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GRAND BAHAMA'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL SEE PAGE 4

Davis focuses on spilled milk

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YOUR WEATHER

Mostly cloudy with

SUNRISE: 7:03 a.m. **SUNSET:**5: 34 p.m. HIGH TIDE: 7:45 a.m. - 8:01 p.m. LOW TIDE:

1:15 a.m. - 2:06 p.m. WINDS: NNE at 15 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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Pintard: Junkanoo is indeed a true gift

GRAND BAHAMIANS TURN OUT IN DROVES FOR 2018 NEW YEAR'S JUNKANOO PARADE

JAIMIE SMITH FN Reporter jaimie@nasguard.com

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, in conjunction with the Grand Bahama Junkanoo Committee presented the 2018 Kenneth "Motorboat" Ferguson New Year's Day Junkanoo Parade, on West Pioneer's Way, Downtown Freeport on Monday (January 1) evening.

Michael Pintard, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture officially declared the parade open, noting that Junkanoo in The Bahamas is indeed a true gift, as it unites Bahamians – young and old – regardless of political or religious affiliation to celebrate an aspect of culture that truly identifies Bahamians as a peo-

"Junkanoo is a unifying source in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. We have had a former Prime Minister Perry Christie, who rushed with Valley. The present Prime Minister (Dr. Hubert Minnis) is a beller in the Shell Saxons Superstars. When they are in the group, in the line,

our former Prime Minister and present Prime Minister are no different from the young man who is a carpenter, a fisherman or an electrician.

"Junkanoo has a way of leveling the playing field. It has a way of breaking down boundaries. Persons who hail from different neighborhoods, for eight months out of the year, labor together; even though in the beginning they may not have had any affection for each other. They work in difficult conditions, in shacks throughout the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and they produce brilliance," said Pintard.

"Junkanoo has a way of breaking down barriers between people from different socio economic brackets, people from different religions and beliefs; persons from different neighborhoods. Junkanoo has done for culture, what we believe it can do for the Commonwealth of The Bahamas - break down

"I believe that all of you will agree, that in 2018, there are some boundaries in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas that have to come down. Election is



OFFICIALLY OPENED - Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Michael Pintard officially opened the 2018 Kenneth "Mototboat" Ferguson Junkanoo Parade in Grand Bahama Monday, January 1. Minister Pintard is pictured with two young Junkanoo fans at the start of the parade yesterday. (PHOTO: JENNEVA RUSSELL)

over, those political boundaries that have to come down. We believe that if the Christian church is to be powerful the religious boundaries have to come down."

The minister noted that this Junkanoo parade showcased a group of young men and women who set an example for the country, that working in tandem and laboring over something that you love, absolute brilliance is capable of being produced, and Junkanoo does just that.

"It is my honor and pleasure to have this opportunity to declare this parade open and to celebrate the men and women who have made it possible."

Pintard welcomed Emma Ferguson, widow of the late Kenneth "Motorboat" Ferguson. who this year's cultural event was named in honor of.

Ferguson passed away late last

"I want to say thank you again for having the parade in honor of my husband. Happy New Year to you all," said Mrs. Ferguson.

Pintard then presented Ferguson with a plaque in recognition of this year's parade being

(Continued on Page 9)

Kaylee Elise Marie makes grand entrance as New Year's Day baby

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The Rand Memorial Hospital staff welcomed the 2018 New Year's Day baby shortly after 3:00 a.m. on January 1.

The bouncing baby girl, Kaylee Elise Marie Johnson, made her grand entrance on the first day of the year - 2018 - however, her mother, Glenndia Leathan shared that she was not due for another two weeks.

Thankfully, although early, she delivered a

healthy and happy bundle of joy. The proud mother revealed that Kaylee is her second child, as she also has a two- year-old daughter. Kaylee Elise Marie was born at 3:14 a.m. Revealing that she had a vaginal birth with Kaylee, the happy mother admitted that (Continued on Page 3)



NEW YEAR'S BABY Staff at the Rand Memorial Hospital (RMH) welcomed the first baby for 2018 shortly after 3:00 a.m. Monday, January 1, a bouncing baby girl, Kaylee Elise Marie Johnson. Baby Kaylee is pictured with her mom, Glenndia Leathan and nursing staff of the Maternity

> (РНОТО: JENNEVA RUSSELL)

Officials apprehend illegal immigrants hours before Dec. 31 deportation deadline

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Just hours prior to the December 31 deadline issued by the leader of the nation, Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, for all illegal immigrants to leave the country voluntarily or be subjected to humane deployment by Bahamas Immigration authorities the Northern Bahamas Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) officials in Bimini apprehended six illegal immigrants on December 30.

According to reports from RBPF officials, police on that northern island took into custody six illegal immigrants after they were discovered at a local resort on North Bimini.

Reports are that on Saturday December 30, 2017, shortly before 11:00 a.m., officers of the Bimini Division acting on in-(Continued on Page 2)

HUNDREDS ATTEND HISTORIC 'WATCH NIGHT' SERVICE

SHARELL LOCKHART FN Reporter sharell@nasguard.com

Forty-nine churches representing various Christian denominations across the island, converged on Independence Park at 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 3, 2017 for the historic 'The MOVE' Watch Night Gathering. Historic and biblically sig-

nificant, 'The MOVE' brought

thousands of believers together on one accord, inclusive of Deputy Prime Minister of The Bahamas and Minister of Finance, K. Peter Turnquest; Minister of State for Grand Bahama Senator Kwasi Thompson and Dep-

uty Director of Urban Renewal Grand Bahama and Bimini Senator Jasmin Turner-Dareus, who noted that the open-air gathering demonstrates that the people are serious about surrendering all to God.

Setting aside denominations pastors, elders, bishops, reverends, ministers, priests, deacons, evangelists, apostles, prophets, psalmists and intercessors collectively and indi-

(Continued on Page 3)

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