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VOLUME 18 NUMBER 1 JANUARY 1st, 2010

Santa visits Cherokee Sound Cherokee upholds 63 year tradition with Santa's visit

By Lee Pinder

Cherokee Sound residents were joined by family members and friends from all of Abaco and sometimes even farther away to make the long trek to be at the lighting of the Christmas tree in the Epworth Chapel yard as they have year after year. In fact, the tradition has gone on uninterrupted for 63 years. The weather couldn't have been more perfect, something our Snowbirds really enjoyed. It's a time of renewing old friendships, greeting your neighbor and showing off your latest grandchild.

It's really a time for the children. The little ones all hunker down on the ground around the big community tree and wait for Santa's arrival. Kenneth Albury and Hartis Pinder have faithfully been going to the pine yards for 30 years to cut the tree. They usually have a truckload of youngsters with them that want to go along and share the experience of cutting that special tree for everyone to enjoy.

The decorating is done by church and family members, and the lights are lit just as darkness falls. The crowd gathers, the chatter and noise rise and the anticipation swells waiting for Santa to arrive. The smallest children are all wide-eyed wondering why everyone is so cheerful and trying to guess what is going to happen next. Everyone is in a joyful mood and the grown-ups keep mingling and shouting "Merry Christmas" and "Child, I haven't

Please see **Cherokee**

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Santa Claus made a special visit to Cherokee Sound on the night of December 24 and timed his visit to coincide with the community's tree lighting ceremony. This is the 63rd year for this tradition as Cherokee entertains hundreds for this special event. The tree is erected on that day in the Epworth Chapel yard and presents are arranged under it. Santa arrived in a sleigh pulled by a garden tractor and gave out gifts that were under the tree. After Santa left, everyone was treated to a delicious ham and turkey dinner served in the renovated WW Sands Community Center. This year it is estimated that the town served 250 dinners to residents as well as people who came from many communities.

Generators arrive for BEC's power plant



One of the engines is seen being transported through Marsh Harbour in the way to the new power plant. This piece alone weighs 250 tons and is being transported on a trailer with 12 axles and 96 tires. BEC, BTC and Cable Bahamas worked together in lifting or disconnecting wires that were too low. Seen here are two bucket trucks holding wires high enough for the load to pass underneath. See story on page 2.

Prime Minister tours plant site with residents



Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham toured the new power plant at Wilson City on December 12. He invited those concerned about the location and the type of fuel proposed to a meeting on site followed by a tour of the new facility. Beginning with the lady with sunglasses, the picture shows Kristen Williams; Edison Key, MP for South Abaco; the Prime Minister; Erika Russell; Project Superintendent Carlos Escobar; and Olivia Patterson. Mrs. Williams and Ms. Patterson are with Friends of the Environment while Mrs. Russell is a concerned resident of Hope Town.

By Navardo Saunders

Diesel instead of the controversial bunker C fuel "most likely" will be used to generate electricity at the Wilson City Power Plant, but it will mean Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC) customers on Abaco will see their electricity bills increase.

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham announced that there is a "good chance" that diesel will be used instead of bunker C during a tour of the Wilson City power plant on December 12. "The chances are

Please see **Power Plant**

Page 2

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New power plant will "most likely" use diesel

Power Plant *From Page 2*

very high that we are going to use diesel and not bunker C. We can't commit to it today because I'm still waiting on BEC to give me the costs. Depending on the costs we are likely to use diesel. It is not appropriate in our view at this time when we are seeking to comply with the standards of the world for us to build a brand new plant using bunker C," said Mr. Ingraham, who recently returned from a global summit on climate change where he pledged that The Bahamas would do everything it can to cut harmful air emissions.

Mr. Ingraham's announcement at the new power plant that diesel would probably be used came after a group of environmentalists and concerned residents ex-

pressed concern about the use of bunker C. The group was standing at the gate of the power plant when Mr. Ingraham and his entourage, which included Minister of the Environment Earl Deveaux and Minister of State for the Environment Phenton Neymour, arrived. Mr. Ingraham invited them inside to discuss the plant.

Erica Russell, a resident of Hope Town, said she was terrified about the use of bunker C, citing many dangers associated with its use. "My concern is why are you considering using bunker C when the rest of the world is moving away from it," she said. "My concern is that if there is an oil spill, it will destroy our land and sea park here; it will destroy our Sea of Abaco; it will destroy the reefs that bring the visitors to us. I am not an expert. I have

done a lot of research on the internet. I have contacted a lot of people. I managed to speak to some people from the environmental defense fund in the US. The amount of money we're paying per kilowatt we should be considering something with solar or wind. I understand we need more power, but what I don't understand is why are we considering using a fuel that is so not right. Diesel if it is spilled wouldn't be as harmful as the bunker C, so I've been told." Mrs. Russell was all smiles when the Prime Minister announced that diesel would most likely be used.

As for her concerns about a spill, Min. Deveaux explained that everything that can be done will be done to ensure that there are not any spills. "The likelihood of any fuel spillage as a result of the ship's arrival or a hurricane or some other weather event; we've taken all the precautions that humankind can take with respect to the design of the ship, the delivery schedule of the ship, the berthing of the ship so that the risks of a spill are slim to none. Of course, even after we've taken all the precautions, a spill can still occur and so we have plans in place to address the situation quickly and efficiently."

He pointed out, for example, that the oil storage tanks at the plant are in a concrete enclosure so if there is a spill at the plant, the fuel won't seep into the ground and contaminate water resources.

The storage tanks were pointed out to the Prime Minister, his delegation and the media during the tour of the \$100 million power plant by Chief Engineer Carlos Escobar. Mr. Escobar said the plant is being designed

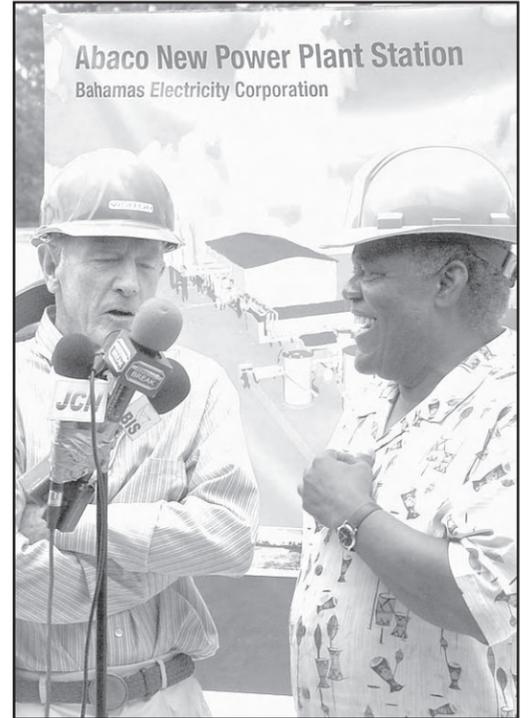
in a way that if there were a spill anywhere employees would know instantly.

Min. Deveaux explained why using diesel would result in higher electricity bills. "Let me remind Abaco that your price per kilowatt is subsidized by consumers in Nassau," he said. "And when you ask for a cleaner fuel, more than 30 percent, probably as much as 50 percent of your fuel bill is being paid by me in Nassau," he

Please see Power Plant Page 5



After touring the site of the new power plant, the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham, and many others drove to the shore where the docking facility will be. Shown here are the Hon. Phenton Neymour, Minister of State for Utilities; Frederik Gottlieb, Chairman of BEC; the Hon. Dr. Earl Deveaux, Minister of the Environment, and Mr. Ingraham.



At the meeting at the new power plant, Prime Minister Ingraham heard from Dave Gale and his concerns about shipping the fuel to the site. Mr. Gale feels that there is not enough depth for tankers to offload, taking into consideration the swells that are frequent in that area.

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LOTS & ACREAGE

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#4313 New Settlement - Hillside lots w/ underground utilities. Starting at: **\$140,000.** Kerry Sullivan
New Settlement Lot #19 UNDER CONTRACT- Large lot with ocean view. Kerry Sullivan.
#4825 North End Lot 51 NEW LISTING Ocean View. **\$370,000.** Jane Patterson
#4826 North End Lot 66 Almost 1/2 acre lot. Underbrushed. **\$189,000.** Jane Patterson
#3207 Seagrape - White Sound 101 ft. sandy beach, near public dock. **\$450,000.** Kerry Sullivan
#4395 Shepherd Needle Hill 3.7 acres, 140' on deep water coastline. **US\$995,000.** Kerry Sullivan.
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#3824 Pink Sand - Best beachfront property on the island. **\$990,000.** Kerry Sullivan
#4246 Surfers Rest - Lot # 8 near White Sound. Close to ocean. **\$183,500.** Jane Patterson

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Wishing everyone the best for 2010!

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New power plant should be operational by April

Abaco's new electric plant will operate with four diesel generators, each producing 12 megawatts of electricity. Coupled together the total plant output is 48 Mw. This is about double the present plant's output when all machines are operational.

The German MAN engines are capable of using bunker C, diesel or natural gas as fuel. The machines came from Europe by ocean freighter into Freeport where they were transferred onto a shallow draft barge for the trip around West End and across the bank to Marsh Harbour.

The generators began the last leg of their trip to the Wilson City site early Monday morning, December 14, from Marsh Harbour's port. They came in two pieces, a 55-ton generator and a 250-ton

diesel engine. Being smaller, the generators went two at a time with crews from BEC, Batelco and Cable Bahamas lifting overhead wires or occasionally cutting them and splicing them back together as the load passed.

The initial move was a learning experience for the police escort as the rig moved onto Don MacKay Boulevard about 8:30 Monday morning. A long line of cars soon formed behind the 96-wheel trailer as parents attempted to deliver their children to one of the four schools on this road.

By the second day's move, many of the traffic hold-ups were minimized with occasional stops of the procession allowing traffic to pass. Each trip from the dock to the plant site took between five and six hours.

Once at the new plant, the engines were lowered onto rails and slowly slid into position. They rest on shock absorbing mounts held in position by their weight.

The generating sections were set on their foundations and will be aligned to the engines, connected with a special coupling.

Plumbing for fuel, water and exhaust will now be put in place as well as the cables and control wiring leading from the generators to the switching area. The building's galvanized steel skeleton will now be roofed and siding installed.

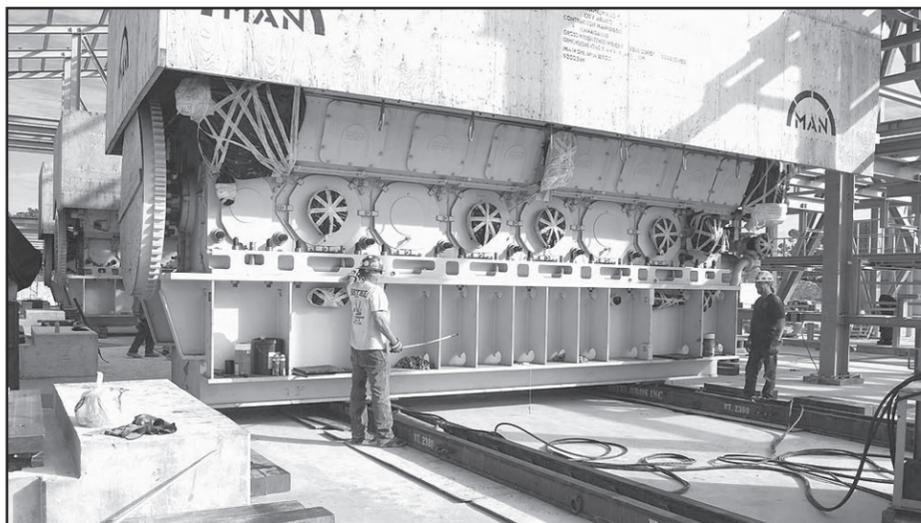
A decision will soon be made on whether the fuel will be bunker C or diesel. Apparently diesel is a strong contender for a variety of reasons. An announcement on the fuel is expected in January.

Power Plant *From Page 2*

said. "Nassau is a fuel efficient producer, and we have a unitary rate in The Bahamas. Every community in every island in The Bahamas supplied by BEC pays the same rate. We are likely to look at that, but that is a critical component in our consideration when you ask the question about the source of fuel."

Mrs. Russell said she did not mind paying more. It has been estimated that it would cost \$10 million more annually to operate a diesel plant. The government is seriously considering using diesel because, in addition to the environmental concerns about bunker C, it is anticipated that in the next 10 to 15 years bunker C will not be available.

The new power plant which is being constructed to meet the growing demand for power is scheduled to be completed sometime in April 2010.



This is an engine, the larger part of the new generators. It is on rails so it can be slid into place. It weighs 250 tons so requires experts who know how to move heavy objects.



One of the large engines is shown on the right. A crane (not shown) is putting in place the generating part of the new equipment. This part weighs about 55 tons.



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South Abaco News

Cherokee

From Page 1

seen you in ages.”

As it always is when island people meet, there were lots of hugs and kisses.

Santa finally arrives with his faithful elves. Hartis welcomes Santa and leads the crowd in the traditional three “Hip, Hip Horrahs” and gives a brief history of Cherokee’s Christmas tree. Then they quickly get to work handing out the piles of presents under the tree. This year three lucky little children even received new two-wheeler bikes. Sometime it is diffi-



Santa Claus visits Cherokee Sound every Christmas Eve to give presents to the children and some older than children. This year the gifts included three bicycles. The ceremony at the Christmas tree is followed by a community dinner provided for all who are there, residents and the large number from other communities.

cult for the mothers to keep the children from tearing open the presents as they are so excited. Everyone enjoys watching the children as they are called one by one to come and sit on Santa’s lap and Mom or Dad quickly snaps a photo of their little ones. They will never be brighter or more excited than they are as they receive their gifts directly from Santa.

The handing out of the gifts normally takes two hours or more. Then as Santa prepares to leave he gets three more loud rounds of applause, then climbs back in his special sly (pulled by a riding lawn mower) and rides out of sight, not to return for another year.

When the last gift is given out, then and only then, everyone gathers across the yard at the WW Sands Community Center for a Christmas dinner. This year there was ham and turkey along with all the other foods and lots of different desserts. There was also curried chicken and soused chicken. Everyone was fed and there was enough left over for second helpings. All in all probably 250 persons enjoyed a holiday meal with family and friends. The local ladies and visitors all prepared the food and did the serving; no one is turned away.

The putting up of the Christmas tree and the visit from Santa is just one more of Cherokee’s traditions, something we all look forward to it. As midnight draws near fireworks are set off near the Long Dock, everyone calls it a day and starts to plan for the Burning of Guy Fawkes with even more fireworks at The Spit on New Year’s Eve. Last year there were 13 guys.

Cherokee Sound is a unique little set-

tlement that still keeps some of the old traditions, and we hope that never changes. We only hope that the rest of Abaco had as merry a Christmas as we did.

In appreciation

The family of Daniel Sawyer would like to thank the greater community of Abaco for all the phone calls of encouragement, their generous donations towards his medical bills and the outpouring of love and prayers on his behalf. It was very much appreciated. Daniel is back home now in Cherokee and progressing well. The family wishes to return God’s blessings and wish you all Very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year from Daniel, Darlene and Tyler.

Newest Arrival

Rene and Sammy Carroll of Yellow Wood welcomed a brand new daughter on

December 16 and named her Taylor.

Good Samaritans

I won’t mention any names, but you all know who they were, those three big burly men who were spotted along the Cherokee Road picking up litter on December 19. Don’t you have to admit it looks much nicer without the soda cans, beer bottles and the vast array of paraphernalia that gets tossed along the verges. Who are these culprits that do this littering, surely not Me and not You – but Who? Is there no way we can encourage them to have a little civic pride?

Santa Visits Cherokee Primary School

Santa made his usual stop in Cherokee to visit with the schoolchildren on Decem-

Please see **South**

Page 7



Cherokee ladies cook and bake large quantities of food for the community dinner held on Christmas Eve. This year they fed about 250 people. Shown here are Lee Pinder, Laurel Pinder and her sister Beth, and Maria Bethel. Not shown but helping to organize the dinner was Peggy Albury.

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More South Abaco News

South *From Page 6*

ber 17. Everyone was happy to see him. However, because of exceptionally warm weather, he was not outfitted in his normal heavy red suit with the fur trimming. Instead he sported an island shirt, shorts, sandals and a floppy brimmed hat. He still had his long white beard and a mischievous twinkle in his eye. He went about handing out gifts to the children and received three rousing cheers as he finished his chores. But we heard him exclaim as his flew out of the door, "Merry Christmas To All And To All A Good Night."

Candlelight Service

Hartis Pinder conducted the service to a nearly full house on this 30th anniversary of the Annual Candlelight Service at Epworth Chapel in Cherokee. What a

wonderful evening of reminders of what the season is all about. A time of seeing many old friends and greeting neighbours. A joyful time of singing Christmas carols and the reading of the Old, Old Story from the Bible. While you sit in the dark and wait for the candles to be lit near the end of the service, you can't help but reflect on that memorable night so long ago and how it still effects our lives today.



The Assemblies of God Church in Cherokee put on a pageant on December 22, directed by Peggy Albury.

without written instructions, 2) an inherited pattern of thought or action, or 3) cultural continuity in social attitudes and institutions." If you really stop and think about it, we are losing a lot of our cultural continuity these days. It seems like the whole world has gone "digital" and I for one think it's high time we think a little more about preserving our traditions and little less about keeping up with the fast-paced electronic fads.

We in Cherokee still keep a few "traditions" and we cherish them. Let's hope the next generation realizes the importance of keeping these time-honoured events going.

Please see **South** Page 10

Carolers

The quick change in weather had the Street Carolers bundled up, but it didn't dampen their enthusiasm or their Christmas Spirit. You knew they were coming when you heard the tinkling bells. How fortunate we are to have persons who still think about others and wish to cheer them up and get them in a festive mood for the holidays.

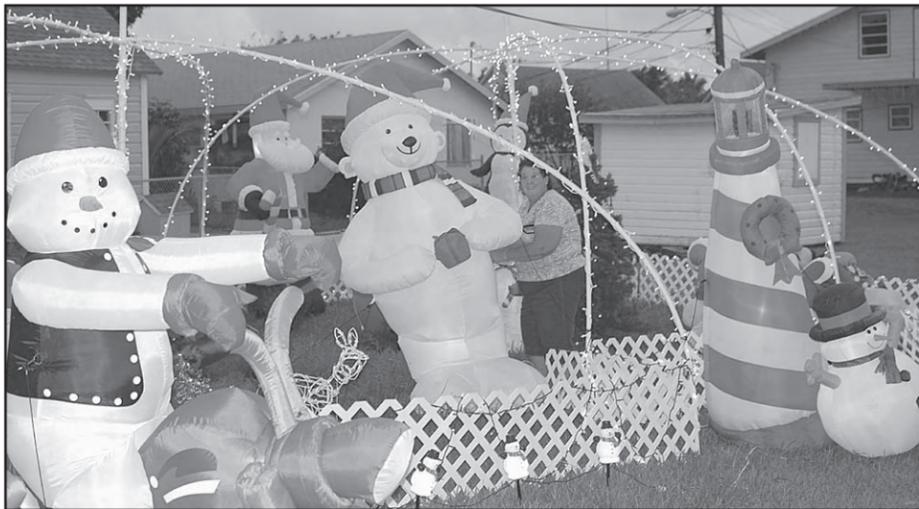
Foreday Church Services

Even though they begin at 5:30 a.m., there are still a dedicated few who continue the time-honoured tradition of attending Foreday Church Meetings at Epworth Methodist Chapel on Christmas Eve Morning and Christmas Morning. Keeping traditions is important.

Merriam-Webster defines tradition as "1) the handing down of information, beliefs and customs by word of mouth or by example from one generation to another



Hartis Pinder, a Cherokee native who lives in Nassau, annually conducts a candlelight service at Epworth Chapel. The moving service combines the singing of carols with readings and meditations and is anticipated by the residents who are joined by others in remembering the true meaning of Christmas.



This house in Cherokee is always decorated for the holidays. Kathy Sawyer is shown in the distance making sure the display is just right. It is her son Ricky, who decorates the yard each year.




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The Editor Says . . . Progress - good or bad?



Abaco appears to be facing a bright future. Change is coming faster and faster, and we must accept and adapt to it. Can we stop it? - No. Must we accept it? Yes. Can we change it? Perhaps. Can we moderate changes? Of course.

Abaco's growth was flat for the first half of the twentieth century, then made up for lost time during the past 50 years. In the last two years several large developments have either begun or have submitted their plans at the national and local level. Developers seem to be standing in line to profit from Abaco's popularity.

The lumber mills and sponge fishing provided some income in the early 1900s. Food came from the sea and was augmented with locally grown fruit and vegetables. A disease wiped out the sponging industry in the 1930s and the last lumber mill left for Grand Bahama in 1943. Fishing smacks with live wells gave some fishermen cash when their catch was sold in Nassau. Cash and paydays were scarce. The future looked bleak. Any improvement in the status would have been welcome.

In the mid 1950s, James B. Crockett began large scale farming. This project was subsequently taken over by Scott and Mattson. The S and M group expanded the farm, recruited Haitian labour and demonstrated that farming could be profitable. This era was the beginning of major social changes for Abaco.

Our two international airports, Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay, opened in the late 1950s, allowing a few venturesome tourists to sample the Abaco charm. These were immediately followed by the opening of the Great Abaco Hotel and the Treasure Cay Resort.

Regular air travel allowed a few people with vision to open small hotels on Green Turtle Cay, Guana Cay and Elbow Cay. Early hotels on the small cays were often converted residences with the New Plymouth Inn on Green Turtle Cay boasting of four rooms. Abaco's early growth phase was steady and manageable, although slow, allowing services and utilities to grow with the island.

Major changes were on the way.

Owens Illinois came to Snake Cay in 1959 and built the highway system we enjoy today. The roads were not paved, but they connected many settlements and opened up the island so its potential could be appreciated.

The major farm operations and the Owens Illinois pulpwood project employed 1,000 or more persons who took home a paycheck every week. Money began circulating and two banks came to town, Barclays and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Petty shops expanded into flourishing businesses.

The lumbering operation at Snake Cay came with a commissary for its 500 or more employees and their families. Milk, ice cream, fresh meat, fruit and vegetables were now readily available. Cars and boats came from distant settlements to take advantage of this new food supply. This was a major and welcome change for Abaco's growth.

Then the pulpwood operation and its 500 employees moved to Andros. In its place came a modern sugar mill harvesting and processing 20,000 acres of sugar cane. These changes were welcomed and good for the island. Many factors caused the sugar mill to close in 1970. The previously welcomed mill now created an economic disaster, putting people out of work. Cherokee was hit particularly hard when the mill closed. The seafaring fishermen had traded their fishing livelihood for steady wages from the sugar mill.

This caused a major dip in the Abaco economy that took several years to overcome. It was about this time that foreigners began buying house lots and building vacation cottages. The early second homes were small by today's standards with no air conditioning or luxury amenities. Most towns did not have public electricity so the homeowners relied on their own small generators.

Since the 1970s the Abaco economy has seen steady growth. However, the growth has been incremental. We are still expanding our second homeowner base. Abaco now faces different and larger challenges. Major developments and the changes they bring are coming at a faster and faster rate.

However, large scale developers such as The Abaco Club at Winding Bay near Cherokee and the Baker's Bay Golf and Ocean Club on Guana Cay seem to represent the new trend. More large projects are in the pipeline approaching these two in size.

The earlier complacent attitude toward large projects is beginning to be challenged by area residents.

Hope Town in particular has become so popular with second homeowners and developers that residents there are now looking at ways to thwart further rapid or massive growth. Instead of being welcome, changes are now being reviewed critically.

Other changes to Abaco are facing obstacles. The new BEC plant is a welcome addition for many with its promise of reliable and steady power for the next 10 - 15 years. Others are objecting to the location, to the fuel proposed, to government's lack of consideration for sustainable power options and to government decisions being made without local consultation.

We are now 13 years into a local government system in which local councils are grappling with their statutory authority to grant or deny development. However, this local authority is frequently found to be an empty promise as Nassau grants permissions without consulting or otherwise using the local permitting process.

Developers are equally abusive of the system as they take their initial Approval-in-Principle by government's National Investment Board as a superior blanket approval which in turn is expected to be rubber stamped by local councils. This ini-

tial NIB approval is not a blanket approval by Nassau authorities although developers interpret it that way.

A determined developer can often intimidate the locally elected persons who are looking out for their community's best interest.

This brings the question of who is best able to decide what is in a community's best interest. Should the final authority remain at the local level that may not want any further development or at the national level that may be looking at the impact of foreign investment and job creation from an overall viewpoint. A local community may not want an influx of foreign workers. However, government may view the opportunities for job creation favorably knowing that many communities have an unemployment problem. Note that at the community level Bahamians from other islands are often considered foreign.

This editorial began by alluding to some of the changes Abaco has experienced during the past 50 years. The changes we will see in the future, near and far, will be more dramatic than those of the past.

Is it in our best interest that all the proposed changes and developments be allowed? Can a high-powered committee in Nassau view our island from a distance and make meaningful decisions? By the same token, are our locally elected or appointed persons qualified to approve or reject projects beyond the routine residential or business application?

There is a huge need early in the approval process for central and local authorities to come together along with community residents. Central government needs to work more closely with local government to get local input. Early consultation tends to avoid problems later. Hearing local recommendations or understanding local concerns should be a priority.

Letters to the Editor

Airline needs to give better service

Dear Editor,

Reading the November 15 edition of The Abaconian, I couldn't help but say, "Been there, done that" to the letter heading "A Bad Experience" from Mary, Jerry and Olive Freisinger.

My entire family and I had exactly the same experience with Bahamas Air in West Palm Beach this past May. I, too, was "stiffed" by the airline.

All is not lost. You have, right there in Marsh Harbour, a dedicated person who moves mountains. Her name is Wynsome A. Ferguson and she works for the Ministry of Tourism. I tried for weeks going

through the proper channels at Bahamas Air while being passed off to just about every employee, except the head baggage handler, with no results.

Within 24 hours after E-mailing her my story, I received an E-mail from Bahamas Air noting that my fares had been credited back to my credit card.

Ms. Wynsome is VERY MUCH aware of the importance of happy visitors to Abaco. She has gone to the top of our "respect list."

Her E-mail is wferguson@bahamas.com. Tell her we sent you and we said "Hi."

Tom Roscoe

Corruption and crime will ruin Abaco

Dear Editor,

I have been away from Abaco for the last four years of my life making frequent visits when possible. But now it seems like there is no point. I know I am still at a young age but I realize what is going on in my country that I call home. I read every issue of The Abaconian online, and it discourages me. All I read about is the corruption of the government, the various types of thefts that are conducted and the problems with immigration. What happened to the country that use to be, a country that flourished and was a safe haven to second homeowners, tourists and last but not least ourselves.

When I was younger, I never worried about locking my door because I had a sense of security knowing that my island was not a "Nassau." It was Abaco, it was a place where people cared about the well-

ness of their common man/woman. It has become a place where people cause harm to one another on the regular.

The Bahamas really needs to clean up its act very soon because we are headed for the worst. Yes, we may be a third world country, but that is not a reason to act like savages and take advantage of situations. We are turning away the tourism which is our primary market. I for one can say if it weren't for tourists, I would not have been able to attend Florida Air Academy for three years and graduate or go to Canada and study commerce at Lakehead University.

Tourists are people, too; they are the reason you have shoes on your feet. It doesn't matter if you deal with them directly, the person who may pay you probably has an income because of cash flow generated from tourism. Don't get me wrong. Tourists aren't perfect and some conduct illegal activities. But that is because we let them. I have been employed at Harbour View Marina/Blue Wave Rentals for the last two years, and I witnessed first hand the theft attempts.

In conclusion, I would just like to say that I love my Bahamaland and have a deep sense of pride for my country. But it makes you think when you read how much of a hostile environment it has become. Wake up, Bahamas, and realize that you may not be hurting yourself right now. But in the long run when the future generations develop, they will have nothing to call home; and it will be because of the actions that have been made today.

Jason Evans

The Abaconian

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More Letters to the Editor

Letters From Page 8

I am a proud Bahamian

Dear Editor

Please allow me a space in your letter column.

For quite sometime it has bothered me that way Man-O-War Cay has been so poorly advertised many times by some of the taxi drivers and also some of the boat rental companies. I have had customers come in my gift shop and tell me how beautiful our island is but say that they were told differently by these companies.

We have had some of our second homeowners told that there is not anything worth going to Man-O-War for because it is a dry island. But some of these second homeowners loved Man-O-War at first sight and bought a home before going back on the ferry "the same day."

About six months ago I was at Curly Tail Restaurant. After lunch just to pass away the time. I walked out on the Moorings dock. There were these two boats with several people putting their luggage on. Just to make conversation with them, I welcomed them and told them why don't you visit Man-O-War Cay on your island hopping tour.

They said no because Man-O-War Cay is a dry island. Now this is their first time here. Who do you think told them that Man-O-War is a dry island? You do the arithmetic. They also told me that they wanted to drink as much as they could before they died because they are all in their 70s. What an awful way to leave this world.

The reason why I am writing this letter now but have been meaning to do so for some time. In reading the Yachting Magazine I came across the article written by George Sass, Jr., which so poorly mentioned Man-O-War compared with the other island of The Bahamas. This was in November's issue 2009, page 46.

Enclosed is a copy of the letter I wrote to the Yachting magazine. Will you please add this copy to this letter?

Thanks very much.

Yours sincerely,
Samuel D. Albury

Letter to "The Yachtsman's" magazine, New York

Atten: Rosemary Ekvall

First of all, I would like to say I love reading your magazine and have done so for many years. But I was really disappointed when reading an article by George Sass, Sr., named "Island Hopping Made Easy" on page 46 of your November 2009 issue. Compared to the mention and compliments on all the other islands of The Bahamas and what they had to offer visitors, my island home, Man-O-War Cay, Abaco, was so poorly mentioned that you had to be sure not to miss a line because you would have missed the entire story.

Personally, my experience over the years has been that we on Man-O-War Cay have had so little visitors to our gorgeous island because of magazine articles such as this that overlook us for some reason. I am sure one of the main reasons is because we brag on living with no liquor stores and no bar rooms. We have fought for this purpose because we want our children and grandchildren to grow up with an environment that is as mellow and alcohol free as possible. I'm sure a lot of alcohol is probably privately consumed, but an effort to go off island and bring it will have to be made, as you will not buy it here.

Nearby islands such as Guana Cay and Elbow Cay (Hope Town) brag on a completely different lifestyle, and they also

experience a larger amount of crime due mostly to alcohol consumption and sales. These islands have no more to offer than ours except a social scene that is apparently more appealing to the general public. Because of the extra publicity given to the other islands, a quaint but beautiful place like Man-O-War Cay gets overlooked.

We who live on Man-O-War Cay boast of the most gorgeous beaches around. We have so much packed into such a small place. We are very self sufficient with nice restaurants, gift shops, a hardware store, boat rentals, boat building ship yard, gift shops, beauty salon, dentist, grocery stores, boat yard that can haul up to 60-foot boats, marina, three schools, three churches and more. Somehow all of these things get lost behind "Dry Island" and therefore boaters pass by our island under the impression "there is nothing to see here!"

I met a guy who visited here and actually committed to buying properly before leaving on the next ferry. He said he had never visited Man-O-War because all he had read about it was not very appealing and quite frankly he thought it would be a waste of time to stop in.

As a resident of this island and was actually born here in 1946, I have lived here and raised a family of four kids and eight grand-kids. My wife and I and all of my children do not partake in strong drink. And I am sure there are others who can enjoy the beauty of a vacation spot without having to sit at a bar to do so. I love this island and I hope to see more positive advertising in the near future.

Yours sincerely,
Samuel Albury

A plea for diesel

To the Editor

A glance at a map reveals that the new BEC generating plant is perfectly situated. The location and, as proposed, operation of the plant assure the maximum adverse impact on the greatest amount of land and the largest possible risk to people, plant and animal life, ground water, salt water and consequently, fishing and tourism.

The plant and its proposed operation reflect a colossal failure of common sense. Abaco needs more electric power and desires cheaper electric power. The solution BEC has come up with carries numerous risks. But in designing the plant, choosing a location and selecting a fuel, BEC acted with little or no regard for the potential consequences for air and water quality, public health, natural resources and the economy of Abaco.

It is too late to change the location of the plant. It is not too late to revisit the plan to use Bunker C oil to operate the plant. BEC should revisit the choice of fuel and should start with a comprehensive analysis of the rewards and the risks, short and long term, of Bunker C oil and all alternatives. Bunker C may be less expensive, but it must be heated, cleaned and then the unused portion (about 10 percent) must be disposed of. And the environmental and public health risks associated with it are off the chart. Why take these risks if another fuel is available?

Very truly yours,
David G. Mulock

Bunker C will pollute our water supply

Dear Sir,

While perusing the EIA for the Wilson City power plant, I came across yet another major cause for concern - as if there weren't enough already.

Near the beginning of the EIA we are told, "...the site is located outside of the Marsh Harbour-Lake City Aquifer." This

would be good news if it were true, as this aquifer supplies all the water for Marsh Harbour and surrounding communities. However, later on we are told, "Cooling water extracted via boreholes is readily available at the site. This cooling water will then be discharged to the brine zone beneath the Marsh Harbour-Lake City Aquifer using a new effluent discharge injection well." The writers obviously realize this is not such a great idea because they go on to say, "Additional training is recommended to educate facility operators of the sensitivity of the underlying aquifer and the importance the protection of this resource is to the people of Abaco. Under no circumstances should untreated contaminated wastewater be permitted to be discharged via the injection well."

Well, I'm sure we can trust BEC to do the additional training and to make sure no contaminated water gets into the injection well, right? Apparently not. In another part of the EIA, we are told, "...disposal wells for both the Clifton Pier and Blue Hills station, through which oily wastewaters are disposed, were found to be without routine monitoring. Observations ... indicated that all injection wells were found to have traces of sludge in them. ... the deep injection well at Station-A was filled with oil sludge apparently 150-200 feet in depth."

There are other details about "oil sludge one to two feet deep" in the bund (which at Wilson City is only planned to be 3.5 feet high), and sludge leaking through holes in the bund and a grid in the base of the bund connected to the rainwater drainage system. In Nassau this sludge "found its way into a cave." On Abaco it will be finding its way directly into our only water supply.

It would be ironic if we ended up with more power than we can use and absolutely no usable water.

Yours sincerely,
Alison Ball

A letter to Frederik Gottlieb

To Mr. Gottlieb,

Repeating false information over and over again does not make it a fact. Again, you have publicly stated that two percent sulfur content is within the World Health Organization's (WHO) emission standards. Let me say that this is 100 percent,

absolutely incorrect. The WHO emission standards are for emissions, not fuel content. And they are not in percentages. And they are for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone and particulate matter.

BEC's record keeping on the emissions from Clifton Pier are outdated and even those are incomplete. But what data there is available shows that Clifton Pier either exceeds or almost exceeds the WHO standards. But there is only partial data due to faulty equipment, meaning the real emissions are worse than reported. What can we expect at Wilson City?

If you will do some research, go to the WHO website or contact persons there. You will see that your statements on this subject are false. Please stop repeating this false information to support a terrible decision for Abaco's future.

Thank you for your time.

Matthew McCoy

A letter to the Prime Minister

To Prime Minister Ingraham,

Sir, I have to say that I am insulted by some of your recent comments in reference to the new power plant at Wilson City. I am insulted that you would punish Abaco with higher electricity bills for pointing out some of the awful side effects of a HFO plant in the heart of one of the most important wetland areas in Abaco. Are you becoming a vengeful dictator? Do you not accept that there are some things that even you, the right honorable prime minister, can do wrong?

Additionally, it seems there is something wrong with BEC's accounting. Yes, the fuel costs are higher for diesel, but the TOTAL cost is actually lower. When you add up all the costs associated with HFO procedures and maintenance, it IS more expensive. Unless, of course, BEC plans on cutting major safety and health corners. Which they already admit to, cause they ain't using any scrubbers. Stack height does not change the pollution, just spreads it in different places. The EPA rejects that stack height argument, as do ALL European nations.

So, are you cutting corners and endangering us, or are you going to pass the DIESEL SAVINGS on to Abaco as well????

Please see Letters

Page 22

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Apr 2006

More South Abaco News

South *From Page 7*

Christmas Program

The Cherokee Assembly of God congregation put on a wonderful Christmas Story Pageant on December 22. Orchestrated and directed by Peggy Albury, the cast of nearly two dozen persons, both reciting and singing parts, performed to a standing-room only crowd who thoroughly enjoyed the evening and the presentation. A number of persons came from Marsh Harbour including a very talented young lady who sang "It's All About the Cross."

A Change in Numbers

The settlement of Cherokee Sound has had two births and two deaths this past year. We have no new permanent residents and, due to the state of the local economy, - few visitors. As I have observed over the years, Cherokee hasn't changed much and this year is no exception. Michael and Maria Bethel have a brand new porch and Mark and Lucy Davies have a whole new house. Many homes have received various stages of maintenance and new coats of paint for the holidays. We are still proud to be thought of as one of the cleanest and neatest little communities on all of Abaco

and we all strive to keep that reputation.

Work on the Old School

The W W Sands Community Center is receiving some much needed repairs on the inside of the building as well as to the shutters on the outside, plus a complete new paint job.

Happy New Year

We send along our good wishes for safety, good health and prosperity to all our Abaco neighbours, our second home visitors and to all our loved ones that are far away, as well as all the soldiers fighting in foreign wars. We pray for a better future for our country and the world.



The WW Sands Community Center was spruced up for the holidays with a new coat of paint. This renovated building was the old school. The community spent years raising the money to make the extensive renovations.

Abaconian chosen for hosting film maker

By Jennifer Hudson

Congratulations to Marvin Russell, who has been selected as the island envoy for Abaco in the upcoming Bahamas 14 Islands Film Challenge. Five persons entered the competition and Mr. Russell, a teacher at Wesley College in Marsh Harbour, came out the winner. Marvin was described by Michelle Mikula of the Abaco Tourism office, as a young, bright Abaconian. "We are very excited about his selection and are sure that he will represent the island of Abaco in the best possible way." The applicants sent in their applications online and then had to share their reasons for wanting to host a film-maker. They had to show that they were well versed, well rounded and knowledgeable with a passion for showing what makes their island special and a vision of what makes it unique. Marvin will have the responsibility to show Abaco as a diverse and unique island with special features to offer visitors from the United Kingdom.

The Bahamas 14 Islands Film Challenge will involve 14 Islands of The Bahamas, 14 film-makers and 14 days. It is being organized by the Bahamas Tourist Office in London and is aimed at bringing more visitors from the United Kingdom to The Bahamas. It aims to show consumers in the UK that each island of The Bahamas is different and has its own special reasons to be visited.

Fourteen aspiring film-makers will be

selected in the UK and each sent to a different island in The Bahamas for 14 days to make a short film about that island. The film-makers will be hosted by the envoy for that particular island in his or her home and the envoy will act as tour guide for all 14 days. It will be the task of the envoy to help the film-maker by highlighting all the best and most unique features of the island, taking them to such places as secluded beaches, blue holes, fishing spots and introducing them to storytellers and tradition bearers. They must ensure that the film-maker gets the best chance to capture the full story of that particular island.

The film-makers will all be small aspiring film-makers from the United Kingdom who are hoping to make it big. They will take their films back to the UK where they will be entered into a competition to determine which film-maker has best captured the uniqueness and flavour of their island. They will receive much publicity with perhaps the opportunity of being selected by a film company. All films created by the 14 island teams, in addition to all the publicity in the UK, will be shown at the Bahamas International Film Festival in Nassau in 2010 as well as online at www.bahamas.co.uk.

Marvin Russell, Abaco's envoy, traveled to Nassau on December 14 to meet with the Ministry of Tourism's organizing committee for the film challenge which will take place in the New Year.

Check out The Abaconian online at www.abaconian.com

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New Year's Eve

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ABACO INN

Live Music by:

JAMMIN' JAN

Come and enjoy live music and great food!

Reservations required for dinner starting @
6:30 p.m. : 366 0133 or vhf 16

Science Conference will review recent findings

The fourth biennial Abaco Science Alliance Conference will be held at New Vision Ministries on January 8-9. The conference, organized by Friends of the Environment, is an opportunity for scientists conducting research on Abaco and in The Bahamas to share their findings with the community as well as with other scientists. This year's conference has a fascinating line-up of presenters. On Saturday the conference plans field trips in the afternoon to some of the research sites.

The 2010 presenters include the following.

- Caroline Stahala will discuss the Abaco

and Inagua parrots and their distinctly unique conservation units.

- Kathleen Sullivan-Sealey will give an updated report on Baker's Bay Golf and Ocean Club Environmental Programme. This is the end of the first five years and the report will cover the good, the bad and the unexpected.

- Craig Layman's topic is *Fish Pee, Too*, and he'll explore why animal excretion matters in The Bahamas.

- Carolyn Hayle will talk on *Can Smaller Be Better? Making the Most of Tourist Development in the Local Economy*.

- David Steadman will present an update on vertebrate fossils from blue holes on Abaco.

- Aaron Adams' topic is *Bonefish Conservation 101*

- Elizabeth Stoner will talk about *Jellyfish and Sewage: a Love Affair?*

- Ancilleno Davis will present an assessment of coral reef communities around New Providence and development of a network of trained dive researchers.

- Diane Claridge, who resides on Abaco doing research on marine mammals, will talk about the residency and movement

patterns of Blainville's beaked whales at the US Navy's Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTECE): Response to sonar use?

- Catherine Booker has studied the Queen Conch Stock Assessment of a Proposed MPA and Fishing Grounds in the Berry Islands.

- Janet Franklin will present on patterns of habitat use by migrant and resident land-birds on Abaco

There will also be poster presentations available for viewing.

Abaco Beach Resort

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Entertainment Capital of the Abacos!

New Year's Eve Celebration

Thursday, December 31, 2009

Angler's Restaurant 8:00pm - until...

Live Entertainment by Stephen Colebrook Band
\$85.00 per person (Gratuities are **NOT** included)

Price includes white glove service, party favors, noise makers and a champagne toast at midnight.

Tickets will be available at the Front Desk

Menu

Appetizer (select one) - • Baby Greens with Caramelized Pear, Bleu Cheese, Walnuts and a Champagne Dressing

- Winter Squash Bisque with Lemon Grass and Lime Crème Fraiche

Intermezzo - Mango Sorbet

Entree (select one) - • Angus Beef Filet Rossini Style

Fois Gras and Mushroom Bordeaux Glaze

Roasted Red Potato

Chef's Choice of Vegetable

- Lobster en Croute, Pastry Crust Stuffed with Lobster Chive Mousse

Whole Grain Mustard and Beurre Blanc

Herb Basmati Rice Pilaf

Chef's Choice of Vegetable

Dessert - Cherries Jubilees Flambé

New Year's Day Recovery Champagne Brunch Buffet

Angler's Restaurant

January 1, 2010 • 10:00am - 2:00pm

Buffet Menu

Assorted Muffins • Danish

Seasonal Fruit Platter

Cream of Conch Chowder • Potato Salad

Seasonal Mixed Greens & Assorted dressings

Chicken Soupe • Boiled Fish

Bacon • Sausage • Fried Chicken

Eggs & Omelet Station

Assorted Desserts

\$23.95 Adults \$11.95 Kids

(Gratuities are NOT included)

Advance reservations are recommended

A la cart menu will NOT be available

Live music by Stephen Colebrook

Gospel Sunday Lunch

Join us for a great lunch with popular Gospel music performed by "Stephen Colebrook"

every Sunday 1 pm - 3 pm in Anglers Restaurant

Karaoke

Come and show off your vocal talents

every Tuesday night by the Pool Bar starting at 8 pm

Country and Western

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

Talent Showcase

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...?

Japanese Friday Night Sushi Fever

Enjoy a variety of Sushi rolls every Friday night in

Anglers Restaurant from 6 pm - 10 pm

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

Anglers Restaurant 6 pm - 10 pm

Live music by Stephen Colebrook

Stephen Colebrook

Enjoy the contemporary piano music and rich soulful vocals of

the wonderful Stephen Colebrook performing in

Anglers Restaurant Wednesday - Sunday

6:30pm until...? at the **Pool Bar**

Thursday - Saturday 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm and

during our **Gospel Sunday Lunch** 1 pm to 3 pm

Art for the Parks

Saturday, January 30, 2010 • 10 am - 5 pm • The Marquee

Sunday, January 31, 2010 • 12 Noon - 5 pm • The Marquee

Admission: Adults - \$5, Children under 12 - \$2

For more information on any of the upcoming events, please call 367-2158

www.AbacoBeachResort.com

Central Abaco News

Dundas Town dedicates Burial Society building and lights Christmas Tree

It was a glorious evening for the residents of Dundas Town who braved the windy weather on December 17th to attend the Christmas tree lighting ceremony and rededication of the Burial Society building in Dundas Town. Cutting the ribbon to the building was Emily Russell, the oldest resident in the Dundas Town community who is in her 90s. Once inside the building, residents were amazed at the plush look with over 100 professional chairs and fully air-conditioned.

Bringing remarks was Deputy Chairman Feron Newbold, who gave a review of the work done by the committee over this past year and named the projects they seek to take on in January 2010. The Committee's

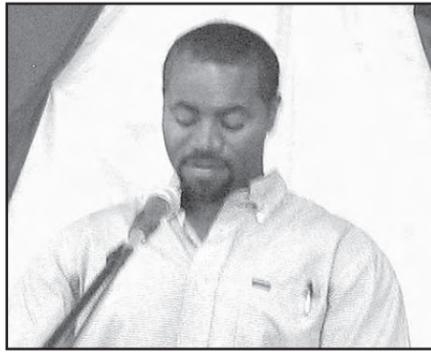


Emily Russell, oldest resident of Dundas Town, is shown cutting the ribbon to open the newly renovated Burial Society building. It will serve the community for meetings, seminars, the local government office and a computer center for school children.

first project will be the construction of a baseball diamond field and tennis court with parking at Central Abaco Primary School. The second project is the construction of a cultural center at the Ocean View Park where residents and locals can purchase their favorite Bahamian meals or just to listen to some down home Bahamian music. It is intended to become the hub of the community. The members also plan to begin walk-a-bouts in the community to find out the needs of residents and hear their suggestions.

Mr. Newbold stated that this building will be used for holding their local government meetings, hosting seminars and other meetings, as a homework and computer center for school children, and to host private approved events. He thanked the residents for their support and reminded them that the committee was elected by them so they will continue to work hard for them.

Pastor Silbert Mills gave a history of the burial society. He spoke of those pioneers who came from Old Place and Cornish Town after a hurricane many years ago at which time they cut a road which allowed others to come and begin constructing homes. However, the residents realized that they needed a burial society that was formed to take care of the dead. He spoke of the persons who worked hard to get the society going all of whom did a fantastic job to ensure that the residents who passed on had a good burial. He added that those who passed on would be proud to see what the Dundas Town Committee has done with what they have started. He was proud to see what



Feron Newbold, Deputy Chairman of the Dundas Town Town Committee, told the residents of Dundas Town the goals of the Committee for the coming year that will improve the community.

the Committee did with part of funding from local government.

Senior Island Administrator Cephias Cooper stated that next year this time he would like to see the pictures of all of persons who contributed to making the Burial Society what it is today covering the walls. He assured the residents that their money is being spent well and is accounted for. He added that Minister of Local Government Byron Woodside plans to use the Brown's Bay and the Burial Society projects as a model throughout The Bahamas of what good local government at work should look like.

The Christmas message was delivered by Pastor Silbert Mills who spoke about the significance of Christ's birth. He told the committee to remain true to their commitments to the people of Dundas Town and not be discouraged. He stated that this is a time to celebrate and they have a lot to celebrate.

Cleola Sawyer had the honour of lighting the Christmas tree and the residents

followed by sharing a delicious meal. Contractor Derek Miller, who did the renovation to the building, was presented with a certificate of honor for doing the work for a fraction of the value.

Price Right introduces new Perks Card

Persons who patronize Price Right have enjoyed the benefits of the green Perks Card for many years but beginning in January 2010, those benefits will change. Instead of having a key card, everyone will receive a Perks Card that will have their photo, name and other relevant information on it. According to owner Chad Sawyer, this new card will serve several purposes. Firstly, it will enable them to identify customers, especially those who write bad checks; they will have information in their system on the customer; and the card can be scanned by those customers who shop using checks. The customers' points will continue to be stored on the cards as before. All customers with a Perks Card were given gift cards to assist them with their Christmas shopping. Mr. Sawyer stated that they know how tough things are for many families so this is their way of helping and letting their customers know that they care about them. The gift cards expire on January 17th, 2010.

Spring City's second Tree Lighting Ceremony

By Samantha V. Evans

The community of Spring City came out in good numbers on December 15th to take part in the second annual tree lighting ceremony.

Please see **Central**

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Annual Junkanoo Festival

Sea Spray

Resort

Elbow Cay

Midnight

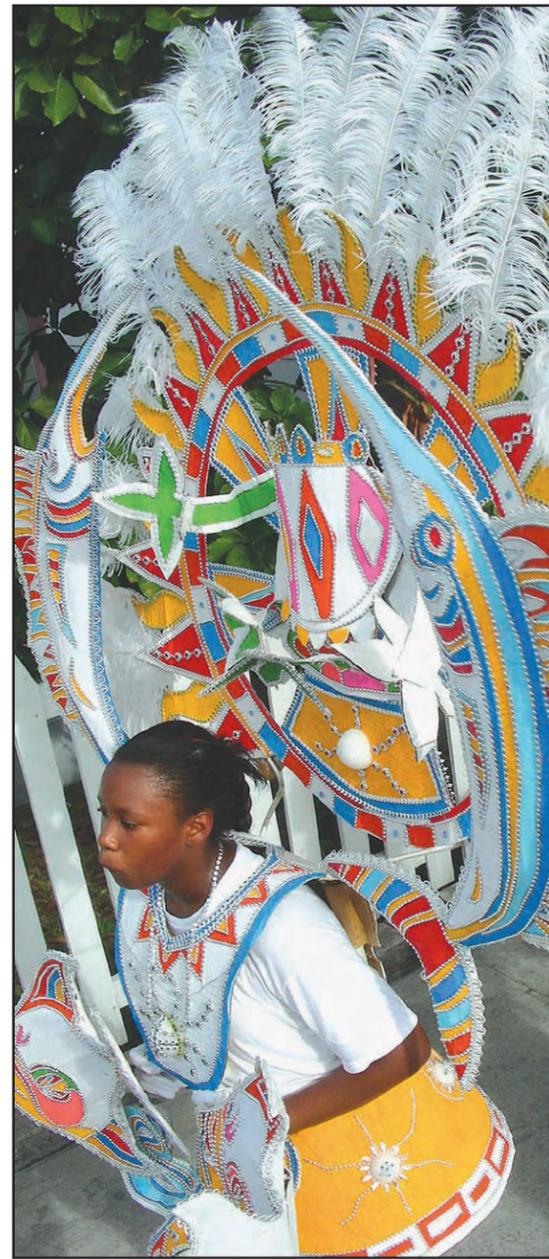
December 31

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**Five have been chosen randomly
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*The five lucky customers who won these prizes
will be announced in the January 15 Abaconian.*

- 1) Washing Machine
- 2) 22" Lawn Mower
- 3) Gas B-B-Q Grill
- 4) Microwave Oven
- 5) 10" Compound Miter Saw

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or some New Appliances**



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More Central Abaco News

Central *From Page 12*

emony held at the New Town entrance. A short Christmas program was prepared to usher residents into the Christmas spirit.

Senior Administrator Cephas Cooper told the residents that God has been good to them so they should give Him much thanks this holiday season. He reminded them that, even though there is much talk about ham and turkey and all of the gifts, Jesus is the real reason for Christmas. He hopes that everyone seeks peace on earth and goodwill towards men and gives glory to the one who can give each man the will to do so.

Edison Key, MP for South Abaco, told the residents that Spring City has had a special place in his heart throughout his political life. He told them to remember the reason for the season and hopes that it ignite in them the spirit of respect and love they are required by God to show each other. He said that in the New Year 25 new homes will be built in Spring City so he asked the residents to give him the names of persons in need of a home so that he can take them to the Minister of Housing for consideration.

The Christmas message was delivered by Pastor Tinker, a local minister in the community. He gave the

residents three things to do this Christmas to make the community better: they must live together as one, love one another and remember the less fortunate around them.

At the end of the ceremony gifts were given to the oldest person living in the community and the newest resident to the community. The tree lights were then turned on by Vergie Russell, the oldest resident. A reception followed.

Abaco Hardware thanks its customers

By Samantha V. Evans

Abaco Ace Hardware held its Customer Appreciation Open House on December 12th. However, they made themselves available to meet the needs of customers if it was warranted beyond the time allotted that day. According to owner Daren

Albury, they realize that things are tough now for many persons so they held a sale for a limited time during the day to help customers with Christmas purchases. Usually the sale is only on items within the store but this year they included lumber as well. Christmas decorations were on sale before the Open House and remained on sale after that time as well. They served refreshments throughout the day as a way of saying thank you to their customers for their patronage over this year. Mr. Albury and the staff of Abaco Hardware wishes everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year.

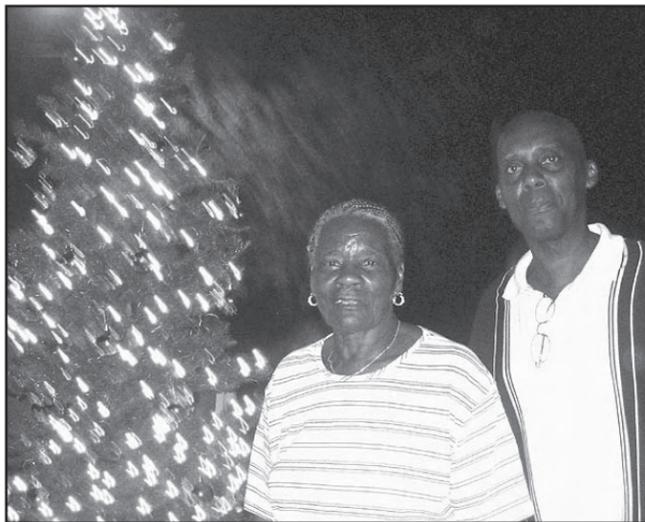
Scurvy Few Partners with Social Services

By Samantha V. Evans

Scurvy Few's Toys for Tots has become a great way for locals to contribute

to the needy in society during Christmas time. On December 12 it held a fun day across from the Memorial Plaza. The day began with the blessing of the motorcycles by Rev. Jason Quasi. According vice president of Scurvy Few, things were a bit slow this year but by the end of the day, they had sold all of their food items including hot dogs and hamburgers. They also sold snacks and beverages. The kids enjoyed face painting and the bouncing castle throughout the day. The members asked those attending to bring a new toy for needy people on Abaco. All the toys bought this year will be given to Social Services to distribute to the less fortunate. This will be the first time that they are doing it this way. Well over 500 toys were

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Vergie Russell, the oldest resident in Spring City, was asked to light the Christmas tree in Spring City. She is shown here with Colin Curry, Town Committee member of Spring City.



On December 12 Abaco Hardware treated its customers to snack foods in appreciation of their business.

Breast Cancer Educational Seminar and Fund Raising Walk

Saturday, January 23rd, 2010
9:00 AM



At Agape Christian School 'Grace Gym'

Guest Speakers:

Ashley Towler - M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston

Joy Funston - Breast Cancer Survivor

All proceeds go to The Abaco Cancer Society

Pink T-Shirts will be available at Various Locations in January

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More Central Abaco News

Central

From Page 14

purchased. These toys were good quality items that the kids would love. They were ordered through Abaco Hardware that got them at a good price through their suppliers. For this great gesture a special thanks is extended to them. Other corporate sponsors of this fund raiser were Abaco Ice, Shell 24/7 for the soft drinks and the public for their support.

Heal Our Land assists a family in Nassau

By Samantha V. Evans

Heal Our Land came in contact with a family in Nassau in August 2009 who

were in dire need of help. This family had their five children taken away from them in December 2008 by Social Services. The parents, Ricardo and Karen Forbes, were homeless and living in an abandoned car. The couple was soon rescued by a family in Nassau who took them into their home. Kathleen Knowles and Cleola Pinder from Abaco looked for housing for them so that the children could be returned to their parents. They were successful in October 2009. The home they found had to meet certain criteria as stipulated by Social Services; it had to have three bedrooms, be furnished and have a refrigerator and stove.

When the home was found, they got

families and businesses in Nassau to help meet the other requirements. Due to the efforts of Mrs. Knowles, Mrs. Pinder, and Pastor Micklyn Seymour from Nassau, the father is now working. The next step was to get Social Services to release the children and reunite them with their parents. On October 21st, 2009, the ladies got the children ages 6 to 16 released from three orphanages where they were living. Mrs. Knowles explained that even though they went for the Forbes children, other children wanted to go with them to be placed in a regular home setting. Both ladies explained how emotional this experience was for them as they did not realize that there were so many displaced children in The Bahamas.

After the children were reunited with

their parents, a thanksgiving service was held at a church in Nassau. The three older boys won a talent search at another church.

Heal Our Land continues to send the family food items and assists in other areas to ensure that their housing remains secure. A committee was formed in Nassau to help them until they are stabilized.

This is the first time Heal Our Land has helped a family in such a significant way. However, they assist individuals locally on a regular basis. The assistance includes paying utility bills, providing housing, food, clothing and counseling. They network with others to ensure that those in need can survive. They appeal to the public to support their food drive and adapt the

Please see **Central**

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Through its Toys for Tots program, the Scurvy Few Motorcycle Club collects toys and raises money to buy toys for the needy children of all Abaco communities. Members are shown here presenting gifts to Social Services for distribution. Shown are Heath Higgs, Charles Efinger, Kimrice Miller, Charlemae Fernander, Rex Albury, Barbara Williams and Sid Dawes. This year they gave more than 500 toys in this annual event.



On December 12 the Scurvy Few held a Fun Day across from Memorial Plaza in Marsh Harbour to give children a fun time. Santa made his appearance, pleasing many of the children. The members sold hot dogs and hamburgers to raise money for buying gifts.



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 <p>43' 1982 Ocean Alexander - 120hp Lehman. 3 cabins. Huge fly bridge. Economic live aboard cruiser. \$59,000. Bahamas Dudy paid.</p>	 <p>33' Prout Quest - New everything, ready to cross any ocean. Bahamas Duty Paid - \$75,000.</p>	 <p>35' 1987 Viking Convertible - fresh 3208TA CATS, new paint & interior, many upgrades, Bahamas Duty Paid - \$75,000.</p>

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ABACO'S NEWEST SOD FARM

More Central Abaco News

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attitude of sharing.

They are appreciative of the Helping Hands of Treasure Cay made up of second homeowners, who have an annual food drive at Golden Harvest Grocery Store to assist them in their efforts to feed the hungry on the island. The drive began in November and extended until the end of December 2009. All non-perishable and

miscellaneous items were accepted.

Monthly supporters are needed to provide food items on a more consistent basis. Items can be dropped off at B & P Consulting in Abaco Shopping Centre or by calling 367-3181 or 367-5198.

Open House at Hair Express

By Samantha V. Evans

Taka Davis and the Hair Express family

held an open house on December 21st with an all day affair at the salon in the Dove Plaza. No hair was being done on this day as all of the equipment and chairs were replaced with tables stacked with items for sale. They had shoes, accessories, bags, clutches and watches on sale. According to Taka this was a day for them to make some extra money and to give back to customers. Free refreshments were offered all day and persons spending more than \$50 had a chance to enter the raffle to win a Rolex watch and a Gucci bag and wallet set.

At the end of the day the winner of the Rolex watch was Cindy Carroll and the winner of the Gucci set was Elaine Turnquest. Both winners were overjoyed. The kids got gift bags with treats and customers received free accessories throughout the day as well. The open house was extended until Christmas Eve.

Murphy Town held Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

By Mirella Santillo

The Murphy Town Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony drew quite a good crowd who enjoyed the carol singing and partook in the abundant food provided at the end of the program. The program was simple and to the point, to remind people of the meaning of the Christmas season

The function took

place on December 15th at the Burial Society. Pastor Stephen Knowles gave the blessing of Murphy Town, expressing his faith in that community.

Special music was provided by the BGC Angelic Choir and the nine man band Genesis. Members of the audience often joined in the singing. Chief Councillor Cubell Davis, Jr., reminded the residents that the meaning of the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was to bring people together as one family.

The official tree lighting was performed by one of the older members of that community, Beverly Curry, who turned on the lights to illuminate the decorated Christmas tree.

The food served after the program was

Please see **Central** Page 18



Heal Our Land reached out to the business community this Christmas to ensure that kids and parents could have something nice to open on Christmas morning. Thanks to Baker's Bay and the Abaco Shoe Gallery, kids and parents in need were given new toys and footwear. Heal Our Land also gave out 200 plates of food on Christmas Day to families in Central Abaco who were needy. Kathleen Knowles and the Heal Our Land family came out in good numbers to prepare, distribute and deliver food to Murphy Town, Dundas Town, and The Peas. The food items were donated by businesses and the community. The dinners were delivered and also given out at the Church of God of Prophecy Hall in Dundas Town. Special thanks to all the volunteers who gave their support and worked extremely hard to make this event a success. Kathleen Knowles, organizer of Heal Our Land, is on the far right with volunteer Kore Reckley standing next to her.



Beverly Curry was chosen to light the Christmas tree during the ceremony at Murphy Town. She is shown with Murphy Town Town Committee Chairman Renardo Curry and Pastor Stephen Knowles.



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Ocean View Parcel - Near Beach - # 1502 - Elevated 17,650 s/f lot with 135' of road frontage offering superb ocean views. Just a 1 minute walk to sandy Atlantic Ocean Beach. **\$148,950.**

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.**

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"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.**

TURTLE ROCKS

"seaGlas Cottage" # 1237 - Charming 2 bed, 2.5 bath, 3 level furnished beach home on private 1.20 acres. 1,800 s/f under roof, 900 s/f decks/patios. 100' shoreline. New windows & central A/C. **\$799,000.**

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.**

Blackwood Waterfront Parcel # 1521 - 38,514 s/f parcel with 167' of deep water Sea of Abaco frontage and highway frontage. Topography well suited for a marina site. Utilities available **\$98,500.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

Waterfront House (Under Construction) # 1374 - 18,600 s/f sea front parcel, 108' deep water frontage, plus 50' long boat slip. 3 bed, 3.5 bath, 2,284 s/f home under construction. 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.**

1501 - 20,741 s/f elevated residential lot adjacent to Leisure Lee community. 90' road frontage, 5 minute walk to beach. **\$80,000.**

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

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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 lots. **REDUCED TO \$3,995,000.**

"Casuarina Beach House" - #1512 - Ocean Blvd, furnished 6 bed, 5.5 bath 2 level beach home & efficiency apt. 6,600 s/f living space, pool, 27,600 s/f parcel, 80' beach frontage. Excellent rental income. **\$2,950,000.**

"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. **\$2,357,000.**

"Avalon" # 1516 - Exceptional 3 bed, 2 bath Windward Beach home. Immaculately maintained, well appointed, 2,500 s/f under roof, 2,200 s/f open & covered patios. 24,440 s/f parcel with 175' sandy beach. **\$2,321,000.**

"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.**

Cutwater Way Canal Home - #1524 - 3 bed, 3 bath, 3,600 s/f home on Brigantine Bay. Newly built in 2008, elegantly furnished, many upgraded features. 144' bulkhead, 70' dock, boat lift. **\$1,995,000.**

"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.**

"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.**

"Kokomo", Brigantine Bay #1509 - Charming 3 bed, 3 bath, 2 level, 3,000 s/f tastefully furnished canal home. Recently renovated and upgraded. 10,915 s/f parcel with 102' canal frontage, dock & boat lift. **\$1,895,000.**

"Windover", Brigantine Bay # 1507 - 3 bed, 2 bath, 1,750 s/f bi-level elegantly furnished canal home, plus garage on 10,400 s/f topically landscaped parcel. 80' bulkheaded canal frontage with private dock. **\$995,000.**

"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.**

St. Andrews Estates # 1500 - 2,387 s/f 3 bed, 2 bath furnished home on 13,000 s/f parcel adjacent to golf course. **\$299,000.**
Two optional adjoining vacant lots. **\$100,000.**

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.
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TREASURE CAY

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.**

Bahama Beach Club 2032 - # 1525 - 3 bed, 2 bath, 2nd level, 1,650 s/f furnished beach condo, excellent sea & beach views. Club amenities. **\$865,000.**

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.**

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.**

Bahama Beach Club # 2014 - #1478 - 3 bed, 2 bath, 1,645 s/f 2nd level furnished beachfront condo. Great sea & beach views. Well manicured grounds, club amenities. Exceptionally priced at **\$805,000.**

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. **\$549,000.**

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.**

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

TREASURE CAY

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 (1.2 acres) with 115' sandy beach frontage & 40' 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.**

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 # 817 - 1/2 acre waterfront parcel directly on Sea of Abaco, 124' beach frontage. Newly installed sea wall. All utilities available. **\$399,000.**

Treasure Cay Canal Parcels

Galleon Bay - # 1441 - 28,072 s/f cleared parcel, 64' of bulkhead with dock & dock house. **\$550,000.**

Galleon Bay # 744 - 19,256 s/f cleared canal parcel with 68' bulkheaded deep water frontage. Bay. **\$434,000.**

Galleon Bay # 1356 - 24,732 s/f large canal front parcel with 158' of bulkhead & sandy waterfront. **\$399,950.**

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 # 1498 - 20,310 s/f canal lot with 126' of sea-walled deep water frontage. Great Views! **\$322,000.**

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

Brigantine Bay # 1494 - 18,807 s/f cleared canal parcel 120' deep water bulk-headed frontage. **\$290,000.**

St. Andrews Estates, Golf Course Lot - # 1341 - 11,151 s/f residential parcel with 100' of golf course frontage. All utilities available. Short walk to beach. **\$41,000.**

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.**

Orchid Bay - Beachfront Parcel 25 - #1530 - 1.173 acre Atlantic Ocean lot, 130' sandy beach frontage. Excellent elevations, spectacular ocean views. Orchid Bay amenities include utilities, marina, restaurant, pool, tennis courts, beach pavillion, paved roads, etc. **\$1,695,000.**

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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More Central Abaco News

Central *From Page 16*

varied and abundant. Soon the whole assembly was lined in front of the tables for the delicious food.

The evening ended with a Junkanoo rush by the Murphy Town Mo-town Shockers. The children received bags of candy and people socialized for a while longer.

Sand Dollar Shoppe held Open House

By Samantha V. Evans

The Sand Dollar Shop has held its Christmas Open House for the past three years and every year it offers items at discounted prices beginning Thanksgiving week and leading up to Christmas Eve. Specials are on jewelry from Abaco Gold

and items of clothing and specialty items from the Sand Dollar Shop. At Abaco Gold the artisans make their own jewelry including wedding bands, and they set stones in jewelry.

The first and third weeks the shop raffled a laptop and the second and fourth weeks a 26-inch flat screen television with DVD access was raffled (as the first prize). The second prize each week was jewelry and the third prize was a \$100 gift certificate at Wally's, Mangoes or Curly Tails. On Christmas Eve the drawing was held for the mega prize which, according to Monica Higgs, always includes a diamond.

The first week the first place prize, a laptop, went to Lyn Darville, the second place 14K gold jewelry went to Chovez McBride and the third place prize, dinner

for two at Wally's, went to Ernestine Farrington. During week two the winner of the flat screen television went to Valarie Dean, second place prize of a 14K gold piece of jewelry went to Jeralyn Sands and the third prize of the dinner for two at Curly Tails went to Julia Mills.

Scotia Bank is a Junkanoo sponsor

By Mirella Santillo

During the first week of December, Scotia Bank handed made a donation to three Junkanoo groups to assist them in buying material for their costumes. The Spring City Rockers, the Mo-Town Shockers and the Treasure Cay Explorers received checks from the bank Manager, Matthew Sawyer.

Mr. Sawyer explained that the bank wants to give back to the community and feels that Junkanoo is the expression of a culture common to all Bahamian islands.

Five groups are making preparations to participate in the February 2010 Love parade: the Spring City Rockers, the Dundas Town Goombay Boys and Supreme Dancers, the Murphy Town Mo-Town Shockers and the Treasure Cay Explorers.

Remote controlled sailboats compete

The Marsh Harbour Sailing Club held its Boxing Day Regatta for remote controlled Lasers on December 26 at the Abaco Club in Marsh Harbour. Seven competitors concentrated on racing the radio-controlled sailboats.

After getting blown out last weekend by the same cold front that dumped many inches of snow on northeastern United States, the sailors were met by drifting conditions for the R/C Laser Boxing Day Regatta. The light winds kept the racing

Please see Central Page 19



The Sand Dollar Shoppe in Marsh Harbour offered its customers many specials from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Raffles each week and specials on merchandise in the store enticed many to buy their gifts there. Here Sherry Pinder is showing customers some of its special one-of-a-kind jewelry items made by the artisans in the shop.



A fleet of remote-controlled sailboats, a model of Lasers, competed on Boxing Day in a series of seven races. The calm water required extra diligence by those controlling the boats. The races took place at the Abaco Club in Marsh Harbour.



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More Central Abaco News

Central *From Page 18*

close, and frequently five or six boats went around the marks in a clump. With the light winds and sailors concentrating on their boats, you could hear a pin drop. These shifting conditions along with the drifting conditions made the racing difficult.

Two first timers competed and did very well along with the regulars. Seven races were held, thanks to the race committee work. Jim Kaighin came out on top winning five of the seven races, followed by Anders Ljungholm, then Randy Key. First timer Brent Eastwood of Lexington, Kentucky was fourth.

This year the club plans to do a "tour" with regattas in Marsh Harbour, Treasure Cay, Man-O-War, Little Harbour and Hope Town. Treasure Cay is our next location. The date is not yet set. For more information, contact Jim Kaighin at 367-3086.

Vendors anticipate new location

By Navardo Saunders

The vendors who sell along Don MacKay Boulevard in Marsh Harbour are calling on Edison Key, BAIC Chairman and Member of Parliament for South Abaco, to complete the work on the proposed site for them opposite BEC in Marsh Harbour. Mr. Key said it is one of his top priorities and that work will be done when funds for the project become available. The site is expected to be a cultural area with arts and crafts, a farmers' market and a place for the vendors.

If you had spoken to the vendors who sell food, salads, seafood and fruit along Don MacKay Boulevard several weeks ago, the mood would have been quite different than it is today.

That is because several weeks ago they

were given notice by the Marsh Harbour Town Committee that they would have to vacate the area and were offered to conduct their businesses at the Goombay Park instead. The vendors were upset with the decision and said they weren't going to move.

At issue for one was the place chosen for them to relocate. The vendors had several complaints. They pointed out that a freight area adjacent to the park often has garbage containers from the cays. When it rains, the run-off from a nearby grave yard invades the area which they believe will turn people off.

Some members of the Town Committee feel that having the vendors along Don MacKay Boulevard results in traffic congestion and makes the city look chaotic.

Art auction raised funds for cancer victims

By Mirella Santillo

The annual Abaco's Cancer Society Silent Art Auction took place on December 12th at Mangoes Restaurant and was a great success. All the pieces offered were sold. Many beautiful paintings in various media, donated by artists from Abaco and Florida, were hung on the walls of dining areas or were displayed on tables. People were greeted at the entrance with an empty glass that could be filled at the bar for one complimentary red or white wine and an offer to buy raffle tickets for prizes that were drawn every hour.

Soon a crowd had formed in spite of the rainy weather, some people spilling into the bar area where a table was set with an array of hors d'oeuvres. Others inspected the art work and registered their bids,

greeted one another, taking advantage of the occasion to renew acquaintances, returning to the tables at intervals to check on their bids.

When the bidding was stopped, bidders rushed to their choices to find out if they had offered enough for the painting or the object of their choice. Soon bidders could be seen carrying a water color by Betsy Wheeler from Treasure Cay, who donated the most pieces to the auction or a tile decorated with Bahama parrots, compliments of Lou Schneider or a print from Tammy Smith or a landscape by Bob Zwickle. The list could go on, so many were the items. There was jewelry by Linda Wiltfang and straw purses by Lillian Cash, a wooden bowl by Royce Sands. It was the perfect occasion to purchase Christmas gifts and many people did.

Some people bid on several items and won them; others bought goods, such as Christmas-related objects or decorating items, at the Cancer Society shop located in another area of the restaurant complex.

According to Marjolein Scott, Co-president of the Cancer Society, the evening was a great success, thanks to the generous donations of so many people. The profits of the Cancer Society fund raising events are donated to cancer patients needing help with traveling expenses related to their medical condition.

There will be a breast cancer walk and education seminar on January 21st, 2010. Call Leah Pinder for details at 367-2744 or 577-6764.



The Cancer Society of Abaco held its annual art auction at Mangoes on December 12. Many items were donated to raise funds for assisting victims of cancer to get treatments.

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RDA states its objections to the new power plant

*Press Release provided by
Responsible Development for Abaco*

The group Responsible Development for Abaco (RDA) announced that it is disturbed, but not surprised that Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham is defending BEC's new power plant at Wilson City. Construction has already started, which would make it embarrassing to stop.

Mr. Ingraham defended the decision to go ahead with the Bunker C plant saying, "I suppose in the case of Abaco, we could have continued with the blackouts and the outages that we had. And we could have continued to pollute the environment as we are doing now at the station in Marsh Harbour; as we are doing today. And we could have continued to have all the smoke going into the communities of Central Pines, Dundas Town and Marsh Harbour."

RDA and Abaco Cares President Clint Kemp said, "That smoke and 'what not' Mr. Ingraham is referring to is from diesel emissions which are far less harmful than the emissions from Bunker C, which is what will be used at the Wilson City plant." While diesel should have some emission controls as required by developed countries, Bunker C would require those same controls in addition to a whole new layer of controls, such as wet scrubbers, to meet emissions and public health standards set out by law in those same developed countries.

BEC's knowledge of the negative public health impacts is evidenced by their plans to install 106-foot tall smokestacks that would not be considered for a diesel plant. This is a flawed attempt to mitigate the more toxic emissions of a Bunker C plant since the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has said that increased smokestack

height does not decrease public health risks associated with emissions.

Mr. Kemp added, "If the Bahamas government was actually concerned about the public health, it would have installed emissions controls and monitors at the existing diesel-burning power plant or would not have allowed a school and community to be built next to it." While the Bahamian government ramps up its use of the controversial fuel, in the rest of the world Bunker C is being phased out considerably due to costs, health concerns and detrimental environmental effects as it is a refinery by-product left over after gasoline and distillate fuel oils are extracted from crude oil. In the United States the use of Bunker C and diesel has gone from 16.8 percent in 1973 to three percent today.

Prime Minister Ingraham has assured residents of Abaco that his administration does not believe the plant will adversely affect the environment or the economy of the island and will provide a more reliable power supply for Abaco. Though RDA understands the need for a reliable power supply, it believes the government had an opportunity to construct the power plant in a less environmentally threatening location but missed the boat. "How can Mr. Ingraham say there will be no environmental impact when there are spills and oil slicks in Marsh Harbour and Clifton Pier? The shipping companies do not want to spill oil but it is inevitable. The only recourse is to reduce the damage by limiting it to areas that would not impact touristic and environmentally sensitive areas," said Matt McCoy, RDA Secretary.

Mr. McCoy added that the plant is already driving away investors. "One developer has decided to leave and is trying

to sell because of the poor decisions being made for Abaco. Many people have decided not to buy or build in the area of the power plant. Tourists don't want to visit the Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park and see a tanker offloading fuel just feet away and swim in an oil slick."

If the Wilson City location was the best available based on cost, ease of fuel drop-off, impact to residents and ecological importance, there would be no opposition. Unfortunately, RDA believes that the Wilson City location fails all of the above criteria. Norman's Castle would be cheaper (no three-mile pipeline), not influenced by rage conditions during fuel drop-off, it is ten miles from the nearest residential area and downwind of Marsh Harbour (less impact to residents), and there are no dense areas of blue holes, underground caverns, mangrove creeks, and existing and proposed national parks like at Wilson City.

Minister of the Environment Earl Devaux pointed out that BEC currently has a comprehensive national oil spill policy and plan in place. That is useless if there is no spill containment and clean up equipment at the fueling site with trained operators standing by. Mr. Kemp argued, "In the time it would take to mobilize personnel on New Providence or Grand Bahama, the damage would be done! Rage conditions at the current site would increase the risk of spills. This highlights an additional reason the site is unsuitable."

Responsible Development for Abaco filed suit earlier this month in the Supreme Court against the Prime Minister and others. Mr. Ingraham told reporters. "A suit against the Prime Minister is no suit whatsoever. It will be struck out immediately by any judge, anywhere, at any time."

"It is nice to see that Prime Minister Ingraham thinks he is above the law and does not need permits like everyone else," says McCoy. "Similar to our government thinking it was above the law when it took land from people to benefit the Albany Development on New Providence. The government lost that case."

The Prime Minister claimed that a small minority of people in Hope Town including a smaller minority of part-time winter residents and/or homeowners has driven the lawsuit and protests over the plant. Responsible Development for Abaco instead can show that over 1200 people signed a petition. "How is that a small group?" Mr. Kemp said. "Anything short of a majority will be labeled a small group. When was the last time 1200 persons publicly opposed anything, especially given the small population of Abaco?"

RDA will continue to voice its concerns over the construction of this potentially devastating power plant. The people of Abaco deserve to be heard and the island's eco systems must be preserved for future generations of Bahamians.

About Responsible Development for Abaco

RDA (Responsible Development for Abaco) is a company that has been created by civic-minded Abaconians and Grand Bahamians to be a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to oppose the development of the Wilson City Power Plant on Abaco. RDA is a limited liability company that is open to all residents of The Bahamas, be they Bahamian citizens or not.

Visit <http://abacocares.com/joinrda.html> to learn more.

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Prime Minister responds to Fred Smith

By Navardo Saunders

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham laughed when he was asked about the lawsuit attorney Fred Smith, QC, has initiated against the government for its decision to construct the \$1.05 million Bahamas Electricity Corporation power plant at Wilson City.

"I sent a message to Fred Smith the other day that he shouldn't sham his clients," Mr. Ingraham said. "The suit against the Prime Minister is no suit whatsoever. It would be struck out immediately by any judge anywhere at any time. They have no case, but they are entitled to go to court. The plant is going to go on. It's going to open in April of next year with or without Mr. Fred Smith's support."

Mr. Smith, who represents a group of residents who

call themselves Responsible Development for Abaco (RDA) has been granted leave by Justice Estelle Gray Evans to commence judicial review of the power plant decision but was denied a request for an injunction to stop work on the plant.

Not satisfied with Justice's Gray decision, RDA in a notice of appeal filed the week following the Prime Minister's comments which were made at the power plant on December 12 says, "The learned judge failed to exercise her discretion based on the facts before her, which shows that, absent an interlocutory injunction, the power plant is likely to have been completed and the relevant damage done by the time the application for constitutional relief and judicial review is heard, thus allowing the respondents to benefit from their own wrong and effectively depriving

the appellants of relief entirely."

Listed as respondents are Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham, Minister of the Environment Dr. Earl Deveaux, Minister of Health Dr. Hubert Minnis, Minister of Public Works and Transport Neko Grant and Attorney General John Delaney in their official capacities. Also listed as respondents are the South Abaco District Council and BEC.

RDA wants the Court of Appeal to order those respondents to disclose all relevant paperwork relating to the decision to proceed with the construction of the plant, including environmental impact assessments and environmental management plans.

"The learned judge failed to give any proper reasons for refusing the application," RDA contends. "...The absence of proper reasons creates an inference that the matter was not considered properly or judicially by the judge. In particular there can be no confidence that all relevant matters, and only relevant matters, were taken into account when the learned judge exercised her discretion." The group contends that Justice Evans erred in law in not ordering the injunctions sought.

Mr. Smith contends that not only was consultation not actively carried out, but matters were conducted as far as possible in secret, and the Minister for Crown Lands (the Prime Minister) exceeded his powers by agreeing to grant leases of Crown Land when it was not in the public interest to do so. He also cites health risks, possible damage to the environment that could be caused as a result of using bunker C fuel.

The Prime Minister has announced that there is a good chance that the less harmful diesel will be used instead of bunker C. However, he warned that the electricity bills on Abaco would increase as a result.

Prime Minister addresses environmental issues

Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham, announced that in 2010 the government will introduce vehicle emissions regulations and fees requiring consumers to pay for the disposal of refrigerators, stoves and related items.

Additionally, he said, "Everyone who buys a car, there will be a fee to put into that environment fund because we know that the car will eventually be put down. As it is now, the government has the responsibility of disposing of it."

There will also be enforcement of the laws for those who go before the Environmental Court for various infractions, Prime Minister Ingraham said.



The group Responsible Development for Abaco maintains that this photo shows how close the plant is to water and highlights the proposed pipeline and its proximity to the Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park. It also shows land that has been surveyed for future expansion. According to the group, that expansion will threaten nearby mangrove creeks.

Road Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility

ABACO SCIENCE ALLIANCE



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January 7TH -9TH 2010

New Vision Ministries

Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas

Presenters to include:

Janet Franklin

"Patterns of habitat use by migrant and resident land birds on Abaco"

Ancilleno "Leno" Davis M.Sc.

"Assessment of coral reef communities around the island of New Providence, Bahamas and development of a network of trained dive researchers."

Carolyn Hayle Ph.D.,

Senior Programme Officer, Institute for Hospitality and Tourism, University of the West Indies

"Can Smaller Be Better? - Making the Most of Tourist Development in the Local Economy"

For more information contact
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www.friendsoftheenvironment.org
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More Letters to the Editor

Letters

From Page 9

It is also insulting that you do not count Spring City, Cherokee and Little Harbour as communities when you say there are no communities within eight miles of the plant. Are you saying that these people don't count and it doesn't matter if they get lung cancer???

Matthew McCoy

Bunker C causes cancer risks

Dear Editor,

First, I want to say that Abaco needs a new power plant to supply the needs of its people. For years Abaco has been faced with the problems of blackouts, load shedding and the pollution that spreads over homes and schools from the diesel-powered plant. It was comforting to hear that you, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and Frederik Gottlieb, were so concerned about the health and welfare of the people living next to the existing plant. If this is the case, how can you in good conscience be building the most polluting oil-fired power plant in the world using Bunker C?

The pollutants in a diesel-fired power plant pale in comparison to those that are produced by a Bunker C/ heavy oil fired power plant. For every 100 gallons of Bunker C burned there will be one gallon left of very toxic cancer-causing sludge that will not burn. You will mix this with diesel so that it will burn in the incinerator and go up in another 106-foot tall stack to go right into the air and drop onto the land and into our cistern water and aquifers.

It is amazing that you showed concern for your constituency over the existing plant, but turn your back on the people living next to the new plant, which will produce far more pollutants including those that DO CAUSE CANCER, Dioxins and Furans, with only a smoke stack to disperse these dangerous byproducts of burning this fuel "far away," as you say. However, in prevailing winds those pollutants will be heading towards Spring City and Marsh Harbour and all the existing farms which are producing foods that are marketed to the people of Abaco. These pollutants will travel for many miles and will reach the outlying cays of Abaco.

You say that this plant is being built to the latest standards and have quoted the World Bank and also U.S. standards. Without pollution controls, this is not true. Pollution controls would HAVE to be used in a plant such as this in the States. The 106-foot tall stacks will not reduce the pollution whatsoever; it will just move it farther away if the wind is blowing. The direct result of this plant will be that the citizens of Abaco will have to deal with many health problems.

It is sad that you depended on an EIA that is full of false information and incomplete data. Where is the dispersion study that will show where these pollutants will

go? You said it is under study. Is it complete yet? Don't we deserve to know what will be coming our way? The EIA states the nearest settlement is Spring City seven miles away. What about the over 300 homes that are less than six miles away? Do they not count? Mr. Gottlieb, it is amazing that you are able to say that as a fact when you know that Little Harbour is only three miles away. Why do you continue to ignore these people when you know they are there? Also, it is easy to see how close this plant is to the water. The EIA states two miles but it is less than quarter mile, another false statement in the EIA.

I am pleading with you to reconsider and change the source of fuel for this plant. If Bunker C is used, it will show that you have not considered all the costs of this type of fuel. Have you included all the additional equipment, maintenance and work force that are needed for a Bunker C plant? Do the people of Abaco not deserve a healthy and long life? If you need more information on the problems associated with Bunker C, you should read about it on the EPA's web site. It is full of good information on the problems associated with this fuel.

You say there are only a few people who object to this plant. There are many, many more people who are educating themselves on the dangers associated with this fuel. What you have told the majority of the people of Abaco is false and misleading information. Maybe what is needed is a meeting where the truth is told and the people of Abaco have the opportunity to learn what will be in their air and water in the future. We need a Public Town Hall meeting where we are able to participate and voice our concerns and get answers other than those that come from BEC. It is to be hoped that that will happen and we can all feel comfortable with this decision that will affect all of us.

Thank you for the chance to voice my concerns.

Virginia Warwick
Little Harbour

Harmful effects of bunker C must be considered

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in opposition to the Wilson City power plant which is currently scheduled to use a toxic fuel known as Bunker C in an extremely environmentally sensitive location. After attending the September 10th, 2009, Town Hall Meeting with other concerned residents of Abaco, my research about the location and fuel choice has brought to light the distressing economic and environmental impact this project will have on Abaco.

The more I learn about the location the more I can't understand how and why the decision was made. Having grown up near the Bight of Old Robinson and often giving

tours of the blue holes in the mangrove creeks, I always knew that they were very deep holes and linked together by catacombs below the surface of the sea floor. However, I did not realize until recently that these holes are also linked to blue holes and catacombs under and near the new power plant. The few hundred yards would normally be enough of a buffer from the power plant site to the Mangroves. However, when the "Swiss cheese" nature of the ground is considered, it is obvious that the oil and chemicals that will be in the plant's cooling water and future oil spills and storm water runoff will not only pollute the ground under the power plant but will also affect the fresh water lens and the mangrove creeks.

The really amazing thing that highlights the poor decision to locate the power plant at Wilson City is that the main area of mangroves and densest number of blue holes in the Sea of Abaco is the area next to the power plant site. That is the reason that the Bahamas National Trust and Friends of the Environment have proposed the area as a national park which would protect the habitat required for reproduction of marine life for tourists to see at Sandy Cay reef and for the benefit of local and tourist fisherman alike.

Beyond the negative implications to tourism from the return of tar balls in the Sea of Abaco when the inevitable spills occur, the emissions from Bunker C are some of the worst. With very little research effort on the internet, I learned that Bunker C is what is left over after diesel, kerosene and gasoline are refined out of a barrel of crude oil and that all the especially toxic ingredients that are banned in cleaner fuels to protect our health are left

behind in the Bunker C in a concentrated form.

What is the point of distilling these substances from auto and boat gas and then breathing them in anyway when they are burned in a Bunker C power plant? Even worse, other countries now have cleaner fuel and therefore air while Bahamian residents will get a bigger dose of the bad stuff. This is an especially hard outcome to fathom when one realizes that the additional costs of using Bunker C versus diesel fuel in generators likely cancels out any savings from the actual cost of the fuel, something BEC has obviously not factored in.

It is obvious that with the current methods or lack of methods the Bahamas government is using to decide how to develop the country, Abaco has become a risky investment for many past and current investors. This is evidenced by a number of people that have shelved plans to buy or build in the Wilson City area. I can only assume that the area will be economically depressed in the future if others are like me and would not consider buying property or building a house near a Bunker C power plant, no matter how low the purchase price.

If this plant is constructed as planned without the emissions controls and monitoring that are needed to protect the health of all residents, families that rely on rain water for drinking water will not be able to drink the water due to the toxic particulate matter that will be deposited on roofs, not to mention in their lungs. Is there really any compensation, such as supposed lower energy prices, that will offset the damage to the health of all Abaco residents and their children?

David Pitcarin

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Abaco Vacation Planner + 25 hse 367-3529
Bahamas Vacations + 800-462-2426

Cherokee

Lee Pinder + 3 hse 366-2053
Marina Albury Cottages 5 cottages 366-2075

Grand Cay

Rosie's Place 352-5458

Green Turtle Cay

Bluff House 30 rm 365-4247
Cocobay Cottages 6 cott 365-5464
Green Turtle Club 35 rm 365-4271
Island Properties + 34 hse 365-4047
New Plymouth Inn 9 rm 365-4161
Ocean Blue Properties + 34 365-4636
Other Shore Club 365-4226
Roberts Cottages 3 cott 365-4105

Guana Cay

Dive Guana 11 hse 365-5178
Dolphin Bch Resort 4 rm 10 cott. 365-5137
Donna Sands + 12 hse 365-5195
Guana Beach Resort 6 units 365-5133
Guana Seaside 8 rm 7 cott 365-5106
Ocean Frontier 519-389-4846
Ward's Landing 4 units 904-982-2762

Hope Town

Abaco Inn 22 rm 366-0133
Club Soleil 6 rm 1 cott 366-0003
Crystal Villas 7 villas 888-812-2243
Elbow Cay Prop + 53 hse 366-0035
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>
<http://www.bahamas.com>

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Visitors' Guide

Restaurants • Services • Transportation

Compliments of The Abaconian

www.abaconian.com

All phones use area code 242 unless noted

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 Clinic367-0020
 Marsh Harbour Medical Centre.....367-0049
 Government Clinic Marsh Harbour.....367-2510
 Corbett Clinic Treasure Cay365-8288
 Government Clinic Cooper's Town365-0300
 Government Clinic Green Turtle Cay365-4028
 Government Clinic Hope Town366-0108
 Government Clinic Sandy Point366-4010
 Government Clinic Fox Town365-2172

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
 Localair - Fort Lauderdale..... 1-800-205-0730
 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 Harbour367-2963
 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 Shop365-6013

Taxi Cab Fares

one or two passengers
 Extra \$3 for each passenger above two

• **Marsh Harbour Airport to:** (effective Dec 08)

Clinic, Downtown, Regattas,\$10
 Ab Bch Resort, Eastern Shore close, Ferry \$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\$ 10
 Nat. Ins. Bldg, Murphy Town, Gr. Cistern\$10

Wait time \$0.40 per minute, Hourly rate \$40 per hour
Children under three - free • Caged pets - as people
Luggage \$0.75 each over two, large bags \$1 ea.

• **Treasure Cay Airport to:** Effective 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\$85
 Crown Haven\$90
 Marsh Harbour airport\$80

Green Turtle Ferry to Marsh H Airport\$80

T Cay Hotel to Marsh HarbourX\$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 CreekX\$35 + \$5
 T C Hotel to MoxeyX\$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 4 5:45
 Return 8 am 11:30 1:30 pm 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
 Return 8 am 11:30 2:30 pm 4:45

Fare • Adult prepaid oneway \$15 / open return \$25, • Kids 6-11 half, Under 6 free (Phone after hours 359-6861)

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 MuseumGreen Turtle Cay
 Capt Roland Roberts House, reef exhibits.....Green Turtle Cay
 Memorial Sculpture Garden..... Green Turtle Cay
 Wyannie Malone Historical MuseumHope Town
 Elbow Cay Light Station.....Hope Town
 Walk to & swim on Mermaid Reef off M Harb. ..Pelican Shore
 Drive to & swim in Blue HoleTreasure 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
 Adventure on Prozac - T Cay 365-8749
 Brendals Dive • Green Turtle Cay 365-4411
 C & C Charters - Treasure Cay 365-8506
 Dive Abaco 1978, Marsh Harbour 367-2787
 Excursion boat • Froggies • Hope T 366-0024

Abaco Marinas - Slips Fuel Phone

Walker's Cay Closed

Green Turtle Cay

Bluff House45..... F..... 365-4200
 Green Turtle Club32..... F..... 365-4271
 Black Sound Marina...15..... 365-4531
 Other Shore Club12..... F..... 365-4195
 Abaco Yacht Service..10..... F..... 365-4033

Treasure Cay

Treasure Cay Marina150 F..... 365-8250

Man-O-War

Man-O-War Marina ...26..... F..... 365-6008

Marsh Harbour

Boat Harbour Marina183..... F..... 367-2736
 Conch Inn.....75..... F 367-4000
 Harbour View Marina .36..... F 367-2182
 Mangoes Marina29..... 367-2366
 Marsh Harbour Marina52 F 367 2700

Hope Town

Hope Town Marina16..... 366-0003
 Hope Town Hideaways..... 366-0224
 Lighthouse Marina6..... F..... 366-0154
 Sea Spray60..... F..... 366-0065

Spanish Cay

Spanish Cay Marina...75..... F..... 365-0083

Guana Cay

Orchid Bay64 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
 Brendals 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

Bonefish Guides

Sandy Point

Patrick Roberts .. 366-4286
 Nicholas Roberts
 Derrick Gaitor
 Ferdinand Burrows 366-4133
 Vernal Burrows
 Kendall White
 Anthony Bain 366-4107
 Floyd Burrows 366-4175
 Links Adderly 366-4335
 Valentino Lightbourne
 Ricky Burrows 366-4233

Marsh Harbour

Jody Albury 375-8068
 Terrance Davis 367-4464
 Buddy Pinder.....366-2163
 Justin Sands 367-3526
 Danny Sawyer..... 367-3577
 Jay Sawyer 367-3941

Man-O-War

David Albury 365-6059

Crossing Rocks

Tony Russell366-3259

Cherokee

Will Sawyer..... 366-2177
 Marty Sawyer..... 366-2115
 Noel Lowe366-2107
 Randy Sawyer366-2284

Casuarina Point

Junior Albury366-3058

Hope Town

Maitland Lowe366-0234

North Abaco

O'Donald McIntosh..477-5037
 Pope McKenzie477-5894
 Orthnell Russell365-0125
 Alexander Rolle365-0120
 Edward Rolle365-0024

Green Turtle Cay

Rick Sawyer.....365-4261
 Ronnie Sawyer365-4070
 Jeff Survance365-4040

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 367-2615
 Mangoes \$\$\$ 367-2366
 Pinnacle \$
 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
 Pineapples 365-4226
 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



Abaco Cays Realty, Ltd.

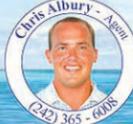
Great Guana Cay - Green Turtle Cay - Man-O-War Cay
Hope Town - Marsh Harbour - Treasure Cay
info@abacocaysrealty.com • www.AbacoCaysRealty.com



Chris Plummer - Broker
(242) 365-4048



Faron Sawyer - Broker
(242) 367-3450



Chris Albury - Agent
(242) 365-6008



Bill Johnston - Agent
(242) 357-6674



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Tara Claridge - Agent
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Chris Claridge - Agent
(242) 375-8558



Sarah Sams - Agent
(242) 365-4725

Abaco Cays Realty extends their warmest wishes for a wonderful Christmas and the happiest and most prosperous of new years.

NEW OFFERING



"Prince's Trust"

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.**

NEW



"Split Coconut"

Great Guana Cay Orchard 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.**

NEW



"Entre Deux Mers"

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.**

NEW



"Angel Bay House"

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.**

NEW



"Lovely Hill"

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.**

NEW



"John Lowe House - circa 1866"

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.**

NEW PRICE



"Sonn Light"

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 - **\$1,270,000.**

NEW



"Casa Cielo"

Green Turtle Cay

- 50 % Shared ownership
- 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath
- 1,355 s.f. of Residence
- Covered Screened Porches
- Land - 0.54 Acre
- 253.06 of water-frontage
- Two Docks 36' - 170'
- 56,000 gallon cistern
- Generator House - tool shed
- 50KW diesel Generator

GTH1137 - **\$625,000.**

NEW PRICE



"Coconut Grove Cottage"

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

- **"SAILOR'S REST"** - Dickie's Cay - 768 s.f. Residence - 3 bedroom, 1 Bath - 710 s.f. of open and covered decks - 224 s.f. - 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath Guest House - 84 s.f. deck - .365 Acre Sea to Sea - 260' waterfront - private dock. **Built in 60's by William H. Albury #MWH1144 - NEW - \$775,000.**
- **"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 - #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.**
- **"SUNSPASH"** - 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.**
- **"ANNE BONNY"** - 3 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Baths, 1,536 s.f. Residence - 500 s.f. of Porches & Decks - Land 1.23 Hillside Acres - 180' Harbour Front - Private Dock. #MWH1115 - **\$1,600,000.**

NEW



"St. Charles Place"

Marsh Harbour - Sunrise Bay

- 4 Bedrooms, 4 Baths
- 4,468 s.f. New Residence.
- 1,742 s.f. Covered Verandahs & Balconies.
- 0.3394 Acre - 14,787 s.f.
- Swimming Pool
- 30 KW Auxiliary Gen.
- Boat Slip.

#MHH1084 - **\$2,700,000.**

NEW PRICE



"Buttonwood"

Man-O-War Cay Settlement

- 4 Bedrooms, 1.5 Baths.
- 1,240 s.f. Residence.
- 0.3213 Acre - 14,000 s.f.
- Hillside for great Ocean Views.
- Beautifully Landscaped
- Fully Furnished & Equipped.

#MWH1020 - **\$525,000.**

NEW



"Summer Camp"

Scotland Cay

- 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths.
- Bunkroom
- 1,300 s.f. Residence.
- 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath.
- 224 s.f. Guest Cottage
- "Playhouse" with bar
- 1.82 Acres - 300' of Ocean Beach Front
- Fabulous Views

#SCH1094 - **\$1,950,000.**

★ **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 Beach-frontage - 159' in Depth - Beautiful Beach-front 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.**

NEW



"Panoramic"

Great Guana Cay Orchard Bay

- 4 Acres
- ± 70 ft. Elevations
- 6 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths
- ± 3000 s.f. Residence
- Swimming Pool
- 1200 gal. Watermaker
- Auxiliary Generator

#GGH1142 - **\$2,300,000.**

GREAT GUANA CAY

- **"Crawl Bight"** - Sea to Sea building site - 321,690 s.f. - 7.385 Acre 300' of Atlantic beach frontage, 300' of Sea of Abaco frontage - Newly built dock - great family estate - #GGV1143 - **\$2,250,000.**
- **"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 - **\$850,000**
- **"AERIE"** - Parcel # 58 - Orchard Bay - 174,775 s.f. - 4.012 Acres - Orchard Bay amenities. - One of the Highest Points in Orchard 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**
- **"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 **\$89,000.**

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 Sewall 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.**

NEW



"Summer Camp"

Scotland Cay

- 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths.
- Bunkroom
- 1,300 s.f. Residence.
- 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath.
- 224 s.f. Guest Cottage
- "Playhouse" with bar
- 1.82 Acres - 300' of Ocean Beach Front
- Fabulous Views

#SCH1094 - **\$1,950,000.**



The Abaconian

SECTION B



VOLUME 18 NUMBER 1 JANUARY 1st, 2010

Police Band performed at North Abaco Festival

Second annual Christmas Festival brought hundreds together despite bad weather



The Royal Bahamas Police Force Marching Band and Pop Band helped to make the second annual Christmas Festival in North Abaco a memorable occasion. Their intricate maneuvers and expert precision were appreciated by the crowds. The casual atmosphere encouraged socializing as residents from all the communities in North Abaco came together to enjoy the holiday festivities.

By Vernique Russell

It was indeed the event of the festive season for residents of North Abaco. Despite the frightful weather residents came out in large numbers to be a part of the event. The festival was held on December 12th at the Treasure Cay Primary School and featured many activities and much entertainment. This year the festival began at noon and lasted well into the night. The combination effort of both the organizers and vendors contributed to the event being dubbed a grand success.

The festival was declared open by Edison Key, MP for South Abaco, who extended greetings and wishes for a happy and healthy festive season to the residents of North Abaco. A special tree-lighting ceremony took place during the opening ceremony. The beautifully decorated tree came to life at the Treasure Cay Primary School.

The day was filled with activities that captured the children hearts. A special visit by Santa proved to be a big hit as the

Please see **Festival**

Page 2

St. Francis students raise money for the PTA



The PTA of St. Francis de Sales School organizes a Fun Day annually to raise funds for school projects. It begins with a Walk-a-thon/ Bike-a-thon. Afterwards the students enjoy games, entertainment and food. See story on page 14.

Memorial was for four killed in traffic accident

Police, government officials and members of the Abaco Crash, Fire and Rescue gathered at the site of the fatal crash on November 6 that claimed the lives of four young men. In a brief ceremony four crosses were erected at the site to serve as a memorial to them.

Romeo McIntosh, Tony Curry, Ricardo Reckley and Valentino McIntosh were riding together when their vehicle collided with the car driven by Police Constable Valentino Burrows. Four died at the scene. Valentino McIntosh was critically injured and was flown to the hospital in Nassau.

Officials hope the four white crosses will remind motorists how important it is to drive with care and to obey the rules of the road.

Pastor Stafford Symonette appealed to drivers to adhere to the rules of the road

and drive responsibly. "We must drive with concern and care for one another," he said. "We must be vigilant and keep our eyes on the roads at all times. Let us remember that speed kills. I wish that this makes our young men realize that speeding is not good driving. Speeding is violating the laws of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas." Pastor Symonette urged drivers not to drink and drive. "If you have to make a phone call, please pull on the side," he added. "Pay attention to the road safety signs. Obey the school zone limits. Be cautious of others."

Colin Albury could not hold back the tears as he recalled the horrific two-car collision on November 6 when he returned to

Please see **Memorial**

Page 13

Man-O-War holds boat launching

Residents and visitors alike were treated to a boat launching experience by brothers Joe Albury and Hartley Albury on Man-O-War Cay on December 19. The event was hosted at Joe's Studio. Sitting was the 13-foot sailing dinghy waiting to be launched, adorned and decorated with party flag apparel to suit the occasion. The special moment arrived when Joe and Hartley launched the dinghy into the sea as cheers and applause went up from the assembled spectators. Invoking Man-O-War tradition that accompanies a boat launching day, everyone enjoyed a piece of cake and soda pop. The crowd lingered around in awe of the dinghy, shining with fresh paint, sitting perfectly in the water, just ready for a sail; it was a sight to behold.

Although it was an enjoyable experi-

Please see **Launching**

Page 6

Abaco residents decorate for the holidays



Abaco residents were well prepared to the Christmas holiday. Many decorated the outside of their homes as well as the inside. This home of Peter and Priscilla Pinder in Marsh Harbour has elaborate decorations. On December 19 Santa visited the residence and children were able to give him their wish lists. Family and friends offered a variety of snack foods and sweets for sale.

Christmas spirit came alive with festive atmosphere

Festival *From Page 1*

children could have their photos taken with Santa. This service was once again provided by the Winding Bay Club. The kids were able to receive early Christmas gifts as Santa went over his list to deliver smiles to the kids. Another surprise visit for the children came all the way from Bikini Bottom as SpongeBob made a surprise visit to the festival and mingled with the children. His visit was made possible by Characters for Kids.

Entertainment for the events this year was slightly down graded in comparison to the show that was provided last year and the luxury of having all the uniform branches of national security performed on the same stage for the first time in Bahamian history. However, that did not stop

those who did perform from putting on a spectacular show. The crowd was pleased with both the Royal Bahamas Police Force Marching and Pop bands. This year the festival included Oswald Parker and Chris "The Burner" Russell, who rendered a few selection spreading Christmas cheer in solo performances. The New Direction Band and the New Entry Band put on crowd-pleasing performances. Dances by local church groups and selections by school choirs were also rendered. Characters for Kids brought the evening alive as SpongeBob, Dora and Spiderman delivered their special Christmas dance and song. The weather delayed most of the performance and was the reason for the cancellation of the Junkanoo rush-out to climax the event.

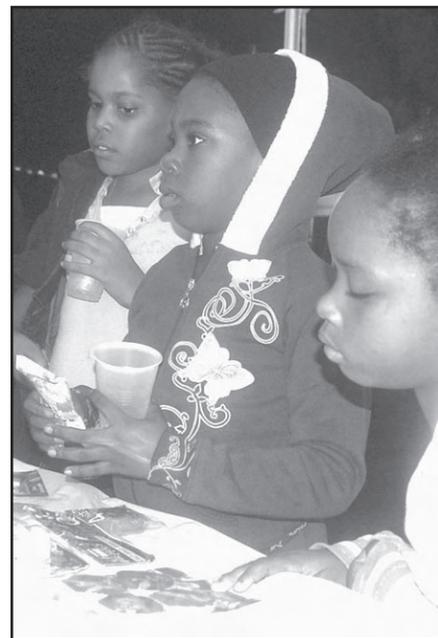
The arrival of the MP for North Abaco, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham, was delayed. However, upon his arrival he mingled with the crowd. This was a great opportunity for the crowd as they were very appreciative of his being present. Even the children were happy because of his presence as many of them ran around trying to get a glimpse of him. An on-looker and visitor to the

island was amazed by the presence of the Prime Minister at the event. She exclaimed, "He's walking around freely and shaking people's hands!"

Vendors did an excellent job providing a variety of scrumptious food for the crowd. Many popular native dishes were served as well as snacks and other delights. Vendors provided ice drinks and daiquiris and there was even a sweet treats booth. There were a few games and toys stall. Homemade Bahamian crafts were on sale as were personalized festival memorabilia to commemorate the occasion. All of them agreed that the events' proceeds were fruitful.

Please see **Festival** *Page 4*

Three girls are looking over the gifts available at the Festival. Many Bahamian made crafts were displayed along with toys and holiday decorations.



Hoopa is always a popular game at events on Abaco. These people are watching one of the rings to see what they are going to win.



Blue Sky GALLERY

Original Art • Prints • Framing

Originals by

Lou Lihou Anne Ray
Malcolm Rae William Johnson
Shula Raney Fritz Keck Kim Rody
Photography by Tuppy

Local Artists

Beth Sweeting Zandrlick Jones
Lori Thompson Dion Lewis
Colyn Rees

Located Queen Elizabeth Drive, Marsh Harbour

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Happy Holidays

ABACO REAL ESTATE AGENCY

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<p>ROLLING HARBOUR SOUTH ABACO</p> <p>CALL FOR DETAILS</p> <p>11 acres with 660' beautiful beach front - Will divide into two 5.5 parcels</p>	<p>GUANA CAY</p> <p>Dolphin Beach Estates Lot# 28B \$120,000</p>	<p>GUANA CAY</p> <p>Dolphin Beach Estates Lot 93A/92B \$129,000</p>	<p>GUANA CAY</p> <p>Guana Cay Waterfront Lot# 28 \$259,900</p>
<p>GUANA CAY</p> <p>REDUCED</p> <p>WAS Guana Cay Home \$1,750,000 NOW \$1,250,000</p>	<p>GUANA CAY</p> <p>REDUCED</p> <p>Seashore Villas & Harbour View Haven \$2,650,000</p>	<p>GUANA CAY</p> <p>REDUCED</p> <p>Coconut Tyme \$569,000</p>	<p>GUANA CAY</p> <p>REDUCED</p> <p>Coconut Grove 17,460 sq. ft. lot Great Harbour Views \$239,000</p>
<p>GUANA CAY</p> <p>"New" 2.5 acres 325' of waterfront. \$725,000</p>	<p>GUANA CAY</p> <p>"New" waterfront home 3 beds 2 baths, fantastic views. \$750,000</p>	<p>LONG BEACH</p> <p>Lot 31 - 12,600 sq.ft \$125,000 REDUCED</p>	<p>SOUTH ABACO</p> <p>Yellow Wood 2/1 Cottage on 1/2 acre. \$229,000.</p>

SOUTH ABACO	NORTH ABACO	MARSH HARBOUR
Casuarina Point Lots 90 & 91 \$45,000 each Casuarina Point Home \$230,000 B.P.Shores lots 5&6 section 4 \$30,000 each B.P.Shores lot 15 section 4 \$16,000 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 Lynard Cay Lot 10 \$199,000 Dorros Cove - Elbow Cay \$457,000 Guana Cay Residential Lot \$90,000 Bahama Coral Island Lot (REDUCED) \$16,000 Leisure Lee 4 lots (each) \$43,900 Joe's Creek Lot 12 (REDUCED) \$49,500	Treasure Cay Galleon Bay lot \$95,000 Outrigger 2 Bed 1 Bath house \$175,000 Sunrise Bay lots from \$250,000 Sweetings Village lot (REDUCED) \$51,900 Royal Harbour Lot 26 \$279,000 Pelican Shores Harbour Front \$1,225,000 4 Residential Lots - starting @ \$51,000

15th December, 2009

Damianos

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Best Priced

Treasure Cay Beachfront Home

Best Priced 3 bedroom 3 bath
130 feet of prime, main Treasure Cay Beach

US\$ 850,000.

#5116

Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com
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New Prices - New Listings - Great Value



GREEN TURTLE CAY #4936
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



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



LUBBERS QUARTERS #3785
WILL'S PLACE - 2 bed 2 bath home. Vaulted ceilings, gourmet kitchen, stainless steel appliances. 1,472 sq ft including deck. Community dock. **\$365,000.** Laurie.Schreiner@SothebysRealty.com



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



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



MAN-O-WAR CAY #4655
HARBOUR VIEWS - COZY COTTAGE 2 bed, 1.5 bath in the settlement, 3rd bedroom/study, 3 minutes walk to beach. Charming home. **\$395,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



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



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



MARSH HARBOUR #5155
WATERFRONT - HIDEAWAY - EASTERN SHORES Sea to sea, 150' dock & boat lift. Main house with 1 1/2 bed 1 1/2 bath, guest quarters with 2 bed 2 bath. **US\$1,795,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



MARSH HARBOUR #5159
SKY VIEW - BEST VIEWS IN ABACO 4 bed, 360 degree views, swimming pool, recreation room, wrap around covered porches. **\$1,750,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



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



MARSH HARBOUR #5151
WATERFRONT - THE RESIDENCES 5 star high end 3 bed 3.5 bath at the Abaco Beach Resort and the largest marina in the Bahamas. **\$1,415,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



MARSH HARBOUR #5162
WATERFRONT - SUR LA MER 2 bed 2 bath plus 2 bonus rooms and decks. Desirable neighbourhood, strong repeat rentals. **\$1,100,000.** Lydia.Bodamer@SothebysRealty.com



MARSH HARBOUR #5232
SEAGRAPE - WATERFRONT 3 bed 3 bath on Eastern Shores with 2 docks, boat lifts, swimming pool. **US\$985,000.** Laurie.Schreiner@SothebysRealty.com



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. **\$950,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



MARSH HARBOUR #4989
R FANTASY - WATERFRONT - GREAT CISTERN New 4b/3b home with dockage. Gorgeous pool with sea views. Guest Cottage. **US\$995,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



MARSH HARBOUR #4658
WATERFRONT - GRANDER - GREAT ABACO CLUB Best deal w/sheltered deepwater dock. 1st buyer that pays **US\$635,000**, before Jan 15th takes it. Lydia.Bodamer@SothebysRealty.com



NEAR MARSH HARBOUR PORT #4914
STARLIGHT SEAFOOD BUILDING - COMMERCIAL WATERFRONT with dock, easily converted to residential. **\$350,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



WINDING BAY #5235
THE ABACO CLUB LOT #30 - Best priced beachfront estate lot available. Over 1.5 acres. **US\$1,750,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



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



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



TREASURE CAY #4969
TREASURED TIMES - BEST PRICED CANALFRONT HOME IN TREASURE CAY Fully furnished 3 bed 3 baths. on 90 ft. on canal. Fully serviced dock. **US\$1,200,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com



TREASURE CAY #5118
BAHAMA BEACH CLUB - BEACHFRONT Luxurious spacious condo. Best Price in Complex. Reduced to **US\$799,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com



TREASURE CAY #2516
SEA VIEWS - CROSSWINDS Best price in neighbourhood, 2,800 sq.ft. Cover your expenses with rental income from separate apartment. **\$755,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com



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



TREASURE CAY #5114
TREASURE CAY BEACH TOWNHOUSE Beach & ocean views, setback 200ft off main Treasure Cay beach **US\$389,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com

LOTS & ACREAGE

LUBBERS QUARTERS
#4578 ABACO OCEAN CLUB Lot 17 Gorgeous Water View. \$225,000. Laurie Schreiner
#4940 ABACO OCEAN CLUB Lot 18 - 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, high elevation. \$125,000. Laurie Schreiner
#4580 ABACO OCEAN CLUB Lot 107 Community dockage. \$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. \$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

OTHER CAYS
#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

MAINLAND
#4071 BAHAMA PALM SHORES Lot 43 Good residential area. \$30,000. Bill Albury
#4572 LITTLE HARBOUR - NEW PRICE - .97 acre, 150 ft. harbourfront. \$198,000. Laurie Schreiner
#4689 CEDAR HARBOUR - NEW PRICE 2 acres, deeded water access. \$55k. Lydia Bodamer
#4632 MARSH HARBOUR High Rocks waterfront lot. High elevation, views. \$599k. B. Albury
#4888 TURTLE ROCKS - 10 Acres Water access, good elevations. \$349,000. Lydia Bodamer
#5157 TURTLE ROCKS - NEW LISTING - Hill top with View access 16,969 sq. ft. and 3,000 feet from the beach. \$74,500. Lydia Bodamer
#4803 TREASURE CAY - Choice Canalfront Lot. \$280,000. Stan Sawyer

FOR LEASE

#5050 CENTRAL PINES SEAGRAPE APT #1- 2B/2B duplex. \$1,365/mo.
#5053 GREAT CISTERN 3B/2.5B Sea of Abaco Waterfront. \$1,635/mo.
#4858 PELICAN SHORES - 3B/2B with pool, sea & harbour views. \$2,795/mo.
#5055 EASTERN SHORES - 4B/4B with pool & shared dock. \$4,000/mo.
Lydia Bodamer t.242.367.5046



George Damianos
Broker, Owner
t 242.362.4211



Kerry Sullivan
Broker
t 242.366.0163



Laurie Schreiner
Estate Agent
t. 242.367.5046



Jane Patterson
Estate Agent
t 242.366.0035



Stan Sawyer
Estate Agent
t 242.577.0298



Bill Albury
Estate Agent
t 242.557.2929



Lydia Bodamer
Estate Agent
t 242.577.0016

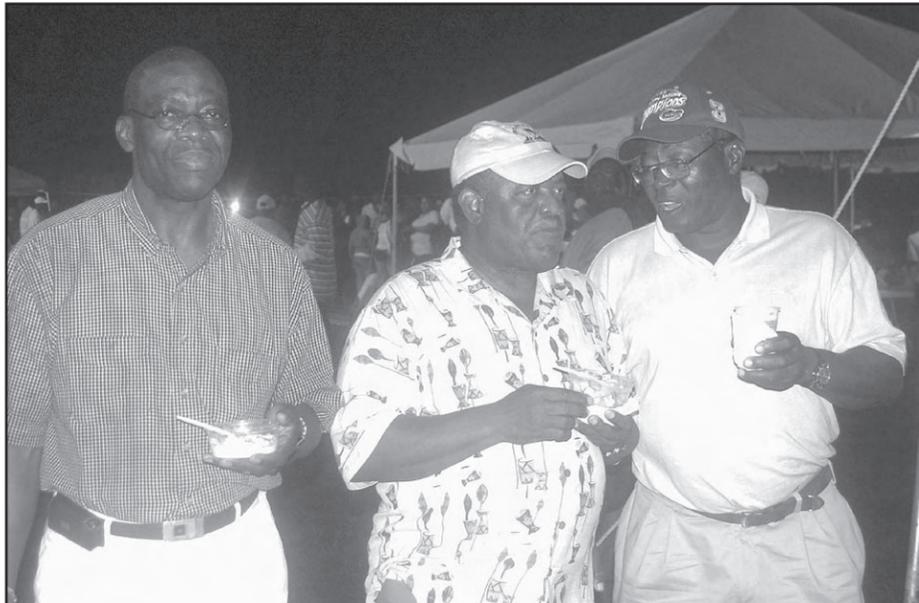
Festival brought North Abaco communities together

Festival *From Page 2*

Though large crowds came out to support the event, organizers agree that the crowd would have been much larger if the weather had cooperated. Despite the rain and cold they are still very grateful that it was successful and the vendors were able to fare well on selling their goods.

The festival brought communities and

families together and provided wholesome family activities while bringing the spirit of Christmas alive to the lives of many residents. The rain put an earlier end to the festival. They are promising that next year Christmas festival will be bigger and better, and hopefully Mother Nature will be nice and smile on us so that everyone can be a part of the event.



The Prime Minister, center, spent leisurely time at the Festival greeting friends, shaking hands and hugging people that he has known from growing up in the area. He is shown here with Cephas Cooper and Lincoln Jones.



The North Abaco Christmas Festival included entertainment for much of the day. Choirs, school presentations, bands and dancers performed on stage, giving the crowds a variety of fun to enjoy. These girls are part of the Cooper's Town Church of God Praise Dancers. Some of the activities had to be canceled because of rain.

The Abaco Real Estate Specialists!



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Marsh Harbour
242-367-7653

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Frank Knowles
Hope Town
242-577-0339

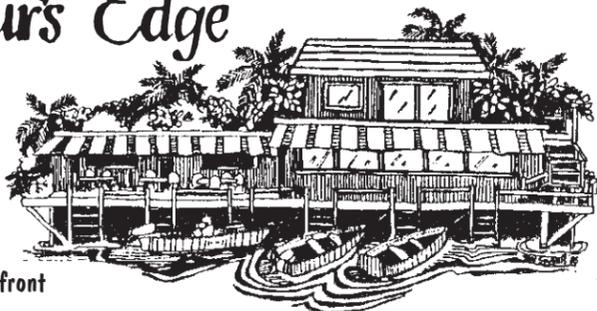
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MIAMI TERMINAL - OPENING HOURS

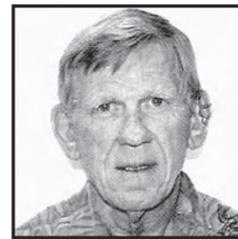
MONDAY TO SATURDAY
8:00 AM - 7:00 PM
SUNDAY - 12 NOON - 7:00 PM



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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 \$595,000 + 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

"Palm Bay" Unit #5 Waterfront Townhouse unit fully furnished. Lower/entry level 2 bed/ 1 bath with garage. Upper level master bed with ensuite bath/living/dining/kitchen/lanai. Unit has own dock, extras GEO tracker & golf cart, 25' Carolina skiff, 250 HP Evinrude engine

\$1,350,000 + 7.5%

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

TREASURE 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

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

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

"Dolphin House" comfortable, well designed, fully furnished CBS home has 2 bed / 2 baths with alrge kitchen/ living/ dining facing the deep water canal. \$895,000 + 7.5%

Bldg. #2, 2 bed/ 2 bath upper unit with boat slip and golf cart garage. Never rented, in excellent condition. \$475,565 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

"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

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

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



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News of the Cays

Launching

From Page 1

ence, as different ones left the area that day, it is hard for anyone to imagine and appreciate what work goes into crafting such a fine work of art. Particular native



This is the first wooden boat to be built on Man-O-War since the mid 1990s. The launching followed the ceremonial procedures that the community followed years ago when Man-O-War was well known for its well built, one-of-a-kind boats.

woods have to be sought on the Abaco mainland, cut and brought back to the cay. Then they need to be seasoned (left in the salt water for an extended period of time) before construction can begin. Joe Albury and his brother Hartley began building this boat in December 2008, a year ago. This dinghy could have been built in a matter of months, but the brothers took this on as a hobby project with no timetable for completion.

This is the first boat-building project Joe and Hartley have ventured on together since they represented the Bahamas in 1994 in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian Institute of American Folklife, where they built the sailing dinghy "Smithsonian" to demonstrate boat building.

During the duration of constructing their recently crafted vessel, Joe mentioned that a few school groups toured the site and viewed the dinghy under construction. He wishes that the next generation would learn the trade to carry on the culture and tradition of boat building. Joe noted that he began boat building at the age of 15 under the tutelage of his father, Lewis Albury.

When asked what he planned to do with the boat, Joe replied, "The dinghy is up for sale." With what work goes into this prized possession, it is difficult to place a price tag to reflect the countless hours that have been devoted and exhausted. Although the price tag should bear the word "priceless," a fair offer, and I am sure the Albury's would part with their creation.

Two other dinghies are under construction with one set for launch in January with a similar festive celebration. No exact date in January is set, but a phone call to Joe's

Studio would keep you enlightened, and for all interested, this would also be the place to call to place an offer on the recently launched dinghy.

All in all, if you can make the next launch in January, it will be well worth your visit as you will get to experience Man-O-War tradition at its best and gain a keen appreciation for fine art and stellar craftsmanship.

Man-O-War held a Tree Lighting Ceremony

Man-O-War residents turned out in good numbers, braving inclement and stormy weather on December 12th to witness their first ever Christmas tree lighting. One only wonders if the weather would have cooperated, the number to turn out would have even been greater. The event was scheduled to have been held outdoors, but due to weather conditions, persons present crammed into Mr. Eddie's Room of the

Man-O-War School, and the sound system amplified the program to the crowd that spilled out onto the back porch of the school.

Residents were encouraged all week long to bring an ornament to represent their family on the tree. Before the event got underway, many adults and children placed their ornaments on the 12-foot tree.

Arthur Elden served as Master of Ceremonies and entertained the crowd. Pastor Thomas Sands and Pastor Randy Crowe took part in the ceremony. The Man-O-War All-Age School entertained the gathering with several selections. Anna Albury sang for the audience. Most of the ceremony was filled with congregational singing and caroling, much to the delight of the residents who are known for their good singing. Man-O-War's native Jeremy

Please see **Cays**

Page 7



Man-O-War held its Christmas tree lighting ceremony on December 12. Residents brought decorations that were meaningful to their families to hang on the tree. Rain caused the ceremony to be held in the school while some of the crowd overflowed to the porch. This was the first time for this event on Man-O-War, but it is expected that it will be an annual event.

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More News of the Cays

Cays

From Page 6

Sweeting, Chief Councillor for the District Council, gave remarks encouraging the residents to visit the elderly and the shut-ins, especially during the Christmas

season. Mr. Sweeting also called for a moment of silence in honour of the residents in the community who passed away since last Christmas, namely, Sarah Albury, Rowena Sands, Melissa Sands and Linda Cove.

Patricia Albury was asked to light the tree in honour of her husband Vernon's many years playing the part of Santa Claus on Christmas morning in Man-O-War. Mr. Vernon's playing the role spanned over 60 years.

After the lighting of the tree, residents enjoyed refreshments and a grand time of fellowship. It is expected that this will become an annual event.

Please see **Cays**

Page 8



Capt. Perry Thomas
Realtor, Office Manager



Janet Harding
Realtor®



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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 landscape 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



New Listing Duplex in Marsh Harbour #1028 two 2 bedroom one bath on huge lot over 18,000 sq ft, covered front entrances and covered back porches, Central a/c on both sides, fully furnished, fenced-in back yard, whole property landscaped. Sale Price \$436,000



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 bd rm, 2 bth and a three unit building that is 75% completed. Can be completed for commercial or as a triplex.

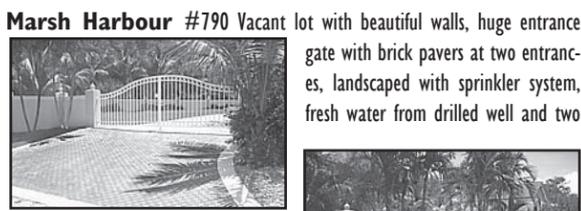


Price for both places \$316,400 gross

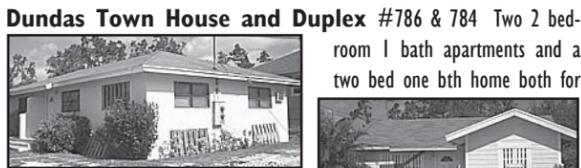
Murphy Town #002 three bedroom two bathroom home \$172,250



Murphy Town Triplex #012 three one bedroom one bathroom apts \$160,000



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



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



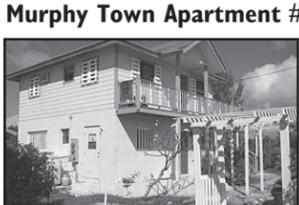
New Listing Duplex Central Pines #914 two 2 br, 1br brand new never lived in \$254,250.00 gross



Murphy Town #0387, a 2 bed, 2 bath home with an attached 1 bed 1 bath apt, with central a/c and a huge fenced-in yard 200 ft length and 70 ft in depth. \$258,272 gross



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



Murphy Town Apartment #004 two 2 bedroom one bathroom apts. \$160,500



Murphy Town Triplex #009 three two bedroom one bathroom apts. \$295,000

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

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

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

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

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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

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Hillside lot w/ UNDER CONTRACT in Dundas Town #502 \$18,600 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

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

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Treasure Cay Rock Point vacant waterfront lots \$406,000 gross

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More News of the Cays

Cays *From Page 7*

Great Guana Cay First Christmas Tree Lighting was held

By Samantha V. Evans

Residents and second homeowners turned out in large numbers for the first Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony held on Great Guana Cay. Mr. Glenn Laing, Council member of the Hope Town District, and Maxine Duncombe, Administrator for Green Turtle Cay, were at the helm to ensure the success of the plans for this festive night.

Mr. Laing thanked all of the residents for their support and confidence in him for the past four years by giving him the opportunity to serve them. He hopes to continue to represent them for many years to come.

Jeremy Sweeting, Chief Councillor for the Hope Town District, commended the committee for organizing the event. He gave an overview of the work done on the cay including paving one of the roads in the community, cleaning the front street and signing a contract for new bathrooms. He assured them that as the New Year unfolds that the Council

will continue to work hard for them.

Senior Administrator Cephas Cooper officially introduced Maxine Duncombe to the community stating that she will be assisting with the day-to-day affairs of the people there. Finally an administrator has been assigned to assist Great Guana Cay. Additionally, someone will be posted at the local government office in town to meet their needs.

Mr. Cooper stated that Christmas has different significance to different people but the main reason for the season is clear. He hopes that it will symbolize love, peace, goodwill, harmony, and togetherness of this community. He told the second

homeowners that in The Bahamas we are not ashamed to proclaim the birth of Christ or to acknowledge Him as the reason for the season. He encouraged them to take part in the festivities and have a wonderful

holiday season in The Bahamas.

Edison Key was very pleased by the level of support shown by residents and sec-

Please see Cays Page 9



Great Guana Cay held its tree lighting ceremony on December 15. Josephine Weatherford, center, was chosen to light the tree. She was assisted by Donna Sands.



Hope Town's annual pageant had a different twist this year. On the third night the performance was suddenly thrown into darkness as stormy weather disrupted the electricity. The cast quickly brought out candles and lamps so the show could go on. It was probably the most dramatic production ever.

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More News of the Cays

Cays *From Page 8*

ond homeowners. He told them that they are a part of The Bahamas as they keep the island flourishing. He spoke of the advancement of the handicraft and agricultural industries as he works hard to reduce the amount of goods imported to The Bahamas especially those items that can be made right here. He wished all of them good health and prosperity in 2010 and wished them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of the Prime Minister.

The Christmas message was delivered by Evangelist Kevin Knowles of Seaside Gospel Chapel. He spoke on the topic *Why Was the Lord of Glory Placed in a Manager?*

At the end of the service, the tree was lit by Josephine Weatherford. A delicious meal was prepared that was enjoyed by all. Finally, Santa made an appearance and gave the kids a special treat. Special thanks were extended to the business community and residents who donated items for this event.

Hope Town Finding the Christmas star by candle light

Contributed by Michelle Morfitt and Larry Beachy

Carrie Cash, director, and Jane Engle, choreographer, have been producing Christmas pageants for 14 years. There was always the chance that on one of the nights of the big production Mother Nature might have other ideas. Friday night was reality. The dreaded night finally occurred. Rain and lightning was followed by the inevitable loss of power to the entire island of Elbow Cay.

St. James Methodist Church had undergone its magical transformation. Immediately after the Sunday worship service on

December 13th, volunteers built a stage 28 feet by 12 feet consisting of 64 cement blocks and 12 plywood forms of various sizes. The stage was complete with backdrop and lighting. This huge project from building the stage to making costumes is done by volunteers.

It was not easy to assemble 60 little actors on a dark stage, have them perform a musical without backing music and dance to the beat of their own. With the superb guidance of Jane Engle, Carrie Cash, Mike and Mary Saou, they succeeded in putting on a fantastic show, and the audience was blown away. The cast lit up the stage with pure talent and a couple of candles. Candles were also loaded in the sconces on the sidewalls of the church. Flashlights were hurriedly gathered up as the cast paraded onto a stage lit by two oil lamps held by adult volunteers.

Hope Town "unplugged" may have put on its greatest show of all on that stormy Friday night. The fact that the CD player could not work only meant that the choir had to sing louder. It was amazing for the audience to hear the singers without any musical accompaniment. Miss Latoe, played by the talented Nicole Maltarp, held the show together with her crystal clear voice. It was beautiful to hear all of the children's voices without backing music, all singing together in perfect harmony, all singing in time with one another. The solo performances became heartfelt. The audience was moved to tears as one of the youngest performers, Summer Aberle, captivated the theater with her solo "There's a star in the sky."

Every young person in the play who practiced daily since early October performed on cue always in character. Each

one of the performers was truly a star on that Friday evening. Under the most limited conditions they proved that "The Show Must Go On."

Finding the Christmas Star is not only an enjoyable activity for the youth but also a meaningful fund raiser. Donations from the evening performances send children from Bahamian orphanages to summer camp and provide needed funds for the youth work camp. This is all part of the outreach ministry that St. James Methodist Church participates in.

A wine and cheese bar opened in Hope Town

By Mirella Santillo

Wine Down Sip-Sip, a wine and cheese bar in Hope Town, opened recently. The

Please see **Cays** Page 10



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More News of the Cays

Cays *From Page 9*

owners, Arnold and Bonnie Hall, are ready to mix your favorite margarita or flavored martini. You may create your own drink or choose a glass or a bottle of wine from the extensive wine list featuring close to 50 wines from all over the world. An assortment of cheese and crackers chosen to compliment the drinks are included.

Wine Down Sip-Sip is a place where people tend to become "regulars," explained Mrs. Hall. To entertain their patrons, the Halls organize scheduled events, such as monthly backgammon competitions. A bookshelf is filled with cook books from which patrons can copy recipes; Wi-fi is available; newspapers and a variety of games are displayed for



Hope Town children were given decorations to hang on the tree as part of its tree lighting ceremony.

the customers to enjoy. During the season Wine Down Sip-Sip is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Presently, it is open for evenings from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. The phone number is 366-0399.

Hope Town held a tree lighting ceremony on December 20. The tree just outside the library was without decoration until the program began. The organizers handed out decorations to the children who then hung them on the tree. The program also included scripture reading and special music. Ella Russell had the honour of turning on the lights.

Chief Councillor for the Hope Town District Council Jeremy Sweeting spoke briefly and made a couple of announcements. Several hurricanes in recent years have caused much damage to the dune in the White Sound area. Quite a bit of work has been done to replace the sand washed out by the storm waves. The road on top of the dune was endangered. This is the only road connecting residents on the south end of Elbow Cay with Hope Town. Rebuilding the dune and adding protective measures to minimize future erosion will begin immediately. He also announced that repairs to the Sunshine Park seawall will commence early in the new year.

Hope Town District Council

December 10

By Navardo Saunders
Councillors meet with

developer of Joe's Cay

Fireworks erupted at a Hope Town District Council meeting when the developer of a proposed

multi-million dollar project criticized the way the meeting was being conducted.

Richard Wilson, one of the principals of Joe's Cay, took issue with Chief Councillor Jeremy Sweeting reading the minutes from the previous meeting before allowing him to make his presentation on the controversial development that is being proposed for the cay. Mr. Wilson, a partner of the New Providence-based construction giant, Cavalier Construction, told Chief Councillor Sweeting that the way the meeting was being conducted lacked professionalism.

Mr. Wilson, who is seeking approval from the Council to build a small resort consisting of a club house and a number of luxurious residential and rental properties along with water-based infrastructure, said the meeting started late. Since he had traveled from New Providence just to attend the meeting, his presentation should have been the first order of business on the Council's agenda. Obviously upset, he said the Council needed to learn how to conduct a professional meeting.

Mr. Wilson explained that changes have been made to the development to address the concerns of residents in the Hope Town district. The building density was at 20 percent or less of the land area, which is in compliance with the country's building code, and he noted that the Bahamas Environment Science and Technology Commission has approved the development. However, he did not have documents with him showing BEST has approved the project.

The Council wants to hear from the BEST Commission before making a deci-

sion on the project and will write the Commission to determine if approval has, in fact, been granted.

Many residents are opposed to the development because they fear it will destroy precious mangroves and bonefishing flats. But Mr. Wilson said the development has been altered to ensure that no damage is done to either.

Frustrated and irate he said he would like the approval of the Hope Town District Council, but if not the development would move forward anyway.

According to Mr. Wilson, part of his frustration is the fact that he has met the with the Hope Town District Council four times before and "nothing has been accomplished."

In the meantime large sketches of the development before and after the alterations will be posted on a bulletin board for residents to view and make comments or recommendations until the Council reconvenes in January when it is expected to further discuss the controversial development at Joe's Cay.

Lynyard Cay is discussed

Jeremy Sweeting, Chief Councillor for the Hope Town District Council, said he is prepared to wash his hands completely of the multi-million dollar development that is being proposed for Lynyard Cay, citing central government interference.

In a District Council meeting, Mr. Sweeting said that central government is overlooking local government in approv-

Please see Cays Page 11

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More News of the Cays

Cays From Page 10

ing some aspects of the project that should be left up to local government to decide whether or not to grant approval. He would prefer if Lynyard Cay, which is 15 miles south of Hope Town and three miles northeast of Little Harbour, is placed back under the jurisdiction of the South Abaco District Council. "If they started with the South, they can continue with the South as far as I'm concerned," he said. "If they got approval from the South, they're not going to come back to the table and renegotiate."

Senior Administrator Cephas Cooper said that when he spoke to Michael Major in New Providence, Mr. Major believed that the project has been approved by Nassau authorities. Mr. Cooper will get more information on Lynyard Cay and present it to the Council when the Council meets again in the new year.

The developers of Lynyard Cay propose to construct 80 two to four bedroom cottages, 57 estate lots, many with their own secluded beaches and a 150-slip marina.

The development will consist of 25 acres of Crown property that will be undeveloped and set aside as nature reserve and will be maintained by Lynyard Cay "in support of the Bahamian government's commitment to the area's natural wildlife and environment."

North End residents air concerns

Residents in the north end of Elbow Cay say their lives are in grave danger because some of the Bahamas Electricity Corporation's equipment is in poor condition. Doug Hyde, a north end resident, said some transformers attached to poles are leaking and some ground-mounted transformers have no padlocks, which are extremely dangerous. A number of high tension wires are lying on the ground when they should be buried or completely out of the way of the public. Mr. Hyde along with Chris Prewitt made their concerns known during a Hope Town District Council meeting.

Chief Councillor Jeremy Sweeting is very concerned about the situation since even limited contact with faulty high voltage equipment could result in electrocution. He will speak to the general manager at BEC as soon as possible.

Mr. Hyde and Mr. Prewitt also ex-

pressed concerns about the conditions of the road at the north end. The one mile road is in terrible condition. They claim that the government has not spent any money on it in about 14 years while resident have spent over \$20,000 to have the road fixed. They pay property taxes and feel that they should have a decent road. The two representatives for Hope Town, Lana Russell and Harold Malone, had inspected the road and discovered four areas that need major work.

Mr. Sweeting suggested that the two Hope Town Committee members get quotes from people that can repair the road and bring them to the next Council meeting in January. In the meantime, a notice will be posted on the bulletin board requesting people or businesses to submit bids for the repairs.

Check out
The Abaconian
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Government is creating temporary employment

By Navardo Saunders

The government has introduced a temporary jobs programme to put a dent in the growing number of people who are unemployed. Many government corporations have begun hiring people temporarily between six months to a year, starting at the minimum wage of \$210 weekly. Minister of Labour Dion Foulkes said some employees will be kept permanently if there is a need for them.

Senior Island Administrator Cephas Cooper has informed the councils on which he sits of the temporary jobs program. He told the councillors to let people in their communities who are seeking employment collect an application form from the Administrator's office.

Already people on Abaco are benefiting from the jobs program as some local government councils are using the government's jobs stimulus to create employment. They have hired additional staff to work in their office and clean their districts.

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said the jobs program in addition to the capital projects being carried out throughout the country would create employment while the economy rebounds.

Plans are on the drawing board to build a government complex in Abaco at a cost of \$25 million dollars and the government has also begun to complete phase one of the Spring City housing project.

Both are expected to create hundreds of jobs.

The Prime Minister discusses crime

The Prime Minister said, "I think you will see an accelerated set of policing prevention taking place very soon and we will seek to make our streets and homes safer," he said. "The current crime wave is totally unacceptable and must be brought under control. The Acting Commissioner has

very clear instruction in that regard."

The Prime Minister said he will give a national address at the beginning of the year and will also speak to the crime situation at the swearing in of the new Commissioner on January 4, 2010.

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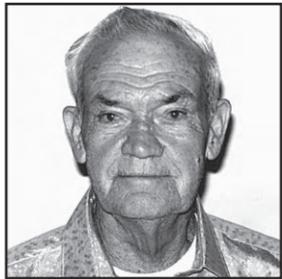
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Obituaries of Family and Friends

Richard Meredith Albury, affectionately called Bubba by many, 84, was born



Meredith Albury

on October 22, 1925, in Marsh Harbour to Azenith and Redith Albury. He later met his wife-to-be, Brenda Roberts, in Hope Town. During their years together they resided in Marsh Harbour, Nassau, Spanish Wells, Hope Town and the last 21 years before Brenda died in 1997, they lived back in Marsh Harbour where he spent the final years of his life. He passed away on December 1. His funeral was held at New Visions Ministries on December 6. Interment was in the Marsh Harbour Cemetery.

As a young man in the 1940s, Meredith went to the U.S. to work with "The Project," as it was known. Then, during the rest of his working years, he was a carpenter and worked on many different company projects some of which on Abaco were Great Abaco Beach Hotel, Treasure Cay condos, Abaco Hardware buildings, Edwin's Boat Yard 2, Elbow Cay Club and many others. Along with the construction of these buildings, he found the time to build his own houses, doing most of the construction himself.

Meredith was pre-deceased by his wife, Brenda, and survived by his step-son Tony; daughters-in-laws Julie and Carol; brother and sister-in-law Freddy and Cecile; grandchildren Elizabeth, Michelle, Anthony, Chad and Hannah, great-grandchildren Victoria and Kyle (Mathers); nieces

and nephews Rhonda and Ted, Troy and Cecile, Annajean, Donna, Beverly (grandniece), Walter, Willie; grandnieces and grandnephews Kyle and Mitzi, Kristen, Conner and Raquel. Other family members include Billy and Elaine Thompson, Brandon and Stacey Thompson, Charise and Neil Albury, Rob Mathers, Carroll and Betty Albury, Dave and Carol Lowe, Molly Albury, Ruthie Nedabylek, Darren Albury, Erika Albury, DeeDee Roberts and Sharmaine Claridge.

He will be surely missed by all.

The funeral service for **Nathlee Green**, 96, of Moore's Island was held on December 12 at St. Matthews Baptist Church, The Bight, Moore's Island. Rev. Ishmael Williams officiated assisted by



Nathlee Green

other ministers of the gospel. Interment followed in the Public Cemetery, The Bight, Moore's Island.

She is survived by her daughters Catherine Williams, Melvina McBride and Alma Mills; son Robert "Cabbage" Green; grandchildren Vera and Othnell Minns, Mernett Rolle, Princess Minnis, Patricia Wilson, Granville Tedro and Rev. Anthony Williams, Edris and Vernita McBride, Deloris McIntosh, James and Paulette Carey, Virginia Wilson, Mary Lafrance, Mayde Adderley, Charmine Alian; Wilfred and Pandora Hield, Esther Williams, Tyrone Davis, Alexander Ranard, Vascille Stuart, Pheva Roberts, Lyndell Delancy, Na-

thlie Williams, Rebecca Mills, Deanne Maycock, Elvernia and Walter Russell, Gaylin, Garvin and Gayleen Green; 137 great-grandchildren; 71 great-great-grandchildren; four great-great-great-grandchildren; nephews ASP Tommy LaRoda, Retired Supt. Leonard, Sidney, Charlera, Jim and Michael LaRoda and Franklyn Hunt; nieces Sybil Francis, Mildred "Milly" Sands, Carolyn Whymms, Ettie Feaster and Shirley LaRoda; sons-in-law Michael McIntosh, Devain Maycock, Leo and Alfred McBride, Charles and Rev. Ishmael Williams, David Wilson, Lideja LaFrance, David Adderley, Lenamax Alian, Wade Delancy, Nick Roberts and Patrick Wilson; granddaughters-in-law Evelyn, Icelyn, Vera and Lynn Williams, Elmeta Minns, Tanya Russell, Peggy Stuart, Arnette Ranard, Sabrina Hield and Francis Davis, cousins Iris Williams, Roland and Mary Swain, Emily McBride, Doris Gibson, god children Atlee Davis, Minerva Davis, Rudolph Davis, Leelah Lightbourne, Robbie Dames, Eugene McBride and Glacy Green; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral service for **Karen Theresa Demeritte**, 50, formerly of Dundas Town was held in Nassau on December 12. Interment was also in Nassau.

She is survived by her mother Evangeline Levarity; father Ashton Demeritte; children Perez Demeritte and Ryan Saunders; adopted son Jumico Maura; grandchildren Perez (Makonen) and Benjamin; sisters Linda Simms, Verona Knowles, Jerusha Terry, Chaymane Kelly and Yhantalle Ferguson; brothers Kalis Gaitor, Douglas Thompson and Avery Ferguson; brothers-in-law Cyril Simms, Rodney Knowles and James Ferguson; sister-in-law Gwendolyn Thompson; aunts Zulie (Edwin) Thompson

and Justina Winder; uncles Kermit (Linda) Gaitor, Winston and Oscar (Clara) Gaitor; and many other relatives and friends.

Jim Blumberg, a well known resident of Elbow Cay, passed away on December 18 following a fall at his home several months ago.

Jimmy Blumberg arrived on Elbow Cay in the early 90s on his boat and stayed the winters at Sea Spray Marina. Like many other people, he fell in love with the people of Elbow Cay and built his home, Third Sunrise, in 1998 in White Sound.

In 1999 Hurricane Floyd damaged many homes on Elbow Cay and severely damaged the dunes in White Sound. Jim used his contacts in his home town of Chicago and arranged for heavy equipment and operators needed to come and put the dunes back.

Jim also had a dream which he had hoped to realize in 1999, but because of the hurricane he held off until 2000. This was Abaco Pathfinders. This organization is dedicated to assisting Abaconian children with their further education. He formed a group of second homeowners, friends and businessmen who managed this wonderful foundation for many years. He was famous for his ability as an auctioneer. The first fund raiser was on Boxing Day 2000 at his home where he cajoled many people to purchase items for the cause, including



Jim Blumberg

Please see **Deaths** Page 13



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Memorial

From Page 1

the scene of the tragedy for a remembrance ceremony. He said that when he and his team of volunteers, arrived at the crash site, they all became emotional. "Their were body parts everywhere," he said. "I thought I had gotten used to it. But I found out I hadn't. It was a very difficult for me then just as it is now talking about it."

Albury said he was especially touched by the passing of Ricardo Reckley. "That young man came to our fire department, put down tiles, donated his time. When we

had to take him out of that car, it hurt all of our firemen," he said. "It's hard enough to go to a crash, but when you know the victim it's even harder."

Mr. Albury added that we must all do our part to ensure that no more lives are lost on the roads. "The loss of these young men is such a tragedy, taken at such a young age. Don't let their deaths be in vain. Road safety is everybody's responsibility. We must all do our part. We must follow the rules of the road, drive with extreme caution and care. The life we save could be our very own."



Four crosses have been erected in memory of the four young men who were killed in a two-car collision in November. The crosses are at the site of the accident in Treasure Cay. Three of those killed were from Black Wood and the fourth was a police officer from Grand Bahama. One young man survived with critical injuries but is now back home.

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More Obituaries of Family and Friends

Deaths

From Page 12

an old boat engine he found in the dump! Such was the power of his persuasion. Following this success, he and his wife Joan started an annual tradition of holding an auction and party at Abaco Beach Resort in March of each year. This dedication to the people of Abaco has helped over 100 students, some of which have returned to The Bahamas as nurses, teachers and dental assistants.

Jim was a big man in more ways than one. He was greatly loved and will be sorely missed.

Jerold Collins Loos, born April 9, 1932, passed away December 13, 2009

Jerry, as he was called by his relatives

and friends, succumbed to a chronic illness. His death in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, was not unexpected. However, he will be missed by those who knew him. Many of these were the friends and acquaintances he made during the years he spent in The Bahamas, especially Marsh Harbour.

Because of the time he spent in this area, it is the family's intention to spread his ashes in the local waters next spring.

Jerry is survived by his wife Nancy, daughter Bonnie Loos, stepchildren Nicholas Samanich, David Samanich, Barbara Samanich, Jennifer Samanich Kelleher and Robert Samanich, and 14 grandchildren.

A memorial will be held in Palm Beach Shores, Florida on December 30, 2009.

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School News

St. Francis Holds Bike-A-Thon/Walk-A-Thon

By Samantha V. Evans

On December 11 St. Francis de Sales held its annual walk-a-thon / bike-a-thon followed by a mini-fun day for the students. This event is an annual one and as usual and is one of the major PTA fund raisers for the school year. Parents assist with keeping the students safe on the walk and to provide water for them at various stops between the school and Spring City. At the school the PTA president, teachers and parents assisted with the smooth running of the fun day. Students had lots to eat

and drink from items donated by parents and community sponsors. The students had their usual food choices of hot dogs and hamburgers along with numerous forms of entertainment including bouncing castle, face painting, hoop-la, take-a-chance, and the like. The funds raised will go towards the PTA projects for this school year.

S. C. Bootle High wins Abaco District Spelling Bee

The best spellers representing the top private and public schools in the Abaco District assembled at the St. Andrews Methodist Hall on December 15 to compete as to who will represent Abaco at next

year's National Spelling Bee in Nassau.

S.C. Bootle High School in Cooper's Town can boast of winning the Abaco District Spelling Bee for the second year in a row! Young Jasmine Taylor, a grade 8 student, proved that being the best speller on the island last year was no mistake as she went on to defeat the competition to help S.C. Bootle finish the term in dramatic fashion.

She claims she feels relieved to have won against her worthy opponent seventh grader Sujith Swarna of Forest Heights Academy who placed second. Central Ab-

aco Primary's sixth grade student, Ginelle Longley, placed third with Johnlee McIntosh of S.C. Bootle placing fourth.

As Jasmine arrived back at school later that day carrying her certificate and trophy, her Mom and teachers greeted her proudly. "Jasmine's triumphant win is a slam-dunk for S. C. Bootle High," said Ms. Reid. Thanks to her mother Denise Taylor and coach, language teacher, Nadira Kawalram.

When asked by guidance officer Rashi-
Please see **School** Page 15

Central Abaco Primary donates to seniors



The non-perishable items donated by the students of Central Abaco Primary School for the Thanksgiving Service were given to the Pilot Club to distribute to elderly persons in the community. Anchor Club members from various local schools bagged the items for the seniors which were given to them during December. The items were placed in 100 green bags from Friends of the Environment.



Jasmine Taylor, left, won the Abaco District Spelling Bee for the second consecutive year. She will compete in Nassau in January where she hopes to win the national award. She would then enter the Howard Scripps Spelling Bee held in Washington, D.C. The other girls also competed with Johnlee McIntosh, second from left, coming in fourth. They are shown with their principal, Huel Moss.



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More School News

School *From Page 14*

da Murray what is her strategy to carry the win in Nassau Jasmine replied, "I am already prepared and determined now that I am going to get more sleep." Jasmine continues to be an academic success, maintaining an above 3.5 GPA year after year. For her this is only the beginning. Jasmine will represent Abaco for the second year in a row at the National Spelling Bee in Nassau in March of 2010. It is hoped that this time the results will be different.

Congratulations Jasmine from the Dynamic Dolphins Family.

Students participated in Wacky Hair Day

By Canishka Alexander

No, the students of S.C. Bootle High were not having a bad hair day. Actually, they had planned to come to the school grounds with their wild hairstyles on Wacky Hair Day.

In what has become an annual event, Principal Huel Moss Jr., said the graduating class was allowed to come to school with the most outlandish hairdos. The event was coordinated by the senior class to raise funds to assist the school. "It was their contribution to the school for all the years they were served. The



In an annual ritual the members of the graduating class of S.C. Bootle High School are allowed to wear their hair in outlandish hairstyles on Wacky Hair Day. This is one of the ways the class raises money for their school.

students competed for the wackiest hairdo, and the grand prize winner was Wellington Pinder, who received a \$10 Cybercell phone card," Mr. Moss said. "The students expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to be liberally innovative with their hairdos if only for one day at a fraction of the cost."

Mr. Moss said male and female students introduced some of the most outrageous hairstyles, which ranged from the not-so-bad to the simply unbelievable. Students wore multi-coloured hair extensions, clothes pins, disposable phone cards, hair rollers, playing cards and even baby toys atop their heads.

Thanksgiving and Awards Day service

By Canishka Alexander

S.C. Bootle High School held a combined Thanksgiving and Awards Day service on the school grounds on November

27. The event soared under the school's theme Today's Work Brings Tomorrow's Success and was sponsored in partnership with the Treasure Cay Resort. Brittany Clarke was rewarded for coming up with the theme.

The program included special music and motivational talks before the awards were handed out. Rev. Stafford Symonette brought a message on success, which was spelled out in bold letters on placards that were held by the students who stood behind

him on the platform. He reminded them that school was their preparation ground for what they would go on to accomplish.

Special Awards for the 2008-2009 school year were given to students who worked harder than most, achieved excellence, worked on being consistent or improved their grade point average throughout the year.

Mr. Hepburn, a teacher, was also

Please see School Page 16



Forest Heights Drama Club entertained the students and parents with four short plays, all about Christmases that did not go as planned.

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More School News

School *From Page 15*

awarded for his great contribution to the school and for touching the lives of the students and the entire S.C. Bootle family.

Forest Heights Christmas Plays

By Samantha V. Evans

Forest Heights Academy's Drama Club brought to life plays that depicted a Christmas gone bad under the theme A Chaotic Christmas. Students from various grade levels played their parts as aspiring actors and actresses. Four different acts were performed. *The Missing List* was about an elf who stole Santa's Naughty or Nice List because she thought the children of the world were becoming greedy. In the end the Christmas toys, which apparently come to life when there is trouble during Christmas, showed the elf the error of her ways and she returned the list. *Who Wants to be a Christmas Carol Millionaire* was a game show where the more questions asked about Christmas carols, the more Christmas spirit you will receive. *Christmas Surprise* featured a teenage girl who "peeked" at her Christmas present, felt guilty about it, then promised to never peek again. featured five teenagers who wanted to get rid of Santa Claus, an elderly woman who was in love with Christmas and tried to show the teens that Santa did not need to be gotten rid of and Santa Claus himself, who apologized for Christmas becoming so commercial and fake because of his name. The teens changed their perspectives of Christmas and, of course, Santa gave everyone a Christmas gift.

Interact Club raises money for goats for Haiti

By Mirella Santillo

The Interact Club of Forest Heights Academy rose to the challenge issued by Rotary International asking each Rotary Club or Interact Club to raise money to buy goats for Haiti.

It took the group of approximately 35 students only three weeks to raise \$990 which was rounded up to \$1,000 by the advisors, enough to buy seven goats. However, they accomplished that feat the hard way: Some of the money collecting was in pennies, 40,000 of them which required being rolled into \$1 rolls.

The recently formed Interact Club has been very active, explained one of the advisors, Alana Carroll.

The Interact Club members also participated in this year's bell ringing adding \$200 to the money collected by the mother club, money which is used each year to buy food parcels for the needy as a token of goodwill for Christmas.

The club members also helped their advisors, Mrs. Carroll and Lori Thompson, organize an in-house competition to collect more food. Several parcels filled with canned goods and frozen food were collected as well as 22 vouchers for chicken that were added to the goods bought by the Rotary Club with the bell ringing funds.

ECC Celebrates Christmas

By Mirella Santillo

Students of the Every Child Counts school celebrated the beginning of the Christmas vacation by putting on a show

for an audience of teachers, parents and community members, some of them volunteers at the school. Each class performed songs with the high school students performing a skit about the meaning of Christmas and remembering friendship, whatever your status in life.

The show was followed by the preview of the documentary filmed by some of Marsden Lawley's class with the help of some Rollins College students. There was a full audience to watch the movie. The room bursted into applause at the end of the viewing. Principal Lyn Major congratulated the students on their achievement.

Superintendent Lenora Black thanked the school's Director, the teachers and the

people in the community who have helped and stated that she believed that every child could learn, no matter what. "Continue to grow and prosper," she wished upon the students.

Long Bay students celebrate the real meaning of Christmas

By Samantha V. Evans

Even though Christmas has now become synonymous with Santa Claus, receiving gifts and all the ham and turkey one can eat, the students and teachers at Long Bay School, under the leadership of Principal Jacqueline Collie, focused this year on giv-

Please see **School** *Page 17*



Every Child Counts, a school for students with special needs, put on a program for their families, for the many people who volunteer their services and for the many who support the school with financial assistance. Each grade put on a show, skits, singing and playing instruments.

Every Child Counts

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More School News

School From Page 16

ing and not receiving. This concept began at Thanksgiving when the school collected over 2000 non-perishable items that were distributed to Social Services, Crossing Rocks, Sandy Point, Marsh Harbour and North Abaco. In the spirit of giving, the teachers and students placed tangible gifts on the Christmas tree erected in the school's multi-purpose room for the Christmas program held on December 3rd. According to principal Collie, the money given will purchase more food for the needy.

The students displayed their talents at the program in song, recitation, acting and through dance. The speaker was Pas-



The students of Long Bay School collected food as part of their emphasis on giving rather than receiving. The food was bagged then given to Social Services for distribution. Shown is Principal Jacqueline Collie presenting the bags to Charlemae Fernander and Barbara Williams.

tor ,Desmond Sturupp of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Ministry of Education Hosts Christmas Carol Service

By Samantha V. Evans

Emmanuel, which means God with us, was the theme of this year's Festival of Carols held by the Department of Education Abaco District. On December 4th students came from near and far to participate in the service that was held at Church of God in Dundas Town.

Many persons performed including the students from Agape Christian School, Hope Town, Every Child Counts, Sonshine Academy and Crossing Rocks Primary. The Wesley College Band and Abaco Central High School band performed beautiful Christmas songs with the latter incorporating the rhythmic sounds of Junkanoo. The facility managers of S.C. Bootle, staff of the Department of Education, Basil Been and others sang carols as well. The event was well executed and moderated competently by Alisha Greene and Oyindamola Omotosho of James A. Pinder Primary. The Christmas message was delivered by Pastor David Cartwright of the Marsh Harbour Gospel Chapel.

Central Abaco Primary wins basketball tournament

By Samantha V. Evans

The boys' basketball team of Central Abaco Primary School, coached by Geoffrey Victor, had a dynamic season ending this year undefeated with a record of 7-0. The season started in October and over the course of the first term they played Agape Christian School, Long Bay, and the South Abaco team made up of J.A. Pinder and Crossing Rocks Primary schools. On December 1st the game to determine the champion was played at Grace Gym in

Marsh Harbour. Reigning victorious were the Central Abaco Primary School Soaring Eagles with a score of 41-13 in favor of the Soaring Eagles.

All of the teams played great games. Mr. Victor is extremely pleased with his team who won by more than 20 points each game. Additionally, they have the fundamental skills needed, and they played as a team which was important to winning.

All of the players received a medal and the school got a trophy. The schools from the south will also each receive a trophy and the players will get medals.



The Carol Service organized by Abaco's Education Department brought students from many schools together for a time of singing and enjoying music and talks. The service was held in the Dundas Town Church of God.

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Professors and students from Rollins College visit ECC

By Mirella Santillo

A team of five professors and 16 students from Rollins College in Orlando, Florida, visited Every Child Counts during the week of December 14th to 18th, bringing with them gifts of knowledge and material.

The group of students, most of them Freshmen, some studying international business, some computer technology, were part of a program created by teacher Carrie Shultz called Bridging the Digital Divide.

The aim of visiting ECC was to find out the "haves" and "have nots" of that

school versus Rollins College. The college team wanted to bring technology, at the same time offering training and skills to use that technology. "We were trying to bring tools, show how to use them and the value they bring to the overall education process," explained Carrie Schultz, the coordinator for the trip and co-leader of the group with Ed Huffman.

Two of the major skills the ECC students acquired during that period were the ability to shoot a documentary movie and the knowledge to trouble shoot problems on a computer and repair it.

A group lead by Mr. Huffman and Mr. Knopick, both classroom technology experts at Rollins, and student Sterling Warren, showed ECC high school level students how to a computer apart, change the hard drive, how to format a new hard drive and install programs.

In another part of the school, a group of five Rollins College students was teaching three high school students from Marsden Lawley's class how to film a documentary with a Flip camera, conduct an interview and edit a movie. The final result was a school documentary produced by Patrick Darville, Blake Russell and Roniesha Joseph. The movie premiered during ECC Christmas celebration.

Students at ECC were not the only ones

to learn. Teachers in various classrooms were shown how to work on interactive programs and set-up computers for the whole classroom to use at once.

For the Rollins College students, the trip was part of their curriculum and counted as credits. At each end of the day they reported to Education Professor Scott Hewitt, who worked with them on their lessons and made sure their daily plans were completed.

The Rollins College group enjoyed the interaction with the local students. During a gift presentation on December 18th they commented that they received as much from the exchange as what they gave. They were invited to come back at any time by ECC Director, Mrs. Lyn Major.



Sixteen students from Rollins College along with five professors worked with the high school students at Every Child Counts to teach them some basic computer repairs and how to make a documentary movie. The students responded well and produced their first movie.

Christmas was celebrated through song and dance

By Samantha V. Evans

Many schools and churches celebrated Christmas through singing and dancing during the month of December. Wesley College held its concert on December 10th at the school. As usual, the students in the band put on an outstanding performance for the audience. This school is known for its grand performances under the leadership of Rev. Charles Carey.

On December 16th the Dundas Town Church of God held its Christmas concert.

St. Francis de Sales Catholic School held its Christmas Concert on December 17th at the church. Six different performances were enjoyed. The students performed a very creative skit depicting the wonders of

Christmas and the kindergarten class danced to the Junkanoo beat. On December 19th St. Francis de Sales Church held its concert at the church. At this event numerous churches performed along with the church and Creole choirs. The highlight performance was by Nehemiah Hield of Mount Tabor Union Baptist Church in Nassau.

On December 19th Pastor Tinker and the kids of the Spring City Church held their Christmas concert at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church Hall.

Christmas time on Abaco was a joyous occasion as kids young and old celebrated the birth of Christ. Based on all of the events held, it is safe to say that Jesus is still the reason for the season on Abaco.

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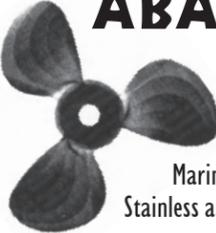
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Concert will benefit animal groups

The renowned folk pop musical group Banks & Shane will be performing in concert at Abaco Beach Resort on January 6th. A portion of the proceeds will be used to defray the costs associated with the spay and neuter clinics being held by the Abaco Humane Society, Friends of Abaco Animals and the Atlanta-based Royal Potcake Rescue USA.

Banks & Shane is Atlanta's Entertainment Tradition, combining exceptional talent, consummate showmanship, professionalism and over 30 years of experience. The band has performed for audiences around the world on concert stages, nightclubs, ski resorts and almost every venue imaginable. It has recorded 12 albums since it began in 1972. In spite of a busy tour schedule, the group continues to use its time and talent to benefit charitable organizations.

"The Tribute to the Kingston Trio show has been a roaring success, and we are pleased to be able to bring the show to The Bahamas," says Banks Burgess. "Our

good friend, and one of the best guitarists around, Jim Durand, will be joining Shane and me playing such hits as Tom Dooley, Sloop John B and the ever popular Scotch & Soda. So it promises to be a special evening for the entire family."

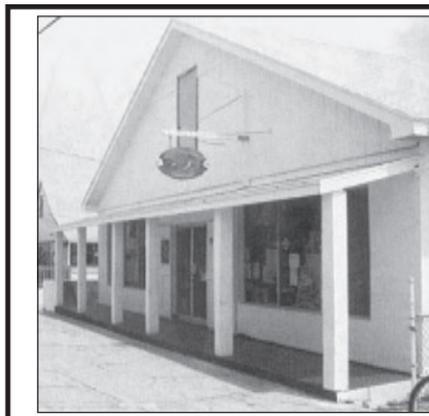
To bolster fund raising efforts, Royal Potcake Rescue USA, the Abaco Humane Society and the Friends of Abaco Animals have been selling tickets for a raffle which will take place the evening of the concert. According to Judy Marshall, Executive Director of Roy Potcake Rescue, "We have some wonderfully exciting items that have been donated for the raffle, and the proceeds will go a long way to help defray the costs associated with conducting the clinics. Our website at www.potcake.org has a complete listing of the prizes."

Raffle tickets are on sale at Dive Abaco, Java and National Marine in Marsh Harbour and a variety of locations on Green Turtle Cay, Man-O-War and Hope Town. Royal Potcake Rescue is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and any donation is tax deductible in the U.S.



This trio will present a concert on January 6 at Abaco Beach Resort to benefit groups doing spay and neuter clinics for dogs and cats. They are well known in Atlanta where they are very popular

The concert will be held on January 6th from Man-O-War and Hope Town. For at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$25. Arrangements have been made for special ferries more information phone 367-2158.



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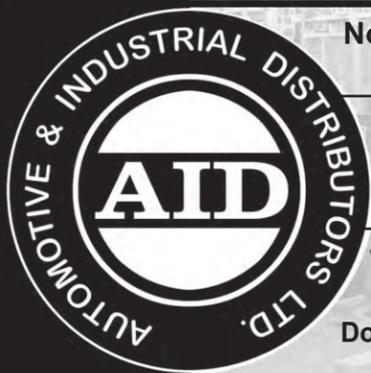


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Reporter's Notebook . . . Boys behaving badly

In the aftermath of the fight at Abaco Central High School in which two young men were jabbed with a sharp object and 14 were subsequently taken before the juvenile panel charged with assault, many people started asking, "What has gone wrong with our young men."

But many of the people asking the question need look no further than themselves for the answer. Adults in particular, many of them parents, were the ones with the question.

The answer is simple. You are to blame. Let me explain.

Remember when he was two, and he fell as he attempted to make his first steps. You said, "Get up boy. You is a man. Pick yourself up and walk." On the other hand, you ran to help your little girl when she fell.

When he was seven and he fell off his bike and started to cry, you said, "Boy, stop being a punk. What you crying for.

You is a man." When he was 10 and he got into a fight with one of his peers, you told him, "Go for the jugular."

When he was just 12, you allowed him to be out until the wee hours of the morning doing what he felt like or what others told him he should do because he is a boy. At age 17 he is man. Not a young man, but a man. Nobody can tell him what to do, how to do it or how he should conduct himself because now he's a man.

So we have men in our schools carrying weapons, disrespecting school officials and acting like school is a boxing ring. And people wonder what has gone wrong. Our young men are being raised to be ashamed to express their feelings and be the school yard bully.

It's no wonder that whenever they are confronted they explode. They have all this emotion pent up inside because, un-

like their female counterparts, they have been told over and over again that real men don't show any emotion.

That is why our young men can stab their peers and feel absolutely no remorse. From the time they were just two years old many of them were being raised to be a man. One who is tough, made out of steel with absolutely no feelings for anyone else but themselves.

How did they get like this. They were raised this way. They don't know what it is to care and show love for others because no one ever showed them how to. So what we have is a bunch of young men who only care about themselves and the hell with other people.

What we have is a bunch of young men who deal with conflict the only way they know how to - by going for the jugular. What we have is a very serious situation on our hands that, if we fail to get a handle on, will result in murder in our schools.

Today a hair pick may be used to strike, but next time knives and guns could be used to settle disputes.

There is nothing wrong with raising young men to be tough, but there has to

be a balance. He has to be shown how to be caring, understanding and compassionate, too. Or else we will continue to see an escalation in school violence.

Archive issues now available

Archive issues of The Abaconian are online at www.dloc.com through the courtesy of the University of Florida and its digital library of the Caribbean.

Enter Abaconian in the search box and select the newspaper box.

About a year of back issues are now online with more being recorded as time permits.

Current issues may be viewed at: www.abaconian.com which has additional material related to Abaco, photos, maps, history and other items.

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Chess seminar attracted youth

By Navardo Saunders

The Bahamas Chess Federation is hoping to establish an active club on Abaco. The federation held a workshop at Forest Heights Academy on December 12 for people interested in the game.

Eight young people attended the morning session, which was conducted by president of the Bahamas Chess Federation, Kean Smith. Mr. Smith put the youngsters in two groups – those with experience and those who for the most part are just starting out.

District Superintendent of Education Lenora Black addressed the youngsters who participated in the workshop, telling them that there are many benefits to playing chess. "Chess improves concentration," she said. "During the game you are focused on only one main goal – to checkmate and become the victor. Chess develops logical thinking. It promotes imagination and creativity. Chess teaches independence. Chess develops the capability. Chess inspires self-

motivation and there are so many other benefits to playing the game." She said the lessons the youngsters will learn from playing chess will help them throughout their lives.

"When you leave from this place, I want you to encourage your friends to follow your good example," she said.

Mr. Smith said the federation is looking forward to spreading the game throughout Abaco. "Already we see that there is interest here," he said. "If the numbers permit, we hope to develop scholastic tournaments." He said that studies have shown that young people who play chess achieve higher grades. "It's because chess helps them develop all the skills they need to be successful students in every subject," he said.

The federation will conduct more workshops on Abaco and in the future Mr. Smith is hoping that Abaco can establish a team to compete in national, regional and international competitions.



Mr. Kean Smith, President of the Bahamas Chess Federation, held a preliminary seminar at Forest Heights Academy on December 12 to see the level of interest on Abaco for starting a chess club. He was encouraged as eight young people came.

Realtor was honoured at Association's annual luncheon

By Cnaishka Alexander

The Bahamas Real Estate Association met at the Spinnaker Restaurant in Treasure Cay for its annual luncheon



Derek Lee

meeting on December 3. The meeting was

well attended and emphasized the group's common goal in selling and promoting their Bahamaland on Abaco.

The day's meeting held a special meaning for those in attendance. Derek Lee, a long-time resident of Abaco and a realtor, passed away but was honoured at the meeting. Scott Weatherford accepted the plaque for Mr. Lee counting it as a privilege. He described him as a man of integrity and dedicated - a sentiment shared by all in the room.

When the first branch of BREA was formed in Abaco, Mr. Lee was the first chairman, while Anne Albury was the deputy chairman. According to Mrs. Albury, the association has developed dramatically since then, adding more members and licensed brokers. Sandra Evans is the current president of the Abaco chapter of the association.

BREA members donate food

It's that time of year when we especially like to think of those less fortunate and in need. A time for giving. The Abaco Chapter of the Bahamas Real Estate Association asked its members to bring a few nonperishable food items to the annual Christmas luncheon to give to the elderly. The response was great and several boxes and bags were delivered to assist the elderly. Two members, Mailin Sands and Molly Roberts, delivered the goods to Sybil's House and visited for a few minutes with the residents.



Two members of the Bahamas Real Estate Association, Abaco Branch, delivered food to Sybil's house prior to the holidays. Shown are Mailin Sands of Coldwell Banker Lightbourn Realty; James Williams, Owner of Sybil's Place; and Molly Roberts of Bahamas Realty.

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Pilot Club Treats Senior Citizens to a Night Out



The Pilot Club has made it an annual tradition to treat seniors from Abaco communities to a concert and dinner every Christmas. This year the event was held on November 10th. Fifty senior citizens were in attendance along with Anchor Club members from three schools. Bringing the welcome address was Charlamae Fernander, president of the newly named Rainbow Pilot Club. She told the seniors that this event will continue to honor and show appreciation to them on an annual basis. The night was great as all present fellowshiped together and enjoyed a wonderful meal.

Local pastor organized Canta Noel Concert

There was so much taking place during the week before Christmas, but if you did not attend the Canta Noel Christmas Concert 2009, you certainly missed an outstanding musical performance.

Pastor Desmond Sturup and his wife Kendra organized the concert on December 14 at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church in Marsh Harbour. Donations were accepted to assist the needy throughout the community, but admission was free for all.

The concert featured many guest artists including three children who entertained the audience with their piano recitals. Christmas carols from long ago and the more modern, familiar tunes had the crowd singing along. At times they stood to their feet, clapping heartily at the exceptional performers. Accompanying the uplifting

singing, Pastor Sturup played the piano for some of the singers.

There were individual and group performances throughout the evening, and toward the end of the concert, all of the performers met on stage to sing one more Christmas carol to the audience's delight.

Abaco Athlete Wins Gold at Regional Judo Tournament

A four-athlete team finished off the competitive year for the Bahamas Judo Federation with an impressive performance at the 9th Annual International Barbados Tournament. The team won four medals: a gold, a silver and two bronze. The tournament was an important regional event in which over 135 athletes from six countries participated. The standout of the tournament was Ashton Forbes from Abaco, who won all of his matches by knockouts. In Judo a knockout occurs when an opponent is thrown flat to his back with force and control.

"The judo association is developing the sport of Judo in the Family Islands and Ashton Forbes has represented us very well," said Head Coach David Rahming. "We have never won a gold medal at this tournament before, and the competition was even harder this year."

The team consisted of 18-year-old Malcolm Rahming (Bronze), 15-year-old Ashton Forbes (Gold), 13-year-old Matthew Rahming (Bronze) and 12-year-old Tajaro Hudson (Silver). "The additional strength and conditioning workouts over the past several weeks really paid off," said Coach Rahming, who accompanied the team with Coach Albert Lill from Abaco and Federation President D'Arcy Rahming.

Persons interested in contacting the Bahamas Judo Federation can call 242-364-6773 or go to the website: www.bahamas-judo.com.



Ashton Forbes won gold at the 9th Annual International Barbados Judo Tournament, the first time that a Bahamian has won gold at this tournament. Judo classes began on Abaco in May.

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CMI Change Ministries International

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Local Government at Work



Dundas Town Committee Nov 19

By Samantha V. Evans

At their November 10th meeting held at the local government office, the Dundas Town Committee had a visit from Sgt. Raquel Metelus who spoke to them about starting a crime watch in Dundas Town. She spoke to them about forming block monitors and having walk-a-bouts in the community to promote safety amongst residents. She told them that members of the crime watch should live in the community, know the neighborhood and should have the community at heart. She told them that she will speak to them further about form-

ing a fire brigade. Now that the Burial Society building is complete, Sgt. Metelus told them to consider having activities for the youth at the facility.

After her presentation, the members gave updates on the various committees they spearhead and made recommendation for work to be done in each as needed. They discussed furnishing the burial society building which was cleared in this current budget. Finally, they discussed the Christmas celebration which was planned for December 12th. Wanda McIntosh and Maggie Cornish will spearhead the celebrations. At a special call meeting held on November 20th, they addressed the sand erosion at Brown's Bay and plans were made to remove the sand from the ramp

and have boulders put in place to prevent the sand from eroding again. Additionally, sand will be purchased for the beach. They agreed to purchase Christmas lights to replace the ones missing. These lights will be put up on the street poles in the community to light up the town.

Dundas Town Committee Dec 1

By Samantha V. Evans

On December 1st the Dundas Town Committee held its last meeting at the Local Government office in Marsh Harbour. This committee has had a very active year and the members plan to end the year with a bang. They decided to change the date of the Christmas celebrations to December 17th and to make it a tree lighting service as they have held in previously years. The celebration will

be held at the Burial Society Building.

They will also dedicate the building and officially open it at this time if the Minister of Local Government can attend. The procedures for the service was discussed and finalized.

The committee members were upset that all of the items that belong to the committee keep going missing and hope that whoever is doing it will be caught. The items missing are the lawn mower, the truck, Christmas lights and other items. New lights that will be purchased will be kept in an undisclosed location.

Final updates on projects were given and from those reports, they are pleased with the progress the Committee is making. The financial report was discussed before the meeting ended.

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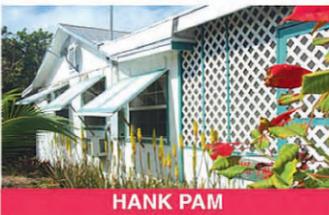
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