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THURSDAY - OCTOBER 3RD, 2019

75 CENTS

Ash: 'I Paid PLP MPs'

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT
Journal Staff Writer

Leading up to the 2017 General Election, former Cabinet Minister Shane Gibson suggested, through a WhatsApp conversation with key prosecution witness Jonathan Ash, that he needed between \$50,000 to \$100,000 for several Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Members of

Parliament.

Ash told the court yesterday that during the WhatsApp conversation, which occurred on March 28, he replied, "We need to win".

He said he soon began paying Carmichael, Southern Shores, Sea Breeze, Golden Gates, Golden Isles, Yamacraw, South Beach and Bamboo

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► Former Cabinet Minister Shane Gibson

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25th Anniversary Supplement Inside

House Speaker Rejects Opposition's Request



► House Speaker Halson Moultrie

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

The opposition had hoped to have an open and frank discussion on Hurricane Dorian in the House of Assembly yesterday, however that did not happen, as House Speaker Halson Moultrie rejected the request.

Progressive Liberal

Party (PLP) Leader Philip Davis, outlined in a letter, prior to House of Assembly resuming yesterday after its summer break, that discussions would center on the planning, management and execution of all phases of the operations surrounding Hurricane Dorian,

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PM Explains Hurricane Funds

BY LICEC BASTIAN
Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis announced in the House of Assembly yesterday that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) received \$5 million in relief funds from various international communities in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian.

Dr. Minnis, speaking for the first time in Parliament following

■ See page 4...



► The House of Assembly met yesterday for the first time following Hurricane Dorian. Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis outlined preliminary estimates for the use of the \$100 million Inter-American Development Bank loan, the Dormant Funds Account and the payout from the Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF). (Photo/Office of the Prime Minister)

Four Survive Crooked Island Plane Crash

A plane with four passengers onboard crashed on Tuesday at Pitts Town Airport in Crooked Island.

According to police, shortly after 3 p.m., a PA32 Cherokee 6 aircraft, registration N38677, left Deadman's Cay, Long Island enroute to Pitts Town Airport, with four

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Gov't to Ban Cell Phone Use While Driving

BY EARYEL BOWLEG
Journal Staff Writer

Minister of Transport Renward Wells announced in the House of Assembly on Wednesday new amendments to the Road Traffic Regulations, which includes the prohibition of hand-held communication devices, like cell phones, while driving.

Wells said the changes will "require a driver to pay outstanding fines for traffic offences before he is permitted to renew his driver's licence and to immediately produce a driver's licence and insurance certificate



► Minister of Transport Renward Wells

upon the request of a police officer."

The new amendments will also permit drivers to

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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

Five More GB Residents Missing



► Donlock Munnings Jr



► Omarion Lawrence Munnings



► Raphaella Munnings



► J'Vonaje Ford



► Shirlene Cooper

BY DEANDRE WILLIAMSON
Journal Staff Writer

While 424 persons remain missing following Hurricane Dorian, police in Grand Bahama are searching for five missing persons who haven't been located since the storm.

The missing persons

are from Emmanuel Way, High Rock, Grand Bahama.

Among the missing is 29-year-old Donlock Donny Munnings Jr.

Police said Munnings stands between five feet, seven inches to five feet, eight inches in height and weighs 140 pounds. He

has dark complexion and is of slim muscular built.

J'Vonaje Alejan Forde, 24, is also missing and police said she is five feet, three inches tall and weighs between 240 to 250 pounds. Forde has a dark brown complexion is heavy built.

Shirlene "Josephine"

Pinder-Cooper, 48, was also reported missing.

According to police, Pinder-Cooper is five feet, five inches tall, weighing 180 pounds, with dark brown complexion and medium built.

Police are also searching for six-year-old Omarion Lawrence

Munnings, who is three feet, 10 inches tall and weighs 60 to 70 pounds. Munnings has light brown complexion and he's medium built.

In addition, 53-year-old Raphaella "Lavette" Munnings is another Grand Bahama resident reported missing.

Police said she is five feet, five inches tall, weighs between 180-205 pounds, has dark brown complexion and is heavy built.

Last week, police issued posters of six missing persons from the Grand Bahama's East End community.

House Speaker Rejects Opposition's Request

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

including contingencies and post hurricane relief efforts to those affected to date.

However, the PLP leader's letter was put to a vote and the opposition did not receive the numbers needed to have their request granted.

To this, PLP Chairman Senator Fred Mitchell said that it was "a back handed slap to democracy and freedom of speech".

During the House of Assembly's session yesterday, not only did the house speaker strike out paragraphs six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11 and 13 from the opposition's letter as merely the party's opinion, he added that the referred Rule 51, in Mr. Davis' letter, limits the time of debate to 90 minutes and with seven members of parliament impacted by the storm, along with the prime minister and the opposition leader, it would be insufficient.

With such a time frame, Mr. Moultrie reasoned

that it would severely limit the participation of those members and other MPs who became involved in the relief and recovery efforts post Hurricane Dorian.

Mr. Moultrie also reasoned that it would severely limit the time for those parliamentarians to fully ventilate matters relating to the issues.

The PLP, in a statement, suggested that "the house speaker and not surprisingly the government members of the house rejected a proposal for an open and frank discussion on issues surrounding and related to the recent passage of Hurricane Dorian" as they are embarrassed.

"What a joke the speaker has become. Just days ago, the speaker was boasting about 290 years of parliamentary democracy, but when given the opportunity to defend democratic principles, he dropped the ball," Mr. Mitchell said.

"The African ancestors are ashamed of him. The

house speaker should be ashamed of himself.

"The decision by the house speaker to strike paragraphs six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11 and 13 from the letter or communique written to him by the opposition leader and member for Cat Island, Rum Cay and San Salvador is quite frankly laughable.

"His reasoning is wrong."

Mr. Mitchell contends that those paragraphs the speaker sought to strike out, expressed concerns of residents affected and not opinions.

"The concerns expressed are not the opinions of the opposition, but experiences and observations from persons 'on the ground' in the affected areas on Grand Bahama, Abaco and the surrounding Cays," Mr. Mitchell said.

Mr. Mitchell further contended that "the fact is that the FNM members do not want to talk about Dorian because they are embarrassed about how

poorly the government has managed and handled this process to date".

"The human interest stories in both the local

and international media attest to this," Mr. Mitchell added.

"The PLP will continue to speak out for all affect-

ed Bahamians and offer alternative solutions while we continue to hold the government's feet to the fire."

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

Gov't to Ban Cell Phone

■ Continued from / PAGE 1...

cautiously turn left on the red light if there is no pedestrian crossing the intersection and if there is no vehicle approaching from the traffic having the right of way.

Another legislation that will take effect is the Box Junction Regulations and Fixed Penalty

Amendment.

Wells noted that the new boxes "are in place to enhance safety and to keep traffic flowing at critical intersections."

"The yellow box junctions have been placed at a number of major thoroughfares throughout New Providence and are represented by yellow crossed diagonal lines in

the form of a box," Wells said.

"A simple rule of thumb is to only enter a yellow box junction when there is enough space on the other side of the road for your vehicle to completely clear the box without stopping."

The changes become effective on October 7, 2019.

Men Found with Marijuana Charged



► Dominic Woodside and Demetrius Woodside appeared in the Magistrate's Court on Wednesday where they were charged with drug possession. **(Photo/Rayvon Morrison)**

BY EARYEL BOWLEG
Journal Staff Writer

Two men stood before the Magistrate's Court on Wednesday for two drug related charges.

Magistrate Andrew

Forbes arraigned 47-year-old Demetrius Woodside and 25-year-old Dominic Woodside for conspiracy to possess dangerous drugs with intent to supply and possession of dangerous

drugs with intent to supply.

It is alleged that the men conspired to possess a quantity of marijuana on September 23 and 30.

The men pleaded not

guilty to both charges
and were denied bail.

They were remanded to the Bahamas Department of Corrections.

Their trial is scheduled for November 28.

Minister Ferreira: 'Historic Day' for Environmental Legislation

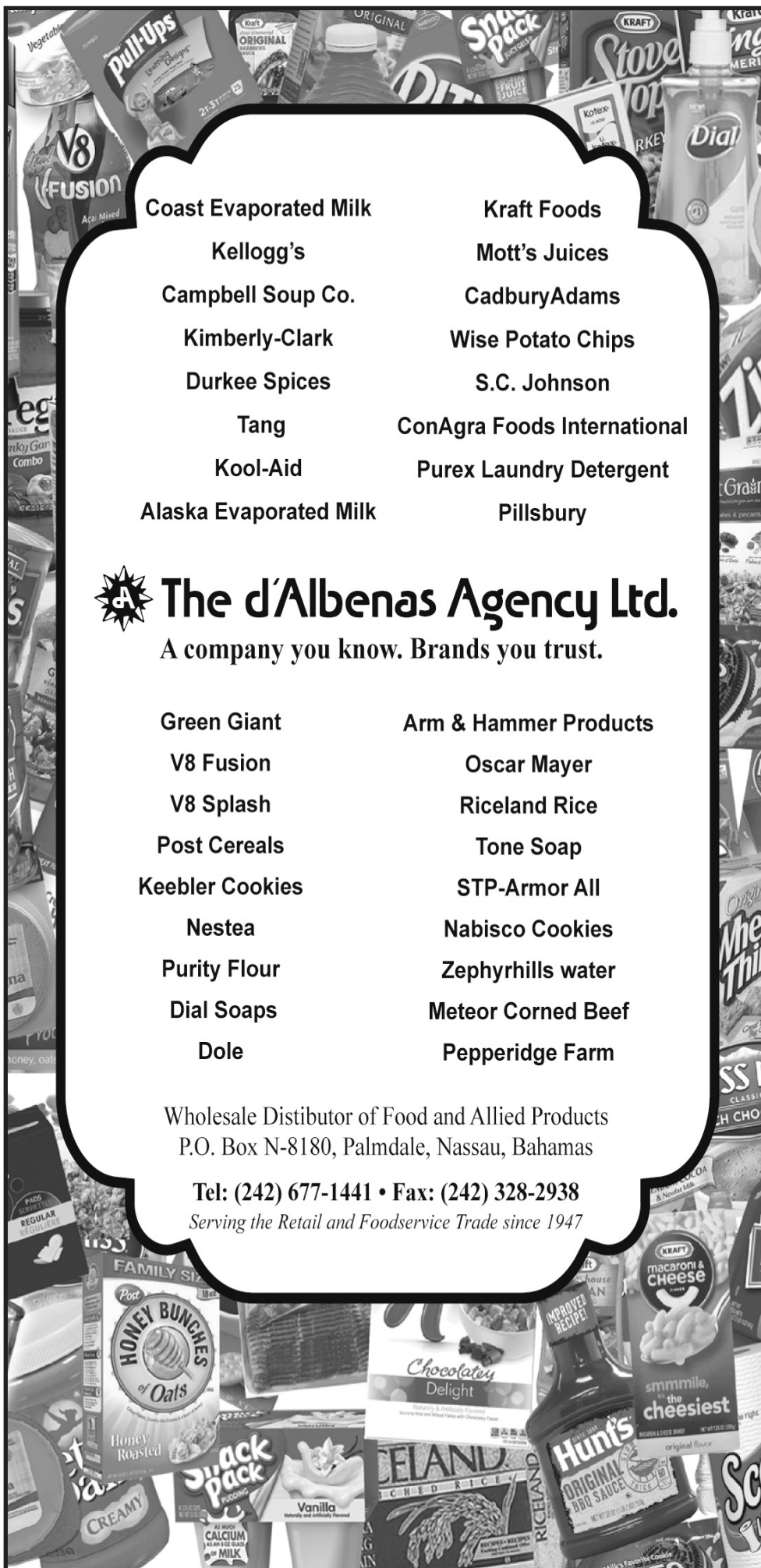
Minister of the Environment and Housing the Hon. Romauld Ferreira said, on October 2, 2019, that the laying on the table of the House of Assembly “the strongest, most robust suite of environmental legislation in Bahamian history” made it an historic day.

"I believe that it will go down in history as the moment we began to treat environment stewardship with the seriousness it deserves," Minister Ferreira said in the House of Assembly. "Today marks the turning point when we say to the world this is our country

and if you want to do business here you must respect our environment."


Laid on the table of the House Assembly that day were the following: Ministry of Environment Bill 2019; Environmental Planning And Protection Bill 2019; Environmental Protection (Control of Plastic Pollution) Bill 2019; The Bahamas National Trust (Amendment) Bill 2019; Bahamas Protected Areas Fund (Amendment) Bill 2019; and Tariff (Amendment)

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PM Explains Hurricane Funds

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Hurricane Dorian, updated legislators to what has been collected and how the funds will be used.

In terms of the contingency loan from the Inter-American Development Bank, a line of credit on standby in the event of a natural disaster, Dr. Minnis gave preliminary estimates of how that money will be spent.

"Electricity restoration \$30 million, water restoration \$15 million, enhanced social welfare spending \$30 million, debris removal and cleanup \$15 million, reimbursement of evacuation and shelter cost \$1 million and unallocated funds \$9 million," Dr. Minnis said.

According to the prime minister, these estimates are subject to adjustment and further refinement.

Dr. Minnis added that last November, the government amended legislation governing dormant accounts with the intention of using this money to pump into a disaster relief fund.

That fund totals nearly \$40 million, half of which will be used for recovery and reconstruction.

The prime minister told the House of Assembly that \$10 million will go towards providing support for small businesses in the economic impacted zones, \$5 million for temporary housing in the affected areas and the remaining \$5 million for other hurricane recovery efforts.

Dr. Minnis also revealed that The Bahamas has also received \$12.8 million from the Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) following a renegotiation last May.

"The renegotiation divided The Bahamas into three distinct zones and structured payouts, to allow for more relevant and fair assessment and payouts after an event," Dr. Minnis said.

"The Bahamas has three tropical cyclone policies and three excess rainfall policies with CCRIF, each covering a section or zone of our

archipelago: northwest, southeast and central.

"The government received \$11,527,151 from the triggering of its tropical cyclone policy and \$1,297,002 from its excess rainfall policy for the northwest zone, which includes Abaco and Grand Bahama."

He further revealed that as of September 30, NEMA's monetary donation totaled \$5.1 million, which does not include pledges.

"Corporate \$1,362,025.02, private \$1,325,388.97, foreign government \$1,901,250, NGOs \$345,343.53 and intergovernmental \$225,000," Dr. Minnis said.

Dr. Minnis also told the House of Assembly that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) intends to contribute \$1 million for Hurricane Dorian recovery efforts, which he said "will guarantee technical assistance in early recovery interventions for crucial areas according to the programme."

Four Men Arrested for Marijuana

Police recovered a large quantity of marijuana from the streets of New Providence on Tuesday.

According to police, shortly before 3 a.m., officers of the South Central Division, acting on intelligence, executed a search warrant on a home at Chou Close, off McKinney Drive and recovered

seven sacks of suspected marijuana.

Four men who were at the home during the time of the search were taken into custody.

Police said the drugs weighed 259 pounds and has an estimated street value of \$259,000.

Investigations are ongoing.

Ash: 'I Paid PLP MPs'

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Town PLP candidates between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Around this time Ash noted that people started to call his phone saying he made so much money and that the then prime minister had his name all over and spoke about him in the House of Assembly.

Ash also noted that he was trying to get property and asked Gibson to speak with former Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation Executive Chairman Dion Smith for him in this regard.

He also added that he gave Gibson money to give to Smith in this regard.

However, Ash also revealed that to this day none of the properties were legit.

When asked why he got the police involved, Ash said he knew what was happening. He said he was in fear for his life and so he came forward.

Ash testified that the police never approached him, but that he did it on his own free will.

When asked about the immunity deal he was offered, he said as a small businessman he had to protect himself and his family and that he came forward before the immunity deal was presented to him.

Additionally, lead attorney for the prosecution James Guthrie also revealed in court that Deborah Bastian will no longer testify in the high profile trial for reasons not said in court.

This follows as Ash claims he paid Bastian \$200,000 to pay to Gibson.

Lead defense attorney Keith Knight, QC, requested that Bastian be called by the defense because she is necessary to the case.

The Supreme Court judge said he would speak to Knight about it.

The witness also went through a spreadsheet detailing Ash's bank statements showing that on January 20, 2017, the Ash Enterprise and Trucking owner received five cheques from the Public Treasury totaling just over

\$653,000.

They were all for work already in different areas around the island post Hurricane Matthew.

The court also heard about countless occasions where he made withdrawals from his bank accounts to be paid to Deborah Bastian.

That money went towards paying off a \$250,000 bill he had with former Cabinet Minister Shane Gibson.

Ash further testified that he met with Gibson on five occasions and paid him \$25,000 the first time and \$10,000 another three times.

When asked why he made the payments, Ash said for several reasons because he was a businessman, because Gibson was in charge, because "I know how the country run" and because he was in fear for his life.

The witness went on to reveal that between March 8 and 21, his company received checks totaling \$1.3 million from the treasury.

The trial resumes today at 10 a.m.



FORM B Notice of Intended Marriage (Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Brady Allen Gerdes, Single,
of 9287 Pennie Road SE, Villard, MN 56385, United States of America

and

Peyton Nicole Horn, Single,
of 9287 Pennie Road SE, Villard, MN 56385, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 27th day of September, 2019.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B Notice of Intended Marriage (Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Jason Michael Mills, Divorced,
of 440 Cheyenne Drive, Waretown, NJ 08758, United States of America

and

Katrina Marie Plein, Divorced,
of 440 Cheyenne Drive, Waretown, NJ 08758, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 27th day of September, 2019.

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FORM B Notice of Intended Marriage (Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

John Henry Dittmer VI, Divorced,
of 3333 Wyndale Court, Woodbridge, VA 22192, United States of America

and

Jeanine Marie Ridl, Single,
of 105 Pinehurst Court, Charles Town, WV 25414, United States of America

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 27th day of September, 2019.

Registrar of Marriages



FORM B Notice of Intended Marriage (Section 7(3))

The persons named and described hereunder have given notice to me of their intended marriage, namely --

Matthew William Gordon Rodin, Single,
of 634 Princess Avenue East, Brandon MB, R7A 1T3, Canada

and

Brett Lindsay Baloun, Divorced,
of 634 Princess Avenue East, Brandon MB, R7A 1T3, Canada

Any person knowing any just cause or impediment why this marriage should not be allowed should enter caveat forthwith in the office of the Registrar of Marriages.

Dated this 27th day of September, 2019.

Registrar of Marriages

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