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ARTS

THE MAGIC OF PUMPKINS

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SLOOP SAILING

REGATTA TO HONOUR SAIL LEGEND

SEE SPORTS SECTION E



Child rapist arrested

Man accused of attempted rape and abduction

By SANCHESKA BROWN
Tribune News Reporter
sbrown@tribunemedia.net

CONVICTED child rapist Andrew Bridgewater is back in police custody after allegedly attempting to rape a woman and abduct two primary school students.

Police have confirmed Bridgewater was arrested around 3pm yesterday at his residence on Marshall Road, after a two-week man hunt.

He is being held at the Carmichael Road Police Station in connection with attempted rape, robbery and abduction.

According to well-placed police sources, Bridgewater allegedly attempted to kidnap a male and female student from Carmichael Primary School two weeks ago.

The students managed to escape and reported the incident to their parents who went to Carmichael Road police.

Police are also questioning Bridgewater in connection with the attempted robbery

and rape of a woman.

Sources say he attempted to rob and rape the woman at knifepoint as she was walking home earlier this week.

The woman allegedly fought back and cut him on his hand with his own knife before escaping.

She also reported the matter to Carmichael Road police.

Sources say while at the station the woman recognised Bridgewater's photo on a wanted poster and identified him as the man who attempted to rape and rob her.

Bridgewater is expected to be transferred to the Central Detective Unit today for questioning.

He was convicted in 2007 for the rape of a six-year-old girl. He was released September 11, 2011, one day before the fifth anniversary of his crime.

He was originally sentenced to 10 cat-o-nine-tails lashes and seven years in prison, but he appealed the flogging and was released after time served.



CONVICTED CHILD RAPIST Andrew Bridgewater has been arrested following the attempted rape of a woman and attempted abduction of two primary school students.

TEENAGER AND MAN, 21, INJURED IN SHOOTING

By SANCHESKA BROWN
Tribune News Reporter
sbrown@tribunemedia.net

A TEENAGE boy and a 21-year-old man were shot early yesterday morning in what police suspect was retaliation for a shooting a few hours earlier.

Police say around 7.30am they received information that two males were shot at Florida Court, near Balfour Avenue.

The victims, ages 15 and 21, were taken to hospital where they are both listed in serious condition.

Sources within the police force say the double shooting was retaliation for another

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MOTHER 'LUCKY TO BE ALIVE' AFTER BIRTH OF CHILD

By KHRISNA VIRGIL

A HARBOUR Island mother of six considers herself lucky to be alive after a nightmare pregnancy scare.

Paula Percentie, 36, accused staff at the Princess Margaret Hospital maternity ward of almost causing her death during and after the birth of her last child.

Only able to carry the child to 33 weeks, Mrs Percentie said she was forced to wait almost five hours before nurses removed the cervical stitch with which she had been fitted before to prevent an early delivery.

"The baby's heart rate began to drop because they took so long to remove the cerlage (stitch). She could not

find her way out," the mother claimed.

The next morning, Mrs Percentie said, she "was sent home without antibiotics, only Baralgin (a pain killer) and Materna (a vitamin)."

The next four days, she said, "were the most painful that I have ever experienced. "I had excruciating pain, nausea, and weakness the whole time up until I made the discovery."

That discovery was that part of her afterbirth had not been removed at the hospital on the day she delivered the baby.

She said: "I was pumping my breast, when I began to feel really ill and like I needed

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CHURCH ELDER GETS LIFE FOR SEX ATTACK ON NINE-YEAR-OLD

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT: Convicted child abuser Albert Alexander Whyley, 60, was sen-

tenced to life in prison by senior Supreme Court Justice Hartman Longley for having unlawful sex with a nine-year-old girl.

At his sentencing yesterday, Justice Longley heard



CHILD ABUSER Albert Whyley, who has been jailed for life.

from a psychiatrist and psychologist who said Whyley, 60, fits the criteria for paedophilia after he admitted to having sexual urges for children since his incarceration.

While international studies put the recidivism rate for persons diagnosed with such a sexual disorder at about 20 to 50 per cent, psychiatrist Dr John Dillet suggested it is 100 per cent possible Whyley would re-offend.

The prosecution recommended a 20 to 25-year custodial sentence, but

SEE page 7

PINDER: 'I WILL NOT QUIT MY CONSTITUENCY'

By PAUL G TURNQUEST
Chief Reporter
pturnquest@tribunemedia.net

OPPOSITION MP for Elizabeth Ryan Pinder yesterday dismissed reports he was contemplating leaving his seat in favour of a "safer" constituency in which to run in the lead-up to the 2012 general elections.

Speaking exclusively with *The Tribune* at the House of Assembly yesterday, Mr Pinder said he fully intends to be the representative for Elizabeth after 2012 having served "the good people" of that constituency effectively for the past 18 months.

"I was elected to represent

SEE page 3

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LOCAL NEWS

400 SIGN UP TO JOIN VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

NEARLY 400 people have registered to become national volunteers since the launch of the government's programme earlier this month.

At the Volunteer Bahamas national launch ceremony last night, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said hundreds of applications were still being processed.

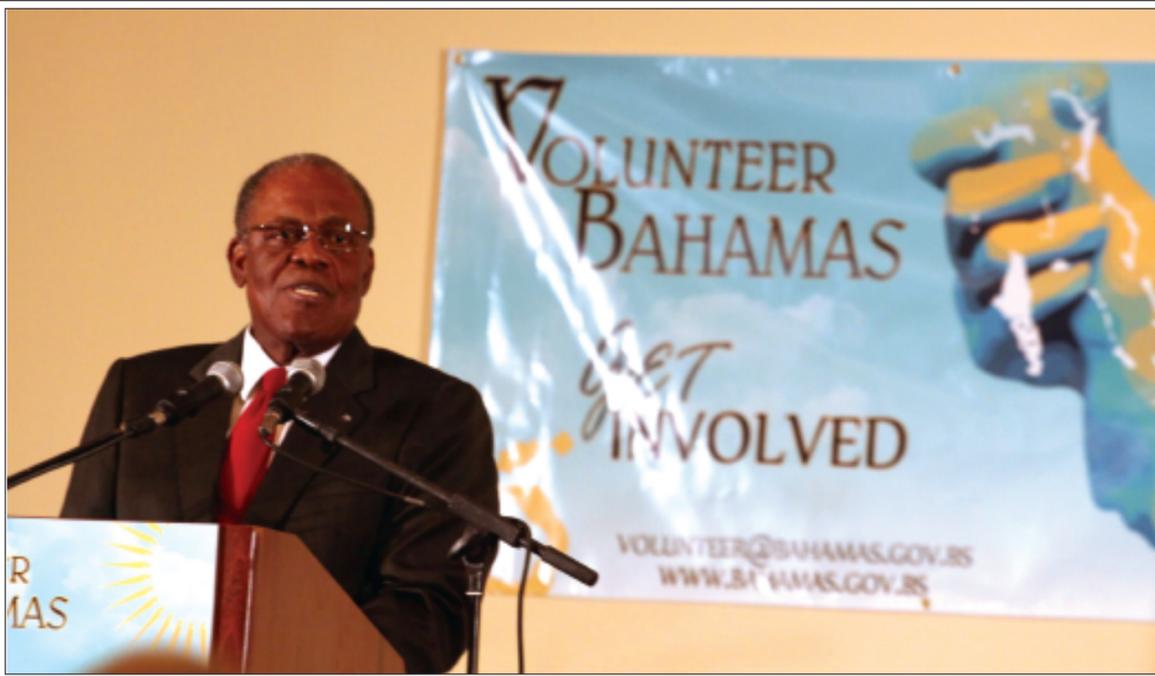
The programme will be led by a national committee chaired by Darron Turnquest, Youth director, and Olympian Pauline Davis-Thompson.

Central to the programme is the idea that in order to decrease crime and create safer, healthier and more non-violent communities, we need partnerships between government, faith and com-

munity-based organisations, corporate citizens, philanthropic groups and individuals.

Last night, representatives from more than 15 civic groups set up information booths in the ballroom at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort.

Registration forms are available on the government's website, and are also available in New Providence at the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture on Thompson Boulevard and at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development in the Main Post Office Building on East Street. Family Island residents can collect or return applications to the local administrator's office.



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham at the launch of Volunteer Bahamas.

Maynard in charge of straw market

By AVA TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

CULTURE Minister Charles Maynard has been named as the minister responsible for the downtown straw market.

Mr Maynard will receive his appointment today under the provisions of the Straw Market Authority Act, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham announced last night.

The Bill, among other related regulations, was passed by the legislature last month and

provides for a Straw Market Authority Board to oversee the management and day-to-day operation of the straw market. Hubert Chipman, a chartered accountant, was named chairman of the board last week.

Contractors are still putting

the finishing touches on the two-story market, which the government plans to populate and open to the public in time for Christmas.

The government has spent more than \$12 million on the project, and plans to invest another \$750,000 to fund start-up operations.

Yesterday, architect Patrick Rahming presented his design approach with students at the College of the Bahamas. During the design process, Mr Rahming said architectural symbolism, sustainability and context were given top consideration.

Framed by classical columns, and in keeping with

the formal style of Supreme Court and Senate buildings, the new straw market pays homage to the "original" straw market that burned down in 1972.

Mr Rahming said: "As you walk up Bay Street, you have some domestic scale but basically it's a very formal affair, the buildings are very formal. The thing that sets the pace for downtown is Rawson Square.

"Almost 40 years into our independence, it is unfortunate that we haven't created a more powerful centre for our image of our downtown, but at the moment that is what sets the pace for downtown."

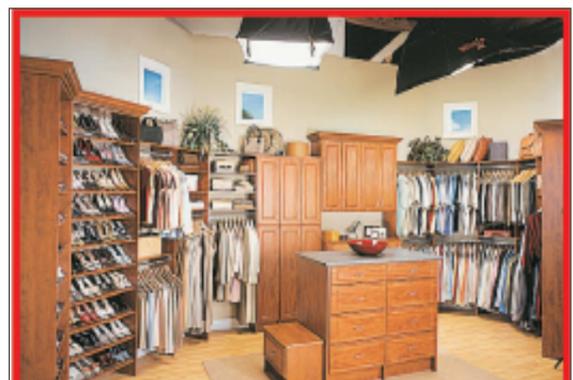
Mr Rahming underscored the need for a "new downtown", a community centre to serve the needs of citizens rather than the interests of visitors.

"The city is supposed to be channeling those things that you treasure, the record of your history, the record of your significant events," Mr Rahming said.

"You will expect to have monuments in a downtown that says this is where this community has been and this is how we came forward."

He added: "We took half of one of our giants and put him in Rawson Square. In 40 years that's disastrous."

BOUNDARY CHANGES 'FAVOUR FNM'



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BOUNDARY changes can give an advantage to the ruling party in a general election, according to the majority of readers in *The Tribune's* latest online poll.

A total of 145 voters disagreed with FNM chairman Carl Bethel - who had said that "lines don't vote, people do" in reference to boundary changes. By contrast, 102 voters said boundary changes make little difference.

Those posting comments on the issue, however, were less convinced that it makes a difference.

'McD' said: "This always comes up, and I really doubt that the subdivision lines have as marked a difference on results as the public and the politicians would like to believe. But, of course, they would not be doing it for nothing!"

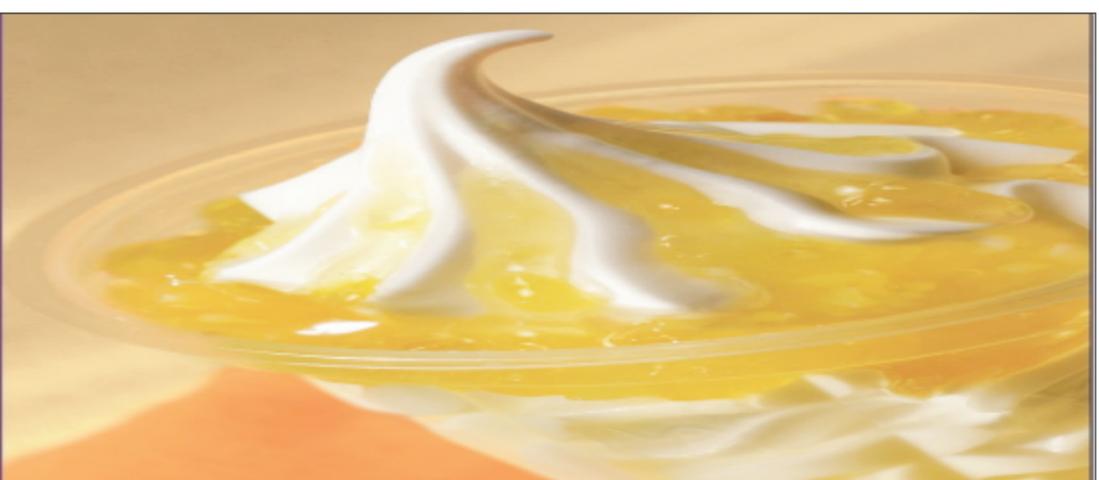
'Erasmus Folly' said boundary changes should be accepted as the prerogative of the ruling party: "The opposition can only complain if they do away with the prerogative while they are in power. Otherwise, shut up and don't waste our time whining."

"How many years of gerrymandering did the PLP enjoy from '67 to '92? Spilled milk arguments belittle our intelligence as citizens. As usual, politicians need to grow up and focus on real issues."

'Tired' was unhappy with the process: "I'm a little torn on this as I think the process is stupid and there is no clear reason to the people why they cut the boundaries, change the names or do all these foolishness. It's taken from the British system, but the British do things differently - sometimes we shouldn't copy their stuff."

The last word goes to 'College kid': "Both parties know exactly what they are doing when they make the boundaries an issue. It's just another tactic that the opposition uses to gain a foothold."

Check out www.tribune242.com for a new poll.



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Volunteer Bahamas - get involved

LAST night, in the ballroom of the Sheraton Nassau Beach hotel, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham officially launched the Government's Volunteer programme — a call to all Bahamians to give of their time and talents to help create "safer, healthier and more non-violent communities".

"While Government has an essential role in society," he told his listeners, "it is no substitute for the personal responsibility required for good family life and avoiding criminal and anti-social behaviour."

He pointed out that government was not a replacement for civil society. "This is why," he said, "Government alone cannot fully address matters such as criminality, incivility and anti-social behaviour."

He emphasised that it is the "citizenry acting individually and sometimes collectively, through families, churches, service clubs, schools, Lodges, foundations, businesses and other private groups in collaboration with Government can cause renewal of community life, combat the negative influences harmful to and destructive of our communities and assist in our return to good old traditional Bahamian values like respect for our elders".

He said that community service programmes have been introduced in all of government's junior and secondary schools to make certain that every government school child will have been engaged in "a service-learning experience".

He said that to support social entrepreneurs and community leaders who are "engaged in innovative and effective youth and urban outreach programmes", government will provide a small grant. He said that "the amount of funds available may be increased depending on the needs and available resources".

Mr Ingraham talked of the joy of giving. The satisfaction of seeing someone else succeed as a result of the helping hand that you have extended.

This week, American journalist and TV personality Meredith Vieira was asked by Piers Morgan of CNN's Piers Morgan Tonight Show to recall a moment in her long career that was the most memorable. She thought for a moment and then told the story of a little boy — about 6 or 7 years old — who she found in a run-down tenement building. His father had walked

out on the family, the mother was high on drugs, and here was this little man at this tender age determined to succeed on his own. So impressed was she by the spirit in this little body that she befriended the child. She did not go into details of what help she might have given him. But over the years, he telephoned her regularly and wherever she was, his calls were always put through by her staff. Today, he holds down a responsible government job. And in her long, exciting and varied career, this little boy, now grown to manhood, is one of her most cherished memories. It is the moment — among her life's many moments — that gives her the most satisfaction.

We know just how she feels. Our life's work has been trying to give the voiceless a voice through their newspaper. We have written much, we have listened even more to the misfortunes of others, we have done our best to encourage young people to aim for the stars, but what gives us the most satisfaction is to be stopped on the street, or in the foodstore, by an obviously successful citizen, whose face we no longer remember, and asked: "Do you remember me? You know I started as a paper boy at The Tribune." This opening would be followed by the recounting of many happy memories when Tribune boys were then a part of the family.

"Mum, you know your (name deleted) could not do that! I could never let you down," a young man told us this week. He had had a bad break in life. He went through a period that would have broken the strongest of men. But we believed in him, we stuck by him, and gave him as much encouragement as we could. Today he is a successful young businessman — one of our many "sons".

Today, as we look around, we see the many "boys" who passed through The Tribune holding important positions in the community — all respected gentlemen.

If nothing else, this has made life worth living.

If Bahamians want to have a "safer, healthier and more non-violent" community — and also the satisfaction of being a part of the solution and not of the problem — then join Volunteer Bahamas and make a difference. We can assure you that you will never regret it.

Christie faces tough decision

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I BELIEVE that the Ingraham administration has made a brilliant move in proposing to reduce the number of seats in Parliament from 41 to 38 for the 2012 general elections. I understand that our Constitution calls for only 38 seats in the House of Assembly.

At one time, there were an astonishing 49 seats in that august chamber. For a country the size of The Bahamas, that was way too many seats.

In fact, I believe that the proposed 38 seats are still too many. I would like to see that number reduced to 21 seats. I believe that the Constitution can be amended; it is not inflexible. Be that as it may, I am glad that Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and the members of the Boundaries Commission have decided to follow the Constitution.

According to the November 17 edition of The Nassau Guardian, three new constituencies will be created in New Providence: Nassau Village, Southern Shores and Tall Pines. According to the same news report, the New Providence constituencies of Blue Hills, Clifton, Kennedy, Englestone and St Thomas More will all be eliminated. Interestingly, three of these five constituencies are held by Free National Movement (FNM) Members of Parliament. Sidney Collie (Blue Hills), Kendal Wright (Clifton) and Kenyatta Gibson (Kennedy) will all be affected by the boundary cuts.

No one knows what will happen to the three FNM representatives. Will the FNM nominate them? It is my belief, though, that Kenyatta Gibson would have lost his Kennedy seat anyway. Remember, Gibson ran under the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) banner in 2002 and in 2007. Despite his challenges between 2002 and 2007 in the Christie administration, he was still able to hold off his FNM challenger, Michael Turnquest, by 264 votes in the 2007 general elections. In the 2002 general elections, however, Gibson pummeled the FNM challenger, Ashley Cargill, by an astounding 999 votes. He resigned from the PLP in January, 2008.

His move to the FNM in early 2009 has angered many Opposition supporters in Kennedy. The PLP was poised to win Kennedy in 2012. I just

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

don't see how Gibson and the FNM could have pulled off a victory in that constituency. Perhaps this can explain why the commission had no qualms recommending the elimination of that seat. As it stands right now, Kennedy is useless to the FNM.

Yet with that being said, I believe that the Opposition is in a precarious position with respect to the elimination of Kennedy, a PLP stronghold.

Now the leadership of the PLP will have to decide what to do with Dion Smith. He was nominated by the PLP to run in Kennedy. Now, all of a sudden, he has nowhere to run. What will the PLP do with him? Also, what will the PLP do with Leslie Miller, now that Blue Hills has been dropped? Where will Glenys Hanna-Martin run in 2012? She obviously has precedence over Dion Smith and Leslie Miller. She is the daughter of AD Hanna, the former Governor General and Deputy Primer Minister in Sir Lynden's government. Everybody knows that the PLP looks after its own, especially those who have been toeing the party lines for years.

In addition to the many speculations about the political future of the aforementioned PLP politicians, one question that many are probably asking is this: What will now happen to St Thomas More Member of Parliament, Frank Smith?

Of all the Official Opposition MPs, Smith is perhaps the most vocal opponent of the FNM in the House of Assembly. He is a perennial thorn in the side of the governing party. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Member of Parliament for Cat Island, Rum Cay and San Salvador, Philip "Brave" Davis, has expressed concerns over the boundary changes owing to a "public promise" made by the prime minister concerning the political future of Frank Smith.

It sounds as if he is suggesting that Prime Minister Ingraham is attempting to get rid of Smith by dropping St Thomas More. Maybe he is, but then again the prime minister is also eliminating three FNM constituencies in New Providence and one in Grand Bahama. So, what's the point? What is good for the goose is good for the

gander. I believe, though, that Smith will run in one of the three new constituencies mentioned above. Remember, his father-in-law is Franklyn Wilson, a financial heavyweight in the PLP. I just cannot envisage Frank Smith not running under the PLP banner in 2012.

All in all, I believe that the proposals by the commission are fair. According to The Nassau Guardian, the Ingraham administration is simply attempting to keep the number of voters in every constituency relatively the same. For instance, as of November 14, 96,111 persons had registered to vote in New Providence. When you divide that number by the 23 constituencies, you get 4,178. The Ingraham administration simply wants to bring parity from constituency to constituency in New Providence. Also, we must remember that despite the changes that will be made to the boundaries in New Providence, the FNM government still faces an uphill battle in the 23 constituencies in the upcoming general elections. Boundaries don't vote, people do.

In summation, the Leader of the Opposition and Member of Parliament for the Constituency of Farm Road, Perry Christie, now faces the arduous task of deciding which candidates to run. As it stands right now, there are presently 25 constituencies in New Providence. After the upcoming general election, however, there will only be 23. The leadership of the PLP will now have to tell two of their candidates in New Providence that they will not be running for the party in 2012.

This difficult decision will no doubt hurt the two aspiring politicians. But nonetheless, it is a decision that Perry Christie has to make. He cannot run 25 candidates in New Providence. There will only be 23 seats in New Providence in the upcoming general election. And as I mentioned above, current Opposition Members of Parliament Glenys Hanna Martin and Frank Smith will no doubt be given first precedence over new candidates like Dion Smith and several other new candidates who have been ratified by the Opposition.

KEVIN EVANS
Freeport,
Grand Bahama,
November 20, 2011.

Volunteer to get country on track

EDITOR, The Tribune.

SONIA James said, "We must remember that one determined

person can make a significant difference, and that a small group of determined people can change the course of history."

The Bahamas has recorded a record 110 murders so far this year. And while the pace has slowed significantly as compared to previous months, there is still much cause for concern. All summer, many Bahamians, me included were calling on the government to do something to immediately curb this problem.

The government responded with additional police cars, more police patrols and ankle bracelets for criminals. And now they have finally come up with, in my opinion, a viable solution — a national volunteer programme.

Suffice to say, Bahamians have not been registering as they should in droves to volunteer. How can it be that we expect the government to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour on its own? The government simply can't. The battle will be lost and there is much evidence to support this.

This is a perfect opportunity for Bahamians and permanent residents alike to "shut up and put up". The time for talk is over. All those persons complaining about crime can now become a part of the solution.

I checked the online registration and as of November 16, 2011, there were only 244 registered volunteers. This is an absolute national disgrace and this further speaks to our free-wheeling attitude. The politicians need to fix our crime problem is what some citizens are saying. To those Bahamians still living in a dream land, I say to them that the solution is in all of us. Making a positive contribution no matter how small is well within every well intentioned Bahamian's reach.

Register for the national volunteer programme today and let's start to get our country back on the right track.

DEHAVILLAND MOSS
Nassau,
November 17, 2011.

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LOCAL NEWS

UNANIMOUS VERDICT BY JURY CLEARS MAN OF MURDER

By LAMECH JOHNSON
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

A MAN was acquitted of a 2009 church construction site murder in Supreme Court yesterday when a 12-member jury delivered a unanimous not guilty verdict.

Phanuel Charles, 28, had been accused of killing his colleague, 21-year-old Lionel Leonard Johnson.

Around 3pm on November 16, 2009 at the Evangelistic Temple construction site on Collins Avenue, Johnson was stabbed in a scuffle and died of his injuries before arriving

at Princess Margaret Hospital.

Prosecutor Darnell Dorsette had alleged that the accused, defended by Tai Pinder, had intentionally stabbed the deceased, while the defence contended that the stabbing was an accident that happened as a result of Charles defending himself while being attacked by the deceased and another co-worker.

Before the jury deliberated on the verdict, Senior Justice Jon Isaacs conducted a review of the evidence given throughout the trial by eight prosecution witnesses, one

defence witness and the defendant himself.

After a little more than two hours of deliberation, the jury returned to the courtroom, where their foreman announced the 12-0 not guilty verdict.

Senior Justice Isaacs said to the former accused: "Phanuel Charles, the jury has found you not guilty of the murder of Leonard Johnson. Unless you are being held for something else, you are free to go."

Charles embraced his parents, then thanked his attorney for defending him.

'We will make bumpy rides a thing of the past'

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

POTHOLES are one of the most irritating facts of life in the Bahamas, but one local company is hoping to make bumpy rides a thing of the past.

Young entrepreneur Travis Johnson launched his pothole repair service, Cold Patch Bahamas, yesterday at press conference outside the Mackey Street KFC – his company's first client.

Mr Johnson said: "The company was established to address the vexing problem of pot holes found throughout Nassau and the rest of the beautiful islands".

The road repair patches used by the company can be applied quickly, and are designed to have a long life span, he said.

The service will result in less damage to cars and less money spent by the government, Mr Johnson said.

"It is clear in the Bahamas we are either using inferior materials or inferior methods," he said. "Road crews are stretched too thin, resulting in potholes coming back too fast for crews to keep up".

He added that if potholes are not fixed quickly, they increase in size and cause serious damage to cars.

Aiming to service both the private and public sectors, Mr Johnson said the company hopes to employ a crew of at least three young men initially and add an additional crew soon after.

He said he is in the process of applying to the government's Self Starter Programme for a grant to buy heavy machinery and other equipment.

Offered under the motto,



PRESIDENT OF COLD PATCH BAHAMAS Travis Johnson and Marketing Director Bobby Bower pose with a copy of yesterday's Tribune. Photo: Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff

"Rapid, affordable repairs", Mr Johnson said, the company's service is one in which clients can have full confidence.

Marketing director for Cold Patch Bahamas Bobby Bower said: "We are hoping to propose several proposals to the government to gain contracts both for the supply and service of repairing pot holes".

With government resources already stretched by the New Providence Road Improvement Project, Mr Bower said, there is a demand for a good for pothole repairs.

"I think we can make a great contribution to the road safety and driveability of the

roads," he said.

Mr Bower said Cold Patch plans to extend it's services to the Family Islands – in particular islands which do not have asphalt plants.

"Potholes are a problem for everyone, they damage your car, damage you, and can be an enormous cost on the economy," he said.

Mr Bower added that the company is currently researching the use of sustainable materials, so as to become an eco-friendly as possible.

He said with a good product and the correct training, the company can be very successful.

TRUCK DRIVER CHARGED AFTER DISCOVERY OF STOLEN FUEL

By LAMECH JOHNSON
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

A TRUCK driver, who was arrested after the discovery of nearly \$7,000 of fuel belonging to a service station, was charged in Magistrate's Court yesterday afternoon.

Jhvon Albury, 33, of Bamboo Street, appeared in Court 5, Bank Lane, before Magistrate Darence Rolle-Davis, where he was charged with stealing and receiving 605 gallons of diesel, the property of the Shell service station on Thompson Boulevard.

The prosecution alleged that the accused stole the fuel, which is valued at \$6,819.47, on Friday, November 18.

The fuel was said to have been discovered in large drums on a flatbed truck near

the Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre.

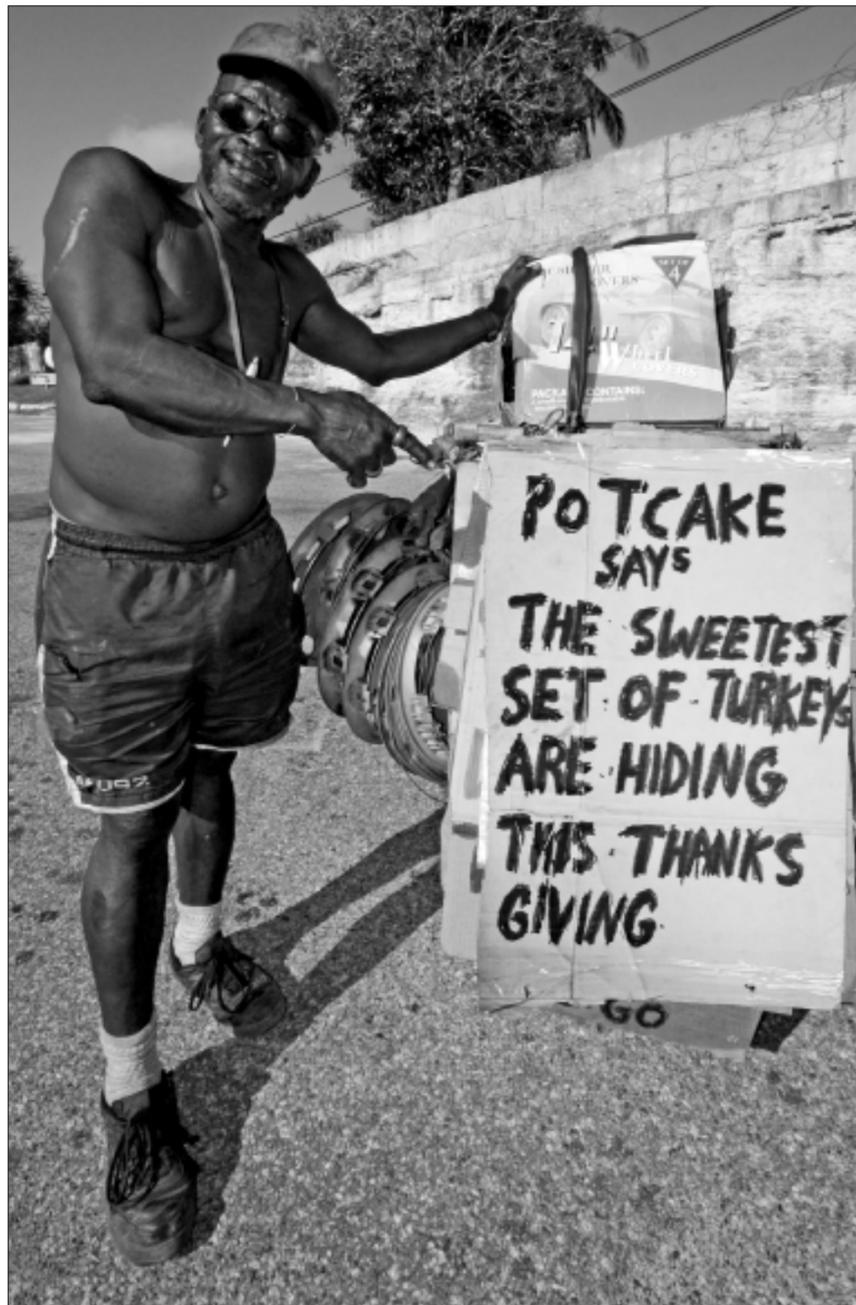
The Golden Gates resident pleaded not guilty to the charges and was granted bail after the prosecution declined to object.

Magistrate Rolle-Davis granted the accused \$7,500 bail with two sureties and adjourned the matter to February 22 and 24, 2012.

Attorney Cecil Hilton is defending Albury.

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LOCAL NEWS

SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENT

SUNSHINE Insurance congratulated Morganne Bethel, an 11th grade Queen's College student who was awarded a \$60,000 scholarship to attend Elmira College in New York.

Morganne was one of the 10 finalists chosen from a large number of applicants that submitted essays on the topic "An original idea to boost the Bahamian economy".

Each of the three runners-up was awarded a \$30,000 scholarship to attend Elmira College.

The runners-up were: Natasha Jn-Simon, a 12th grade student of CR Walker High School; Khristian Johnson, an 11th grade student at Queen's College and Ariana McWeeney, an 11th grader at St Andrew's School.

Elmira College is a private, co-educational, liberal arts

college located in Upstate New York.

It has been historically ranked as one of the top colleges in America.

The college has a large population of international students and a particularly rich historical association with the Bahamas.

Sunshine Insurance chairman Franklyn Wilson is on the college's board of trustees.



PICTURED FROM LEFT: Brian Moodie, president of Sunshine Insurance; Michael Rogers, assistant to the president and director of public relations, Elmira College; Morganne Bethel, overall winner of the 2011 Elmira College SIFE Scholarship; Shelly Wilson, vice president, Sunshine Insurance.

LITTERING PROVES A CONTINUING PROBLEM

LITTERING in the sea and on beaches continues to be a major challenge for the Bahamas, spoiling the beauty that attracts millions of visitors to the country.

In an effort to help tackle the problem, the Ministry of Tourism, celebrating the first Caribbean Tourism Month, invited the Bahamas National Coastal Awareness Committee to join forces with residents of Acklins for a beach clean-up.

Caribbean Tourism Month is being celebrated under the theme: "One Sea, One Voice, One Caribbean."

The crew of volunteers successfully cleaned up two beaches on Acklins - Mason's Bay Beach and Hard Hill Beach.

As part of the exercise, the Coastal Awareness Committee surveyed the amount and type of garbage collected.

In total 4,221 items were gathered from both beaches; the top five debris items were: 813 plastic bottles (two liters or less), 264 ropes, 250 caps and lids, 350 plastic bags and 913 glass bottles.

"We want to ensure that persons throughout the Caribbean recognise the important role tourism plays to the economic development of the region," said Earlston McPhee, director of sustain-

able tourism planning and development at the ministry.

"And the most important aspects are our people and the environment, which is critical to the long term sustainability of tourism."

Mr McPhee said exit surveys reveal that visitors choose the Bahamas over other destinations primarily because of the pristine beaches.

Part of the Coastal Awareness Committee's focus within the last two years has been assisting small communities like Acklins to maintain their marine environment. Acklins has a population of 635 and only 300 of them are adults.

"The most important thing is not us coming and cleaning up the beaches, but working in collaboration with local government, the local administrator and the community to clean-up the beaches of our islands," Mr McPhee said.

He added that he was grateful to the corporate sponsors that help fund these clean-up efforts and said it would not be possible without them, particularly the Royal Bank of Canada.

Local communities pitch in as well; in Acklins, Ivels Bed and Breakfast, local government and various members of the community participated, making the initiative a success.

Candidate hits out at Sea Breeze rivals

By DANA SMITH
dsmith@tribunemedia.net

WELL-known businessman and DNA candidate for Sea Breeze Chris Mortimer claimed representation in the area has been "nonexistent" for years.

Mr Mortimer was speaking at the CA Mortimer Sr Centre's weekly soup kitchen on Beatrice Avenue, as he packed containers of food for distribution.

"We're growing as a country and I think we're exposed to a lot of things about what representation is supposed to be about," Mr Mortimer said. "People have a higher expectation of what representation is supposed to be."

He claims Sea Breeze residents are looking for "true representation" - a person who "represents the community, how they feel, and what they think should be done."

"They want me to be that particular person and I want to be that person, for them," Mr Mortimer said.

He also criticised former Sea Breeze MPs.

"Persons in this community have had the opportunity to see representation under the PLP and under the FNM,"



DNA SEA BREEZE candidate Christopher Mortimer and DNA Volunteers put together Thanksgiving lunch for some of the elderly residents of Sea Breeze. Photos: Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff

Mr Mortimer said, "and the reality is, for a lot of them, that has been non-existent."

Speaking of current Sea Breeze MP, Carl Bethel, Mr Mortimer said: "There's no doubt that Mr Bethel is challenged in this constituency because of what he has not done."

"I think the support that I have in this community is really because I have said I'm going to do things regardless. I'm not the candidate that's saying, 'When I get into parliament, this is what I'm going to do'."

"These are things I'm doing and these are the things I will continue to do, regardless of whether I win or not."

The soup kitchen, one of several programmes organised by the centre, has been providing free meals to the needy, disabled persons and senior citizens since the first week of October.

The kitchen delivers an average of 70 meals a week by truck, with another 40



DNA CANDIDATE Christopher Mortimer and his mother, Mary Mortimer, hand out Thanksgiving Lunch yesterday.

meals being collected directly from the centre.

Yesterday, rather than the usual soup dinner, the centre decided to provide special

Thanksgiving meals.

The community facility is owned and run by Mr Mortimer, who named it in honour of his late father.

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Getting to the heart of gerrymandering claims

ANOTHER email popped into my inbox last week from retired politico Pierre Dupuch.

In most cases, I scan these messages quickly and move on – they are poisonous political rants with no constructive proposals or substance, and it is obvious that Dupuch has a “thing” about his former leader in the FNM, Hubert Ingraham.

But this one caught my eye because it purports to deal with concrete “facts” that have been percolating for months in the form of a monstrous conspiracy theory.

One of the most important functions of responsible journalism is to clarify such controversies so that the public is not deluded by ignorant or conniving individuals who set themselves up as authorities or champions, often in the pursuit of hidden agendas.

And frankly, I wanted to see for myself if anything Dupuch had to say on this matter was worth listening to. So I decided to take a closer look at the various allegations.

The main thrust of Dupuch’s November 17 letter was a sinister FNM plot to give citizenship to thousands of Haitians so they can swing newly gerrymandered constituencies in the upcoming general election.

As near as I can tell, this mythology was first raised back in March by an anonymous propaganda website called Bahamas Press, which masquerades as a news site.

The BP claims were based entirely on thin air: “If what we are being told is indeed true,” the spin doctors wrote, “a wicked plot to steal the next general election is already in motion...operatives within the FNM are working closely with a contingent within the Department of Immigration to regularise the status of some 4,000 plus persons before the next elections are called.”

This was clearly a cynical effort to exploit the average Bahamian’s palpable fear and loathing of illegal immigrants, and it managed to gain some traction through the rumour mill.

In July, Deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette (who is in charge of the Immigration Department) felt obliged to respond to these claims by saying nothing unusual was going on.

He pointed to the Christie administration’s approval of 2,083 citizenship requests; 1,582 permanent residency permits, 2,286 spousal permits and 22,839 residency permits from 2002 to 2007 as evidence of comparability.

But the PLP continued to spread the myth by accusing the government of dishonest-



DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER Brent Symonette has been forced to respond to claims that Haitians were being granted immigration status to gerrymander election results.

ly pursuing a “massive regularisation plan” just before the election.

And somewhere along the way, the figure was inflated by other political hacks on radio talk shows and online chat sites to over 10,000 Haitians being granted citizenship.

Also in July, Bahamas Press and the PLP began railing about a government giveaway of land and housing to newly regularised Haitian squatters in order to buy their votes.

This came after plans were announced to rebuild an illegal subdivision known as Mackey Yard, which had been destroyed by fire a few months earlier.

Dupuch first picked up on these allegations in August: “What is going on now,” he said, “is raw, nasty politics being played just before an election hoping that it will give them victory...And no matter what a bad job the government has done and no matter how the real Bahamians want to get rid of them at the polls, the government will win. And there goes democracy!”

He went on to make further unsubstantiated claims that a number of JPs “are prepared to supply the witnesses and sign birth certificates for the right price in order to facilitate a citizenship application for an undocumented foreign national. While I am



not certain that this is true, I assume that members of the government are aware of it.”

Earlier this month, Symonette released official figures showing that the Ingraham administration had regularised 783 people this year, and had granted citizenship to some 1,927 non-Bahamians from 2007 until mid-2010 – roughly equivalent to the number approved by the Christie administration during its term.

But numbers for the second half of 2010 were not included in this total. Symonette explained the gap as follows: “When this issue arose, it was related to the 13 people hired on a special project. I worked out the figures going backwards to cover the time they were at Immigration. I had previously worked out the figures to mid-2010 in another exercise.”

He provided the final figures just before the deadline for this article.

Citizenship was given to 498 people – of which 186 were Haitians – in the second half of 2010 (July-December), bringing the total number of citizenship awards to all nationalities for the period

2007 to the present up to 3,208 – about a thousand more than the number approved under the last PLP administration.

Among those given citizenship were children who had lived here all their lives, spouses of Bahamians, and children under 18.

In his most recent letter, Dupuch reacted to this by linking his grossly exaggerated citizenship claims to the Constituencies Commission report, which PLP spokesmen say amounts to a massive exercise in gerrymandering – the redrawing of constituency lines to ensure an election victory for the party in power.

He repeated the unsubstantiated claim that some 5,000 citizenships had been given out by the FNM – and even said this bogus figure had been confirmed by Symonette himself – a complete falsehood. He then went on to link this outrageous claim to the then unpublished Constituencies Commission report, which he presciently branded as “the worst case of gerrymandering I’ve ever witnessed” – again, without any evidence whatsoever.

The Commission’s report

(when it did become available) recommended three new constituencies on New Providence plus the elimination of five existing ones (Blue Hills, Clifton, Englestone, Kennedy and St Thomas More). One constituency on Grand Bahama would also be eliminated, reducing the total number of seats in parliament from 41 to 38.

The constitution mandates a review of constituencies every five years. The Constituencies Commission (which includes a supreme court judge) looks at the number and boundaries of the constituencies, taking into account the number of voters, the needs of sparsely populated areas, and the ability of elected members to maintain contact with voters from a wide geographic area.

For those who may not recall, in 2007 (under the Christie administration) the Constituencies Commission issued its report well after the constitutionally mandated five-year period had elapsed – the first time this had ever occurred. The FNM did not agree with the Commission’s report in 2007.

Back then, one new seat was added to the parliamentary total (from 40 to 41 seats), and the constituency names of Adelaide, Delaporte, Holy Cross and St. Margaret’s were abolished. Five new constituencies – Clifton, Golden Isles, Killar-

ney, St Anne’s and Seabreeze – were created on New Providence, and the Commission redrew the boundaries for seats on Grand Bahama.

It is also a matter of record that the Ingraham administration sought to create an independent Constituencies Commission in 2002 (one that excluded parliamentarians), but the PLP cynically opposed the referendum proposals (after supporting them in the House) and they were voted down.

A constitutional review commission subsequently appointed by the Christie administration recommended the same thing (an independent boundaries commission), but the PLP never bothered to pursue it.

Now Dupuch and the PLP are angry that today’s government-appointed commission is making constituency changes – as all other governments have done before an election.

“Take 10 shaky districts,” Dupuch argued, “and put 500 of these newly created Bahamians in each of them (referring to the alleged 5,000 regularised Haitians), and the seat is suddenly no longer shaky; it belongs to the government that gave them the citizenship. Need I say more?”

And to cap it all off, he compared Symonette’s statement about doing his job as Immigration minister to the defence offered by Nazi war criminals at the Nuremberg trials following the second world war – they were only following orders. Talk about hyperbole!

The only point I want to make here is that we should always be suspicious of folks who switch apparently deep allegiances and strongly held positions overnight.

It is one thing for your views to evolve over time and after due consideration. I experienced that myself when I came to reject my youthful association with communism. It is quite another thing to express diametrically opposite opinions over a matter of days and shout them from the rooftop – as Pierre Dupuch and former Guardian editor Oswald Brown have done.

In such circumstances, something else has to be at play – and usually that something is either a personality clash or a failure to get what one wants.

Of course, both these gentlemen have the right to hold and express any views they wish. What they don’t have the right to do is expect the rest of us to act like fools and take them as credible commentators.

What do you think? Send comments to larry@tribunemedia.net or visit www.bahamapundit.com.




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Gerrymandering districts and questionable citizenships?

YOUR SAY...
By Pierre V.L. Dupuch

SOME TIME ago, I wrote objecting to the FNM, namely the Deputy Prime Minister, giving out citizenship to Haitians, which appeared to be an effort to get votes for the upcoming election.

I also pointed out that we had accused the Pindling Government of doing the same thing. This was wrong for the Pindling Government and, if true, it is wrong for the Ingraham Government.

A person, forgetting that I also referred to the Pindling Government, took extreme exception to my suggestion that it appeared that the Ingraham Government was doing the same thing.

He said that Brent Symonette had given the "facts" which put a lie to what I was suggesting.

I made the charge of the FNM's apparent padding of votes on similar information used to make the same charge against the PLP.

Back then, this very person thought I was a hero, filled with unusual guts, for taking on the Pindling Government as I did. Today, he hails me as a devil with some personal agenda.

I must admit, I do have an agenda. And that agenda is the same as it was fifty years ago and that is the good of The Bahamas and the Bahamian people. I am all Bahamian...all two hundred pounds of me!

I have reason to question the citizenship figures that Mr Symonette has made public. But let us, for one minute, accept Mr Symonette's figures that, I believe, indicated some five thousand citizenships had been given out by the FNM.

I was virtually born into politics, being the 7th Dupuch and 4th generation to serve in the House of Assembly. I have been in active politics in this country for almost fifty years and of those fifty I spent twenty-five years in the House of Assembly. I say that to say this. I was horrified to see the "leaked" copy of the proposed new boundaries that were published by the local press.

This is the worst case of gerrymandering I've ever witnessed. It makes any gerrymandering done by the Pindling Government look like schoolboys in short pants.

When Pindling did it, we in the FNM, the media and the country leaders were all over him like white on rice.

Today, we don't hear a word from those who called Pindling a conniving crook for gerrymandering seats.

But let's put all this aside for now. With seats being gerrymandered, as proposed by the FNM government, people will not be given the time to meet and talk to their candidates; it will not enable the opposition to name their candidates in a timely manner, nor will it enable candidates to properly check those registered in the district.

I repeat, it will not give candidates time to properly check those registered in the district! Now back to Immigration and the seemingly bogus figures. Take ten "shaky" districts and put five hundred of these newly-created Bahamians in each of them and the seat is suddenly no longer shaky; it belongs to the Government... that gave them the citizenship!

Need I say more? Is this what you as red-blooded Bahamians want? Is this what we've fought for all these years? Where are the leaders; where is the media? Where

are my friends who have gone quiet? Were we talking about guts?

In answer to my original article, Brent Symonette replied: "I have a job to do and that is to regularise and do my work at Immigration so persons who have been waiting for years for something they are constitutionally entitled to apply for can get a fair hearing..."

So said Mr Symonette, who is also Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister.

This says a mouthful. Minister of Foreign Affairs? That's passports, right? Does he remember that there had been a passport racket at the Passport Office some time ago? Or has he cleaned that up? To whose satisfaction?

He says that he is taking care of the disadvantaged people who have been waiting for what is theirs. Mr Symonette seems to forget that the FNM has been in power for the past twenty years, bar five? Is he admitting incompetence?

To expose both sides of the coin, I spoke to a woman who was married to a Bahamian who had waited over twenty years to get her papers, but when she got there to collect them, the room was packed with people becoming "Bahamians". She and the Immigration Officers were the only ones in the room who spoke English. It's a game, and Mr Symonette knows it.

If the system is such a mess, would you not think that the status of Permanent Residence would suffice for at least those who have not yet mastered English?

If the applicants can't speak English, surely this should tell the authorities that there is possibly something wrong with the citizenship application documents in the first place!

In order to mix up the pot and confuse the issue, Mr Symonette talks about Spousal Permits and existing Permanent Residents.



PIERRE V L DUPUCH has accused the FNM government of manipulating immigration and constituency boundaries to improve their chances of retaining power at the next election.

These are not the people we're taking about... and Mr Symonette knows it.

A Spousal Permit refers to foreign women married to Bahamian men.

Mr Symonette knows that the Constitution provides that such a person has the right to be a Bahamian citizen.

If they really were serious, they could pass a law permitting a foreign man married to a Bahamian woman to become a citizen, although it is not in the Constitution.

Permanent Residence gives a person all the rights of a Bahamian except the right to vote. Why not give this status to those now being given citizenship?

Mr Symonette says he's only doing his job. Well, let

me tell him something.

Before he was born, a number of judges and others were brought before the Nuremberg courts sentenced with causing six-million Jews to be exterminated in Germany during the Second World War.

Their defence was "we were only doing our job". They ended up at the end of a hangman's noose. Some "jobs" you refuse to do, Mr Symonette.

I bring this to the people's attention. Let them decide.

My next article will probably discuss the roads, leadership and planning.

In the meantime, think about the issues and your children's future. You are a Bahamian first; an FNM, PLP or DNA second.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO POLICY SOLUTIONS?

YOUR SAY...
By RICK LOWE

ON Thursday past, the latest missive from Mr Pierre Dupuch arrived in my e-mail inbox.

This one is entitled Gerrymandering Districts and Questionable Citizenships and accuses the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Brent Symonette, and the FNM Government of granting citizenship to Haitian nationals for the express purpose of helping them get re-elected and changing the Constituency borders to suit the governing party.

On first read, one is inclined to dismiss the release out of hand, but it is so derisive and void of any meaningful policy prescriptions to fix these ills he himself suggests have been around for generations. (He reminds us of when former Prime Minister, Sir Lynden Pindling and the PLP used to gerrymander the boundaries and grant citizenship the same way).

It seems appropriate to ask for more from the former MP.

Of course, he does not mention that former Prime Minister, Mr Perry Christie, and the PLP of 2002 - 2007 did the same thing.

He does make one policy prescription though. Grant Permanent Residency to foreigners instead of citizenship.

But surely a Government must consider more than raw emotionalism when determining these matters?

Here's a few questions in relation to Boundary changes for Mr Dupuch:

- What would you do to improve the formation/selection of boundaries?

- Other than what is Constitutionally mandated, would you put the formula into law or leave it to discretion?

- Would you make the review committee independent or leave it the way it is? The FNM tried to do so with the defeated Constitutional changes they attempted and the PLP had a committee

On first read, one is inclined to dismiss the release out of hand, but it is so derisive and void of any meaningful policy prescriptions to fix these ills he himself suggests have been around for generations. It seems appropriate to ask for more from the former MP.

Rick Lowe

recommend the same thing, yet nothing was done.

- Justice Stephen Isaacs was quoted in the press as saying the process was fair. Should we dismiss this?

- How about matters relating to Citizenship?

- How should a government Bahamian handle expatriates (expats)?

- Is there a place for granting expats status in the first place?

- Should we close our borders to immigration?

- Do we limit the numbers each year to a set amount?

- What do we do about those people that have lived and worked here for generations in some cases?

There must be numerous other questions or ideas out there that deserve consideration, but for today's politics, as well as some of yesterday's, it seems easier to try to inflame the electorate rather than discuss and offer reasonable policy prescriptions to resolve these matters that are used to cause dissension, election year after election year?

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HOTEL OCCUPANCIES '20-30' PTS UP FOR THANKSGIVING

- * BHA chief says Christmas/New Year set to be 'strongest since 2007 in all categories' for Nassau/PI hotels
- * Mixed October sees occupancies up, but rates, rooms sold and revenue all down in 2010

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

NEW PROVIDENCE hotels projecting increased Thanksgiving occupancies are running "20-30" percentage points above 2010 comparatives, the Bahamas Hotel Association's (BHA) president telling Tribune Business yesterday that the Christmas/New Year period was shaping up to "be the strongest since 2007 in all categories".

Responding to Tribune Business's questions, Stuart Bowe said that while the Thanksgiving holiday period was traditionally not a strong one for the Nassau/Paradise Island resort industry, 2011 was likely to be "an exception" with many hotels reporting better activity than normal.

He acknowledged that the 'Battle 4 Atlantis' basketball tournament was "a primary business driver", which had created some spin-off occupancies and business for other New Providence hotels.

Besides Atlantis, Mr Bowe said: "Several other major hotels are reporting strong bookings based on special promotional events which have been put in place to attract business.

"The hotels which are reporting an increase in business this weekend are running 20-30 points above on occupancy over the 2010 Thanksgiving weekend. We expect room rates to be above last year."

SEE page 5B

SANDALS, BAHAMAR EYE 80% THANKSGIVING OCCUPANCIES

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Business Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

SANDALS Royal Bahamian Resort and Baha Mar's existing hotel interests are targeting occupancy levels in excess of 80 per cent for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday and weekend, Tribune Business was told yesterday.

Yasmina Cherquaouim, Sandals' group public relations manager for the northern Caribbean, said: "I can confirm that for Thanksgiving weekend we will be experiencing occupancy levels in excess of 80 per cent. That's with the room allocation we have currently."

Sandals executives had previously told Tribune Business that the Manor Building, which represents about 30 per cent of the property's room offering, will remain closed for a

\$17.5 million refurbishment over the next few months, leaving the Windsor and the Royal Village open.

Ms Cherquaouim added: "What is particularly notable is the multi-cultural mix of guests that we have in-house this year for the holiday. We have guests from the States, Canada, UK, Germany, France, Italy and even Turkey.

"The late bookings market is also strong at this time of year, as guests escape the colder weather fronts in their respective countries. We haven't noticed that much of a difference in year-over-year occupancy level."

Baha Mar's senior vice-president of governmental and external affairs, Robert Sands, told Tribune Business of the Sheraton and Wyndham: "Our hotels are forecasting occupancy levels in the high 80 per cent for the Thanksgiving weekend. I would say it appears to be a little bit stronger than last year."

Kerzner International spokesman, Ed Fields, recently told Tribune Business that The Cove and Royal Towers at Atlantis have already "sold out", and the resort is tracking in the 90 per cent for the remaining hotels this Thanksgiving holiday weekend as it gets set to host the "richest pre-season tournament in college basketball."

The 'Battle 4 Atlantis' tournament, scheduled for November 24 to 27, is expected to generate an influx of hotel guests to the Atlantis resort, boosting the Bahamas' attraction as a sports tourism destination.



THE ATLANTIS resort on Paradise Island

'ABSURD' DELAY OVER CUSTOMS JUDICIAL REVIEW

- * Bid for ruling goes forward despite Customs climb down over NIB 'good standing' letter
- * Claim no admission of wrongdoing, and fear Customs might do it again

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

A SUPREME COURT judge yesterday retired to determine whether to grant leave for Judicial Review over Customs' demand for Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) licences to produce National Insurance Board (NIB) letters of good standing, the companies involved describing the nine-month delay in proceedings to this point as "absurd".

Fred Smith QC, attorney and partner at Callender's & Co, who is representing the law firm, Smith Point and Bahamian Outdoor Adventure Tours in the proceedings, told Tribune Business he was proceeding with the Judicial Review application even though Customs had withdrawn its demand for the NIB letters to be produced before renewing GBPA licences' annual bond status.

This was because Customs had given "no undertaking"

SEE page 4B



FRED SMITH

'NO REASON' WHY FINANCIAL SECTOR CAN'T DIVERSIFY



BRIAN MOREE

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

A LEADING attorney yesterday said "there is no reason" why the Bahamas cannot grow its international financial services industry through diversification, adding that the key was whether this nation had "the will and ability to do what is necessary to plug into"

- * Top attorney dismisses Moody's assertions
- * Warns key is 'will and ability' to change business model to market dynamics
- * Says industry 'cannot be run by politicians'

changing market dynamics.

While disputing the assertion by Moody's, the international credit rating agency, that the Bahamas' diversification

prospects were "relatively limited", Brian Moree QC, senior partner at McKinney, Bancroft

SEE page 4B

BAHAMAS MUST RUN SALES/VAT TAX WITH DUTIES

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE BAHAMAS will have to run a sales/VAT tax alongside its existing system "at some point", the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation's (BCCEC) chairman warning tax reform was inevitable and needed to be made "as least traumatic as possible".

Adding his voice to the growing debate on tax reform, Winston Rolle told Tri-

- * Chamber chief says reform inevitable, and must be made 'as least traumatic as possible'
- * But Caribbean studies mean not in 'uncharted waters'

bune Business that the Bahamas' import duty-dependent tax structure was incompatible with this nation's general policy direction of entering into rules-based, liberalised trade regimes.

Tariffs such as import duties are viewed

as barriers to trade by the likes of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) requires either the removal or

SEE page 5B

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BUSINESS

BAHAMIAN ACCOUNTANT AT ASSET RECOVERY FORUM

KrYs Global's Bahamian managing director, Ed Rahming, was one of 23 executives who addressed the third annual International Association for Asset Recovery (IAAR) conference, which was held in Las Vegas last week.

Mr Rahming gave tips on asset recovery and defeating financial crime. He said: "To succeed, the asset recovery professional must stay informed of new developments, and the IAAR puts you in a position to get exclusive access to best practices and job tools."

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Business Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

A BAHAMIAN start-up targeting the road pothole patching business said yesterday it hopes to land a \$5,000 grant from the Government's self-starter program.

Travis Johnson, 22, president of Cold Patch Bahamas, told Tribune Business at the company's launch yesterday that such a grant would enable him to purchase tools for his business and provide employ-

"I have spent the last two months researching the best cold patch methods and the material available, and I have found a cold patch that will stand up to the Bahamian heat and flooded streets."

ment opportunities for jobless young men.

Cold Patch Bahamas is being promoted by Bobby Bower and Dominic Sturup, who also marketed Bahamas Striping, a self-starter company headed by Atario Mitchel, which has

secured 80 per cent of the striping work to date at the \$2.6 billion Baha Mar development. The two companies are in the same field of business.

"There is a great demand for this business," Mr Johnson said. "Every few feet you drive you see a pothole, and the road crews have their hands tied. It gives me a chance to latch on to the idea.

"I have spent the last two months researching the best cold patch methods and the material available, and I have found a cold patch that will stand up to the Bahamian heat and flooded streets. Not only do we want to fix potholes quickly, we want

to fix them properly.

"What I want to do is get a grant from the Self-Starter, and that will help me purchase a few tools that I need to go out there with and complete the job.

"Cold Patch Bahamas will be hiring at the very least three young, unemployed men. If the demand is great we imagine we can have two or even three crews operating around Nassau and the islands."

Mr Bower told Tribune Business: "We have applied and are hoping to be a self-starter. We can probably demonstrate quite easily the profit of this business.

"The figures work out quite nicely. It's basically manual labour, but you have to know what you're doing. You have got to have the right material. We're hoping to supply anyone who digs up roads with cold patch. You can see how many potholes are around here. It doesn't take much to make this business profitable."

J&J LEGAL CHIEF WILL TO RETIRE IN MARCH

WASHINGTON Associated Press

JOHNSON & JOHNSON says its vice president and general counsel Russ Deyo will retire next year after 27 years with the company.

The health care conglomerate says Deyo, 62, will retire on March 31. He will be succeeded by Mike Ullmann, who has served as general counsel for the company's medical device unit since 2006. Ullmann will become vice president and general counsel on Jan. 1.

Deyo joined J&J's legal department in 1985 and was appointed vice president in 1996. He was promoted to his current position in 2004.

J&J has weathered a slump in sales of its over-the-counter brands like Tylenol due to a string of manufacturing-related recalls.

One of the company's key plants was shut down in April 2010 and is being gutted and rebuilt.

NOTICE

IN THE ESTATE OF ALMA STORR late of Kenilworth Avenue, South Beach Estates, situated in the Southern District of the Island of New Providence one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claims against the above-named Estate are required on or before the 1st day of December 2011 to send their names, 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 NOTICE is hereby also given that all persons indebted to the said Estate are requested to make full settlement on or before the date hereinbefore mentioned AND NOTICE is hereby given that the expiration of the date hereinbefore mentioned, the assets of the Estate of the said ALMA STORR, deceased, will be distributed among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims of which the Executor of the Estate shall then have had notice.

DATED the 16th day of November A.D., 2011

CHANCELLORS CHAMBERS
No. 14 Village Road North
New Providence, Bahamas.

Attention: Mr. Merrit Storr

NOTICE

IN THE ESTATE OF GEORGE BAKER late of Sea Fan Drive, Sea Breeze Estates, New Providence, one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

Deceased

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claim or demand against the above-named Estate are required to send the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of December, A.D. 2011 and if so required by notice in writing from the undersigned to come in and prove such demand or claim or in default hereof be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved;

AND NOTICE is hereby given that all persons indebted to the said Estate are requested to settle their respective debts at the chambers of the undersigned on or before the date hereinbefore mentioned.

Dated the 17th day of November, A.D. 2011

CALLENDERS & CO.
Chambers,
One Millars Court,
P.O. Box N-7117,
Nassau, The Bahamas

Attorneys for the Personal Representative



Share your news

The Tribune wants to hear from people who are making news in their neighbourhoods. Perhaps you are raising funds for a good cause, campaigning for improvements in the area or have won an award.

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

Career Opportunity

VP / SENIOR OPERATIONS MANAGER

J.P. Morgan is currently seeking applications for a Senior Operations Manager.

The successful candidate will work with Trust Products/Platform related partners to ensure that the operations services function is delivered within the guidelines of company policy and in a manner consistent within the industry and regulatory framework. The candidate will be responsible for overseeing the client accounting and financial statement preparation, client fee billing, facilities, office security and business continuity. The manager will also act as a technical support to the trust team in the Geneva office.

Prospective applicants should have 12+ years of trust financial operations experience, with 8+ years in mentoring and managing others. An MBA/or Bachelor's degree or a professional qualification ideally in Business with strong leadership and management skills; good understanding of accounting principles and the trust business and trust company procedures; knowledge in business continuity; and disaster preparedness; excellent written/verbal communication and problem-solving skills; and the ability to lead projects, and make presentations before senior management.

J.P. Morgan Private Bank offers competitive compensation and benefits packages. Interested applicants should submit their resume/curriculum vitae marked "Private and Confidential" to the Human Resources Manager, J.P. Morgan Trust Company (Bahamas) Limited, P.O. Box N-4899, Nassau Bahamas.

J.P. Morgan Trust Company
(Bahamas) Limited

NOTICE

IN THE ESTATE OF ELIAS BODE a.k.a ELIAS BODIE late of Mangrove Cay in the Island of Andros 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 1st day of December 2011 to send their names, 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 NOTICE is hereby also given that all persons indebted to the said Estate are requested to make full settlement on or before the date hereinbefore mentioned AND NOTICE is hereby given that the expiration of the date hereinbefore mentioned, the assets of the Estate of the said ELIAS BODE a.k.a ELIAS BODIE, deceased, will be distributed among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims of which the Executor of the Estate shall then have had notice.

DATED the 16th day of November A.D., 2011

CHANCELLORS CHAMBERS
No. 14 Village Road North
New Providence, Bahamas.

Attention: Mr. Merrit Storr

BUSINESS

CHAMBER HITS AT BUSINESS RESPONSE

By NATARIO McKENZIE
Tribune Business
Reporter
nmckenzie@
tribunemedia.net

BUSINESSES have "not been responding" to the Bahamas Chamber of

Commerce and Employers Confederation's (BCCEC) recently-launched human relations and labour help desk, despite increased efforts make them aware of its service, Tribune Business was told yesterday.

Ian Ferguson, manager of the Chamber Institute, said that despite a more aggressive approach on the Chamber's part to make businesses aware of its help desk, the response has still not been good.

Mr Ferguson said the

Chamber has been reaching out to more than 800 businesses, yet so far only two companies have responded.

Calls

"We have been contacting businesses reminding them about the diagnostic check-up. We have only had two companies that have responded. We still have persons making those calls and sending those personalised e-mails," Mr Ferguson said.

The first step to the Chamber's new service involves an assessment, then a report with recommendations, on how to

improve one's business for a flat fee of \$150. With such a poor response thus far, Mr Ferguson said the Chamber was just about prepared to waive the fee.

He added: "Persons are not responding well. In fact they are not responding at all."

"I am convinced it's not about economics, it's just that persons are not interested. It's simply taking a lunch hour, sitting down with a consultant and answering a series of survey questions. The next step is you get a report that outlines some of the steps you need to be taking to improve your business. We just want to offer the help."

The BCCEC announced

the introduction of its human resource and labour help desk in October as a new service for members and small, medium and large businesses.

Consultant

Members can request the assistance of a human resources consultant to assess varying aspects of their talent management a greatly reduced rates.

Each company will receive a written assessment with recommendations to improve any deficiencies that would help strengthen their company and their employee relations.

BAF ARM IN JAMAICAN REMITTANCE AGREEMENT

A BAF Global Group arm has signed an agreement to become the exclusive Bahamian agent for a well-known Jamaican money transmission and bill payment services.

Bramer Money Transfers (BMT), which trades as Cash N' Go and is part of the re-named British American Financial (BAF) group, will act as the Bahamian agent for JN Money Services (JNMS), the remittance and bill payment services arm of the Jamaica National Building Society.

"The alliance, which came into effect on November 21, will provide JN Money Transfer's full services throughout Cash N' Go money stores in the Bahamas," Leesa Kow, general manager of JNMS said.

"This is a testament to our commitment to eliminate the financial connectivity gaps between citizens in Caribbean countries."

Pointing to the on-going CARICOM drive for regional integration, Miss Kow added: "The Caribbean is our home, and if we are serious about regional integration then we must provide the services, which are Caribbean-owned and operated, to facilitate the intra-regional trade and investment being driven by CARICOM."

The JN Money Services general manager said there was a growing number of Jamaicans residing in the Bahamas, as well as Bahamian entrepreneurs who do business in Jamaica and across the Caribbean. They were demanding "real time money transmission services; therefore, we were encouraged to offer our full-services in the Bahamas".

The partnership will allow Cash N' Go customers in the Bahamas, with business or family connections in Jamaica, to access JN Money Transfer services in the Bahamas to send and receive money; make bill payments and transfer funds to accounts held in financial institutions in Jamaica; as well access mobile phone top-up services.

Cash N' Go has three locations in Nassau at Bay Street, Rosetta Street and Carmichael Road; as well as on Freeport's Queen's Highway; and Georgetown in Exuma. A new location will be opened in Marsh Harbour, Abaco.

In addition to remittances, Cash N' Go accommodates airline ticket purchases; school fee advances and offers BAF and Bramer Insurance Premiums, BTC Mobile Pins and Eztop up among other financial products and services.

"Our partnership with one of the Bahamas' oldest and most respected insurance and financial services provider is an excellent example of how Caribbean companies can develop synergies to deliver robust financial services, which meet the growing sophisticated needs of our peo-



LEESA KOW, general manager,
JN Money Services

ple," Miss Kow said.

Wentworth Musgrove, general manager of Cash N' Go, added that "the partnership created valuable opportunities for both companies to explore and develop products to meet the evolving needs of Caribbean peoples.

"Our customers, particularly those with connections to Jamaica, will be pleased that they now have access to a money services brand which they know to be reliable and convenient," Mr Musgrove said. "Therefore, we welcome this arrangement with JN Money Transfer, which sets the pace for the development of other tangible benefits that will enhance our financial services."

JN Money Services, based in Kingston, Jamaica, markets its services under the JN Money Transfer brand in several other Caribbean countries, including the Cayman Islands, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica. The company also has an expansive and growing operation in the United Kingdom, the US, Canada, and recently re-branded its agency operation in Accra, Ghana.

Now Hiring Delivery Drivers

Marco's Pizza wants YOU to join its dynamic team!

If you possess the following, then this job is for you...

- Must be a Bahamian citizen or eligible to work in the Bahamas
- Must have own transportation
- Must have an excellent attitude towards superior Customer Service
- Experience in the pizza industry (a plus)
- Must be able to work in a fast-paced, fun environment
- Must be energetic & willing to be cross-trained
- Must be willing to work weekends, holidays and flexible hours

We provide a safe & fun working environment, a competitive salary and great benefits

Interested persons should apply in person during store hours at:

The Solomon Springs Store located on Prince Charles Drive—East, or
The Village Road Store located in the Village Road Shopping Plaza, or
The South West Store located in the South West Shopping Plaza—Carmichael Road



APD Limited TENDER NOTICE

The Arawak Port Development Ltd. (APD) invites sealed Tenders from eligible tenderers for the APD Inland Terminal Access Road Paving, Grading and Drainage Project. The project includes the construction of approximately 3,100 feet of new road from Fire Trail Road (West) to the new APD Inland Terminal Warehouse Facility.

Tender Documents in electronic format may be collected from the address below, between 10:00 AM and 4:00P PM, commencing Wednesday 23 November 2011. This tender is only open to contractors with the suitable experience and expertise in road construction. Interested persons may obtain a tender package from the following address:

Arawak Port Development (APD) Company Ltd. (APD)
Site Office
Arawak Cay
Nassau, Bahamas
Telephone: (242) 323-7064
Fax: (242) 323-7072

Completed Tender Documents must be enclosed in a sealed envelope, clearly marked,

"CONFIDENTIAL – TENDER APPLICATION FOR APD INLAND TERMINAL ACCESS ROAD PAVING, GRADING AND DRAINAGE PROJECT" and shall be submitted to the APD at the address above before 11 AM on Wednesday, 30 November, 2011. Late submissions will not be accepted.

APD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

US GOLD LTD IS NOW BUYING SILVER

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Remember No One Pays More!

The Management & Staff of US GOLD LTD would like to wish all of their clients a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

BUSINESS

FROM page one

'NO REASON' WHY FINANCIAL SECTOR CAN'T DIVERSIFY

& Hughes said it was vital this nation "adjusted its business model" to meet rapid change. Pointing out that the reasons for institutions and high net worth individuals using international financial centres were "very different" from what drove the market 10-20 years ago, Mr Moree told Tribune Business the Bahamas needed to "demonstrate a clear understanding" of such trends to potential clients. And he pointed out that financial services was "not a business that can be run by politicians", its complexity and dynamism calling for it to be led by professionals able to "execute and implement" strategies that could put the Bahamas ahead of the curve. Acknowledging that Moody's was correct in asserting that international finan-

cial services had become more competitive, and that so-called 'offshore centres' were now fighting head-on with the likes of New York and London for business, Mr Moree said it had given no reasoning to support its claim that the Bahamas' diversification prospects were relatively limited. "I do not accept the inevitability of their statement that the Bahamas is incapable of diversifying its current financial services model into other synergistic areas of business that support our core business," Mr Moree told Tribune Business. "Clearly, an international arbitration centre is synergistic business for the financial services industry, this whole idea of promoting an international business centre is

synergistic, as is offering both shipping and expanding the shipping registry. "We are already seeing the Bahamas Maritime Authority achieving significant results in increasing that business, and I think there's significant potential in an aviation registry and looking at that sector." The McKinney, Bancroft & Hughes senior partner added: "We could also leverage our intellectual base in the Bahamas, which I maintain is quite considerable, bearing in mind we've been in this business for 50-plus years. It's a synergistic part that can be added to compete and expand." The key competitive elements were cost, product and services offering, legislative platform and service platform, Mr Moree said, pointing out that Moody's concerns over the Bahamas' "value proposition", and whether this had been eroded by recent regulatory changes, depended to a large extent on its "business model".

Tied directly to this was the complete change in rationale for using international financial centres, he explained. Markets had also altered, with the major sources of wealth now coming from the likes of Europe, Asia and Latin America, especially the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, China and India), with less reliance on traditional staples such as the US, UK and Canada. "The reasons for doing business now are very different from what they used to be," Mr Moree told Tribune Business. "One, then, has to adjust your business model

to exploit the current reasons that are causing institutions and high net worth individuals to continue using international financial centres as part of management of their wealth in the global economy. "Once we have a clear understanding of the market forces driving business into international financial centres, we will be able to develop a new business model to take advantage of those reasons. "This is a very dynamic, very innovative industry that requires a high level of sustained attention by professionals who know this business. "This is not a business that can be run by politicians. That's no disrespect to them. Politicians can decide overall policy, but cannot run and manage a financial services industry." Mr Moree also disputed Moody's assertion that the regulatory changes imposed on the Bahamas financial services industry over the past decade had eroded its competitive advantage, as the "saving grace" had been the creation of a 'level playing field' with all countries abiding by the same rules. While some nations may have gone further in some reforms, Mr Moree said that while privacy had been diminished, it had not been wiped out. And, with the so-called 'level playing field' in existence, the Bahamas had "not been marginalised or made uncompetitive".

'ABSURD' DELAY OVER CUSTOMS JUDICIAL REVIEW FROM page one

that it would not repeat the same demand in the future, nor had it admitted whether it had breached the Hawksbill Creek Agreement in the first place. "We appeared before Justice Evans, and I appealed afresh for leave," Mr Smith told Tribune Business yesterday. "Gary Francis from the Attorney General's Office was there, and opposed the application for Judicial Review leave. He said it should be dismissed, as Customs had withdrawn the letter demand. "The application was made not only that leave should be granted, but that the case was so overwhelmingly straightforward there should be no trial." Mr Smith said Justice Evans had adjourned proceedings to make her decision. He added, though, that his law firm and other two companies, by pushing for Judicial Review, were hoping to obtain a Supreme Court decision quashing Customs' demand for an NIB letter of good standing, and a declaration that the Department had breached the Hawksbill Creek Agreement and rights of licencees. They are also seeking "restitution" of any Customs duties paid as a result.

A November 17, 2011, affidavit filed with the Supreme Court by Challon Romer, either a director or secretary of the three companies, alleged that after Customs failed to explain why it was demanding NIB 'good standing' letters to renew their 'bonded goods' privileges, the Judicial Review application was issued on February 23, 2011. Ms Romer alleged of the first March 9, 2011, hearing before Justice Hartman Longley: "The judge raised a number of concerns, particularly whether a large number of licensees of the Grand Bahama Port Authority might bring claims against Customs if leave were given. "As set out in the Applicants' supplemental submissions, such concerns were unfounded. If a large number of wrongs had been committed, a large number of actions may be required to right such wrongs."

Following another hearing, a March 25, 2011, letter from the Attorney General's Office said Customs had been told to discontinue the demand for an NIB 'good standing' letter before bonded privileges were renewed. It did not, though, admit Customs was wrong. "It is plain that only the issuing of the application for leave to apply for Judicial Review, and the imminence of the leave hearing, had pushed Customs into addressing the issue," Ms Romer alleged. "However, Customs expressly discontinued the policy without making any admissions - the point as to whether Customs had acted lawfully in demanding the letter from NIB, and so the point as to whether such a request might be repeated in future was left unresolved. "The letter contained no undertaking not to repeat the demand in future, did not offer to repay the Customs duty wrongly paid by the applicants, and did not offer anything by way of costs."

Following another adjournment, Assistant Comptroller Lincoln Strachan, in an affidavit filed on the Department's behalf, made no admission of wrongdoing, gave no undertaking about not repeating the NIB letter demand and "denied that Customs should have to repay the additional duties". On April 15, Justice Longley directed that the two sides attempt to settle the matter, given that Customs had effectively conceded. The two parties were unable to agree a Court Order to resolve the issue, and on September 28, 2011, Justice Longley allegedly said he was unable to further deal with the case, transferring it to Justice Evans. Ms Romer alleged that the three companies had not been happy with the proposed Order, arguing that it was "important that a proper decision on the legality of Customs' action should be reached as a matter of general public importance, and an injunction granted to prevent a repeat of any unlawful action". The firms were also unhappy with the six adjournments to the case to date, Ms Romer alleging: "The essence of Judicial Review is that it is supposed to be a swift method of addressing unlawful administrative action. "It is absurd that it has taken nine months between the issuing of the application and this hearing even for the question of leave to come finally before the court."

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2010
IN THE SUPREME COURT No. 376
Equity Side
IN THE MATTER OF ALL THAT piece parcel or lot of land containing 7,467 sq. ft. situate on the northern side of Northeast side by land said to be Jeffrey Russell and on the Southeast by Jumbay Street and about 92 ft west of Windsor Place Drive and on the Southwest by land said to be Roy Burrows and on the Northwest by land said to be the estate of Ben Darville in Nassau Village in the Eastern District of the Island of New Providence in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas
AND
IN THE MATTER of the Quieting Titles Act, 1959
AND
IN THE MATTER of the Petition of Daniel Ritchie, Jr.
NOTICE

The Petition of Daniel Ritchie Jr. in respect of ALL THAT piece parcel of lot of land containing 7,467 sq. ft. situate on the northern side of Jumbay Street and being about 92 feet west of Windsor Place Drive in the subdivision of Nassau Village in the Eastern District of the island of New Providence in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas which said piece parcel or lot of land is bounded on the NORTHWEST jointly by Lots Numbers 32 and 33 of Windsor Place and running thereon respectively Nineteen and fifty-four hundredths (19.54) feet and Thirty-two and Seventy-one hundredths (32.71) feet on the NORTHEAST by land the property of one Jeffrey Russell and running thereon One hundred and Sixty-two and Twenty-eight hundredths (162.28) feet on the SOUTHEAST by Jumbay Street and running thereon Fifty-six and Thirty-two hundredths (56.32) feet and on the SOUTHWEST by land the property of one Roy Burrows and running thereon One Hundred and Thirty-six and Sixty hundredths (136.60) feet which said piece parcel or lot of land has a duplex apartment building and a store room thereon which said piece parcel or lot of land is more particularly described on or by the plan or diagram filed in this action as Number 5247 N.P. and thereon coloured Pink.

The Petitioner, Daniel Ritchie Jr., claims to the legal and beneficial owner of the fee simple estate in possession of ALL THAT piece parcel or lot of land hereinbefore described and the Petitioner has made application to the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas under Section 3 of the Quieting Titles Act, 1959, to have its title to the said land investigated. Copies of the filed plan may be inspected during normal working hour at-

- (a) The Registry of the Supreme Court, Second Floor, British American Building, Marlborough Street, Nassau, N.P. Bahamas; or
- (b) The Chambers of J. Hall and Associates, Second Floor, Malcolm Building, Bay Street and Victoria Avenue, Nassau, N.P., Bahamas.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any person having dower or right to dower or any adverse claim or claim not recognized in the Petition shall on or before the 15th day of January, A.D. 2012, file in the Registry of the Supreme Court and serve on the Petitioner or the undersigned a statement of such claim in the prescribed form and verified by an affidavit to be filed therewith. Failure of any such person to file and serve a statement of such claim on or before the 15th day of January, A.D., 2012, will operate as a bar to such claim.

J HALL & ASSOCIATES,
Chambers,
Malcolm Building,
Bay Street & Victoria Ave.,
Nassau, Bahamas.

Attorneys for the Petitioner

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Messenger/Clerk
(Males Only Need Apply)
Duties
• Daily deliveries & collections
• Purchasing daily newspapers
• Stamping daily outgoing mail & replenish postage machine
• Distributing documents inter-office
• Faxing, photocopying & filing documents
Requirements
• Applicant **MUST** have own a reliable vehicle and will be paid a weekly transportation allowance in addition to their salary.
• Office experience would be a plus.

Please submit applications no later than
Tuesday, November 29, 2011,
to
FAX: 377-1366.

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF:										
TUESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2011										
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,354.63 CHG -0.89 %CHG -0.07 YTD -144.86 YTD % -9.66										
FINDEX YEAR END 2008 -12.31%										
WWW.BISXBHAMAS.COM TELEPHONE: 242-677-BISX (2479) FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320										
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Security	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
1.19	0.97	AML Foods Limited	1.18	1.18	0.00		0.148	0.040	8.0	3.39%
10.63	9.05	Bahamas Property Fund	10.63	10.63	0.00		-0.642	0.080	-16.6	0.75%
7.50	4.40	Bank of Bahamas	6.93	6.93	0.00		0.230	0.100	30.1	1.44%
0.53	0.17	Benchmark	0.18	0.18	0.00		-0.048	0.000	N/M	0.00%
2.84	2.55	Bahamas Waste	2.70	2.70	0.00		0.030	0.090	90.0	3.33%
1.96	1.77	Fidelity Ltd	1.77	1.77	0.00		0.097	0.040	18.2	2.26%
10.46	8.29	Cable Bahamas	8.43	8.40	-0.03	15,000	0.245	0.320	34.3	3.81%
2.80	2.33	Colina Holdings	2.34	2.34	0.00		0.438	0.040	5.3	1.71%
8.00	8.33	Commonwealth Brewery	8.50	8.50	0.00		0.740	0.000	11.5	0.00%
7.50	6.21	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	6.51	6.51	0.00		0.496	0.320	13.1	4.92%
2.00	1.63	Consolidated Water BDRs	1.66	1.65	-0.01		0.111	0.045	14.9	2.73%
1.55	1.24	Doctor's Hospital	1.37	1.24	-0.13	7,800	0.074	0.040	16.8	3.23%
5.50	4.75	Farmguard	5.43	5.43	0.00		0.498	0.240	10.9	4.42%
7.50	4.82	Fimco	4.82	4.82	0.00		0.757	0.000	6.4	0.00%
9.45	7.75	CIBC FirstCaribbean Bank	8.14	8.14	0.00		0.494	0.350	16.5	4.30%
6.00	5.00	Focal (S)	5.33	5.33	0.00		0.435	0.220	12.3	4.13%
1.00	1.00	Focal Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00		0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%
7.30	7.30	ICD Utilities	7.30	7.30	0.00		-0.122	0.240	59.8	3.29%
10.80	9.80	J. S. Johnson	9.82	9.82	0.00		0.880	0.640	11.2	6.52%
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate	10.00	10.00	0.00		1.207	0.200	8.3	2.00%
BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing Basis)										
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity		
99.46	99.46	Bahamas Note 6.95 (2029)	BAH29	99.46	0.00		6.95%	20 November 2029		
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00		7%	19 October 2017		
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022		
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00		7%	30 May 2013		
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00		Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015		
RoyalFidelity Merchant Bank & Trust Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)										
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
10.06	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%
CFAL Securities Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)										
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
41.00	29.00	ABDAB	30.13	31.59	29.00		4.540	0.000	9.03	0.00%
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.65	0.75	0.40		0.029	0.000	24.13	0.00%
BISX Listed Mutual Funds										
52wk-HI	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD%	Last 12 Months %	NAV 3MTH	NAV 6MTH	NAV Date		
1.5779	1.4674	CFAL Bond Fund	1.577926	3.39%	5.87%	1.548717	1.535365	31-Jul-11		
3.0248	2.9020	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	3.0248	2.63%	3.94%	2.981382	2.952663	31-Jul-11		
1.6128	1.5289	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.6151	2.61%	4.53%	1.591803	1.580804	5-Aug-11		
2.7202	2.5398	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	2.4974	-8.19%	-7.45%			30-Oct-11		
13.8493	13.2825	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.9180	4.19%	5.21%			31-Oct-11		
114.1289	99.4177	CFAL Global Bond Fund	114.0922	2.35%	13.88%	114.128861	111.469744	30-Jun-11		
118.4255	101.6693	CFAL Global Equity Fund	118.4255	2.30%	8.26%	116.890785	115.762221	30-Jun-11		
1.1749	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.1877	3.59%	4.94%			30-Sep-11		
1.1343	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.1415	2.06%	4.07%			30-Sep-11		
1.1764	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.1890	3.47%	5.04%			30-Sep-11		
9.9952	9.5789	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal	9.9433	0.98%	4.58%			31-May-11		
11.4985	9.8690	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal	10.3699	-6.17%	-2.17%			31-Oct-11		
10.6813	9.6635	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal	10.2063	-1.81%	-7.39%			31-Oct-11		
8.8564	8.8530	Royal Fidelity Int'l Fund - Equities Sub Fund	8.6507	3.01%	18.38%			31-Jul-11		
MARKET TERMS										
YIELD - last 12 month dividends divided by closing price										
BID \$ - Buying price of Colina and Fidelity										
ASK \$ - Selling price of Colina and Fidelity										
LAST PRICE - Last traded over-the-counter price										
WEEKLY VOL. - Trading volume of the prior week										
EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mos										
NAV - Net Asset Value										
NM - Not Meaningful										
FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index, January 1, 1994 = 100										
TO TRADE CALL: CFAL 242-502-7010 ROYALFIDELITY 242-356-7764 FG CAPITAL MARKETS 242-396-4000 COLONIAL 242-502-7525										

NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that JOHN THOMAS of 4TH STREET, THE GROVE, 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 16th day of November, 2011 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE
GUN POINT INVESTMENTS LIMITED
This is to inform the General Public that all that private thoroughfare or roadway known as Gun Point situate northwards of the Settlement of Spanish Wells at the northwestern end of the Island of North Eleuthera will be closed to the public from 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, 27th November, 2011 to 6:00 a.m. on Monday, 28th November, 2011 to protect the right of ownership.

Everette Sands
President

BUSINESS

FROM page one

reduction of duties on goods originating from the European Union (EU).

"All of which is going to put additional pressure on Customs tariffs," the Chamber chief told Tribune Business. "We need to take a serious look at the mechanisms we can use that can either help or maintain government revenues to support the various projects and needs it has."

"The level of Customs tariffs is going to erode, whether that's in five years or 25 years. It's going to disappear."

Both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and credit rating agencies, such as Moody's and Standard & Poor's (S&P), have been prodding the Bahamian government to introduce a "consumption-based tax" such as a sales or value added (VAT) levy, the former suggesting this would alter the "debt dynamics" of the public finances.

Reports on the best tax reform options for the Bahamas, and how to imple-

SALES/VAT TAX

ment and administer them, were produced by the IMF and UK consultants, Crown Agents, under the former Christie-led PLP administration. While the current government announced early on that it would not consider tax reform during this term, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham has indicated the FNM - if re-elected - would adopt it as an issue. And the initial studies remain within government.

Based on the Government's hints, as well as IMF and Moody's reports, it appears the Bahamas is already leaning towards adoption of a VAT tax. The advantage here is that it would capture value at every stage of the production process, and also reel in contributions from the less heavily taxed services sector. The downside is that VAT might be more difficult to administer, and more onerous to collect.

"At some point, you're going to have to run both of them," Mr Rolle told Tribune Busi-

ness, indicating that a sales/VAT tax would have to be brought in alongside import duties until the full transition was made.

"When you look at it, for the most part service industries are not taxed," the Chamber chief added. "But there are examples we can learn from."

Extensive studies had documented potential tax reform, and how it might work, in other Caribbean countries such as Jamaica and Guyana, and Mr Rolle told Tribune Business: "It's not as if we're going into uncharted waters here."

"We have enough experience from around the region to draw from, and learn from their successes and mistakes, so that it will be as least traumatic as possible."

"We can't wait until we are forced to do it, because our backs will be up against the wall, and we will do it in a rushed, hasty manner, not paying attention to detail."

Mr Rolle warned that the Bahamas required a long lead-time to introduce a new tax structure, given that "a num-

ber of government institutions would have to change to facilitate this".

For instance, with the bulk of taxes no longer being collected at Bahamian borders, consideration would have to be given as to whether to change Customs into the equivalent of a US Internal Revenue Service (IRS), or leave it as a border protection agency and create a new revenue/tax authority.

"We need to start having

these discussions right now, so things can be put in place for the future," the Chamber chairman added.

As for the Bahamas' present fiscal situation, Mr Rolle said that with an impending general election, addressing the increased national debt and fiscal deficits - together with the rate of their increase - was likely to be left until after May 2012.

He acknowledged, though,

that it was likely to be a policy priority for the incoming government, and officials were all too aware of what needed to be done.

"Right now, we're not going to see any significant changes in that regard with an election coming up, but based on things said by government officials, they're very aware of the debt situation and want to do things to mitigate that," Mr Rolle said.

**Employment Opportunity
AIRPORT SUPERINTENDENT**

ROLE:

Supervise Airport plant operations to ensure safe and correct receipt, storage and distribution of the Company's aviation products and required activities are carried out in accordance with the company's operating procedures; provide procedures and guidelines to ensure that operations (receipts, storage and distribution) are performed safely, effectively and efficiently; Creating a safe and healthy environment for all personnel involved with airport operation/activities.

REQUIRED EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE & SKILLS:

- Bachelor Degree in Engineering (Industrial, Electrical or Mechanical) or a Related Field
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in area of study
- Must possess strong inter-personal skills with excellent oral and written communication skills
- Strong organizational and analytical skills
- Must have the ability to manage multiple priorities
- Must have strong commitment to maintaining high Standards
- Strong leadership and coaching skills
- Results driven

If you fulfill the position's requirements, please send your resume by email to: recruitmentbahamas@yahoo.com REF: AS

Only short listed candidates will be contacted

HOTEL OCCUPANCIES '20-30' PTS UP

FROM page one

Confirming that the NCAA basketball being hosted on Paradise Island was "a major driver", the BHA president told Tribune Business: "The advance promotion in markets where the colleges have come from have proven highly successful, even to the point where JetBlue added additional aircraft to accommodate the increased traffic."

"We are hoping to see length of stays for the tournament goes to be above our average with some arriving early this week and not leaving until next Sunday."

And Mr Bowe added: "The Battle 4 Atlantis is a major destination achievement for the entire Bahamas. It puts the Bahamas in an entirely different league in terms of sports tourism, and lays a foundation for building upon the tournament and other sports-related activities."

"The media exposure we will receive as a destination was tremendous value. At least one other major hotel on Paradise Island has reported benefiting from the tournament this year. There have been some tourism-related bookings at other properties as well."

The outlook for the important Christmas/New Year period, a prelude to the peak February-April winter season, is also relatively promising, especially on the occupancy front, although rates and yields still remain somewhat down amid heavy promotional activity to drive business.

Although emphasising it was still too early to be certain, Mr Bowe told Tribune Business: "We anticipate at this time that December and Christmas and the New Year period will be the strongest we've seen since 2007 in all categories."

The BHA and Ministry of Tourism also yesterday released performance data for October 2011, which again showed an improved occupancy performance at Nassau/Paradise Island properties with rates and room revenues down.

Comparisons with 2008's performance were also aided by the fact that October in that year was just after the Lehman Brothers collapse, which sent the financial markets and world economy into the tank. Occupancy figures for the Nassau/Paradise Island resort industry in 2011 were



STUART BOWE

ahead of 2008 comparatives, although average daily room rates (ADRs) were behind by \$16.63.

The average occupancy rate recorded by the 14 Nassau/Paradise Island properties for October 2011 was 49.8 per cent, compared to 47.7 per cent in 2010, by room nights sold and room revenue were off year-over-year by 0.6 per cent and 1.6 per cent respectively.

ADRs were also down by \$1.73, from \$170.69 in 2010 to \$168.96 this time. Available room nights also dropped by 4.9 per cent, due to the 391 rooms at SuperClubs Breezes, and 144 at Sandals Royal Bahamian, being closed for renovations.

The BHA/Ministry of Tourism said: "While most hotels had lower ADRs for October, excluding Breezes

which was fully closed in October, seven of the 13 properties showed increases in hotel room revenue.

"All of these properties achieved higher revenues through increases in room nights sold, and not through increases in ADRs. In fact, only two of the 13 properties showed increases in ADR in October compared to last year. However, 10 showed increases in room nights sold."

For the first 10 months of 2011, the Nassau/PI hotel industry generated a 64.5 per cent occupancy rate, a slight improvement on last year's 64.2 per cent. Average ADRs were also up slightly, from \$231.75 to \$236.44. Room nights sold were down 0.2 per cent, and room revenue up 1.8 per cent."

The BHA/Ministry of Tourism said: "Comparative figures for October 2008 showed a 43.2 per cent occupancy and a \$185.59 ADR. Room nights sold, along with room revenue in October 2011, were 0.9 per cent above and 8.1 per cent below 2008 levels, resulting from an ADR that was \$16.63 below 2008."

"Comparative figures to the end of October 2008 showed a 66.2 per cent occupancy and a \$249.82 ADR. Room nights sold, along with room revenue for January to October 2011, were 8.2 per cent and 13.1 per cent below 2008 levels."

"Preliminary air arrivals to Nassau to the end of August were down 3.6 per cent."

WANTED

An Established Auto Dealership seeks to fill the position of **Auto Parts Salesman**

Qualified person must be:

- Good communication Skills
- High school graduate
- Valid drivers license
- Police certificate
- Must be Bahamian

Please Submit Resume to: maxim@batelnet.bs

Royal Bahamas Police Force
Working together for a safe Bahamas

MISSING PERSON

MARK E. MERCER

EYES: BLUE
HEIGHT: 6' 6"
HAIR: BROWN.
BUILD: SLIM.
WEIGHT: 130 POUNDS
NATIONALITY: U.S. CITIZEN

If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of this person please contact **Marsh Harbour Police Station @ 367-2560, 367-3437** or

Police Emergency **911** National Crime Prevention Office **302-8430/1** Crime Stoppers **328-TIPS (8477)**
www.royalbahamaspolice.org
Family Islands (242) 300-8476
"To make The Bahamas a safer place to live, work, visit and play."

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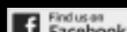
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BUSINESS

NETFLIX HITS TWENTY MONTH LOW AS DEBT WORRIES MOUNT

SAN FRANCISCO
Associated Press

NETFLIX stock's free fall accelerated Tuesday as the shares reached a 20-month low amid intensifying concerns about the video subscription service's ability to overcome public relations problems and competitive pressures.

The latest in a wave of share selloffs followed Netflix Inc.'s decision to raise \$400 million from investors by issuing debt and selling 2.86 million shares of its slumping stock. That served as a reminder that Netflix hasn't been bringing in as

much money as management anticipated from a price increase that triggered mass cancellations and damaged the company's once-sterling brand.

Fundraising

Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter, who had predicted Netflix's crash when it was still a hot commodity, interpreted the fundraising as a sign of more trouble ahead. He lowered his price target for the company's stock from \$82.50 to \$45.

In a Tuesday research note, Caris & Co. analyst

David Miller described the fundraising as "a rhetorical signal" that the company is still struggling to retain subscribers after a mass exodus in summer and early fall. He dropped his price target from \$77 to \$59.

Netflix described its fundraising as smart business. "It's not that we need the money, but it's always nice to have more money than you need," Netflix spokesman Steve Swasey said Tuesday.

The company ended September with \$366 million in cash.

Analysts also questioned the wisdom of selling 2.86



THE EXTERIOR of Netflix headquarters in Los Gatos, Calif. (AP)

million shares of stock at \$70 apiece to raise \$200 million after spending nearly the same amount in the first nine months of the year to buy back nearly 900,000 shares at an average price of \$218. The stock sale looks more favorable if it's measured against all of the shares that Netflix has bought back during the past four years. Since 2007, Netflix has spent about \$1 billion to buy back nearly 23 million shares at an average price of \$45 apiece.

Many investors appear to be losing faith in Netflix's management team, which is led by company co-founder and CEO Reed Hastings. Netflix shares fell \$4.02, or 5.4 percent, to close at \$70.45 on Tuesday. The stock sagged to \$69 earlier in the session, its lowest point since March 2010.

Netflix market value has plunged by \$12 billion, or 75 percent, since its stock

peaked at nearly \$305 a share in mid-July. That's right around the time that the company announced plans to raise prices as much as 60 percent for U.S. subscribers to rent DVDs by mail and to stream video on devices connected to the Internet.

Customers

The higher prices infuriated so many customers that Netflix lost 800,000 subscribers during the July-September period — by far the most the company has suffered since introducing its DVD-by-mail rental service in 1999.

The backlash made it more difficult for Netflix to finance its expansion in Latin America and the U.K. while it also meets Hollywood's demands for higher fees to license movies and TV shows for Internet streaming. Netflix expects those financial

pressures will mean a loss next year. It would be the company's first annual loss in a decade.

At the same time, Netflix is trying to fend off threats from other Internet streaming services from competitors like online retailer Amazon.com Inc. and satellite TV provider Dish Network Corp.

Technology Crossover Ventures, one of Netflix's earlier backers and still a major shareholder, is standing behind Hastings and the company.

The venture capital firm is buying \$200 million in notes that won't collect interest and can be converted into stock valued at \$85.80 per share before they mature in December 2018.

The \$200 million in Netflix stock is being purchased by mutual funds and other accounts managed by T. Rowe Price Associates Inc.



NOTICE

RBC Royal Bank (Bahamas) Ltd. INVITES TENDERS

RBC Royal Bank (Bahamas) Ltd. invites tenders for the purchase of the following:

"**ALL THAT**" piece parcel or lot of land being 3.45 Acres, a portion of the A1-237 Crown Grant located in the area of Carmichael Road and west of Faith Avenue, in the southwestern district of Nassau, one of the islands of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. The property is located on the northern side of Carmichael Road, approximately 1,053 feet west of the Carmichael Road and Faith Avenue intersection.

This property is being sold under Power of Sale contained in a Mortgage to RBC Royal Bank (Bahamas) Ltd.

All offers should be forwarded in writing in sealed envelope, addressed to the Manager, Royal Bank Commercial Financial Services, P.O. Box N-7549, Nassau, Bahamas and marked "**Tender 0857**". All offers must be received by the close of business 4:00 p.m., 28th November 2011.



The National Insurance Board of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

PROPOSALS FOR MAINTENANCE SERVICES

The National Insurance Board [NIB] invites proposals from suitably qualified contractors to provide Heat, Ventilation and Air Conditioning [HVAC] and Electrical Generator Maintenance Services at the various Government Clinics funded by NIB in New Providence, Abaco, Andros, Bimini, Cat Island, Crooked Island, Eleuthera, Long Island and San Salvador. Contractors must be in compliance with the National Insurance Act (social security programme), and in good standing with the relevant Government agencies.

Qualified Contractors are required to collect a proposal from the Customer Service Desk at NIB's Clifford Darling Complex, Baillou Hill Road, or at anyone of the Local Offices on the respective Islands listed above, from Monday to Friday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.

For further information, please contact Mr. Dave Neymour, Facilities/Buildings Department at telephone number 502-1833.

All proposals should be properly sealed, marked "*Tender For HVAC or Electrical Generator Services - Government Clinics in New Providence, Abaco, Andros, Bimini, Cat Island, Crooked Island, Eleuthera, Long Island or San Salvador*," and must be **DELIVERED BY HAND** no later than 4:30 p.m., on Friday, December 2, 2011, to:

Mr. Osborne Moxey
Office of the Director
THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BOARD
3rd Floor, Clifford Darling Complex
Baillou Hill Road
Nassau, Bahamas

The National Insurance Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

Employment Opportunity

APD Limited is seeking qualified:

Manitowoc Container Crane Operators Liebherr/Gottwald Mobile Harbor Crane Operators

REQUIREMENTS:

- Certified in the operation of the Manitowoc 4100W S2 Container Crane and or either of the Liebherr or Gottwald Mobile Harbor Cranes
- Basic understanding of the electrical, hydraulic and mechanical operations of the crane
- Perform pre and post operations maintenance inspections and servicing
- Ability to work independently
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Coordinate with vessel and terminal yard planners regarding discharging and loading operations
- Very strong in 20ft, 40ft, 45ft and 48ft container operations and break bulk and out of gauge cargo operations
- Monitor vessel conditions at all times during discharge and loading to ensure safe and efficient operations
- Monitor all persons working on the vessel and along the quay at all times
- Ability to operate vessel cranes on occasion
- Ability to work in both day and night conditions
- Ability to work on a shift basis
- Willing to undergo random drug tests as part of a Port safety program

EXPERIENCE:

- Minimum of 5 years in the operation of the Manitowoc 4100W S2 Container Crane and or either of the Liebherr or Gottwald Mobile Harbor Cranes
- Minimum of 5 years' experience handling project and out of gauge cargo

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Frequently moves up and down stairs and ladders
- Works at heights above 40ft
- Sits for long periods of time
- Frequently bending, crouching and lifting
- Must be physically fit with good eye sight

E-mail: info@apdport.com
Or

Fax: (242)323-7072

On or before December 9th 2011
NO CALLS PLEASE

BUSINESS

STOCKS SLIDE AS US GOVT LOWERS GROWTH ESTIMATE

NEW YORK
Associated Press

A DOWNWARD revision of U.S. economic growth in the third quarter sent stocks lower Tuesday. Higher borrowing costs for Spain also renewed worries about Europe's debt crisis.

The Commerce Department reported that the U.S. economy grew at a 2 percent annual rate from July through September, down from its initial estimate of 2.5 percent. Economists had expected the figure to remain the same.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 53.59 points, or 0.5 percent, to close at 11,493.72. Aluminum maker Alcoa Inc. led the Dow lower. The Dow had been down as many as 113 points shortly before noon.

The Dow plunged 249 points Monday as a congressional committee failed to reach a deal to cut budget deficits. The deadlock raised fears that rating agencies might lower the U.S. government's credit rating if Congress tries to circumvent the automatic spending cuts that are supposed to occur in the event of an impasse. Some Republicans have said they would try to block cuts to defense spending.

"Markets are looking for clarity, and you didn't get that from the super-committee," says Steven Ricchiuto, chief economist at Mizuho Securities. "There's no reason to believe the economy is going to get stronger."

Across the Atlantic, there were more signs of trouble in Europe's debt crisis. Spain was forced to pay sharply higher interest rates in an auction of short-term debt. The higher rates suggest that investors are still skeptical

that the country will get its budget under control despite a new, center-right government coming to power this week.

Investors have been worried that Spain could become the next country to need financial support from its European neighbors if its borrowing rates climb to unsustainable levels. Greece was forced to seek relief from its lenders after its long-term borrowing rates rose above 7 percent on the bond market. The rate on Spain's own benchmark 10-year bond is dangerously close to that level, 6.58 percent.

The Standard & Poor's 500 fell 4.94 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,188.04. The Nasdaq composite fell 1.86, or 0.1 percent, to 2,521.28.

It was the fifth straight decline for the S&P 500, the longest losing streak since August. The S&P has lost 5.5 percent over the past week on worries that Spain could get dragged into Europe's debt crisis and as Congress neared a deadlock over cutting the U.S. budget deficit.

Trading was relatively quiet ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday Thursday. Volume on the New York Stock Exchange was 3.9 billion shares, below the average of 4.7 billion over the previous 100 days.

Netflix Inc. sank 5.4 percent to \$70.45, the lowest level since March 2010. The online video rental company said it raised \$400 million from selling debt and stock as it tries to recover from a consumer backlash following price hikes.

Campbell Soup Co. sank 5.3 percent to \$31.84 after reporting a 5 percent drop in net income. The company said price increases were not

enough to offset lower volume in its soup and beverage businesses.

Medtronic Inc. rose 4.4 percent to \$34.75. The world's largest medical device maker reported higher-than-expected earnings and reaffirmed its full-year earnings outlook.



THE SCENE on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange yesterday. (AP)

Rotary Clubs
of The Bahamas
Celebrating 50 Years of Service
Since 1962

Celebrating 50 Years of Service to Our Community

4-WAY TEST ESSAY CONTEST

Enter the contest and send your essay to the Rotary Club of East Nassau and you can be a winner of **\$300!**

(Cash prizes and trophies will be awarded in two categories for first and second place winners)

What does the 4-way test mean to you? Explain your understanding of the 4-Way Test as it relates to your life, experiences, and/or society in general.

The world is much more complicated and dangerous for today's youth. We are faced with many challenges, such as drug abuse, gangs, violence, teen pregnancy, AIDS, high school dropouts—the list goes on. We have many decisions to make and problems to solve. Although there are many challenges in life, there is one thing that can help. Ask yourself the four questions when facing a challenging decision.

Rules:

- Children ages 10-16 may enter. Judging will be in two age categories: 10 - 13 years and 14-16 years for a first and second place winner in each category.
- Write an essay answering the following subject: "What does the Four-Way Test mean to me." Explain your understanding of the 4-Way Test as it relates to your life, experiences, and/or society in general." Your essay must include the four principles.
- The body of the essay must not exceed 1,000 words. Adults may assist the child in filling out the entry form, but not in writing the letter.
- Limit one essay per child. All entries must be received by the Rotary Club of East Nassau before Nov 30, 2011.
- Only essays accompanied by original entry forms clipped from the newspaper will be accepted. Photocopy, fax, carbon or other copies will not be accepted.
- One winner will be chosen from each age category. The decision of the judges is final.
- Winner must agree to a photo presentation which will be published in the newspaper.
- Mail essay and completed newspaper clipping to The Four-Way Test Essay Competition, Attn: Joanne Smith, The Rotary Club of East Nassau, P.O. Box N-1299, Nassau, Bahamas

From the earliest days of the organization, Rotarians were concerned with promoting high ethical standards in their professional lives. One of the world's most widely printed and quoted statements of business ethics is The Four-Way Test, which was created in 1932 by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor. This 24-word Test has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways. It asks the following four questions:

The 4-Way Test
"Of the things we think, say or do

- 1. Is it the truth?**
- 2. Is it fair to all concerned?**
- 3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?**
- 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?"**

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Child's Name: _____

Age: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

P.O. Box: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Telephone contact: (H) _____

(W) _____

All entries become property of the Rotary Club of East Nassau and can be used and reproduced for any purpose without compensation.



The Tribune
Nassau and Bahama Islands' Leading Newspaper

MERCK WILL PAY \$950M TO SETTLE VIOXX INVESTIGATION

NEW YORK
Associated Press

THE U.S. Department of Justice said Tuesday that drug maker Merck will pay \$950 million to resolve investigations into its marketing of the painkiller Vioxx.

The agency said Merck will pay \$321.6 million in criminal fines and \$628.4 million as a civil settlement agreement. It will also plead guilty to a misdemeanor charge that it marketed Vioxx as a treatment for rheumatoid arthritis before getting U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval.

Merck stopped selling Vioxx in 2004 after evidence showed the drug doubled the risk of heart attack and stroke. In 2007, the company paid \$4.85 billion to settle around 50,000 Vioxx-related lawsuits.

The Justice Department said the settlement resolves allegations that Merck made false, unproven, or misleading statements about Vioxx's safety to increase sales and made false statements to Medicaid agencies about its safety.

Merck said the settlement does not constitute an admission of any liability or wrongdoing, and it said the government acknowledged that there was no basis to conclude that Merck's upper-level management was involved in the violations.

Merck also entered into an agreement about its sales, marketing, publication and government pricing activities. The Justice Department said that agreement strengthens oversight of the company. It will require top officials to complete annual compliance certifications, and the company will post information about physician payments on its website.

The company took a charge of \$950 million in the third quarter of 2010 to cover the anticipated settlement payments.

Vioxx was approved by the FDA in 1999, but the government did not initially approve the drug for use in rheumatoid arthritis. That meant doctors could write prescriptions for Vioxx for rheumatoid arthritis patients, but Merck could not promote the drug for that use. The Justice Department said Merck promoted Vioxx for rheumatoid arthritis for three years and continued to do so after getting an FDA warning letter in 2001. The drug was approved as a treatment for rheumatoid arthritis in 2002.

The government will get \$426.4 million from the settlement, and \$202 million will be distributed to state Medicaid programs for 43 states and the District of Columbia.

BUSINESS

CAMPBELL SOUP 1ST-QUARTER NET INCOME FALLS

Company aiming to expand internationally

NEW YORK
Associated Press

CAMPBELL SOUP CO. said Tuesday that its first quarter net income fell 5 percent as the company worked to turn around its soup business in the U.S. and expand internationally.

Profit was better than expected, mainly due to lower spending on advertising and fewer shares outstanding. But revenue missed expectations as volume declined due to higher prices. The company, like other food makers, has raised prices to offset higher costs for ingredients and other materials.

Shares fell over 5 percent Tuesday. "Consumers continued to be impacted by the challenges in the global economy," during the quarter, said CEO Denise Morrison during a call with analysts. "There's little doubt that the pronounced caution and restraint that have characterized consumer behavior since the onset of the financial crisis are now the 'new norm' for the food and beverage sector."

The Camden, New Jersey-based company is trying to regain lost ground after several years of declining soup sales. U.S. soup sales fell 4 percent during the quarter as higher prices hurt volume. Shoppers have curbed their soup consumption, stopped stocking pantries or shifted to competitor's brands. Campbell is in the early stages of a turnaround plan that includes adding high-end soups and broadening offerings in its snack, beverage and other categories.

The company lowered prices on soup last year in promotions, causing tough comparisons for this year. Campbell Soup also cut its advertising spending, shifting ad dollars to later in the quarter to more closely correspond with soup season.

Despite higher prices, Morrison said the sales decline was not as pronounced as

expected, helping profitability. Morrison said Campbell is aiming to stabilize the soup division's profitability and will then try to drive revenue growth.

Sales were weak in other categories as well. U.S. beverages sales slipped 3 percent as the company's V8 brand was hurt by higher prices for juice concentrate and packaging and increased competition in the vegetable juice sector.

Sales volumes dropped for the Australian Arnott's biscuit brand, and sales of the soup, sauce and beverage division declined in Europe.

A bright spot was Goldfish crackers and Pepperidge Farm's Milano Melts and new Cracker Chips, which sold well. Sales in the global baking and snacking unit rose 4 percent to \$568 million.

Overall, net income fell to \$265 million, or 82 cents per share, in the quarter ended Oct. 30, from net income of \$279 million, or 82 cents per share, in the same period last year.

There were about 5 percent fewer shares outstanding at quarter's end than a year ago, which helps boost earnings per share.

Analysts polled by FactSet expected 79 cents per share.

Revenue fell less than 1 percent to \$2.16 billion from \$2.17 billion. Analysts expected revenue of \$2.21 billion.

Campbell affirmed its guidance for fiscal 2012. It expects revenue to be flat to up 2 percent, which translates to revenue of \$7.72 billion to about \$7.87 billion. It predicted adjusted earnings of \$2.35 to \$2.42 per share.

Analysts expect net income of \$2.38 per share on revenue of \$7.83 billion.

Shares fell \$1.77, or 5.27 percent, to close at \$31.84 Tuesday. When adjusted for dividends, the stock price was almost unchanged this year through Monday's close.



AN OPENED CAN of Campbell's Tomato soup. Campbell Soup Co. said Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011, fiscal first-quarter net income fell 5 percent as price increases were not enough to offset lower volume in its soup and beverage businesses (AP)

HORMEL FOODS 4Q NET INCOME FALLS, REVENUE RISES

Associated Press

HORMEL FOODS CORP.'s fiscal fourth-quarter profit slipped 3 percent as weak sales and higher ingredient costs hurt the maker of Spam, Dinty Moore stew and other packaged food brands.

It's a struggle playing out regularly for food makers these days: they need to raise prices to cover higher costs but risk losing cost-conscious shoppers.

Hormel said Tuesday that its total sales volume fell 7 percent, but higher prices helped nudge its revenue up and protect some of its profit. As a result, the company was able to deliver earnings per share that beat analyst expectations and it issued 2012 guidance above estimates, which sent its shares higher in late morning trading.

The company, based in Austin, Minn., said its net income fell to \$117.3 million, or 43 cents per share, for the period that ended Oct. 30. That's down from \$121.1 million, or 45 cents per share, in the same quarter last year. It also beat the 42 cents per share that analysts surveyed by FactSet forecast.

Its earnings per share were adjusted to account for a previously announced 2-for-1 stock split. There was also one less week in the current quarter.

Revenue edged up 2 percent to \$2.1 billion but missed Wall Street's \$2.13 billion estimate.

It was the second quarter in a row that the prepared foods maker dealt with slower sales volume as a result of higher prices. Like many food makers, Hormel has raised prices on its products to offset rising costs for everything from grain to packaging.

On Monday, Tyson Foods Inc. reported that its fourth-quarter net income slipped as higher grain costs offset better prices and revenue, particularly in its chicken business.

Hormel reported that its operating profit rose in four of its five operating segments: grocery products, Jennie-O turkey, specialty foods and other products. The biggest drag for Hormel came from its refrigerated foods division, where its operating profit fell 19 percent because of declining pork operating margins and increased commodity costs.

The company reported that revenue rose in all but one of its segments but sales volume fell across the board.

"Clearly, in the long run, we're looking to grow volumes of our value-added franchises," Hormel CEO Jeffrey Ettinger said. "But as long as we continue to be in this kind of pricing environment, you will continue to see larger net sales increases; then you will see volume increases."

Hormel's full-year earnings rose 20 percent to \$474.2 million, or \$1.74 per share, from \$395.6 million, or \$1.46 per share, in the prior year. After adjusting for costs tied to the closure of a plant and other one-time items, the company earned \$1.51 per share for the year versus \$1.46 a year earlier.

Annual revenue increased 9 percent to \$7.9



billion from \$7.22 billion.

The company said it expects to continue to struggle with volatile raw material costs, higher grain costs and potentially a decline in its meat processing margins in the coming fiscal year. Hormel said it will continue to take strategic and modest price increases as needed to offset rising costs.

Hormel said it anticipates 2012 earnings in a range of \$1.79 to 1.89 per share. Analysts had been expecting earnings of \$1.77 per share for the year.

The company expects its grocery products, specialty foods and its international business to drive its fiscal 2012 profit growth. Ettinger cautioned that comparisons will likely be more difficult in the first half of the year, getting more favorable later in the year.

Late Monday, Hormel increased its annual dividend by 18 percent to 60 cents per share from 51 cents per share.

Hormel's shares fell 1 cent Tuesday, to close at \$28.82.

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