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WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 17TH, 2018

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Errant Officers Being Reviewed

BY AMAJAH L KNOWLES
 Journal Staff Writer

An independent review board has been established to deal with complaints made about police officers by members of the public.

This was revealed by Deputy Commissioner of Police Emrick Seymour yesterday as he highlighted the nearly 200 complaints made against officers in 2017.

"To ensure the credibility and integrity of the process an internal review board which is an independent body has been initiated and charged with the responsibility for the oversight of all police investigations.

"It simply means not withstanding the complaints made to the Complaints Unit, the process of investigation of those complaints, the review board has the overall responsibility and charge to call in any one of those complaints to ensure that the due process was followed.

■ See BEING REVIEWED / page 4...

Crime Down 13 Per Cent

BY AMAJAH L KNOWLES
 Journal Staff Writer

On the heels of the advisory by the US warning its citizens of crime in The Bahamas, data compiled by the Royal Bahamas Police Force indicates that serious crime has decreased by 13 per cent.

This was revealed by Commissioner of Police Anthony Ferguson yesterday at the Royal Bahamas Police Force's annual Crime Statistics Briefing.

"Preliminary figures for 2017 show that crimes across the entire Bahamas decreased by some 13 per cent compared to 2016.

"Violent Crime decreased by 20 per cent and Property crimes are down 11 per cent.

"Crimes in Nassau and Grand Bahama decreased by 14 per cent and 26 per cent respectively.

"With the effects of murder, overall incidents increased by ten per cent with 122 incidents compared to 111 incidents in 2016," Mr. Ferguson said.

■ See CRIME DOWN / page 2...



► Commissioner of Police Anthony Ferguson (Journal file photo)

JURORS MAY BE ERADICATED

BY LICEA BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

Minister of State for Legal Affairs, Ellsworth Johnson says that the government may be looking to move The Bahamas to a point where jurors may not be needed.

■ See JURORS MAY BE / page 3...

Health Minister Suggests More Doctors in Community Clinics

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
 Journal Staff Writer

The Health Minister Doctor Duane Sands says the issue of overworked doctors can be solved through properly deploying them.

Dr. Sands said that while there are a lot of doctors, they are not being deployed for the most benefit for the Bahamian population.

"The historical approach to healthcare in the Bahamas has been hospital centered. We've put a bunch of very good doctors in the hospital, but then you also have a lot of people coming to the hospital. Maybe a better model is take the fight for health to the community," Dr. Sands said.

The structure he suggested would be to have the doctors go to community clinics.

"Putting the very best doctors into the community clinics prevents people from having to go to the hospital when the pediatricians about 10-15 years ago we saw a dramatic change from an overcrowded children's ward to a place where there were empty beds," Dr. Sands said.

He added that placing well trained doctors in public clinics on the family islands changes the approach to wellness.

The Minister also suggests giving appointments instead of having persons take numbers with no surety of when they will see the doctor.

■ See HEALTH MINISTER SUGGESTS MORE on PAGE 3...

TOURISTS HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, SAYS MINISTER

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
 Journal Staff Writer

Tourism Minister Dionisio D'Aguliar says there is nothing to worry about when it comes safety and security for visitors.

Speaking with The Joournal yesterday the minister said while police presence may be needed at the Fish Fry it's only to remove nuisances.

"Yes, we need to enhance police presence on the grounds to remove those nuisances, but there's no major crime going on; its more nuisance crime. People taking advantage of foreign visitors in terms of selling them services they have no intention of delivering and maybe harassing them a bit, but in terms of their safety and security, I'm not worried about that," D'Aguliar said.

He was responding to the latest travel advisory issued by the U.S State Department, warning its cit-

izens to stay away from places like Over The Hill and Arawak Cay.

The minister said he's frequented the area, especially

in the last few days and says there's petty crime in terms of people taking advantage of foreign visitors selling them goods that they have

no intention of delivering, but all in all there's no real danger.

■ See TOURISTS HAVE / page 2...



► Minister of Tourism Dionisio D'Aguliar (Journal file photo)

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Crime Down 13 Per Cent

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Despite surpassing the murder count for 2016 last year, Commissioner Ferguson pointed to a notable decline in the latter quarter of 2017, as an indication that things may be turning around.

"This decrease was meaningful as murders previously averaged about twelve per month, for the first time in a long time. The Bahamian people can breathe a sigh of relief as incidents of this most heinous crime have begun to subside.

"We know that this was not a coincidence, but the result of analyzing trends, refocusing policing operations and getting valuable intelligence from members of the public.

"The operations of the Anti Gang and Firearms Unit and the Rapid Response Unit have greatly impacted curbing the murder count," Mr. Ferguson said.

Commissioner Ferguson however still remained tight lipped on the specifics on the Force's crime strategy for 2018, saying he does not want to preempt the National Security Minister. However he did reveal that an influx of new technology and equipment will play a major role in the fight against crime in this new year.

"Our policing priorities for 2018 will be geared towards professionalization of the service, effective management, optimizing the use of technology, interacting with at risk youth, improving road safety and continued

prevention and reduction of crime.

"You can expect to see a high number of officers moving about on the streets. This initiative is two fold, as it will provide a sense of safety in our communities and that the criminal element can know that they will not be able to operate with impunity," Mr. Ferguson said.

Responding directly to that advisory issued by the US concerning the safety of Arawak Cay, Commissioner Ferguson said his numbers indicate that the tourist hit spot is safe contrary to the information that was put out last week.

While crime is down overall not all good news as police also revealed a slight uptick in family island crime by some six per cent.

Preliminary figures indicate that Family Island murders were up 75 per cent when you take into consideration the four that took place in 2016 compared to 7 in 2017.

Also rape was up 83 per cent with 6 incidents in 2016, compared to 11 in 2017. Robbery went up 33 per cent and burglary 65 per cent.

Despite the daunting figures, the Commissioner says the Force will use the same aggressive crime fighting approach in the Family Islands that will be used in the capital.

This, as Family Island residents have raised concern with several murders taking place early this new year and two persons being found dead in Abaco over the weekend.

Health Minister Suggests More Doctors in Community Clinics

Continued from / PAGE 1...

When it comes to changing the model and reworking

the system, Dr. Sands said that process has been taking place for a while within the family practice program.

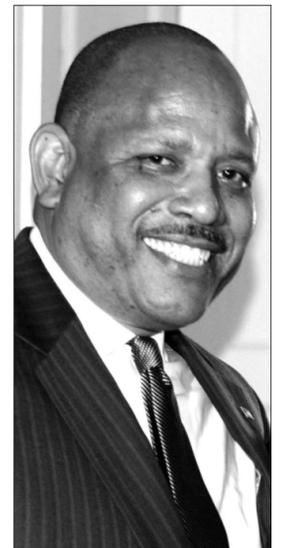
"What we have now determined through the medical council is that any doctor who comes through and is going to work in the public sector is going to have to do a rotating program that gives them the rudiments of a general practice certification and then they can go into the community or they can do a family practice program, which gives them even more qualification," Dr. Sands said.

He added that the goal is to take generally trained physicians and put them where they are needed.

"We need specialists like vascular heart surgeons, but you need primary care doctors more than anything else," Dr. Sands said.

This past weekend chairman of the National Health

Insurance Authority Dr. Robin Roberts stated that there is not so much a manpower need, but a need to properly schedule the hours of doctors.



Minister of Health
Dr. Duane Sands
(Journal file photo)

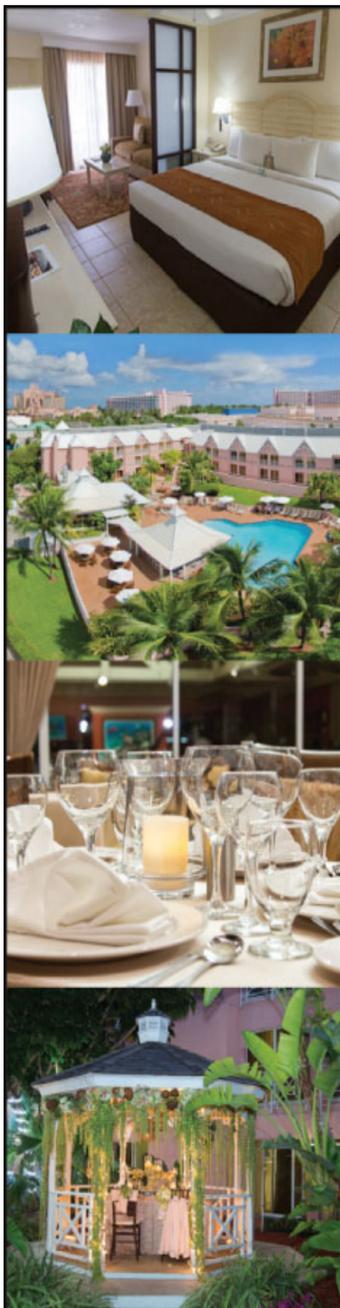
TOURISTS HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, SAYS MINISTER

Continued from / PAGE 1...

He suggested that maybe the problem is with the Bahamas sensationalizing and focusing on negative stories that may strike fear in the hearts of tourist coming to the Bahamas.

The minister said when compared to countries around the world and even those in the Caribbean, the Bahamas is a safe place and those at home should start focusing on the good.

"We have to focus on the good stories and not constantly beat ourselves over the bad stories and sometimes we're our own worst enemy. In our quest to sensationalize an event, we damage the destination. If you think about Mexico or Jamaica, they have far worst crime problems than we do; but they have mastered the art of reporting it; but not sensationalizing it," D'Aguliar said.



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SUN OIL LIMITED PRESENTS OVER \$20,000 IN CASH AND PRIZES TO "SHELL" CHRISTMAS PROMOTION WINNERS!!!

It was indeed a "Christmas To Remember" for many of Shell's loyal customers. Amongst the top prize recipients were: Lynda Ramsey who walked away with a \$2,500 cash prize; Rhonda Finley with \$1,500 cash; as well as, Miriam Rahming and Claudette Taylor who both walked away with \$1,000 cash.

Many more took home thousands of dollars in John Bull shopping sprees, BEC Vouchers, Super Value Gift Certificates, Free Fuel, Oil Changes, Jemi Fitness Packages, Junkanoo Tickets plus much more!

An excited Ramsey claimed her prize at Shell's Golden Gates location on Friday January 12, 2018.

Ramsey said she was both ecstatic and grateful for being chosen among so many names.

"At first I thought it was a

prank and then when I found out it was reality, I was screaming and very excited," said Ramsey. "I just thank God and I will put it to good use."

The promotion, 'A Christmas To Remember featuring Santa's Little Helpers' ran from November 30, 2017 and ended on January 12, 2018.

Along with the promotions at Shell sites, social media competitions were also held giving Shell Facebook and Instagram followers making a minimum purchase of \$20 even more chances to join in the fun.

Even before the grand prizewinner was revealed, Shell customers had more opportunities to win prizes by dropping completed receipts into the spinning raffle barrel.

"We congratulate all of our winners, and are happy we were able to make this a

'Christmas To Remember' for so many of our patrons," said Rufus Johnson II, marketing

manager for Sun Oil. "As The Bahamas continues to recover from current economic chal-

lenges, we here at Sun Oil and Shell aim simply to do our small part in continuing to

deliver quality products and customer experiences at our sites, every visit, every day."



▶ Lynda Ramsey was one of the many loyal Shell customers who won more than \$20,000 in cash and prizes in Shell's "Christmas To Remember featuring Santa's Little Helpers" promotion which ran from November 30, 2017 to January 12, 2018. Ramsey walked away with \$2,500. Ramsey (center) is pictured receiving her cheque from Sun Oil Limited's Retail Territory Manager, Eddie Thompson (left) and Rufus Johnson II, Sun Oil Limited Marketing Manager (right).



▶ Radio Personality Special K (left) is seen with Sun Oil Limited's Retail Territory Manager, Eddie Thompson (center) during a remote interview as he rolls the raffle barrel at Shell's Golden Gates location with Rufus Johnson II, Sun Oil Limited Marketing Manager, looking on (right). Thompson and Johnson were wrapping up Shell's six week "A Christmas To Remember featuring Santa's Little Helpers" promotion which awarded more than \$20,000 in cash and prizes to Shell customers.

Jurors May Be Eradicated

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Stressing that it is only something that they may be considering, Mr. Johnson made these remarks, with no shortage of feedback about the addresses of potential jurors being publicized on social media.

"I know one of the things that the Attorney General has discussed in the past, with Mr. Justice Hall and a number of other jurors, is whether or not The Bahamas will move, where in certain matters we don't have the need to use juries as it occurs in South Africa, and that may be something that may be considered.

"I am not saying that it is being considered, that may be considered," Mr. Johnson said.

Speaking with reporters yesterday, Mr. Johnson also said that the decision to publish the jury list is nothing new, while acknowledging the fears of many Bahamians.

"Crime is a very serious matter, and no doubt my government takes it very seriously.

"The information that has been disclosed is no different from what is being disclosed from over the years.

"I know that there is an issue of witness security and that may also include persons who sit on the jury, and we take that very seriously. But it's no different from the information you would find in the Voters Registry.

"Sometimes you would post names in the newspaper, it's just simply it's now by

way of social media," he said.

Amidst the outcry from many Bahamians regarding the recent publication of the 2018 jury list with the addresses of those selected for jury duty, Mr. Johnson said that it is important however, for all Bahamians to play their role in progressing the country.

"When matters are heard, they are heard publicly, anybody can sit in the gallery and view the persons that are sitting on those matters.

"One of the things we have to do as we progress to build this country, we have to play our roles.

"I have left private practice and I've come into public service and I've decided that I'm going to stand for my country and do what's necessary.

"But I do understand the concerns that are expressed by members of the public, but it's no different, it's just a different way or medium of disclosing that information," Mr. Johnson said.

Former Attorney General, Allyson Maynard-Gibson too said that the "effective ways to combat crime is for potential criminals to know that justice in The Bahamas is swift and sure.

She suggested that the Attorney-General and the Supreme Court educate Bahamians about the precious court time that is wasted, because of delays caused by of the inability to empanel a jury as well as to educate Bahamians about their role in combating crime, by serving on juries, so that trials can take place in a timely manner.



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The Government of The Bahamas is inviting tender for the following Contracted Services for the Port Department, Ministry of Transport & Local Government.

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2. General Repairs to the eastern exterior of the Festival Place Building

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Tenders are to be submitted in triplicate (3) in a sealed envelope marked "Tender for the General Repairs to the Exterior of the Port Administration Building, tower and other ancillary Works, & the General Repairs to the Eastern exterior of the Festival Place Building, addressed to:

The Chairman
Tenders Board
Ministry of Finance
Cecil V. Wallace Whitfield Building
Cable Beach
P. O. Box N-3017
Nassau, The Bahamas
Telephone No. (242) 372-1530

No later than 5:00 pm on the 29th day of January, 2018.

Tenders will be opened at 10:00 am on the 30th January, 2018 at the office of the Tender's Board, Ministry of Finance.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL TENDERS.



NOTICE

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Please take note that the undersigned proposed to register a Trade Union of Employees by the name of "The Bahamas Border Protection Officers Union".

Anyone wishing to object to the use of the name should do so in writing and any objection should be received by the undersigned within thirty (30) days of the date this Notice first appears.

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Minister Ferreira Attends RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSEMBLY IN UAE

BY GENA GIBBS
Bahamas Information Services

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates -- Joining some 1100 delegates from over 150 countries, the Hon. Romauld S. Ferreira, Minister of the Environment & Housing, attended the Eighth Session of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly on January 13-14, 2018 which was held at its headquarters in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE). The international body met to discuss private sector and civil society issues for global energy transition, and charting the way forward on deployment.

Minister Ferreira noted in addition, "IRENA hosted a special high-level event, outside of the Eighth Session of the IRENA Assembly, which focused on improving the capacity of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to develop and secure financing for renewable energy projects."

He added, "IRENA is the global platform for cooperation on renewable energy and possesses a unique position to draw countries together. The forum is designed to develop strate-

gies and ultimately global solutions in accord to address climate and sustainable development challenges. The side event also provided an ideal opportunity for each Member State to share in diversity -- their individual cultural experiences, needs, and the best practices to meet these challenges with opportunity."

Minister Ferreira reflected on his impression of IRENA's high-level Ministerial Roundtable, which was held to share ideas on "the connection between an increasingly electrified transport sector and accelerated renewable energy deployment." He said the general idea of the meeting "was to explore different

perspectives on scaling up the use of renewables, especially in e-mobility."

IRENA, the international organization, was formed in 2009 on January 26, as a treaty organization to promote renewable energy and source funding for its 154 strong member countries, and 26 pending ascension to the assembly.

In addition to IRENA many UN organizations work in the field of renewable energy, however IRENA is the only one dedicated to the promotion of 100 percent renewable energy worldwide. Nevertheless, IRENA and the UN will join forces to speed up the transformation of the global energy sector.



► Bahamas Minister of the Environment and Housing, the Hon. Romauld S. Ferreira attended the Eighth Session of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly, January 13-14, 2018 at its headquarters in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. (BIS Photo)

GOT NEWS?
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ERRANT OFFICERS BEING REVIEWED

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"The police complaints unit received 197 complaints in 2017. These were complaints by members of the public.

"A five per cent decrease from the previous year and from the amount reported 112 or 57 per cent of these investigations has been investigated and completed."

Last year saw several highly publicized social media videos with police officers acting contrary to the code of conduct for the force.

Most notably, two police officers who were demoted after they were identified in a profanity-laced video that went viral, where they were seen drinking alcohol in a police vehicle.

A brief statement from the police said that disciplinary

action against the unidentified officers followed an investigation into the video.

The statement said that Commissioner at that time, Ellison Greenslade, demoted the corporal to the rank of constable and that the other officer, a constable was "reduced in seniority," with both actions taking effect from August 22.

In the video, apparently shot by the driver, one of the police officers was seen drinking, while in the passenger seat, another officer was drinking and playing music. Both were in uniform.

When a female dispatch officer spoke to the officers via radio, the driver told his colleague "tell them what we doing," to which the colleague replied using expletive language "getting drunk".



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THE OPPORTUNITY THAT LED TO A FORTUNE

The 2018 series salutes fashion mogul Peter Nygård's Golden Jubilee detailing his rags to riches story and incredible business success over these past fifty years. The Clifton Review will take an inside look at how he did it.

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.

There are times in our lives when we are called upon to make important decisions that, though we may not realize it at the time, can have a major impact on our futures.

It is an interesting look back at the life of fashion mogul Peter Nygård to see how his path led to where he is today. We continue to tell his story as he celebrates 50 years of success in business.

Despite being happy with his job at Eaton's 50 years ago, Peter Nygård made a fortuitous decision to attend a job interview. That Saturday morning, he had the choice between spending the day with Ms. Sweden, who he had met earlier and fallen in love with, and attending a job interview with Nathan Jacob of Jacob Fashions.

Nathan Jacob had been following Peter Nygård's achievements and was anxious to have him onboard in his own company. He wasted no time in offering Peter a job as sales manager for a new jeans line he wanted to launch.

In Peter's mind, this was a demotion. At the age of 26, he was already handling millions in goods for Eaton's as a regional manager.

He declined. Jacob asked Peter what job he would want. With a secure job back at Eaton's, Peter felt he had nothing to lose. He boldly stated, "I want your job."

Peter found himself in front of Nathan Jacob at just the right time. Having five daughters and no sons, Jacob was looking for a protégé. Jacob loved the bold and brash attitude of this young man. He simply said "okay".

When it came time to discuss salary, Peter sensed that this brashness was working for him. Peter insisted on equity. Jacob agreed.

They worked out a deal for a six-month trial in which Peter Nygård would get equity if he performed as expected.

Peter took a cut in salary for the opportunity at ownership. But he didn't stop there. Peter also insisted on having Jacob's beautiful office.

Jacob acquiesced. He said he was looking for someone to take over the business and wanted to spend more time in Florida anyway.

This was the bold start for Peter Nygård in the fashion industry.

Peter Nygård began with the new company on December 1, 1967 and was sent out of town to visit salesmen in three locations. In January, Peter got a call from Nathan Jacob. Jacob had three months to live.

A few weeks later, Nathan Jacob, seeing the potential in Peter Nygård, amended the timeframe in the agreement between him and his protégé. Peter gathered up \$8,000 in savings, borrowed the rest of what he needed, and Nathan Jacob made him a partner.

The first year in the business was sheer madness, as Peter described it. Nathan Jacob had passed before he had time to give Peter any training. Peter relied on his education and past experience and operated the business using specific business principles. The Jacob daughters disagreed with his approach. A couple of years later, they came to an agreement and Peter Nygård bought them out.

In honor of Nathan Jacob, Peter renamed the company Tan Jay like the clothing line—Tan for the first three letters of Nathan spelled backwards, and Jay for Jacob. Fifty years later, Nygård still offers a Tan Jay fashion line that appeals to the original Jacob Fashions' customers.

The proof was in the pudding. At the point that Peter Nygård bought out the Jacob daughters, Peter had turned the struggling 800,000-dollar enterprise into a 1.8 million dollar success. It would only go up from there.

Though it may be sad for him to think about, saying no to Miss Sweden presented the opportunity that led to Peter Nygård's fortune.

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E D I T O R I A L

BLAME GAME NIXED

"...We cannot afford to have these tourists frightened away - it will cripple our industry..." Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis.

This Dr. Minnis quote further claimed as follows: Record high murder rates, and countless stories of the latest violent crime dominating the front page of our papers have had a chilling effect on the entire country and it continues to bleed out beyond our islands. As horrific as the crime rate has become, what's more astounding is the lack of action from the government..."

As basis appropriate for today's commentary, we choose to recall that time in the very recent past when as crime surged and as both the American and Canadian governments advised their citizens visiting The Bahamas to be most leery of any and all Bahamians because - as they had concluded—some of those said citizens were being targeted by certain thugs and cut-throats out-there who - on occasion - would rape, rob and pillage them of whatever cash or goods they had on hand!

That news was but more fodder for those people who would sell the people words and advice to the effect that, the then-administration was somehow responsible - if only by way of failure to act - for the efflorescence of such dastardly attacks on tourists.

As we recall, Dr. Hubert A. Minnis [then in opposition] insisted as follows:-- "The people demand to know when this government will act..."

Note well that in that time, Dr. Minnis said it was clear that the government did not have a plan, adding that the 2016/2017 budget failed to offer any assurances that the Christie-led administration understood the severity of the problem.

And for sure, the record also shows that FNM Leader Dr Hubert Minnis railed against the then-government for what he called its failure to impact the country's crime rate in light of a renewed travel warning from the Canadian government.

Dr. Minnis went on to suggest that: The then-government's continued failures were threatening what he described as "the lifeblood of our economy."

In addition, he then insisted that: "...We cannot afford to have these tourists frightened away - it will cripple our industry. Record high murder rates, and countless stories of the latest violent crime dominating the front page of our papers have had a chilling effect on the entire country and it contin-

ues to bleed out beyond our islands. As horrific as the crime rate has become, what's more astounding is the lack of action from the government..."

Here Echo shouts in its discretely quiet way:-- "...The lack of action from the government..."

Evidently, therefore, we now have a situation where - as the current administration finds its groove - it now looks a lot like the regime it was able to displace; and with that we are obliged to suggest that: The above captioned quotation speaks directly and poignantly to the challenges facing not only the so-called ordinary people out; but which also impinge on any and all at the apex of power and influence in very small cash strapped micro-nation who would believe that, such a country's myriad of challenges can [just-like-that!] be met on the morrow of this or that successfully mounted and executed Elections exercise.

Life is just not that simple!
And thus, we now know for certain that certain circumstances and vicissitudes are such in this small place that when a so-called issue is allowed to morph into a full-fledged problem, time lost and energies wasted by practically all and sundry invariably leads - as night follows day - to even more problems, challenges and dilemmas revealed.

One such trouble we now recite has to do with that easy maneuver of attributing blame for this or that problem on one's current political opponents!

And thus today, this return to one of our archives where we find records of how some of our current 'maximum' leaders did the blame-game thing when they were not only in opposition, but also when they were in hot pursuit of 'winning-the-election contests ahead].

And win they did with the aid a super tsunami-like surge of people's support.

And so it was on May 10th, 2017 that a sick and tired electorate did what they did—and thus it came to be that the current governing party swept through from Mackey Street here in the Eastern District to Abraham's Bay in Mayaguana!

The sum of the matter, therefore, is revealed: The blame-game operation is proving to be far too facile a framing of this country's crime issue and especially as to how it affects the 'tourist'.

What we need more than anything is a good, healthy dose of leaders who understand that the blame-game-thing is both facile and futile.

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R.M BAILEY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

BY ONIKE ARCHER
Journal Staff Writer

Five members of the House of Assembly and two members of the Senate currently serving are High School graduates of R.M. Bailey Senior High.

Brensil Rolle, Reuben Rahming, Vaughn Miller, Frankie Campbell, Renward Wells, Jennifer Isaacs-Dotson and Dion Foulkes are all Alumni of R.M Bailey Senior High Pacers.

Formerly known as Highbury High School in 1968, then renamed to R.M Bailey in 1972 by the late Carton Francis, R.M Bailey celebrates its Jubilee year.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday held at the school, President of the school's alumni association, Reverend Christopher

Roberts said to the media, "we stand on the threshold of the 50th year of our school's establishment. Pacers everywhere are proud and excited about this milestone.

"The last fifty years has been exciting and challenging but nonetheless rewarding.

"The school has had at its helm fourteen of the finest Principals, countless administrators and hundreds teachers this country had to offer," Rev. Roberts said.

Out of the fourteen principles, R.M Bailey had leading its administration, teachers and students, former principal E. J. Bowe offered his remarks.

"I feel at home here. What I particularly like about the product of R.M Bailey, anywhere I go in

this country, I run across a pacer and they are making their contribution to society; they are holding their own.

"You think of any career and a pacer is there. I give God the glory for the good things he has done for this institution here," Mr. Bowe said.

The school's namesake Robert Melville Bailey was born in St. John's, Barbados on October 28th, 1875.

A tailor by trade, Mr. Bailey came to the Bahamas in 1899 and among his personal friends were W.P. Adderley, Grandfather of the late Paul Adderley and the Tribune's first Editor, the late Leon Dupuch.

Further, R.M Bailey offered himself as a candidate for the House of Assembly in an attempt to assist in securing High School facilities

for Bahamian children.

Although losing by one vote to Bay Street merchant Bruce Killroy Thompson, Mr. Bailey was not discouraged.

Recounting his impact leading up to the naming of the school in his name, Rev. Roberts said, "Mr. Bailey was not discouraged. However, he used his influence with Members of the

House of Assembly and other community leaders to lobby for a High School operated by the government.

"A difficult task indeed, but R.M Bailey saw his dream fulfilled in 1925, when the Government High School (GHS) opened its doors for the first time.

"It took the government of the Bahamas forty three

years to recognize his invaluable contribution by naming a school in his honour," Rev. Roberts said.

The school has numerous events planned for each month of this year, starting with a church service this Sunday at Cousin McPhee Cathedral on Carmichael Road. The year ends with a Hall of Fame Red Ball on Saturday, November 3rd.

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FARMERS SAY CROPS AFFECTED BY RAIN

BY ONIKE ARCHER
Journal Staff Writer

The average amount of rain for January typically measures at 1.9 inches, but thus far, this month alone, the average of rain has increased 3.91 inches. Last year this time, New Providence experienced 1.02 inches of rain.

Farmers on the islands may appreciate such down-pour, as in most cases crops thrive from rain increase.

The Bahama Journal spoke with experienced Eleuthera Pineapple Farmer, Dianna Thompson, also known as Lady Di who shared her sentiments on the effects of the rain on her pineapples.

"The more rain is good for the pineapples. The rain doesn't affect the pineapples," Mrs. Thompson told The Journal.

In recent years, there has been a drought that has affected the harvest of fruits and vegetables, but Mrs. Thompson has alternative ways to prevent her pineapples from drought exposure.

"I use ground covers, so the drought doesn't bother my pines," Mrs. Thompson shared.

Mrs. Thompson sells her pineapples primarily in Gregory Town, Eleuthera, Abaco and Grand Bahama; although she indicated that people mainly come to her to purchase their pineapples.

On the contrary, Mrs. Marilyn LaFleur, BAMS I Eleuthera Administrator responsible for overseeing

multiple pineapple farmers, says that a drought in the last two years affected pineapple production.

"We have been experiencing some type of drought here for a long time. For instance, our last season, I've had farmers who have spoken to me in reference to the fact that the previous year, which would've been 2016, pineapple crops were up," Mrs. LaFleur said.

She continued, "A lady spoke and said how she was able to send three hundred cases into Nassau.

"Last year (2017), it was so dry, she was only able to send 70 cases; it was a drought situation," Mrs. LaFleur stated.

The rain may have slowed down a bit for now, but compared to last year, the total amount of rain up to last Friday morning (by the airport) measured to be more than 4.93 inches.

There has also been significant rainfall in other areas throughout New Providence, like Blue Hill Road, Carmichael Road and the Fox Hill community.

Thousands of pineapples are grown yearly in Eleuthera and like Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. LaFleur also appreciates the increasing amount of rain.

Mrs. LaFleur indicated that more rain than what Eleuthera has gotten thus far will pose a threat to the pineapples.

Pineapples take eighteen months to bloom and ready for harvesting from the end of May through August.

TEAM BTC RACES FOR A CURE



► Double 'Race for the Cure' Medalist Don Laing poses following an impressive showing in Sunday's Half Marathon 10 miler! (Photo courtesy of BTC for Barefoot Marketing)

Illegals Being Pursued

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Press Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, Anthony Newbold said that recent reports of the Free National Movement administration ceasing their aggressive pursuit of illegal immigrants could not be further from the truth.

Speaking with reporters at the weekly Press Briefing, Mr. Newbold said that the Department of Immigration is still actively addressing the illegal immigration issues and there have been no changes in the government's December 31st mandate.

"Well, the Minister of Immigration who is responsible for dealing with that

and the Prime Minister said that if you don't leave or come in and present yourself, you will be aggressively pursued. That is still happening.

"It hasn't changed, they should just stay tuned," Mr. Newbold said.

Responding to claims that the migrants have said that nothing has changed and they have not seen anything different than before the deadline given them, Mr. Newbold suggested that they [illegals] wait until Immigration Officials to come and see them.

As to whether or not the processing of applications at the Department of Immigration has seen any changes or improvements, in terms of capacity to

deal with the amount of applications, Mr. Newbold told reporters that the department was 'dealing' with that aspect.

"According to the minister responsible for Immigration, that has been done. They are dealing with [applications].

"Is it at the level where it ought to be? Probably not, but according to the Minister, they are dealing with that," he said.

Mr. Newbold could not confirm whether strategies of the aggressive pursuit of illegals has changed, but said those who are illegal should concern themselves with becoming legal or leaving the country.

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