



Some grey areas now associated with Oban HOA

EDITORIAL SEE PAGE 4

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YOUR WEATHER

80°F
Variable cloudiness with a t-storm

SUNRISE: 6:40 a.m.
SUNSET: 6:15 p.m.
HIGH TIDE: 6:22 a.m. - 6:20 p.m.
LOW TIDE: 12:38 a.m. - 12:49 p.m.
WINDS: E at 8 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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DPM FOCUSES ON

Technology and Climate Change Resilience at IDB Enclave

Bahamas Information Services

Deputy Prime Minister K. Peter Turnquest, Minister of Finance, in his capacity as one of the Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), attending the second day of the 7th Annual Consultation Meetings with Caribbean Governors of the Bank, participated in a panel discussion led by Sir Richard Branson and IDB President Luis Alberto Moreno.

The discussions centered on climate change developments and how technology can impact climate resilience as countries contemplate rebuilding and infrastructure planning in a more sustainable way. In the afternoon, DPM Turnquest participated in a second panel discussion led by the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica, and Toomas Hendrik Ilves, former President of the Republic of Estonia, on the importance of embracing the digital revolution and the benefits technological advancements can have on developing states including the ease of doing business and reducing high and low level corruption.

IDB MEETING –Deputy Prime Minister K. Peter Turnquest attended the 7th Annual Consultation Meetings with Caribbean Governors of the IDB.



DPM Turnquest earlier in the day held bilateral discussions with Former President Ilves where they discussed Estonia's e-Governance model, available technology, implementation challenges and technical re-

sources available to assist The Bahamas move forward with its plan to digitize its governance

infrastructure, particularly those functions affecting efficient service delivery to the public.

BANKING TALKS – Deputy Prime Minister K. Peter Turnquest is pictured with Sir Richard Branson at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) 7th Annual Consultation Meetings with Caribbean Governors of the Bank.



Chinese nationals apprehended at sea

ABRIA COOPER FN Reporter abria@nasguard.com

On Saturday, February 24, at 8:00 a.m., Bahamas Immigration Department (BID) officers were called to the Lucayan Harbour, where the crew of United States Coast Guard (USCG) Cutter *William Flores*, handed over six Chinese nationals.

Naphthali Cooper, Grade One Officer for the BID told *this daily* that the group consisted of four men and two women ranging in ages from 17 to 35 years.

According to Cooper, they were all intercepted at sea in international waters by USCG officials on Sunday, February 18, in what appeared to have been a human smuggling operation gone awry.

The six were discovered on a white Cabin Cruiser private yacht, which had become disabled and was reportedly taking on water. The vessel, which was registered in Florida was piloted by a Grand Bahamian man.

There were also an Ecuadorian and Haitian males on board. The captain reportedly claimed that the nine individuals on-board had left a marina in Miami on Saturday to go fishing and planned to return to the same marina on Sunday, but ran into engine problems.

However, no fishing apparatus or catch were seen on the vessel by USCG officials.

Four of the Chinese nationals' passports indicated that they entered The Bahamas in Nassau November 2017 for a period of two weeks, while the



APPREHENDED AT SEA – Bahamas Immigration took custody of six Chinese nationals that were apprehended at sea by U.S. Coast Guard officials. (PHOTO COURTESY OF BID)

other two arrived in the country on Sunday, February 11, 2018 and were also given a two week stay.

They all arrived in The Bahamas on-board Copa Airlines from Ecuador via Panama.

After being turned over to BID officers on Saturday morning, the six Chinese nationals were transported to the Immigration headquarters for further processing and to be examined by staff from the Disease Surveillance Unit of the Public

Hospital Authority. They are expected to be flown to the capital to be detained at the Detention Centre and eventually deported to China.

As for the Bahamian captain along with the Haitian and Ecuadorian men, they were all detained by United States officials in Florida pending further investigations and possible charges for human smuggling.

BID officers were also busy in Grand Bahama during the week. (Continued on Page 2)

Elderly care facility benefits from Customs' Dpt. donation

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Bahamas Customs continued celebrating the 29th Anniversary of International Customs Day, making a large presentation to the Home Away from Home Centre recently (Friday, February 16).

Marsha Stubbs, Chief Customs Officer and Co-Chairperson for International Customs Day Celebrations told *this daily* that they chose to donate to the home for the special celebration.

"The department has chosen (Continued on Page 2)