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EDITORIAL
SEE PAGE 4

Ambitious undertaking by GBPA

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YOUR WEATHER

71°F
Beautiful with plenty of sun

SUNRISE: 6:31 a.m.
SUNSET: 6:20 p.m.
HIGH TIDE: 1:12 a.m. - 1:27 p.m.
LOW TIDE: 7:31 a.m. -7:37 p.m.
WINDS: N 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.
PAGE 6

'No widespread firings by the govt'

DPM: OUR SALARY BILL HAS GROWN BY SOME $15 MILLION, DRIVEN PRIMARILY BY PAYMENT OF OVERTIME

JAIMIE SMITH
FN Reporter
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Deputy Prime Minister Peter Turnquest, Minister of Finance said that despite what the official political opposition may wish to portray to the Bahamian people, there has been no widespread firings by the present government.

Turnquest's comments came during his 2017/2018 Mid-term Budget Statement, where he offered a detailed breakdown to his colleagues on Wednesday, March 7.

"Mr. Speaker, in my Mid-term Statement two weeks ago, I pointed out that our salary bill had grown by some $15 million, driven primarily by payment of overtime due to police and payments arising from the fulfilment of public sector industrial agreements.

"Some critics, including those who ought to know better have made a host of claims regarding this government engaging in a massive retrenchment of public sector staff; essentially that we have fired thousands of Bahamians."

However, he noted that the reality of it all tells a different story. "It speaks to what the former administration was really doing with the people's money in the lead up to the election.

K. PETER TURNQUEST
Minister of Finance

"My point is, that despite the fiction being perpetrated by the idle and indolent crew on the opposite side, there have been no widespread firings by the government."

~ K. Peter Turnquest, DPM

"During the last fiscal year, government records indicate that not including Parliamentarians or summer students, the government added 2,260 persons to the direct public sector payroll. Of

(Continued on Page 2)

Violence and injury running up the cost of health care

Bahamas Information Services

Minister of Health, Dr. Duane Sands said there is a growing concern of violence and injury running up the cost of health care and crippling the country's social systems.

"We must get a handle on the root causes of this with research guiding our understanding of this growing epidemic," Dr. Sands said at the Medical Association of The Bahamas' 46th Annual Scientific Conference held at Melia Nassau Beach resort, March 7, 2018.

He said however, that the conference aims to celebrate the country's achievements in health care and the vision of a better health care system in The Bahamas for all, that is efficient, cost effective and that provides value for money, along with being accountable and equitable.

"We have achieved significant legislation over the past two years governing stem cell research and registration and licensing of physicians.

"This deserves recognition as we are leading the way in our Region. The future looks bright. We stand on the shoulders that come before us."

Dr. Sands explained that at this time in the nation's health history, there is a very large number of physicians who have successfully completed their education, and credit should be given to the government of The Bahamas and the staff of the University of the West Indies.

"I have been advised that there will be 75 medical students graduating and who will be applying for internships in The Bahamas. There is also a very large number of physician staff not enrolled in post-graduate programmes, yet

(Continued on Page 2)

DR. DUANE SANDS
Minister of Health

MULLIGAN'S

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Telephone 352-6329

#2 Britannia Mall, Caravel Beach
Telephone 352-6328

#3 Gloucester Row, Downtown
Telephone 352-6331

~ WEEKEND SPECIALS ~

GROCERY SPECIALS

VAT INCLUSIVE ITEMS

CARDINAL CREAM 99¢
FIRST CHOICE SUGAR 4 lb 2/$4.99
BUTANE FUEL 4 PACK $8.99
SEABEST TUNA 99¢
SUNNY ISLES GALLON DRINK 2/$4.99

ALLEGRA TRI-COLOR PASTA $1.09
KRAFT ASST. 18 oz BBQ SAUCE $2.09
ALBERTO VEGETABLE OIL 48 oz $3.49
BADIA GARLIC SALT 16 oz $2.49
CHEF CHOICE SALT ....79¢
ALBERTO JASMINE 5 lb $4.99
CHEF CHOICE VINEGAR 32 oz $1.69
CEILO NAPKINS 140 cnt $1.69
FLASH FESTIVAL 28 oz $1.69
9" PLATES/ 28 oz BOWLS ....2/$2.89

MEAT SPECIALS

CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS 79¢ lb
PORK SPARE RIBS $1.99 lb
PORK CHOP ENDS $1.89 lb
TURKEY WINGS 99¢ lb

PRODUCE CORNER

KIWI 2/1.00
PLANTAIN ....79¢
CABBAGE ....69¢
POTATOES 5 lb BAG $2.69
ONIONS 3 lb BAG $1.99
TANGERINES ....4/$1.00
FRESH STRAWBERRIES $2.99
ASPARAGUS 1 lb BUNCH ea $2.99
FRESH GREEN CORN ....2/$1.00
CELERY $1.59
LETTUCE $1.59
FRESH TURMERIC ROOT lb $2.49

BUSINESS HOURS: Mon. - Sat. 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sun. 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
*VAT NOT INCLUSIVE IN PRICING

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – Mary Russell, District Education Officer for East Grand Bahama and the Cays presented Charlotte Knowles-Albury (left), daughter of Sir Durward Knowles and his younger brother with a copy of a special welcome poem, during the memorial service at the Jack Hayward High School Gymnasium.

(PHOTO: JENNEVA RUSSELL)