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Church Deseccrated

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Shattered glass and a broken door handle led to a trail of damages as a result of an overnight break-in at St. Cecilia's Catholic Church, which left the place of worship deseccrated.

The contents of drawers and cupboards were thrown across the floor.

Deacon Danny Price was the first on the scene early Monday morning as he was opening the church for morning mass.

"The first thing I observed was that one of the lights was on in the church in one of the small



► Bandits left St. Cecilia's Catholic Church ransacked early Monday morning, leaving contents from drawers and cupboards on the floor. Also, the Body of Christ was stolen from the church. (Photo/Berthony McDermott)

■ See page 2...

Load Shedding Crisis Concerns Schools

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Minister of Education Jeffrey Lloyd, concurring with Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, said the constant load shedding is a crisis and a deep concern, particularly for the ministry when school opens.

The question of whether schools will be ready for the new school year has been a long time focus, but now that it's been reassured that



► Minister of Education Jeffrey Lloyd

■ See page 8...

95% OF UB'S FRESHMEN RECEIVE FREE TUITION

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis visited the University of The Bahamas yesterday to observe the progress of the government's newly implemented Tertiary Grant Program, which assists 95 percent of UB's new students by offering free tuition.

During his visit, Dr. Minnis was questioned about the government's decision to drop the qualifying GPA from 4.0 to 2.0.

"Three-point or 4.0 students aren't necessarily the best leaders. We have seen this repeatedly in medical school, et cetera. Those that knew they had certain deficits



► Prime Minister Dr. Hubert A. Minnis visited the campus of The University of The Bahamas (UB) to get a first-hand knowledge from students taking advantage of the government's financial initiative for free tertiary education on Monday, August 19, 2019. He was accompanied by Dr. Rodney Smith, President of UB. (BIS Photos/Yontalay Bowe)

■ See page 8...

Americans Charged After Failing to Declare

BY EARYEL BOWLEG
Journal Staff Writer

Three American tourists were arraigned in the Magistrate's Court after

making a false declaration at U.S. Border Control, while at the Lynden Pindling International Airport on Monday.

According to police, Ganeth Keisher, Allison Mobley, and Victoria Mars allegedly lied to

■ See page 4...

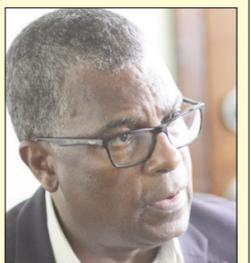
PLP Blames PM for BPL Crisis

BY LEAH COOPER
Journal Staff Writer

Progressive Liberal Party Chairman Senator Fred Mitchell said Bahamas Power and Light crisis is the result of the appointment of a new management team

approved by Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, whose "bad decisions led to multiple fires at multiple power plants on multiple islands and a loss of significant power generation capacity".

■ See page 4...



► Fred Mitchell




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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

VSEPs for BTC Employees Next Month

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Voluntary Separation Packages for employees at Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) are underway and according to CEO Garfield Sinclair, he hopes to have them finalized by the beginning of September, as the company is giving employees time to take advantage of it.

Mr. Sinclair was tight

lipped, however, on how many persons applied for the VSEPs thus far, but said wide consultation was done before introducing the package.

"So we believe that what we have on the table are packages that colleagues will find compelling if they are minded to move on to some other phase of their lives. It's completely voluntary, so it's up to colleagues to accept or reject," he said.

"We're going through

the consultation process now. We have provided counseling obviously, on building work skills to get people to understand what life could be like outside of BTC, financial advice. We have engaged in that kind of counseling already and there's much more to come."

BTC began offering VSEPs last Friday, however this is not the first time the tech giant conducted such an exercise.

In 2015, just fewer

than 100 BTC employees were separated from the company.

Another was conducted in 2011 just before the company was privatized where some 500 employees were separated.

Mr. Sinclair said the VSEPs will not affect BTC moving forward.

"We're moving the company forward as we speak and I just want to put that into context as we are still the biggest mobile provider in The

Bahamas," Mr. Sinclair said.

"We still have near 70 percent of the value share, so we are the standard and bigger mobile provider in the business.

"We have been around the longest. We have trained all of Telecom's technical capacity, so we are the standard of communications in the region.

"What we have to work on now is maintaining that standard in a

competitive environment and we're doing that.

"We are, like I said, getting in agreements with our union partners. We're coalescing around a vision for where we want to take this business transformation process.

"We're not fixed on any particular number of colleagues that we want to get in or out if this VSEP. We're focused on building the best operator in the region."

School Administrators Told to 'Be Ready'

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Public schools administrators were admonished to be organized and ready to provide the most ideal environment for students to succeed in the 21st century, when they convened yesterday for their annual Administrators Conclave 2019.

Administrators from across the country came together for the three-day conclave, which began with a church service on Sunday evening, under the theme, "Effective Leadership: One Team, One Goal".

Minister of Education Jeffery Lloyd, in his keynote address to the administrators, told them that education is undergoing a revolution, the world over and "The Bahamas is, therefore, enmeshed in this vortex of change".

"The future political, social, cultural and economic sectors will depend on the contributions of the students of our schools," he added.

"More than ever before education must be visionary and future-oriented.

"In order to cope with rapid changes in the 21st century, innovation, technology, and research, including self-management in the learning process are indispensable tools for students, teachers, administrators and policy makers.

"Failure to innovate, by and large, means repeating yesterday's educational programmes and strategies tomorrow, which will only further jeopardize

education's ability as a contributor to national development."

As the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's primary goal for education is to help individuals and nations identify and develop the knowledge and skills that drive better jobs, better lives and generate a prosperity while promoting social inclusion, Minister Lloyd told the school administrators that in the knowledge economy, memorization of facts is insufficient for success.

He essentially told the administrators that students must be taught with new creativity to be able to continue life-long learning.

"To thrive in today's innovation-driven economy, all of us will need a different mix of skills than in the past. In addition to foundational skills, like literacy and numeracy and oracy, we are going to need what social scientists and educational psychologists call the four C's: collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and communication," Mr. Lloyd said.

"Never before, unlike anytime before, those skills will be essential in the problem solving and character qualities that this 21st century demands and will require."

Minister Lloyd further told the public school administrators that the ultimate goal of the Ministry of Education, as it has aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development



► During the service Minister of Education, Jeffery Lloyd and Permanent Secretary, Lorraine Armbrister makes a presentation to former Ministry of Education Director, Lionel Sands for his years of service. (BIS Photos/Patrick Hanna)

Goals, particularly goal four, is to equip Bahamians with the 21st century skills needed.

Mr. Lloyd told the administrators that they are one team with everyone having a part to play, being accountable and no one taking a pass

The Administrators Conclave 2019 is also anticipated to have administrators participate in sessions focused on school management, finances, interpersonal communication, discipline, personnel management, disaster management, curriculum development and implementation

The conclave is being held at the Baha Mar Convention Center and ends on Tuesday.

Legal Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the public that **Zeneta Archer-Deveaux**, the heiress-at-law of the estate of the late Pearl Tucker, who died on the 20th day of September, 1980, is the legal fee simple owner of the property described herein. Any person or persons claiming any right, benefit or interest in the same, must present his or her claim, in writing, along with the appropriate documentation, to the aforementioned Zeneta Archer-Deveaux, within twenty-one (21) days of the publication of this notice at the expiration of which time, no further claim will be entertained.

The plot referred to comprise six thousand six hundred and eight (6,608.00) square feet on the southern side of Laird Street two hundred and sixty seven feet east of Blue Hill road in the southern district of New Providence **bounded on the north** by Laird Street and running thereon fifty two and thirty three (52.33) hundredths feet **on the south** by property of various owners and running thereon fifty-eight and sixty nine hundredths (58.69) feet, **on the east** by property of Sadie Curtis and running thereon one hundred and eighteen and twenty seven hundredths (118.27) feet, and **on the west** by property of one Dorsette and running thereon one hundred and twenty and forty four (120.44) hundredths feet.

Zeneta Archer-Deveaux

ZENETA ARCHER-DEVEAUX
Phone No. 242-818-7911

Church Desecrated

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

choir rooms," Deacon Price said.

"It seemed a bit odd to me, but I proceeded to open the church as I normally do and the first thing I noticed was a lot of broken glass all over the ground in the inside of the foyer.

"When I opened the door, saw that the glass door here was broken, the window was smashed in and the sacristy was found

in that condition."

From the looks of it, according to Deacon Price, the bandits messed up the sacristy room, along with the sanctuary as if they were looking for something specific.

But what's particularly devastating, he said, is the stolen Body of Christ from the tabernacle, which replacing will run the church into more than \$2,500.

"Well, it will impact us since the sanctuary has

been desecrated and therefore, will need to be blessed before we can hold a service in their again, which Father Simeon will hopefully do tomorrow morning, God spare life," he said.

According to church rector Monsignor Simeon Roberts, for now, St. Cecilia's will have to borrow a tabernacle to continue on with its services, which is expected to resume tomorrow.

BUT Negotiations Slow, But Steady

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Bahamas Union of Teachers (BUT) President Belinda Wilson yesterday said that negotiations with the union and the Ministry of Education are slow, but steadily progressing.

Mrs. Wilson said talks regarding the new industrial agreement for the BUT will continue next month after negotiations were put on hold for the summer break.

"I must say that with the

new industrial agreement, we are moving slowly but steadily," Mrs. Wilson said.

"We've been to the table about four times and we would have completed our last session in June.

"You would note that July and August is the summer for teachers. July and August is also the time for the administration of education to interview for administrators and promotions and confirmations, so we thought it necessary to take a pause.

"We're very far from the financial aspect of our agreement because we're only on cursory matters now. So, for example we have about 70 clauses and we may be on clause 10, so I foresee us getting to the financial matters sometime in October or November."

In May this year, the BUT and the Ministry of Education began negotiations which both Minister of Education Jeffrey Lloyd and Mrs. Wilson said are expected to go

well.

In June of this year, the BUT president said when the union's new industrial agreement is discussed with the government they will seek a 20 percent pay increase over three years.

Mrs. Wilson said this is a deserved raise as teachers are all qualified with bachelor's or higher degree certifications.

Mrs. Wilson, like other unions, said this quest for a pay raise is needed as the cost of living is increasing.



► Bahamas Union of Teachers President Belinda Wilson

Campbell Challenges Men to Serve as Father Figures

Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, the Hon. Frankie A. Campbell, told executives of a visiting group of male organizations that one of the best ways they can partner with the Ministry to ensure equity and equality for women, and the protection of women across The Bahamas, is if they continue to provide positive influences/programmes geared towards the nation's young men.

"There is a saying: 'Bend the tree while it is young.' Another is that 'it is easier to build a boy, than repair a man.' Both of those are very wise sayings that would be useless clichés if we do not put them into action," Minister Campbell said.

"If we want to bring equity and equality to our girls and females; if we want to ensure the protection of our girls and women from gender-based violence, all of our efforts would be in vain if we do not ensure that there are similarly-minded Adams to partner with them and so our underlying efforts have to be to save Adam while we work to ensure that there is equality and equity and empowerment for our girls and women.

"What we have here is a tremendous opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our boys and men and by extension, our girls and women. I assure you

of my personal commitment to this process as a man who has three daughters who someday are going to need husbands. Someday your daughters and the daughters of all of the other fathers in our Bahamas are going to need husbands, and so our jobs as men in this society, is to ensure that there are some good husbands out there from among whom they can select.

"This presents yet another connection - the depth of our obligation to be parents/fathers to as many young children, the boys in particular, since our statistics indicate that boys and men - for the most part - are the perpetrators of violence. If we father them now, we reduce the likelihood of encountering them in a violent capacity," Minister Campbell added.

Minister Campbell's charge came while addressing the men during a Working Meeting with members of the International Men's Day Committee and executives of the Movement for Change, Dream Catchers and R.I.S.E. (Reform, Inspire, Strengthen and Educate) Programmes. The latter three operate year-round life and social skills enhancement programmes for males living in the urban communities.

The group met with Minister Campbell to discuss a number of matters impacting males in The



► Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, the Hon. Frankie A. Campbell (seated centre) with executives of the International Men's Day Committee (IMDC) during a Working Meeting at the Ministry's headquarters, Aventura Plaza. Also pictured (seated from left) are: Ethrice Cooper, Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary, Human Resource Unit, Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development and (at far right); Keith Cox, President, IMDC. Pictured (standing from left) are IMDC executives Pastor Henry Higgins, Terence Bethel, Dr. Eric Fox and Henry Johnson, Male Programme Coordinator, Department of Gender and Family Affairs. (BIS Photo/Matt Maura)

Bahamas, and to present the Minister with a plaque to show their appreciation for the establishment of a Male Desk at the Department of Gender and Family Affairs.

Minister Campbell told the group that while he appreciated the gesture, it was he who was thankful to them and the work they have been doing in the community.

(The International Men's Day Committee has expanded its role from mainly organising activities to observe IMD annually in November, to focusing on addressing the social issues impacting men year-round through various partner-

ships.)

"I commend you for the plaque, (but) I am always pleasantly amused when I receive these acts of appreciation and gratitude, but the reality is that it is I who appreciate the opportunity to have this level of involvement. I thank you for thinking that I did something that deserves recognition, but it is I who want to thank

you for allowing me to be a part of this opportunity to evoke change in our society.

"We have an opportunity here to ensure that if history is accurately documented, it would show that - as a team - we would have been able to leave one or two footprints in the sand as we move towards greater equity, equality and pro-

tection for our girls and women, while also empowering our boys and men to a greater degree of consciousness, and so I just want to thank you again for welcoming me as a part of it and to the extent that I can, both personally and with the office that I hold, I assure you of my support," Minister Campbell added.



► Keith Cox, President of the International Men's Day Committee (IMDC), presents Minister of Social Services, the Hon. Frankie A. Campbell, with a plaque in recognition of the establishment of a Male Desk at the Department of Gender and Family Affairs, Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development. The desk is headed by Henry Johnson, a CARCOM certified Gender-based Violence Expert, who serves as Male Programme Coordinator. (BIS Photo/Matt Maura)

UK HIGH COMMISSIONER DESIGNATE PAYS COURTESY CALL ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER



► Her Excellency Sarah Dickson, High Commissioner Designate of the United Kingdom paid a courtesy call on Minister of Foreign Affairs the Hon. Darren Henfield at the Ministry, Monday, August 19, 2019. (BIS Photos/Raymond A. Bethel, Sr.)

Man Found with Marijuana Charged

BY EARYEL BOWLEG
Journal Staff Writer

Father of four Christopher Mortimer was sentenced to 20 months at the Bahamas Department of Corrections after he was charged in the Magistrate's Court on Monday for possession of dangerous drugs with intent to supply.

According to the prosecution, the Drug Enforcement Unit found 111 pounds and eight ounces of marijuana. The police got a tip about

Mortimer and searched his house in Mount Tabor Estates on August 15 around 9:50 p.m.

When questioned by authorities, Mortimer led police to two suitcases containing four brown packages of a leafy material which is believed to be marijuana. He was then arrested, but the DEU continued searching.

The DEU found more packages of marijuana in Mortimer's shed and vehicle. In the police interview, he admitted the packages where his and

pleaded guilty in court.

Mortimer's lawyer mentioned in court that he is a father of children ranging from ages two to 11 and is taking care of a terminally ill wife. He is a jet ski operations manager and owns a diving company as well.

The prosecution asked for a sentence of no less than 18 months, while his lawyer defense petition for a sentence of 10 -12 months. However, the judge sentenced Mortimer to serve 20 months.



► Christopher Mortimer was charged in the Magistrate's Court on Monday for possession of dangerous drugs with intent to supply. (Journal Photo)

Men Charged for Stealing from Banks

BY EARYEL BOWLEG
Journal Staff Writer

Twenty-five year old Andre Spence Jr. was arraigned in the Magistrate's Court on Monday for allegedly stealing nearly \$4,500 from Scotiabank and \$40,000 from Commonwealth Bank.

According to police, Spence had claimed to have taken money

from Scotiabank between June 19 - 21 and July 2 - 4 at Commonwealth Bank from Elizabeth Lim's bank account.

The Sandpiper Drive resident was also charged with conspiracy to commit stealing with his co-conspirator 27-year-old Samuel Kemp.

Kemp was charged with six counts of money laundering

and six counts of stealing back in July, in which he was charged with six counts of money laundering and six counts of stealing.

They both pleaded not guilty to all counts and both are expected back in court October 1.

They were advised of their right to apply for bail in the Supreme Court.



► Andre Spence Jr., 25, was arraigned in the Magistrate's Court on Monday for allegedly stealing money from Scotiabank and Commonwealth Bank. (Journal Photo)

Americans Charged

Continued from / PAGE 1...

U.S. custom officers about carrying less than \$10,000 when they had \$27,136.

The trio pleaded guilty to the charge.

They were also charged with failing to declare. Mobley and Mars pleaded not guilty.

The Americans said they were in the country for business and visit The Bahamas eight times a

year for gambling.

The magistrate ordered the Crown to confiscate their money and they be handed over to the Department of Immigration for deportation.



► Three Americans were arraigned in the Magistrate's Court on Monday for making a false declaration while at the Lynden Pindling International Airport. (Journal Photo)

PLP Blames PM for BPL Crisis

Continued from / PAGE 1...

In a release yesterday, Mr. Mitchell explained that no amount of "thousand dollar ads blaming the PLP can absolve the FNM government of this epic failure, pushing BPL to the brink of collapse and threatening this country's economy".

Mr. Mitchell said, "The prime minister should have taken full responsibility for this crisis in leadership and apologized to the Bahamian people."

Sadly, he said, Dr. Minnis is in charge of "commanding 35 of 39 seats in parliament and in control of the public purse,

yet the most he could come up with is a slick and dishonest PR campaign of political bluster and deflections, blaming the opposition for his failures".

He was referring to an ad featured across the front page of a local daily yesterday accusing the PLP for the power company's current state.

The PLP chairman said the prime minister's tour of the Clifton Pier power plant didn't prevent the power cuts this past weekend, leaving thousands of consumers to cope with the sweltering summer heat.

He added that Bimini

residents have also reported blackouts on that island.

"After months of ducking, dodging and deflecting on BPL, after sending his BPL minister out to say BPL was not in crisis, Dr. Minnis has finally come to his senses and admitted what Bahamians knew and were saying all along, that BPL is in crisis," Mr. Mitchell said.

However, he added that it's regrettable that the prime minister failed to admit that he created this needless crisis through a series of ill-advised and politically motivated decisions, a move the senator deems shameful.

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