

## EDITORIAL

# Grand gesture of politesse

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### YOUR WEATHER

**83°F**

SUNRISE: 6:39 a.m.  
SUNSET: 7:46 p.m.  
HIGH TIDE: 10:55 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.  
LOW TIDE: 4:56 a.m. - 5:01 p.m.  
WINDS: ESE 15 mph

Mostly sunny, breezy and pleasant

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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**JUNKANOO CARNIVAL III** — On picturesque Taino Beach, the 3rd Annual Bahamas Junkanoo Carnival (GRAND BAHAMA SEGMENT) takes place this weekend affording Grand Bahamians the opportunity to showcase their talents during the highly anticipated Junkanoo Carnival Music Masters Song Competition semi-final concert. It is expected that locals and tourists alike will enjoy the festivities, dynamic food and cultural activities. Set to take the stage during the two day event are: Avvy, Bodine Johnson, D Nation Band, Kerwin DuBois, Peter Ram, Rhythm Band, Skinny Fabulous, Ultimate Rejects, Veronica Bishop, Bunji, Garlan, D Mac, Farmer Nappy, Fayann Lyons, Lade E, M Deez, Ricardo Drue, Rick Carey, Tedyson John, among others. Initially postponed for a later date, by the Bahamas Junkanoo Festival Commission, to avoid conflict with the upcoming general elections, a decision was made to continue with the scheduled dates for both the Grand Bahama kick-off as well as the three-day event slated for next month in Nassau. The Commission released a statement via their website ([www.bahamasjunkanoo.com](http://www.bahamasjunkanoo.com)) which read in part, "The Commission is heartened to see that so many Bahamians are so emotionally invested in the event. The broad interest shown by the Bahamian public is indicative of the wide impact the event has had. The many visitors who made preparations to travel to The Bahamas for this year's carnival on the original dates are further indication that Bahamas Junkanoo Carnival has garnered a huge international following in just two short years. The Commission looks forward to delivering successful events in Grand Bahama and Nassau." The Carnival Dancers, above were the prelude to the show. (Photo by SHAYNE STUBBS)

# DNA candidate labels PLP, FNM "neglectful"

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Elkanah Pinder, Democratic National Alliance (DNA) candidate for East Grand Bahama, claims that over the past 10 years the island has been neglected by successive governments of the Progressive Liberal Party and the Free National Movement.

He said as much on Thursday as the DNA in Grand Bahama sought center stage for the first time during this campaign period.

Pinder said the neglectful man-

ner in which the FNM and the PLP functioned while in governance is clearly visible by the end of the island.

He declared as the supporters in attendance at the party's official launch in the Bain Building on West Atlantic Drive on Thursday evening. Pinder accused the FNM and the PLP of causing job-loss situations that resulted in many residents relocating in search of a better life for themselves and their families.

"Ladies and gentleman, in the last decade Grand Bahama has experienced the worst downturn in the history of our nation. For the past 10 years, Grand Bahama

has suffered at the hands of neglectful governments, under the PLP and the FNM. They mean you no good. They have decided to give you lip service. That is all they did.

"In Grand Bahama, from 2007 to present day, the Xanadu Beach Hotel closed, the Princess Casino closed, the Princess Country Club closed, Princess Towers closed, over 40 stores in the International Bazaar and the Bazaar itself, closed and the Yellow Bird Club, where entertainers cannot entertain anymore, closed."

At the launch, Pinder and the other DNA candidates for Grand

Bahama presented the party's 2017 vision and beyond for the island of Grand Bahama. The four candidates for East Grand Bahama, Marco City, Pineridge and Central Grand Bahama respectively, are Elkanah Pinder, Nevar Jemrick, Leslie Lightbourne and Jemrick Robinson respectively.

Pinder said he was thankful to the people of East Grand Bahama for entrusting him, in his political journey thus far.

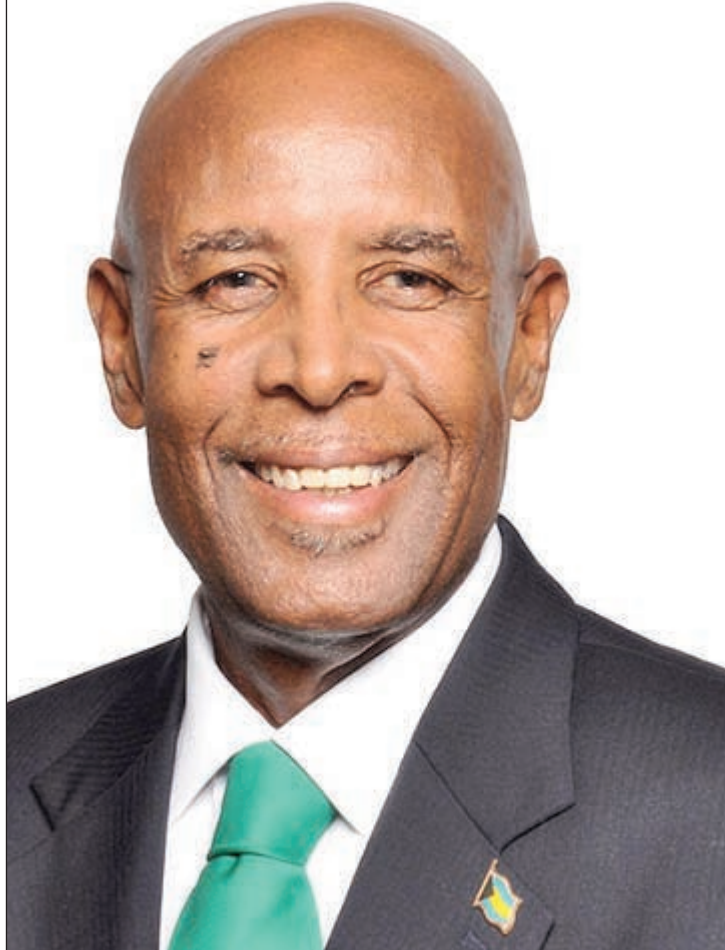
"Upon making the decision to put myself in frontline politics, I thought long and hard about what the people on the island of Grand Bahama and most importantly, what the people of East Grand Bahama, want and need most of all. In moving around the island, I have seen and spoken with many people of all walks of life, young people, the elderly, mothers, fathers, single people and married people, and I have found that the thing that they want most of all is an opportunity. That is all they are asking for. That will come with your DNA government under Branville McCartney.

"Grand Bahama lost over 20,000 residents who relocated to New Providence or the United States, seeking better opportunities. There has been no major investment in Grand Bahama in the last three years. So many homes and apartment buildings were lost due to bank foreclosures.

"The DNA's mission is that of a better life. My esteemed colleagues and I are going to get Grand Bahamians, back to work," promised Pinder.

He disclosed that the plan is to have a multi-faceted approach whereby Grand Bahamians are not looked upon as simply employees and potential workers, but rather as owners and entrepreneurs.

Pinder pointed out that empowering young people to become self-reliant is at the core of the



ELKANAH PINDER

# BTC touts restoration efforts post hurricane

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BTC announced on Friday that "at least 98 percent of its services have" been restored in Grand Bahama.

Eldri Ferguson-Mackey, BTC Vice President of the Northern Bahamas disclosed the company's restoration update during the ceremony for the official opening of the new sales and marketing office in the Pyfrom Manor Corporate Plaza on West Mall Drive.

Ferguson-Mackey's remarks referred to the challenges the company had in meeting the demands consumers who had suffered loss of services due to Hurricane Matthew last October "I know that Hurricane Matthew was quite devastating. We were fortunate enough to walk away without loss of life but we lost property. Our plant was in disarray and that resulted



**BTC CEO Leon Williams.** BTC celebrated the Grand Opening of their Sales and Marketing office in the Pyfrom Manor Corporate Plaza. See other photo on Page 3. (Photo by SHAYNE STUBBS)

# PLP Govt. promises to double investment in education program

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The Christie-lead Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Administration has pledged to double the investment in education specifically with more annual scholarships.

Minister for Grand Bahama Dr. Michael Darville disclosed the objective during his address at the University of the Bahamas (UB) Northern Bahamas Campus Charter Celebration Ceremony on Thursday of this week.

"I am pleased to note that we have doubled the budget for annual scholarships, and established the new training and empowerment public-private sector partnership at the Grand Bahama Shipyard," he said.

"We have made a deliberate and conscious effort to reach out to those persons, who may not be as proficient in academics, but highly skilled and talented in technical areas, through our Fresh Start Program, and National Training Agency," he added.

Darville furthered that it is his government's intention to fully utilize the remaining 170 acres of land, and to continue the development of UB's the Northern Campus. He also informed that

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