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The Bahama Journal

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MONDAY - DECEMBER 4TH, 2017

75 CENTS

Two Men Killed By Police

Witness' Credibility Questioned In Extortion Case

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

The credibility of the prosecution's lead witness has come into question in third day of former Public Hospitals Authority chairman, Frank Smith's extortion trial. This, according to Counsel for the defense, "would destroy the very foundation of the prosecution's case."

During the defense's cross examination, by lead attorney Keith Knight, QC, Barbara Hanna, owner of Magic Touch Cleaning Company, without being asked told the court that she had provided documents to the police that indicated that she was paying monies on a Bank loan.

■ See IN EXTORTION / page 4...

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
 Journal Staff Writer

TWO MEN were shot and killed over the weekend after allegedly engaging in police officers in gunfire.

According to Police reports, shortly after 1:00am on Saturday police were in the area of a bar on Tonique Williams Darling Highway when they observed two men standing near a silver vehicle engaged in an altercation with several persons. One of the men who was reportedly in possession of a firearm allegedly pointed it in

the direction of the Police and fired a shot.

Officers claiming to be fearful for their lives and those of other by standers engaged the men in gunfire, who got into the vehicle and sped off.

The officers pursued the vehicle which crashed a short distance away. The men were ejected from the vehicle. It was at this time that officers discovered that the men were shot.

One suspect died on the scene, while the other was taken to the hospital where he later died.

A shotgun was recovered from the vehicle; the incident is under investigation.

Four Traffic Fatalities in Two Days

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
 Journal Staff Writer

Four persons were killed in three separate traffic accidents over the weekend.

In the first incident, shortly before 9am Saturday, police in Grand Bahama were called to a traffic accident that occurred on Frobisher Drive and Hearne Lane, involving a white 2006 Ford F-150 truck and a 68year old female pedestrian. The female pedestrian was transported to the Rand Memorial Hospital by EMS personnel where she later succumbed to injuries.

In the second incident on Saturday shortly before 12:00am, police in Abaco were called to a traffic accident on Forest Drive, Murphy Town, Abaco, involving a black Nissan Silvia vehicle with three male passengers and a white 2003 Suzuki Van with a lone male driver. Both vehicles received extensive damages. The driver of the Suzuki Van and one of the passengers in the Nissan Silvia succumbed to injuries and the other two passengers in the Nissan Silvia were airlifted to New Providence for further medical attention.

■ See FATALITIES IN TWO DAYS on PAGE 2...



► Former Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Bradley Roberts (Journal file photo)



► Minister of Works Desmond Bannister (Journal file photo)

Roberts Blasts Bannister Over BPL Resignations

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
 Journal Staff Writer

Former Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Bradley Roberts has hit out at Minister of Works Desmond Bannister after the sudden resignations of several top Bahamas Power and Light

executives over the weekend.

In a statement Mr. Roberts said Mr. Bannister knowingly misled the House and the nation and was being neither truthful nor transparent in his communication of the BPL Audit.

■ See OVER BPL / page 2...

PM Minnis Welcomes Criticism

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
 Journal Staff Writer

The Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis has said he is open to constructive criticism admitting that he has made some mistakes in his short tenure as Prime Minister.

Dr. Minnis has been under the gun over the past few months mainly due to his immigration ultimatum and most recently the passing of the Commercial Enterprises Bill.

His comments came while addressing the congregation at Calvary Deliverance Church on Sunday.

"My Government is working hard to improve our economy and to boost economic growth and jobs, so that more Bahamians can live a better life.

"We are a democracy. Criticism is necessary and helps those who govern to become better leaders.

"I thank those in our land who offer sincere and constructive criticism. I have learned from many of these criticisms.

"Mind you, some of the criticism is unwarranted or uninformed.

■ See PM MINNIS / page 2...



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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING



**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 James Raughton, Single,
of 1435 Midland Way, Lawrenceville GA 30043, United States of America

and

Sylvia Shawn Brown, Single,
of 1435 Midland Way, Lawrenceville GA 30043, 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 November, 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 --

Christopher Adam Wiclaw, Single,
of 3725 Santa Anita Rd., SW Albuquerque, NM 87105, United States of America

and

Deborah Kathleen Ulibarri-Oldham, Divorced,
of 3725 Santa Anita Rd., SW Albuquerque, NM 87105, 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 November, 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 --

David Wayne Graham, Divorced,
of 3651 Thornhill Dr., Elgin IL 60124, United States of America

and

Carina Margareta Massani, Divorced,
of 3651 Thornhill Dr., Elgin IL 60124, 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 November, 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 --

Matthew Allen Clem, Single,
of 10245 Fairmount Rd., Newbury, Ohio 44065, United States of America

and

Kimberly Kaye Mekara, Divorced,
of 10245 Fairmount Rd., Newbury, Ohio 44065, 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 22nd day of November, 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 --

Jared Clint Waters, Single,
of 3918 Pfeiffer Ct., Midland MI 48640, United States of America

and

Nicole Lynn Klein, Single,
of 3918 Pfeiffer Ct., Midland MI 48640, 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 22nd day of November, 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 Alan Larke, Single,
of 26 Temby Court, Greenwith South 5125, Australia

and

Brooke Kathryn Staggard, Single,
of 26 Temby Court, Greenwith, South 5125, Australia

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 24th day of November, 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 --

William James Hunt, Single,
of 18776 Avon Street, Detroit, MI 48219, United States of America

and

Diane Reed, Divorced,
of 18776 Avon Street, Detroit, MI 48219, 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 22nd day of November, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages

PM Minnis Welcomes Criticism

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"Sometimes one can become defensive because of criticism. This is human nature – it happens to all of us.

"All of us, whether church, business or political leaders have to be able to discern the difference between criticism

that is merited and criticism that is not," Dr. Minnis said.

He then thanked the church, the business community, the media, labour unions and those in civil society who he said helped to make the country's democracy more vibrant by playing their roles in the promotion of the common good.

Four Traffic Fatalities in Two Days

Continued from / PAGE 1...

In the third incident, shortly after 1:00am Sunday morning, police received a report of fatal accident at Eastern road and Johnson road.

When officers arrived on the scene, they met an unresponsive male inside a Nissan Tida Vehicle, the victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

Preliminary reports indicate, that the victim was driving on eastern road when he lost control of his vehicle and crashed into a lamp pole.

Police have not released the identity of any of the victims, but The Journal understands the victim in the latest incident was 24 year old Drazen Johnson.

Officers from the traffic department are investigating all incidents.

Roberts Blasts Bannister Over BPL Resignations

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"Without notice and suddenly on 1st December, a memorandum purportedly authored by BPL's CEO Whitney Heastie made the rounds on social media announcing that Cecile Greene, the CFO that Bannister just praised and thanked in Parliament, had stepped down along with Marisa Mason and Deepak Bhatnagar.

"Was Minister Bannister being truthful to members in the Honourable House and Bahamians at large when he thanked Cecile Greene, characterized her as one of the "highly valued team members at BPL" and that BPL valued her service and was looking forward to "many years of continued productivity and goodwill?"

"And what about this new culture of transparency at BPL he spoke of?

"He spoke platitudes out of the left side of his mouth whole secretly ordering and sanctioning the dismissal of the very staff he praised and thanked.

"If anybody believe that these staff members were not forced out but stepped down willingly, then those persons must also believe in the existence of Santa Clause and the Easter Bunny," Mr. Roberts said.

On Friday BPL's Chief Executive Officer Whitney Heastie confirmed the departure of Executive Director Deepak Bhatnagar ; Chief Financial Officer; Cecile Green, and Human Resources Director, Marisa Mason Smith with immediate effect.

Ms. Green served in the post for nine years, and will be replaced by acting CFO Chandrice Ferguson. Ms. mason smith had been with the company for more than 15 years, according to the memo.

ALIV CONTINUES Family Islands Expansion To Andros

ALIV, is pleased to announce that it will be launching in two more Family Islands in the coming weeks. Andros went live on Friday, December 1st, where the ALIV flagship store has been opened in San Andros on Queen's Highway.

Exuma is scheduled to go live in the upcoming weeks. The launch on both islands, was postponed due to the

passage of Hurricanes Irma and Michelle. The last island launch was held in Bimini back in August.

Chief ALIV Officer Damian Blackburn said the company still remains committed to quickly delivering on its mandate to provide superior products and services throughout The Bahamas.

"To date we are proud to have more than 80,000 sub-

scribers who can experience ALIV's network and see its performance, which is constantly ahead of URCA's key performance indicators requirements in terms of user speed and dropped calls. We are looking to deliver the same super-fast speeds, clear calls, and reliable service to the residents of Andros, Bimini and Exuma very soon. We are able to uphold our commitments due to vital steps taken to ensure financial viability with funding of \$135 million from shareholders and an investment of \$120 million in our network system and infrastructure. We have also secured significant vendor financing from our technology partner, Huawei, which is more than \$30 million dollars."

During the official store opening held on November 30th, Andros Chief Councilor Daquin Scott commended ALIV for keeping its promise to launch Andros before the end of the year.

"I must commend the ALIV team for taking the initiative," he said. "We are very proud to know you have chosen to launch in Andros and put a flagship store. We are definitely ALIV and impressed with the standard ALIV has set and the speed of the network."

President of the Chamber of Commerce in Andros, Darrin Bethel also shared similar sentiments.

"I am happy that ALIV is



here and the opportunities they are offering businesses with their packages is great," he said. "I am excited to see how it's going to work. People have been walking around with their ALIV phones for a long time waiting on this launch, so we are happy that the day is now here."

Mastic Point Resident, Tadra Johnson said she had no problem switching over to ALIV once the service became available.

"I don't have any more problems worrying about getting on Facebook, worrying about calls or worrying about whether I have enough data," she said. "They have taken care of my business as well as people can come and get their top up so this is all good. I am excited to see what else they have to offer as time goes on but I am def-

initely proud to be ALIV."

ALIV currently has retail stores and authorized dealers on the islands of New Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco, Eleuthera and Bimini, and currently a total of 146 towers throughout these islands. Through national roaming however,

ALIV subscribers can use their devices throughout the country. It is hoped that by early 2018, ALIV will have launched in all the major Family Islands and throughout the entire Bahamas.

ABOUT ALIV

ALIV is igniting the cellular revolution in The Bahamas and is reinventing how consumers interact with their mobile devices. A true digital lifestyle partner, the ALIV network is built on next generation LTE technology to ensure an unsurpassed consumer experience. With groundbreaking consumer plans, a laser focus on exemplary customer care, ALIV is determined to deliver a never before seen experience for the people of The Bahamas. This is the start of your new day!

RBC SERVICES GO DIGITAL

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

Starting January 2018, The Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) will discontinue several of its in-branch services as it undergoes a digital transition, which the bank says will improve the overall efficiency, convenience and security for its customers.

In a notice to its customers, RBC advised that as of January 2, deposits and transfers to other RBC clients' accounts will no longer be accepted over the counter with the exception of RBC Finco clients.

As of January 15, Fasdeposit will also no longer be available and wire transfers will no longer be processed over the counter.

Both services will operate on digital platforms such as RBC's mobile application, a service utilized by approximately 25 percent of RBC customers.

Additionally, standing orders for Credit Card payments will be discontinued.

Instead, RBC advised its customers to use Automatic Teller Machines to deposit cash and checks, while digital banking will be used to pay bills, transfer funds, check credit card balances, pay credit cards, conduct wire transfers, and make payments to other RBC clients.



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 --

Fred Anthony D'Amico, Widowed,
of 1396 Delwood Drive, Jamison, PA 1929, United States of America

and

Linda L Murray, Widowed,
of 605 Woodhollow Drive, Malyern, NJ 08053, 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 November, 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 Anthony Grana, Single,
of 2980 Wheatfield Farms Drive, O'Fallon Missouri, United States of America

and

Donna Marie Drysdale, Divorced,
of 2980 Wheatfield Farms Drive, O'Fallon Missouri, 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 24th day of November, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages

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► Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis (second left), along with officials of Access Industries, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts and The Ocean Club, a Four Seasons Resort, at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Opening of The Ocean Club, a Four Seasons Resort, on Paradise Island, Friday (December 1, 2017). Pictured (from left) are: Jonah Sonnenborn, Head of Real Estate, Access Industries; Prime Minister Minnis; John Conway, General Manager, Ocean Club, a Four Seasons Resort; Vince Parrotta, President, Four Seasons Americas; and Access Industries, Vice President, Annie Wickstrom. **(BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay)**

PM MINNIS APPLAUDS Alliance Literally ‘Made in Paradise’

BY MATT MAURA
Bahamas Information Services

The alliance of two of the world’s more significant luxury brands on Paradise Island, both of which are respected globally for their upscale luxury and exquisite service, will further assist The Bahamas in its ongoing efforts to establish itself as a global luxury destination.

Addressing the Opening of the newly branded Ocean Club A Four Seasons Resort on Paradise Island (formerly the One and Only Ocean Club) on Friday (December 1), Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis said Ocean Club’s history, breathtaking vistas (views), exquisite architecture, landscaping and commitment to personal service, when combined with Four Seasons’ reputation as a world leading, global hospitality brand – makes the alliance one that is figuratively and literally made in Paradise.

“Today is a new day for Ocean Club, blending its his-

tory and charm with the ultra-luxury brand that is Four Seasons,” Prime Minister Minnis said. “Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, is internationally known for its rich service culture, featuring personal service and attention to detail.

“Ocean Club was one of the first resorts of its nature

in the Caribbean. It has a rich history (and) became synonymous with the emergence of Paradise Island as a luxury destination in the region.

“On behalf of the Government of The Bahamas, I congratulate Access Industries and Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts and the Ocean Club on

today’s milestone. I wish you every success and promise you the support of the Government of The Bahamas,” Prime Minister Minnis added.

Prime Minister Minnis said the Ocean Club has become a symbol of luxury hospitality in The Bahamas and on Paradise Island.

“Indeed, the iconic resort became one of the signature properties on Paradise Island.”

Over the many decades, the Ocean Club has welcomed royalty, luxury travelers, celebrities and guests from around the world. The property was featured in the James Bond movie, Casino

Royale, one of the many Bond movies filmed in The Bahamas over the years.

“Like other sophisticated travelers, James Bond keeps returning to The Bahamas,” Prime Minister Minnis joked, “as I trust will many of your guests who will be enchanted by their experience at Ocean Club Bahamas.”

The Prime Minister said Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts has been “consistently rated highly” by guests and travel experts for its guest and customer service.

“Whenever a guest is at a Four Seasons-managed property, they will experience your signature service culture which has made you a leading global hospitality brand.

“I am certain that this commitment will be integral to your success at the Ocean Club as you continue to build on the quality of the guest experience at this iconic resort,” Prime Minister Minnis added.



► Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis addressing the Opening of the Ocean Club, a Four Seasons Resort, on Paradise Island, Friday (December 1, 2017). Pictured (from left) are: Jonah Sonnenborn, Head of Real Estate, Access Industries; Prime Minister Minnis; John Conway, General Manager, Ocean Club, a Four Seasons Resort; Vince Parrotta, President, Four Seasons Americas; and Access Industries, Vice President, Annie Wickstrom. **(BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay)**

Witness’ Credibility Questioned In Extortion Case

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mr. Knight while attempting to show the “improbability and the impossibility” that Mrs. Hanna was paying Smith \$5,000 per month while paying a Bank loan as well as her employees suggested that Hanna could not do such, as she also had a judgment against her from the Supreme Court for delinquent payments on a mortgage loan.

Mrs. Hanna, who admitted that she had two loans taken out at Pouland Limited, a company owned by Mr. Smith’s family, testified that she was not getting a salary as a result of having to pay Mr. Smith \$5,000 as well as her loans and staff.

“I couldn’t pay myself when I was paying Smith, buying supplies”, Mrs. Hanna said

Mr. Knight asked “You have these contract, all these people to pay and you are getting nothing from it? You never said to Mr. Davis, ‘I get the contract, but I have to pay \$5,000 a month?’”

Mrs. Hanna replied: “Why should I go to Davis? No sir, if I did that, I may not have gotten the contract and helping people get employed.”

Mr. Knight suggested that she was “telling the court a number of untruths”. However Mrs. Hanna told the court that PHA was not her only contract.

At this point, she voluntarily

told the court that she has contracts with private companies and offshore banks, and that those were what sustained her.

Mr. Knight also inquired of Hanna if investigating officers requested to see her bank account, to which she told the court no.

Mrs. Hanna did admit at this point that she told the officers about her loan with Pouland Limited and that she provided and showed police that she was paying Commonwealth Bank.

Mr. Knight then told the court that the defense did not have this document in their possession and argued that the prosecution did not disclose all the documents to them, and that the prosecution was

obliged to turn over all documents.

The matter was stood down as to allow prosecution to consult with the investigating officers about the claim that Mrs. Hanna had made.

After a short break the prosecution returned only to report that investigators had turned over all documents, none included the document from Pouland as indicated by Mrs. Hanna.

It was then that the lead defense attorney Knight suggested that there would be a no case submission, arguing that lack of disclosure means that the trial is deemed unfair.

He further suggested that if it was so, that the police did not have in their possession the document of

which Mrs. Hanna spoke, meant that her credibility is shattered.

“If she is lying to the court, that she gave the police the documents her credibility is shattered. She becomes a female humpty-dumpty that cannot be put back together.

“If on such a material particular she lies to the court, then she has rendered herself manifestly unreliable, being the only witness of fact...and would do destroy the very foundation of the prosecution’s case,” Mr. Knight said.

Chief Magistrate Joyanne Ferguson-Pratt told the defense that it was a premature argument for a no case submission.

The trial was adjourned to December 20th.

The Unexplained

We covered the start of this war with articles describing the battle over easement rights, the mysterious burning of a home, the blocks to rebuilding, and countless questionable court filings. This series of articles asks the needed questions and presents the arguments in full.

The longer this battle between billionaires in The Bahamas in this Clifton conflict is unresolved, the more confusing it is. Will it ever end? Will we ever get our questions answered?

Well we know that fashion mogul Peter Nygard tried to call a truce with hedge-fund billionaire Louis Moore Bacon 2 years ago, which Bacon obviously refused. We have not heard that anything has changed since then; so chances are, this strife is not ending any time soon.

Peter Nygard offered to give the millions they pay to lawyers to the people in The Bahamas instead for much needed projects, but since Bacon appeared to never be one for giving to the people of The Bahamas, that didn't likely appeal to him.

But here's what we still don't understand.

● Why did Louis Bacon, Fred Smith and the other cofounders of the supposed environmental group Save The Bays apply for United States Treasury 501(c)(3) status and jeopardize that gained status by going against Treasury Department regulations just to engage in political activism?

● Why did Louis Bacon, Fred Smith and the others form Save The Bays to seemingly go after Peter Nygard on supposed environmental issues when they themselves committed the same environmental acts as Peter Nygard?

● Who burned down Peter Nygard's home and why did they commit such a cruel act?

● Why do Louis Bacon and Save The Bays block every effort for Peter Nygard to get permits to rebuild his home even 5 years later?

● How could Save The Bays get away with including private citizens as parties being held responsible in a Judicial Review?

● What was the real reason that Fred

THE CLIFTON REVIEW

By P. J. Malone

The Clifton Review is a bi-weekly column that examines the question of the Clifton project along with the evolution of the war between two billionaires, the links to unsavory characters, the use of the courts for personal agendas, the involvement of the Government opposition party (the FNM), and the attacks on the Government of The Bahamas.

Smith with the Save The Bays 5 use dubious claims to file action with the international human rights organizations against The Bahamas causing us to end up on a list of rogue nations who kidnap, torture and kill its citizens?

● Why is the Free National Movement Government not protecting the best interest of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and is instead acquiescing to Save The Bays on Save The Bays judicial matters?

● What has Peter Nygard done that caused Louis Bacon to hate Peter Nygard so much that Bacon's operatives would go to such an extent like in the Bobo and Toggie affair, and allegedly look for girls to give false statements against Peter Nygard?

● Why is Bacon giving millions to Save The Bays for this fight and why would he waste his millions in such a way instead of doing good with it?

● Is this entire affair really about Louis Moore Bacon wanting Peter Nygard's land, and if yes, is Bacon really so evil that he would go to all these lengths to get it?

● Why has Save The Bays been so quiet lately in this fight, except for prosecuting the gazillion court cases against anyone speaking out against Bacon's actions, and what can we expect Fred Smith to do next?

And finally, will we ever get answers to these questions or will this Clifton Review column go on forever discussing these issues and seeking answers to these questions?

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The Bahama Journal Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimalee P. Jones Vice President/Operations

E D I T O R I A L

LAST & EVIL DAYS

That we are becalmed in a sea of debts; and that we are also facing a major fiscal crisis and that there is a vast ocean of working poor people who are now laboring under a canopy of troubles are facts that matter which cannot be either refuted or dismissed.

And to make matters all the worse: Far too many of our people sit back, watch and observe the signs and times in these last and evil days.

We too are searching, waiting and hoping for a return to some semblance of comity and community to our varied neighbor hoods, work-places, Church halls and settlements.

In this regard, note that: We are daily reminded of certain principles and facts that should always be taken to heart when we seek to help steer fallen humanity on to paths that would lead to more abundant life for all of our people, inclusive of the stranger at our gates.

But yet: Like many in this tribe, we yearn for the soon-coming of that great day in the morning when matters germane to health, education and security are inoculated from the all that tug and strain that now accompanies the way we all do and sometimes 'enjoy' our politics.

This we affirm as we also take time to note that — as a people — we have done far too little to shelter and shield our youth from a myriad of troubles and challenges bequeathed them by their elders.

With this proviso in mind, we now insist that: If ever there was a time when the Bahamian people should take a long hard look at themselves in terms of damage they do to themselves; that time is clearly now as the word confirms: The Bahamas has the "highest incidence" of diabetes in the world and 79.2 percent of the population is obese or overweight; this due to the fact that Bahamians eat a diet high in predominantly animal fat, sugar and salt coupled with limited physical activity.

And so it now follows that: As a result of these poor lifestyle choices, obesity and other chronic non-communicable diseases (CNCDS) are rampant and exhaust a significant portion of the country's national health budget annually in providing care, medication, and rehabilitation services.

This 'health-related' matter is of the utmost importance, moving forward!

This is easier said than done; truth is surely

trending in that direction where things are out of whack not only in our country and region, but also throughout the world; inclusive of developments now unfolding in the still-great United States of America.

And thus today, we who live on the periphery of this cosmopolitan of countries are obliged to face the music blasted our way from today's deeply troubled United States of America.

As every Bahamian over the age of fifty would appreciate, today's Bahamas is deeply Americanized—and thus that penchant which pushes so very many of our people to that wicked place where things now matter far more than people.

In addition, there is no doubting that fact which shows for all the world to see a face of the Bahamas which is identical to that worn by some of America's own population which now lumbers under the burden of living in a self-centered and increasingly in a faith-free culture where practically everyone is encouraged to 'do their own thing.'

This is the source of those scourges — such as an epidemic of gun — violence; the high and rising incidence of any number of diseases which come with excess gone to bed.

And then, there remains the scourge and canker of crime running amok!

For our part, then, we submit that: No amount of talk; no amount of outraged chatter—and therefore, no amount of prayer without requisite work and purpose-infused effort can ever lead to any reduction in the rate at which Bahamians routinely [and in most times] get away with ripping-off, hurt, and sometimes even killing this person or the other.

Sad to say, there are out-there any number of people who would suggest that the authorities should — as it were — fight fire with fire—you kill my dog; I kill your cat.

This is far too barbaric a response for a people who routinely declare themselves 'Christian!'

And thus it follows that, they who would render to Caesar what is his and to God what is His and His alone should be reminded that: HIS WILL SHOULD BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS DONE IN HEAVEN!

Thus commanded—thus should the true Christian be about in these days where the cry resounds—is there no balm in Gilead?

THE BAHAMAS
Sun, Sand, Sea ... and
The Bahama Journal
NO BETTER READING

SHUT-EYE
DOC NEED A NOSE JOB?
YOU MEAN AS LONG AS YOUR NOSE?
HE HE HE! JUS JOKIN'.
YOU KNOW HOW LONG I WAS WAITIN' FER DIS DANCE?
ROCK IT DOC!
HYPOCRIT!
GRAEME
MINNIS
ROCK!
OPENING
BAHAMAR DANCE FLOOR
CELEBRATIONS #pdorsett23-11-17

PM Says Diversification Will Grow Economy

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

Combatting the recent backlash surrounding the passing of the Commercial

Enterprises Bill, Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis has said diversification will grow the economy.

In a statement released yesterday Dr. Minnis said the Commercial Enterprises Bill is designed to attract both local and international investment to The Bahamas in job sectors that do not currently or primarily exist.

"The bill is aimed at targeting investment in specified enterprises including captive insurance, reinsurance, arbitration, wealth management, computer programming, maritime trade, nano technology, biomedical industries, data storage, call centers and software design and writing. No other kind of business enterprise will qualify for incentives provided for under this bill

"Industries taking advantages of this bill will be required to establish training programs for Bahamians and agree to strict time lines for the upward mobility of Bahamians within the enterprise. Limits will also be placed on immigration permits which are issued under the provisions of this bill. The long-term objective is to ensure that all positions within these companies become available to Bahamians as and when they are trained.



► Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis (Journal file photo)

"One thing this bill does not do, is change the current immigration or other regulatory processes for anyone wishing to invest in businesses other than those designated industries that are covered under this new proposed legislation.

"We are making substantial investments in our education system to ensure that our children receive the best education possible by attending accredited colleges and universities worldwide. We must therefore grow the economy and expand

employment opportunities so that our students will find higher paying jobs with long term job security. It is therefore time for the nay-sayers to stop saying no and start working on behalf of the Bahamian people," Dr. Minnis said.

The Prime Minister added that creating better paying jobs that provide long term job security in new industries will motivate our young people to stay at home, which in turn will help the country grow and prosper.

The bill passed the House of Assembly with unanimous support from the Free National Movement last week Wednesday and is headed to the Senate.

PLP Chairman Fred Mitchell subsequently accused the government of attempting to "flood the country with workers from outside the country and undercut the market for young Bahamians" with the introduction of the Commercial Enterprises Bill.

The bill would liberalise the granting of work permits to enterprises that wish to establish themselves in the Bahamas in niche sectors and require work permits for management and key personnel.

GROUPEL SEASON CLOSED

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES
Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF) is calling on citizens to respect the closed season and choose an alternative during the spawning period.

The annual Nassau grouper closed season began December 1st and runs until February 28, 2018.

In a statement the group said it is critically important that the closed season continues from December to February and is enforced effectively, particularly from foreign poachers, but also from local illegal fishing.

The statement further read that many fishermen have reported seeing more young Nassau grouper in the sea than in the past, and this may be a result of the closed seasons allowing their parents to spawn in previous years.

BREEF also thanked enforcement agencies-The Department of Marine Resources, The Royal Bahamas Defence Force and the Royal Bahamas Police Force for their work to protect the marine heritage. As advances are made in new technology, facilities, training and resources, they can more effectively protect Bahamian waters from international poaching.

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Eneas Files By Godfrey Eneas

THE DYNAMICS OF THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE - PART II

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA – The flight from Dubai to Cape Town, South Africa was nine and a half hours. On each leg of the three legs of the trip (New York City to Milan, Milan to Dubai and Dubai to Cape Town), the plane was at capacity with an assortment of passengers – Europeans, Americans, Canadians and Asians (Chinese, Indian and Japanese).

South Africa is a changed country and Nelson Mandela's legacy is seen and felt. In Cape Town, 'The Long Walk to Freedom' is a pictorial display. Prior to Mandela's release from prison, if a black person wanted to apply for a South African visa and wanted to stay in a four or five-star hotel, one had to be classified as an "Honorary White". In discussions with ordinary working class South Africans, they will all tell you that the



integration of them into the national life of the country began in 1994.

The tour driver told me that the tourist facilities which he now caters, he could not enter prior to 1994. Today Black South Africans manage the white owned businesses which only twenty-three years ago they could not even enter.



Johannesburg is the capital; Cape Town is the first city. It was interesting to observe on arrival at the airport that the Customs, Immigration, Police and Security Officers were all Black South Africans.

Cape Town has a strong agricultural sector with vineyards on the same scale of Napa Valley, California. Most of the vineyards and wineries are manned by Black South Africans who provide a detailed explanation on the various wines and the process of wine making.

These people are generally in their twenties or early thirties and are women.

South Africa has a housing problem – millions of them reside in Soweto like townships; however, in these habitats there are sprinklings of modern housing. The transformation of housing will take possibly decades. However, there is a process in place to provide better housing accommodations.

Cape Town has a Mediterranean-type or sub-tropical climate, very much like Abaco and Grand Bahama. This climate enables a wide production of tropical fruits and vegetables of which grape production has been very successful, making South Africa one of the premier wine producing areas in the world.

Climate change has impacted production as Cape Town, particularly Western Cape Town, is experiencing the worst drought in a hundred years. Water rationing is a factor. This has had an impact on its agriculture and general quality of life.

South Africa is well endowed with natural resources – gold, diamonds, excellent farm land, marine life, etc. When President Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress took over, they inherited a country with a people suffering from deep poverty. One

of their big challenges was poverty alleviation of many millions. Poverty has a stranglehold on South Africa.

Since Mandela and the ANC came to political power, millions have been lifted out of poverty. However, millions are entrapped in a situation which plays itself out in the thousands of shanty towns that a prevalent in the major cities of South Africa.

South Africa after 1994, has faced new political, social and economic realities. In all of these spheres, the South African is flexing his or her muscles in so many ways. South Africa is evolving into a country where opportunities can be found for all people, regardless of race, creed or political affiliation.

Over the next decade, South Africa would have to re-engineered their society to become more inclusive and integrated. Its history until 1994 has been one of racial segregation or Apartheid as millions were on the outside looking in. This will not stand.

The New South Africa is in the making, as it is visible in the workplace, in the neighbourhoods, in the hospitality places like hotels and restaurants and it is visible in schools and universities. Mandela's south Africa will be very different from the Apartheid South Africa.



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 --

Joseph Roberto Tamburri, Single,
of 3842 Gunning Drive, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2G 6L6, United States of America

and

Tania Lea Byrne, Single,
of 3842 Gunning Drive, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2G 6L6, 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 23rd day of November, 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 --

Javier Benjamin Beiza Ayala, Single,
of Sipas (mujer) #2738, Calama, Chile

and

Maria Soledad Sepúlveda Segovia, Single,
of Sipas (mujer) #2738, Calama, Chile

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 24th day of November, 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 --

James Albert Baugh, Single,
of 604 10th St SE, Orange City, LA 51041, United States of America

and

Halley Jade Glanz, Single,
of 604 10th St SE, Orange City, LA 51041, 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 November, 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 --

Phillip James Small, Divorced,
of 76 KB Timms Drive, Eden NSW 2551, Australia

and

Wendy Mayes, Divorced,
of 7 Fink Crescent, Calwell ACT 2905, Australia

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 24th day of November, 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 --

Barry Lawrence Stuart, Divorced,
of 1991 US Highway 22, Bound Brook, NJ 08805, United States of America

and

Katherine Mary Taylor, Divorced,
of 83 Morton Street, Bridgewater, NJ 08807, 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 November, 2017.

Registrar of Marriages