



HIGH 78F LOW 65F



LATEST NEWS ON WWW.TRIBUNE242.COM

THE PEOPLE'S PAPER BIGGEST AND BEST



Volume: 107 No.26

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2010

PRICE - 75¢ (Abaco and Grand Bahama \$1.25)

FEATURES A mother's Love SEE WOMAN SECTION

INSIDE CARS FOR SALE, HELP WANTED AND REAL ESTATE BAHAMAS BIGGEST Classifieds Trader

SPORTS TENNIS: Final matches today SEE SECTION E

Union leaders defiant after PM's warning

COURTS CAN NOW ORDER ELECTRONIC MONITORING OF ACCUSED OFFENDERS

By NOELLE NICOLLS Tribune Staff Reporter nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

COURTS now have the power to order electronic monitoring of accused offenders in a move that could save the government \$4.5 million annually.

With the launch of electronic monitoring last night, Minister of National Security Tommy Turnquest said he is confident "all systems are in place for an effective

SEE page 10

Claim that Ingraham's words to BTC staff were 'just a threat'

By CELESTE NIXON Tribune Staff Reporter cnixon@tribunemedia.net

UNION leaders remain defiant in the face of the Prime Minister's warning to BTC employees that those who walk off the job may not have one to come back to.

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham's words were "just a threat" said William Carroll leader of the Public Managers Union (BCPMU).

"When you walk off the job, if you do, there is no guarantee that you can come back to that job - no guarantee," said Prime Minister Ingraham while speaking to Free National Movement supporters in Grand Bahamas over the weekend.

"The union will continue to do what needs to be done. It is within our rights to protest" the sale of BTC to a foreign entity, said Mr Carroll in response to Prime

Minister Ingraham's caution. Demonstrations in protest of the majority 51 per cent sale of BTC to Cable and Wireless Communications started on December 7, culminating with the protest last Wednesday in Rawson Square in which leaders from 10 different unions threatened to shut down a number of vital services throughout the Bahamas.

Mr Carroll again expressed his opinion that the company should remain in the hands of the Bahamian people and that the union will continue to show their objection to the sale.

Mr Carroll also responded to the Prime Minister's comment that hundreds of layoffs would be the consequence of reduced cell phone rates.

"Prices have been reduced before and it did not significantly reduce revenue, there are studies that show that,"

SEE page 10

POLICE HAND OUT ADVICE TO MOTORISTS



Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

GIVING ADVICE: The police hit the streets yesterday to educate the public about the threat of armed robbery. They distributed flyers explaining how to prevent a robbery, how to behave during a robbery, and what to do after an armed robbery has taken place.

WEST BAY STREET REROUTING MAY START IN LATE JANUARY

By NOELLE NICOLLS Tribune Staff Reporter nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

THE rerouting of West Bay Street should start late January now that two Bahamian contractors are in place to manage the million dollar construction project.

Baha Mar executives signed a conditional letter of intent valued for more than \$40 million with Bahamas Hot Mix and Bahamas Marine Construction, in a joint venture. The two companies were selected among six pre-qualified bidders.

James Mosko, president of Bahamas Marine Construc-

tion, said the joint venture was important to manage a project of this scale. He said a \$20 million project was a manageable size for a standard project, and it was important to partner so that Bahamians could directly benefit from the \$40 million opportunity.

The Corridor 7 Road will link Thompson Boulevard to the rerouted West Bay Street. Construction will be "independent" of the existing roads and have "no impact on the flow of traffic," said Robert Sands, senior vice-president of

SEE page 10

GOVT 'LIKELY TO APPEAL' RULING THAT MINISTER ACTED UNLAWFULLY

By TANEKA THOMPSON Tribune Staff Reporter tthompson@tribunemedia.net

GOVERNMENT will "most likely" appeal to the Supreme Court ruling that found that the Minister of Works acted unlawfully when he began road works on Baillou Hill Road and Market Street, said Attorney General John Delaney.

The judgment, handed down by Justice Neville Adderley last Friday, could cost the public treasury mil-



'LIKELY TO APPEAL': John Delaney

lions of dollars in damages to be paid out to the various businesses on Baillou Hill Road and Market Street, said attorney Paul Moss.

Mr Delaney reviewed the judgment yesterday morning and found several grounds that would provide a basis for an appeal. According to him he is only awaiting instructions from Mr Grant and the government to commence the action.

"The document came to my attention this morning. It's something I would take

SEE page 10

Domino's Pizza Holiday BUNDLE 2 Large 1-Topping Pizzas, 2 liter Coca Cola/Sprite FREE 2 Lava Crunch Cakes OR A Order of Cinnastix \$24.99

Fidelity Fast Track Debt Consolidation saves him \$300 per month

Get out of debt Fast! Get out of Debt Fast with a Fidelity Fast Track Debt Consolidation loan. Call 356.7764 today! www.fidelitygroup.com

Lionfish invade Conch Salad TV



MAJOR THREAT: A film starring Gary Richardson and Thomas L Bethel raises awareness of lionfish, which are a threat to native juvenile fish and invertebrates.

THE new Bahamian website Conch Salad TV (www.conchsaladtv.com) is now featuring *The Lionfish Invasion* starring Gary Richardson and Thomas L Bethel, two Abaconians who learn about the invasive species and ways to take action.

The film was featured as a part of the Carribean spotlight at the recent Bahamas International Film Festival in Nassau.

Using underwater footage, the documentary explores what we know about these non-native invaders, which are originally from the Indo-Pacific region of the world, and are now a major threat to native juvenile fish and invertebrates.

It also documents some of the very interesting research and scientific projects being undertaken in the islands.

It turns out there is not very much information about lionfish or the consequences of marine invasive species, so the Bahamas has become a living laboratory.

The film also demonstrates that lionfish can be safely caught, cleaned, sold and eaten.

In fact, as Hope Town Harbour Lodge chef Pherrol Duncombe demonstrates, lionfish are tasty and can be prepared several ways.

Awareness

The film came about because scientists working on this issue in the Bahamas wanted to raise awareness of the problems the lionfish invasion is causing.

They were able to make the case to the National Science Foundation, who provided funding through the Univer-

sity of North Carolina. A partnership was formed with scientists from these institutions, Friends of the Environment, an Abaco based education NGO, and Loggerhead Productions to produce the video.

Loggerhead used HD cameras, both above and below the water, to capture the exciting imagery.

Gary Richardson and Thomas L Bethel came onboard to host the video. They grew up together and have great on screen chemistry. Both are passionate about local ecosystems.

They were able to bring a Bahamian perspective, filled with humor, to an international audience.

The first portion of the video was posted on Conch Salad TV on December 15, the second will be uploaded on December 29 and the final portion on January 12.

MARINA LINKS



YOUR CHOICE
49.95

STAINLESS STEEL W/ 18K

CARLO
MILANO

MARINA VILLAGE 242-363-1351 & BAY STREET 242-322-1807
VISIT US AT CARLOMILANO.COM AND ON FACEBOOK

Introducing Charmed in Paradise

Just in time for the Holidays!



Sterling Silver Charm prices start at

\$35 Regular Price \$70

Buy 4 Charms & Get the Fifth FREE!

Sterling Silver Charm Bracelet Sold Separately

COLOMBIAN EMERALDS
INTERNATIONAL

EXQUISITE QUALITY • EXCEPTIONAL VALUE

Our location in Nassau:
Bay Street • Beach Towers • Marina Village • Royal Towers

www.colombianemeralds.com



Design Studio, Shoppe and Gallery
A Division of Catoneisha Design

P.O. Box EE 15680

Village Road . Opposite Parkgate Road . Nassau, Bahamas

Phone: 242-394-7134 . fax:393-7898

shoppe09@catoneishadesign.com



10 to 30% of Christmas Sale!

An Wonderful Collection of Decorative Accessories for the Home
Sisals, 100% Soumak Wool Area Rugs, Silk Plants and Orchids
Original Paintings by Local and International Artists

Complete Interior Design and Space Planning Services to Commercial, Hospitality
and Residential Clients

25 years of Experience in the Profession

Member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)

LOCAL NEWS

Family claims 100-year ownership of disputed 'buried treasure' land

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

A FAMILY is claiming it has owned the disputed "buried treasure" land at Fortune Hill, San Salvador for more than 100 years.

During a press conference yesterday morning, Dennis Bethel announced that the land being excavated on Fortune Hill belonged to his great-grandfather Nimrod Newton, by way of a Crown grant dated August 8, 1876.

The Newton tract encompasses "47 acres on Fortune Hill and includes an area of the 23 acres owned by Dorothy Black-Beal", Mr Bethel said, adding that the existing boundary makers were erroneously set.

Minister of State for Finance Zhivargo Laing revealed in a town meeting in San Salvador last Thursday that "Dorothy Black-Beal has been the only person found to have clear title" of the land.

Rumors of treasure buried on the land have been circulated in San Salvador for years.

Some believe the island may have been used in the past as a staging ground for pirates and that their treasures may still be hidden in caves in the area.

Mr Bethel claims to possess certified survey plan and a record of all supporting



FORTUNE HILL: Minister of State Zhivargo Laing talks with Administrator of Rum Cay and San Salvador District Terrace Bottle-Bethel, as he tours Fortune Hill in San Salvador during a visit to discuss who legally owns the property last week. **Lionella Gilbert/BIS**



SHOWN IS A CAVE, which is blocked with rocks that some say holds treasure on Fortune Hill in San Salvador.

documents from the Department of Lands and Surveys, which he has already submitted to Minister Laing to dispute the boundary markers.

Mr Bethel said he has made numerous attempts to contact the government to have matter investigated but has had no response.

"This is a land matter that they are failing to settle, the government have sided with a foreigner", remarked Mr Bethel.

He again called on Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and Mr Laing to intervene and stop the excavation in order to review the survey plans and properly ascertain the correct location of the Newton land.

Legal action will be taken if nothing changes, Mr Bethel warned.

According to Mr Laing, Mr Bethel will indeed probably have to take this route.

He said: "When people have title to their property, the state has no duty outside of the public's interest from

preventing them from doing what they want on their property.

"You can dispute ownership all you want; that is your business. If you want to dispute it, go to court."



MINISTER OF STATE Zhivargo Laing addresses members of the community in Cockburn, San Salvador to discuss issues concerning who owns the property at the centre of a dispute, and the Government's involvement in the matter.

Man shot in the face

A MAN is in hospital fighting for his life after being shot in the face late Sunday night.

The attack comes on the heels of a shooting in Pinewood Gardens on Saturday which left another man dead.

According to police reports, just after 11pm on Sunday, police were informed of a shooting at Armbrister Street off Fox Hill Road.

Witnesses told responding officers that a 49-year-old male resident of Armbrister Street was attacked by two men, one of whom was armed with a shotgun and shot him in the face.

The victim was taken to hospital, where he remains in critical condition.

No further details were available up to press time last night.

Police also reported that early Monday morning, two handguns and a quantity of marijuana was seized from a home off Wulff Road.

According to reports, just before 2.30am, officers of the Northeastern Division executed a search warrant on a Palm Beach Street house occupied by two men.

They conducted a search and discovered two handguns and a quantity of a substance which they suspected was marijuana.

The men, ages 28 and 24, were taken into custody.

These incidents follow a weekend of shootings and armed robberies, in which the country recorded its 94th murder victim for the year.

Early Saturday morning, police found the body of a man lying in front of an apartment off Buttonwood Avenue, Pinewood Gardens. The victim had suffered an injury to the abdomen.

On Friday, 33-year-old man was shot in his stomach near a basketball court in Maxwell Lane, and another man was shot in the knee early Saturday morning while walking on Bailou Hill Road south of Cowpen Road.

Late Saturday afternoon, two thugs robbed the Texaco Service Station on Mackey and Madeira Street and two hours later, 4 U Beauty Supply on Malcolm Road and Bailou Hill Road was robbed and an employee was shot in the arm.

FOR 3 IN 1 LAWN SERVICE
Fertilizer, Fungicide,
Pest Control
Tropical Exterminators
322-2157

CARPET, FURNITURE, MARBLE & TILE CARE
THE MOST THOROUGH RESTORATION & CLEANING EVER, OR THE JOB IS FREE!
NASSAU'S ONLY PROFESSIONAL, CERTIFIED STONE CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CARE SYSTEMS.

- Carpet, Upholstery, Stone and Marble Cleaning & Restoration Specialist.
- Prochem Cleaning Systems removes Deep & Heavy Soil, Bacteria, Grease, Watermarks and Stains from Carpeting & Furniture, restoring them to like new at a fraction of replacement cost.
- Carpet Sofa's, Loveseats, Chairs, Dining Chairs, Corn Boats, Gazubs, Tiles, Marble & Stone
- Persian, Wool & Silk Carpet Cleaning Specialist
- Marble Tile Restoration, Polishing, Sealing & Care
- Marble Counter-Top Restoration & Polishing

Authorized StoneTech Professional Contractor
CALL PROCHEM BAHAMAS
PHONE: 323-8083 or 323-1594

POP LOCAL MEMBER OF THE
PROCHEM SYSTEM (INT)

ONLY WE CAN DO IT RIGHT!
www.prochemsystem.com • www.stonetechpro.com • www.jlrc.org
*ppp@comcast.net

CARIB GENERATORS
SUPER SILENT - PERKINS, CUMMINS,
ISUZU - GENERATORS:

Automatic Transfer Switch, 100/200
Gallon fuel tanks, Deep Sea Controllers,
Stamford Alternators, Weather Proof

Enclosures, Shipping & Customs Duties Included

ISUZU.....	15kw Diesel	\$ 7,193.00
ISUZU.....	20kw Diesel	\$ 8,100.00
ISUZU.....	24kw Diesel	\$ 8,525.00
Ricardo.....	30kw Diesel	\$ 8,354.00
Ricardo.....	40kw Diesel	\$ 9,318.00
Cummins.....	20kw Diesel	\$11,175.00
Cummins.....	30kw Diesel	\$12,046.00
Cummins.....	40kw Diesel	\$13,250.00
Cummins.....	80kw Diesel	\$18,876.00
U.K. Perkins.....	30kw Diesel	\$12,102.00
U.K. Perkins.....	40kw Diesel	\$12,445.00
C.N. Perkins.....	60kw Diesel	\$13,467.00
U.K. Perkins.....	90kw Diesel	\$21,200.00

10KW TO 4000KW FACTORY DIRECT
NASSAU & FAMILY ISLANDS
WWW.CARIBGENERATORS.COM
60 Day Delivery
Phone 427-3749

JUDICIAL AND LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION TO MAKE DECISION ON CORONER'S POST

THE decision over who will fill the now vacant coroner's post will be made by the Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC).

Attorney General John Delaney said yesterday that he does not yet know who will fill the post, recently left vacant by Jamaican attorney Williams Campbell. Mr Campbell's contract expired in November and has not been renewed.

Mr Delaney said that the JLSC will advise the Governor General of its decision.

He noted that it has been government practice to have

a magistrate act as coroner. The attorney general added that he expects to see a "specialist coroner" appointed when the new Coroner's Bill comes into force.

"We look forward to someone being appointed to the positions of coroner and deputy coroner. Under the new law the coroner will be called the coroner in his or her own right.

"For the first time this will be a separate and distinct judicial office," Mr Delaney said.

Today, there are said to be 64 cases pending in the Coroner's Court.

Look Extra Special This Christmas!!

Great New Arrivals of Beautiful Designer Cocktail Dresses!!!

Satin Shoes
Pashminas
Costume Jewelry
and so much more!!

Gift Certificates Available

Cole's of Nassau

Established in 1956 by an old Bahamian family
Parliament Street (near Bay St.) Tel: 322-8393 or 328-7157
• Fax: 326-9953

Crystal Court at Atlantis, Paradise Island Tel: 363-4161/2
Lyford Cay (Harbour Green Shops at Lyford Cay)
Tel: 362-5235

e-mail: info@colesofnassau.com
www.colesofnassau.com • P.O. Box N-121

Castrol

"Properly inflated tires can help you increase your vehicle's fuel economy. Save on gas....check your tires!"

"QUOTE OF THE DAY"
Distributed By
BAY STREET GARAGE
Dowdeswell Street
322-2434 • 322-2082

FOR ALL YOUR DECORATING
"Lowest Prices On The Island"

Pre-**Christmas Solutions**
SALE

FREE DELIVERY ANY WHERE IN NASSAU AND TO THE MAIL BOAT

BILLY'S DREAM STILL ALIVE

• E-Z CREDIT TERMS AVAILABLE

Donald's Furniture And Appliance Centre
SIXTH TERRACE CENTREVILLE TEL: 322-1731 OR 322-3875

EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Tribune Limited

NULLIUS ADDICTUS JURARE IN VERBA MAGISTRI
Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master

LEON E. H. DUPUCH, Publisher/Editor 1903-1914

SIR ETIENNE DUPUCH, Kt., O.B.E., K.M., K.C.S.G.,
(Hon.) LL.D., D.Litt.

Publisher/Editor 1919-1972
Contributing Editor 1972-1991

EILEEN DUPUCH CARRON, C.M.G., M.S., B.A., LL.B.
Publisher/Editor 1972-

Published Daily Monday to Saturday

Shirley Street, P.O. Box N-3207, Nassau, Bahamas
Insurance Management Building., P.O. F-485, Freeport, Grand Bahama

TELEPHONES

Switchboard (News, Circulation and Advertising) 322-1986
Advertising Manager - (242) 502-2352
Circulation Department - (242) 502-2387
Nassau Fax: - (242) 328-2398
Freeport, Grand Bahama: 1-(242)-352-6608

WEBSITE

www.tribune242.com - updated daily at 2pm

US gas demand should fall for good

NEW YORK (AP) — The world's biggest gas-guzzling nation has limits after all.

After seven decades of mostly uninterrupted growth, U.S. gasoline demand is at the start of a long-term decline. By 2030, Americans will burn at least 20 percent less gasoline than today, experts say, even as millions of more cars clog the roads.

America's thirst for gasoline is shrinking as cars and trucks become more fuel-efficient, the government mandates the use of more ethanol and people drive less.

"A combination of demographic change and policy change means the heady days of gasoline growing in the U.S. are over," says Daniel Yergin, chairman of IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates and author of a Pulitzer Prize-winning history of the oil industry.

This isn't the first time in U.S. history that gasoline demand has fallen, at least temporarily. Drivers typically cut back during recessions, then hit the road again when the economy picks up. Indeed, the Great Recession was the chief reason demand fell sharply in 2008.

But this time looks different. Government and industry officials — including the CEO of Exxon Mobil — say U.S. gasoline demand has peaked for good. It has declined four years in a row and will not reach the 2006 level again, even when the economy fully recovers.

In fact, the ground was shifting before the recession. The 2001 terrorist attacks, the war in Iraq, Hurricane Katrina and pump prices rising to a nationwide average of \$3 a gallon (79 cents a liter) for the first time in a generation reignited public debates about the political and economic effects of oil imports and climate change. Also, the popularity of SUVs began to wane, and the government started requiring refiners to blend corn-based ethanol into every gallon of gasoline.

Americans are burning an average of 8.2 million barrels — 344 million gallons — of gasoline per day in 2010, a figure that excludes the ethanol blended into gasoline. That's 8 percent less than at the 2006 peak, according to government data.

The decline is expected to accelerate for several reasons.

Starting with the 2012 model year, cars will have to hit a higher fuel economy target for the first time since 1990. Each carmaker's fleet must average 30.1 mpg (12.8 kilometers per liter), up from 27.5 (11.7). By the 2016 model year, that number must rise to 35.5

mpg (15 kpl). And, starting next year, SUVs and minivans, once classified as trucks, will count toward passenger vehicle targets.

— The auto industry is introducing cars that run partially or entirely on electricity, and the federal government is providing billions of dollars in subsidies to increase production and spur sales.

— By 2022, the country's fuel mix must include 36 billion gallons of ethanol and other biofuels, up from 14 billion gallons in 2011. Put another way, biofuels will account for roughly one of every four gallons sold at the pump.

— Gasoline prices are forecast to stay high as developing economies in Asia and the Middle East use more oil.

There are demographic factors at work, too. Baby boomers will drive less as they age. The surge of women entering the work force and commuting in recent decades has leveled off. And the era of Americans commuting ever farther distances appears to be over. One measure of this, vehicle miles traveled per licensed driver, began to flatten in the middle of the last decade after years of sharp growth.

"People wildly underestimate the effect that all this is going to have" on gasoline demand, says Paul Sankey, an analyst at Deutsche Bank. Sankey predicts by 2030 America will use just 5.4 million barrels a day, the same as in 1969. Aaron Brady, an analyst at CERA, predicts a more modest drop, to 6.6 million barrels a day.

As a result, families will spend less on fuel, the country's dependence on foreign oil will wane and heat-trapping emissions of carbon dioxide will grow more slowly.

The shift from SUVs began in 2004 and has saved Americans \$15 billion on gasoline this year, according to the National Resources Defense Council. By 2020, improved fuel economy is expected to lower annual carbon dioxide emissions by 400 billion pounds, the equivalent of taking 32 million cars off the road.

In reality, there will be 27 million more cars on the road — a total of 254 million — a decade from now, according to government projections.

Environmentalists are looking at the trend with a mixture of disbelief and delight. A decade ago they thought demand would continue to grow 1-2 percent a year far into the future.

(This article is by Jonathan Fahey of the Associated Press)

Concerned about Nassau Harbour security

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Dear Commodore Bowe and Commissioner Greenslade,

I write as a concerned Bahamian regarding safety and security in Nassau Harbour with particular concern for the eastern end of the harbour.

I live on the waterfront and have recently been the victim of boat theft — which I witnessed just two weeks ago.

RBDF did respond promptly by the way and I had good co-operation from Cpl Rolle of the police in the control room.

Another boat was stolen last night I understand from the Nassau Yacht Club before 9pm.

This latest incident has moved me to write and ask for your assistance and give you my thoughts for a solution.

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

It appears there is good presence at the main/western end of the harbour where most of the heavy and international traffic occurs, however I feel there is a "hole in the net" at the eastern end and we Bahamians are not getting the protection we would like.

RBDF and Police marine patrols are a welcome sight, however all manner of speeding unlit boats can be seen throughout any given evening at the eastern end of the harbour.

Fort Montagu was completed in 1742 and was built at this strategic location for good reason.

I feel strongly that it should once again be pressed into active service and be an out-

post for the Police/RBDF — this would eliminate the cost, delay and hassle of creating a new building.

I am convinced that if there was a permanent presence here it would make a difference.

With a boat docked in the lee of the fort ready for action, night surveillance, radar, searchlight installation and any suspicious boat challenged after dusk I feel we can "close the hole."

Other benefits would be realised with the increased security of the Montagu park area and to the safety and security of tourists visiting this historic site.

Many historic forts and castles around the world are active military posts today.

We need action now!

KEN CHAPLIN

Nassau,
December 20, 2010.

A satire: Government and BTC

EDITOR, The Tribune.

'Dis horrible! Da gub'men can' be doin' dis ta da Bahamian people again, man! Dey sellin' BTC? Dey always cutting dese deals behind da backs a da Bahamian people dat een in ah interest. First dey give all dat money ta da Haitians dem durin da earthquake ting ta help all dem Haitians who had dere food and water supply crush along wit dey hospitals an' police departments an' ting. Why dat money wasn' invested in the Bahamian people?! We gat persons outta werk an' needed dat money more dan da Haitians! Show sum compassion!

Da gub'men den gone an' do dat Ba' mar deal. We don' need a'notha hotel! We already gat Kersna' Inta'national and all dem otha hotels on da Cable Beach strip! That's like someone coming o'er here ta open up a'notha church when we have all dese churches. Especially dese big churches. We don' need any more churches so da gub'ment should have in its agenda ta limit the amount of persons openin' up churches. Takin' offering dat was being spent in dese otha' churches. Especially foreigners openin up churches! Bahamian offerings fa Bahamian pastors. An'

a'notha t'ing I don' like is all dem Chinese ta cum o'er an' take Bahamian jobs! Man, see? Dey already have dese restaurants in ah community sellin' us all dat good food for super low prices an' gat stores bringin' da products we need conveniently to us. Now dis?! Man, aye? Das a'notha ting! Dey dun yuck up my wexation!

Now, I tink dey gone o'er board. Why dey sellin' da only profitable gub'men corporation, BTC? It would be much easier and understandable ta sell the ones dat losing money 'cause yuh know people wanna buy 'em. I t'ought it would be more likely fa dem ta sell da one's makin' a loss. A'notha ting is dey sellin' it ta a bad company! Somet'ing tell me ta, easily, look it up on google an' do my research on dem instead a jest talkin' out my head. Dey tink 'cause dey gat more dan 130 years successfully in da telecommunication service an' network an' equipment ta business an' has da economies of scale ta finance da advance-

ment of BTC livin' in a technological stone-age. Why didn' dey sell it ta a Bahamian? Canna an' Wireless Bad! Dey wanna fire the inefficient and/or redundant workers who cost more than dey're worth to the company! I t'ought when yuh sign ta work fa da gub'men yuh set fa life an' don' have ta worry 'bout bein' effective and competitive! Now these persons ga have ta go into da real world like everyone else and face disappointments and... look for a job. Dey een even get enough notice. Two years? Gub'men don' know more people are workers of BTC den customers in the Bahamas aye? What about the greater good?!

I know there might be more legitimate reasons to be against BTC but logic is too much work and da gub'men don' pay me enough fa dat!

LYNDEN McINTOSH

Nassau,
December 9, 2010.

Introducing The All NEW



2011 FORD MUSTANG

Drive one.

an American Icon



Shop & Compare

All new, all new, nothing like it available in The Bahamas, a true American Sports car. With the new 3.7L, 305 HP, V6 with Automatic Transmission, custom 17 inch alloy wheels, power windows, locks and mirrors, side curtain air bags, plus leather interior and the all new Sync System and all standard features, PLUS 3 years/36000 mile warranty, 3 years roadside assistance, 3 years rust protection, licence and inspection to birthday, full tank of gas, floor mats, first five services

If you are looking for the best value available
You owe it to yourself to visit our showroom



Drive one.

2011 FORD FUSION

Shop & Compare



2.5L four cylinder engine with automatic transmission, the most fuel efficient vehicle in its class, 6 disc cd system, power windows locks and mirrors, side curtain air bags, 17 inch alloy wheels, completely new aerodynamic body design, all of this plus 3 years/36000 mile warranty, 3 years roadside assistance, 3 years rust protection, licence and inspection to birthday, full tank of gas, floor mats, first five services.

also include Sunroof & Sync System

Reserve yours now available at

FRIENDLY MOTORS CO. LTD

THOMPSON BOULEVARD
TEL.: 356-7100 • FAX: 328-6094

EMAIL: friendlymotors@hotmail.com
WEBSITE: friendlymotorsbahamas.com

BEAUTIFUL
Gift Ideas
FOR EVERYONE!

FOR HER
An Exquisite Gift Basket. Why not include one of our popular Cosmetic Treatments?

FOR HIM
Our Bay Citrus line or Razor Bump Care

FOR MOM
Choose her with our ever popular fragrances

FOR TEENAGERS
Healthy Skin Care recommended by our dermatologist

FOR TEACHERS
A Tantalous Thank You

Not sure what to choose?
Consider one of our Gift Cards. Purchase for any amount and reload at any time!

Mention code TRIB242 to get a 20% discount! Limited to one item per customer. Offer expires December 22, 2010.

HEAL | PROTECT | ENHANCE
Call 393-SKIN(7749) or Visit Our Boutique at Harbour Bay Plaza.

LOCAL NEWS

PM: GB Port Authority must get their house in order

By AVA TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

THE GRAND Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) must "get their own house in order" before the government will discuss the future of the Hawksbill Creek Agreement, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham told FNM supporters in Grand Bahama on the weekend.

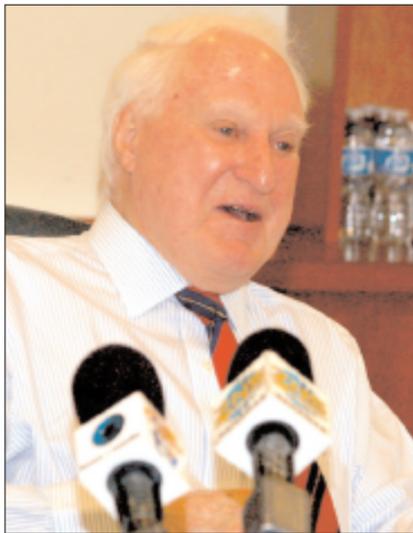
Benefits set out in the Hawksbill Creek Agreement, which currently provide tax exemptions for businesses in Freeport, will expire in 2015.

While speaking to the island's FNM supporters, Mr Ingraham explained that the GBPA had contacted the government seeking to begin discussions towards the future of the agreement.

Mr Ingraham said: "We have told them that we would not be inclined to have any discussions with them until they, first of all, are able to get their own house in order in terms of ownership."

The Freeport Harbour Company, Grand Bahama International Airport, DevCo (the land company) and the Lucayan Service Company are owned by Hutchinson-Whampoa (50 per cent), Sir Jack Hayward (25 per cent) and Lady Henrietta St George (25 per cent). The Port Authority and the water company are 100 per cent owned by Sir Jack and Lady Henrietta.

Mr Ingraham added: "We are not inclined first of all to have any discussions on it with them while they are divided, and secondly, we don't think it is appropriate to have discussion before the next election."



SIR JACK HAYWARD

In addition to the future of tax exemptions in Freeport, Mr Ingraham said he would also like to discuss the issue of utility rates on the island and the implementation of a national regulatory authority for the valuation of those services.

"We do not believe that we ought to continue to have the Port Authority determine what the power rate ought to be in Freeport, or the water rate or anything to do with telecommunications.

"We believe they ought to come under a national regulatory authority like URCA, and we would like to engage them in discussions about that when its time to talk to them," the prime minister said.

PLP's Marathon branch to provide 1,000 constituents with alarms



Tim Clarke/Tribune staff

FROM LEFT: Sharon Martin, chairperson of the PLP Marathon office; Paula Russell, Marathon constituent; Senator Jerome Fitzgerald; Craig Gates, president of SSI.

THE PLP's Marathon branch has partnered with a security company to provide 1,000 of the constituency's residents with alarm systems, the party's candidate for the area Senator Jerome Fitzgerald announced yesterday.

The PLP together with Security Systems International (SSI) will give selected residents a free basic alarm system valued at \$399 on the condition that they agree to a monitoring contract at the cost of one dollar per day, Mr Fitzgerald said.

"The objective is one that we consider crucial in a time when many fear for their safety and the safety of their families," the PLP Senator said at a press conference.

"We appreciate that the police are doing all they can and we commend them, but they cannot be everywhere. And we also appreciate that the biggest obstacle to many persons getting an alarm system is the upfront cost of the equipment and installation. Today, through this partnership we have sought to eliminate that obstacle."

Mr Fitzgerald thanked Craig Gates, president of SSI, for agreeing to what he described as a "innovative and transformative" approach to doing business.

"This initiative supports the thought that the progress and development of our country is one that means we must think outside of the box, and progress and development (are) directly linked to the safety and security of the people of the Bahamas. This is one step to ensure that our people feel safe and secure," Mr Fitzgerald said.

TROPICAL EXTERMINATORS FOR PEST PROBLEMS PHONE: 322-2157



New Year's Eve Dinner Special

December 31st, 2010

Soup Clam Chowder
Salad Baby Spring Mix with Shaved Parmesan and a Caesar Vinaigrette Dressing
Entrée Choice of Seafood Stuffed Crawfish Tail Or Rib-eye Steak with a Brandy Mushroom Cream Sauce Served with Garlic Butter New Potatoes & Sautéed Spinach
Dessert Red Velvet Cake

Champagne, Party Favors, DJ, Junkanoo, Live Music, & Great View of the Fireworks

\$75 per person
Tickets on sale starting Monday 20th, 2010 to Monday 27th, 2010

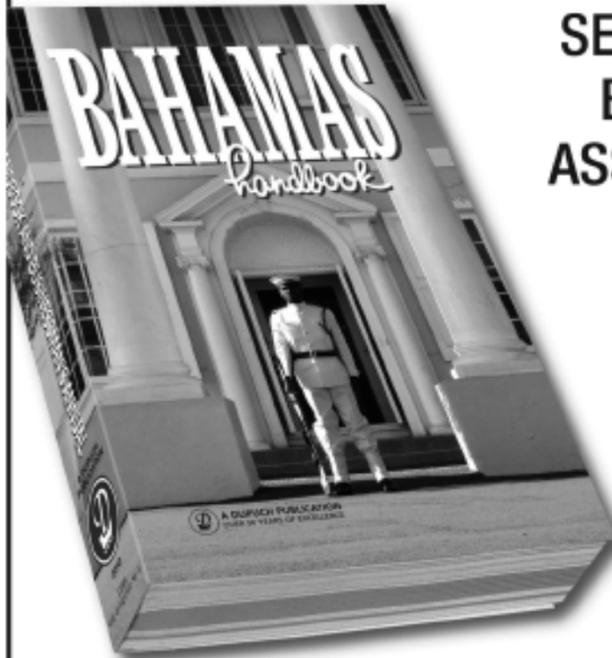
Call 328-8382 or 322-9248 to purchase your tickets.

East Bay St.
Harbour Front

VALUABLE GIFT FOR EVERYONE



FOR CHILD,
HUSBAND, WIFE
BOSS,
SECRETARY,
BUSINESS
ASSOCIATES



**ALL NEW!
2011
EDITION
\$41.95**

ALL THE BAHAMAS IN ONE BOOK

BAHAMAS HANDBOOK

AVAILABLE AT BOOKSTORES & NEWSSTANDS EVERYWHERE



AN ETIENNE DUPUCH JR PUBLICATION
OVER 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Tel: (242) 323-5665

INSTOCK NOW!



\$36.00

SIZES 7-11

COLOR:
BLACK

BIG ONE

SHOE STORE

121 EAST ST. PH 322-5276

LOCAL NEWS

COMPANY TREATS STUDENTS TO LUNCH AND GIFTS

BAHAMAS Statoil on Grand Bahama last week treated all students from the East End to lunch and gifts as part of the company's Christmas community efforts.



MCCLEANS TOWN SCHOOL



HIGH ROCK SCHOOL



FREETOWN SCHOOL

BIGGEST BEST SELLER

THE NEW 2011 BAHAMAS HANDBOOK TELLS IT ALL AVAILABLE AT NEWSSTANDS

Etienne Dupuch Jr. Publications Tel: 323-6663, Nassau, Bahamas

To Our Valued Customers

Bobcat Bahamas Limited wishes to advise the public that we will be closed for business from the period of **December 22nd, 2010 at 1pm** through **January 3rd, 2011.**

RE-OPEN January 4th, 2011 at 9am

On behalf of the Management & Staff of **Bobcat Bahamas.**

We wish you a very **Merry Christmas** and a happy and prosperous **New Year**

for emergencies contact **Raymond Duncombe at 477-0926**

The **BIGGEST SHOPPING** Event of the Year

COLOMBIAN EMERALDS INTERNATIONAL

Christmas

\$10,000 CASH

Give Away

For Every \$100 you spend with Colombian Emeralds International in our Nassau & Freeport stores, you will receive an entry card for our daily drawings of up to \$10,000!

SEE STORES FOR MORE DETAILS!

COLOMBIAN EMERALDS INTERNATIONAL
EXQUISITE QUALITY • EXCEPTIONAL VALUE

240 Bay Street • Rawson Square
Beach Towers at Atlantis • Royal Towers at Atlantis • Marina Village at Atlantis
Port Lucaya Marketplace, Freeport

Odessa Garden

"A Step Back in Time"

First corner left off Sears Rd., first building on the right
#8 Murphyville Road,
Store Hours: Mon - Sat 10am - 6pm
Telephone: 322-8493
(Security will escort you to your car)

GIFT ITEMS FROM ODESSA GARDEN!

- Vintage Sterling Handle Bottle Opener
- Antique Sterling Mustard spoon
- 6 Vintage Mother of Pearl fruit knives with sterling ferrules.
- Sterling Handle Ice Scoops
- Vintage Sterling Handle Carving set (knife, fork and sharpening tool).
- Six Antique Grapefruit Sterling Spoons.
- Antique Sterling Condiment Spoon (suitable for chutnies, preserves, Jams, etc).

"The Children of Dickens" - c1906, Stories of Children he wrote About.
"Beethoven Sonaten" c1800's. 400 pages of this Great Composer's Music.
"The Curly Tops at Cherry Farm c1918. Childrens' Summer in the Countryside.
"Snow White and Rose Red - A Small book about this Childrens' Classic c1905.
"Giant Treasury of Beatrix Potter.
"What Little Girls are made of, sugar and spice and everything nice. Ideal gift for that appealing little daughter. Lovely Paintings.
"Nancy Drew "The Nutcracker Ballet Mystery" Softback.
"Charming Children of Dickens' Stories by his granddaughter, Mary Angela Dickens. Contains the life stories of the 20 child heroes and heroines of the world's greatest friend of children, Charles Dickens. Also contains another book, Boys' and Girls' Life of Jesus, by a different Author, recording this wonderful story. This book has it's own cover. Two books in one. Both books have lovely colour plates and pen sketches. c1906.

UN: HAITI WATER, SEWAGE SYSTEMS BEING UPDATED

UNITED NATIONS

U.N. MISSIONS worldwide are modernizing water and sewage treatment systems in an upgrade that was planned before a Haiti cholera outbreak that some blame on U.N. peacekeepers, the U.N. field support chief said Monday, according to Associated Press.

Susana Malcorra, U.N. undersecretary-general for field support, told reporters Monday that modernization of the treatment systems was under way before the epidemic that has killed more than 2,400 people in Haiti. She said the upgrade will begin in the first quarter of 2011.

Malcorra stressed that tests have not conclusively linked U.N. peacekeepers with the epidemic of the waterborne disease in Haiti. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced last week he would form a scientific panel to investigate the epidemic's source.

"I am not saying that what has happened in Haiti is related" to the U.N. operation, Malcorra said. "Clearly we do not have a clear indication of why the cholera outbreak took place."

There has been widespread speculation in Haiti that the outbreak started at a base for U.N. peacekeepers from Nepal not far from where hundreds of Haitians began falling ill. U.N. officials have rejected any idea the base was involved, saying its sanitation was airtight.

Malcorra said one of the first modern water and sewage plants will be installed in a new U.N. house being constructed in Juba, in southern Sudan.

LOCAL NEWS

Minister of Foreign Affairs calls for continued joint assistance of Haiti



BRENT SYMONETTE, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration.

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration Brent Symonette called on international diplomatic representatives in the Bahamas to not forget the devastating earthquake which hit Haiti in January of this year and to continue to assist the island nation in its struggles.



DEVASTATING: The earthquake hit Haiti in January.

"We must see our commitment to Haiti through and let the circumstances continue to give us the kind of strength needed to persevere as we stride side by side in all our important and common activities," Mr Symonette said at the Honorary Consular Corps Annual Christmas Luncheon held last week at the Lyford Cay Club.

Mr Symonette also took the opportunity to renew his call for "collective commitment to excellence and sustainable results" between the Bahamas and countries it has diplomatic relations with.

The event is an avenue where the minister discusses achievements and goals of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as it relates to diplomatic relations between the Bahamas and countries represented.

"Please convey to your capitals that the commitment and cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government of the Bahamas remain consistent

in the pursuit of policies and measures for our mutual benefit," Mr Symonette told the ambassadors, honorary consuls and representatives of organisations within the United Nations and other world bodies.

The year 2010 focused on human rights, the global financial crisis, climate change, food and energy security, the UN Millennium goals, and combatting hunger, poverty and international terrorism.

The Bahamas was represented at meetings reflecting on the need to prepare for better times, Mr Symonette said.

"Of critical importance was the issue of climate change and related sea-level rise, which can see the disappearance of small island developing states and the coastal areas of many other states, including in our hemi-

sphere, if global temperature rise is allowed to exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius," he said.

The parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change had agreed to continue efforts toward consensus legally binding commitments by the end of 2011, and mobilisation of the \$100 billion fund contained in the 2009 Copenhagen Accord to finance the support for mitigation and adaptation processes in developing

states under a strengthened climate regime.

At the 65th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr Symonette participated in the 13th Informal COFCOR Meeting of CARICOM Foreign Ministers with the Foreign Minister of Australia in a select Meeting of the Global Governance Group (3G), a consultative initiative to provide input into the G20 process by non-members; the 34th Annual Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77 and China; and bilateral meetings with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Argentina, Hungary, Canada, Serbia and Bahrain.

The Bahamas also participated in Shanghai Expo 2010, at which Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham attended the closing ceremony; and hosted the Official Visit of Chairman Wu Bangguo, of the Standing Committee of the National's People Congress of the People's Republic of China.

The Bahamas welcomed the US Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Dr Arturo Valenzuela; the US Government provided assistance to the Bahamas with respect to the global issue of trafficking in persons; hosted the annual Counter-Narcotics and Illegal Migration Joint Task Force Meeting, and signed 22 Tax Information Exchange Agreements.

"We have some important work ahead of us, not just at the international level but also bilaterally.

"Work that, in some instances, begins with the election of candidates from some countries represented. We hope to count on your support when the Bahamas puts forward her own candidacies in the coming month." Mr Symonette said.

BIGGEST BEST SELLER

THE NEW 2011

BAHAMAS HANDBOOK TELLS IT ALL

AVAILABLE AT NEWSSTANDS

Etienne Dupuch Jr. Publications
Tel: 323-5695, Nassau, Bahamas

NOTICE

Position available Cashier/Jr. Clerk

- Ability and/or experience with cashier duties
- Ability to work on own initiative.
- Interpersonal skills (a people's person)
- Receptionist duties may apply from time to time
- Knowledge of Microsoft excel for daily reports
- Ability to work in a "fast-paced" environment
- Excellent benefits offered

Please hand deliver resume (and include photo if possible) to:

Confidence Insurance Brokers & Agents Ltd.
Shirley Street, Nassau Bahamas

New Year's Eve Celebration

ALL INCLUSIVE DINNER & COCKTAILS
LIVE BAND & DJ
FLAIR SHOW
FIREWORKS
CHAMPAGNE TOAST
JUNKANOO RUSH OUT

AT COMPASS POINT BEACH RESORT

242-327-4500

7:30pm - 1:00am

\$169

DESIGNED TO TEST LIMITS

The Bulova Marine Star takes on every challenge and performs with style. Water resistant to 100 meters, it's ready for the sea, the land or the boardroom.



MARINE STAR COLLECTION

BULOVA

SINCE 1875

DESIGNED TO BE NOTICED

John Bull

284 Bay Street, (242) 302-2800
Mall at Marathon

Sandals Royal Bahamian Resort & Spa
Marsh Harbour, Abaco

Port Lucaya Marketplace, Freeport, G. B.

LOCAL NEWS

COURTS CAN NOW ORDER ELECTRONIC MONITORING OF ACCUSED OFFENDERS

FROM page one

operation.”
The government signed a three-year contract with ICS Security Concepts in partnership with the local security firm Secure Alert, last month, to provide 500 ankle bracelets in the first instance. The system installed locally has a load capacity of 2000.

Mr Turnquest, with the attorney general and top police brass, watched the ceremonial device placement at a launch event last night.

The technology is now in place for the courts to order electronic monitoring as a condition of bail. Mr Turnquest said it would relieve the pressure on the prison

system by reducing the number of remands held in prison; enhance the work of the police in managing potential reoffenders; and allow minor offenders to remain as productive members of society.

With about 1300 inmates at Her Majesty's Prison, it costs the government \$40 per day per inmate. The cost per offender under the electronic monitoring system is \$15 per day, said Mr Turnquest.

With 500 bracelets available for use, Mr Turnquest said the potential savings amounted to \$4.5 million annually.

The cost of the system, he said, was approximately \$2.7 million.

Ginn sur Mer Development project 'bankrupt and set to change name'

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport
Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said the Ginn sur Mer Development project in West End has gone into bankruptcy and the bank has taken over part of the property.

Mr Ingraham revealed that the owner of the other part is not Bobby Ginn as the government had thought. He said the real owner intends to change the Ginn name.

“We thought Mr Bobby Ginn was the owner, he is not the owner,” Mr Ingraham said Saturday while in Grand Bahama attending an

FNM pre-Christmas function in Freeport.

“I saw the owners last week. They are making some plans for the development down in West End. I don't want to make any announcements for them, but they do not want to be known as Ginn anymore,” he said.

The \$4.9 billion project was announced in 2005 under the former PLP administration. It was described as “the largest single mixed used resort development” project in the Bahamas.

Developer Robert “Bobby” Ginn, the named investor/developer, acquired about 2,000 acres of land in West End and proposed to

develop 4,400 condo units, a tower resort, 800 single family residential lots, mega yacht and marinas, and two signature championship golf courses among other amenities.

In 2007, Ginn had acquired the Old Bahama Bay Resort in West End.

Financial trouble began to surface in 2009 when Ginn obtained a \$675 million syndicated loan from Credit Suisse, which was secured on Ginn Sur Mer and four other properties it was developing.

Ginn defaulted on the repayments due on this loan, leading the Credit Suisse to foreclose on it in January 2010, including the Grand Bahama real estate it was



HUBERT INGRAHAM

secured upon, making them the developer's joint venture partner in the project.

It was reported that about half a billion has been spent on infrastructural development in West End.

Govt 'likely to appeal' ruling that minister acted unlawfully

FROM page one

instructions on as the lawyer for the Government. It appeared that the judge erred on several points. An appeal is most likely.

“I have read the decision and it appears that there are several grounds for appeal, but it's a matter on which I will be instructed by the government,” the senator told The Tribune.

Meantime Mr Moss, one of the attorneys who represents the group who brought the action against Government, said a legal team is assessing the financial damage the ongoing road works has caused businesses in the area.

“If one looks at the sheer number of the businesses and the kinds of businesses that they have – businesses that in many respects that have been around for a long time so it tells you that they were doing good business.”

“One could easily conclude that it's in the millions in terms of actual losses as a result of the road works,” said Mr Moss.

Last Friday, Justice Adderley awarded the Coconut Grove Business League unspecified damages for loss of business due to the ongoing road works – damages

that will be assessed by the court at a later date if the parties involved cannot come to an agreed amount. Government has 21 days from the date of the ruling to file an appeal.

In July, the CGBL – a group of business owners who claim to have been adversely affected by the March 30 road changes – were granted leave for a judicial review. The group argued that they only wanted an opportunity to meet with Mr Grant to discuss some alternatives to the current plan.

The group also claimed they had no idea their businesses were going to be affected in the way they were.

Mr Delaney earlier said the government had made the decision to embark on the New Providence Road Improvement Project in 1999 and from its inception, the project consisted of 19 corridors. The works project had been highly publicised and there were also open house meetings, the Government argued.

The road changes, which made Baillou Hill Road one-way northbound and Market Street one-way southbound, are a part of the government's \$120 million New Providence Road Improvement Project (NPRIP).

UNION LEADERS DEFIANT AFTER PM'S WARNING

FROM page one

said Mr Carroll.

The union president held that if “Cable and Wireless Communication plans to downsize the company by 30 per cent anyways, BTC might as well remain within Bahamian hands, why sell to foreigners?” he asked.

“The Prime Minister wants to make this a political matter, we want to be clear that we are only for and about the workers and we do not want this to become politically entangled,” Mr Carroll emphasised. “We just want to have it Bahamian.”

Jennifer Isaacs Dotson of the National Congress of Trade Unions and Bernard Evans, President of the Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union could not be reached up to press time to comment on the matter.

FROM page one

West Bay Street rerouting

external affairs. The heads of agreement between Baha Mar and the government stipulate the cost sharing arrangement for the installation of utilities.

Mr Mosko said the cooperation of the government in rerouting infrastructure is critical to ensure the “seamless transition” to the new roads.

Mr Mosko put the various agencies on notice of the 10-month timeline for the construction project, as the final stages of implementation will require the government's involvement.

Mr Sands said Baha Mar has had many meetings with the various government utility companies, and they are “on board with the timelines.”

The existing West Bay Street will remain in place to the extent that it will provide access to surrounding properties like Breezes and the

Sheraton.

Aggregate, asphalt and cement will be the primary raw materials, according to Tony Myers, Bahamas Hot Mix president. He said there is no stipulation for Bahamian contractors to import or use Chinese raw materials.

Most of the material will probably be imported from the United States, with the exception of concrete structures which will be locally manufactured, said Mr Myers.

Don Robinson, Baha Mar president said: “The documents signed today will result in the creation of 100 direct jobs, as well as 100 indirect jobs within the community.”

Independent truckers are likely to be the most predominantly hired in service, according to the contractors. Truckers will be responsible for transporting trailer loads

of raw material from the port to the manufacturing facility and on to the various project sites.

Mr Mosko said independent truckers and landscapers, surveyors, electricians and lunch ladies will find new employment as soon as the project starts.

“Baha Mar is committed to an open-bidding process for all construction work so as to ensure equal opportunity for all contractors who can meet the qualifications, safety, timing and work quality as demanded by its project schedule and brand standards,” said Mr Robinson.

“To this end Baha Mar has launched a series of town hall meetings in the out-islands of The Bahamas so as to inform and assist all local contractors wishing to participate in this mega-project,” he said.

Simmons Jewelry Co.

Now featuring Russell Simmons Jewelry for the Holidays.

COLOMBIAN EMERALDS[®]
INTERNATIONAL
EXQUISITE QUALITY • EXCEPTIONAL VALUE

Our Locations in Bahamas:
Nassau: Rawson Square + 240 Bay Street · Freeport: Port Lucaya Marketplace
www.colombianemeralds.com

CLIFTON HERITAGE AUTHORITY
Clifton Heritage National Park
South West Road
Nassau Bahamas
Tel: 1(242)362-4368 or 1(242)362-5121 or Fax: 362-5017
Email: park.clifton@yahoo.com

CLIFTON HERITAGE NATIONAL PARK

NOTICE

We wish to advise the public of our Holiday Business Hours:

- Friday, December 24 Closed at Noon
- Saturday, December 25 Closed
(Christmas Day)
- Friday, December 31 Closed at Noon
- Monday, December 27 Closed
(Boxing Day)
- Saturday, January 1 Closed
(New Year's Day)
- Monday, January 3 Closed
- Tuesday, January 4 Normal Operating Hours

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Police arrest dozen men in suspected UK terrorism plot

NKorea backs away from threat to attack South

**AHN YOUNG-JOON, Associated Press
FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press
YEONPYEONG ISLAND, South Korea**

North Korea backed off threats to retaliate against South Korea for military drills and reportedly offered concessions on its nuclear program — signs it was looking to lower the temperature on the Korean peninsula after weeks of soaring tensions.

But Pyongyang has feigned toward conciliation before and failed to follow through.

The North's gestures Monday came after South Korea launched fighter jets, evacuated hundreds of residents near its tense land border with the North and sent residents of islands near disputed waters into underground bunkers in case Pyongyang followed through on its vow to attack over the drills.

"It appears that deterrence has been restored," said Daniel Pinkston, Seoul-based analyst with the International Crisis Group think tank. "The North Koreans only understand force or show of force."

North Korea has previously been accused of using a mix of aggression and conciliatory gestures to force international negotiations that usually net it much-needed aid. Real progress on efforts to rid the North of its nuclear weapons programs has been rare.

On Nov. 23, the North shelled Yeonpyeong Island, a tiny enclave of fishing communities and military bases about seven miles (11 kilometers) from North Korean shores in response to an earlier round of South Korean live-fire maneuvers. The North's artillery barrage killed two marines and two construction workers in its first attack targeting civilian areas since the 1950-53 Korean War. That clash sent tensions soaring between the two countries — which are still technically at war. They've remained in a tense standoff since then, and an emergency meeting of U.N. diplomats in New York on Sunday failed to find any solution to the crisis.

But Monday brought some of the first positive signs in weeks, as a high-profile American governor announced what he said were two nuclear concessions from the North.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a frequent unofficial envoy to North Korea and former U.S. ambassador to the U.N., said that during his visit the North agreed to let U.N. atomic inspectors visit its main nuclear complex to make sure it's not producing enriched uranium for a nuclear bomb, according to a statement from his office.

"North Korea talks a great game. They always do. The real issue is what will they do. If they are agreeable to returning IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) inspectors to their country, they need to tell the IAEA that," U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said.

The North expelled U.N. inspectors last year, and last month showed a visiting American scientist a new, highly advanced uranium enrichment facility that could give it a second way to make atomic bombs, in addition to its plutonium program. Richardson also said that Pyongyang was willing to sell fresh fuel rods, potentially to South Korea.

"We had positive results," Richardson told Associated Press Television News at the Pyongyang airport Monday night. He had been set to brief reporters in Beijing, but his flight was canceled.

"This is the way countries are supposed to act," Crowley told reporters. "The South Korean exercise was defensive in nature. The North Koreans were notified in advance. There was no basis for a belligerent response."

Analyst Baek Seung-joo cautioned that the North's reported concessions are only a tactic aimed at easing international pressure. Baek, of the state-run Korea Institute for Defense Analyses in Seoul, said the comments would be significant if the North made them officially, rather than through Richardson. The North was only sounding out U.S. and South Korean intentions by talking to Richardson, Baek said, and if the situation doesn't turn in the North's favor, it will back away. Pyongyang is believed to be seeking one-on-one talks with Washington before returning to stalled nuclear disarmament negotiations hosted by China.

**PAISLEY DODDS, Associated Press
LONDON**

In the biggest anti-terrorist sweep in Britain in nearly two years, police have arrested a dozen men accused of plotting a large-scale terror attack on targets inside the United Kingdom.

The suspects, who ranged in age from 17 to 28, had been under surveillance for weeks and were believed to have links to Pakistan and Bangladesh, security officials said.

The arrests come amid growing concerns in Europe over terrorism following a suicide bombing in Sweden and reported threats of a terror attack on a European city modeled on the deadly shooting spree in Mumbai, India.

Police swooped in before dawn Monday in coordinated raids on houses in four cities — London, the Welsh city of Cardiff and the English cities of Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent. The officers were unarmed, suggesting any planned attack was not imminent.

The raid, a joint operation by Britain's domestic spy agency MI5 and police, was the largest since April 2009, when 12 men were detained over an alleged al-Qaida bomb plot in the northern city of Manchester.

Counterterrorism officials declined to give more details of the latest alleged plot, saying only that the men had been under surveillance for several weeks. No details were given as to whether explosives or arms were found, and searches were under way in the homes where the arrests took place.

"The operation is in its early stages so we are unable to go into detail at this time," said John Yates, Britain's senior counterterrorism police officer.

Still, he said Monday's raids, involving a dozen suspects across the U.K., indicated they were planning something big.

"This is a large scale, pre-planned and intelligence-led operation involving several forces," Yates said.

Police have up to 28 days to question the suspects before they must be charged or released.

The men are thought to be British nationals with links to Bangladesh and Pakistan, according to a counterterrorism official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. Britain is home to large Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities.

The arrests were not believed to be part of any planned holiday season attack, said a British security official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of his work.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security



(AP Photo/Akira Suemori)

ANTI-TERRORISM SWEEP: A view of New Scotland Yard, the headquarters building of the Metropolitan Police, with its sign in London, Monday, Dec. 20, 2010. British police on Monday arrested a dozen men suspected of plotting a large-scale terror attack — the biggest anti-terrorist sweep since April 2009, when 12 men were detained over an alleged al-Qaida bomb plot in the northern city of Manchester. The men were arrested in London, the Welsh city of Cardiff and the English cities of Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent.

Janet Napolitano said the terror suspects arrested in Britain were not threatening U.S. targets.

"As far as I know, we have not yet found any connection between those arrests and any threats to the United States," Napolitano said in an interview with news anchor Diane Sawyer Monday night on "ABC World News."

Iraqi officials claimed last week that captured insurgents believed the Dec. 11 bombing in Stockholm was part of a series of attacks planned for the Christmas season.

Those claims were rejected by both British and German officials, who insisted there are no specific threats to their countries over the holiday period.

In October, the U.S. State Department advised American citizens living or traveling in Europe to be wary amid reports that terrorists were planning a Mumbai-style attack on a European city.

Some of the details of a Mumbai-style plot directed at cities in Britain, France or Germany came from Ahmed Siddiqui, a German citizen of Afghan descent who was captured by U.S. troops in Afghanistan in July. More than 170 people were killed in the 2008 attack in the Indian city of Mumbai.

A government official downplayed reports that the latest raids were part of larger terror concerns across Europe.

"Although serious, we believe this raid may have been a one-off and not necessarily related to larger European terror plot concerns," said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Another government official said other plots being monitored within Britain had

UP TO 25% OFF
TOYLAND CHRISTMAS DEPT & EVENING FABRICS

CAREY'S
FABRIC & DEPARTMENT STORE

TOYLAND Baby Aline Dolls, Mori Dolls, Beats, Slate Boards, Trains, Transformers, Capcalle Makins, Easy Bake Ovens, Educational Toys & more
CHRISTMAS DEPT Decorations, Candles, Trees, Lights, Wreaths, Trains, Garland, Santa Hats, Postcards, Ornaments, Cardfile Holders, Christmas Picks & more
ALL EVENING FABRICS
Save on a wide selection of beautiful evening fabrics

#107 Mackey Street | T:393.0758 F: 393.3563

Obama lobbies GOP senators to back new arms control pact

**DONNA CASSATA, Associated Press
WASHINGTON**

President Barack Obama tried to sway reluctant Republican senators on Monday to back a new arms control treaty with Russia as GOP aversion to giving a politically damaged president another victory intruded on his national security agenda.

The White House and senior Democrats expressed confidence that they had the votes for the accord that was signed by Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in April. The two countries negotiated the New START pact to cap nuclear weapons and restart weapons inspections in the spirit of U.S. efforts to reset the relationship between the former Cold War foes.

Proponents edged closer to getting the two-thirds vote they needed for ratification as Republican Sen. Scott Brown of Massachusetts announced he would support the treaty. In recent days, Brown had received a call from Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Republican Sen. Johnny Isakson of Georgia, who also heard from Clinton, sent the strongest signal yet that he would support ratification.

Treaty backers also were heartened as several Republicans broke ranks, voting against three GOP amendments that would have effectively killed the treaty. With the help of eight Republicans, Democrats beat back an amendment to increase the number of weapons inspectors on a 64-33 vote. They also rejected a measure to change the accord and increase the number of deployed launchers on a 64-33 vote. An effort to change the treaty to include tactical nuclear weapons also failed, 62-35.

Obama, who delayed his holiday vacation, lobbied senators by phone as he pressed to complete the treaty before January when Republicans increase their numbers by five in the Senate, which would cast the accord's fate in doubt. Vice President Joe Biden and Clinton also called lawmakers to push for ratification.



SIGNED ACCORD: U.S. President Barack Obama

RISTORANTE
Villaggio
COCKTAIL & WINE BAR
Nassau's
Premier Italian Restaurant

New Year's Eve Celebration

Pre-Dinner Cocktail Reception with delectable hors d'oeuvres

Spectacular five course meal with beverages and wine throughout the evening

Music, dancing, party favors and live "Junkanoo Rush-out" at Midnight

Only \$220 plus gratuities.
Please book early as seating is limited for this exclusive event

Telephone 327-0962 or 327-0965
Email - info@villaggiorestaurant.com

HEALTH

The Tribune

B O D Y A N D M I N D

health

2011 weight loss resolutions for your pet

(ARA) - OK, so you purchased new running shoes, joined a gym, and are ready for a fit and healthy 2011. But while getting in shape and losing weight is an admirable New Year's resolution for you and your family, it's important to remember that people aren't the only ones who might need to shed a few pounds. The number of overweight pets in America continues to rise. Nearly half (45 per cent) of dogs and 58 per cent of cats are overweight or obese (at least 20 per cent above ideal weight), according to a recent survey of veterinarians by the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention.

"Pet owners might mistakenly think that a pudgy dog or cat is cute, without realising this extra weight puts the pet at a greater risk for developing serious health problems, including arthritis and diabetes," says Dr Grace Long, a veterinarian with Nestle Purina. "But the good news is that with proper nutrition and exercise, pet obesity can be reversed."

Pet owners need to remember, however, that while their weight loss success rests largely in their own hands, paws don't have the same power. If pets are to be successful at getting in better shape - and health - their owners need to intervene.

Fortunately, concerned pet owners can start the New Year off on the right foot. In 2010, Dr Meredith Rettinger, a veterinarian with Laurel Pet Hospital in West Hollywood, Calif., supervised a group of eight overweight dogs and their owners as they participated in Project: Pet Slim Down - a 90-day weight loss journey documented online at projectpetslimdown.com.

Dr Rettinger currently is overseeing a similar 120-day journey for dogs and cats and their owners. Project: Pet Slim Down is a nationwide program from Purina Veterinary Diets that unites pet owners and veterinarians in helping pets lose weight.

Dr Rettinger offers five simple guidelines, "2011 Weight Loss Resolutions for Your Pet," to help you - working with your veterinarian - help your pet live a leaner, healthier life.

Resolution 1: Make an appointment with your veterinarian. Just as people need expert guidance and a physician's supervision when attempting to lose weight and/or improve their fitness level, veterinarians have the knowledge to help pet owners achieve sensible, lasting weight loss for their pets.

Resolution 2: Set realistic, measurable exercise and weight loss goals. Your veterinarian can help you rule out any medical reasons for excess weight and help you plan a fitness and nutrition program that takes your pet's age, size and breed into account.

Resolution 3: Discipline yourself to make exercise a priority for you and your pet. Sure, our lives are getting busier and we have less time to exercise, but even setting aside time each day for short walks with your pet will help both of you.

Resolution 4: Control portions. Just as limiting intake is important to your own weight loss goals, ensuring a daily volume of allowed food for your pet will be key to success. Your veterinarian can tell you the exact amount of food to feed your pet each day to achieve a healthy weight, so you don't have to guess. He or she also will remind you not to say "I love you" with food.

Resolution 5: Use treats correctly. It's OK to reward your pet with a treat for a successfully completed task. Just remember that these calories need to be subtracted from the total calories allotted for the day, and they shouldn't exceed 10 per cent of that allotment. Consider low-calorie, or break treats into smaller pieces for more rewards with the same amount of calorie



LEADERSHIP: One hundred and twenty five nurses attended the workshop.

'Celebrating Excellence in Nursing Leadership'

By ALESHA CADET
Tribune Features Reporter

ONE HUNDRED and twenty five nurses recently attended a very successful two day leadership workshop under the theme, "Celebrating Excellence in Nursing Leadership" at the Sheraton Resorts Hotel, Cable Beach.

The event was hosted by the Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (NACB) in Collaboration with The Commonwealth Nurses Federation (CNF).

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were to develop skills in planning strategically to achieve goals, exploring the principles and application of being an effective advocate, developing skills in lobbying and in working with the media.

Participants at the Leadership workshop included nurses from the family islands, Freeport, Eleuthera, and Andros. Nurses from both the public and private sector locally also attended.

The overall goal of the conference was to empower nurses to develop effective leadership skills, deliver quality healthcare, and play pivotal roles in shaping the preferred future of nursing.

Rosemarie L Josey, president of NACB 2008-2010 said: "The Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (NACB) celebrated its 63rd Anniversary with a Gala Ball, honouring 15 nurses for their exemplary service to the nursing profession and the NACB."

"Our honourees are being recognised for their service of distinction and the significant contributions that they have made to the Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (NACB) and the Nursing Profession in the Bahamas. Some of their contributions have been extended both locally and internationally. Each of our honourees is a dedicated member of the nursing profession and we are proud to pay tribute to all of them in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the NACB."

"As the Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (NACB) continues to build partnerships and collaborate with our regional and international nursing leaders and organisations from around the world. It was an honour

and privilege to work together with Jill Iliffe towards the outcome of such a successful Leadership Workshop."

She continued: "On behalf of the NACB and the Nursing Community from The Bahamas we look forward to planning a full conference in collaboration with the Commonwealth Nurses Federation (CNF)."

"I wish to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to everyone that assisted in the success of the Two Day Leadership workshop, "Celebrating Excellence in Nursing Leadership," Ms Josey said.

Dedication

A member of the NACB, who wished to remain anonymous said: "As we celebrate our 63rd anniversary, let us be reminded that when we choose nursing, we choose a profession that is dedicated to serving others."

"It is my pleasure to extend warm greetings and congratulations to all of our honourees, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the (NACB). We recognise that you work to ensure that all people irrespective of nationality, race, colour or social origin may have optimal nursing care. We recognise that you

love what you do. The gentle smile, the comforting touch and a kind word makes the difference in the lives of your patients. You are the ones who the patients depend on to have compassion, nurture them and provide the quality of care that is so very necessary."

The source added that the NACB pays a special tribute to Nurse Joan Lunn for her invaluable contributions to nursing in the Bahamas. "Nurse Lunn was an angel in disguise. She was a beautiful woman of passion. She was self-motivated, confident, skilled, and innovative and had a beautiful smile that would ease patients' pain and troubles. She had a deep appreciation for professional obligations and responsibility. She was a lady worthy of praise and a nurse known for her devotion to serving others. I feel privileged to have worked with Nurse Lunn. She was dedicated to the Nursing Profession. She lost her life in the line of duty. She will always be missed."

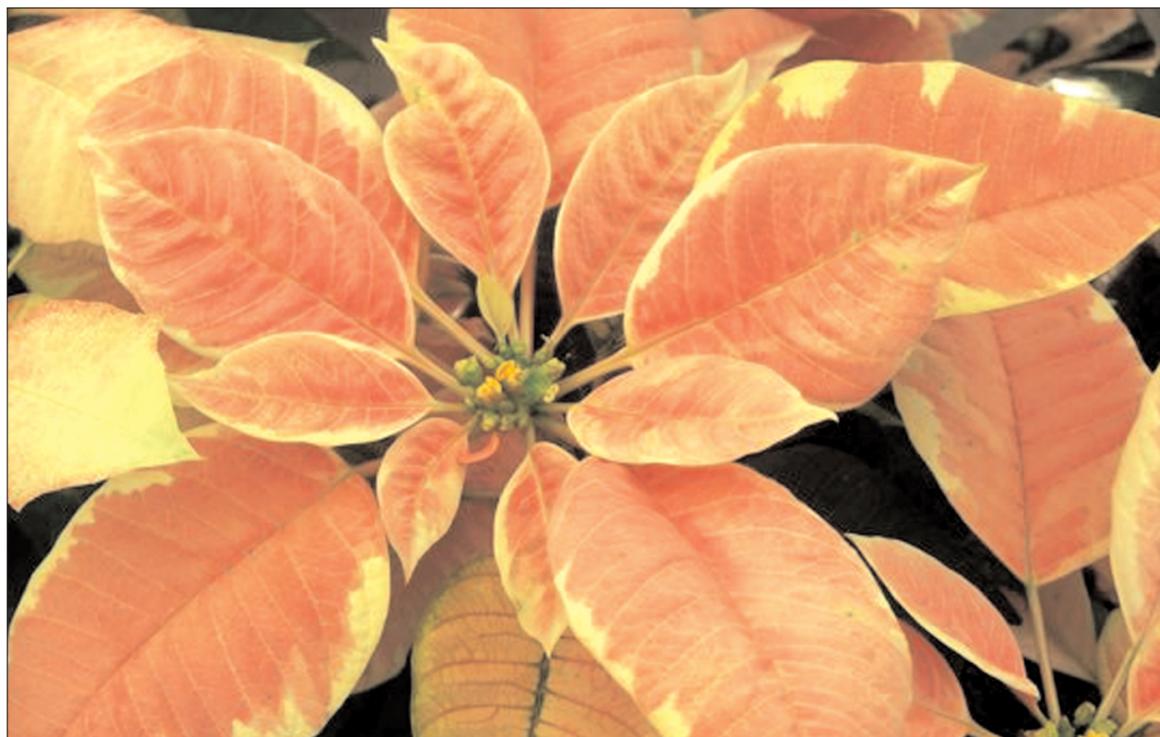
"I am pleased to salute all of our honourees for 2010, and take this opportunity to commend each of you for your sacrificial committed and distinguished service to the NACB. May God bless each of you and bless the NACB as we grow from strength to strength; one voice working together in collaboration."



NACB EXECUTIVES 2008-2010: (Sitting R-L) Rosemarie L Josey (President NACB), Jennifer C King (Secretary), (Standing R-L) Joeanna Bell-Curry -Chairman Membership, Rebecca Johnson - 2nd Vice President, Monique Forbes Chairman Socio-Economic, Ms. Andrea Nottage -Assistant Secretary, Lisa Stovel Rolle - Chairman Education and Research, Regina Ingrahm - Branch Chairman NACB-Elleuthera, Persephone Munnings - 1st Vice -President, and Kateca Graham - Public Relation Officer.

TO DISCUSS STORIES ON THIS PAGE LOG ON TO WWW.TRIBUNE242.COM

HEALTH



TRADITIONAL: Poinsettias are traditional but do not have to be red.



CHRISTMAS SPECIAL: The Manila or Christmas palm bears green and red nuts during the holiday season.

Christmas plants

Almost every Bahamian family will have a Christmas plant on display during the holiday season and some people will buy by the dozens. By far the most popular choice is poinsettia.

The poinsettia (*Poinsettia pulcherrima*) is native to Mexico and was developed from plants that originally had long cane-like growth. The poinsettias we favour today are bushy. Although the original plant was chosen as a Christmas emblem because of its red flowers we can now buy poinsettias that are multi-hued.

Poinsettias do not like draughts while they are flowering and they do not like drying out. The latter is a real problem, for plants of considerable size are rooted in small containers, making regular watering a necessity. Poinsettias are often sold with the container wrapped in decorative festive foil. This must be removed when watering or the soil will become waterlogged and the plant will die even quicker. Allow the soil to drain completely before replacing the decorative foil.

GREEN SCENE
By GARDENER JACK

The flowers are really bracts, modified leaves that provide stunning colour. The true flower is at the centre and is yellow. When you buy a poinsettia for Christmas display, check that the flowers are either budding or at an early stage. Wide-open flowers with pollen indicates you will have a shorter flowering stage.

When the season is over, you can prune your poinsettias rather drastically and set it out in the garden. Place it where it will not be affected by porch or street lights and prune for bushiness up until late July. Thereafter, leave the plant alone and it will give you a far better display at Christmas than it did when you first bought it.

Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*) is becoming very popular as a Christmas plant even though it is

far less showy than poinsettia. Because of its growth it is usually displayed in a hanging basket. The stalks are composed of segments that look rather like sea crab flippers and the flowers much resemble pomegranate blossoms. Although red is the favoured colour for the season, Christmas cactus comes in a wide array of colours.

Once the festivities are over you can propagate Christmas cactus by planting individual stem segments a mere half-an-inch deep in sandy soil and keeping it barely moist.

Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) has mistletoe-shaped leaves with sprays of red drupes that are suggestive of the season. The problem with Brazilian pepper is that the plants are invasive and if the seeds are not disposed of properly, you will be contributing to an ecological problem.

One way in which you can guard against dispersing the seeds by accident is to dry them and put them into a pepper grinder. Brazilian pepper seeds are the 'pink peppercorn' in pepper mélanges and have a distinctive flavour that many find palatable.

You may already have a Christ-



SOMETHING DIFFERENT: Christmas cactus makes a nice change from poinsettias as a Christmas decoration.

mas plant performing in your yard. Manila palms (*Veitchia merrillii*) put out sprays of nuts at this time of year when they are mature, usually two at a time but sometimes three or four. Although the two sets of nuts are produced at the same time, one will mature faster and become red while the second stays green. The colour combination leads to Manila palms often being called Christmas palms. Holly has large prickly leaves and

red berries that are much larger than those of Brazilian pepper. Mistletoe bears white berries and traditionally grants permission to kiss. Both are of European descent and were used in druidical rites.

If you have any holly or mistletoe there will be no need to water them as they will be made of plastic.

.....
•gardenerjack@coralwave.com

The condition that no one's talking about - what all men with diabetes need to know

(ARA) - The abundance of treats during the holidays can make it a challenge for men to watch their waistlines and stay consistent with their diets, which can be especially dangerous for men with diabetes. That is why the holiday season is an important time for these men to get informed about the other health issues that can come with their disease.

According to data from the American Diabetes Association, approximately 12 million men in the United States have diabetes, and many of these men do not realise that they may be at risk for other serious conditions.

Research has shown that men suffering from diabetes may be at increased risk for a condition called hypogonadism, more commonly known as low testosterone. This is because men with diabetes have lower levels of testosterone than those without diabetes.

Hypogonadism affects up to 4 million men in the US, most of whom remain untreated because its signs and symptoms are often attributed to normal aging. These men may experience symptoms such as sexual dysfunction, decreased sexual desire, decreased muscle mass, loss of body hair, low sperm count, and decreased bone mineral density.

"Studies have shown that men with diabetes are twice as likely to have low testosterone as men without diabetes," says Dr Helena Rodbard, past-president of the American College of Endocrinology (ACE), and past-president of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE). "It is vitally important for men with diabetes to visit their doctors to discuss the condition and potential risk factors."

The holiday season is an important time for men with diabetes to take charge of their health.

For more information about low testosterone and a medical condition known as hypogonadism, visit www.IsItLowT.com.

Tips for holiday tipping, from the hairdresser to the babysitter

(ARA) - In addition to shopping for family and friends, the holiday season is traditionally a time to show appreciation for the people who make your life easier throughout the year by giving a gift or tip. It can be daunting to identify all the people to thank and then find the time and money to get the right expression of appreciation for each.

Here are some ideas to help you make sure that the important people in your life feel appreciated this holiday season:

MAKE A LIST

The first thing to tackle is making your list. Here are some of the service providers you may want to consider thanking this year:

- Hairdresser
- Garage or door attendants in the building where you live or work
- Personal trainer
- Child's teacher
- Child care provider - babysitter, nanny, day care
- Housekeeper
- Dog walker and/or groomer
- Gardener, pool cleaner
- Package or mail delivery person

SETTING THE GIFT VALUE

As you set the value for each gift, you may want to take into account:

- Frequency of service - How long has this person has been working with you, and how accommodating are they? Does your babysitter cancel plans to help you last minute? Does your longtime hairdresser stay late to give you a cut after work?
- Cost of service - When deciding how much to give, you can often use the cost of the service as a starting point. The housekeeper might receive the equivalent of a day of cleaning; the dog walker, a day or week of walking.

- Policies - If you are tipping someone who works for a larger organization, you may want to do some research to find out their gift policies as there may be restrictions on the type or value of a gift.



MAKING A LIST: Once you've made your list and set your budget, it's time to select gifts. For some of those on your list, a thoughtful note of appreciation inside a holiday card may be all that is needed.

- Your budget - Last, but definitely not least, work within your budget. Gifts are not required, but expressing appreciation is essential. A thoughtful note accompanying a gift or by itself is the best way to say thank you.

FINDING THE PERFECT WAY TO SAY THANK YOU

Once you've made your list and set your budget, it's time to select gifts. For some of those on your list, a thoughtful note of appreciation inside a holiday card may be all that is needed. Homemade baked goods are also a great way to say thank you. You may have gifts already picked out for some on your list.

For others, you may find yourself wondering if giving cash is appropriate, or guessing your babysitter's sweater size. An easy solution to giving a gift that always fits is giving a gift card that carries the name of a payment network, such as Visa. According to a recent Visa survey, 65 per cent of people would rather receive a network-branded gift card than a non-essential gift, such as a sweater, a holiday scarf or a bottle of cologne.

Network-branded gift cards can be used anywhere that brand's payment cards are accepted, so the recipient can use the card to purchase what they really want or need. Unlike cash, many branded gift cards can be replaced if lost or stolen.

Branded gift cards are easy for givers as well: They can be purchased in a wide variety of everyday retail locations or online in the denomination of your choice, preventing you from spending more than you planned.

Even with the best of intentions, it's easy to forget to include someone on your list. You may want to purchase a couple of extra gift cards to have on-hand in case you forget someone (who remembers you) or you are invited to a last-minute holiday event. If the cards aren't needed, you can simply use them yourself.

Thoughtful and easy, branded gift cards are a perfect way to say thanks to those who help make your life easier throughout the year.



L

A Mother's Love

DEALING WITH A SICK CHILD



RUTH LASISTER AND HER SON JAYDEN

By JEFFARAH GIBSON
Tribune Features Writer

WATCHING cancer patients shake and tremble in the midst of their agony was something Ruth Lasister became used to working as a paramedic.

And although each encounter with a sick patient was an emotionally painful experience, she somehow found a way to disconnect from the entire situation.

However, after her three-year-old son Jayden Lasister was diagnosed with Wilms' tumor last August, memories of her time in the back of the ambulance with cancer patients became recurrent.

Rare

According to www.mayoclinic.com Wilms' tumor is a "rare kidney cancer that primarily affects children. Also known as nephroblastoma, it's the most common malignant tumor of the kidneys in children. The peak time of Wilms' tumor occurrence is around ages 3 to 4, and it occurs only rarely after age 6.

"I honestly was in denial when the doc-

tors told me that Jayden had Wilms' tumor because before he was diagnosed he was healthy. No one in my family has a history of cancer and there was no sign of the tumor up until two days before I took him to the doctor so for me it was like this condition came out of the blue," Ms Lasister explained.

It wasn't until Jayden, who was one year old at time, was spending the day with his grandmother who discovered that his abdomen was swollen.

"My mother was keeping him for me at the time and she noticed the swelling and she told me about it. So I took him to the doctor and the doctors did an ultrasound which showed a tumor that covered his entire left kidney and then the next thing you know he has to be admitted and have surgery. So I am thinking to myself I just brought my child to get medication and now I find out he has cancer," she said.

It was hard for Ms Lasister to accept the doctors words and the denial of her child's illness led her to check Jayden out of the hospital.

"I said to them 'I am taking him home' and the doctors told me that I needed to make a decision fast because that kind of tumor spreads fast. I was so confused and when I took him I brought him right back because as I am deciding what to do his condition is getting worse," she said.

Shortly after the removal of the tumor Jayden was scheduled to begin

chemotherapy. Ms Lasister told *Tribune Features* that the medication from chemotherapy had the worst effect.

"Even though I have worked with people who have cancer, I never followed up on them or their condition. I saw what happened to them and it was really bad what they went through. And my child had to go through the same thing. It was so painful to see him sick like that. Sometimes he would vomit for hours and he would be so weak afterwards. And then he use to fall down a lot and as a parent it is so hard to see your child sick," she said.

Denial

At the time of his prognosis, Jayden Lasister was one of five children that was diagnosed with Wilms' tumor. He was the only child that didn't go into relapse. Jayden is in remission and completed chemotherapy earlier this year. He is doing much better and his family is looking forward to having a merry Christmas.

"This year we are going to do everything. Last year we did not celebrate Christmas because he was doing chemotherapy. We are going to have a Christmas tree, we are going to visit relatives, we are going to the carnival we are doing it all because last year he was to sick to do anything," she said.

Ms Lasister said that while she and

her family don't want to be oblivious to the fact the Jayden has not fully recovered, they are remaining positive about his condition.

"I am trying to stay positive but at the same time I don't want to be stupid to think that he is all the way better. But there are time when we choose not to dwell on his sickness. And then again there are days that we have to deal with it and the limitations," Ms Lasister said.

For the parent who may be growing through the same thing Ms Lasister went through she gave a word of advice.

"I want people to realise that kids get sick. There a lot of kids who get so many different kinds of cancer. But I want people to know that it is important to get information and not shut themselves away because there is someone who is going through the same thing and can actually help," she said.

Positive

Ms Lasister also said that she does not believe that there is enough support for parents who have sick children.

"There should be a place for parents to go and get support because there might be a parent who is going through the first stage of finding out that their child has cancer and someone like me who has already been through that can be there help," she said.

Offering security and comfort when you need it most.

Ultra Thin

Regular

Overnight with wings

Distributed by:

Bahamas Wholesale Agencies, East West Hwy. • tel: 242-394-1759 • fax: 242-394-1859 • email: bwa@bahamaswholesale.com
 Freeport: 1 Milton St. • tel: 242-351-2201 • fax: 242-351-2215 • email: bwafreeport@bahamaswholesale.com