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# The Bahama Journal

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# 'Country in Crisis'

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON  
*Journal Staff Writer*

In a clarion call for women to step-up and become leaders, former Progressive Liberal Party Senator Robyn Lynes said The Bahamas is in 'crisis' and needs more women to be a part of the leadership that brings the solutions Bahamians desperately need.

"When you have one woman in Cabinet that is not good," Lynes, who was yesterday's guest on Love 97's Issues of the Day radio talk show, said.

"That is not good because that is not a good reflection of what our demographic realities are

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▶ Former PLP Senator Robyn Lynes

## NPO Bill Passed in Senate

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
*Journal Staff Writer*

The contentious Non-Profit Organizations (NPO) Amendment Bill was a part of the compendium of bills passed in the Senate on Monday.

The bills are aimed at helping The Bahamas meet the requirements to exit the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force.

Leading off the government's contribution, Attorney General Senator Carl Bethel said the Non-Profit Organizations Amendment Bill seeks to clear the misconception that the government is going after the collection plate.

"Nothing is further from the truth. The government is not interested in the collection plate at

■ See page 4...

## Man Struck by Lightning Dies

Police in Andros are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a man who was struck by lightning on Monday.

According to police, shortly after 12 p.m., a man and woman went on a fishing trip a few miles off Red Bays, Andros,

when they were caught in an electrical storm.

Police said the man was allegedly struck by lightning and fell into the water and became unconscious. The woman was able to call for assistance

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## Teen Drowns on Long Wharf Beach

A 15-year-old boy, identified by a relative as Ethan Miller, allegedly drowned on Long Wharf Beach on Monday.

According to police, shortly after 3 p.m., a

group of juvenile males were swimming in waters at Long Wharf Beach, West Bay Street, when one of them became distressed and submerged in the water.

He was retrieved from the water in an unconscious state and transported to hospital where he was pronounced dead a short time later.

Police said an autopsy

will be performed to determine the exact cause of death.

Investigations continue.

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## 107 NEW RBDF MARINES COMPLETE BASIC RECRUIT TRAINING PROGRAMME



▶ Minister of National Security the Hon. Marvin Dames congratulated the 107 members of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force New Entry 56 and Woman Entry 25 on the successful completion of the Force's Basic Military Recruit Training Programme, during their Passing Out Parade Ceremony, on July 26, 2019, at HMBS Coral Harbour Base. (BIS Photo / Eric Rose)

## Mitchell Questions Fox Hill's Light Bill

BY EARYEL BOWLEG  
*Journal Staff Writer*

Senator Fred Mitchell claimed on Monday that the Fox Hill Committee was sent a \$46,000 outstanding bill by Bahamas Power and Light.

Mitchell raised the issue in the Senate, where he explained that BPL negotiated with the committee to pay only



■ See page 4...

▶ Senator Fred Mitchell



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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# Plans to Conserve Sharks while Protecting Human Life



► The Department of Marine Resources officially opened a Shark Symposium, Monday, July 29, 2019. Major international experts are presenting on topics relative to shark species and their handling during the two-day event being held at The Island House, Lyford Cay. The Hon. Michael Pintard, Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources, welcomed attendees at the Symposium. **(BIS Photos/Kristaan Ingraham)**

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
Journal Staff Writer

An International Shark Symposium in its second day of a two-day Sharks and CITES Symposium: Prep for the COP (Conference of the Parties) focusing on the preservation of marine resources, more specifically sharks and rays.

More feared than revered, sharks have long gotten a bad reputation as the apex predator of the sea. But researchers have found that tens to hundreds of millions are killed each year.

For The Bahamas National Trust (BNT) this is a major concern as The Bahamas has one of the most impressive and extensive National Parks in the Americas, according to BNT Director Eric Carey.

The BNT's efforts to protect the marine species have attracted government attention to do more to protect sharks locally.

As shark finds are worth big money, it begs the need for conservation and with that backdrop, the Ministry of Agriculture Marine Resources teamed up with international partners to host the symposium here in The Bahamas.

Minister of Agriculture Micheal Pintard told symposium participants yesterday that The Bahamas stands in solidarity with countries that have signed on to the convention to protect sharks and rays and that The Bahamas is well on its way to the 2020 challenge, making a commitment to ensure that 20 percent of the country's marine environment would be set aside by 2020.

"The Bahamas is playing a leading role in the global community in the conservation of our marine environment. Of course this is not confining to sharks, but certainly you would be aware of the work that we have been doing," Mr. Pintard said.

"We are in the process of engaging in further discussions with Cabinet colleagues to weigh out the additional areas that have been identified.

"We've also been very careful to work with all stakeholders because we recognize that the government is but one important stakeholder, but all other stakeholders are equally important and we've had success because of this partnership

"We've gone to great lengths to avoid antagonistic relationship."

The symposium comes on the heels of 21-year-old American Jordan Lindsey, being attacked and killed by sharks in waters near Rose Island, followed by another non-fatal attack of an American man.

Minister Pintard assured that much is being done to enforce and make laws that are necessary to protect the marine environment as well as human life.

Mr. Pintard added that lots of research has been done in terms of the environmental benefits and sharks contribution to the overall ecosystem and the contributions socially as well as economically as businesses thrive because of the presence of sharks.

"With respects to sharks in particular, the efforts when they pay off, as they have been, no doubt result in the increase population of sharks. And when that occurs obviously that results in increase in interaction between sharks and human beings and at the end of the day, we appreciate fully the value of sharks," Mr. Pintard said.

"As we look at the increase number of sharks [that] we believe will result as an outcome of the efforts to be a making, we are seeking to strike a critical balance where while we protect sharks we also protect other users of the water, in particular, human beings who are engaged, working with

fisheries, whether Bahamians who are swimming or whether they are guests who come to our country."

Mr. Pintard further noted that the ministry will move decisively and definitively to address issues regarding sharks and possible shark attacks.

"We are examining with a view of dramatically reducing, and I believe

we will get to completely ban chumming in Bahamian waters. We have a very serious concern about the increase of feeding of sharks, particularly in residential areas or in the periphery of restaurants seeking to attract customers. That too is posing a problem, given where it is occurring," Mr. Pintard said.

Marine conservation has actually long been

discussed, and the BNT director explained that The Bahamas' commitment to protecting the marine environment many years ago as it values sharks as an important part of the ecosystem.

"We've had incredible successes in The Bahamas, not only with marine conservation, but there have been landmarked globally signifi-

cant levels of environmental conservation," Mr. Carey said.

"We're very proud of the creation of the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park in 1958, the oldest land and sea park in the world.

"We became a shark sanctuary, the first in the Caribbean, in 2011, and worked closely with some of you [Conference of Parties], and we are very proud of that."



## Request for Proposals (RFP) for services to conduct surveys of the Pay TV and Radio Broadcasting markets in The Bahamas.

The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) is the independent regulator for the electronic communications sector (ECS) in The Bahamas, comprising fixed and mobile telecommunications services, spectrum, numbering and broadcasting (which includes radio broadcasting and pay television).

One of the main policy objectives of the Communications Act 2009, requires URCA to further the interest of persons in The Bahamas by promoting availability of a wide range of content services which are of high quality. The pay television and radio broadcasting markets in The Bahamas have undergone certain structural and technological changes since September 2009, which give consumers access to a greater variety of media and communications products and services available to consumers on multiple platforms.

To ensure the continued promotion of the availability of a wide range of high quality content services, URCA seeks to measure consumer listening and watching habits and their opinions on the quality of available services and programming provided over pay tv and radio.

It is URCA's objective to obtain empirical data that can provide representative parameters on the listening and watching habits of consumers and their opinions on the quality of available services and programming provided to consumers over pay-tv and radio in The Bahamas.

URCA therefore invites interested entities to submit proposals for services to conduct surveys of the pay tv and radio broadcasting markets in The Bahamas.

**A copy of the RFP and TOR may be downloaded here, [https://www.urbahamas.bs/rfp\\_tor-broadcast-market-survey/](https://www.urbahamas.bs/rfp_tor-broadcast-market-survey/) or collected from URCA's offices Frederick House, Frederick Street, Nassau, The Bahamas.**

**The deadline for submission of proposals is no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday 2 August 2019.**

# 30,000 Support Stop Disney Campaign

BY EARYEL BOWLEG  
Journal Staff Writer

The 'STOP DISNEY - Last Chance for Lighthouse Point' campaign on Monday received more than 30,000 signatures in support of their petition against Disney Cruise Line to select an alternative site to construct their multimillion-dollar project at Lighthouse Point.

The campaign garnered attention to the more than 20,000 people who had signed the petition within just 12 days after its public launch on July 15.

The campaign organizers submitted another ad for publication to The Tribune just four days ago and 10,000 more have signed on.

The Bahamian partners in the campaign are Bahamas Reef Environment Education Foundation, EARTH-CARE, reEarth, Save the Bays, and Waterkeepers Bahamas. The Waterkeeper Alliance, based in New York, N.Y., has also signed onto the campaign.

Waterkeeper Alliance represents and works with 300 waterkeeper organi-

zations in 44 countries, including The Bahamas.

Director of reEarth Sam Duncombe was happy with the positive response to the campaign.

"It is amazing to see nearly 30,000 supporters in just over two weeks join us in opposition to the construction of an industrial cruise port in a pristine proposed marine protected area. Disney has to stop talking about its environmental policies and listen to all of our voice and do the right thing," said Mr. Duncombe.

The groups are con-

cerned about the entertainment giant docking at Lighthouse Point. On the campaign's Change.org page, they stated, "This is not the place where an environmentally responsible corporation would choose to construct a massive private cruise ship port."

They are suggesting that Disney select an alternative site for their cruise port and instead to work with local groups on a win-win alternative that would protect this unique site and secure sustainable economic opportunities for the communities

in South Eleuthera.

In a statement, the campaign organizer noted, "People in the Bahamas, the United States, and across the world treasure Lighthouse Point and are worried about the pressures already facing coral reefs and our oceans. Some Last Chance or Lighthouse Point campaign supporters love Disney and are puzzled by why Disney would pick a place like Lighthouse Point to build a port that would tarnish and degrade the area."

Director of Last

Chance for Lighthouse Point Campaign Phoebe Shaw is still hopeful to see how the matter unfolds.

"It is not too late for Disney to change course and find a different site for its cruise port. At the same time, the groups are eager to see Disney stay at Lighthouse Point and cooperate with local groups on a sustainable development alternative," Ms. Shaw argued.

"Disney has a chance to set a new precedent for sustainable development and the protection of global oceans."

# Man Arrested Over Altercation AT FUSION SUPERPLEX

Police arrested a 50-year-old man on Saturday in connection with an altercation at Fusion Superplex which left an employee with injuries.

The man also suffered

from serious injuries to the body and was taken to hospital to be treated.

According to police, on Friday a female employee of Fusion Superplex was in the employee parking

lot of that establishment, when she was involved in a physical altercation with a male known to her, who is also believed to be an employee of Fusion Superplex.

Following the incident, Fusion Superplex issued a statement explaining that its security team quickly responded to the domestic dispute that occurred in the parking

lot where a female was injured.

"We continue to pray for our colleague's quick recovery. We thank you for your support and wish to reassure the public that

we will always provide a safe and wholesome entertainment environment for the entire family," the statement read.

Police investigations are ongoing.



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# 'Country in Crisis'

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and so we need to fix that."

Of the 39 members of parliament, there are only five female MPs. Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Lanisha Rolle is the only female Cabinet minister out of 19.

While male domination in Bahamian politics needs to change, according to Lynes, she believes there are certain issues that will not be brought to the fore unless strong female leaders discuss it.

"That's just the reality because you can only be

sensitized to what you experience and there are some things that only women can advocate for because that is part of our reality and our experience as women and we need to bring that to the fore because the truth of the matter is women lead," she explained.

"Women lead in the demographic and the electorate. We lead as it relates to who's running households in this country. We lead as it relates to employment up to a particular sphere and then when it gets into the six figures etc., we start to see

the numbers declining and men are predominantly the persons who are largely employed in those spheres.

"So we now have to see more women in leadership so that it can be a conversation that is reflective of our populous."

Although Lynes is calling for women to become leaders, she said the women who want to lead should be able to withstand the challenges that come with being in public life.

"I don't even consider myself to be a public figure or someone in public

life, but social media can be brutal and very cruel," she noted.

"You have to be someone who is so fixated and focused on the work that you have to do, that you shut your eye and your ear to all of that negativity that comes along with presenting yourself for public service. You have to be able to do that and focus on the work that is ahead."

The former senator pointed out that The Bahamas have some articulate, intelligent, brave, vocal, passionate and astute women who don't

want anything to do with politics. But Lynes encouraged such women to get involve by becoming leaders who would make a difference in the country.

"It's true, I don't want anything to do with politics, but I have a passion for governance and politics happens to be the route to it and so I must bear it until I get to where I want to get to because I can be on the outside making all the noise I want to make, unless I sit in the seat of one of the decision-makers, then I'm just another complainer

and I refuse to do that in this season," she said.

"I always tell this story. God made Adam and Adam was one of the only things that God made and said, 'Listen, it's not good for him to be by himself.' Then He made woman, a far more superior being brought in to solve the problem Adam had being by himself. Women are problem solvers by our very nature.

"Our country is in crisis and we need our women to be part of the leadership that brings the solutions that we so desperately need."

# Teen Drowns on Long Wharf Beach

Continued from / PAGE 1...

## Man Drowns on Lovers Beach

Police are also investigating an alleged drowning at Lovers Beach in Hepburn Town, Grand Bahama which left a 20-year-old man dead.

According to police, on Monday shortly after 4 p.m., they were called to

Lovers Beach in Hepburn Town, where it was reported that two men were riding a jet-ski, when they lost control.

One of the men swam to shore, but the other never made it.

Officers from the Police Marine Section along with local residents assisted in retrieving the body from water.

Police are investigating and are appealing to the general public during this summer season and while enjoying the beaches, to properly supervise young children and young adults who are unable to swim or are not strong swimmers and to always wear a life vest.

Investigations continue.

# Mitchell Questions

Continued from / PAGE 1...

\$26,000 but this still left him irate about the situation.

"It has always been the position of all governments and this was so under the last FMN administration and the

present administration. Those lights were provided as public service to the community," Mr. Mitchell said.

"I can't imagine when the Junkanoo rush took place here that the BPL sent a bill to the government? That just seems

outrageous on the face of it."

The Bahama Journal reached out to a BPL public relations director for comment, but was told that the corporation will not respond to the matter until further proof is provided.

# NPO Bill Passed in Senate

Continued from / PAGE 1...

all," Bethel said.

"All that we want to know is that the collection plate is being counted for and we don't want to know how, that is for the members.

"Organizations that have annual general meetings that approve or reject financial statements or records of their organization are carved out.

"We are not interested in the details of the church's accounts. We're not interested in anything to do with that."

The opposition has made it known that it supports the compendium of bills.

Senator Clay Sweeting reminded that the initial bill didn't get the PLP's approval because the government failed to consult religious and civil society organiza-

tions before passing.

"This is what happens when the proper parties are not consulted before enacting legislation. The legislation ends up being shelved, only to be brought back to this place a second time in six months," Sweeting said.

"However, I am glad the government had the fortitude to meet with the necessary parties to at least come to some kind of common ground

before enacting this bill."

Among the bills passed are the Anti-terrorism Amendment Bill, the International Obligation Economic and Ancillary Measures Bill, the Investment Funds Bill and the Registered Beneficial Ownership Bill.

The compendium of financial bills was also passed in the House of Assembly last week.

# Woman Stabbed in Parking Lot

Police are investigating a stabbing incident which left a woman with injuries.

According to police, shortly after 1 a.m. on Monday, a woman was in the parking lot of a bar on Rosedale Street, when she got into an alterca-

tion with another woman, which escalated, resulting in her being stabbed about the body.

The injured woman was taken to hospital and is listed in stable condition.

Investigations are ongoing.

# Man Found Dead with Head Injury

Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a man who was found dead on Sunday.

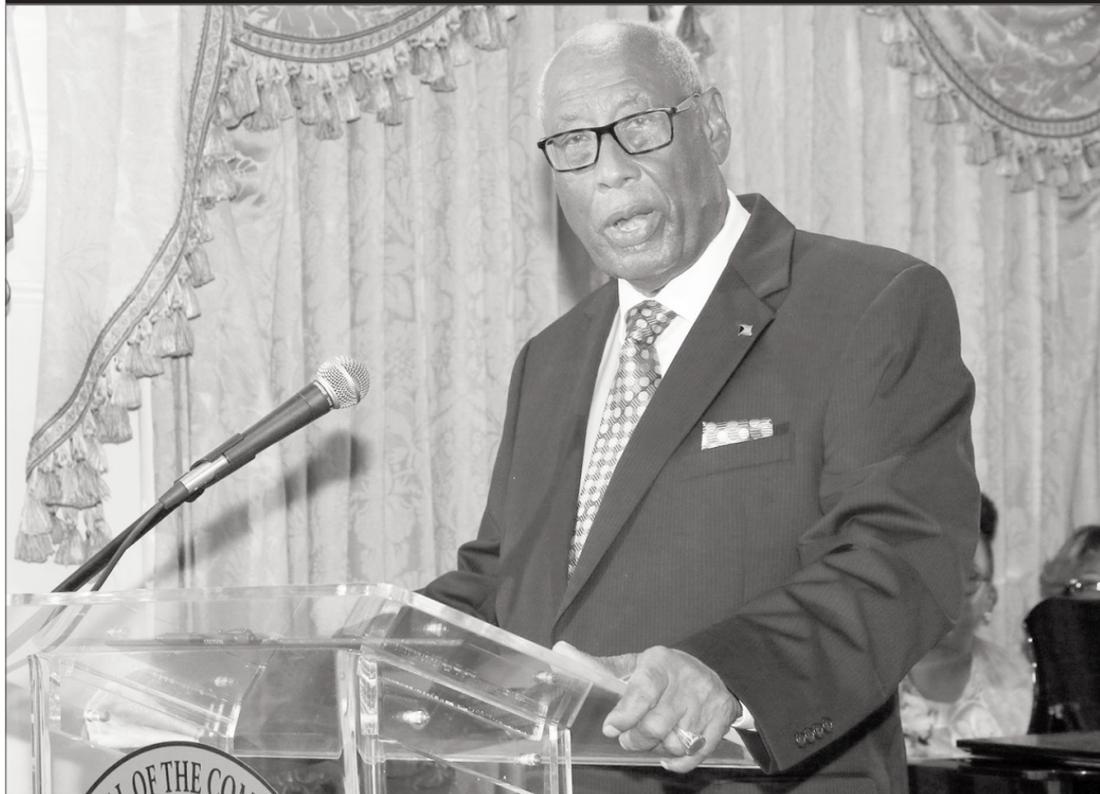
According to police, shortly before 5 p.m., they responded to Sea Breeze Drive, off Beatrice Avenue, Sea Breeze Estate, where a man was

found unresponsive, with an injury to the head.

Paramedics were called to the scene and a short time later confirmed that the man was dead.

Police will await an autopsy report which will determine the exact cause of death.

## R.E. COOPER MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD CEREMONY AT GOV'T HOUSE



► Governor General, His Excellency the Most Hon. Cornelius A. Smith hosted an Investiture Ceremony of the 24th R.E. Cooper Meritorious Service Award at Government House, which was followed by a reception, July 26, 2019. Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, the Hon. Lanisha Rolle represented the Prime Minister in giving remarks. (BIS Photos/Patrick Hanna)