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Economy is improving according to Outlook Business outlook viewed economy from many angles



By Julian Lockhart

Despite the poor economy the 6th Annual Abaco Business Outlook was once again a success as over a hundred Abaconians showed up for a day-long seminar discussing the renewed optimism for the future economic progress for Abaco and The Bahamas.

A number of speakers from Abaco and New Providence spoke about embracing new opportunities, the change in tourism's focus on Abaco and the numerous ways of becoming a creative and productive farmer on Abaco.

Ten different speakers enlightened the group at New Vision Ministries on September 23rd. The keynote speaker was Senator the Hon. Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, Minister of Tourism, who definitely left people impressed after he announced that Abaco was being marketed by Tourism as its own island from now on and the forecast for a much better economy next year.

Joan Albury, president of The Counselors who organized the seminar, said, "I thought it went extremely well and what I really enjoyed is that we were able to talk about all the major economic sectors on Abaco. I learnt so much even in the afternoon session about agriculture and fisheries.

"To hear the Minister talk about oppor-

Please see **Outlook**

Page 2

The sixth annual Abaco Business Outlook brought many speakers to enlighten Abaconians about the economy now and in the future. It considered tourism in depth as well as many other aspects of life here. The speakers' conclusions were that Abaco is going to do well given some time. Shown here are some of the speakers. Keynote speaker was Senator, the Hon. Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, Minister of Tourism, left, who declared that Abaco would be marketed as a separate entity. Others in the front row are Wysome Ferguson, Acting Manager of Abaco's Tourism office, Isaac Collie, economist who felt that The Bahamas' recovery will lag behind the U.S. recovery, and Chester Cooper of British American Financial who encouraged Abaconians to look for opportunities.

Volleyball season opens



Volleyball season officially opened on October 2 with games played on October 2 and 3 at Grace Gym at the Agape Christian School in Marsh Harbour. Shown is a game between the BTC team in dark blue and orange uniforms and Abaco Central High School in aqua and black shirts. Standing at the far end of the net is Insp. Edric Poitier, who is refereeing. Don Cornish, President of the Bahamas Volleyball Federation, was in attendance for the opening ceremony and challenged the players to work hard and improve their skills. Two games were played on October 2 followed by two more games on October 3. See story on page 20.



Set Clocks Back One Hour November 1

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. on November 1. Set your clocks back one hour either at bedtime on Saturday evening, October 31 or on Sunday morning, November 1.

Education seminar discussed swine flu policies



Mrs. Lenora Black, Abaco's Education Superintendent, hosted school administrators on the Ministry's policies about swine flu or H1N1. The Ministry has implemented a PPRR program, Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

By Jennifer Hudson

School administrators of the Abaco District attended a meeting at the Department of Education office on September 23 aimed at preparing them in the eventuality of a second wave of the influenza H1N1

virus. The comprehensive agenda was designed to provide educators with not only the characteristics of the virus but also plans, strategies and technical support on

Please see **Flu**

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Business Outlook shows Abaco has good future

Outlook

From Page 1

tunities, Chester Cooper talk about entrepreneurship, it really was a full day and I hope everybody went away with something. The turnout showed people are interested, the numbers were good, people stayed the day and I think they got value for the money. We will be bigger and better next year," she added. Ms. Albury said that very recent statistical data has given them hope to believe that the United States economy has begun to turn the corner for a much brighter future.

E. Isaac Collie, local economist and lawyer as well as President and CEO of British American Financial seconded this assessment but said the trickle-down effect will not be felt in The Bahamas for at least another year. It will be another three years

before Bahamians start to enjoy the same comforts of the past.

In the meantime Rev. Lennie Etienne said more individuals should start looking at farming as a means of making a living on Abaco because of the amount of Crown land available for farming and that it can be a productive business solution.

Also speaking was Dr. Pearl McMillan, Director of Public Health, Kevin Basden, General Manager of the Bahamas Electrical Corporation, Eric Carey, Executive Director of the Bahamas National Trust, Michael Braynen, Director of Marine Resources, Algernon Cargill, Director of the National Insurance Board and local Ann Albury about the history of Abaco.

Local banker Brian Thompson said, "The presentation was very good this year. The speakers were very timely and I learnt

a lot of optimism for the economy of Abaco. "I think that is the biggest thing we will need to understand is that, although the U.S. economy seems to show that the recession is over, it won't be over for a little

while longer, and we have to find alternatives to support ourselves. It is a long time in coming that Abaco will be marketed as its own product and I think it will do great for Abaco," he concluded.

Entrepreneurs need vision to see opportunities

Speaking about the economy and where business owners and future entrepreneurs should look into the future was Chester Cooper, the president and CEO of British American Financial. He said that you cannot spend your way out of a depression; you have to think your way out. It is time for Abaconians to look at different investment opportunities as well as look into alternative ways of making a living and seize the opportunities that are before you.

He added that business owners and potential entrepreneurs must put themselves in position to take advantage of the opportunities that will come when the economy starts its upswing and must look for investment opportunities that are recession free.

Mr. Cooper said, "I have learnt through personal experiences that to be successful

in entrepreneurship, you simply have to be a little crazy. Economists generally agree that the recession is ending, which means the car is not moving backwards as fast as it was. It is slowing and eventually it will move forward.

"Our children and grandchildren are looking to us to make the economy sustainable so they can enjoy the same kind of lifestyle we have been able to enjoy. Government has to ease the burden on entrepreneurs and the way they have to do business in The Bahamas. We must continue to embrace the opportunities that are available and we must develop a vision and plan as business people. I ask you to look at the economy today as something that is different and not broken," Mr. Cooper concluded.



The Hon. Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, Minister of Tourism, right, is speaking with Cha Boyce, Monica Higgs and Isaac Collie after he had given the keynote address at the Abaco Business Outlook. The seminar was held at New Vision Ministries in Marsh Harbour on September 23.

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#4826 North End Lot 66 - Almost 1/2 acre lot. Underbrushed. \$189,000. Jane Patterson
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Tourism's future is looking bright

By Julian Lockhart

The Bahamas' number one industry is tourism and with the world's recession The Bahamas and Abaco saw its economy plummet because of the disastrous financial market worldwide.

Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, said it is an inescapable fact that what has been happening around the world has been affecting The Bahamas immensely, but that The Bahamas is heading on a slow path to recovery because of what is happening around the world.

The Minister was the keynote speaker at the 6th Annual Abaco Business Outlook held by the Counselors at New Vision Ministries on September 23rd.

The Minister said, "We tried to explain to many people that tourism is an export. But because tourists come into the country, it is one of these most difficult concepts for people to grasp. What we are inviting people to do, who have the means to go elsewhere, is to come into our country for a variety of reasons.

"We have done a lousy job in the Ministry of Tourism of doing something that I think everybody should begin to understand. Tourism has very little to do with only sun, sand and sea, and it has everything to do with people traveling to your country for whatever reason. If we happen to have the most distinguished lawyers in the world and people come here because they need their services that is part of tourism, too. So this idea that we are in the business of attracting people to come for the environment is not what it is all about; it is a great deal more than that," he added.

There has been a decline of eight percent in international travel, and arrivals are

down worldwide. Every major destination around the world has seen its numbers drop and the Minister said the business of tourism is one of the most competitive since any country in the world can be involved.

"The reason that tourism is so very important to the Bahamas is something that is very easy to explain. The easiest way for us to understand tourism is to think of it in the following terms.

"In a good year of tourism on any given day there is something in the order of 30,000 visitors, and it is a wonderful number and that is approximately 10 percent of the total population of the Bahamas. We increase our total population by about 10 percent. But the spending of that 10 percent on a daily basis is higher than the spending of any similar 10 percent in our existing economy. All it is, is making sure we invite people who have a high amount of disposable income to come into our economy and contribute to the economic fortunes of our country.

That 10 percent of people contribute more than 20 percent of the government taxes that come into the country. So when there is a fall-off in tourism, there will be a fall-off in government spending ability.

At the end of July stopover visitors in The Bahamas was down by 13.7 percent and at the end of July cruise ship passengers business in The Bahamas was up by 13.8 percent and overall business in the Bahamas was up by four percent.

The reason the cruise ship passengers are up is because individuals are looking at the best way to get the bang for their buck. They still come to The Bahamas because this is where they want to go.

Sixty percent of all cruise ship passengers coming to The Bahamas make The

Bahamas their only stop, and they are buying The Bahamas. They choose to buy The Bahamas through a low cost, high quality cruise ship.

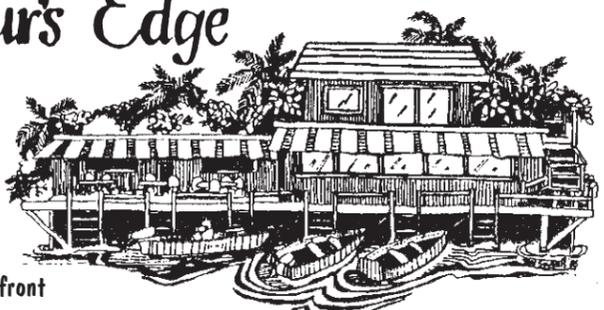
Abaco has seen its stopover visitors drop some 27 percent with only Grand Bahama worse with 27.5 percent. Nassau/Paradise Island has seen a drop of only 8.8 percent.

From 1977 to 2007 there has been a steady upward climb in visitors. The upward climb produced an improvement in the quality and the spending of the visitors. We are the only destination in the entire Caribbean that had a triple increase in numbers, in quality and in spending.

Mr. Vanderpool-Wallace said, "I want everybody to understand that the most

important part of our tourism business is stopover visitors. There is no question that the impact on our economy by that 13.7 percent decline is substantial and we feel it. Even though the stopover visitors that come today have declined, their spending has declined even more and that happens everywhere. Abaco has a very high repeat rate because of homeowners. The beauty of homeowners is they are your very best sales people. When I put my money in the ground, I reinforce my decision by telling everybody what a good choice I made. It is very important for people to recommend the destination," he concluded.

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Schools prepare for potential flu outbreak

Flu *From Page 1*

how to act should the situation arise. Superintendent of Education for the Abaco District, Lenora Black, warned, "This is believed to be an imminent challenge to schools not only in The Bahamas but throughout the world. Teachers deal with the most vulnerable group of people, infants, toddlers and young children, so we must take steps to guard against massive infection. We do not want to cause panic amongst students and parents but want to heighten awareness and we will take steps to protect all."

An overview of the influenza H1N1 virus was presented by Education Officer Sandy Edwards, who warned that an influenza epidemic here could shut down our economy overnight. She stressed the fact that the virus can remain active on a multi-

tude of surfaces, door knobs being one, for two to eight hours after being deposited on that surface.

The administrators were told that they must inform their teachers to put great emphasis on the proper washing of hands to avoid spread of the virus and stated that children should be instructed to sing the Happy Birthday song TWICE in order to wash hands thoroughly. Proper hand washing is the most important thing in preventing someone from getting the flu. The virus can be spread from person to person by sneezing or touching. "It is also critical that in the case of young people that someone take them to the restroom to make sure that they wash their hands,"

Mrs. Edwards advised that the towels which students like to carry around to wipe their faces will be banned from all campuses. "Although influenza shots should be available here in October, not every-

one will be eligible for the shot because of medical conditions, but screening will show who is eligible," she added. Parents are asked to keep their sick children at home even for an extra 24 hours after signs of infection are gone.

Mrs. Black presented an outline of the PPRR plan -- Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery -- which will be in place in every school, stating that the administrators will present this information not only to all of their teaching staff but also to janitresses who will be critically important in all of this.

Topics covered in the plan and which Mrs. Black addressed in detail were Management, Human Resources, Financial, Physical Plant, Communications and Supplies. Each administrator was given a large amount of material to take back to the school covering all the details of the PPRR plan plus additional information and material to be incorporated into lessons for the students concerning the virus and its prevention.

The roles and responsibilities of all school personnel were outlined. These persons include guidance counselors, school

librarians, janitorial and clerical staff, security, lunch vendors, tuck shop operators and bus drivers. The involvement of parents, churches, business establishments and the community was also addressed as Mrs. Black stated, "This is something that will affect the whole community."

Mr. Leslie Rolle, Curriculum Officer for Secondary Schools, stressed the awesome responsibility of safeguarding the country from a pandemic. He will be making sure that adequate sanitary supplies will be kept in stock and will be distributed to all schools, and he instructed teachers to warn their janitorial staff to order new supplies when they are running low instead of waiting until they run out. Janitresses must be on the job all day wiping surfaces and mopping floors. All surfaces will be wiped and sanitized several times a day with Clorox, one part bleach to 10 parts water. Schools will also be supplied with liquid hand soap for the children.

This proactive approach seeks to bring educators and the community together without instilling panic and fear in an effort to take action before a second wave of the virus surfaces.



School administrators learn about the H1N1 flu virus and the plans that the Ministry of Education has in the event of a serious outbreak of the flu in The Bahamas. The seminar was held on September 23.



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The Editor Says . . . Changes in rental home status



A long anticipated change affecting Abaco's rental houses has just been enacted into law and made public. See the official notice on page 17 of Section B. Essentially, government has officially recognized this segment of visitor accommodations in a two-fold approach.

1) Houses that are owner-occupied during the year and offered for rent during the owners' absence must now be licensed as a hotel and will pay a lower property tax. Choosing not to register as an owner-occupied rental house, or perhaps being ineligible, subjects the property to the higher tax rate.

2) By registering as a hotel within this new scheme, the owners or their property managers are now required to collect a six percent guest tax for government as has been required of hotels for many years. The hotel industry has often complained that the rental houses had an unfair advantage by not being required to collect this guest tax.

Information on this new scheme was published in the Nassau newspapers on October 1 with the deadline for compliance being October 15. We presume that local property managers are scrambling to get this information to their clients.

Government has made the forms available online and its web site says the completed forms will soon be accepted online. Apparently the October 15 deadline matches the date that property tax notices are prepared. Those who submit the forms by the deadline will see their property tax computed at the lower rate.

The new property tax rates for licensed rental houses follow:

- Properties valued below \$250,000 are exempt if owner occupied.
- Property values between \$250,000 and \$500,000 are taxed at three-quarters percent as opposed to the current rate of one percent.
- Property between \$500,000 and \$5 million are taxed at one percent as opposed to the current rate of two percent.
- On values exceeding \$5 million the annual tax drops to one-quarter percent as opposed to the current rate of two percent.

This new and significantly lower rate on values above \$5 million is apparently a lure to attract more rental units in the luxury category.

Rental houses that do not qualify as owner-occupied incur the higher current tax rate. The changes on the property tax rates given above apply only to non-Bahamians since Bahamians in the Family Islands are presently exempt from property tax obligations.

The second part of the notice relates to the six percent guest tax that is now imposed on all rental properties catering to visitors. The wording in the notice is skewed to owner-occupied rental houses that are dominated by non-Bahamians. It is not clear if the guest tax applies to Bahamians who own houses or condominiums that are rented to visitors. It is believed that the guest tax applies to all houses engaged in the rental market.

Those persons interested are urged to visit the web site www.tourismtoday.com/prelim/oohr where the four necessary forms are found and that can be downloaded and printed.

1) Affirmation stating that the house is occupied by the owner and asking for the present property tax assessment number.

2) Hotel license application - No fee is due since houses in the Family Islands with less than 25 bedrooms are exempt from a license fee. This form is submitted in duplicate.

3) Licensing form 1C that asks for detailed statistical data.

4) Form X is submitted by the 15th of each month giving statistical data on the occupancy for the previous month and that is accompanied with a check for guest tax collected during the previous month.

The data given each month is compiled by the Ministry of Tourism and is used to give detailed information on visitor preferences, length of stay and other data. As the statistics become available, it will be inter-

esting to compare Abaco's hotel occupancy with rental house occupancy.

We have said for many years that Abaco visitors staying in second homes outnumber those persons staying in hotels. However, this statement was based on anecdotal information. This will be the first time that government will have firm data showing where our visitors stay. Previously, it was an educated guess. Various numbers have been given over the years on the number of rental houses Abaco has. During the coming year, this information should begin to be known.

The Bahamas Real Estate Association has been aware of this pending legislation for several months but was not sure of what the final wording would be. We understand that it has many questions on this new scheme and is working to get clarification.

It will be interesting to watch the evolution of this tax as it is implemented during the coming holiday season. Typically, all units are full during the Christmas holidays and government should see a substantial revenue increase in January.

Rental payments are often made in advance so nothing more is due on the guest's arrival. Now, an additional six percent must either be collected on arrival or be deducted from the rental payment and forwarded to the Administrator's office. It will be interesting to see how homeowners and rental agents cope with this aspect.

Little publicity has been given to this new tax scheme which falls squarely on the shoulders of our visitors either as they arrive or get ready to leave. Local staff must use its best efforts at presenting this six percent request if it is to be collected here.

If the owners choose to now absorb this tax out of their rental revenue, there will be no possibility of confrontation over the issue with our visitors. Owners would be free to raise or lower their rental rates as circumstances warranted. With time for

making adjustments, this tax could be inclusive with the rent payment without further confrontation.

Confusion and ill will is certain to arise if some owners absorb the increase leaving their guests with nothing more to pay and others choosing to ask for the guest tax on the visitors' arrival. As the visitors compare notes, as they do, those who are asked for additional money are apt to feel that they are being taken advantage of by those collecting. Remember that the person collecting must do a good job of explaining the present tax situation and ask politely for the extra money. Not all of these people are trained front desk staff.

Our view is that the system would be best served by homeowners absorbing the increase during this initial transition period as the new tax is imposed. Unfortunately, there is no homeowners' association or property management association which could meet to figure out the best way to present the issue to arriving guests or to devise collection methods offering the least negative impact.

Whether homeowners choose to absorb this tax and deduct this from their rental payment or if the guests will be asked to come up with an additional sum on arrival (or departure) remains to be seen. Eventually, the new guest tax will become well known and collection methods will be standardized. Until this happens, there are bound to be instances where the issue will not be properly presented and resentment will result.

The visitors using Abaco's rental houses have been good to Abaco. We must now figure out how to present this tax in the least controversial manner. We have overcome hurdles in the past and this is just one more to be dealt with. Ultimately, government should see the second home rental as being a good revenue producer for the treasury as well as being a solid part of the Abaco economy.

Letters to the Editor

Abaco is not broken, so why is our government trying to fix it?

Dear Editor,

I'd like to quote the Honorable Prime Minister Ingraham when he addressed the Abaco Chamber of Commerce in May 2008. "This island has become a major tourism destination in The Bahamas and one of the most popular destinations for yachtsmen the world over. You are the third most populous island and the third largest economy in The Bahamas. . . The strength of your economy is transforming you into an economic and employment

centre. And so, just as Abaconians in earlier years sought economic opportunity on other islands of The Bahamas, today Bahamians from other islands are moving to Abaco."

So, I ask, WHY would we destroy the very reasons Abaco is so popular as a tourist destination? Abaconians and visitors alike love Abaco for the pristine beaches, the crystal clear water, the abundant sea life, the friendly people and Bahamian culture. Abaco has it ALL. We must save it now!

I'd like to share a personal story. More than 20 years ago while working at the Abaco Inn on Elbow Cay, I met a visiting couple and their three-year-old son. The family settled in, rented a boat, packed a picnic and were off for the day. They came back to the Inn that evening with wonderful stories of the little boy running naked on a deserted beach, yelling "I love The Bahamas." Over the past 20 years this family continues to return to Abaco. The father discovered bonefishing; the family loved snorkeling and all the sea life on the reefs. Years passed. They rented houses and brought their family members and friends. Today, my phone rings each year saying, "We're back." They still marvel at the reefs around Abaco and still find flats with schools of bonefish. They continue to bring friends, who now bring their friends. They look forward to bringing their grandchild who can run naked on a deserted beach yelling, "I love The Bahamas."

Abaco is a destination in itself. Let's

not be defined by a mega development in South Abaco, or a "soon to be failed" development on Lynyard Cay or any other such large developments on the slate that the people of Abaco have not yet been informed. Let's not chase Abaco's tourists away by building a toxic power plant in the very area where you can still find deserted beaches, amazing reefs, pristine bone fish flats and blue holes, not to mention an extremely fragile mangrove and creek system.

We need to stay remote, but not backwards. We need to find a balance. We need to promote "Abaco" to the tourist that wants an experience with "nature as God intended," but also wants the comforts of quality accommodations, good food and friendly people. We can give that to our visitors and at the same time create jobs for the people of Abaco. Who better to provide these services than us - Proud Abaconians.

Yes, we need development. Yes, we can do with more upscale facilities. But smaller can be better. We can do with more restaurants, both gourmet as well as Bahamian style. We can do with more tour guides and "eco tourism" activities. There are people on Abaco who can fill these needs and create jobs and businesses of their own so they can share in the tourist dollars that come to Abaco.

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More Letters to the Editor

Letters From Page 8

to Moore's Island, Abaconian by birth, by family heritage, by residencies, by committing to a second home, all of us who love Abaco for its unique beauty need to let our government know that we want what we love to be enriched, NOT destroyed. We need to help government define Abaco as a destination and understand that tourists will keep coming if we continue to be progressive in a sustainable way.

Again, I quote our Prime Minister. Mr. Ingraham says, "Investors are trending away from traditional mega hotels. This is more in keeping with government's desire to respect the sensitive eco-systems of the islands of The Bahamas. The government hopes that smaller development will increase employment levels and business opportunities on Abaco. At the same time, it's hoped that they'll offer a more intimate, culturally rich and less environmentally intrusive experience to visitors and home owners on Abaco." (www.realestateabaco.com/page-abaco-business-15.html)

Each island of The Bahamas is unique in its own way. We are "One Bahamas" but with many islands, each with its own personality. Just like a family with many children. A whole unit, but each an individual in its own right. Keep Abaco, Abaco. Don't try to make it another Nassau.

Abaco is an amazing place; there are not many places like it left in this world. Look to the future. Abaco is a sought-after tourism destination because places like Abaco are being destroyed the world over. Keep it simple; keep it the "third largest economy in the Bahamas," but most of all - keep it unspoiled!

Every one of us with pride needs to let our government know that we love Abaco, our home, and we want to share our UNSPOILED islands with visitors. If you agree, then use your voice or write a letter and spread the word.

Cha Boyce,

Born Proud Abaconian and family to one of the first hoteliers and property managers on Abaco.

Many questions remain unanswered

Dear Editor,

Yesterday I read the latest edition of The Abaconian with anticipation that there

would be many controversial letters and articles debating the pros and cons of the Wilson City power plant project. I was sadly disappointed. It appears Abaco is ready to roll over and allow the Nassau government to have its way with us once again.

Having heard some rumors over the past year but knowing very little about the project, I attended the BEC meeting last month in the hopes that my fears would be unfounded and that it all wasn't as bad as it sounded. It started well enough with a fine speech by Fred Gottlieb. He is an eloquent speaker. We were then subjected to two and a half hours of one speaker after another regurgitating the same information. I guess the idea was that if enough people say the same thing it must be true? The question and answer period had some fireworks and was interesting, but overall I left the meeting more worried than before.

The issues that most concerned me were that BEC and the Nassau government had made a very poor choice in picking a location, had done very little if any research into alternative or renewable energy, had not considered how negatively our tourist industry would be affected and had made it clear that no matter what anybody on Abaco might have to say, it is all going to happen exactly the way they want it to.

A few of the many questions I have are the following:

-Why were only Snake Cay and Wilson City considered as sites? What about further north between Treasure Cay and Cooper's Town? What about the west side of Abaco? The Norman's Castle area would be in calm water and the emissions would blow mostly to the west towards Freeport rather than into Spring City and Marsh Harbour.

- If the generators really do run as efficiently and cleanly as they say, why are 120-foot smoke stacks to direct the emissions away from the surrounding area necessary? If there are no harmful emissions there should be no need for massive unsightly smoke stacks.

- At the present plant only three of the seven generators are functioning but those three are still almost supplying us with enough power. As was mentioned at the meeting but scoffed at, why don't we buy two more of these smaller diesel generators at a fraction of the cost and replace some of the broken ones? This would easily take

care of our needs and would buy us time to research and implement complimentary renewable or alternative energy. What is the rush for this massive Wilson City plant? What is really pushing this?

- Was any thought given as to what our tourists will think? When the rest of the world is trying to cut down on emissions and be ecologically aware, is it not an embarrassment that we are building an old style power plant directly on top of our most pristine and most often visited natural attraction, the Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park? Aside from the inevitable environmental damage, the psychological damage will be irreparable. Although the plant may not be seen from the Great Abaco Highway in a car, it will be hard to miss by boat anywhere from Man-O-War Cay to Little Harbour. It will do far more damage to our tourist industry than the current shortages. Remember, all of Central Abaco relies on tourism, not just the outer cays. If the economies of Hope Town and Man-O-War are destroyed, it will be felt just as heavily in Dundas Town and Murphy Town.

Although BEC and the Nassau government would have you believe otherwise, it is not too late to change. A huge amount of construction has already been done and a large amount of money has been spent but stopping now and reconsidering the options will be a drop in the bucket as compared to what we stand to lose. I am sorry to be so negative but as a Bahamian, Abaconian, and lifelong waterman, seeing this needless destruction of our natural resources is breaking my heart.

Thank you,
Jeff Gale

Appalled by government's inefficiencies

Dear Editor,

I wonder if there has ever been a study done to determine how much the average citizen in a democratic country will put up with from their elected political officials before they finally rebel?

I would be willing to bet that a lot of people will put up with one hell of a lot of rubbish from their government. In fact, using Bahamians as a model, I would have

to assume that there are those unfortunate individuals who will swallow whatever crap they are handed by their leaders from disappointment to disappointment without end.

I have to be very honest and tell you that as of this moment in the life of Bahamian existence, I have very little respect for any elected official - in their capacity as an elected official - and I have absolutely no hope that The Bahamas will ever grow into anything better than it is right now. The Bahamas has become stagnant to growth, and the reasons are because of less than sensational leadership and the attitude of Bahamians themselves. We still act like citizens of a third world country in many ways. I suppose it's difficult not to when the government is the biggest employer in the country while also controlling the most necessary of modern human utilities like electricity, phone service, etc.

In truly democratic first world countries the government exists in the background while its citizens bask in the glory of private enterprise that is strengthened and protected by the government. Perhaps my American friends are taking note. My warning to them is - you're moving backwards! And my admonition to my fellow Bahamians is - we have to start thinking outside the box! We simply cannot maintain the status quo and expect to get new or different results.

Now because I live on Abaco, one should assume that I would be most concerned with what is going on on Abaco. First and foremost on everybody's mind seemingly these days is the new BEC station being constructed. While the environment is a very important concern, it is not my area of expertise, and I therefore will not get into that. And quite honestly, environmental concerns have become too much akin to religious beliefs to too many people.

There is, however, the building of a new airport that has apparently come to a grinding halt or at least a serious go slow. The new airstrip is quite beautiful when

Please see **Letters** Page 22

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Central Abaco News

Infrastructural project will boost Abaco's economy

The government has announced that it has initiated the pre-qualification process for construction of government complexes on Grand Bahama and Abaco. This is in conjunction with the National Insurance Board. Approximately 180 construction jobs will be created when work begins.

Despite the global economic crisis, the government increased its budgetary allocation for capital works throughout The Bahamas; a move taken in countries throughout the world as a means of stimulating their economies. Capital expenditure for the current fiscal year was increased by \$5 million over last year's allocation to \$255 million.

Pre-qualification requests to contractors were advertised in late August for the Marsh Harbour facility. Contractors that wanted to bid on the Marsh Harbour complex had to submit the signed and sealed pre-qualification documents to the National Insurance Board office in Nassau by September 15.

The Marsh Harbour complex will cost \$19 million and will be approximately 50,000 square feet. It was designed by Bruce Lafleur of Bruce Lafleur and Associates and will house major government offices and departments including the Prime Minister's office, the National Insurance Board, Tourism, Customs and Immigration, Magistrates Courts, Education, BEC, Social Services, Road Traffic, Post Office and a government clinic. It will also include a day care facility.

Boat Captains' training is being offered

By Samantha V. Evans

Administrator of the Port Authority, Capt. Cyril Roker, began another class A Boat Captain's training on September 2nd, meeting every Monday and Wednesday at Central Abaco Primary School. The training will run for a period of six weeks. The training will focus on navigation, seamanship and small boat handling and a safety component. Each of the 14 participants will have a week of training at the Defense Force Base in Nassau. At the end of the training, they will have to sit the government certification examination to receive their license. At this time they will receive the Class A Master's License. These participants will be able to operate vessels up to 200 tons.

Roker stated that the demand is increasing for trained captains due to more yachts coming into Abaco waters. The government is now requiring that anyone desiring to operate a vessel must be properly licensed. Due to this high number of vessels, becoming licensed will become mandatory. Hence, the Class A Master's License will be a must.

When persons have earned sea time, then they can sit another government examination to advance their certification license. The highest certification they can receive is unlimited. Persons wanting to be licensed will need to know basic navigation skills as well as ship construction, marine surveying, naval architecture and maritime law. He wants all persons who have an interest in working on vessels to seek information

about getting their certification so that they can have more steady employment.

Denim Day is observed

Lee National Denim Day is celebrated worldwide on the first Friday in the month of October when corporate America and The Bahamas wear their favorite pair of blue

jeans along with a pink t-shirt in support of Breast cancer research. British American took up the cause 13 years ago and it has been going well ever since. The local spokesperson for Abaco was Patty Lynn

Please see **Central**

Page 12



The staff of Abaco Insurance Agency Ltd. came out in full force in support of breast cancer research this past Lee National Denim Day on October 2nd. Some of the staff are shown here wearing denim and pink t-shirts.

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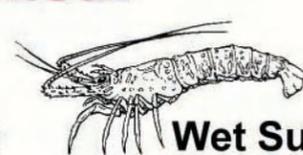
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Join us every Tuesday night by the Pool Bar for live Calypso music by "Clint Sawyer" starting at 8:30pm.

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Come and enjoy our savory, mouth-watering **Country & Western** themed family-style dinner every Wednesday night from 6 pm - 10 pm Live music by "Stephen Colebrook."

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Join the staff of Abaco Beach Resort and Stephen Colebrook in showing off your entertaining talents every Thursday in Anglers Restaurant starting at 8 pm - Until...?

2nd Annual Thriller Masquerade Ball

Friday, October 30, 2009
8:00pm - 11:00pm • Below Decks
Live entertainment by New Entry Band
\$20.00 per person (includes entry fee, hors d'oeuvres and gratuities)
Costumes are required for admission
Tickets are available at Abaco Beach Resort's Front Desk
Hors d'oeuvres menu includes Guava Glazed Chicken Wings, BBQ Meatballs and Conch Fritters
Complimentary Tortilla Chips and Salsa

Japanese Friday Night Sushi Fever

Enjoy a variety of Sushi rolls every Friday night in Anglers Restaurant from 6 pm - 10 pm

Veteran's Day

Bahamian Beach Party

Saturday, November 7, 2009
7 pm - 10 pm • On The Beach
Live entertainment by New Entry Band
\$55.00 per adult \$30.00 per child
(prices include gratuity)

Tickets are available at Abaco Beach Resort's Front Desk
Reservations and pre-payment are required by 6:00pm on Friday, November 6, 2009

Bahamian Seafood Grill Menu

- Smoked Fish Dip • Fresh Conch Salad
- Citrus Slaw Salad • Assorted Fresh Grouper
- Roasted Fresh Conch and Vegetables
- Coconut Rum Chicken • Bahamian "Boil-up"
- Watermelon Slices • Coconut Tart
- Guava Duff • Smores by the bonfire

Rake n' Scrape

Dance the night away at our Pool Bar every Friday night to the upbeat sounds of "Brown Tip" starting at 8:30 pm.

"Prime Time" Night

Enjoy a mouthwatering Prime Rib dinner with friends and family....every Saturday night
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More Central Abaco News

Central From Page 10

Johnson of the Green Turtle Club. These spokespersons are all women who are active

in support of those with breast cancer. All funds from Lee National Denim day go to the Cancer Society of The Bahamas and the Sister Breast Cancer Support group. Funds

from all t-shirt sales held on Abaco will go directly to the Abaco Cancer Society.

New Businesses

Olive's Dressmaking has moved

By Samantha V. Evans

Olive's Dressmaking and Alterations has moved from Don MacKay Boulevard. to Front Street in Dundas Town, a few blocks before entering Murphy Town. Owner Olive Clarke specializes in proms, uniforms, formal wear and alterations. She now has a tailor on staff to further meet the needs of her clients. The phone number is 367-3374. She is open Monday to Saturday 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Hair at Last Beauty Salon

By Samantha V. Evans

A new beauty Salon opened in Dundas Town adjacent to Long Bay School pool on September 1st. Hair at Last Beauty Salon

is owned by Diane Davis-Rolle. The salon specializes in weaves, natural hair including locks, twists, and braids, wraps, cuts, and perms. One nail technician on is staff now. It also sells hair products, extension hair, bags and accessories, and snacks. A barber will be on staff to service the hair of men in the near future. It is open Monday to Thursday 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 8:30 a.m.- 7 p.m. The phone contact is 458-7586.

All Mart is Abaco's pawn shop

By Samantha V. Evans

Abaco now has a store in Marsh Harbour that sells, trades, buys and takes items for sale on consignment. All Mart is the store that you can find anything new or used that you desire. Owner Juan Bobby

Flea market raises money for spay and neuter clinics



Linda Leffler of the Jib Rom organized a fund-raising flea market with the assistance of Kim Roberts on September 24 to raise money for the Abaco Animals Association. Homemade dog treats, household items, clothing and baked goods were donated by persons in the community. Mrs. Leffler said the event was quite successful, and the funds will be used to spay, neuter and feed animals on Abaco. Spay or neuter is the only effective method of birth control for dogs and cats, and it ensures that the population of unwanted pets does not increase. Although the flea market was the first of its kind to be held, it will not be the last. Another fund raiser is currently being arranged for January 6, 2010, by the Royal Potcake Rescue in Atlanta. It will include a raffle with incredible prizes as well as a band from Atlanta. Proceeds from this event will go toward spay and neuter clinics throughout Abaco.

Please see **Central** Page 18



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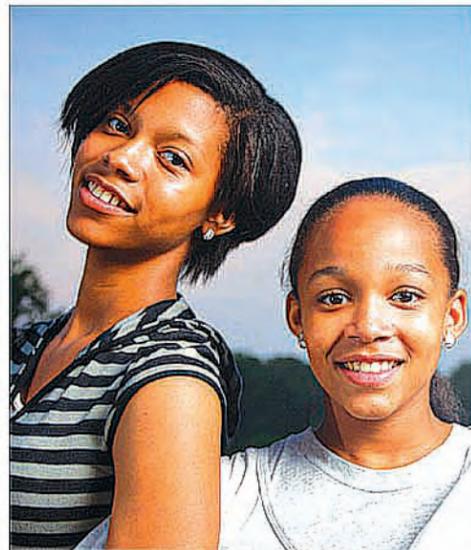
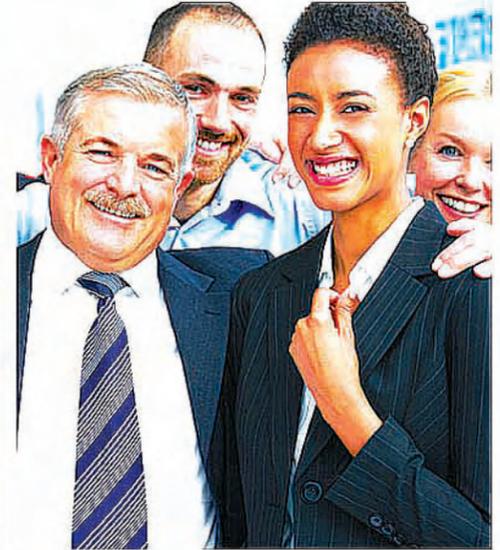


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Viewpoint . . . Comments on the BEC power station

Driftwood

By John Hedden

I know that many have weighed in on the BEC generating plant for Wilson City, and I also feel that some comments and suggestions are necessary in order to improve understanding of the project. (See above title and Johnnie come lately).

Firstly, I would like to congratulate and commend the Abaco public for such a large turnout at the Town Hall meeting and also showing exceptionally good behaviour with the nervous team from the government. It showed that Abaconians can be civil and thoughtful even when faced with such concerns as were presented at the meeting. In fact, these same concerns are still valid and should continue to be aired until the community is satisfied by the way the power plant is implemented, designed, constructed and operated.

In the first instance I would point out to the Minister of State for BEC, the Hon. Phenton Neymour, that contrary to his statement recently in the press, there is not full acceptance of either the site choice or the choice of Bunker C fuel. The site remains an historic location and the fuel offloading terminal is still in the middle of

a very sensitive ecological area that needs to be protected. I would also point out to him that there was, and is, much misinformation still floating around from both sides of the table. This needs to be addressed by both the government and the BNT and FOE in order to fully educate the public. I would suggest a continued series of public forums on the issue.

It always seems to me unfortunate that successive governments talk the talk but cannot walk when it comes to transparency and public consultation for projects that affect the community and the taxpayer. A prime example right here on Abaco is the planned landfill of some nine years ago. It in fact has turned out to be another public dump (breathe easy Central Pines), which has already begun to pollute the surrounding land and water systems of the Snake Cay area. It continues to amaze me that this very issue could have been handled very differently and more efficiently if from the very inception public input and involvement had taken place. Are the transfer stations a waste of public money? Change in regime is not an excuse, and in fact public involvement can keep a project completely on track in spite of political changes and shenanigans.

Abaco is very fortunate in being able to maintain some sort of economic growth in these harsh economic times, and the reason for this lies within the heart of our Second Homeowner and return Boating community that input to our economy. Many of these people, apart from being financially successful, are also successful because of vast experience in many of the technological and infrastructural problems that we are facing today. These people wish and can make valuable contributions to our growth. But we ignore them, and as individuals, call them names and insult them when we disagree with them and make effort to return them from whence they came. Apologies come forward after the fact, but it certainly indicates to me how immature we can be when confronted with a controversial issue. It is time we have a good hard look at ourselves and start to grow up and look at our problems with maturity and sense. Specifically, an outburst at the recent BEC meeting should never have been allowed to occur. I would suggest the employment of moderators who can handle such instances and save embarrassment to ourselves and the whole community in the future.

To return to the original point of this article, I will point out that there are still

serious doubts as to whether the Bahamas Electricity Corporation is capable of or even motivated to ensure the operation of an efficient and safe generating plant at the Wilson City site. To support this statement I would bring to mind the recent oil leakage along Carmichael Road when the public complaints about fuel in the drinking water alerted BEC to the problem. Furthermore, we are still faced with estimates of up to a million gallons of fuel loss at the Clifton plant over the years, which I understand is still in process of clean up (or sanitisation). Is BEC capable of ditching an extremely poor environmental record and coming up with an effective in-house, environmentally responsible programme without public oversight and involvement? I personally doubt it, and suggest that community involvement is secured, and that BNT and FOE step up to the plate and offer their assistance with this programme. This way the operation of the plant is both open and accountable to the community it serves.

Alternative energy generation was another topic not well addressed at the meeting and should be more thoroughly discussed in future forums. Suffice me to say that present systems are all very expensive, suffer from storage problems, are intermittent and suffer from a poorly developed technology at this point in time. The government is correct in maintaining continued reliance on fossil fuels at the present time. Can you imagine us trying to operate a nuclear powered electrical generating plant! This however does not prevent continued research as the technology develops. Bio fuels are not the solution . . . yet. Apart from anything else as we continue to import our food, can you see us grow our gasoline.

Finally with the alternative choices there also remain many environmental issues that need to be cleared up, including

Birds and wind vanes, storage battery manufacture and disposal, solar electric panel component manufacturing.

A topic that I must have missed out on when my hearing aid stopped working was the topic of energy conservation. The Minister for the Environment briefly touched on it in his quick comments at the end, but it never came up in public discussion that I am aware of. This however needs to be addressed in future forums and goes beyond thermostat settings and the use of low wattage light bulbs. These latter, by the way, do have serious implications when thrown on the municipal dump. They break and release mercury into the soil and ground water systems under the waste fill.

Energy conservation, however, presents an immediate challenge that can be dealt with at the community, the council, the government and the power generation and distribution levels. Areas to be examined must include infrastructure and traffic flows, public transportation, settlement layout and town planning and landscaping at the larger level. At a smaller level architecture and design, site selection, building orientation, yard landscaping, use of native trees and shrubs are all important. At the personal level changes in lifestyle become important. Walk when you don't need to drive the 50 yards to the next store, ride a bicycle when you can. (Cycles Unlimited, I want a commission for this). On cool days open your windows and enjoy the smell of flowers and the birdsong in your garden (already planted with native plants). This means turn off your A/C when you can. There are so many other ways to conserve, enjoy life more and become healthier at the same time.

It is necessary for the dialogue to continue now that it has started. But will it?



PUBLIC NOTICE

INTRODUCTION OF NEW POSTPAID CELLULAR BILLING SYSTEM

The Bahamas Telecommunications Company Limited (BTC), would like to advise its customers that effective October 5th, BTC will introduce a new postpaid cellular billing system. Moving forward, cellular customers will receive a two paged summarized monthly bill, and will be able to access their detailed call records online.

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Viewpoint

From Page 14

Only you can ensure that it does.
HOW?

- Public involvement
- Education
- Public forums
- Monitoring and assessment
- Local environmental groups need to invest in programmes
- Local input to alternate and environmental ideas and developments
- Eg geography and location
- Solar: Southern Bahamas possibly
- Tidal: Exumas and others
- Begin small scale: solar heating

It is time we all start doing something for ourselves on this issue instead of expecting others to do it for us. Criticising the government and its corporations will not solve the problems we face. Everyone needs to get involved.

Finally, I will say to the government, put your money where your mouth is and learn to chew bubble gum and walk at the same time. You have been talking long enough about altering the power generation act and the exclusive franchise of BEC, which continues to lose more and more money. If private individuals wish to over invest in solar panels and get paid a losing fee for supplying the grid, let them do so. You, BEC, will gain because you will lose less and the burden on the taxpayer will also be less.

[Ed. note to our readers: Driftwood is a local term donating anyone not from that area and tends to be slightly derogatory.]

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Chinese farmers can lease agricultural land

By Canishka Alexander

Ejnar Cornish of the Abaco office of Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation said that reports of the Bahamas government giving land to Chinese farmers are untrue. In fact, he said he knew nothing about it. However, he did share some information he had been privy to.

"In the first instance, from where I sit, I know nothing of any land that has been granted by the Chinese people, but what I do know is that these persons came from Nassau and were invited by the Bahamas government in order to see if they can do some investment or assist," he explained. The Chinese farmers will have the same opportunity as Bahamians to lease the land, which is available in five and 10-acre allotments from BAIC.

"They are supposed to come in and pay a one-time fee: \$475 for the five-acre plots and \$900 for the 10 acres. Then after that, it's a yearly fee of \$25 per acre that the government charges to lease the property," he said.

Mr. Cornish agreed that with the assistance of the Chinese government, The Bahamas will be well on its way to attaining food security. After all, countries such as Guadeloupe, Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad offer numerous products in grocery stores, even those located in the United States. "You see all of these items on the shelves, but there is absolutely nothing made by Bahamians."

He said the Chinese will offer training, and he envisioned many opportunities for The Bahamas. He reasoned that certain food items sold locally in grocery stores will also become more affordable. "They specified one or two items like tomatoes and cucumbers, and said they would want

to have a cannery and factory," Cornish revealed. "Years ago, we canned tomato paste, ketchup and pineapples – these are the things that we are trying to bring back. For the last three to four decades, The Bahamas has been talking about self-sufficiency and food security, but nothing

ever came to fruition because we simply don't have the capacity to do it. "I think this will be very beneficial because I have confidence in the chairman of BAIC, Mr. Edison Key, and Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham that they will do what's best for Abaco," he said.

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Obituaries of Family and Friends

The funeral service for **Abraham Ivan Sawyer**, 85, of Dundas Town was held on September 26 at St. Andrew's Methodist Church in Dundas Town. Rev. Carla Culner and Rev. Jean Seme Joseph officiated. Interment was in the Dundas Town Public Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife Cleola Sawyer; sons Robert (Bob), Walter, Emalin, Floyd, Dennis and Angelo Sawyer; daughters Felamease and Gelita Sawyer, Margaret Moore and Sharon Lloyd; adopted daughter Robertha Lindsay; brother Estin Sawyer; sisters Flora Lowe, Gertrude Dawkins and Inez Gaitor; sisters-in-law Lana and Winifred Sawyer, Valderine and Joyce Smith; brothers-in-law Lealon Dawkins and Wilfred Cornish; daughters-in-law Christine, Betty, Centina, Monalisa and Erma Sawyer; son-in-law Robert Lloyd; grandchildren Bobbydell, Patrick, Marshall, Mark, Mario, Elvardo, Raj, Randy Jr., and De'Angelo Sawyer, Ed-dison Jr., Chanaka, Dedric and Latiska Moore, Jamiel and Lakeisha Burrows, Miguel Bostwick, Sharico, Rashawn and Robert Jr., Lloyd, Trey Roberts, Monique and Derick Miller, Yael, Laterah, Alexis, Caroline (Alicia), Deneisha, Stacy and Kelly Sawyer, Latoya Lightbourne, Antonia Wright, Samantha and Paul Curry, Lynette Dean and Patrona Cash; great-grandchildren; nieces Alvilda Laing, Dorothy Rolle, Gwendolyn Penn, Wently Middleton, Ruth Williams, Norma Burrows, Geleta Elzera, Gail Walker, Anita Turnquest, Barbara, Castaillo, Kim Reckley, Christine Bullard, Sabrina Sawyer, Patricia Cornish, Margaret McDonald, Elease Thervil, Sheryl Mills, Patrice and Julie Dawkins, Marguerita and Rosalee

Cornish, Jennie Smith and Michelle Brennen; nephews Pastor Alvin Laing, Jonathan Parker, Prince, Cardinal, Hank and Terrance Davis, Clint, Al, Carlos and Craig Sawyer, Peter, Lennie and Troy Dawkins, Leo and Lavern Reckley, Cyril Archer, Livingston, Alfredo, George and Pastor Samuel Cornish and Randy Smith; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral service for **Leroy Lowe**, who died on September 11, formerly of Blackwood was held on September 26 in Nassau. Interment was also in Nassau.

He is survived by daughters Myrceleta McPhee, Teorah Ferguson, Sindy Lowe-Charles, Dawnette Ferguson, Pamela, Petrona and Naydell Lowe; sons Eleazor, Tony, Cleveland, Letroy, Trevor, Jerome and Tyrone Lowe; daughters-in-law Shirley, Jenetta, Zerlean, Royann, Dellareese and Tera Lowe, sons-in-law Patrice Charles and Troy Pitter; grandchildren Brendalee and Ricardo Russell, Randy Allen, Eudene and Titoma McIntosh, Decarlo and Toni McPhee, Shaniqua McPhee, Trishinka and Ricardo Farrington, Yorick, Kim, Ahamard, Matthew, Kobe Shil'el, Kael and Angela, Tony Lowe, Tajh, Tenaj and Temaz Ferguson; Erica Williams, Jide, Clevaughn, Ariel, Clevelynn, Anwar, Ashnique and Annique Lowe, Francois Capron, Shikita and Shikia Deveaux, Sydney Charles, Nicholas Ferguson, Winton Saunders, Trevor Jr., Kenreca, Tena-rd, Shadesha Lowe, Tyrone Jr., Antoniqua Kia and Shakitra Pratt; great-grandchildren Rekhanna, Restella and Renaldo Russell, Nasir, Yorick Jr., and Ellyah Lowe, Mya Lowe, Dylan McPhee and TrZ Farrington, Tomar and Tomaz McIntosh and Paris Capron; nieces and nephews Angela

Lowe, Susan and Danny Malone, Larry and Nancy; Brent and Angela, Garth and Aaron Lowe, Samuel and Shirley. Lowe, Ortnell Lowe and family, Ettamae, Maggie and Floyd Lowe, Teresa and Gordon Murray, Eric and Manny Bowleg, Nick, Philip and Neville Lowe, Kingsley and Rosalie, Ronald Murray; Kenneth and Rose, Kirk and Norine Murray, Beryl and Jerry Lowe, Sharon and Clarence Bartlett, Janice and Raymond Moorem, Mychelene Murray, Audrey and Curtis Cooper, Sydney, Vernal, Anthony and Evelyn Cooper, Terry Rolle, Carol and Gaylene Laing; Dorothy Laing and Family; brothers-in-law Simon and Gifford Bootle; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral service for **Maggie Dell Rolle**, 61 of Cooper's Town and formerly of Cedar Harbour was held on September 26 at the Church of God Cathedral in Cooper's Town. Pastor Ronald McIntosh officiated assisted by Bishop Archilaus Cooper and Deacon Jenson Edgcombe. Interment followed in the Southside Cemetery in Cooper's Town.

She is survived by her husband Ronald Rolle; daughters Anna and Melba Rolle and Diedre "Patrice" Cooper; sons Wendell Rolle Sr. and Peter McIntosh; grandchildren Mandell, Santonio, Wendell Jr., Wenton and Wendina Rolle, Wardvia Lightbourne, Katshana Morley, Feiro and Felicity Cooper, Tamacio Mather, Vardo, Aliana, Nakira and Itanie McIntosh and Victoria Sawyer; great-grandchild Anton Mcintosh; sisters Ruth and Naomi McIntosh; brother Herbert Newbold; adopted sisters Una Sawyer and Cleoetha Edgcombe; nieces Mary Taylor, Marbalene, Stubbs, Alestine Thompson, Delores

Hanna, Marva, Shanell and Zephia Newbold; nephews Stanford McIntosh, Pastor Eton, Pherrol, Dario and Sidney McIntosh, Dwayne Barn, Steve and Miquel Newbold; daughters-in-law Lapaige Rolle and Carven McIntosh; son-in-law Flawood Cooper; sisters-in-law Evelyn and Katherine Newbold, Vivian Cornish, Winifred McDonald, Louise Wright, Shirley Kernp, Orlean, Vernita and Chriscola Rolle; brothers-in-law Edward, Alexander and George Rolle, Neville Kemp and Joseph Wright; adopted children Nerlene Edgcombe, Margilee Bodie, Shantell McDonald, Eddison Cornish and Robert Edgcombe; stepchildren Shantese, Ronell, Kid and McGarret; godmother Muriel Curry; goddaughter Mag Duncombe; numerous nieces and nephews-in-law; and many other relatives and fiends.

The funeral service for **Lucanna McKinney**, 63, formally of Sandy Point Abaco, was held on October 3 in Nassau. Interment was also in Nassau.

She is survived by her sister Min. Barbara Hamilton; brother Leonard McKinney; nieces Latisha Hamilton and Fenir McKinney; nephews Charles Hamilton Jr, Antonio Hamilton, Felix McKinney and Jason McKinney; brother-in-law, Charles Hamilton Sr.; aunts Essie Bartlette and Mildred Sands; cousins Simpson McKinney, Alex McKinney, Robert McKinney, Richard McKinney, Basil McKinney, Arthur McKinney, Bishop Ivan McKinney, Litterean Johnson, Lula Burrows, Marinette Walker, Liza Bain, Peter Roberts, Angelo Roberts and Stephen Pinder; and

Please see **Deaths**

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Airfares to Abaco will be coming down

By Julian Lockhart

Visitors and Bahamians alike have constantly complained about the high airfares and overall costs for traveling to Abaco. It costs more to fly from South Florida to Abaco than from Florida to Puerto Rico, Montego Bay, Jamaica or Cancun, Mexico.

Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, said at the 6th Annual Abaco Business Outlook that Abaco cannot continue competing in this day for quality visitors if airfares and the time it takes to get to the island are so atrocious. The Senator was the keynote speaker at the outlook on September 23rd at the New Vision Ministries.

Mr. Vanderpool-Wallace said, "How in the world do we find ourselves with this proximity advantage, but we find ourselves much more expensive to get to. We have this notion in our heads that somehow upscale people like to spend more money for things.

"When we find ourselves in that situation, it is ridiculous. It is more expensive to

travel from New York City to Abaco than it is to travel from New York to London, Paris or Rome. In many cases you get to London, Rome or Paris faster than you get to Abaco. We have to figure out how we can get the cost and accessibility into the destination that much lower," he added.

Starting in November American Airlines will have up to 14 flights into Marsh Harbour and seven into Treasure Cay each week. The Ministry is working with American Airlines since it has the most global connections of any carrier that we do business with. The price for these round trip tickets will be \$199 including taxes. It will enable individuals to fly cheaply in and out of Abaco making vacations here more cost effective and thus entice more visitors to the island.

The Minister said that a study was done showing that for people with flights within a three-hour window, price is everything. What they found was that people will fly anytime, even in the height of a depression, when the fares are low.

The Ministry of Tourism ran a promotion during the heart of the recession with two different airlines, one from South Florida and one from New York, with reduced rates into New Providence and both of those airlines saw a major spike in their reservations and travel.

Mr. Vanderpool-Wallace said these promotions proved that individuals want to come to The Bahamas. If they can find a way to make it cheaper and easier for them to get here, more people will come. He said, "We are working with them to enable them to do some things so they can put those services in place, but also put them in place at the right kind of price. If we get

the pricing right, there is a promotion you will see beginning in November that will be extraordinary. We know that is the biggest stimulus we can make to getting people attracted to come into a particular destination. When you talk about pure vacation travel, the customer can travel anywhere. So you better make it as competitive as you possibly can to attract the customer to our destination," he added.

The Bahamas had one of the lowest declines of any other country in the region and even in the United States in terms of revenue per available room. The Bahamas has not dropped its room rates as much as other competitors.

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Central *From Page 12*

refers to his store as the closest thing to a pawn shop in The Bahamas. He opened for business on September 28th next door to Russell's Department Store on Don MacKay Boulevard and stocks everything from appliances to DVD's to car stereos to clothes to furniture. He even sells watches, cameras, cell phones and computers.

He has a repair section at the rear of the store for those persons who have appliances and power tools that need repairs. He is prepared to buy anything once the price is right. He even buys gold by weight. Items left on consignment to be sold will result in a commission paid when they are sold. He trades games, washers, refrigerators and the like. Persons can also special order new or used items and he will bring them in including the As Seen on Television items. He installs car stereos. Mr. Bobby guarantees all items and appliances with a 30-day warranty. His store hours are Mon-

day to Saturday 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. The phone contact is 225-0938.

Juline's Daycare

By Samantha V. Evans

Parents now have another alternative to ensuring the safety of their children while they are at work. Proprietor Julie Russell recently opened her facility on Bougainville Boulevard in Dundas Town. Regular daycare services are available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and after school care beginning from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Julie offers child-care on weekends, holidays and sleepovers for those parents who have to go away overnight or simply need a safe haven for their children. Advance notice is required for such service. For more information contact Julie at 475-8529 or 475-7035.

Deaths *From Page 16*

many other relatives and friends.
Gerry Blanc, 29, often called "Ti Boy" of Marsh Harbour, died on September 12. His funeral service was held on October

4 at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Marsh Harbour. Pastor Desmond Sturrup assisted by Pastor Patrick Tyrell officiated and interment followed in the Public Cemetery in Marsh Harbour.

He is survived by his father Gerard Blanc; stepmother Jossya Blanc; brother Wolin Blanc; sister Sherica Blanc; nephew Romel Blanc; niece Laphmika Blanc; aunts Gladys John, Donnan Gaspard and Florence Metayer; uncles Smith Blanc, Ishmael John and Mitchler; grant-aunts Marie and Ermancia Vercine; cousins Anderson, Wil-

James, Wilmen, Sherline, Kerlander and Augustine Metayer, Jr., Doreeo Pelissier, Daniel and Dominique Brutus, Gabriel Gaspard, Ishmael, Jamesha, Zaccahea and Tylus John, Junie, Tasha, Dindl, Theresa, Jimmy, Andy Mana and Nason; sister-in-law Pierrele Pierre; an many other relatives and friends.

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BAHAMA PALM SHORES

Beach Front Parcel # 714 - 45,343 s/f parcel, 100' beach frontage on Atlantic Ocean. Electricity available. Ideal site for permanent residence or vacation home. **\$349,000.**

Inland Lot - Near Beach - # 1176 - Large 21,450 s/f level lot on main street, electricity & telephone available. **\$59,500.**

Inland Lot - Near Beach (Ref # 756) Large 13,000 s/f lot near sandy Atlantic beaches, native vegetation, Good road access. **REDUCED TO \$19,900.**

GREAT CISTERN CAY

"Paradise Point" # 659 - Furnished 3 bed, 2.5 bath, 2,400 s/f waterfront home with porches & balconies on 1/2 acre. 193' elevated Sea of Abaco frontage, Fantastic views. **REDUCED TO \$595,000.**

Beachfront Lot # 9A # 1379 - 21,565 s/f private & serene beach parcel with 190' frontage on Sea of Abaco. Utilities available. Spectacular sea views. **\$239,000.**

Beachfront Lot # 7 # 1197 - 24,710 s/f private & serene beach parcel with 126' frontage on Sea of Abaco. Utilities available. Spectacular sea views. **\$239,000.**

CASUARINA POINT

Residential Lot 10, Block 3 # 1463 - 10,000 s/f parcel with nearby beach access to sandy Casuarina Beach. All utilities available. Priced to sell quickly. **\$39,900.**

TURTLE ROCKS

"seaGlas Cottage" # 1237 - Charming 2 bed, 2.5 bath, 3 level furnished beachfront home on private 1.20 acre parcel. 1,800 s/f under roof, plus 900 s/f decks/patios. 100' sandy & iron rock shoreline. New windows & central A/C. Panoramic sea views. **\$949,500.**

NORTH ABACO

Boiling Hole Parcel # 1022 - Total 11 acres sea-to-sea from Sea of Abaco to bay side. 153' high rocky shoreline on Sea of Abaco. Magnificent sea of Abaco views. (Also available in smaller parcels.) **\$299,500.**

Boiling Hole Lots # 1030 - 2 Sea of Abaco waterfront parcels on Great Abaco Highway. Choice of 73' or 80' rocky shoreline, utilities available, great sea views. **EACH \$95,000.**

Sunset Ridge Community Lots # 570 - 14 spacious residential lots from 14,792 s/f to 18,488 s/f. High elevation, close to Treasure Cay. All utilities available. **Starting at \$47,500.**

GREEN TURTLE CAY

"High Point" Seaview Lot # 684 - Hilltop 0.405 acre parcel on White Sound Bluff overlooking Sea of Abaco, Fantastic Sea Views, Privacy, near beach **\$365,000.**

LEISURE LEE

"Double Eagle" # 757 - Recently renovated 3 bed, 3 bath, plus loft, 2,500 s/f furnished home on 11,610 s/f canal front parcel. 95' sea wall, 68' fully serviced dock. Underground utilities. Near beach. **\$776,000.**

LEISURE LEE

1374 - 18,600 s/f waterfront parcel, 108' deep water frontage, plus 50' long boat slip. 3 bed, 3.5 bath, 2,284 s/f home under construction. Price will increase as construction progresses. All utilities available, privacy entrance wall & fence. Great sea views. **\$322,000.**

Residential Parcels

823 - 10,150 +/- s/f canal lot w/130' frontage & 105' deep water dock w/ water & electricity. Fantastic beach nearby. **\$345,000.**

1258 - 9,000 s/f canal lot with 87' of water frontage, 160' of lay-along docks & shared recessed boat basin **\$335,000.**

602 - 15,334 s/f canal corner lot w/197' seawall. **\$299,500.**

1080 - 12,100 s/f canal parcel with 110' sea walled canal frontage. Boat davits installed. **\$238,950.**

704 - 10,400 s/f elevated canal lot w/104' deep water canal frontage. Sea views, walk to beach. **\$239,500.**

811 - 10,400 s/f sea view corner lot with 194' of road frontage. Walk to beach. All utilities available. **\$99,950.**

998 - 13,459 s/f canal view corner lot, near beach **\$96,500.**

567 - 2.139 acres on highway near Leisure Lee. Includes 50' elevated ridge, 119' highway frontage. **\$149,700.**

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TREASURE CAY

"Camelot" # 1234 - Beachfront Estate. New custom designed 4 bed, 4 bath Ocean Blvd home, plus 2 bed, 1 bath guest house. Total 7,793 s/f under roof on 1.5 acre grounds Beachside pool, numerous enhancements. **OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE!** \$7,849,000.

Ocean Blvd. Beachfront Estate # 1455 - Exceptional 5 bed, 5.5 bath main house, separate 3 car garage and 1 bed, 1 bath guest suite. Total 7,160 s/f under roof. 2.50 acres with 250' of sandy beachfront. Unfurnished. **\$5,725,000.**

"Argyll House" # 483 - Elegantly furnished, elegant 4 bed, 5.5 bath, 6,900 s/f Ocean Blvd. estate on 1.6 landscaped acres with 153' beachfront. Includes vehicles & 2 additional residential lots.

REDUCED TO \$3,995,000.

"Another World" # 1007 - Ocean Blvd. 4 bed, 4.5 bath, 3,500 s/f furnished beachfront home, pool, patio & garage on 1.2 landscaped acres. Excellent rental income history. **\$2,500,000.**

"Sandpiper" # 1265 - Ocean Blvd. 3,000 s/f bi-level furnished home on 1.87 acres with 180' sandy beach frontage. Adjacent lot also available. **\$2,357,000.**

"Tranquility" # 1307 - 4 bed, 5 bath, furnished bi-level Brigantine Canal home on 2 lots. 3,580 s/f under roof, plus decks & balconies. 90' canal frontage, dock, boat lift, plus sea views from virtually every room. Tastefully decorated, excellent condition. **\$2,200,000.**

"Trident House" # 317 - 3 bed, 3.5 bath, furnished 3,500 s/f beach front home. Breath-taking beach & sea views. Good rental income. **NOW \$1,999,000.**

"Windward Palms" # 1454 - Splendid 3 bed, 2 bath furnished Windward Beach home. 2,500 s/f under roof plus 1,600 s/f patios & walks on 16,000 s/f landscaped parcel with 100' sandy beach. Meticulously maintained. Many extras, superior sea views. **\$1,955,000.**

"Flip Inn" - Windward Beach # 1008 - 2 bed, 2 bath, 1,620 s/f under air beach home. Recently refurbished, tastefully furnished. 180' sandy beachfront. **\$1,725,000.**

"Seascape", Windward Beach # 1469 - 3 bed, 2 bath 2,050 s/f furnished beach home on spacious 26,125 s/f parcel with 120' sandy beach. **\$1,379,000.**

"Pilot House" - Rock Point # 1380 - 2 level, 3 bed, 3 bath furnished waterfront home at entrance to Treasure Cay harbour. 3,314 s/f under roof on 18,800 s/f parcel. Boat/plane ramp to sea. Great sea views. **\$1,160,000.**

"Toad Hall" # 1373 - 5 bed/4 bath, 4,000 s/f, 2 level Ocean Blvd. furnished ocean view home includes 1 bed/1 bath apartment on 2 adjoining parcels totaling 22,500 s/f. Private beach access. **\$695,000.**

Royal Poinciana Beachfront Condos -Phase 4 # 716) Premier 3 level, 3 bed, 4.5 bath, plus loft newly built condos on Treasure Cay Beach. 2,860 s/f under roof, attached garage. 644 s/f covered/open balconies/porches. **OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE!** **\$2,075,000.**

Bahama Beach Club 2046 - # 1009 - 3 bed, 3 bath, 2nd level Phase 5, 2nd level, 1,750 s/f living space condo, closest to beach, tasteful contemporary furnishings, unparalleled sea & beach views. **\$1,150,000.**

Bahama Beach Club 2020 - # 1139 - 3 bed, 2 bath, 1,650 s/f 2nd level beachfront condo, Stunningly furnished, elegantly decorated. Superior beach & ocean views. **\$1,035,000.**

Bahama Beach Club 2047 - # 1468 - 3 bed, 3 bath, ground level Phase 5 unit, 1,750 s/f living space condo, close to beach, tastefully furnished, numerous upgrades & enhancements. Superb sea views. **\$950,000.**

Atlantis Condo 2112 - # 929 - 4 bed, 4 bath 2,000 s/f 2 level furnished waterfront condo on Brigantine canal, great water views. Preferred end unit. Includes 2 large boat slips. Short walk to beach! **\$865,000.**

TREASURE CAY

Bahama Beach Club # 2031 - #1485 - 3 bed, 2 bath 1,645 s/f furnished ground level condo plus private garage. Fantastic sea & beach views. Community pool, well maintained grounds. Excellent vacation rental or personal get-away retreat. **\$862,000.**

Bahama Beach Club # 2005 - # 1370 - 3 bed, 2 bath ground level 1,645 s/f comfortably furnished condo. Awesome sea views from most rooms Overlooks beach and pool. Great vacation residence. **\$822,000.**

Royal Poinciana # 2511 - # 1483 - Deluxe 2 bed, 2 bath ground level furnished 1,300 s/f beachfront condo. Well maintained. Great sea views, excellent rental income potential. **\$625,000.**

Royal Palm Condo # 2424 - # 1399 - 3 bed, 3 bath, (including loft) 2nd level, 1,264 s/f furnished condo overlooking harbour & marina. Well maintained, near beach, excellent rental income potential. **\$599,950.**

Sand Dollar Condo # 7 - #1456 - 2 bed, 2 bath, 1,000 s/f ground level furnished beachfront condo. Well maintained, superb sea views, community pool. Best Value! Priced to sell. **\$499,995.**

Beach Villa 507 # 782 - Newly renovated, 2 bed, 2 bath 1,150 s/f villa, plus 592 s/f patios. Tastefully furnished. Many extras. Close to beach, marina, golf course. **\$490,000.**

Atlantis # 2215 - # 1471 - 2 bed, 2 bath, 1000 s/f furnished 2nd level "end unit" condo on Brigantine Bay. Includes 2 storage units and finger dock, well maintained, great water views. **\$485,000.**

Atlantis Condo # 2202 - # 987 - 2 bed, 2 bath, 2nd level furnished waterfront unit, includes boat slip & golf cart garage. "Turn-Key", Near Treasure Cay Beach. **\$465,000.**

Atlantis Condo # 2203 - # 1000 - 2 bed, 2 bath, 2nd level, 1,000 s/f furnished waterfront unit, includes fully serviced boat slip & golf cart garage. Overlooks Brigantine Bay, Near beach. **\$465,000.**

Atlantis Condo # 2201 - # 1175 - 2 bed, 2 bath, 1,000 s/f, 2nd level furnished waterfront condo. Recently renovated, well maintained. Includes storage garage & private boat slip/dock. Near beach. **\$460,000.**

Royal Palm # 2304 - # 1472 - 2 bed, 2 bath, 950 s/f furnished ground floor level condo overlooking marina. Includes boat slip. Rental history. **\$403,000.**

Beach Villa 703 # 1209 - 2 bed, 2 bath 885 s/f furnished villa close to beach, marina, restaurants & shopping area. Great rental income potential. **\$349,000.**

Mariner's Cove Condominiums:
1181 - 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 2 level, 1,650 s/f furnished harbour front condo. tastefully refurbished. **\$649,000.**
454 - 2 bed, 1 bath, 2 level, poolside condo **\$295,000.**
985 - 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 level harbour front end unit, Refurbished in 2000 **REDUCED TO \$271,500.**
928 - 2 bed, 1 bath 2 level unit, overlooks harbour **\$249,000.**
655 - 2 bed, 1 bath condo with marina view **\$249,000.**
455 - 1 bed, 1 bath, ground level, poolside. **\$185,900.**

Superb Beachfront Parcel # 1362 - Treasure Cay level & cleared beach lot of 12,600 s/f with 90' fabulous sandy beach frontage. Breath-taking sunset & sea views. All utilities available. **\$1,449,000.**

Beach & Canal Lot Package #941 - Windward Beach lot of 17,542 s/f with 100' of beach frontage on Sea of Abaco, PLUS Galleon Bay lot of 17,955 s/f with approx. 76' of sea-walled canal frontage. **\$1,446,000.**

Ocean Blvd. Jumbo Sized Beachfront Parcel # 1266 - Approx. 52,575 s/f parcel (1.20 acres) with 115' sandy beach frontage & 460' depth. Superior building lot. All utilities available. Fantastic sea views. **\$1,386,000.**

Ocean Blvd. Beachfront Parcel # 1260 - Splendid 44,600 s/f parcel on Treasure Cay Beach, 75' beach frontage of sugar-white fine sand. All utilities available. Spectacular sea & beach views. **\$1,350,000.**

TREASURE CAY

Beachfront Parcel - Ocean Blvd. # 876 - 1.5 acres with 100' of beach frontage, on spectacular Treasure Cay Beach. All utilities available. Gorgeous beach & sea views. **REDUCED TO \$1,295,000.**

Windward Beach - Beachfront Parcel # 1283 - Cleared & walled 17,542 s/f parcel with 100' of sandy beach. Sea of Abaco views. All utilities available. **\$1,024,000.**

Windward Beach - Beach Parcel #1470 - 23,151 s/f parcel with 101' of stone wall & sandy beach on Sea of Abaco. All utilities available. **\$843,000.**

Windward Beach # 999 - 12,750 s/f Beachfront parcel with 85' of frontage on Sea of Abaco. All utilities available, great building site. **\$599,950.**

Brigantine Bay # 1200 - 13,664 s/f canalfront parcel with 106' of bulkheaded deep water frontage. Includes dock & dolphin pilings, protected dockage, All utilities available. Superb water views. **\$525,000.**

Windward Beach # 817 - Half acre waterfront parcel directly on Sea of Abaco, 124' beach frontage. Newly installed sea wall. All utilities available. **\$482,000.**

Galleon Bay # 1356 - 24,732 s/f large canal front parcel with 158' of bulkhead & sandy waterfront. All utilities available. Panoramic water views. **\$465,000.**

Galleon Bay # 744 - 19,256 s/f cleared canal parcel with 68' bulkheaded deep water frontage. All utilities available. Superb views along Galleon Bay. **\$460,000.**

Galleon Bay # 422 - Prime 10,295 s/f cleared canal lot. 88'+ protected canal frontage. Sea-walled, plus dock & davit pilings. All utilities available. **\$350,000.**

Galleon Bay # 1473 - Approx. 10,000 s/f canal parcel with 100'+ of sea-walled & protected water frontage. All utilities available. Easy access to sea. **\$349,950.**

Brigantine Bay # 1173 & 1174 - 2 adjacent deep water canal parcels, each 11,200 s/f with 80' bulk head & generous 140' depth. Cleared, all utilities available. **EACH \$299,950.**

Galleon Bay # 1208 - Large 20,970 s/f canal parcel with sea wall & 90'+ deep water. All utilities available. Fantastic building lot, spectacular water views along Galleon Bay. **\$299,950.**

Windward Beach Drive - Sea View Parcel # 1353 - Excellent 11,090 s/f residential parcel. Level building envelope, all utilities available. Short walk to both Windward Beach & Treasure Cay Beach. **\$120,000.**

St. Andrews Estates, Golf Course Lot - # 1341 - 11,151 s/f residential parcel with 130' of golf course frontage. All utilities available. Short walk to beach. **\$58,500.**

MARSH HARBOUR

"Sea View" - Great Abaco Club # 1203 - 3 bed, 2.5 bath, 1,880 s/f furnished sea view home, plus 280 s/f of open deck on 4,918 s/f parcel. Well maintained, gated community, great rental income potential. Includes private deep water dock. **\$769,000.**

GUANA CAY

"Ridge Runner" # 1185 - 6 bed, 4 bath, 3,100 sq. ft. furnished home includes main house, separate master suite, guest cottage, pool & dock situated on 1.74 elevated acres with 330' of shoreline. Superb panoramic water views. **\$2,599,000.**

Dolphin Beach Estates # 1412 - Exceptional 20,000 s/f waterfront parcel on Sea of Abaco with 145' of elevated rocky shoreline. Utilities available. **\$549,000.**

Atlantic Oceanfront Parcel #746 - Approx. 1 acre residential parcel, 154' elevated shoreline near Orchid Bay community, great ocean views. **\$395,000.**

"Secret Beach" # 1267/1268 - Ocean Front Elevated Parcels 9A (19,190 s/f) & 9B (16,144 s/f) lots, each with 100' +/- of Atlantic Ocean rocky shoreline & sand beach frontage. Prime building sites. **EACH \$249,000.**

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Volleyball Association Launches Season

By Samantha V. Evans

On October 2nd the volleyball season was launched at Grace Gym at Agape Christian School in Marsh Harbour. The teams were introduced and the official opening ceremony was held. Present for the launch was President of the Bahamas Volleyball Federation, Don Cornish, who challenged the teams to work hard to seek to improve their level of play in order to challenge and surpass islands such as New Providence and Grand Bahama.

He noted that now despite the rain, they were able to have competition, unlike in past years when they were limited by the weather. He congratulated Abaco Association President Chris Smith and his executive team for their partnership with Agape Christian School and encouraged them to continue to work together to provide positive outlets for young people.

In addition, he announced that the Bahamas Volleyball Federation will host a National Invitational Tournament on Abaco on November

18 - 21. This event will ensure they continue to encourage camaraderie among member associations within the Federation and expose teams to high level competition.

Mr. Smith stated that students who are good at the game of volleyball can pursue their career at the college level on a volleyball scholarship. They hope to be able to recommend some Abaco students for such opportunities soon. He further noted that the Federation is looking for persons for the national team so those persons who have potential can make this team.

He is very excited by the response from schools this season. However, he still plans to work towards getting more schools and players from the Cays, North, and South to be a part of the games as they have great players as well. He added that Mr. Cornish was mentored by himself and others and he has done so well at the game that he has excelled to the level of president. Cornish thanked his mentors who inspired him and who he wanted to emulate. After

his remarks, Cornish officially opened the season and served the first ball.

On the first night, four teams played in the best of five games. At the end of it all, Abaco Central High School women emerged the winner over Agape Christian School. The next two teams to play were St. Francis de Sales School men and Agape Christian School men with St. Francis men emerged the winner. On Saturday evening the games continued. BTC men and Abaco Central men played with BTC men emerging the winner. This last match was a tough one and since in volleyball the winner must win by two points, the teams continued to play until this took place. The final game

of the opening weekend was between BTC women and St. Francis women. At the end of the games, BTC won.

The coaches for the teams were Randy Davis with BTC, Sharlene Patchment with St. Francis, Patrice Charles with Abaco Central and Rich Roberts with Agape Christian School. Assisting over this weekend was Edric Poitier, coach for the Dynasty Divas volleyball team. Games will be held every weekend during the season which runs from October to December. There is a fee of \$1 for kids and \$3 for adults per game. A concession stand is also open on Fridays and Saturdays during the games.

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More Letters to the Editor

Letters

From Page 9

observing it from the air upon landing in Marsh Harbour, but as of yet we haven't been able to actually land on that new airstrip. So I am assuming that however many million dollars it cost us taxpayers, in the eyes of our illustrious leaders it must have been worth the investment to have something nice to look at when we reach back to Abaco.

If I'm being terribly honest - and that is something that is needed very badly these days - Marsh Harbour is not the most appealing sight to the eyes, but now with a new airstrip lying parallel to the old one, it makes the approach by air a little more interesting at least. Obviously, this is the work of very committed politicians. This whole sordid affair prompts me to offer a new riddle: How many politicians does it take to get a new airstrip built in The Bahamas? Answer: Very many! In fact, that same answer applies to most every facet of Bahamian life, doesn't it?

Of course, when, and if, this new airstrip ever comes into use, the dedication of it will be attended by a whole slew of politicians and community leaders, reverends and the like, who will all be slapping each other on the back for a job well done. What absolute nonsense! I hope I might be fortunate enough to attend this inevitable event so I might pose a few difficult questions to the elite. That is, if they will allow peasants to attend such a thing. By the way, I'm not carrying my camera because it will not be a day of celebration, but rather one of "so what?" to me.

Finally, let me close by making a summary statement. Abaco has long been one of the most important top three partners - from a revenue generating perspective - in any governmental attempt to accomplish anything anywhere in this country of ours; yet we are still treated like an outside child. And now I have learned that Abaco has surpassed Grand Bahama in its contributions to the Treasury Department. Therefore, I am even more indignant about the lack of modern facilities to accommodate our residents and visitors alike and more efficient government services. I truly doubt that I am alone in this regard.

We have no effective local representation, and the permanent residents of Abaco seem satisfied with the way things are. Otherwise, I would have to assume that there might be an uprising of some sort to

inform the government - any government - that we have had enough, and we will not any longer participate in a system of governance where we must continually come to the table begging for whatever scraps we might be able to get. We deserve better because we are on par with - or above - the other revenue producers in this country. Until we demand better, things will stay exactly the way they are.

I guess I can hack it if y'all can. Tank Gawd, I born a roughneck!

Thank you sincerely, Mr. Editor, for the space in your editorial column. Hopefully, I have said something intelligent that will stir the hearts and minds of a few fellow Bahamians.

Sincerely,
William (Billy) Roberts
Stagnated and continually
disappointed in Abaco

Bunker C results in medical dangers

Dear Editor:

Those who know me recognize that I rarely involve myself in public controversy. However, I have devoted my life to health care. When I see a problem that potentially affects my patients and community, I am obligated to speak out.

A BEC Town Meeting regarding the power plant under construction was held on 10 September. For me, the presentation by the BEC panel raised more questions than were answered.

BEC plans to use Bunker C or No. 6 heavy fuel oil to power the generator. Heavy fuel oil is the remaining material when crude oil is distilled to produce kerosene, gasoline and diesel. It is the residual sludge containing concentrated heavy metals and nitrogen and sulfur compounds. The contaminants vary depending on the source of the oil and its refinery, but can contain vandium, nickel, lead, mercury, benzene, dioxin and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. All of these compounds are dangerous to humans. Sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxide are combustion products of burning oil and are the cause of "acid rain," which we are all aware has detrimental effects on soil, plants, forests, marine plant and animal life, and causes respiratory disease and cancer in humans. None of this is in dispute. These are all well documented facts.

Thus far, except for assurances from the management of BEC that this is a safe plant

with "minimal emissions," little information regarding expected discharge has been made public. I understand that "scrubbers" will not be used. Large smokestacks are to be constructed to increase dispersion of emissions over a larger area. What are the wind and dispersion patterns? What emissions data is available from other similar plants? When emissions contain contaminants known to cause illness and cancer, what level can be considered "acceptable" or "safe"?

We have been told that low sulfur content oil will be used in this plant. I would suggest that the concentration of sulfur and other contaminants will vary depending on availability and cost of the fuel.

This is a complex power system, fraught with fuel transport, corrosion and emissions concerns that requires attention to detail and maintenance. One big fuel spill or emissions release . . . or hundreds of small ones over the years . . . could potentially injure our health, environment and economic resources.

We should take time to explore alternatives and promote dialog within the community. Others more informed than I can discuss the proposed power plant's cost, location and environmental concerns. However, the huge financial investment in this plant commits this community to this form of power for the foreseeable future. No substantial expenditure for alternative energy will be considered once this much money is spent for providing Abaco's power. Let's be sure this is the course we want to choose for our future.

Frank Boyce, M.D.

Power plant location

should be reconsidered

Dear Editor,

To some I may be viewed as a Don Quixote, but there are some matters that must be done correctly so as to act in the best interest of the people and corresponding nature. Let's not "roll the dice" or take the chance that everything will be "all right." After all, the stakes are too high given the potential negative impact on our fishermen and farmlands not to mention medium to long term health issues.

We must never forget that we are today's custodian and act and speak for tomorrow's generation to come. "Let's get it right--Let's do the right thing."

It's pretty obvious I'm writing in reference to the new power plant with which I do not take issue - we need additional generation of power. However, I am opposed to burning bunker C fuel when we should be moving forward to better and cleaner technology. But the primary thrust of this letter and objective is to "strongly" lobby for the relocation of the Power Plant to say Norman's Castle.

I challenge BEC and government to seriously look into the Norman's Castle location with an open mind, given the somewhat isolated area of its location, deep water access, free of rage and extreme weather conditions, closeness of dock to plant site (very little pipeline needed) and a reasonable distance away from our farmlands.

It's never too late to do the right thing.

Bernard Albury
Cherokee Sound

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Hope T Harb Lodge 25 rm 366 0095
Hope T Hideaways + 63 hse 366-0224
Hope T Villas + 3 hse 366-0030
Lighthouse Rentals 4 cott 366-0154
Sea Gull Cottages + 3 hse 366-0266
Sea Spray Resort 6 villas 366-0065
Tanny Key + 43 hse 366-0053
Turtle Hill 4 villas 366-0557

Lubbers Quarters

Sea Level Cottages 4 hse 366-3121

Man-O-War

Island Home Rentals + 8 hse 365-6048
Schooner's Landing 5 condos 365-6072

Marsh Harbour area

Abaco Beach Resort 82 rms 367-2158
Abaco Real Estate + 6 hse 367-2719
Alesia's 3 rms 367-4460
Ambassador Inn 6 rms 367-2022
Bustick Bight Resort 8 rms 367-3980
Conch Inn 9 rms 367-4000
D's Guest House 6 rms 3 367-3980
Living Easy 367-2202
Island Breezes Motel 8 rms 367-3776
Lofty Fig Villas 6 eff 367-2681
Pelican Beach Villas 6 cott 367-3600
Regattas (Prev. Abaco Towns) 32 eff 367-0148

Moore's Island

Moore's Is Bonefish Camp 8 rm 366-6334

Sandy Point

Oeisha's Resort 366-4139
Pete & Gay's Resort 14 rm 366-4119
Rickmon's Bonefishing 10 rm 366-4477

Spanish Cay

Spanish Cay Resort 18 rm 6 hse 365-0083

Treasure Cay

Bahama Beach Club 88 units 365-8500
Island Dreams + 45 hse 365-8507
Treasure Cay Resort 95 rms 365-8801
Mark's Bungalows 4 units 365-8506

Wood Cay

Tangelo Hotel 19 rm 3 villa 365-2222

Web Sites with Abaco Information

<http://www.abaconian.com>
<http://www.abacoinet.com>
<http://www.abacoinfo.com>
<http://www.abacos.com>
<http://www.go-abacos.com>
<http://www.oii.net>
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Emergency Services		
Police - Marsh Harbour	367-2560	• 911
B. Electricity Corp	367-2727, 367-2846, 367-4667	
Water & Sewerage	475-1499, 475-5518	
The following services are provided by volunteers		
Fire - Marsh Harbour	367-2000	
Fire - Dundas Town	367-2935 or 4935	
Fire - Hope Town	VHF Ch 16	
Fire - Green Turtle Cay	365-4133	
Fire - Man-O-War	365-6911	
Treasure Cay Fire & Rescue	365-9112	
BASRA Bah Air Sea Rescue Assoc - all areas	Marine VHF 16	
Hope Town	366-0500	Marsh Harbour 367-3752
Guana Cay	365-5178	Treasure Cay 365-8749

Medical Services	
Abaco Family Medicine Marsh Harbour	367-2295
Auskell Advanced Medical Clinic	367-0020
Marsh Harbour Medical Centre	367-0049
Government Clinic Marsh Harbour	367-2510
Corbett Clinic Treasure Cay	365-8288
Government Clinic Cooper's Town	365-0300
Government Clinic Green Turtle Cay	365-4028
Government Clinic Hope Town	366-0108
Government Clinic Sandy Point	366-4010
Government Clinic Fox Town	365-2172

Tourism's People-to-People program
 Be matched with a local person or family with a similar interest such as Bird watching, Attending church, Foreign language, School class visit, Environmental interest. Marine, Native plants, History, Humane Society, etc. This is not a dating service or an offer for a free meal or lodging but an opportunity to meet someone locally with similar interests. Call Tourism's Doranell Swain at 367-3067 for more information. Email: dswain@bahamas.com

Airlines Serving Abaco	
Abaco Air - Nassau, N Eleuthera, Moores Is	367-2266
American Eagle - Miami	367-2231
Bahamasair - Nassau, W. Palm B, Ft Laud	367-2095
Continental Connection - Miami	
Ft. Laud and W Palm Beach	367-3415
Regional - Freeport	
Sky Bahamas - Nassau	367-0446
Southern Air - Nassau	367-2498
Twin Air Calypso - Fort Lauderdale	367-0140
Yellow Air Taxi - Ft Lauderdale	367-0032
Local air charters serving Bahamas & S. Florida	
Abaco Air	367-2266
Cherokee Air Charters	367-3450

Dive Shops	
Abaco Dive Adventures, Marsh Harbour	367-2963
Above & Below, Marsh Harbour	367-0350
Dive Abaco 1978, Marsh Harbour	367-2787
Froggies, Hope Town	366-0431
Treasure Divers, Treasure Cay	365-8571
Brendal's Dive, Green T. Cay	365-4411
Dive Guana	365-5178
Man-O-War Dive Shop	365-6013

Taxi Cab Fares for one or two passengers	
Plus extra for each passengers above two	
• Marsh Harbour Airport to: (effective 22 Dec 08)	
Clinic, Downtown, Regattas	\$10
Ab Bch Resort, Eastern Shore, Pelican shore	\$15
Spring City	\$15
Dundas Town, Nat Ins bldg, C Abaco Primary Sch	\$15
Murphy Town & Great. Cistern	\$20
Snake Cay	\$35
Casuarina Point	\$60
Cherokee, Winding Bay, Little Harbour	\$80
Bahama Palm Shore	\$90
Crossing Rocks	\$105
Sandy Point	\$150
Leisure Lee	\$50
Treasure Cay Airport, G Turtle ferry	\$80
Treasure Cay Resort	\$85
Fox Town	\$185
• Between Marsh Harbour Ferry and:	
Clinic, downtown, Ab Beach Hotel	\$ 5
Nat. Ins. Bldg, Murphy Town, Gr. Cistern	\$10
Waiting time X\$20 per hour, X\$10 per half hour	
Children under three - free • Caged pets - as people	
Luggage X\$1.00 each over four, Surf boards X\$4.00 ea.	
• Treasure Cay Airport to: Effective 22 Dec 085	
Green Turtle Cay ferry dock	\$10
Madeira Park	\$20
Sand Banks	\$25
Treasure Cay Resort	\$30
Leisure Lee	\$45
Black Wood	\$20
Fire Road & Cooper's Town	\$40
Cedar Harbour	\$60
Wood Cay	\$70
Mount Hope	\$80
Fox Town	\$70
Crown Haven	\$90
Marsh Harbour airport	\$85
Green Turtle Ferry to Marsh H Airport	\$80
T Cay Hotel to Marsh Harbour	X\$65 + \$10
T C Hotel to G Turtle Ferry (Blue Hole \$24)	X\$18 + \$ 5
T C Hotel to Bonefish Marles	X\$22 + \$5
T C Hotel to Joe's Creek	X\$35 + \$5
T C Hotel to Moxey	X\$16 + \$5

Ferry Schedules • Departure times shown • Daily service unless noted	
Marsh Harbour to Hope Town or Man-O-War - 20 minutes, Guana Cay - 40 minutes	
Albury's Ferry Service • Ph 367-3147 or 367-0290 • VHF Ch. 16 • Hope Town & Man-O-War from Crossing Bch	
Marsh Harbour > Hope Town	7:15 am 9 10:30 12:15 pm* 2 4 5:45
Return	8 am 9:45 11:30 1:30 pm* 3 4 5 6:30
Marsh Harbour > White Sound Contractor's special - Mon - Fri 7 am	Return 5 pm
Marsh Harbour > Man-O-War	10:30 am 12:15 pm 2:30* 4 5:45
Return	8 am 11:30 1:30 pm 3:15* 5
Marsh H. > Guana Cay (& Scotland Cay with advance notice) from Conch Inn	
(6:45am - Union Jack Dock)	10:30 1:30 pm 3:30 5:45*
Return	8 am 11:30 1:30 pm 2:30 pm 4:45 5:45
Fare • Adult prepaid oneway \$15 / open return \$25, • Kids 6-11 half, Under 6 free	

Green Turtle Ferry • Phone 365-4166, 4128, 4151 • VHF Ch 16 • Ten minute ride	
Green T Cay to Treasure Cay Airport	8 am 9 11 12:15 1:30 3 4:30
T Cay Airport to Green T Cay	8:30 am 10:30 11:30 1:30 2:30 3:30 4:30 5
New Plymouth one way adult \$10 (Children \$7) • Round trip \$15 • Extra to some G T Cay docks	

Abaco Adventures • Ph 365-8749 VHF Ch 16	
Treasure Cay to Guana Cay Sunday Lv 12 & returns 4:45 p.m. \$25 RT	
T Cay to Man-O-War/ Hope Town - Wed 9:30 am, return 4:30 pm \$35 RT	
T Cay to Guana Cay Sunset Cruise - Fr \$25, call for time	

Pinder's Ferry Service Between Abaco & Grand Bahama -	
Crown Haven, Abaco to McLean's Town, Grand Bah.	-Daily 7:00 am & 2:30 pm
McLean's Town to Crown Haven - return	Daily 8:30 am & 4:30 pm
Fare \$45 OW / \$90 RT • Children half fare • Call Abaco 365-2356 for information	
Bus between Freeport and McLean's Town • Rental automobiles at both terminals.	

Bahamas Ferries Sandy Point to Nassau under 4 Hr. Call Sandy Point 366-4119 or Marsh Harbour 367-5250 for sailing dates • Adults \$95 RT, \$55 OW • Cars & trucks

The Great Abaco Express Marsh Harbour charter bus to N Abaco • Call 367-2165, Group tours

Attractions	
Albert Lowe Museum	Green Turtle Cay
Capt Roland Roberts House, reef exhibits	Green Turtle Cay
Memorial Sculpture Garden	Green Turtle Cay
Wyannine Malone Historical Museum	Hope Town
Elbow Cay Light Station	Hope Town
Walk to & swim on Mermaid Reef off M Harb. ..Pelican Shore	
Drive to & swim in Blue Hole	Treasure Cay farm road
Art studio & working foundry-	Little Harbour
Working boatyards	Man-O-War cay
Pocket beaches • Crossing Beach in Marsh Harbour	
• Witches Point - 3 miles S. of Marsh Harbour	
• Little Harbour - 20 miles S. of Marsh Harbour	
• Cherokee - 23 miles S of Marsh Harbour	
Miles of beach are generally on ocean exposures	
• Treasure Cay • Green Turtle Cay • Guana Cay • Elbow Cay	
• Man-O-War Cay • Casuarina Point • Bahama Palm Shore	
• Sandy Point & more	
Items of interest • Man-O-War boat yards • Blackwood blue hole & sisal mill • Cedar Harbour plantation ruins - need guide • Hole-in- Wall lighthouse - last mile very rough road • Abaco wild horses by appointment 367-4805 • Bird watching - ask tourism 367-3067	

Tours & Excursions	
Abaco Eco Tours & Kayak rental	475--9616
Abaco Island Tours • Marsh Harbour	367-2936
Above & Below • Marsh Harbour	367-0350
Dive Abaco 1978, Marsh Harbour	367-2787
Brendal's Dive • Green Turtle Cay	365-4411
Excursion boat • Froggies • Hope T	366-0024
Adventure on Prozac - T Cay	365-8749

Abaco Marinas - Slips Fuel Phone	
Walker's Cay	
Walker's Cay	Closed
Green Turtle Cay	
Bluff House	45..... F..... 365-4200
Green Turtle Club	32..... F..... 365-4271
Black Sound Marina	15..... 365-4531
Other Shore Club	12..... F..... 365-4195
Abaco Yacht Service	10..... F..... 365-4033
Treasure Cay	
Treasure Cay Marina	150..... F..... 365-8250
Man-O-War	
Man-O-War Marina	26..... F..... 365-6008
Marsh Harbour	
Boat Harbour Marina	183..... F..... 367-2736
Conch Inn	75..... F..... 367-4000
Harbour View Marina	36..... F..... 367-2182
Mangoes Marina	29..... 367-2366
Marsh Harbour Marina	52 F 367 2700
Hope Town	
Hope Town Marina	16..... 366-0003
Hope Town Hideaways	366-0224
Lighthouse Marina	6..... F..... 366-0154
Sea Spray	60..... F..... 366-0065
Spanish Cay	
Spanish Cay Marina	75..... F..... 365-0083
Guana Cay	
Orchid Bay	64..... F..... 365-5175
Boats can clear Customs at Green Turtle Cay, Treasure Cay or Marsh Harbour	

Please bring errors & revisions to our attention - Rev 15 Jun 09

Everyone reads The Abaconian

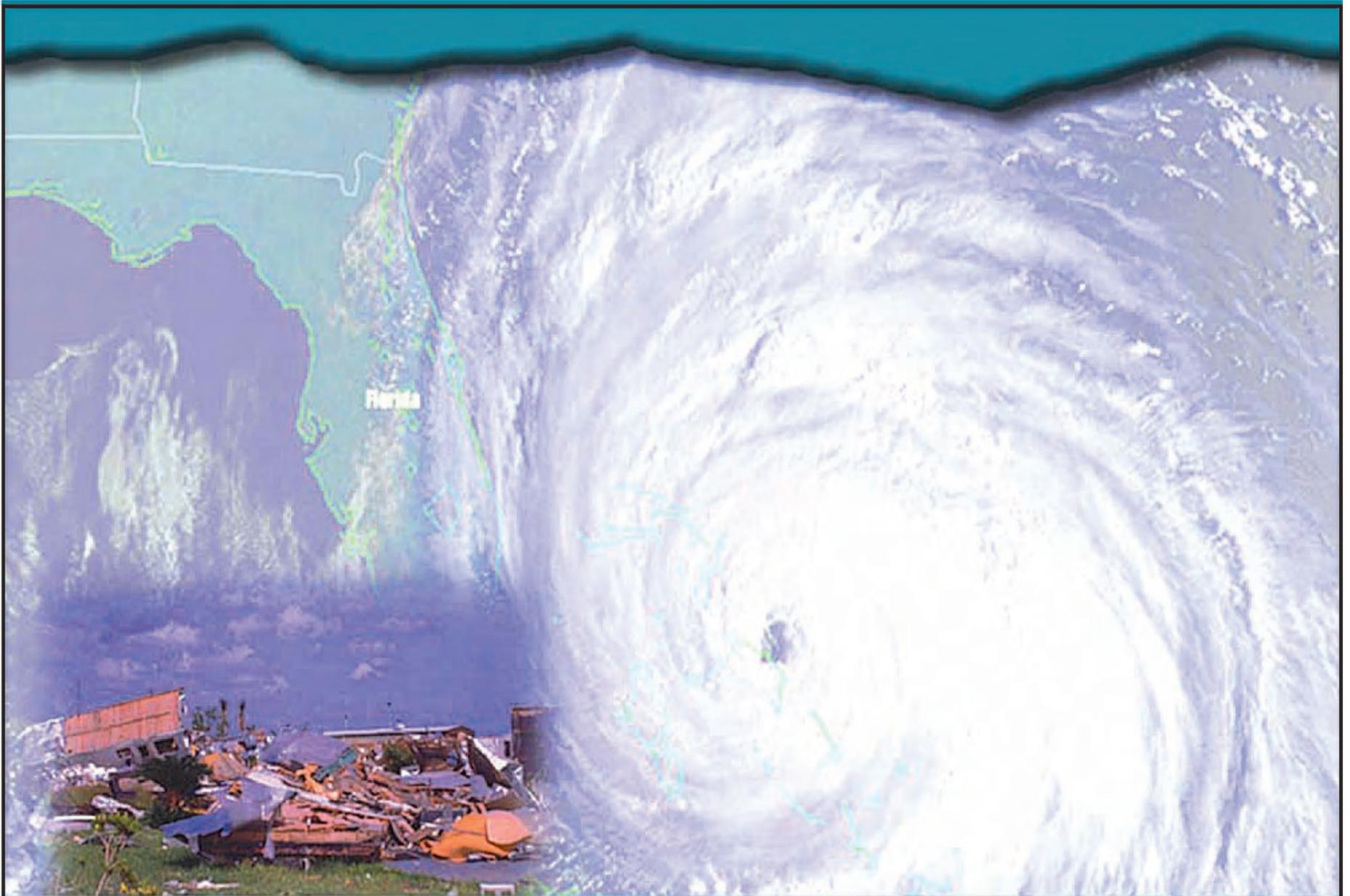
Charter Boats	
Lucky Strike - Hope T	366-0101
Sea Gull - Hope Town	366-0266
A Salt Weapon - Hope Town	366-0245
Down Deep	366-3143
Local Boy	366-0528
Back Breaker	365-5140

Bikes & Scooters • Boats • Cars & Carts	
Rentals * Marsh Harbour	
A & P Car Rentals	367-2655
B & B Boat Rentals	367-7368
Bargain Car Rentals	367-0500
Blue Wave Boat Rentals	367-3910
Concept Boat Rentals	367-5570
Power Cat Boat Rentals	
Quality Star Car Rentals (Texaco)	367-2979
Rainbow Boat Rentals	367-4602
Rental Wheels Scooters, Bikes, Cars	367-4643
Rich's Boat Rentals	367-2742
Sea Horse Boat Rentals	367-2513
Sea Star Car Rentals	367-4887
Green Turtle Cay	
Bay Street Rentals +	477-5300 365-4070
Brendal's Dive Bikes & Kayak rental	365-4411
C & D Cart Rental	365-4084
D & P Cart Rental	365-4655
Donnie's Boat Rentals	365-4119
New Plymouth Cart Rentals	365-4188 or 4149
Reef Boat Rentals	365-4145
Sea Side Carts & Bikes	365-4147
T & A Cart Rentals	375-8055
Guana Cay	
Donna Sands Cart Rentals	365-5195
Dive Guana Boats & Bikes	365-5178
Orchid Bay Cart rentals	354-5175
Man-O-War	
Conch Pearl Boat Rentals	365-6502
Island Treasures Cart Rentals	365-6072
Ria-Mar Golf Cart Rentals	365-6024
Waterways Boat Rental	357-6540 & 365-6143
Hope Town	
Cat's Paw Boat Rentals	366-0380
Hope Town Cart Rentals	366-0064
Island Cart Rentals	366-0448
Island Marine Boat Rentals	366-0282
J R's Cart Rental	366-0361
Sea Horse Boat Rentals	366-0023
T & N Cart Rentals	366-0069
Treasure Cay	
Adventure on Prozac - Kayak	365-8749
Alison Car Rent	365-8193
Cash's Carts	365-8771
Claridge's Cart Rentals	365-8248
Cornish Car Rentals	365-8623
JIC Boat Rentals	365-8465
Triple J Car Rentals	365-8761
Abaco Adventures - Kayaks	365-8749



To Abaco by land and sea from Florida • Take Discovery Cruise Line (954-971-7347) from Ft. Lauderdale to Freeport • Bus to McLeans Town • Ferry to Crown Haven • Bus, taxi or rental car to Green Turtle Ferry or Marsh Harbour • Taxi to Marsh Harbour ferry dock • Ferry to Hope Town, Man-O-War or Guana Cay • Its an adventure

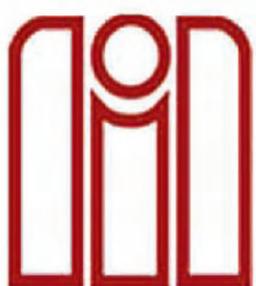
Restaurant Guide	
Prices \$ Low, \$\$ Moderate, \$\$\$ Upper	
(Based on dinner entree range)	
+ Picnic tables & restroom only ‡ Provides ride from town	
Marsh Harbour	
Anglers	\$\$\$ 367-2158
Blue Marlin	\$ 367-2002
Curly Tails	\$\$\$ 367-4444
Gino's	\$ 367-7272
Golden Grouper	\$ 367-2301
Island Cafe	\$ 367-6444
Jamie's Place	\$ 367-2880
Jib Room	\$\$ 367-2700
Kentucky Fried Chicken	366-3143
Mangoes	\$\$\$ 367-2366
Pinacle	\$
Pop's Place	\$ + 367-3796
Sea Shells	\$ 367-4460
Snack Shack	\$ + 367-4005
Snappas	\$ 367-2278
Wallys	\$\$\$ 367-2074
Hope Town	
Abaco Inn	\$\$\$ 366-0133
Cap'n Jacks	\$ 366-0247
Harbour's Edge	\$ 366-0087
H T Harbour Lodge	\$\$\$ 366-0095
Munchies	\$ + 366-0423
Sea Spray	\$ \$ ‡ 366-0065
Little Harbour	
Pete's Pub	
Lubber's Quarter	
Cracker P's	366-3139
Man-O-War	
Hibiscus	365-6380
Island Treats Snack Bar	365-6501
Guana Cay	
Docksiders	\$\$\$ 365-5230
Grabbers	\$\$\$ 365-5133
Nippers	\$\$\$ 365-5143
Orchid Bay	\$\$\$ 265-5175
Treasure Cay	
Florence's Cafe	\$
Coconuts	
Harbour Cafe	\$ 365-8635
Hudson's Delight	\$ 365-8648
Spinnaker Restaurant	\$\$\$ 365-8469
Touch of Class	\$\$\$ 365-8195
Green Turtle Cay	
Bluff House	\$\$\$ 365-4200
Jolly Roger Bistro	\$ 365-4200
Green Turtle Club	\$\$\$ 365-4271
Harvey's Island Grill	\$ 365-4389
Laura's Kitchen	\$ 365-4287
McIntosh's Restaurant	\$\$ 365-4625
Plymouth Rock Cafe	365-4234
Rooster's Rest	\$ 365-4066
Sundowners	365-4060
Wrecking Tree Restaurant	
Sandy Point	
Nancy's	
Pete & Gays	\$\$\$ 366-4119
Rickmon Bonefish Lodge	366-4477



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The Abaconian

SECTION B



VOLUME 17 NUMBER 20 OCTOBER 15th, 2009

Abaco Swim Club holds open water swim race 33 swimmer compete in 5k course



Thirty-three swimmers competed in the sixth annual Open Water Swim Meet on October 3 held off Crossing Beach in Marsh Harbour. The 5k triangular course proved challenging to the competitors who came from several communities on Abaco. The competition included classes for several age groups as well as a relay class. A 25-meter race was included for young swimmers of the Learn to Swim program offered by the Abaco Swim Club. While the race was underway, a squall blew through. Although the rain veered off toward Hope Town, the wind picked up and got very bad for about 20 minutes. The race was organized by the Abaco Swim Club and was sanctioned by the Bahamas Swim Federation. Other sponsors included Tourism, Pinder's Plumbing and Abaco Groceries.

By Navardo Saunders

Brian Higgs, competing in boys ages 13 to 17 category, emerged the overall individual winner in the annual 5k Open Water Swim Competition at Crossing Beach in Marsh Harbour on October 3. He beat out eight other competitors in the individual category, finishing the 5k triangular race course in one hour, 28 minutes and 37 seconds.

Second overall was Laurence Higgs, the lone competitor in the men's ages 36 and over category. He finished in one hour, 45 minutes and 25 seconds. In third place was Solomon Lee, the only other swimmer in the boys ages 13 to 17 category. He completed the race in one hour 51 minutes and 49 seconds.

Altogether 33 swimmers participated in the 5k race that got underway just before 10 a.m. The water was warm due to the hot and humid conditions, much to the delight of the swimmers.

Brian Higgs, a member of the Abaco Swim Club that organized the swim, led from the start to finish in the individual category. He was elated with the victory saying that next year he would like to shave minutes or at least seconds off his time.

Please see **Swim race** Page 2

Administrator Don Cornish is assigned to Freeport

By Navardo Saunders

From humble beginnings in Dundas Town to the chief government representative in the "Magic City," Don Cornish has risen to one of the highest and most powerful offices in the land.

Mr. Cornish, a former Director of the

Abaco Tourist Office and Local Government Manager in Central Abaco, has been named administrator for the city of Freeport and will also take charge of the Office of the Prime Minister, replacing Adminis-

Please see **Cornish** Page 6

Cherokee Sound School holds Pride Ceremony



The students of the Cherokee Sound Primary School invited special guests to share with them in the Pride Ceremony. Standing with the students are Administrator Benjamin Pinder, Teacher Catherine Owen, Abaco's Education Superintendent Lenora Black, and Principal Michelle Lowe.

By Navardo Saunders

Cherokee Sound Primary School is a model school that other schools should seek to emulate, District Superintendent Lenora Black said during a pride ceremony in the W.W. Sands Community Center.

In all the times she has visited the school, not once has she ever seen any sign of disarray. "The grounds and the classroom are always in immaculate condition. The students are sharply dressed. Everything always appears to be in order."

Mrs. Black commended the two teachers at the school who each teach three grades, saying that they are doing an excellent job. "It's not easy teaching one

grade, but here you teach three," she said as she stood in front of the teachers, students and parents who attended the Pride Ceremony. "That's remarkable because you have to prepare three different lesson plans. No easy task, but you get the job done and it shows. Hats off to you for a job well done."

Administrator for South Abaco Benjamin Pinder also spoke during the pride ceremony. Cherokee Sound Primary School reminds him of schools back in the day when students were orderly and had respect for themselves and each other. "You can see pride in everything

Please see **School** Page 8

Fire destroys nine houses in the Mud



An early morning fire on October 5 destroyed nine houses in the immigrant community of the Mud in the center of Marsh Harbour. The Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department was on the scene within minutes with three trucks. Fire trucks from Bahama Palm Shores and Treasure Cay were called, but the fire by that time was under control. The area where the fire was located was difficult to access. The trucks had difficulty getting in close and even more trouble backing out each time they had to refill the tanks. There are no fire hydrants close for a water supply. The roads are just tracks through densely built-up shanties. The job was compounded by fences and vehicles parked throughout. There were no injuries but about 39 documented people are homeless. Authorities feel that this number will go up as some who were not documented will become known. It was fortunate that there was no wind that morning.

Abaco Swim Club holds 6th annual Open Water Swim Race

Swim race From Page 2

Three sets of male and female relay teams competed with the team of Joshua Wong, Brent Cartwright and David Barton winning in one hour, 45 minutes and 59 seconds.

In second were Joshua Lowe, Bill Butler and Dale Hill in two hours, three minutes and 42 seconds, while the team of Jesse Sims, Troy Sims and Nick Sims were third in two hours, 28 minutes and 16 seconds.

The team of Hailey Lee, Analia Lowe and Aly Boyce came out on top in two hours, seven minutes and 10 seconds. In second were Charlie Cash, Samantha Williams and Sharon in two hours, 13 minutes and two seconds. Christina Pyfrom, Maria

Silvester and Judy Albury were in third in two hours, 14 minutes and 42 seconds.

In addition to the 5k events, there was an 8 years and under category competing in the 25 meter freestyle and breast stroke races. Bradley Pinder was first in the freestyle followed by Josh Hall and Alexis Cooke.

Kalea Richard won the breast stroke with Tanner Cartwright and Alexis Cooke finishing second and third respectively.

The event was sanctioned by the Bahamas Swimming Federation. Organizers dubbed the event a success despite a decline in the number of participants.

Following the race the swimmers had a variety of great food and danced to a variety of music. A good time seemed to be had by all.



These are the winners of the women's relay teams with the first place winners in the center, the second place winners on the left and the third place winners on the right. All these swimmers were from Marsh Harbour and Hope Town.



These are young swimmers from the Learn to Swim program offered by the Abaco Swim Club in Central Abaco. They competed in a short 25-meter swim. The success rate of the students learning to swim is very high.

Swim clubs prepare for swim meet

By Canishka Alexander

Pre-registration for the swim race held on October 3 took place at Snappas Bar and Grill on October 2 and continued at Crossing Beach on October 3.

Coach Brenda Sawyer of Marsh Harbour outlined the individual and relay races in the 6th Annual Open Water Swim Meet, which incorporated a 5-K or 3-mile triangular course. The individual races were offered for males and females ages 12 years and under, 13 to 17, 18 to 35 and 36 and over. There were male and female relay teams and a mixed relay comprised of both males and females.

Entry fees were \$20 for individuals and \$45 for a three-person relay team.

Coach Sara Knowles of Hope Town said there was a good turnout for the swim meet last year, and with a week left before the meet about 25 people had already registered.

In the past, Coach Knowles said they've had a broad range of swimmers from as young as eight years up to 70 years old who participated. The children she coached in Hope Town had already been swimming a mile in preparation for the swim meet and were very competitive.

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Sweetings Village lot	\$55,000
Royal harbour Lot 26	\$279,000
Pelican Shoures Harbour Front	\$1,225,000

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Leisure Lee 4 lots (each)	\$43,900
Joe's Creek Lot 12	\$52,500
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SOUTH ABACO

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B.P.Shores lots 5&6 section 4	\$30,000 each

B.P.Shores Beachfront acre section 1	\$365,000
Long Beach Lots 316 & 418 (each)	\$50,000
Long Beach Lots 412, 413 & 414 (each)	\$79,000
Long Beach Lots 373 & 374 (each)	\$90,000
Long Beach Lots 31 "owner financing"	\$129,000
Lynard Cay Lot 10	\$199,000
Dorros Cove - Elbow Cay	\$457,000

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GILLIAM BAY ESTATE - BEACHFRONT 1.7 acres. Best price on Green Turtle Cay Beach. Highly desirable neighbourhood. Existing 2 bed home. **US\$800,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com 242.577.0298



LUBBERS QUARTERS #4516
SUMMIT - IMPRESS YOUR GUESTS when you entertain in this spacious, well-appointed home with spectacular 360 degree views. Deeded dock slip. **US\$775,000.** Laurie.Schreiner@SothebysRealty.com 242.367.5046



LUBBERS QUARTERS #4939
GETAWAY - ABACO OCEAN CLUB Escape from it all! Cozy 1 bed 1 bath cottage with A/C on the water. Community dock. Extra lot available. **\$349,000.** Laurie.Schreiner@SothebysRealty.com 242.367.5046



MAN-O-WAR CAY #4336
WATERFRONT - LOOKOUT HOUSE Stunning views overlooking western harbour, 2 bed 1 bath main house with 1 bed 1 bath dockhouse cottage. **\$1,395,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com 242.367.5046



MARSH HARBOUR #4249
PERKY PELICAN - PELICAN SHORES Waterfront 4 bed, 4 bath with views of the Sea of Abaco. Value added, new sea wall. **Was \$2,775,000. Now \$2,300,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com 242.367.5046



MARSH HARBOUR #4859
WATERFRONT - GREAT ABACO CLUB #36 Spectacular home, pool & views. 4 bed 4 bath, 2,750 sq. ft. with dockage. Open to Offer. **\$1,599,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com 242.367.5046



MARSH HARBOUR #4657
WATERFRONT - THE STOWE AWAY - GREAT ABACO CLUB 50 ft dock with lift, meticulously appointed sea views, also extra lot available. **US\$1,499,000.** Lydia.Bodamer@SothebysRealty.com 242.367.5046



MARSH HARBOUR #4736
SUNRISE BAY #7 Beautiful 3 bed 3.5 bath home with pool, dock slip, beach access. **Very desirable** family neighbourhood. Gated community. **\$1,350,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com 242.367.5046



MARSH HARBOUR #4658
WATERFRONT - GRANDER - GREAT ABACO CLUB 3 bed 2 bath, add your own finishing touches. Prime area with 55ft dock. **New Price. US\$774,000.** Lydia.Bodamer@SothebysRealty.com 242.367.5046



MARSH HARBOUR #4674
WATERFRONT - New 3 bed 3.5 bath penthouses at The Crossing. Carefree getaway with dock slip. Panoramic Views **\$645,000 - \$745,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com 242.367.5046



MARSH HARBOUR #4688
SOME R' HOME - PELICAN SHORES. TWO 3B/2B homes, sea & harbour views, pool. Rent will offset mortgage. **US\$699,000. Or lease. US\$2,795.** Lydia.Bodamer@SothebysRealty.com 242.367.5046



TREASURE CAY #2875
FINAL APPROACH - CANALFRONT - 5 bed 4 bath huge 5,500 sq.ft family home with 100' dock on 5 lots. **US\$1,990,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com 242.577.0298



TREASURE CAY #4969
TREASURED TIMES - CANALFRONT - OPPORTUNITY TO OWN outstanding 3 bed 3 bath home on 2 lots. 157 ft. on canal. Fully serviced dock. Well priced. **US\$1,740,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com 242.577.0298



TREASURE CAY #5129
BAHAMA BEACH CLUB - BEACHFRONT Luxurious spacious condos. Pool, spas & other great club amenities. **\$810,000-\$1,750,000..** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com 242.577.0298



TREASURE CAY #4841
BEACHFRONT - SAND DOLLAR #3 Best priced condo on TC beach! 2 bed 2 bath, 1,000 sq.ft. & pool. Excellent rental history. **\$580,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com 242.577.0298



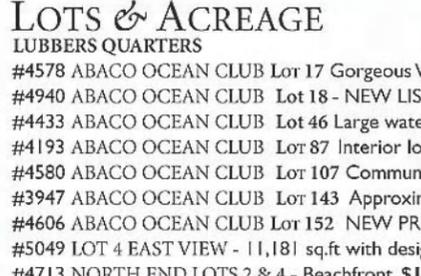
TREASURE CAY #5057
CAROLINA DREAMIN' Best home value on TC Beach. Furnished New 3 bed 2 bath 2 storey home, full lower walkout. Pool. **\$595,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com 242.577.0298



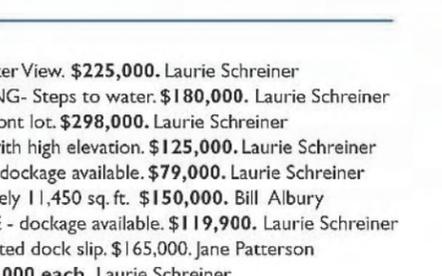
TREASURE CAY #4803
CANALFRONT LOT - GALLEON BAY Build your dream home and dock. Electricity and utilities are at the road. **\$280,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com 242.577.0298



WINDING BAY #5126 & #5127
THE ABACO CLUB - World class beach offers total privacy behind the gates of the unique Ritz Carlton Club **US\$1,500,000. - \$2,500,000** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com 242.367.5046



LOTS & ACREAGE
LUBBERS QUARTERS
#4578 ABACO OCEAN CLUB Lot 17 Gorgeous Water View. **\$225,000.** Laurie Schreiner
#4940 ABACO OCEAN CLUB Lot 18 - NEW LISTING- Steps to water. **\$180,000.** Laurie Schreiner
#4433 ABACO OCEAN CLUB Lot 46 Large waterfront lot. **\$298,000.** Laurie Schreiner
#4193 ABACO OCEAN CLUB Lot 87 Interior lot with high elevation. **\$125,000.** Laurie Schreiner
#4580 ABACO OCEAN CLUB Lot 107 Community dockage available. **\$79,000.** Laurie Schreiner
#3947 ABACO OCEAN CLUB Lot 143 Approximately 11,450 sq. ft. **\$150,000.** Bill Albury
#4606 ABACO OCEAN CLUB Lot 152 NEW PRICE - dockage available. **\$119,900.** Laurie Schreiner
#5049 LOT 4 EAST VIEW - 11,181 sq.ft with designated dock slip. **\$165,000.** Jane Patterson
#4713 NORTH END LOTS 2 & 4 - Beachfront. **\$180,000 each.** Laurie Schreiner
#4714 INTERIOR LOTS - 14,295 sq.ft. **\$59,500 - \$62,000 each.** Laurie Schreiner



#4071 BAHAMA PALM SHORES Lot 43 Good residential area. **\$30,000.** Bill Albury
#4493 GREEN TURTLE CAY LEEWARD YACHT CLUB Lots & house packages. From **\$275,000.** Stan Sawyer
#4533 GUANA CAY - DOLPHIN BEACH ESTATES. Lot 68 Hilltop View. **\$180,000.** Bill Albury
#4572 LITTLE HARBOUR - .97 acre, 150 ft. harbourfront. **\$250,000.** Laurie Schreiner
#4689 CEDAR HARBOUR - 2 acre eco-friendly site with deeded water access. **\$59,950.** Lydia Bodamer
#4632 MARSH HARBOUR - High Rocks Waterfront Lot. High elevation & views. **\$599,000.** Bill Albury
#4888 TURTLE ROCKS - 10 ACRES Water access and good elevations. **\$349,000.** Lydia Bodamer
#4803 TREASURE CAY - NEW PRICE - Choice Canalfront Lot. **\$280,000.** Stan Sawyer



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Laurie Schreiner
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Bill Albury
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Lydia Bodamer
Estate Agent
t 242.577.0016

Member of the Bahamas MLS

FOR LEASE
#5050 CENTRAL PINES SEAGRAPE APT#1- 2B/2B duplex. **\$1,365/mo.** Lydia Bodamer
#5053 GREAT CISTERN- 3B/2B Sea of Abaco Waterfront. **\$1,965/mo.** Lydia Bodamer
#4858 PELICAN SHORES - 3B/2B with pool, sea & harbour views. **\$2,795/mo.** Lydia Bodamer
#5055 EASTERN SHORES - 4B/4B with pool & shared dock. **\$4,000/mo.** Lydia Bodamer
SEE SECTION A, PAGE 3 FOR HOPE TOWN, ELBOW CAY & TILLOO CAY

Abaco Swim Club offers successful swim programs

By Canishka Alexander

Leading up to the much-anticipated 6th Annual Open Water Swim Meet on October 3, representatives from the Abaco Swim Club shared historical and updated information about the swim club which has undergone changes recently. However, its goal of teaching all of its participants to swim and giving them the best training has remained the same.

Although the club still operates under the Bahamas Swimming Federation, Brent Cartwright said it is now a formal legal association.

The Abaco Swim Club is also in the early stages of designing their own swimming facility, according to Cartwright. "We hope in the next two years to have a 25 meter by 25 yard certified competitive pool that we will be able to operate out of and host national and international events," he said.

Coach Brenda Sawyer described the swim programs that are available. The Learn to Swim program includes children from ages four to 12. Youths aged 13 to 18 years can participate in the Teen Swimming program that was introduced on the first Monday in October. Over the summer she said the Adult Learn to Swim program was launched and was very successful. There is also a competitive swim program taught by Coaches Laurence Higgs and Ashley Sands.

Mrs. Sawyer said there are many adult coaches as well as junior coaches. "Coaching helps them be a part of their community, and they're teaching other kids to swim, which is the goal of the Abaco Swim Club," she added.

All coaches are certified under the Swim America program and have received training in CPR. The programs include more

than 60 children. "We have almost a 100 percent success rate in teaching children how to swim here on Abaco, and we're very proud of that," Coach Sawyer said.

She encouraged interested persons to visit <http://abacoswimclub.com> for more information about the Abaco Swim Club.

Swimming pool for Central Abaco will be a reality

By Mirella Santillo

The Abaco Swim Club has recently been allocated a parcel of land at Forest Heights Academy to build its own facility. The facility will boast a 25 meter, eight-lane pool that will be FINA (Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur) certified and a shallow pool for the Learn to Swim Program as well as covered bleachers for spectators. A building

will house locker rooms, bathrooms, a conference room for dry-land training and seminars, a concession stand and a reception area.

The Abaco Swim Club board members are excited about the new project and are looking forward to offering the public a broader variety of programs for individuals and schools.



Capt. Perry Thomas
Realtor, Office Manager



Tina Wells
Sales Agent



Janet Harding
Realtor®

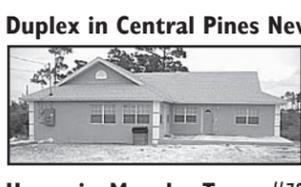
Endless Summer #508, Eastern Shores, 2 story, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. 210' water frontage, 80' dock, 6' low water, 9,000 lb. boat lift. Cypress ceiling and interior walls, laundry room, single car garage, carport, 15 KW back-up generator. Reduced from \$1,675,000 to \$1,412,500.00 gross



Great Business Opportunity #506 A restaurant that is ready to go with all the necessary equipment needed to operate this lovely building, has sea views, is on 100'x120' lot. REDUCED \$424,000.



Triplex in Great Cistern #902 Two 2 bedroom 1 bath and one 1 bedroom 1 bath, beautifully landscaped and furnished. Lot size 17,250 sq. ft. \$350,300 gross



Duplex in Central Pines New Listing #903 One 3 bedroom 2 bathroom and a 2 bedroom 1 bath apt located in Central Pines. Reduced to \$241,875 gross



Home in Murphy Town #782 4 Bedroom, 2.5 bath, laundry rm with a car port, lot size 90x100 on Forest Drive. Interior needs renovation. \$151,200 gross



New Listing Home in Casuarina Point #806 less than 500 ft off the beach, this gorgeous rustic design with a flare of elegance, 2 br, 2 1/2 bth, living area 14 ft above ground, pine wood floors, cypress ceiling, open floor plan, a/c, 200 sq ft of covered balcony. A perfect beach house for someone who enjoys beachcombing or swimming with no crowds. Price \$349,900 gross

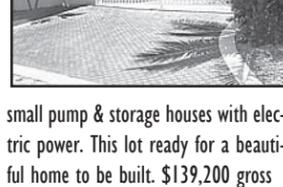


Forest Drive Murphy Town Duplex #810 two 2 br, 2 bth and a three unit building that is 75% completed. Can be completed for commercial or as a triplex. Price for both places \$316,400 gross



New listing Large Vacant lot Central Pines 22,047 sq ft. \$43,320 gross

Marsh Harbour #790 Vacant lot with beautiful walls, huge entrance gate with brick pavers at two entrances, landscaped with sprinkler system, fresh water from drilled well and two small pump & storage houses with electric power. This lot ready for a beautiful home to be built. \$139,200 gross



Dundas Town House and Duplex #786 & 784 Two 2 bedroom 1 bath apartments and a two bed one bth home both for \$315,000 gross



Home in Murphy Town #792 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, laundry rm, two car garage \$330,000



Home Off Forest Drive #778 3 br 2bth home on lot 90x131 ready to move in \$190,400 gross



Duplex #0713 & 0715 2 bedroom, 1 bath and 1 bedroom, 1 bath house in Dundas Town \$260,000



New Listing Duplex Central Pines #796 two 2 br, 2 bth apts, beautifully landscaped. New building \$293,800 gross



New listing Home off Forest Drive, Dundas Town #798 3 br, 2 bth, laundry rm, tv rm, living & dining rm, single carport and covered front porch. \$299,450 gross



New Listing #914 Duplex Central Pines two 2 br, 1br brand new never lived in \$254,250.00 gross

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New listing Duplex Marsh Harbour #800 two 2 br, 1 bth apts near M&R Food Store \$156,600 gross

Triplex #504, one three-bedroom two-bathroom that is 1950 sq ft on the top floor and 2 Two-bedroom one-bath apartments on the bottom floor, property is 90 x 100 Appraised at \$440,000 This month sales price \$434,600

Sandy Point #510 waterfront 3 bedroom 3 bathroom 2,000 sq. ft. home with sunken living room, TV room, dining room and large kitchen on a lot over 26,000 sq. ft. of land. \$265,000

Three Unit Town House #0711 3 two bedroom one bath all with beautiful ocean view from upstairs balcony. Property 13,690 sq. ft. \$320,000

Triplex for sale #502 2 one-bedroom, one-bath and 1 two bedroom \$145,000

Reduced oceanfront lot on Tilloo Cay with beach access and shared dock. Lot size sq ft 0.73 acres 103ft on water and 315 ft. Best price on Tilloo Cay, will not last long. Must sell, owner leaving island. Further reduced from \$278,400 to \$175,000 gross

For sale 15 acres of land at Baker's Heights near Leisure Lee off the Treasure Cay Highway. Priced at \$450,000, this property will go fast. Call today.

For sale three lots located on South Lubbers Quarters in the Abaco Ocean Club Estate. Lots number 11, 44, 112. These lots are priced individually. 11,022 sf. \$88,000 gross
Lot #44 13,307 sf \$98,000 gross Lot # 112 20,485 sf. \$175,000 gross

Two lots 84 ft. x 100 ft. near Treasure Cay, one mile northwest of Treasure Cay School. \$49,500 each

Best prices in Yellowwood big lots on hillside with views near Winding Bay and the Abaco Club
Lot# 7 G3 size 12,600 s.f. \$57,200 gross
Lot # 7 G4 size 12,600 s.f. \$57,200 gross

Best prices on vacant lots in Marsh Harbour.
4 lots 10,286.1 sq. ft. \$59,659 each 2 lots 12,086.1 sq. ft. \$70,099 each

4 lots in Murphy Town, water view, across from Abaco Block and Concrete, commercial. Sold separately 3 lots \$48,614 each, 1 at \$48,730

Central Pines Large Vacant Lot 22,047 sq ft cleared and footing dug for a two 2br 2bth apts. Plans \$34,000 gross

Off Forest Drive lot with Foundation for a 2br/2bth house. Price \$28,500 gross

Bahama Coral Island lot size 10,066 sq ft corner lot \$29,434 gross

Bahama Coral Island lot size 10,330 sq ft with foundation that is 80% finished. \$34,200 gross

Hillside lot with Foundation in Dundas Town #502 \$18,600 gross

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"NEW" STORAGE UNITS, centrally located in Treasure Cay town centre. Storage units come in assorted sizes for boats, cars, golf carts and "stuff." EXC. Starting at \$25,000 FGS

CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPMENTS

1. CARLETON LANDING

Prestigious Canal Front Development offering Carriage House units in blocks of four plus individual cottages. Both offer docks/ boat slips as well as golf cart or car garages. Prices start at \$680,000 + 14%

2. NEW LUXURY WATERFRONT CONDOS WITH DOCKS!

"PINEAPPLE POINT RESORT" - Luxury gated community - Treasure Cay's newest waterfront development. 2 bed/ 2 bath and 3 bed/ 3 bath condos with availability of private boat slips. Pre-construction price starting at \$529,000 net (plus closing costs). MUST SEE! Great investment opportunity and a great location in Treasure Cay!

3. THE COTTAGES

Now the newest oceanfront development on Treasure Cay beach comprising 10 individual luxury units Starting at \$900,000 + 12% closing

4. BAHAMA BEACH CLUB

Luxury condominium project on Treasure Cay Beach. 3 bed / 3 bath / Den / Lanai / on-site pool and many other features Starting at \$907,500 Plus 14% closing

5. ROYAL POINCIANA TOWNHOUSES

On-site pool and tennis, newly completed luxury townhouse units directly on Treasure Cay each totalling 3 bed/ 4 1/2 baths plus loft bedroom/ den
 Ground floor - garage, 2 bed/ 2 bath with ocean front patio
 First floor - open concept living / dining/ kitchen plus master bedroom suite, all ocean views with patio/ balcony
 Loft - bedroom/ den with ocean view
 MLS \$2,075,000 + 7.5% Closing

6. PALM BAY DEVELOPMENT Unit #3

4 bed/ 3 1/2 bath fully furnished Town House with garage and boat slip with 20' beam. Located at Palm Bay Development 2,000 +/- sq. ft. \$907,500 EXC

Anchorage Estates Multi-family Lots 128' water front, 22,448 sq. ft. Good investment Price \$474,000 EXC

STORAGE / GARAGE UNIT, 21' 6" deep, 11' 8" wide. Listed for a quick sale at the low price of \$29,750.00 EXC

MARINA VIEW VILLA

Recently completed delightful villa with great marina view and access. Modern 2 bed/ 2 bath CBS fully furnished home, 1020 sq. ft. plus porches and garden area. Must see to appreciate. FGS \$479,000 EXC

TEASURE LANDING

Unit #4 Upstairs 3 bed/2bath fully furnished, direct beach access. Good rental investment EXC. \$514,250 FGS

MARINER'S COVE

Townhouse condos with on-site tennis, heated pool, office, laundry

Marina view, 2 bed/ 1 1/2 bath, fully furnished, never rented, extra features. MUST SEE FGS \$295,000

Marina view, 2 bed/ 2 bath and unit - fully furnished- storm shutters- good rental potential \$271,500 + 7.5% closing

Marina view, 2 bed/ 1 1/2 bath fully, furnished including garage plus vehicle. Good rental potential. EXC \$300,000 FGS

ROYAL PALM

Canal front condos with on site tennis and pool 2 bed / 2 bath lower unit marina view. Good rental income EXC \$526,350

2 bed/ 2 bath lower unit with marina view. 12 ft. boat slip with 12,000 lb. lift. Never rented. EXC \$655,950 FGS

2 bed/ 2 bath lower unit with marina view, 12' boat slip \$425,000 + 7.5% EXC

TREASURE HOUSE

Ocean front luxury octagonal units with lagoon/ pool/waterfall. Good rental potential.

Unit #7 Two storey 2 bed/ 2 bath home. MLS \$545,000 + 7.5% closing

Unit #9 two storey 2 bed/ 2 bath home
 SOLD \$500,000 FGS

BAHAMA BEACH CLUB

Resale condos available in first completed project. Ready to go. Both units never rented but definite potential. MUST SEE PROPERTIES.

Downstairs unit 3 bed / 2 bath with den/ optional 4th bed. Completely and tastefully furnished with many extra features including garage and Ford Taurus \$785,000 + 14%

ATLANTIS

Canal front condo with on-site pool. Bldg 4. downstairs, 2 bed, 2 bath, totally redone, 12' wide slip. \$459,675.00 + 7.5% closing EXC

OCEAN VILLA SUBDIVISION

Second row beach with direct ocean access. Great view. 2 bed / 2 bath, many special features. MUST SEE EXC. \$460,000 FGS

GALLEON BAY ESTATES

"Gramling House" newly built, 2 storey home located on Galleon Bay canal with a 45' dock. Upper level has 4 bed/ 2 bath. Open living/ dining/ kitchen. Lower level has 2 bed/ 1 bath, laundry room plus covered open boat/ car storage MUST SELL VERY MOTIVATED SELLER EXC \$790,000

"Fish Tales" unique canal front 3 bed / 3 bath home on 2 full lots, 180' waterfront with 118' serviced dock, deep water, great for larger boat. MUST SEE! MLS\$1,725,000 + 7.5%

LEEWARD BEACH ESTATES

"Trident"/"Turquoise Seas" You cannot be more "on the beach" than in this special home. Offering 3 bed / 3 1/2 bath in the main house with detached garage / bed / bath / attic plus storage. Vast deck oceanside with widow's walk. WOW!
 MLS \$1,999,000 + 7.5% closing

"Cross Winds" Split level CBS home extra large lot across from 2 beach greenways. Private. Master bed/ bath suite upstairs. Lower level 2 bed / 2 bath, cozy living room/ kitchen/ dining/ utility. Apartment annex 1bed/ 1 bed, living kitchen, enclosed patio. Plus! Plus!
 Plus! MLS \$755,000 + 7.5% closing

"Surf Shack" This CBS totally renovated two-storey luxury modern home is located on a large corner lot in the prestigious area of Lee ward Beach and Sunrise Point. Both levels include 4 bed / 3 1/2 bath plus above ground pool with wrap around deck. many, many more features, i.e. hurricane shutters and generator. "A definite must see!"
 \$1,403,600 EXC

WINDWARD BEACH ESTATES

"Dream Point" Special CBS split level home located on a corner lot near "The Point" with two choices of direct beach access. Upper level has master bedroom with ensuite bath plus two guest bedrooms and bath. On the split level there is the main entry into a large open living/dining area, modern well equipped kitchen. All rooms open onto a wrap-around partially covered deck overlooking the garden. Ground level has an extra large garage/ workshop with lots of storage.
 EXC. \$996,300 FGS

ROCK POINT

Apartment four-plex, 2 storey CBS building, each level has 2 apartments with 2 bed, 1 bath, living/dining/kitchen. Great rental investment. MUST SEE! EXC. \$400,000 FGS

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY

6.667 acres on the highway between Treasure Cay Resort and Treasure Cay airport. Running from highway north to the sea of Abaco. 180' on water front and 165' roadside, 1500' road to water. Prime property that can be subdivided, commercial and housing/condos or subdivided into lots, commercial and residential \$833,375 FGS, EXC

VACANT LOTS AVAILABLE

- Ocean front properties Casuarina Beach/Ocean Blvd. Sand Piper Beach Sunrise Point Beginning at \$1,250,000 FGS
- Canal Front Beginning at \$350,000 FGS
- Rock Point Waterfront, bulkheaded Beginning at \$430,000 FGS
- Golf Course / Interior Beginning at \$60,000 FGS

ABBREVIATION CODE

EXC - Exclusive listing
 FGS - Full gross or all-inclusive price
 MLS - Multiple Listing, list price plus buyer's closing

Summer Special - All Single Family Lots 7% off

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Local gets choice administrator's assignment

Cornish

From Page 1

trator Alexander Williams and Parliamentary Secretary Sammy Gardiner. The Administrator's Office and the Office of the Prime Minister will be amalgamated for the first time, Mr. Cornish said.

Mr. Cornish, who spent the last four months in the Berry Islands and North Andros learning the roles and responsibilities of an administrator under the tutelage of Senior Deputy Administrator Dr Huntley Christie, began the transition to Freeport on October 5 and will officially assume responsibility for the Office of the Prime Minister and Administrator's office on October 13th and 19th.

He talked about the training that has prepared him for his new assignment. "The training involved all the major areas of government - the Ministry of Finance, Treasury, Auditing, Customs, Licensing, Hotel Licensing and much more. He will be the main representative for the government in the district. He will handle all the government's administrative duties. And in the event that a government department is having challenges that prevents it from carrying out its duties, he will have to step in and do what is necessary to help solve the problems and see to it that the departments function like they should.

He will also act as a lay magistrate. Administrators can hear certain cases, so they have responsibility to hold court and they act as Justices of Peace, so they execute legal documents. These are the kinds of things administrators have responsibility for, depending on the district. Some districts vary from others. We have second and third schedule districts. The larger islands are mostly second schedule districts



Don Cornish

and the administrators have more on their plate. Freeport is considered a third schedule district. The third

schedule districts often do not have as much on their plate because they have less townships, government boards and committees to deal with."

Mr. Cornish called the training in Berry Islands and North Andros interesting and rewarding. "We ended up catching an alligator. It was the second one loose on the island and now I hear there is a third one. There is a legend about two alligators that were brought in years ago as pets. Officials refused them entry and the owners allegedly dumped them in the ocean. Of course, they matured and one of them was caught about seven years ago. This other one was out there and was making itself quite at home with the ducks and some other birds on the golf course. So we had to bring in some tractors to catch him. He was caught on Independence Day. And I understand he was good eating, I didn't get any of the meat even though the government paid substantially for the gator to be caught." The gator was seven feet long and as for reports that there is another one out there that's bigger, he noted, that officials are closely monitoring the area and are ready to spring into action if necessary.

Mr. Cornish called the Berry Islands a jewel, saying it has some of the most beautiful beaches and landscapes of anywhere

in the country. It is an under-emphasized tourist market with two major cruise lines bringing about half a million visitors annually to Great and Little Sturup Cays.

"The time I spent in the Berry Island was most fulfilling because I had a hands-on role. I was the only person there representing central government. I had to hold court three times a week. That was the most unpleasant part of the work for me, especially having to see so many young men being charged with mainly minor offenses. I did have an opportunity to do that and much of the other work on a micro level. North Andros was as equally rewarding I had an opportunity to work with the committees and accounts. The time was pretty short though, seven weeks. It was different from the kind of committees that I usually work with simply because you don't have the kind of structure you have here in Abaco for instance. There is a lot of pioneering that needs to be done like bringing the infrastructure up to the future.

"But the potential is phenomenal when you think of the amount of available land and resources. I think they have some impediments like the airport, which was burned by fire twice and damaged in a hurricane. It is not up to standard. They don't have international flights which is a major setback. And the port at Morgan's Bluff needs a major upgrade. It is well suited for cruise ships but major work has to be carried out."

Mr. Cornish, who has a bachelor's degree in English and is only a few credits short of a masters in Public Administration, described the Freeport assignment as monumental. "There is an amalgamation taking place so as you can imagine that is going to mean moving a lot of people not only physically, but duties and tasks have

to be reassigned. It's going to be an interesting culture. Change is not something that Bahamians like."

He said when he got the call that he had been assigned to Freeport he became numb. "In fact, I'm still numb," he said. "Because you know what happened? I was in a training session and one of my colleagues said to me, 'Oh, did you get your phone call?' At that point everybody was asking questions because when the government made the decision to reassign the administrators, everyone was curious. You can imagine there was a large group of administrators, and there was a lot of talk about who was replacing who. Who is being sent home? There was this tension because you have administrators already, and you have this new group coming in. Initially, I heard I was going somewhere else. I just dismissed it because I didn't have a letter and I hadn't gotten a phone call from the undersecretary or the permanent secretary or anybody else. So I waited and I waited and I waited and finally the phone call came.

"Obviously, it's going to mean innovative thinking because Grand Bahama is in a fragile condition economically. It means that you have to look carefully at every situation and see what the needs are and be responsive. But it's a part of what we should expect because we're administrators and the job presents challenges, and you have to respond to your challenges. Obviously, the economy has not been kind. So we have to make some assessments and put plans in place to soften the blow from the economic downturn and make things better for the people of that city."

Please see **Cornish**

Page 7

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Cornish *From Page 6*

Reflecting on how far he's come, Mr. Cornish, the son of a mason and teacher, said he came from humble beginnings, but always had big dreams. Growing up he could have got involved in the drug trade which was very popular because it was an easy way to make lots of money quickly. But he turned to sports instead. "I'm a sports lover to the core," said Mr. Cornish, who is serving his fourth term as president of the Bahamas Volleyball Federation. "I played sports - volleyball, basketball - instead of getting into negative things."

He also joined the Rotary Club, a service organization whose motto is Service Above Self. "I never see my time as my personal time," he said. "I have people ask why I am so involved in sports. I think sports is the best teaching tool. It teaches discipline and teamwork which are very important in order to be successful in other aspects of life."

He hopes to serve as an inspiration for young Bahamian males, many of whom have turned to a life of crime and violence. "I want them to look at me and say this small town boy rose up and became a leader in his community, his island and now the country," he said. "I want them to say if he can do it, I can."

Abaco is moving toward being number two

By Navardo Saunders

Abaco has sent more money to the Public Treasury than Freeport in recent years, according to an official from the Treasury Department. Donna Delancy, Deputy Treasurer, did not know the exact figures, but Abaco has surpassed Freeport, the second most populated island in the country.

Abaco also has the second busiest airport in the country with only Sir Lynden Pindling International Airport in New Providence having more flights arriving and departing daily, according to the Civil Aviation Department.

The fact that Abaco has taken the lead in both areas has a growing number of Abaconians appealing to the government to do more for Abaco. Many residents here say it is high time that Abaco gets at least a mini-hospital and the roads and other infrastructure are better maintained.

At a recent town meeting held at New Vision Ministries to discuss the BEC power plant that was being constructed at Wilson City, one resident pointed out that even though Abaco has been pumping millions of dollars into the Public Treasury for years the island has gotten little in return.

Looking at Prime Minister and North Abaco MP Hubert Ingraham, who was seated in the audience at the meeting, the resident accused this government and the PLP administrations of neglecting Abaco. "You want to put a new bunker C fuel power plant here, you want tourists to come here. We now have the second busiest airport in the country, but yet we have no hospital, the roads are in terrible condition, it's ridiculous," the resident fumed.

That resident is not the only one who has accused both governments of neglect. A growing number of residents are frustrated with the conditions of the roads, which in many instances have large potholes which drivers have to avoid so that their vehicles won't get destroyed.

One resident, who wished not to be named, said it is a disgrace the number of large potholes that are in the roads right in the middle of town. "It's dangerous driving with so many holes in the road," the resident said. "People don't want to destroy their vehicles so they do what they have to even if it means driving recklessly."

Both governments have promised to

construct a mini-hospital for Abaco, but none has made good on that promise.

Some visitors to the island have written on TripAdvisor.com that while Abaco is beautiful and the people are nice, it is disappointing that there is no hospital on the island. "It's a great place, but it's scary because there is no hospital," a couple from Michigan wrote.

Government officials have said repeatedly that due to the economic recession, all major capital projects have been put on hold.

But as one resident pointed out major road improvement projects continue in Nassau. "We get treated like second class citizens," said the resident, who wished not to be named. "It was happening from the time the first PLP government was in power and it is happening with this government. Look at the runway at the airport. To this day it's still inoperable. It's ridiculous."

Residents say they will continue to petition for a mini-hospital. Meanwhile, workmen have begun to patch the holes in the roads following a huge public outcry.

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School News

School *From Page 1*

you do," he said. "You can see that you use the trash cans. You can see it in your uniforms. It's not like some of the other schools where the boys' pants sag below their waists, revealing their underwear. It's sloppy and its disorderly."

He told the students that when they leave Cherokee Sound Primary for the bigger schools, they must take with them the pride that has been instilled in them. "You must be the leader in this respect," he said. "You let them see that rubbish is for trash bins and clothes should be neat, hair combed, teeth brushed. You show them how they ought to keep themselves and their surroundings."

During the ceremony various presentations on pride were performed by the students. Students in grades one and two

demonstrated how they take pride in themselves. Students in grades four to six, recited their winning pride compositions. They gave credit to their teachers for instilling pride in them and for a new water fountain that was recently installed.

Abaco Central High students beautify school

By Samantha V. Evans

When you pass Abaco Central High School you will see a beautifully painted mural on the entrance wall of the school. This project was started at the end of last school year by the previous grade twelve students before their exams began. The present grade twelve students, enthusiastic by the work started by their predecessors, are completing the project. On September 26th grade 11 and 12 art students were at the front wall of the school working dili-

gently to complete their masterpiece. On the inside of the gate grade twelve students were busy cleaning the school grounds, moving items from the office to classrooms, mowing the lawn and painting the steps of the security booth as a part of their community service requirements for graduation. The students are being led by art teacher Stacia Pitt. Principal Vanessa James and vice principal Kevin Hepburn lent their support and assisted with the movement of items. Also around the school grounds motivational messages are posted to help to get students in a positive frame of mind for learning. Principal James reported that they have a very professional group of teachers on staff that is committed to excellence. She is sure that this school year will be excellent; far exceeding the great accomplishments of last school year.

Central Abaco Primary gets new playground

By Samantha V. Evans

At the end of last school year, the PTA Board of Central Abaco Primary School donated a swing set to the school. The presentation was made to the principal by the vice president of the Board Mrs. Jackie Robbins, who filled in for the president. The swing set was purchased from a fund raiser (gospel concert) held by the Board earlier in the school year.

TEAM is piloted at two Abaco schools

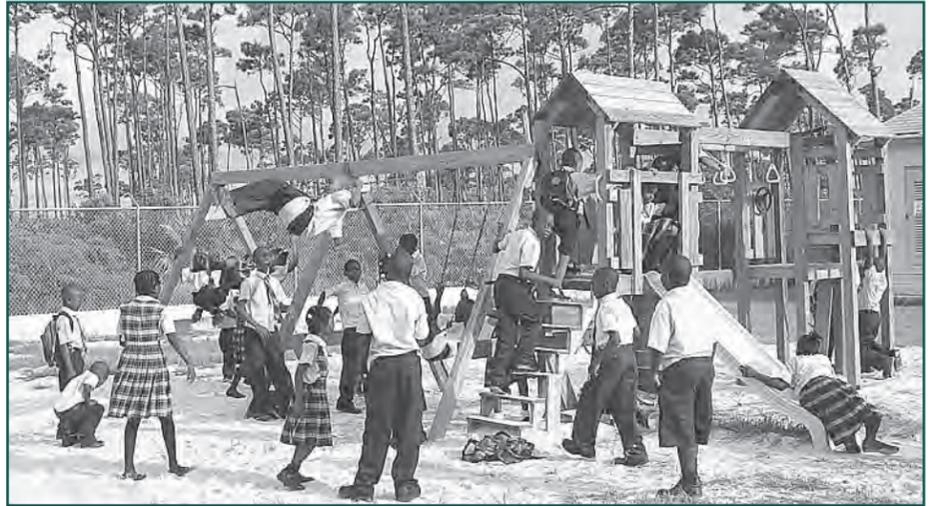
By Samantha V. Evans

Tourism Education Awareness Module (TEAM) was introduced in two schools

Please see **School** *Page 9*



Students of Abaco Central High School have been working on improving their campus. They are shown painting a mural under the iron grill at the entrance to the school. Other students cleaned the grounds, mowed the grass and did painting. This work counts toward their community service requirement for graduation.



The PTA of Central Abaco Primary School raised funds with a gospel concert to purchase playground equipment for the students. It has proved to be very popular.



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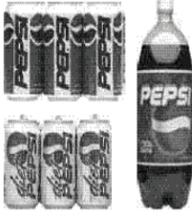
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More School News

School *From Page 8*

this school year as a pilot program. The schools are Central Abaco Primary School and Treasure Cay Primary School. Dushinka Roberts, trainer for the Ministry of Tourism Abaco office, is spearheading the program.

TEAM is a program designed by the Ministry of Tourism in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and the Bahamas Hotel Association to heighten students understanding of tourism and the role it plays

in the national economy. This will help them be cognizant of how important it is to be courteous and kind to each other, to our visitors and to serve with professional pride and dignity. Students will be able to identify the choices of career opportunities available to them and the institutions that play a role in tourism training.

It was formed in 1994 to heighten the awareness of the vital role of tourism in The Bahamas for students in grades 6 to 10. It is a nine-module program with each session designed to last for approximately

one hour. The duration of the program is normally ten weeks with quizzes being given for each module and a final exam on the completion of all the modules.

The students are taken on a field trip, a tea party at a local restaurant to climax the program. Incentives are offered to students who score 70 percent or above on the final test given. They will be awarded certificates and the top three will be given trophies. The programs began in mid-September and will run until November. The students will receive their incentives at a school assembly soon after the completion of the program.

Boys Reading Challenge is launched

The Boys Reading Challenge was launched at Central Abaco Primary School on October 1st under the theme *Making Manners Matter*. Coordinator of the challenge, Samantha Evans, stated that the objective of the program is to improve the reading and writing skills of students in grades 4 to 6 so that they can reach their God-given potential.

The rules of the reading challenges have changed to make the program more challenging so that they can improve their reading. For the past four years the students were allowed to read any book related to the theme given. The rules as revised are as follows: the students will be required to read chapter books only, they must apply

language skills such as main idea, inferences, and drawing conclusions, they must complete a revised book report that must be signed by a parent, they must be written in the child's own hand and information written on book reports must be related to theme given. Registration for the challenge was held the last two weeks of September at which time 99 interested boys signed up.

Also during this month, the 3-in-1 challenge will be held for boys in grades 1 to 3. When this challenge was launched three years ago, the students had to draw a picture related to the theme and submit it to the committee. The rules for this challenge have changed as well with the parents playing a greater role. Additionally, the students will be required to read grade out loud appropriate books with minimal errors to their teacher and committee members. The students to read the most books at their grade level will be rewarded. All students to read at least one book will receive a certificate of participation. Students who excel will receive special prizes and surprises. The awards ceremony is intended to take place on November 16th at the school.



Dushinka Roberts of the Abaco Tourist office is introducing primary school students to the importance of tourism in our economy. The program Tourism Education Awareness is a nine-week program offered at the Central Abaco Primary School shown here and the Treasure Cay Primary School.

Please see **School** Page 10

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More School News

School From Page 9

School holds Back to School Night

By Samantha V. Evans

Every year Central Abaco Primary School holds a Back to School Night for parents to meet their child's teacher and to be appraised of the expectations of the school for the year. On September 28th the school administrators provided parents with an opportunity to do just that. Principal Eunice Mills gave the school rules and told them that the school day starts at 8:45 a.m. as she has noticed that many students have been coming to school at 9 a.m. which means that they are late. She reminded the parents to be courteous to each other as they drop off their children in the mornings by not blocking the gate and stopping in the middle of the drive way. They will learn more about the schools expectation as the year progresses. As usual safety is an issue at the school as hundreds of children attend. They will no longer be allowed to visit teachers during instruction time and they will have to drop off lunches at the office and not take them to the class.

Senior Master Leroy Thompson told the parents that they cannot drive in the school

yard after school as a safety precaution so he would like them to comply. He further told them that they must stop at the office before proceeding to the classrooms. All parents were given an information packet that had all of the school rules, mission statement, goals and expectations.

When the parents visited the classrooms, they learned the class rules and expectations; they were informed of grade level field trips and text books their child needs. Some teachers spoke about the healthy precautions needed because of the H1N1 flu danger and asked parents to send hand sanitizers and wipes to school for their child. Behavior is always a topic of discussion so parents were asked to speak to their child about respect and following school rules to avoid getting into trouble.

October is Drug Free Schools Month

By Samantha V. Evans

Sandy Edwards, Education Officer with the Department of Education Abaco is spearheading the Drug Free School campaign. Packages were sent to all of the schools on Abaco giving them information on this initiative. The Bahamas National Drug Council and the Ministry of Education are working together to promote

Drug Free Schools. Their intention is to strengthen the drug prevention education programs within the school system. To do this they held several workshops and seminars over the summer.

All school principals were sent information to help them launch the program at their respective schools. The program, even though it has a specific message, will help students to develop their self esteem while they receive incentives and awards if they participate in the motto/logo competition. Schools are encouraged to also allow students to express their views on the topic via questionnaires, drawing comic strips about substance abuse, having special assemblies, developing a motto for their school to promote Drug Free Schools or having a fun day with community partners including the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

The motto/logo competition is open to students at the fourth through ninth grade levels and the top artwork can be sent to Nassau to compete with entrants from all over The Bahamas. The winning motto/logo will be affixed on the Bahamas National Drug Council's t-shirt. The rules for this competition were sent to all schools. Various modules for teaching about staying drug free and the Focus on Youth program were also sent to all schools for implementation during this month.

Twenty species of birds spotted during bird watch

By Canishka Alexander

The bird watching walk scheduled for September 26 from the Friends of the Environment office was an abbreviated one. Reg Patterson was the leader for the walk and he was joined by Barbara Foreman and two teachers from Every Child Counts: Marsden and Melanie Lawley. They identified 20 species of birds

According to Anita Knowles, office manager at Friends, the bird watching trips takes place once a month and are open to veteran and amateur birders of all ages. The group goes on four to six-hour trips and generally ends their bird watching around mid-day.

Friends recommends a pair of binoculars, a field guide for your area, a small notebook and pen to record what you see, a hat and water bottle for this popular outdoor activity.

Bird watching teaches bird identification as well as the environmental benefit of birds. The observation of recreational bird watchers contribute to the scientific knowledge and conservation of birds in The Bahamas.

In December Friends participates in an annual Audobon Christmas Bird Count and separate counts are collected for North and South Abaco.

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South Abaco News

Cherokee Sound

By Lee Pinder

School News

When school opened this year there were two new students starting Cherokee Primary School, Nathan Carroll and Robert Lightbourne. Dre Hepburn graduated from 6th grade and is now attending high school in Marsh Harbour.

A group of our children from grades 3 and 4 took part in the Friends of the Environment Keep Abaco Beautiful Awards Ceremony with a choral piece. They did an excellent job and we are very proud of them.

Fire Safety Month was held in September with an in school fire safety session with a very informative video, discussion and interaction on the internet. The local Fire Chief visited and conducted an emergency evacuation. He could tell the children had been brushing up on fire safety from their responses and questions. Surprise drills will be conducted throughout

the school year to better our evacuating the building. We are also having a casual-clothes day to collect donations for the Casuarina Fire Department.

September is National Pride Month. Cherokee Primary School hosted a Pride in our School ceremony on September 30. The children focused on pride in themselves and pride in their school.

Some of the students are gearing up for an October field trip to Grand Bahama which sounds as if it will be both educational and fun. The trip will emphasize social studies and the sciences. The students will be visiting Ben's Case, go out on a glass bottom boat, a visit the oil refinery, a plastics factory, a perfume factory and Garden of the Groves. For fun they will go bowling and to the movies.

The students individually will have stalls at the upcoming community Yard Sale in order to raise their own expense money for the trip.



Parents and friends of the Cherokee Sound Primary School students support the school. They are shown here at the Pride Ceremony in the W.W. Sands Community Center, the derelict original school building that the town renovated to make into a community center.

Friends prepares for fourth biennial Abaco Science Alliance Conference

By Canishka Alexander

After attending the Natural History Symposium in San Salvador several years ago, two Directors of Friends of the Environment enthusiastically returned to Abaco to share what they had learned. According to Friends' office manager Anita Knowles, they were excited and bubbling over. A few months after that trip, the Abaco Science Alliance Conference was formed and is held during even years. The fourth biennial Abaco Science Alliance Conference will take place on January 7-10, 2010, opening with a reception on that Thursday.

Mrs. Knowles said the formation of the conference was based on a need to bring scientists who do research in The Bahamas together so they can share the results of the research they have gathered.

Presentations cover different facets of the marine and terrestrial environment. Previously, there have been presentations on bonefish, parrots and lionfish. At past conferences, there have generally

been 13 presenters who deliver 20-minute presentations with 10 minutes reserved for questions and comments. The conference covers a day and a half beginning on Friday followed by a half day on Saturday. Participants are encouraged to submit poster presentations, which are displayed at the conference.

However, the conference goes beyond the dissemination of information. It allows scientists to network.

High school students are allowed to attend at no cost. "The conference is geared toward layman and high school students," Knowles explained. "You never know what will come out of the interaction at the conference."

The presenters come from near and far and consist of scientists and college students representing many colleges and universities, the Nature Conservancy and the College of The Bahamas. She said about 100 people typically attend the conference as well as 50-100 students.

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ATTENTION RAGERS

Once again, Racers will be judges on SHOWMANSHIP as well as fastest Downhill Slalom times. That's right....SHOWMANSHIP. Points will be awarded 1-10 for fastest Downhill (gravity power only), 1-10 for fastest Slalom (less penalties) & 1-10 for SHOWMANSHIP. Costumes, skits, decorated boxcars, exploding confetti displays, whatever you can think of. King of the Hill this year may not be the fastest.....We suggest American Soapbox Derby wheels for durability & speed & would like to establish a class for carts with this kind of wheel.

Brakes are optional, helmets are not!! Trophies & prizes will be awarded shortly after the competition ends. Please contact Stafford Patterson at 242-366-0023 or splug@abacoinet.com. To enter or for any further race or program information you may require. I hope to see you there on Race Day.

**FOOD - DRINKS-SHIRTS-DISPLAYS-EVEN PROGRAM - V.I.P SECTION
MUSIC - TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM THE SITE
LOTS OF GOOD FUN FOR THE FAMILY.**



Dupuch Real Estate

Marsh Harbour Office

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e-mail: jamesanddonna@erabahamas.com



SCHOONER BAY

- * Island lots available
- * Sustainable Community
- * Pedestrian Friendly
- * Volumes of Green Space
- * 14 Acre Harbour
- * Dockage
- * Environmentally Conscious
- * Grocery Store
- * Restaurant & Shops

#14018 Lots starting at: \$105,000-



LONG BEACH

South Abaco seaside community. Homes built to withstand all weather conditions and virtually maintenance free. Electricity & water available. Homes starting at.....US\$275,000

Offering beachfront, ocean view & hill-top lots. Homesites starting at.....US\$ 30,000 #13756



LITTLE HARBOUR

BEACHFRONT 14+ acres. 335 ft. of sandy beach frontage. Hilltop. Unparalleled views of the Atlantic. Close to Abaco Club at Winding Bay. #13515 Price: \$3,250,000



LITTLE HARBOUR LOT

Fantastic hilltop lot with Atlantic & Harbour views. Steps away from beach. Flats fishing & deep sea fishing. Dockage. Can be subdivided. #13914 Price: \$298,000



LITTLE HARBOUR

2 + acres with 135 ft. of direct water frontage on Little Harbour. Private, gated access. Great views of Little Harbour & Robinsons Bight. #13827 Price: \$495,000



LITTLE HARBOUR

Just under one acre of direct ocean front property. Fantastic Atlantic Ocean views. Good elevations. Cleared & ready to build. #13604 Price: \$199,000



LITTLE HARBOUR

Beautiful Atlantic Ocean views and beach access. 1.34 acres. Minutes from Pete's Pub and Winding Bay. #13575 Price: \$230,000



LITTLE HARBOUR

Treed hilltop lot. Spectacular views of Atlantic Ocean & Little Harbour. Studio cottage w/kitch/liv/bed/bath. Near Abaco Club, Winding Bay. #14065 Price: \$198,000



CASUARINA POINT

2 bed, 2 bath cottage, fully furnished. Built in 2008. Great views, beach access. All utilities, cable, etc. Turnkey. #13821 Price: \$230,000



CASUARINA POINT

BEACHFRONT DUPLEX. Fully furnished, 2 bed, 2 bath each side. Direct Atlantic Ocean views. All utilities. Fenced yard. Turnkey. #2818 Price: \$530,000



BAHAMA PALM SHORES

Lovely well maintained CBS home featuring 3 bed, 2 bath, on corner lot 90x150. Enclosed & landscaped property with garden. Great for pets. #2837 Price: \$350,000



BAHAMA PALM SHORES

1 & 2 acre estate **beachfront lots** in seaside community. Good elevations, gorgeous Atlantic Ocean views. Utilities available. #13544 Price: 295,000



LEISURE LEE

Great canal front homesite, lot 164 on Palm Dr. Sea-walled, cleared and ready to build. Owner financing possible. #13891 Price: \$249,000



GREEN TURTLE CAY

Breathtaking beachfront property on a crescent beach. Great elevations. Private secluded area. Power available #2809 Price: \$665,000



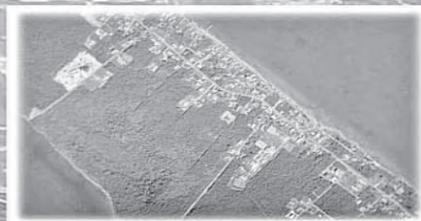
DUNDAS TOWN

Multi-family unfinished duplex. Concrete block construction. 2,464 sq. ft. total. Solid structure. Good investment opportunity. #13935 Price: \$120,000



MURPHY TOWN

Very nice 2 bed, 2 bath home with open concept living, sits on 1.75 acres. Can be subdivided. Great investment opportunity. #13475 Price: \$305,000



COOPERS TOWN

Opportunity awaits! 40 acres of untouched property with nice coppice growth. Hilltop & waterfront. Ideal for residential development. #13558 Price: \$490,000



GILPIN POINT

2 beautiful Gilpin Point beach lots, 100 ft. x 140 ft. each. Mature coconut trees. South Abaco, near Schooner Bay. #13647 Price: \$175,000/ea

VACANT PROPERTIES

- | | |
|--|---|
| Bahama Coral Island Lots.....Starting at: \$25,000 | * Green Turtle Cay 1.5 acres, 135 ft. beach, great elevations.....\$665,000 |
| Bahama Palm Shores Interior lot, Section 1.....\$33,000 | * Hope Town Centrally located, ocean front lot.....\$210,000 |
| Bahama Palm Shores Interior lot, Section 2.....\$37,000 | * Long Beach Interior lots.....Starting at: \$ 30,000 |
| Casuarina Point Interior Lot #85, Section 3.....\$60,500 | |
| Turtle Rocks Acreage 148 ft. shoreline, 728 ft. deep.....\$495,000 | * Long Beach 2 bedroom, long term RENTAL.....month/\$1,500 |

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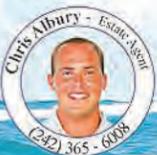
15th Oct. 2009





Abaco Cays Realty, Ltd.

Great Guana Cay - Green Turtle Cay - Man-O-War Cay
Marsh Harbour
info@abacocaysrealty.com • www.abacocaysrealty.com



HOMES HOMES HOMES HOMES



Great Guana Cay
- ± 1.5 Acres
- 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bath
- 1,760 s.f. Residence
- Covered & Open Decks
- 160' of Ocean Beach
- Fabulous Ocean Views
- Additional Land Available
- Boat Slip Available
#GGH1129 - **\$2,495,000.**



Great Guana Cay Orchid Bay
- 3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths.
- 1840 s.f. Residence.
- 955 s.f. Porches & Decks
- Land - 74' Sea of Abaco
- 11,016 s.f. - 0.25 Acres
- Auxiliary Generator
- Private Dock
- Fabulous Views
#GGH1123- **\$1,160,000.**



Man-O-War Cay
- 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths.
- 2,664 s.f. Residence.
- 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath.
- 838 s.f. Guest House
- Land - Sea-to-Sea
± 43,800 s.f. - 1.1 Acres
- 98' Ocean Beach Front
- Private Dock on Creek
- Fabulous Views
#MWH1116 - **\$3,750,000.**

GREAT GUANA CAY
• **"SEA-TO-BAY"** - 11.5 Acres - 1,198' of Waterfrontage - Over 500' of Protected Boat Basin Frontage - Superb Building Sites - Good elevation - Fabulous Views - Perfect for development or Elegant Private Estate. #GGV1008 **\$9,995,000.**
• **"PRINCE'S TRUST"** - Estate - 12.5 Acres - 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths - 1,760 s.f. Residence - Covered and open decks - 593' of Ocean Beach - 664' on Sea of Abaco - Fabulous Views - Private Boat Basin. #GGH1096 **\$4,950,000.**
• **"ART CAFE & BAKERY"** - Settlement - Commercial - at Main Public Dock - Best Location in town. - 1,900 s.f. Colonial Bldg. - 400 s.f. Cov. Veranda - Commercial Grade Kitchen - Land- 96'x84' - 8,064 s.f. - Great Restaurant or Retail #GHH1109 **\$867,500.**
• **"SANDCASTLE"** - 2 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths. - 960 s.f. Residence - Covered Porch - Land - 5,000 s.f. - Dock Access - Furnished. #GGH1011 **\$375,000.**



Man-O-War Cay
- ± 0.975 Acres -
- 100' Ocean Beachfront
- 127' Creek front
- 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
- 1,336 s.f. Residence
- 88' dock, 35' T
- Auxiliary Generator
#MWH1139- **\$2,150,000.**



Man-O-War Cay
- 2 Bedrooms, 1.5 Baths.
- 1,220 s.f. Residence.
- 3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath.
- 532 s.f. Guest House
- Land - Sea-to-Sea
32,571 s.f. - 0.74 Acre
- 165' Ocean Beach Front
- Private Dock
- Fabulous Views
#MWH1134 - **\$2,100,000.**

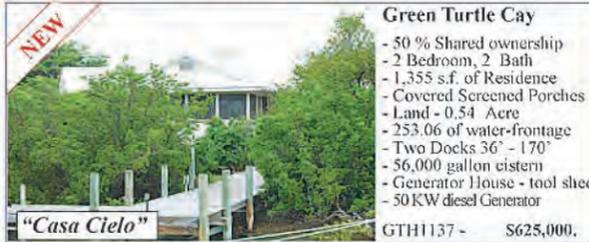
GREEN TURTLE CAY
• **"THE LOYALIST"** - 6-A Leeward Yacht Club - 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bath 2,016 s.f. - 392 s.f. Covered Veranda, 392 s.f. Covered Balcony. Land 9,241 s.f. - 54' of frontage on Black Sound - Onsite dockage available. #GTH1127 - **NEW \$1,325,000.**
• **"THE SOUTHARD"** - 7-C Leeward Yacht Club - 3 Bedrooms, 3.5 Bath 2,743 s.f. - 728 s.f. Galleries and Verandas, 334 s.f. Screened Porch. Land 9,450 s.f. - Onsite dockage available. #GTH1126 - **NEW \$1,225,000.**
• **"MARINA VILLA # 4"** - 2 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath - 1,455 s.f. luxury villa - Covered Screened Porch - Land - 7,554 s.f. - Deeded Dock - Boat Lift - Golf Cart Garage - Auxiliary Generator - Complete Renovation 2007. #GTH1098 - **\$995,000.**
• **"FLIP FLOP"** - 4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath - 2,500 s.f. Residence - 2,044 s.f. Screened Porch. Land - 12,091 s.f. - 0.277 Acre - Great Family Home - convenient location - GTH 1128 - **NEW \$695,000.**



Green Turtle Cay New Plymouth
- 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
- 2,170 s.f. Residence
- 285 s.f. Covered Porches
- Land - 3,480 s.f. - Near Public Dock in Harbour.
- Historic - Gingerbread
- Harbour Views
#GTH1119 - **\$450,000.**

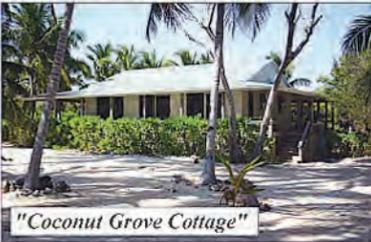


Man-O-War Cay
- 3 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Baths
- 1,536 s.f. Residence.
- 500 s.f. Porches & Decks
- Land - ± 53,740 s.f.
+ 1.23 Hillside Acres
- 180' Harbour Frontage
- Private Dock on harbour
- Great elevation
- Fabulous Views
#MWH1115 - **\$1,600,000.**



Green Turtle Cay
- 5 Bedrooms, 4 Baths
- 4,977 s.f. Residence
- 3.5 Acres - Sea-to-Sea
- 130' Ocean Beachfront
- 200' on Coco Bay
- Private Dock on Coco Bay
- 15KW Aux Gen.
- 600 GPD - Watermaker
#GTH1097 - Four Possible Sale Options - From: **\$462,000** - for 1 acre w/dock lic. on Coco Bay. to **\$2,300,000** for entire Estate

MAN-O-WAR CAY
• **"HARBOUR LIGHT"** - Dickie's Cay - 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths - 1,560 s.f. Residence - 1,040 s.f. Verandas - 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath Guest house - 1.824 Acres - Entire S.E. - Point of Dickie's Cay - Private Dock, Auxiliary Generator - Superb Views - Furnished. #MWH1099 - **\$2,200,000.**
• **"VIKING"** - Dickie's Cay - 5 Bedrooms, 3 1/2 Baths. - 3,360 s.f. Residence - 1,200 s.f. Covered Deck - 0.84 Acres Sea-to-Sea - Private 136' Dock - Auxiliary Generator - Superb Harbour Views - Furnished. #MWH1001 - **\$1,995,000.**
• **"FRESH WIND LANDING"** - Dickie's Cay - 3 Bedrooms, 3 1/2 Baths - 2,460 s.f. Residence - 1,400 s.f. Porches-Decks - 1 Bed, 1 bath Snore Box - 7,500 s.f. Land - Private 93' Dock. - 40 KW Aux. Generator - Superb Harbour Views - #MWH1107 - **\$1,200,000.**
• **"SUNSPLASH"** - 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths - 1,921 s.f. Residence - 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath - 400 s.f. Guest Cabin - 172' Ocean Beach Front - 1.189 Acres - Beautifully Landscaped - Semi-Private Dock - Fabulous Views - #MWH1019 - **NEW PRICE - \$840,000.**



Man-O-War Cay Eastern Harbour
- 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
- 1,030 s.f. Residence -
- 1,290 s.f. Covered Deck
- 0.877 Acres
- 82' Ocean Frontage
- Semi-Private Dock.,
- Superb Ocean Views
#MWH1076 - **\$1,550,000.**

TILLOO CAY
• **"BOUNTIFULLY BLESSED"** - 2 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath - 800 s.f. residence - 3.75 Acre, sea to sea - 109' of frontage - on Sea of Abaco - 106' on Atlantic - Boat basin with lift - 170' of dock - Swimming Pool - Approved plans for 3/2 New England cottage #TLH1086 - **NEW PRICE - \$1,350,000.**

VACANT LAND

ELBOW CAY
• **"BERKLEY'S BLUFF"** - White Sound - Oceanfront Building Site ± 31,000 sq.ft. - 0.7116 Acre - 100' of Ocean Frontage 275' in Depth Natural sub-tropical vegetation - Great elevation for spectacular views HTV1125 **\$495,000**

GREAT GUANA CAY
• **"ATLANTIS"** - 19,239 s.f. - 0.4417 Acre - 95' of North Atlantic Beachfront - 159' in Depth - Beautiful Beachfront building site - Central Great Guana Cay location - Semi-private dock. #GGV1135 - **NEW \$485,000.**
• **"CAPTAIN'S COVE"** - 6,653 s.f. - .0152 Acre - 45.47' of Sea of Abaco frontage - Prime building site - can carry a private dock - 180 degree views - underground electric and paved road. #GGV1091 **\$375,000.**
• **"PARCEL A" at PRINCE'S TRUST** - Moderately Priced Half Acre Building Site - ± 25,465 sq.ft. - ± 0.5846 Acre - 204.84' NE Road Frontage - ± 176' - SW Boundary - ± 133' - NW Road Boundary - ± 178' - SE Boundary - Fabulous Sea of Abaco Views - Beach Access - Boat Slips Available - #GGV1130 - **NEW \$345,000.**
• **"PARADISE"** - 12,141 s.f. - 0.2787 acre - One lot off beach with beach access steps away - great elevated building site - central Great Guana Cay location - #GGV1138 - **NEW - \$199,000.**



GREAT GUANA CAY
• **"BLUE LAGOON"** - Parcel # 45 - Orchid Bay - 43,480 s.f. - 0.9982 Acre - 190.88' on Sea of Abaco frontage - prime building site - +/- 15' elevations - Orchid Bay amenities - Allows for private deeded dock - mature trees. #GGV1087 **\$940,000.**
• **"WIND N' SEA"** - Fabulous waterfront building site - Two parcels containing a total of 69,197 s.f. - 1.588 Acres - 241' of Sea of Abaco Frontage - great elevations to 42' above sea level - GGV1112 **NEW LISTING \$850,000.**
• **"AERIE"** - Parcel # 58 - Orchid Bay - 174,775 s.f. - 4.012 Acres - Orchid Bay amenities. - One of the Highest Points in Orchid Bay - Fabulous Panoramic Views. #GGV1077 - **NEW PRICE \$700,000.**
• **"CLAIRE'S BEACH"** - Beachfront Building Site - 31,243 s.f. - 0.717 Acre - 117' Beach Frontage - Dock Access - Good Elevation - Superb Ocean Views - #GGV1006 - **NEW PRICE \$667,000.**
• **"PARCEL B" at PRINCE'S TRUST** - Fabulous Waterfront Building Site - ± 242' Southwest Sea of Abaco Frontage - ± 43,803 sq.ft. - ± 1.0055 Acres - Great Sea of Abaco Views - Beach Access - Boat Slips Available - GGV1131 - **NEW - \$685,000.**
• **"PARCEL C" at PRINCE'S TRUST** - Fabulous Waterfront Building Site - ± 204' Southwest Sea of Abaco Frontage - ± 54,360 sq.ft. - ± 1.2480 Acres - Great Sea of Abaco Views - Beach Access - Boat Slips Available - GGV1132 - **NEW - \$685,000.**
• **"SEAVIEW"** - Dolphin Beach Estates - 136' prime waterfront - 0.557 Acres Containing 24,292 s.f. - Shared dock access Superb elevation - Fabulous Views of Delia's Cay and the Sea of Abaco. 8' depth at MLW at shoreline. A private dock can be built on the property. GGV1118 - **NEW LISTING \$624,500.**
• **"LOST SHAKER"** - Dolphin Beach Estates - Oversized beach-front parcel - 36,839 s.f. - 0.8457 Acre - 65' of Beach-front Good elevations for superb ocean views. Lush Native Vegetation. # GGV1000 - **\$545,500.**

GREEN TURTLE CAY
• **"CONCHED OUT"** - offered in 1 to 4 prime sites - 100' - 460' of water frontage - Atlantic Beach and Sea of Abaco frontage available - 10'-32' elevations - 360' views - Very private Area #GTV1008 - **\$546,000. - \$3,000,000.**
• **"PLAYING HOOKY"** - 15,948 s.f. - 0.3661 Acre - Prime Building Site - Unobstructed views of Coco Bay - Public Dock Access - Beach Access - 50' from Coco Bay Beach. #GTV1080 **\$595,000.**
• **"LONG BAY BEACH"** - Incredible beach parcel - ± 26,589 Sq.ft. - ± 0.6103 acres - 60' of spectacular beach frontage - Private gated entrance - Affordable building site for cottage or beach cabana. #GTV1121 - **NEW \$325,000.**
• **"LONG BAY SOUND"** - Back to nature. - Secluded - 24,565 Sq ft - 0.5639 acres - 105' of Black Sound frontage - Ideal home site - Dock site possible. #GTV1122 - **NEW \$325,000.**
• **"COCO BAY VIEW"** - 32,690 s.f. - 0.7567 Acre - Dock Access - Beach Access - Good Elevation. #GTV1009 **\$291,000.**
• **"COCO BAY BREEZE"** - Two Prime Building Sites - 2699 Acre - .2255 Acre - Dock Access - Beach Access. #GTV1007 **\$47,500. - Lot \$89,000.**
• **"CASUARINA"** - 8,126 s.f. - 0.1865 Acre - Corner lot - Prime building site - Central location - Short walk to Bita Bay Beach - Snorkel right off shore #GTV1074

MAN-O-WAR CAY
• **"GRAND BOIS"** - Rare Prime Ocean-front building site - 0.51 Acre - 125' Atlantic Ocean frontage - Central Location - Fabulous Ocean Views - Lush Native Foliage. #MWV1081 **NEW PRICE \$495,000.**
• **"SUMMERPLACE"** - Prime Building Site - 10,719 s.f. - 0.246 Acre - Over 150' of Sea of Abaco frontage - Concrete Seawall on Sea of Abaco - 103' x 6' private dock on Man-O-War harbour - Fabulous Sea of Abaco views. #MWV1082 - **NEW PRICE \$325,000.**

MARSH HARBOUR
• **GREAT ABACO CLUB - Parcels # 6A and # 7A** - # 6A - 9,243 sq.ft. - # 7A - 13,845 sq.ft - Private Dockage - Great Sea of Abaco Views. # 6A - #MHV1102 **\$970,000.** # 7A - #MHV1103 **\$1,455,000.** #6A & #7A - **\$2,182,000.**
• **GREAT ABACO CLUB - Parcels # 48 and # 49** - # 48 - 7,548 sq.ft. - # 49 - 7,117 sq.ft - 50' of Boat Basin Frontage. - Semi-Private Docks - Ridge Parcels - Good Elevation. #48-#MHV1100 **\$667,000.** - #49-#MHV1101 **\$667,000.**

SCOTLAND CAY
• **"141 Hillside Developer Parcels"** - Over 1/2 Acre with beach access. Aircraft Landing Rights and Boat Slips available **NEW LISTING #SC1140 Priced from: \$170,000 - \$438,000**
• **"Block Q - Parcel # 1"** - Fabulous one-half acre building site - 25,658 sq.ft. - 0.5890 Acre - 172.61' on Sea of Abaco - Hillside - great elevations and superb views of the Sea of Abaco - Shoreline protected by small cay. #SCV1117 - **NEW LISTING - \$485,000.**

Viewpoint . . . Agriculture and Foreign Investment

By John Hedden

What a topic to choose, but..... here goes.

Ever since the FNM regained control of Parliament, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Agriculture and the Chairman of the Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation (BAIC) have been expounding the value of homegrown food, security, the need to develop the farming sector as a viable part of our economy and as a vehicle for employment. Just recently in the national press I have seen the BIS releases discussing the opportunities for agriculture on Abaco and the interest expressed by the Chinese government in exploring the potential of 10,000 acres of the sugar bowl area south of Spring City and 3,000 acres at Norman's Castle. This the latest of a whole series of releases concerning development of the craft industry nationwide and the growth of farm enterprises on Andros and Eleuthera. I have also seen several months ago the gazetting of an application for a commercial enterprise to grow and process bio-oils on Abaco. These are all very encouraging signs and show that much thought is going into the development of a viable agricultural sector for the Bahamas.

And, of course, I have much concern over how and where we are going.

Firstly, of course, is the dialogue that exists over the issue. Of course, there is none. However, a dialogue is essential and must include the consumer, the grower and the government. This trinity in itself becomes instantly controversial because the question arises as to who is going to drive the sector?

Will it be the consumer?

Will it be the producer (farmer)?

Or... Will it be the government?

These points may seem trivial, but all

will affect the product delivered to the consumer, mostly in the form of pricing and quality. A consumer-driven sector will effect low prices and high quality whereas a producer driven structure will effect higher prices and lower quality. For evidence, look at prices on your supermarket shelves during the Bahamian growing season and, for example, right now. Yesterday I bought tomatoes for \$1.19 per pound. I could not believe it; for when Bahamian production begins, the price normally increases by over 100 percent. This is a topic that needs to be discussed openly and by everyone. The farmers need to survive and the consumer needs affordable and healthy product on the shelves. I purposely will not discuss the Bahamian diet at this point (have your cake and eat it!).

Where does the government fit into all of this? The answer lies, of course, in control of the sector. And the returns generated for the grower. Obviously, private land holds too high a real estate value to be used for commercial food production and so the burden falls on "generation" property in the more southern islands, and "public lands" in the more northern islands. The fact remains that the northern islands are more suited to mechanised agriculture because of their geology and water. Enter the governmental control over "Crown land."

The other form of governmental control comes through licensing, registration and tax concessions offered to the Bahamian farmer as well as product embargos placed on import competition during the growing seasons. For some reason these fixtures and institutions have not managed to stimulate agricultural production in the country since their inception over 40 years ago. So the attitude seems to be that we just can't do it on our own.

Step in, foreign investment.

If we can't generate the capital necessary locally, then bring it in from outside. This must be a good thing, right? Because we are bringing more money into the country, we possibly will be provided jobs and the politicians can relax a little bit; especially in these tough times. All is dandy. We now have local food production and possibly processing to boot, and stores overflowing with local produce. But are things really that fine and dandy if we follow this route?

If we look at other sectors of the economy following this same path, we have often created mammoth financial, environmental and social failures. All we have to do is look at the mega resort skeletons littering the Out Islands to see these failed investments over which we have had no control. Are we now going to do the same with agriculture?

What about our sovereignty?

Are we destined to continue to be servants and employees in our own country?

Where is our sense of entrepreneurship that we like to chatter about so frequently?

What incentives will the government offer to attract this investment? Tax free everything, including fuel, in order to lower production costs? Imported labour? Long term land leases to encourage infrastructure and fixed asset investments? Will these same concessions be offered Bahamians? Will Bahamians continue to be booted off Crown Land to make way for development?

What about the development of high value food products with processing and canning? We already have several local enterprises, how will they fit into the picture?

What about markets? We have no local organised local marketing scheme in the

country, look at crafts as well as agriculture.

What about the market size? Will we export, and to whom? Can we compete in a bigger world? Our local market cannot absorb such large scale production.

What about grades and standards, the healthy use of farm chemicals and preservatives?

How will we monitor all of this?

Will this development motivate independent satellite technologies to supply the larger operation? How?

There are so many, many more questions, problems, obstacles and solutions that need to be addressed, discussed and implemented. The most important of which is to develop a rock solid agricultural policy that cannot be adapted and changed arbitrarily. All farmers must stand on the same ground (out standing in their field) and be given the same incentives and opportunities. Every single member of the farming and consuming community should be involved in this dialogue before any decisions are made by the politicians on our behalf.

Now I will go out and stand in my field.

**Support the
Cancer Society
Donate used items
to be sold in
their Thrift Shop
Visit their shop behind
Abaco Groceries.
Call 367-3744 for info**



Hope Town District Council & Marsh Harbour / Spring City Town Committee



Attention!

In accordance with the Town Planning Act 1961 [Section 7 (1)] and the Port Authorities Act 1962, and further to the introduction of the Local Government Act 1996 [Chapter 14 (a) ii, iii] which implements the transfer of authority and management to locally elected bodies and/or their appointed statutory boards, we hereby declare the following:

Given the recent amount of unauthorized construction that has taken place within our respective districts of Hope Town and Marsh Harbour / Spring City Township, we give notice that any person who begins construction to erect any structure without the necessary permits will be subject to prosecution.

We, Jeremy T. Sweeting and Roscoe W. Thompson III, your Chief Councillor and Town Committee Chairman respectively, do not wish to see any of our constituents penalized due to being unfamiliar with the permitting process. We want to help you. If you do not know the application and permitting process, please contact our office secretaries at the contact listed below

Hope Town - 366-0600

Marsh Harbour/ Spring City - 367-4957

We are here to help you but need your cooperation by adhering to law.

Jeremy T. Sweeting, Chief Councillor
Hope Town District

Roscoe W. Thompson III, Chairman
Marsh Harbour / Spring City Township

People in the News

Track programme is underway in Murphy Town

By Navardo Saunders

You may know her as the new Deputy Administrator, but what you may not know is that at one time Whelma Colebrooke held the national record in track in the 800m and 1500m.

And now her "passion" for running has caused her to establish a programme to help students on Abaco become world class runners. "I'm doing this for the kids who are interested in competing," Colebrooke said. "I want to help them with their training, help them get to the level where they are so good they can attain scholarships."

The Community Track Programme, as it is being dubbed by Ms. Colebrooke, got underway early in October at the track beside Abaco Central High School and is held Monday to Friday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. She is being assisted by Patrice Charles, Insp. Edric Poitier and William "Tony" Davis. "All of us along with some other persons are working toward helping students prepare for the CARIFTA games that will be held in March 2010," she said.

During the initial sessions athletes will do exercises to enhance their strength and conditioning, Ms. Colebrooke said. "We won't just get right into running and competing. We will talk with kids about what it takes to be a world class runner; we will show them proper warm-up exercises; and then we will start off jogging and accelerate from there."

Training will be available for students, from public and private schools, who want to run the 60m to a marathon and even hurdles. "This is for all runners, not just those who run the shorter distances," Ms. Colebrooke said. "Many times when people think about competitive running, they think of the 100m, 200m, 400m, especially since The Bahamas has had such great success at those distances. But there are many other distances and events in competitive running."

Ms. Colebrooke, who got a scholarship to attend college because of her superb running, reflected on how she got started in the sport and some of what she has accomplished. "I first started running when I was a student in high school. That's when I met Frank Pancho Rahming, the Director of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and he is also

the coach for the national team," she explained. "So I met Pancho in the seventh grade. He was my P.E. teacher and he saw potential in me.



Whelma Colebrook

He invited me to join the Pioneers Track Club, which I did, and to this day I still call him my coach, my mentor. Even after I went to college I still called Pancho. I thank God for Mr. Rahming.

I had a scholarship to attend private school, but my mother preferred me in the government system. Pancho continued to train me. I made my first CARIFTA team, and I came in last place. I remember it was in Jamaica I got last in the 800m."

She was disappointed, but determined to work harder and it paid off. "I competed in CARIFTA the following year came first and set a new CARIFTA record and a new national record," she said. "I was the first Bahamian woman to go under 2 minutes and 10 seconds in the 800m, and I held that record for 16 years."

Before being assigned to Abaco, Ms. Colebrooke assisted with the police training programme in New Providence. "I like being active so now I want to help kids who are interested in competitive running to reach their full potential," she said. "Track is something you can't put in someone's lap. You have to work for it. It's hard.

"You have to have determination. You have to want it bad. I think kids who are interested in track should pursue it because it gives them an opportunity to explore the world, get scholarships, so their parents can save money and with running, if they excel at it, they can have a very lucrative career because of multimillion dollar endorsement deals."

While the programme will focus on helping young people reach a competitive

level, everyone throughout the length and breadth of the island is invited to take part. "Eventually we want to have local track competitions, and we want to take a local team into Nassau and Freeport to compete," she said. "It's important to not only train, but also to compete. It allows athletes and coaches to gauge performances."

Competing in national and international competitions would give local athletes the chance to be seen by scouts from colleges and universities in the United States and elsewhere. "What the international scouts do is they see the kids perform. If they like what they see, they ask to recruit them," she said.

In addition to working hard on the track, if students want to attain scholarships they must also have good grades. "You can be an excellent runner but have bad grades, they won't get a scholarship," she said. "But

they can be a mediocre runner and have good grades and get a scholarship. Coaches and schools are willing to help students with good grades become better, but no school is going to invest in someone who does not have good grades."

Ms. Colebrooke would like community support. Anyone wishing to donate money or time to community track programme can contact her at the Administrator's office in Marsh Harbour.

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- Replace all incandescent bulb with compact fluorescent bulbs. They cost more initially but they use 66 percent less energy and last up to 10 times longer.

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More People in the News

Congratulations to Chervon Mackey

Jennifer Hudson

This last year has certainly been a very special one for Chervon Mackey, Grade 3 teacher at Central Abaco Primary School. Two very important events have taken place in her life, both of which have resulted in a name change. On December 27 Chervon embarked on a new stage of her life when she became married to Ishmael "Stretch" Morley, thus changing her title from Ms. to Mrs. Although, since her young students are so used to calling her Ms. Mackey, rather than confuse them, she still goes by that name.

Another very important name change took place in June of this year when Chervon achieved a great accomplishment in completing a Doctor of Education degree (EdD) in Organizational Leadership from Nova South Eastern University and so became Dr. Chervon Morley.

Chervon is a very motivated young lady who likes to make full use of her time in not only helping young people but also furthering her own education. She transferred to the Central Abaco Primary School in 2002 from Nassau. Having been extremely involved in many activities in Nassau, Chervon wanted a break from the city and selected Abaco for a change of pace. After arriving on Abaco, she was very involved with Junior Junkanoo for a few months. After that was over, she felt that she was becoming bored and needed something challenging to do.

The fact that life here is less rushed than in Nassau gave Chervon the chance to further her own education. Deciding to try

for a doctorate degree, she looked online for a suitable school close to The Bahamas. Having selected Nova South Eastern University, she was accepted within one week and immediately got to work. "It was challenging but not difficult, though it did involve a lot of study. I spent all of my free time in the evenings and at weekends working on it," stated Chervon.

"The course involved not only doing research and writing papers but also actual chat sessions with professors and classmates. These internet chat sessions are compulsory so one needs to be very computer savvy, and very reliable internet service is key," stated Chervon, who actually had to change her internet service to ensure reliability. Chervon completed her degree in three years during which time she was required to visit the college campus in Fort Lauderdale only once for orientation.

Although Chervon actually finished her course at the beginning of June, the process of the reading of her Dissertation, An Evaluation of Teacher Training in ESL (English as a Second Language) by the faculty was a lengthy one, and the process was not completed in time for her to attend the summer graduation. However, Chervon is now the very proud owner of her doctor-



Chervon Mackey

ate and is hoping to attend the university's graduation ceremony in December.

Dr. Mackey is a big advocate for education and urges young people not to be satisfied with just a high school diploma. She urges anyone who can continue further education to do so. She admits that it is costly; but says that if a person has the means, he should not sit around and wait for a scholarship but just get on and do it. However, she advises against beginning any course unless one can invest both time and money and warns that it requires focus and commitment.

Swimming coaches attend conference

By Mirella Santillo

Four members of the Abaco Swim Club traveled to Fort Lauderdale the week of September 8th to 13th to attend the American Swimming Coaches Association's Conference.

Every year the conference offers swimming coaches the opportunity to take classes towards more advanced certification and to keep abreast of new methods of teaching

as well as security measures for swimmers. There are five levels of certification recognized by the Association, the highest level, number five, corresponding to Olympic teaching certification.

Coaches Sara Knowles of Hope Town and Ashley Sands of Marsh Harbour attended three courses during their stay, learning about Dryland Training which consists of exercises and stretching out of the pool, How to Write Workouts and Stroke School, level 2. They left the conference with a level 2 coach certification.

Brenda Sawyer and Cathy Pinder who are already level 2 certified attended the Swim America Program Director Training, a required course for the Swim America affiliate license that will help them manage the Abaco, Learn to Swim program more efficiently.

Close to 60 children are now enrolled in various classes of the swimming program and the recently added Learn to Swim for Adult Summer program has been so successful that it is being offered on a regular basis every Friday.



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IMPORTANT NOTICE TO OWNERS/OPERATORS OF RENTAL HOMES IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS



EFFECTS OF AMENDMENTS TO THE HOTELS ACT, THE REAL PROPERTY TAX ACT AND THE INTERNATIONAL PERSONS LANDHOLDING ACT

Recent amendments to the Hotels Act, Ch. 288, effective July 13, 2009 and August 5, 2009, have introduced the new definition of “owner-occupied rental home” and, along with recent amendments to the Real Property Tax Act, Ch. 375 and the International Persons Landholding Act, Ch. 140, owners are being afforded a number of benefits and incentives.

Under the Hotels Act and Real Property Tax Act and International Persons Landholding Act, respectively, owner-occupied rental home and owner-occupied property are defined as “property occupied by a person who being the owner in fee simple or a mortgagor in possession, occupies and resides in such property exclusively as a dwelling house on a permanent or seasonal basis”.

Owners wishing to benefit from these amendments must apply for a licence to operate their premises by completing an Application for Licence to Operate under the provisions of the Hotels Act.

BENEFITS OF THESE AMENDMENTS

- (i) Real Property Taxes on licensed owner-occupied rental homes will be calculated as follows:
 - (a) the first \$250,000 of the market value of the property shall be exempt;
 - (b) properties exceeding \$250,000 but are not in excess of \$500,000 will be taxed at a rate of 3/4% per annum of the market value, as compared to the commercial rate of 1%
 - (c) properties exceeding \$500,000 but are not in excess of \$5 million will be taxed at a rate of 1% per annum of the market value, as compared to the commercial rate of 2%
 - (d) properties exceeding \$5 million will be taxed at a rate of 1/4% per annum of the market value, as compared to the commercial rate of 2%
- (ii) The Real Property Tax Act amendment also provides for the waiver of surcharges under certain circumstances in relation to licensed owner-occupied property:
 - (a) any surcharge which has accumulated with respect to owner-occupied property of [value] up to \$250,000 shall be waived
 - (b) the surcharge shall be waived in relation to owner-occupied property which exceeds \$250,000 [in value], if the outstanding real property tax is paid on or before December 31, 2009.

Revival of Surcharge

The amendment provides for the revival of surcharge and, if after December 31, 2009 any real property tax remains outstanding in respect of:

- (a) owner -occupied property with a market value of up to \$250,000
- (b) owner-occupied property which excess of \$250,000
- (c) other property,

then the owner of such property, shall be liable to pay a new surcharge of 5% of such tax per annum.

REQUIREMENTS TO ACCESS THESE BENEFITS

1. Owners of owner-occupied rental homes wishing to take advantage of the reduced real property taxes must provide the Chief Valuation Officer, Business Licence/Valuation Unit, Ministry of Finance, P. O. Box N-13, Frederick Street, Nassau, Bahamas, tel: 242-325-1171; fax: 242-328-8003; e-mail: busrptadministration@bahamas.gov.bs with the Assessment Number of their property on or before October 15, 2009. Where the property is owned by a company, in order to be re-classified as residential, the beneficial owner shall submit to the Chief Valuation Officer an affirmation stating that such property is occupied by the beneficial owner exclusively as a dwelling house on a permanent or seasonal basis, which can be downloaded on-line at www.tourismtoday.com/prelim/oorh. Real property tax billings issued in October 2009 will reflect any change in the status of owner-occupied rental homes provided the information is submitted on or before October 15, 2009 to the Valuation Department.

2. In addition, owner-occupied rental homes must operate under a licence obtained from the Chief Licensing Officer, Hotels Licensing Department, Ministry of Tourism, Nassau, P. O. Box N-3701, Nassau, Bahamas, tel: 242-356-5216; fax: 242-356-5904; e-mail: mmosshepburn@bahamas.com or, in the case of Grand Bahama Island and the Out/Family Islands, the Local Government Administrator’s Office in the relevant District.

Application forms, along with the Form 1C, may be downloaded on-line at www.tourismtoday.com/prelim/oorh, or collected from the Hotel Licensing Department, Ministry of Tourism, Nassau, or the relevant Local Government Administrator’s Office.

3. All licensed operators/owners of owner-occupied rental homes shall collect a hotel guest tax of six percent 6% of the total room rate for the period during which each guest is provided with sleeping accommodation at such owner-occupied home of one or more bedrooms.

Such tax shall take immediate effect and shall, by law, be paid by the 15 th of each month thereafter.

4. The hotel guest tax so collected by the operator (or designated property manager/ management company/caretaker) must be paid to the Chief Licensing Officer, Hotels Licensing Department, P. O. Box N-3701, Nassau Court, Nassau, Bahamas, or relevant Administrator’s Office on Grand Bahama or the Out/Family Islands, along with a completed Monthly Return of Motel Guest Tax form (Form X), which may be downloaded on-line at www.tourismtoday.com/prelim/oorh, no later than the fifteenth of the month next following the month to which the return relates. Payments are to be made payable to the Bahamas Public Treasury.

Additionally, amendments to The International Persons Landholding Act

- i) require that fees payable under the provisions of the Act by non-Bahamians, instead of being paid to the Secretary to the Board, be paid directly to the Public Treasury and the Secretary to the Board be provided evidence that payment was made to the Treasury.
- ii) has replaced “single family dwelling” with “owner-occupied property.”

North Abaco News

North Abaco News

By Vernique Russell
Back to school

All over The Bahamas, students returned to school for the academic year 2009-2010. However, the new school year did bring an unpleasant surprise for principals, teachers and students alike. The school year began with a staff shortage and this problem seems to have occurred all over The Bahamas. Most schools were short at least two teachers with Sherlin Bootle being short by six which was the largest shortage in the North. Principal and staff have, however, brainstormed ways to get the year started until the issue is addressed.

PTA grade level meetings

S.C. Bootle High School held meetings recently with parents and students of grade 8 and grade 12 to bring them up-to-date

Classes offered

Classes in straw plaiting, carpentry and nail technicians are being offered to the residents of North Abaco.

Sign up at Cooper's Town Primary School. Or contact Esther Cornish in Blackwood 365-0603

on matters such as internal examinations, the new graduation process being implemented by the Ministry of Education, BJC and BGCSE examinations, study habits and scholarship opportunities. Both meetings were well attended and gave parents an excellent opportunity to converse with teachers to ensure their children maximize their educational pursuits.

Farewell to a favorite teacher

S. C. Bootle already has lost its share of teachers for the year. On September 18th



Cynthia James, a favorite English teacher at S.C. Bootle High School, has returned to her home in England. She was honoured before she left for her contribution to the education of the students of North Abaco.

the staff said farewell to a favorite teacher, Cynthia James. Parents and students praised her and gave her credit for the years she spent in teaching students in English. Unfortunately, she will be leaving to return to her home in England. All the best, Ms. James.



The parents and students of grade 8 and grade 12 have attended meetings to acquaint them with policies and procedures of S.C. Bootle High School.

Holy Fire Dance Explosion

The Dance Ministry Department of Full Gospel Assembly will host its 2nd Annual Holy Fire Dance Conference on October 21 to 23 at the church. Dance leader Melissa McIntosh invites dance ministries throughout the island to join them for an awesome time. Dance instructors from Nassau and Grand Bahama will conduct sessions along with ministers who will speak.

For further information interested person can contact 365-

8097 or visit the local church office. Registration is underway.

Pastors offer prayers on school campus

The prayer banner was raised high at Sherlin C. Bootle High School on September 21. Pastors, and youth leaders of North Abaco hoisted the banner covering the students, teachers and administrators this school year. The prayer march around the campus began early at sunrise and ended at the entrance gate just in time for the arrival of the students and faculty. "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." It was no sooner than

Please see **School** Page 22

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We all need and want power ***FACT!**
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 Bunker C best fuel? ***NOT A FACT!**

It is time that all things relating to this new power plant be disclosed and discussed with the people of Abaco. 'A DONE DEAL' is just not good enough. BEC has admitted to a failure of process and promised to learn from their mistakes. Now, since the plant construction is halted, is the time to review these decisions.

With the largest project ever to come to Abaco there was no request for Local input or consultation. This decision will effect the health and livelihood of All Abaconians for years to come. By involving the local Government and Citizens, the right location, Normans Castle would have come up.

It also appears that the Government and BEC have based their decision on flawed data. BEC Chairman Fredrick Gottlieb urged residents to do their own research. Well, with doing very little research it is easy to dispute their data.

The stated direction of prevailing winds was incorrect. Prevailing winds will in fact carry most of the pollution over our farm lands and many Bahamian communities putting us all at a health risk. Using Clifton Pier as an example, the prevailing winds carry the majority of the pollutants offshore. The same can be said for the Norman's Castle location, prevailing winds would carry emissions offshore the majority of the time.

It was stated the plant was 2 miles from the water. In FACT the plant will be less than 3/4 mile from water, and only .8 mile from the nearest Blue Hole.

The statement that FPL uses Bunker C fuel was very reassuring to many. Unfortunately, according to FPL's web site the plants named at the meeting, Ft. Myers, Sanford and Riviera Beach, 'the safe examples' have all been converted to a different fuel or shut down waiting conversion. This is being done to reduce CO2 and sulphur emissions, save on maintenance cost and move away from 50's technology according to FPL.

It is time to consider all the positive reasons to move this plant to Normans Castle and reconsider all the negatives of placing it at Wilson City.

Norman's Castle Positives

- *Has access to deep water without going through open water cuts, outlying reef systems, or our Land & Sea Park.
- *There is NO Rage Seas at Norman's Castle. Which means easier offloading of fuel.
- *Has had a commercial dock for the lumber company loctated there before.
- *Shorter distance for the pipeline to plant.
- *Roads along with power lines have been shown on maps into the closed Bahama Star Fafms.
- *Wind direction would bring over 75% of the emissions offshore.
- *10% of the time the wind could bring emissions over the proposed 3,000 acre Chinese farm.
- *There are no legal settlements within 8 miles of Normans Castle.
- *The area also has a good water source for required wells.
- *Major Pollution will not go over the Marl area

Wilson City Negatives

- *Has to be accessed either through North Bar Channel or Little Harbour Cut, both experience rage sea conditions during North Easters and any storms offshore like hurricanes.
- *The dock will be susceptible to storm surges making spills more likely to happen and harder to contain.
- *The 3 mile pipeline will be going through mangrove swamps, along the shoreline and next to the Land & Sea Park. The extra cost of construction of the improved road, powerlines, dock and maintenance of the pipeline could in itself justify the move.
- *Wind direction would bring over 85% of the emissions over Farm Lands and over homes and communities. Including; an Abaco poultry farm, and many fruit & vegetable farms located along the Earnest Dean Hwy.and theCherokee road.The proposed 10,000 acre Chinese farm land would be effected as well.
- *Within a 6 mile radius of this site there are many homes and settlements including Casuarina, Cherokee, Yellowwood, Winding Bay (Ritz Carlton), Little Harbour, Lynard Cay,Bridges Cay, Cornish Cay, Channel Cay and South Tillo Cay.
- *The proposed Plant borders the fresh water aquifer and also an area of Blue Holes which are still being researched for their effect on our fresh water system and fish nurseries.
- *Pollution will be brought over the majority of Abacos east creek system, which includes the Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park, Snake Cay Creeks and Bight of Old Robinson with their connected blue holes systems, Cherokee Sound, is also connected to the blue holes. And westward over The Marls, a legendary bone fishing area.
- *The tankers will have to transit though Pelican Cays Land & Sea Park or if there is a tanker grounding in Little Harbour Cut, it would effect the Bight of Old Robinson which is being considered for Marine Park Protection.

Money already spent is not wasted. What has been constructed so far could be incorporated into a possible Solar Renewable Energy Center. This could be a grid tie system, where BEC would benefit by getting renewable energy into their grid with their new transmission lines. With possibly attracting International Partners.

With Coopers Town's new Port being approved, it may be able to be incorporated with a Normans Castle power plant.

These are just some of the questions, ideas and thoughts that we have. This is our Island and having a say is important to us. We ask the Government to not rush ahead with this project.The data needs to be reviewed, as it is flawed. There is a better location, Norman's Castle!

Please don't put our Communities Farms and surrounding waters which we depend on at risk. There is a better choice.

This is of grave concern for all Abaconians. We urge you to contact your Local and National Elected Officials and let your concerns be known.

We Thank You for taking your time to read this.

We would like to know how you feel email us abaco.cares@yahoo.com

Kiwanis Club holds installation of new members

By Samantha V. Evans

September 26 was a glorious evening for 13 locals who became members of the Kiwanis Club of Fort Montague's Satellite Club for Central Abaco at an installation ceremony held at Central Abaco Primary School. Kiwanians from two clubs in Nassau came to Abaco in with impressive numbers to lend their support. Also present for the installation was Sharon Dunn, Governor for Canada and the Eastern Caribbean.

The Kiwanis Club of Great Abaco was chartered in 2001 but since then the club slowly dissolved. However, this new Club is willing to take on the challenges with

its newly elected club members. Lt. Governor Barry Wilmort addressed the new members stating that they had successfully trained earlier in the day and now they are a part of something great. He encouraged them make dreams come true for someone. He told President William Davis that he holds a post of distinction so he must not take it lightly.

Gov. Dunn was impressed with the passion of the president and his willingness to lead this membership. She explained that when she learned that Kiwanis Club works with children, she never looked back. When Gov. Dunn performed the installation, she stated that not only are they add-

ing new members to the organization but new strength to get much done.

The officers of the club are President William "Tony" Davis, Vice president David Knowles, Secretary Neulessa Major and Treasurer Lauren Riviera.

President William Davis gave his acceptance presentation and it was filled with such passion that it inspired his new members and the guests to be more diligent in their de-

votion to Kiwanis Club. He committed to Gov. Dunn that the Kiwanis Club of Central Abaco will be fully organized by the end of October so it can receive its charter. A reception followed the installation.

After attending a church service on September 27, the group took part in their first community service activity by donating canned goods to Sybil's House in Dundas Town.



Members of the Kiwanis Club of Central Abaco pose at the installation ceremony of many new members. Kiwanians from two clubs in Nassau attended the ceremony. The club expects to receive its charter within a few weeks.

North Abaco FNM holds organizational meeting



Leaders of the Free National Movement of North Abaco held an organizational meeting on September 18 at the Treasure Cay Primary School. John Lee Ferguson, national leader of the FNM, was in attendance. He is sixth from the right.

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PASSIONATE ABOUT COOKING?

The Delphi Club at Rolling Harbour (25 miles south of Marsh Harbour) is looking for an enthusiastic and ambitious junior chef from within the Abaco community. Must have genuine interest in cooking and have some prior professional experience. Great opportunity to learn from an outstanding Irish head chef. Day & evening work. Own transport essential.

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Open House featured gymnasts

By Jennifer Hudson

The gymnasts of the Marsh Harbour School of Dance and Gymnastics delighted parents with a display of their skills at the school's first open house on September 24 in its facility on Queen Elizabeth Drive by the traffic light.

Following a warm-up session led by their instructors, Elaine and Andre Pilon, who have taught gymnastics previously in the Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos, the students were eager to display their skills. Just prior to the commencement of the display, they introduced themselves as Abaco Gymnasts.

The students performed routines using

the trampoline as their jumping off point and going into handstands, cartwheels, backward rolls and splits. Scott demonstrated his skills on the parallel bars and Jordan wowed everyone with his ability on the rings. Both of these exercises require great strength. Vonte, Jordan's little brother, and DJ impressed the spectators with some amazing back flips.

Jordan demonstrated his strength on the high bar; he is presently the only one who can achieve this. But several of the other students demonstrated how they have been working on their upper body strength for chin-ups at the high bar.

The parents were all impressed and very

proud of their young gymnasts, some of whom are very new to the sport. Some of the students took the summer class while others began only in September. They have made amazing progress and their displays were impressive.

"We are so proud of these children; this is a wonderful beginning," stated Elaine and Andre Pilon. "Gymnastics requires hard work, focus and concentration; the Bahamian children are very brave and have improved very quickly."

Open House will be held on the last Thursday of every month and names are now being taken for an additional beginners class to commence in January. Telephone 367-0883 or 551-5883.



One student is showing her skill on the parallel bars. Many of the exercises are done on a trampoline.



Andre and Elaine Pilon, both instructors of gymnastics, have brought in equipment and are teaching gymnastics as well as dance classes. The gymnastic classes began in mid summer but some students have progressed remarkably. The school holds an open house the last Thursday of each month.

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Association wants changes to police living conditions

By Canishka Alexander

Three officers from the Police Staff Association visited Abaco on September 30 to investigate complaints of poor living and working conditions of officers, predominantly junior officers in the Royal Bahamas Police Force. Insp. Bradley Sands, Chairman; Corp. Prescott Pinder; Deputy Chairman of the North Region; and Const. Alexandria Albury, Executive Secretary, have heard similar complaints of deplorable conditions that are prevalent throughout all the islands they've visited.

Insp. Sands called their visit to Abaco

a fact-finding mission. "We are here today to find out about the concerns as it affects our members' working and living conditions. We got here early this morning and visited most of the cays where some officers are posted and some where there are no officers posted," he said.

Another concern is the working conditions at the Marsh Harbour Police Station with the existing cell area and proper bathroom facilities for their officers. The marine section of the Abaco Police Department is not properly staffed and manned to fight the amount of crime that exists in relation to the high number of boat thefts on the island.

Insp. Sands firmly believes that if the officers' welfare is not looked after, productivity will be negatively impacted. "Productivity will be down; and we contend that the human resources of the Royal Bahamas Police Force is its most powerful asset when it comes to fighting crime," he passionately stated.

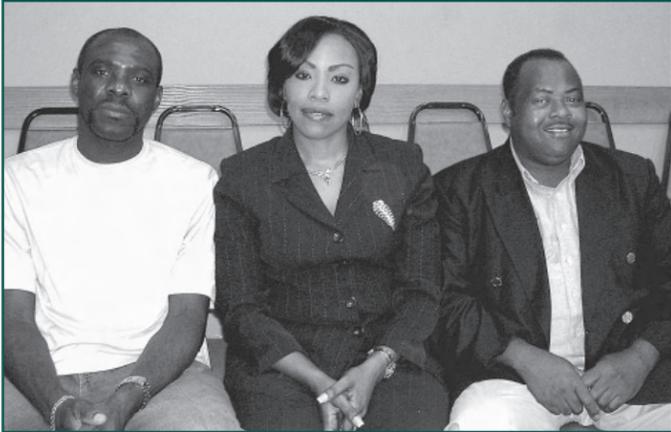
The officers have already visited several of the islands

and are disheartened by what they continue to hear.

Const. Albury feels for her colleagues on Andros. "It's almost as if there's no care for the officers. As a junior officer, I feel that it's unfair to us. I'm hoping that this [interview], as small as it may seem, will make a difference - that someone will hear it, and of course, they will act," she declared. "I'll go as far as saying that the junior members are the ones that make up the force."

North

From Page 18



Three officers of the Police Staff Association are dismayed with the poor living and working conditions that some police officers in the Family Islands endure. They feel that the police cannot be effective in their duties if their living conditions are not adequate. The group also felt that the marine section of the Abaco police was not properly staffed. Shown are Inspector Bradley Sands, Constable Alexandria Albury and Corporal Prescott Pinder.

Wednesday that our newly installed vice principal, Sabrina Russell, was in a minor accident while heading to Central Abaco in route to a business workshop with two grade 11 students. Thank God for the prayers of our leaders. All parties involved were not harmed.

Baby store opens

If you live in the North Abaco area, you will be delighted to know that there is now a baby store in Treasure Cay offering a full line of baby and toddler necessities. The store is located in the Claridge Group Building and carries clothing items, furniture, baby care items and much more. Operating hours are Monday to Friday Noon to 9 p.m. and Saturday Noon to 4 p.m. A special invitation is extended to all parents to check out the store's inventory. The staff also caters baby showers.

Corp. Pinder's concern was the lack of leadership. "I've been a member of the association for the last 11 years, and I've heard everybody's cry. We keep hearing, 'We'll look into,' but that word 'look into' means forever for us," he said. "So that means it's time for action; we have an obligation to our Bahamian citizens to make changes in our community throughout The Bahamas especially being a police officer. "When we can't have that type of support from persons in a position to make it happen, then we are in serious problems," Corp. Pinder reasoned.

AA and Al Anon Meetings

The AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) group of Marsh Harbour meets Mondays, Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Marsh Harbour Community Library.

Al-Anon in Marsh Harbour meets by request. Call 357-6511.

The AA group in Hope Town meets Mondays and Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 p.m. at the Hope Town Library.

The AA group and the AlAnon group meet in the Treasure Cay Community Center on Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

Please call 357-6511 for additional information.

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Church News

Full Gospel Assembly Host Men's Conference

By Samantha V. Evans

Being Drunk in the Spirit was the theme of the 4th annual Men's Conference held at Full Gospel Assembly in Treasure Cay on September 22-25. Planning for the conference began a month ago and finalized two weeks ago. At that time the committee decided to extend the conference from three to four days climaxing with a gospel concert on Saturday evening. The speakers for the conference were Pastor Silbert Mills from Friendship Tabernacle Church, Brother Ryan Forbes from Full Gospel Assembly, Pastor Derek Benjamin from New Vision Ministries, and Pastor Alex Archer from Church of the Latter Rain.

According to president of the conference Curtis Cooper, every night was a tremendous time but what stood out to him was the message by Brother Ryan who just a year ago gave his life to the Lord and now he is preaching the gos-

pel. He believes that the conference has equipped men to better lead their families and to be great examples in their homes, communities and the churches. Mr. Cooper said that this conference has motivated him to work harder for the Lord.

On Saturday night a dynamic gospel concert was planned at which time; Min. Simeon Outten and the Freedom band performed. Mr. Outten sang tracks from his fourth album. Even though Min. Outten has been on Abaco before, it is always a joy to return as Abaco people have a heart for worship. The concert was the climax after a dynamic week of services. Also performing at the concert were New Directions from Treasure Cay, the Dawkins Sisters from Murphy Town, Genesis from Murphy Town and other soloists.

Zion Cathedral Youth Skit Draws Large Crowd

By Samantha V. Evans

Only You are Holy is the name of the skit written by Leroy Thompson Youth

Ministers that was performed and recorded at the church on September 25 at Zion Baptist Cathedral in Murphy Town. Youth groups from other churches were invited to view the play and be part of the audience. The play addressed faith and how it can bring people closer to God and back home to the family. The play was powerfully executed, and the young people who viewed it were moved by the many lessons it taught. The play will air on Bahamas Christian Network in the coming weeks.



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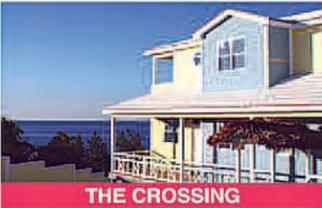


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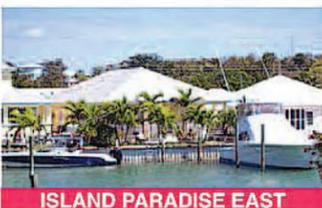
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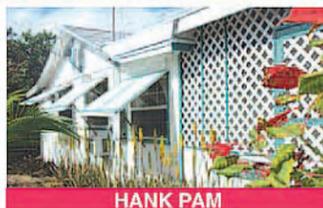
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