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# The Bahama Journal

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# PM promotes Team Bahamas

In a powerful address after receiving The Person of The Year Award for 2017, Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis said "The Bahamas will attain world-class status as a country and a people only when all of its citizens unite under a One Bahamas or Team Bahamas concept."

See TEAM BAHAMAS / page 2...

## WOMAN DIES ON CRUISE SHIP

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES  
 Journal Staff Writer

Police in Grand Bahama are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of an American visitor on board a cruise line.

Reports are that after 12pm on Friday, officers received information of a sudden death on board a Carnival Cruise line that travelled from Florida to the Bahamas.

Officers of the central detective unit responded and while on board, were shown the lifeless body of an adult female.

See WOMAN DIES / page 3...



► Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis (centre) and Jones Communications Network's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Wendall Jones share a private moment during Jones Communications Network's Person of the Year and Civil Society Awards Friday, January 19, (2018) at Jones Communications Media Centre. Prime Minister Minnis, who was awarded the 'Person of the Year' for 2017, was accompanied by his wife, Patricia (at left). JCN also presented awards to Dr. Robin Roberts (contributions to medicine); Bishop Walter Hanchell (benevolent work with the less fortunate), and Mr. Damien Blackburn, business. (BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay)

## New Solomon's Food Store Opens

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES  
 Journal Staff Writer

AML Foods Limited officially opened its newest retail outlet Solomon's Yamacraw on Sunday, which was developed at cost of \$14.5 million.

The 38,000 square-foot grocery store is located on Yamacraw Hill Road.

Minister of State for Legal Affairs and Member of Parliament for Yamacraw, Ellsworth Johnson joined the company's Board of Directors and the leadership team during a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new location. Members of the Thelma Gibson Primary School Choir also performed during the brief opening ceremony.

Gavin Watchorn, President and Chief Executive Officer at AML Foods Limited thanked participants for celebrating another significant milestone in the company's history and hinted at plans for additional expansion in the near future.

See NEW SOLOMON'S FOOD / page 2...

## Blaze Erupts At Thomas A Robinson Stadium

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES  
 Journal Staff Writer

Several Bleachers yesterday as the Announcer's booth at the old Thomas A. Robinson Stadium went up in flames.

In an interview with The Journal, Fire Chief Superintendent Walter Evans said the exact cause of the blaze is yet to be determined, but the damage to the immediate area was extensive.

See BLAZE ERUPTS / page 2...

## TWO MEN KILLED OVER THE WEEKEND

BY AMAJAHL KNOWLES  
 Journal Staff Writer

Police in New Providence have two new homicide investigations to contend with as two men were killed over the weekend.

In the first incident, shortly before 9:00pm on Friday, a group of men were patronizing a local business establishment on Maxwell Lane off Lightbourn Avenue, when four men entered the establishment. An argument ensued, which resulted in gunshots being fired.

The men ran, but it was later discovered that one man was unresponsive. Paramedics were called on scene, but were unable to revive the man, who had gunshot injuries to his body.

He was pronounced dead on scene.

The Journal understands he is Craig Smith.

In the second incident, shortly after 5am Saturday morning, a man was walking on Rupert Dean Lane, when he was approached by another man armed with a firearm, who shot him about the body before fleeing on foot.

Paramedics were called to the scene, but were unable to revive the victim.

He was pronounced dead on the scene.

Police have not yet released the victim's identity, but The Journal understands that he his Mychal Lord.

Investigations are ongoing in both incidents.



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PEACH STREET OFF MONTROSE AVENUE

# PM promotes Team Bahamas

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"We are first and foremost Team Bahamas. While we have our different political, religious and other affiliations, we have a shared vision and ambition to make ours a land of opportunity, with a commitment to the common good, to social justice and to helping the least among us to leading better lives," the Prime Minister said.

"We are Bahamians before we are PLP, DNA or FNM. When we cheer our athletes in international competition, we do so as fellow Bahamians, as Team Bahamas. We pledge allegiance to one flag in love and unity. While we may rush as Saxons, Valley Boys, Music Makers, One Family, Roots, Colours [or any] of the other groups, we all share a love of Junkanoo as an expression of our history and heritage."

Addressing the Jones Communications Network's Person of the Year and Civil Society Awards last Friday at the Jones Communications Media Centre, University Drive, Prime Minister Minnis said while The Bahamas may have a number of challenges as a country in terms of social and economic development and fighting crime, the country also has many possibilities.

"At the end of my address at The Bahamas Business Outlook Seminar (held Thursday, January 18), I noted that if we harness the energy of our people; if we harness the energy of the sun and renewable power; if we har-

ness the many advantages of our archipelago of possibilities – we will have embarked in earnest in creating a new and world-class Bahamas," Prime Minister Minnis said.

"To accomplish this vision, we need to have One Bahamas and indeed what I want to call Team Bahamas. I include in this, the Bahamian Diaspora around the world."

Using Cabinet as an example of how being "one team" can best serve the interests of the Bahamian people, Prime Minister Minnis said every Prime Minister has his/her strengths and limitations. Being surrounded by a good team, Dr. Minnis continued, can help a Prime Minister to build upon his/her strengths and to work with others in terms of one's limitations.

"As I mentioned in a message to Parliamentary colleagues last year, ours is not a Presidential system. There is no chief executive in our system of government. We are a Westminster-based system in which executive authority is vested in the Queen and exercised on her behalf, by the Governor-General.

"The Cabinet has general direction and control of the Government and is collectively responsible to Parliament. Our system demands collegiality, collaboration and teamwork.

"I know from my experience as a surgeon that having a good team is essential. As Prime Minister and as Leader, I know that I will only be as effective as the team with which I work," Prime Minister Minnis said.



► The Hon. Ellsworth Johnson, Minister of State for Legal Affairs and Member of Parliament for Yamacraw (third from right) joined the company's chairman Mr. Franklyn Butler, its Board of Directors and leadership team during a ribbon cutting ceremony at Solomon's Yamacraw.

## NEW SOLOMON'S FOOD STORE OPENS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"Today, we are pleased to officially welcome the new Solomon's Yamacraw location to our fleet of grocery stores throughout the country. This location adds 80 new jobs, bringing the total number of employees at Solomon's branded retail outlets to just over 340. Our team at Yamacraw is committed to providing quality product offerings and high levels of service that our customers have come to expect from the Solomon's brand," Watchorn said.

At the event, AML officials announced that in addition to the recent expansion to Yamacraw, the company has purchased land for development in Southern New Providence. "Even during these tough economic times, our plans continue for future expansion. We believe in the local economy and we will continue to serve the Bahamian community all while providing opportunities for employment and training for our team."

AML broke ground on the Solomon's Yamacraw project in September 2016 after acquiring the 5-acre tract of land from Luxury Homes Bahamas Limited for \$3million.

The new Yamacraw location brings the total number of Solomon's branded grocery stores in The Bahamas to four, including Solomon's Super Center on Old Trail Road and Solomon's Lucaya and Solomon's Freeport on Grand Bahama.

## BLAZE ERUPTS AT THOMAS A ROBINSON STADIUM

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"Shortly before 12, the police had received a call of a structural fire at the Thomas Robinson stadium officers from the Fire Services responded with three units.

"Upon arrival they met heavy flames coming from a building which is known as the announcer's booth. Officers quickly controlled and extinguished the fire which left the area extensively damaged.

"A number of chairs had been destroyed, which was in the immediate front area. An investigation is currently underway and the cause of the blaze has not been determined at this point," Mr. Evans said.

There was no extensive damage to any other parts of the property and none of the workers in the stadium suffered any injuries due to the fire.

Police say arson is not expected at this time.



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# P M Receives JCN Person Of The Year Award

BY AMAJAH L KNOWLES  
Journal Staff Writer

Most Cabinet Ministers and a cross-section of the Bahamian society filed the Jones Communications Media Center Friday evening as the leading media company hosted its 17th annual Civil Society and Person of the Year Awards ceremony.

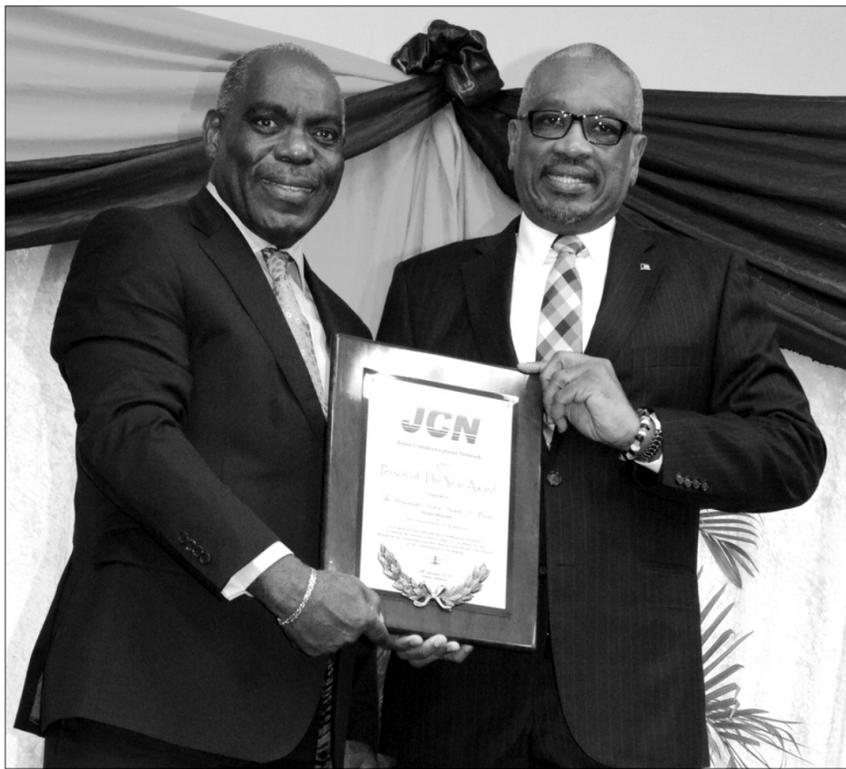
The special event was created to honour Bahamians who have used "head, heart and hand" to make outstanding contributions to the political, social and economic development of the Bahamian society.

The night culminated with the nation's leader Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis receiving the Person of the Year Award for 2017.

In his acceptance address speech, the Prime Minister said that he shared the award with multiple people as they helped get him where he is today.

"An award such as this, is not the achievement of one person. I thank the Bahamian people and my party for reposing their trust in me. I thank the many colleagues and associates who have worked with me for the betterment of our country.

"I share this award with so many others. The genius of our parliamentary system is



▶ Jones Communications Network's President & CEO, Wendall Jones presenting Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert A. Minnis with the Jones Communications Network's Person of the Year award 2017. (BIS Photos/Peter Ramsay)

one of collective responsibility and consensus decision making.

"As I mentioned in a message to parliamentary colleagues last year, ours is not a presidential system. There is no chief executive in our system of government.

"We are a Westminster-

based system, in which executive authority is vested in the Queen and exercised on her behalf by the Governor General. The Cabinet has general direction and control of the government and is collectively responsible to Parliament. Our system demands colle-

giality, collaboration and team work," Dr. Minnis said.

Chief Executive Officer of the Jones Communications Network Wendall Jones in his remarks, said the awardees all went beyond the call of duty in their efforts.

He said, "today, more than ever, The Bahamas needs valuable contributions

from each citizen. We are living at a time when new social strictures are developing to challenge mankind.

"Our survival and upward mobility depend upon an understanding that our common humanity is more important than our differences and that everyone matters.

"Our honourees each year are chosen on the basis of extraordinary achievement and a common quality known as courage," said Mr. Jones.

The recipient of the Civil Society Award for Community Service was Bishop Walter Hanchell for the work he has done as founder of the Great Commission Ministries and for assisting the marginalized in the country to find food, clothes and shelter.

Accepting the award he said, "a lot of people in our country are hurting and they need help and I thank God for people like you who are here with a heart of compassion, that take time to look out for our brothers. We are our brother's keeper and I appreciate the acts of kindness.

"The more money you give, the more people we can empower," Mr. Hanchell said.

The second recipient was Chief Executive of Aliv, Damian Blackburn. He

received The Business Person of the year award for the strides his company made in the telecommunications field, after becoming the country's latest mobile telecom provider.

Blackburn noted his ties with Jones Communication as his interview with the media house last year was his first in The Bahamas.

"I'm delighted to accept this award on behalf of the entire Aliv team. To the people of The Bahamas I honoured to serve you as the Chief Aliv Officer," he said.

Dr. Robin Roberts Chairman of the National Health Insurance initiative was awarded for his multiple achievements in medicine. Being unable to attend the ceremony, his wife received the award in his honor.

Previous recipients of the JCN Person of the year Awards include all three former Prime Ministers of the Bahamas, noted clergymen, former Archbishop Drexel Gomez and Bishop Neil Ellis, as well as Physicians, Dr. Magnus Ekedede, Dr. Conville Brown, Dr. Perry Gomez, Olympian Tonique Williams Darling; former BTC President, Leon Williams, Sir Baltron Bethel, former Minister of Education Jerome Fitzgerald and the current President of the University of the Bahamas, Doctor Rodney Smith.



## GOVERNMENT NOTICE INVITATION FOR TENDERS

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

1. General Repairs to the Exterior of the Port Administration Building, tower and other ancillary repairs
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:

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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 29<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018.

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

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



## WOMAN DIES ON CRUISE SHIP

Continued from / PAGE 1...

According to a statement from the Carnival Elation cruise line, the woman fell down several decks and died while the ship was out to sea.

"The ship's medical team responded immediately, but, unfortunately, she passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with the

deceased and her family."

"The incident was reported to all proper authorities and Care Team support was offered by fellow travellers and her family," the statement added.

The woman is yet to be identified.

As a result of initial investigation, an adult American male is assisting police with this investiga-

tion.

The ship, which was on a four-day Bahamian cruise from Jacksonville that departed Thursday, at the time of the fall.

In October last year, an 8-year-old Bahamian girl, Zion Smith, who was tiptoeing over the railing on the fifth floor of the Carnival Glory, died from injuries sustained when she fell.

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## Ministry of Works Employees Fined For Stealing Asphalt

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
Journal Staff Writer

The men accused of stealing Asphalt from by Ministry of Works were formally charged Friday by Magistrate Court.

Three employees of Ministry of Works and a truck driver were brought back to Magistrate Court for a status hearing where they were each fined \$5,372 for their involvement in the theft of six tons of Asphalt.

44 year old Ron Austin of Gladstone Road; 34 year old Kenley Saunders of Gamble Heights; 56 year old Joseph Marshall of Canaan Lane and 50 year old Dwain Campbell, all spent a day in prison before being formally charged.

They all pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit stealing by reason of employment and stealing by reason of employment.

A fifth man, Myron Smith, 35, of Pastel Gardens, pleaded not guilty plea however and will go to trial on March 8.

The prosecutor, Inspector Philip Davis stated that earlier this month, January 11th, Permanent Secretary Antoinette Thompson reported the theft of the asphalt to police.

Davis said the men used the asphalt to pave a private driveway on Wulff Road back on December 6th 2017; the incident was recorded on video.

It was noted in court that Austin, Marshall and Saunders are employees of Ministry of Works, while Campbell's company was contracted to provide trucking services.

Magistrate Samuel

McKinney ordered the men to pay the fine in full or risk spending a year in prison.

They were also ordered to share the value of the stolen asphalt by each paying \$372 dollars.

Ron Austin, Joseph Marshall and Kenley Saunders were represented by Keith Seymour. Ian Cargill appeared for Dwain Campbell and Alex Morley represented Myron Smith.

## LIFEGUARD Missing At Sea

BY AMAJAH KNOWLES  
Journal Staff Writer

Friends of 27-year-old Samuel Leroy Moss are pleading for information about his whereabouts.

The Baha Mar lifeguard disappeared after purchasing a boat late last week.

Sharvette Miller says that her close friend and former co-worker has been missing since last Sunday when he travelled to Fort Lauderdale to purchase a small fishing vessel with the intention of returning to Nassau by sea.

Ms. Miller claims that Mr. Moss sailed to Bimini with the people from whom he purchased the boat, with the intention to part ways once reaching the island.

"We have video of his last post on social media that he did on Snapchat letting us know he's on his way home," said Ms. Miller, who explained that Mr. Moss did not have much family with the exception of a younger sister.

"But now, the phone went out from there as he was leaving Bimini Channel. He was going stop to in Andros for fuel and to see family, but we're not getting a clear understanding of whether he made it there.

"He doesn't have much family and his friends are pretty much all he has," she continued.

The Royal Bahamas Defense Force on Sunday sent a plane and a boat out in efforts to search for Moss. However there were no sightings of him.

## PM ANNOUNCES AMBITIOUS PROGRAM

BY AMAJAH KNOWLES  
Journal Staff Writer

The Minnis Administration will continue to channel resources into areas such as education, healthcare, social development and economic opportunities for persons in the "Over The Hill".

Prime Minister Doctor Hubert A. Minnis made this commitment while addressing the 17th Jones Communications Network's (JCN) Person of the Year and Civil Society Awards Ceremony last Friday at Jones Communications Media Centre, University Drive.

"We will only truly achieve success as a nation when more of us succeed. This is why I am committed to the redevelopment of Over-the-Hill and to providing training and other opportunities for entrepreneurship for young Bahamians.

"This is why I am also committed to Family Island development and to a rebound and a renaissance for long-struggling Grand Bahama," Prime Minister Minnis added.

Dr. Minnis, who was named Jones Communications Network's Person of the Year for 2017, used the opportunity to further explain the path his Administration will take in order to "build a better

Bahamas while providing greater opportunities for Bahamians – especially our young people."

He said his Administration will use the tools of education and the internet to "help our young Bahamians succeed and flourish."

"This is why I have an emphasis on improving preschool and introducing more technology-based learning into our schools.

"This is why my Government will introduce an ambitious programme for the development of young entrepreneurs. This is why I have insisted on introducing free WiFi to communities Over-the-Hill.

"Gutenberg played a key role in the development of the Renaissance, Reformation, the Age of Enlightenment and the scientific revolution and laid the material basis for the modern, knowledge-based economy, and the spread of learning to the masses.

"Gutenberg's accomplishment helped a mass of people to realize their talents and imaginations. This included the great inventor and artist Leonardo Da Vinci who had around 300 books in his library.

"Today, the tools that will help our young Bahamians to succeed and flourish are education and the internet," said Prime Minister Minnis.



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PEACH STREET OFF MONTROSE AVENUE

# STRIVING FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE

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.

Fashion mogul Peter Nygard once said, "One thing about striving for the impossible is that you have very little competition."

No one believes that success is easy. If it were, everyone would be experiencing lots of success in their lives. It makes sense that what it takes is going after impossible goals and committing to the efforts to make it happen.

In looking back at how Nygard achieved 50 years of business success in this series, we've discovered some interesting anecdotes. Hilka Nygard, Peter Nygard's mother, had an interesting reaction to an interview with Peter Nygard and a goal of making a million dollars. Hilka Nygard could not imagine aiming to make such a large amount of money as one million dollars.

In a 1969 (Manitoba) Tribune Business Profile article, Peter Nygård was asked if he wanted to be a millionaire. He told the reporter that everyday, he just thought about doing a better job the next day.

The reporter, George Froehlich, insisted that Peter must be thinking of trying to make a million dollars at some point. Nygard acquiesced and said, "Yes, I suppose." The reporter had his headline. "Young EXEC shooting for millionaire status".

Despite the fact that Nygård was pressured to answer that question, Hilka was embarrassed when the article came out. Hilka thought her son aspiring to be a millionaire was an impossible and overly optimistic dream. She 'couldn't imagine what he was thinking to say such a thing'.

The article opened with, "Peter Nygard hopes to be a millionaire by the time he is 30. And anyone who knows the 28-year-old women's fashion executive would have to say his chances are pretty good."

The reporter was right. In 1968 when Nygard took over Jacob Fashions Ltd., it had 100 employees and was doing 800 thousand a year in sales. Two years later, Nygård had more than doubled the sales.

Ten years in, by the age of thirty-six, Nygård had already expanded into the United States. He had 700 employees and was making twenty-five million dollars in sales. He then set his sights on a goal of making 100 million in sales by 1987.

By 1985, not only had Nygård reached

## 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.

100 million in sales; he had surpassed it. He had made 140 million in sales and had 1500 employees and became Canada's largest apparel company. In 1993, he was up to 200 million in sales.

At Nygård's 35 Anniversary mark, he had exceeded 500 million in sales, and in 2007, the sales total was 850 million dollars with twelve thousand employees.

Hilka Nygård needed not fear her son reaching for the impossible goal of one million dollars by the age of thirty. She and Peter's father Eeli had built the very foundation within their son that made such a goal possible. And given all of the positive values they instilled in him, he remained humble and grateful for all he has ever achieved.

In the "Sunday Life" section of the Winnipeg Free Press in a 1993 article, Peter Nygård was asked the question, "Are you surprised by your success?" He responded with the following:

*Yeah, that's a question that goes through my mind many times. How is it that it happens to some people and not to other people, and what's the difference? Where are those crossroads? What's that little extra that you do? What's the break in life you get? When I walk through my business and the places that I have, I say, my God, are you ever a lucky guy. Am I ever lucky that I was born in Finland instead of Estonia, that I was born on the right side of the Iron Curtain, and that I was lucky enough to come to Canada, the land of opportunity, and to be able to put all my energy to work and be repaid and rewarded for it. To come from being a poor boy of nothing to this, it's a constant reminder. It's shocking.*

So what did he do to make it all happen? We'll examine that next.

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The Bahama Journal Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

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Kimaley P. Jones Vice President/Operations

E D I T O R I A L

# FIX IT NOW!

If we are to ever move this country in a progressive direction, we must come face to face with both perceptions and realities which show that: Things are bad in The Bahamas; that they are sometimes nastily brutish in Nassau, Bahamas and that, there are also any number of thugs and cut-throats who do prey on visitors, residents and citizens—and thus, we now have a situation which is – as the saying goes—bad enough.

Making matters all the worse is that, whilst we spend a Midas fortune on marketing and packaging The Bahamas, there is no doubt in our mind that much of this is now being deeply challenged not only in US State Department circles, but also as regards the reality of human rights abuses, hints of police wrongdoing and impunity, and of course, wide spread perceptions broadcast of our Bahamas as having become a corrupter's paradise!

And thus, whether apocryphal or not, the fact remains that perception sometimes matters as much as brute facts themselves!

This, then, is the meat of the matter as regards the brouhaha now extant concerning The US State Department's latest travel advisory.

Mr. D'Aguiar, meanwhile, reiterated that he was "at a loss as to why" the US government would issue an advisory on Arawak Cay, adding: "I would think that thousands upon thousands of foreign visitors will continue to come to Arawak Cay and have an amazing experience. It's just unfortunate they [the US government] would see fit all of a sudden to pop up out of the blue and issue this travel advisory.

But surely, this advice did not 'all of a sudden' pop out of the blue—in truth, this advisory is repetitious of similar warnings issued prior to May 10th, 2017.

Indeed, then, the message is clear: The thugs and cut-throats who terrorize any and all who cross their paths could care less about this or that party in office at any time!

We therefore advise any who would wish to do something real to be up and doing with ridding these islands of any and all who would destroy this place as they do the same to themselves!

And lest there remain any doubt as to what we mean when we prescribe '...ridding these islands of any and all who would destroy this place...' we are precisely prescribing that we extirpate the social sources which feed the

swamps and miry places where such social parasites are spawned.

And thus we now shout---Hear ye, hear ye: --The United States Department of State would advise American tourists as regards some pertinently poignant crime-related matters, which should noted and monitored.

As they go on to explain: Violent crime, such as burglaries, armed robberies, and sexual assault is common, even during daylight hours and in tourist areas. U.S. government personnel are not permitted to visit the Sand Trap area in Nassau due to crime. Jet-ski operators are known to commit sexual assaults against tourists, including minors. As a result, U.S. government personnel are not permitted to use jet-ski rentals on New Providence and Paradise Islands.

In response, the minister of tourism the Hon. Dionisio d'Aguiar opines: "...I think it's much ado about nothing..."

With the greatest of respect: WE DISAGREE! We do so precisely because we do not agree with the assertion that "...Arawak Cay is safe..." It is not safe.

And so, were we asked what is to be done in the circumstances, the quick answer is that the men and women whose livelihoods are predicated on having a safer and more secure Arawak Cay location should be up and doing with finding and paying for security up to the challenge of getting the job done.

In addition, we would advise that services provided by the State authority should be brought up to speed now as in right-right now---!

Please stop with the chatter about how bad things are---Fix it!

As but one sad foot-note to tragedy on the hoof and sudden death in the shadows--We are today saddened and distraught by news to the effect that a number of people who took to the air just this Thursday past have perished as a consequence of disaster overwhelming a small commuter aircraft flying to South Andros.

Our prayers go out not only for the souls of all who perished but--too--condolences we send to the families, neighbors, friends and sundry others whose lives have been touched so very grievously.

May they all find peace as they recognize one of the key realities inherent in existence:-- there is a time for everything under heaven.

This is a time to mourn!

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# BAIC Promotes Vision for 2018

BY GENA GIBBS  
Bahamas Information Services

The Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation (BAIC) with the theme "Growing, Partnering, Empowering" is laying the groundwork through its Handicraft Development Department to assist Bahamian creative arts business owners to take their products to the world stage. The Corporation aims to position itself as headquarters for educational and technical assistance for artisans to flood the marketplace with products made from their hands.

At an open-house ceremony on Thursday at the Corporation, BAIC Chairman, Michael Foulkes said that as BAIC positions itself as that premier facility for educational and technical assistance where artisans continue to partner with them -- efforts are contributing substantially to enhancement of the economy. To the artisans he said: "I challenge you to do more and reach more."

Artisans like James Sands and Deirdre Palacios were present to showcase their products and were proud of the support they have received from BAIC. They encour-

aged others to get involved.

"Recycling is the way to go and I'd like to tell everyone that BAIC is going to take it to another level. Hopefully, they are going to provide the platform for me to show Bahamians that not only is it sustainable, but also beneficial to be recycling stuff," said James Sands.

Rosemary Clarice Hanna was also present and representing "Creative Nassau", a registered non-profit civil society created to promote Bahamian arts and culture. Mrs Hanna weighed in on the development of the Bahamian tourism prod-

uct and challenged artisans. She said, "Do we wish to become the masters of our own fate and take a risk in ourselves to have faith in our own people, and to believe in our boundless creativity to retain, grow, and sustain the uniqueness of our tourism product?"

Additionally, she challenged Bahamians to embrace BAIC's model in partnership and to work closely with the Inter-Development Bank's (IDB) "Emerging and Sustainable Initiatives" that support the "Redevelopment of Downtown Nassau" and the Bain & Grants

Town Residential Community, as part of the country's National Development Plan (NDP).

BAIC is centrally located in the Industrial Complex, across from BTVI, and is spearheading these initiatives to offer funding to artists, because according to Chairman Foulkes, "Over 700 persons have benefited from training programmes in straw craft, shell craft, coconut shell, wood turning, soap making, and Junkanoo souvenir production."

BAIC's new Board of Directors are driven to cultivate the entrepreneurial spirit.

## PM Visits Relatives Of Crash Victims

BY AMAJAH L KNOWLES  
Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis keeping a promise made, traveled to North Andros last Friday to personally meet, console and comfort all those grappling with the loss of loved ones following that fatal plane crash last week Wednesday.

Forty-two-year-old pilot Darren Clarke, 49-year-old mother of two, Margaret Adderley; father of two Valentino Cardinal Knowles, father of one, Carter Campbell and mother and daughter, Desiree Russell and 10-year-old Destinique Wilson perished when the Piper Aztec plane taking them to Nassau crashed in waters off Andros. It was the first fatal plane crash in the country in over a year.

Bahamas Christian Council President Delton Fernander prayed for the families on the visit to the grief shaken community of North Andros, speaking above intermittent wails.

Offering words of sympathy, Dr. Minnis said, "this is indeed a sad moment and tragedy for Andros, it a large land mass, but a strong community. The question is always asked, why would such an event occur? Why me? Why us? And why the end road at this time when they have not yet begun their life.

"We all look for excuses, blame this one or the other, but what we do know for certain is that whatever happens in this world, one man knows why he wants it to happen and that's God. And whatever happened, God wanted it this way. He would know why. Be assured that the government of the Bahamas will continue to support the family as much as we can," Dr. Minnis said.

The Prime Minister also promised that counsellors will be available this week, not only for the victims' families, but the entire community. Meantime, a memorial is planned for this week.



Some of the products on display. **BIS Photo/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr.**

## Murder Accused Remanded

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
Journal Staff Writer

A man wanted for murder and drug possession appeared before Magistrate court on Friday.

Nearly a year after allegedly committing the crime, 32-year-old Dwight Morrison of Shirlea Lane, Shirley Street was formally charged with the March 2017 murder of Troy Ferguson aka Troy Cash.

Morrison was also arraigned on one count each of possession of dangerous drugs and conspiracy with intent to supply.

According to the Court Dockets, on October 14th 2014 being concerned with others, Morrison conspired to supply dangerous drugs.

The accused, who was represented by Attorney Jumo Campbell, was not required to enter a plea to any of the charges.

Magistrate Samuel McKinney remanded Morrison to the Bahamas Department of corrections until March 27th, at which time he may apply for a Voluntary Bill of indictment fast tracking his case.

## WSC workers remanded on stealing charges

BY ONIKE ARCHER  
Journal Staff Writer

Three Water and Sewerage employees Friday were arraigned before Magistrates Court on stealing charges.

The accused men were formally charged with one count of stealing by reason of employment.

According to court documents, Sunday November 19th 2017, 35 year old Lejaith Paul, 38 year old Kerven Pierre and 28 year

old Latario Bowe stole one fire hydrant from Water and Sewerage John F Kennedy Drive valued at \$1,024.92 dollars by reason of Employment on November 19th.

Magistrate Samuel McKinney indicated that the court does not have jurisdiction to grant bail for the offense.

The trio were not required to enter a plea and were remanded. Their matter was adjourned to February 9th.

All three men were represented by Attorney Alex Dorsette.

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# Labour's Construction Job Fair Attracts Multitudes



► Photos show Senator the Hon. Dion Foulkes, Minister of Labour, shaking hands with job seeker; persons being interviewed, and those lined up outside the Gym seeking to be registered for employment. (BIS Photos/Derek Smith)

BY LINDSAY THOMPSON  
Bahamas Information Services

Multitudes of persons turned up at the Kendal G.L. Isaacs Gymnasium on Saturday, January 20, 2018 for the second installment of the Ministry of Labour's

Public Employment Services Initiative, "Labour on the Blocks."

Facilitated by the Department of Labour, the purpose of this weekend's initiative was to register job seekers interested in employment in the construction

field. Between the hours of 12 noon to 4 pm, job seekers turned up with relevant requested information, which was entered into the Department of Labour's database.

Present were Senator the

Hon. Dion Foulkes, Minister of Labour; Robert Farquharson, Director of Labour; and other officials from the ministry.

Also there were businesses and institutions such as the Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute (BTVI),

which registered job seekers onsite for potential employment and skills training.

The Ministry of Labour launched its Public Employment Services (PES) initiative, "Labour on the Blocks" on January 13, 2018 in Bain and Grants Town,

and will host monthly "Labour on the Blocks" events in communities in New Providence. The initiative will be extended to Grand Bahama and to the Family Islands, including: Abaco, Eleuthera, Andros and Exuma.

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