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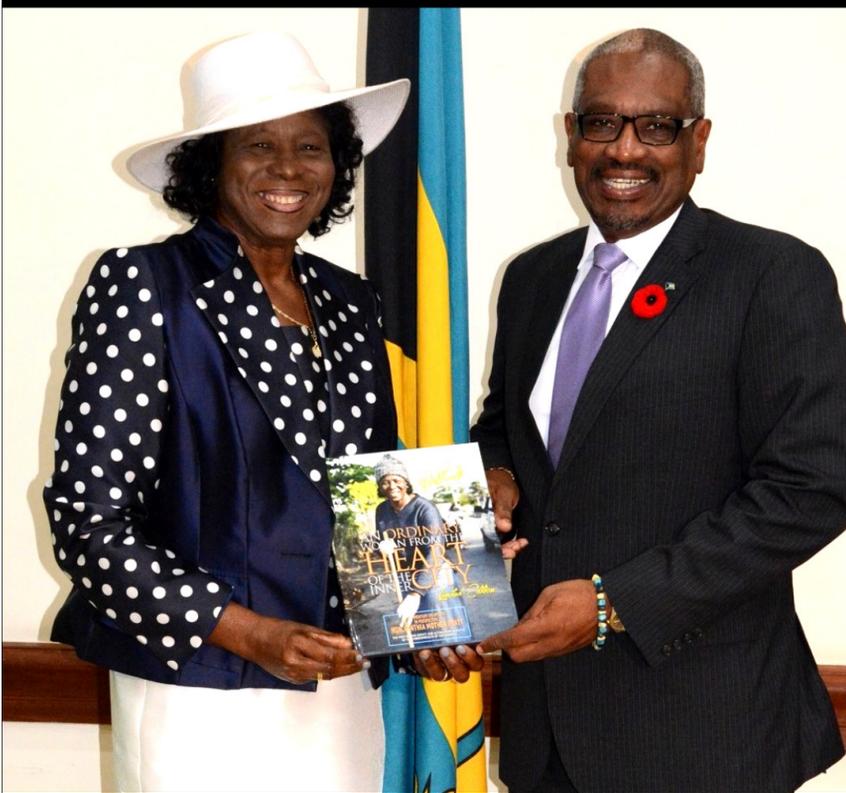
VOL. 30 - NO. 32

THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 2ND, 2017

75 CENTS

Wiping out stigma of Corruption

CYNTHIA "MOTHER" PRATT PRESENTS A COPY OF HER BOOK TO PRIME MINISTER MINNIS



▶ Former Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Cynthia "Mother" Pratt presented a copy of her book, entitled *An Ordinary Woman from the Heart of the Inner City*, to Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis in a courtesy call at the Office of the Prime Minister, November 1, 2017. (BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay)

Police Apprehend Second Suspect In Shoot-out

BY LICEA BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Two men are now in police custody following a police involved shooting that occurred on Monday night. Police apprehended the second suspect on Tuesday night.

According to police reports, shortly after 8p.m Tuesday, a Police Operation Team arrested the second suspect in Dignity Gardens.

Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Stephen Dean reports that on Monday police and three males were involved in an exchange of gunfire in the King Street area.

According ACP Dean, the incident which occurred shortly after 8.30pm Monday, when officers with the Mobile Unit on routine patrol in the Market Street area identified a car operating in a "suspicious" manner.

A pursuit of the vehicle ensued and police intercepted the vehicle occupied by three men

following the short chase.

Two of the males exited the vehicle and open fire on police before fleeing on foot. Police returned fire. However, they were unable to apprehend either of the two men.

A third suspect, the report indicates, was arrested in the vehicle with a loaded handgun.

According to the report, the police vehicle received minor damages from gunshots during the ordeal.

Police are appealing to the public to share information on any illegal and suspicious activities and to call police at 919 or Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS.

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BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
Journal Staff Writer

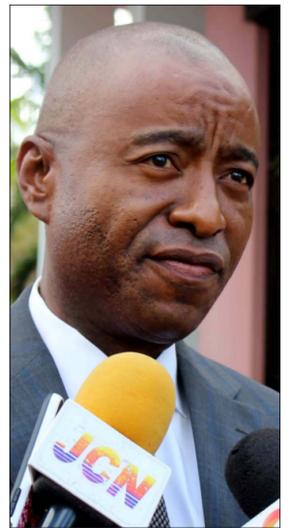
During debate in the House of Assembly yesterday Foreign Affairs Minister Darren Henfield said he supports the bill for an independent director of public prosecutions because it is a move to wipe out the prevailing stigma of endemic corruption from the country.

He said the government is attempting to break the monopoly of the unfettered power by the Attorney

General and 'put it firmly in the hands of a public servant who is empowered to operate outside of the arch of political authority in the exercise of his duties.'

"We seek to put the power in the hands of the people, by placing it in the hands of an independent director of public prosecutions who will be clothed in the power of his own office to conduct the affairs of the people without fear," Henfield said.

He added that the amendment requires that specific directions given to the director of public prosecutions by



▶ Foreign affairs Minister Darren Henfield (Journal file photo)

the attorney general be put in writing and published in the Gazette in the House of Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

■ See CORRUPTION / page 2...

Symonette claims 20,000 Warrants Outstanding

BY RANECHEA ELLIS
Journal Staff Writer

During his stint as Attorney General, St. Anne's Member of Parliament (MP) Brent Symonette admitted that he nulled numerous cases and in his defense, he said they were minor cases that stretched back many years.

Speaking during the debate in the House of Assembly yesterday on a bill to establish an independent Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. Symonette said, "I signed boxes of them out of way, because I just couldn't see bringing someone back who was 18 at the time, who is now 28- 30 for one joint. Bring him back from Canada to The Bahamas to waste time," he said.

"So let's move on, but I hope the backlog will be dealt with."

There are a reported 20,000 warrants out for people to appear before the courts.

Mr. Symonette said there needs to be some way whereby those crimes that are over five, ten years or more are dismissed, opposed to continuing to clog the system.

The Free National Movement MP was at the time contributing to the final leg of debate on an Independent Director Of Public Prosecutions, an amendment he sees as crucial considering that on a daily basis, it is the Attorney General who decides who should be prosecuted for a crime.

"We need to find a way to take that power out of an elected official, or an appointed office in the Senate and put them in the hands of duly appointed civil servant," he said.

"So forever we take away the possibility, the sniff or whatever you want to call it if political intervention into the prosecution or lack of prosecution of any Bahamian in this country today."

URCA ORDERS ZSR SPORTS RADIO OFF AIR

BY ONIKE ARCHER
Journal Staff Writer

ZSR Sports Radio 103.5FM is fighting to the Radio Station on the air after being told officially by the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) to give up the frequency. URCA has given the frequency to a new company called Paramount Systems upon the request from the licence holders Frank Rutherford and Mrs Blossie Smith, widow of the late Philip Smith.

In a statement yesterday, URCA Paramount Systems Limited is the licensee of record in respect of the frequency 103.5FM, with the right to exclusive and uninterrupted use of that frequency.

Now the operators of ZSR say they want to keep all rights to their broadcasting station from a seemingly hostile takeover from what they call, the station's minor shareholder.

■ See URCA ORDERS / page 2...

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Wiping out stigma of Corruption

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"As such, this bill brings a level of transparency and accountability to the prosecutorial process as relates to the exercise of the nolle prosequi or discontinuance of a criminal proceeding, such has never before been realized in this country," Henfield said.

The debate continued yesterday on the bill for the establishment of the independent office of the director of public prosecutions (DPP).

The bill which was tabled September 20th of this year would free the DPP from the influence of

the attorney general and or other cabinet positions.

The attorney general would however be allowed to give specified directions to the DPP in any matter involving "public policy, national security or the international obligations of the Bahamas".

Responding to critics raised by the official opposition, Henfield said that to say the bill does nothing is dishonest, disingenuous and duplicitous.

Also adding to the debate was member or parliament for Southern Shores, Frankie Campbell who said offered a personal scenario from his

time as a police officer.

"A police colleague made a certain recommendation, but the recommendation had to go to the AG's office, the AG had to make a final determination against a colleague of the AG. It could have been that the AG made the right decision, but owing to the fact that the AG and the person concerned had such close connectivity, there will always be that doubt," Campbell said

He added that the DPP bill is seeking to remove that sort of doubt or lack of confidence in the office.

Campbell said this bill will bene-

fit both the person who is suspected and the person who is making the complaint concerning a matter.

He said that fair play is what the country needs and among the other things, that contributes to crime. It is of course the public seeing high officials getting away with embezzlement and that is the sort of corruption they're working to eradicate.

MP for Marathon Romauld Ferreira also gave his views, stating that if the country is ever again run by a political party, who would be willing to allow the political ambitions of a few men to dash the

political aspirations of a whole people, there would be a law in place to prevent them from committing heinous crimes.

"If this nation is ever again misled by the PLP; described by one of their very own as a party overcome with envy, consumed with jealousy, and stung by greed, at least it would be that much more difficult to manipulate the strings of justice with arrogance and impunity; they would have to gazette their reasons and do something which makes them very uncomfortable, engage and answer to the Bahamian public," Ferreira said.

URCA ORDERS ZSR SPORTS RADIO OFF AIR

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Since April 5th of this year, ZSR Sports Radio

103.5FM has officially undergone legal battles with Brickell Management Group Limited and Island Luck

TV's Chief Executive (CEO) Officer, Sebastian Bastian and URCA.

According to Maria Daxon, the attorney representing ZSR Sports Radio, "there is a hostile takeover that is trying to happen in this Bahamas. There are some unscrupulous persons in this country that want to take over this business of 103.5FM.

"My clients Vann Ferguson, Broadcaster and Business woman, Cheryl Braynon, the principal holders of Navette Broadcasting and Entertainment Company Limited have been unfairly treated by members of the URCA board."

For the last seven years, ZSR Sports Radio 103.5FM has delivered sports news in The Bahamas, but it is also alleged by Ms. Daxon, that URCA claims the company is not and has not been operating with a legal license.

According to Ms. Daxon, URCA's CEO, Stephen Bereaux sent a letter to the Sports Broadcasting station to vacate the FM frequency 103.5 with immediate effect.

Ms. Daxon says that prior to the transactions of the broadcasting station's transfer of ownership, Paramount Systems was recently formed October 21st 2016, only to facilitate such a 'hostile takeover'.

Moreover, "URCA was aware that Vann Ferguson and also Cheryl Braynon are the principal holders of Navette," Ms. Daxon said.

Additionally, Ms. Daxon accused URCA of assisting

the takeover of the sports radio station.

"They (URCA) went behind my clients back along with Paramount Systems and decided they were going to illegally and unlawfully try to take away the license to transfer it over to Paramount Systems."

Ms. Daxon informed the media that under the advisement of her senior counsel, she will be filing an injunction today against URCA, and the minor shareholder.

Ms. Braynon said that she is disappointed and flabbergasted that she has to fight so hard to keep the station that she has personally invested thousands of dollars.

"It's just so much to tell. I just can't believe they tried to sell this company behind my back, when the license is in my name. I am Navette."

Ms. Braynon also informed the Journal yesterday that her partner, Vann Ferguson ensures that any business and legal matters pertaining to ZSR Sports Radio, is handled expeditiously.

Furthermore, Ms. Daxon stated that URCA sent a letter to ZSR Sports Radio last Friday, October 27th stating that they will be responsible for \$500 thousand dollars or be imprisoned if they fail to shut down.

"I don't owe URCA, so why should I have to shut down." Ms. Braynon said.

After receiving the letter from URCA, that same day, Ms. Daxon swiftly submitted an official appeal to URCA's letter.



FORM B Notice of Intended Marriage (Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Maxwell Duncan Leslie, Single,
of 620 Lee Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060, United States of America

and

Casey Nicole Heiar, Single,
of 620 Lee Street, Blacksburg, VA 24060, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 6th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B Notice of Intended Marriage (Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Michael Edward Carpenter, Single,
of 104 Kirpatrick Way Leduc, AB T9E 0Z2, Canada

and

Michelle Lee Stratton, Single,
of 104 Kirpatrick Way Leduc, AB T9E 0Z2, Canada

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 6th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B Notice of Intended Marriage (Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Timothy Wade Lindsey, Single,
of 8721 Escabosa Dr., Austin TX 78748, United States of America

and

Leigh Ann Thompson, Single,
of 8721 Escabosa Dr., Austin TX 78748, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 10th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B Notice of Intended Marriage (Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Lee Quai, Divorced,
of 4 Red Fold, Aughton,, Ormskirk L39 4TX, United States of America

and

Lynn Marie Alderdice, Divorced,
of 4 Red Fold, Aughton, Ormskirk L39 4TX, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 10th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages

AMBASSADOR TONY S. JOUDI PAID COURTESY CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER



► His Excellency Tony S. Joudi, Bahamas Ambassador to the UAE and the State of Qatar (left) paid a courtesy call and presented a gift to Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis, Monday, at the Office of the Prime Minister. (Photo/ Yontalay Bowe, OPM Media Services)

MINISTER DISCUSSES WITH GB COUNCILORS ISSUES AND SUCCESSES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT



► **MINISTER MEETS LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILORS IN GB** -- Minister of Transport and Local Government, the Hon. Frankie Campbell, met with Local Government Councilors during his trip to Grand Bahama October 26-27, 2017. The meeting took the form of a dinner at Maryann's Restaurant in Freeport. Minister Campbell told the council leaders that his purpose in meeting with them was to get feedback on their respective constituencies, but mostly to learn from them how to put together a successful local government council. He noted that Local Government is still something the Government intends to implement in Nassau and, thus, he wanted to "pick their brains" on exactly what works in the establishment of local government. Once Local Government Councilors shared with the Minister their concerns and challenges, they were more than happy to share their recommendations on the successful establishment of Local Government. **(BIS Photo/Andrew Coakley)**

Bahamas Extends Condolences to U.S.

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
Journal Staff Writer

Minister of Foreign Affairs Darren Henfield has offered condolences to the United States of America in the wake of what's being dubbed a terror attack.

On Tuesday 29-year-old Sayfullo Saipov an immigrant from Uzbekistan raced down a

busy bike path in a rented pickup truck mowing down pedestrians and cyclists near the World Trade Center's memorial.

At least eight are dead and 11 are seriously injured.

Henfield called the attack a senseless act.

"The Bahamas continues to condemn cowardly acts of terror and to note that the use of vio-

lence to achieve political ends will never work. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families impacted by this hideous event," Henfield said.

He added that he has sent a formal note conveying regrets and heartfelt sentiments to the government of the United States.

The terrorist was shot in the abdomen by police after jumping

out of the truck with a fake gun in each hand shouting "Allahu Akbar," Arabic for "God is great".

He underwent surgery and was in critical condition, but survived and was charged yesterday by federal prosecutors.

He was prompted to attack by an online call to action from the Islamic terrorist group ISIS.

It is reported that he chose Halloween because he knew more people would be out on the streets.

According to reports, while in hospital he asked to display the Islamic State group's flag in his room and said "he felt good about what he had done".

Saipov's charges could bring the death penalty.

The Bahamas Agriculture & Marine Science Institute WEEKLY PRICE REPORT

WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 25th, 2017

Wholesale Crop	Weight	Size	BAMSI		USDA-AMS		Retail Weight	BAMSI		USDA-AMS	
			Price		HIGH	LOW		Price	HIGH	LOW	
Banana	40lbs		18.00		20.00	20.00	1lb.	0.49	0.72	0.49	
Papaya	10lbs		14.00		18.00	16.00	each	1.59	1.57	1.57	
Habanero Green	8lbs		16.00		15.00	12.00	1lb.	2.50	1.88	1.50	
Habanero Orange	8lbs		40.00		15.00	12.00	1lb.	5.50	1.88	1.50	
Okra							1lb.	3.00	N/A	N/A	

	Wholesale Prices Weight	
Abaco Big Bird	Per lb.	2.14
Whole Chicken	40lbs	28.36
Leg Quarters	40lbs	66.04

	Retail Prices Weight	
	1 lb	2.39
	10lbs	8.49
	10lbs	19.24

Source: USDA-AMS Miami
United States Department of Agriculture Market Service



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► The Nation Builder Awards recipients are pictured on October 30, 2017 with Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling, seated centre; the Hon. Lanisha Rolle, Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, seated centre left; and Vaughn Miller, Parliamentary Secretary, seated centre right. (BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)

UNsung HEROES RECEIVE NATION BUILDER AWARDS

In observance of Older Persons Month, 13 senior citizens from throughout the community were saluted for their outstanding talents and contributions to the development of The Bahamas.

The Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling presented the honorees with Nation Builder Awards during the 20th Annual Nation Builder Awards Ceremony at Government House on Monday, October 30.

International Day of Older Persons is commemorated annually on October 1. The Bahamas, in partnership with the United Nations General Assembly, is celebrating its 20th year of observing October as Older Persons Month. The theme for this year's celebration is, "Stepping into the future: tapping the talents, contributions and participation of Older Persons in Society."

The Nation Builder Awards recipients are: Miriam Arnette, Victor Cooper, Remona Delancy, Ann Johnson, Sheila Johnson, Nora Knowles, Frances Rahming, Florence Ramsey, Drucilla Rhodriquez, Edith Brown-Rolle Chauncey W. Tynes,

Thelma Walkes and Joyce Bannister-Young.

The Hon. Lanisha Rolle, Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, headed the list of Government officials at the ceremony. Also in attendance were Parliamentary Secretary, Vaughn Miller; Lillian Quant-Forbes, Acting Director; Gwen McDeigan, President, Bahamas Association of Retired Persons; family, friends, senior citizens representing various Urban Renewal Centers and well-wishers. The Royal Bahamas Defence Force Pop Band provided music.

In her remarks, Minister Rolle told the honorees that today's event is only a "small" token of love and appreciation for them, their sacrifices and labor of love for their families, communities and the Bahamian people.

As an advocate for older persons, Minister Rolle said it is "imperative" that a Senior Citizens line with comfortable seating is established in every institution.

She said older persons should have preference in medical institutions, and special discounts by virtue of their age, irrefutable con-

tributions and distinct needs.

She suggested that older persons ought to be considered for tax exemptions and rebates, and it may be fitting to explore the possibility of a tax-free or discounted sales day for older persons in October.

Moreover, she said avenues for alternative jobs after retirement should be explored.

"Older persons may not be as young as they used to be, but they still have significant contributions they can make," said Minister Rolle.

She remarked that the purpose of the Senior Citizens Division in the Department of Social Services is to focus on persons 60 years and older who are considered "vulnerable" and are in genuine need of assistance in obtaining or maintaining an acceptable standard of living.

"One challenge we will continue to tackle head-on is "discrimination against persons because of their age. This form of discrimination is called ageism.

"Ageism assumes that discrimination against older persons is normal and acceptable. It can manifest itself in individual and insti-

tutional behaviors and decisions which can have a negative impact on the lives of persons allowing for their marginalization and social exclusion from society.

"The Bahamas Government via the Department of Social Services Senior Citizens Division, plays a significant role in meeting the needs of as many older persons as possible. This is also in keeping with the United Nations plan of action on ageing endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1982 after being adopted at the World

Assembly on ageing at Vienna Austria."

Minister Rolle explained that the plan aims to strengthen the ability of governments and civil society to better deal with ageing populations and to facilitate initiatives and policies that will positively impact the lives of older persons.

The first Nation Builder Awards Ceremony was held on October 31, 1997. The award was implemented to recognize persons who have worked tirelessly and given service to their family, community, church and civic groups.

Baha Mar Goes in Overdrive

BY ONIKE ARCHER
Journal Staff Writer

Baha Mar launched its official grand opening to the world last evening with a spectacular video presentation of the future plans of Baha Mar and the Bahamas.

Based in the Bahamas, VP of Marketing, Karin Salinas said, "We've categorized this day as a milestone day for us. It is the opportunity to really go on a grander scale to showcase Baha Mar to the rest of the world."

Displaying the essence of being on vacation is what Baha Mar's creative director, Marcelo Cardoso displayed during the press conference, introducing new commercials that will be used to showcase Baha Mar.

In April, Baha Mar centered its soft opening on the Grand Hyatt, until other phases of the hotel were completed. Now in its completion, Baha Mar is ready to go into overdrive and market itself to the world.

Baha Mar will be introducing the luxury brand of SLS to its prestigious hotel in two weeks.

Baha Mar is \$4.2 billion integrated resort development located along the pristine beaches of New Providence in the Bahamas.

Decriminalization OF MARIJUANA "absolutely false"

BY RANECHEA ELLIS
Journal Staff Writer

The social media rumor mill was ablaze yet again yesterday, this time with a false message circulated claiming that Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis and his team had reached an agreement to decriminalize a certain quantity of marijuana.

The Bahama Journal spoke with Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands yesterday who immediately shut down those rumors, making it quite clear that the message was false and quite frankly it did not make sense.

"There are many inconsistencies in the note," he said.

"The first being that the decision was made on Tuesday night in the House of Assembly, it makes no sense seeing that the house doesn't meet on Tuesdays."

Furthermore, he said House meetings are public and a decision like that would have to go through an official bill passing process.

"It also said something about a 15 person vote," he said.

"This does not make sense, given the number of Members of Parliament that sit in the House. It did not happen."

The note went viral on the Whatsapp social media platform.

It further read that the move was a good one or the Minnis administration.

"The decriminalization of marijuana (weed) just means that possession of the drug no longer leads to jail time," it said.

"Without full legalization weed, is still and illicit substance, but you can buy grow and sell it. Its' a big win for the FNM administration and a small big step towards legalization but as for now the administrations no longer wants to see Bahamians arrested for the drug."

The note also pointed out that the decision came on the heels of the new appointment of Anthony Ferguson as the Commissioner of Police, making it seem as if Mr. Ferguson may have had some input.



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Sir Durward Knowles, through his involvement with One Bahamas Foundation, has exemplified the mandate of the Foundation by his ability to encourage, love and promote unity among all Bahamians throughout our nation;

AND WHEREAS, the One Bahamas Programme, which was established in 1992, was the brain child of the Honourable Algernon Allen, former Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture;

AND WHEREAS, in 1993, three outstanding individuals were elevated to the apex of the One Bahamas Foundation, Sir Orville Turnquest, former Governor General, became its Patron, while Sir Durward Knowles and Mr. Obie Ferguson became the organization's Co-Chairpersons;

AND WHEREAS, Sir Durward has the distinction of becoming the first Bahamian to win an Olympic Gold Medal in Sailing at the 1964 Olympic in Tokyo, Japan;

AND WHEREAS, Sir Durward's lifetime achievements in Sports, Rotary, Philanthropy and National Development are testaments to his legacy as a man for all seasons and a true Bahamian national hero;

AND WHEREAS, in celebration of Sir Durward Knowles' 100th Birthday, which falls on 2nd November, 2017, the One Bahamas Foundation has organize a schedule of events celebrate the life and work of this outstanding centenarian;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Hubert A. Minnis, Prime Minister of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, do hereby proclaim the 2nd November, 2017, as "SIR DURWARD KNOWLES' DAY".

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal this 16th day of October, 2017.

HUBERT A. MINNIS
PRIME MINISTER

The Rough Cut

By Felix F. Bethel

“...in all things...”

As it has always been, I am standing in the need of prayer; and for heaven's sake let it also be known that, my mantra remains: To God be the glory!

As many now know: Some of the surgical operations done upon my living body have succeeded; and yet, I now have another mountain to climb – and climb I shall if it is the will of the Almighty!

In all things, I give praise!

And now – and as driven by that infernal thing known as memory; I am today reminded that: The Bahamas is not a significant drug producing country, but remains a transit point for illegal drugs bound for the United States and other international markets. The Bahamas' close proximity to the coast of Florida as well as its location on Caribbean transshipment routes makes it a natural conduit for drug smuggling. The Bahamas' 700 islands and cays, the vast majority of which are uninhabited, provide near-ideal conditions for smuggling. Smugglers readily blend in among numerous pleasure craft traveling throughout the Bahamas archipelago, which covers nearly 100,000 square nautical miles. Smuggling also occurs through commercial and private plane traffic; some smuggling continues by means of remote airfields and airdrops from South and Central America. Smuggling is enabled and accompanied by organized crime and gang activity.

And I am reminded that: The United States and the Bahamas enjoy a long-standing history of counternarcotics cooperation, including under Operation Bahamas, Turks and Caicos (OPBAT). OPBAT operations in 2015 resulted in the seizure of cocaine and marijuana as well as the destruction of marijuana plants on multiple sparsely-populated islands, an indicator suggesting that marijuana cultivation in the Bahamas may be on the rise.

Bahamian government surveys suggest that demand for cocaine has diminished, though a domestic market does continue to exist. Experimental and chronic use of marijuana, including among adolescents, remains a concern. The Bahamas' National Anti-Drug Strategy places significant emphasis on drug abuse awareness, demand reduction, and treatment policies, though programs in these fields would be enhanced by additional resources.

That help is sorely needed now!

I am also being reminded

that: The security challenges we now face are as peculiarly bloated as they are precisely because of facts on the ground concerning the extent to which we must provide any number of safety-related services for the millions of Americans who visit, work in and who – in their millions visit our country and our region.

In this regard, we also note that: Of those peculiarities which now give aid, comfort and cover for the continued debauch of today's deeply troubled Bahamas has to do with the extent to which, by virtue of its geographical location and population configuration, this small island developing state remains not only a tourist-mecca but also a crime-ridden smuggler's paradise.

And precisely because this country's economic life is driven is driven by American demand for some of the services routinely provided by such deeply dependent states, it therefore follows that this also helps explain how American criminals and gangsters are able to flood our streets with guns and drugs, amongst other ill-gotten stuff.

Here we would proffer and surmise that much of this trade is done in the shadows left by a vibrant sports-fishing enterprises which provide them much-needed cover; thus those trades in guns-smuggling, human cargo trafficking and on occasion, in the plying of counterfeit bank-notes.

Indeed, as this new world of crime and wrong envelops this nation and this region, government now finds smack-dab in the middle of a major fiscal crisis of the state; itself hoisted high on a new kind of hanging tree.

In the interim, its youth suffer and die; all of this whilst they pursue their morbid quest to get rich quick or die trying.

But of all those matters that now float to mind and memory, none is as important as all those exemplary facts which show that: The year 1984 is a memorable one for Bahamians, particularly those old enough to remember what was going on.

It was the year illegal drug dealers descended on our nation; the year some politician characters were called into question.

It was the year former Deputy Prime Minister A.D. Hanna resigned his office on principle and tried to convince Prime Minister Pindling to do likewise, but to no avail.

Yes the year 1984 was a memorable one; it was the



year Tropical Storm Isadora left our shores for the Florida coast.

At the same time, another storm was gathering; a storm much more profound; it was a storm that threatened not our physical structures; but the integrity of our nation.

On Sunday, September 23 (1984), the storm touched down; not as a gale of wind, but in bold print; it was the Miami Herald; with a damaging headline, "A Nation for sale."

On the 28 the Herald returned, with another story, under the caption, "Bahamian citizens torn between loyalty and shame."

There is no shame in loyalty to one's nation; it is patriotic to be loyal.

What could be shameful though, and it has been proven of some, is blind loyalty to personalities and political organizations.

The Miami Herald writer went on to state how drug corruption in The Bahamas has transformed one of the world's idyllic destinations into a dangerous smuggler's Paradise.

"The old Bahamas was a place of pearly beaches, tropical harbors and timeless charm.

"The new Bahamas is a hard-edge place where everything and almost everyone has a price," the Herald reporter wrote.

"If you are a drug smuggler in The Bahamas, you'll never run out of things to do; you can buy an airstrip or an island, you can also buy citizenship, protection and justice. And should your drug cargo get seized by police, you can buy it back."

The writer went on to state that corruption spawned and fueled by American drug millionaires has stained every strata of Bahamian officialdom; from constables to Cabinet Ministers.

That story was a strong indictment on our society, but was it true? No one knew for sure, but evidence given in the commission of inquiry corroborated the Herald's claim.

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The Bahama Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

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EDITORIAL

FIXATED ON HOMICIDE

One of the more interesting artifacts that now surfaces in today's Bahamas has to do with the extent to which so very many Bahamians now live in a world where they are apparently fixated not on crime; but on this or that latest incidence of homicide.

And so it now goes in today's crime-wracked Bahamas as the Free National Movement settles in and as the Hon. Marvin Dames surveys a similarly challenged Bahamas.

And so, as the beat goes on, we wait to see what difference – if any – this good brother and his leader can or will make.

We continue to wish him well as he brings what he has to the Table!

And yet, too: If only for the sake of both honesty and the record, we insist that: No political party in this Commonwealth of The Bahamas will ever have a good enough fix on crime in whatever form it presents itself so long as crime pays as handsomely as it does.

We would also hasten to add that:

So things now go in today's Bahamas that even as the Minnis administration fixates and focuses on the rate and incidence of homicide – that horrifyingly monstrous offence against the person, many of our people now turn – as it were – a blind eye on a plethora of other insidiously wicked crimes against property and persons.

Indeed, if the truth be known, crimes such as armed robbery, pilferage, rape and any number of offences now being thug-realized with the skillfully implemented wiles and means employed by any number of strong-arm dealing bandits.

And yet again, there are all those instances and incidence of crimes committed in this or that high-class suite; and thus, our oft-stated suggestion to the effect that: Crime in all its manifestations must be addressed since they all negatively impinge on all aspects of our shared social life.

But yet, we hasten to add that our shared fascination and perhaps even to the extent to which we are collectively horrified might well explain the extent the huge extent to which the homicide rate is widely seen as a proxy measure for the health [or lack thereof] of society at large.

And so, today, we are quite certain that much

attention is today being focused not only on an offence allegedly committed by one Jacob Rolle; but by the fact that this man is the son of one of this country's most popular pastors, none other than Bishop Lawrence Rolle, widely known as the "Singing Bishop."

As reported we learn that: "THE SON of the well known "Singing Bishop" was charged in a Magistrate's Court on Friday in connection with a murder that took place in the Balfour Avenue area earlier this week..."

And so, we also note that: "Jacob Rolle, 24, the son of Bishop Lawrence Rolle, stood before Assistant Chief Magistrate Subusola Swain charged with one count of murder in connection with the October 24 incident..."

And so clearly, then: Such an offence as allegedly committed by this man suggests that crime is no respecter of persons; and for sure it also leads to the conclusion that: There any of us can and might go but for the grace of God!

Yet again, the word in the wind [at the level of allegation] has it that: On the day in question, Rolle murdered Randy Rolle.

Rolle[as we have also learned] was not required to enter a plea to the charge and the assistant chief magistrate adjourned the case to December 12 for service of a voluntary bill of indictment.

In time he will have his day in open court.

And in time, we sure do hope that the day will come when crimes of any stripe or ilk will be reduced to an absolute minimum.

And clearly, then, when that great day in the morning comes, resources now being diverted to security and justice-related issues would at that juncture find themselves directed to the funding of any number of developmentally-relevant uses.

This is our hope and prayer!
Evidently, there is and there never shall be on God's green earth any quick fix to the ravages either of sin or its nastily feral cousin, crime.

But yet, whilst we wish brother Dames well as he does what he can, we counsel that they he should move with the utmost caution and that – even as he seeks to placate public opinion – he should not latch on to any 'strategy' that is not evidence – based.



A Leader with Purpose

The Leader should be the servant of his people, purposefully seeking to uplift them and their lives. He must lead with wisdom, resolve and valour.

BY HON. GEORGE A. SMITH

The Delegates came from all across the Archipelago. Like the true patriots they are. Black-Bahamians, White-Bahamians, Asian-Bahamians, Haitian-Bahamians, European-Bahamians, they came to repair their beloved SS PLP. They came to replace the broken planks and to right the rudder. They installed a new mast and set new sails, with the single-minded purpose of charting a new course.

With patience and pride, late into the night, the delegates selected a new Captain and crew. I am extremely proud that the delegates selected a fellow Exumian, Chester Cooper, as first mate. After accomplishing their mission, the delegates packed their bags and proudly and orderly returned to their homes with renewed optimism of a brighter future. I congratulate each and every one of the delegates who participated in this historic convention.

Now with renewed purpose, Philip Davis must begin the process of wide consultation in preparing plans which will propel the Country onto the progressive course to a prosperous, stable and peaceful enlightened Nation, with the people at the heart and centre of its plans and strategies.

Mr. Davis is expected to re-connect the Party to the time-honored values, traditions, core principles and fraternal spirit which sustained the PLP in Government for twenty-five years from 1967 to 1992.

This re-energized PLP must now enlist the best minds available in exploring and finding workable solutions to the major problems facing our Nation. Crime, health challenges, education, economic growth and empowerment, the environment and rescuing and motivating our young people to pursue productive lives, free of crime, are but few of the many challenges that the PLP must boldly embrace, with renewed energy and purpose.

Great emphasis should be placed on managing our natural resources, including oil, aragonite and public lands, in creating opportunities for ordinary Bahamians to enjoy the economic empowerment that has persistently evaded us. The problems of Grand Bahama require special attention. Solutions must be found by closely



examining the amendments that must be made to the Grand Bahama Port Authority along with the full involvement and engagement of the residents of that Island.

We must also recommit ourselves to transforming our Family Islands into centers of excellence, fully cognizant of the unique attributes and cultural differences of each island, in order to realize the potential of all who reside within our archipelago.

Together, we must assess what kind of nation we envision for the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and what progressive steps must be taken to achieve that vision.

All who dream and hope for more productive lives for all of our citizens should look anew at the PLP, embrace the possibilities of our true potential and inspire all Bahamians to become fully engaged, ensuring that we all actively participate in the unfinished agenda of nation-building.

With a new Captain and First-mate at the helm, bolstered by an army of dedicated Bahamians as the supporting cast, we must all purposefully contribute in ensuring that The Bahamas continues the dream of becoming one of the best nations on earth.

DPM Tells Students The Bahamas Will Eventually Join WTO



► **CONGRATULATIONS D'ASIA** – D'Asia Russell of Eight Mile Rock High School (third from left) receives her certificate and prize from Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest (third from right) for her third place finish in the Caribbean Organization of Tax Administrators essay competition, which was held in June of this year. D'Asia finished third nationally. Also on hand for the presentation on Monday, October 30, 2017 at the Department of Internal Revenue were Rosemary Pintard-Bowe, Acting Comptroller for the Department of Inland Revenue (second from left); Chester Cooper, Principal of Eight Mile Rock High (second from right) and Ms. Patricia Ennis, D'Asia's literary coach (left). **(BIS Photos/Lisa Davis)**



► **OUTSTANDING JOB** – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest (second from right) presents Yana Swain of Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School, with her certificate and award for winning the essay competition hosted by the Caribbean Organization of Tax Administrators. Under the theme, "Reformation of Taxes" the essay competition was held in June of this year and Yana won over all of the entrants from The Bahamas. Also on hand for the presentation, which took place on Monday, October 30, 2017 at Mary Star, were Rosemary Pintard-Bowe, Acting Comptroller for the Department of Inland Revenue (second from left); Vice Principal of Mary Star, Mrs. Hanna (left) and Yana's dad, Denzel Swain (right).

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FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Willie Chapa, Single,
of 11 Old Military Road, Garciasville, TX 78547, United States of America

and

Bianca Bazan, Single,
of 11 Old Military Road, Garciasville, TX 78547, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Nicholas Franklin Pelletier, Single,
of 115 Foxhill Lane, Enfield, CT 06082, United States of America

and

Melanie L Cox, Single,
of 115 Foxhill Lane, Enfield, CT 06082, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages

Sir Durward Knowles Honoured During Special School Assembly

FREEPORT, Grand Bahama – In celebration of his 100th birthday tomorrow, special tribute was given to Olympian Sir Durward Knowles on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, during an assembly at Walter Parker Primary School.

In attendance for the special occasion were Sir Durward's daughter, Charlotte and nephew, Andy Knowles, members of the One Bahamas Executive Committee, Ministry of Education, former educators and principals and members of the Walter Parker Primary school board.

The students entertained

their special guests with a skit telling the story of Sir Durward's life, a dance by the Walter Parker Tappers and a song by the boys' choir.

Thanking the students for their tributes, Ms. Knowles said that her father will be publishing a book, "Never Give Up", something she said, he never did. She told them of his struggle of getting started in sailing and having a few people believe in him.

Vice-Principal, Rodney Bethel, made a presentation to Charlotte and Andy Knowles for Sir Durward which was a written tribute.



► Shown from left are: Edna Y. Gomez, principal, Walter Parker Primary; Terry Gape, One Bahamas Executive Committee; Mr. Bethel; Ms. Knowles; Mr. Knowles; Cecil Thompson, One Bahamas Executive Committee; and Churchill Tener Knowles, One Bahamas Executive Committee. **(BIS Photo/Lisa Davis)**



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Steven Scott Ouding, Divorced,
of 6039 Thistlewood Ave., Scotts, MI 49088, United States of America

and

Donna Kay Chippewa, Divorced,
of 6039 Thistlewood Ave., Scotts, MI 49088, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Richard George Marlenee, Divorced,
of 207 Smith Ave., Scobey, MT 59263, United States of America

and

Cindy Jean Garberg, Divorced,
of 207 Smith Ave., Scobey, MT 59263, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



25-30 NEW JOBS FOR GRAND BAHAMA

► Wind River Tobacco executives accompanied by key US materials vendors meet with the Government to discuss the set up of their new manufacturing enterprise in Freeport.



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Hugo Enrique Garcia Quiroz, Single,
of 13593 Saddle Drive, Mead, CO 80542, United States of America

and

Maura Dennine Sanchez, Single,
of 13593 Saddle Drive, Mead, CO 80542, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Peter Thomas Duffin, Single,
of 84 Castlemore Avenue, Belfast BT6 9RG, Ireland

and

Leah Marie Despard, Single,
of 84 Castlemore Avenue, Belfast BT6 9RG, Ireland

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B
Notice of Intended Marriage
(Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Zachary Taylor King, Single,
of 700 E Drake Road Apt. N12, Fort Collins, CO 80525, United States of America

and

Hannah Valorie Combs, Single,
of 700 E Drake Road Apt. N12, Fort Collins, CO 80525, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 27th day of October, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages