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# The Abaconian

*Abaco's Most Complete Newspaper*



VOLUME 19 NUMBER 18 SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

## Irene causes minimal structural damage

Dune erosion at Elbow Cay's White Sound was the most serious



The sand dune at White Sound on Elbow Cay was heavily damaged. This picture taken north of Abaco Inn shows that the wave action has undermined the road, breaking away large segments of pavement. This is similar damage to what occurred during Hurricane Floyd in 1999. At that time the dune was rebuilt by sand washing back onto the beach. But nothing was put in place other than planting sea oats to hold the sand from eroding away again. There is concern that future storms including Hurricane Katia will do further damage, destroying the road to the point that it will not be useable. That would mean that the cay would be cut, preventing residents in the south from accessing the Hope Town settlement.

By Timothy Roberts

Residents of Abaco breathed a sigh of relief in the wake of Hurricane Irene, thankful that the storm did not strengthen as forecasted, leaving behind only minimal damage, roof shingles blown off, a little flooding, a mess of tree limbs, leaves and debris to clean up. The most serious damage was to the dune at White Sound on Elbow Cay. The ocean once again breached the dune, just as Hurricane Floyd did in 1999. The road south of Abaco Inn was covered with three to four feet of sand as much of the dune washed over to the creek. Additionally, the waves undercut the dune north of Abaco Inn where the road follows the crest of the dune, threatening to make the road impassable.

People across the island appeared to be prepared as they hunkered down for the storm. Storm shutters were put in place and food and water purchased as well as gas tanks filled as Abaco people prepared for what was expected to be a storm with winds as strong as Hurricane Floyd.

The low Category 3 storm made its presence known by midday Wednesday, August 24, as the first effects of the storm began to be felt as the huge storm moved northwest at about 10 miles per hour, affecting nearly the entire chain of Bahamas islands.

According to forecasts Hurricane Irene was expected to increase to a Category 4

Please see **Irene**

Page 2

## Sandy Point suffered wind damage



The office of Lightbourne's Marine in Sandy Point suffered much damage as it lost the roof and had other structural damage. However, the beach did not suffer erosion in town. Even though many of the buildings in Sandy Point are low, there was very little flooding. The Rocky Point beach where Sandy Point residents enjoy beach parties and events, lost a lot of sand.

## Hospital planning is underway

The Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham, announced that construction will begin on a hospital on Abaco before the end of the year. The hospital will be built in the area of Dundas Town where the administration building is under construction and where the gymnasium will be

built. Mr. Ingraham made the announcement at the signing of the contract for the new terminal building.

The hospital will replace the government clinic in Marsh Harbour. The Min-

Please see **Hospital**

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## Boats in several harbours sustained damage



Boats do not fare well in hurricanes. The charter fleet of the Moorings was tied in the creeks of Leisure Lee to ride out the winds and surge of Hurricane Irene. Several were blown ashore when their lines gave way and their anchors dragged.

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# Clean-up from Irene is well underway

## Irene

From Page 1

storm, with winds possibly as strong as 130 mph, as it moved across the Northern Bahamas. However, as the eye passed over Abaco, Irene went through a phase of re-organizing, and the winds were reportedly 115 mph which is a minimal Category 3.

Hurricane force winds lasted throughout the day on Thursday, August 25, with only a slight lull in the middle of the day for about one and a half hours when the eye passed. Families and friends kept in touch by phone until they stopped working, then by way of VHF radio, sharing storm information and ensuring that everyone was alright.

Despite rumors of devastating damage in certain areas of Abaco, the damage was for the most part minimal. Most instances of damage to homes was limited to shingles coming off roofs, with select instances where large sections of shingle (or metal roofing) came off and rare occasions of significant roof damage.

The most noticeable and widespread damage was landscaping and vegetation damage. Numerous trees fell to the strong winds of Irene, which reportedly gusted as high as 140 mph. many old ficus trees fell in Treasure Cay, including a very large one near the Spinnaker Restaurant known as General Sherman.

Also causing some damage was the storm surge which came initially from the south and flooded Murphy Town when the wind came out of the southwest, bringing as much as two to three feet of water to some areas. However, just a few homes saw any water damage.

The Blue Bee Bar in New Plymouth saw flooding of over two feet of water as the

surge came in from the harbour flooding all the way across to the graveyard, several hundred feet inland. Several small resorts on the cays saw minimal damages and are all expected to return to normal operation quickly.

Impressively, BEC restored power to a large number of its customers by Friday, August 26, as it received little to no damage in the Central Abaco area. North of Treasure Cay, Green Turtle Cay and other cays experienced utility pole damage and are expected to take a little longer to be restored.



*The Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham, visited Abaco a few days after Hurricane Irene passed through to see for himself the damage that Abaco sustained. He is shown here at the Marsh Harbour airport. He received a BEC status report from George Martin. Shown behind him are Edison Key, MP for South Abaco, Kendi Anderson and Wynsome Ferguson of the Abaco Tourist office and the Hon. Neko Grant, Minister of Public Works and Transport.*



*Cherokee Sound had an intrusion of salt water well into the community. This is one of the roads completely submerged. The salt water came up almost to the W.W. Sands Community Center. Shawn Roberts took this picture during the storm.*



*Beach erosion was prevalent in several areas of Abaco. This picture was taken in Hope Town near the Methodist Church.*

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## SEA OF ABACO

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**Four Winds** - 3b/ 3b on the Sea of Abaco with deepwater dock, 2+ acres of private grounds, many upgrades. **B\$1,600,000.**  
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## NEW PRICE

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## SOLITUDE

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## BEST PRICE ON THE BEACH

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## NEW PRICE

HOPE TOWN | ELBOW CAY #5699  
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**Coco Lobos** 8 acres with sweeping views of the Sea of Abaco & the Atlantic, tucked away in a protected cove w/ 3 bedroom home with 100 ft dock. **US\$1,785,000.**  
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TILLOO CAY #6095  
**Tranquility** This 2 bed 2 bath home has stunning views & sits on 3 1/4 acres with pool & 80 ft dock and private boat basin. **US\$1,350,000.**  
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## NEW PRICE

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## NEW PRICE

GUANA CAY #5821  
**Lot Orchid Bay - Lot C10** This 14,574 sq.ft. lot is located just steps from the marina restaurant, pool, & tennis court. **US\$300,000.**  
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HOPE TOWN | ELBOW CAY  
 #5029 Big Rock Hill - One acre oceanfront, 140' on the Atlantic. US\$665,000. Kerry Sullivan  
 #4308 Coconut Dunes - 92 linear feet of beachfront. \$465,000. Kerry Sullivan  
 #2969 Eleven at Big Point - 1/2 acre beachfront building site. US\$395,000. Kerry Sullivan  
 #5404 Heron View - North End lot includes dock slip for 40' boat. US\$276,000. Kerry Sullivan  
 #5753 Hope Town Point Lot 70A & B - North end building site. B\$125,000. & B\$145,000. Kerry Sullivan  
 #4313 New Settlement - Hillside lots. Starting at \$140,000. Kerry Sullivan  
 #5930 Lucayos Lot 27-Beautifully elevated site overlooking Sea of Abaco. US \$195,000. Kerry Sullivan  
 #4825 North End - Lot 51A & B - Ocean Views \$185,000. & \$195,000. Jane Patterson  
 #4826 North End - Lot 66 - Almost 1/2 acre lot. Underbrushed. \$189,000. Jane Patterson  
 #3207 Seagrape - UNDER CONTRACT - White Sound - Oceanfront building site. \$375,000. Kerry Sullivan  
 #4395 Shepherd Needle Hill - 3.7 acres. US\$995,000. Kerry Sullivan  
 GUANA CAY  
 #5985 Dolphin Beach Estates - NEW LISTING- Lot 121 Hilltop View. \$160,000. Bill Albury  
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 #5237 Paradise Cove - Waterfront, dock plans included. \$165,000. Kerry Sullivan  
 #5120 Lot 26 - Waterfront 22,000 sq.ft. on the North side. \$395,000. Jane Patterson  
 #5987 Orchid Bay Lot 1 - Fantastic beachfront, over 1.5 acres. \$2,700,000. Chris Albury  
 #6019 Orchid Bay Lot 2 - NEW LISTING - Best value on Orchid Bay Beach. \$1,500,000. Chris Albury  
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 #4940 Abaco Ocean Club Lot 18 - Steps to water; dockage available. \$150,000. Laurie Schreiner  
 #4433 Abaco Ocean Club Lot 46 Large waterfront lot. Stunning views. \$250,000. 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  
 #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  
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 #4482 Fabulous Beachfront Lot. Best Beach Location. NEW PRICE \$375,000. Stan Sawyer  
 #4671 Sea Views, high elevation, 1/2 acre. FURTHER REDUCED \$135,000. Stan Sawyer  
 #1836 Tiloo Beach Subdivision Hillside lots, shared dock. From \$150,000. Laurie Schreiner  
 #5128 Tiloo Beach Subdivision Lot 27 Superior elevation, shared dock. \$115,000. Kerry Sullivan  
 #3792 One Waterfront Acre Great elevation, room for dock. \$220,000. Laurie Schreiner



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# Cays survived Irene with minimal damage

By Timothy Roberts

An assessment group representing several government agencies toured Elbow Cay, Man-O-War and Great Guana to view damage done by Hurricane Irene, a Category 3 storm that impacted Abaco on August 26. The group was headed by Administrator Cephas Cooper.

The assessment was favorable as the majority of homes and businesses on these cays weathered the storm well, losing only a few shingles here and there. Docks and boats fared well with a only small percentage receiving significant damages.

Edison Key, MP for South Abaco, said that Abaco was "blessed." He said that the cays fared well with almost no damages to homes and that the worst damages appeared to be to landscaping and trees. He remarked about the spirit of the Abaco people who immediately sprang to action in cleaning up their island.

Receiving the most significant damage was the dune road and the lower road to White Sound on Elbow Cay. The storm surge and waves eroded the 30-foot high mound of sand known as the dune road, making it very dangerous to pass. The lower road just a few hundred feet south of the hill was covered in about four feet of sand.

"The people have already started clearing the road to White Sound but what they need is diesel, and we need to see how we can get it there," Mr. Key said. "The structure of the homes all appear intact so they just need to excavate this sand for access."

The most extensive damage that Mr. Key observed was the damage to the dune road which is very dangerous. "We need to think about reconstruction of this by putting in steel pilings that can last 25-30 years, tie it in to the road and fill that area back in with sand to reinforce. Until it is

reconstructed this way, they are always going to have problems with hurricanes that will come and wash it out," he said.

Mr. Key noted that each Member of Parliament is granted \$50,000 allowance, which is still in place. "I will speak with the Prime Minister and I would be more than happy to allocate a portion to assist with the road in Hope Town as well as to other areas."

Jeremy Sweeting, Chief Councillor for the Hope Town District, said the damage to the dune road was similar to that experienced after Hurricane Floyd in 1999. He added that about two years ago, a decade after Floyd, "We completed repairs to the dune road with the little funding that we had – we invested \$50,000 into this. It is very important that we get money from the government to help put this back in place

because we have a lot of tourists that frequent here, and at present it is very dangerous," he said.

"I can't say enough about the spirit of community here (Guana Cay, Man-O-War and Hope Town) and how they have really come together after the storm, not necessarily waiting on the government but getting as much as they can done even before government assistance arrives," Mr. Sweeting said.

Harold Malone, Deputy Chief Councillor, noted that overall there was almost no damage but mentioned that a few boats ended up on the rocks and a couple got tangled up. He said, "The main thing needed is to get the road (to White Sound) pushed.

Please see Assessment Page 15



The people on the left are standing on the road at White Sound on Elbow Cay where a backhoe was already working on clearing sand from the road. The ocean breached the dune and covered the road south of Abaco Inn with several feet of sand. The sand was washed toward the creek on the sound.



The Hon. Neko Grant, Minister of Public Works and Transport, inspected the damage that Hurricane Irene caused to the dune at White Sound on Elbow Cay. This is the area south of Abaco Inn where the road is on the inside, below the dune. The sand was blown inland and covered the road with three to four feet of sand.

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# Tourism assesses resort damage

By Timothy Roberts

A group of tourism officials visited areas of Abaco affected by Hurricane Irene on August 30 to evaluate and assess the readiness of small resorts across the island in the wake of Hurricane Irene. The group was pleasantly surprised by what they found, noting that the majority of resorts would be ready to resume business shortly.

Clarence Rolle, General Manager of Communications at the Ministry of Tourism, was with the group that surveyed Abaco and said that they were "pleasantly surprise as we received numerous reports that damage was severe, so coming and seeing for ourselves has helped reassure us that the reports were exaggerated." He said compared to other islands he had vis-

ited in the wake of Irene, Abaco was "almost unscathed."

Ronald Parker, general manager of the Abaco Club Ritz-Carlton, said that the Club received a lot of debris damage from landscaping. There was minor structural damage to some of the homes, to some of common areas and to other buildings as well as some significant beach erosion. He believes his crews will be able to repair damage quickly enough to reopen for October 20 as was scheduled before Irene.

Properties such as Green Turtle Club that dealt with flooding during the hurricane plan to reopen in October - their usual winter reopening.

The Abaco Inn was hit hard by ocean swells from the Atlantic which brought

with it damages to its decking and oceanside kitchen. Though it and others face quite a bit of clean up, all resorts appear to be on track to reopen on schedule, Mr. Rolle said.

Tourism officials touring the resorts included Tourism's Director General David Johnson, Bahamas Hotel Association President Stuart Bowe, Bahamas Hotel Association Executive Vice President Frank Comito and Bahamas Out Islands Promotion Board President Shavonne Darville. Everywhere they observed crews hard at work putting the property back in order, cleaning up the landscaping and doing restoration work.



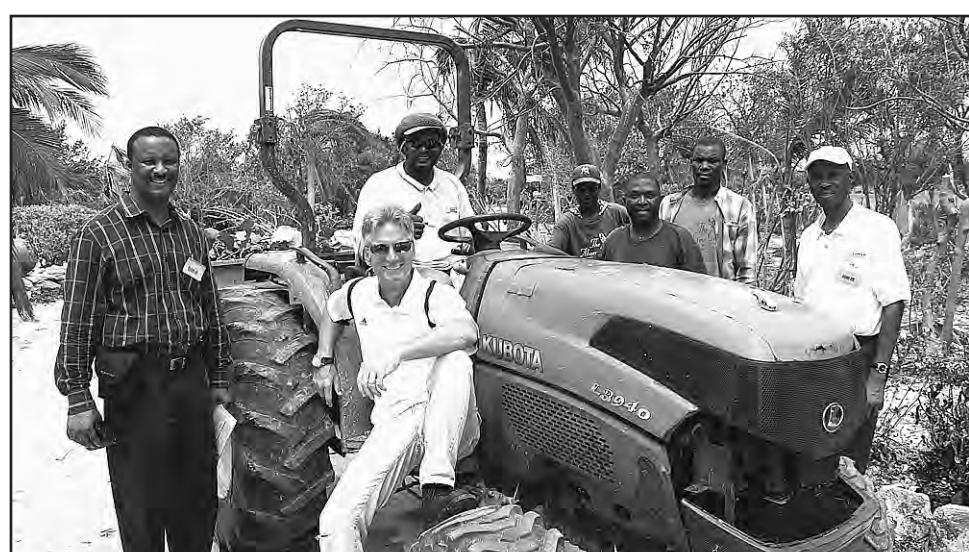
Frank Comito, Executive Vice President of the Bahamas Hotel Association, spoke with Lynn Johnson, manager of the Green Turtle Club, about the damage that her resort suffered.



A group from the Ministry of Tourism inspected several resorts on Abaco to confirm opening schedules later this fall. They are shown at Treasure Cay. Pictured are Patrick Fetsch, General Manager of Treasure Cay, Ltd.; Frank Comito, Executive Vice President of the Bahamas Hotel Association; Wynsome Ferguson, Manager of Abaco's Tourist office; Shavonne Darville, President of the Bahamas Out Island Promotion Board; and Kendi Anderson with the Abaco Tourism office.



Coco Beach Bar in Treasure Cay sustained damage. However, Patrick Fetsch is confident that the repairs can be made promptly, allowing it to re-open.



Ronald Parker, center, General Manager of the Abaco Club at Winding Bay, is shown with some of the crew cleaning up that resort. The damage was minimal and he expects to be able to open on October 20. On the left is Stuart Bowe, President of Bahamas Hotel Association.

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# The Editor Says . . . Observations on Irene



In broad terms Abaco fared very well from Irene, a low Category 3 hurricane. No lives were lost and we are unaware of any injuries of consequence. Island-wide, physical damage to buildings appears to be minimal.

We have heard that a few coastal buildings in Little Abaco were flooded with five feet of salt water. Essentially, everything people own is in the lower five feet of their residence. It is little consolation that the cornflakes survived on the top kitchen shelf.

Unable to damage our houses the way Hurricane Floyd did in 1999, Irene tore through Abaco with winds in the 115 - 120 mile-per-hour range with higher gusts. Some trees showed signs of being twisted or wrung suggesting tornado-like winds.

The eye passed over much of Abaco's length with some persons noting a period of dead calm and others experiencing light summer breezes and clear skies.

Irene's winds had to settle for mass damage to landscape items, trees, fences and signs. Some roofs lost shingles and some beachfront properties lost decks or had water damage from windblown rain and salt water. There were a few instances of roofs either torn off or sustaining serious damage.

The most extensive damage seems to be two areas of beach erosion on the Elbow Cay dune. Both are virtual duplicates of the dune problems caused by Floyd in 1999. The dune face in front of the road on top is again severely washed out. The road has been barricaded to one lane on the inland side as was done 11 years ago.

Merely replacing the sand will not provide long term protection as evidenced by the sand being replaced after Floyd, then subsequently removed by Irene with her heavy winds. Abaco has not seen the havoc a Category 4 or 5 storm might bring.

About half a mile south, the storm breached the dune again, as happened in Floyd. The road inside the dune was covered with three or more feet of sand. Frontloaders have opened the road, but it will take weeks to restore the dune to its

previous contours. There were no structures on that piece of the dune as they had been destroyed by Hurricane Floyd.

In both cases, it appears that Mother Nature found the replaced sand at these two locations to be soft, loose and easily removed. Hopefully, this time government will be pro-active in finding a way to strengthen the dune to avoid a repeat. It has been suggested that sheet piling be driven into the dune base as a barrier to future wave action and to give permanence to any repairs.

Erosion on most other beaches can be expected to be replaced over time by wind and currents. Beaches and dunes are a product of nature and tend to slowly come and go until we change some feature of the landscape, the water's edge or the sea bottom, causing rapid change. Sometimes our efforts improve on Mother Nature's designs but more often the results are not as we anticipated and may take years to become visible. By then it is usually too late to rectify the objectionable change we created. Seawalls, groynes, dredging and other man-made works may help one property owner to the detriment of others.

Elbow Cay's present erosion appears to be due solely to severe storm conditions. In time, Mother Nature might repair the dam-

age or conversely cause further erosion. It is probably to Elbow Cay's long term benefit that the sand be replaced to original contours so another storm has to start over and not cause more destruction.

There are many local examples of dramatic change over time due to the movement of sand. In the late 1700s when the Loyalists first arrive, Lovell's Island, or Treasure Cay as it is known now, was a separate piece of land. Over the past 200 years the separating channel has filled in connecting it to Abaco.

The recent erosion at the north end of the beach has been severe, probably caused by nearby "developments" affecting coastal currents.

It is interesting to remember back to the days of Hurricane Betsy in 1965. The damage was severe, much greater than Floyd. But what is remarkable is that the old Loyalist-built houses, small and rudimentary, were still standing after the storm passed. The houses most heavily damaged were those of second homeowners who had professional architects from away draw their plans.

The 34 years between Hurricane Betsy in 1965 and Hurricane Floyd in 1999 allowed us to become complacent and take construction shortcuts to save money and

get the job done quicker. We now have a better understanding and appreciation for proper construction methods and techniques. Building materials and fastening methods all play a part in hurricane-resistant construction.

Several reasons are given for less destruction with succeeding hurricanes. Contractors and homeowners pay more attention to construction details after each major storm. Another factor may be that the earlier hurricanes, Floyd and others, demolished many buildings not designed to withstand high winds.

We recall talking to a Man-O-War contractor years ago who did not believe in hurricane clips. Before I could comment, he said, "If it calls for a hurricane clip, we put in a half-inch bolt." It is this attention to details that keeps our buildings largely intact.

An interesting recent exchange on Green Turtle Cay between the Prime Minister's inspection team and Greg Curry was commented on in the Nassau Tribune and is reprinted on the next page. It is this fierce pride that many of our towns exhibit that brings Abaco back from the brink of disaster time and time again. While other islands pine for government help, Abaco rolls up its sleeves and gets back to business.

## In my humble opinion

## The Life of Riley

By Stephanie Humblestone

On a recent trip to Nassau I glimpsed a brightly painted sign with cavorting animal designs. Another new day care center, I thought to myself. How nice! We cannot have too many with the population on the increase and these hard economic times forcing mothers out of the home and into the workplace.

I continued to reflect from afar on the happy welcoming sign and imagined pretty playrooms alive with singing children and teachers reading *Mother Goose* and *Dr. Seuss*. As I drew closer, I deciphered the logo and saw it was a pet care facility, one more outlet catering to the whims of over-indulgent pet owners and the "needs" of pampered pooches.

Don't get me wrong. I am a great animal lover and in no way begrudge any pet the attentions of a besotted owner. I admit to spoiling my red standard poodle, Teddy, but sometimes these stores are, to put it colloquially, a bit over the top.

However, having said that, my curiosity prevailed, and I decided to stop and see what sumptuous treats I could find for him, something tasty to take back to Abaco.

To get to the food department I had to wade through a section entirely devoted to canine comforts. I found myself caught up in rows upon rows of curious and far-

fetched items. There were designer brand name outfits such as the Roll Over Rover Collection of rain wear for the dog who, it would appear, enjoys the life of Riley rather than Rover, flotation devices for sea dogs, leg straps for Dalmatians, hooded T shirts for the landlubber "Skateboarder mutt," fancy pants for garden party poodles, dog slickers for slick dogs and creative costumes for "trick or treat" terriers who refuse to "lie doggo" for Halloween.

Along one wall was a plush, tastefully-designed red satin dog couch which resembled a chaise lounge. Had it been a bit larger, it would have given a certain panache to my living room. Afforded centre stage was a gigantic, round, fluffy dog bed which looked so comfortable that I was tempted to curl up on it. If these are examples of doghouse furnishings, I am happy to be banished to it for any faux pas I may make in this article.

I really could not see Teddy, all 65 pounds of him, squeezing himself into fancy pants, tight fitting or otherwise, or stretching out on the designer couch so I continued on to packaged doggy treats.

The display was so vast that it was overwhelming; it made our nuts and crackers shelf at my local supermarket look very wanting.

Pets are a highly emotive subject. I am well aware of that. However, I cannot help feeling it verges on the ridiculous when we have breath spray for dogs and dental starters for cats! Where do these people come up with such things and who in the world buys them?

When tasty treats for cockatiels and chinchillas are better packaged and with superior ingredients than our cocktail mixes, and Pets Picnic and Polly Pastels whet our appetites, then where does it stop? Apparently nowhere! The market is flooded with pet products which excite and delight our senses. I doubt if the vitamins we buy over the counter are as pure as those offered for budgies. I was tempted to buy some after reading the ingredients and the promise of "bright eyes and a bushy tail!"

Wandering down the aisles, still in search of small treats such as bacon bits or small bones, I passed a young woman

pushing a cart on top of which was perched an alert, gaily be-ribboned white Chihuahua. The animal's happy expression was in stark contrast to a grimacing toddler who was struggling to keep up with mother and cart. The mother was making strange gurgling sounds to the dog and chastising the child for lagging behind. I find it sadly amusing that we treat our domestic pets sometimes better than we do ourselves or each other.

I finally found an overpriced packet of beginn' bacon pieces and a stuffed toy for Teddy for \$23, an expensive treat and more than I planned spending (but less than the dog bed, had I succumbed!) but I told myself he was worth it. This is the rationale of pet owners such as I.

I made my way to the till where there was an odd array of CD's entitled *Make Your Bird A Star* which had such pet favourites as *Come Up and See Me Sometime* by Mae Westbird and *I Want to Be Alone* by Greta Garbird. What next, I pondered.

I waited in line and watched people enter the store, many with dogs and children in tow. I realized as I stood there how vital our pets are to us and how mutually dependent we are. Some people sacrifice their own needs for those of a close and irreplaceable four-legged friend.

If there is an afterlife, then I am happy to go to dog heaven if its anything like Cynthia Rylant describes in her book of the same name "where dogs run free in endless fields, nap on fluffy clouds and are given treats by passing angels." It sounds very appealing to me, not unlike Paradise.

I'll never say no to a treat from a passing angel! Who would?

Returning to Earth, if reincarnation exists, then I am perfectly content to come back as a pampered pooch, stretched out in front of a roaring log-burning fire on cold days, basking in the warm sun on the back porch and taken by my doting owner for weekly grooming and pedicure at a fancy dog salon.

I might even end up sleeping on that gigantic, round, fluffy dog bed!

Yes, sign me up for the Life of Riley - wherever that might be.

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# Central Abaco News

## Irene flooded parts of Murphy Town

By Mirella Santillo

In comparison with Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, Irene was not a wet hurricane. But when the center of the storm passed Central Abaco in the afternoon of August 27 with winds coming from the southwest, it forced the waters from the western marshes side of Abaco inland with enough strength to flood areas on both sides of the S.C. Bootle Highway from Central Pines to Sand Banks.

When the storm subsided, the South Side Road in Murphy Town was filled with more than three feet of sea water and several buildings were flooded. Funneled through the area of the South Side dock, the water reached inland to the north side of Forest Drive.

According to Pastor Samuel Cornish, Change Ministries Church was surrounded by approximately three feet of water which did not recede until the following Tuesday. The building itself was not flooded inside. But because both access roads were submerged and closed to traffic, Pastor Cornish explained that he had to hold his weekly Sunday services in Marsh Harbour at Grace Gymnasium.

Murphy Town Committee Chairman,

Shawn Simms, who assessed the flooding, confirmed these facts. Several houses in the area of Change Ministries including the old folks home were flooded with sea water. The water did not rise high enough inside the houses to cause much damage but in some instances the flooding was compounded by roof damage.

It took more than four days for the water to recess from the streets in that section of Murphy Town, but the surrounding grounds were still under water a week later.

## Dundas Committee helps with clean up

By Samantha V. Evans

The Dundas Town Committee held an emergency meeting on August 23 to discuss plans for the coming of Hurricane Irene. The members decided to focus their



*Salt water from the marls was driven from the southwest in storm winds into Murphy Town as far as Forest Drive. This is taken from S.C. Bootle Highway at the Kipco corner looking easterly on South Side Road.*

efforts on the elderly, single mothers and other persons who they confirmed truly needed assistance.

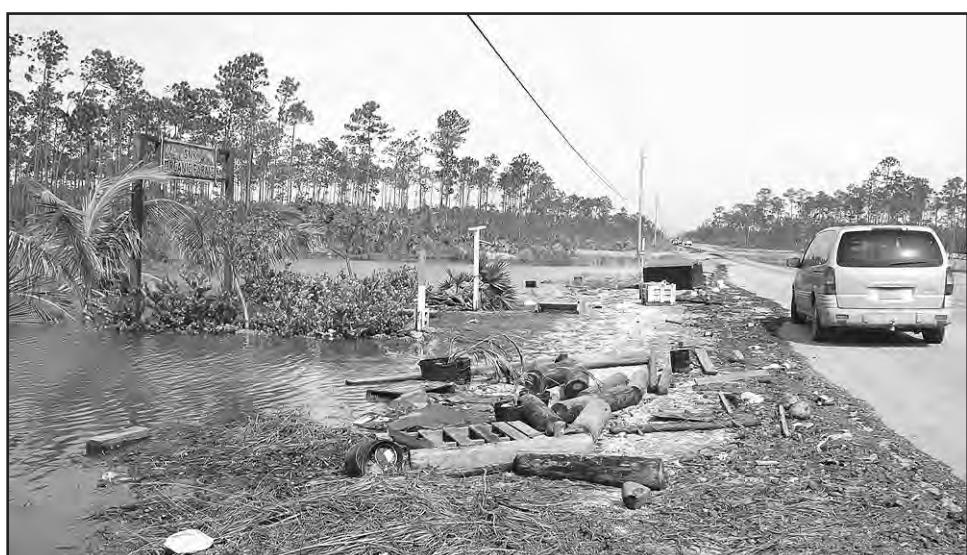
According to Chairman Faron Newbold, the Committee has to be very careful who they extend assistance to since they have been taken advantage of in the past. They agreed to purchase plywood for the homes of the persons needing help. They drove around the community until late into the night on August 24 to ensure that all residents in need of hurricane protection were assisted. Accompanying them was PLP candidate for North Abaco, Renardo Curry, who assisted them with putting up plywood. Throughout the day they cut down and trimmed trees.

On August 26 Mr. Newbold, Cecil Ingraham and George Cornish were on the

streets of Dundas Town organizing cleanup for residents and removal of debris from the streets. Mr. Newbold stated that the damage to homes was not bad with most of it being minor roof damage, fallen trees and vegetation damages. A few homes had some water damage as well. There were no visible signs of flooding. Cecil Ingraham, Committee member in charge of Central Pines and Brown's Bay, stated that they started clean-up in the older areas of Dundas Town because the damages were worse there. When they are done, they will clean up the Central Pines area. Plans will be made to address those issues that required more extensive planning such as

Please see **Central**

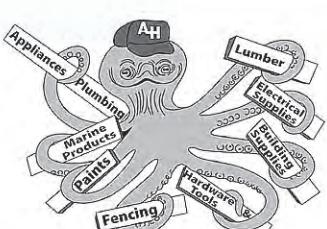
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*This is S.C. Bootle Highway at Pastor Stephen Knowles farm behind Murphy Town. Sea water flooded the entire area, crossing the road and pushing debris from the marls to the highway and beyond. The water extended all the way to Forest Drive in places.*

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# More Central Abaco News

## Central

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the replacement of street signs.

### Irene caused extensive vegetation damage

*By Samantha V. Evans*

Hurricane Irene made landfall on the island of Abaco early in the morning of August 25 as the feeder bands brought with them much gusty winds and some rain. As predicted, the effects of the storm lasted more than 24 hours. What was so disturbing was that so many residents were out driving around in their cars in this storm of winds over 75 and in some instances 100 miles per hour.

As the center of the storm was over Central Abaco, the winds took hold of many trees with some being pulled out by the

roots while others were snapped in half. Some gardens and yards were destroyed, power lines pulled out of place and light polls snapped in half. Some residents described the howling of the wind as so frightening that they could not sleep.

Early Friday morning the streets were busy as residents surfaced to assess the damage Irene left behind. The Red Cross and Social Services officials were gathering information to assess the damages caused by the hurricane. No official statement could be obtained from anyone but this reporter spoke with residents and rode around town to find out the conditions of shelters and the extent of damages.

Due to the flooding in the Murphy Town area, anyone living in the western part of Murphy Town and in a shelter had to remain there until the water receded. In Dundas Town most of the damages were

downed trees, vegetation damage and roof damages. Flooding was minimal in this community with only a few side streets being flooded. A few businesses had their signs blown down and there were a few overturned containers.

Soul Saving Ministries lost a lot of shingles. Irene did not care about the nature of the structure she impacted; she just flew through with much force and hard torrential rain. Downtown Abaco was mostly impacted by downed trees and power outages as in all other areas. The water supply to some areas of Central Abaco was restored immediately while other areas were without water for three to four days. But residents had to spend another day or two in the dark as many power lines were in need of repair after the storm.

In spite of the vigor that Hurricane Irene had when it made landfall on Abaco, Cen-

tral Abaco fared quite well. There was no known loss of life nor serious injury. The clean-up effort will be massive.

But when we think of the devastation on other islands of the Southern Bahamas, we must pause and give God thanks for His covering and protective arms over us. This was, indeed, a time for all of us to prove that the Bahamas is a Christian nation and we help each other clean up the debris and repair those parts of our homes damaged by Hurricane Irene.

### Abaco Business

#### Outlook will be held

The 2011 Abaco Business Outlook will take place on September 21. This year's theme is Shaping the Future: Investment,

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This is one of the boats that dragged and was blown onto the rocks along Marsh Harbour's waterfront, about a block from the traffic light.



The roofs of both the international warehouse and the domestic warehouse, shown here, at the port in Marsh Harbour were damaged with similar problems. The picture also shows the flooding in the freight yard adjoining the warehouse. The harbour can be seen to the right of the building.



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# More Central Abaco News

## Central

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Invention, Integration.

Joan Albury, president of The Counselors Ltd., organizers of the Abaco Business Outlook, commented, "We are truly pleased that Abaco was spared the worst of the ravages of Hurricane Irene, but knowing the resourcefulness and cooperative nature of Abaconians, we are hardly surprised that they have pledged to continue their support of the Eighth Abaco Business Outlook."

Mrs. Albury revealed the slate of knowledgeable speakers for the forum. "As infrastructural projects are top of mind in our country today, we are pleased that

the Hon. Neko Grant, M.P., Minister of Public Works and Transport, has agreed to be our keynote speaker.

"By the same token, local food production and food security have become pressing issues. Edison Key, South Abaco MP and Chairman of BAIC, has been active in promoting the strengthening of the agricultural sector, so we are glad for his participation. He brings a wealth of experience in agriculture and particularly in food production on Abaco," Mrs. Albury said. She expressed pleasure that two representatives of government will be address two highly topical and sensitive topics.

She continued that, given the leading role tourism plays in the economy of Aba-

co, it was important to have the input from the directorate of the industry at the national level. David Johnson, Director General Tourism will give this input.

"Algernon Cargill, Director of the National Insurance Board, will be joining us in Abaco again," Joan Albury informed. Mr. Cargill is dedicated to giving an account of his stewardship to communities throughout The Bahamas.

The presentation of Eric Carey, Executive Director of the Bahamas National Trust, will round out the environmental picture of Abaco very nicely. "We could not possibly hold this Outlook without representation from the Trust, as Abaco is home to 26,453 acres of national parks and reserves to protect the environmental treasures of the area," Mrs. Albury said.

Michael Albury, President of the Abaco Chamber of Commerce will be presenting the Outlook and Vision segment. Mr. Al-

bury, owner of the Conch Inn & Marina, is currently President of the Abaco Community Tourism Foundation and heads Abaco Pathfinders, a fund raising organization to assist students in furthering their education abroad.

Jeremy Sweeting, Chief Councillor for the Hope Town District, serving the islands of Hope Town, Man-O-War Cay and Great Guana Cay has confirmed his participation in the upcoming forum. "Mr Sweeting is a young man from Man-O-War Cay, who has an understanding of island ecology and knows how important waste management is to environmental protection," Mrs Albury commented.

"Some of the new entries to Abaco tourism are located in Mr. Sweeting's district, notably Baker's Bay, which is one that has excited a lot of interest. This year's Out-

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The cruising boat shown here was not anchored adequately during the winds of Hurricane Irene. She drifted through the harbour from east to west, then east again, finally smashing into the docks of the Marsh Harbour Marina. She tore the bow off two boats, one shown in the picture and more extensive damage to the other boat, as well as doing extensive damage to the docks.



The roof over the pumps at Marsh Harbour Auto Parts lost its marquee.

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# More Central Abaco News

## Central

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look will have the benefit of perspectives on Baker's Bay from Mr. Sweeting and Carter Redd, who is general manager of Baker's Bay.

"This year's Outlook will include a presentation on Arawak Port Development Limited. Two speakers, Michael Maura, Jr, CEO of the development, and Kenwood Kerr, CEO, Providence Advisors Limited, will provide details of the new Nassau Container Port and Gladstone Freight Terminal that are under development," Mrs Albury said.

The 2011 Abaco Business Outlook speaker slate is rounded out by a surprise entry. The author of *Culinaria: The Caribbean and Nyam Jamaica*, Rosemary Parkinson will focus on self-sufficiency in food and the value of local cuisines in the development and promotion of tourism.



Albury's Ferry Services had its boats hauled at the Marsh Harbour Boat Yard. The safest place for boats during a hurricane is ashore.

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## New Businesses

### Brown's Landscaping

By Samantha V. Evans

Desmond Brown has ten years of experience in the landscaping business and has now opened his own business on Abaco. Mr. Brown worked for many years at various nurseries in Nassau where he developed an interest in landscaping and learned about the operations of this business.

A few years ago Mr. Brown and his

wife learned about the self-starter program and applied for a grant. They used this grant to buy their start-up equipment which is top-of-the-line. Shortly after Mr. Brown got the grant, he branched out on his own. While doing this, his wife was transferred to Abaco to work. So he and his wife relocated to Central Abaco.

The services offered by this business includes creative landscaping designs, tree trimming, weeding and chemical spraying, edging, lawn mowing and slashing. Brown's Nursery and Landscaping believes that landscaping adds value to one's property and makes a house a home. Mr. Brown believes that landscaping or lack of it affects a person's mood, too. The Browns take pride in the services offered as they know that landscaping enriches the environment as well.

Mr. Brown is offering a special to maintain your lawn for \$50 a month. He offers free consultation and will be happy to prepare an estimate or invoice for your home or business. He is open Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. His motto is Beautifying the Bahamas One Yard at a Time. He can be reached at 242-565-2650 or 242-465-2926.

### K H Construction Company

By Samantha V. Evans

Kevin Hutchinson is the owner of KH Construction Company and has been in the building field for most of his adult life. In 2006 he obtained his contractor's license. His company can build residential and

commercial structures.

Over the years he has worked with many companies and has built homes in Central Abaco, Winding Bay and Treasure Cay. He is trained to do renovations, repairs and general carpentry work. He has an entire team of professionals in the fields of masonry, plumbing, painting and finishing work ready and able to offer their services. His company also does stamp concrete, driveways and parking lots. His motto is Making Your Dream of Home Ownership a Reality. His office hours in Dundas Town are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and he can be contacted by calling 367-4668 or 475-2410.

### Zion Landscaping

By Samantha V. Evans

Zion Landscaping is owned and operated by Rodney Stuart. This business was inspired when he helped a friend landscape his yard, then later it grew into a business. He provides yard maintenance services including lawn mowing, tree trimming, hedging and edging. He removes debris from properties as well. Even though his focus is on lawn and yard maintenance, he can plant a beautiful garden for your home or business. He currently offers his services to hotels, private homes, churches and preschools. He looks forward to expanding his business to include commercial businesses in the not too distant future. He

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This is the new bypass road under water that is being constructed between the S.C. Bootle Highway and the airport roundabout. Officials now realize that the road will have to be raised to keep it from flooding again in the future.



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# More Central Abaco News

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can be contacted at 475-8717. His business is located in Murphy Town.

### Zion Security

*By Samantha V. Evans*

Zion Security was started in April 2011 by Rodney W. Stuart. He started this company because he had a desire to secure and protect the businesses of Abaco merchants. He secures residential properties currently

but is looking to expand his services to commercial sites. He now secures service stations, small family businesses and patrols neighborhoods and buildings under construction. When he expands, he will be able to secure government complexes, banks, privately owned businesses and resorts. His office is open 24 hours a day and is located in Murphy Town. He can be contacted at 475-8717.

*From Page 5*

We need to be able to get diesel to the machines as well which right now is a difficulty."

All agencies were pleased to find there were no significant damages to private properties or to government facilities. Tourism observed some minor damages at Abaco Inn and Nipper's Bar and Grill. However, it is believed that with little damage and repairs already underway these businesses will be ready for their normal start for the season.

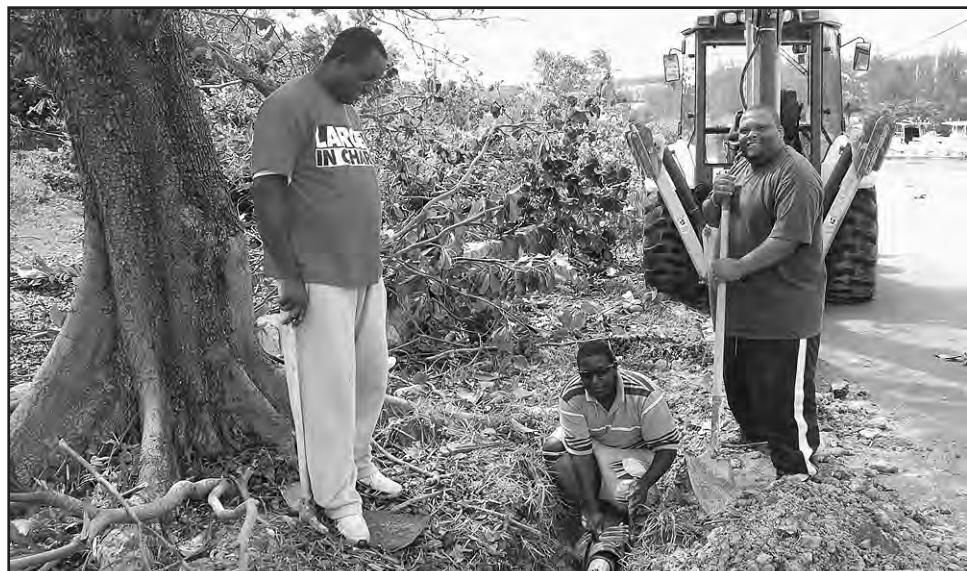
Resident of Man-O-War Cay, Joe Albury, said his wind gauge clocked the wind over 100 mph and his barometer "went down low as it could go." His house and others in general did not receive any damage, but there was a lot of tree damage.

"There's a lot of cleaning up to do, leaves, branches and sand. We're running on generators and fared well; we're very thankful," said Mr. Albury. He said the boats and docks in the harbour all did fairly well with only a few docks and boats receiving any damage.

Receiving significant roof damage, Man-O-War resident Michael Albury, said he will be going with asphalt shingles in the future. His house, located near the softball field on the ocean side of the cay felt the full brunt of Irene's winds.

Nancy, his wife, said, "Everybody in Man-O-War has a piece of our roof in their yard." She described the ordeal as scary and "I didn't know if I had 20 seconds or two hours to gather up my belongings before the roof would go." She said that as each strip of metal roofing came up, "it sounded like a gun-shot." The roof leaked, like it was raining inside, and her daughter's room seemed to have received the worst of it.

The group included Police Supt. Ronald Campbell, Education Superintendent Dr. Lenora Black, Tourism officials Wynsome Ferguson and Kendi Anderson, Nurse Brown and representatives from the Ministry of Works and Social Services.



*The crew from Water and Sewerage had to repair the main water line leading to Pelican Shores in Marsh Harbour. The roots of a large almond tree broke the line, as it has several times in the past. The tree has since been cut down.*

## Assessment

*From Page 5*

We need to be able to get diesel to the machines as well which right now is a difficulty."

All agencies were pleased to find there were no significant damages to private properties or to government facilities. Tourism observed some minor damages at Abaco Inn and Nipper's Bar and Grill. However, it is believed that with little damage and repairs already underway these businesses will be ready for their normal start for the season.

Resident of Man-O-War Cay, Joe Albury, said his wind gauge clocked the wind over 100 mph and his barometer "went down low as it could go." His house and others in general did not receive any damage, but there was a lot of tree damage.

"There's a lot of cleaning up to do, leaves, branches and sand. We're running on generators and fared well; we're very thankful," said Mr. Albury. He said the boats and docks in the harbour all did fairly well with only a few docks and boats receiving any damage.

## Voter Registration

*Staff from the Administrator's office in Marsh Harbour goes to Maxwell's Supermarket several times a week to register voters. These women also go to Dundas Town and Murphy Town to register voters. We urge Bahamians in all communities to register at their closest Administrator's office.*



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# South Abaco News

## Cherokee Sound Cherokee beaches survive Irene

By Lee Pinder

Cherokee came through almost unscathed, just a few trees down and a few shingles lost. No loss of life and no major damage. I guess some would disagree with me, but actually we were very lucky and should all be very thankful. As far as I can remember, and I've experienced lots of hurricanes in The Bahamas, this one was one of the worst (as far as wind speed was concerned).

Of course, we are getting lots of calls from all the second-home owners, family and friends, but we are happy to report "Cherokee is still here, alive and kicking."

The Cherokee dump stayed intact due to discarded block and cement taken from the Old Clinic recently knocked down and moved to the southern perimeter of the dump area. In past hurricanes the dump

would be flooded and debris would be washed out to sea and back up onto nearby beaches which took weeks to clean up. This time the nearby beaches got only seaweed and sand and stayed reasonably clean.

However, whenever there is lots of rain, as in Hurricane Irene, the shallow waters near the shoreline becomes a dark brown colour (almost rusty looking) and not its usual clear aqua blue we are used to seeing that lures the tourists and fishermen to our shores.

The access road to the dump got covered with tons of beach sand and had to be bulldozed before residents could take in downed trees, limbs and leaves devastated by the storm which hampered the clean-up.

Cherokee people cannot easily be held back, no matter what the obstacle, and the general clean-up started the minute the storm passed. We didn't win the very first Keep Abaco Beautiful Award for nothing.

Please see **South**

Page 17



This is the "before" photo of the Creek Bridge in Cherokee showing the creek flowing under the bridge that allows pedestrians to access the beach and Long Dock.



This is Cherokee Bridge Creek crossing after Hurricane Irene. The bridge is gone, leaving no access to the Long Dock. The bridge was washed up into the mangroves. It will now have to be disassembled and reconstructed in place.



This is what is left of the Long Dock. Hurricane Floyd damaged it heavily, and it has taken years to rebuild. Now the work will have to be repeated. Sections of the dock were washed up on the beach and may be able to be used again. The Long Dock was built in the 1950s and has been very popular all these years.

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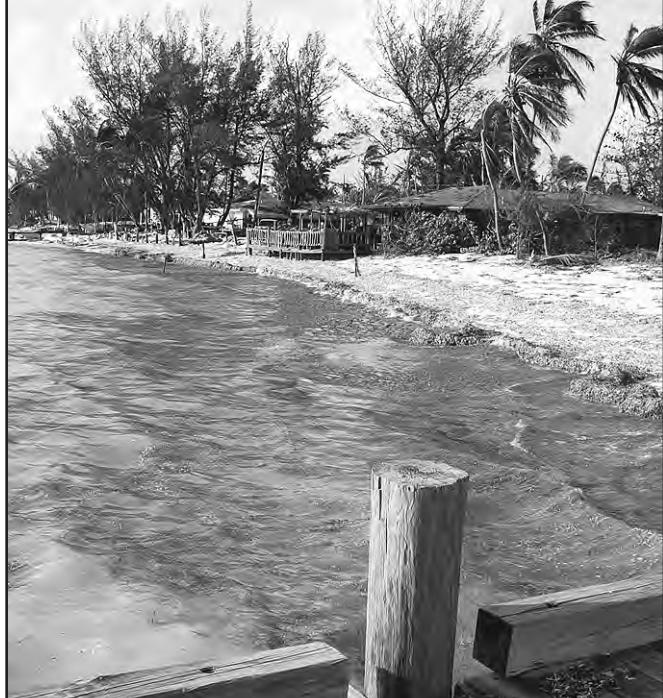
# More South Abaco News



This is seaweed on the Cherokee Road. The water of Yellow Wood Creek was driven ashore all along the road that follows the edge of the marls.



This is the Ernest Dean Highway near Crossing Rocks. The sea was pushed ashore by the winds of Hurricane Irene and left this debris.



Pictured is Nancy's Restaurant, a popular place to eat in Sandy Point. At one time the building was threatened by the erosion of the beach so badly that the ocean was lapping under its porch. However, since a ramp was removed a short distance away, the beach has begun to build back. We are pleased to report that Hurricane Irene did not materially damage Nancy's place.



The Abaco Club on Winding Bay came through the hurricane with minimal structural damage. However, it lost quite a bit of beach and suffered landscape damage.

## South

From Page 16

Residents have a pride in their homes and their community and are already on the way back to being the neatest and cleanest little settlement in all Abaco.

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The story about  
South Abaco's  
School Jamboree  
is on page 21.

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# BEC's preparation mitigates Irene's damage

By Timothy Roberts

Citing preparedness and hard work as reasons, Wenzel Jones, Manager of Abaco's operations of the Bahamas Electricity Corporation, stated on September 5 that BEC was back to 100 percent operation capacity.

Mr. Jones said that the tree trimming program he implemented four years ago paid off as it mitigated the severity of the damage on power lines throughout the island. He said the largest concerns to utility poles in a hurricane are trees and tree branches.

During the storm a decision was made to turn off the Wilson City power station as management was concerned with the effect

that damages to the power lines and transformers would have on the system. The protection systems at the new power station are more sensitive, and the company did not want to risk damaging the equipment at the new station. As crews restored power after Irene, Abaco was run on the generators at the Marsh Harbour Power Station.

Wilson City has since been restored to service, having only received minor damages on the aluminum sheeting and insulation around one smoke stack. The Marsh Harbour power station also received minor damages losing an exhaust fan and one of the large metal doors blew in despite efforts to reinforce it. Mr. Jones said his

staff strapped down what they could and reinforced all the doors at the Marsh Harbour plant. Because of the extra efforts, he said they did not lose a roof or suffer any significant damage.

Mr. Jones said that preparation helped them to plan for the Hurricane Irene's passage and allowed them to come through the storm with less damage than in previous years. He assigned staff to different sectors with individuals being ready to respond more quickly to the damages and restore power after the hurricane passed.

During the storm they had a transformer station go down while two poles broke nearby and numerous other faults caused Cedar Harbour and the communities beyond to experience a longer wait for the restoration of electricity.

Between Treasure Cay and Cooper's Town several faults and downed spans of wire coupled with three downed poles created power outages. In Marsh Harbour, Dundas and Murphy Town the power company experienced blown transformers as well as minor wire damages with Guana Cay, Man-O-War and Hope Town sustaining similar problems.

Green Turtle Cay was one of those areas hit harder than most with several poles and 12 spans of wire down. Green Turtle Cay is now back online. Sandy Point also required significant work as utility pole stays



# Local Government at Work

MH Town committee - 17 Aug 2011 -

- A Bahamian built a house in the Mud along the port road and was told to stop construction. However, the owner purchased the pre-approved plan from the Housing Department and claimed to have received permission from an elected member of Parliament. She addressed the Marsh Harbour Town Committee at their request but claimed, again, to have received permission.

Members wanted to contact the person to get his version of the conversation. In any event, permission is required from Town Planning that requires all applicants to provide proof of ownership for the land. The Mud settlement is on government land occupied by squatters so no one has a title.

However, some Committee members were concerned that a Bahamian was told to stop when Haitians in the same community are allowed, by default, to build as they wish. It was said to be unfair to discriminate against a Bahamian who attempted to go by the rules while giving an advantage to the Haitian squatters.

It was also questioned how buildings could be approved on Keys Track property as ownership issues have not been resolved during the past 100 or more years, yet construction is allowed.

- It was noted that a road has been authorized by the Ministry of Works through the Mud from the road opposite Royal Bank on Don MacKay Boulevard through the Mud to the port bypass road on the western side. This road would be on land made vacant by the last large fire in the Mud and will not

affect any buildings or families.

- A request was made to the Committee to approve leasing the Crown Land at Crossing Beach used by a ferry service for their office several years ago. The request is asking to expand the office and convert it into a restaurant using the adjacent public restrooms. The request includes the information that the public dock would be used again for a competitive ferry service to Hope Town.

After a short debate it was concluded that parking at the Crossing Beach is presently insufficient, and a restaurant would only add to vehicular congestion. Committee members further objected to additional dock congestion by a commercial ferry as it now serves residents coming to Marsh Harbour from Man-O-War, Elbow Cay, Lubber's Quarters and smaller cays.

Residents of Eastern Shores submitted a letter objecting to a restaurant as the area is already too congested by insufficient parking. Additionally, they noted that persons attempting to use the public beach are often thwarted by a lack of parking.

Understanding that this public dock and adjacent parking is used by the residents of the Hope Town District, Jeremy Sweeting, Chief Councillor for that District, was invited to attend the meeting and share his opinion on the application.

He presented a letter based on the views of the residents of the two settlements he serves who use this dock. Their objections were based on the lack of parking and the fact that a ferry would use the lee side of the dock, forcing the small boats used by residents to use the rougher windward side. The letter urged that Crown Lands should not support the application for leasing this land for a restaurant or a ferry. The letter

did recommend that an alternate location be found for this proposed service.

It was noted that the public restrooms at this location were used by the applicant's earlier ferry service with the permission of the Town Committee. However, the ferry had been asked for a \$300 monthly donation to the Marsh Harbour Maintenance Committee to pay for cleaning services to the Crossing Beach's facilities, but nothing was forthcoming.

Committee members were unanimous against issuing a lease for this site and will so advise Crown Lands.

- Town Planning is to be notified by the Marsh Harbour Town Committee that a food take-away recently approved to be located in the residential Cove Estates subdivision is contrary to the deed restrictions, and a formal objection will be submitted to Town Planning.

- It was noted that a Club License has been applied for by a bar located in downtown Marsh Harbour. Committee members objected to this conversion as there is insufficient parking presently and patrons there often spill out into the street. It was also said that the septic system behind the building is grossly inadequate.

Questions were raised about applications of this nature as the recently revised licensing system neither makes provision for objections to applications deemed to be noxious or inappropriate to a neighbour-

hood nor is there any public notice required to inform residents of proposed businesses in their area.

- As part of Spring City's expansion, now at 182 houses, a playground and basketball court will be either improved or established by the Department of Housing by Christmas.

- It was authorised that a collapsed grate on a storm drain will be replaced by a fabricated one that will cost \$900. It will be installed on the road leading from Queen Elizabeth Drive to the Union Jack dock.

- Contracts awarded - amount per month

- Spring City public bathrooms to Shirley Mills for \$300

- Spring City road cleaning and verges to Trevor Mills for \$1500

- Spring City twice weekly garbage and waste services to Monica Adderley for \$2000

- Marsh Harbour nurses' yard to Modesto Smith for \$300

- Marsh Harbour street and verge cleaning to Vincent Pinder for \$7000

- Crossing Beach restrooms to Fursteana Swain for \$400

- Marsh Harbour cemeteries, the Garden of Memories to Perry Sawyer for \$400 and Coffey Cemetery to Evelyn Archer for \$400

- Marsh Harbour twice weekly residential garbage to E and D Waste for \$8,300

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**Viewpoint****Agriculture**

By John Hedden

So far in this series we have briefly examined various aspects of agriculture including its history, technology and infrastructure, its viability, and the existing governmental policy. To date nothing thrown at the problem has stimulated anything, be it politicians, ministers, ministry staff, or the few brave farming souls who seem to end up "eating dirt."

So what is the way forward for agriculture and farming in The Bahamas?

We have no soil. We have no native mineral fertilisers. We have a raw limestone rooting medium. We have fresh water in limited supply. We have a good winter climate. As any fruit grower will tell you, we have hurricanes. We have loads of bugs and diseases. We have a consuming public with cultured beautiful nails, green with cash and allergic to the very idea of brown soiled hands. That pretty much covers the physical environment. Oh, I forgot to mention the sunshine, plenty of it; we do, after all, cultivate tourists, and quite a crop. Though, like our produce, I can't vouch for the quality.

As for infrastructure and governmental policy, we have a very harsh climate with no favourable conditions to encourage any entrepreneurship unless affiliated with the appropriate powerful entities. Marketing is hampered by our geography, and the native tastes tend toward name brands and imported foodstuffs. Costs of food production are really high, and genuine land tenure is pretty much unavailable to the normal farmer.

All of this tells me that sustainable agriculture and self sufficiency are also pretty much a figment of the politician's imagination. Yet we hear noises to the contrary all

the time. Agricultural production accounts for less than 1 percent of the country's economic output; and this tells me that something is very wrong. Pretty forlorn, isn't it?

The only way forward with any semblance of successful farming to take root in the country is for the government to create a favourable economic and political climate for the agricultural entrepreneur with the understanding that there is no such thing as either sustainability or self sufficiency in the local farming sector.

With this in mind is the government going to put in place the incentives and the policy to genuinely encourage investment and application of modern techniques in agriculture? What is needed?

First of all, we need a good and sound policy that plants the farmers firmly and legally on the land for at least three generations. Conditions can and should be built into any contract, and the option for a grant or purchase must be included at the end of the contract period. Remember the "Homesteading Act" of the U.S. government? Remember the building ordinance of the redlands area of Florida? One dwelling for every 15 acres of farmland.

We also need a good solid policy to encourage the development of the small business model which would necessarily include the small farmer. We have yet to realise that the small business creates a method of employment and reward that no mega development can provide. And the cost of investment per job created does not range into the \$1,000,000 (million) dollar range. We have to leave our "Plantation Mentality" of employment behind and now become the planters.

The country must also equip the sector

**- The way forward?**

with an efficient and practical group of agricultural staff who are capable of assisting farmers with all aspects of production and marketing. In other words, the Ministry of Agriculture must be ploughed under and reseeded and replanted from the staff up, even to the minister responsible for the sector. What a crop?

The government must be prepared to make an investment in the infrastructure of farming including communications, access to farm areas, utilities education and access to financial tools. Extension services must be instituted and must include knowledgeable and practical staff, fruit and vegetable trials and demonstration plots, the primary and secondary school system, and, of course, a well structured programme in affiliation with the College of the Bahamas.

Concessions must be made to farmers overcoming import and tax obstacles that genuinely encourage investment and growth in the sector. Again, conditions must be put in place that disavow favouritism and ensure transparency in the award policy. Strict monitoring must be the rule of the day. Other measures must include duty free fuel and "energy" that will help accelerate the move towards mechanised and irrigated agricultural production by lowered costs. A spin-off of equipment use will be the lower cost of labour-intensive grow out, so assisting in reducing the farm gate price. All are financially costly, a minimum of \$5000 per acre start up. So the government needs to create an environment where private sector investments are encouraged and partnered. This again requires the removal of the spectre of political interference from the programme.

The really interesting thing about this kind of scenario comes from the World

Trade Organisation, the FAO of United Nations, the rules and regulations for free trade incentives for developing countries, and the implementation of environmentally friendly agricultural practices. International trade concessions can be made, and financial support is available for the design and implementation of "green" farming methods. This kind of support can, and should, be actively sought by our "keyed in public service" on behalf of the Bahamian farmer. In addition, the well developed nations have an intricate system of agricultural subsidies that give the perception of cheaper food prices. For example, sugar in the U.S. at 11 cents per pound has already cost the unwitting consumer 11 cents in taxes. Food for thought?

Active marketing strategies must be developed and must include storage, transport and product standards including pesticide use to ensure quality and consumer safety. Seminars between producers, the middlemen and the consumer must be brought into play to develop a good dialogue. For some unknown reason the public service is the least public oriented of our institutions and much prefers to operate hidden away in cavernous offices where John Doe can only hear his own echo.

As I have previously said, the Bahamian government in general, and the Prime Minister specifically, must take the bull by the horns over this policy issue and move from the subjective policies which exist today, well supported by and with overt political favouritism (at least that bit is transparent). This move towards an objective policy cast in stone will be open, accessible and a source of motivation to the small agri-

Please see **Hedden**

Page 22



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# South Abaco holds Back to School Jamboree

By Jennifer Hudson

Students from the settlements of Cherokee Sound, Casuarina Point, Bahama Palm Shores, Crossing Rocks and Sandy Point were hosted to a Back to School Jamboree on September 3. The event, which was organized by members of the South Abaco District Council, was held in the Sandy Point Community Centre and children were bused from each of the settlements to Sandy Point for the event.

It was a very lively group of students, some accompanied by parents, who gathered for an afternoon of fun and excitement. Brenell Higgs, Principal of the Sandy Point Primary School, acted as Mistress of Ceremonies and welcomed everyone telling them, "We gather as one in South Abaco and are here to celebrate and get in gear for school which starts on Monday." Following an opening prayer by Israel Williams, Deputy Chief Councillor for South Abaco, Brianna Sweeting, a student from Cherokee Primary School, welcomed everyone to the Back to School Jamboree, wishing them a good term and encouraging them to do their best in school.

Two inspirational messages were given. The first by Eva Bain, a parent from Crossing Rocks, who urged the students to strive for excellence. "Prepare your mind for a brighter future, apply yourself, stay

focused and invest the best into yourself. Practice excellence, self control and discipline in all you do and learn to control your temper but remember that you cannot make it without God," was some of the advice given.

ASP Bruce Arnett warned the students about the serious times in our country now. He told of his own difficult experiences in his early years growing up on San Salvador and how he overcame them to illustrate how a person can triumph over adverse circumstances. He encouraged the students to persevere and always seek what is right. He advised parents to teach their children how to pray.

In addition to these very important words of wisdom for the students, there was plenty of fun and games for them to enjoy. A very interesting Judo display was put on by three students of the Abaco Judo Team, Lavaughn Forbes, Rebecca Strachan and Jonathan Strachan, led by their coach, Albert Lil. Coach Lil described the finer points of Judo which he and his students demonstrated followed by some actual Judo fighting. The young audience was very engrossed in this display.

A variety of games kept excitement high as there was a large variety of excellent prizes to be won and the jamboree ended with the presentation of bags of school supplies to each of the students. The primary

school students received exercise books, ruler, pencils, crayons and glue stick while the high school students received file folders and file paper, pens and a calculator.

Before leaving, each person received a

plate of chicken, sandwiches and a bag of fruit. From the enthusiasm of all of the students it was obvious how much they had enjoyed the afternoon organized for them.



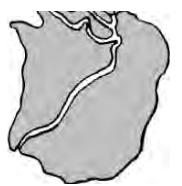
Students from all the communities in South Abaco enjoyed the Back to School Jamboree that the South Abaco District Council organized. Held in the community center in Sandy Point, the students were admonished to do well and study hard. The remainder of the program was entertainment with games and a Judo exhibition. The event ended with refreshments.

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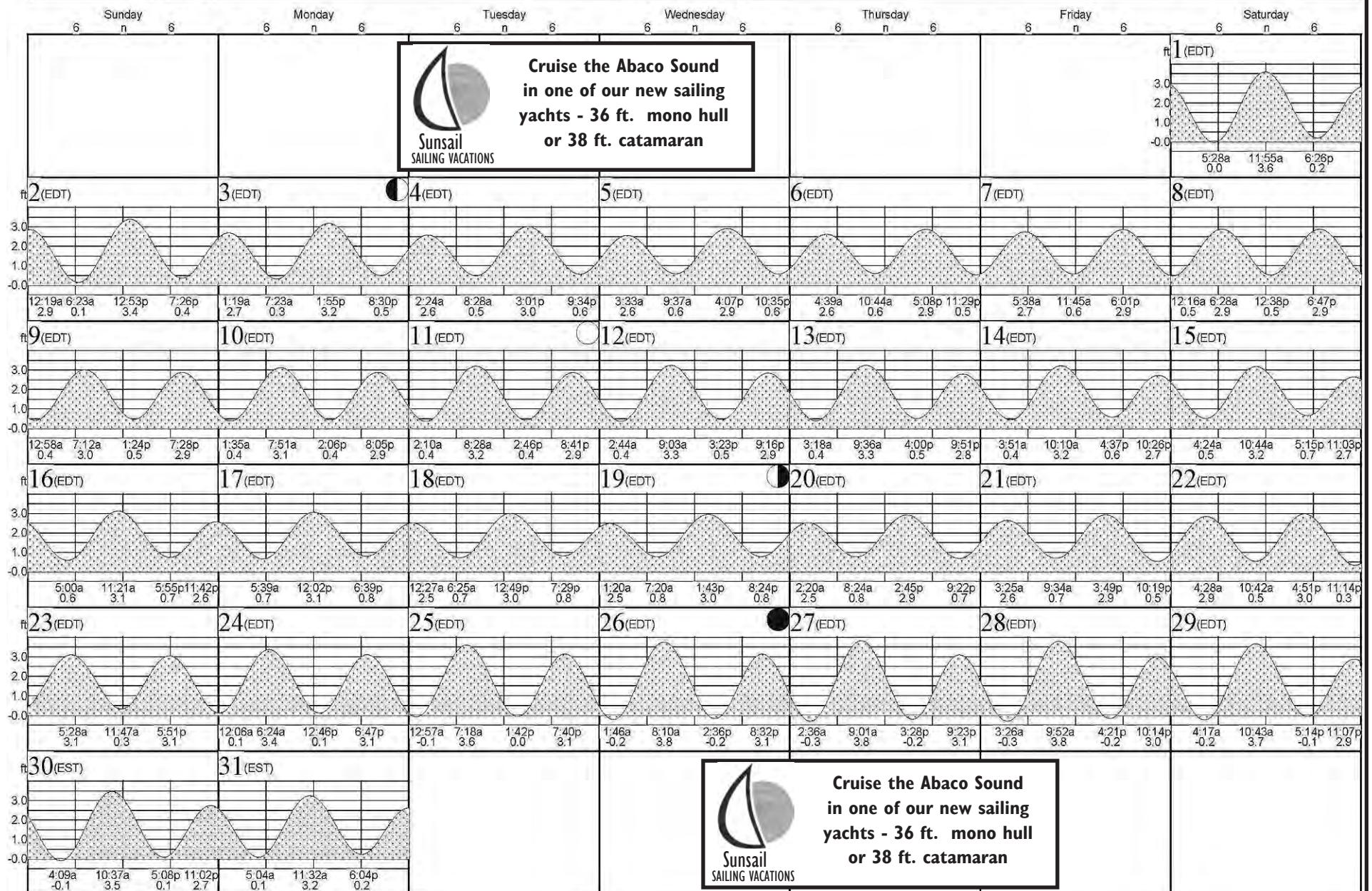


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# Golf Tournament donates to Every Child Counts

The 12th Annual Bahamas Shoot-out Golf Tournament was held recently in Treasure Cay in conjunction with the recent North Abaco Festival and Power Boat Race. This event is put on to raise funds for charity and the tournament organizer and main sponsor was R.H. Culmer. This year they donated \$1060 to Every Child Counts, a school for special needs children in Marsh Harbour. Steve Pedican of Treasure Cay said it was a pleasure to again support this wonderful school that is so important to the community. Accepting the donation was Stacey Thompson of Every Child Counts. She expressed her gratitude on behalf of the staff, students and volunteers of the school as she noted that the school is dependent on donations alone to continue operating.



## Hospital From Page 1

istry of Health is completing its studies to know how many rooms, what type of bedding and the types of instruments that will be needed.

The new community hospital will have state-of-the-art facilities that will connect patients here with specialists in Nassau. It will mean that patients' records can be seen instantly on either Abaco or in Nassau. Tests performed here can be read by specialists in Nassau. If patients transfer to a hospital in Nassau, his records will be instantly available.

The hospital will have the most advanced technology available. Hopefully, this facility will decrease the need for air ambulance services.



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## Hedden

From Page 20

cultural entrepreneur. If the administration is serious, then it must first remove itself, and successive administrations, from the basic framework of farm production by putting a genuine and effective policy in place that cannot be interfered with by the politics of the day.

There now exist a few special pockets of more advanced agricultural development including greenhouse production at Lucayan Tropical in Nassau and field production by the North Andros farmers around San Andros. However, the vast majority of farms in the country still rely on the most basic practices which are essentially slash and burn. As a result production is inefficient and yields are minimal.

How do the farmers themselves need to develop a successful farming venture?

Firstly, the farmer has to be realistic about the size of holding desired, thus seeking a lease for a land area he is capable of working, not dreaming about the big time and money like dirt.

Secondly, the farmer must realise the reality and effort needed to operate a business efficiently. Living out of a cheque book or the money in the pocket cannot build a successful venture.

Thirdly, the farmer must ensure that all the necessary tools are available along with a sound and well structured business plan. Finance is essential, and we must realise that for start-up of a well structured field operation a requirement of some \$5,000 per acre minimum is essential.

A good, solid, well rounded education in farming practices, maintenance and financial management is also required.

Minister, by all means, tell us again that "Farmers must become more competitive;" but this time provide us with the "right tools." An airy fairy, wishy-washy, half-hearted agricultural plan is not the

answer. Words do not germinate into any useful harvest, but actions and policies might just sow the seeds of a greener Bahamas. You hail from the most industrious and independent island of the archipelago. Make your fellow islanders proud of their native son.

This is the second to last article of the series. The final article will present an alternative view of farming and its history in The Bahamas. "The ironies of farming."



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Abaco Vacations +	800-633-9197
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
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#### Green Turtle Cay

Bluff House Club	12 units 365-4247
------------------	-------------------

Cocobay Cottages	6 cott 800-752-0166
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Green Turtle Club	35 rm 365-4271
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Island Properties +	34 hse 365-4047
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New Plymouth Inn	9 rm 365-4161
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Ocean Blue Properties +	34 365-4636
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Other Shore Club	365-4226
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Roberts Cottages	3 cott 365-4105
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#### Guana Cay

Dive Guana +	11 hse 365-5178
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Dolphin Bch Resort	4 rm 10 cott. 365-5137
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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
----------------	----------------------

Ruth Sands +	9 hse 365-5140
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#### Hopetown

Abaco Inn	22 rm 366-0133
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Club Soleil	6 rm 1 cott 366-0003
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Crystal Villas	7 villas 888-812-2243
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Elbow Cay Prop +	53 hse 366-0035
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Hope T Harb Lodge	25 rm 366 0095
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Hope T Hideaways +	63 hse 366-0224
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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
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Turtle Hill	4 villas 366-0557
-------------	-------------------

#### Lubbers Quarters

Sea Level Cottages	4 hse 366-3121
--------------------	----------------

#### Man-O-War

Island Home Rentals +	2 hse 365-6048
-----------------------	----------------

#### Marsh Harbour area

Schooner's Landing	5 condos 365-6072
--------------------	-------------------

#### Abaco Beach Resort

Abaco Real Estate +	82 rms 367-2158
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#### Bustick Bight Resort

Alesia's	6 rms 367-2719
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#### Conch Inn

Ambassador Inn	3 rms 367-4460
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#### D's Guest House

Bustick Bight Resort	6 rms 367-2022
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#### Living Easy +

Conch Inn	9 rms 367-3980
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#### Island Breezes Motel

D's Guest House	6 rms 367-2202
-----------------	----------------

#### Lofty Fig Villas

Living Easy +	16 rms 367-3980
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#### Pelican Beach Villas

Lofty Fig Villas	6 eff 367-2681
------------------	----------------

#### Regattas (Prev. Abaco Towns)

Pelican Beach Villas	6 cott 367-3600
----------------------	-----------------

#### HG Christie +

Regattas (Prev. Abaco Towns)	32 effic 367-0148
------------------------------	-------------------

#### Moore's Island

HG Christie +	11 rms 367-4151
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#### Moore's Is Bonefish Camp

Moore's Is Bonefish Camp	8 rm 366-6334
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#### Sandy Point

Oeisha's Resort	14 rm 366-4139
-----------------	----------------

#### Pete & Gay's Resort

Pete & Gay's Resort	10 rm 366-4119
---------------------	----------------

#### Rickmon's Bonefishing

Rickmon's Bonefishing	11 rm 366-4477
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#### Spanish Cay

Spanish Cay Resort	18 rm 6 hse 365-0083
--------------------	----------------------

#### Treasure Cay

Bahama Beach Club	88 units 365-8500
-------------------	-------------------

#### Brigantine Bay Villas

**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 - Hope Town	VHF Ch 16	
Fire - Green Turtle Cay	365-4133	
Fire - Man-O-War	365-6911	
Treasure Cay Fire & Rescue	365-9112	
BASRA Bah Air Sea Rescue Assoc - all areas	Marine VHF 16	
Hope Town 366-0500	Marsh Harbour	367-3752
Guana Cay 365-5178	Treasure Cay	365-8749

**Medical Services**

Abaco Family Medicine	Marsh Harbour	367-2295
Auskell Advanced Medical Clinic		367-0020
Integrated Medical Center		367-1304
Emergency		458-1234
Marsh Harbour Medical Centre		367-0049
Government Clinic	Marsh Harbour	367-2510
Corbett Clinic	Treasure Cay	365-8288
Government Clinic Cooper's Town		365-0300
Government Clinic Green Turtle Cay		365-4028
Government Clinic Hope Town		366-0108
Government Clinic Sandy Point		366-4010
Government Clinic Fox Town		365-2172

**Tourism's People-to-People program**

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

**Airlines Serving Abaco**

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Air Gate Aviation - Daytona/New Smyrna	367-3636
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
Craig Air Center - North Florida	367-3522
IBC Airways - Ft.Lauderdale, W Palm Beach	367-1336
Locair - Fort Lauderdale	1-800-205-0730
Regional - Freeport	367-0446
Sky Bahamas - Nassau/Ft. Lauderdale	367-0996
Twin Air Calypso - Fort Lauderdale	367-0140
Western Air - Nassau	367-3722
Yellow Air Taxi - Ft Lauderdale	367-0032
<b>Local air charters serving Bahamas &amp; S. Florida</b>	
Abaco Air	367-2266
Cherokee Air Charters	367-3450

**Dive Shops**

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

**Taxi Cab Fares** one or two passengers

Extra \$3 for each passenger above two	
<b>• Marsh Harbour Airport to:</b> Effective Dec 08	
Clinic, Downtown, Stop Light	\$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	\$165

**• 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 08

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 Harbour	\$85
T Cay Hotel to G Turtle Ferry	\$25
T Cay Hotel to Blue Hole	\$30



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**Ferry Schedules** • Departure times shown • Daily service unless noted

Marsh Harbour to Hope Town or Man-O-War - 20 minutes, Guana Cay - 30 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

7:15am 9:00am 10:30am 12:15pm 2:00pm 4:00pm 5:45pm  
Return: 8:00 am 9:45am 11:30am 1:30pm 3:00pm 4:00pm 5:00pm 6:30pm

**Marsh Harbour>Man-O-War**

10:30am 12:15pm 2:30pm\* 4:00pm 5:45pm  
Return: 8:00am 11:30am 1:30pm 3:15pm\* 5:00pm

\* Not on Sundays or holidays

**Marsh H.>Guana Cay/Scotland cay** From Conch Inn

(6:45am - Union Jack Dock) 10:30am 1:30pm 3:30pm 5:45pm

Return: 8 am 11:30am 2:30pm 4:45pm 6:30pm

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

**T Cay Airport>Green T Cay** 8:30am 10:30am 11:30am 1:30pm 2:30pm 3:30pm 4:30pm 5:00pm

Return: 8am 9am 11am 12:15pm 1:30pm 3:00pm 4:30pm

New Plymouth one way adult \$10 (Children \$7) • Round trip \$15 • Extra to some G T Cay docks

**Abaco Adventures** • Ph 365-8749 or 375-8123 VHF Ch 16 Charters Available

**Treasure Cay to Guana Cay** Sunday departs 11:00am & returns 3:30 p.m. \$40 RT

**T Cay to Man-O-War/ Hope Town** - Saturday departs 9:30 am, \$45 RT

**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** Summer Schedule only (April to Dec)

Sandy Point & Nassau Every Friday & Sunday, except holidays, under 4 Hour Call 225-3376 or 366-4119

Adults \$110 RT, \$60 OW • Child under 12, \$75 RT, \$40 OW.....Call for car & truck rate

**The Great Abaco Express** Eco & Historical bus tours • Call 367-2165 or 559-9160

**Attractions**

Albert Lowe Museum .....Green Turtle Cay

Capt Roland Roberts House, reef exhibits.....Green Turtle Cay

Memorial Sculpture Garden..... Green Turtle Cay

Wyannie Malone Historical Museum .....Hope Town

Elbow Cay Light Station.....Hope Town

Walk to & swim on Mermaid Reef off M Harb. ..Pelican Shore

Drive to & swim in Blue Hole .....Treasure Cay farm road

Art studio & working foundry- ..... Little Harbour

Working boatyards..... Man-O-War cay

**Pocket beaches** • Crossing Beach in Marsh Harbour

• Witches Point - 3 miles S. of Marsh Harbour

• Little Harbour - 20 miles S. of Marsh Harbour

• Cherokee - 23 miles S of Marsh Harbour

**Miles of beach** are generally on ocean exposures

• Treasure Cay • Green Turtle Cay • Guana Cay • Elbow Cay

• Man-O-War Cay • Casuarina Point • Bahama Palm Shore

• Sandy Point & more

**Items of interest** • Man-O-War boat yards • Blackwood

blue hole & sisal mill • Cedar Harbour plantation ruins - need

guide • Hole-in- Wall lighthouse - last mile very rough road •

Abaco wild horses by appointment 367-4805 • Bird watching - ask tourism 367-3067

**Tours & Excursions**

Abaco Eco Tours & Kayak rental 475-9616

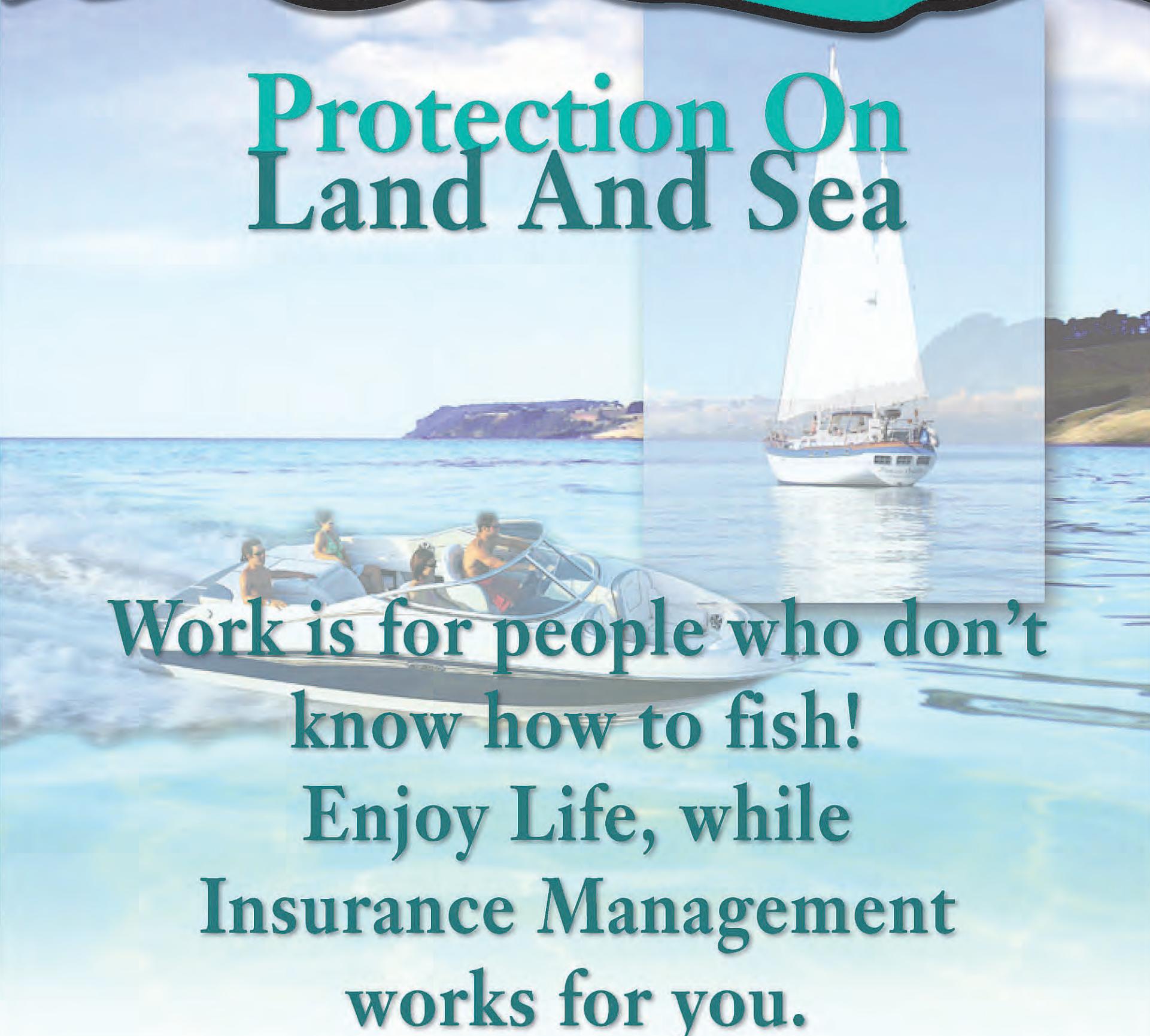
Abaco Island Tours • Marsh Harbour 367-2936

Abaco's Nature Adventure 559-9433

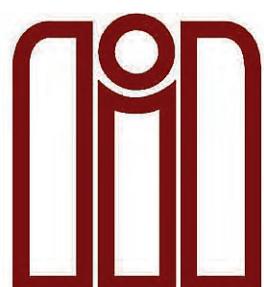
Above & Below • Marsh Harbour 367-0350

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Fax: (242) 336-2305

email: [info@imbabaco.com](mailto:info@imbabaco.com)



# The Abaconian

## SECTION B



VOLUME 19 NUMBER 18 SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

## Airport terminal contract is signed

New terminal will be completed by end of 2012



The signing of the contract for the construction of a new terminal, control tower and fire/crash/rescue facility at the Marsh Harbour airport took place on September 1 near the site of the future building giving the contract to FES Construction from Freeport. Shown are Administrator Cephas Cooper; the Hon. Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, Minister of Tourism; the Hon. Neko Grant, Minister of Public Works and Transport; Fletcher McIntosh, one of the owners of FES Construction; Donald Dean, architect; Michael Albury, President of the Abaco Chamber of Commerce; Edison Key, MP for South Abaco; and Colin Higgs, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Works.

By Timothy Roberts

"This airport terminal has been a long time coming," Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham, said at the contract signing for the \$27.3 million terminal building, air traffic control tower and fire/crash rescue facility at the Marsh Harbour airport.

Mr. Ingraham said that in consideration for naming the new terminal facility, "We have determined that one name and one man stood out above all others. He is the man who singlehandedly has done a great deal to improve and expand the economy of Abaco. He was the one who brought us the largest single development on Abaco Island." On completion, the new airport terminal will be named the Leonard M. Thompson International Airport.

Mr. Ingraham said, "It is clear to all who would see that Central Abaco is growing in importance as an economic centre in The Bahamas. The government is committed to ensuring that Central Abaco has the infrastructure befitting its stature."

"Planning for this terminal," he said, "has not been easy - points of view as to when, how and where this facility and new airport ought to be located expressed over the past years and months have been as far apart as east is to west."

Please see Terminal

Page 2

## Schools begin new school year



This is the scene at Abaco Central High School Murphy Town on opening day of school for the new school year. It is expected that Abaco will have record numbers of students in both public and private schools. This is the biggest high school on Abaco while the biggest primary school is Central Abaco Primary located in Dundas Town. See story on page 8.

## Sweeting's Village will get water and paving

During the Prime Minister's speech at the signing of the contract for the airport terminal on September 1, he stated that when the sidewalks are completed in Dundas Town and Murphy Town, the paving of roads in all three communities of Central Abaco will begin. He also announced that Sweeting's Village will get water as well as paving. Roads in Spring City are also scheduled for paving.

## Roads will be repaved in Hope Town



A contract was signed on September 1 for the repaving of the roads in Hope Town. A local Elbow Cay company, Abaco Rock, Ltd. won the contract. Shown are George Hutchinson, Deputy Director of Works; Administrator Cephas Cooper; Hope Town Councillor Donnie Carey; the Hon. Neko Grant, Minister of Works and Transport; Kenneth Meltarp, owner of Abaco Rock Ltd.; Vernon Malone; Edison Key, MP for South Abaco; and Colin Higgs, PS for the Ministry of Works. See story on page 5.

## Rally marks opening of DNA campaign headquarters



The Democratic National Alliance party opened a campaign headquarters for the South Abaco constituency on September 2. It is located in the Abaco Shopping Center. Shown is Roscoe Thompson III, left, candidate for South Abaco, and the party leader, Branville McCartney. See story on page 4.

# Preparatory work for new terminal is underway

## Terminal From Page 1

Mr Ingraham said, "The continued development of various industries on this island over the years places Abaco in a favourable position for further growth."

The multi-million dollar contract was awarded to Grand Bahama-based FES Construction Company Limited, which is expected to complete the project in 60 weeks, completing it by late 2012; however, a principle of FES, Fletcher McIntosh, said they intend to be finished in 50 weeks. He and his partner, James Edgecombe, are both from Cooper's Town originally.

Mr. Ingraham stressed the need to pass on skills and trades encouraging FES Construction company to maximize the use of local subcontractors and suppliers of goods and services. He said, "We are using this opportunity to attach to this project 30 or more training positions of the

government's Job Training Programme." They will be trained in trades: masonry, plumbing, electrical, air-conditioning, tile laying, carpentry and other allied building trades.

"We must have sufficient skills on Abaco to meet our requirements and demands," he said. "For me it is irksome and unacceptable to have so few Bahamian masons on the mainland of Abaco."

Mr. Ingraham said that all of the developments they are undertaking in Central Abaco are part of a planned new township and before the end of this year construction will begin on a new hospital. A new road is currently being constructed to connect to the S.C. Bootle Highway and Forest Drive.

The Prime Minister added, "When the sidewalks along Forest Drive are completed to better accommodate pedestrians, and school children in particular, we will black top your roads in Dundas Town and

Murphy Town and in Marsh Harbour; and Sweeting's Village will get potable water and drivable roads."

The Hon. Neko Grant, Minister of Public Works and Transport, said that with a population increase of 21 per cent since 2000 and the considerable development of various industries, Abaco is in a favorable position for further growth with the upturn of the country's economy.

"The airport terminal project will further enhance Marsh Harbour airport's capacity to provide quality service to the growing number of residents as well as visitors to this island who will use this facility," he said.

According to Mr. Grant the new termi-

nal will be a modern facility with architectural elements that reflect Bahamian culture. The 51,000-square-foot terminal will include 22 counter positions, a state-of-the-art luggage scanning system, pilot briefing room, two restaurants, a lounge, VIP lounge, eight retail shop spaces, two kiosks, long and short term parking areas along with taxi and employee parking areas, said Mr Grant. The facility will also be equipped with 100 percent back-up emergency electrical supply. The present terminal will be converted into an air cargo facility.

He said that the project will comple-

Please see Terminal

Page 4



This is the architect's drawing of what the terminal at the Marsh Harbour International Airport will look like. Ground work has begun and the building will be completed by the end of 2012.

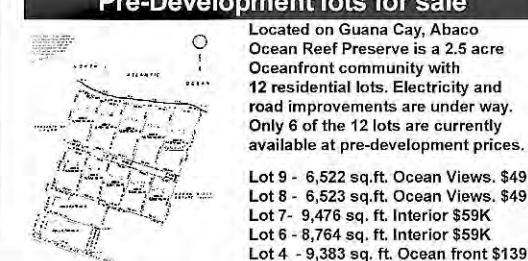
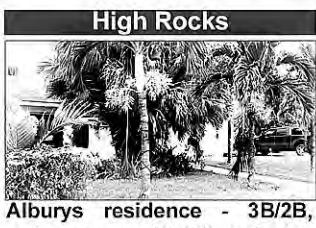
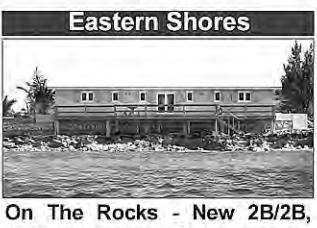


A ground breaking exercise was held at the conclusion of the signing ceremony officially acknowledging that FES Construction has the contract for constructing the new terminal, control tower and fire/crash/rescue facility at the Marsh Harbour airport. The Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham, is the one without a hard hat.



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<b>Sweetings Village</b>  Cozy Cottage - 2B/1B + 24'X10' Bahamaroom. 10,900 sq. ft.+ lot, #2006 - \$205,000	<b>Eastern Shores</b>  Even Tide / Low Tide - 3B/3B high end turn key, waterfront. #1374 - US\$1,199,000	<b>Pelican Shores</b>  Alcatraz - 3B/2.5B, 117' Harbourfront, 16,862 sq. ft. lot. #2005 - \$655,000	<b>Sweetings Village</b>  Triplex - Three 2B/2B Units, All rented, too many options to list! #15771 - \$575,000	<b>Pre-Development lots for sale</b>  Located on Guana Cay, Abaco Ocean Reef Preserve is a 2.5 acre Oceanfront community with 12 residential lots. Electricity and road improvements are under way. Only 6 of the 12 lots are currently available at pre-development prices. Lot 9 - 6,522 sq.ft. Ocean Views. \$49K Lot 8 - 6,523 sq.ft. Ocean Views. \$49K Lot 7 - 9,476 sq. ft. Interior \$59K Lot 6 - 8,764 sq. ft. Interior \$59K Lot 4 - 9,383 sq. ft. Ocean front \$139K Lot 5 - 9,491 sq. ft. Ocean front \$149K
<b>High Rocks</b>  Alburys residence - 3B/2B, water access 13,398 sq. ft. lot. #13091 - \$673,000	<b>Eastern Shores</b>  On The Rocks - New 2B/2B, 1000 sq. ft. waterfront cottage. #13808 - \$599,000	<b>Great Abaco Club</b>  Mer-Sea - 50' secure canalfront dockage, seaview, 5,000 sq.ft. lot. #2000 - \$649,000	<b>Casuarina Point</b>  Brand New!! - 2B/2.5B Main + 1B/2B guest, 100' beachfront. #2004 - 995,000	<b>Lots &amp; Acreage</b> <b>THE CAYS</b> Green Turtle Cay #1310 - 1.676 acre peninsula. <b>SOLD</b> Guana Cay #1062 10,432 sq. ft. lot, boat harbour area. \$75,000 Guana Cay #1150 Lots 92A & 93B 3/4 acres each. \$120,000 each Guana Cay #13807 Ocean Reef Preserve Lots from. \$49,900 Guana Cay #13017 103ft. oceanfront, 20,200 sq.ft. lot. \$239,000 Guana Cay #1288 Lot 97 30,606 sq. ft. 155' waterfront. \$579,000 Lubbers #1068 Abaco Ocean Club #39 & 40 10,000 sq. ft. each \$79,000 <b>MARSH HARBOUR</b> Marsh Harbour #13093 2.05 acres adjacent Maxwell. \$245,000 Royal Harbour #1005 Lot #26 off of front street 14583 sq. ft. lot \$175,000 Stede Bonnet Road #13901 Residential Lot 8,125 sq. ft. \$78,000 Sunrise Bay #1066 Lot 12 13,226 sq. ft. Gated Community. \$238,000 Sweetings Village #13771 Lots 54 & 56 offered as one parcel. \$125,000 Sweetings Village #1372 Lots 55 & 57 offered as one parcel. \$125,000 <b>SOUTH ABACO</b> Casuarina Point #1777 Lots 90 & 91 10,000 sq. ft. each. \$45,000 Gilpin Point #13705 South of Crossing Rocks, 10 acres, 435ft. beachfront. \$100,000 Long Beach #1224 Lot 31 12,600 sq. ft. elevated views. \$99,900 Long Beach #14557 Lot 247 17,600 sq. ft. elevated views. \$49,900 Long Beach #1079 Lot 412 12,500 sq. ft. beach access. \$69,900 Rolling Hbr #1052 5.6 acres w/ 330' beach 1.2M or 1.88 acres w/ 110'. \$525K <b>NORTH ABACO</b> Bahama Coral Is., #17671,10,000 sq. ft. \$10,000 <b>SOLD</b> Joes Creek #1100 Lot #12 Utilities near, 18,000 sq.ft. lot. \$35,000 Leisure Lee #1002 Lots 27, 28 29 & 30 "Open to Offers". \$43,900 each Treasure Cay #13018 Lot 8 Block 190 "Open to Offers". \$68,000 Treasure Cay #13019 Lot 9 Block 190 Interior Lot, canal views. \$79,000 Treasure Cay Lots 8 & 9 "as shown above". \$130,000 buys both. Treasure Cay #14798 Lot 78 Block 1 Section 1. 10,000 sq.ft. \$59,900 Turtle Rocks #2001 Hilltop lot with water views 16,969sq.ft. \$69,900 <b>Leases / Rentals</b> 3 Bed/ 2 Bath - Bahama Palm Shores, beachfront - \$1,200/month 3 Bed/ 2 Bath - High Rocks, waterfront, fenced yard. - \$3,000/month 3 Bed/ 2 Bath + Bonus Rm - Pelican Shores, dockage. - \$2,300/month 3 Bed 4.5 Bath - 2B/2.5B Main + 1B/2B guest, beachfront - \$3,500/month 2 Bed/ 1 Bath - Sweetings Village, private home. - \$1,100/month 1 Bed/ 1 Bath - High Rocks, private home, waterfront. - \$875/month See our website for a list of vacation rentals & lease opportunities.

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### NEW LISTING

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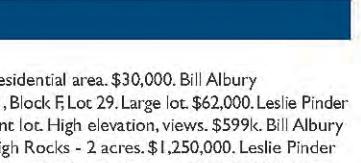
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#4632 **MARSH HARBOUR** High Rocks waterfront lot. High elevation, views. \$599. Bill Albury  
#7011 **MARSH HARBOUR** - NEW LISTING - High Rocks - 2 acres. \$1,250,000. Leslie Pinder  
#7086 **MARSH HARBOUR** - Royal Harbour canal front lot 2 with dockage. \$525,000. Bill Albury  
#5899 82 ft. of Waterfront - Sea Grape Lot, North Abaco. 17,645 sf. US\$100,000. Stan Sawyer  
#5899 Matthew's Point- 26 acre waterfront, good elevation. \$1,015,000. Kristi Wong  
#5951 Waterfront at Calcutta - Sea of Abaco Views. Boatyard nearby. \$150,000. Kristi Wong  
#5990 Fire Road - NEW LISTING - 13.6 acres. Road to bayside. \$368,500. Kristi Wong  
#6022 Bainbridge's Property - Little Harbour: 1/2 acre + with deeded dock. \$195,000. Bill Albury  
#7063 Turtle Rocks - 18,000 sq.ft. with beach access. Fantastic homesite. \$65,000. Kristi Wong  
#5235 **WINDING BAY** Lot 30 - Over 1.5 acres. Best priced beachfront. \$1,500,000. Bill Albury  
#5701 **WINDING BAY** Hope Cottage - 4 bed 4 bath with every option. \$1,800,000. Bill Albury  
#6085 **REGATTAS** #306 - Views of swimming pool & tennis courts. \$325,000. Leslie Pinder  
#6086 **REGATTAS** #401 - Just mins from world class recreational boating facilities. \$325,000. Leslie Pinder  
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#5114 **BEACH TOWNHOUSE** - Steps to beach. End Unit. \$349,000. Stan Sawyer  
#5898 **CANALFRONT** 3 bed 3 bath condo with dock slip and storage. \$540,000. Stan Sawyer  
#2516 **CROSSWINDS** 4 bed 3 bath home on large lot. \$699,000. Stan Sawyer  
#5855 Lot 8 Block 198 - NEW PRICE - Protected canal with great views. \$245,000. John Cash  
#5888 Lot 6 Block 198 - NEW LISTING - Protected canal with great views. \$242,500. John Cash  
#5886 Lot 73 Block 199 - NEW LISTING Great Sea of Abaco views. \$199,000. John Cash  
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### WINDING BAY

# DNA holds Grand Opening of constituency office

By Timothy Roberts

Roscoe Thompson III, the South Abaco candidate for the Democratic National Alliance (DNA), announced on September 2 that, if elected to Parliament, he would pledge the majority of his salary to the South Abaco community.

Speaking at the grand opening his DNA constituency office to about 300-350 people, Mr. Thompson pledged to use his salary for traveling expenses, leaving more than \$20,000 to support and further develop the communities of South Abaco.

"I want to be the representative that takes your concerns to central government... taking it back to those people in the communities and getting their input and their feedback to move this country forward. We can take the steps that have not been taken before," he said.

He addressed concerns within the agriculture and fisheries industries, in particular, illegal poaching, immigration and regularization, crime, utility upgrades and the exploration of modern energy supplies.

DNA leader and Member of Parliament for Bamboo Town, Branville McCartney, also addressed the audience. Speaking on the development of The Bahamas, Mr. McCartney said that the nation is stuck in a third-world leadership. "The Bahamas should be the best country in the world, but after 38 years of being an independent country, our leaders are still thinking third world."

He said crime and the fear of crime has never been as bad as it is now in the history of The Bahamas. Concerning immigration, he said, "We need to regularize who needs to be regularized, but those who don't have any right to make application,

those who are here illegally must go, plain and simple!"

Education, he said, is key. "You cannot become first world with a D average. We cannot celebrate a D or D+ when we need to strive to become A students." If we want to improve as a country, we cannot go with what we got.

"When it comes to our economy, we must not settle. We deserve the best," Mr. McCartney said. He continued that the time has come that we can no longer continue to rely so heavily on tourism to keep our economy going, but "we must diversify our economy."

"Agriculture, marine resources, alternative energy, telecommunications, film and movies: we must go out there and grab it. This world is our oyster!" he said.

After the speeches the meeting was opened to the audience for questions, and

the public asked about the party's stance on topics such as education, immigration, duty-exemptions and more. Other candidates of the DNA attended in support of Mr. Thompson and mingled with the crowd during the event.

To date, the DNA has named 19 candidates and is slated to reveal further candidates in the weeks ahead, including the candidate for North Abaco.

The DNA party will continue holding Town Meetings where they will discuss and get input from the public on issues such as crime, immigration, the economy and education.

The office of the DNA South Abaco constituency is located in Abaco Shopping Center and will be fully operational Mondays through Saturdays, something that most Abaconians are not used to, according to Mr. Thompson.

*From Page 2*



Branville McCartney, seated center, leader of the new Democratic National Alliance party, was the keynote speaker at a rally to celebrate the opening of the South Abaco constituency office in Abaco Shopping Center. Roscoe Thompson III, standing center, is the DNA candidate for South Abaco. On the left is Reg Sands, Chairman of the DNA party for South Abaco, and on the right is Jamarl Chea, President of the Young Democrats, the youth arm of the DNA.

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ment recent upgrades to the airside infrastructure that were undertaken a year ago. "These upgrades included construction of a new jet runway of 6,100 feet, conversion of the original runway into a taxiway; installation of new signage, approach, and runway lighting and the development of new flight procedures for the new runway to ensure compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organisation."

He said FES Construction has estab-

lished a reputation of delivering quality work within agreed timelines and maximises Bahamian participation in other projects.

Abaco has around 90,000 visitors every year. The Marsh Harbour airport is the second busiest airport in the country and one of the busiest airports in the entire Caribbean region. And Abaco is growing. During the period between 2000 and 2010 the population grew by 21 percent.



This is the site of the new terminal building to be constructed just west of the present building. The FES Construction company from Freeport entered the winning bid. The work has been slowed by the discovery of a couple of holes that have to be filled and compacted before further work can be done. The present building will be used for a cargo facility.

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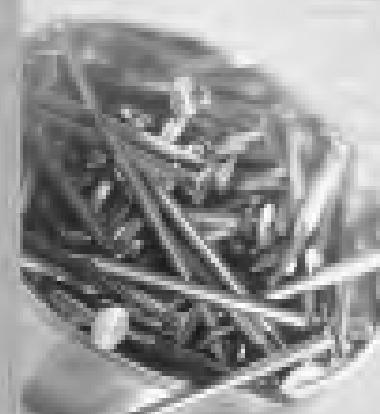
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# News of the Cays

## Contract is awarded for road work in Hope Town

By Timothy Roberts

The Hon. Neko Grant, Minister of Public Works and Transport, held a contract signing in Hope Town on September 1 for the re-paving of some roads in the Hope Town settlement.

A contract in the amount of \$101,834.27

was awarded to Kenny Maltarp of Abaco Rock Ltd. to construct concrete roads at Hope Town.

A pre-qualification tender exercise was undertaken for these works. On review of the bids received, it was determined that Abaco Rock Ltd. had submitted the lower qualifying bid.

Mr. Grant said, "I take this opportunity to thank the technical staff members of the Ministry of Public Works for their efforts in the planning of this project. Additionally, I congratulate Abaco Rock Ltd. on the award of this contract. We look forward to the successful completion of the construction of the roads at Hope Town within the allotted time frame."

Edison Key, Member of Parliament for South Abaco, said that Hope Town greases the economic wheel with its contribution through tourism. "Hope Town deserves comfortable amenities," he said. He stated that government will keep the roads in their old historic style to maintain the island's charm. He said he expects it to be a first class job.

Mr. Maltarp thanked Mr. Grant and the community for the



This is one of the buildings at the Green Turtle Club.



This is the government dock at the eastern end of Guana Cay. The dock at the western end of the settlement, the dock the ferry normally uses, was also damaged to the point that the ferries are now using the dock at Guana Hideaways.

opportunity "to give back to the community he has called home for so long." He expects to get started right away. "Having lived here for many years, I want to keep Hope Town looking beautiful," he said.

Donnie Carey, member of the Hope

Town District Council, gave a vote of great thanks to the Minister of Works for getting the road work started. He felt that Mr. Maltarp is a good choice to carry out the project.



This is a boat that was blown ashore along the Man-O-War waterfront near the garbage dump.



The Man-O-War ballpark is located directly on the ocean seen at the left. These are the poles for lighting the field that will all have to be replaced.



The Green Turtle Cay community was inundated with sea water. The water in this part of town was three feet deep. The water came through in the vicinity of Blue Bee Bar and exited in the area of the cemetery. Photograph by Jason Bethel.

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# Shelters were well manned for Hurricane Irene

By Samantha V. Evans

Abaco shelters were very well supported by appropriate government and shelter management officials who ensured that those who needed to be housed were in safe quarters and misbehavior kept to a minimum. According to Charlamae Fernander, Assistant Director of Social Services, nine shelters were occupied during Hurricane Irene that hit Abaco on August 25.

The New Hope Baptist Church in Mount Hope housed 14 persons, Faith Walk Church of God in Cooper's Town that housed 83 persons, Miracle Church of God on Green Turtle Cay housed five persons, Abaco Central High School in Murphy Town housed 20 persons, St. Francis de Sales Church in Marsh Harbour housed 215 persons, Central Abaco Primary School housed 162 persons, Full Gospel in Treasure Cay housed 110 persons, Sandy Point Community Center housed 65 persons and Hope Town Primary School

housed 12 persons. Some shelters like St Francis Church saw an increase in occupancy while others like Full Gospel had a decrease. Those shelters utilized that were new such as Faith Walk Church had a good number of occupants.

Most shelters opened on August 25 at 7 a.m. but a few opened the night before. Ms. Fernander noted that many persons opted to stay in private shelters during the storm while others had confidence that their houses were secure enough for them to remain at home. She reported that the shelters used did not have any significant damages even though some of them were not as sound as they would have liked. There were a few shelters that did not have adequate shutters which posed a challenge, but they were able to make it through the storm.

One person was taken to the Central Abaco Primary School shelter with major injuries sustained during the storm.

Ms. Fernander stated that the nurse assigned along with Head nurse Maxine Brown and the EMS crew did an excellent job treating the injured man. In fact, they stayed at the shelter through the storm to care for him. Present at this particular shelter were Ms. Fernander who was the site manager, the principal and vice principal of the school, and the Defense Force officer in charge. Also present at the shelters were Red Cross personnel, Defense Force officers, Police officers and a center manager. Social workers, Administrator Cephas Cooper and the armed forces moved around from shelter to shelter to ensure that all was well. Ms. Fernander commends the police for being very helpful as this was the first time they had around the clock presence during a storm. She believes that this played a significant role in maintaining the peace at shelter sites.

After the storm passed, the shelters were closed on August 26 and the schools were cleaned immediately with the assistance of local government. However, some sites took responsibility for their own clean-up. She was very appreciative of the support



*The Treasure Cay Real Estate office lost part of its roof, damaging the interior and ruining records and files. Photo by Patrick Fetsch, General Manager of Treasure Cay.*

received from Emmet Bootle of Murphy Town, who used his bus to pick up persons from the Mudd and Peas and others free of charge. At the shelters Social Services and the Red Cross provided shelter kits, and the clinic had first aid kits. All occupants were responsible for their own personal items including food.

Ms. Fernander stated that the shelters were well maintained because the professionalism shown by all agencies that worked together to ensure the safety of the

Please see Shelters Page 18



*The playground equipment at the Great Guana Cay Primary School ended up in this jumble. The residents there are pleased that they had minimal damage.*

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*Abaco Inn on Elbow Cay lost much of its decking on the ocean side. Also damaged were areas of the interior including the kitchen. Abaco Inn had already closed for the fall season but expects to be fully repaired for reopening on November 1.*

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# SportsNews

## Baseball field is under temporary management

By Mirella Santillo

The International Little League Baseball Tournament held in July in Central Abaco not only was a great success, but it helped provide the area with two state-of-the-art baseball fields which cost thousands of dollars to create.

In order to preserve that investment and oversee the management of the Murphy Town Park where one of the baseball fields is located, the Hon. Charles Maynard, the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, asked the Little League Committee to manage the facility until the Ministry can take it over.

The Little League Committee Chairman, Malcom Spicer, gave a proposal to the Minister in which he recommended that a committee be formed. This committee would be comprised of a Murphy Town Committee member, a Central District Council member, a member of the Little League, a member of the Softball League, a representative of the Ministry of Sports, Youth and Culture, and a member of the Ministry of Tourism. This committee will manage the facility and make decisions regarding the upkeep of the park. The Minister wanted to know how the upkeep of the park would be funded.

In the interim it was decided that the

present committee will operate the concession stand and the Little League and Softball associations will collect an entrance fee at the gate. The money collected will be used to pay for the upkeep of the field and for the expenses associated with holding games at the facility such as electricity, cleaning and bathroom supplies, mowing the grass, general cleaning and garbage collecting.

Contrary to rumors going around, the teams will not be charged field fees to play at Murphy Town Park, but people will have to pay an entrance fee to come in.

### Tennis pro offers free lessons

By Mirella Santillo

In June 2011 the first public tennis court on Abaco was completed and ready to be used. It was funded by the Dundas Town Committee through the efforts of Faron Newbold and George Cornish. Located on Forest Drive behind Central Abaco Primary School, the single court is fenced in and has ample parking around.

Tennis Pro Bobby Russell, who helped oversee the construction of the court, held the first group training for kids there on September 3.

Approximately 20 youngsters aged six years and older attended the free clinic. Some students had already taken lessons with Mr. Russell and played games while

the others were taught the basics of the game starting with how to hold a racket and receive or hit a ball. According to Mr. Russell, the younger they start the faster children will become good tennis players.

A free clinic for kids will be held once a month, but private lessons for adults and children are available.

Mr Russell's goal is to develop a steady tennis program, to organize friendly tournaments among local tennis players, even to coach kids towards obtaining scholarships.

Tennis is among the many sports to offer scholarship opportunities for college students. A former student of Mr. Russell's benefitted from such a scholarship that helped her all the way to a masters degree.

For more information, call Bobby Russell at 458-6530.

### Winding Bay holds a golf clinic for youth

By Mirella Santillo

A record number of young people gathered in front of Abaco Central High School in Murphy Town this summer to get the bus to take them to the third annual golf clinic at the Abaco Club at Winding Bay. Chaperoned by Ishmael Morley, representative of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, 28 kids, some as young as six, registered for the clinic.

They were greeted on the golf course by the resort General Manager, Ronald Parker, and the golf pro, Marcus "Marley" Hield, who has been teaching the rudiments of golf to some of the children of Abaco since the beginning of the program.

The students were reminded of the rules pertaining to attending the clinic and of the

opportunities golfing could provide such as college scholarships if they were serious about learning the skills. Mr. Hield's daughter, Marlique, a scholarship beneficiary thanks to her golfing abilities, demonstrated her talents to the group. Marlique represented The Bahamas in Jamaica as a member of the national team.

The children were divided into three age groups, then were handed a golf iron and a ball. They were shown how to hold the club and which proper position to keep to achieve the most accuracy. They practiced for several hours the first day and for three hours a day for the next two days.

On the fourth day the younger children were put to the test of putting and chipping. The first three in each age group were to receive a trophy the following day. On the last day of the clinic, it was the turn of the older students to compete before the distribution of the awards that were to be presented by the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture himself, the Hon. Charles Maynard.

Mr. Maynard addressed the children before handing out the trophies. He reminded them how lucky they were for the opportunity they had of being able to learn that sport. He urged them to say a loud thank you to Mr. Parker and Mr. Hield. "Keep practicing; you will get better. You can get places with sports," he told them.

In the under 10 category Dante Russell came first, followed by Brenae Bain. Her brother, John Bain followed in third position.

In the 10 to 13 category Anthony Lloyd received the first place trophy. Taye Stuart placed second, help by a hole-in-one that

Please see Sports

Page 17



A public tennis court was built by the Dundas Town Committee allowing children and adults to learn to play tennis. Tennis pro, Bobby Russell, is organizing classes including a monthly free clinic. He is hoping to develop tennis players who can acquire tennis scholarships to further their education. Mr. Russell is shown on the right.

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# School News

## More school reports show outstanding results

### Man-O-War Cay Primary School

Eighty-five percent of our students made the Honor Roll.

The General Knowledge team place second in the District Competition.

Our students were challenging competitors in the district spelling bees. Erica placed third in the grade one bee, Aaliyah placed first in the grade two bee and Kailina placed fourth in the grade 5 bee.

Felicia was a semi-finalist in the National Primary Student of the Year Contest, winning a \$2,000 scholarship.

Many of our students had excellent GLAT results. Lily's score of 100 percent on the writing portion of the GLAT is at the top of last year's achievements.

Lower Primary students placed first in the Earth Day Science Competition.

In sports our students competed and placed in the Abaco District Swim Meet, Optimist Jr. Sailing and Colin placed second in Junior Judo.

Aaliyah was one of the winners in the Marine Mammal Tee-Shirt Design Contest.

Blue and Felicia were recognized for their high scores on National Exams at the Minister's Award Ceremony in Nassau.

All of our students are reading at grade level.

We had a fantastic year and ended strong!

### Fox Town Primary School

A student from this school, Liberty Clarke, was the first place winner in the Primary District Speech Competition.

One of our grade six students captured the third place trophy in the grade 6 District Spelling competition.

During the year the percentage of our students reading at or above grade levels increased by approximately 17 percent.

There was notable improvement in the grade 3 GLAT Results in Mathematics and in the grade 6 General Science.

With a donation of four used computers from Donnie Adderley of Green Turtle Cay, we were able to partially resurrect our computer room. However, because of the failure of the air conditioner, we were not able to make much use of it.

A baseline study using the students of grade 2 in Spelling and Numeracy revealed some very commendable results. The study was conducted by officers from the Special Services Division of the Ministry of Education.

We procured additional bulletin boards and were able to erect one outside each of our classrooms.

### J.A. Pinder Primary School

in Sandy Point

Listed below are the major accomplishments for this school year.

Alisha Greene placed third in the Rotary Club Speech Competition

Ashanti Duncanson and Alisha Greene made the international arena via YouTube singing the song *The Prayer*.

The Shining Stars achieved an 85 percent for their performance for National Arts.

Ashanti Duncanson was awarded nationally at the Ministers Literacy & Numeracy Awards as well as at the Primary National Student of the Year Awards.

Trevett Cornish placed first in 400m finals at the District Primary Sports Competition.

Ashanti Duncanson placed 15th in the

### 3 students attend Special Olympics in Greece

By Jennifer Hudson

Three students from the Every Child Counts School had the experience of a lifetime during the recent summer school break. On June 17 Ashwell Murray, Deangela Murray and Tyler Davis traveled with their coach and teacher, Nicole DeNardin, and 35 other athletes and their coaches from The Bahamas to Athens, Greece, to compete in the Special Olympics Summer Games. "This was the first major trip for these students. The journey going took 50 plus hours including a plane journey, bus ride, layover and waiting time and the return journey took even longer, so everyone was very tired. But they all coped with the whole experience very well," said Ms. DeNardin.

The first week the athletes and coaches stayed in a five-star resort for a time of cultural immersion which they all found very pleasant. The second week they stayed in the Olympic village camp which was a military base that left some comforts to be desired. "Bathing in cold water on chilly Greek mornings was not fun," commented Ashwell.

The students needed a lot of stamina to cope with the busy schedule. For the first day's events they had to be up at 6 a.m. for the preliminaries after only four hours of sleep as the opening ceremony had not ended until 2 a.m. Each day the athletes had to work out three times beginning at 5:30 a.m.

Eighteen-year-old Ashwell Murray and 14-year-old Tyler Davis competed on the Bahamas basketball team. "Despite some tough competition the Bahamian team came fourth in the entire world," said a proud Ms. DeNardin. Eighteen-year-old

Police Spelling Bee Competition.

GLAT Grade 3-78 percent students passed Writing & Reading Skills, 67 percent passed Listening Comprehension, 89 percent passed Language Skills, 100 percent passed Concepts, 89 percent passed Computation.

GLAT Grade 6- 90 percent students passed Listening Comprehension and 80 percent passed Reading Comprehension.

At least 70 percent of the school is reading at or above their grade level.

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# More School News

**School** From Page 8

## Change Ministries opens new school

By Mirella Santillo

September 2011 was the date that Pastor Samuel Cornish set for the opening of the Change Ministries Preparatory School. However, because of unforeseen problems, the construction of the preparatory school was suspended, to the Pastor's dismay. Determined to provide a school for the children of the town, Pastor Cornish heeded a Divine suggestion to turn part of the church building into classrooms that would accommodate kindergarten and first grade classes, even a nursery as well as a playground in the back.

After relocating the administrative offices to the second floor after a few months of work, five classrooms and the nursery are ready for the opening day, September 5.

A dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony took place on September 3 with George Cornish, brother of the founder of the school, acting as moderator.

Pastor Samuel Cornish, acknowledging the support of his wife, Lady Carmen Cornish, stressed the importance of religious education as part of the learning process.

"We want to train the children for life," he insisted, by teaching them, among other things how to deal with anger and relationships. He introduced Director Charmica Curry. He expects to add a grade to the school every year and to ultimately help students to obtain scholarships.

The speaker for the event was Dr. Lenora Black, who congratulated Pastor Samuel Cornish for a vision that will contribute to the scholastic advancement of Abaco. She commented on the motto of the school "Learners today, Leaders tomorrow," and announced that her own grandson will be attending the school, an evidence of her trust in the establishment. "I am sure that the group of students who will enter will be among the ones who will blaze a trail for others to follow," she stated.

She mentioned that the protocol of the Department of Education will be followed and that the teachers were already attending workshops sponsored by the Department of Education.

She addressed the parents urging them to do their best to support their children, the teachers and the school. But above all, she stressed, "Ensure that the home becomes an extension of the school. All our children can learn," she said. "But the greatest ingredient for learning is not the academic

level of the teachers, but the involvement of the home and the community."

The program ended with the cutting of the ribbon, the gesture that indicated that the school was officially open. It was cut by Pastor Samuel and Lady Carmen Cornish.

The audience then visited the classrooms that were ready for the opening of school. Refreshments were served after the tour of the school.

## Miss Teen Abaco donates school supplies

By Phillipa Farrington

On September 1 the reigning Miss Teen Abaco D.R. Rosemicka Charles distributed back packs filled with school supplies to five students who are residents of the Farm community in Treasure Cay. The recipients included three primary school students and two high school students who were all grateful for Rosemicka's (a senior student herself) desire to see them ready for the start of the new school year.

The project came about during the summer months as Rosemicka pondered how she could give back to the youth of her community. During such difficult economic times she realized that many parents throughout Abaco would need assistance with preparing their children for school. So in the final weeks of summer Miss Teen Abaco D.R. sought donations from the Abaco community to purchase the school supplies books, folders, folder sheets, pens, pencils, rulers and back packs. She is grateful to all who donated and hopes that in the

months to come more business persons will support her in other such community projects throughout Abaco.

## Bakke University offers new degree

By Canishka Alexander

Bakke Graduate University is now offering a new degree called the Doctor of Transformational Leadership degree. Bakke established its Abaco cohort in April of this year, and at that time students could choose from one of four degree programs: Doctor of Ministry; Master of Arts in Global Urban Leadership; Master of Arts in Social and Civic Entrepreneurship; and Master of Business Administration. BGU only offers masters' and doctors' degrees in business and theology.

This new degree is offered to students who are looking to obtain a doctoral degree with a strong focus on leadership and business, and it also serves leaders in organizations that focus on urban relief, development/advocacy or cultural influence from a Christian perspective. Students are

Please see School

Page 11



Pastor Samuel Cornish and his wife, Lady Carmen Cornish, right, cut the ribbon to the new school that is opening this fall, Change Ministries Preparatory School. They are shown here at the ribbon cutting with Director Charmica Curry, far left, and Education Superintendent, Dr. Lenora Black. The ceremony was held on September 3.



Rosemicka Charles, Miss Teen Abaco, wanted to contribute to her community. She collected school supplies and book bags that she donated to five students. She is shown here, second from left, with three of the students who received the school supplies.

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# Police Crime Report

**Shop breaking** - Near midnight on August 25 a mobile police patrol discovered that a shop in Marsh Harbour had been broken into. The store manager was called who subsequently determined that clothing, tennis shoes and dress shoes had been stolen.

**Assault** - A resident of Forest Drive was hit in the mouth about 10 p.m. on August 26 by a man he identified.

**Disorderly Behaviour** - A resident of the Mud was arrested close to that settlement when he acted in a disorderly manner and used obscene language. This happened about 8 p.m. on August 28.

**House breaking** - On returning home in the early afternoon on August 28 a resident of Fire Road discovered that her home had been broken into during her two-hour absence and money had been stolen.

**House breaking** - A resident of Sandy

Point discovered that someone entered his unlocked home during the passage of Hurricane Irene sometime between midnight on August 25 and dusk on August 26. Stolen were a computer, camera, jewelry and cash with a total value of \$6,000.

**Stealing & Receiving** - Close to midnight on September 1 a resident of Dundas Town left a bag with two computers and two cell phones on a restaurant porch in Dundas Town. Five minutes later he discovered the bag missing. He was told that a man was later seen carrying a similar bag. At noon on September 2 a man was arrested in Central Pines when he was seen carrying the missing bag containing the stolen items.

**Causing Harm** - Several hours before dawn on September 2 a resident of Dundas Town was beaten about the face with canned goods and a glass mug by her room-

mate causing cuts and bruises. The assailant was subsequently arrested and held in custody pending arraignment in the Marsh Harbour Magistrate's Court.

**Stealing from a Vessel** - Sometime between August 22 and September 2 someone boarded a 52-foot sailboat moored off the Hope Town harbour entrance and stole electronic equipment, tools, batteries, a 15 HP outboard engine, a 70-foot power cable and snorkeling gear.

**Possession of Dangerous Drugs** - At two in the morning on September 3 two men were arrested near government subdivision in Marsh Harbour for possession of marijuana. One was a resident of Spring City and the other was a resident of Marsh Harbour.

**Possession of Dangerous Drugs** - A Sandy Point resident was arrested about 1 pm on September 3 when found with marijuana near the Sandy Point basketball court.

**Housebreaking, Stealing, & Receiving** - A Grand Cay resident had his apartment broken into sometime during the day of September 3. Stolen was clothing and ten-

nis shoes. A Grand Cay man was arrested on September 4.

**Unlawfully Carrying Arms** - Just after midnight on September 3 a Murphy Town man was arrested at a bar in Dundas Town for possession of a switchblade knife.

**Unlawfully Carrying Arms** - About 2 a.m. on September 3 a Spring City man was arrested in government subdivision area for possession of a switchblade knife.

**Disorderly Behavior & Resisting Arrest** - A Dundas Town resident was arrested shortly after dark on September 3 for resisting police officers.

**Throwing Missiles, Causing Damage, & Causing Harm** - Late Sunday afternoon on September 4 a Murphy Town man with his family at Crossing Beach in Marsh Harbour was injured when a group of men threw bottles at him. His car's rear window was broken. A resident of Pigeon Peas was later arrested.

**Stealing & Damage** - A resident of Pigeon Peas reported that someone stole his jeep while it was parked at his apartment during the night of September 4. The jeep was later recovered at the dump.

## Police praised for their fast action in power boat theft

At approximately 2 a.m. on August 18 a power boat was stolen from a Royal Palm dock in the Treasure Cay marina. The boat and the thieves were filmed on a surveillance camera. The owner happened to be up at 2:15 a.m., noticed that the boat was missing and immediately alerted the Treasure Cay police who promptly responded to the call. Within a few minutes of the call

Chief Delancy, officer in charge of North Abaco, and Detective Boyd were at Royal Palm. They alerted BASRA and the other police stations on the island about the theft immediately.

The boat was discovered the following

Please see **Boat Theft**

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# More School News

## School

From Page 9

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## Repairs at Central Abaco Primary School

By Samantha V. Evans

If someone looks at Central Abaco Primary School from the outside, the damages from Hurricane Irene appeared to be minimal. But when one ventured onto the grounds, the damages and clean up became more pronounced. The roof lost a lot of shingles which exposed the roof enough to cause flooding, causing water damage in classrooms and storage areas. Trees and debris were very notable. The lack of window louvers kept windows from closing properly, resulting in classrooms getting wet.

To assist with the cleanup, Chief Councillor George Cornish hired Brown's Nursery and Landscaping to clean up the debris

from Central Abaco Primary and Abaco Central High Schools. Freddie Jones of Jones Construction was hired to tackle the repairs. The cleanup work included removal of debris from the school grounds including trees and leaves, and pruning big trees so that they could grow healthy and more beautiful.

The repairs to the structure consisted of roof repairs and plumbing. There was a lot of work to be done. Many questioned whether the contractors would complete the work in time for school. But the workers were on the job throughout the weekend trying to get the work completed. Work began at the school on August 29.

### Schools sustained minimal damage

By Mirella Santillo

Most schools were ready to begin the new school year except for Long Bay School. In spite of Hurricane Irene which battered Abaco only a few days before the opening of the new school year, the damage to the schools was minimal compare to that caused by Hurricane Floyd in 1999. Most of the schools in Central Abaco succeeded in opening on September 5 either for orientation or an actual school day. Long Bay School did not open because the roof had to be nearly completely redone.

Abaco Central High School held orientation on September 5 and regular a school day resumed on the 6th. The roof was damaged over part of the buildings and water leaked from windows causing water damage to ceiling tiles and mildew to develop. In one room, the ceiling tiles collapsed.

Abaco Central Principal, Arthur Jones,

mentioned that some students and teachers came to help over the first weekend of September. The panels contaminated by mildew were removed and will be replaced after the roof repairs are completed by contractor Freddy Jones. Then the interior will be fixed. Mr. Jones is hoping that the repairs can be done without disrupting the classes. In an effort to alleviate the concern of the staff, the Education Superintendent, Dr. Lenora Black, visited the school to meet with them in the morning of September 5. The contractor and a representative of the Ministry of Works were also present at the meeting.

Five new teachers will be part of the faculty for the year 2011-2012 to replace some who have left. The number of students registered shows a slight increase over last year. However, there will be a more definite census in a few days.

Long Bay School suffered severe roof damage that forced Principal Jacqueline Collie to postpone the opening of the school for a week. Nevertheless, she held an orientation meeting in the evening of September 5 for parents and students. A team of roofers was actively working on the roof to have all the repairs done by the weekend.

On Don MacKay Boulevard St. Francis de Sales School

suffered some damage, especially on the grounds where the Pavilion was completely destroyed, but nothing severe enough to prevent a timely opening. The Principal, Jacquelyn Kumar, said a first day assembly was held on September 5.

Forest Heights Academy and Agape Christian School were the only two schools in Central Abaco which did not incur any damage at all. School resumed without any disruption.

There was some shingles lost on the roof of Central Abaco Primary School, but according to the Vice-Principal Beatrice Moxey, everything was ready for the start of the school year.

In Treasure Cay the primary school re-

Please see School

Page 16



The roof of Long Bay School lost many shingles. Principal Jacqueline Collie postponed the opening of school by a week to allow repairs to be made.



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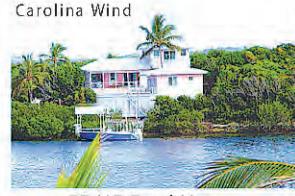
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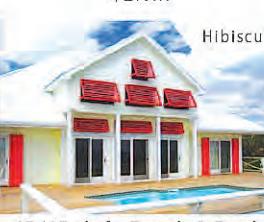
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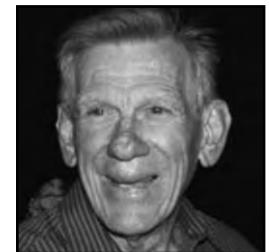


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Recently completed delightful villa with great marina view and access. Modern 2 bed/ 2 bath CBS fully furnished home, 1020 sq. ft. plus porches and garden area. Must see to appreciate.  
\$399,000 + 8.5% closing

#### ROYAL PALM

2333 - 2 bed/ 2 bath lower unit with marina view. 12ft. Boat slip with 12,000lb lift. Never rented.  
\$601,125 + 8.5% closing

2481 Phase II, upper unit 3 bed/ 3bath fully furnished with a 17' wide slip.  
\$498,075 + 8.5% closing

#### "CANAL'S END"

Located on Galleon bay canal this real "island living rustic home" comprises two storeys with 2980 combined sq. ft. Upper level 2 bed/2 bath office/3 bed option. Fully furnished. Lower level closed in presently garage/work shop. "Seeing is believing." Many other features.

\$503,800 + 8.5% closing

#### OTHER

**Lot 10, Block 182** - 16,660 sq. ft. steps from the beach  
\$235,000 + 8.5%

#### Potential Development Property

6.667 acres on S.C. Bootle Highway between Treasure Cay and T.C. airport. Running from highway north to the sea. 180' on the water front and 165' roadside, 1500' road to water. Prime property that can be subdivided, commercial and housing/condos or subdivide into lots, commercial and residential.

\$396,975 Full Gross EXC

**Garage/Storage Unit** 21' 6" x 11' 6" REDUCED  
\$36,900 + 1/2 of Stamp Tax and own legal fees.

### BEACH PROPERTIES

#### BEACH VILLAS

#583 - Not only a 2 bed/2 bath unit but an entire room addition creating a living room area which allows a full dining space. Another feature is a large screened-in porch.

REDUCED \$429,275 + 8.5% closing

#648 - 2 bed/2 bath Garden Villa located in the popular residential community of Beach Villa Subdivision, a short walk to the pool and the world famous Treasure Cay beach.

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Resale - Downstairs unit 3 bed/ 2 bath with den/optional 4th bed. Completely and tastefully furnished with many extra features including garage and Ford Taurus.

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#### 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.

REDUCED \$744,250 + 8.5% closing

#### OCEAN VILLA

2 bed/ 2 bath villa facing garden and pool area. Tropical privacy hedge offers real home atmosphere. Steps from the beach. Fully furnished. Many special features.

REDUCED \$354,975 + 8.5% closing

#### ROYAL POINCIANA TOWNHOUSES

On-site pool and tennis, newly completed luxury townhouse units directly on Treasure Cay beach each totaling 3 bed/ 4 1/2 baths plus loft bedroom/den. Ground floor - garage, 2 bed/ 2 baths 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. Price is MLS \$2,075,000 + 8.5% closing

#### THE COTTAGES

Now the newest ocean front development on Treasure Cay beach comprising 10 individual luxury units.

Starting at \$595,000 + 12%

#### TREASURE HOUSE

Ocean front luxury octagonal units with lagoon/pool/waterfall. Good rental potential. Unit #7 - Two story 2 bed/ 2 bath home.

REDUCED MLS \$350,000 + 8.5%

#### TRIDENT/TURQUOISE SEAS

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MLS \$755,000 + 8.5% closing

#### 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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# Obituaries of Family and Friends

**Leathia Dames**, 69, formerly of Sandy Point, in Freeport, Grand Bahama, on August 25. She is survived by her husband Joseph Dames; daughters Sophia Miller and Stephannie Dames; sons James, Stephan and McGarrett Dames; grandchildren; sister Lena Ferguson; brother Martin Dames; numerous nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.



Leathia Dames

**Ivan Jerome Bonaby**, 62, formerly of Cooper's Town, died in Nassau on August 24. The funeral service was held on September 3 in Nassau. Cremation followed.

He is survived by his wife Uneta Bonaby; son Sherman Bonaby; daughter-in-



Ivan Jerome Bonaby

law Samantha Bonaby; grandchildren Shae, Shianne, Shania, Sherman Jr., Shamar and Skye Bonaby; sister Rosamae McIntosh; brothers Sylvan McIntosh, Charles Adderley, George Bonaby Jr., Daniel, Brian and Tyrone Bootle; aunts Mary Whilly and Suzie Longley; uncles Alexander Reckley, Jacqueline Reckley, Andrew Longley; mother-in-law Oslie Bullard; sisters-in-law Emily Cornish, Monica Adderley, Naomi Bootle, Frederica, Marion Munroe, Kay Curtis, Shirleen Bullard, Lydia Burrows, Mila Munnings, Briciema Hall, Terry Cornish, Denise Bullard, Frazer Bullard; brothers-in-law Gregory Bullard, Frazer Bullard, Daniel Burrows, Winston Hall, O'Donald McIntosh, Ornell Munroe and Cyril Curtis; nieces Patrice Baker, Tina, Abigail, Tounia McIntosh, Deshara Adderley and Crystal Bootle; nephews Clyde, Thaddeus, Nado, Sidney Jr., Julius, Cardinal, Valentino Cornish, Enrico Adderley, Doral, Oscar, Kirkland, Dwayne, Drexel and Troy McIntosh; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral service for **Edward Reckley**, 73, formerly of Moore's Island was held on September 3 in Freeport. Interment was also in Freeport.

He is survived by his wife Leotha Reckley; sons Glen, Trevor and Sedrick Reckley; daughters Melissa and Julie Reckley;

grandchildren Daraneika, Damahja, Glenneisha, Glennise, Gleniah, Lateika, Lateira, Darrinæ, Deno, Talia, Trevor Jr., Samantha, Sameika, Alexus, Cedette and Marissa; great-grandchild Isyss; sisters Monica Reckley and Marjorie Roberts; brothers-in-law Atlee Davis, Herbert Roberts and Roger Jones; sisters-in-law Margaret Jones and Michelle Davis; nieces Sophia Strachan, Latoya Roberts, Joan Cox, Rosie Reckley, Ginger Moxey, Ivy, Oralee, Synovia and Oprah Davis and Raquel Jones; nephews Ivan and Tommy Reckley, Frederick Knowles, Tyron, Chad, Dentry, Bernard, Antone, Meko, Edward, Michael, Robert, Lindy and Clint Davis and Roger Jones Jr.; grandnephews and grandnieces including Reggie, Kizzy, Kenny Cox, Jamine and Janie Johnson, Nikki, Ivan Jr., and Patty Reckley, Erris Jr. and Latequia Strachan; aunts-in-law Minera Davis, Latisha Swain and Emily McBride; uncles-in-law Leon Swain and Henzel Davis; and many other relatives and friends.

**William (Bill) Winer Carey** of Treasure Cay passed away in Miami on August 14. A memorial service is planned for September 10 at New Vision Ministries in Marsh Harbour.

He was predeceased by his wife, Margaret; brother Percy Carey; and sisters Millie Lleida and Doris Daigle.

He is survived by his daughter Susie Neilly; son-in-law Richard Neilly; grand daughters Amber Lynn Creach and Autumn Marie Neilly; great-grandchildren Avery Paul Creach and Jaydin Marie Hallmon; sisters Pauline Roberts, Betty Higgs, Gwenyth

Winter and Thelma Roberts; sisters-in-law Julia Carey and Nellie Johnson, Beth Sawyer and Bonnie Sawyer; brothers-in-law Joseph Lleida, John Winter, Philip Sawyer and Burnice Sawyer; nieces; nephews; grand and great-grandnieces and nephews; and many other relatives and friends.

On April 27, 1924, **Mabel Lorraine Sawyer** was born to Redith and Lula Sawyer in Cherokee Sound. Mabel grew up in Cherokee and loved her island home. At the age of 22 she married Clarence Sawyer and they were blessed with a son, Spurgeon. At a young age Mabel accepted Jesus Christ has her personal Saviour and was a devoted Christian. She attended the Epworth Methodist Church.



Mabel Lorraine Sawyer

Mabel was known for her loving and caring efforts as she went from place to place to help care for any of her family and friends who were in need. She was known for her wonderful and delicious home-cooked meals and sweet tasty pies. Mabel passed away on August 31 after a long illness.

Her funeral service was held at Epworth Chapel in Cherokee Sound on September 1. Rev. Neilly officiated assisted by Bro. Robin Weatherford and Bro. Hartis Pinder.

Mabel was predeceased by her husband Clarence Sawyer, her son Spurgeon, her sister Effie and husband Joseph Burrell Bethel.

She is survived by her daughter-in-law Molly; grandson Thurman and his wife Jeren; granddaughter Mailin Sands and her husband Grant; great-grandson Alexander Sawyer; great-granddaughter Maya Sawyer; brother Carroll and his wife Lorraine Sawyer; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral service for Hershel H. Ishmael Davis, 74, of Murphy Town, was held on August 27 at Zion Baptist Cathe-

Please see **Obituaries**

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## Residents are encouraged to keep community clean



Members of the Murphy Town Committee are working to keep their town clean. The Committee has recently cleaned the bush along South Side Road only to find garbage strewn around. Chairman Shawn Simms is appealing to the community to take pride in their town and asks everyone to assist in keeping it clean.

By Canishka Alexander

After completing extensive work alongside South Side Road in Murphy Town, Shawn Simms, chairman of the Murphy Town Committee, was visibly upset when he discovered illegal dumping near one of their major streets. Torn garbage bags revealed discarded food items, pampers and various household products strewn across an area where they had pushed the bush back at a considerable distance from the road.

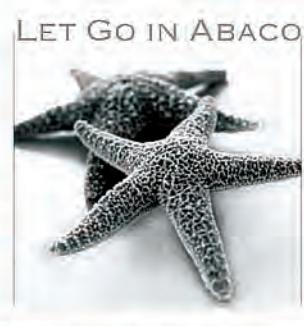
Mr. Simms said he was concerned for two reasons: the garbage was dumped adjacent to the entrance of Bethany Gospel Chapel and the committee had worked hard to ensure that the community was kept clean.

"We're appealing to the public to take some pride in your town because we're doing this work for a reason. We want this town to look clean and presentable," he commented. "If you have garbage, make sure it is secure and dump it in the right facility."

Although illegal dumping is common in many areas, Mr. Simms said it is the first time they have seen someone dump trash directly on the side of the road. He warned that illegal dumping carries a fine and said that if persons are caught dumping trash in un-designated areas in the community, he and his committee members will ensure that they are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

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## More Obituaries of Family and Friends

### Obituaries

From Page 14

dral in Murphy Town. Rev. Christopher Dean officiated. Interment was in the Murphy Town Public Cemetery.



Hershel H. Ishmael Davis

He is survived by his wife Beverley Davis; daughters Pleasant Dawkins and Nadia Newbold; son Philip Davis; step-son Junior Davis; sons-in-law Michael Dawkins Sr. and Kristan Newbold; step-daughter-in-law Dellarese Davis; grandchildren Michael Dawkins Jr., Philippa, Kayla, Ashley and Travez Davis; great-grandchild Mikell Dawkins; step-grandchild Jummenia Davis; sister Arementha McKenzie; adopted children Cheryl Davis, Debbie Roldan, Shekera Williams, Ponchita Pitter and Dion Moultrie; brothers-in-law Joseph and Edmond Dames, Erskin, Beltram and Edward Curry, Pastor Stafford Symonette

and George McKenzie; sisters-in-law Inez Stuart, Jessimae Ferguson, Margaret, Ruth and Betssheba Dames, Prescola Edgecombe, Lucy Symonette, Nadine and Cheryl Curry; nieces Jennive Simms, Barbara Thurston, Paula Rolle, Sandra McKenzie, Helen Forbes, Joy and Cecile Davis, Edith Johnson, Wanda Russell, Collette Sears, Colene Murray, Leta Dames, Leana Ferguson, Ruth McQueen, Lucy Davis, Savellette Reckley, Evelyn Russell, Annie McIntosh, Deborah Jones, Bridgette Stuart, Kendra Ferguson, Kenice Paul, Nareshea and Nae Adderley, Nakera Rolle, Datavia Johnson, Veronica, Monique, Shanell and Jessy Curry, Camille and Cara Symonette, Amanda Davis, Andrea and Mable Newbold; nephews Frank, John, Eddie, Tony, Paul and Jacob Curry, Cramston Symonette, Steven and Simeon Edgecombe, E.J., Edward, Ryan Williams, Elvis Jr., Kyle, Joseph and Silvan Davis, Sendarl, Wayne, James and Clay McKenzie, Ryan, Chuck and Shawn Stuart, Fredrod and Fredrico Adderley, Nickell Russell, Jayden Dames, Denvil Newbold, Sterling McKenzie and George Benaby; and many other relatives and friends.

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## People in the News

### Abaco has a new magistrate

By Jennifer Hudson

Abaco welcomes Magistrate Ancella Evans-Williams as Stipendiary Court Magistrate following the departure of Magistrate Crawford McKee, who returned to Scotland in May. Magistrate Williams arrived on Abaco on July 21 and officially took up office on July 25. Prior to her appointment to Abaco, Magistrate Williams worked in Nassau with responsibility also for Bimini and Long Island.

**M**agistrate Williams received her early education at Nassau Christian Academy and Saint John's College, Nassau. Upon graduation, she attended the College of The Bahamas where she obtained an Associate degree in history. While at the College of The Bahamas she served as President of the student body and graduated as Valedictorian of her class.

Ms. Williams pursued a degree in international studies at Union College in Schenectady, New York, completing one term abroad in Sao Paolo, Brazil, during that time. Upon completion of her degree, Ms. Williams entered the workplace for one year before deciding to study law and fulfill the dream she had always had of becoming a lawyer. She completed one year of study at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, followed by a further two years at Cave Hill, Barbados. She then obtained her Legal Education Certificate, which qualifies one to practice law at the Eugene Dupuch Law School in Nassau.

After working in private practice for a number of years, Mrs. Williams became a Magistrate in 2005. Since becoming a Magistrate, Ms. Williams has been responsible for criminal, civic and traffic offences in the extremely busy Court #6. "I enjoyed it there; it has been intellectually stimulating with never a dull moment and has provided good experience," she stated. She has also taught law in her spare time.

Magistrate Williams is looking forward to working on Abaco "Everyone is very warm and I am sure that I will enjoy working here," she added. Her hobbies include reading, writing and public speaking. "I



Magistrate Ancella Evans-Williams

love to motivate young people, and I enjoy speaking to school groups. Young people need encouraging, and we need to encourage them before they get into problems. It is possible for young people to turn their lives around," she states.

### Renardo Curry donates a computer

By Samantha V. Evans

Recently, the Progressive Liberal Party candidate for North Abaco, Renardo Curry, donated a computer to Fox Town Primary School just in time for the new school year. Mr. Curry, a young business professional himself, realizes the importance of exposing the youth to technical machines and the many great things they can do as the children prepare themselves for the work world.

Mr. Curry is a community-minded young man, who plans to make his presence felt in the community of Abaco. He is a native Abaconian and is ready to provide all his people with fair non-partisan representation. As a part of this, he plans to impact the school communities by contributing his time and resources assisting with the education of the youth of this great nation.

### Musician is promoting his albums

By Samantha V. Evans

Rodney Stuart is an Abaco-based entrepreneur who began singing in 1996 while in grade 10 on Andros. He started writing songs for personal recreation and today has written more than 200 songs, mostly gospel. He produced his first album in 2005 that was released in Freeport. The response was good and he sold many albums and gave away the rest for promotion.

Mr. Stuart moved to Abaco in 2007 and produced his second album in June 2010. The flavor of the album was positive lyrics along with reggae beats. He wanted to produce an album that encouraged people to believe in all that they do. In August 2011 after an interview with Radio Abaco, a few of his songs were played live for the public to hear. He described the experience as thrilling. The feedback was good and he received positive encouragement from the public.

This was the type of support he needed to move him forward. Now that he has had a response from the public on his album, he plans to focus more of his time promoting both albums. To do this he will perform at churches, special events and concerts.

## Viewpoint

### A plumbing inspector is needed for Abaco

By Samantha V. Evans

Abaco has a community of young professionals who are building on a consistent basis on the island. Besides this, Abaco has many second homeowners and construction projects that warrant experts in the field of construction from start to finish. Along with building a home comes many challenges such as unexpected costs, material delays and bad weather. The last thing any of these persons expect is that there would be problems with the structure of their home, electrical problems or plumbing problems.

Abaco has had a major share of shady contractual work done but now there is a new problem that has been surfacing all over the island. The problem is plumbing inspection or lack thereof. This issue was taken up with the Ministry of Works the week of August 22nd as too many residents in newly constructed homes have been having problem with indoor plumbing and septic tanks. Some of the problems encountered included poorly built septic tanks and soak-a-ways, poor plumbing work, washing machine water coming up in shower stalls, toilets backing up into showers and the like.

The question was raised with the Ministry of Works official to find out how it is that they can grant approval for work that they know was poorly done. The response given is that the Ministry of Works has been advocating to Nassau for a plumbing inspector to be assigned to Abaco for years, but they have not been taken seriously. The official stated that he has been called on numerous occasions to new homes to view poor plumbing work that results in homeowners having to get septic tanks pumped on a regular basis or having

the entire system replaced.

This level of faulty work is unacceptable and should not be allowed. According to one resident, a faulty cesspit resulted in her spending thousands of dollars to get it pumped, a well dug and a new soak-a-way built. She stated that this experience has been so bad for her and her family that she will never build again. Another person just moved into her house less than six months ago and already her cesspit is full and her soak-a-way does not work. It was so bad that her toilets were over flowing into her house. When she got a plumber to come, he stated that the septic system was so badly built that it has to be replaced. These homeowners trusted the Ministry of Works to police the work of the contractors to ensure that they were doing the work according to the Ministry of Works' standards. If they were not doing it right, Works should have them redo it. But this does not happen, not on Abaco.

Both situations were so frustrating for the homeowners but according to the Ministry of Works official, this problem happens so much that they, too, are frustrated. In fact, they get a mouthful from homeowners who have spent their hard earned money investing in a home that is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to be less than perfect.

This writer hopes that by exposing such delinquencies allowed on behalf of this Ministry will prompt the Minister in Nassau to give Abaco the same level of respect and professionalism Nassau receives. All islands of the Bahamas are important, and it is grossly unfair of the Minister to think so less of us here on the island that we are not given adequate inspectors to ensure that the investments of locals are protected.

### Boat Theft

From Page 10

morning in a small hidden harbour several miles north of Treasure Cay at Robert's Nursery by a man who was out early looking for migrating birds. Officers were on top of this case from the beginning. The crime scene unit from Marsh Harbour was notified by Chief Delancy and Officer Boyd. Detectives came quickly from Marsh Harbour and took fingerprints and blood samples from the abandoned boat. All this was accomplished by noon!

Thanks to the prompt and efficient action of the Bahamian police the motors were recovered and the culprits apprehended. We, the owners, wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to Chief Delancy, Detective Boyd, Treasure Cay Police and the Marsh Harbour Detectives. They

all worked hard and efficiently to solve this case which should go a long way toward warning other thieves that the Treasure Cay Marina and canals are guarded and protected.

We will still back any efforts to further increase security in our area.

### School

From Page 11

opened on time said Principal Myrtis Russell in spite of having lost a few desks and some books to water damage. She mentioned receiving great support from the Treasure Cay Town Committee, Kelvin Thurston, Cramston Symonette and Ryan Forbes as well as from the school support staff. She expressed her gratitude for their help and that of the workers who came to assist.

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# More Sports News

## Sports

From Page 7

boosted him up to the near top. Denver Moss took the third place.

In the 14 year to 15 year group, Jake Consulta, a first time player who drew the attention of the "pro" with a hole-in-one, claimed the first place. He was followed by Joshua Robbins and Andrew Hanna.

The annual golf clinic was sponsored by the Ritz Carlton Community Footprints program. The Community Footprints program aims at giving back to communities where the Ritz Carlton is established through educational, vocational or hands-on projects. The Chairman for the Community Footprints is the Director of Human Resources, Frederick Munnings.

Mr. Parker mentioned that he was hoping to follow up on the program by identifying a handful of skilled students among the participants of this clinic. They would continue to be trained on weekends depending on their availability. Mr. Marley will be happy to give his time as long as there is genuine interest from the trainees.

## Junior Golf Program is established on Abaco

By Canishka Alexander

Ishmael Morley, Abaco's representative of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Cul-

ture, and Golf Pro Nelson Ranger held a briefing on the establishment of the Abaco Junior Golf Program on August 8 at the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture office. Mr. Morley was especially grateful to the management and staff of the Abaco Club on Winding Bay where they had recently completed a summer golf program that had enrolled approximately 30 children.

Following Mr. Morley's remarks, Mr. Ranger expressed his excitement about the progress they have made over the past year with the planning of the junior golf program. The program was sure to instill discipline in the players. He mentioned that he had benefitted as a youth by obtaining a golf scholarship that paid his way through college.

While Mr. Morley and Mr. Ranger extended an invitation to parents who are interested in their children aged 7-17 being involved in the program, they emphasized the importance of parental involvement because golf is an expensive sport that has to be invested in. Applications are available at the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture Office in the B & L Building in Marsh Harbour.

## Holistic Camp provided Fun and Games

By Samantha V. Evans

This past summer kids had an opportunity to take part in many fun summer

activities. One of them was the Holistic Summer Camp which focused on teaching kids various skills through fun activities and games. This camp was held in Central Pines Estate. Thirty kids got an opportunity to take part in it and win lots of cool stuff. The focus of the camp was on character building, but the kids got some academic assistance during the late morning and early afternoon sessions. The students engaged in art and craft activities, outdoor

sports, video games, card games and board games. This camp exposed the kids to the different ways people learn. By exposing them to learning in a variety of ways, it increases their chances of obtaining success. The students who completed the full three week program received certificates. Special gratitude is extended to those persons who assisted by sponsoring a child. The camp was open to kids ages 4 to 12.



Twenty-eight children from Central Abaco attended a golf camp offered by the Abaco Club at Winding Bay. Since the camp this past summer, a Junior Golf Program has been organized and will be ongoing. Included in the picture are Ronald Parker, General Manager of the Abaco Club, second from left, and Ishmael Morley, center back.



At the end of the golf clinic held at the Abaco Club at Winding Bay, the top children in each age group were presented with trophies. The Hon. Charles Maynard, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, was present for the trophy presentation. He is shown third from the left.

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## Financial Fitness Plan

# Five common mistakes people make with money

By Victoria Albury

### Spending More Than You Earn

A lesson was taught to youngsters many years ago, to "live within your means." But this message has been lost in recent years. Let's get back to basics – know what we can afford, which expenses are top priority and urgently necessary. If you have too little cash left at the end of every month after basic expenses, then you need to generate more income (move back home, trade in your car, take on a second job, delay the vacation, etc) or spend less. It is simple: either cut spending or increase your income. You have to do one - or both!

### Buying Things for Social Status

Some people buy items for status instead of assets like land, house, investments

Retirement is too late to buy your first house. In your 20s buy your first piece of land. In your 30s you should have a mortgage and your own house. In your 40s start diversifying with investments and long term cash savings. By the time you are in your 50s you, should be at the end of your mortgage and planning for retirement. You want to have something to show for your hard work. So invest your money wisely. Don't waste it on status symbols which hold no real value.

### Careless Spending and Careless Borrowing

If you are a careless spender, you have to keep borrowing. This is not good. Keep close tabs on income and expenses with a budget. See where you can cut the fat and earn more green. While the thought of refinancing your existing loan for additional cash is tempting, this should be your very last source for more money. Speak with your Financial Mentor to help guide you how better to monitor spending, cut your debt and improve your overall financial picture.

### Poor Planning

Looking at your baby girl on her first birthday. You know then that there is a large expense in your future. Similarly, you know that you want to go on a cruise next year. The wedding requires medium term saving, the vacation is short term saving. Both require you to be a responsible planner. Otherwise, you fall back into the Careless Spending Mode (not saving for the short and medium term goals) and Careless Borrowing Prison (going to the bank for a planned event). You can't plan for everything; try to plan for the big money events in your life.

### Putting off Saving for Retirement

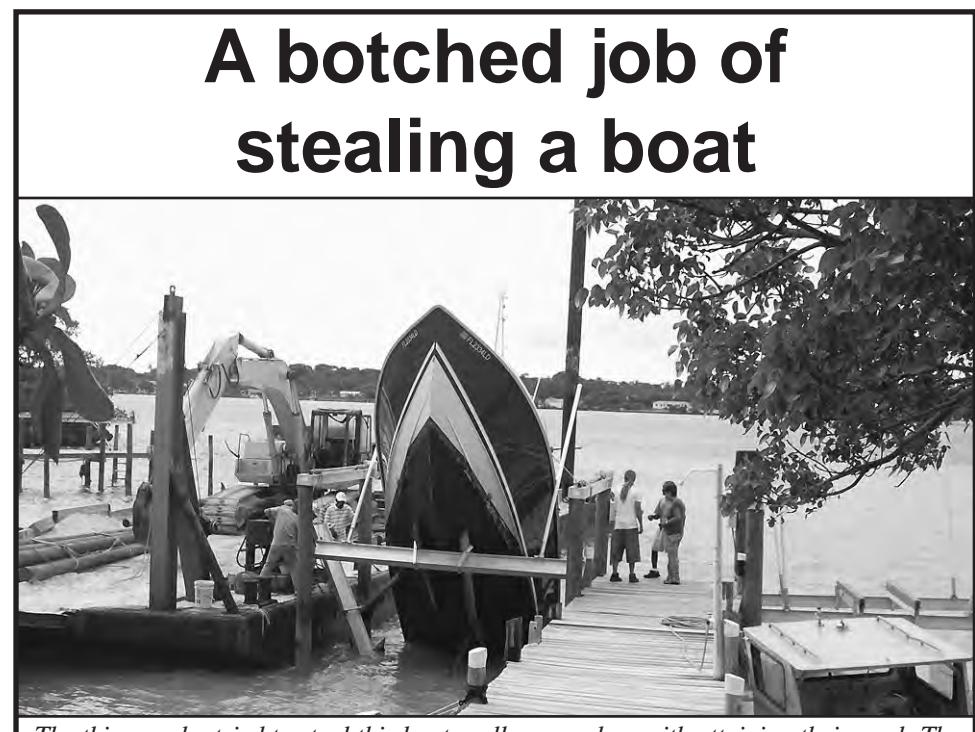
Stop fooling yourself, thinking someone will take care of you. Be proactive, save now to take care of yourself. You have worked hard; you deserve to enjoy life when you retire. Start putting money aside today. If you get a raise, take 75 percent of the increase and put it away every month. If you get a bonus, do the same. Also, do not "borrow" your retirement savings. Commit to a retirement savings program and DON'T TOUCH IT. The sooner you have retirement money saved, the sooner you can retire!

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### Shelters

From Page 6

occupants. Her team is still doing assessments to determine the needs of residents which appear to be a very tedious task. She wants residents to note that Social Services is not responsible for providing building materials. Her job is to conduct assessments and forward the information to NEMA. When the information is sent to NEMA, it will make its allocation decisions.



*The thieves who tried to steal this boat really messed up with attaining their goal. The 30-foot Jupiter had two 250 ph Yamahas. The boat was on a lift secured with a steel cable. Additionally, the boat was fastened with a stainless steel chain to make good that no one would steal it. The thieves cut through the cable and the chain on the stern of the boat, not realizing that it would immediately drop into the water and mud. The boat is owned by Raul Overstreet of Kissimmee, Florida, and was located out on the end of Pelican Shores in Marsh Harbour. The mechanics who worked on it after it was floated got the engines running later that day.*

## Prevent mosquitoes from breeding

Rain and flooding in a hurricane area may lead to an increase in mosquitoes that are most active at sunrise and sunset. Given the recent increase in cases of Dengue Fever that is transmitted by mosquitos, it is important that the public continue to rid their homes, business places and neighbourhoods of all mosquito breeding sites to prevent and control the spread of dengue fever and other mosquito borne illnesses.

Remember:

Empty all standing water in open containers both inside and outside. Do this every few days. Water can often be found collected in old appliances, left outside, in junk tires, in boats in yards or on trailers. Even the small amount of water found in dishes under flower pots is enough for mosquito larva to develop. Either empty the trays or flush them regularly with a

blast from a garden hose.

Cover or tightly close all water containers.

Empty all other containers and turn them upside down.

Seal wells, septic tanks and soak-aways properly.

Dispose of garbage properly.

Remove water in plant plates, clean and scrub the plate thoroughly to remove mosquito eggs.

Change water every two days.

Clean and scrub the inside of vases.

To protect yourself from mosquitoes, use screens on your dwellings and wear light coloured clothes with long sleeves, long pants and socks.

Insect repellents are very effective in preventing mosquito bites.

## Alcoholics Anonymous

The AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) group of Marsh Harbour meets on Mondays and Thursdays at 6:30 pm at The Marsh Harbour Community Library.

The AA group in Hope Town meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:00 pm at The Hope Town Library.

The AA and The Al-Anon group meets in the Treasure Cay Community Center on Mondays at 7:30 pm

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# Parrots Weathered Storm Well

By Timothy Roberts

Parrot biologist Caroline Stahala's initial assessment of the Abaco National Park and the resident parrots gave her confidence that the parrot population fared well with a minimum mortality rate during the passage of Hurricane Irene over the island.

She said that parrots can "ride out" hurricanes in the forest, as most birds do. "The actual hurricane is not what causes mortality for most parrots affected by hurricanes," she said. "The worst part of a hurricane is the lack of food afterwards."

The Abaco parrot relies on fruits and seeds as their food source, but after hurricanes, these are usually dropped by trees and bushes if they were not blown off. Ms. Stahala said this is when we find parrots dispersing to areas we usually don't see them. It was observed after Hurricane Frances that parrots could be seen as far as Man-O-War Cay, 50 to 60 miles north of their normal habitat. This was presumably to find food.

Once the pine forest started providing more food in the spring, Ms. Stahala said the parrots left the cays and headed back to South Abaco. "I don't know if we will see parrots on Man-O-War again after this hurricane, but I am sure we will see parrots in areas where they are usually not found, maybe up into Marsh Harbour."

Ms. Stahala was actively monitoring several nests prior to the passage of Irene and visited the nests after the storm and found that the fledglings were still alive and getting ready to leave the nest.

She said that this particular hurricane was not as wet as it could have been and the chicks were protected from high wind in these deep holes and the rain just flowed through the cavity without severely impacting them.

Ms. Stahala, who has been on Abaco for the past several months, is studying the parrots' behaviors and socialization and has been banding parrots. She will now be preparing a comprehensive assessment to provide a better understanding of the overall impact of the storm on the Abaco parrot population.



Marcus Davis, the Assistant Warden at the Abaco National Park where many Abaco parrots live, is holding a young parrot that will be banded.

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## Impact of Sea Base Scout program on our Economy

By Jennifer Hudson

Each year approximately 1500 Boy Scouts from various parts of the United States of America participate in the Sea Base High Adventure Programme which involves sailing the waters of Abaco. This is very beneficial to Abaco because between February and mid August each year while the scouts are here over \$1 million is added to our economy. One hundred scouts each week sail around Abaco in nine boats which all pay marina dockage fees, licensing and inspection fees, cruising permits and fishing fees and buy fuel. Boat yards benefit from all of the repairs required by the Sea Base boats and, apparently, this has been an especially big year for repairs, according to Kim and Steve Cansler, Sea Base boat captains.

Teenagers are noted for having healthy appetites and especially when they are out in the sea air all day. So consequently, each boat spends a great deal on groceries at our local supermarkets. The food has to be cooked and so a large slice of money goes on propane gas and a further large chunk on ice. Each boat spends a certain amount a week in petty cash for moorings

while in the cays and such treats as local bread and other treats from vendors on the cays visited. Each Scout brings with him spending money of \$300 which he spends on restaurants, souvenirs and their one big night out during their stay.

Another direct impact on the economy is that several of the Scouts are now choosing to come early and stay late so that they can enjoy even more of what Abaco has to offer. They often have their families come and join them when their week of sailing is over. The Scouts and their families then patronize the rental homes and/or hotels, restaurants and souvenir shops and some rent boats, go on dive trips and bonefishing excursions. "All the Sea Base money stays here," say Kim and Steve Cansler.

During the 28 years that Sea Base has been running this programme on Abaco, thanks to the vision of Capt. Joe Maggio, a lot of money has been pumped into Abaco's economy. There is a very beneficial rebound effect in that many of these Scouts and their families return for future holidays since they have enjoyed their Abaco experience so much.

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# Church News

## Friendship Tabernacle is community-minded

By Samantha V. Evans

For the past few years, many residents of The Bahamas and specifically Abaco have been having some tough financial times making it nearly impossible for them to maintain the way of life they had become accustomed to. One church has decided that they will not allow the recession to cause them to not remain community-minded and assist those they know are always in need of help – the elderly.

The pastor of Friendship Tabernacle Church, Rev. Dr. Silbert Mills, has remained focused on his church helping not only the senior citizens from their church but those they visit on a monthly basis and others who the church calls about on a weekly basis. Pastor Mills has called upon his church family to bring items of food into the church pantry on a weekly basis which is delivered to elderly persons every week. He believes that no matter how tough things get in society, we all have an obligation to help those in need. To add, he extended this help to include persons in the community who may have lost their jobs or may just be having hard times. The church family does not ask questions, the members just rise to the occasion and bring in their donations of non-perishable goods.

It is important for all persons who are Christians not to forget that they are their neighbors' keeper and extend a helping hand to those in need. There are many hurting people out in the Abaco community. But if everyone adopts a family or assists a family on a weekly or monthly

basis, then it will make recovering from their financial setbacks a little easier.

## Miracle Church of God goes to Baltimore

By Samantha V. Evans

Twenty-one persons from Miracle Church of God on Green Turtle Cay, five adults and 16 kids, went on a mission trip to Baltimore, Maryland, for two weeks in August. At this church Pastor Rubin McIntosh explained that they plan a mission trip every year to reward those kids who do well in school. They were going to Albury, Georgia, this year but changed their plans when one of the ladies from Inner City Mission in Baltimore was on the island staying at his house. Since Mission Baltimore always visits Abaco, they decided to visit them. The church that they connected with was Freedom Baptist Church in Baltimore. Through the lady staying with Pastor McIntosh and his family, they learned a lot about the Inner City Mission and were so impressed that they began planning the trip.

While on the trip they did a lot of things including working in a soup kitchen where they helped serve over 1200 persons, distributing book bags and school supplies to over 80 kids and interacting with 1500-2000 kids from various areas. Pastor McIntosh felt that the trip taught the kids to be more grateful for what they have and to be good persons. Some of the persons they assisted were homeless while others were having hard times. The kids were so moved by the experience that they are already planning a trip to Baltimore for next summer. Pastor McIntosh said that the

adults from the Baltimore churches commended the kids for doing a fine job on this trip.

Pastor McIntosh explained that this experience helped to reinforce all that they have been teaching the youth through church-based ministries on Green Turtle Cay. They learned the importance of having healthy relationships with their parents after they were able to see many single parents, some of whom were on drugs. They learned that a number of these kids are victims of abuse.

Pastor McIntosh is planning a local community outreach so that the kids from his church will be more visible. The money for the trip was raised through sponsorship from local government and community-minded persons. The kids ranged in age from 9 to 17 years of age.

## Church of Christ holds Bible School

By Samantha V. Evans

The Church of Christ held Vacation Bible School at the church in Marsh Harbour in mid August. The theme chosen for this event was Believe It or Not...It's in the Bible. According to Pastor Jason Quashie, he borrowed the name from Ripley's Believe it or Not because the kids do not believe that so many cool things happened in the Bible. Hence, the kids got to learn about some of those great events that took place in the Bible. There were five topics and each topic had an application that gave the young people advice on how they can make decisions that will be beneficial to their lives.

The Bible School began with 65 kids and ended with 116. Pastor Quashie stated that the Bible School has always open to teenagers but this year they had the best attendance ever by teens. On the last day parents were invited to the closing ceremony when the kids performed and received certificates and awards.

For the past four years this VBS has been assisted by Grandville Avenue Church of Christ in Richardson, Texas. Twelve adults facilitated the classes assisted by local church members. These adults represented a cross section of careers such as teachers, engineers, lawyers and doctors, which made them further qualified to facilitate sessions with kids. Pastor Quashie described this Bible School as the most successfully attended one ever.

The Church of Christ has scheduled exciting events monthly. The first event is the fellowship service which takes place the last Sunday of the month that features a special speaker. This is followed by a meal. Pastor Quashi stated that it serves as a community outreach effort to feed both the soul and body. Also monthly the church has a Marriage Social where couples have an opportunity to talk about issues and fellowship together. Finally, over the Discovery weekend beginning October 12th the church will host its sixth annual Men's Retreat at Camp Abaco. Speakers will come from across The Bahamas and a few from the United States. The theme for the event will be Foundation Builders.

## 7th Day Adventists have a new pastor

By Samantha V. Evans

On January 1 Pastor Ashton McFall began his tenure on Abaco with responsibility for Marsh Harbour Seventh Day Adventist Church and the church in Crossing Rocks. Pastor McFall came to Abaco from Andros, the first church that he has pastored. He is excited to be on Abaco. He feels that he has met a solid foundation in place at the main church in Marsh Harbour and he will do what he can to take it to higher heights.

He has begun several programs for the Marsh Harbour church. First, they now have a soup kitchen that operates every other Thursday taking soup to the elderly and needy. They also serve those persons who come into the kitchen in need of a hot meal. Secondly, they have several evangelism efforts where they go out into the community to share the gospel. He has formed several small groups for Bible study. Next, the Pathfinders youth program meets on Sundays at the church. Finally, the church has a clothing drive where they collect clothing from members of the community to distribute to those in need.

Pastor McFall is all about making a difference in the community. The church's teaching ministry is thriving and in the coming months it will sponsor health programs. Earlier in the year the church held a health program at the church to educate the community about the importance of living a healthy life style. Additionally, they educate the community about stewardship so that they can spend money wisely.

Pastor McFall welcomes anyone to worship with them as the doors of the church are always open.

## Zion Baptist Church is active

By Samantha V. Evans

Zion Baptist Cathedral has had an active calendar year as the members continue to work hard not only to save lives but to empower the residents of the surrounding communities. Pastor Christopher Dean is pleased that his church is active year-long. Earlier this year the Men's Ministry held its 19th Anniversary with three days of activities. The theme of the event was Rediscovering Morality.

In March the ladies held their conference under the theme Sought Out but Not Forsaken.

A special Leaders Appreciation Week was held in April when 13 outstanding leaders were honored and presented with plaques. During the month of July, the Pastoral 8th Anniversary Service was held at the church.

The church plans its annual Youth Celebration of Praise to be held September 21-25. The youth Pastor is Leroy Thompson. On October 26 to 28 the members will have their Marriage Conference.

Pastor Dean encourages the youth to put God first.

## MUST SELL

### Great Guana Cay

Colonial style commercial building known as Art Cafe situate in the vicinity of the public dock in the settlement of Guana Cay. Appraised \$656,000



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### Marsh Harbour

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### Marsh Harbour

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### Crossing Rocks

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# The Abaco Rage sails on

By Timothy Roberts

When it comes to sailing, there are not many sloops better known than the Abaco Rage. She is a source of pride and an icon of Abaco boat building, but she's faces challenges going forward.

Despite the challenges, there is a group of sailors and admirers who will do whatever they can to ensure the legendary Class A sloop continues to sail into the future. A small group of dedicated men, the team that ensures her future readiness and crew, the Abaco Rage Sailing Syndicate (ARSS) continues to keep her going.

Stafford Patterson, secretary of the syndicate, said, "To me, the Rage represents the best of Man-O-War's shipbuilding industry of the past in that she was built in the traditional way (no plans), designed to perform in a certain way (which she certainly did) and was built so well by the Man-O-War men that she is still in (semi) competitive shape today almost 32 years later."

Built in 1980 on Man-O-War, the Rage did not take long to make her presence known, winning consecutive titles in 1983 and 1984 at the Out Island Regatta. She continued her success throughout the decade with second place finishes in 1987 and 1990.

However, the Man-O-War team (then owners) decided to call it quits, parking her in retirement on Man-O-War, a victim of rising costs and falling enthusiasm for the rigors and demands of the distant regatta in far off George Town, Exuma.

She languished for seven years before a group from Hope Town took it upon themselves to restore her and race her once again. Fund raisers were held, repairs were made and materials were scrounged. She was finally ready to race again.

Since then The Rage has competed in numerous races with varying degrees of success. Mr. Patterson, also a captain, said that The Rage is not competitive on a national scale anymore because she is now almost 32 years old, and there are several boats with newer hulls that are faster. He said this has discouraged some people from

continuing with the program because they know from experience "we are gonna end up mid pack."

On top of keeping a motivated crew, they also face challenges raising enough money to maintain and campaign her in the local regattas, but "we have some crew that have been on board since we first got her who are really dedicated to seeing her through her entire career, whatever that may be."

He explained that The Rage needs about a 12-person crew to sail. With the economy the way it is, to sail in the George Town Regatta requires six to seven days off work for the crew, and they have to pay their own way, food and board which is not cheap.

He said that presently they have about six crew who will travel – which is enough to sail the Lonesome Dove (their Class B sloop) – but they need another six motivated people who are willing to pay to go and who want to see nothing but our best performance as a team.

John Bull sponsored The Rage from 2005 – 2008 allowing her to continue to sail in at least two Bahamian work boat regattas a year, upgrade their sails as well as maintain the hull bottom. "And for that we are forever thankful," Mr. Patterson said.

The Syndicate puts together at least two fund raisers each year to offset expenses, selling food, drinks and t-shirts. It costs about \$10,000 to campaign The Rage in a Regatta such as George Town or Long Island.

Presently, Mr. Patterson said, "We will haul The Rage out from August till mid December. Then after having done annual hull maintenance and bottom painting, we will launch and participate in the Hope Town Sailing Club's 2012 winter sailing series of races from the 26 – 28 of December.

Next year the Syndicate is planning to take The Rage to George Town "if we can get the additional crew. We know we will have the six there to sail the Dove, just need the additional six or so..."

"We have not sailed her nationally in two years now," he said. They are getting requests to bring her back to compete. "So let's take her back in 2012 with a crew that will know going in that we are probably gonna end up mid pack, but so what! You had the experience of sailing in the National Championship for A Class work boats in The Bahamas which is quite a unique experience to say the least."

He added that if the boat is down in Exuma, "Why not send it over to Long Island for their Regatta in a month."

Mr. Patterson believes it is inevitable at some time that a national regatta will return to Abaco as long as sailing remains the national sport of The Bahamas. There

has not been one on Abaco since 2004; an attempt at it in 2005 "ended in disaster."

The current regattas have three classes of work boat competing: 28-foot A Class (such as the Abaco Rage), 21-foot B Class (such as the Lonesome Dove) and a smaller 17-foot C Class (Abaco does not have a boat in this category).

He said the C Class "may be the wave of the future. By far this class has the most boats at the nationals, about 30 compared to about 10/12 A boats and 14/16 B boats." He said they want to build a new C boat and a new A boat, too. But money and time are a huge constraint.



*The Abaco Rage, built in Man-O-War, has won her share of races in the work boat regattas held in many of the Family Islands. She is now owned by a group in Hope Town. However, the newer boats in the work boat competitions have faster hulls, meaning that The Rage will not be in the top winning group. Now she races only in local races.*

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## The Bahamas Flats

*Editor's note: Jesse Ratiner is a 12-year-old boy who wrote the following story for his Language Arts class. It tells about his experience of catching his first bonefish when he was five years old. Captain Ody is O'Donald McIntosh of Cooper's Town.*

By Jesse Ratiner

I still remember my first time bonefishing in The Bahamas flats. I had never seen anything like it: the flat water and the fish just swimming around so abundantly. This experience left such a big impression on my life.

After arriving at the flats in an old beat-up car, we met our captain, Ody. In the background was a brackish flat, ranging from one to ten feet in depth. It was closed in by islands with trees that looked identical to each other. As we went down the dock, I saw the small, old, blue boat that we would be fishing on. I slowly got on and leaned over the side of the boat to catch the sight of blue crab under the sand. It moved, so I saw its blue body and its darker claws. I was suddenly startled by a thumping sound, but it was only the engine, not the best, but still, we got moving.

The wind blowing in my face felt good after getting cooked at the dock. Feeling a sudden halt from the boat, I figured the engine had finally given up until I heard Captain Ody tell me to put my Polaroid glasses on and to cast the line in the water. Once my glasses were on, everything became more visible; it was like all the fish had magically appeared. Throwing my lure out, I saw shadows racing across my eyes: bonefish?

On my second cast, I threw it in another school, except this time I reeled a rotation slowly, then I jerked the rod. I saw the slack on my line leave with a sudden tug. The excitement went down my back until I finally jerked the rod in the air to set the hook. I slowly lowered the rod while I reeled the slack in. The silver blob slowly transformed into a bonefish.

Once Captain Ody reached my side of the boat, he swiftly grabbed the fish's tail, then the head, lifting it out of the water while I grabbed it as fast as I could, as though I would never fish again. The bonefish looked like a silver bullet with a pink mouth, angling down for eating bottom crawlers, and black markings along its back. It felt wide and smooth in my hands when I grabbed it from the end of the line. When I saw the size of my fish, I felt proud and eager to catch another. My dad was so impressed that he measured it and took a picture of my prize.

Once I heard the click of the camera, I slowly lowered the fish into the water and saw it race away for its life. The day I went out fishing in The Bahamas flats left such a big imprint on my life, and I wish I could relive this experience every day. As a memory of my experience, I now have a mounted version of my bonefish hanging on the wall in my room.



Five-year-old Jesse Ratiner was so excited when he caught his first bonefish that all he could do was grab it and hug it. His father was there to take the picture.

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## McPhee sentenced to life in prison for murder of Abaco man

On September 5 Shavardo McPhee, 19, was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of Brendon Dion Strachan. Strachan, who worked as a cashier, was gunned down during an armed robbery at M & R Food Store on November 27, 2008.

McPhee was convicted four months ago with his co-accused Lavardo Rahming, 26, who absconded during the trial in May. Initially, McPhee and Rahming were charged with three others. Dario Mills, 24, and Jermaine Russell, 22, were both charged with conspiracy to commit armed robbery while Calvin Edgecombe, 24, faced charges of murder and armed robbery and two counts of possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Although the prosecution dismissed the

charge against Mills, and the case against Edgecombe was dropped in exchange for his becoming a witness for the Crown, a jury returned with a 7-5, non verdict against Russell, who is on \$30,000 bail. Russell will learn if the matter will be retried when he returns to court on December 1.

Acting Chief Justice Hartman Longley handed down a life sentence to McPhee, who will also have to spend eight years on the armed robbery account. The sentences will run concurrently. McPhee, who was 16 when he committed the offence, was not eligible to receive the death penalty; however, Rahming, now a fugitive, does qualify for the death penalty.

## BNT Plans to Expand Discovery Clubs on Abaco

By Samantha V. Evans

The Bahamas National Trust (BNT) has been in existence in the Bahamas since the late 1950s and it has done an excellent job teaching Bahamians how to better care for the environment. The chapter of the Trust on Abaco is still fairly new but with the help of Friends of the Environment, it has been teaching this community about the importance of caring for the environment as well.

To assist the Trust staff with reaching the younger population, Friends of the Environment launched the Trust's Discovery Club program on Abaco. The mission of this programme is to conserve and protect the natural resources of The Bahamas through stewardship and education for present and future generations.

Students from several Abaco private schools have joined the Discovery Club and now the Trust is focusing on the government schools by encouraging teachers to spearhead the program.

Shakara Lightbourne, coordinator of the Discovery Clubs, and Kaderin Mills, Office Manager of BNT for Abaco, are hoping schools will launch the program with the new school year. BNT will provide all of the start-up material for the schools. The only thing they will have to do is execute the program. Students must pay the registration fee which includes badges, a

T-shirt and insurance. The Trust will look for local sponsors to subsidize some of the registration fees and provide school coordinators with opportunities to raise funds to help offset fees.

Ms. Mills noted that the Discovery Clubs open many doors for students to develop skills and talents while they learn about the environment. Students benefit from the program by visiting other islands and clubs, watching a live shark feed, swimming with dolphins, attending seminars on environmental concerns and going on local field trips. They will learn about marine and terrestrial life.

Ms. Mills stated that Abaco has six parks that many adults are not aware of: Walker's Cay National Park in the north, Black Sound Cay National Reserve off Green Turtle Cay, Tiloo Cay Reserve, Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park and Abaco National Park, the major habitat of the Bahama parrot. This offers children many local opportunities about learning to preserve their environment. Since these parks are also a draw for visitors, the Trust works with the Ministry of Tourism to educate the community about all of the beauty it contains. In addition, the children's involvement in the Discovery Club will expose them to career opportunities in environmental areas, ecotourism and sciences.

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# Marine research students present their findings

By Jennifer Hudson

Three marine research students recently returned to Abaco to continue the research projects they have been working on for the past several years. Elizabeth Stoner and Lauren Yeager are both Ph.D. students who work in the lab of Dr. Craig Layman at Florida International University. Jake Allgeier is also a Ph. D. student from the University of Georgia who works on projects along with Professor Layman. The three students presented their most recent findings in power point presentations at a meeting in the Friends of the Environment Conference room to a very interested audience of Friends of the Environment members and staff, and officials from the Bahamas National Trust and Department of Fisheries.

## Upside Down Jellyfish

Elizabeth Stoner presented on the *Cassiopea* Jellyfish which is very commonly found in Florida and The Bahamas in sandy areas and sea grass beds. It is also known as the Upside Down Jellyfish as it lives upside down on the bottom. Elizabeth studied 10 human population density sites where she looked at the human distribution, number of buildings and boats and found that *Cassiopea* jellyfish populations are much higher in high human density sites. They are not only more abundant but also much larger. Nutrient concentrations in these areas are also greater. Little Harbour was the area in which they were found to be most prevalent with a very high volume at Cherokee and Treasure Cay. She also researched Blue Holes since she believes that they are a potential source of nutrients for organisms living around them and

found there to be a greater density of these jellyfish around Blue Holes. Her main work last summer was a jellyfish manipulation study.

Elizabeth ended her presentation on the subject of marine preservation and offered a couple of suggestions as to what we can do to curb the proliferation of these jellyfish.

1. Prevent point source pollution by not allowing sewage into the water and making sure that septic tanks are not leaking since the effluent seeps into the porous limestone and eventually into the sea.

2. Curb overfishing.

3. Decrease sedimentation.

"It is important to try to prevent nutrients from entering the water," she stated.

## Seagrass Seascapes

Lauren Yeager has been studying Seagrass Seascapes and their Effect on Coral Reefs. "Coral reefs are very important; there is a high connectivity between seagrass, mangroves and coral reef systems," she informed. In her research Lauren discovered that fish make daily foraging migrations and move between the ecosystems and there is a transportation of nutrients from seagrass beds to coral reefs. She experimented with different seascapes and built artificial reefs from concrete blocks placing 10 in the Bight of Old Robinson to ascertain how these would impact the fish communities. She found that where there was more seagrass there were more fish and that not all species respond in the same way. This first study was to show that seagrass is important for reef fish and that changes in the cover of seagrass can negatively impact reef fish communities.

## Overfishing and nutrient pollution

In his study Jake Allgeier looked at the implications of over fishing and nutrient pollution for coastal food webs in The Bahamas. He found that in The Bahamas, the water is very nutrient limited. The two main sources of nutrients are rivers and deep sea upwelling. Fish provide a substantial amount of nutrients through excretion and this enhances seagrass growth. He discovered that Cross Harbour, an important ecological area in South Abaco, is the

most nutrient limited area. After studying areas where there is dense human population and thus few fish against areas which are sparsely populated and therefore rich in fish, he found that where there are more fish, more nutrients are going into the system. He has set up an experiment to study algal growth by forming an artificial reef and setting up a system whereby fertilizer releases nitrogen and phosphorus into the water. In his newest experiment he is looking at the question Can human nutrients make up for a lack of nutrients from fish?

## Sidewalks along Forest Drive are taking shape



Sidewalks are being constructed along Forest Drive. Children attending the two largest schools on Abaco walk on this busy road so sidewalks will provide a measure of safety for these children. The work is being done by John Williams of Williams Construction.

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