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TUESDAY - MAY 15TH, 2018

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"OBAN DEAL NULL AND VOID"

Retired Anglican Archbishop, the Most Reverend Drexel Gomez is calling on the Minnis administration to repeal the heads of agreement with Oban Energies for a \$5.5 billion oil refinery and storage facility for East Grand Bahama. Speaking on the Love 97 radio show "On Point" yesterday, Bishop Gomez was reacting to comments made by Minister of Education Jeffrey Lloyd that the government of the Bahamas broke the law in how it

handled the approval process for the deal.

Bishop Gomez said, "the Minister was honest enough to tell the public what happened, even though the Prime Minister said the government had made missteps.

"Saying that missteps were made is not saying that they broke the law. This is a grave issue and not one that should be glossed over.

"It seems to me that when the government breaks the law, it brings into question the whole issue of law and order. The government must uphold

the law," said Bishop Gomez.

He said, "the only recourse is to repeal the heads of agreement. It must be null and void. What exists today is null and void because it contradicts the laws of the Bahamas. There cannot be any dispute about that. And it is the responsibility of the government to give that moral leadership. It has a sub-committee that is revisiting everything. Let that committee do its work and come back and present a new heads of agreement.

■ See **OBAN DEAL NULL** / page 2...



▶ Retired Anglican Archbishop, the Most Reverend Drexel Gomez (**Journal file photo**)

TWO MEN ARRAIGNED FOR MURDER

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

Twenty year-old, Charlton Pierre, of Farrington Road was arraigned yesterday before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt for the murder of 16-year-old Stefan Bowleg.

It is alleged that the accused, by means of unlawful harm, did intentionally cause the death of Bowleg.

Bowleg who was stabbed in an altercation shortly after 8pm on Friday May 11, 2018, suffered a similar fate to that of his mother who almost a year before was stabbed to death in her Peter Street home.

Pierre, was unrepresented and not required to enter a plea.

A young woman, 23-year-old Angelica Roop, of Nassau Village, was also charged with Pierre with accessory after the fact.

It is alleged that on the same date, Roop, knowing that Pierre was a party to the offense of murder, assisted Pierre for the purpose of enabling him to avoid the due process of the law.

She was also unrepresented and not required to enter a plea.

The pair were both remanded to The Bahamas Department of Corrections until July 26, 2018 at 2pm.

Meanwhile, 34-year-old, Patrick Goffe, of Washington Street, was also arraigned before Chief Magistrate Ferguson-Pratt, for the 2016 murder of 37-year-old, Daniel Belzaille.

It is alleged that on Monday December 12, 2016, Goffe by means of unlawful harm, did intentionally cause the death of Belzaille.

Goffe also appeared before the chief magistrate for a warrant out for his arrest issued in Exuma, in relation to drug charges under the name Gino Sands Albany.

The prosecution informed the court that Sands Albany and Goffe are in fact the same person, as finger prints identification proved.

Goffe, was unrepresented and not required to enter a plea.

He was also remanded to The Bahamas Department of Corrections, and returns to court for both counts on July 26, 2018 at 12pm, for the drug trial and service of a voluntary bill of indictment.



▶ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest announces that Cabinet of The Bahamas last week approved the Fiscal Responsibility Bill, 2018 for public consultation at a press conference at the Ministry of Finance, Monday, May 14, 2018. (**BIS Photo/Derek Smith**)

DPM Introduces Fiscal Responsibility Bill 2018

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, K Peter Turnquest yesterday introduced The Fiscal Responsibility Bill 2018, for public consultation.

The bill sets guiding principles and rules for the way the government spends and accounts for the people's money, according to Mr. Turnquest, who emphasized the importance of the legislation.

"Once passed, it will subject this government and all successive governments to new standards of public accountability, and public sector financial management.

"Perhaps more importantly from the public's point of view, it will empower civil soci-

ety and the parliament to participate in the system of accountability in a robust and comprehensive way," Mr. Turnquest said.

The Minister of Finance who also introduced the idea of the Fiscal Responsibility Council, said the council is mandated to conduct periodic and on-going assessments of the government's finance and make its assessments public.

The government is also required to provide its fiscal strategy reports to the Fiscal Responsibility Council and Parliament.

The new law will require the government to submit a Fiscal Adjustment Plan to explain any proposed deviations from its Fiscal Strategy Report.

■ See **DPM INTRODUCES FISCAL** / page 2...

Man Shot In Abaco

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Police in Abaco are investigating a shooting incident that has left a male with non-life threatening injuries.

Reports are that on Sunday, shortly before 12mid-night, police received information of gunshots fired in the area of a business establishment on Don McKay Boulevard. Officers responded and further investigation revealed that the victim was shot while in the parking lot of that establishment.

The male, who received a gunshot wound to the left arm, was taken to the Marsh Harbor Clinic by a private vehicle, and was seen by doctor and is listed in stable condition.

In Crime out of Grand Bahama, Police there are seeking the public's assistance in locating the culprits, who robbed a business establishment on East Sunrise Highway.

■ See **SHOT IN ABACO** on PAGE 2...

POST OFFICE PLAGUED WITH POWER OUTAGE

BY TIA THOMPSON
Journal Staff Writer

Workers at the Bahamas General Post Office are enraged once again as they began their morning yesterday with a building power outage and the backup generator needing batteries to function. They sat outside the building, along the walls and chairs while waiting for further information by the authorities from Bahamas Power and Light (BPL) and the Ministry of Works.

The Post Office workers were said to have been at work from 7AM with no power and given the go ahead to

leave by 11AM if there was no change in the situation. One employee said, "our concerns have been known and voiced", while another said, "our concerns are centered round water leaking from the roof in some areas of the building. With a new location said to be underway, steps to better the work environment for workers at the post office have not been taken and workers have had enough."

Acting Post Master, Jennifer Johnson said that work on the new building site is ongoing, so until that is completed they will all do as much as they can where they

are now.

The building had major issues before, such as mold, rat infestation, leaking roofs and air conditioning problems.

Assistant Post Officer, Maybelline Miller said that the building superintendent gave notice that the building's power shut off on Saturday as well. Even though a new building is underway, she said workers need a safe and comfortable work environment for now and they do not have one. The general post office is said to close at 2pm every day, rather than 5pm because of the working conditions.



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GRADE 6 OF LOWER DEADMAN'S CAY PRIMARY SCHOOL, LONG ISLAND, PAYS COURTESY CALL ON GOVERNOR GENERAL



► Grade 6 Students and Teachers of Lower Deadman's Cay Primary School, Long Island, paid a courtesy call upon Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling, Governor General, at Government House on Monday, May 14, 2018. (BIS Photo/Letisha Henderson)

"OBAN DEAL NULL AND VOID"

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"You cannot take an old illegal heads of agreement, modify it, revisit it and present some amendments to it. That document is null and void because it contradicts the law," said Bishop Gomez.

The respected Cleric said, "my concern is that if the government is to give us moral and legal leadership, this is an example of what must not be done. It is not a question of party politics. It's a question of acting in the name of the country.

"If the government enters

into an agreement and discovers that it has broken the law, because the law as exists required a certain process before the application can be even considered, that process was ignored."

Bishop Gomez says, "it raises another issue about who gave the government

the legal advice. The government was not properly legally advised on the issue. They are admitting now that they broke the law. So the agreement must be null and void. To modify it would be a very

bad principle," he said.

Minister Lloyd told a television audience recently, "there must be an environmental impact statement. There must be an environmental impact study; that

study must be shared with the community affected."

The government signed the heads of agreement with Oban on February 10th, according to Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis.



MINISTRY OF FINANCE

PUBLIC TREASURY DEPARTMENT

The Treasurer of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas is conducting a new vendor verification exercise to prepare for an upgrade to its digital payment processing system on **June 15**. This will affect all individuals and businesses providing goods and services to the Government.

It is very important for all vendors to participate in this verification exercise so they do not experience any discontinuation of payments. Failure to participate in the vendor verification process will result in the discontinuation of payments.

Vendors must **submit or confirm banking information and email contact information** with the Public Treasury. This must be done by completing a Vendor Verification Form, available online (Go to www.bahamas.gov.bs, go to Forms top left click on vendor verification form and download).

For the past three years, the Public Treasury has been transitioning away from the use of cheque payments and other manual processes. This year, the Treasury plans to eliminate cheque payments all together. Payments will be made by direct deposit. And as of **July 1**, all notifications of payments will be sent by email. This will allow vendors to receive immediate notification when payments are sent to their accounts.

Vendor Verification Process

1. Download Vendor Verification Form
2. Complete Form and Email to controlssection@bahamas.gov.bs
3. Or Fax to 397-5098

Vendor verification forms can also be obtained at the Treasury Department in New Providence, Grand Bahama and Abaco or by request via email controlssection@bahamas.gov.bs, and hand delivered at the Public Treasury, East & North Streets (opposite the Police Head-quarters, East Street)

Vendor Verification Information Required

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For further details, please contact the Public Treasury Department at the following telephone numbers: 242-356-4219, 242-302-0534 or 242-302-0545 242-302-0525.

TREASURER, COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

DPM Introduces Fiscal Responsibility Bill 2018

Continued from / PAGE 1...

It will also require the government to present a Fiscal Impact Analysis along with any new spending proposal that falls outside of the approved budget.

"The proposed legislation is very specific and clear: all of these documents are to be made public on specific dates or time periods, and; the contents of each document must conform to the guidelines in the law."

DPM Turnquest explained that since the new fiscal and debt targets will require a significant adjustment from the current fiscal position, the Bill contemplates a three-year transition period to ensure this is done in an orderly manner.

This time frame, he said will also allow the Ministry of Finance to align its internal resources to deliver on the more rigorous reporting requirements necessary for the public's assessment of the Government's fiscal strategy and performance.

However, the Mr. Turnquest said his ministry is not waiting until the new legislation is passed to start "walking the walk," and that they're developing the new 2018/2019 budget based on the standards set in the new bill, even though the law is not yet in the books.

The bill is not expected to be made law until after the budget debate next month.

"Our budget will embody the principles

off accountability, inter-generational equity, responsibility, stability, transparency, and inclusive growth as the bill calls for.

"Our budget will lower the deficit and it will control the growth in current expenditure. Our budget will take tough decisions to take us on a path to fiscal sustainability.

The legislation would establish an independent five-member fiscal responsibility counsel comprised of civil society professionals with areas of expertise in law, business, economics, accounting and finance.

This team will not be nominated by the government, but independently by the Bahamas Bar Association, The Chamber of Commerce, The University of The Bahamas, The Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants and The Certified Financial Analysis' Society of The Bahamas.

The information regarding the bill will also be open to the public for viewing and Mr. Turnquest said the government encourages the public to give their feedback during this consultation period.

The public can find information on the Bill at the Ministry of Finance's Facebook Page, on the Government's website – www.bahamas.gov.bs – and through traditional media outlets.

The draft Bill is also available for download and the public can submit comments to fiscalresponsibility@bahamas.gov.bs.

Man Shot In Abaco

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Shortly before 2:00am on Sunday, police were called to a business establishment on East Sunrise Highway that was reportedly held up and robbed by two men armed with firearms.

They then robbed the establishment of an undetermined amount of cash before making good their escape on foot.

Police are actively investigating these matters and are appealing to the general

public for any information that they can give, to call them at telephone numbers 350-3107 thru 12, 911/919 or contact the nearest police station.

GOT NEWS?
Please call The Bahama Journal's News TIP LINE at 356-7254 and let us know!



Clifton Field Trip

The Coalition to Save Clifton recently held an Educational Field Trip for students of Albury Sayle Primary School. Presentations were made by Representatives from BREEF, Joe Darville of Save The Bays, a representative from Public Parks and Beaches Authority. The field trip concluded with a beach clean up.

The Coalition to Save Clifton (CSC) is a non-profit NGO made up of concerned citizens who banded together in 1999 with two objectives in mind:

- To prevent the development of a proposed upscale, gated community at Clifton
- To transform the area into a protected land and sea park in the interest

of preserving its unique ecological attributes and ensuring that it can be enjoyed by Bahamians and visitors.

CSC host quarterly Educational field trips, that were designed to equip our young people with tools and information that will help in the fight to keep our environment clean. The participants in a historical tour of the community and environment sessions that teach them about Pollution Solutions, the Ecosystem and Coastal Awareness. At the end of the day participants are engaged in a beach cleanup.

In 2004 the Bahamas government created the land park under The Clifton Heritage Authority. However, the sea park is yet to be established and the fight continues.



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PM TOUTS MARITIME INDUSTRY AS ANOTHER MEANS TO DIVERSIFY THE ECONOMY



► **Christening of the tugboats** – pictured from left: Commander of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Commodore Tellis Bethel, the Right Reverend Gilbert Thompson, Prime Minister, Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis, Lady Holly Knowles, Charlotte Albury, and Captain Ritchie. **BIS Photo/Peter Ramsay**

Clarence A. Bain Building To Be Demolished

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

The Clarence A. Bain building, once the place to have your car licensed and

inspected and to renew your driver's license, has now become an eye-sore and will

be soon be demolished, according to Minister of Transport and Local

Government, Frankie Campbell.

Frankie

Mr. Campbell said.

However, he did reveal that the University of The Bahamas may be able to use the location for its expansion.

"We know that the University of The Bahamas is growing and expanding. It might be better used by them; but I can say that that will not be the used for the Road Traffic anymore," Mr. Campbell said.

After being severely impacted by Hurricane Matthew, the Road Traffic Department relocated from the Clarence A. Bain building to the Eastern Grandstand of the Thomas A. Robinson Stadium. Although the move was said to be temporary, the Road Traffic Department has been in that location since October 2016.

Speaking with this Journal, Mr. Campbell said that the building on University Drive has become home to vagrants since the Road Traffic Department's relocation to the National Sports stadium. He said that the building will be destroyed, as with many other government buildings with the same issue.

"The government has decided that that building needs to be demolished.

"We have a number of government buildings that are infrastructural eye-sores owing to lack of maintenance over the years.

"So, that building is designated to be destroyed and there is still discussion as to what will go back there,"

Sands: No Issue With Gov't Assisting Former Minister

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

The Minister of Health Dr. Duane Sands says he does not have any fundamental issue with the government assisting a former Cabinet Minister Shane Gibson with his medical bills. Mr. Gibson made a request for assistance to the government recently.

Dr. Sands insisted that although Gibson, a former member of parliament for Golden Gates, is facing allegations before the courts of bribery charges, an individual is innocent until proven guilty.

"I don't have any fundamental issues with it. Certainly, I think you have to separate out allegations from known facts and what is factual is that Shane Gibson was a Cabinet Minister on two occasions.

"To that end, he has put a request in to the government of The Bahamas for assistance with medical attention. This is not an unusual request and the government of the Bahamas would have responded accordingly," Dr. Sands said.

"There is a fundamental principle that individuals are innocent until proven guilty and so not withstanding

whatever allegations, until such time as an individual is either exonerated or convicted, they are innocent until proven guilty," Dr. Sands said.

In August last year, during his arraignment the former Minister of Labour and National Insurance, Gibson appeared before the courts with a noticeable leg injury which his attorney said was caused by a boating accident prior to his arrest. However, it has not been confirmed if this is the reason for the request for medical assistance.

Gibson was then charged with several counts of bribery and extortion and was granted \$40,000 bail.

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- Ability to persevere and commit to a three (3) year program
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- Ability to receive constructive feedback
- Giving "EXTRA", with a passion for providing exceptional customer service
- Professional in demeanor, deportment, and dress
- High ethical standards in your work and personal life
- A passion for sales and solicitation in a strong sales culture

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- Bachelor's Degree with a GPA of 3.0 or above or
- An Associate's Degree with a GPA of 3.0 or above, and four (4) BGCSEs with a 'C' grade or above or
- A High School Diploma with a GPA of 2.8 or above, and four (4) BGCSEs with a 'C' grade or above and five (5) years working experience in any capacity

Participants will be assessed on a quarterly basis and must meet all the requirements of the program to be retained in the Apprenticeship Program. Come Grow With Us! Because at Fidelity "We're Good For You!"

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HUMAN RESOURCES

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NYGARD GAVE 22 MILLION TO CANCER ORGANISATIONS

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.

Nothing shows the love for a mother and the kind-heartedness of an individual than that individual giving twenty-two million dollars to organisations to help fight cancer.

Reports show that that is the amount fashion mogul Peter Nygard has given over the years to cancer detection, cancer research, and cures.

Even though Hilka Nygard, fashion mogul Peter Nygard's mother, was a cancer survivor during her lifetime, Peter Nygard remained inspired to give every single year to help other women fight breast cancer.

As he has said,

I particularly zeroed in on cancer and particularly zeroed in on breast cancer. That was the one that affected my customers every single time. If it was not the customer themselves, it was their sister or their cousin or some relative or friend. There was not one person who was not affected by that disease. At one time it was really devastating with people having breasts removed, etc. What we have been able to do since then is quite remarkable in dealing with that disease.

Nygar doesn't just show his commitment through donations; he is involved in the celebration of cancer survivors. Modelling the upcoming seasons' new lines, cancer survivors are the star of all of his fashion shows and have been so for a number of years, as he explains:

Every show I had, breast cancer survivors were the stars. They celebrated their life. Their daughters were in the audience crying because they said a year ago they thought their mothers were dying, but here they were now modelling on stage. So I celebrated their victories like that.

What a thrill that gave me—to be able to take it from research to celebration to victory over that terrible disease. I was very involved with that cause—not just donating money; I was very involved.

Clearly, eradicating cancer is an important goal to Peter Nygard as demonstrated by his extremely generous giving of millions to the

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.

Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and other cancer organisations. News reports show Nygard holding checks with huge amounts such as \$70,000, \$550,000 and \$600,000 at various fashion shows over the years representing some of his giving to cancer foundations.

NYGARD for Life is his charitable platform encompassing a number of initiatives including NYGARD for Life fashion shows featuring cancer survivors, and an annual endowment to CancerCare. They've sponsored a symphony orchestra to play for breast cancer patients while they receive treatment. Other initiatives have included NYGARD International Molecular Biology Breast Cancer Research Unit and Breast Cancer Tumor Bank, and a Mobile Mammography Unit.

Nygar's organisation has sponsored and participated in a number of other cancer awareness initiatives that raised money for cancer research like 'Climb for The Cure' where participants summited Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, which is the highest mountain in Africa; and like 'Run for the Cure' for which he had reached the milestone of having given 1 million t-shirts by 2008.

Twenty-two million dollars is a whole lot of money for one individual to give to a cause. It appears that Nygard's generosity knows no bounds as he has continuously demonstrated his commitment to addressing this challenge.

While many may focus on the dollar amount as representing Nygard's generosity, it's his celebrating the lives of breast cancer survivors in his fashion shows that is the real gift and generosity of spirit. He brings pure joy to the lives of these women who can be seen on stage exuberant and prancing down the runway with such ecstasy at still being present and able to celebrate life.

Kudos to you Peter Nygard for such generosity!

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Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

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E D I T O R I A L

IN TRUMP'S TIME

If there is something like a "Trump Doctrine," it lies in two developments: the boldness with which a declared reliance on coercion and conquest now sits uncomfortably beside America's professed moral authority; and the implications of Trump's ethno-nationalism for how global allies and enemies are conceived.

Trump's bald reliance on strongman tactics is difficult for elites to reconcile with their persistent belief in American exceptionalism. Yet, this is simply the culmination of the last quarter-century's cleaving of U.S. power from its classic justifications.

When commentators bemoan the collapse of the American postwar order or the end of the American Century, what exactly do they mean? The brand of American power that took root in the early days of the Cold War had a series of connected elements.

The starting point was U.S. policymakers' contention that the United States was an exceptional nation, because from its founding it had been committed to the principles of the Declaration of Independence: self-governance, universal equality, and personal liberty. This meant that, unlike its global adversaries, the Soviet Union chief among them, American interests were coterminous with the world's interests.

And for this reason, it should serve as the world's steward and first nation.

For many commentators, Trump's refusal to recertify the deal looks like the final death throes of U.S. global leadership and thus the end of the American Century. Combined with Brexit, the ascendance of Trump to the presidency has produced a palpable sense of disorientation among global leaders, with questions abounding about whether the post-World War II order may be nearly over.

But if we are today witnessing the collapse of this order, it is an unraveling more than a quarter century in the making. While the Trump administration has certainly broken with the conventional decorum and diplomacy of the presidency, Trump's rise is hardly the triggering cause of the breakdown.

Indeed, the new administration is best seen as a culmination, a product of the United States's

steady defection from the very order it was essential in establishing and sustaining.

And yet, the question remains: Can America run the world without allies? That, in essence, is the question raised by US president Donald Trump's decision to pull out of a painstakingly constructed international agreement to restrain Iran's nuclear ambitions.

The unilateral exercise of US power is an idea that has long attracted John Bolton, the White House's newly appointed national security adviser. Speaking in 2000, Mr Bolton suggested: "If I were redoing the [UN] Security Council today, I'd have one permanent member because that's the real reflection of the distribution of power in the world."

Now Mr Bolton is working for a US president who shares his dismissive attitude to international co-operation.

In pulling the US out of the Iran nuclear deal, Mr Trump has rejected personal entreaties from the leaders of France, Germany and the UK. The Iran decision is just the latest and most serious example of the Trump administration's aggressive unilateralism.

Last June, Mr Trump withdrew the US from another big international agreement — the Paris accord on climate change. Next week, the US will take the symbolic step of relocating its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem — a move that has been rejected by all its major allies. Mr Trump is also launching an assault on the global trading system — by threatening to impose massive tariffs, not just on China, but also on key allies such as Japan, Canada and the EU.

These policies are not just "America First". Increasingly, they look like "America Alone".

The Trump administration's stance on Iran is rejected by all the other signatories to the Iran deal (France, Germany, the UK, China, Russia, the EU) — although it does have the support of Israel and Saudi Arabia. Similarly, Mr Trump's approach to trade and climate change has not attracted any significant allied support.

And thus, the word in the wind has to do with how all of this plays out in a world where what happens in the United States ramifies everywhere!

Only time will tell!

THE BAHAMAS
Sun, Sand, Sea and
The Bahama Journal

NO BETTER READING

The advertisement features a collage of newspaper front pages from The Bahama Journal. The main headline on the collage is "Four Bodies Claimed" with a sub-headline "Haitian Burials Imminent". Other visible headlines include "Brush Fire Scorches Acres of Land", "22ND MURDER VICTIM Identified", "Debris Hinders Business For Ferry Operators", and "Alleged Election Fraudster A No-Show In Court". The collage also includes various advertisements for local businesses like "MODERN Hair Boutique", "Hanna's Plumbing Supplies", and "Deans Building Supplies". The background of the advertisement is a scenic view of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore.