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# The Bahama Journal

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VOL. 30 - NO. 280

WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 12TH, 2018

75 CENTS

# "IMF Report Does Not Reflect Pains," Says Davis

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

Opposition Leader Philip Davis said the International Monetary Fund report does not accurately reflect what's happening in the country, nor does it reflect the social pains faced by everyday Bahamians.

Further, as far as he is concerned, the success of the economy has absolutely nothing to do with anything the FNM did.

"It boils down to two things: no hurricanes and

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► Opposition Leader Philip Davis (File photo)

## FOULKES: OBAN AGREEMENT SET FOR JANUARY

BY LEAH COOPER  
Journal Staff Writer

Labour Minister Dion Foulkes told reporters ahead of his weekly cabinet meeting yesterday that a new OBAN Energies heads of agreement is on the horizon.

This came five months after announcing an amended head of agreement was underway back

in June.

Mr. Foulkes also confirmed that a negotiation team has been appointed to ensure that everything is in line with the principles of OBAN.

He said, "We're currently in the process of notifying the principles and speaking to the negotiation team to get our terms of reference."

He added, "I do not

want to go beyond this until I get some specific information as to when we are going to restart the renegotiation. We have a proposed date for January, but I have not spoken to the negotiation team yet."

The government signed the agreement with OBAN Energies for the \$5.5 billion oil refinery

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## Most Shantytown Residents Are Legal

BY JAMEELHA MISSICK  
Journal Staff Writer

A 15-page report into unregulated communities or shantytowns in Abaco reveals that 80 per cent of those residents have legal

status, while the other 20 per cent are undocumented.

This announcement was made by the Chairman of the Shantytown Action Task Force Committee, Dion

Foulkes who gave an update to reporters outside yesterday morning's weekly cabinet meeting.

"Our estimates, meaning the Shantytown Action Task Force estimates, is that for those

where there [is] no response, 138 households, we estimate, and this is only an estimate, that they comprise of about 500 residents," he said.

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## Law Enforcers Trained In Nuclear Detection

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

International Experts on combating nuclear terrorism, via INTERPOL (International Criminal Police Organization) are in The Bahamas conducting a workshop on Counter Nuclear Smuggling. They will train thirty-three participants from National Security Agencies of both the public and private sectors on how to detect and intercept smuggling of radiological and

nuclear materials.

Acting Commissioner of Police, Emerick Seymour during the opening ceremony of the workshop told participants that because of the position of The Bahamas, the workshop is timely as it would assist in sensitizing law enforcers to possibility of terroristic threats.

"I submit to you no country is safe or exempted from the ravages of terrorism in any capacity,

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## C. A. SMITH SWORN IN AS DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL



► His Excellency Cornelius A. Smith was sworn in as Deputy to the Governor General by the Hon. Mme. Justice Vera Watkins, Acting Chief Justice, on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at Government House. (BIS Photos/Letisha Henderson)

## Two Outstanding Bahamians Lauded

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

The widow of the late Sir Clement Maynard, Zoe 'Lady' Maynard was lauded yesterday as a matriarch and a pillar of strength who worked tirelessly in public life. This came from the opposition leader, Philip Davis in the wake of Lady Maynard's death Monday morning. She

was 92.

"A supporter of the progressive movement, the party thanks her for her selflessness in her support role in sharing Sir. Clem with us, appreciative of the inherit associated challenges and the roll public life plays on family life," he said.

Mr. Davis also

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# PROPOSED DEVELOPER URGES BAHAMIANS TO LAUNCH THEIR DREAM BUSINESSES

There comes a point when a would-be entrepreneur must create his or her own opportunity and not wait for one, according to Valentino Munroe who has built two businesses, the computer store Onit Systems and the Jumbey Café restaurant.

"What have you been conditioned to believe you are incapable of doing? The biggest obstacle we all have to face is ourselves. Whatever you're hearing in your mind, whatever that voice is saying that is not your voice, that is the voice from your environment that has placed their limitations on you," said Munroe, a guest speaker at the Hubert Edwards Global Success Summit 2018.

The one-day conference was held earlier this month under the theme, "World Class Success Through Bold Leadership."

"More than money, more than education, success and leadership in business requires a free mind. I've learnt that I had to literally lose my mind in order to begin my business. My old mind told me my dreams were limited to the size of my bank account. My new mind tells me that my dreams are unlimited," said Munroe who heads the Mangrove Development Group, a consortium of bonefish lodge owners in Andros who presented a develop-

ment proposal to the government with hopes to purchase and re-develop the island's Light House Yacht Club and Marina.

The project entails demolition of existing structures, the construction of a boutique, 15-room hotel with 19 stand-alone bungalows and the restoration of the lighthouse, nearby cannons and existing marina in Fresh Creek, Andros.

"This project hasn't been approved as yet and so while we've gotten great support from those in the Investment Authority and the Office Of The Prime Minister, we're still trying to get the confidence of our political directorate to believe that not only do Bahamians deserve opportunities in tourism, but we also have a right to ownership in our number one industry," said Munroe speaking from the sidelines of the event.

"I'm not worried about the outcome of this proposed development because I've already won. Here I am an island boy proposing to develop a \$20 million dream in my home town. My old mind would have told me that this is not possible, my new mind tells me differently."

It's hard to determine the right time to launch a new business, and the reality is no time is ever going to be perfect. That is why becoming a business owner takes courage

Munroe told the gathering.

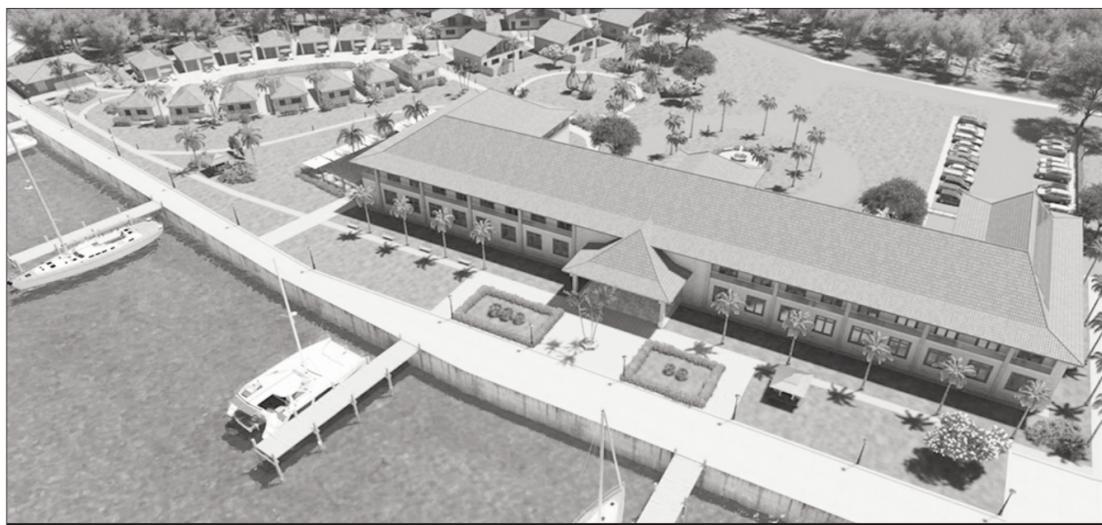
"The greatest display of courage is to face your fears. If you fall, simply get back up. If you fall six times you get up seven times because success and leadership in business only happen for those that are no longer afraid," he said.

Making the leap from employee to entrepreneur, however, remains a terrifying concept for many even as they dream about quitting their day job.

For those straddling the fence unable to decide Munroe offered a piece of advice: "If you don't move past that fear, you're always reluctant, you're always timid, you are never approaching the dilemma with the confidence that is required. More than fear, more than failure, the heaviest load to carry is regret."



► Proposed developer and entrepreneur Valentino Munroe encouraged Bahamians to make the leap from employees to entrepreneurs at the Hubert Edwards Global Success Summit 2018. (File photo)



► Artist rendering of the proposed low-density, eco-friendly Light House Point in Andros. (File photo)



## 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.

## Law Enforcers Trained In Nuclear Detection

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no country; not withstanding the archipelagic nature of our country with its porous borders, you know we are wide open to every and any possibility.

"We are still grateful and thankful for the peace and safety we've come to enjoy.

"Many countries around the world cannot boast this, are not as fortunate and therefore as trends in terrorism become more intricate and technical, it behooves each country to take strategic preventative and corrective measures to remain several steps ahead of terroristic advances.

"This counter nuclear smuggling workshop will allow us in the Bahamas to do just that. Remember acts of terrorism and elements of criminality knows no boundary," ACP Seymour said.

ACP Seymour added that the training exercise, for members of security agencies, is extremely important to fighting crime.

"You are talking about terrorism and of course the nuclear weapons all of that is elements of criminality. Our 700 islands are so porous, our borders so wide open and so, I think it is a timely exercise that is been happening here in

The Bahamas for the next three days.

"We have assembled all of national security stakeholders private and public sector to really sensitize them of the possibility of the threat.

"And so, once that threat is imminent, once that threat reaches our door steps, we will have our mechanism in place to defectively deal with it, so it's critically important for all of us to be aware and of course to take the necessary steps once we are sure that a threat is emanant," ACP Seymour said.

Radek Hlavacka, Specialized Officer in the Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Prevention Unit of the CBRNE Sub-Directorate, said the aim of the workshop is to prevent radioactive materials from getting into the wrong hands.

"We all know that there are large quantities of radioactive materials around us in normal life. There are radioactive materials in medical areas, in science areas, in construction and many other areas in our normal life and it is challenging for each of us, for every country in the world to effectively protect this material against situations where this material fall into wrong hands.

"Nuclear security is a global problem. There is

no one country that would be able to solve or resolve the problem of nuclear security itself.

"The protection and security of radioactive sources and efforts in combating illicit trafficking of radioactive material is always an international effort that all countries need to cooperate, contribute to in order to make it more effective," Mr. Hlavacka said.

He added that with that, some materials are weak and pose no threat to life or the environment. However, there are others to be aware of.

"There are large quantities of this material that should be of significant security attention; strong sources that can be more or less easily misused for malicious purposes.

"Entering nuclear security and combating illicit illegal trade of radioactive material is one of the obligations of all countries in the world and INTERPOL through its Counter Terrorism Directorate, CBRNE Sub-Directorate and the Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Prevention Unit, a member, is here to help the Interpol member states, to help you, your country, as well, in strengthening [and] in supporting you in entering nuclear security," Mr. Hlavacka said.

# THE BAHAMAS HOST VIP BLACK PLANNERS AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL –December 2018 – The Islands Of The Bahamas were the sponsors of a VIP Planners Only Breakfast at the recent National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners (NCBMP) 2018 Annual Conference, which took place in New Orleans, LA, November 28 - December 1, 2018.

The Bahamas was the only Caribbean Destination sponsor at the Conference and in keeping with the conference theme, "Elevate, Educate, Engage," The Bahamas Director of Multicultural and Religious Markets, Linville Johnson, took the opportunity to educate the planners on the renaissance of his country's product including the Baha Mar Resort complex at Cable Beach, Nassau.

Johnson spoke to the group but also engaged them in conversation and fielded questions from many of the planners on the Baha Mar Resort. "With its three luxury brands, The Grand Hyatt, The SLS and The Rosewood, Baha Mar's room inventory is impressively large and many of the planners are picturing it as the ideal spot for the hosting of their clients' upcoming conferences and conventions," he said.

The Director also said that the African American planners' high interest in The Bahamas product, stems from the fact that "coupled with the recent exponential increase of room inventory in The Bahamas, are factors that have been impressing these planners for many years including: The

Bahamas' long-standing ties with African Americans; the country's hassle-free border formalities and the eagerness of Bahamian hoteliers to work with Planners to facilitate seamless conferences and conventions away from the American mainland."

The Conference, which annually attracts African American planners and suppliers from across the nation, featured powerful presentations by top speakers including Derrick Johnson, President and CEO of the NAACP. Other conference events included presentations from suppliers including national and international Tourism Boards and Conventions and Visitors Bureaus (CVB's), and educational presentations.



▶ Partnering with the Bahamas Tourist Office, SLS Baha Mar provided a prize of a weekend stay in The Bahamas, to a lucky planner.

# Dames Congratulates Dept. of Correctional Services Graduates of BTVI Programme



▶ Minister of National Security the Hon. Marvin Dames speaks, on December 6, 2018, at a ceremony recognizing 100 Bahamas Department of Correctional Services (BDOCS) graduates, who successfully completed their respective Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute (BTVI) training courses. (BIS Photos / Eric Rose)

Minister of National Security the Hon. Marvin Dames lauded the 100 Bahamas Department of Correctional Services (BDOCS) graduates, on December 6, 2018, and congratulated them on successfully completing their respective Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute (BTVI) training courses.

"Trainees, the fact that you are here today to receive a certificate for the successful completion of 10 weeks of vocational training is no small accomplishment," Minister Dames said, during a ceremony at BDOC, Fox Hill.

"By participating and committing to this program and engaging with your fellow trainees and instructors, you have demonstrated a resilience that, if maintained, will serve you well outside of this institution. You have all taken an important step in improving your lives and your communities.

Among those present for the ceremony were Acting Permanent Secretary Eugene Poitier, Acting Commissioner of BDOCS Charles Murphy; Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Chief of Operations Michael Nelson; and a number of government and private-sector stakeholders.

Minister Dames also thanked the parents, family members and friends who were also there to celebrate that "very special moment" for their support and encouragement.

Minister Dames noted that the training course for inmates was an initiative of the Citizen Security and Justice Programme, a multi-faceted crime prevention program funded by a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank and managed by the Ministry of National Security.

He stated that the Ministry applied part of the proceeds of the loan

to contract the Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute to provide training that will lead to the certification of a total of 600 inmates and six corrections officers over the next two years.

"Today's graduation ceremony represents an important milestone towards achieving the overall objective of the Citizen Security and Justice Programme – to reduce crime and violence, and increase safety and security in our communities," Minister Dames said.

"The Programme is an important part of the Ministry of National Security's comprehensive crime fighting strategy and aims to improve behaviors for nonviolent conflict resolution; increase employability and employment among vulnerable youth; strengthen institutional capabilities of justice services; and reduce the recidivism rate in the corrections system," he

added.

Minister Dames said that the Government of The Bahamas fully understands the evidence-based connection between employability, empowerment and repeat offending.

"It is an established fact that strengthening the capacity of inmates to survive outside of prison reduces the chance of inmates returning to prison," he said. "An effective and comprehensive corrections program ultimately impacts crime reduction through influencing the rate of recidivism."

Minister Dames stated that The Bahamas Department of Correctional Services had been given the mandate to deliver effective rehabilitation and reintegration services in The Bahamas. The 2014 Correctional Services Act moved the focus of BDOCS to a stronger correctional approach in its management policies,

he added.

However, Minister Dames said despite its best efforts, the Department needs support in enhancing its capacity to deliver rehabilitation and reintegration programs.

"Previously there have been pockets of training over the years; but these have been limited in their capacity to impact a significant number of inmates," he said. "In terms of the work release program, less than three per cent of the population benefit from this activity."

Minister Dames noted that, under the first installment of the training programme being celebrated that day, 100 inmates had succeeded in qualifying for basic certification in a variety of subject areas, including auto mechanics, barbering, carpentry, information technology, electrical, garment making, plumbing and masonry.

"The training courses used existing curricula, and participants were assessed by BTVI instructors in a manner commensurate with students on its main campus," Minister Dames said. "The vocational training will be followed by three months of work experience in maintenance and repair on the BDOCS compound."

Minister Dames pointed out that, to ensure sustainability of the program, six selected correctional officers were undergoing training that will equip them to function as certified vocational instructors at the Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute, working within the prison environment on a full-time basis. Selected prison industries will also be upgraded with modernized equipment to support this training initiative, he added.

"Inmates participating in this training program will leave the prison with recognized training certification and modernized industry experience," Minister Dames said. "The certificates they will receive this morning bear the logo and insignia of BTVI, which will also allow them to enroll in the institution if they seek to advance their level of education after release."

Minister Dames said that programmes like those play a critical role in both prisons and society. Studies show that rehabilitation provides prisoners an opportunity to develop skills, increase post-release employability and contribute positively to families and society, he added.

"But this program is not a cure-all for all crime and violence in The Bahamas," he said. "The Ministry of National Security cannot do it alone. The offender must still nurture personal commitment to work hard in resisting forces seeking to push him or her back into crime."

Minister Dames noted that the community must also continue to examine its attitude toward ex-offenders and provide much-needed support as many former inmates face barriers to successful reintegration into society.

"Today's ceremony marks a significant step in the journey to full rehabilitation, and is yet another demonstration of the Ministry of National Security's strategy to execute programs for the benefit of all Bahamians," Minister Dames said.

"Congratulations, good luck and continue to do well. God bless you."

# Cultural Heritage Month, Launched at the National Art Gallery of The Bahamas

► Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture the Hon. Lanisha Rolle joined Acting Permanent Secretary Rhoda Jackson, Executive Director of Culture Rowena Poitier-Sutherland, Deputy Director Dereka Deleveaux-Grant and Senior officials of the Cultural Affairs Division in launching Cultural Heritage Month, at the beginning of December, at the National Art Gallery of The Bahamas. Also present were Director of the National Art Gallery of The Bahamas Amanda Coulson and her fellow staff members, cultural stakeholders and the general public. Minister Rolle read the Cultural Heritage Month Proclamation by Prime Minister Dr. the Most Hon. Hubert Minnis and cultural performances and Bahamian food filled the evening. **(BIS Photos / Eric Rose)**



## "IMF Report Does Not Reflect Pains," Says Davis

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the positive economic impact of the Baha Mar project."

"It is highly ironic that while in opposition, the FNM vehemently opposed the Baha Mar project and the proposal by the PLP to impose a hurricane levy to avoid fiscal disruptions from unforeseen natural disaster.

"The FNM has now gone to parliament about funds from dormant bank accounts and an additional loan from IDB to defray the cost of post hurricane repairs. In short, a mechanism that will not derail budgetary objectives; this was the objective of the proposed hurricane levy," he said.

Mr. Davis further charged that the Minnis administration has done nothing but take credit for what the PLP has done.

Citing a recent Ministry of Finance Report, the PLP Leader said the government had to revise its budgetary deficit by over \$100 million dollars for the end of 2018, an indication of poor financial mismanagement.

"This is extraordinary in the face of \$2 billion borrowed to date; a 60 per cent hike in Value Added Tax, which by the way has resulted in only 19 per cent increase in tax

receipts; the separation of thousands of government workers that the government claims will accrue \$70 million in cost savings; drastic cutbacks on the capital expenditure account and no hurricanes or natural disasters to disrupt budgetary allocations," he said.

Mr. Davis went on to express fear that the government's fiscal performance will only get worse.

Meantime, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest said the report touted the economy's continued recovery with real GDP growth projected to reach 2.3 percent this year and 2.1 percent in 2019.

The government was also commended for narrowing the fiscal deficit from 5.5 per cent of GDP in the 2017 fiscal year to an estimated 3.3 per cent in fiscal year 2018.

The DPM told reporters outside cabinet yesterday morning that the assessment confirms that the Minnis administration is on the right track with the policies initiated thus far.

He said, "we are particularly happy that they have endorsed our fiscal responsibility legislation and what that will allow us to do in terms of making the whole process of budgeting and the fiscal management of the coun-

try more inclusive through the fiscal council that will be established and more transparent so that all Bahamians who are interested can have access to data that can have a direct input into how we shape the future of our country from a fiscal point of view."

As noted in Monday's release, the DPM accepts that there is still a lot of work to be done.

"There's a lot of education that needs to be done because unfortunately sometimes we are not very good at communicating where we are and why we are doing and taking the steps we are taking, so that's something that we have to work on so that we bring everybody along as we try to turn around our fiscal situation.

"However, as we look around the world and see what's happening and see all the upheaval that's happening. It says to us that we have to get our fiscal house in order and take the opportunity while we have some buffers to do that so that when hard times come, if there is another recession which some people predict that we are prepared," said Mr. Turnquest.

The IMF will issue a more in-depth study of the country's economic environment early next year.

## FOULKES: OBAN AGREEMENT SET FOR JANUARY

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and storage facility for East Grand Bahama on February 10 without notifying the public.

The Minnis administration also held a contract signing on February 19th

with OBAN Energies non-executive Chairman Peter Krieger.

The government also signed the agreement without an environmental impact assessment in place, which served as a major concern for environmental-

ists.

Back in March, Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis admitted that his government made a series of missteps regarding its deal with OBAN Energies in its rush to boost the economy of Grand Bahama.

## Most Shantytown Residents Are Legal

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"So the total amount of residents in all six shantytowns in Abaco equate to 3,500 compared to the figure in Nassau which is 1,410."

Sen. Foulkes added that based on those surveyed, there are 332 minors who are attending school.

South Abaco shantytowns also represent 70 percent of the total number of households interviewed.

"That equates to 2,600 residents and so that would be Marsh Harbour proper where the two biggest shantytowns are," he said.

"As I said there are six in total, in the south there's the "Mudd," the "Peas" and also Elbow Cay, most people would know it as Hope Town.

"In the north, there's Sand Bank which is outside of Treasure Cay, there's the Farm Road, which is the old farm that existed in Treasure Cay several decades ago and there's a small shantytown which has about 16 dwellings, called L and H."

In terms of an update on the alternative housing for those Abaco residents – the reason they were given an extended deadline in the first place – Mr.

Foulkes said they're still working on it.

"We have several committees that are meeting currently. As you know, there is a court injunction that has prohibited us from following our action plan, but all of the things that we can do that do not relate directly to the shantytowns, we are doing.

"And one of them is a subcommittee that is considering alternative housing for the residents of the shantytowns in Abaco," said the Minister.

The report is being read by members of cabinet.

This is the first time a report has been done since the Abaco fires.

## Two Outstanding Bahamians Lauded

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expressed condolences to the family of Rev. Ed Allen, founding Pastor of Abundant Life Church, whose passing he says marks the end of an era.

"Our party always appreciated his strong biblical teachings and principles. He gave

sound advice and counsel.

"He was a good example of going through the storms of life with dignity and grace.

"He was a trusted confidante and family relation of former PLP leader Perry Christie. The Bahamas is better off for his living amongst us,"

he said.

A mass of resurrection celebrating Lady Maynard's life will be held at St. Matthew's Anglican Church today at 3:00pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations are to be made to Abilities Inability and the Bahamas Humane Society.