

Looking for your Meeting Today



CHECK OUT THE COMMUNITY CORNER

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YOUR WEATHER

88°F

SUNRISE: 7:00 a.m.
SUNSET: 7:18 p.m.
HIGH TIDE: 5:05 a.m. - 5:43 p.m.
LOW TIDE: 11:16 a.m. - 12:02 p.m.
WINDS: N at 10 mph

Periods of clouds and sun with a shower

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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STREET ART – A beautiful two-sided mural featuring the Bahamian Olympic champions, the 'Golden Knights,' being erected in the circle on Coral Road and Settler's Way. (Photo: Jenneva Russell)

MULTIMEDIA ARTIST BRINGS 'GOLDEN' APPEAL TO MAJOR THOROUGHFARE

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For the past few weeks, motorists traversing the northern roundabout on Coral Road, roused construction taking place, curious as to what the final product would be. This

daily travelled to the site early Friday morning and uncovered the mystery. Strategically placed in the center of the roundabout was a vibrant, colorful depiction of four men that placed The Bahamas in the map in the 2012 Olympics in London, claiming gold medals in the 4x400 meter relay, the Bahamian 'Golden

Knights' As one travels around the roundabout, depending on the direction travelled, images of Chris Brown, Demetrius Pinder, Michael Mathieu and Ramon Miller, can be seen, each intricately painted on large wooden posts, a truly golden sight for sore eyes. Multimedia artist Jacki Boss,

is the mastermind behind the beautiful depiction of the 'Golden Knights.' She is also responsible for other intriguing artwork on the island, including the mosaic in the Port Lucaya Marketplace, work at the Columbus House as well as paintings at the downtown bus stop. Speaking to her latest project on Coral Road, Boss shared

how the idea came about. "This actually was an idea I had three years ago; it has taken this long to get it all of the way to completion. There were a lot of challenges, there were a lot of people involved in getting it done. I had the idea, it was the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) that I pitched it to and they were very excited about it.

It has gone back-and-forth, how to install it, where to install it, getting the materials; it is almost three years to the day, but we are finally getting it here to this point." She explained the reason the 'Golden Knights' were chosen as the subject of her latest project. "They are the 'Golden' (Continued on Page 3)

Ministry of Youth's Fresh Start Program continuing to produce workforce ready youth

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CARLA BROWN-ROKER
Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, Youth Coordinator

A Job Readiness, Training and Employment Program, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture Fresh Start Program (FSP) is geared toward offering successful participants between the ages of 17- 25 a second chance at obtaining job placement, in a field, which they have received basic training and overall life skills necessary in seeking gainful employment.

Originally formed in New Providence in 1993 and eventually being offered to Grand Bahamians in 1999, the Fresh Start Program has positively impacted thousands of young persons, providing both training and opportunity for many who seemed to think that prior to the program, all hope was lost for their future.

This year's Fresh Start Program begins on September 25 and concludes on January 27, 2018.

Application forms are now available at the Ministry's Regent Centre office, deadline for submission is Monday, September 18 at 5:00 p.m.

Youth Coordinator at the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, Carla Brown-Roker, revealed that between 75 to 100 persons will be accepted for the program; however, based on the

positive response already received by residents, she is confident that another cohort will be announced shortly after the January 27 conclusion. By the overwhelming response received from residents following the announcement of the applications being available at the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture Regent Centre office, Brown-Roker shared that the ministry is now even more motivated and determined to offer youth that fresh start that so many of them are yearning for.

"The ministry is even more determined to engage the young people of Grand Bahama, who are unattached, unemployed and out of school. We have to, why, because if we do not they are going to get themselves in some issues that we do not want them to. We have to keep them occupied, learning being trained, and receiving those soft skills that employers say they lack. "We are over subscribed, but it tells the need for an opportunity for young people; the need is there on this island."

Brown-Roker revealed that she recently began the distribution of applications and had given out well over 400 application forms.

"It is the same in Nassau, the demand is there. But, not everyone is coming in really and truly wanting training; they are coming in because they want a job, an opportunity ... that is what they are looking for."

After the applications come in and are processed, an interview process will take place revealed, Brown-Roker, where she along with other colleagues in the ministry – both here and in New Providence – as well as persons

from the Office of the Prime Minister and Labor Board will assist in the interviewing process of the candidates.

"That is when we will find out a lot about the individuals that are applying."

A significant factor of the program is community service, she added, therefore persons that are proven to be community and service minded are a definite plus.

"A part of this program is 30-hours of community service ... that is required of them. If this program is gratis, the government of The Bahamas is paying for this – the tuition and the materials, then you have to be

willing to give back something. We assign them to a charity or cause, throughout the duration of the program."

Passionate about molding and shaping the youth of the nation, Brown-Roker shared that witnessing the persons involved in the program evolve gives her hope for the future of the country.

"All of this is about transforming the persons that are in the program. This is my favorite program within the ministry, because the transformation of the participants is what I love to see." (Continued on Page 3)

Hundreds expected to volunteer for the 32nd Inter-coastal Clean-up today

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The Keep Grand Bahama Clean Committee, Bahamas National Trust and Ministry of Tourism are hosting the 32nd Annual Intercoastal Clean-up today – Saturday, September 16 – beginning at 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. on various beaches throughout Grand Bahama. The committee held a press conference on Friday (September 15) at Xanadu Beach West to discuss the upcoming event.

Olethea Gardiner, Keep Grand



OLETHEA GARDINER
KGBCC, Co-Chairperson

Bahama Clean Committee Co-Chairperson said that they are pleased to be a part of this effort.

"We know that the Keep Grand Bahama Clean mandate is that it's everybody's responsibility to keep our island clean, so we just want to continue to spread that message," she said.

Jeffrey Pinder, Senior Executive for the Sustainable Tourism Unit, Ministry of Tourism stated that they have been conducting these efforts to collect data at beach locations.

"We want to find out how is it (Continued on Page 3)