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VOL. 30 - NO. 267

FRIDAY - NOVEMBER 23RD, 2018

75 CENTS

Swine Flu Cases Emerge

MINISTER ENCOURAGES WIDESPREAD VACCINATIONS

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

Two confirmed cases of swine flu and so far one death here in The Bahamas have prompted a renewed call for residents to be vaccinated.

The Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands said some Bahamians are reluctant to do so, when nearly half of the population should, when we look at individuals such as health care workers, young daycare providers, children, people that interact with children less than five years of age, the elderly," he said.

The Minister added to the list "people that have chronic non-communicable diseases, heart disease, kidney failure, liver

■ See SWINE / page 2...

D'Aguilar: Bahamas Developing Reputation for World-Class Service

The Bahamas is well on its way to developing a reputation as a destination with superb, outstanding, world-class service," Minister of Tourism and Aviation, the Hon. Dionisio D'Aguilar said.

Addressing The Bahamas' Ministry of Tourism and Aviation's Service of Thanksgiving held at Christ Church Cathedral yesterday, Minister D'Aguilar said the delivery of world-class service is to become the key trait, the hallmark, of The Bahamas vacation experience.



▶ Minister of Tourism Dionisio D'Aguilar (File photo)

■ See D'AGUILAR / page 2...

Dames responds to call for his resignation

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

National Security Minister Marvin Dames has responded to an online petition which called for his resignation in the wake of what some believe was negligence on the part of Police and Defence Force personnel.

The criticism of the

Minister arose as a result of the initial search and rescue efforts for missing pilot Byron Ferguson. The Minister indicated that no flight plan was filed in the incident and it was later confirmed he was incorrect.

The Minister told reporters yesterday that he

■ See DAMES / page 2...



▶ National Security Minister, Marvin Dames (File photo)

Organic lettuce farmer encourages buying locally

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

A local farmer says there is no need for alarm over the recall of romaine lettuce; that is, once consumers purchase home grown organically pro-

duced greens. "The recall refers to the imported lettuce, the lettuce produced in North America and I highly, strongly, encourage all consumers to follow the directions of discarding that product," said Field

to Fork Owner, Dr. Selima Hauber.

"We do not want to take the risk of becoming ill by the E. coli bacteria," she added.

"However, there are a number of farmers myself included, locally, who are

growing romaine.

"Here at Field to Fork, we use sustainable organic methods and I know for sure that BAIC is also marketing lettuce by farmers throughout the

■ See ORGANIC / page 4...

Tourism's marketing strategy bearing fruit for Family Island destinations

The Ministry of Tourism's marketing strategy of promoting The Bahamas as a 16-island destination is yielding the desired results of creating a distinct brand identity for individual islands of the Family Islands of The Bahamas.

The resulting impact

has been a "whopping" 20 per cent increase in visitor arrivals to the Family Islands between January and August of 2018 when compared to the same time period last year.

An added benefit of the strategy, Tourism officials report, has been an increase in investor confi-

dence in The Bahamas that is "evidenced by a deeper stake in our destination being secured by the leading cruise lines; the construction of boutique resorts throughout our islands; the building and expansion of marinas and the coming on stream of a whole gamut of new

touristic offerings."

Addressing a Service of Thanksgiving for management and staff of The Bahamas' Ministry of Tourism and Aviation at Christ Church Cathedral, Thursday, November 22, 2018, Minister of Tourism

■ See TOURISM / page 8...

Western Air adds 50 seater jets

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
 Journal Staff Writer

Western Air - the largest privately owned local airline in the country, has completed the Bahamas Civil Aviation Authority's certificate process and is

now adding 50 seater jets to its services.

These new jets are powered by Rolls Royce advanced high efficiency engines and have the ability to fly to international

■ See WESTERN / page 8...



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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

Swine Flu Cases Emerge

Continued from / PAGE 1...

disease, neurologic problems, blood or metabolic disorders including diabetes, people who have HIV, or are otherwise immunosuppressed. In addition, people who are on steroids, pregnant women, people that live in nursing homes or other chronic care facilities,

people with extreme obesity.

"Which when we're talking about The Bahamas, we're talking about a significant part of our population with a BM greater than 40," he said.

The minister said the flu vaccination has proven effective.

"The vaccine probably reduces your risk by about

40-60 per cent; it doesn't eliminate it, but it is thought that for those strains of flu that are in the vaccine, that if you were to still get them, that you would get a milder form of influenza," he said.

"And if you look at the number of people who die every year from influenza around the world, there are thousands of people who die

from influenza."

According to the Health Minister, 80,000 people died from influenza in the U.S in 2017-2018.

However, Dr. Sands said it's a bit difficult to say what that figure is locally, considering such deaths are given the broad term pneumonia.

"In the private sector, a number of times people

will have the test for influenza done, when they present to hospital with pneumonia.

"In the public sector, we don't have the same capacity. Now you can say we ought to have the capacity, but the truth is we don't," he said.

Swine flu symptoms include a cough, fever, sore throat, stuff or runny nose, body aches,

headache, chills and fatigue.

In terms of the vaccination, and an age limit, Dr. Sands said every one six months and older should get it, every flu season.

The flu vaccination is available at all public clinics at no charge.

The minister said he plans to get his, this weekend.

Dames responds to call for his resignation

Continued from / PAGE 1...

doesn't understand why persons made the call for his dismissal, but that they have a right to do as they choose.

"I am currently the Minister of National Security, I am a Bahamian and I take my job very

seriously.

"Every day I wake up, seven days a week and I give it my best to ensure that Bahamians are safe, that they are protected, that law enforcement especially the Police and Defence Force and those at the Corrections Department are doing their jobs to pro-

tect Bahamians.

"My record is clear. I am very transparent and I am very open in everything I do. This is my country and I am going to do whatever I have to within the framework of the law to ensure that this is the safest and the best little country on earth," he

said.

Meantime search efforts continued yesterday for the pilot. Head of Dive Operations of the Defense Force Commander Shone Pinder said even though nothing substantial has been found, there are no signs of the investigation coming to an end anytime

soon.

"From my knowledge and from my historical experience, I find that these investigations can go on for some time and can extend from 18 months to up to two years.

"They take a while, because based on evidence and because a lot of it is

also predicated on tests that have to be done with that evidence and the debris that is found, then a conclusion has to be drawn from that," he said.

Captain Ferguson's lightweight aircraft went down now two weeks ago in waters near Nirvana Beach.

D'Aguilar: Bahamas Developing Reputation for World-Class Service

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Minister D'Aguilar said while the tourism competition in the region and the international marketplace is "stiff and relentless," Bahamian tourism officials have a well-defined plan to stay ahead of the competition.

"Team Tourism, we cannot slack our ride. The

tourism competition in the region and in the international marketplace is stiff and relentless. As a leading tourism destination in our region, we have set a goal for ourselves. And as your Minister of Tourism, I am asking each of you, members of Team Tourism, to commit to this goal. From Bimini in the north and to

Inagua in the south, I ask each of my fellow Bahamians who work in the tourism and hospitality industry to commit to this goal."

Minister D'Aguilar said the training and continuous training of staff in the area of customer service will be key to that plan. He encouraged "management throughout

the tourism enterprise" to commit to the continuous training of staff in the area of customer service. He said Bahamahost, the country's national signature industry training programme, has been recently re-branded.

"Our goal is to see all persons working in our tourism industry become certified Bahamahost

Ambassadors."

Minister D'Aguilar said the Education and Training Department of the Ministry of Tourism offers a suite of training programmes of which management of tourism-related establishments can avail themselves.

"Training and continuous training is the vehicle that will take us to first

class service," Minister D'Aguilar said. "Today is a day we render thanks. We render thanks for our current blessings and for the blessings that the Lord is about to unleash. In bringing blessings into the lives of His people, God has always required their cooperation. He has always asked them to do their part."

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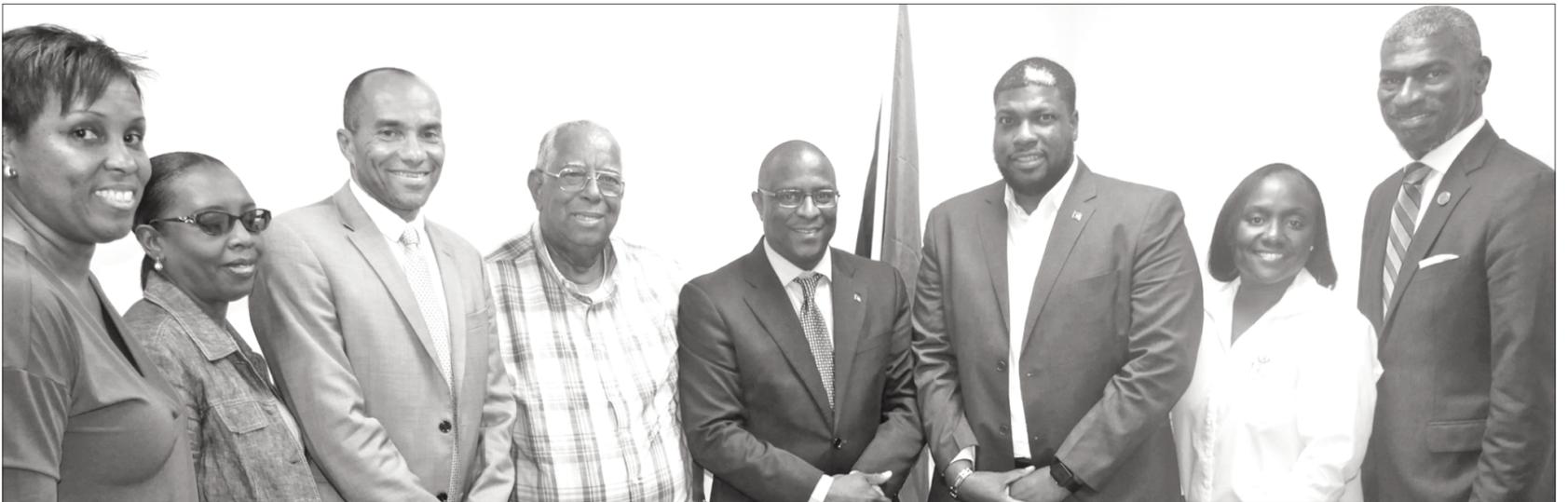
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National Sports Hall of Fame 2018 Inductees Visited the House of Assembly



▶ National Sports Hall of Fame 2018 inductees visited the House of Assembly, on November 21, 2018, as part of National Sports Month activities. Speaker of the House of Assembly the Hon. Halson Moultrie recognized the group and they received special accolades from Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Hubert Minnis, Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Philip Davis, and Members of Parliament Shonell Ferguson and Glenys Hanna Martin. The Induction Ceremony for this year's class will be held on Friday, November 23, 2018, at Government House. *(BIS Photos / Eric Rose)*

BAMSI to partner with Central State University



▶ Pictured from left are Central State University (CSU) Director, Athletics and Recreation Tara Owens, CSU's International Recruiter Kim Hannah, CSU's Vice President, Division of Institutional Advancement and Athletics Jahan Culbreath; Chairman of the Board and President of The Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI) Tennyson Wells, Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources Michael Pintard, Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources Carlton Bowleg, Executive Director of BAMSI Dr. Raveenia Roberts Hanna and CSU's Vice President, Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Dr. Sherrance Russell

Discussions are currently being held that could position BAMSI and the wider Bahamas as a regional hub for research studies across the agricultural and marine landscapes, Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources Michael Pintard said on Friday, adding that his office is pursuing several avenues that could lead to increased financial support for Bahamian farmers and fishers. The announcement came during a meeting between the Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI) and Central State University (CSU) to discuss the possibility of forming a partnership and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding that could radically change the dynamic of agricultural studies, research, sector management and funding for both bodies.

"We are interested in being the hub for the region where a variety of studies are taking place on

livestock, life sciences, and marine science, etc., so as you apply for grants, we would welcome a partnership where some of those studies can be conducted here particularly on tropical varieties, whether its crops, small ruminants and livestock that thrive in this region," Mr. Pintard said.

The minister also identified two programs he hoped the Bahamas could benefit from with the support of CSU. The first is a lucrative insurance initiative offered through state and federal agencies that provides crop insurance up to 60 percent and income support programs to farmers. He proposed that CSU could assist, in terms of helping to outline a similar plan for Bahamian farmers and fishers, and also serving as a bridge to possible sources of funding and grant issuing agencies.

A second US initiative provides African American male and female farmers with up to

90 percent in subsidies for certain inputs, such as seeds, soil amendments and pesticides. Mr. Pintard indicated his desire to work with Central State to see whether joint commercial enterprises between Bahamians and African American farmers could benefit from the subsidies.

"Can we do some joint ventures where that is transferable, if you have farmers who are trying to get a greater market share in Ohio to collaborate with BAMSI in a commercial enterprise here in the Bahamas and the share that they get is transferable to the Bahamas?"

Joining the minister where Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources Carlton Bowleg. Senior members of BAMSI were also on hand, including President and Chairman of the Board Tennyson Wells and Executive Director Dr Raveenia Roberts-Hanna. Jahan Culbreath, vice president, Division of

Institutional Advancement and Athletics said Bahamian students are already well integrated throughout Central State's campus, from athletic teams and band to clubs and other activities. "We want to expand that to our agriculture program. We want to be able to have some of the students from BAMSI to matriculate to Central State with an easy transition. My hope is that we can form the MOU and then get our ag people to talk to your ag people and really get down into the weeds and figure out what we can connect with."

Mr. Culbreath said that they were not just interested in taking on graduates, but also supporting current students who were looking for internship opportunities and going forward becoming sister schools where each organization can help the other to grow. "It's not just students benefiting, but even possibly some internships with students coming and learning. We have a whole dif-

ferent set of agriculture that we look at like soy and wheat, then our kids can come and learn here and we can even have a faculty exchange. This could be really wonderful and kind of endless."

While in the Bahamas, the CSU group visited 17 schools on three islands, Grand Bahama, Andros and New Providence during their visit. He also shared that CSU, which sits on 650 acres in Wilberforce, Ohio and is currently expanding into aquaponics, is the most affordable university in the state and the third most affordable in the entire USA.

Almost 100 Bahamians currently attend Central State University with a cumulative GPA of 3.7, making them the strongest academic cohort on campus. The university has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bahamas Ministry of Education which provides 30 scholarships to promising graduating seniors, at a

rate of \$10,000 for students from public schools and \$7,500 for students from private schools. CSU provides the rest for a total of \$16,000. This most recent trip underscores CSU's commitment to broadening its academic reach in the nation through partnerships with BAMSI and other educational institutions.

BAMSI, which offers five associate degree programs, including agriculture and marine science, along with online and certificate courses, currently has a Memorandum of Understanding with numerous international universities including, the University of Florida, University of Miami, Hocking College, University of the Ozarks, and Ocean University in China.

Representatives from Central State are expected to return to the Bahamas in February for further discussions, with a Bahamian contingent visiting the Ohio facility later in 2019.

Organic lettuce farmer encourages buying locally

Continued from / PAGE 1...

country, romaine that is.”
As the horticulturist reminded, there are benefits of buying locally.

“The benefit of buying locally is being able to

look at the producer eye to eye and ask direct questions as to how they are growing their product,” she said.

“Being a nation depending heavily on imported food, over \$500million

dollars in imported food annually, we don't have the direct access to the people who are growing this food, so we are in quite a vulnerable situation.

“However, if you shift

your shopping practices and choose to support local growers, you are able to talk to the farmer face to face, ask how they're growing their product and definitely satisfy questions you may have as to how

your food is being produced,” she said.

Dr. Hauber encouraged consumers to shop locally.

“Please support your local farmers, it's very important that the consumer supports the farmer

as often as they can to ensure that we can stay in business to provide better quality food.”

Field to Fork harvests romaine lettuce on a weekly basis - 75 to 100 heads per week.

SUNSHINE INSURANCE RACE WEEKEND COMES ALIV

The mobile giant, which has proven itself to be a consistent supporter of sports and health-related initiatives, has partnered with the award-winning Sunshine Insurance Race Weekend (SIRW), for a second year in a row as a Platinum sponsor.

Race Weekend, which includes Marathon Bahamas and the breast cancer-themed, Susan G. Komen Bahamas Race for the Cure, takes place over a two-day weekend and is scheduled for January 19-20, 2019.

Sasha Lightbourne, ALIV Media Champion, said the company believes in giving back to the community and participating in events that give monetary donations to charities and more specifically has a focus on breast cancer.

“So many of us have been affected by breast cancer – ALIV employees and customers included. So we want to show that we care and we want to do that in a

meaningful way. This sponsorship allows us to do that as we pride ourselves on being more than a mobile telecommunications company,” said Lightbourne.

According to Lightbourne, ALIV appreciates its place within the Bahamian community.

Additionally, the company will have anywhere from 10-15 persons participating in the races in January, including Chief ALIV Officer Damian Blackburn.

“We always participate in the Susan G. Komen Bahamas Race for the Cure,” said Lightbourne. “Our customers live and work here, so it is only fitting that we support an initiative that assists the country in so many ways. It is an excellent example of corporate citizenry.”

Marathon Bahamas will be celebrating its 10th anniversary in January. The Susan G. Komen Bahamas Race for the Cure 5K, which



► Sasha Lightbourne, ALIV Media Champion

honors breast cancer survivors from throughout the country, will mark its ninth anniversary.

This year, Race Weekend doubled its yearly donation to \$100,000. Four local charities split the pro-

ceeds.

Race Weekend Marketing & Public Relations Chairperson said her organization is grateful to ALIV for its contribution.

“We don't take ALIV's sponsorship for granted,

particularly in this economic climate with so many companies scaling back. We appreciate ALIV on so many levels. The company is genuinely committed and excited to assist us. We can feel it when we talk to them. They are always looking for ways to be involved and that type of buy in is always welcome,” she said.

“We are especially thankful for their sponsorship of our middle school program, Orange Nation. They continue to demonstrate their company's commitment to the nation's youth.”

Lightbourne said while ALIV's slogan is “Believe In Best”, the company believes Sunshine Insurance is doing its best to put The Bahamas on the map as a marathon destination as well as by doing its part to fight breast cancer.

“With ALIV supporting such an initiative, our customers can see us give back and join in the give-

back as well. Everyone will benefit. As stated before, so many are affected by breast cancer in The Bahamas and so this kind of event has a great impact on the community and we simply want to do our part to help,” she said.

Additional Race Weekend sponsors include the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, Atlantis Paradise Island, F o c o l , BahamasLocal.com, REV, Dasani, NAD, Sawyers Fresh Market, Conch Boy Films and many others.

Beneficiaries include the Cancer Society of The Bahamas, the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation, Sister Sister Breast Cancer Support Group and the Cancer Society of Grand Bahama.

To register for Marathon Bahamas, visit www.marathonbahamas.com. To register for Susan G. Komen, visit www.komenbahamas.org



COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS IN THE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL

NOTICE OF CALL OVER

TAKE NOTICE that the following Industrial Tribunal Matters have been set for call over in the Industrial Tribunal in the City of Nassau before the Honourable Indira Demeritte-Francis, President of the Industrial Tribunal, at 10am on Wednesday 21st of November 2018.

YEAR	NO.	APPLICANT	RESPONDENT	ATTORNEY/ REPRESENTATIVE	APPLICANT'S ADDRESS
1.	2018	NES/120	OMALATESHA DEAN	BAHAMAR (SKY WARRIOR LTD)	FIRE TRAIL ROAD EAST
2.	2018	NES/56	CLARICE MURPHY	LITTLE LEARNING CHRISTIAN ACADEMY & BARBER WORLD	SUMNOR STREET OFF SOLDIER ROAD
3.	2018	NES/106	JAROME JOHNSON	BET VEGAS CASINOS	FOX DDAIL CANDIA CREST
4.	2018	NES/130	FREDRICK HEILD	OAKES FIELD SHOPPING PLAZA	EAST STREET SOUTH



MINISTRY OF FINANCE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby notified that a Public Auction will be conducted by the Customs Department on non-entered goods at the places and times listed below:-

No.	LOCATIONS	DATES	TIMES
1	Airfreight LPIA - (GFT)	3 rd December, 2018	9:00am – 12:30pm
2.	Airfreight Odyssey (GFT)	3 rd December, 2018	9:00am – 12:30pm
3.	Betty K. – Arawak Cay (GFT)	3 rd December, 2018	2:00pm – 5:00pm
4.	Mailboat – Arawak Cay (GFT)	4 th December, 2018	9:00am – 12:30pm
5.	MSC – Arawak Cay (GFT)	4 th December, 2018	9:00am – 12:30pm
6.	Tropical Shipping – John Alfred Dock (GFT)	4 th December, 2018	2:00pm – 5:00pm
7.	Congo Town, Andros (GFT)	5 th December, 2018	9:00am – 5:00pm
VEHICLES (NEW PROVIDENCE) CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS			
8.	Betty K – Kelly's Dock – Arawak Cay (HQ)	6 th December, 2018	9:30am – 12:30pm
9.	Inchape Shipping (HQ)	6 th December, 2018	9:30am – 12:30pm
10.	Island Maritime (HQ)	6 th December, 2018	9:30am – 12:30pm
11.	United Shipping (HQ)	6 th December, 2018	9:30am – 12:30pm
12.	R. H. Curry & Co. Ltd. (HQ)	6 th December, 2018	9:30am – 12:30pm
ARAWAK CAY			
13.	Mailboat – Fiesta Mail (Arawak Cay)	6 th December, 2018	2:00pm – 5:00pm
FAMILY ISLAND			
14.	Marsh Harbour, Abaco	10 th December, 2018	10:00am – 5:00pm

The above goods will be sold under the Provision of Section 201 of the Customs Management Act. The Auction will commence at 9:00 am daily with the exception of Tropical Shipping, Betty K. Agencies, Arawak Cay (GFT), which will commence at 2:00 pm.

Vehicles (New Providence) Customs Headquarters, will commence at 9:30 am daily with the exception of the Mailboat - Fiesta Mail, Arawak Cay, which will commence at 2:00 pm.

Family Islands - Congo Town, Andros (GFT), will commence at 9:00 am on 5th December, 2018.

Marsh Harbour, Abaco, will commence at 10:00 am on 10th December, 2018.

A list of the goods to be auctioned can be viewed at Customs Headquarters, Betty K. Agencies, Gladstone Road Freight Terminal, Air Freight, Arawak Cay East.

The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids tendered.

Marlon Johnson
(Acting) FINANCIAL SECRETARY

MAKING NYGARD'S APPROACH WORK FOR YOU

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.

If you have struggled to get your employees motivated to help you achieve your business goals, then it is likely that your employees don't feel like equals, don't feel important, don't feel valued or like you care about them.

Let's look at the first three key factors in motivating employees to work toward business goals and the role each plays:

- Treating employees like employee partners – nobody likes to feel subservient to anyone else. Everyone is aware that the boss is the boss. Still, there are ways to be in control without making others feel subservient. Subservience is not an overt sense, beyond organizational structures. It's mainly an internal sense of things. So, how to get around it?

Here's how fashion mogul Peter Nygard has eliminated this sense of subservience within his organization. Besides continuously sharing his vision and always updating his associates on what's going on on any new direction for the company, Nygard invites input from every level within the company. Employees companywide are very clear that their input is welcomed.

This type of openness and welcoming of input make employees feel like their perspective matters and feel like equals and important partners in the overall scheme of things. It creates the right foundation and sets the stage for high level performance. Why?

Because partners always feel a shared sense of responsibility, and that is key to getting employees to work toward business goals. It's an important start in the 'motivating process'.

- Making them feel valued – Employees don't just want to be updated and give input. They want to know that their work efforts are appreciated and that you value their contributions.

One way Nygard makes his employees feel valued is in always communicating 'my success is because of you'; and he doesn't just say this; he demonstrates it with gifts of \$10,000 to long-term employees.

When employees don't feel valued, they will not give high level performance as in the example of the talented employee who felt so undervalued that she refused to offer solutions to departmental problems that the manager was struggling with.

You may not be able to give employees

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.

\$10,000. However, you can set business goal milestones where you celebrate with a pizza party; or you give out movie tickets to key performers.

You can get creative with how you celebrate milestones, but celebrate you must. Because, it sends the message that you are celebrating employees and their efforts, which makes them feel valued.

- Keeping WIIFM in mind – 'What's in it for me?' You have to always remember, as with all humans and even executives, employees are always thinking "what's in it for me?"

Therefore, you must keep this in mind. At Nygard's company, associates get time back when they work overtime on projects. Also, there is a company bonus structure where employees receive bonuses for their contributions. They definitely feel like there is something in it for them when they give more because the bonus is based on performance.

Something you can do in your company that wouldn't cost you too much is to let employees take turns leaving early on non-busy days or during periods where you can afford having fewer staff at work. This is an unexpected treat that would make employees feel good about working at your company especially because it rarely happens in companies. You could also tie this to performance or milestone achievement.

Nygard has succeeded in motivating his employees to such an extent that a common sentiment among his associates is that they don't feel like they are going to work. They feel like they are going to be with family and to do something that they enjoy, which we'll expound on next time.

Here's the payoff in following in Nygard's footsteps: When employees feel valued for their contributions and feel like an important part of the organization, it makes them feel a sense of responsibility in making things happen. This sense of responsibility motivates them to work toward business goals in a far bigger way than they would if they didn't feel valued.

The Bahama
Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

Wendall K. Jones
Publisher/Chief Executive Officer

Kimaley P. Jones
Vice President/Operations

E D I T O R I A L

Thanksgiving & Praise

What follows is but a reminder concerning Thanksgiving [as practiced] in the United States of America.

Washington, D.C.
October 3, 1863

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

Nota Bene: The document below sets apart the last Thursday of November "as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise." According to an April 1, 1864, letter from John Nicolay, one of President Lincoln's secretaries, this document was written by Secretary of State William Seward, and the original was in his handwriting. On October 3, 1863, fellow Cabinet member Gideon Welles recorded in his diary how he complimented Seward on his work. A year later the manuscript was sold to benefit Union troops.

"The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

"In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

"Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has

steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

"No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

"It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People.

"I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.

"And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

"In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

"Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth. By the President: Abraham Lincoln."

William H. Seward,
Secretary of State

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Freeport, the original anchor project...

OPEN THE IMMIGRATION DOORS AND LET THE BOOM TIMES ROLL!

BY FREDERICK SMITH QC

Freeport, Grand Bahama was the first "Anchor Project" ever conceived for The Bahamas. It remains the most ambitious in vision and scope, the most potentially game-changing for our economy and the only one we ever really needed in the first place. The Magic City was designed to be an experimental economic space, a cradle of ideas and inspiration where, cut loose from the cumbersome weight of government interference, enterprises of every conceivable size, shape and description could flourish and not even the sky would be the limit.

In the 1950s and early 60s, Freeport led an unrivalled economic boom, one that likely would have persisted until today – constantly updating and reinventing itself in exciting new ways, continually welcoming fresh ideas and intrepid individuals from around the world – were it not for the scourge of political interference. What we have lost in terms of prosperity and progress for our people over the last 50 years, where we could have been today were it not for the small-minded bigotry of certain politicians, is truly frightening to contemplate.

Killing economic freedom

The spectacular success of this open, free and dynamic economic experiment was seen by the myopic Pindling Administration as an existential threat to its black nationalist revolution. Shortly after coming to office, the PLP found the Magic City guilty of treason and sentenced it to death.

What were Freeport's crimes? That it was the brainchild of the white UBP oligarchy, was negotiated with and executed by white foreigners, and hinged upon opening its doors to intrepid

foreigners with revolutionary ideas. From the beginning, insecurity, jealousy and small-mindedness guided the PLP in all their dealings with Freeport. Crude racism and petty xenophobia blinded them to the enormous benefit for the entire Bahamas. Pindling and Co. could not wrap their heads around such a daring concept, they were terrified of it, they were not in control of it and they could not corrupt it, so they decided to destroy it.

The weapon they used, as is so often the case, was the Bahamas Department of Immigration. Overnight, free movement was halted. All foreigners were made to beg on bended knee to be allowed to enter, licence a business or own property. Those who were too independent or outspoken were exiled, while the government seized control of all land use with the Immovable Properties Act. The iron fist of executive control descended, smashing the free exchange of people and ideas. The energy and dynamism of Freeport dried up instantly.

In the years since, subsequent PLP governments, as well as those led by its offshoot, the FNM, have done nothing to change this situation. Meanwhile, over the decades both parties have approved and given full support to dozens of other projects conceived and financed by foreigners across the length and breadth of The Bahamas, because these have been small in scale and therefore controllable and corruptible by the political class. Such projects however, have proven far more insidious to our national economy and character than Freeport could ever have been.

Anchor Projects

The term was coined by former Prime Minister Perry



Christie for the Baha Mar project, which he announced would be the prototype for a series of new mega resorts in all populated islands. The idea was that these resorts would serve as "anchors" for economic activity, epicentres from which spinoff businesses in tourism and service related industries could grow. Yet the fallacy of this concept should have been clear to the Christie Administration, which had an instructive example just a few miles east at the foot of the Paradise Island bridge. Once home to a vibrant array of shops, restaurants and other businesses, this area of Nassau was by then a ghost town – as was the vast majority of Paradise Island outside the gates of the Atlantis Resort.

The truth is, far from supporting the surrounding business community, a mega

resort inevitably sucks the air out of it. The owners have enough money to be able to offer nearly every good and service imaginable "in house", hypnotising and drawing in consumers, visiting and local alike. Certainly, these resorts provide many jobs in a very limited range, but they also suffocate all diversity and ingenuity outside their walls. The fallout is even more pronounced in the Family Islands, where fragile traditional cultures and prized environmental assets are routinely sacrificed at the altar of profit – the vast majority of which is exported by the foreign resort owners.

Smart environmentalism

My work in environmental protection will lead some to interpret the above statement as evidence that I oppose development. Nothing could be further from the truth. Environmentalists, myself included, know that development must happen; what we oppose is a destructive approach that sacrifices all that is good and worth preserving across this beautiful and bountiful country at the whim of the foreign developer.

Spreading anchor projects across the length and breadth of The Bahamas means the environmental fallout from accidents or irresponsible development practices, and the economic fallout should such projects fail, is equally widespread and no community is safe. A diktat comes down from Nassau that your island is next, and suddenly life as you know it is over and you have no more say in your own future or that of your children.

If development must happen, and development comes with risks, surely it makes sense to concentrate that risk in one place so as to better preserve the rest of the country for future generations. This is precisely the idea behind Freeport – an "anchor" tethering all large-scale industrial, touristic, agricultural and residential activity and the associated risks to a single location, thus allowing the rest of The Bahamas to be spared, even as we enjoy the fruits of Freeport's bounty.

If we must build mega resorts, mammoth cruise ports and industrial facilities, what better place could there be than a city already fitted with amazing, world-class infrastructure, tailor made for large-scale developments and just a stone's throw from the United States? Many of the developments I have bitterly opposed over the years would have received enthusiastic welcome from myself and other environmentalists had they been envisioned for Freeport.

Planned development

This is not to suggest a free-for-all. Developers must still make a case for their project, show why it is beneficial to Bahamians and does not unduly put the environment at risk. The Oban oil refinery – a reckless proposal with potentially disastrous repercussions for the ecology of the entire Bahamas – should be rejected in Freeport or anywhere else. A project like Carnival's proposed cruise port (not in our pristine East GB, but perhaps within Freeport), on the other hand, could be problematic elsewhere but is perfect for the Magic City.

The evidence has shown time and again that if we don't have a national development plan for our own country, foreign companies will make one for us that will not be in our best interests. The Planning and Subdivision Act calls for a land use plan for each island but this is routinely ignored by government. Thankfully Freeport, under the Hawksbill Creek Agreement, already has such a plan and it covers virtually every type of development imaginable. All that needs to be done is for this plan to be promoted by the powers that be, allowing the Freeport to flourish once again.

Immigration reform

Our government remains in the grip of a blinkered, anxiety-driven effort to keep the "invaders" out of Freeport at all costs. Instead, it should focus once again on attracting cutting-edge industries and experts in the greatest number possible. Were inno-

vative minds in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, robotics, nano-technology, renewable energy, biomedical industries, bioinformatics and analytics invited to take part in our audacious economic experiment in the north, The Bahamas would benefit tremendously from both the technology itself and the cutting-edge skills transfer to Bahamians. In particular, a skills boost to industries such as renewable energy and public sector technology could help address some of the key development issues facing the Bahamas today.

If the government must give incentives and concessions and roll out the red carpet for foreign entities, the beneficiaries should be the innovative and groundbreaking individuals and companies of the future, not the stagnant old barons of a mega resort model. Freeport could easily become the headquarters for numerous high-tech companies and at the same time home to the most daring and audacious tourism spectacles imaginable, the playground for the ever-growing Florida economy and an attraction to visitors from around the world.

A little vision

The vast potential of Freeport is still there, perhaps now more than ever, and if Bahamians have the courage to harness it, we could revolutionise this economy while in a single stroke, ushering in a new era of enlightened environmental protection and cultural preservation across the length and breadth of The Bahamas. With a little vision, this could become a country of two national hubs – two "Anchors" – one political the other industrial, two centres of employment and opportunity, two paths to success and empowerment for each and every Bahamian to choose from.

The benefits for Grand Bahama's struggling and neglected population will follow in droves. The nation's second city would finally flourish, even drawing employment-hungry people from New Providence, thus helping alleviate the capital's own underemployment and overpopulation issues. With a little vision, Freeport could become home to the most daring and audacious tourism spectacles imaginable, attracting amazed visitors from around the world. With a little courage, and a more liberal immigration policy that welcomes gifted foreigner experts, it could become home to a host of cutting-edge technologies – the Silicon Valley of the Antilles. What on earth are we waiting for?



MINISTRY OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND REVENUE

REAL PROPERTY TAX NOTICE for 2019

In accordance with the Real Property Tax Act, Chapter 375 as amended, the Chief Valuation Officer hereby gives notice:-

- that copies of the assessment lists are available as required by Section 7 subsection 7 of the Act, and may be inspected at the Office of the Chief Valuation Officer;
- that a notice of assessment addressed to each owner of property liable to tax under the Real Property Tax Act is available at the Valuation Office, located at rear of the shops at Carmichael Plaza, Carmichael Road and may be collected therefrom by or on behalf of the owner of such property during normal working hours;
- that pursuant to subsection (3) of Section 7 of the Act, upon the expiration of five days after the publication of this notice, a notice of assessment shall be deemed to have been served on every owner of property liable to tax under the Act;
- that without prejudice to the provision of subsection (3) of Section 7 of the Act, the Chief Valuation Officer may at any time after the publication in the Gazette of this notice send by post, a notice of assessment addressed to any owner of property liable to tax under the Act;
- that pursuant to Section 11(1) of the Act, any person aggrieved by a notice of assessment deemed to have been served under this Act may object thereto by serving on the Chief Valuation Officer within thirty days after the date on which the notice of assessment is deemed to have been served, a notice in writing of such objection stating the grounds upon which he relies;
- that pursuant to Section 18 of the Act, the tax is due and payable by the owners of property not later than sixty days after the date on which notice of assessment is deemed to have been served. Accordingly, it is the duty of each taxpayer to ensure that he receives a Notice of Assessment;
- that the exemption has been allowed for 2019 on those which have been declared as owner-occupied residences, and have satisfied the conditions. However, under Section 43 of the Act, the owners are required to disclose to the Chief Valuation Officer any change in the circumstances which does not entitle the property for the exemption allowed;
- that pursuant to Section 10 of the Act, every owner of property shall not later than the thirty-first day of December in each year, make to the Chief Valuation Officer in the prescribed form a return of such particulars of that property as may be prescribed, for the purpose of enabling that Officer to compile and maintain accurate assessment lists, and such owner shall declare to the correctness of such return before an authorized person.

(For) Controller of Inland Revenue/
Chief Valuation Officer

