

Coach McPhee on warpath



Gladstone "Moon" McPhee

EDITORIAL
SEE PAGE 4

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YOUR WEATHER

81°F
Mostly sunny and nice.

SUNRISE: 6:41 a.m.
SUNSET: 6:15 p.m.
HIGH TIDE: 5:27 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.
LOW TIDE: 11:46 a.m. - 11:54 p.m.
WINDS: SW at 6 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

EIA critical component in Oban Energies HOA

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“One aspect of the HOA speaks to the mandate of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Before Oban Energies can proceed they must supply the government with the EIA.”

~ Sen. Kwasi Thompson
Minister of State for GB



“In addition, there has to be an Emergency Management Plan (EMP), which again articulates that if there is a problem, some kind of environmental problem, that there is a plan in place to address those things – who will address them, who will pay for it and what needs to happen. All of those needs are in the EMP. The government also has to review that and then approve that as well,” explained Senator Thompson.

The HOA paves the way for that process to take place, he said, noting that nothing can happen, Oban Energies cannot put shovels in the ground until those environmental studies and the EMP are completed and approved by the government.

(Continued on Page 3)

The most vital aspects of the Heads of Agreement (HOA) signed between the government and Oban Energies last week (February 19) is the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which must be completed and approved prior to the billion-dollar project moving forward, admitted Senator J. Kwasi Thompson, Minister of State for Grand Bahama in the Office of the Prime Minister.

Noting that Bahamians have reservations about the proposed \$4 billion oil refining and \$1.5 billion storage facility, Thompson said that protecting the environment and residents of Grand Bahama, is of utmost importance to the government.

“The government is very keen on ensuring that any development will have the highest health and safety standards, as well as to ensure that the envi-

ronment is protected. One aspect of the HOA speaks to the mandate of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Before Oban Energies can proceed they must supply the government with the EIA, which is the

study that articulates what kind of possible effects to the environment the development can have,” Thompson said.

“The government has to review it and the government has to approve it. We have an entire

arm, which is the BEST Commission, under the Ministry of the Environment, with our own team of experts that looks at the EIA and makes recommendations, if necessary, to protect the environment.

Falcons Boys' Club prepare to host 1st Abaco Conference

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aco Conference will begin that day at 10:30 a.m.

“The Patrick Bethel High School will host 280 young men from the high school at this one-day conference,” he said.

Rolle added that the club chose to host the conference on various Bahamian Islands to encourage individual schools to host similar conferences.

He noted that the club believes that it takes a village to raise a child and they also believe that all of the country's young men are not lost.

“Our young men are doing many positive things today,” he said.

Rolle noted that they are expecting over 400 young men along with their fathers at the

Grand Bahama conference.

He disclosed that the featured speaker for both conferences will be pastor Rick Schuessler from Orlando, Florida and Camps Missions.

Rolle said, as a Christian organization, leaders and members of the Falcons Boys' Club believe it is their duty to do the best they can, to encourage young men in a positive direction.

“I am thankful to Grand Bahama, I am thankful to The Bahamas for allowing us to host such a conference at the various high schools,” he said.

He added that this year they will be hosting conferences on eight different islands, including Abaco, Andros, Eleuthera, Grand Bahama, New Provi-

dence and San Salvador.

Assistant Director of the Falcons Boys' Club, Phillip Waterbourne stated that the event will consist of lots of free food, drinks and prizes.

“We are encouraging all of the young men to come out and their fathers to come out with them. This year we're going to be having a lot of giveaways,” he said.

These giveaways will include backpacks filled with an assortment of useful items for the attending boys.

Representatives from several of the club's partners for the conference were also in attendance and spoke about their involvement in the conference.

Cheryl Lightbourne, Bethel's

(Continued on Page 3)



PARTNERING TO REACH YOUNG BOYS – Director of the Falcons Boys' Club Darrin Rolle (seated centre) is pictured with sponsors of the club's 'Building Youth is Better than Mending Men' Conference, which is slated for Abaco March 3 - the first ever for the island. Two weeks later the 12th annual conference will be held in Grand Bahama. (PHOTO: JENNEVA RUSSELL)

Second Micro and Small Business participants receive grants

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The second cohort of participants in the Grand Bahama Micro and Small Business Empowerment Program received their Self Starter and Business Evolution Grants yesterday – Monday, February 26 – during a presentation at the Office of the Prime Minister.

The program was launched by Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas Dr. Hubert Minnis on November 24, 2017.



GRANTS PRESENTED – Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Michael Pintard, announced names of the individuals and their companies who received the government's Self-starter Grant assistance, during a press conference at the Office of the Prime Minister. (PHOTO: JENNEVA RUSSELL)

The Self Starter Grant is for persons in the program who want to start a business and the Business Evolution Grant applies to participants who want to expand already existing businesses.

Minister of Youth Sports and Culture Michael Pintard, Member of Parliament for Marco City said that there were 15 recipients of the Self Starter Grant.

He introduced those individuals along with their businesses – Joseph Armbrister, Woodever Signs; Joyce Adderley, Bahama Mushrooms; Janelle Collier, Sweet Jar 242; Nicholas McIntosh, NVM Spotless Cleaning and Landscaping Services; Jamal Hall, JHall's; Sophia Loren-Purcell, Shells By Sophia; Xavier Wilchcombe, Advanced Technical Center; Brandalee Dorcely, Pattie-Pattie, Stephen Gibson, Shield Gear; Annarine Johnson, Jessie's Bone-fishing; Christine Fernander, 3 in 1 Nails and Cosmetics; Malik Solomon, OTS Productions; Adelaide Clarke, Heavenly Comforts; Kevamae Roberts, Blossom's Garden and Alicia Stuart, Heavenly Treats.

Pintard advised the entrepreneurs to be committed and relentless with their businesses.

(Continued on Page 3)