The Bahamas

Quo Vadis, Bahamas?

VOL. 31 - NO. 113
THURSDAY - JULY 11th, 2019

75 CENTS

shop Calls for Unity

PM Promises $1 Million Arts Fund

Governor General CA Smith, as chancellor of the Societies of Honour established under the National Honours Act, 2016, in accordance with the advice of the prime minister, and the National Honours Advisory Committee, announced yesterday the recipients of the 2019 National Honours Award.

21 Receive National Honours Award

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest yesterday responded to comments made by former Minister of State for Finance Michael Haltkin, who expressed that the government’s schedule for reducing the country’s deficit is “too aggressive”. Mr. Michael Haltkin suggested in a local daily

PM Promises $1 Million Arts Fund

BY GEORGE WILLIAMSON
Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis announced plans for the establishment of a $1 million arts and cultural fund to ensure that Bahamian culture is passed on to future generations.

Add Generators to Business Plans,’ Says D’Aguilar

Minister of Tourism Dionisio D’Aguilar suggested yesterday that business owners should consider adding standby generators to their business plans. D’Aguilar made this suggestion while commenting on the recent series of load shedding exercises in the capital and its possible impact on the tourism industry.

Government General and PM Enjoy Independence Celebrations

GOVERNOR GENERAL AND PM ENJOY
INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

DPM: Fiscal Consolidation Plan Reasonable

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

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The Bahamas Journal
Thursday - July 11th, 2019
National NEWS

Pharmacem’s Layoffs Worries Wilchcombe

FORMER WEST END and Bimini MP Obbe Wilchcombe wants answers from the government in the wake of Pharmacem painting ways with 32 Bahamians and 11 foreigners.

As Labour Director John Pinder has explained, their contracts were set to expire in December. However, Mr. Wilchcombe said this is definitely bad news for Grand Bahama, only further decreasing morale there.

“They have been sitting and waiting silly for a long time and they are very anxious for things to happen,” he said.

“Now when you see companies like Pharmacem, which is supposed to be developing this incredible facility, that would play a major role in the global community and then of course they now fired Bahamians.

“However, they are going to continue their progress, they claim. Then of course they say there is going to be a delay in opening the plant, so the government should explain that.

“What does it mean? Are they taking advantage of the new legislation? The government is allowing them to bring in individuals from other countries to work and they can work without getting work permits and all the rest and it’s going to be almost automatic.

“Are we seeing a situation where they are taking advantage? The government should tell the Bahamians.”

According to Mr. Wilchcombe, having already laid off one group, the Grand Bahama Shipyard is expected to have another similar exercise.

“Are we going to see more of that taking place? Are they taking advantage of the new laws that have been passed? Is it going to hurt Bahamians,” Mr. Wilchcombe asked.

Former West End and Bimini MP Obbe Wilchcombe.

46th Independence Anniversary Celebrations in Grand Bahama

A2

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ROAD TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT  
P.O. BOX 2055 2019

THOMAS A. ROBISON NATIONAL STADIUM  
FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMAS

The Public Sitting of the House (fifth sitting of the Fourth Session) of the National Parliament, for Thursday, July 11, 2019, is convened in the House Chamber, Freeport, Grand Bahama, at 9:30 a.m.

The House will be considering applications for the grant of special trade permits, Private Shedule Numbers and the issuance of the Royal Bahamian Yacht Club, Chapter 1A.

FURTHER, in accordance with the provisions of Royal Bahamian Yacht Club, Chapter 1A, an application is required to be submitted to the Minister of Tourism, in writing, for the renewal of any permit held under the Royal Bahamian Yacht Club, Chapter 1A. The undersigned officers may be required to attend.

SELF-DRIVE CARS

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CONTINUES ON PAGE 9...
Man Charged with Montell Heights Shooting

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

The alleged shooter behind the mass shooting in Montell Heights, on June 30, was on Tuesday charged with 11 counts of firearm related charges.

The shooting, which took place on Ethel Street, Montell Heights early Sunday morning, left 17 people injured.

According to a police report, 14 persons were shot - 10 of the victims were women and four minors. The youngest police said was a 10-year-old. Police also confirmed that there were no fatalities.

The 26-year-old male, Jeremiah Andrews, also known as Jeremiah Forbes, of Kamoli Avenue, appeared before Magistrate Denise Rolle-Davis and was charged with 11 counts of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life.

It is alleged that on the date in question, Andrews, being concerned with another, did have in his possession a 9 mm pistol, with intent of endangering the life of 11 people contrary to section 33 of the Firearms Act.

Andrews, pleaded not guilty to all counts and was denied bail. However, the Magistrate informed him that he could apply for bail through the Supreme Court.

Andrews was represented by attorney Krystal Rolle.

He was subsequently remanded to the Bahamas Department of Corrections until September 10, when he returns for a Voluntary Bill of Indictment, which will fast track his case to the Supreme Court.

Pharmachem’s Layoffs Worries Wilchcombe

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Pharmachem’s layoffs worries Wilchcombe.

Wilchcombe said, “It goes back to history because it happened before in Grand Bahama where we had foreigners from Malta working at the hotels and of course the Freeport Act was in place at the time. “The then Leader of the Opposition Sir Lynden Pindling had to step in and get those people out of the town. “Are we back to that now? Are we putting laws in place that’s repeating history?”

That you are moving Bahamians on the side, bringing others in, calling them experts and the next thing you know you are increasing unemployment numbers and decreasing our levels of hope and our love for our country because that’s what’s going on. “People want to leave. They want to get out because they are saying nothing is happening for me.”

The last unemployment survey pegged the unemployment rate in Grand Bahama at nearly 12 percent.

Contrast from PAGE 7...

Plaiting of the Maypole

Officials and special invited guests watch as youngsters from various primary schools carry out the Plaiting of the Maypole, during the Cultural Show on Monday night, as a part of celebrations for the country’s 46th Independence Anniversary.
Police Patrol during Load Shedding

BY BERTH ONG McDODD

Police are working with Bahamas Power and Light to ensure high crime areas are adequately patrolled during load shedding exercises._

The need for more police patrol came after BPL reluctantly released its load shedding schedule following fears that doing so will lead to a spike in crime in certain communities.

“In these cases, the police clearly understand their responsibility,” Minister of National Security Marvin Dames said. “They are working with BPL to ensure that they are able to address any outliers, any concerns and to ensure too that they up their resources in areas that they would need to.”

BPL anticipates load shedding to continue throughout the brtual summer months. The power giant recently purchased an additional five megawatts rental generator that’s expected here in the capital next week to help with the demand, according to BPL Public Relations Director Quincy Parker.

Dr. Hervis Bain, the designer of the nation’s coat of arms, will be awarded posthumously. Next up is the Order of Distinction, which is awarded to persons recognized for their exemplary service provided to the country.

The Order of Distinction also includes three ranks of membership, which are companion, officer, and member.

A companion is entitled to place the letters “C.D.” after their name. An officer is entitled to place the letters “O.D.” after their name. A member is also entitled to place the letters “D.M.” after their name.

The following are the recipients of the Order of Distinction:

- Mr. Keithe Vere Wason Sr., D.L.D., O.PM., M.B.E.
- Dr. Edwards Donald, O.D.
- Mr. Frank Relief, O.D.D.

The Order of Merit Companions

- Dr. Gail Saunders, D.M., O.B.E.
- Mrs. Angela Missouri Shermian-Peter, D.M.
- Mr. Godfrey Kelly, D.M., C.M.G, M.A., L.L.M.
- Mr. Norwood Rahming, D.M., C.B.E.

The following have been awarded this honour posthumously:

- Mr. Edmund Medinor Sr., C.M.
- Mr. Lewis George Adams Sr., C.M.

Officers:

- Reverend J. Carl Rahming, O.M.
- Reverend Charles Swearing, M.M.
- Reverend Oral Rex Major M.M., A.C.P.
- Mr. B.K., M.Div., Th.M., D.D. (Hon), J.P.

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