

Respect should be afforded all

EDITORIAL

See Page 4

Sponsored by: **The Freeport News**

YOUR WEATHER

82°F

Mostly sunny

SUNRISE: 6:41 a.m.
SUNSET: 7:44 p.m.
HIGH TIDE: 8:24 a.m. & 8:54 p.m.
LOW TIDE: 2:21 a.m. & 2:32 p.m.
WINDS: S 9 mph

See Page 10 for full round-up

DR. MICHAEL DARVILLE
PROGRESS PINERIDGE

PROGRESSIVE LIBERAL PARTY **PLP**

FORWARD TOGETHER BAHAMIANS



Search for duo missing at sea

BASRA OFFICIAL: VESSEL FOUND NEAR ORIGINAL POSITION PROVIDED BY FAMILY

BARBARA WALKIN
FN Night Editor
barbara@nasguard.com

As BASRA officials, Defence Force and police officers continue to search for two men who went missing at sea over the weekend, family members remain hopeful.

This daily learned on Sunday (April 23) that Peter Thomas and Leroy

Mather left McLean's Town en route to Moore's Island on Friday, April 21; however, the men, reportedly, never arrived at their destination.

After learning that their loved ones never made it to Moore's Island, family members in Grand Bahama launched a search at sea for the duo.

Yesterday, *The Freeport News* contacted Gary Simmons, BASRA's Search and Rescue Leader, who confirmed that a search was underway for

the two men.

"We received reports that they went missing on Friday, April 21 and the search is still continuing," he added.

Simmons noted that several aircraft have been involved in an aerial search since the report was made, "including two BASRA aircraft that were up today (Tuesday, April 25), one Defence Force craft that was up on Monday, and prior days we've had four aircraft up."

However, he noted that bad weather

and visibility hampered the search, "and the search crew was unable to locate the vessel itself or anybody."

"But as of 14:00 hours (2:00 p.m.) today, the vessel was located and there are vessels on the scene investigating."

"We have not found or they haven't acknowledged anyone being found as yet, but the search will continue with this new information."

Simmons said that the vessel was discovered not far away from the original

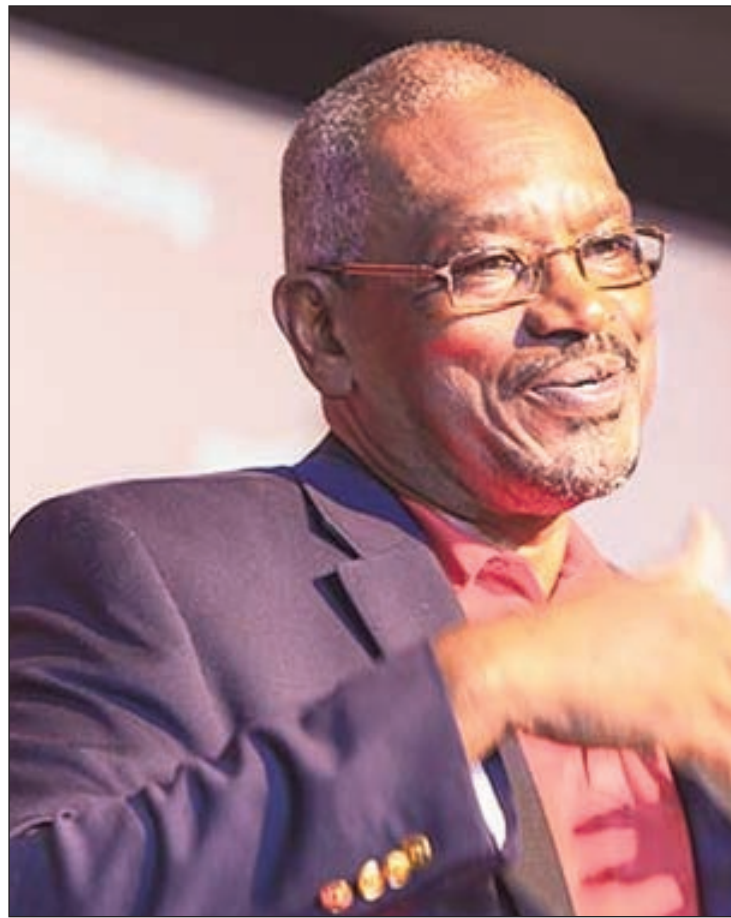
position information provided by the family.

"We found the stuff that came out of the vessel – the fuel tank, various items that were being carried. The family is on scene right now with the boat and we should have a report when they return to land – whether anything was found."

Simmons said that officers from the Defence Force were searching the immediate area, as *this daily* was conducting the interview.



C. A. Smith
Former Cabinet Minister



Dr. Hubert Minnis
Leader, Free National Movement

Smith: FNM Leader has captured the people's heart

BARBARA WALKIN
FN Night Editor
barbara@nasguard.com

One of the Free National Movement's lead campaign coordinators, former FNM cabinet minister, Ambassador and Pineridge MP, C. A. Smith, says FNM Leader, Dr. Hubert Minnis, has captured the hearts and imagination of the Bahamian people.

After months of nationwide campaigning with Dr. Minnis and the massive crowds this past week, Smith says, "for good, sound and fundamental reasons, Dr. Hubert Minnis is the next prime minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas."

The former minister, who served in various capacities in the former prime minister, Hubert Ingraham Administration,

issued a press statement late Monday, touting Dr. Minnis.

"This past Thursday in the nation's capital marked a critical turning point in the 2017 general election campaign I believe. The Free National Movement (FNM) held its first mass rally.

"The FNM crowd on R.M. Bailey Park easily outnumbered the PLP (Progressive Liberal Party) gathering by double or closer to triple fold. It seems the Bahamian people are so disgruntled, disgusted and disappointed with this PLP government," said Smith.

"There seems to be a tremendous movement for change that magically and emotionally mirrors 1992, when the FNM ushered in a new day in The Bahamas and rid our country of oppression, victimization, cor-

ruption, and an uncertain economy."

He noted that the FNM Leader and the party's message of real change is resonating with the people.

"Dr. Minnis' life story is an inspiring model for all Bahamians, particularly our young people. He rose with a spirit of determination and discipline, sharpened his smarts and with a quality education became a prominent, competent and caring medical doctor, and successful businessman.

"Dr. Minnis' poor and humble beginnings, which he has never forgotten, allows him to so passionately identify with the struggles and plight of the Bahamian people.

"The man works with an energy of strategic excellence;

wanting only what is best for Bahamians. He continues to listen and work with young, old, poor, middle class and rich to set a road map to transform our Bahamas. Dr. Minnis, while compassionate, is no nonsense. He is void of fancy and slick talk and committed to making the tough decision to give our country back to all Bahamians."

Smith said, "We are witnessing something special. This FNM 2017 Change Team, talentedly, loaded with so many young and seasoned candidates, is making waves throughout our archipelago. Dr. Minnis' leadership is something refreshing - knotted with bold and cutting edge ideas. He is a man of action and there is a brash honesty he bears that is drawing thousands

(Continued on Page 2)

UB Northern Campus prepares for Charter Day

JAIMIE SMITH
FN Reporter
jaimie@nasguard.com

The University of The Bahamas (UB) Northern Campus (NC) will officially be launched this coming Thursday (April 27) with its Charter Day ceremony. In celebration of the milestone, Alumni spearheaded a two-day event, where the University of The Bahamas NC will officially be launched and banner unveiled.

According to Elvardo Thompson, Director of Alumni Affairs, "Today the UB Alumni Association is partnering with Frank's Ice Cream, to support the NBC becoming the University of The Bahamas, NC. That will officially happen on Thursday, which we call Charter Day."

Thompson, who spoke to *this daily* yesterday (Tuesday, April 25) disclosed, "Last year, the hurricane derailed the plans that we had for the official opening; therefore we were unable to have our Charter Day, until this Thursday. We are here to support the transition to University status, for this campus, as well as to encourage our Alumni to come out and show, what we call, 'UB Pride.'

"UB Pride means wearing blue; today we are partnering with Frank's Ice Cream, between 12:00 and 2:00 p.m. Also, tomorrow we will have another blue day between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. We are encouraging all friends as well as Alumni of the University to come in. When you purchase a Frank's blue ice-cream, persons will receive free blue paraphernalia from the UB," informed the Director of Alumni Affairs.

On Charter Day, Thompson said that persons in the community can expect a fun-filled day at the NC, all in celebration of the institution's milestone to

university status, here in the Northern Bahamas. "Officials from Nassau will be flying over for the event where they will officially unveil the University Plaque," shared Thomson.

As acquiring university status has been a dream of the College of The Bahamas for quite some time, Thompson revealed that as it is now a reality, it is indeed worthy of such celebration. "It has been a long transition for us, everyone is aware of that but we are happy that we are finally here. With us becoming a university means that we are going to be offering more programs at the Baccalaureate level as well as the Master's level and eventually at the PhD level.

"What we are doing now to prepare for that is actually seeking what we call accreditation from SACS, which is the Southern Association of College; it is a very prestigious accreditation. We are looking to get accreditation from them. Once we get that accreditation, of course all of our programs, Bachelors, Masters would be accepted internationally, wherever our students go. We are looking forward to that."

Additionally, Thompson shared that the UB will be expanding both of their locations, to accommodate their students more effectively and efficiently. "Also, we are expanding our facilities at both campuses, Nassau as well as NBC. Here at NBC we are building brand-new dorms. If persons come on down to the campus on Thursday, they will see the dorms going up as well as a lot more facilities will be going up as well. The campus will basically be doubling in size, pretty shortly.

"All residents of the Northern Bahamas, Grand Bahama, Abaco, The Berrys, students

(Continued on Page 3)