

## EDITORIAL

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### FNM Government taking gradual steps at Lucayan

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### YOUR WEATHER



**75°F**  
A morning shower in the area, then breezy; not as warm

SUNRISE: 6:48 a.m.  
SUNSET: 5:22 p.m.  
HIGH TIDE: 6:10 a.m. - 6:21 p.m.  
LOW TIDE: 12:27 p.m. - 12:27 a.m.  
WINDS: NNW at 13 mph

See Page 10 for full round-up



### Christmas IN THE GARDEN

SATURDAY,  
DECEMBER 8, 2018  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

VENDORS, MEET SANTA, FACE PAINTING, COTTON CANDY, BOUNCING CASTLE, GAMES, LUNCH SPECIAL & HOLIDAY MUSIC

ADMISSION  
ADULTS \$5  
KIDS \$3

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# Contractor awaits Govt. decision on Fishing Hole Cultural Village

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**CULTURAL VILLAGE SHOPS**-- The shops which are to be a collective, significant dimension to the proposed Fishing Hole Road Cultural Village have been completed and painted for about two years. The president of ABC Construction says the entire completion process regarding the Cultural Village awaits decisions by the Government of The Bahamas.

(PHOTO BY SHAYNE STUBBS)

is no sea wall, the water will be able to come up here," Geiger explained.

The idea, he informed, was to build a replica of the vendor booths that already exist.

At the rear of the property, an area where the fishermen can clean their fish was also proposed.

"The future prospect would be to build a nice organized fish cleaning station, inclusive of access to fresh water, concrete tables, and an area for the proper disposal of conch shells in the back.

"This proposal is not one hundred percent decided on now. This is why it has not been finished yet, because they are still trying to find money and get it funded.

"The idea was to clean up the mess, construct proper parking in the back for buses and other things.

"We are waiting on decisions. The vendor and fishing village (Continued on Page 3)

What's the time frame for completion of the Fishing Hole Cultural Village?

The government has not given recent updates and the once-highlighted sector of the Fishing Hole project has fallen under the radar.

However, *The Freeport News* had the opportunity to speak candidly with All Bahamas Construction (ABC) Company Limited President, Wolfgang Geiger, this past Sunday, December 2, and he provided the latest outlook regarding the village, which is adjacent to the bridge.

Geiger informed that the village area, which was proposed

*"The idea was to clean up the mess, construct proper parking in the back for buses and other things. We are waiting on decisions. The vendor and fishing village is a part of the bridge project."*

~ (ABC) Company Limited President, Wolfgang Geiger

by the previous Perry Christied administration was intended to house fish vendors and provide other cultural aspects for visitors and guests alike, in hopes of providing additional economic opportunities for Grand Bahamians, artisans, and various craft entrepreneurs.

"This area was basically created for vendors, shops more or less. Dr. (Michael) Darville (Former Minister for Grand Bahama), at the time decided to build something that the tourists could enjoy as well. When this is finished and everything is nice and organized here, this will be an area that people can visit before they go into West End or, when coming back from West End. They can stop here, where they will have a fish market, local food, vendors. There will also be a boat ramp here as well.

"Former Prime Minister Perry Christie visited the site, about a year before the end of his term, and noted that the concept for a vendor and fishing village was nice but that he wanted it to be bigger, therefore a second phase was decided upon.

"We have dumped material for the time being on the site, but, a mirror image of the existing vendor booths was proposed, as well as a sea wall, to protect the area from storm surge. If there

# Mix of migrants from four countries arrested

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Migrants from four different countries made up the latest group apprehended and processed by officers in Grand Bahama.

*The Freeport News* was informed that on Saturday (December 1) at 6:30 p.m., United States Coast Guard (USCG) Cutter *Bernard C Webber*, called into the Lucayan Harbour and handed over to Bahamian Immigration officials a total of 10 migrants of mixed nationalities. Naphthali Cooper, Bahamas Immigration Officer provided the information.

The group comprised of four Haitians, three males and one female; four Ecuadorian males; one Dominican male; and one Cuban male.

All persons with the exception of the Cuban migrant, were located by USCG officials on Friday morning at sea approximately 3:30 a.m., some 23 nautical miles West of Freeport, Grand Bahama in a disabled vessel which was apparently taking on water.

According to Cooper, the vessel, a 30-foot Proline Cuddy Cabin style, white hull with blue stripe and a single outboard

engine, was believed to have departed Freeport earlier on Thursday evening destined for the United States with nine persons on board, apparently attempting to be smuggled into the U.S.A. The vessel also carried a Grand Bahama registration number.

The nine persons from the disabled vessel were taken aboard the USCG cutter. The disabled vessel was lost at sea during the night and was not recoverable.

The lone Cuban migrant male was discovered at Cay Sal Bank.

After taking custody of the 10 persons, Immigration officials transported them to headquarters for further processing, and to be examined by staff from the Disease Surveillance Unit of the Public Health Authority.

Two of the Haitian men are known to the Immigration Department, with one of them being in possession of an Annual Resident Permit which expires later this month. The other's work permit expired two months ago and has a renewal application which is pending.

The other Haitian male and female are both without legal status and claimed that they entered the Bahamas illegally by boat from Haiti earlier this year.

The Dominican national entered the country legally on a Short-Term Work Permit which has since expired. The four Ec-



**MIXED MIGRANTS**- A group comprising of four Haitians, three males and one female, four Ecuadorian males, one Dominican male and one Cuban male was handed over to the local immigration department this past weekend.

(PHOTO: Department of Immigration)

cuadorians entered The Bahamas earlier this year as visitors but have since allowed their status to expire, without seeking an

extension. Charges of Illegal Landing, Illegal Embarkation and Overstaying are pending against the

nine, while the Cuban migrant is expected to be sent to the Detention Centre until being repatriated to Cuba.



## The Freeport News & SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER

# Toy Drive

### Giving Children Hope



Interested persons are requested to drop off NEW or USED UNWRAPPED TOYS at The Freeport News anytime during business hours. Drop off Time: Monday - Friday 9 - 5 p.m.

**Final Drop Off Day: Friday, December 21st, 2018**