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THURSDAY - JANUARY 18TH, 2018

75 CENTS

PLANE CRASH IN ANDROS

• Search Underway for Occupants

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
 Journal Staff Writer

An intensive search is underway off North Andros for a small aircraft which crashed at sea yesterday carrying six people, including the pilot. At last reports two bodies

have been recovered. The community of North Andros is in a state of shock and sadness following the crash. The identities of the occupants were not known up to Press time. According to Police, small boat operators searched the waters off Andros for most of Wednesday with no sight of the aircraft.

The rescue and recovery operation include personell from Bahamas Air Sea Rescue Association (BASRA) the Royal Bahamas Defense Force and the U.S. Coast Guard. A civil aviation team from New Providence is expected to head to Andros this morning following the tragedy that has distressed the residents of that Family

Island. According to reports, a white and dark blue twin charter registration N62768, took flight from San Andros for New Providence just after 8:00 yesterday morning when it "dropped off the radar" near Mastic Point.

■ See PLANE CRASH / page 2...

Over-the-Hill Businesses Call Travel Advisory Unfair

BY ONIKE ARCHER
 Journal Staff Writer

The recent travel advisories have left many business owners dismayed as recently the U.S Department of State issued a level two advisory for The Bahamas, warning U.S Citizens to "avoid the area known as Over-the-Hill, south of Shirley Street.

The Bahama Journal spoke with long established Over-the-Hill business owners of Mortimer's Candies and Base Road Wholesale Liquor about their sentiments on the advisory.

Mortimer's Candies General Manager, Cayle Mortimer said, "I think it's a negative tone, because I don't feel that it is warranted. If you go to any other country there would be crime.

"As far as Arawak Cay is concerned, I don't see it being a problem, especially with the Police Station being there.

■ See OVER-THE-HILL BUSINESSES on PAGE 2...

GB's Port Authority Plans Digital Paradise

BY ONIKE ARCHER
 Journal Staff Writer

The Grand Bahama Port Authority has brought on British IT Consultant Alex Cameron to create what will be called a 'Digital Paradise', a plan that is expected to catapult Grand Bahama into a new era.

Speaking to the Journal yesterday at East Villa, President of Grand Bahama Port Authority Ian Rolle explained Mr. Cameron's involvement in stimulating Grand Bahama's economy.

"Alex, will be engaging a number of initiatives for Grand Bahama. We have a 90 day plan that will roll out a number of initiatives.

"In Freeport and Nassau, we have this Graphical Information System (GIS) or data points; data regarding streets and longitude and latitude of various different businesses.

"However, a number of agencies have not shared their data with the general public.

"One of the initiatives that Alex is working on is the release of all of this GIS data to allow developers to actually create applications that will make life easier for locals and foreigners who live in and visit Freeport."

■ See PLANS DIGITAL / page 2...

MPS CHARGED TO STAND TOGETHER



► Parliamentarians took a photo just outside of the House of Assembly on Wednesday morning, January 17, 2018 prior to their attendance at an annual church service at Church of God Cathedral. Pictured at centre is Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis, and left of the Prime Minister -- Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Hon. Halson Moultrie; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. Peter Turnquest; and Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Philip Davis. (BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)

BY C. JILLIAN GRAY
 Journal Staff Writer

After a brief house sitting yesterday legislators headed to the Church of God Cathedral for their annual parliamentary church service and were charged to stand together.

The idea behind the service is to seek divine intervention before pushing ahead with the country's business this new year.

Delivering a message of unity was Christian Council President, Bishop Delton Fernander, who spoke of a three fold cord from the book of Ecclesiastes. He told the congregation including MPs from the government, the opposition and the some members of the church of that cord that's not being easily broken.

"When we become a part of the strand that makes up the cord, that is

the strength of our Bahamas, things can be better, things can be held together when we stopped operating as single units and start seeing our selves intertwined to make this place better than we met it," Bishop Fernander said.

He reminded parliamentarians that the time for politics is over and said now is the time to come together and govern a nation and move the people forward.

"No matter what colour you wear or what church you go to, we must remember we are all Bahamians. We must remember that we must all bleed the colours of our flag," Bishop Fernander said.

He added that at the end of the day, the goal is to leave the Bahamas better then we met it.

"No party, I believe, has the monopoly on good ideas, neither does

anyone person or group. Neither the church or civic organizations hold a monopoly on all the answers for our nation. We must realize that God orders our steps, and that the hand of God guides us," Bishop Fernander said.

He further charged parliamentarians to let the past, be the past.

"When it's all said and done, what will be your legacy? That we argued all year, or that we got on each other's nerves, that we have to get something done? We've got to move the mark to a place where people look back at this time and say these were the best sons

and daughters that the Bahamas could put forth and they did a wonderful job with God's grace. The future of this country is in our hands," Bishop Fernander said.

Before being bused to church, there were first readings of several pieces of legislation in the House of Assembly.

They were the replacement of the traveler's currency bill, the electricity amendment bill and the electricity rate reduction bond bill.

The business of the house resumes next Wednesday, January, 24th.

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Over-the-Hill Businesses Call Travel Advisory Unfair

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"The Over-the-Hill businesses, I feel that we are somewhat neglected by the Tourism market, because many of the tourists don't make it to us (Mortimer's) because the Taxis don't come and they encourage people not to venture into certain places.

"Yes, we do have crime which is everywhere in the world, but I think we are being targeted at this point," said Mr. Mortimer.

When asked what has contributed to the negative stigma of Over-the-Hill over the years, Mr. Mortimer said, "as a family business in 1928 and from the early forties, its residence has been on top of the hill East Street. During this time, there were many different businesses thriving, but it was more family oriented.

"The families are not families anymore. It's not a close knit circle it used to be. The neighbourhood used to be the family rather than just the household and that is what society needs to get back to," Mr. Mortimer stated.

He strongly feels this down fall in family has greatly contributed to the uptick in crime.

Spending the last forty four years on Nassau Street, Base Road Wholesale Liquors

owner George Robinson Jr. told The Journal, "Tourists play an important role as customers to me.

"I have a lot of Taxi drivers that bring tourists to my establishments and they are elated when they come, because the report we get from them is that they don't want to stay downtown. They want that Over-the-Hill experience," Mr. Robinson said.

He continued, "When they come to my establishment, they like to mix and mingle with the locals. Crime over the hill is not what people think, especially when it comes to the tourist.

"That advisory that was put out over us was not fair, because every country has a crime problem. We are still fortunate though, most of our crime problem is with the locals, and they don't interfere with the tourists.

"I've been all over the world and everywhere I go, there is a crime problem."

In response to the travel advisory, Tourism Minister Dionisio D'Aguiar said recently that the Bahamas has nothing to worry about and although there is petty crime.

While the advisory may not have a direct effect on Over-the-Hill businesses, business owners are still concerned that The Bahamas has been targeted unfairly.

GB's Port Authority Plans Digital Paradise

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mr. Rolle feels that such initiative should be adopted by the rest of The Bahamas. Additionally, he believes creating GIS will stimulate Grand Bahama's economy, which has attracted young,

talented Bahamians.

Mr. Rolle was in Nassau to attend Rotary Club of Southeast Nassau's weekly meeting held at East Villa.

At this meeting, Mr. Rolle introduced his new initiative that he will be presenting to the Government; a model called 'One Stop Shop' which was created by Grand Bahama Port Authority.

"My initiatives will not only help Freeport, but it will help the entire Bahamas and it's really to create an ease in doing business.

"This concept that we (GBPA) are presenting to the government is called One Stop Shop.

"What we have here is a business portal and the intention is for anyone, local and foreign, if they want to get involved in a business they can come to this portal," Mr. Rolle told attendees.

"For instance, if I were an investor who wanted to do business in Freeport, I would select 'business guide' (a

drop down arrow on the website), which will encourage you to answer a number of questions as to what you need to do to start your business," Mr. Rolle displayed.

He then explained starting a business at the moment is a cumbersome process.

"Everywhere in The Bahamas, an investor comes into a particular organization, you then tell the investor, they are required to do 'x, y and z'. An investor does it, comes back and then you say, 'what about 'a, b and c'.

"So, the idea is to create a business portal that eliminates a lot of this frustration for investors," Mr. Rolle explained.

After his presentation, Mr. Rolle also provided suggested improvements the government should consider in all business endeavours, such as employing an efficient IT team and ensuring due diligence is conducted across all business boards.



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PLANE CRASH IN ANDROS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

In a statement yesterday, Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Senator Fred Mitchell said, "our party is very saddened to learn of the loss of life which came as a

result of the plane crash.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the community of North Andros in particular and our nation as a whole and especially to all the families that feel great pain and loss today."



▶ Dr. Duane Sands addresses PHA's Clinical Pastoral Education 7th Commencement Exercise at Government House, Tuesday, January 16, 2018.

Over 80 Pastoral Care Givers qualified within the country's healthcare system

BY LLONELLA GILBERT
Bahamas Information Services

Minister of Health, Dr. the

Hon. Duane Sands said since its inception, 80 plus persons have successfully qualified themselves as Pastoral Care

Givers via the Public Hospitals Authority's (PHA) Clinical Pastoral Education Training programme that

was introduced and presently continues under the supervision of Rev. Canon S. Sebastian Campbell, the PHA's own Hospital Chaplain.

Tuesday, January 16, 2018.

"This theme recognises that the challenges that individuals are faced with as it relates to healthcare and wellness requires the fusion of objectives to cross all levels. We hear the cry for healing in our nation every day, but too few realise that we can only mend the brokenness that is seen and felt throughout our Bahamaland when we work together in partnership to achieve a common goal."

Dr. Sands said the country must take a holistic view of health and wellness, taking into account an individual's physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being as well as embracing the awesome duty to bring restoration, healing and hope to all God's people.

He said the Ministry has heard the many cries of Canon Campbell as he

labours in the hope of seeing the nation's healthcare institutions recognise and invest in Pastoral Care and Counselling where Chaplains are common place and accepted with equal integrity to other workers in other departments, as is carried out within the local Police Force, Defence Force, Prison Services and many hospitals, nursing homes, and rehabilitation centres all across the world.

"I applaud Canon Campbell for his comprehensive vision for Clinical Pastoral Care, and for the work that he has accomplished thus far. I likewise salute our graduates, and all those previously qualified in Pastoral Care through this training programme, recognising the importance of your service to your fellowmen as you continue to bestow God's Grace to those most in need," Dr. Sands said.

Dr. Sands said that as Minister of Health, as well as during his decades of practice as a physician, he has often reflected on the importance of partnership at every level in the delivery of excellent service in healthcare.

"It is no wonder that tonight's theme, "Partners Together in the Delivery of Healthcare", is one that I wholeheartedly support and consider most worthy as we seek to move healthcare to a new level in this century," he said during the Clinical Pastoral Education 7th Commencement Exercise at Government House,



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

Interested parties may obtain further information and collect the "Bidding Documents" from:

Port Department
Prince George Dock
Nassau, The Bahamas
Telephone No. (242) 322-8832

Between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday, with effect from 15th January, 2018.

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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► Representatives of various government agencies and private contractors view the existing water supply plant in Duncan Town and discuss plans for a new one. **BIS Photos/Patrick Hanna**

Projected Reserve Osmosis Desalination Plant Welcomed by Ragged Islanders

BY KATHRYN CAMPBELL
Bahamas Information Services

RAGGED ISLAND, The Bahamas – “This is great news for Ragged Island,” said Basil Francis of the Government’s plans to construct a Reverse Osmosis Desalination Plant on the far-flung southern island.

Francis, a descendant of the quaint, serene island, said

it’s been really rough surviving without a constant flow of running water for nearly three months.

“We say the water is ‘on’ when it rains. People think this means the water man is coming, but it means to catch some rainwater while it’s raining. Thank God it’s been raining a lot lately,” he said.

Ragged Island was totally devastated in September 2017 following the passage of Hurricane Irma, a Category 5 storm. The island’s water plant and housing were also damaged resulting in a temporary supply of water. An emergency reverse osmosis unit, which provides water for critical needs, is presently in operation. The temporary plant provides a limited water supply of 700 gallons per day to the population, which has dropped to approximately 30 residents since Hurricane Irma. The previous supply was 5,000 gallons per day.

In its quest to provide a long-term solution, Water and Sewerage Corporation (WSC) Assistant General Manager Cyprian Gibson chaired a pre-tenders site visit and consultation meeting with a team of stakeholders, including representatives of the Water and Sewerage Corporation, Bahamas Power and Light, and local and international contractors on the grounds of the All-Age School in Duncan Town, January 16th, 2018.

Family Island Administrator Oscar Munroe was also present. A native of Ragged Island, Administrator Munroe said Ragged Islanders are anxious to return the island that is rich in history, back to its glory days. He said the exercise was an important step in restoration

of the island, and he looked forward to partnering with the other stakeholders.

In a recent statement, the Hon. Adrian Gibson, Member of Parliament for Long Island and Chairman of WSC, said as part of the corporation’s coordinated efforts with central government, the private sector, and other stakeholders, an invitation was recently extended for public tenders to construct a reverse osmosis plant on that island.

Mr. Gibson said the scope of work includes the provision of all designs, expertise, labour, material, equipment and other necessary services required to design, build, own and operate a 5,000-imperial-gallon-per day reverse osmosis desalination plant and distribution pumps in accordance with the Corporation’s technical and operational requirements.

Moreover, the Chairman advised that “all” options are being explored, especially the possibility for the incorporation of green technologies.

The meeting also included an overview of the tenders document, the process, technical specifications and drawings and a question and answer period. Eight companies, who submitted payment for tender documents, attended the pre-tenders meeting.

The team visited the existing site of the plant and another possible site in Duncan Town.

Charles Curling, another resident, said having little water makes life difficult for most people, especially those who do not have anywhere to store it.

“A new plant would be good. We need running water,” he said.



► Cyprian Gibson, Assistant General Manager, Water and Sewerage Corporation, discusses plans for a new water supply system for Ragged Island with residents.

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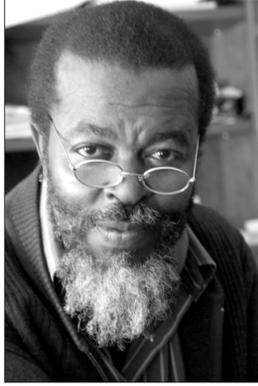
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The Rough Cut

By Felix F. Bethel

"...O-felix bethel..."



We, the under-signed representatives of the sovereign people of the Caribbean, hereby declare that President Donald Trump of the United States of America is "Persona Non Grata" in our Caribbean region!

Inclusive of O-felix bethel---We further declare that as a "Persona Non Grata" President Donald Trump is NOT welcome in any territory of the Caribbean, and we hereby confirm that we - the Caribbean people - will petition our Governments, vehemently protest against any Trump visit, and engage in popular demonstrations designed to prevent President Donald Trump's entry into any portion of the sovereign territory of our Caribbean region.

As sons and daughters of the Caribbean, we hereby affirm that the continent of Africa is the revered Motherland of a sizable majority of our people and that the Republic of Haiti - the seminal architect of the destruction of the system of chattel slavery that held our ancestors in bondage - is the foundational cornerstone of our Caribbean Civilization, and we therefore consider that any insult or attack that is directed at the African continent or at the Republic of Haiti is intrinsically an insult and attack that is directed at us as well.

We further affirm that we Caribbean people - in light of our history of experiencing, resisting, and surviving the most horrendous forms of enslavement and colonialism - consciously regard ourselves as champions and defenders of the dignity and fundamental human rights of all Black or African people, and that we are guided by an over-arching and non-negotiable principle of zero tolerance of any manifestation of anti-Black or anti-African racism or discrimination.

It is against this background that we, the people of the Caribbean, have determined that by describing the nations of Africa, the Republic of Haiti and the Central American nation of El Salvador as "shit-hole" countries, U S President Donald Trump has committed a despicable and unpardonable act of anti-Black, anti-African, anti-Brown racism that has served to further energize and fortify the vile White supremacy system that the said President Trump has self-consciously sought to champion and lead.

We - the sovereign people of the Caribbean - hereby declare to the entire world that we vehemently and unreservedly denounce President Donald Trump and the evil and inhuman White supremacy value system that he represents!

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- 129+++ Et Cetera---Et Cetera!

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The Bahama Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

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EDITORIAL

FAILING MISERABLY!

We are failing at the business of both the education and schooling of our people.

This failure is rooted in a shared mindset where practically all of the people who make the decisions as to how the people should be guided, instructed, schooled are failing to make or see the distinction which is to be made between schooling and education.

In this regard, we do believe that which is that: We might yet wake to find ourselves smack-dab in the middle of so-called discussions and opinion sharing which - as we insist-can and does lead to the coarsening of discourse and the clearest violation of that principle which suggests that we should all be up and doing with seeing to it that the Bahamian people - no matter one's political situation-the vast majority of our people are set on a path which conduces not only to deepening of democracy, but also to the flowering and development of all of our peoples.

Evidently, whilst any and all can have access to schooling, there is also that pesky reality where many who are 'well-schooled' are being 'graduated' with scant knowledge of either their own purpose in this life or the part they can and should play in making this world a better place for all.

It is this latter dimension of life which comes with being educated.

And this is precisely why we would argue that: There are times in life when-if we are to make any real progress- we must make distinctions that matter; this so that we may be quite clear as to what we are all about as we seek to work together for the achievement of a justice-infused sense of development, achievement and social flourishing.

We would also suggest that were we to dig deep enough into that mire where troubles abound, we would discover that the bulk of these derive from mistakes in how we design and deliver schooling to our people whether at the elite level or at the level of the so-called 'grass-roots.'

In this regard, we would also proffer that: [real] Education provides a foundation for development, the groundwork on which much of our economic

and social well being is built.

And for sure, education is also one of the keys available as we seek to increase both economic efficiency and social consistency throughout his land.

Clearly, then, education increases the value and efficiency of labor and helps to raise the poor from poverty.

In addition, education increases the overall productivity and intellectual flexibility of the labor force; and by extension, it also helps to ensure that a country is competitive in world markets now characterized by changing technologies and production methods.

And finally, education increases the child's integration with dissimilar social or ethnic groups early in life, thus we see how a real education can and does contribute significantly to nation building and interpersonal tolerance.

Education in every sense is one of the fundamental factors of development. No country can achieve sustainable economic development without substantial investment in human capital. Education enriches people's understanding of themselves and world.

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And thus it follows that, whilst we have poured untold millions of dollars into the public provision of schools, we have failed miserably as regards the deliberate preparation of people who would - as a consequence of having real, true and good access to real education - see themselves as genuine nation-builders.

The sum of the matter thus presents itself: We must - as a matter of the most urgent priority - be up and doing with transforming curriculum and content aimed at providing proper schooling and [perhaps with it]the real education of our people.



ALIV PARTNERS WITH RED CROSS

ALIV will be for the first time partnering with The Bahamas Red Cross Society to power its upcoming 46th annual Red Cross Ball, the organization's largest benefit event that assists with alleviating various types of suffering in The Bahamas.

Chief ALIV Officer Damian Blackburn says ALIV continues to work closely with and give back to the community through various avenues and the Red Cross Society is one of those organizations whose principles and goals align with those of the ALIV brand.

"ALIV takes great pride in being at the forefront of all things service oriented. When approached to come on board with this initiative, there was no doubt in my mind that ALIV as a corporate citizen would get involved. Even though this is our first year, we've seen the work the organization has done over the years and we are more than confident that its great work will continue, and we look forward to being part of it."

ALIV Events and Sponsorship Coordinator

Jayne Pinder says the partnership is yet another avenue in which ALIV continues to stand by its commitment to aid those in need.

"We could not be more excited about this new and blossoming partnership. As we continue to stress, at the very core of who we are and what we do, you will see that there is a desire to create meaningful experiences as well as create long lasting relationships and partnerships with those in the community including the corporate world and philanthropic organizations. This ball is the organization's largest annual benefit and raises so many funds to assist with helping thousands in our communities and by extension, across the globe. We are ever grateful for the opportunity to partner with The Bahamas Red Cross and look forward to working with the organization in the future."

Under the patronage of Governor General Dame Marguerite Pindling, the ball will be held on Saturday, January 27th, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Baha Mar Convention Centre, Cable Beach.



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► The Graduating Class of Nassau Christian School called upon Governor General Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling (pictured centre in group photo) at Government House on Tuesday, January 16, 2017.



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