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MONDAY - JULY 2ND, 2018

75 CENTS

One Dies, Ten Injured In Boat Explosion

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

The tourism industry in Exuma was tarnished on Saturday morning when a 40-foot Charter boat exploded off Barretarre, killing an

American tourist and injuring ten others.

Six of the ten injured were transported by Air Ambulance to the Princess Margaret Hospital. The other four were transported to Clearwater, Florida by the U.S. Coast Guard with help from the Bahamas Defense Force.

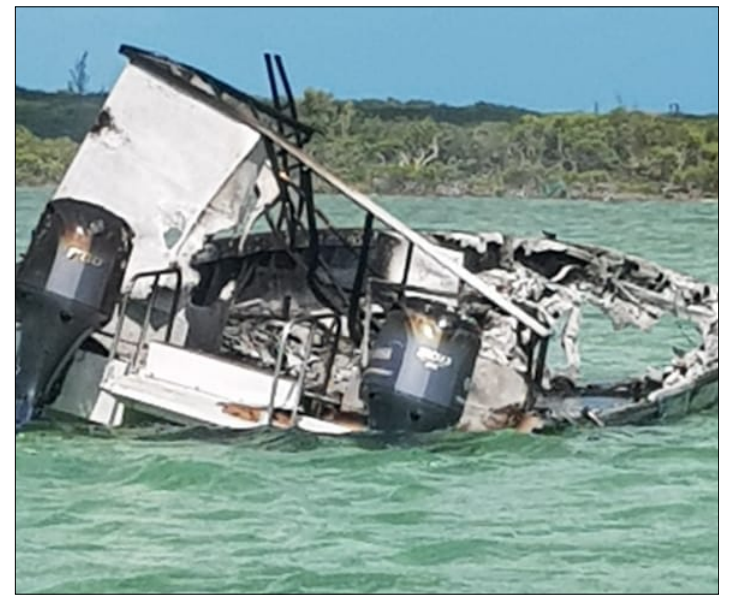
Three of the six persons hospitalized at (PMH) in the wake of the boating accident have been discharged.

Among the discharged was the Bahamian boat operator. However reports said that three other US national remain in hospital.

Two of them are said to be in the Intensive Care

Unit.

Hospital officials said that the individuals under care are from two families that the U.S. Embassy is assisting with regard to their care and future arrangements for transfer to the United States.



▶ A 40-foot Charter boat exploded off Barretarre.

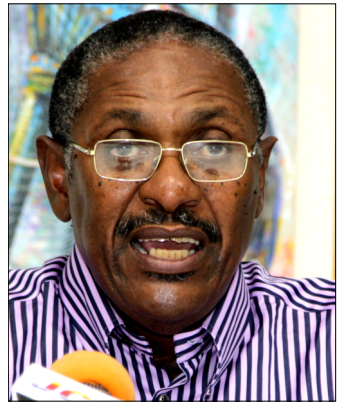
■ See BOAT EXPLOSION / page 2...

Roberts Blasts Treatment of New Doctors

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Former Progressive Liberal Party Cabinet Minister and Member of Parliament Bradley Roberts yesterday criticized the government for being "in stark contrast to the political rhetoric and promises made by the Prime Minister".

■ See NEW DOCTORS / page 2...



▶ Former Progressive Liberal Party Cabinet Minister Bradley Roberts (Journal file photo)

VAT INCREASE DOESN'T MEAN ECONOMIC CONTRACTION, SAYS FS

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Financial Secretary Marlon Johnson says the increase in Value Added Tax (VAT) which became effective yesterday does not necessarily mean a contraction of the economy of The Bahamas.

Appearing on the Love 97 Radio Programme Jones and Company yesterday, Mr. Johnson recalled that back in 2015 when the Christie Administration first introduced VAT, that the government witnessed a 1.1 per cent improvement in the economy on an annual basis.

He also said that the government's main object is to restore fiscal order.

The government has gone on record in the past speaking of its plans to balance the budget over a period of three years.

Mr. Johnson explained that there has been a significant ramp up in unknown debt, costing the country \$360 million.

While the country owes a considerable amount to foreign entities, the financial secretary said that the vast majority of the debt belongs to Bahamian public entities.

He said, "we have a massive capital



▶ Financial Secretary Marlon Johnson (Journal file photo)

infrastructure deficit, meaning that we just have been delaying the repair of roads; we have about six or seven schools that are about past their use for life; we have any number of docks that we need to repair; airports we need to regenerate."

He added, "we have a massive capital deficit that really is a cost that goes unbudgeted. So, yes we have been doing okay, but we weren't in a positive that where, to my view at least, we actually have the infrastructure to match our 2018 standard."

Mr. Johnson also addressed small businesses expecting a cheque from the government.

He said, "the cramp that it puts on these small businesses when an unfunded liability to them is substantial."

He added, "The cramp that it puts on BPL when the government owes then \$25 million is substantial, because it's a cash flow constraint and they have to find the money to buy the oil and we the consumers now have to over that. The money that's owed to NIB has a real real impact. So at some point those chickens come home to roost and you have to actually start to pay them down."

The financial secretary also touched on the criticism coming from the country's business community who suggested that the government should have consulted them before proposing the 4.5 increase on VAT.

■ See VAT INCREASE DOESN'T / page 2...

Police Probe Two Weekend Homicides

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Police are investigating the country's latest homicide which occurred on Cowpen Road just west of Spikenard Road leaving a female dead.

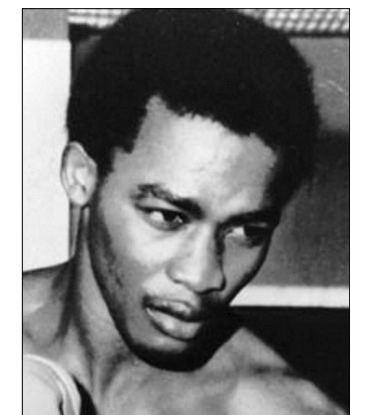
Officers are also actively investigating a shooting in New Providence that occurred on Saturday evening, which left one man dead and another female missing.

■ See POLICE PROBE / page 2...

ELISHA OBED DIES

The sporting community is mourning the passing of one of the nation's most outstanding Sportsmen with the passing of former World junior Middleweight Champion, Oswald Everette Ferguson, better known as Elisha Obed.

■ See OBED DIES / page 2...



▶ Elisha Obed



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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

ONE DIES, TEN INJURED IN BOAT EXPLOSION

Continued from / PAGE 1...

The Ministry of Tourism also commented on the accident yesterday saying that the Exuma Tourism Team and the Ministry's Visitor Relations Unite (VRU) has been working to comfort and care for those on the boat, their families and friends.

The ministry alongside the VRU said that they are also in the process of coordinating with the Ministry of Health to provide as much relief to these visitors during this difficult time.

It is speculated that the explosion occurred on the outboard Tourist Charter boat either from fuel leak, or accumulated fumes built up over time which could have been ignited when the electronics on the boat were engaged causing a spark.

The boat owned by Pat Smith of Exuma is normally hired to take visitors on tours of the Exuma Cays.



▶ A 40-foot Charter boat exploded off Barretarre.

ELISHA OBED DIES

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Obed, who passed away last week after a long illness.

In 1973 Obed won all twelve fights he had that year. In 1974, he scored four-teen victories, losing one bout.

On 21 January, 1975, Obed defeated Ferdinand Marcotte in the eleventh round to win the North American Junior Middleweight title.

On 13th November, 1975, in Paris, France, Obed became the first Bahamian to win a world boxing title. He won the world junior Middleweight title, defeating Miguel DeOlivera, with an eleventh round knockout. Obed retired in 1988. Over a 21 year career, he had 126 pro fights, winning 89, losing 21 and three no contests.

VAT INCREASE DOESN'T MEAN ECONOMIC CONTRACTION, SAYS FS

Continued from / PAGE 1...

He said, "I've been a part of budgets from 1991 to 2001 and again in 2018, and in all of my time, going back to (former Minister of Finance) Paul Adderley, I've never once from any budget seen that the government consult anybody on tax increases."

He acknowledged that fact that the increase in VAT was

different because it was an introduction of a brand new tax which created opportunities for consultation in the past.

He added, "We saw considerable tax increases in my first go around. Remember when I started cars were 35 per cent. They're 65 per cent now. There were no business licenses I came into government, but there was a business license put on all busi-

nesses in The Bahamas with zero consultation."

"So you can make the argument that yes the government can consult or should consult, but that is truly a policy decision," He said

Mr. Johnson also suggests taking a serious look at diversifying the economy, rather than solely focusing on paying off the country's debts.

He suggested taking a look at the Blue Economy and the Digital Economy as models.

Police Probe Two Weekend Homicides

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Reports said that shortly before 10 pm a female and two males were sitting in a vehicle outside of a home on Peach Street, Pastel Gardens, when the man sitting in the rear of the vehicle produced a firearm and shot the male and female.

The male victim was able to escape the car as he ran to a house for assistance, but the suspect drove off in a brown Nissan Cube with the license number AM9396 with the female who is believed to be injured.

The injured male was taken into hospital and is listed in serious but stable condition.

Police in Eleuthera are also investigating four armed robberies that occurred over the weekend.

In the first incident, reports said that shortly after 3pm on Saturday, a female was on a beach at Rainbow Bay when she was approached by two men, one armed with a knife who robbed her of her cash before running away.

The second incident occurred shortly before 11pm on Saturday when a man outside of a wash house on Joe Farrington

Road was approached by three men, one armed with a firearm, who robbed him of cell phones before getting into his silver Toyota Passo license number AK7455 and speeding away.

In the third incident, shortly after 11pm on Saturday, three armed men entered the office of a motel on St. Albans Drive and held an employee at bay while robbing the establishment of cash before making their escape.

The fourth incident occurred shortly after 4am on Sunday when a male selling snack outside of a wash house on Carmichael Road before he was approached by two men, one armed with a firearm, who robbed him of cash before getting into a silver vehicle license number AK7445 and speeding away.

Police also need help in their quest to find 22 year old Jovan Amanda Sands of Forest, Exuma.

She is said to be about 5'7" tall, slim build, and weighing approximately 170lbs, and dark skinned.

She was last seen leaving her home on Thursday 28th June, 2018.

Roberts Blasts Treatment of New Doctors

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Mr. Roberts said that "the Minnis government is all talk and not committed to building capacity in and modernizing the country's healthcare delivery system."

He said that Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis recognized the importance of student doctors and the importance to provide necessary manpower within the healthcare system as prime minister and reiterated the government's commitment to reforming and modernizing healthcare in The Bahamas.

However Mr. Roberts said, "this rhetoric is all fine and dandy, but the behavior and the policy of the FNM government are in stark contrast to the political rhetoric and promises made by the Prime Minister."

He added, "If Dr. Minnis

admits to the importance of the graduates to building institutional capacity and readily admits to manpower shortfalls in the system, then why the decision to abandon some nine doctors from the 2018 graduation class?"

Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands addressed this issue in the House of Assembly last week when he said that the Ministry of Health is working with the assistance of the CARICOM Secretariat along with other regional entities to accommodate the growing number of graduating doctors in the country.

So far, the minister has been able to secure internship opportunities in the Cayman Islands.

Mr. Roberts further questioned the status of the new hospital assigned to Grand Bahama, the mini hospital in Abaco, the hospital under con-

struction in Cat Island and the completed clinic in Andros.

He said, "Does The Bahamas have a medical doctor resident on every Family Island? Has the government continued the expansion and refurbishment program it inherited in May 2017?"

He also questioned the status of the expansion project for the Princess Margaret Hospital, inclusive of the maternity ward, the old emergency room and the public wards.

He added, "If the FNM government cannot commit to the fundamental policy of employing and training Bahamian doctors, then it is only paying lip service to the principle of providing universal healthcare, reforming and modernizing the healthcare delivery system to facilitate this, and eliminating the manpower shortfall in the health system."



PUBLIC NOTICE

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTHERN RECREATION GROUNDS

The Government of The Bahamas through the Ministry of Public Works seeks to engage suitable contractors for Phase 1 of the Redevelopment of the Southern Recreation Grounds located Baillou Hill Road, and Cockburn Street.

Schedule for Tender Opening

Companies interested in tendering may obtain Tender Documents at:

Architectural Section
Department of Public Works
1st Floor North Wing
Ministry of Public Works
John F. Kennedy Drive
Nassau, Bahamas

A compact disc containing the Tender documents may be collected between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. for a non-refundable fee of \$25.00 as of Tuesday, 25th June, 2018. Applicants will be responsible to print hard copies of the Tender Documents for their use. Documents are to be completed in accordance with the instructions therein. The non-refundable fee must be paid in cash at the Accounts Section on the 3rd floor of the Ministry of Public Works Building, John F. Kennedy Drive.

All tender bids **must** include the following:

- Completed Tender Document
- Completed pre-qualification document
- Current Business License,
- Current National Insurance Compliance Letter
- Value Added Tax Registrant Number or Tax Identification Number (T.I.N.) Registrant Number.
- Current Tax Compliance Certificate.
- Proof of ability to obtain Contractors All Risk Insurance for the contract value and period.

Sealed Tender submissions should be addressed to the **Permanent Secretary Ministry Of Public Works** and are to be deposited in the Tender Box located at:

Tenders Board
Ministry of Finance
Ground Floor
Sir Cecil Wallace Whitfield Building
West Bay Street
Nassau, Bahamas

Tender submissions will be received no later than 10:00 am, Tuesday 24th July 2018.

All persons who submit bids are invited to attend the Tender opening at 10:00am, 24th July 2018.

Please note the Ministry Of Public Works reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

"BAHAMIAN CONTRACTORS MISSING OUT ON THE POINTE"

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
Journal Staff Writer

The Bahamas Contractors Association (BCA) is irate and their depending on the government to right a long-standing wrong, at a multi-million-dollar downtown hotel project.

The BCA is urging the government to consider Bahamian contractors to work on the Pointe Development.

Association President, Leonard Sands, said while there's the claim only specialized workers are needed, this has proven untrue.

"What is now happening is that the specialized skills that they were claiming that

only these persons can do, we see those same persons laying blocks and doing other types of work that Bahamians do all the time," he said.

"And so we're just stressing the fact that we have a lot of persons sitting down at home in construction who ask us to ask the question well why can't we be used to do that kind of stuff.

"So as an association, we have a responsibility to speak to that and say let us ask the question why can't my local brothers and sisters be used to do that work because they can do it."

Mr. Sands said The BCA is calling on the government to be honest with them.

"We're part of a project that the ratio would be 70 per cent Bahamian and 30 per cent Chinese.

"That specific information has not been shared with us and we'd like to know when because we have a large group of people in our community who are contractors, laborers who are very skilled trades persons who are sitting out there wanting to know when is their time to work on the development."

Mr. Sands added that there are more than enough Bahamian contractors readily available to do the job.

"We have anywhere between probably 30 to 40 thousand people who work in

construction on any given year so whoever they need, is available to pull from," he said.

"Every aspect of construction is delivered as a service by contractors.

"One of the arguments we continue to hear them make is that we don't have to have a registry of all the Bahamian laborers. We don't have to have a registry.

"Go to the business license department and look at the exhausted list of contractors you have. Those contractors represent companies that have the workforce to do everything under the sun in The Bahamas."

Sands said the current ratio is not representing

70/30 Bahamians to Chinese, and is almost the reverse, adding that at last report,

there were 23 Bahamians and 70 odd Chinese working on the project.

GOT NEWS?
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Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

Implements Enhanced Carry-on Bag Screening Procedures for Airports with Scheduled Commercial Flights with Last Point of Departure to the United States of America

With the advent of the busy summer travel season, the traveling public is advised that powder like substances 12oz (350ml) or larger are now prohibited in the cabin of aircrafts and as such must be placed in checked luggage. Medically prescribed powder-like substances, baby formula and human remains are exempt and can be placed in carry-on bags. Other powder like substances such as sugar, flour, cosmetics and coffee and others that are more than 12oz (350ml) must be placed in the traveler's checked luggage.

As a result of the busy summer travel season and the added security measures, the travelling public is reminded to arrive 3 hours ahead of time for US bound flights.

For persons travelling on early morning flights between 6:00am and 7:00am please note that the doors of the airport open to the public at 4:00am. Most airlines with early flights begin check in at 4:30am. United States Customs and Border Protection Pre-Clearance open at 5:15am.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is working with local aviation stakeholders to ensure these enhanced security measures are fully implemented.

The major implementation of these changes at LPIA will fall under the purview of the Airport Authority (AA) and the airlines that service US destinations. The AA is the entity responsible for security at LPIA. As the airport operator, Nassau Airport Development Company Ltd. will work with AA and the airlines to support the implementation of the changes and the passenger experience at LPIA.

These enhanced security measures will help to secure all commercial flights departing Bahamian airports that serve as last points of departure to the United States.

PM Defends VAT On FI Tour

Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Hubert Minnis in an effort to sell the controversial tax increases visited several communities around the Family Islands over the last several days.

Dr. Minnis discussed with residents the 2018/19 National Budget and how it would impact their lives, and the Value Added Tax increase to 12 percent.

Town Hall Meetings were held in church halls and community centres where residents turned up to hear about what provisions are in the Budget and what they should be taking advantage of.

The Prime Minister started his week-long tour on Monday, June 25 and ended on Saturday, June 30, visiting Andros – South, Central and North, then onto Exuma, Cat Island, Rum Cay, San Salvador and North and South Long Island.

The Prime Minister spoke passionately about future plans for the country, particularly the poor, vulnerable and young people.

"It is very important to understand and appreciate the Budget as it relates to the future development of The Bahamas," the Prime Minister said. "It is the function of a government to leave behind a better country."

According to the Prime Minister, several things are of particular importance to him as he relates to the Budget.

Growing up poor, he told his audience that the National Budget aims at decreasing poverty level and increasing opportunities for the middle class for a better way of life.

Another area he said which is "dear and personal" to him is for Family Island residents to have the same opportunities as residents in New Providence.

The Prime Minister listed more provisions within the Budget such as education, health care and home ownership.

In September 2019, qualifying students would receive free education to attend at the University of The Bahamas. And, they would also be granted \$500 a month to assist with lodging.

And, beginning September 2018, full time students enrolled in the Bahamas Technical & Vocational Institute to study a trade would receive free education.

Already the top 4 students who graduated from UB with a degree in Economics will be contracted by the Government to work at the Ministry of Finance, and granted scholarships to obtain Masters Degrees abroad. They would be subsequently hired by the Government in line with a 10-year vision plan to improve the Public Service.

Regarding the increase in VAT, the Prime Minister said that it was a hard decision to make, but the aim is to grow the economy.

"As Prime Minister you must make diffi-

cult decisions. I would prefer to lose an election than lose a country," he said.

The government considered raising VAT from 7.5 percent to 10 percent but determined that was not enough to deal with fiscal pressures it encountered, the Prime Minister told Exuma. The Government considered raising VAT to 15 percent but determined that would have inflicted "too much hardship" on Bahamians, so it settled on 12 percent, which it was determined is necessary to save future generations of Bahamians. A significant portion of the new VAT revenues will be directed back into the economy through the payments of arrears to various creditors, among other things, he explained.

"I don't ever want to see what is happening in Barbados happen here," he said. "I never want to pick up the phone and call an international lending agency... you have to be in control of your own country."

"We should not lose sight of the fact that the Government has been mindful, in the development of its plan to provide tax relief to the most vulnerable in our society," the Prime Minister said.

He noted that amongst those measures are the elimination of VAT on breadbasket items, medicines, residential property insurance, as well as on electricity and water for a large number of persons.

Fidelity Bank Apprenticeship Program

Across The Fidelity Group, we are driven by a clear purpose – making a positive difference in the lives of our colleagues so they can make a positive difference in the lives of customers and in the communities we serve! Therefore, in keeping with our guiding principles, and in support of our continued growth, we are seeking to attract PHDs to join our team. Job applicants who are Passionate, Highly Motivated & Driven to Succeed and wish to become Banking and Finance Apprentices should apply.

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- One year in Deposit Administration, Business Development, and Customer Service
- One year in Loan Administration and Lending
- One year in Operations, Compliance, and Special Projects

To service our customers while being trained, coached and mentored requires that participants in our Apprenticeship Program can work flexible hours in any of our branches in New Providence, Freeport or Marsh Harbour, and are available to work on Saturdays as required. Fidelity offers Saturday Banking at most of its branches.

We hire for attitude and potential, then train for skills. So what skills and qualifications will participants need? Because our training is extensive, participants will not need any previous experience in Banking or Finance. However, to succeed in this program requires that you already possess the following attributes:

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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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PLEASE SUBMIT RESUME AND TRANSCRIPT BEFORE: April 20th, 2018

HUMAN RESOURCES

Re: Apprentice Program

51 Frederick Street | P.O. Box N-4853 | Nassau | F: 328.1108
careers@fidelitybahamas.com



PUBLIC NOTICE
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL PLANNING

The public is hereby notified that a Site Plan Application (SPA/6/2018) on behalf of Wynn Development Limited is being reviewed by the Department of Physical Planning for presentation to the Town Planning Committee.

The proposed tract of land which, amounts to 3.56 acres, is situated on the northern side of West Bay Street and, approximately, 430 feet east of the Goodman's Bay Park. It is zoned for multi-family residential land use, conference facilities, offices and boutique hotels, and for purposes incidental to those uses.

The proposed development includes condominium residential units and condo-hotel residences with related facilities on six (6) levels and a parking garage in the basement.

The preliminary site plan and file for the proposed development are available for viewing at the Department of Physical Planning, located in the Aventura Plaza on John F. Kennedy Drive, during normal working hours.

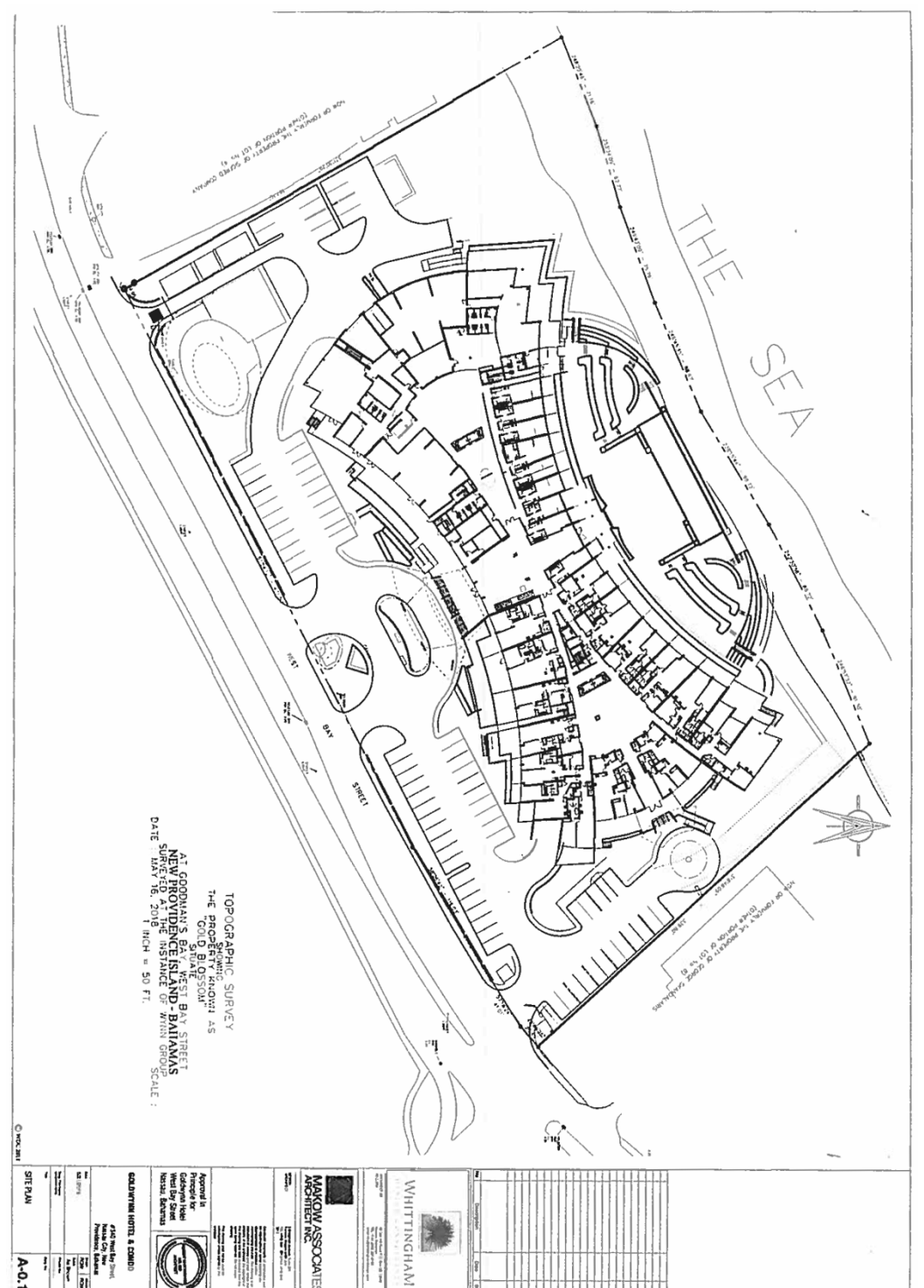
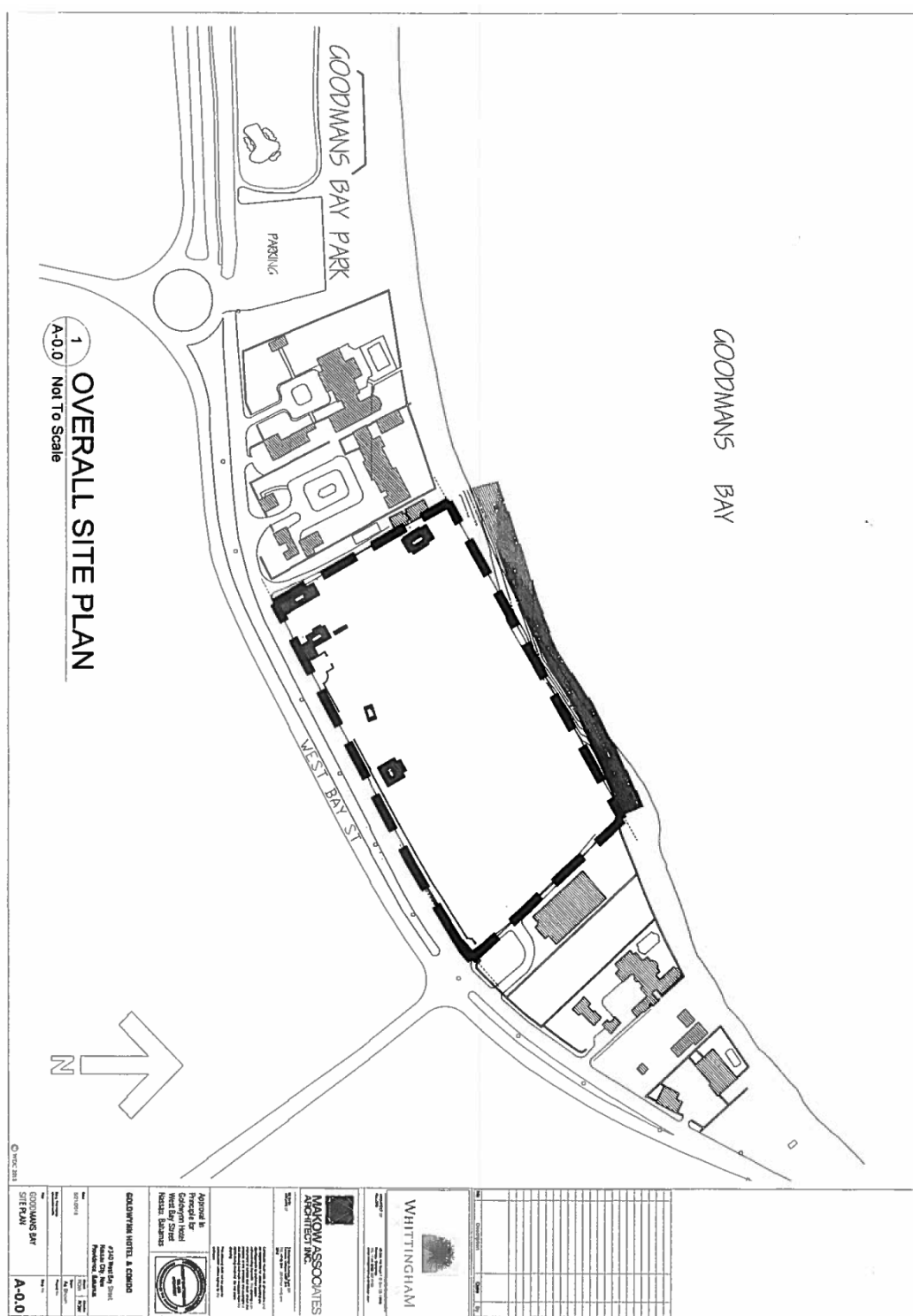
Interested persons and organisations are invited to review the information on file and provide written comments to the Acting Director of Physical Planning within twenty-one (21) days of the date of this notice.

Submissions should be made via P.O. Box N -1611 Nassau, Bahamas or fax (242) 328 – 3206.

Further inquiries should be made to the Acting Director via Tel: (242)322-7550/2 or (242)328-3202 or CHARLESZONICLE@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS

Signed

Charles B. Zonicle
Acting Director of Physical Planning



A TOOL FOR STUDYING BUSINESS RISKS

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.

So you've seen signs that your business is in trouble. Where do you begin to address threats to your business?

A key method for addressing threats begins with understanding the threats in a context that makes them easy to work with and allows for a more comprehensive approach.

It can take the form of a **SWOT analysis** and fits well with looking at risks from the various areas covered previously in "Determining Your Business Viability".

The **SWOT analysis** is a great tool that you can use for further studying both the external and internal risks for your business, and it provides a key to formulating strategies for addressing it.

SWOT stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Strength and weaknesses refer to those internal factors within your company while opportunities and threats relate to factors external to the company.

When determining your business strengths, you simply look within your organization at the things that tend to make it easier for your company to do business or achieve its business goals.

An example of a great strength a company can have is if your staff is highly skilled. A skilled workforce can lead to less errors and faster production times, which is a great boost to a business. Other areas of strengths could include, reputation for quality product or service, a great business location, or maybe loyal staff members.

Weaknesses, on the other hand can be a bit elusive if you are not prepared to look honestly at your business and see what could be working against your business. One weakness could be a poor accounts receivables process where you struggle to collect monies owed to the business.

Other weaknesses could include high inventory of products that are becoming obsolete, poor customer relations, or inability to consistently purchase resources from suppliers.

Opportunities are those gifts that are usually right in front of our eyes that we may still fail to see cause it's not what we are used

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.

to. Yet, they can represent the biggest potential for business growth and profits. An example of an opportunity can be a new church being built on the same street as a ladies' hat shop; however, this example is a bit more obvious than others.

Other opportunities include little competition or poor quality of competitors' product, new technology coming on stream that your company can easily adopt, or your company's ability to offer add on services due to the unique skills of individuals working within your organization.

As discussed before, threats can come from several areas, and when not dealt with, can debilitate a business. A threat can include the relocation of a university, for example, if your business is a fast food restaurant nearby that relies on the students from that university to patronize your business.

A type of threat not often discussed is a political threat. If a new political party has spent time on the campaign trail promising to tax businesses more for some reason or another, a business should pay attention to that and determine how to protect itself should that political party become the government of the day.

The most common threat businesses tend to notice is a similar business opening near them or with the intention to compete with them. There can be many subtle threats also such as more and more people changing their buying habits—like shopping online as opposed to going to shopping malls and other stores, or watching movies at home versus going to the theatres.

The key is to not stand idly by while these threats endanger your prospects.

The question is what to do when faced with such risks and threats to a business and how can this tool help? We'll discover the answers in our next edition.

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Wendall K. Jones
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

The Bahama Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Kimaley P. Jones
Vice President/Operations

E D I T O R I A L

MARK HUMES SPOKE

Mark Humes, MP Fort Charlotte is a man who believes that he can and should say whatever he wishes on certain church-related matters that are – as such – inherently controversial.

In this regard, then, tune in to listen in a Mark Humes who recently cranked up and did some of the stuff politicians usually do when they run out of things sensible they might have once upon a time spoken.

What Humes did was to give the people some brand new old advice as in: -- "...I say unto the people, render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God, the things that are God's."

And thus to his main point in tacitly two-tongued [and perhaps even one tongue of the forked variety] to say to the people in their own people's time: -- "Let it go. Seven and a half percent, 12 percent, whatever, just let it go. Do not fret over the small things because the things that you render unto Caesar shall pass away and only the things that you render to God will last. Just remember that He will not put more on you than you can bear.

For our part, all we say is that he should think a bit more; thus might he resist yielding to the fool's temptation to making claims that are either unsupported or unconscionably vague as on that occasion when he claimed that some [unnamed] churches are predatory.

If you claim it, name it!
If you are prepared to do neither: -- Shut up and stay quiet!

[And thus today], as Independence celebrations and observances continue, we pause to comment on but one of Humes' more preposterously packaged and to boot, we dare suggest, venom-laced commentaries.

As Mark Humes fumes and rants: -- **"Tax all of these predatory agencies who suck from the society and do not positively contribute to the [upliftment] of the moral fiber. That's what I would say--- Yeah, I said the churches---There are a lot of predatory churches in this country too. I [have] never seen a country so full**

of churches and the society gets worse and worse and worse and worse--- Tax them too!"

Such are the vagaries of life in the world of politics that there can come that sweetest of days when some of the lowly ones are lifted high and when – conversely – some of the most highly perched and placed can and do come tumbling down; thus some shades of Humpty Dumpty Down all over again.

And thus, with these thoughts in mind, we not only note how another day has melted away, but as to how in a matter of days, the Bahamian people will celebrate the forty-fifth anniversary of that time [July 10th, 1973] when Great Britain's Union Jack was lowered and that of the Bahamian Nation and People was hoisted.

That was a great time in the lives of men and women who had in the long ago years faced each other as masters and as slaves and who therefore in that wonderful time then faced each other as citizens as equals under the law—and thus together they prayed for their Bahamaland.

What an utter travesty of the living Word of God.

If the truth be told, He who holds all things and people in the hollow of His mighty hand knows all and is judge of all things and people.

And yet, we are also quite aware that He will make the distinctions that matter as regards reward and punishment.

Thus we remind all and sundry – inclusive of Mark Humes that woe shall befall all who decree iniquity and who sometimes impose burdensome taxes on the poor.

Therefore let it be known and understood that the truth is not in Mark Humes when he sought to suggest that the VAT+ tax which came in effect this Sunday past has anything to do had anything to do with matters celestial a la: -- He will not put more on you than you can bear."

The tax in question was imposed by the Hubert Minnis-led administration in what they described [once upon a time] as the People's Time!

THE BAHAMAS
Sun, Sand, Sea ... and the
The Bahama Journal

Four Bodies Claimed
Brush Fire Scorches Acres of Land
22ND MURDER VICTIM Identified
GO TANKLESS
Debris Hinders Business For Ferry Operators

NO BETTER READING

SHUT-EYE
WILL THEY RISE AGAIN

R.I.P.

GONE... BUT STILL REAL MEN.

R.I.P.

TRAVIS MILLER CHIPMAN MCALPINE

2017 - 2018

#DORSETT 2018



► Dr. Desiree Cox (**third from left**), the first Bahamian Rhodes Scholar and CEO & Founder of The Healinc., groomed entrepreneurs and tech talent during the 2018 Healinc Future-Health Hackathon cruise including Jamaican-American medical student Brittney Eason and Bahamians Robin Lightbourne and Mike Fountain.

BAHAMIAN RHODES SCHOLAR LEADS THE WAY IN CARIBBEAN “FUTURE-HEALTH” REVOLUTION

● *Dr. Desiree Cox Hosts Future-Health Innovation Hackathon for Students and Entrepreneurs from around the Caribbean*

The HEALinc Enterprise (HEALinc), an innovation incubator led by founder and CEO, Dr. Desiree Cox, hosted its first annual “Future-Health” Hackathon aboard Royal Caribbean’s Empress of the Seas from May 11 – 14. This unique, immersive experience brought together entrepreneurs, postgraduates, thought leaders and faculty from the Bahamas and the United States who are pioneering the design of innovative healthcare technologies. The event was held in partnership with the University of Central Florida (UCF), led by David Metcalfe, and the National Science Foundation (iCorps) and included three days of exploration, networking and collaboration to help this tal-

ented group accelerate the progress and commercialization of their healthcare projects.

“The global healthcare industry is moving faster than ever, and the Bahamas, the Caribbean and Latin America are falling behind,” said Dr. Cox. “Through fast-paced, all-encompassing events like this one, we’re cultivating a spirit of enterprise and crowd-collaboration among creatives and developers from our region whose ideas might never come to life without proper mentorship, access to resources, and support.” During the boot-camp style cruise, the participants were exposed to the key aspects of building a start-up including leadership skills, design-thinking, business-

model canvas development, finding the ‘product-market’ fit of their innovation, serial prototyping, and more.

“Our goal at HEALinc is to activate 1 billion healthcare creatives by 2028,” Dr. Cox continued, “and from the level of imagination and talent that we saw on display during the Hackathon cruise, we’re off to an incredible start.”

The Hackathon is a part of a 6-week intensive program that began with a 48 hour “Tech Hack,” which was immediately followed by the cruise. The participants will use the rest of the period to develop their prototypes and refine pitches for investors as they seek to obtain seed funding for their start-ups. Those teams whose prototypes show great

potential will be invited to participate in a start-up ‘Boost’ weekend at the Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship at Santa Clara University in Silicon Valley, California. This event will lead a select group to participate in the inaugural HEALinc Global Future-Health Innovation Summit, which will be held in The Bahamas in October.

About The HEALinc Enterprise

The HEALinc Enterprise (HEALinc) is a one-of-a-kind future-health innovation incubator focused on the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region of the Americas. We are the Y combinator for the Caribbean and

the future-health innovation testing laboratory for the world. Based in Nassau, Bahamas, we are empowering creatives, tech talent, researchers, health intrapreneurs, and entrepreneurs from LAC countries and diaspora communities to create the future of our region’s health. Our network brings together top talent, thought leaders, developers and the best-of-the-best in future health forecasting and tech to help start-ups and Small Growing Businesses (SGBs) bring paradigm-shifting innovation to life. Our goal is to create a movement of 1 billion Healthcare Creatives by 2028. Learn more about how we are creating the future of healthcare at www.theHEALinc.com.



GOVERNMENT NOTICE

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Residential Waste Collection New Providence

The Government of The Bahamas is inviting Tenders for the weekly collection of residential waste in New Providence.

Interested parties may obtain further information, including eligibility to participate and may collect the bidding document(s) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per document, as of July 2, 2018 from:

The Department of Environmental Health Services
Farrington Road
Nassau Bahamas
Tel: (242)-302-5150, 322-8037

Between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

The method of payment will be certified cheque or cash. Tenders are to be submitted in triplicate (3) in a sealed envelope(s) and addressed to:

The Tenders Board
c/o The Financial Secretary
Ministry of Finance
Cecil V. Wallace Whitfield Centre
P.O. Box N-3017
Nassau, The Bahamas

No later than 4:30 p.m. on the 13th August, 2018

Tenders will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on the 14th August, 2018 at the office of the Tenders Board, Ministry of Finance. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all Tenders.

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Local Businesses React To VAT Increase

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

The increase Value Added Tax by 60 per cent came into effect yesterday with some businesses saying that they are still not prepared.

The decision to increase VAT to 12 per cent came during the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance's budget communication on May 30th.

Perfume Bar Manager, Sandy Martinez is one of those who said that her company isn't ready at all and it all boils down to the government not giving them enough time.

She said, "my business as well as many other businesses I feel are not prepared for

the VAT increase. I think the time and notice is too short and I think generally we are going to lose in the long run.

"We are already feeling it; customers are already coming in saying they want to try and buy early to defray the VAT cost, so it's not looking good according to what I'm hearing out there on the streets."

Midtown Gifts Owner, Calvin Johnson is a little more optimistic. He expects his sales to stay afloat if the tourism market thrives.

"Personally I'm prepared to make any adjustments in my personal life to mitigate any loss in income, but as a business, I think us downtown will continue to well as long as tourism arrivals are up," Mr. Johnson said.

Furniture Plus Chief Financial Officer Enie Blues said that they too expect to see a decline in sales at the beginning of the initial rise in VAT.

He said it happened when VAT was introduced initially at 7.5 per cent and shortly after sales picked up again and as a result, he anticipates the same will happen with the VAT increase.

However, he assured the Bahama Journal that they are prepared, and for his business it will only take the flick of a switch.

Finance Minister Peter Turnquest in his budget communication on May 30th said the 60 per cent increase in VAT is necessary to help get the country's fiscal house in order.



► Tevion Lloyd receiving his certificate of participation from Commodore Tellis Bethel at the 3rd Annual Rangers Band Camp on June 29, 2018. Standing from left: Chief Petty Officer Pedro Bain, Commodore Bethel, Tevion Lloyd, Chief Petty Officer Ian Morley and Petty Officer David Turner. (RBDF Photos by Marine Seaman Kyle Smith)

RBDF Rangers Complete Music Workshop

A total of 38 Royal Bahamas Defence Force Rangers have been empowered with musical talents after successfully completing the 3rd Annual Rangers Band Camp on June 29, 2018.

This was the culmination of a 2-week program where participants between the ages of 12 and 18 years volunteered themselves to take part in an activity that will provide them with an extra skill that will better prepare them for life.

The young musicians were taught by Defence Force music instructors within the Rangers program, some of whom were former members of the Defence Force Band. The workshop comprised both theory and practical lessons. Rangers were also taught how to play various instruments-- woodwind, brass and percussion.

Bringing remarks at the brief ceremony was Commander Defence Force, Commodore Tellis Bethel, who lauded the Rangers Director, supervisors and instructors for their hard work, and the future musicians for taking a bold step in developing skills that can benefit them in the future.

"A number of you joined this camp not knowing how to read music or play an instrument, said Commodore

Bethel". Your persistence in wanting to learn is evident as you played so skillfully today, and we applaud you.

Conducted at the R. M. Bailey Senior High School, the class consisted of Rangers from approximately 20 junior and senior high schools in the country, including schools in Abaco and North Eleuthera.

Ranger Cadet Davaughn Major, a student of Patrick J. Bethel High School in Abaco, was appointed, Drum Major of the Rangers Band.

Also in attendance were Mr. Collin Johnson, Principal of R. M. Bailey Senior High School, along with the school's Vice Principal Mrs. Shari Russell, and Senior Mistress Mrs. Sheralyn Murphy. Numerous parents, relatives and friends were also on hand to encourage the young Rangers.

Led by Petty Officer David Turner, the Rangers Band provided several stellar selections during the ceremony. They performed the hit song "My Heart Will Go On" by Celine Dion, and also The Bahamas' National Anthem.

The Rangers music students were presented with certificates of participation from Commodore Bethel, and look forward to enhancing the world of music.



SPOTLIGHT ON BAIN GRANTS TOWN

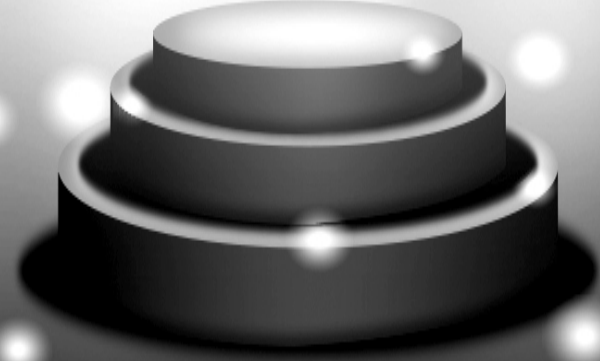
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