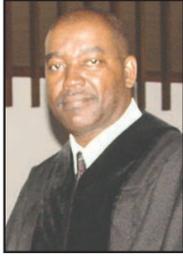


EDITORIAL SEE PAGE 4

Rev. Dr. Russell takes position on corruption



Sponsored by: **The Freeport News**

YOUR WEATHER



80°F
Partly sunny

SUNRISE: 6:54 a.m.
SUNSET: 6:04 p.m.
HIGH TIDE:
12:03 p.m. - 12:41 a.m.
LOW TIDE:
5:59 a.m. - 6:17 p.m.
WINDS: ESE 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.

PAGE 6



JR. JUNKANOO PARTICIPANTS GLITTER – The City of Freeport Council's 20th Annual Junior Junkanoo Parade was a success, as scores of students took to the streets of downtown Freeport to show off their dancing and creativity with various themes. Thirty schools from Grand Bahama and Sweeting's Cay participated in the event, where the youth of the nation shined, as they showcased Bahamian culture at its best. (see More photos on Pages 3, 7, 8 and 9) (PHOTOS: JENNEVA RUSSELL)

20th Annual Junior Junkanoo Parade termed a big success

JAIMIE SMITH
FN Reporter
jaimie@nasguard.com

The Junkanoo element on Saturday was extraordinary as students presented their artistic styles and dances for observers. Despite the postponement of The City of Freeport District

Council's 20th Annual Junior Junkanoo Parade two weeks ago, due to inclement weather, this past Saturday February 9, West Pioneer's Way, Downtown Freeport was transformed to celebrate Bahamian culture at its best, with the nation's future indeed beaming bright as they displayed their creativity and passion for Junkanoo in grand

style. Opened in prayer by Father Curtis Robinson, Rector of St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, followed by an outstanding rendition of the National Anthem by Jasmine Thompson, a student of Tabernacle Baptist Christian Academy, the parade was exciting from the outset.

The parade was officially declared open by K. Darron Turnquest, Deputy Permanent Secretary and Director of Youth, Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, on behalf of Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, Hon. Lanisha Rolle. He informed that the minister was out of the country on official government business, however he expressed

that he was indeed happy to be on island to witness the youth "celebrate our culture in such a way." Co-moderator for the event, along with Will Stubbs, Ricardo Lightbourne addressed attendees: "Twenty years of celebrating our youth, in terms of Junkanoo was no easy task. What you see

here was put together by a group of planners and individuals who worked day and night to give you a beautiful parade. The senior parade was fantastic, and the junior parade will be just as exciting," he said. According to Lightbourne, the Chairman of the Grand Bahama Junkanoo Committee, Kevin (Continued on Page 3)

Key stakeholders pledge support to community clean-up "initiative"

JAIMIE SMITH
FN Reporter
jaimie@nasguard.com

A unique community effort is getting wide support. Following the Member of Parliament for Central Grand Bahama, Hon. Iram Lewis' announcement on Friday morning regarding a massive clean-up campaign from Lover's Beach to Hanna Hill, Eight Mile Rock, local churches and schools, the Ministry of Tourism, Environmental Health, Bahama Rock and Local Government have pledged their support in the initiative. Cristian Palacios, Family Island Administrator, West Grand Bahama District noted that the event will indeed be a collaborative effort of unity as school involvement will also be key to ensuring that the youth within the community understand the importance and significance of maintaining their environment in a pristine condition.

"We also have the schools in the area on board because what we would like to do is sensitize the community of the importance of keeping their areas clean. One thing that we notice is that after the clean-up initiatives have happened, there is a void, in terms of education and bringing awareness, to keeping your areas clean. We are also looking into that and we also have Environmental Health on board, and we are also reaching out to the police, and the Ministry of Tourism, and Urban Renewal as well," she said. The clean-up campaign will take place this coming Saturday, February 16, beginning at 7:00 a.m.. Persons interested in participating are welcomed and encouraged to meet at one of three strategic locations, Harbour West Shopping Center, the basketball court at Hanna Hill and the eastern portion of Lover's Beach. "We are going to do a walk-about also that morning, in the

community, identifying derelict buildings, abandoned buildings, overgrown properties, among other things, basically taking one community, one neighborhood at a time. As administrator for the west I am privileged to have two members of parliament in my area. Mr Lewis' area also included Pinder's Point, Lewis Yard, the Mack Town area as well as Williams and Russell Towns which fall under my District as well Pakesia Parker-Edcombe is the MP in the west. We are also looking to take this initiative into those areas as well," added the administrator. Senator Jasmine Dareus, Deputy Director Urban Renewal added: "Today, we at Urban Renewal are excited to partner with the Member of Parliament for Central Grand Bahama for the 'Unity in our Community' clean-up initiative. "I believe that a clean community is a healthy community and so while we are out, during the (Continued on Page 2)



COLLABORATION – A number of key stakeholders have joined forces with the Member of Parliament for Central Grand Bahama Hon. Iram Lewis, seated in center, for the 'Clean and Maintain: Beautifying our community.' Pictured from left to right standing are: Kevin Wildgoose, Chairman, Bartlett Hill Local Government Representative; Reverend Lindy Russell; Chester Cooper, Principal, Eight Mile Rock High School; D'Vonte Forbes, EMRHS Junior Local Government Council; Paul Wildgoose, EMRHS Junior Local Government Council; Jackie Russell, Chief Councillor, Pinder's Point Township; Newann Rolle, Craig Wallace and Gerald Hutchinson, Backyard Farming Coordinator. Seated from left to right are: Senator Jasmine Dareus, Deputy Director, Urban Renewal; Cristian Palacios, Family Island Administrator, West GB District; Lewis; Bertha McPhee-Duncanson, Chief Inspector, Department of Environmental Health Services; Lou Carroll, General Manager, Sanitation Services, and Larry Wildgoose, Local Government Representative for Heppburn Town. (PHOTO: JENNEVA RUSSELL)

NO OFFICIAL REPORTS OF ILLEGAL MIGRANTS

JAIMIE SMITH
FN Reporter
jaimie@nasguard.com

A stark difference from last weekend with the reported loss

of life of more than 30 Haitian nationals, as they attempted to make their way to The United States, local Bahamas Immigration Department (BID) officials informed this daily on Sunday

that there were no immigration matters to report. On Saturday February 2, shortly after 9:00 a.m., officials reported that Royal Bahamas (Continued on Page 3)