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VOL. 31 - NO. 48

TUESDAY - MARCH 19TH, 2019

75 CENTS

Bahamian Attacked In Hate Crime



► Harold Williams, a manager of Bahamasair was reportedly brutally attacked while in Fort Lauderdale, Saturday March 16th, 2019.

Law Enforcement authorities in Florida are said to be investigating what is being called "a hate crime" in which a Bahamian national Harold Williams was reportedly brutally attacked while in Fort Lauderdale.

Williams is a Bahamasair manager for Grand Bahama and was in Fort Lauderdale this

■ See page 2...

Appeal Of Frank Smith's Case Delayed

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

The case of former Chairman of the Public Hospitals Authority Frank Smith opened before the Court of Appeal yesterday, but was soon adjourned for

procedural reasons. The Crown in the bribery and extortion case in the Magistrate's Court, has appealed the Chief Magistrate's ruling.

The former Progressive Liberal Party MP, was acquitted of 15 counts of bribery and

extortion in January, after Chief Magistrate, Joyanne Ferguson-Pratt, noted in her ruling that "there was not a scintilla of evidence to prove that there was a meeting between Frank Smith

■ See page 4...

New Wards For PMH Soon

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

The Male Surgical and Children's Wards along with the old Intensive Care Unit of the Princess Margaret Hospital are to be renovated in less than four

months.

According to Health Minister, Dr. Duane Sands, once this happens, there will be an additional 50 to 60 beds.

He said, "those projects have actually start-

■ See page 4...

COOPER RESPONDS TO PM's ATTACK ON THE PLP IN EXUMA

The Member of Parliament for Exuma and Ragged Island, Chester Cooper has accused Prime Minister Doctor Hubert Minnis of attack-

ing the Progressive Liberal Party in Exuma and taking credit for capital works that have been developed over successive administrations.

He said, "it is offensive that the Prime Minister is campaigning using the people's money." Dr. Minnis was in Exuma this past weekend announcing

various government projects and suggested that Exuma is poised for economic re-birth.

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► Health Minister, Dr. Duane Sands

UNION LEADER ACCUSES MORTON SALT OF UNION BUSTING

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Workers at Morton Salt are working in a "very tense atmosphere", Bahamas Industrial Manufacturers and Allied Workers Union (BIMAWU) President Jennifer Brown indicated

■ See page 4...

GOVERNMENT EMBARKS ON 'NEW FRONTIER IN RENEWABLE ENERGY'



► Yesterday, Prime Minister the Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis officially opened a 925-kilowatt solar plant facility at the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium. The facility, the largest of its kind in The Bahamas, is expected to replace the equivalent of 310,000 gallons of diesel annually, and will also serve as a carport with electric vehicle charging stations. It was made possible by a grant from the Government of the United Arab Emirates, through the UAE-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund. (BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe)




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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

DOUBLE JUNKANOO PRIZE MONEY PRESENTED

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

The Ministry of youth, Sports, and Culture yesterday presented cheques to the winning Junkanoo groups of the 2018 Boxing Day and 2019 New Year's Day parades, which doubled the amounts in previous years.

The Minister Lanisha

Rolle referred to the Minnis Administration's 2017 manifesto, which indicated a commitment to the development of Bahamian culture by providing opportunities for "full and unbridled understanding and expressions of our history and heritage".

She said, "according to that particular document, our goal is to implement a set of coher-

ent objectives to foster, to protect, and to promote the cultural expression of our people."

She added, "to do this, we committed in the manifesto to allocating additional resources to the junior and senior Junkanoo parades throughout the country."

Prime minister Dr. Hubert Minnis announced during the 2018/2019 budget cycle

that the government will match or double the prize money for parades.

"We are here today—promise made, promise kept.", Minister Rolle said.

Junaknoo groups received as much as \$76,200 in prize money, while two A groups and one B group received an additional \$10,000 for the Prime Minister's Best Music award.

The minister congratulated all Junkanoo groups in attendance for a "fantastic senior Junkanoo parade season."

"The government of the Bahamas believes that this increase is well deserved.", she said.

"The Bahamas has much to celebrate. The art of Junkanoo brought thousands to our shores for the Christmas and New Year's holidays for

decades to witness the fascinating display of untold creativity with colorful costumes accompanied by choreographed dance, the rhythmic sounds of goatskin drums, whistles, and percussion.", she added

"Junkanoo can be described as one of the most colorful festivities in the world and one of the greatest shows on earth," she said.

FAKE DENTIST ARRAIGNED

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

A nineteen year-old man who allegedly claimed that he is a dentist, has been remanded in custody at the Department of Corrections. Jahvonie Montague who also says that he is married, was charged with one count each of practicing as a dentist, advertising as

such and possession and control of dental supplies.

This is all alleged to have taken place between October 28th 2018 and March 13th 2019 here in New Providence.

Appearing in the Magistrate's Court, Montague pleaded not guilty to all charges. Bail was denied due to the question of his immigration status.

Attorney Keith Seymour, representing the accused, presented a marriage certificate indicating that his client is married to a Bahamian.

However, Magistrate Cara Turnquest-Deveaux ordered that Montague be remanded to the Bahamas Department of Corrections until March 24th pending confirmation of his legal status.

Bahamian Attacked

Continued from / PAGE 1...

past weekend.

Speaking with a reporter of WSVN Channel 7 in Miami, Williams said he was running errands on Saturday when he entered the Pine Market Sandwich Shop and asked one of the workers to use the restroom. He said suddenly he felt a blow on the side of his face. "I thought he had punched me; then I saw a knife that was eight or ten inches long

and I realized that I was stabbed in my face." Williams said that he was lucky to be alive.

The Opposition Progressive Liberal Party issued a statement yesterday saying, "PLP is deeply concerned about reports of an unprovoked stabbing and serious wounds to Harold Williams, a Manager of Bahamasair, on Saturday 16 March 2019. It appears that this may be a hate crime. The matter is being investigated.

"The Government of The Bahamas must say what the position is on this matter and if indeed it is so classified as a hate crime.

"This issue bears some greater importance given the constant attacks on public safety matters by US officials about The Bahamas," said the PLP statement.

There has been no official statement from Bahamasair or from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs up to press time.



GOVERNMENT NOTICES

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ROAD TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

P.O BOX N-1615

THOMAS A. ROBINSON NATIONAL STADIUM

NASSAU, N.P. BAHAMAS

The Public Sitting of the Road Traffic Authority Board Will be held at Thomas A Robinson National Stadium, Off University Drive on the 26th March 2019 at 10 am.

The Board will be considering applications for the grant of Self Drive Cars/Scooters, Private Schedule Omnibus Franchises and Variations in accordance with the Road Traffic Act, Chapter 220.

Further, in accordance with the provisions of Road Traffic Act Chapter 220, any person is entitled to object to the grant of any franchise, however a person who would wish to be heard as an objector should within fourteen (14) days of the date of this publication lodge in writing, two (2) copies of his/her objection, setting out therein, all the grounds of his/her objection(s).

The under-mentioned persons or their representatives are required to attend:

SELF DRIVE CARS		
	NAME/ADDRESS	AMOUNT REQUESTING
1.	Schivano L. Saunders Anguilla Ave Nassau Bahamas	2 SD Cars
2.	Kirk A. Bastian Elizabeth Estates Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
3.	Lawar Mcneil Carmichael Road Nassau Bahamas	20 SD Cars
4.	Shanique Missick/Kamal Scott Nassau Village	2 SD Cars
5.	Bryantino Rahming Paradise Island Drive Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
6.	Thomas Forbes Adelaide Road Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
7.	Duran Stubbs Pinewood Gardens Nassau, Bahamas	10 SD Cars
8.	Nerlie Dorvieux Family Street Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
9.	Keisa Cox Farrington Road Nassau Bahamas	6 SD Cars
10.	Calvin Higgs Faith Avenue Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars

11	Kimely Bain P.O. Box SB 50629 Hope Gardens Nassau Bahamas	5 SD CARS
12	Alextine Daxon Stapledon Gardens FH14083 Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
13	Sidney Mckenzie Sidmac Car Rentals Ltd., P.O. Box N-1603 Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
14	Frank Burrows Sir Lynden Pindling Estates Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
15	Annette Thomas-Longley Winton Meadows III Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
16	Valentino Farquharson Prince Charles Nassau Bahamas	3 SD Cars
17	Bertram Sears Wellington Lane Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
18	Alexander Johnson Clairidge Road Nassau Bahamas	3 SD CARS
19	Fred Rahming Hope Garden Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
20	Glenda Roker Pride Estates Nassau Bahamas	5 SD CARS
21	Marvin Comarcho Jr. Fox Hill Road Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
22	Lerone Hanna Marathon Road Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
23	Cyril Greenslade/Gloria Greenslade Carmichael Road Nassau Bahamas	20 SD Cars
24	Olevia B. Anderson Pride Estates Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
25	Santino Evans Shrimp and Hamster Street Nassau Bahamas	5 SD CARS
26	Dirk Simmons & Stephen Sweeting Skyline Lakes Nassau Bahamas	30 SD Cars
27	Miranda Adderley Harmony Hill Road Nassau Bahamas	10 SD CARS
28	Marvin Comarcho Sr. Oakes Field Nassau Bahamas	12 SD Cars
29	Michael Jeudi Minni Street Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
30	Eric Whitely Jr. Dunmoe Drive Nassau Bahamas	20 SD CARS
31	Shanique Bodie Silver Pine Close Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
32	Sypron Brice Flamingo Gardens	15 SD Cars

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MP Requests More Time For Public Disclosure

BY BERTHONY McDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Three parliamentarians had requested an extension to turn in financial disclosures under the Public Disclosure Act past the March 1st deadline.

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis told reporters yesterday, "My

understanding is two have already submitted, they have complied with the commission, while one has been given an extension and the commission has the right to do it so, nobody is outside the compliance," he said.

West End and Bimini MP Pakiesha Parker-Edgecombe recently

revealed that she was among those requesting more time.

Failing to declare under the Integrity Commission Bill could result in a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or time in prison not exceeding one year.

The law requires public officials, like members of parliament, senators

and other high-ranking government officials, to make full disclosures of their income, assets and liabilities.

The Prime Minister previously told reporters that the files on delinquent disclosures would be sent to the office of the Attorney General.

However, nothing has

happened as yet to those persons who have failed to disclose.

House Speaker Halson Moultrie reminded Members of Parliament during the March 1st sitting of the House that he had already declared and warned parliamentarians that they must comply or face the consequences.

Meantime, Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Fred Mitchell has confirmed that all PLP MP's and senators have disclosed.

Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands and Exuma and Ragged Island MP Chester Cooper, posted their disclosure receipts on their Facebook pages.

DAME JANET BOSTWICK WELCOMED WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN COURTESY CALL



► Dame Janet Bostwick welcomed Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians in a courtesy call, Monday, March 18, at the Ministry of Youth Sports and Culture. Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, the Hon. Lanisha Rolle made a special presentation to Dame Janet during the event. Pictured with Dame Janet (centre) are, from left: Executive Director of Culture Rowena Sutherland; Senator the Hon. Jennifer Dotson; Miriam Emmanuel, MP; Shonel Ferguson, MP; Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture the Hon. Lanisha Rolle; Parliamentary Secretary Pakesia Parker-Edgecombe; Senator the Hon. Sharon Ferguson Knowles; Permanent Secretary (Actg.) Rhoda Jackson; and Under Secretary Renee Bullard. (BIS Photos/Patrick Hanna)

Continued from / PAGE 2



33	Nassau Bahamas Deborah Mortimer Soldier Road Nassau Bahamas	3 SD Cars
34	Denard Dean Big Pond Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
35	Laramie Woodside Mackey Street Nassau Bahamas	3 SD Cars
36	Kevin Duncombe # Dignity Gardens Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
37	Julie Johnson Jubilee Gardens Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
38	Samatha Bain Sugar Apple Street Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
39	Marisa Darling Chippingham Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
40	Edward Johnson St Vincent Road Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
41	Jewel Sands Prince Charles Drive Nassau Bahamas	35 Plates
42	Anthony Duvalier Garden View Estate Nassau Bahamas	20 SD Cars
43	Lelia J. Beneby Sanford Drive Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
44	Kevin Duncombe Dignity Gardens Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
45	Monique Taylor Fox Hill Nassau Bahamas	20 SD Cars
46	Curtis Gray and Dana Munnings Coral Heights East Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
47	Aniska P. Johnson Carmichael Road Nassau Bahamas	4 SD Cars
48	Tomico Horton Big Pond Nassau Bahamas	2 SD Cars
49	Tamara Francis Windsor Fields Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
50	Christo D. Edgecombe Lancaster Road Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
51	Stanley Forbes Montague Nassau Bahamas	3 SD Cars
52	Carlisa Armbrster & Colin Mckenzie Teal Street Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
53	Rudolph V.D. Bowe Love Beach Estates Nassau Bahamas	4 SD Cars
54	Keithian D. Gray Claridge Road P.O. Box CR-56173	5 SD Cars



55	Nassau Bahamas Cindy Kelly Wulff Road P.O. Box N-1333 Nassau Bahamas	5 SD CARS
56	Wellington Richards Cowpen Road Nassau Bahamas	6 SD CARS
57	Julian Rolle Stapleton Gardens Nassau Bahamas	5 SD CARS
58	Laverna Baker Skyline Lakes Nassau Bahamas	10 SD CARS
59	Jerome Johnson Minnie Street Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
60	Nathaniel Ferguson Jr. Collins Avenue Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
61	Burshall Lebron Bain Yamacraw Hill Road Nassau, Bahamas	15 SD Cars
62	Dwight R. Longley Sandilands Village Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
63	Dexter Kerr Jr. West Bay Street Nassau Bahamas	20 SD Cars
64	Carvison and Philippa Pratt Sea breeze Lane Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
65	Henry Bain Opulent Drive Nassau Bahamas	30 SD Cars
66	Bancroft Thompson Jr. Malcolm Road Nassau, Bahamas	5 SD Cars
67	Sherrell McSweeney/Harvey Johnson Oakes Field Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
68	William Mccartney Mount Royal Avenue Nassau, Bahamas	12 SD Cars
69	Giovanni Thompson Yamacraw Shores Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
70	Brian Newbold Pinewood Gardens Nassau Bahamas	2 SD Cars
71	Javon Saunders Montague Villas Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
72	Sherese Hamilton Winton Estate Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
73	Hesley Walkine West Bay Street Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
74	Wayde Seymour Marathon Estates Nassau Bahamas	5 SD Cars
75	Newell Bullard Graham Drive Nassau Bahamas	6 SD Cars
76	Coolie Johnson-McDonald Nassau Village Nassau Bahamas	2 SD Cars

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New Wards For PMH Soon

Continued from / PAGE 1...

ed and will put new bed space or reclaim vacant space so we don't have the hold up in the emergency room with patients waiting in the isles for days for persons to get admitted to hospital."

As it relates to the dialysis unit, the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation on Thursday assured that beds are on the way. The question now is there sufficient nurses? "The process of dealing with the challenges of any particular unit is based on full-time staff and then support staff brought in from elsewhere.

"The last time I would have spoken to the new Director of Nephrology, they were managing reasonably

well and that's not to say that every single shift, if somebody calls is sick that there is not a problem.

"However, the goal is to manage this is a short term, to recruit additional trained dialysis nurses, and dialysis technicians to make sure that we have enough coverage and we have also to continue the process of out-source patients to the private sector," said Dr. Sands.

The ultimate goal is to bring back all those beds taken out of commission.

According to the Minister, there are also hundreds of wheelchairs for every health facility in the country to be distributed once appropriately labeled.

Appeal Of Frank Smith's Case Delayed

Continued from / PAGE 1...

and Barbara Hanna", the woman who the prosecution alleged accused Smith of bribery and extortion.

The Crown, lead by Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Garvin Gaskin took the matter to the Court of Appeal, however the case did not go as the defense had anticipated as the proceedings saw the Crown requesting an extension.

The Crown submitted that it had yet to receive and review the transcript from the trial heard in Magistrate's Court, as well as the the Justices had only just received their copies, subsequently seeking additional time to obtain the same.

However, there was strong objection from Smith's lead attorney,

Queen's Counsel, Damian Gomez, who in turn noted that while it was true that they had not received, from the court the transcript, during the preparation for the Court of Appeal hearing, they collaborated with the lawyers from the prosecution to compile a record "in the hope that the matter is argued and disposed of".

Mr. Gomez further submitted that a copy of the same was provided to the crown.

The Appeal Justices, Jon Isaacs, Stella Crane-Scott and Roy Jones, however, opted to adjourn the matter as they too had only received the court transcripts on Friday.

In allowing the extension, Justice Crane-Scott told the attorneys that material was missing

from the transcript, particularly arraignment date, charge sheet and plea, as there had to be amendments during the status hearing before the Magistrate.

Mrs. Crane-Scott noted that the missing information was needed for her to acquire a full understanding of the trial.

One of Smith's attorney, Queen's Counsel, Keith D. Knight, noted that he was "a quite disappointed but understood the ruling of the court".

As he is from Jamaica, Mr. Knight was given time to confirm a date with his office in Jamaica to when he would be available to return to Nassau.

The new trial date is set for May 14. The Crown's team includes Kendra Kelly and Al-Leecia Delaney.



Former Chairman of the Public Hospitals Authority, Frank Smith

UNION LEADER ACCUSES MORTON SALT OF UNIONBUSTING

Continued from / PAGE 1...

yesterday.

In a press release, Ms. Brown said that the safety of workers is now being compromised as the company is reportedly forcing them to work in unsafe conditions.

She said, "the company

has promised a counter proposal over 2 weeks ago. I don't know why it is taking so long to prepare, when we have been negotiating for over a year now."

The BIMAWU President also indicated that Morton Bahamas Ltd "once again, union busting.

"Over the weekend

(Saturday and Sunday) March 16 & 17, 2019, the Company breached the Industrial Agreement (Article 2 Statement and Purpose) in that permanent workers were denied overtime contrary to the spirit of intent of the agreement by scheduling part-time workers to work the over-

time hours, when permanent workers were willing and able to work the overtime.", she said.

She added that workers are now unenthused, after pushing to achieve company goals set out for 2018's projected budget.

Ms. Brown said that workers at the Inagua-

based plant made and exceeded by 790 tons and the company has given no satisfactory bonus, while managerial staff took home \$14,000 and \$18,000, while workers, who actually worked received \$237.00.

Last month Labour Minister Dion Foulkes said

that he was "very concerned" by the impasse in negotiations between Morton Bahamas and its employees in that southern Family Island.

Both BIMAWU and the Inagua-based salt company have been negotiating a new industrial agreement for several months.

Continued from / PAGE 3



77	Bernard Bodie Sunset Park Nassau, Bahamas	15 SD Cars
78	Richena Bain Garden Hills Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
79	Marlon Wood Yamacraw Beach Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
80	Theotis Taylor Golden Gates Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
81	Shantelle Seymour Marshall Road Nassau Bahamas	8 SD Cars
82	Treca Whyms & Dion Thompson Pine Cone Ave Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
83	Joydawn Roberts Prince Charles Drive Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
84	Basil Moss Jubilee Gardens Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
85	Darcia Carey Pinewood Gardens Nassau Bahamas	3 SD Cars
86	Lenny Rolle Sunset Meadows Nassau Bahamas	SD Cars 3
87	Amber Johnson Cowpen Road Nassau Bahamas	SD Cars 15
88	Karen Moss-Timothy Tower Heights Nassau Bahamas	SD Cars 2
89	Kemico Sands Nassau East South Nassau Bahamas	SD Cars 2
90	Dario Campbell Fire Trail Road Nassau Bahamas	SD Cars 3
91	Jared Forbes Emmanuel Drive Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
92	Berkley Newton Fire Trail Road Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
93	Aaliyah Rahming Marshall Road Nassau Bahamas	2 SD Cars
94	Dania Ferguson High vista Nassau Bahamas	3 SD Cars
95	Jem Roberts Sea Breeze Estates Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
96	Don Delancy Joe Farrington Road Nassau Bahamas	3 SD Cars
97	Karen Belle Flamingo Gardens Nassau Bahamas	3 SD Cars
98	Arnette Baker Pinewood Gardens Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars



99	Amber Johnson Cowpen Road West Nassau Bahamas	15 SD Cars
101	Daniel Stubbs Fleming Street Nassau Bahamas	10 SD Cars
102	Edward Demeritte Mermaid Blvd Nassau Bahamas	13 SD Cars

SELF DRIVE SCOOTERS

	NAME/ADDRESS	AMOUNT REQUESTING
1	Rino King Country Club Estates Nassau Bahamas	25 SD Scooter
2	Erica Chea Poets Drive Nassau Bahamas	30 SD Scooter

PRIVATE SCHEDULE OMNIBUS

	NAME/ADDRESS	AMOUNT REQUESTING
1	Kristin Archer Garden Hills Nassau Bahamas	1 Private Schedule Plates
2	Gregory Munnings Clifton Heritage Authority Nassau Bahamas	3 Private Schedule Plates
3	Henry Forbes South Beach Nassau Bahamas	4 Private Schedule Plates
4	Geralde Gabriel Joe Farrington Road Nassau Bahamas	1 Private Schedule Plates
5	Barrett Smith Coral Harbour Nassau Bahamas	2 Private Schedule Plates
6	Danny Gibson West Bay Street Nassau Bahamas	5 Private Schedule Plates
7	Nicole Matecki Sweeting Lane Nassau Bahamas	3 Private Schedule Plates
8	Daniel Moss Mark Ave, Buttonwood Nassau Bahamas	3 Private Schedule Plates
9	Shavane Turnquest Big Flower Invest. Ltd. Cable Beach Nassau Bahamas	3 Private Schedule Plates
10	Elroy Knowles Bel Air Estate Nassau Bahamas	2 Private Schedule Plates
11	Joseph Wemyss Honeysuckle LN Nassau Bahamas	5 Private Schedule Plates
12	Tamara Francis Winsor Field Road Nassau Bahamas	3 Private Schedule Plates

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Letter to the Editor

AN URGENT AND SACRED MANDATE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OUR BAHAMALAND & MOTHER EARTH

Dear Editor:

My people, we are called to be the environmental consciousness pioneers, at this critical juncture of Earth's dramatic agony, caused by our human species.

Our mission is sacred; the indomitable laws of nature require us to preserve the sanctity of her breast, her bosom and her precious womb. We all come forth from her loins, yet she has entrusted the preservation of every aspect of her glorious self to our safe keeping. Indeed, we have within our powers to destroy her and all that exist upon her. Over many millennia, she has through her evolutions passed through significant iterations. However, presently, she is unwittingly, negatively and dangerously being assisted by the foot prints of man, down a path she has never intended.

Specifically, within the boundaries of our archipelago formation, she has over millions of years carefully, diligently and graciously laid forth a panorama of seas, islands, beaches, coral reefs, mangroves, bays, wetlands, even swamps; and dry land ... both, relevantly spread with a multitude of terrestrial and marine species. A multitude of these features are indigenous just to our islands and seas. Thus, smorgasbords of delights have been ours over ions of times. We sin mortally when in our ignorance, or simple disrespect, we wantonly pillage, ravage and destroy her beauty in the name of "progress."

As similar aspects are rapidly disappearing across our globe, more and more a multitude of prospectors are focusing a keen eye on the splendors of these pristine islands and cays of our Bahamaland. They come, in the name of development and job creation; however, unmindful of the hand of God in this glorious creation, they simply end up more so like pirates, coming often to plunder, and carry off as booty our sacred heritage to feed their insatiable selfish power of greed.

As the available coastal real estate, especially along the seaboard of the United States, completely disappears, many look our way to find and secure their wilderness refuge. However, we are the designated stewards of these islands, so gifted to us unconditionally. Thus our abiding responsibility is to preserve them for time immemorial, into the thousandth generations yet unborn.

We will forever, like the great and enlightened masters of yester year, need the silence and peace of the wilderness, whether on land or in the sea to commune meaningfully with ourselves and our creator. Thus upon the bosom and belly of Mother Earth, we discover the true abodes of peace, richness, fullness, rejuvenation and abundance.

We need our wilderness, we need to treasure our places of refuge in order to commune with our spiritual self, contemplate the essence of our being, and come to intuitively perceive the reason of our being here and specifically in this place at this

time. Additionally, the multitude of terrestrial and marine species also need and require their habitats of refuge to prosper and grow. They do so again with an unconditional motive, to share themselves with us, feed us and create a symbiotic relationship with them and the Earth we mutually share and enjoy.

When we lose sight of this transcendent vision of our place and that of every creature in the nature of all things, then we begin to eat away at the abundance, lose sight of the need to replenish, and very soon all is lost. Humanity is fast tracking along that route of the annihilation of all the natural and sacred gifts so abundantly bestowed upon us by our gracious creator.

As environmentally consciousness pioneers, then, we all are the ones entrusted with the mission to awaken our slumbering fellow human beings, not only locally, but regionally and globally. Our pristine waters do not exist in a motionless state; they flow in and out of our archipelago, sending forth life into other regions and bringing in return life from afar. Water and air are Similar and indispensable, the most unconditionally sharing gifts on this planet. Thus how we treat our waters and our air in and around our islands, bays, streams, sounds, and even swamps has profound effects, not only at home but across the globe.

Thus to the degree that we care for these treasures so will the positive results be realized. What areas we preserve, well planned and managed, will not only return lasting benefits to us, but will also send those effects throughout the realm. Then in the ages to come, our children, from whom we are borrowing this planet, will cherish and preserve this God-gifted spot in the limitless universe. They too will have pure drinkable water, clear dividable water, abundant fishable water and refreshing breathable air. These are their fundamental rights and we need to guarantee them.

We need then, to create reserves, banks into which our treasures can reside and grow, providing us with the residual outcome to supply our long term needs, and consequently allowing all living species to roam in their safe wilderness of refuge. Therein lies the sustainability of what God has so graciously bestowed upon our people and nation. In short and in essence, this mission is nothing short of a moral and spiritual mandate. It has just now been estimated that at the rate we are wantonly destroying our lands and seas, our oceans will be devoid of all life by 2048. Is that the legacy we wish to bequeath future generations!?

**Joseph Darville, Save The Bays
Waterkeeper
19 March 2019**

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The Bahama
Journal
Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

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Kimalee P. Jones
Vice President/Operations

E D I T O R I A L

CORRUPTION IN HEALTHCARE

There are many Bahamians who are complaining about the state of healthcare in the Bahamas and their cries have gone unanswered for many years. Thankfully, the Minister of Health Doctor Duane Sands has pledged to do something about it. In a telephone call to the Radio Love 97 Talk Show Issues of the Day yesterday, Dr. Sands agreed that there are many consultant Physicians who are guilty of guiding patients away from the public health care facilities, like the Princess Margaret Hospital in New Providence or from the Rand Memorial Hospital in Grand Bahama, to their private offices and clinics when they are able to provide care in the hospitals. The complaints are registered that some consultant physicians are guilty of corruption in this regard, since they are being paid by the Public Treasury as consultants.

Dr. Sands acknowledged that there are some "bad apples among physicians", but he was quick to say that they are in the minority and that the vast majority of doctors go beyond the call of duty on an ongoing basis, working beyond the required hours of 20 hours a week as consultants and work up to 60 or 80 hours per week. He says the answer to this problem is to get doctors who are employed on a full time basis within the public hospitals to avoid the problem of private doctors having to refer public patients to their private offices.

Already, he noted, that there are some 500 patients who receive dialysis treatment for renal failure paid for by the government. Only 160 of these are accommodated at the Princess Margaret Hospital. The others are sent to private clinics at the government's expense. We believe that the same protocol should apply to patients with other ailments as well. If the government does not have the equipment of the facilities to care for public patients in public facilities, then the government should pay for these same patients in private facilities to be treated for other ailments.

There must be a way to reduce the level of corruption in the provision of healthcare in the Bahamas. Far too many healthcare professionals are guilty of abusing the poor or those individuals who are unable to pay for private care.

Many Bahamians today are saddled with hefty hospital bills, due to a lack of private insurance and they are forced to pay exorbitant fees out of pocket for services which should be paid at the expense of the public. After all, this is what Bahamians pay taxes for. It is incumbent then on the government to ensure that taxes are used to provide proper services in education, healthcare and national security.

There are a growing number of Bahamians

who dread the thought of going to our public hospitals to be admitted for care. This should not be the case. We know that those responsible for the Public Hospitals Authority are seeking to improve the quality of care to their customers, but this must include monitoring the behaviour of offending doctors when the unsuspecting members of the public must pay for care, to ensure that they are not being set-up to pay charges privately that are already paid for by the government.

We have been fully supportive of an increase in salaries and benefits for Consultant Physicians in the public sector. However, we equally despise the practice of double-dipping and over-charging poor people.

Many doctors in the Bahamas have determined that they are in business, not to provide a service to the public; to practice their vocation, but to get rich quickly. This mindset came about some decades ago when many Bahamians started purchasing medical health insurance. So the insurance industry actually fuelled the greed of doctors. There was a time in our country when most doctors made house calls. They lived modestly from their earnings and provided much needed services to the people. Many Bahamians remember well physicians with the names of Walker, Worrell, Cumberbatch, Rodgers and Bennet; who gave good services to the community. The Bahamian population was smaller then and healthier than today. Now, there are hundreds of trained specialists in the country who no doubt believe that they should make hundreds of thousands of dollars per year because of the money they spent for their training, never mind that some of them were trained at the expense of the public scholarship programme.

It our belief that the proper administration of a National Health Insurance programme will address some of these problems, We understand that under NHI, the government will guarantee Physicians in private practice a minimum of 1000 patients annually, with each person paying a minimum of \$150. This would mean that the average doctor in private practice will earn a minimum of \$150,000 per year. This amount will be in addition to fees they will earn from the legitimate private patients. Hopefully this will reduce the level of corruption in the medical profession.

At the end of the day, in order to rectify some of the corrupt practices, over charging and poor service in the provision of healthcare, the appointment of an official Ombudsman should be a priority of the government. The quicker one can be appointed, the better the profession will be.

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NO BETTER READING

Henfield Participates in International Conference on Building Resilience to Natural Disasters

Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Darren A. Henfield, upon invitation by the Government of Romania, recently participated in an International Conference on Building Resilience to Natural Disasters in Bucharest, Romania.

Minister Henfield along with CARICOM Foreign Ministers and the Secretary General of CARICOM H.E. Irwin LaRocque engaged in political dialogue, March 11-12, with H.E. Mrs. Ana Birchall, Romanian Vice Prime Minister/Strategic Partnerships; H.E. Mr. Teodor Meleşcanu, Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs; and other senior officials. Dialogue was followed by participation in the international conference, which was also attended by representatives of Asian and African countries.

During the conference, the delegations engaged with Romanian political and technical officials on lessons learned and shar-



▶ A memento to Minister Henfield (left) from Dr. Raed Arafat, Romanian Secretary of State and Head of the Dept. of Emergency Situations

ing of best practices in coping with natural disasters.

Discussions addressed

social, economic and environmental impact of natural disasters, damage mitigation, and the atten-

dant cost of efforts to proactively build resilience to those disasters, particularly for Small

Island Developing States (SIDS).

Minister Henfield, in his intervention, outlined

the devastating impact of hurricanes on The Bahamas from as far back as the 1960s and shared the continual challenges of infrastructural and redevelopment exercises faced by The Bahamas and its sister CARICOM countries. He underscored the importance of building resilience to withstand the impact of natural disasters. Other speakers provided corroborating information pertaining to their respective countries.

CARICOM Ministers thanked Romania, the current President of Council of the European Union for its leadership in promoting initiatives to build disaster resilience and its support in speaking out about the dangers of climate change.

Minister Henfield was accompanied by former Ambassador to Haiti and the Dominican Republic Captain Godfrey Rolle, and Director of NEMA Captain Stephen Russell.

Women of BRON celebrate IWD by promoting gender equality in STEM industries

Continued from / PAGE 4



VARIATION		
1	Carlean Moss Marshall Road Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Routes Change
2	Johnathan Woodside East Street South Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Route Change
3	Oscar Saunders Soldier Road Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Route Change
4	Doris Gibson Dowdeswell & Deveaux Street Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus transfer
5	Margarette Thompson-Bain Sunset Park Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Transfer
6	Basil Woodside Garden Hills Nassau Bahamas	Request Public schedule Omnibus Route Change
7	Clarence Higgs Prince Higgs Nassau Bahamas	Request Company name change
8	Shandy Higgs Blue Hill Road Nassau Bahamad	Variation of Tour and Self Drive Plates
9	Joseph Bridgewater Coral Height East Nassau Bahamas	Request Tour Plate Transfer
10	Raymond Johnson Southwind Gardens Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Routes Change
11	Rudolph Taylor Sr. Ritz Lane Nassau Bahamas	Request Public schedule Omnibus Route Change
12	Saspress Rolle Palm Beach Street Nassau Bahamas	Request Public schedule Omnibus Routes Change
13	George, Keva and Ricardo Hamilton Malcolm Allotment Nassau Bahamas	Request Self Drive Company Name Change
14	Happy Tour Ltd Nassau Bahamas	Request Company name change
15	Ali Zubair Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Transfer
16	Craig Knowles Hunt and Ramsay Street Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Route Change
17	James Lewis Big Lou Bus Service Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Routes Change
18	Otto Gibbs Winton Meadows Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Transfer
19	Aaron Woodside Venice Bay Blvd Nassau Bahamas	Request Public Schedule Omnibus Routes Change
20	Nassau Transport Company Ltd. Davis Street Nassau Bahamas	Request Self Drive Cars Transfer

END



▶ BRON team members make a W to celebrate International Women's Day. From L-R Gabrielle Neely, Kelli Armstrong, Crystal Hanna, Elise Roberts, Corey Cartwright, Niketra Smith, Desiree Smith, and Patricia Roberts. (Missing from this photo is Lakeisha Albury, Engineer).

An all-female contingent from BRON, a management and administration hub that supports a group of companies dealing in STEM-related industries, celebrated International Women's Day by visiting students of C.I. Gibson High School and Windsor High School.

The group consisting of Kelli Armstrong, Corey Cartwright, Elise Roberts, Desiree Smith, Crystal Hanna, Niketra Smith, Lakeisha Albury, Gabrielle Neely, and Patricia Roberts, spoke to students about working in engineering, environmental science, and technology - all male-dominated fields. In their discussions with senior students of C.I. Gibson Senior High and STEM program students from Windsor High School, the team, encouraged students never to let their gender be the reason not to pursue their dreams. They also explained the importance for senior students to seek jobs that are inclusive and promotes gender equality in and out of the workplace.

In one session on how discrimination can happen, Armstrong told students about being rejected for a job because she was a woman. She said, "I

have had people tell me to my face that I couldn't get a job that I applied for because I'm a woman. According to them, they were protecting me because I was applying for supervisory positions that required me to oversee groups of men and they believed that men wouldn't respect me in that position. My response was, 'how about you give me the job and let us find out.'" Armstrong has an Ivy League Master's from Columbia and is now an Environmental Scientist at Caribbean Coastal Services.

Students were fully engaged throughout the presentation and asked a variety of questions. One student asked pointedly if they are treated differently at work than their male colleagues. The group of women unanimously said no and praised BRON for promoting and advocating equity and equality within their working environment. They used the example of their absence from work on that particular day as evidence of BRON's support in and out of the office.

"We have to work to change the mindset of people," said Elise Roberts, Technical

Director at Atametrics. "Many times when we, (myself and the surveyor), go to speak externally on a project we go together. It's like we are sharing the responsibility and that emphasizes the fact that we are both qualified, that we both have our place and that together we offer the services required for this project."

As a group of women who work predominantly with men, the female leaders of BRON also want to emphasize that equality is about partnership. They plan to continue to encourage young men to be advocates for women in such industries to promote confidence in young women who want to explore untraditional jobs by making visits to schools on International Women's Day an annual event and extending the celebration to reach more young Bahamians.

BRON is a management and administration hub that supports Caribbean Coastal Services (CCS), ENCO International (ENCO) and Atametrics. BRON offers engineering, environmental, surveying, and drilling services and more with offices in Nassau, Miami and Providenciales.

COOPER RESPONDS TO PM's ATTACK ON THE PLP IN EXUMA

Continued from / PAGE 1...

In a press statement Mr. Cooper said, "I had hoped, beyond all reasonable expectation, that when the prime minister visited Exuma over the weekend he would speak to the community about beneficial developments for Exuma and leave politics out of it."

I was mistaken. "Not only is it comical that the prime minister seeks credit for capital works that have been developed over succes-

sive administrations. "If he would only resist the temptation to be petty and realize he should be the prime minister of all the people of The Bahamas, not just FNMs, we would all be better off for it."

The Opposition Deputy leader said, "the prime minister seeks to turn public sentiment against the PLP for not supporting setting up a \$100 million credit line for hurricane relief from the IDB, as if this administration has not already

borrowed and taxed enough in two years with very little to show for it.

"It appears the prime minister either does not know or is seeking to hide the fact that the contingency loan cannot be used to fund the rebuilding of permanent infrastructure.

"It is a badly negotiated loan that even some government ministers clearly did not examine carefully," said Mr. Cooper.

"Additionally, there is no issue about the coun-

try's capacity to borrow in the event of a disaster.

"Meantime, the people of Ragged Island, are left to fend for themselves as the prime minister shamelessly touts how much he covets another term in office.

"What should have been some welcome good news for Exuma, has been sullied with political discord," he said.

The prime minister should know better, but he has so far exhibited no inclination to do better.



Member of Parliament for Exuma and Ragged Island, Chester Cooper

Government embarks on 'new frontier in renewable energy'

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis yesterday officially opened a 925-kilowatt solar plant facility at the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium.

The facility, the largest of its kind in The Bahamas, is expected to replace the equivalent of 310,000 gallons of diesel annually, and will also serve as a carport with electric vehicle charging stations. It was made possible by a grant from the Government of the United Arab Emirates, through the UAE-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund.

"Our vision is to deliver world-class renewable energy technology to meet the needs of a developing and expanding 21st



Prime Minister Minnis Addressing Solar Facility at National Stadium

Century economy," Prime Minister Minnis said.

"The energy generated from these solar panels will feed into our national grid, and as I understand

it, will offset some of the electricity usage of neighbouring schools."

One of the key priori-

See page 8...

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PUBLIC NOTICE
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL PLANNING

The public is hereby notified that the Town Planning Committee has scheduled a public meeting for interested persons and organizations to discuss the application on behalf of The Estate of the Late John F. Morley to rezone a tract of land, approximately twenty-three (23) acres in size, for commercial land use.

The subject property is zoned for low-density residential land use and is bounded on the north by John F. Kennedy Drive, bounded on the south by Munnings Road and immediately west of South Westridge Estates.

Please note that the meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 14th March 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the public meeting room of the Department of Physical Planning.

The file (PSA/139/2017) is available for viewing at the Department of Physical Planning, located in the Aventura Plaza on John F. Kennedy Drive, during normal working hours.

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

Submissions should be made via P.O. Box N-1611 Nassau, Bahamas or fax (242) 328-3206. Further inquiries should be made to the Acting Director via Tel: (242)322-7550/2 or (242)328-3202 or CHARLESZONICLE@BAHAMAS.GOV.BS

Signed
Charles B. Zonicle
Acting Director of Physical Planning

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