

EDITORIAL

Grand Lucayan sale challenging for FNM Govt.

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Kwasi Thompson

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YOUR WEATHER



81°F

Mostly cloudy and breezy with a couple of showers and a heavy t-storm.

SUNRISE: 6:27 a.m.
SUNSET: 7:55 p.m.
HIGH TIDE: 9:11 a.m. - 9:43 p.m.
LOW TIDE: 3:14 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
WINDS: SE at 14 mph

See Page 10 for full round-up

The Freeport News BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS & SERVICE GUIDE

Whatever you're looking for, these local businesses ask you to consider them first.

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Parker-Edgecombe reflects on progress over one year

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Member of Parliament for West Grand Bahama and Bimini, Pakesia Parker-Edgecombe, who also serves as Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Communication in the Office of the Prime Minister admitted that the Free National Movement (FNM), realized coming into office in Grand Bahama at a time where many were calling for economic growth, would be a challenge.

Parker-Edgecombe made this statement, during a recent press conference as the FNM Government reflected on its first year in office, May 10.

Sharing an overview of her constituency's progress over the past year, since the May 2017 General Election, Parker-Edgecombe said, "All of our efforts as a team has been directed in ensuring that we work as a team and listen to the concerns of our residents, and act upon those concerns."

She noted that the team, which consist of Deputy Prime Minister K. Peter Turnquest (East Grand Bahama, MP); Minister of Youth,



PAKESIA PARKER-EDGECOMBE — West Grand Bahama and Bimini, MP.

Sports and Culture, Michael Pintard (Marco City, MP); Rev. Frederick McAlpine (Pineridge, MP) and Iram Lewis (Central Grand Bahama, MP), is strong and believes that in the coming months the Grand Bahama community will see that they did not make a mistake of voting them into office.

Parker-Edgecombe added that in West Grand Bahama they were fortunate enough to meet some projects already underway, including a new Junior High School and the Government Complex.

"With the completion of those, we realize that it's going to bring employment to our community and that is something that we definitely look forward to," she said.

Parker-Edgecombe noted that the appearance and health of the constituency is also an important factor.

"We want to ensure that when anybody comes to our community that they are welcomed with a clean and pristine environment," she said.

Parker-Edgecombe took the opportunity to thank the Ministry of Works for their efforts with the Hurricane Roof Repair Initiative, as many constituents in the west were able to repair their homes in time for the coming Hurricane Season.

She furthered that the government is also focusing on single mothers and women's issues, along with the youth in West Grand Bahama.

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Four pedestrians involved



TRAFFIC FATALITY INVESTIGATION — Traffic police were called to the scene on Warren J. Levarity Highway Monday (May 14) night, after receiving information of several pedestrians being injured. One male pedestrian succumbed at the scene.

(PHOTO: VANDYKE HEPBURN)

Male pedestrian succumbs at scene

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Police in Grand Bahama are investigating a traffic accident, which occurred late Monday (May 14) night that left a male dead and another male in serious condition at the Rand Memorial Hospital.

Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) Superintendent Jeremy Henfield, Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the Traffic Division was on the scene and shared preliminary information with media personnel.

According to Supt. Henfield, on Monday, May 15 around 10:50 p.m., police were called to a traffic accident on Warren J. Levarity Highway, involving a group of male pedestrians and a grey Plymouth Voyager driven by a lone male driver.

"We would have come down to investigate this matter," he said.

Henfield revealed that the group of pedestrians are visiting the island, while their ship was being repaired at the Grand Bahama Shipyard.

He added that they were visiting a local establishment for recreation and were on their way back to the shipyard, when the accident occurred.

"We're just in the initial stages of this investigation," he said, noting that there were four persons involved in the incident.

One of the male pedestrians

succumbed to his injuries at the scene and a second male was transported to the Rand Memorial Hospital (RMH) via Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel and is listed in serious condition.

Supt. Henfield noted that the driver of the vehicle involved in the accident remained at the scene and investigators were speaking with him, at the time of the interview.

Questioned about the lighting in the area where the fatality occurred, Supt. Henfield indicated that diminished street lighting may have been a factor in the accident.

"We know along this street there's not much lighting, it's very minimal and very dim," he said.

Supt. Henfield took the opportunity to remind the motoring public to drive with caution and care, especially on dark roads and in busy areas.

"We're asking you to drive at a speed that is comfortable where you can see," he added.

Police are actively investigating this matter.

Monday night's traffic fatality marks the island's third for the year.

The last traffic fatality occurred on Friday, February 9 on Cathedral Boulevard and Coral Road, which also resulted in a pedestrian losing his life.

Preliminary investigations indicated that the victim attempted to cross the street from the southern-side of Settler's Way



POLICE UPDATE — Supt. Jeremy Henfield (left) and ASP Teresita Pinder (right), were on the scene of the island's latest traffic fatality Monday (May 14) night, and shared initial findings of the investigation.

to the northern-side, when he was struck by a 2001 blue and white tour bus.

The victim succumbed to injuries sustained at the scene.

The first traffic fatality to occur in Grand Bahama in 2018 happened on Thursday, January

25, shortly after 8:00 a.m. police were called to a traffic mishap that occurred at the junction of Grand Bahama Highway and Coral Road, which involved a red 2007 Nissan Cube with three occupants and a white (Continued on Page 3)

New age of technology should be embraced, says Pintard

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MICHAEL PINTARD
Minister of Youth,
Sports and Culture

Serving as keynote speaker for the Ministry of Education's Technical Cadets Corps Programme's (TCCP) 23rd Annual Graduation and Prize Giving Ceremony, Michael Pintard, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, admonished the young students to embrace the new age of technology, and remember that while The Bahamas is a small developing nation, they

are as equally gifted and talented as any of their counterparts around the world.

Constantly acknowledging his passion and commitment to the youth of the nation and the importance of empowering them, Pintard noted that in a collaborative effort, his ministry along with other government entities have embarked upon initiatives geared towards promoting entrepreneurship, particularly with the youth, the largest populous of the nation.

"Just recently my ministry, in conjunction with the Office of

the Prime Minister, launched an entrepreneurship program designed to provide resources to new businesses and emerging businesses, so that they can create a variety of enterprises that plug gaps that exist in this community. A number of those businesses that were successful in winning those grants of \$5,000.00 and in some cases \$10,000.00, were in the area of technology.

"Graduates, nothing prevents you from continuing, as you must, your education while at (Continued on Page 5)



DARREN COOPER
D's Car Rental, President

Car rental owners to form first CROA

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The Grand Bahama Car Rental Industry has been under attack for the past few years and now, leaders in the business are banding together to establish the first-ever Car Rental Owners' Association.

Darren Cooper, D's Car Rental owner is leading the charge and along with representatives of K.S.R Rent-a-Car, Extreme Auto & Sales Rental, Camacho Auto, Ever Star Auto, Island Car Rental.com and Brad's Car Rental held a press conference recently — Wednesday, May 9 — inviting all legitimate car rental business owners to also partner up and demonstrate their support.

"Several weeks ago, a number of car rental owners met and had a discussion as it relates to challenges that we are all faced with in the industry, as well as what we could and could not do to strengthen our business and thrive within the community.

"Today, we are extending an invitation to all legitimate car rental companies, who may be unaware of efforts as it relates to establishing a Car Rental Owners' Association to come out and be a part of our nation and elections scheduled for Thursday, May 17 beginning 6:00 p.m. at the Flamingo Restaurant at Castaways Resort & Suites.

"The goal is for the Car Rental Owners' Association to be the voice for car rental companies within the Grand Bahama community and to address all of the challenges we are faced with, as well as approach The Bahamas Government as it regards several issues of significant concern and what we expect from them in order to help us to continue striving in this industry," Cooper explained.

"Among the challenges we have to fight against involves the illegal operation of persons, who are renting blue-plated vehicles," he maintained.

"These persons are killing the market as it relates to car rentals and although they have prices that are very low, which allows them to make significant profits, they are a detriment to legitimate business owners, who are required by law to pay Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) business license fees, (GBPA) Government license fees, Road (Continued on Page 3)