have dengue like symptoms such as a high fever and two or more symptoms, including headaches, bone and joint pains, and eye pains, said Dr Minnis.

Mild symptoms can be easily managed at home with supportive treatment, including bed rest, fluids to prevent dehydration and painkillers such as Tylenol or panadol for fever, headaches and joint and muscle pain, aspirin or motrin should not be used, said Mr Minnis.

Consultant to the Ministry of Health Dr Perry Gomez said there are four different types of the dengue virus, type one is currently circulating the island and cannot develop into type two to four which are more serious and include the life-threatening haemorrhagic dengue fever.

Encouraging persons to seek home remedies Dr Minnis said only when symptoms worsen should persons seek medical attention, using public clinics at Elizabeth Estates and Flamingo Gardens on Saturdays and Fleming Street and South Beach Health Care Centre on

Sundays between the hours of 10am to 6pm. Clinics will resume normal operating hours on Tuesday.

In order to protect against mosquito bites the public should wear long sleeves and long pants and avoid dark clothes during feeding time, mosquito repellent can also help prevent bites, said Dr Minnis.

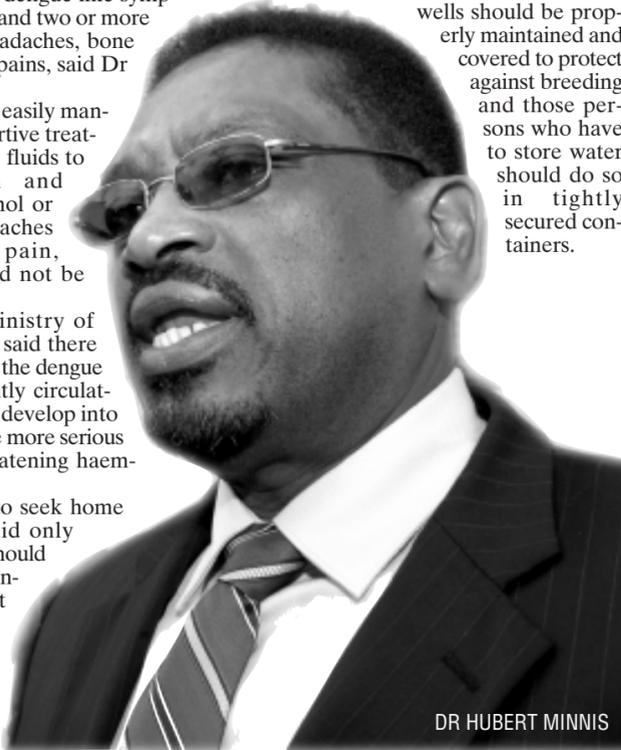
Dr Minnis said it is essential that the public take preventative measures to stop the breeding of mosquitoes and control the outbreak.

He said "importantly, households can assist in controlling this outbreak by eliminating breeding sites through removal of all standing water in discarded cans, bottles, tyres and by draining water from planters."

The Department of Health Services are continuing fogging throughout New Providence and the Family Islands, said Dr Minnis. He reminded the public to leave their windows open at the time of fogging for the insecticide to kill mosquitoes indoors.

"The Aedes Aegypti mosquito rests in dark, quiet places mostly indoors in restrooms, bedrooms, kitchens, hiding in closets and under furniture and are most active during the daytime hours," said Dr Minnis.

Dr Minnis added that wells should be properly maintained and covered to protect against breeding and those persons who have to store water should do so in tightly secured containers.



DR HUBERT MINNIS

MURDERED FATHER 'WAS A GOOD MAN'

FROM page one

taken to hospital in a private vehicle.

According to sources, Paul and another man are accused of the murder of 62-year-old Brendamae Johnson on September 10, 2010.

He is also charged with the attempted murder of Burton Sands and Lathario Morley on the same day, and is facing unlicensed firearm charges as well. He is currently out on bail.

According to police reports, Ferguson and Paul were sitting on a wall at the junction of Wellington Street and Baillou Hill Road, shortly before midnight, when a dark blue Honda pulled up alongside them and the occupants started firing in their direction, reportedly using high-

powered weapons.

Ferguson fled after being hit and was found dead near his home six hours later by police.

Paul is said to be in serious, but stable condition.

Despite the reports, Ferguson's sister claimed: "George Bertram Lamar Ferguson never hung outside. He wouldn't even stand in the doorway, he knew the neighbourhood was full of violence."

"I just want to clarify that my brother was not a murderer and he was not related to the Paul guy who was also shot."

"He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time and it cost him his life," she said.

The relative disputed police reports and said Ferguson was shot in his leg, not his back.

She said: "When we went

to the morgue he had a bullet hole in his back, not his leg. I guess he was trying to run when he heard the shots and couldn't get away in time."

"The family is torn up about this."

"He is leaving behind a 10-year-old daughter. I want police to do their jobs and find the person that killed him."

"My brother never got into any trouble. This was a tragic mistake."

Police have not yet disclosed if they know of a motive for this latest killing but sources within the force say they believe Paul was the intended target.

Anyone with information regarding this murder are asked to contact police at 911 or 919, Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS or contact your nearest police station.

MP'S 'LIFE WAS CHANGED' AFTER 'ASSASSINATION THREAT'

FROM page one

said Mr Wilchcombe.

The man who reportedly ordered the hit on Mr Wilchcombe was convicted drug dealer Teron Fowler, who was recently found dead inside a burned car, Mr Wilchcombe confirmed.

Fowler was a casino inspector at the time that Mr Wilchcombe served as Minister of Tourism with responsibility for the Gaming Board. Mr Wilchcombe said Fowler was found to have taken photographs of a cage in the casino, a serious breach, and was subsequently fired.

Fowler was also at the centre of the infamous Cabinet fight between former PLP Kennedy MP Kenyatta Gibson and then PLP Mount Moriah MP Keod Smith.

Fowler spent time behind bars in the United States on charges of importing and attempting to distribute cocaine into that country. He was arrested in November 2007 on a sealed indictment dating back from November 2006. At the time of his arrest, he was travelling on a fraudulent passport.

Mr Wilchcombe said he did not know that Fowler was out of prison until he heard the

news about his death. He said the news brought back memories of the 2007 assassination attempt and made him reflect.

Fowler reportedly hired Grand Bahama resident Sylvano "American Boy" Yasmin to carry out the assassination. He too is dead. Mr Wilchcombe said "American Boy" was known to be involved in criminal activities.

Mr Wilchcombe said he was alerted to the matter in 2007 by the Ministry of National Security, who indicated his life was in danger based on a call intercepted by police officials.

At the time, Mr Wilchcombe was travelling to Grand Bahama to speak at a Junkanoo related event. He said the police provided him with armed police guards.

He said this is the first time he has "really" spoken about the matter. He said some of his "strong supporters" went to speak to "American Boy" and reported that he did not plan to carry out the hit.

Neither of the men involved were charged with an offence related to the assassination attempt. Mr Wilchcombe said the authorities had the situation under control.

"I took it seriously, but I felt secure that however they were dealing with it, it was effective," said Mr Wilchcombe.



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1 Tbsp lemon zest
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1/2 cup yellow bell pepper, chopped
1 can (2.25 oz) sliced black olives, drained
1 lb peeled, cooked shrimp
lettuce leaves

Prepare rice according to package directions. Cool. In a large bowl, combine salad dressing with lemon zest, and lemon juice. Add rice and remaining ingredients, except lettuce leaves, and toss to coat. Arrange lettuce leaves on plates and top with shrimp salad.

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BORCO 'capacity doubling' target

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE Bahamas Oil Refining Company's (BORCO) is still targeting a "longer term opportunity" to double the Grand Bahama-based facility's existing 21.6 million barrel storage capacity, with its existing \$350-\$400 million project on target to complete in the 2012 second half.

In a presentation to conferences organised by Swiss bank UBS, New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) listed Buckeye Partners remained upbeat on its new \$1.7 billion acquisition, noting that BORCO's existing storage capacity was "fully contracted", with "current demand levels well in excess of available capacity".

Most clients of the Grand Bahama-based facility were transnational and national oil companies, who were locked into three-five year

Initial \$350-\$400m expansion on target, and still set to generate extra \$70-\$80m in annual operating income

contracts, Buckeye said. Some 80 per cent of BORCO's revenues came from storage contracts, with 11 per cent generated by ship berthing, and the remaining 9 per cent from ancillary services such as blending, bunkering and transshipment.

Amid a "high likelihood of contract renewals" by its existing customer base, Buckeye said some 10.2 million barrels of storage capacity at BORCO was taken by major international oil companies.

Another 4.3 million barrels was occupied by national oil companies, with 3.8 million barrels worth of capacity taken by energy trading

firms and 2.5 million by energy companies.

Billing BORCO as the "fourth largest petroleum products terminal" in the world, Buckeye said the first phase of its immediate-term expansion would add 3.5 million barrels of storage capacity.

This had been "initiated in the second quarter of 2011", with the "first incremental capacity expected to be online in the second half of 2012". A second phase, which will add another 4.4 million barrels of storage capacity, is expected to start later, taking the additions to 7.9 million barrels.

The project is expected to require

an \$350-\$400 million investment, and generate an extra \$70-\$80 million in annual operating income for BORCO. And, looking to the future there was "room to double existing storage capacity".

Buckeye also told the UBS conference that fuel oil accounted for 64 per cent of BORCO's stored products, with crude oil at 23 per cent.

"BORCO is strategically positioned to act as a hub in facilitating international logistics and trade for bulk build, break-bulk and blending operations," Buckeye said, noting that it exported product to China and Singapore, and received from as far away as India.

BORCO's 100 per cent owner also noted that that facility was 80 miles from south Florida, and 920 miles from New York, with deepwater access of up to 91 feet for tankers.



BRIAN NUTT

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE 'NOT A GOOD IDEA'

* BCCEC director warns it would result in increased lay-offs and grow costs for already stressed firms
* Urges PLP to go for 10%, rather than 40%, rise
* But agrees with union leader on \$150 per week not being enough to avoid poverty

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

INCREASING the minimum wage in a depressed economy "is not a good idea", a Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation (BCCEC) director told Tribune Business, fearing it would result in businesses laying-off certain categories of workers.

Brian Nutt, who chairs the BCCEC's employee and labour relations division, commenting on the Progressive Liberal Party's (PLP) plans to raise the private sector minimum wage from \$150 per week to \$210 it was rejected to government, urged the party to go for a much smaller 10 per cent increase if intended to follow through, rather than the proposed 40 per cent rise.

However, Mr Nutt, who headed the Bahamas Employers Confederation (BECon) prior to its merger with the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce, agreed that "it would be reasonable" to index-link increases in the minimum wage to the prevailing inflation rate, so that employee wages are not eroded by sustained cost of living increases.

Here, he found himself in agreement with trade union leader Obie Ferguson. And Mr Nutt and the Trades Union Congress (TUC) president also agreed that the current \$150 minimum wage per week was "not enough for a person to live on", the latter arguing it could not prevent a person - and their family - from existing in poverty.

In an interview with Tribune Business, Mr

SEE page 4B

TRADE DEFICIT UP 6% TO \$2.241 BN

Bahamian exports grow at slightly higher rate than imports

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE BAHAMAS' merchandise trade deficit increased year-over-year by 6.02 per cent to \$2.241 billion in 2010, data published by the Department of Statistics has revealed, despite exports growing at a slightly higher rate than imports.

The merchandise trade deficit, which measures the difference between the Bahamas' total exports of physical goods and imports, rose in dollar terms by \$127.3 million in 2010, growing from \$2.114 billion to \$2.241 billion.

While the Bahamas' total exports rose by \$36.5 million or 6.24 per cent, from \$584.9 million to \$621.4 million, total imports grew by 6.07 per cent - growing from \$2.699 billion in 2009 to \$2.863 billion last year.

"The balance of trade continued to result in a deficit," the Department of Statistics' report said. "The trade balance between 2008 and 2009 showed a decrease of 16.4 per cent, resulting in a net trade balance of -\$2.1 billion compared to \$2.5 billion in 2008. However, the balance between 2009 and 2010 showed an increase of 6 per cent."

None of this is surprising, given the high propensity of the Bahamas to import pretty much everything it consumes. The declining trade deficit between 2008-2009 showed the recession at work, as Bahamian consumers and businesses cut back on spending, hence a corresponding reduction in imports.

The 2010 year-over-year increases in both exports and imports could be signs of increasing demand for the former, and a recovery in consumer/business spending as the worst of the recession now seems behind the Bahamas.

However, exports appear far closer than imports to reaching their pre-recession peak over the past five years. Between 2006-2010, exports peaked at \$701.533 million in 2008 - some \$80 million more than last year.

However, imports, at \$2.863 billion, were well below the \$3.104 billion and \$3.23 billion levels achieved in 2007 and 2008. And the trade deficit is also between \$200-\$300 million below levels seen in 2006-2008.

The Department of Statistics report showed that

'mineral fuels' were the largest import category in 2010, accounting for \$687.1 million or 24 per cent of the total. Their contribution rose by 23.3 per cent over 2009.

'Food and live animal' imports, including fresh meats, fruits and vegetables and processed foods, grew by 2.1 per cent to account for \$426.6 million or 14.9 per cent of total imports.

However, 'machinery and transport equipment', and 'manufactured goods' imports, both fell by 6.6 per cent and 4.4 per cent year-over-year, respectively. The former accounted for \$493.9 million, or 17.2 per cent of total imports, and the latter \$377 million or 13.2 per cent.

SEE page 4B

E-GOVERNMENT 'MUST DELIVER'

* Meeting business expectations and timelines 'key' for \$10.2m platform
* Potential 'dynamic' economic impact, and 'tremendous' for SMEs

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE newly-launched \$10.2 million e-government platform "must deliver" on business community expectations and timelines, the Bahamas Chamber of

Commerce and Employers Confederation's (BCCEC) chairman said yesterday, adding that it "could have a tremendous impact" for small and medium-sized companies.

Acknowledging that the online delivery of government services was "the way

of the future" and the Bahamas should have reached this point long before, Winston Rolle told Tribune Business the move could still "have a very dynamic effect on the economy".

The expected efficiency

SEE page two

E-GOVERNMENT PLATFORM TO BOOST REVENUE

* \$10.2m investment to create 'more business friendly jurisdiction'
* Hope for 'significant' benefits and Ease of Doing Business ranking boost

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE GOVERNMENT'S newly-launched \$10.2 million e-services platform will transform the Bahamas into "a more business friendly jurisdiction", the minister of state for finance said yesterday, with increased Treasury revenues among the "significant" potential benefits.

SEE page 4B



BENEFITS: Zhivargo Laing

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Businesses, Gov't must recall 'Waste Not, Want Not' lesson

By **SIMON COOPER**
Res Socius

WHEN I was planning this week's article, I got to thinking about how some things never change. And how sharp the old folks were even in the days before we had computers. Take proverbs, for example, meaning those cultural treasures we inherited. The traditional saying: Waste Not, Want Not" dates from 1772, although I gather it was derived from the much older "Wilful Waste Makes Woeful Want" that was first written down back in 1576.

Although I had to look it up myself, every Bahamian schoolchild ought to know that 1576 dates from somewhere between when Christopher Columbus first landed in the Bahamas, and when the original Eleutheran Adventurers settled here. They should also be aware that 1772 was 11 years before Spain ceded the Bahamas to Britain.

I am sure that both the local inhabitants and the early settlers way back then would have been conscious of the need not to waste their scarce resources, although that concept seems forgotten now, especially when I look at the statistics behind Nassau's waste-disposal industry. "Waste Not, Want Not" also seems to have escaped the minds of many Bahamas business owners, too. In fact, I am horrified at what gets wasted here, particularly as this inflates our cost of living.



I wish I had a dollar for every sale lost on our islands as a result of poor inventory control. While I'm confident the original Eleutheran storeman would have remembered to pack the salt before leaving England, I sometimes wonder whether some managers even record sales lost through shoddy service. In fact, I honestly believe we should take another look at these two things, before we start attacking somebody for bringing a laptop back with them from America.

We should also not forget the positive impact that may follow from word-of-mouth marketing, although we should remember that the tongue can be a two-edged sword when passing on negative feedback, too. These days I am half-inclined to ask business-owners, who tell me that they are in Want, how

many opportunities were Wasted by their firms, simply because nobody cared to respond to what their markets said.

A classic case of Waste in business is the debilitating culture that having too many employees creates. They not only cost money that no business can afford. They also work each other's motivational levels down by gossiping among themselves when there is little else to do. Have I become an old Scrooge (I just turned 43 the other day), or are there others out there who also believe that one should turn every penny over twice?

While I am in this mode of thought, I'd also like to ask our government and city administrators the same question, too. Are you turning over every penny two times before you spend it, or could Wilful Waste Makes Woeful Want be happening on your parades, too?

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

E-GOVERNMENT 'MUST DELIVER'

FROM page one

improvements, he added, could help attract "the new entrepreneurs" to the Bahamas, stimulating growth in jobs, companies and economic activity by removing previous frustrations in obtaining necessary permits.

Among the four Internet-based government services launched yesterday were online real property tax payments, customer service and vendor inquiries.

The second is designed to enhance public service responsiveness to private sector and citizen inquiries, and the latter is for businesses and entrepreneurs who provide goods and services to the Government.

System

Detailing how that would work at the official launch, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said: "Each approved vendor will be given a Vendor ID. Using that ID, the vendor can enter a system in the Treasury which will inform the vendor of payments disbursed (cheques cut) to his/her business, and whether it is in the mail, awaiting collection at the Treasury, etc.

"This will do away with the constant need for vendors to check and follow up on payments with individual Ministries and Departments."

Reacting to the Government's plans, Mr Rolle said the private sector now needed to see how the e-government platform worked in practice. "The key thing is the delivery of services being offered through the system," he told Tribune Business.

"Now we have to see how he initial service offering ties in with the pet peeves the business owner has - the issues people have to deal with on a daily basis."

Which services were available, and efficiency in delivering them were key. "If all you're doing is filling in a form, the same person is sitting behind the screen to deal with, and you're going through all the processes you do now, it may not be that effective," the BCCEC chairman added.

Mr Rolle said that in its presentation yesterday, the Government had "tried to set a level of expectation in terms of transaction time", namely how long it would take to process each payment or application once completed and received prop-

erly.

Meeting these targets will be key in terms of satisfying private sector expectations. "They set some expectations in terms of delivery timeframe," reiterated Mr Rolle.

"The key thing is not only how they deliver it, but the expectations of the business community in terms of turnaround."

He suggested that the Government, in conjunction with the BCCEC and private sector, should conduct an assessment of the e-government platform in two months' time to determine user experiences, and see whether expectations and needs were being met.

A similar exercise could also be undertaken six-nine months from now, to determine "what adjustments need to be made".

Praising the Government for dedicating enough resources to the platform to transform a 12-18 month project into one that took just six months, Mr Rolle added: "Now we've got to ensure we deliver on the expectations such a platform and maintain it, which is always a problem here."

Virtues

Still, extolling the virtues of e-government, Mr Rolle said it might enable owners of small and medium-sized businesses, who currently might be taken away from their companies for half a day to deal with Business Licence applications and payments, to now complete the process online in 10-15 minutes.

"The impact could be tremendous" for small and medium-sized businesses, Mr Rolle told Tribune Business. "It's the way of the future."

"We really should have been further ahead, but as they say, nothing comes before its time."

"The new entrepreneurs of the world conduct business in a different way from the old ways of doing things, so if we are to foster an environment in which they start and grow businesses successfully, we in turn need to foster the mechanisms that allow them to do so."

"If they go through the old way that has frustration and delay, it frustrates businesses from getting started, whereas if you can make it as easy as possible to start and grow their business, it can have a very dynamic effect on the economy."

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BUSINESS

SCRAP METAL DEALERS: PLEASE RECONSIDER BAN

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net
and NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Business Reporter



PHENTON NEYMOUR, minister of state for the environment

FREEPORT – The Government yesterday said it was looking to dialogue with scrap metal dealers on ways to properly regulate the industry, as operators on Grand Bahama urged it to allow them to in a business that provides employment for hundreds of Bahamians.

Acknowledging that the move to permanently ban copper exports was in response to increasing theft at major state-owned Corporations and the private sector, Phenton Neymour, minister of state for the environment, said: "We have been impacted tremendously by vandals who have decided to break the law in terms of scavenging for scrap metal.

"Just this week we had an incident at Water and Sewerage, where someone stole a stop valve, resulting in a significant leak at the Prospect Ridge station."

Mr Neymour said the Government was looking at additional processes to regulate the scrap metal industry. "We are open to meeting with persons in the industry. We encourage them to assist the Government in identifying ways to regulate the industry moving forward," he added.

Mr Neymour said he did not know to what extent Bahamian scrap metal operators and dealers were knowingly involved in the trade of stolen copper, but said that determining the origin of material being resold was an area the Government was looking to "tighten up".

But with containers ready for shipment still sitting at Freeport Container Port, Grand Bahama-based scrap metal dealers are appealing to government officials to lift the 90-day temporary ban on other forms of scrap metal, and the permanent ban on copper, being exported from the Bahamas.

About 50 scrap metal dealers, along with their employees, gathered at Burger King on the Mall yesterday to express their concern.

Troy Garvey, a community activist, said there were about five legitimate recycling com-

panies operating on Grand Bahama, which provide employment for many people.

"There are questions that we would like to ask the Government: 'Who is going to pay these employees while the 90 days are in effect? Who is going to pay for those containers to be off loaded at the port?' he asked.

Mr Garvey said none of the recycling operators were notified by the Government before its decision was taken.

"It is very disrespectful for business people to be treated this way because of a handful of bad people," he added.

Ted Russell, of Five Star Recycling, said they have containers sitting on the dock waiting to be shipped.

"We are just asking government to be lenient towards us and lift the ban. I have a container that is already cleared to be exported, but since they put the ban on yesterday they are not able to export it," he said.

Scrap metal dealers have been advised by shipping companies that they must offload their containers. They say this will cost them more money.

Mr Russell, who employs 15 full-time workers, said the 90-day ban will significantly affect his business and his workers.

"We are trying to run legitimate businesses. We do not condone scrap metal or copper thefts, and we work hand in hand with law enforcement," he added.

There has been an ongoing problem of copper theft on

Grand Bahama, where a number of major companies are being targeted by thieves.

Last week, Grand Bahama Power Company's substation on West Atlantic Drive was robbed of some 200 feet of ground cooper wire, resulting in \$35,000 worth of repairs.

Mr Russell is urging individuals who are stealing to stop. "We want to appeal to those persons to discontinue, and at the same time we are asking government to be understanding and to revisit their decision and allow us to continue with the business we are doing."

Travis Hall, operator of Presto Recycling, employs about 30 workers. "We are our doing our part, and we are contributing to the Grand Bahama economy and paying national insurance for our workers," he said.

"Since the hurricanes scrap metal has become a very intricate part of Grand Bahamian lives. But, they closed the door in our face and it was disrespectful."

Mr Hall said they have assisted the police in prosecuting individuals. He added that they have cameras at their businesses, and they require people to bring a valid ID, which is filed along with documentation of the transaction for goods received.

"This decision will put us out of business," he said.

Dennis Deleveaux, of GB International Trading Company in Eight Mile Rock, said to offload a container would cost them twice as much profit as they make on a container.

"So actually they are taking money out of our mouths. Scrap metal helps to pay mortgages, water and power bills and school fees. So this decision will cause a domino effect in the community," he said.

Mr Deleveaux said it was unfair to punish an entire industry because of a few bad people. "We can't make a whole industry suffer because of a few bad apples," he added.

"The Government won't shut down the police department because they have bad police officers, and they are not going to stop politics because of bad politicians, so why are we being singled out with no warning or grace period?"

Mr Deleveaux noted that 'Cash for Gold' businesses, and illegal number houses, were still operating.

He added that the recycling companies are cleaning up the Bahamas at no cost to the Government. "They are putting a noose around necks; we are just asking them to give us a

chance," Mr Deleveaux said.

Jah Shilol, of Inity is Strength Movement, said scrap metal gave hope to a lot of unemployed people in Grand Bahama.

"This ban will take money out of the hands of the poor and will cause crime to increase," he said.

Alfred Sweeting, also known as 'Purple', said the money he made from scrap metal paid his rent and bills.

"These time dread... and a lot of people are trying to make a living. The Government should reconsider the decision because but things are slow in Freeport," he said.

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

2010/CLE/gen/00743
JUN 08 2011
NASSAU, BAHAMAS

B E T W E E N

FIDELITY BANK (BAHAMAS) LIMITED
Plaintiff

AND

ROMEO LOUIS RAMSEY
Defendant

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, Queen of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and of her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.

TO: Mr. Romeo Louis Ramsey
Carew Street
Centreville
P.O. Box 55 19510
Nassau, Bahamas

WE COMMAND YOU that within fourteen days after the service of this Writ on you inclusive of the day of such service, you do cause an appearance to be entered for you in the action at the suit of:

FIDELITY BANK (BAHAMAS) LIMITED
c/o Graham, Thompson & Co.,
Sassoon House
Shirley Street & Victoria Avenue
New Providence, Bahamas.

And take notice that in default of your so doing the Plaintiff may proceed therein, and judgment may be given in your absence.

WITNESS, the Honourable Sir Michael L. Barnett, Our Chief Justice of our Commonwealth of The Bahamas, the 8th day of June in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Ten.

REGISTRAR

N.B. - This Writ is to be served within twelve calendar months from the date hereof, or, if renewed within six calendar months, from the date of the last renewal, including the day of such date, and not afterwards.

The Defendant may appear hereto by entering an Appearance either personally or by Attorney at the Registry of the Supreme Court in the City of Nassau, in the Island of New Providence, one of the Islands in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

If the Defendant enters an Appearance he must also deliver a Defence to the Attorneys for the Plaintiff within fourteen days of the time limited for Appearance, unless such time is extended by the Court or a Judge, otherwise judgment may be entered against him without notice, unless he has in the meantime been served with a summons for judgment.

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

- The Plaintiff is a Bank carrying on the business of banking at diverse branches in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and in particular at its Wulff Road Branch situate in the Island of New Providence.
- The Defendant is and was at all materials times a customer of the Plaintiff at the said branch.
- The Defendant is indebted to the Plaintiff as at 31st May, 2010 in the total sum of \$295,932.46 which represents the principal sum of \$288,040.28, interest on the said principal in the sum of \$7,752.18, and late fees in the sum of \$140.00 being the balance of monies due by the Defendant to the Plaintiff pursuant to a loan granted by the Plaintiff to the Defendant on 12th December, 2007.

PARTICULARS PURSUANT TO ORDER 73, RULE 2 OF THE RULES OF THE SUPREME COURT, 1978.

- The loan was made on 12th December, 2007.
- The sum of \$300,000.00 was lent by the Plaintiff to the Defendant.
- The rate of interest charged was 8.5% per annum.
- The contract for repayment was made on 23rd November, 2007.
- The Defendant has repaid the sum of \$75,607.32 of which \$11,959.72 was applied to the principal, \$63,167.60 was applied to the interest, and \$480.00 was applied to late fees.
- The amount of principal due but unpaid is \$288,040.28.
- The date of default was 17th December, 2009.
- The amount of interest due as at 31st May, 2010 is \$7,752.18.

- By letter dated 14th May, 2010 the Plaintiff demanded payment from the Defendant payment of all principal and interest outstanding under the Loan, but the Defendant has failed or refused to pay the total sums demanded. The last payment received by the Plaintiff from the Defendant was the 1st March, 2010.
- By reason thereof there is due and owing to the Plaintiff by the Defendant in the total sum of \$295,932.46 which represents the principal sum of \$288,040.28, interest on the said principal in the sum of \$7,752.18, and late fees in the sum of \$140.00.
- Further the plaintiff claims interest at the aforesaid rate until judgment or payment.

AND THE PLAINTIFF CLAIMS:

- Under the loan the principal sum of \$288,040.28 and late fees in the sum of \$140.00;
- Interest on the principal due under loan to 31st May, 2010 in the sum of \$7,752.18;
- Interest on the principal due under the Loan from 31st May, 2010 until judgment or payment in full.
- Interest pursuant to the Civil Procedure (Awards of Interest) Act 1992.
- Such further or other relief as the Court deems just;
- Costs.

Dated the 7th day of June, A.D. 2010

Graham, Thompson & Co.
GRAHAM, THOMPSON & CO.
Chambers,
Sassoon House
Shirley Street & Victoria Avenue
Nassau, Bahamas
Attorneys for the Plaintiff

And the sum of \$ (or such sum as may be allowed on taxation) for costs, and also in case the Plaintiff obtains an order for substituted service the further sum of \$

BTC's \$1m EZTop marketing spend

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Business Reporter

The Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) yesterday said it plans to spend \$1 million in marketing support over the next 12 months to support distribution of its prepaid EZTop-Up cell phone minutes, describing the reduction in wholesaler commission rates as "necessary" to bring them in line with industry norms.

Marlon Johnson, BTC's vice-president of sales marketing, said it was intended to put the company's main revenue source on a proper cost footing and help it remain competitive in the long-run.

While not going into the specifics of the commission rate decrease, Mr Johnson said it was still higher than most countries not only in the Caribbean but in the world.

"It is a necessary adjustment because we do have to gain the kind of efficiencies to help us to do a lot of the things that we intend to do," he added. "Our commission rates structure is still higher than most other jurisdictions in the region and in the world, so we still end up paying out more to the wholesaler and retailer than is the regional norm.

"Our goal is to grow the pie. We have been meeting with the wholesalers for two months. "Naturally when you move someone's commission, people aren't going to be happy. What we have done is advise them that we are bringing the company in line with regional standards, and that we are doing something that will ultimately help support them and create more opportunities for

them down the road."

Mr Johnson said the new arrangement with the retailers will set out some "key performance indicators", although he did to go into details.

"This is one part of a much broader aim get on proper footing to generate much better cost efficiencies," Mr Johnson said.

"If the company is to be competitive in the face of imminent competition on land-line and mobile services, we have to get the efficiencies together. What this will enable us to do is it helps us to underwrite the promotions that we intend to do; underwrite the elimination of the long distance fees for customers inter-island; the costs of our rate reductions between now and the end of the year and adjusting the packages.

"We have to get BTC on a proper cost footing to enable us to fulfill the promise of doing something with the rates."

BTC this week launched its EZTopUp System, a fundamental restructuring of its distribution channels for its pre-paid cellular business, its largest revenue stream. Mr Johnson was unable to say how much the launch of this technology has cost the company.

BTC, under the direction of new 51 per cent majority owner Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC), is attempting to regularise and exert greater control over the business, combining this with a focus on customer service to drive Bahamians to the store-based EZTop-Up technology - and away from street vendors.

It is projecting that within two years that 80 per cent of pre-paid cellular minutes will come from electronic sales.

CITY MARKETS WORKERS 'COPING' ON 24 HOURS

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Business Reporter

THE trade union head representing nearly 400 City Markets employees said yesterday that workers had been "coping" with the chain's 24-hour service offering, although shift changes within that work schedule have proven to be "difficult".

Elgin Douglas, president of the Bahamas Commercial Stores, Supermarket and Warehouse Union, told Tribune Business: "The employees weren't taking it too good,

but what we did was we put something in place - a 10pm to 6am shift.

"That was going fairly well until they changed it mid-stream and put in a 9pm to 6am shift, four nights a week. It used to be one night, now it's four nights. That's the difficulty we had. We coped with it because we came to realise that that is what they want, but the changes to the four nights out of the week is the problem with us."

Mr Douglas added: "These people have families, and while I understand that they're trying to save jobs, it's

very tough. If I have a baby-sitter and I have to pay a baby-sitter \$200 dollars a week, and that's all I make, then it doesn't make any sense for me to be going to work.

"We had an agreement for 10 am to 6pm one night out of the week, all the rest was days.

"But now in Cable Beach they have put on four nights. We hadn't agreed to that because that's too many nights in the week for people to leave their family when we agreed to something and they didn't come back to us."

BUSINESS

TRADE DEFICIT UP 6% TO \$2.241BN

FROM page one

"The commodities which contributed most to total imports in 2009 were again among the top commodities imported in 2010," the Department of Statistics said. "They were 'other diesel' valued at \$333 million, 'motor gasoline' at \$172.5 million, 'jet fuel' at \$64.5 million, and 'other fuels' at \$58.9 million. The combined value of these commodities represented 22 per cent of total imports."

On the export front, domestic Bahamian exports accounted for \$304.8 million or 49 per cent of the \$621.4 million.

The main contributor to the former was 'chemicals' at \$186 million, accounting for 61 per cent of total domestic exports.

'Food and live animals' accounted for \$75.7 million or 25 per cent of total Bahamian exports.

"While the category of 'chemicals' showed a marked decrease (19.1 per cent) below 2009's total, the category of 'food and live animals' showed an increase of 15.3 per cent," the Department of Statistics.

Commodities

"Included in the 'food and live animals' category were crawfish, rum and salt. Three commodities alone - 'expandable polystyrene' valued at \$102.8 million; other compounds containing a pyrimidine ring at \$81.4 million, and 'spiny lobster frozen' at \$67.8 million accounted for some 82.7 per cent of total domestic exports."

When it came to the Bahamas' major trading partners in 2010, the US still accounted for the lion's share of imports at \$2.4 billion, some 83.8 per cent. The US also received some 75.6 per cent of total exports.

There was also "significant" trading volumes between the Bahamas and Puerto Rico and Trinidad & Tobago, standing at \$201.5 million and \$66 million respectively.

However, imports from Venezuela fell by 74.7 per cent, from \$48.2 million in 2009 to \$12.2 million in 2010, due to a reduction in the price of 'fuel oil'.

"In terms of exports, the US (\$470 million), United Kingdom at \$30.7 million and France (\$24 million) were among the top partner countries, representing 75.4 per cent, 4.9 per cent and 3.8 per cent of total exports, respectively," the Department of Statistics said.

E-GOVERNMENT PLATFORM TO BOOST REVENUE

FROM page one

Zhivargo Laing told Tribune Business that the ease of paying due taxes and fees online might encourage some businesses and entrepreneurs, who had previously balked at putting payments in the mail or going to the relevant agencies, to now do so.

"I think the benefits are significant, actually," Mr Laing said of the e-government platform, which launched yesterday, "because you're talking of benefits to be had for the general public from the ease of doing some transactions over the computer, as opposed to having to go to some counter, go to some office and get in your car and drive through traffic somewhere to do so. They can do the same from their computer wherever they are in the country or the world."

Asked whether the more efficient, convenient way to pay Business Licences and real property taxes, plus apply for work permits and renewals, could boost government revenues by encouraging businesses/entrepreneurs to pay, Mr Laing replied: "I believe so in the end."

"There's benefits to the Treasury, and it will ultimately improve revenue and economic activity, and make us a more business friendly jurisdiction." Through reducing, or eliminating, the need to stand in line to pay taxes or complete permit applications, business efficiency and productivity should be enhanced.

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham yesterday said the Government wanted to "change" the Bahamas' United Nations ranking of 65th out of 180-nations when it came to e-government, while Mr Laing expressed hope that the platform's launch would result in a "significant improvement" in this nation's Ease of Doing Business rankings.

Perception is everything, and he

pointed to the impact that Singapore's high 'Ease of Doing Business' ranking was having on its economy. The island nation, which supplied the consultants that assisted with the Government's online service project, had attracted hundreds of companies to establish themselves there, boosting employment and economic growth.

"Over time, the more we encourage this e-government platform, the more there will be benefits all around," Mr Laing said. The Bahamas has slipped gradually in the Ease of Doing Business listings over the past few years, and the minister expressed hope that the nation would have "a much better ranking".

He hoped to see an improvement in the medium term, with a more marked rise long-term.

The first four e-government services launched yesterday were driver's licence renewals, real property tax payments, civil service-wide customer service, and vendor inquiries.

Mr Laing said that "in a couple of weeks" the platform would be expanded to feature the online application for, and payments, of Business Licences. The Road Traffic Act will be amended in October to provide for traffic penalties to be paid over the Internet, thus relieving the pressure on the court system.

And, among the other services to be added over the coming years, are new and renewal work permit applications; Customs duty payments; passport application payments; post office box rental payments; and police character certificate payments.

Mr Laing yesterday said he had already received queries over whether annual International Business Company (IBC) payments could be made online, and added: "Obviously, that's where we intend to go, so whatever transaction one could imagine being done over the computer, we want to

deliver over the computer."

While "hundreds" of government services could be provided online, Mr Laing pointed out that the Ingraham administration had to prioritise, as each one required "back end" support to be put in place.

Urging the public and private sector to provide feedback on what services they wanted to be provided online next, Mr Laing said: "It's a Budget issue, a time issue and a logistical issue."

"It will take us time, and as the people from Singapore have pointed out, it took them 30 years to get where they are today. I don't imagine it will take us that sort of time, but it will take us time to bring all these services online."

The Prime Minister said yesterday: "We are deepening and broadening the Government's efforts to create more of a service culture, aided by cutting-edge technology and best practices in the public service. And we are improving the means by which services will be delivered to businesses and the general public."

"The Bahamas has spent many years on the journey that led us to this point in our history. The e-government vision was conceptualised more than a decade ago when we were in office, but it is only now that we have finally arrived at a point where we can present a 'single window' and a new face to government services online."

And he added: "Our vision for the Bahamas is that investing in the use of technology to deliver public services (education, health, financial, etc.) will catapult our nation forward in the delivery of services to the Bahamian public."

"Our vision is that the Government's substantial progress in implementation of e-Government will serve as a catalyst to drive a new wave of the use of technology in all facets of the Bahamian economy."

Legal Notice

NOTICE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT
(No. 45 of 2000)

HERALD INTERNATIONAL LTD.
In Voluntary liquidation

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 137 (4) of the International Business Companies Act (No. 45 of 2000), **HERALD INTERNATIONAL LTD.** is in Dissolution."

The date of commencement of dissolution is the 26th day of July 2011

BEHL, LAD & AL SAYEGH
Chartered Accountants
P.O. Box 25709, Dubai
United Arab Emirates
Liquidator

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE 'NOT A GOOD IDEA'

FROM page one

Nutt said he could instantly think of two worker categories where job security might instantly be impacted by a minimum wage increase.

These included a child carer, employed by a husband and wife who both worked. Any increase, he suggested, might make it uneconomic for the couple to continue employing the child carer.

And then there was the live-in maid, as the labour legislation passed in 2001 meant that employees could no longer be paid in-kind, such as room and board. Live-in maids now have to be paid a wage, and a minimum wage rise could simply make it unfeasible for a homeowner to continue employing them.

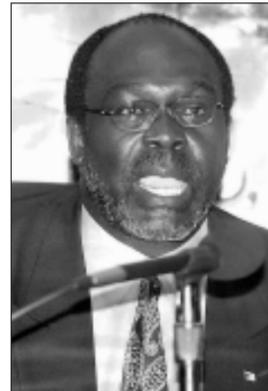
"It's a situation where, from a social point of view, it may sound great to increase the minimum wage, but there are certain categories of worker where employment will reduce," Mr Nutt told Tribune Business.

"Going from \$150 to \$210 a week, that's a hefty jump. That's not a 10 per cent increase; it's a 40 per cent increase. That becomes something that, in my mind, my view is quite substantial."

The PLP unveiled plans to increase the minimum wage, should it win the Government, at its Eastern Conclave last weekend. When asked by Tribune Business whether such an increase would further add to the burdens of already-struggling businesses, and might result in increased unemployment, Mr Nutt replied: "That is correct."

And, when asked if it was the wrong time to be contemplating such action, given that it would expand company cost bases in a recession, he added: "That is very true. Exactly. If there was to be an increase at this time, which I think is not a good idea, the increase should be much lower. It should be based on a 10 per cent increase, not a 40 per cent increase."

The PLP plan is to bring the private sector minimum wage in line with that for public servants, and Mr Nutt conceded that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had urged the Government to do that when the minimum wage was first leg-



OBIE FERGUSON

islated, then implemented, in 2001-2002.

"That should not have been; the minimum wage should have been established for all," he added. "But because taxpayer money is involved, they are paying more to civil servants than persons achieving the minimum wage in the private sector, and that should never have happened."

As for Mr Ferguson, he said Bahamian trade unions would prefer the minimum wage to be 'doubled' to \$300, but would settle for the increase planned by the PLP.

"Anything better than \$150 we would support," he said. "Ideally, we would prefer it was \$300, as opposed to \$210. Certainly, \$210 is better than \$150. The \$150, in our view, is inadequate and is not a safety net as it relates to poverty."

"The average person, if you have a household of three, and only one person is working at the minimum wage, it is very difficult for them to live a decent life. \$150 is inadequate; we've always said that publicly."

Mr Nutt agreed, telling Tribune Business: "In my view, it [\$150] is not enough for a person to live on, but is something that means several people have to come together to rent an apartment and house, in order to have things like that."

Meanwhile, Mr Ferguson also urged that the minimum wage be indexed to inflation, adding: "The cost of living has gone up. The dollar does not have the same value as it had. Everything, the cost of electricity, the cost of the phone, has gone up."

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF

INNOVATIVE BUSINESS LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that liquidation of the above company commenced on the 7th day of June 2011. **Triangle Administration Limited** of Bahamas Financial Centre, Shirley & Charlotte Streets, Nassau, The Bahamas has been appointed Liquidator of the Company.

Triangle Administration Limited
Liquidator

NOTICE

ALOS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

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

(b) The dissolution of the said company commenced on the 27th July, 2011 when the Articles of Dissolution were submitted to and registered by the Registrar General.

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

Dated this 29th day of July, A. D. 2011

Blue Seas Administration Ltd.
Liquidator

NOTICE

IN THE ESTATE OF VALDERINE ROMER GIBSON late of Boil Fish Drive, in 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 claims against the above-named Estate are required, on or before the 28th day of August, A.D. 2011 to send their names and addresses, and particulars of their debts or claims, to the undersigned, and if so required by notice in writing from the undersigned, to come in and prove such debts or claims, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution AND all persons indebted to the said Estate are asked to pay their respective debts to the undersigned at once.

AND NOTICE is hereby also given that at the expiration of the mentioned above, the assets of the late VALDERINE ROMER GIBSON will be distributed among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims of which the Administrator shall then 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 date hereinbefore mentioned.

Dated this 29th day of July, A.D., 2011.

c/o PYFROM & CO
Attorneys for the Administrator,
No.58 Shirley Street,
P.O. Box N 8958,
Nassau, N.P., Bahamas.

BUSINESS

FIAT ANNOUNCES FOUR-CONTINENT CORPORATE STRUCTURE



2012 FIAT 500 CABRIO which won the Best Small Convertible of the Year Award from SAMA Convertible Drive.

PRNewsFoto/Chrysler Group LLC, AJ Mueller

MILAN
Associated Press

FIAT AND CHRYSLER CEO Sergio Marchionne on Thursday announced a new 22-person management team and four-continent corporate structure to drive deeper integration between the two automakers.

It is the most significant management shuffle since Italian automaker Fiat SpA took over Detroit's No. 3 automaker Chrysler LLC 25 months ago, and comes just a week after Fiat became the majority shareholder in Chrysler when it completed the purchase of the U.S. and Canadian government shares. The moves take effect Sept. 1.

"We have now reached the right movement to step on the accelerator of the Fiat-Chrysler integration," Marchionne said in a statement.

The new company will be run by a 22-person executive council similar to the one that ran Fiat before it spun off its truck, construction and farm equipment businesses earlier this year. And the car manufacturing

business will be divided into four regional centers, representing distinct markets: North America, Europe, Asia and Latin America.

Marchionne said the appointments — which comprise 13 managers from Fiat businesses and nine from Chrysler — "reflect the multicultural geographically diverse nature of our business."

Marchionne, who will remain the CEO of Fiat and Chrysler, will be chief operational officer for North America, including Chrysler.

Gianni Coda will be chief operating officer in Europe, while Michael Manley will hold that title in Asia and Cledorvino Belini in Latin America.

Fiat's chief technology officer Harald Wester and head of design Lorenzo Ramaciotti will each hold those jobs in the new organization.

Brand chiefs include Olivier Francois, who also was named chief creative officer, for Fiat; Wester for Alfa Romeo, Abarth and Maserati; Saad Chehab for Chrysler; Manley for Jeep and Reid Bigland for Dodge.

Alfredo Altavilla, who played a key role in the Chrysler deal, will be in charge of business development.

Richard Palmer, chief financial officer at Chrysler, will have that post in the new organization.

Under the simplified structure, Marchionne reduced by more than half the number of direct reports. In all, there are 25 spots on the new group executive council, with three managers holding two positions.

Fiat's acquisition of a majority stake gave it a free hand to restructure management and drive deeper integration of the company. Fiat has a 53.5 percent stake in Chrysler, and expects to raise that by another 5 percent by the end of the year.

Fiat earlier this week raised its 2011 forecasts Tuesday after reporting a huge jump in second-quarter profits thanks to the takeover and integration of Chrysler.

Chrysler retreated to a loss for the second quarter, but only because the expense of shedding its government debt erased what would have been a modest profit.

FOUR COMPANIES FINED \$1M FOR SHIP POLLUTION

NEW ORLEANS
Associated Press

FOUR COMPANIES that own and operate a fleet of vessels that regularly call on New Orleans have been fined \$1 million and banned from conducting business in the United States for up to five years.

In April, Stanships Inc. of the Marshall Islands, Stanships Inc. of New York, Standard Shipping Inc. and Calmore Maritime Ltd. pleaded guilty in April to 32 felony pollution counts, along with obstruction of justice.

A whistleblower aboard the M/V Americana — part of the conglomerate's fleet — told the Coast Guard last November that the ship was dumping sludge and oily waste. The ship's owners were accused of falsifying a record book to hide the discharges.

U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier ordered \$250,000 of the fine to go to projects that benefit fish resources.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2000
IN THE SUPREME COURT No. 751
Equity Side

IN THE MATTER OF
ORACLE FUND LIMITED (In Liquidation)

AND

IN THE MATTER OF
THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPANIES ACT, 1989

AND

IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT, 1992

NOTICE OF INTENDED FINAL DISTRIBUTION

Name of Company:	ORACLE FUND LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)
Address of Registered Office:	One Montague Place Nassau, Bahamas
Nature of Business:	Mutual Fund
Court:	Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Equity Side
Number of Matter:	751 of 2000
Last Day for Receiving Proofs or Claims:	26 th August, 2011
Name of Liquidators:	Paul Clarke and Maria F��r��re
Address:	One Montague Place, Nassau, Bahamas

Dated this 29th day of July, A.D., 2011

Paul Clarke and Maria F  r  re
Joint Official Liquidators

COPPER RISES AS CHILEAN MINE STRIKE CONTINUES

NEW YORK
Associated Press

Copper prices rose Thursday as a labor strike continued for a sixth day at the world's largest copper mine.

Copper for September delivery rose 2.3 cents Thursday to settle at \$4.4695 a pound.

The strike at La Escondida mine in northern Chile comes as global copper stockpiles are already in short supply.

Escondida is majority-owned by Australia's BHP Billiton Co., and produces about 7 percent of the world's copper. The strike has reduced production by 18,000 tons at a cost of \$180 million. Escondida has said it may not be able to honor its copper contracts for reasons beyond its control.

"The market has very little slack to deal with a prolonged strike," Barclays Capital analysts wrote in a note to clients.

Other commodities were mixed as investors remained focused on the tense debate in Congress over how to avoid a U.S. debt default next week. The Treasury Department says the government won't have enough money to cover

all its bills after Tuesday unless an agreement is in place to raise the country's borrowing limit.

Lind-Waldock senior market strategist Phillip Streible believes investors are growing more confident that a deal will be reached. "Investors must believe that a plan will be submitted and approved very soon," he said.

Gold for August delivery fell \$1.70 to settle at \$1,613.40 an ounce, September silver dropped 77.4 cents to \$39.794 an ounce, October platinum fell \$15.60 to \$1,792.40 an ounce and September palladium dropped \$5.10 to \$828.10 an ounce.

In other trading, agricultural and energy contracts were

mixed. September wheat fell 11.5 cents to settle at \$6.9325 a bushel, December corn fell 5.25 cents to \$6.8625 a bushel and November soybeans lost 9 cents to \$13.715 a bushel.

Oil prices settled up slightly as traders waited to learn more about the possible impact of a tropical storm in the Gulf of Mexico.

Tropical storm Don formed near Mexico's Yucatan peninsula Wednesday and is expected to make landfall near Corpus Christi, Texas, on Friday night or Saturday morning.

Benchmark crude for September delivery rose 4 cents to settle at \$97.44 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **Garry Guerrier of Faith Ave. South, Carmichael Road., P.O.Box CR-54802, Nassau, Bahamas** is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the **29th day of JULY, 2011** to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.



To our valued clients

Please be advised that our office will be closed on Friday July 29, 2011 and will reopen for business on Tuesday August 2, 2011.

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CLIFTON HERITAGE NATIONAL PARK

PRESENTS

Gospel in da Park

CONCERT Hosted by: *Lady Quest*

SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2011 @ 4PM-7PM

CLIFTON HERITAGE PARK GROUNDS . SOUTHWEST ROAD . NASSAU, BAHAMAS

Featuring:

THE SINGING BISHOP . JAHQUEST . MR. LYNX
CHRISTIAN MASSIVE . DJ COUNSELLOR . WD-40
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DOOR PRIZES

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE @ 362-5121 . 362.4368

BUSINESS

NET LOSS OF 25.5 BILLION YEN POSTED

NINTENDO POSTS LOSS, CUTS FORECAST AND PRICE OF 3DS

TOKYO Associated Press

NINTENDO CO. stayed deep in the red in the latest quarter, forcing the Japanese video game giant to cut its full-year forecasts and slash prices on its new 3DS handheld device.

Nintendo on Thursday posted a net loss of 25.5 billion yen (\$324 million) in the April-June period, worse than the 25.2 billion yen loss a year

earlier. For the fiscal year through March 2012, Nintendo expects net profit of 20 billion yen, down 82 percent from its previous outlook, on sales of 900 billion yen.

The Kyoto-based company blamed its lackluster sales on a dearth of hit titles for the Wii and 3DS, as well as a strong yen.

To fuel momentum, Nintendo decided it needed to dramatically drop prices just five months after it launched

the 3-D version of its DS handheld device to high hopes. The move underscores how quickly the company's fortunes have turned since the Wii revolutionized the industry and flew off store shelves.

The 3DS will cost 15,000 yen in Japan starting Aug. 11, down from 25,000 yen. In the U.S., the price drops to \$169.99 from \$249.99 on Aug. 12. Nintendo does not set suggested retail prices for Europe but said it would lower whole-



IN THIS FILE PHOTO, a customer plays a game on Nintendo's newest computer game console, Nintendo 3DS, after buying it at retail store Bic Camera in central Tokyo. Nintendo Co. stayed deep in the red in the latest quarter, forcing the Japanese video game giant to cut its full-year forecasts and slash prices on its new 3DS handheld device. (AP)

sale prices by about a third. "For anyone who was on the fence about buying a Nintendo 3DS, this is a huge motivation to buy now," Nin-

tendo of America President Reggie Fils-Aime said in a statement.

The 3DS got off to a solid start when it launched but has since lost momentum. Analysts cite a lack of compelling content for the device and say consumers may now be waiting for Sony Corp.'s upcoming release of the new PlayStation Vita handheld, which will sell for \$299 in the U.S.

Such a big price cut so soon after a product's launch is unprecedented for Nintendo, and it's likely to annoy the loyal fans who have already bought the device, said Eiji Maeda, an analyst at SMBC Nikko Securities in Tokyo. It took almost three years for the company to lower the price on the Wii for the first time, and that was by \$50.

"This shows that Nintendo feels it really needs to lift up the 3DS," Maeda said.

The Kyoto-based company also faces increased competition from smartphones and games on social networks, particularly among the casual gamers it targeted with the Wii. At a recent general shareholders meeting, President Satoru Iwata told investors Nintendo would not compete directly with smartphones by adding extra functions to the 3DS.

A strong yen hasn't made things any easier. About 80 percent of Nintendo's sales are from outside of Japan, making it vulnerable to currency fluctuations.

Sales during the quarter slumped more than 50 percent to 93.93 billion yen, leading to an operating loss of 37.71 billion yen.

Investors have punished Nintendo's stock price this year, reflecting their anxiety about the company's health.

The issue has plunged 40 percent this year compared with a relatively flat performance by the benchmark Nikkei 225 stock average.

Macquarie Capital Securities downgraded its rating on the issue one notch to "Neutral" earlier this month. The 3DS has not lived up to expectations, and Nintendo's next major launch — the Wii U — won't arrive until mid-2012, analyst David Gibson said in his report.

"We believe the company's focus on doing both hardware/software, while noble, will ultimately limit their ability to be relevant in a 'smartphone in every pocket' world," he said.

Gibson suggests Nintendo needs to take "radical" steps, such as buying U.S. video game publisher TakeTwo Interactive Software and making its hit game "Grand Theft Auto" exclusive to the Wii U, which would attract core gamers to the platform.

For now, Nintendo is banking on the cheaper 3DS and new games to lure shoppers during the critical year-end shopping season. "Super Mario 3D Land" goes on sale in November, and "Mario Kart 7" hits stores in December.

The company bases its earnings on Japanese accounting standards.

Its new earnings projection is based on a revised exchange rate assumption of 80 yen to the dollar.



SHOPPERS TRY OUT NINTENDO 3DS at an electronics retail store, in Tokyo, Japan, Thursday, July 28, 2011. Nintendo Co. says it stayed deep in the red in the latest quarter, prompting the Japanese video game giant to cut its full-year forecasts and slash prices on its new 3DS handheld device.

Shizuo Kambayashi/AP

DEBT FEARS PUSH INVESTORS TO SELL DOLLARS, EUROS

NEW YORK Associated Press

THE EURO and dollar fell Thursday because of concerns about the ongoing debt crises in Europe and the U.S.

U.S. lawmakers are running out of time to raise the ceiling on the national debt. The Obama administration says that after Aug. 2, the U.S. could be short of cash needed to make payments. A government default could send stocks plunging and interest rates soaring, hurting the economy.

In Europe, Italy paid sharply higher rates in a bond auction despite last week's approval of a more powerful bailout fund and a second round of aid for Greece. The overhaul was meant to curb fears about Spain and Italy needing emergency aid.

In late trading Thursday in New York, the yen rose against the dollar and the euro. The Swiss franc hit its latest record high versus the euro.

The yen, franc and dollar often rise when traders are worried about a global economic slowdown, a financial crisis and during periods of geopolitical tension. The three currencies are considered safety bets, although the dollar has lost some of its appeal during the debt ceiling morass.

The euro fell to \$1.4311 from \$1.4372, while the British pound edged up to \$1.6344 from \$1.6327.

The dollar fell to 77.88 yen from 78.06 yen. The yen hasn't been this strong since before the Group of Seven major banks intervened to weaken the Japanese currency in the aftermath of the March earthquake and tsunami, which drove safety-seeking traders to invest in the currency.

The dollar rose to 0.8016 Swiss franc from 0.8022 Swiss franc. It hit a record low of 0.7988 franc earlier in the day.

The Canadian dollar, Scandinavian currencies and the Australian dollar also rose against the U.S. currency.

The dollar has declined broadly in the past two weeks against a slate of currencies as talks on how to raise the U.S. debt ceiling dragged on. But some analysts say that a U.S. default or downgrade of the top-notch AAA credit rating wouldn't necessarily fuel a sell-off in the dollar.

"The main reason why the dollar has fallen in anticipation of a default or downgrade is presumably concern that this would encourage foreign investors to dump their holdings of U.S. government debt. But we would not expect major holders to rush for the exit," said Capital Economics' Julian Jessop. If a big owner of U.S. Treasury bonds, such as the Chinese government, sold off a big chunk of its holdings, then that would hurt the value of the dollar and the remainder of China's dollar investments. Jessop added that a meltdown in the U.S. economy resulting from a crash in the value of the dollar would hurt China. The U.S. and China are major trading partners.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that IRMA ARACELY GONGORA (NEE GONZALEZ TREVINO) of SEA BEACH BOULEVARD, SEA BEACH ESTATES, P.O. BOX CB-11533 NASSAU, BAHAMAS, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 22ND DAY of JULY, 2011 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

PUBLIC NOTICE

INTENT TO CHANGE NAME BY DEED POLL

The Public is hereby advised that I, **Gloria Anne Pratt** P.O.Box CR-54713 intend to change my name to **Gloria Ann Clarke**. If there are any objections to this change of name by Deed Poll, you may write such objections to the Chief Passport Officer, P.O.Box N-792, Nassau, Bahamas, within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **Therval Evens Louis of Wilton St., Nassau, Bahamas** is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 29th day of JULY, 2011 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **LUCKENSON RIPPHIN of #122 SHIRLEY STREET, NASSAU, BAHAMAS**, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 22ND DAY of JULY, 2011 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **Gustave Louben of #12 York Ave., Gleniston Gardens, Nassau, Bahamas** is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 29th day of JULY, 2011 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **DONALD JAMES WOOD JR. of P.O.Box AB-20103, Marsh Harbour, Abaco Bahamas**, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 29th day of JULY, 2011 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

BUSINESSREVIEW

US GOV'T: HEALTH TAB TO HIT \$4.6 TRILLION IN 2020

WASHINGTON
Associated Press

THE nation's health care tab is on track to hit \$4.6 trillion in 2020, accounting for about \$1 of every \$5 in the economy, government number crunchers estimate in a report released Thursday.

How much is that? Including government and private money, health care spending in 2020 will average \$13,710 for every man, woman and child, says Medicare's Office of the Actuary.

Compare it to this year, when U.S. health care spending is projected to top \$2.7 trillion, about \$8,650 per capita, or roughly \$1 of \$6 in the economy. Most of those dollars go to provide care for the sickest people.

Along with rising costs, the report found that the share of the health care tab paid by the government keeps

growing, approaching half the total.

The update from Medicare economists and statisticians is an annual barometer of a trend that many experts say is unsustainable, but doesn't seem to be slowing. A political compromise over the nation's debt and deficits might succeed in tapping the brakes on health care, but polarized lawmakers have been unable to deliver a deal.

The analysis found that President Barack Obama's health care overhaul would only be a modest contributor to growing costs, even though an additional 30 million otherwise uninsured people stand to gain coverage.

Instead, health care spending keeps growing faster than the economy because of high cost of medical innovations and an aging society that

consumes increasing levels of service.

Many of the newly insured people under the health care law will be younger and healthier, so they cost less. Over a million young adults under age 26 have already gained coverage through their parents' insurance. Millions more will get insurance when the law's big coverage expansion kicks off in 2014.

Jump

That year, health care spending will jump by 8 percent. But over the 2010-2020 period covered by the estimate, the average yearly growth in spending will be only 0.1 percentage point higher than without Obama's overhaul. Most of the newly insured are not expected to require much pricey hospital care, generally needing only

doctor visits and prescription drugs.

Another reason for the optimistic prognosis is that cuts and cost controls in the health care law start to bite down late in the decade. However, the same nonpartisan Medicare experts who produced Thursday's estimate have previously questioned whether that austerity will be politically sustainable. If hospitals and other providers start going out of business, Congress may reverse the cuts.

The report found that health care spending in 2010 grew at a historically low rate of 3.9 percent, partly because of the sluggish economy. That will change as the economy shakes off the lingering effects of the recession.

Government, already the dominant player because of Medicare and Medicaid, will become even more impor-

tant. By 2020, federal, state and local government health care spending will account for just under half the total tab, up from 45 percent currently. As the health care law's coverage expansion takes effect, "health care financing is anticipated to further shift toward governments," the report said.

Estimates from previous years had projected that the government share would already be at the 50 percent mark, but the actuary's office changed its method for making the complex calculations. Under the previous approach, some private payments such as worker's compensation insurance had been counted in the government column.

Accuracy

Technical accuracy — not political pressure — was

behind that change, said one of the experts who works on the estimates. "This was an internal decision that was not influenced by any outside party," said Stephen Heffler.

Separately, another new report finds that the United States continues to spend far more on health care than other economically developed countries. The study by the Commonwealth Fund found that U.S. health care spending per person in 2008 was more than double the median — or midpoint — for other leading economies. Although survival rates for some cancers were higher in the U.S., the report found that quality of care overall was not markedly better.

The Medicare actuary's report on health care spending is published in the journal Health Affairs. The actuary's office is responsible for long-range cost estimates.

2002 flashback FROM page 11

roads closed for months at an end, the recession's effects were exacerbated for many small and medium-sized Bahamian-owned companies, forcing many to shut their doors and further lengthening the unemployment queues.

A completely unnecessary legal fight then ensued with the 50 businesses represented by the Coconut Grove Business League. However that case pans out, Tribune Business cannot help but wonder if the negative publicity could have been avoided had the Government moderated its approach, rather than ram ahead.

3) FREEPORT: FNM country, but will it still be the case in 2012? The city's economy has been mired in the doldrums since 2004. While the present administration did not spark this, its actions can hardly be said to have helped the situation, especially given its seeming attempts to erode the Hawksbill Creek Agreement.

First there was Customs' demand for a monthly 'bonded goods' sales report. Then there was the request for an NIB 'Letter of Good Standing' before annual bond letters were renewed. Soon after came the Prime Minister's announcement that he would postpone talks on renewal of Freeport's Business Licence and real property tax exemptions for several years, followed by continuing efforts geared to getting the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) to cede its regulatory powers for communications and, by extension, all utilities.

Not a very good picture when all is added up.

The PLP can hardly claim to have a pristine track record, or be an alternative 'government in waiting', but all these items are in danger of negating the good things that have been accomplished on Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham's second watch. They include BTC's privatisation, the launch of e-government, getting the shipping firms out of Bay Street, the proposed Small and Medium-Sized Business Development legislation, and ongoing infrastructure development and stimulus spending that prevented the bottom of the Bahamian economy falling out.

Don't throw it all away now, Mr Prime Minister and Cabinet.

When will the lights go on?

FROM page 12

own inefficiencies.

"The fuel surcharge shields BEC against its own inefficient operation by guaranteeing the recovery of all fuel costs regardless of whether these are due to price increases or inefficient operation," Fichtner concluded.

"In a variety of different manners, it can be seen that BEC relies upon recovery of fuel costs through the fuel surcharge while making decisions which lead to less efficient operation, such as postponing and neglect of proper maintenance and non-optimal investment decisions. BEC is allowed to pass

through the fuel price and does not have an incentive to purchase fuel at the lowest price or to operate efficiently."

And do you recall how BEC is exposed to "fraud and corruption" through its poor procurement systems, or Fichtner's conclusion that political interference has resulted in "low operating efficiency" and "misuse". What a surprise, many of you will say!

Don't forget about the \$10 million wasted on hiring unnecessary consultants. And, rounding it off, is Fichtner's gloomy prediction of the present situation at BEC. "BEC is in a situation

where systematic medium-to-long term planning is replaced by very short-term, ad-hoc decisions. This practice leads to costly solutions, such as the deferral of the investment decision for a low (life cycle) cost diesel plant until the urgency of the need for additional capacity makes it necessary to install a gas turbine, which has higher operational cost but a shorter construction time."

So, what's to be done? The obvious answer, once the current Board and management get it back to some measure of profitability, is: Privatise the damn thing. Yet it will not be as easy as BTC (and that took 12-13 years).

For starters, BEC is effectively a natural monopoly, given the small size of the Bahamian population. Tribune Business, in concert with many others, would look to exploit the Bahamas' suitability for renewal energy, especially on the Family Islands, and restructure the industry to allow independent power producers (IPPs) to sell electricity they produce to BEC.

In other words, create competition in power generation, and allow various providers to compete with each other. Hopefully, not only will the environment benefit, but the competition will keep rates keen, thus benefiting business and residential consumers.

This will involve splitting power generation from distribution and transmission, privatising at least the former. The distribution/transmission owner, likely to be a privatised BEC, should not

be involved in generation, as this runs the risk of price gouging.

Before all this can happen, the right regulatory and economic incentive framework must be put in place. Phenton Neymour, minister of state for the environment with responsibility for BEC and other utilities, needs to get a move on with this and show some tangible progress and results from his term in office. Little concrete has been forthcoming so far from the National Energy Policy Committee efforts, apart from reports and targets, and Mr Neymour is in danger of doing a 'Groundhog Day' with his annual Budget presentations (this year's version sounded much like last year's, especially on Water & Sewerage, but I digress).

Start small. The Government is currently owner, operator and regulator. Stop this by giving URCA regulatory responsibility for electricity. Also, through legislative amendments facilitate the deeper penetration of this market by solar water heaters, solar PV panels and other technologies by allowing net metering, and the sale of excess power back to the BEC grid. Allow businesses with their own generators to run their own power if they so choose.

From a BEC perspective, investigate the possibility of a 'hub and spoke' operation. Rather than build costly power stations on every Family Island, for which no investment return will be forthcoming, run cables from islands such as New Providence to nearby

islands. Use these cables to carry power to the islands. Emera is already looking at doing this between Grand Bahama and Abaco.

Who should acquire BEC? Tribune Business would like nothing better than for Bahamians to do this, either alone or as a joint venture. The PLP is already promoting the notion of 'Keep Bahamian industries in Bahamian hands'. Sounds nice, I know. Tugs at the heart and emotional, nationalistic strings. But does it square with reality?

Electricity utilities require vast amounts of working capital, being very intensive in this regard, and there simply is not enough in this country for such purposes. Commonwealth Brewery's initial public offering (IPO), the largest in this country, raised just over \$50 million, falling well below the \$62.5 million target. BEC, like BTC, would likely fetch a higher purchase price once cleaned up and profitable.

A joint venture between Bahamians and foreigners would thus be the best bet, in Tribune Business's opinion. Privatisation is the only option for BEC if, like BTC, we are to remove the worst ills of all — political interference, nepotism and cronyism — which have frequently undermined so much over the years. A 2002 consultant's report on BEC, by Scott Madden & Associates, highlighted the consequences of this, namely: "The will to manage is weak."

What do you expect, when management has been undermined and contradicted so much by the politicians over the years? Let's hope the light finally goes on, for all of our sakes.

Stopping 'slip slidin' away

FROM page 11

Yet the key ingredient remains a 'buy in' by Bahamian society at large to the financial services industry's importance, not just to those in the industry but all employed in today's economy. Many still believe it is a sector staffed primarily by expatriates, who take all the benefits. For evidence to dispel this myth, look no further than the Central Bank of the Bahamas' report on the 2010 contribution made by the financial sector to the economy, which noted that Bahamians accounted for 4,623 jobs or 93.8 per cent of its total employment.

And, with total banking sector salary payments standing at \$287.7 million, what would happen if that money was lost to the Bahamian economy. And with average salaries in the international and domestic sectors standing at \$82,142 and \$41,764 respectively, both well ahead of the national average, imagine what would happen to retail staff, housekeepers and gardeners if those high-paying jobs continue to dwindle.

Part of the Government's reluctance in committing more resources to supporting its second largest industry is likely to stem from fears it would be subject to 'class warfare' political attack, the Opposition charging that it was once again supporting 'the rich' at the expense of 'the small man'. Pure politics, but it works, despite the evidence.

The 'bang for the buck', or return on investment,

from supporting a well-established, high margin industry with properly targeted support is likely to be great. Further efforts on educating Bahamian society towards this end are warranted.

But all sides should hurry. The Bahamas' financial services cup is half-full, not half-empty, with much untapped potential remaining. Yet we must overcome the past decade's stagnation, adjust the business model and reform where necessary — and quickly. Competition from rival financial centres is increasing, and regulatory pressures will never cease. Unless the Bahamas acts now, the words of Paul Simon will ring ever louder: "You know the nearer your destination, the more you're slip slidin' away."

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If so, call on 322-1986 and share your story.

ROYAL FIDELITY
Money at Work

CFAL
COLONIAL

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF:
THURSDAY, 28 JULY 2011
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,414.35 | CHG 0.02 | %CHG 0.00 | YTD -85.16 | YTD % -5.68
FININDEX: YEAR END 2008 -12.31%

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52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
11.19	9.95	AML Foods Limited	11.18	11.18	0.00		0.165	0.080	7.6	0.78%
10.63	9.05	Bahamas Property Fund	10.63	10.63	0.00		-0.640	0.080	-16.6	0.75%
7.50	4.40	Bank of Bahamas	6.94	6.94	0.00		0.230	0.100	30.2	1.44%
0.53	0.17	Benchmark	0.18	0.18	0.00		-0.048	0.000	N/M	0.00%
2.84	2.70	Bahamas Waste	2.70	2.70	0.00		0.030	0.090	90.0	3.33%
1.96	1.77	Fidelity Bank	1.77	1.77	0.00		0.097	0.040	18.2	2.26%
11.10	8.44	Cable Bahamas	8.48	8.48	0.00		0.245	0.310	34.6	3.66%
2.90	2.35	Collins Holdings	2.55	2.55	0.00		0.438	0.040	5.8	1.57%
8.50	8.33	Commonwealth Brewery	8.40	8.40	0.00		0.740	0.000	11.4	0.00%
7.00	6.04	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	6.88	6.88	0.00	300	0.496	0.260	13.9	3.78%
2.90	1.90	Consolidated Water BDRs	1.84	1.84	0.02		0.111	0.045	15.0	2.71%
2.54	1.31	Doctor's Hospital	1.38	1.38	0.00		0.074	0.110	18.6	7.97%
5.99	4.75	Famguard	5.40	5.40	0.00		0.498	0.240	10.8	4.44%
8.90	5.35	Finco	5.39	5.39	0.00		0.757	0.000	7.1	0.00%
37.74	7.75	First Caribbean Bank	8.60	8.60	0.00	700	0.494	0.350	17.4	4.07%
6.00	4.59	Foocal (S)	5.75	5.75	0.00		0.435	0.160	13.2	2.78%
1.00	1.00	Foocal Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00		0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%
7.30	5.50	ICD Utilities	7.30	7.30	0.00		-0.122	0.240	-59.8	3.23%
10.80	9.80	St. Johnson	9.82	9.82	0.00		0.880	0.640	11.2	5.52%
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate	10.00	10.00	0.00		1.207	0.200	8.3	2.00%

52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity
100.00	100.00	Bahamas Note 17 (Series A) +	N/A	N/A	99.46		6.95%	20 November 2029
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17		100.00		7%	19 October 2017
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22		100.00		Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13		100.00		7%	30 May 2013
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15		100.00		Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015

52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Royal Fidelity Merchant Bank & Trust Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
10.08	5.01	Bahamas Supermarkets	N/A	N/A	14.00			-2.945	0.000	N/M	0.00%
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.35	0.40	0.55			0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%

52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD %	Last 12 Months %	NAV 3MTH	NAV 6MTH	NAV Date
1.5716	1.4674	CFAL Bond Fund	1.5716	2.30%	5.01%	1.467397	1.526164	30-Jun-11
3.0160	2.9020	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	3.0160	2.33%	3.29%	2.902023	2.947425	30-Jun-11
1.6128	1.5289	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.6128	2.46%	4.56%	1.528885	1.574964	22-Jul-11
3.2025	2.5730	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	2.5730	-5.41%	-9.75%			31-May-11
13.6806	13.0484	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.6806	2.42%	2.01%			31-Mar-11
114.1289	99.4177	CFAL Global Bond Fund	114.0922	2.35%	13.88%	114.128861	111.469744	30-Jun-11
118.4255	101.8693	CFAL Global Equity Fund	118.4255	2.30%	8.26%	116.580785	115.762221	30-Jun-11
1.1608	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.1605	1.65%	5.19%			30-Apr-11
1.1214	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.1264	0.71%	6.11%			30-Apr-11
1.1620	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.1668	1.54%	4.59%			30-Apr-11
9.9952	9.5078	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 1	9.9433	0.98%	4.58%			31-May-11
11.2173	10.0000	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 2	11.1970	1.31%	11.59%			30-Jun-11
10.4288	9.1708	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 3	10.1525	1.27%	8.82%			30-Jun-11
8.4510	4.8105	Royal Fidelity Int'l Fund - Equities Sub Fund	8.6507	3.01%	18.36%			30-Apr-11

MARKET TERMS

BISX ALL SHARE INDEX - 19 Dec 02 = 1,000.00
52wk-Hi - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks
Previous Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily volume
Today's Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume
Change - Change in closing price from day to day
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today
Div \$ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings
(S) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/8/2007
(S1) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/11/2007

YIELD - last 12 month dividends divided by closing price
Bid \$ - Buying price of Colina and Fidelity
Ask \$ - Selling price of Colina and Fidelity
Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price
Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week
EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mths
NAV - Net Asset Value
N/M - Not Meaningful
FININDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index, January 1, 1994 = 100

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» TRIBUNE BUSINESS OPINION

Gov't approach a 2002 flashback

*** Handling of legislative thrust risks further alienating private sector and negating good things Ingraham administration has accomplished**

IS THE Government trying to commit political suicide? Such thoughts have crossed Tribune Business's mind in recent weeks, given how the Ingraham administration has handled key legislation. Shades of the FNM's 2002 general election loss come to mind.

The economy is still bad, so why harm your re-election chances even more? There's an old saying: "When you're in a hole, stop digging", and that does not only apply to the New Providence Road Improvement Project. There is a tendency when unemployment is high, and economic growth anemic, to - rightly or wrongly - blame the existing government at the ballot box, and the Ingraham administration would do well to remember that. Why exacerbate such prevailing sentiments by pushing through vital reforms without consulting the major private sector stakeholders?

Two such examples come to mind in recent weeks: The Customs Management Act and the Maritime Marriage Act. The former involved the curious case of the so-called Customs Consultative Committee, upon which several private sector representatives had been invited to sit, yet never met. Zhivargo Laing, minister of state for finance, said he was unaware of any such initiative - certainly at the policy level - and said consultation on the Customs Management Act had taken place.

Now, with the Bill in Parliament, the same private sector representatives are being invited once again to serve on the same committee. A bit like trying to 'shut the proverbial stable door after the horse has bolted'. One has to ask whether the Customs Consultative Committee is worth the effort, given that a key mandate was to provide input into the Act's reforms. Will any future recommen-

dations be listened to by the powers that be?

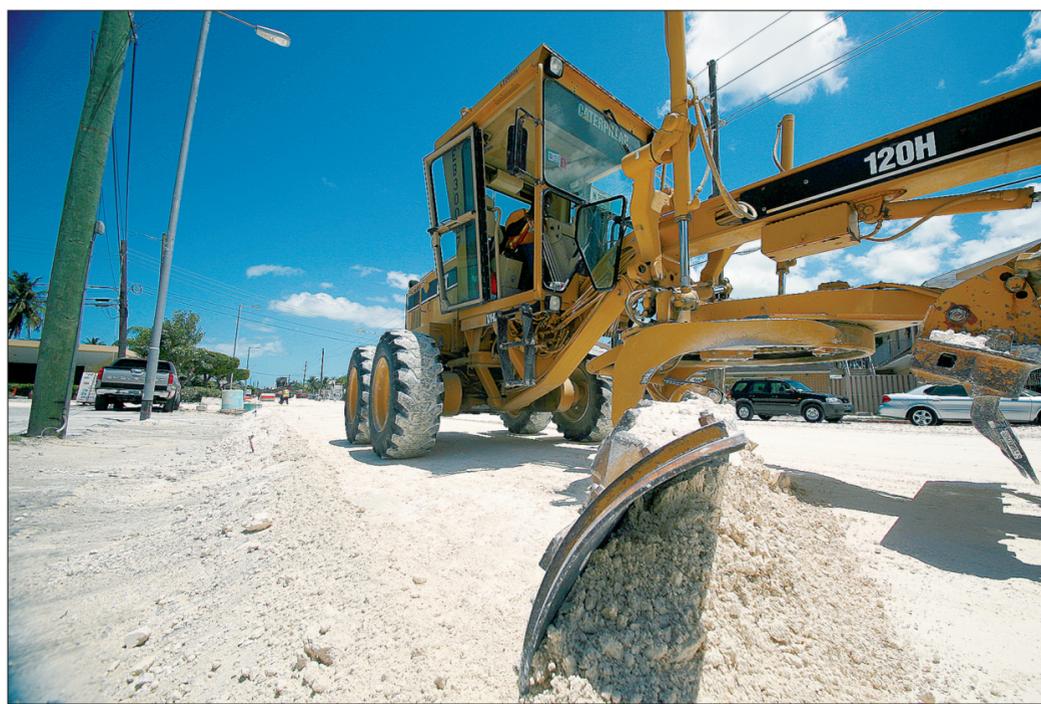
Accepting Mr Laing's assurances that some consultation did take place, and his argument that not every private sector request can be accommodated by the Government has merit, Tribune Business is still puzzled that neither the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation's (BCCEC) chairman, nor his Freeport counterpart, caught sight of the legislation before it went to the House. No broker - or anyone else for that matter - confirmed seeing the Bill before it reached the House of Assembly. While there was consultation, it certainly was not as wide as possible.

As for the Maritime Marriage Act, one can understand the Bahamas Maritime Authority's (BMA) desire to placate the cruise lines and maintain both their registry presence and its high-quality reputation by allowing them to conduct weddings at sea. Trouble is, those who might be impacted appear not to have been let in on the secret.

It seems likely that, by permitting marriage at sea, the Bahamian destination weddings market and all businesses that benefit from it will lose custom from cruise passengers, who account for a meaningful share of the market. Yet next-to-no warning appears to have been received.

Matthew Sweeting, the marriage officer operating as Island Precha, told Tribune Business he only found out that the legislation was moving forward on the day it was debated in the House of Assembly. He called the destination weddings section at the Ministry of Tourism, who were just as in the dark as he was. Not a good advert for government co-ordination that, the left arm not knowing what the right arm is doing.

One can understand the Govern-



DIGGING IN: Road works taking place this year.

ment's desire to complete its legislative agenda prior to the upcoming election, given that key reforms in so many areas are pending. But the way some Bills have been handled is likely, for some, to revive memories of the run-up to 2002, when the then-FNM administration was, rightly or wrongly, perceived to be ramming laws down people's throats with minimal consultation. Perception is everything.

The latest mishaps come on top of other developments that have only served to alienate what should be one of the current government's core constituencies, the private sector.

1) TAXES: No one would argue with attempts to simplify the import duty regime, but the 2008-2009 Budget's moves to amalgamate Customs and Stamp duty resulted in 35 + 7 =

42 (the most common percentage) being rounded up to 45 per cent.

One can understand the Government's desire to maintain revenues, but this yet again - especially the fuzzy maths in rounding up - took the business community by complete surprise. It resulted in tax increases that were inevitably passed on to consumers, raising the cost of living.

Compounding this was the Ingraham administration's decision to introduce large-scale duty and tax rises in the 2010-2011 Budget, in a bid to slash the deficit and get the public finances back in order.

The goal was laudable, but the cardinal rule of: 'You don't raise taxes in a recession', seemed to have been forgotten. We need the private sector to lead us out of recession, and those increases merely set the process back. Economic growth, not tax increases,

is the main medicine for the Government's fiscal woes.

2) THE ROADWORKS: Few can deny that New Providence's road network was in serious need of upgrade, and that the Christie administration botched its chance to complete the job during its 2002-2007 term in office. It is also understandable that the Government wants to minimise the costs by having the contractor complete the work in one package, rather than have it coming back to do 'sections at a time'.

However, the implementation can only be described as botched. Again, consultation and consideration for those impacted, especially businesses, seems to have been kept to a minimum. With huge swathes of key

SEE page nine

» TRIBUNE BUSINESS OPINION

Stopping 'slip slidin' away'

"THEY think we're just a bunch of filthy rich bankers," was how one senior Bahamian financial services executive described, many moons ago, the Government's attitude towards the sector and the level of support it provided. A touch harsh on both sides, perhaps, but it provides some perspective on an industry that has been treading water for more than a decade.

Buffeted by multitude of regulatory changes induced by international pressure, and the dynamic nature of an ever-evolving global business, the Bahamian financial services industry has not really grown since the turn of the century. The fall-out from the 2000 'blacklisting crisis', while shrinking the sector, left in place 'the cream of the crop' - blue-chip, global brand institutions that, by and large, have remained. Yet you get the sense the sector is still seeking its place in the sun.

Which is why Tribune Business agrees with the likes of Brian Moree, senior partner at McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes, that more focus must be brought to the continued development of financial services on the public sector side through appointing a director of financial services.

For starters, it would send a message to the world that the Bahamas is at least serious about the financial services business, and provide a focal point for even greater co-ordination between the private and public sectors. Much like the director-general of tourism, a director of financial services would also be charged with promoting the Bahamas at all manner of international conferences, attempting to attract more clients and institutions to these shores.

Tribune Business is always loathe to create more government bureaucracy, but given that financial services is the Bahamas' second most important industry at a conservative 15 per cent of GDP, greater public sector support is warranted. The director of

*** Society buy-in essential to ensure the necessary support that will help Bahamian financial services gain rightful place**

financial services would, ideally, be a person drawn from the industry who has a grasp on all its critical issues and needs, with the clout and ability to have direct access to the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

The director would head a small, self-contained unit within the Ministry of Finance, assisted by various support staff. This would ensure the separation of financial services promotional and regulatory functions within government, and avoid creating a bloated bureaucracy.

The former Christie administration created a Ministry of Financial Services and Investments, but in Tribune Business's opinion such a creature is unnecessary as a mere department would suffice. The PLP's creation also seemed more interested in the investments side, as opposed to financial services.

True, the Ingraham administration has done some things to support financial services. It has doubled the Bahamas Financial Services Board's (BFSB) annual subvention from \$500,000 to \$1 million, publicly outlined its public policy position and focus for the industry, and worked with BFSB in developing its SCRIPT formula for continued growth and development.

Yet, somehow, more must be done. The funding available to BFSB is far less than what international financial centre rivals, such as Cayman and Bermuda, have available in their war chests. Immigration, communications, electricity, the Registrar General's Office..... given the multitude of areas that are critical to financial services' competitiveness, the Government and public sector have no

choice but to get more involved.

The BFSB's targeting of Brazil, Latin America and other emerging markets is all well and good. But there is a missing link in the equation..... the private sector and wider Bahamian society. Wendy Warren, the BFSB's chief executive and executive director, has frequently said that a great amount of time is spent on influencing "head office perceptions" of the Bahamas and keeping them abreast of developments, and the reality, on the ground.

That hints at a conundrum that has developed as the Bahamas' financial services business model has evolved. All the 'blue chip' institutions we have are far more 'head office', as opposed to jurisdiction, driven. That is understandable, given that they are all subsidiaries of headquarters, but it largely leaves the intermediaries - the lawyers, accountants and financial and corporate services providers - to lead promotion of the Bahamas as a jurisdiction, given that bank and trust company priorities are dictated elsewhere.

While Bahamas-based law firms, such as Lennox Paton, have moved to establish a greater international presence, and Higgs & Johnson moved into Cayman via acquisition, they are still behind the likes of Cayman and Bermuda. This must change, with the Bahamas establishing a greater market presence in the minds of both head offices and key 'rain-makers', particularly the attorneys and accountants who direct where high net worth individuals place their business.

SEE page nine



Brian Moree



Wendy Warren

GN1275

Ministry of Finance

Department of Information Technology



NOTICE

E-GOVERNMENT PORTAL
At
WWW.BAHAMAS.GOV.BS

The e-Government Portal was launched on Thursday, July 28th, 2011 and can be accessed at www.bahamas.gov.bs. Businesses, citizens and residents and non-residents can now pay online their Property Tax, and Fixed Penalty Notices (traffic fines issued by the Police); Renew Driver's Licenses; make Service Requests; and conduct Payment Inquiry online at the new e-Government Portal. Click the **e-Services** link to for information on each service and how to register to access them. Also visit our catalogue of **Services** to get information and downloadable forms. Use the **Customer Service** link to request assistance or to give us feedback.

The portal also contains a wide range of information from how to conduct business in The Bahamas, to health and education, culture, recreation and places of interest.

Your feedback and business are valuable to us, so make sure visit us today at www.bahamas.gov.bs

Director of Information Technology
Ministry of Finance



AP SOURCES: PARTS PROBLEM HURTS FORD FOCUS SALES

• SEE PAGE 7B



MURDOCH RETURNS TO NEWS CORP WORRIES IN US

• SEE PAGE 8B



WHEN WILL THE LIGHT GO ON?

You should never kick a man when he's down. But in the Bahamas Electricity Corporation's (BEC) case, it is pretty hard to resist the temptation. You can almost guarantee that if it was a private company, the chief executive and senior management would either have resigned or been forced to quit, along with the chairman and some Board members..... Now there's a thought.

Apologies to Messrs Moss and Basden, and their colleagues, as the focus of this article is not the individual. But given what Bahamian businesses and households have had to endure over the last few months, BEC could not have produced a better advertisement for why the Government must get out of business - especially utility businesses - and why it must be privatised itself. Preferably next, now that the Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) is over and done with.

Electricity affects us all. It's that simple. In today's world we cannot do without it, meaning that what happens at BEC affects every man, woman and child in this country. It also costs a lot, in comparison with electricity rates in other countries (maybe not the Caribbean), and is therefore critical to the economic competitiveness of all Bahamas-based businesses.

While electricity costs have inhibited the Bahamas' ability to make inroads in sectors such as manufacturing and exporting, and depressed profits in the hotel sector, the price would at least be more bearable if BEC was able to maintain a consistent, reliable supply. Regrettably it is unable to do even this, resulting in every summer becoming like

* BEC's continued woes highlight why it should be next on the privatisation block. Tribune Business urges all political parties to commit in their election manifestos to getting government out of business, especially the utilities business

Groundhog Day - a repeat of the yowls, howls, screams and complaints that reached a crescendo last year and every year.

This year, the blackouts and load shedding seem, if anything, to have gotten worse. Companies are unable to conduct business in the absence of a generator, and frequently complain about equipment fried during power surges, while employees are unable to bathe before coming to work and conduct other necessary human functions, with all the attendant implications for productivity.

And what do the powers-that-be do? Engage in yet more political finger pointing. The Ingraham government blames the cut in the basic tariff rate, enacted under the watch of the former Christie administration and then-minister, Bradley 'Big Bad Brad' Roberts, for depriving BEC of revenues essential to cash flow and profitability. The knock-on effect, they argue, is that BEC has been unable to finance essential maintenance to its generation, transmission and distribution equipment, hence the current load shedding and blackouts.

In response, the PLP retorts that BEC's woes are the result of mismanagement by the current FNM government, and that it has been in power long enough to get it right. Whatever. There may be some truth in what both sides are saying, but it is plainly ridiculous

that a monopoly provider of a service for which there is inelastic demand racked up losses of \$16.015 million and \$21.225 million, respectively, during its 2007 and 2008 financial years. In the eyes of anyone on the outside, BEC would be a laughing stock, fully deserving of the 'BEC - Buy Extra Candles' moniker. No laughing matter in the Bahamas, though, as we are the ones stuck with the end result.

Anyone who has seen the classic 'Carry on' films would know that BEC would be the perfect fit when it comes to the movie 'Carry on supplying electricity'. Lingering doubters should read the investigation into the Corporation's operations by the German consultants, Fichtner, for it provides the perfect summary of why we're in the state we're in.

Take the 210,000 staff overtime hours booked for the 2009 financial year - equivalent to one hour of overtime per day for every employee. That, though, was nothing compared to the 400,000 booked the previous year.

Or how about the \$85 million in accounts receivables owed to BEC by the private sector in fiscal 2010. Not to mention the multi-million dollar sums owed by other government departments. Then comes the explanation about how BEC uses the fuel surcharge to hide its

SEE page nine

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Felipe Major/Tribune staff

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TURN TO 3E...

**CBC: TOP-
RANKED JA
STUNNED BY
US VIRGIN
ISLANDS**

TURN TO 4E...

**SPORTS
MINISTER
GETS ANTI-
DOPING
RULES**

TURN TO 3E...

**LOCHTE
BEATS
PHELPS,
SETS WORLD
RECORD IN
200 IM**



TURN TO 2E.

**BILLS REACH
FOUR-YEAR,
\$15m DEAL
WITH WR
SMITH**

TURN TO 5E...

An historic record

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

It was another historic performance from Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace as she inked her name as the No.10 best female 100m freestyler in the world this year.

Fresh off her epic bronze medal last year at the FINA World Short Course Championships in Dubai, Vanderpool-Wallace led the same three-member delegation to the 14th FINA World Championships in Shanghai, China, where she posted her latest feat.

On Thursday at the Oriental Sports Center, Vanderpool-Wallace finished fourth in the first of the two semifinal heats of the women's 100 free in 54.46 seconds for 10th overall.

Having just missed the opportunity to advance to the final, Vanderpool-Wallace made history as the first Bahamian to advance to a semifinal at the meet.

She also lowered her national record twice, first in the preliminary rounds when she clocked 54.51 seconds with her fifth place in the eighth of 10 heats.

Coming right back later in the evening, Vanderpool-Wallace again lowered her national mark as she accomplished the A qualifying cut of 54.51 for the 2012 Olympic Games on both occasions.

Bahamas Swimming Federation president Algernon Cargill was quite impressed with her performance.

"It really shows her commitment to be one of the top swimmers in the world," Cargill said. "She still has a best race yet to come in the 50 free. So we are looking forward to even greater things from her at the meet."

Vanderpool-Wallace, a 21-year-old entering her senior year at Auburn University, will be back in action Saturday when she competes out of lane three in the ninth of 12 heats of the women's 50 free. She has a qualifying time of 25.49.

The other two team members were expected to compete today. Grand Bahamian native and University of Kentucky graduate Elvis Burrows will swim out of lane five in the 13th of 16 heats in the men's 50 free. Burrows, 22, has a qualifying time of 22.39.

And Alana Dillette will swim out of lane seven in the fourth of seven heats in the women's 50 fly. The 24-year-old graduate of Auburn University qualified with a time of 27.25.

Both competitors already competed in an event.

In his 50 fly on day one of the championships on July 24, Burrows was eighth in the fifth of seven heats

SEE page 2E

Vanderpool-Wallace first Bahamian to advance to semifinal at FINA Worlds



TEAM BAHAMAS: Shown (l-r) are Alana Dillette, coach Lionel Moreau, Elvis Burrows and Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace (also in action above) before they left for China to compete in the 14th FINA World Championships in Shanghai.

ISAF Youth Worlds: Sands ends up 29th overall

CHRISTOPHER Sands finished in 29th place overall at the 41st ISAF Youth Sailing World Championship in Zadar, Croatia.

And the event was an extremely challenging one for the Bahamas' top junior sailor.

Sands raced in the boys' laser radial class in which he was 29th out of 50. He and his coach, Robert Dunkley, were hoping for a better result, especially as Christopher took 28th place out of 53 last year.

Sands had substantially improved his boat speed, boat-handling and tactics over the last year.

SAILING

In the major laser radial championships in North America earlier in the year, Sands had turned in a number of impressive performances.

"When considering the level of competition in both of these years, Christopher has done exceptionally well. To put things into perspective, this championship is the premier event for youth sailing in the world. It is modeled after the Olympic Games and is designed as the introductory event for this level of sailing.

For youth sailing, it is the ultimate," said Dunkley.

"At this year's event, Sands found it frustrating with the lack of wind. His comment to a news reporter while there was, 'so far it has been great a part from the wind. The wind has been really shifty and it's been up and down as well.' This was very much the case for the first few days."

Dunkley said to do well at this level, you need fitness, good boat-speed and boat-handling, sound tactics and a wee bit of luck which, when it comes down to it, means "smarts".

In this 12-race series over six days, the smartest sailors, not necessarily the fastest, won out. Sands' best three finishes in the series were two 10s and an 18.

The Bahamas is once again one of the nations approved for the Athlete Participation Programme [APP] funding support from ISAF.

This year, the coach in charge of sailors in the programme was Hugh Styles of England, an Olympian and incredibly talented sailor who was a great inspiration to all of the sailors

SEE page 7E

OVER \$15,000

100 JAMZ

EZ CASH

LISTEN TO WIN!

SWIMMING

Lochte beats Phelps, sets world record in 200m IM

By BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

SHANGHAI (AP) — Michael Phelps knew it would take a world record to win the 200-meter individual medley at the world championships. He just thought it would come from him.

Instead, Phelps found himself on the losing end of a close finish Thursday, watching teammate Ryan Lochte celebrate the first world record set since high-tech bodysuits were banned one and-a-half years ago.

It was Phelps' second straight loss to his good friend, who had beaten the 14-time Olympic gold medalist in the 200 freestyle two nights earlier.

"They both sort of told me the same thing, I need to be in better shape," Phelps said. "If I want to be faster the work has to be there and it has to be there consistently."

Lochte sprinted to the wall in 1 minute, 54.00 seconds, then pumped his right arm before clapping hands with Phelps in the next lane. He lowered his old mark set two years ago in Rome by a tenth of a second. "One word describes that race, yeah!" Lochte said, using his favourite made-up expression.

Phelps checked his time of 1:54.16, then slid over the lane rope in front of Lochte and made his way out of the pool. Hungary's Laszlo Cseh took the bronze in 1:57.69.

"We're usually on the other end of the close ones," said Bob Bowman, Phelps' coach.

The final was virtually a match race between Phelps and Lochte, with Phelps leading the opening butterfly leg by six-hundredths of a second. Lochte took over on the backstroke leg and held a narrow lead through the finish.

Phelps outsplitted Lochte by 0.13 seconds on the closing freestyle leg.

"I thought I had it on the last stroke," said Phelps, who glided into the wall. "After



WORLD RECORD: Americans Ryan Lochte (left) and Michael Phelps (right) compete in the 200m IM final at the FINA Swimming World Championships in China Thursday.

thinking about it, I probably could have rushed another stroke in there and maybe gotten to the wall faster."

Before Lochte's 2009 world record, Phelps had set the previous eight world records in the event dating to June 2003. "I knew a world record was going to win that race," Phelps said. "It says something that we're still able to do those times."

Lochte set two world records at short-course worlds in Dubai in December, the only other individual marks set during the last 19 months, a stretch in which he has been the dominant American



swimmer.

"I wanted to do something that everyone thought was impossible," he said. "Since they banned those suits, everyone thought a world record would never get touched again. I just wanted to show everyone that can happen. That's why we have records, they're meant to get broken."

Lochte has three medals (two gold) and Phelps has four medals (one gold) through the first five days of the meet.

Two likely future stars emerged victorious Thursday, with Australia's James Mag-

nussen winning the 100 freestyle and 16-year-old American Missy Franklin earning her third medal in as many events.

Magnussen overtook defending champion Cesar Cielo of Brazil on the final lap to win in 47.63 seconds.

"It means the world and I know it means a lot to Australian swimming as well," Magnussen said. "First person to win that event at a world championships from Australia, which is a pretty big deal. I think it puts men's sprinting in Australia back in the spotlight."

Brent Hayden of Canada earned silver in 47.95 and William Meynard of France took bronze at 48.00. Cielo finished fourth, and American Nathan Adrian was sixth.

Competing in his first world meet, the 20-year-old Magnussen created a buzz with his sizzling opening split of 47.49 against Phelps in the 4x100 relay last Sunday to help the Aussies win.

In the women's 50 backstroke, a non-Olympic event, Anastasia Zueva of Russia won in 27.79, with Aya Terakawa of Japan second at 27.93 and Franklin third at 28.01.

Franklin returned later to lead off the United States' winning 4x200 freestyle relay team. Her split of 1:55.06 would have won the 200 free the night before, when Italy's Fedrica Pellegrini took the gold in 1:55.58. "I've never felt this strong," Franklin said. "I'm just having the time of my life."

Franklin, Dagny Knutson, Katie Hoff and Allison Schmitt won in 7:46.14 to reclaim the title the US lost to China two years ago. Australia was second and the Chinese settled for bronze.

China's Jio Liuyang won the women's 200 fly at 2:05.55, giving the host country its fourth gold. Ellen Gandy of Britain was second and defending champion Liu Zige of China third.

(AP Photo)

Vanderpool-Wallace first Bahamian to advance to semifinal at FINA Worlds

FROM page 1E

in 24.35 for 28th overall in a field of 54 competitors.

On Wednesday (day four), Dillette got 42nd out of a field of 57 competitors after she was eighth in the fourth of eight heats in the women's 50 back in 29.97.

"They are performing pretty good," Cargill said. "They are having a good meet. It's not their best, but they are performing at the meet."

The team is being managed by Kathryn Dillette and the coach is Lionel Moreau of Auburn.



A SPLASH IN HISTORY: Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace competes in the 14th FINA World Championships in Shanghai, China.

SPORTS

21st Caribbean Basketball Confederation Championships, Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium...

Bahamas stuns Jamaica



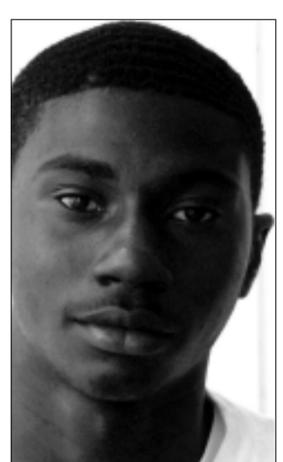
GO TEAM BAHAMAS: Proud Bahamians cheer and raise their national flags during the semifinals of the 2011 Caribbean Basketball Championships at Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium last night. The host island nation stunned top-ranked Jamaica, 78-75, in overtime. The Bahamas is all set to face off against the US Virgin Islands in the finals of the tourney 8pm Friday (tonight). **SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGES 4 & 5E**

Lone Bahamian Jabari Wilmott in Basketball Without Borders camp

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

WHILE the Bahamas Basketball Federation (BBF) men's national team is holding court at the Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium, another talented young Bahamian is taking his show on the road. Jabari Wilmott, a 2011 graduate of St Augustine's College, was selected by the BBF as the lone Bahamian to represent the Bahamas at the Basketball Without Borders Americas camp. The camp, which features 50 players from 16 countries, returns to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where the first Americas camp was staged in 2004. Wilmott, 17, is actually the first Bahamian ever selected to compete in the camp that will run July 29 to August 1. Wilmott left town on Wednesday and is already in Brazil for the camp that is being conducted by FIBA and the NBA. "I would like to thank God, my family, my coaches and everybody who supported me and helped me to get this far," said Wilmott just before he left town. "It's a privilege for me to have this honour to represent my country at such a big and prestigious FIBA and NBA camp."

With this being by far the greatest honour that he has achieved, Wilmott said he intends to take in as much as he can from the coaches that will include NBA legends Dominique Wilkins, Sam Perkins, Allan Houston and Adonal Foyle. FIBA/NBA coaches scheduled to participate are Austin Ainge of the Boston Celtics, Kaleb Canales of the Portland Trailblazers, Alex English of the Toronto Raptors, Alvin Gentry of the Phoenix Suns and Phil Weber of the New York Knicks. "It's going to be a learning experience, but I hope to make some contacts and friends and expose my talent to the world," said Wilmott, who has had an exceptional high school career with the Big Red Machine. Known also as an athlete who has represented and won medals in the high jump at the Carifta Games, Wilmott said although there's no local player that he can use as a benchmark, he intends to make his presence felt in a bid to become the best player that he can be. Basketball Without Borders (BWB), according to its website, is the NBA and FIBA's global basketball development programme that uses the sport to create positive social change in the areas



JABARI WILMOTT

of education and health and wellness. The players will be divided into four teams that will be coached by a FIBA/NBA legend and a FIBA/NBA coach. They will go through daily clinics in the morning to teach fundamentals - passing, shooting, dribbling, one-on-one moves, offense and defense. Each drafted team will have a designated time to practice their camp offense. Games will be scheduled for the afternoons and evenings and played in a 'round robin' format. All participating players will be outfitted with Nike apparel and

given a Nike gym bag containing mess practice gear, socks and Nike shoes. The NBA will provide all transportation, meals, accommodation and security for the duration of the camp. Wilmott's father, Barry, said he is very proud of his son's accomplishment. "Actually, I'm elated because a lot of people don't get this opportunity," he said. "When you see young people stay so focused, words can not say just how I feel." Having watched his son develop his skills over the last six to seven years, Wilmott Sr said he was "consistent and persistent" in his endeavours. "Jabari always took on everything as a challenge and I always noticed that nothing wasn't too big for him," he stated. "He was always consistent, devoted and persistent and that enabled him to achieve just about anything that he pursued." As his son departed, Wilmott Sr said he simply wants the trip to be a "learning experience" for him. "I told him that basketball will always come, so use this as a lifetime experience," he said. "I want him to consider himself fortunate because not too many people get this opportunity. "So don't look at this as just a sporting event, but a life-

time experience, something that most young men will never get an opportunity to achieve." Sean Bastian, the secretary of the BBF, said when FIBA made the request for one of their players to attend the camp, Wilmott fitted all the requirements and so it was an easy decision for himself and president Lawrence Hepburn to make in their final selection. "He was a member of our junior national team two years ago and has the educational background and the athletic abilities that they requested," Bastian said. "We actually wanted to send a female as well, but they only wished to have one, so we decided that Jabari will be the best person fitted for the job. This is just one of the many initiatives that we as a federation are trying to achieve." Bastian said he's confident that Wilmott will represent the Bahamas very well. On his return from the camp, Wilmott is scheduled to leave town on August 16 to start his freshman year at Ranger Junior College in Ranger, Texas. He will be coached by Larry Brown, the head coach of the men's national team that is presently playing in the CBC tournament at Kendal Isaacs gym.



MARK KNOWLES

Knowles, Malisse survive 1st round

MARK Knowles and his temporary men's doubles partner Xavier Malisse survived their first-round match at the Farmers Classic in Los Angeles, California. On Wednesday, Knowles and Malisse, the No.3 seeded team, pulled off a 6-1, 6-4 win over the team of Colin Fleming and Ross Hutchins of Great Britain. They were scheduled to play their second round match Thursday against the team of Thomaz Bellucci of Brazil and Alejandro Falla of Colombia.

Sports minister receives anti-doping rules, regulations

MINISTER of Youth, Sports and Culture Charles Maynard has been presented with copies of the Bahamas Anti-Doping Commission (BADP)'s rules and regulations and strategic plan. The presentation took place during a special meeting which was called so that the BADC could officially report to the minister, who was informed of all the activities since appointment of the members in April last year. Dr Jerome Lightbourne, chairman of the BADC, informed the minister of the relationships established with

the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the Regional Anti-Doping Organisation (RADO), the new BADC website and plans for a seminar weekend August 25-27 at Superclubs Breezes, Cable Beach. An immediate priority on the BADC agenda is to communicate directly with the sports federations to inform them of the new requirements. A special handover ceremony of the functions of anti-doping in the country from the Bahamas Olympic Committee to the BADC is set for August 12.



SHOWN (l-r) are sports director Timothy Munnings, deputy permanent secretary Eugene Poitier, BADC deputy chairman Fred Sturup, Sports Minister Charles Maynard, BADC chairman Dr Lightbourne, BADC managing director Sam Haven and BADC secretary general Roscow Davies.

SPORTS

21st Caribbean Basketball Confederation Championships, Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium...

US Virgin Islands beats Jamaica 86-61

The Bahamas prevails over top-

THE US Virgin Islands stunned top-ranked Jamaica 86-61 to join host Bahamas as the only two undefeated teams left in the 2011 Caribbean Basketball Championships.

On Wednesday night (day five) at the Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium, Victor Cuthbert led the usual balanced offensive attack from the US Virgin Islands with 25 points, six rebounds, five assists and six steals. Three of his teammates also scored in double figures.

For Jamaica, Patrick A Ewing scored 15 points with seven rebounds.

With the victory, the US Virgin Islands team stays on top of the standings in Group A while Jamaica falls to second.

In the other games played:

The British Virgin Islands knocked off St Vincent and the Grenadines, 71-63. Rashid Caan scored 21 points and Kennedy Bass had 15.

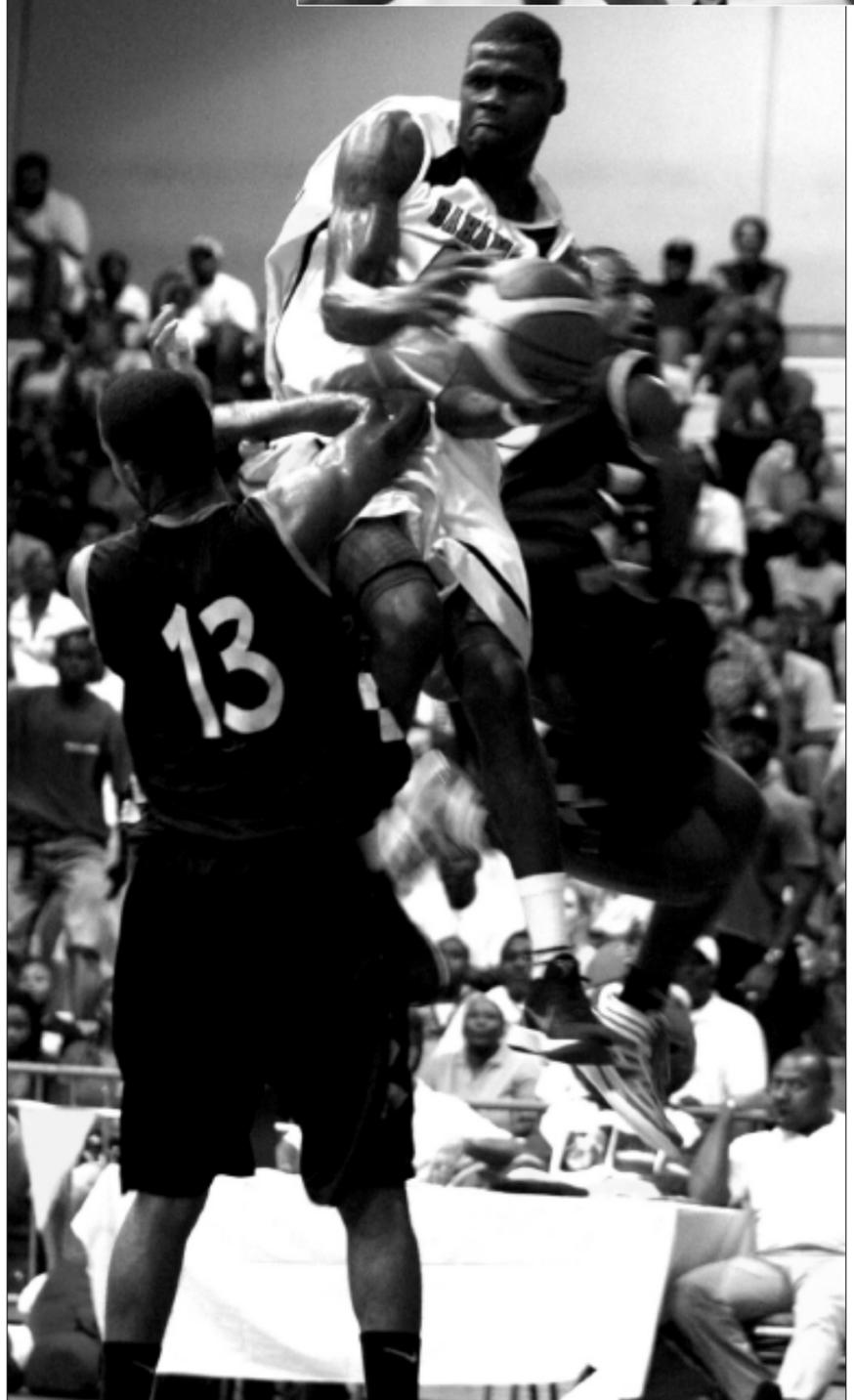
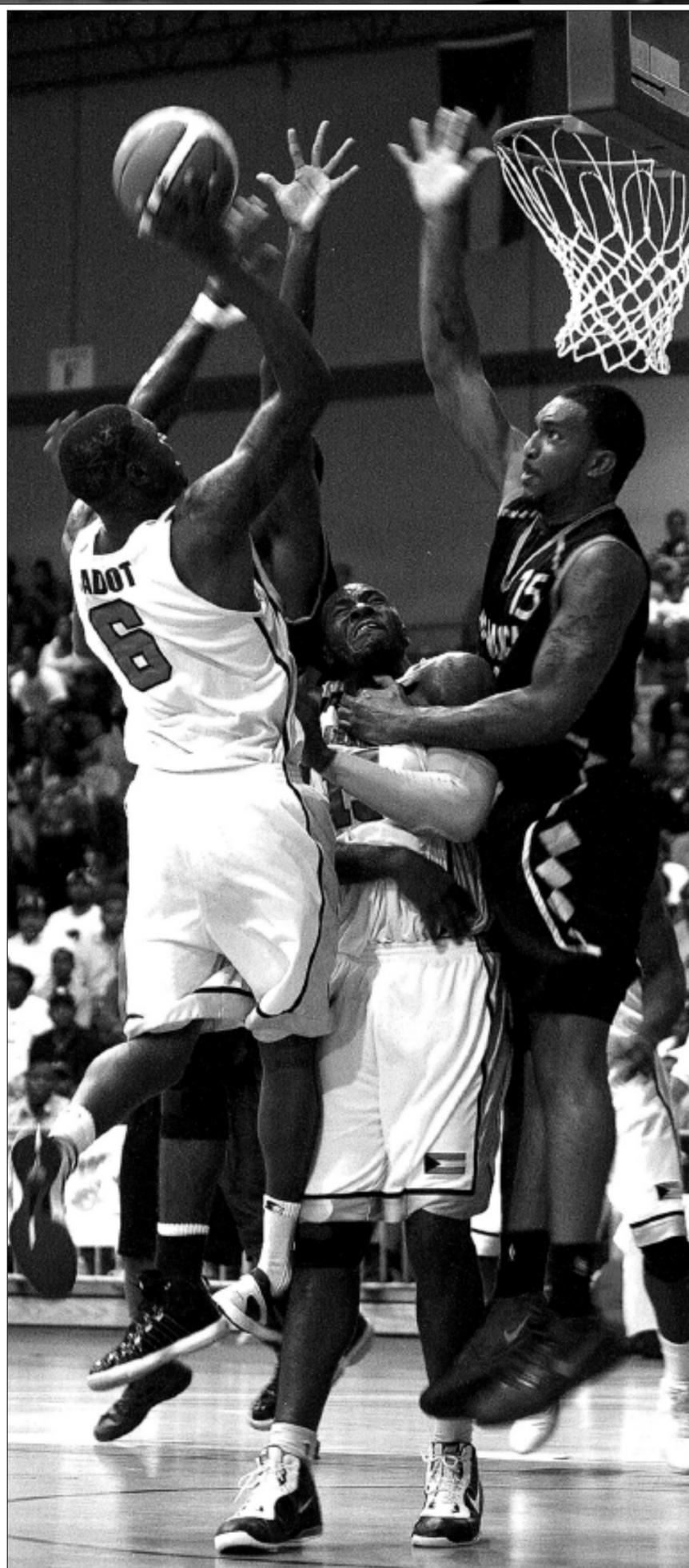
For St Vincent, Randolph Williams had a game high 23 to maintain his status as the top scorer in the tournament.

Also, Bermuda won 54-48 over the Cayman Islands. Jason Lowe led the winning team with 18 points while Jorge Ebanks scored 13 points for Cayman Islands.

And Antigua beat Guyana 76-51. Lennox McCoy scored 16 points to lead the way as Wayne Walker and Julius Hodge both scored 15 points. For Guyana, Keron McKenzie scored 21 points to lead the game.



Photos by Felipe Major/Tribune staff



SPORTS

21st Caribbean Basketball Confederation Championships, Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium...

ranked Jamaica, 78-75, in overtime

FINALS BOUND: The Bahamas defeated powerhouse Jamaica, 78-75, in overtime Thursday night in the semifinals of the 2011 Caribbean Basketball Championships at Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium. Team Bahamas is all set to face off against the US Virgin Islands in the finals of the tourney 8pm tonight.



Bills reach 4-year, \$15m deal with WR Smith

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Brad Smith's coming to Buffalo, and the wildcat can't be far behind after the multi-talented offensive player agreed to a four-year contract worth about \$15 million with the Bills.

Smith's agent Mark Bartelstein confirmed his client's agreement and the terms of the contract Thursday.

Smith's versatility as a receiver, rusher and ability to take snaps out of the quarterback spot in wildcat formations complements Bills coach Chan Gailey's wide-open offensive philosophy.

A four-year NFL player, Smith also has vast special teams experience as a punt-returner and on coverage units.

In an e-mail to The Associated Press, Smith, a former New York Jet, wrote that he's very glad to be joining the Bills and is excited for the opportunity to play for Gailey.

Titans release QB Vince Young

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Tennessee Titans have released Vince Young, finally cutting ties with the quarterback they made the No. 3 pick overall in the 2006 draft.

The team announced the move Thursday, nearly eight months after owner Bud Adams said the team would trade or release Young.

Young is 30-18 in five seasons, including a play-off loss. He's battled questions over his work ethic, leadership and injuries.

With the new labour deal, the Titans had to move quickly to avoid paying Young a \$4.25 million roster bonus that had previously been due on the 10th day of a new league year. He also was scheduled for \$8.5 million in salary this season, making him too pricey to trade to another team.



SPORTS

ISAF Youth Worlds: Sands ends up 29th overall

FROM page 1E

there. He briefed the sailors each morning on what to expect conditions-wise on the course before going out and then each evening provided a debrief through videos taken of the sailors while racing during the day.

Sands said: "Hugh is really good. He gives us a lot of local knowledge in the morning and we have debriefings in the afternoon as well. It's a big help."

It has only been through the efforts and support of the Bahamas Sailing Association (BSA) and their sponsors, Nassau Yacht Club, Royal Nassau Sailing Club and The Bahamas Olympic Association, that our top junior sailors have been able to participate in this prestigious and important event.

Through the BSA, the Bahamas has over the last six years sent sailors to the ISAF Youth Worlds on five occasions. It is hoped that this practice will continue and that some day in the near future we will see the Bahamas represented again in sailing at the Olympic Games.

Sands, 17, started sailing when he was just 10. In the last seven years, he participated in the junior sailing programmes of the Bahamas Sailing Association and Nassau Yacht Club.

Chris is a multiple time national champion in optimist, sunfish, laser and snipe. Last year, he finished in 28th position at the ISAF Youth Worlds in Turkey.

More recently, he placed 7th at both the 2011 Laser Midwinters East and the 2010 Orange Bowl Regatta.

The Bahamas Sailing Association (BSA) acts as the governing authority of the sport of sailing in the Bahamas under the supervision of the International Sailing Federation, or ISAF. The BSA's mission is to promote and encourage sailing in all its aspects in the Bahamas.



CHRISTOPHER SANDS on the high seas during the 41st ISAF Youth Sailing World Championship in Zadar, Croatia. He placed 29th overall.

Photo by Robert Dunkley

THE WEATHER REPORT

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT (BAHAMAS) LIMITED
INSURANCE BROKERS & AGENTS

5-DAY FORECAST

TODAY

TONIGHT

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

UV INDEX TODAY

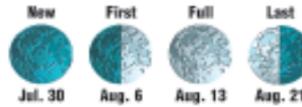
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LOW MODERATE HIGH V. HIGH EXT

TIDES FOR NASSAU

	High	HL (ft.)	Low	HL (ft.)
Today	6:10 a.m.	2.6	12:22 a.m.	0.4
	6:40 p.m.	3.4	12:16 p.m.	0.1
Saturday	6:58 a.m.	2.8	1:07 a.m.	0.3
	7:25 p.m.	3.5	1:05 p.m.	0.0
Sunday	7:46 a.m.	3.0	1:50 a.m.	0.0
	8:10 p.m.	3.5	1:54 p.m.	-0.1
Monday	8:34 a.m.	3.2	2:33 a.m.	-0.1
	8:56 p.m.	3.5	2:44 p.m.	-0.1
Tuesday	9:23 a.m.	3.3	3:18 a.m.	-0.1
	9:42 p.m.	3.4	3:36 p.m.	0.0
Wednesday	10:14 a.m.	3.3	4:04 a.m.	-0.3
	10:32 p.m.	3.2	4:29 p.m.	0.1
Thursday	11:08 a.m.	3.3	4:32 a.m.	-0.1
	11:24 p.m.	3.0	5:27 p.m.	0.3

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise 6:36 a.m. Moonrise 5:21 a.m.
Sunset 7:57 p.m. Moonset 7:04 p.m.



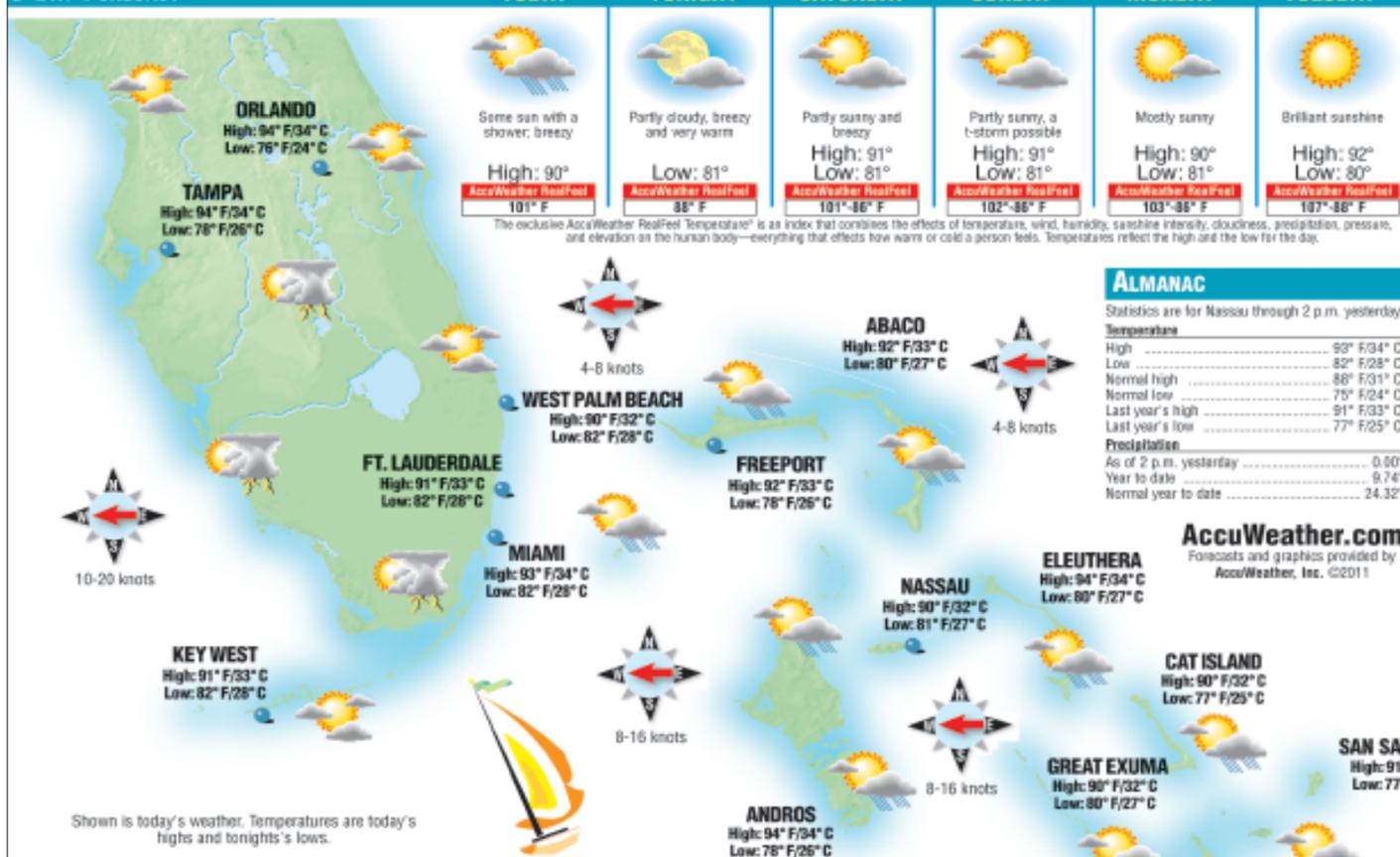
ALMANAC

Statistics are for Nassau through 2 p.m. yesterday

Temperature	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low	Last year's high	Last year's low
High	93° F/34° C	82° F/28° C	88° F/31° C	75° F/24° C	91° F/33° C	77° F/25° C
Low	82° F/28° C	75° F/24° C	77° F/25° C	77° F/25° C	77° F/25° C	77° F/25° C

Precipitation
As of 2 p.m. yesterday 0.00"
Year to date 9.74"
Normal year to date 24.32"

AccuWeather.com
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2011



INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP



MARINE FORECAST

	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMPS.
ABACO	Today: E at 4-8 Knots Saturday: E at 8-16 Knots	3-5 Feet	7 Miles	85° F
ANDROS	Today: E at 8-16 Knots Saturday: E at 10-20 Knots	3-5 Feet	7 Miles	86° F
CAT ISLAND	Today: E at 8-16 Knots Saturday: E at 10-20 Knots	3-6 Feet	10 Miles	85° F
CROOKED ISLAND	Today: E at 10-20 Knots Saturday: E at 8-16 Knots	3-6 Feet	6 Miles	84° F
ELEUTHERA	Today: E at 8-16 Knots Saturday: E at 10-20 Knots	3-6 Feet	10 Miles	85° F
FREEPORT	Today: E at 8-16 Knots Saturday: E at 10-20 Knots	1-3 Feet	7 Miles	86° F
GREAT EXUMA	Today: E at 8-16 Knots Saturday: E at 10-20 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	85° F
GREAT INAGUA	Today: E at 10-20 Knots Saturday: E at 10-20 Knots	3-5 Feet	10 Miles	84° F
LONG ISLAND	Today: E at 8-16 Knots Saturday: E at 10-20 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	85° F
MAYAGUANA	Today: E at 10-20 Knots Saturday: E at 8-16 Knots	4-7 Feet	10 Miles	84° F
NASSAU	Today: E at 8-16 Knots Saturday: E at 10-20 Knots	2-4 Feet	7 Miles	86° F
SAN SALVADOR	Today: E at 8-16 Knots Saturday: E at 10-20 Knots	3-6 Feet	10 Miles	85° F
RAGGED ISLAND	Today: E at 8-16 Knots Saturday: E at 10-20 Knots	2-4 Feet	10 Miles	85° F

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