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Davis Chides Gov't On Labour Woes

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

Progressive Liberal Party Leader Philip Davis slammed the Free National Movement Government over recent and ongoing labour woes, charging that "the government seems impotent and paralyzed to decisively address and resolve them. "Maybe they are not focused; perhaps they do not know what to do, or they are simply tone deaf because they simply do not care," Mr. Davis said. Noting that a strike vote was taken by nurses a little over a week ago, Mr. Davis remarked that it had been the second strike vote in three months by healthcare professionals.

Mr. Davis also commented on teacher's possibility of strike, if successful with their strike vote.

"In eighteen months of governance, the FNM government has remained in reaction mode, reacting to one crisis after the other, with little success, if any, to show for their efforts.

"The labour issues that have reached crisis levels are just symptomatic of a broader issue or the malady that infects this government.

"They are long on rhetoric, PR and describing problems, but short on executing a strategic plan of action to address and resolve problems.

"The FNM was simply not ready to govern and they find a way to prove this to the Bahamian people day after day," Mr. Davis said.

Mr. Davis added that since taking office, the FNM has reneged on many of its campaign promises, especially in the case of Grand Bahama.

■ See page 3...

DNA BLASTS MASS SHREDDING OF MAIL

BY LEAH COOPER
 Journal Staff Writer

The Democratic National Alliance's (DNA) Spokesperson for Transport and Aviation spoke out yesterday addressing concerns over the mass shredding of mail belonging to individuals, businesses, and organizations.

Buscheme Armbrister said in a release that it is "disturbing that the Minister responsible for the postal system in the country seems unaware of this reckless action or is unwilling to comment on this important issue".

He added, "the impli-

cations of the mass destruction of mails without the consent of the intended recipients are far reaching.

The Government should be aware that individuals and organizations depend on their mails for personal communication, important transactions and statutory notices. Hence, the interception and shredding of mails could negatively impact people's lives and commerce in our nation".

Mr. Armbrister called for the the Minister responsible for the postal system to address the

■ See page 4...

Hotel Union President Optimistic Over Talks

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

President of the Bahamas Hotel Catering And Allied Workers Union, (BHCAWU) Darren Woods says a strike poll, which the Union plans to take next week will not happen if their concerns are resolved today in a meeting with Labour Director, John Pinder.

Mr. Woods told this Journal that the Hotel Union remains optimistic

■ See page 4...

Business License Act Amendment Passed

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK
 Journal Staff Writer

Amid concerns and advice, legislators yesterday debated and passed a proposed amendment to the Business License Act, thereby reverting to the

status quo prior to a change made on July 1.

Simply put, beginning January, businesses with revenue streams of \$100,000 or less will be exempt from paying busi-

■ See page 3...

Police Touts Reduction In Crime

BY LICEC BASTIAN
 Journal Staff Writer

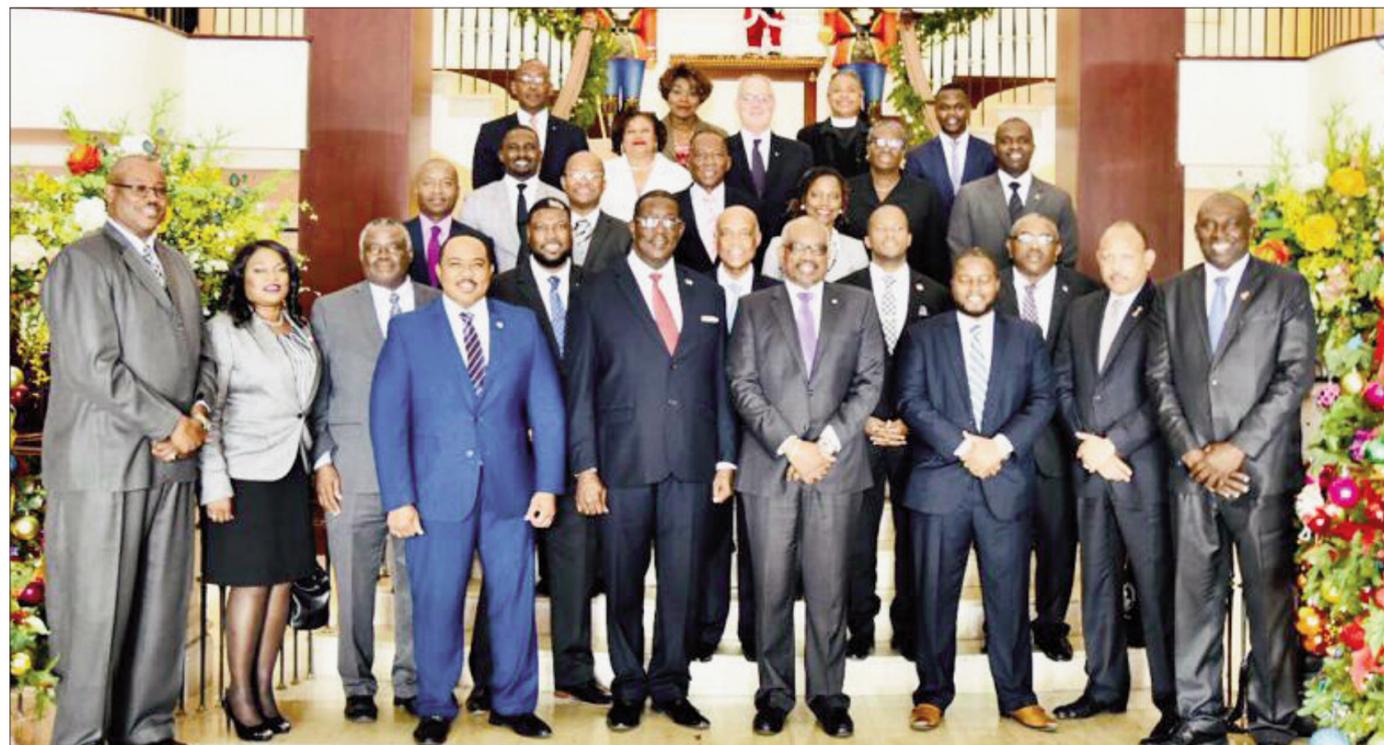
One week after a double homicide on the property of the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre followed by another fatal

double shooting in Jubilee Gardens, Acting Police Commissioner Emerick Seymour said there is no need to fear.

ACP Seymour's com-

■ See page 3...

Annual Parliamentary Christmas Luncheon in Festive Mood of the Season



▶ The Annual Parliamentary Christmas Luncheon was held today in the Windsor Ballroom of the British Colonial Hilton, attended by Cabinet Ministers, MPs, and Senators. The festive luncheon, with the theme, 'Christmas in Parliament,' was hosted by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Assembly. Photos show parliamentarians in the light mood of the season; in the group photo, Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Hubert Minnis is pictured in the first row, centre. (BIS Photo/Yontalay Bowe)

■ See page 3...





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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

Bahamian Chefs Head To UN Holiday Chef Takeover

The cuisine of The Islands Of The Bahamas will be put on full display from December 12 through 14 as three chefs from the Bahamas National Culinary Team will participate in the United Nations' Holiday Chef Takeover in New York City.

Chefs Asteir Dean, Kevin Pratt and Celeste Smith will display holiday Bahamian favorites to hundreds of international guests.

Chef Dean, who is leading the trio, said he was excited to be have

been selected.

"Our theme behind the whole thing is taking down home, basic, Bahamian food and doing something totally amazing," he said.

"It's what we do here in The Bahamas at Christmas and we are going to take it and wow everyone. I'm excited and totally humbled because it would be the first time that any Bahamian chef has ever cooked at the United Nations Headquarters and so it is history in the making for Bahamian

cuisine. It is time that Bahamian cuisine is placed on the forefront of international food. We are excited to give every country a taste of what we do here."

Chef Pratt, who is assisting with hot dishes, said he is also excited to represent The Bahamas.

"We are going to put on a show and we are going to do our best and everyone is going to know where our food is from. We are skilled chefs and we have trained for this moment. It's such an honor because as

chefs, we do this day in and day out and no one sees it. And now people will see how we express ourselves through food," he said.

Chef Smith will be preparing desserts for the prestigious event.

"We are representing our culture and showcasing it to the world and it is our honor and privilege to do," she said. "To express our culture and ambiance on one plate is a great experience for anyone to encounter."

Some of the mouthwatering dishes that the

team will prepare include Kalik beer battered fish; Andros wild boar and sweet corn chowder; spicy chicken duff; guava braised short ribs; Junkanoo stuffed Bahamian spiced chicken; black bean and sweet island roasted corn loaf; shrimp stuffed turkey and coconut and a soursop crème brûlée, among others.

Ministry of Tourism and Aviation Culinary Manager Deanne Gibson says this event will take culinary tourism to another level.

"It is a very proud moment to see how our chefs are on their own ascending to another level," she said. "Anytime we go, people want more. When they put out the food, we know persons will taste that and want more. Persons will see the level of skills that we have in The Bahamas and want to come and experience more of our cuisine. So, be it a foodie, be it the person who just wants a taste, they will want to come to The Islands Of The Bahamas."

Annual Family Celebrations, Cement Wholesome Family Fun

"Sharing the holiday with other people, and feeling that you're giving of yourself, gets you past all the commercialism," said well-known former ambassador Caroline Kennedy. To mark their season of giving and togetherness, Bahamas Waste Ltd (BW) Management and staff officially kicked off the holidays last Saturday, with an all-day fun in the sun.

"All of us here at

Bahamas Waste are a tight-knit family" explained Bahamas Waste, Managing Director Francisco De Cardenas. "Each year, we aim to show our staff how much we value and appreciate all of the hard work they put in all year round, as well as their families."

The annual event, now in its third year, was the largest one hosted by the company with more than 60 employees and their

families all participating. "This was the biggest and best turnout we've had," gushed BW Human Resources Manager, and event organizer Ernestine Lloyd. "It really is a representation of how the relationship between management and staff at the company has grown," she noted. "The entire executive team has always encouraged an open door policy with the staff, and that has really lent itself to a fruitful and

family oriented environment."

This year's event saw the parking lot of the company's home-base on Gladstone Road transformed into a funhouse environment complete with bouncing castles, face painting, and of course, live music as a treat which parents and children enjoyed together.

"During the festive season we know it can be difficult for parents to find wholesome, safe, and entertaining environments where they can enjoy time with their children," said BW Operations Manager Ethelyn Davis. "So we create it here, it's all at no cost to the staff, and get to spend quality time togeth-

er."

The staff fun day also provided staff and management with the unique opportunity to interact with one another in a less formal setting. "Events like this go a long way in making us as employees feel like management really cares about us," said Crystal Forbes, BW Inventory Administrator. "There were so many activities on site for us to get involved with, there was lots of food and drinks, and the great weather made it a really wonderful environment to be in."

Since opening its doors in 1987, Bahamas Waste Ltd. has carved out a reputation as the country's premier waste management agency offering a

variety of services, from portable restrooms, and medical waste disposal. Over the years, the company has continued to grow, seeking out the best and brightest to join its team. With a staff comprised of 150 persons, the company has also worked tirelessly to maintain its commitment to community development and good corporate citizenship. From using its wrapped trucks to raise awareness on issues from autism, to breast cancer, to the environment, as well as sponsoring major events like the upcoming Marathon Bahamas races, the company continues to lend its support to multiple programs and initiatives not just through the holidays but all year round.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Paving of East Bay Street

The Ministry of Public Works/Bahamix, has scheduled Milling and Paving works for East Bay Street from 9:30a.m. to 2:00p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning December 10th, 2018, for 5 working days.

Bahamix will resurface a section of the road way between Mackey Street and Fowler Street.

There will be single lane closures implemented for the duration of the works.

Provisions will be made for residents and businesses where necessary. Motorists are asked to avoid the area if possible.

You are asked to be aware of and acknowledge the posted traffic paving signs in the area.

If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact us at telephone numbers (242) 361-3886 or (242) 341-3886.

Bahamix apologizes for any inconvenience caused.



► Widely considered a national pastime the men of Bahamas Waste gathered around the Domino table for a rousing game.



► The Bahamas Waste Family Fun was the perfect opportunity for these ladies to play catch-up under the tents.

YOUNG AUTHOR RECEIVES PRAISES

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

A 15-year-old author received high praise from Education Minister Jeffery Lloyd and other education official yesterday.

During a courtesy call at the Ministry of Education, Sierra Blair, was greeted by the Minister who said he

hopes her writing would further inspire and motivate other youngsters to utilize their literary gifts.

According to Acting Deputy Director of Education, Sharon Poitier, both books possess tie-ins with the Ministry of Education's curriculum.

She said, "we could use them to integrate so many things: language arts, the

sciences and math in particular," she said.

"For our young people to see themselves in anyone's writing is a wonderful opportunity," she added.

The young author captured media attention last year after launching her first book... the work co-authored with her mom, Tosheena Robinson-Blair.

Roman and His Mean Family is a 25-page picture book that depicts the rambunctious roman labelling his family "mean" when he is restrained from circumventing boundaries set for his own protection.

The book is considered to be ideal for teaching the concept of complying with boundaries to children six

and under.

Her newest and independently published children's book, Roman and the pink flamingos, is a colorfully illustrated tale of an encounter with pink flamingos at a bird sanctuary.

The children's book series is inspired by Sierra's three-year-old brother Roman.

Davis Chides Gov't On Labour Woes

Continued from / PAGE 1...

"No jobs have been created and no economic activity has been created in Grand Bahama, the island the FNM calls FNM country.

"The purchase of the Grand Lucayan has resulted in the loss of jobs, not the addition of jobs with the government renegeing on and walking back almost every promise they made surrounding this property.

"The Prime Minister said that the economic resurgence of Grand Bahama was a priority, but to date, he has nothing to show for his efforts," Mr. Davis said.

Doctors withdrew their services from healthcare facilities for almost two weeks, while nurses, teachers and hotel workers have all filed for strike certificates.

Police Touts Reduction In Crime

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ments echoes those of Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, who recently stated that the fear Bahamians once felt they no longer do.

"We are feeling it, we're getting that every day from members of public so, that fear will continue to minimize because as crime stats go down and of course as they see what we are rolling out, they can go about their business as usual without fear of being a victim of crime.

"So, yes, we are pretty sure that the fear of crime is in fact decreasing cross the Commonwealth of The Bahamas," ACP Seymour said.

ACP Seymour added that only a small percentage of the populace contributes to the crime factor and that Bahamians are not sitting by and allowing the criminal elements to take over. He further commended members of the public for assisting with investigations across the board.

"One of the things that you hear us say from

time to time is the amount of crimes that [are] happening are caused by a small percentage of our population. And so, the vast majority of Bahamian people are determined not to cause these elements of criminality to wreak havoc on a wider community.

"So, in partnership with us, all the programs that we would have put in place with partnership with members of the public, we will continue to see decrease in the elements of criminality.

"We cannot allow a small percentage of people to wreak havoc among the wider population; too much is at stake, and so we will continue to fight," ACP Seymour said.

ACP Seymour added that with the four recent homicides last week, police are still aggressively investigating.

"I can tell you that we are [having] significant leads in both of them and I am sure that given our trajectory, pretty soon we should be able to come to you and give you

some more information on that; but yes, we are, in fact, progressing steadily with our investigations.

ACP Seymour attributed the reduction in crime and other such successes to the Commissioner's Policing Plan for 2018.

To-date, the murder count stands at 83, a number ACP Seymour says the Royal Bahamas Police Force "hope to ensure that that stays as low as possible for the next two weeks of the year."

Bill Passed to Further Assist Bahamians Entering and Sustaining Businesses



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Hubert A. Minnis

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ness license fees.

According to Prime Minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis, 80 per cent of businesses fall into this category.

Of the remaining 20 percent, he said, only 24 large businesses that contribute to over 50 per cent of the revenue generated from business license fees.

"This is important because in the past, those individuals were charged \$100 and it was very difficult for many of them," he said.

"They would have paid \$100 for business licenses and would have not have

gotten their business established in terms of generating any funds.

"And 2-3 years later, they want to restart and they're required now to pay all back fees and if they had problems meeting \$100, imagine the difficulties they have meeting \$300-400 because their businesses were closed."

The Prime Minister stressed though that notwithstanding the revision, the Department of Inland Revenue will increase its vigilance and audit activities to discourage fraudulent statements.

"We expect all businesses to file honest, accurate statements as most

reportedly do already.

"Therefore, advise all businesses, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that the information given is correct and politics will not play a part in these audits," he said.

The government sees these latest amendments as making it easier to do business in the country.

"As Bahamians go in to license their businesses in the new year, they will face prompter service and less government bureaucracy," said Dr. Minnis.

"The Department of Inland Revenue is committed to ensuring that businesses feel the difference this year coming.

"The processes have been streamlined and the

department is instituting a game plan to ensure that it can address businesses promptly and reduce the time to get a business license renewal," said the Prime Minister.

"The position is simply that we want to encourage accurate reporting, that was the simple intent of the amendment," said Deputy Prime Minister, Peter Turnquest.

"We recognize that there are some practical challenges in particular with respect to obtaining bank financial statements."

Business license fees are a big revenue generator for the government as roughly \$150 million is raised.

US Charge d'Affaires Tours Port Facility at Prince George Wharf



US Charge d'Affaires Stephanie Bowers paid a courtesy call on Port Controller, Commander Raymond King and received a tour of the Port facility at Prince George Wharf. Commander King presented Ms. Bowers with a plaque to commemorate the visit.
(BIS Photos/Patrick Hanna)

Defence Force apprehends Poachers

The Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF) apprehended 7 Dominican fishermen aboard two small go-fast type boats around noon on Tuesday 11 November 2018 in the area of Little Inagua.

The two Dominican boats were apprehended just off Little Inagua by RBDF patrol craft P-129, coxswained by Petty Officer Edison Rolle, while on routine patrol. On board were 7 Dominican fishermen, along with a quantity of scaled fish and crawfish.

The Dominicans were taken into custody and handed over to Police and Immigration officials at Great Inagua, and will be transported to New Providence where they will be charged for various fishing offences.

Prior to this incident, the Royal Bahamas Defence Force had apprehended a total of 172 Dominican poachers and 4 Dominican fishing vessels with over 100,000 pounds of fisheries products. They were charged and found guilty by the courts for various fishing violations, and sentenced to time ranging from 6 to 18 months at the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services; total fines awarded were approximately \$7 million.



▶ Two Dominican vessels apprehended by RBDF off the coast of little Inagua (RBDF photo)

DNA BLASTS MASS SHREDDING OF MAIL

Continued from / PAGE 1...

nation on this matter immediately.

He said, "a thorough investigation should be commissioned, and the findings released to the public forthwith. Regrettably, the Bahamian people have lost confidence in the ability of this Government to hold themselves and public officials accountable for their actions".

He added, "The Bahamian people are being subjected to poor governance under an administration that is alien to transparency and accountability. Conflicts of interest and blatant corruption have become acceptable to a party that promised openness on the campaign trail."

"While we await a comprehensive plan for the postal system in The Bahamas, we can only hope that more of our mails are not being destroyed," he said.

Hotel Union President Optimistic

Continued from / PAGE 1...

that its matters will be resolved.

On Tuesday, Minister of Labour, Senator Dion Foulkes said he was uncertain if the Hotel Union would follow through with its plans on a strike vote, considering that Atlantis Resort had withdrawn their plans to institute a new clock-in system which they had planned to implement for its employees.

Mr. Woods however, said that the statement made by Atlantis does not cover what the union would have filed on.

"Well they said that didn't cover what we filed on, because we filed on the bargaining unit; they said they were going to discontinue it for the union employees. Our agreement covers everybody, whether they in the union or not.

"We have a meeting scheduled with the Department of Labour because management has, according to them, discontinued the program.

"They say they discontinued it for the union colleagues; so, of course the union took an exception with that.

"We wrote to them and told them that our Industrial Agreement covers the bargaining unit, so anything that is going to be discontinued has to be discontinued for the entire unit, not only the union

Bahamahost Luncheon at the Home of Mr. Henry Lightbourne



▶ Visitors from abroad recently had the pleasure of being hosted to a Ministry of Tourism & Aviation Bahamahost luncheon at the home of Mr. Henry Lightbourne. (BIS Photos/Kemuel Stubbs)

colleagues, [and] that's a concern for us.

"That's an attempt to create two categories of workers as far as we're concerned with separate benefits," Mr. Woods said.

"We wrote to them, they have since written to us and said that they are prepared to discontinue it for all of the positions that fall under the bargaining unit. So, we've indicated that we have to go to

labour to finalize everything and sign off on an agreement on the way forward," he said.

With some 5,000 members, about 3,500 of which are employed by Atlantis, Mr. Woods said that decision made would indirectly affect those employees not directly involved.

"Atlantis is not only the biggest property, but the president of the association is also the general

manager of one of the towers. So, if Atlantis is able to get away with it, then the others may just follow suit.

"And that's why they may be affected, but not directly, maybe indirectly because if they get away with this today, then tomorrow or there after tomorrow the other properties may follow suit.

"That's why the members have been placed on

what we call amber alert, on high guard, not to let their guards down until we've actually gotten it resolved.

"We are optimistic that we will be able to get it resolved by the end of the day, because we want to really focus on the deep seated issue and the issue is to try to get a registered industrial agreement in place for the properties and that's

something that we're working on as we deal with this. That's why we want to get this out of the way, because for us this was kind of a distraction; a side show. We want to focus on the main event," Mr. Woods said.

Mr. Woods said if today's meeting does not go well the BHCAWU members will take a strike poll on December 18.