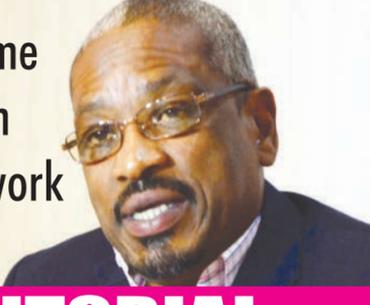


**Humble Prime
Minister with
unfinished work**



EDITORIAL
SEE PAGE 4

Sponsored by: **The Freeport News**

YOUR WEATHER

84°F

Partly sunny and breezy with a shower or t-storm

SUNRISE: 6:49 a.m.
SUNSET: 5:13 p.m.
HIGH TIDE: 8:51 a.m. - 9:09 p.m.
LOW TIDE: 2:22 a.m. - 3:12 p.m.
WINDS: ENE at 15 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

Police take no tolerance stance

• GB police share holiday safety tips • Potential perpetrators warned of consequences

ABRIA COOPER
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Police on Grand Bahama are taking a no tolerance stance as the 2017 holiday shopping season quickly approaches.

Sharing valuable safety tips for business owners, homeowners and shoppers, senior Royal Bahamas Police Force officers held a press conference yesterday – Monday, December 4 – at the Gerald Bartlett Police Headquarters.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Gregory Lockhart stated that law enforcement wanted to sensitize the entire Northern Bahamas on all aspects of safety, including potential holiday fires.

"Firstly I want to say to all of our business owners, prevention

is always better than cure," he said.

He added that business owners must be vigilant and aware of every person that enters their establishment.

"While operating at night ensure that your business is well lit inside and out. Never keep excessive amounts of cash at your stores, please, we admonish you to make frequent deposits," he said.

Lockhart recommended that business owners utilize alternative routes to and from work, as well as when making deposits. He also advised that if business owners are victims of a crime, they should yield to the would-be assailant.

"We do not need anyone being heroes at this time," he said.

He furthered that homeowners must also pay attention to their surroundings. They should en-



ASP GREGORY LOCKHART

sure all windows and doors are locked when leaving home. If persons are traveling during the holiday season they should identify a suitable neighbor, family member or friend to watch their home in their absence.

ASP Lockhart also recom-

mended that persons refrain from "advertising" the content of gifts received on social media.

"Lastly do not advertise your gifts and your valuables," he said.

He added that gift boxes displaying electronic items should be shredded before being disposed of.

ASP Lockhart suggested that shoppers never leave packages and other valuables in plain sight in their vehicles, but rather place them in the trunk and park in well-lit areas.

He also advised that persons should also avoid talking and texting on cellphones to limit their distractions, while in public.

On behalf of the Deputy Commissioner of Police Emrick Seymour, Officer in Charge of Grand Bahama and the North-

(Continued on Page 2)

BSENB Annual Meeting and Workshop
dubbed a success

SHARELL LOCKHART
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The Bahamas Society of Engineers (Northern Branch) hosted its Sixth Annual Meeting and Workshop this past Friday, December 1, 2017 under the theme, "Building Higher Standards" at Ruby Swiss Restaurant.

Remington Wilchcombe, BSE Northern Branch President welcomed all members of the organization, engineering professionals and affiliates to the workshop where invaluable information and insight on a variety of topics such as; "Engineering Ethics", "3D Modeling" and "Tendering Policies and Procedures for Engineering Contracts" were presented by experts, including Vopak Bahamas Senior Environmental and Process Engineer Julian Sawyer; Mott MacDonald Ltd. Resident Engineer Damian Francis and ARC Surveying and Mapping Inc. Vice President John Sawyer of Jacksonville, Florida.

Addressing workshop attendees regarding the vital role engineering plays on Grand Bahama, particularly with respect to the Ministry of Works as well as Capital Development Projects, Works Parliamentary Secretary and Member of Parliament for Central Grand Bahama Iram Lewis stated, "Past is experience. Present is experiment. Future is expectation; so it is better to use your experience in your experiment to meet your expectation.

"In other words, what we have learned from the past provides us with pertinent experience that we can incorporate in what we do as professionals today, and consequently can use to make for a brighter future.

"Engineering may be considered as basically the mastering of the three E's: experience, (Continued on Page 2)

LEWIS LAUNCHES BACKYARD FARMING INITIATIVE

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One of the most delightful things about gardening is the anticipation it provides, hence Central Grand Bahama Member of Parliament Iram Lewis on Monday, December 4, 2017 launched the first-ever Backyard Farming Bureau Community Farming and Seedling Transplant Initiative in South Bahama.

Gerald Hudson, Central Grand Bahama Backyard Farming Bureau Director and Lewis expressed their elation with the successful launch of the initiative, as it is expected to produce numerous benefits for residents and the community at large.

Sharing a quote by actress Audrey Hepburn, who once said, "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow," Lewis constructive, productive programs and initiatives in the Central Grand Bahama Constituency is of vital importance to all residents.

He added that as the Member of Parliament, he aims to imple-

(Continued on Page 2)



BACKYARD FARMING – Member of Parliament for Central Grand Bahama Iram Lewis (right) launched a Backyard Farming Program on Monday, December 4, in the South Bahama area. Lewis is pictured with Gerald Hudson (left), Chairman of Backyard Farming Bureau and Member of Parliament for Fort Charlotte Mark Humes (center).

(PHOTO: JENNEVA RUSSELL)

The Freeport News & SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER

Interested persons are requested to drop off NEW or USED UNWRAPPED TOYS at The Freeport News anytime during business hours before December 16th.

Drop Off Time: Monday - Friday 9 - 5 p.m.

Saturday, December 16th, 2017