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Search and rescue was topic of seminar

U.S. Coast Guard instructed civil servants and volunteers

By Mirella Santillo

A Search and Rescue (SAR) workshop was held in Marsh Harbour at Abaco Beach Resort between June 11 to 15. The presentation was to better acquaint the various organizations involved in rescue work with their colleagues and with their U.S. counterparts. The focus was primarily directed to those involved in maritime operations.

The five days of meetings also gave Coast Guard personnel, U.S. Embassy staff and the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve an opportunity to work with and meet those whom they often deal with, although these encounters are usually impersonal radio or phone contacts.

A variety of topics was presented in general terms. The intent was not to teach all the details of safe boating but to expose those present to the best use of available resources, to maximize successful results and to minimize problems.

Abaco has a wealth of volunteer organizations which operate mostly as anonymous

Please see **Seminar** Page 4



The U.S. Embassy in Nassau organized a seminar for police officers and volunteer services that are involved in search and rescue operations, instructing the group on organizing, practices, safety, responsibilities, methods of assessing risk and cooperation between various agencies. About 30 attended the five-day course. It was held at Abaco Beach Resort on June 11-15. Many volunteers were unable to attend because it was held during the day when they were working.

Passport requirements for U.S. citizens are relaxed

The United States is providing temporary travel flexibility to U.S. citizens who have applied for a passport but have not yet received them. The ruling allows US citizens traveling by air to Canada, Mexico, the Bahamas, Bermuda and the Caribbean who have applied for passports but not yet received them to temporarily enter and depart from the United States with a government-issued photo identification in addition to proof that a passport application has been made. The flexibility ruling is presently

extended to September 30th, 2007. Children under 16 years will be allowed to travel using only a child's proof of ID. Those who have not yet applied for a passport will not be accommodated. Those travelers without passports will probably be subject to increased security checks.

The passport rule put into effect earlier this year has clearly had an adverse impact on travel to The Bahamas. First quarter visitor arrivals from the United States to

Please see **Passport** Page 23

Reception honours Pathfinders recipients



Ten new recipients were named to receive scholarships from the Abaco Pathfinders Foundation earlier this spring. They were honoured at a reception held at Abaco Beach Resort on June 3. As long as they maintain good grades, they will receive the scholarships until they complete their course of study. Approximately 70 students have been assisted since the foundation was formed. The scholarships are for academic studies as well as technical and vocational courses.

By Jennifer Hudson

Congratulations to the ten new Abaco Pathfinders Scholarship winners for 2007. The scholarship recipients were honoured at a reception at Below Decks at the Abaco Beach Resort on June 3 when

they were presented with their scholarship certificates.

These young people were recently selected from a large number of applicants

Please see **Pathfinders** Page 2

Treasure Cay Marina hosts billfish tournament



Two billfish were brought to the dock for weighing in the 24th annual Treasure Cay Billfish Tournament held on June 10-15. Forty-one billfish were caught during four days of fishing by 32 entrants. Shown here is Skipper Austin Burr with his crew who won second place on Ohana. See story on page 6.

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Ten students are assisted in further education

Pathfinders From Page 1

who were deemed outstanding by the interviewing committee. The recipients will be going to colleges both at home and abroad this coming fall, thanks to the generosity of individuals and businesses in the Abaco community.

Two of the recipients attended the S.C. Bootle High School, five attended Abaco Central High School and three attended Forest Heights Academy. Six of them will



Bradley Albury, a graduate of Forest Heights Academy, was presented with the Monty Albury Award for Excellence for his outstanding academic record. This is the first year it was awarded but it will be an annual event honouring an outstanding student. This first award went to Monty's son. Michael Albury, left, is presenting the plaque to Bradley.

be studying at the College of the Bahamas in Nassau, three will be attending colleges in the United States and one will study in Puerto Rico. The scholarship recipients for 2007 are Devonnya Russell, Kettlyne Durosca, Tajah Deveaux, Andre Singh, Latonia King, Nickesia Jones, Cheynea Turnquest, Ashley Knowles and Christine Fleurimond, and Naason Sands.

Mr Michael Albury, Chairman of the Abaco Pathfinders Scholarship Foundation who presented the certificates to the recipients, admonished them to appreciate the gifts they have been given. "Abaco Pathfinders tries to make a difference in the lives of those who need it and people donate to Abaco Pathfinders because they see the standard of the students, their grades and low dropout rate," he stated. He asked these young students not to forget Abaco Pathfinders when they themselves are one day out in the world making money.

Mrs. Leazona Richard, who is the new Executive Director of the Abaco Pathfinders Scholarship Foundation, welcomed everyone to the seventh Abaco Pathfinders reception and stated that she is looking forward to working with Abaco Pathfinders which to date has already helped approximately 70 young people. "Now your good grades are being rewarded," she told the recipients.

A message from Mr. Jim Blumberg, past Chairman of the Abaco Pathfinders Scholarship Foundation and present Chairman of the Endowment Committee,

was read in which he stated how much he wished he could be there at the highlight of the year for Abaco Pathfinders. He mentioned a new award which is being presented for the first time this year. "This is the Monty Albury award for excellence and is presented at the judgment of the Board of Directors. No honour can exceed being recognized in this way. By happy coincidence the first ever to be honored is Bradley Albury, son of Monty Albury."

In addition to a plaque which he will keep, Bradley's name has been placed on the floating trophy which will be awarded annually to the student who has excelled to the highest degree. Bradley was not the recipient of a scholarship since the scholarships are awarded to students with the greatest financial need but he so impressed the entire interviewing panel with his character and academic achievements that he was deemed the worthiest recipient of this new trophy.

Mr. Michael Albury stated how great it is to see the confidence of the second-year students who have already completed one year away. They were asked to give words of advice to the new recipients who will be leaving home for the first time this year. Reenell Lowe, who will be a junior studying

nursing at Palm Beach Atlantic University this coming fall, encouraged the new college students to, "Be determined to remain true to yourself and what you were taught. It will be challenging, but keep God first and he will get you through."

Words of advice from several other seasoned students included, "You need friends and study but choose your friends wisely. Look for people who are progressing to be your friends, not those who hang out under the tree. Procrastination is your worst enemy, do not put off studying until the last minute. Become involved in extra-curricular activities on campus. Do not try to do too much at first or you will crash. Stay focused."

The new recipients were reminded by Mrs. Richard that they must keep up their grades in order to retain their scholarships throughout the entire four years of their course. "You see how proud your parents are of you today, keep them proud."

Ashley Knowles, new scholarship recipient who is graduating from Forest Heights Academy and will be attending Florida Southern College in the fall, expressed the feeling of all of the new recipients when she said, "I am nervous but excited."

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U.S. Embassy sponsored search and rescue

Seminar From Page 1

bodies in loose association with companion groups as events move into other jurisdictions or require additional assistance.

The workshop was not geared to the general public but to members and management of those organizations directly affected in SAR operations. These included BASRA, the Royal Bahamas Police Force, the Royal Bahamas Defense Force, EMS personnel, Red Cross members, fire fighters, government representatives and some individuals such as marina staff who might be the first to receive a distress call.

One of the instructors, Mr. Eduardo Burbank, Flotilla Commander with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary in Miami, summarized the goal of the training: preparedness. "If people are prepared, there will not be a need for search and rescue."

Under the auspices of the United States Embassy in Nassau, the SAR seminar was organized by Lt. Michael Freddie, Coast Guard Liaison Officer, and 1st Lt. Armand Randolph, a Navy Liaison Officer, both based at the US Embassy in Nassau. They invited members of the organizations to participate and coordinated the project with Abaco's Urban Renewal Director, Mrs. Elaine Martinborough.

The purpose of this gathering, said Lt. Freddie, a graduate of the Coast Guard Academy, "is to learn from each other, of thinking of how best we can respond to search and rescue cases and to ensure that the workshop remains interactive." He explained that although he had sailed six of the seven seas, his main career was law enforcement; hence, the reason why he had brought experts to conduct the SAR training.

The first expert, Lt. Randolph, explained that his job was to put together events such as this seminar. A former history teacher, he was a member of the US Air Force Reserve and is now a Navy Liaison officer.

The next expert, Coast Guard Auxiliary Lieutenant Burbank, said, "I hope that I can contribute to the SAR seminar with my expertise. The main objective is education of boaters to eliminate, as much as possible, SAR operations."

The last expert was Mr. Michael Walker with Homeland Security, a retired Coast Guard officer who came out of retirement in 2003. He works in the Command Center in Miami. He previously served as a rescuer in the Arctic Sea as well as in law enforcement. From the center in Florida, he coordinates with people in The Bahamas as necessary. "SAR and law enforcement are very timely issues," he stated.

Mr. Dennis Lightbourn, Commodore of Bahamas Air Sea Rescue Association (BASRA) for five years in Nassau who recently moved to Abaco, was asked to talk about BASRA. After explaining the scope and functioning of that organization, he ended by saying, "I hope that we use this opportunity to get to know each other and exchange information."

The first presentation reviewed the boat handling course which is mandatory in Canada and 30 US states before obtaining a boat operator's license. It was mentioned that there are few requirements in The Bahamas for pleasure boat operation and a 16-year-old can put a 200 HP engine on a bath tub and go to sea.

"Safe boating is no accident," insisted presenter Lt. Burbank. The objective was to stress the importance of boating safety. The captain's duty, he reminded the participants,

is to check the weather before a planned boat trip, to brief the passengers, make sure there are life jackets fitting everyone on board and to insist that people wear them before leaving.

One of the session dealt with media relations in case of an emergency. Lt. Armand Randolph, who worked as Public Relations Affairs Officer and Search and Rescue Coordinator in Rhode Island, outlined the rules to a successful relationship with the media. The media, radio in particular, is often used to expand search capabilities, particularly for overdue boats.

At one point during the week those present were divided into four groups and, without instructions, were given sketchy information which was overheard, not a direct call, from a boat in distress. After a

few minutes the group returned with their course of action. To their surprise, the exercise was not on responding to the apparent boat in distress but rather how the group interacted among themselves and handled the information they had.

Mr. Dennis Lightbourn asked the audience about the possibility of another seminar to be organized by BASRA and received a positive response. However, before they meet again, he asked that participants bring a list of three things:

- the communication resources of their group: phone, radio, satellite, ham operators, etc.
- human and equipment resources available,

Please see **Seminar** Page 5



The U.S. Embassy in Nassau sponsored a five-day session on marine search and rescue administrative organization, techniques, safety precautions and the need for cooperation between the various organization. Three of the presenters, Mr. Eduardo Burbank, Flotilla Commander with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in Miami; Mr. Michael Walker with Homeland Security; and 1st Lt. Armand Randolph, a Navy Liaison Officer, review their notes for their presentations. A simulated rescue with a helicopter had been scheduled but had to be called off.

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Seminar From Page 4

Ingraham talks of Abaco projects

By Julian Lockhart

It has been six weeks since the Free National Movement won back the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham, has been busy setting his cabinet and working out the new budget.

Mr. Ingraham was in Green Turtle Cay for a reception honoring Mrs. Anne Bootle, who is retiring as principal of Amy Roberts Primary School.

However, as busy as the prime minister and the FNM may be with Central Government business Mr. Ingraham has not forgotten his home town or his constituency of North Abaco. Mr. Ingraham said on June 16 that the renovations and improvements to the Marsh Harbour airport are to come very soon. Abaco has been promised a new runway, terminal and air traffic control facility for years and the former government, the Progressive Liberal Party, started to make some headway before they were voted out in May. The new prime minister promises it will not take long before major work starts.

Mr. Ingraham said, "It is only been six weeks. We are going to do major work to the airport in Marsh Harbour. The government is undertaking a review of the scope of work, only to determine the adequacy of it for the next 20 years or so. We are certainly going to put in a new runway, a completely new terminal facility, air traffic control facility and increased parking facilities. This will happen very soon, very soon, very soon," he added.

There were a number of things promised to Abaco during the 2007 campaign and Mr. Ingraham said the airport is only the first of those promises to be delivered. On the agenda is the refurbishment and building of the public schools in Abaco as well as mak-



ing sure e a c h school is properly

have four classrooms even though they have six classes. We are going to have discussions with Mr. Randy Sawyer, who owns the land adjacent to the school and seek to arrange with him to exchange a piece of his land for a piece of Government land. This way we can build some additional classrooms in Green Turtle Cay and also cause that facility to be used as a hurricane shelter here in this community. Physical work won't start until next year, but that is what we will start working on now here in Green Turtle Cay," the Prime Minister concluded.

equipped in preparing the future generation with equipment, books and trained and qualified teachers.

Mr. Ingraham said, "First of all, we will cause the school in Hope Town to be completed. The children in Hope Town have been out of their school building for one whole school year. We will cause that to be completed and for them to return to their school. Here in Green Turtle Cay they only

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including expertise or special abilities and specialized equipment

- physical area of responsibility or comfort zone

In retrospect, several Abaco areas with high levels of search and rescue events were not represented. It is on the waters of the cays with their higher level of boating activity where more routine and serious search and rescue operations take place. The organizations on the cays, Elbow Cay, Man-O-War Cay, Guana Cay and Green Turtle Cay, tend to follow their island heritage and operate as self-sufficient groups with minimal outside help. This insular attitude in this instance was further fostered by their not being advised of the program by those responsible in Marsh Harbour. Then there is the boat expense of \$20-\$30 for fuel plus a taxi for those on the cays. Lastly, all the volunteer organizations are staffed by persons with work responsibilities, whether on the mainland or on the cay. A few of the volunteers are retired or are second-home owners who do not have job responsibilities. The workshop was heavily represented by various government employees who can be assigned to participate by their respective departments or agencies.

The facilitators were able to spend two hours in Hope Town one afternoon with their counterparts there. A representative from Man-O-War attended the first session and a Guana Cay representative for BASRA met one of the presenters at an unrelated evening social function in Marsh Harbour.

In closing, Mr. Walker stated how impressed he was with the amount of volunteer participation available on Abaco.



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Fishing tournaments draw big boats

Treasure Cay Resort Billfish Tournament

By Mirella Santillo

The 24th Treasure Cay Resort and Marina Billfish Tournament ended on June 15th. One of many fishing tournaments that took place this year, it was well attended with 32 boats participating.

The largest fish caught this year was a 584-pound blue marlin with its bill missing, a rare occurrence. The fish, which measured 117.5 inches, was caught by Mr. Chris Alvarez, who was taking part in the tournament for the third time in a row on the *Sea Hunter*. The fish was caught approximately 15 miles off Whale Cay. He said that it took him about one and a half hours to bring his catch on board.

A close second largest was another blue marlin measuring 116.5 inches and weighing 575 pounds which was brought in by 16-year-old Austin Burr on the *Ohana*, also in the Treasure Cay's tournament for the third year. The *Ohana* placed second in the billfish category, and Austin Burr placed third top angler, but his catch won him the title of top junior angler. The top boat in the billfish category was the *Juel Marie*. *Masque* came third and *Zulu Canu* placed fourth.

In the non-billfish category the largest dolphin was caught by Nicol Ribeiro on *It's Time*. The fish weighed 38.2 pounds, a good size for a dolphin. Mrs. Kathy Higgins on the *Holy Mackerel* from Stuart, Florida, also brought in a fairly good sized 28.5-pound dolphin that she caught just North of Treasure Cay. Mark Schwartz on *Masque* came back with a 46.7-pound tuna.

Over the four days of fishing, a total of 30 blue marlin and ten white marlin were

caught. Mr. Robert Meister, president of the resort, commented that the tournament was "as good as the previous years, if not better. Almost every boat caught fish," he said.

The participants of the Treasure Cay Resort and Marina Billfish tournament have always been generous towards the community of Treasure Cay and this year was no exception. They raised \$1600 for the



A blue marlin without a bill. That's what Chris Alvarez brought to the dock in the Treasure Cay Billfish Tournament.

Treasure Cay Fire Department and \$3000 for the Treasure Cay Primary School

Sea Spray Hosted Billfish Tournament

Sea Spray Resort hosted the Seventh Annual Sea Spray Restaurant and Marina Billfish Blast on April 30 through May 4. The tournament featured three days of fishing for all species. Eleven billfish were brought to the boat before being released. The largest fish brought to the dock was a dolphin. Eight boats competed for the grand prize of a one week vacation on Elbow Cay.

The first place winner was *Island Retriever*, the only local boat belonging to a second homeowner on Lubber's Quarter, that was captained by Robbie Robinson. He won the prize consisting of a one-week vacation with accommodation, a boat rental, golf cart rental and round trip airfare all included. Capt. Robinson donated it to the Every Child Counts school for special students. Second place went to *Mary T* with Capt Steve Courteaux and Mary Courteaux.

The tournament is a fun-filled family affair with parties nightly, lots of good food and drink, live performances, music by the Hope Town Islanders and even included a Junkanoo rush.

The sponsors of the tournament are Abaco Petroleum, Vintage Props and Jets and Burns House.

4th Leg of the BBC

By Julian Lockhart

Cerveza went into the fourth leg of the 2007 Billfish Championship presented by Rolex in third place in the overall standings, but left Treasure Cay in first place after a poor showing by the two leaders and an adequate performance by themselves. The Treasure Cay Championship was the fourth

of five legs of the BBC held June 4-8 and the series of tournaments will conclude June 18-22 with the Boat Harbour Championships at the Abaco Beach and Boat Harbour Marina in Marsh Harbour.

After two strong legs in Harbour Island and then the Central Abaco Championship in Treasure Cay, *Cerveza* tailed off a bit at the Treasure Cay Championship, but did better than the two leading yachts to pull into a slight lead for first place.

The top three yachts are so closely packed that it is anybody's championship to win once the lines are cast in the fifth leg at the Boat Harbour Championship.

After tallying 1,300 points in the fourth leg *Cerveza* now has 6,500 points and has taken a 100-point lead over previous leader *Fa-La-Me*, who sits in second with 6,400 points and is only 300 points ahead of third place yacht *Miss Annie*, who has 6,200 points.

Championship director Al Behrendt said the BBC is not decided until the final tournament. He added that it is a horse race right now, as it is every year.

Heads Up had only 100 points after the first two tournaments but has made up ground quickly over the last two tournaments to sit in fourth with 5,700 points.

After three unspectacular legs *Ultra* finally started hooking some big boys as they finished with 3,100 points, winning the Treasure Cay Championship and putting themselves in contention for the overall crown with 4,700 points going into the fifth leg.

Even with a nonproductive first day, team *Ultra* managed to put together three strong

Please see **Tournaments** Page 25.



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The Editor Says Possible changes for Local Govt.



• Budgets allocated to local government must be meaningful and correspond to a better degree with the economic and social activity in a district. As communities change and grow, the need for services increases and must be funded accordingly.

• The system must encourage competent local persons to nominate, be elected and then conduct local affairs in an open and business-like atmosphere. It is generally agreed that throughout the Family Islands the first three years of Local Government was very successful.

However, many very competent people would not stay in the system because of frustrations. These resulted from a lack of support from Nassau or local agencies of Central Government. Adequate funding was not always available to accomplish the work expected. Local decisions were often over-ridden by Nassau.

• There is opportunity for various local government councils, committees and boards on Abaco to cooperate together for their common good. The Local Government Act suggests that they do this but there is no requirement to do so. This would allow solutions to be shared and give a united front when requesting government's help or advice.

• An example of a creative solution is the way Marsh Harbour handles roadside mowing, roadside trash pickup and handling odd and random jobs within the town. A crew was hired and assisted in getting a mower and a pickup truck. They are given instructions every day or two on their daily work assignment. The Town Committee has direct control over their work. This requires an interested person to know what work needs to be done and supervise the crew. Without appropriate supervision this would not work.

Other towns accomplish roadside mowing and cleaning with annual contracts. This is acceptable but the contractor does not usually do anything beyond his specified

job. For poorly written contracts, poor job performance is the result. An often seen example is when a contractor mows the grass including all trash and garbage along the way. Without specific instructions to the contrary, everything in the path of the mower gets shredded. This is not getting value for the funds expended as the shredded trash must be picked up. If contracts are to be used, they should be professionally written and payment made only when the job is accomplished as intended.

• There needs to be some method to determine if value is being received. In theory, getting three bids gives three independent views on what a job should cost. Three bids may be tendered for consideration, perhaps \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$3,000. However, it is rare that anyone questions whether the job is worth the obvious low bid of \$1,000. Realistically, it may be worth only \$500.

• Council and town committee members serve three years with their term ending either in mid-June when local government elections are called or at the end of June when the three-year term ends. We have seen both dates used. However, elected and appointed members should continue to serve until the new members are sworn in and begin their three-year term.

There is apt to be a four- to six-week interval between the elections in mid-June and taking office in mid-July or even later. It once ran to eight weeks due to a tie-vote and the need for another election. Local government services should not be suspended during this interval. Stipends can be pro-rated to match the time served.

• Some local government officials are given Justice of the Peace status during their term of office. This designation should also be extended to terminate when the next JP is appointed. Whatever function they render to their community as a JP should continue until there is another JP ready to serve.

• The Central Abaco District, and perhaps others, need some consideration to

improving their overall management style or method. It sounds fair and equitable to say that the rules and management method are the same for all the Family Islands. The reality is that Central Abaco, with a budget in excess of \$1 million, and perhaps now closer to \$1.4 million for the coming year, could easily justify a professional or experienced manager.

While spending over \$1 million, we are confident that a qualified manager would justify his salary in effecting savings within the system. This person would also lighten the workload now imposed on the Chief Councillor and Town Committee Chairmen.

The residents in Central Abaco have not always believed they were getting value from their Chief Councillors. However, the four persons who have served in this capacity have found that the position is very demanding of their time. A manager in the local government office would reduce the time demands which might entice better qualified persons to accept the position of Chief Councillor or Town Committee Chairman.

• Heavy economic and social activity in a district should require a much more proactive management method. This management position would not detract from the responsibilities of the Council but would allow the Council to operate in a more professional manner.

Local government can be a very effective tool for solving and handling local issues but it requires fine tuning. We hope that the government will work with local communities to get feedback from those involved in local government and from other community leaders that might see solutions differently.

Even the United Kingdom and the United States, which have had local government for hundreds of years, find it necessary to make adjustments to their systems as society and conditions change.

The new government is up and running and we have had several low-key visits to Abaco by the Prime Minister who, coincidentally, is the representative for North Abaco and has a house in Cooper's Town. Without a lot of fanfare, he attended a church convention service in Cooper's Town on June 10, a recognition luncheon honouring school principal Anne Bootle in Green Turtle Cay on June 16 followed by an appearance at Capt. Leonard Thompson's 90th birthday party later that same day in Marsh Harbour. Perhaps this is a good omen for Abaco.

We appear to be off to a good start as Marsh Harbour's local government budget has been increased by more than \$400,000. Initial information did not clarify the Marsh Harbour designation, but we suspect it is either the Central Abaco Council or perhaps may be shared with the Hope Town District.

The Marsh Harbour airport has been singled out several times as being in urgent need of a runway and other facilities. We have every reason to believe that the work will continue on the land preparation for the runway which began several months ago.

For the past several years there have been hints of changes to the Local Government Act but other issues were more important and the system remains unchanged.

With the recent change of government, changes are again being mentioned. We would suggest that those who have served in the past or are now serving within the Local Government frame-work put their suggestions on paper for consideration. We have done this several times in the past and will go through the exercise again.

It is refreshing to hear Mr. Edison Key, MP for South Abaco, acknowledge "hang ups" in the local government system although he feels the system has proved itself beneficial to local communities. He would like to see changes empowering communities to have more say in their local affairs. He made these comments in the recent budget debate but did not elaborate further.

There is so much opportunity for local government to succeed and be beneficial but Nassau must loosen the constraints and allow more local authority. Following are some general concepts to consider.

Letters to the Editor

Clarification of goals of Abaco Humane Society

Dear Editor,

In response to Mr. Julian Lockhart's Viewpoint article of May 15th, 2007, and to the Letter to the Editor from the amazing Kip Burrows of the Humane Society of Grand Bahama of June 1st.

In 2005 Abaco Animal Require Friends (AARF) was approached by a representative of Ministry of Tourism in order to start a dialogue about the problem we all know exists, a burgeoning abandoned animal population. We welcomed their interest even though we knew that their concern was motivated by exit polls in which tour-

ists relayed their distress at the miserable condition of our animal population. Since our initial discussions, we have enlisted their support and have explored feasible paths to alleviate these problems that are the burden of so many animal lovers. We are creating a proactive approach through education, spay/neuter clinics and awareness programs.

Over the past 14 or so years AARF and other humane organizations on Abaco have fought a constant battle to reduce the misery and abuse of our Potcake and Potcat populations. AARF volunteers successfully conducted several mega-spay and neuter clinics with the help and generosity of The Pegasus Foundation and The International Humane Society. In those clinics over 600 hundred dogs and a lesser number of cats were spayed or neutered; in one clinic over 230 animals were processed. It was reported to be the largest clinic of its sort ever conducted in the Caribbean! The results were phenomenal and for several years the animal population remained stable with fewer unwanted animals wandering the streets.

These clinics were part of a larger research project in which it was determined that massive spay and neuter programs are the most effective way to maintain a healthy animal population. Papers were written and articles were published about the project in several humane publications and journals. These research projects proved that eradicating stray animals is not the answer, massive spay and neutering programs are.

Unfortunately, in the years since these mega clinics, donations dwindled and the volunteers simply burned out. In the mean-

time, AARF continued its spay and neuter program on a small scale, fielding calls, rescuing abandoned animals, finding homes for well over 300 neglected animals and doing what could be done. Keep in mind all the volunteers who do the hard work also have "real" jobs; however, time is found for the important work a humane society must do.

In no way is our working with and support from Ministry of Tourism a casual undertaking. The minute the word "Government" comes up in any form, many people express a degree of skepticism. The Ministry has contacts we do not have, resources we cannot tap and networking capabilities we do not possess. We have the support of the Bahamas Humane Society and Kevin Degenhard, its director, in this endeavour. The idea of "rounding up and putting down" is NOT on the table in any way, shape or form and has never been discussed other than in a negative context. The idea of a shelter is not a viable project to consider at this time; shelters are expensive, require full time staffing and the biggest fear is that a shelter will just replace the Marsh Harbour dump as a convenient place to abandon unwanted, unloved kittens and puppies.

We will be conducting a spay/neuter clinic in the near future. Watch this worthy publication for more information.

Respectfully,
Molly and Chris Roberts
AARF/Abaco Humane Society

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Viewpoint . . . Immigration and Development

By John Hedden

Abaco, it would seem, has had more of a history of the use of immigrant labour than any other island in the Bahamas. During the colonial years workers came from Turks and Caicos and the Republic of Haiti to work on various lumber and farming operations. Many of these foreign nationals, over a period of time, became assimilated into the Bahamian community.

Certainly over the last 30 years the immigration changed from specific labour importation to political and then economic arrivals as refugees. In these latter times the majority of immigrants have been of Haitian heritage and in most cases have never been allowed to achieve full integration.

Haiti has suffered continuously since it took its own independence from the French. The country has been variously shunned, ignored, abused and exploited by the developed countries, never given the assistance it had need of to become stabilised and self-supporting. It has always been considered a black pariah by the West, never allowed to trade with the colonial masters and occupiers. Isolated, it has therefore had to feed itself on itself.

As a result of 200 years of independence this country has depleted all of its natural resources and is still unable to achieve a healthy democracy or viable economy. Aid awarded, if any, has always been self-serving and indirectly funneled into personal bank accounts. Yet this is one of the most beautiful countries of the Caribbean, full of a richly cultured people. Asked to describe Hispaniola, the island where Haiti may be found, Christopher Columbus supposedly crumpled a sheet of paper and threw it on the table to demonstrate its mountainous geography.

Considered to be the poorest country in the western hemisphere and with no current prospects of realistic development, it is no surprise that many of its nationals feel the need to move abroad in order to survive and possibly make a better life. Naturally, the two countries of choice also happen to be the wealthiest, the USA and The Bahamas. The US is much more difficult to enter than The Bahamas and so many end up in this country illegally with little prospect of assimilation. These immigrants do find work and may even acquire a "work permit" which will give them some feeling of security. However, being essentially undocumented, they are unable to own land, open a bank account or participate in normal everyday life of the Bahamas.

The result is a people who must remain segregated from the rest of the Bahamian community. Because of this the immigrant is now susceptible to exploitation and abuse of accepted standards of employment. The use of cheap labour offers a benefit for both Bahamian and Haitian; it is also not surprising

that an uneasy symbiosis develops, and in Abaco, at least, a swollen illegal immigrant population continues to expand.

These people establish their own communities with their own stores, barber shops and eateries. They build their own houses and often build their own power and energy systems, all illegal and without meeting the appropriate code fulfilment. If they can, they will even piggy-back on a "legal" utility just outside the neighbourhood.

We all know the rest of the story. This is our everyday exposure to the immigrant population. A people who are below the rest of us. A people who are there to be used and then discarded. A people to be disdained and exploited. A people who don't deserve or need ordinary human rights like the rest of us. After all, they are illegal. Unfortunately, we have become so self-absorbed we are unable to acknowledge the very significant contribution these people make to the welfare and well being of Bahamian society.

Think about it!

But these Creole people survive in spite of this harsh environment we provide for them. They manage to become established, eat, go to church, find a spouse, have children and bring them up. They get educated by and in the Bahamian system, and many utilise the Ministry of Health facilities. However, most pay their taxes; and if they do not, it is usually because our system prevents them from doing so.

And now for their children, the next generation. Young people born here in the Bahamas. Young people who have never known another country. Young people who receive an education in the same institutions as our children. Young people who have manners and are polite, just like our children. Young people who want to get a good education and then a good job. But young people who have no rights.

We employ their mothers and their fathers, and yet we allow them no rights. No access to legal documentation. No access to a higher education. No passports. No savings accounts. No acknowledgment that they exist. These young people are prisoners in their country of birth.

Something is definitely missing from this equation; it does not balance. But writers like Rupert Missick Jr. and Adrian Gibson have already expressed all of this so articulately.

Disenfranchisement becomes the key word in all of this. "HaitianBahamian" as the name implies, a refusal of the acknowledgment of their birth right. They are neither Bahamian or Haitian. We have excluded these young people. We have taught our own children to reject these youngsters, even in the school systems. We have systematically blocked every avenue they could possibly take to improve them-

selves; to establish themselves.

We as Bahamians have disenfranchised and excluded these young people, and we wonder why they are beginning to reject us. We are terrified of the "Creolisation" of The Bahamas by Bahamian born and educated people. We are all immigrants here, the indigenous people were systematically wiped out hundreds of years ago.

It encourages me to see the number of Creole titles that appear in the police force, the political scene, the professional career groups, the teachers, the preachers and also the ordinary everyday walks of life. They all continue to contribute and integrate society.

But the tensions between the Bahamian establishment and the lately immigrant populous continues to build. The frustration of those who have managed to partake of portions of our society are not quite as open as those who have reached a maturity where lack of opportunity and acceptance still exists.

Hopefully, we Bahamians will act before a serious confrontation takes place. We have allowed this situation to continue for too long, only because it has been to our benefit to do nothing. Only because the exploitation economically, socially and politically has been to our advantage. Now the second generation has come home; the New Bahamian is standing on our doorstep. If we do not open the door, the New Bahamian will.

It is time for us to deal with a myriad of immigration concerns now, and not tomorrow. We must examine the following issues.

Birthrights and citizenship.

Spousal issues when married to Bahamians.

Bahamian women, foreigners and foreign-born children. Unmarried Bahamian parentage and citizenship.

Illegal immigration and prevention.

Relocation of slum areas to all encompassing low-cost housing schemes. Legalisation of the present illegal population.

Make residency and citizenship procedures speedier and more efficient. Definitive periods of residency prior to processing.

These are just some of the areas that need to be addressed effectively and efficiently.

Finally, I would point out that the most effective way to deal with the immigration onslaught would be for the wealthy western hemisphere to work with the elected administration of Haiti to build a viable economy and infrastructure. Then the numbers would almost disappear. Think about it.



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Meeting was held to discuss Fowl Cay Park

By Jennifer Hudson

A proposal for the Fowl Cays Land and Sea Park was presented to the public at an open meeting held at the Conch Inn on June 12. Presenter was Ms. Tamika Rahming, Director of Parks for the Bahamas National Trust. The Bahamas National Trust is a non-profit organization which was created in 1959 and which has, for almost 5- years, been building a national park system "that achieves important conservation and development goals for Bahamians." To date, the Bahamas National Trust manages 25 national parks throughout the country, covering 70,000 acres of both land and sea and has sought to protect Abaco's land and seascapes for over 30 years. Abaco's protected areas are The Pelican Cays Land

and Sea Park, Walker's Cay, Tilloo Cay National Reserve, Black Sound Cay and the Abaco National Park. Abaco leads all other islands in The Bahamas in the number of its protected areas.

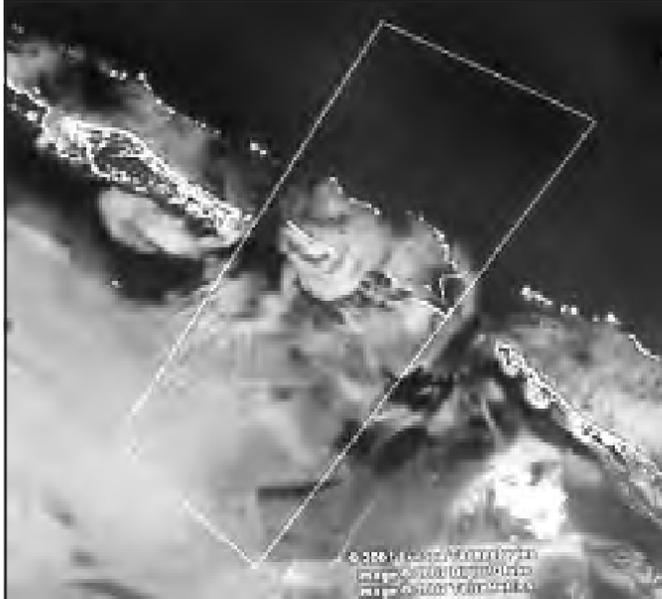
The Fowl Cay area of Abaco has been perceived and treated as a protected area for the past 30 years. But its park status has never been formalized and so the area is constantly being violated with disastrous results to the reef. The first application to formalize park status was submitted to government in 1975 by Dr. John Storr and was given a favorable review. Since then locals and visitors have sought to have the Fowl Cays and their surrounding area protected by law under the national park system. This summer a formalized proposal will be submitted to the Prime Minister.

reefs so it has now been put forward that the eastern boundary should be extended to encompass a portion of the sea grass and sandy bottom habitat in the sound along the Fowl Cays. The organisations and concerned persons involved in this proposal state, "It is important due to the fact that the proposed area covers a small but biologically rich area consisting of valuable coral reef, sea grass beds, rocky shore and sandy bottom habitat. Historically, the area has been used for recreation, diving and tours and non-commercial fishing. The area has great potential for continuing eco-tourism and environmental education opportunities but only if certain laws are put into place to preserve it."

Ms. Rahming stated, "Once the area has become protected under the national

park system, the selection of a management planning team will take place and a management plan will be formed. Persons in the community will be asked to put forward proposals for the management plan which will decide what activities will be allowed in the area. Boats will still be able to go through the area and eco-tourism will be maintained, but there will be restrictions on some fishing. This government has evidenced interest in turning Fowl Cays into a national park. Politicians are now realizing how the environment is linked to the economy and realizing that they cannot afford to lose it and therefore they are lending more support."

Following the short presentation the floor was opened for feedback from persons in



This is a satellite view of Scotland Cay on the upper left and Man-O-War Cay on the lower right. The rectangle is the proposed boundary of the Fowl Cay area that many are wanting to have made into a national park.

A computer presentation was narrated by Ms. Rahming explaining the location of the area under consideration and reasons for the importance of having it protected by law. The Fowl Cays are located in Central Abaco on the ocean side and are a part of the chain of barrier islands running the length of Great Abaco Island. The boundary originally proposed for the preserve was slightly smaller but it was realized that this would not provide a sufficient buffer zone around the cays and

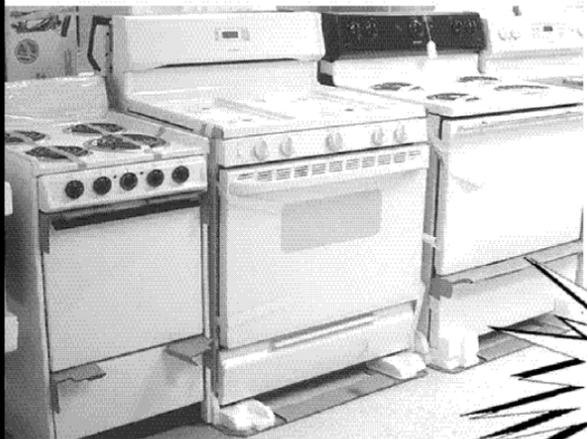


Ms. Tamika Rahming, representing the Bahamas National Trust, spoke at a meeting in Marsh Harbour about the proposal of making the Fowl Cay area a national park. Local people have wanted it designated a preserved area for 30 plus years. The Trust will present the proposal to government. The sentiment of most of the people at the meeting was in favor of the proposal.

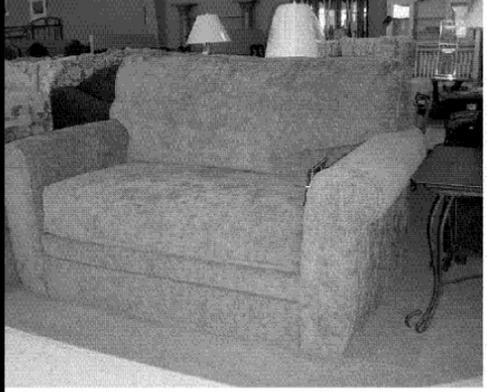


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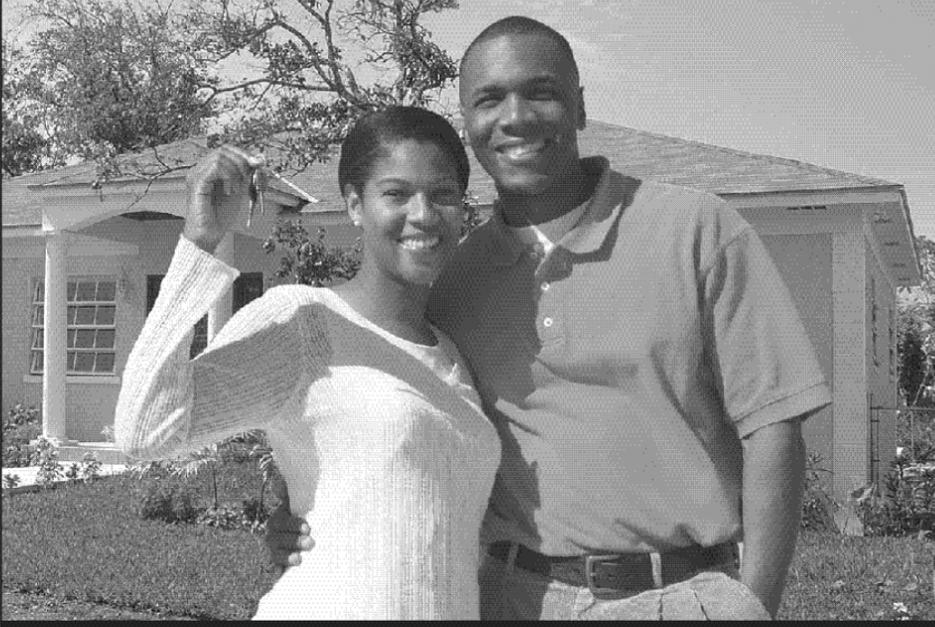








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Feedback was positive for preserving Fowl Cay

Fowl Cay From Page 10

attendance. In addition to Friends of the Environment and a few other environmentally concerned members of the community, the majority of persons present were owners of dive operations and boat charter companies here on Abaco who expressed their concern on the deterioration of the area at present and expressed great support for the proposal.

Troy Albury, owner of Dive Guana, and Kay Politano of Above and Below Abaco described how tame some of the grouper are in the area of Fowl Cay and how much the tourists enjoy stroking these fish which have become like pets. They are appalled by the fact that there are still some people spearing in the area and these large, tame groupers are being attacked by people. Kay showed some photographs of grouper and other fish still swimming around with several spear marks in their side.

Keith Rogers, owner of Dive Abaco, expressed his view that this area must be enforced as a park and even when it is officially designated as a park it will need to be closely monitored. Ms. Rahming admitted that enforcement is an issue; and since

Abaco covers an extensive area, wardens and boats will not be in the vicinity. She stated that once the proposal is in place then she will ask dive companies to come in for a planning meeting.

The manager of Florida Yacht Charters stated that he always explains the boundaries of the Fowl Cays to people who hire boats from him and said, "There must be fines for people who break the law. We have our work cut out to educate people and we must make sure that we conduct seminars for police officers and magistrates."

Brent Bass of Dis and Dat Tours stated, "For years I have tried to let Bahamians know that we are endeavoring to preserve the Fowl Cay area, and I have had my life threatened because of this. Since there is so much distance and water to be covered I feel that one way it can be done is for every licensed captain and Defence Force and Police Officer to have the right to report any vessel breaking the law. Then the Department of Fisheries, Customs or Immigration should respond. Everyone must work together to prevent the same thing happening here as at Pelican Cays which is now like a graveyard. There are over 200 miles of reef altogether and we are just trying to

save small parts."

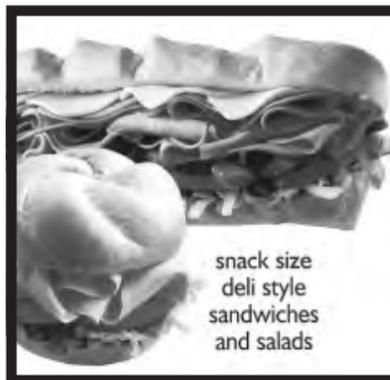
The suggestion was made for buoys with signs on designating the park and other adequate signage. Ms. Rahming stated that she will have to work on the best way to go about this as many signs blow down during a rage. Someone stated that the Port Authority has boats which could be used to patrol, but they have a problem with fuel. She suggested that the Bahamas National Trust may be able to help by donating some fuel. "Cooperation is key."

One person expressed concern that there will be resistance from some people in the local community, especially on Man-O-War Cay, who will not respect it since it is virtually in their backyard, and they do not

want their access restricted for fishing. One Marsh Harbour resident left in the middle of the meeting as he was annoyed at the direction it was taking since he does not feel that he should have to move his fishing traps from the area. One dive operator expressed the feeling of most people there, though, when he said, "If we don't leave hatcheries and nurseries intact, we will have no fish. Dive operators are willing to cooperate so that fish will still be there for tourists to see. People will also find that there will then be more fish outside the boundaries for everyone to catch."

Troy Albury, owner of Dive Guana, is

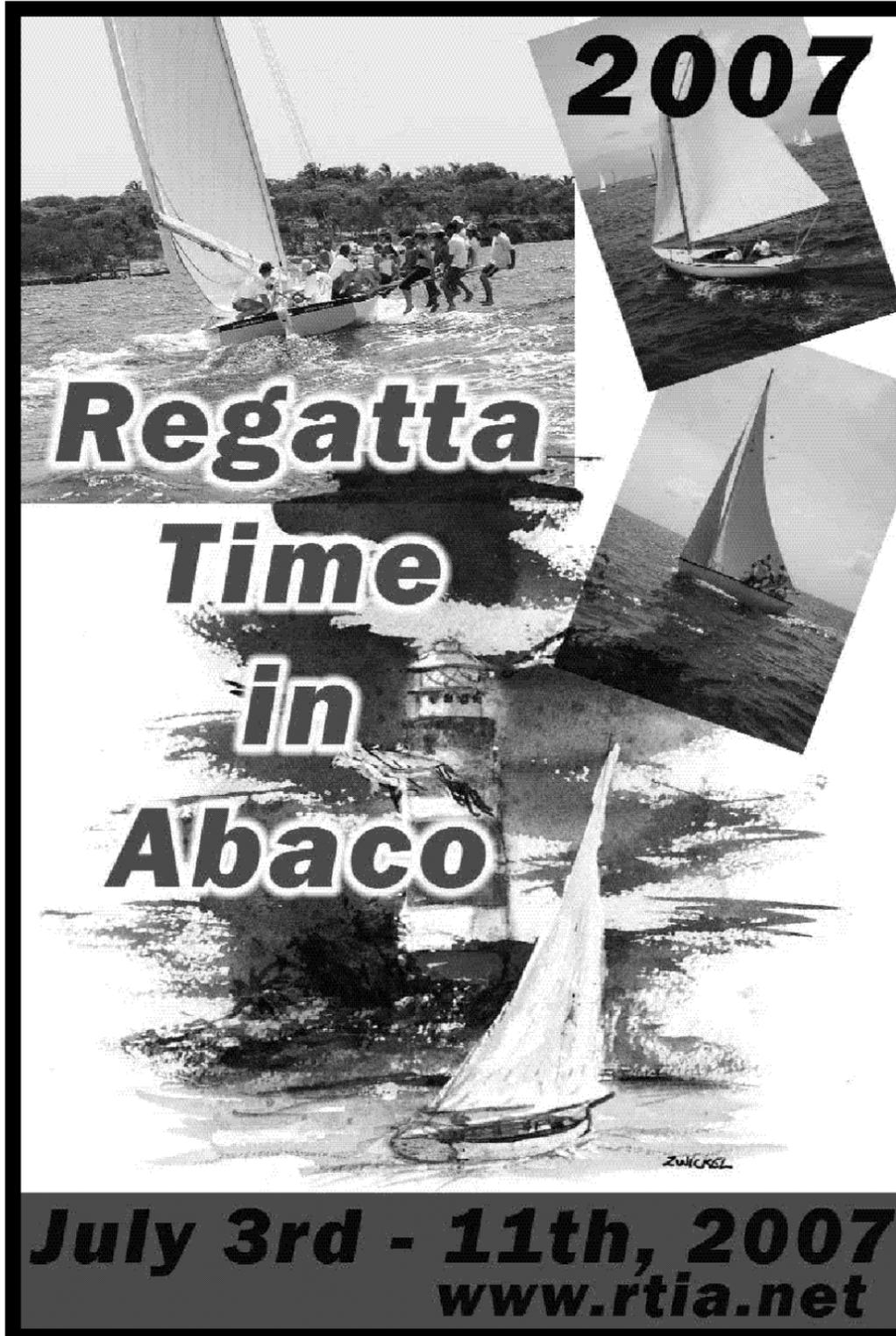
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 Awards for GTC Race 1 - Green Turtle Cay
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- July 5th - Lay Day**
 Fleet Moves to Guana - Party at Guana Grabber
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- July 6th - Guana Cay Race 2**
 Party at Nippers Restaurant - Sponsored by Mount Gay Rum
- July 7th - Man-O-War Race 3**
 Party at The Crossing Beach
 Awards for Guana and Man-O-War Races
 Sponsored by Bahamas Wholesale Co.
- July 8th - Lay Day**
- July 9th - Hope Town Race 4**
 Party at Hope Town Harbour Lodge
 Sponsored by Mount Gay and Kalik
- July 10th - Lay Day**
 Party at Tupp's and Sapodillys Restaurant
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- July 11th - Marsh Harbour Race 5**
 Final Awards at Snappas Bar & Grill
 Party Sponsored by Mount Gay Rum

For more information contact:
 Dave/Kathy Ralph 367-2677 - Ruth Saunders 367-3202
 Abaco Tourist Office 367-3067

Central Abaco News

Further Plans for the Marsh Harbour Memorial Garden

By Jennifer Hudson.

The Marsh Harbour Memorial Garden, located on Bay Street opposite Regattas of Abaco, began to take form last year. Although not yet completed, it already entices people to stop and study the name plaques

on the Wall of Heroes.

Last year on October 12, which is now designated as Heroes Day in The Bahamas, a ceremony was held in the Memorial Garden to place plaques on the Wall of Heroes in memory of 27 of Marsh Harbour's past heroes. They were Ancil Leon Albury, Anthony Thomas Albury, George Hubert Albury, George W. Albury, James Cuthbert Albury, Joseph Wilson Albury (Uncle

Wissie), Mertland Frederick Albury, Garnet Austin Archer MBE JP, Percival Gerald Archer MBE JP, Capt. Sherwin Archer, Henry Westin Collins (Harry), Dr. Evans W. Cottman (Out Island Doctor), Dr. Norman Harken Cove, James B. Crockett, Ejnar Frederik Gottlieb, MD, Owanta Gisela Gottlieb, Bunyan Augustus Key, MBE JP, Edwin Isadore Lowe (Dor), Reginald Cuthbert Lowe, Thomas Eldred Lowe, Millard Arlington Russell, Charles Wilson Sawyer (Pa Charles), Thomas Wilson Sawyer (Pa Bill), Morton Marcel Sawyer (Poppy), Robert Lucien Stratton MBE, Dr. Robert Stuart Stratton, Anderson Stuart Stratton, JP. These persons who have now passed on were selected by a committee for the contribution they had made to the growth of Marsh Harbour from a fishing village to a city between 1950 and 1965. "These were persons who stayed here, toughed it out and brought up their children here while others

left and went into Nassau or the United States looking for work," stated Memorial Garden committee member, Yvonne Key.

A further ceremony is being planned in the Memorial Garden for October 12 this year to honour more people. Word is being put out early for anyone who would like to place the name of their loved one who contributed to the growth of Marsh Harbour and who has passed on to contact Kandy Pinder at 367-2234 (evenings).

Although the first wall facing the road is already full, an additional 300-foot long wall has been prepared to the side to place plaques honoring further people. Anyone desiring a loved one's name to be added to the Wall of Heroes is asked to make a donation of \$500.

The money collected from the placement of the first 27 heroes purchased the 27 benches in honour of each of the people. These benches will eventually be spread out throughout the garden once it has been landscaped. Donations on behalf of people who are yet to be added will be put towards the landscaping of the garden.

Any person who resided in Marsh Harbour and has passed on since the 1950s is eligible to be honored and donations may be sent to Kandy Pinder at P.O. Box AB 20303.

The committee is looking forward to landscaping the Memorial Garden with grass, flowering trees and meandering pathways. The benches will be placed around the

Govt. Clinic is named Clinic of the Year



The newly appointed Minister of Health, the Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis, and the Executive Management Committee, are proud that Marsh Harbour Government Clinic has been recognized by the Department of Public Health as the Clinic of the Year for Family Island clinics. Nurse Iris Fernander was nominated for the Director of the Year but the winner has not been declared as yet. Those winning these outstanding awards will be honored at a luncheon on board the Imperial Majesty Cruise on July 8. Mrs. McIntosh and Mr. Duncombe received their awards at Government House on June 13.



Mrs. Gayle McIntosh earned the clerical award for the year at the Marsh Harbour Government Clinic and Mr. Lofton Duncombe won the security officer of the year.

Please see **Central** Page 13

family guardian's calendar photo contest a celebration of nature

14 winning entries will appear in Family Guardian's 2008 calendar. Winning entries receive a gift certificate valued at \$400 each. Entry deadline is May 31, 2007

RULES

- 1 Family Guardian's Annual Calendar Photo Contest is open to all photographers. The title for the company's 2008 calendar will be "A CELEBRATION OF NATURE." Photographs may be of any subject (animate or inanimate) or a scene which is a striking example of nature as found in The Bahama Islands. All photographs must be taken in The Bahamas.
- 2 DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS MAY 31, 2007.
- 3 All entries are to be delivered to Family Guardian's Corporate Centre, Village and Eastern Road Roundabout, Nassau, between 9:00am and 5:00pm weekdays only. Envelopes should be marked "Calendar Contest."
- 4 All entries must be accompanied by an official entry form, available at any Family Guardian office or when published in the newspapers.
- 5 Only colour images in horizontal format will be considered. Images must be provided as 35mm film or digital images on CD. 35mm film can be positive (slides) or colour negatives. Digital images must be of high quality (2700 x 2100 pixels or larger). Digital images showing any signs of photo manipulation, resolution enhancement or compression will be rejected. To ensure the best colour reproduction, digital images should be supplied in RAW, TIFF or high quality JPEG and in the original colour format the camera uses (LAB or RGB). All entries must be supplied with prints which will be used in the judging process. (Note: prints submitted without 35mm slides or negatives or CD's will not be eligible). The photographer's name and photo subject should be written on the reverse of the print.
- 6 Judging of entries will be based on beauty, interest, composition, colour, originality and quality of photograph. Preference will be given to fauna photographed in its natural state, rather than in captivity. The photographs selected will appear in Family Guardian's 2008 calendar. The decision of the judges will be final.
- 7 All entries are submitted at the owner's risk. It is the company's intention to return all entries in their original condition. However, Family Guardian will assume no liability for any loss, damage or deterioration.
- 8 A gift certificate valued at \$400 will be presented for each of the photographs selected. More than one entry from a single photographer may be selected. Photographic credits will be given in the calendar. The number of entries per photographer is limited to a maximum of 5 photos.
- 9 The winning photographs, along with all publication and reproduction rights attached thereto, become the property of Family Guardian and the company reserves the right to use such in the future.
- 10 Employees of Family Guardian, its affiliated companies or family members are not eligible.
- 11 Previously published photos are not eligible.



Photo by Tim Higgs
Family Guardian's
2007 Calendar

2008 CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM

NAME

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P.O. BOX STREET ADDRESS.....

SIGNATURE.....

DATE..... NUMBER OF PHOTOS ENTERED..... (maximum of 5)

I agree that in the event that one or more of my entered photographs is selected as a winner in the 2008 Family Guardian Calendar Photo Contest it will become the property of Family Guardian Insurance Co. Ltd., and I assign to Family Guardian all rights pertaining to its use in any way whatsoever. I also confirm that the photos entered in this contest were taken in The Bahamas by the undersigned and have not been previously published.

Return with photos to:
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Roundabout, Nassau, Bahamas

ENTRY DEADLINE: MAY 31, 2007



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More Central Abaco News

Central From Page 12

area under trees for shade so that this will be a place for meditation. Big Cat will be depositing three loads of sand at the back of the area to give better access to the sea. The plans eventually call for a floating dock. The dock is being donated by the Royal Marsh Harbour Yacht Club and will be in place in November. This will enable tourists to tie up their dinghy, come ashore and enjoy the garden.

Mr. Keith Thompson, Manager of Water and Sewage, will redo the fence around the water supply on the side of Memorial Garden to make it more attractive.

"It is planned to make the Heroes Day ceremony an annual event with new names being added each year. All donations in the future will go towards landscaping and maintenance," stated Ms. Pinder, committee member in charge of the Memorial Garden project. Since Heroes Day, October 12, is a Public Holiday, the Memorial Garden ceremony will be held on October 13.

Statue decorates garden area at



Sculptor Dominic Latella spent the past year as swimming coach for Long Bay School and the Hope Town Community Swimming Pool. Although he has left to pursue a career in art, he left a sculpture for the public's enjoyment at Commonwealth Bank.

Commonwealth Bank

By Mirella Santillo

Upon moving to The Bahamas two years ago, young artist Dominic Latella was immediately inspired by the possibilities offered by the local lime stone. Mr. Latella, who graduated from Savannah's College of Art, moved to Nassau and the soft Bahamian limestone soon became his favorite media. He started experimenting first in Nassau, but it is on Abaco that he perfected his style.

During the last year spent as a swimming instructor in Marsh Harbour, Mr. Latella produced three limestone sculptures. His first creations, titled *Shell* and *Adam on Abaco* are now being shown at the Conch

Pearl Gallery. His third and largest one, just finished, *Emerging Shell*, is on display in the garden corner of the Commonwealth Bank in Marsh Harbour.

Passersby can stop and admire the soft color of the stone and the smooth curves of the statue which is composed of two pieces. Polished to a shine which gives it the texture of marble, it occupies the perfect spot among the surrounding ixorias.

Mr. Latella has returned to Washington, D.C. and can be contacted at <dominiclatella@mac.com>

The Abaco Tourist Office Invites Pastors and Church Leaders to a Religious Tourism Meeting

Venue: The Abaco Tourist Office Training Center
Date: Thursday, July 19th, 2007
Time: 2:00pm

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Edison Key Reveals his plans for South Abaco

By Jennifer Hudson

On May 2, the day that the FNM was voted in as the next Government of the Bahamas, Mr Edison Key won the South Abaco FNM seat with a resounding majority.

In order to enhance the environs of South Abaco Mr Key has put forward a long list of upgrades he plans to put into effect.

- Build a state-of-the-art mini hospital to meet the medical needs of Abaco.
- Construct a multipurpose gymnasium to serve the needs of the youth of the constituency and to serve as an emergency shelter.
- Improve the level of service received from the public corporations, including upgrade of the electricity and water supply to residents.
- Cause the construction of new terminal facilities and an air traffic control tower at the Marsh Harbour International Airport.
- Dredge the channel and carry out dock upgrades and repairs as required in the communities of South Abaco.
- Reconstruct the main road in Hope Town.
- Reconstruct and upgrade settlement roads of Central and South Abaco and Moore's Island.
- Reconstruct and complete the concrete settlement roads in Guana Cay, Man-O-War Cay, Hope Town and Cherokee Sound.
- Make land available at reasonable and affordable costs for the further expansion of residential subdivisions in Central and South Abaco.
- Act to strengthen enforcement of zoning



Edison Key, MP for South Abaco

regulations to ensure orderly development.

- Act to systematically reduce substandard housing in Central and South Abaco.
- Collaborate with local government and the private sector for the upgrading and beautification of the settlements of Central and South Abaco.
- Assign a registered nurse to provide medical care at Great Guana Cay.
- Cause the extension of cable television to Great Guana Cay.

Mr. Key recently spent several days in Nassau attending the budget debate in the House of Assembly and on May 30 presented his contribution to the 2007-2008 budget communication. He began by thanking his constituents in South Abaco for their overwhelming support on May 2, "when South Abaco proved once again that it is still FNM country even though there

was an exchange of the baton and a new 'runner' entered the race." He thanked the former Member of Parliament, Mr. Robert Sweeting for his 15 years of unbroken commitment and dedication to the people of Abaco. He pledged, "I will do my very best to honour, with the help and guidance of Almighty God, the trust and confidence placed in me on May 2."

Mr. Key prefaced his list of needs for Abaco by stating, "The island of Abaco is, without a doubt, the fastest growing area in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and has over the past five years sustained itself with very little help from Central Government. It is capable of sustaining itself economically and has, in fact, done so for at least the past two decades." He cited Abaco's steady growth as a result of its diverse economic climate which encompasses tourism, boating and an influx of hundreds of second homeowners which, when combined with the hundreds of new job opportunities created by the Winding Bay and Baker's Bay projects presents endless possibilities for continued expanded growth and development.

Mr. Key stated that he is pleased that the increase of 13 percent for capital expenditure over 2006/2007 signals government's

commitment to modernizing and expanding the nation's infrastructure and included in that is the planned development of the Marsh Harbour International Airport, which is the second busiest airport in the country and the most neglected. "I, together with all of South Abaco, eagerly await the long promised and anticipated modern jet runway and expanded terminal building that will serve South Abaco for decades to come and fully support the proposed plan to borrow the necessary funds on the capital market and finance the funding by way of user charges."

Other major issues addressed are as follows:

Local Government

Mr. Key feels that the implementation of Local Government in the Family Islands has proven to be successful to some degree though it is experiencing some hangups. Consideration needs to be given to making some necessary changes/amendments to the Local Government Act which will enable each township, particularly those comprising several hundred residents, to have access to its own locally elected committee which will in turn have the relevant authority to

Please see **Edison Key** Page 15

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Ambitious Agenda Is Proposed

Edison Key From Page 14

act on matters that affect that particular township in conjunction with the District Administrator who will act in the capacity of adviser to the District Board. He hopes that the modest increase in funding reflected in the 2007/2008 budget allocations of Central and South Abaco will strengthen the work of Local Government.

Mr. Key commended all the Local Government Councils in the South Abaco constituency for their timely response and hard work which enabled Abaco to bounce back so quickly after the two devastating hurricanes, Frances and Jean, in 2004 and pledged to collaborate with Local Government on all matters relevant to disaster preparedness and the appropriate response.

Marine Resources

Mr Key expressed his concern over the fact that for many years the fishermen of Abaco have had to contend with poachers who fish illegally in our waters. On occasions they have even been confronted by these fish robbers at gunpoint but complaints to the police, locally elected representatives and the island administrator seem to be of

no avail.

As a result of this illegal poaching, every year hundreds of thousands of pounds of our lobster, groupr and conch are harvested and taken out of the country. The FNM government has heard the desperate pleas of the fishermen and is responding by strengthening the manpower and allocation of air and sea craft to further equip the officers of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force in their improved surveillance and control of our borders.

Mr. Key is concerned that we are, unfortunately, probably ranked as the most dependent nation in this hemisphere as we produce basically nothing, not even for local consumption though on many of the islands including Abaco there is an abundance of prime agricultural land and freshwater.

He recommended to the Minister of Agriculture that between himself and the Minister of Education they collaborate to have an agricultural programme built into the curriculum of every high school in this country with incentives for further training beyond high school level so that our young people can be developed into successful farmers and spin-off professionals which

could, in the long term, provide thousands of jobs. This would create a billion dollar industry, not only for the local market, but also for the export market. "If the bottom ever dropped out of tourism, we in this little country of ours could find that we have no means of sustaining ourselves because we failed to plan," he concluded.

Education and sports

Mr. Key is pleased to see that at long last it appears that Abaco, the third major revenue producer and second largest island in landmass in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, has finally come to the attention of the powers that be and he looks forward to the construction of proposed sporting facilities for Central Abaco which will also double as a hurricane shelter. He pledged support in assisting in its timely completion and said thank you on behalf of the young people of Abaco.

Schools

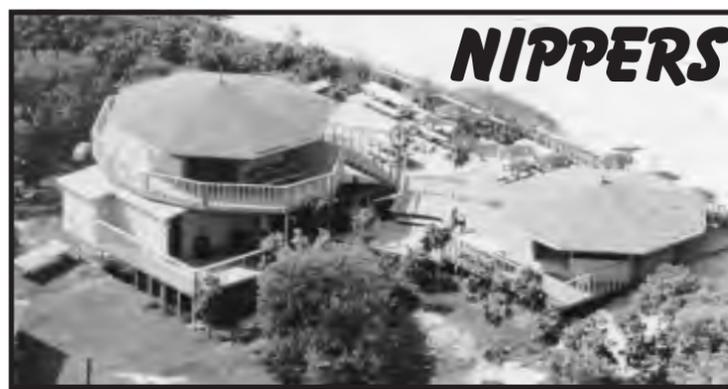
Mr. Key mentioned the disgraceful situation at Sandy Point where the primary school has remained in a most deplorable state since August last year. The young

children are presently scattered around the community housed in various church halls. But he is pleased that Sandy Point children will be in their renovated premises come September 2007. He mentioned that Sandy Point is still waiting for the high school which the former administration promised so fervently in 2002.

"This new government has stated that it will hold mid-term communications every six months regarding expenditures instead of just once a year and I believe that this will bring about more accountability to the whole system. One hundred thousand dollars have been allocated to each Member of Parliament to spend, at his own discretion, on needs such as street lights, roads, etc. within his constituency. I feel that this should be a great help," stated Mr. Key. "We should be looking at a pretty good time on Abaco for the next several years."



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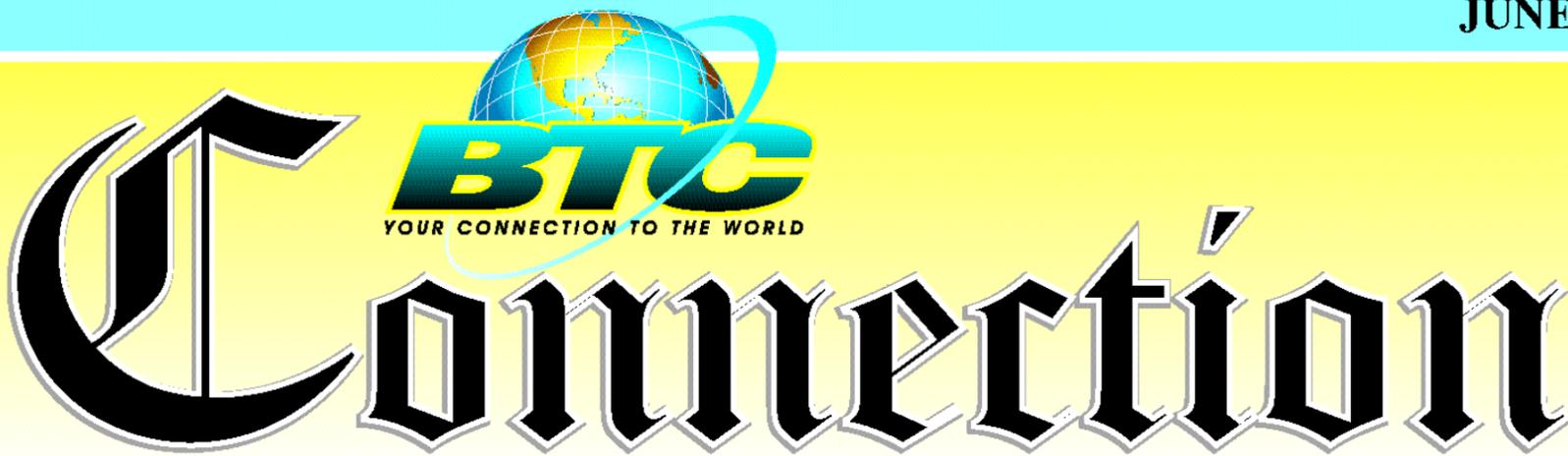
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St. Andrew's 10th Grade Economics Class Gets Connected

Students of St. Andrew's Secondary School participated in BTC's Connecting with the Youth Program. The Connecting with the Youth Program was designed to educate and empower student about the importance of BTC in the community and also to highlight the opportunities available in the field of technology and communications.

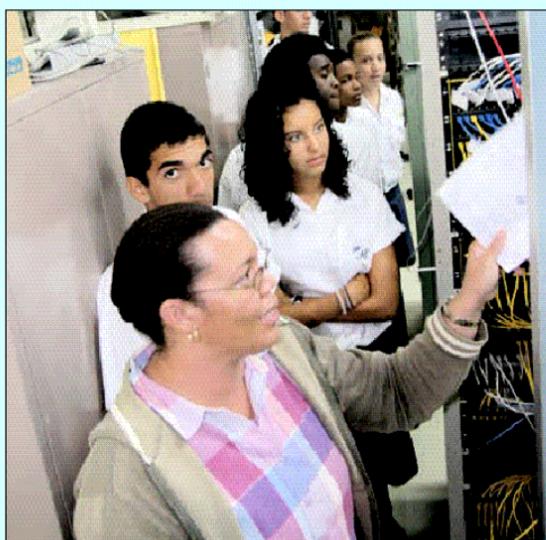
Mr. Kenyon Basden, Supervisor Outside Plant, BTC gave an in-depth presentation on the changes in technology. Mr. Basden explained how dial tone is created from start to finish and the hazardous conditions that technicians may sometimes have to work, in order to provide superior quality service to the public. Mr. Basden further explained importance of BTC in the community not just as a telecommunications provider, but as a corporate sponsor to the youth, the environment and as an employer who encourages, continued education and entrepreneurship.

Mr. Steve Hepburn, Manager Outside Plant Construction, BTC explained the importance of the Fiber Optic System and the role it plays in the continued development of the telecommunications

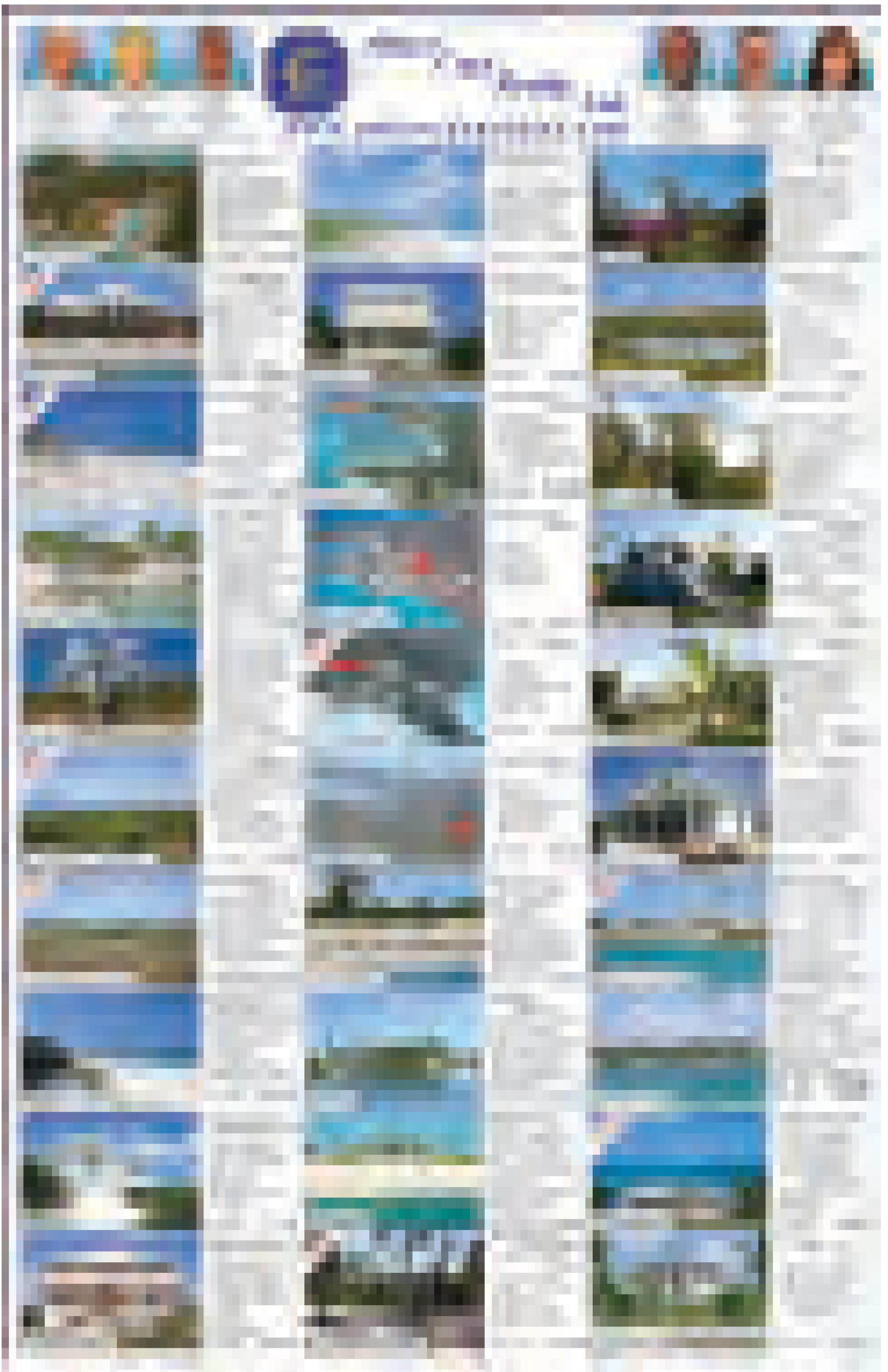
industry. Many of the benefits that BTC's Fiber Optic System offers to the public are: increased speed and efficiency, decreased cost, reduced static interference and stronger signal strength over longer range.

Mr. Joseph Cox Jr. Marketing & Public Relations, BTC gave the students a brief lesson in the various aspects of Marketing and the many employment opportunities that are available at BTC for those who are will to work hard, have a passion for customer service and continued education. Employees of BTC are continually attending courses locally and internationally to keep abreast of changing technologies no matter the area of the organized in which they are employed.

BTC would like to thank St Andrew's School for selecting our organization as the first choice for their students to explore employment opportunities in such areas as; Engineering, Marketing, Accounting, Information Technology and Management Information Systems and to gain in-depth knowledge about the technological advances in the Bahamas and around the world.



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North Abaco News

FNM's Women's Association North Abaco

By Vernique Russell

The Free National Movement's Women's Association extended its services to North Abaco, thus forming the North Abaco FNM Women's Association. On June 6th a meeting was held at the FNM headquarters in Cooper's Town to elect a president for the association with the rest of the board to be elected at a later date. After nominations were made, the official president-elect was Mrytis Russell, who was elected without contest. In her brief remarks Mrs. Russell stated that she sees this opportunity for her and the association to build the communities of North Abaco. She is one who strongly believes in community building and believes that should be the main purpose of this association. It is her hope to bring all women in the North together regardless of political persuasion so that the healing process can begin. Finally, she pledged to give her best to serve as president with the help of the Almighty God.

Thank You for work at airport

By Vernique Russell

A special thank you is extended to Mr. Bruce Neandross, Mr. Jeffery Hubert and the painters from the Cottages Project in Treasure Cay for their generous donation, service and the fresh look at the airport. The Customs and Immigration Department at the Treasure Cay Airport extend heartfelt thanks for the labor that was provided for the painting of their side of the terminal. The entire communities of North Abaco join them to say thank you for your kind donation

and support. We appreciate your lending a helping hand in making our community a better place.

Steak-Out

By Vernique Russell

In an effort to defray the expenses that the committee will face while hosting the 2nd Annual North Abaco Summer Festival and Power Boat Race, the committee will host a Steak-Out on June 16th at the Ferry Landing in Treasure Cay. This event will begin at 12 noon. The committee is looking forward to your support in this venture as they plan another exciting summer festival and power boat race.

Little Abaco Home-Coming Dates Change

By Vernique Russell

The date for the Annual Homecoming festivities in Little Abaco has been changed. This notice will serve as a correction for the article printed under the title Little Abaco 14th Annual Homecoming in the June 1st Edition of *The Abaconian*. The new dates for this year festivities will be announced later.

Youth News

Our Boys at the HOYTES

Championship

By Vernique Russell

On May 25th thru June 2nd the Youth In Action Club for Treasure Cay and Cooper's Town travelled to Grand Bahama to participate in the HOYTES (Helping Our Youth Through Education and Sports) Basketball Classic Championship Tournament. This sporting program is geared to reach young girls and boys between the ages of 9 and sixteen. The teams from Cooper's Town

and Treasure Cay combined as one team for the tournament. Although we did not bring home any trophies, our under 10 boys came very close as they finished first runner-up after making it to the championship. The residents of North Abaco, especially Cooper's Town and Treasure Cay, congratulate Coach Godfrey Rolle and Coach Hartley Bootle and their teams for a job well done. We want you guys to know that we are really proud of you.

Making a Difference

By Vernique Russell

It takes a village to raise a child, and Godfrey Rolle Jr. and Hartley Bootle are playing a vital role ensuring that the young men in Treasure Cay and Cooper's Town stay on the right path. Godfrey has been offering a basketball camp for young boys and teenagers between the ages of 9-16. Although the program is still in its inception stage at the Cooper's Town Branch, the kids are already building character through discipline and commitment. The kids assemble every evening to enhance their basketball skills.

The program has been in operation three years now and the boys are most appreciative and the results are obviously beneficial. Through this program our young men have been able to gain exposure and build their interactive skills. This program works in conjunction with HOYTES Basketball Club which is designed to give young girls and boys the ability to gain higher education and make their dreams reality through sports. Young men have grown through this program, developing their skills and landing scholarships.

Keep up the good work, Godfrey, your labor is surely not in vain. Indeed, you are

making a difference in the community of Treasure Cay. You are surely doing your part in your village.

Sport Club is going to Las Vegas

By Vernique Russell

In conjunction with the HOYTES program (Helping Our Youth Through Education and Sports) in Freeport, Grand Bahama, members of the Treasure Cay and Cooper's Town Sporting Clubs along with their coach will be travelling to Las Vegas, Nevada, to participate in a basketball tournament. This event will allow our players to gain some international exposure while competing against teams from throughout the United States.

In an effort to defray costs that the committee will face in making this trip reality for our young men, the committee will host a cook-out weekly from June 16 through July 22. The committee is asking the public to support this worthy cause. The venue for these cook-outs is at the Treasure Cay Park beginning at 11 a.m. weekly. The menu includes ribs, chicken, fish and a variety of rice, conch fritter, crab salad, guava duff and much more. Come out and do your part in helping these children.

School News

Success Kids Academy Graduation

By Vernique Russell

The first graduation ceremony for the students enrolled at Success Kids Academy was held on June 8th. Eight tiny tots declared that they have prepared properly and are now ready to start the next chapter of their education. The guest speaker for this

Please see **North Abaco** Page 19.



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More North Abaco News

North Abaco From Page 18

year's ceremony was Sabrina Bullard Russell, Senior Mistress of the Sherlin Bootle High School.

For the first time in September 2006 the school opened its door offering nursery and preschool services. Operating on a Beka Curriculum, students were taught basic math, reading, alphabet and number recognition which will allow them to enter into grade 1 ready to compete. These tiny tots received all the necessary training and waved their finally good-byes to teachers Mrs. D. McIntosh, Mrs. S. Russell and Mrs. R. Moxey. The communities of North Abaco congratulate the class of 2007.

Church News

10th Annual Women Conference

By Vernique Russell

Touching Jesus Is All That Matters was the theme for the 10th Annual Women's Conference held at End Time Harvest in Crown Haven. The conference began on June 4th and ran through June 8th nightly. The climax service was held on June 10th. Speakers for this year's conference included Apostle Leon Wallace of Nassau, Pastor Bridgette Mills of Cities of Refuge, Treasure Cay, and Mother Doreen Mills, first lady of End Time Harvest, Crown Haven. The conference brought hope, aspirations, dreams and built faith as women worshiped their Master and Savior in spirit. Congratulations are extended to the organizers of the conference for a job well done.

Church of God 54th Convention

By Vernique Russell

The Church of God Cathedral in Cooper's

per's Town celebrated its 54th Annual Convention June 4th through 10th. The theme for this year convention was *Fear Not*. Services were held nightly at the church in Cooper's Town. On hand for the grand celebration was the National Overseer Bishop John Humes. On Sunday June 10th the Rt. Hon. Hubert A. Ingraham, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, took time out his busy schedule to worship and celebrate with the Church of God. He was accompanied by members of the Free National Movement Women's Association including the association's national president, Ms. Sharon Sherpard. Congratulations are extended to the Church of God on another accomplished milestone. May God keep you and continue to bless you. The senior pastor at the Church of God is Bishop Archilus Cooper.

People in the News

Thank You, BTC

By Vernique Russell

I would like to express sincere thanks to Mr. Rick Cox of BTC for restoring service to our DSL and VIBE services. Mr. Cox came after he was off for the evening to correct the problem, after attempting to come during working and all attempts were unsuccessful. He demonstrated his dedication and commitment to his job. Mr. Cox, I really appreciate your coming by and adding a little sweetness to the sour taste that BTC had left in my mouth.

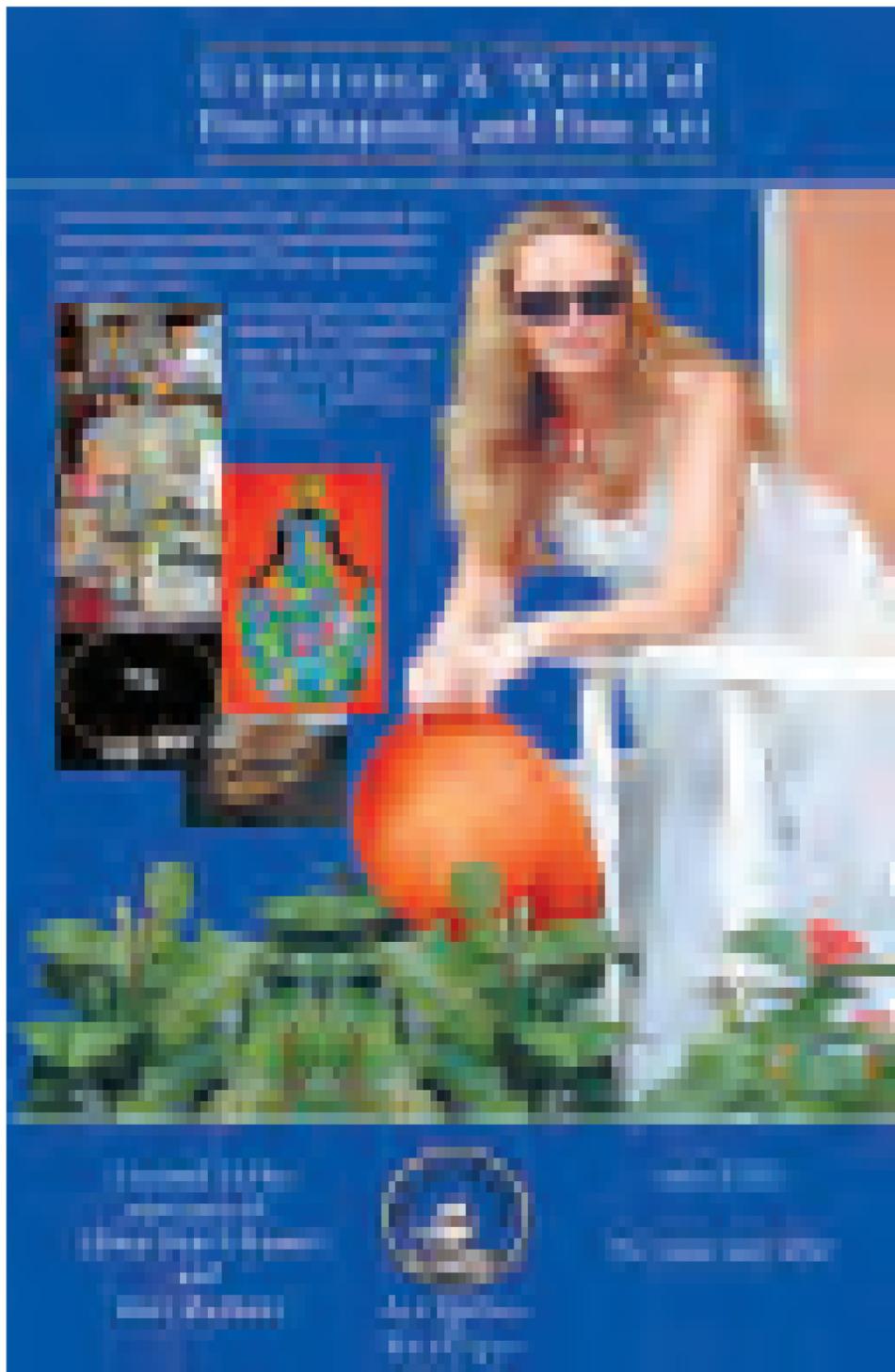
Happy Anniversary and

Happy Birthday

By Vernique Russell

June 6th was a very special day for Rex

Please see **North Abaco** Page 21



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South Abaco News

Cherokee Sound

By Lee Pinder

Good Byes to an old friend

Leland James Roberts passed away on May 30 in his own home surrounded by family and friends after a long illness and was laid to rest in the local cemetery on the following day. Long time friend and boyhood schoolmate, Patrick Bethel, gave the eulogy and was assisted in the service by Stanley Hansel, the visiting minister from Norwich, England. The funeral was held at Epworth Chapel in Cherokee on May 31st where he had been a faithful follower for many years.

Born in Cherokee Sound on the 4th of July in 1924 to James and Susan Roberts and married to the late Eula Rosalee Sands of Man-O-War. Together they had six children who survived him; Freeman, Una Sawyer, Darlene Sawyer, Diane Sawyer, Elvis and Audley.

Captain Leland was a familiar figure around all of Abaco as he operated the mail boat for 18 years on her weekly run to and from Nassau. He was awarded a certificate of appreciation for his dedicated and unselfish service to the Free National Movement at a banquet and honorary dinner held at the Spinnaker Restaurant in 1994 along with other outstanding Abaconians by the then National Chairman, Dion Foulkes, and the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hubert A. Ingraham. He was also honoured by the Rotary Club of Abaco and given a Vocational Service Award in 1995 for his outstanding service as the captain of the Stede Bonnet as "Being an Exemplary Role Model For Others in His Vocation in 1995."

He is survived by an older sister, Annis

Hamilton, as well as his younger brother, Charles; his children; eleven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a host of other family members and friends and acquaintances who will surely miss him.

Souse-out

Epworth Methodist Chapel held a Souse-Out in aid of three of its members who are experiencing serious medical problems at this time as well as the replenishing of its Benevolence Fund. The event took place on April 28th on the school grounds under the big almond tree and was well attended. The fund raiser was very successful, bringing in over \$2,200. Chicken Souse and Pigs Feet Souse were the menu for the day, but more importantly it brought the community together for a time of fellowship and conversation, which everyone seems to enjoy.

Parrot survival

In an effort to help preserve our Bahamian parrots, one of our local hunters, who prefers to remain anonymous, is working with the Friends of the Environment to trap feral cats. These wild cats prey upon the young parrots in their nests which are on the ground and are threatening their survival.

We commend the hunter for his concern for the plight of one of our national treasures and once again thank Friends for recognizing a need and stepping up to try and solve the problem. They are a wonderful organization working hard for our future.

Satellite mapping

Cherokee satellite mapping is being updated by members of the Bahamas National Geographic Information Systems Center from Nassau. Two of their employees walked around the town, taking down numbers on BEC poles so that correct

coordinates could be recorded. Eventually, we will be able to view these maps that will be similar to Google Earth. We will see an overhead bird's eye view of "little" Cherokee Sound or any other part of Abaco we wish to study with more detail than is available on Google. So, be careful 1984 is long gone, but "Big Brother Is Watching You."

A visit to the reef balls

Our students were treated to an actual visit to the Reef Balls put into place near Mermaid Reef off Pelican Shores in Marsh Harbour during the last week of May. As they are not far from shore, the students were able to swim out to them and see them first hand. They came back with lots of stories to tell of the experience. About how the balls were already starting to grow moss and had been accepted by the surrounding sea life creatures who were already making them their home. They told of the many different varieties of fish they saw and how they swam together with the fish in their midst. Of course, our children are used to swimming in our waters and experiencing the various forms of sea life, but it also made them aware of how man can give back to nature and not always taking from it. It was a good learning experience for them and we all want to thank Friends of the Environment for their wonderful works.

School Fun Day

The schoolchildren enjoyed a school fun day on May 25th. The participants were divided into two teams. This time Ms. Lowe and Ms. Seymour came up with a lot of new and different games and competitions for the students, and they all joined in with much gusto and enthusiasm. There was a barbecue cookout at lunchtime which all

enjoyed. The mothers were invited to cheer their "little darlings" on and competition was keen, but the winners of the day were the Bull Dolphins who scored 55 points to the Great White Sharks who came in with 46 points.

The students' garden had a bumper crop of cherry tomatoes this year and the kids decided to have a spaghetti dinner and made their own sauce from their home-grown tomatoes. Everyone declared it was utterly delicious.

Rocking chair rock-a-thon

The recent student Rock-A-Thon fund raiser held by the students of Cherokee Primary School raised in the neighbourhood of \$1,470. These monies will help pay traveling expenses for a planned field trip in June.

However, it was not as successful as they hoped it would be. So a second event will be held on June 23rd, just prior to the field trip. This one will be held during the nighttime and will include some parents and grown-ups, who were unable to participate in the last one.

Methodist Habitat group visits

A group of 12 college students and their minister, Rev. John Higginbotham, came from Northwest State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, in the United States as a work group to assist our local South Abaco Region with some much needed help. As one of their projects they elected to paint and do some minor repairs to Gerney and Kathy Sands home in Cherokee Sound. Their residence is said to be over 100 years

Please see **South** Page 21

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South Abaco News

South From Page 20

old. Located in the very middle of town next to the Methodist Church, it is a strong and sturdy old home built of Abaco pine. It is always good to see one of our historical landmarks preserved.

This is not the first time this group has visited Abaco and lent a helping hand. Mr. and Mrs. Sands, together with a few friends, treated the workers to a real Bahamian spread on the last day of work. And I'm sure Mrs. and Mrs. Sands appreciate their kind help to beautify their home as does the whole community.

Gardener's bonsai trees were displayed at Epcot Festival

Bonsai - the art of growing carefully trained, dwarf plants in containers.

Mr. Robert S. Pinder of Palm City, Florida, had the distinction recently of having his bonsai trees featured at the 2007 Epcot Flower and Garden Festival at Disney World in Orlando. Other bonsai experts also displayed their trees.

Mr. Pinder was originally from Cherokee. But his parents left many years ago for a better life for their family and never returned to live again in Cherokee. Mr. Pinder settled in South Florida where he enjoys creating garden scenes in miniature with tiny trees and magic landscapes, using normal plants that he develops to look like small, old trees.

Mr. Pinder has worked in the plant industry all his life but he has been especially interested in growing bonsai plants. When asked why he specializes in bonsai, Mr. Pinder, who owns Dragon Tree Bonsai Nursery in Palm City, said it was a gift that started him on this path. "A college buddy of mine was a second lieutenant in Japan,"

he said. "He sent me a pictorial book about Japanese bonsai and that did it. I still have the book."



This is an example of a bonsai tree; however, it is not one of Mr. Pinder's bonsai plants.

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North Abaco From Page 19

and Vety Carey of Fox Town. On June 3rd family, friends and well wishers gathered to celebrate with this couple 10 years of dedicated services at Revival Time Pentecostal in Crown Haven, 20 years of martial bliss and First Lady Carey's 40th birthday. This service of appreciation, thanksgiving and renewal took place at the couple's home church in Crown Haven. The Careys renewed their wedding vows that they took 20 years ago.

Rev. Burnell Parker, his executive board and members paid tribute by showing appreciation for the dedication that Mr. Carey has rendered to the church body. The communities of North Abaco join with Revival Time Pentecostal to say congratulation to Mr. and Mrs. Carey. May God continue to bless you. Mr. Carey is employed at BTC and Mrs. Carey is employed at the Cooper's Town Clinic.

Happy Birthday
By Vernique Russell

Birthday greetings are extended to Madame Diva Platinum Ebony Rolle, who is celebrating her 32nd birthday on June 28th. Special greetings are extended from her two beautiful kids, Latoya Rolle and Trajan Bootle. We hope that you enjoy your day to the fullest.

Good-bye
By Vernique Russell

The communities of North Abaco extend best wishes to Customs Officer Delmaro Mackey, who has served on Abaco for the past year and a half. Thank you for all that you have done while you were here. May God always guide and protect you.



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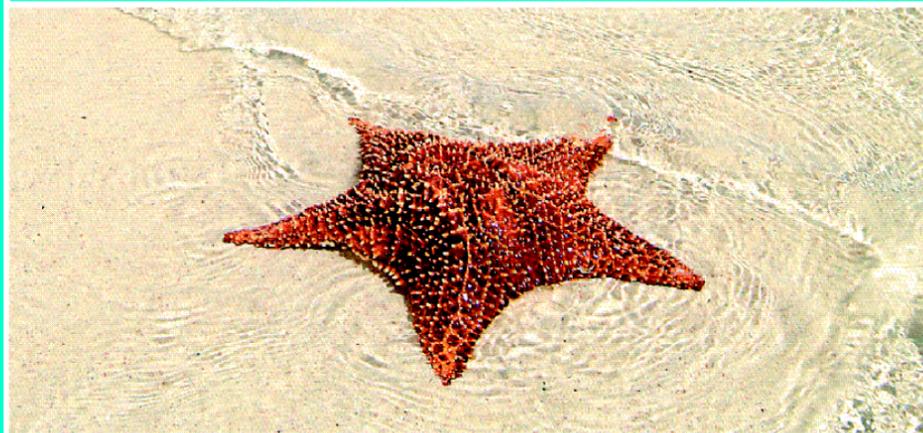
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Abaco National Park for Sale?

By Elwood D. Bracey, MD
 Member Bahamas National Trust and
 Friends of the Environment, Former
 President Audubon Society of the
 Everglades, Former Board member
 Florida Audubon Society and Save the
 Everglades Committee, Current full time
 resident of Abaco and Environmental
 Activist

While doing a monthly bird survey on 6/7 in the depths of our Abaco National Park with fellow naturalists Tom and Judy Gire of the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton, we suddenly made our turn on to Road 49 and found it to be a rut-filled rubble-strewn mess with trees bulldozed to both sides. When we came to observation site #15 selected for its healthy growth of coppice where a pair of parrots nest each

year, we found the most severe damage. A formerly picturesque limestone deep sink-hole was piled full with dead trees and debris and the blue flag designating the area pushed over deep into the woods. No birds were found here except for a lone Zenaida Dove pecking thru the freshly disturbed ground.

With difficulty we made our way out to the Hole-in-the-Wall road and proceeded south to observation area #16, but on the way noticed that Road 50 was likewise grossly bulldozed with heaps of dead trees pushed to either side of the formerly smooth and adequate logging road.

How anyone could for whatever reason bulldoze in an unsupervised manner within the confines of a national park is beyond me. The perpetrators need be taken to task and as mitigation a good portion if not all of their

park. The Bahamas National Trust needs to stand up to this offense or be renamed the Bahamas National Distrust and the same goes for the Friends of the Environment who by inaction become Enemies of the Environment.

If we continue to allow transgressions like this and the dump transfer site fiasco and the granting of Crown Land to "businesses" along the S.C. Bootle Highway between Marsh Harbor and Treasure Cay to be turned into eyesore junkyards, Abaco will lose its tourist appeal. We are allowing this beautiful place the Lord has made to be all screwed up. This is no time to look the other way. At the very least keep the Abaco National Park pristine and keep the developers and private interests OUT.



A bulldozer has worked on two roads in the Abaco National Park, one by mistake and the other to provide access to privately owned land along the shore. The wide blade felled many trees and pushed them into the pine forest. This is an area actively used by the parrots during nesting season. Caroline Shahala, at the expense of a potential developer, will be assessing the damage and will report to the Bahamas National Trust that has responsibility for all national parks in the country.

Grounded Barge

By Jennifer Hudson

A large oil rig has lain aground just two miles southeast of Man-O-War Cay for the past two years and despite many efforts by the Port Authority to have it moved, at the time of writing this article, it is still there. It broke away from its mooring at Walker's Cay during Hurricane Wilma and the owner, Liberty Oil of Texas, just abandoned it. It has been a constant source of annoyance to residents of Man-O-War Cay and Elbow Cay and boaters in the area as it is an eyesore. Persons have made many requests for its removal. In addition to being an eyesore, it is damaging the coral reef on which it is sitting and could also be a potential hazard if it were to become punctured as the fuel it is holding could be spilled over the area.

Mr. Glen Lowe of Treasure Coast Marine in Freeport was paid a mobilisation fee to put things into action for getting it removed over three months ago but nothing happened. According to Capt. Roker of the Port Authority, every time he questioned Mr. Lowe as to why it had not yet been moved, he had a new excuse, then a spell of bad weather with very strong winds delayed the process even further.

At the beginning of June Capt. Roker learned that progress was being made and that a tug company from the United States had been contracted to move the rig so, hopefully, we will soon be able to report

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Seminar was on disaster management preparation

By Mirella Santillo

On April 3rd Mrs. Beryl Armbrister came from Nassau to hold a meeting for local and central government people to familiarize them with the organization she represents, the United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. The major scope of that organization is to prepare key people in the countries at risk in the areas of shelter management, initial damage assessment and need analysis and training for instructors. She offered to come back to further instruct the people present in these latter subjects.

This return visit, organized by Mrs. Elaine Martinborough with Urban Renewal, took place on June 5th. Police officers, representatives of government agencies, members of volunteer organizations and residents of various Abaco communities attended the seminar which related to shelter

management preparedness. The scope of the course was to put the people present in charge of preparing for and coping with a disaster.

Approximately 30 people took part in the exercise of considering the locations and the structural condition of the buildings presently used as shelters, mostly churches, and assessing their effectiveness should a major disaster occur, most probably a hurricane. They were asked to determine what they thought should be in place on the island as far as shelters were concerned. Divided in four groups, they analyzed the existing conditions and put together recommendations.

Most people agreed that Abaco Central High School and Central Abaco Primary School were not adequate shelters because of the bathroom situation and because of flooding in the case of the high school.

They also agreed that shelters should not be in the hands of religious institutions. They recommended that government build two open-wall shelters operated by properly trained shelter management personnel. Preparing residents at risk to be ready to move to a shelter was also discussed as well as what supplies would be needed.

The recommendations were collected by the instructor to be passed on to Mrs. Martinborough of Urban Renewal. The notes will be compared to the data provided in the next session. In that next class, which should be held before the end of June, the participants will review their suggestions to make final recommendations.

A document will be drafted according to these final suggestions and become part of a plan of action in case of a major disaster.

Passports From Page 1

The Bahamas have dropped significantly.

This ruling was made because of the record number of applications at the State Department with new passport applications

now taking three months to be processed. Travel plans of thousands of Americans have been put on hold because of this.

The Bahamas Hotel Association is urging the U.S. Government to extend the implementation date to correspond with the one for the cruise industry scheduled to take place in January 2008.

During a three-month period this past spring, the State Department issued 4.5 million passports.

Fowl Cay From Page 11

so enthusiastic about this proposal to officially make Fowl Cays a protected park that he offered to serve on the Management Committee and has offered his services as a Warden free of charge.

At the close of the meeting Ms. Rahming stated that she was disappointed that not more people from the community attended. It was a public meeting which was advertised in the Tribune, Guardian, Abaconian, on Radio Abaco and with flyers. She expressed her frustration that despite all the advertising local persons who should be concerned were not there.



Mrs. Beryl Armbrister of the U.S. Embassy in Nassau conducted a seminar on Abaco on June 5 on disaster management. Government workers, members of various volunteer groups and interested residents now have a much better concept of how to respond to a disaster.

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People in the News

Dr. Denise Archer Volunteers in Jamaica

By Jennifer Hudson

Dr Denise Archer, dentist proprietor of Diamante Dental Clinic, has recently returned from a week's stay in Jamaica where she volunteered her dental services at the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf (CCCD). Dr Archer is a committed Christian, who says that the reason she chose dentistry as a career is so that she could help people, and she demonstrates her Christian commitment by volunteering for several weeks every year to treat needy children free of charge.

The trip from which Dr. Archer has just returned was the third trip she has made to the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf. There are four campuses, and she has been once to each of the Kingston and Montego Bay campuses and twice to the Mandeville Campus where she was most recently. The Centre was established in 1958 to meet the unique needs of deaf children. It is a training centre offering the basics in academics and vocational skills in order to mold and build Christian character. The children come from impoverished families most of whom cannot afford to pay even a small part of the cost of room, board and tuition. In addition, several of the children are orphans, some of whom have even been found on the streets, without any financial support. Some came to the centre as young as three years and some are still in school at the age of 25 as they did not start school until the age of 12 or 15 years.

The basic resources needed to operate the school are provided by sponsors and

private donations. The school tries to be as self sufficient as possible by raising its own cows, pigs and chickens and recycling its garbage to provide methane gas. Work teams are welcome to do everything from working with mentally retarded or emotionally disturbed children to doing electrical, plumbing, painting and teaching.

Dr. Archer works at the Centres along with Dr. Beecham from the United States, another volunteer dentist who began the dentistry project 10 years ago. Dr Beecham has donated all of the dental equipment necessary which is portable so that it can be moved between each of the campuses. On the first day Dr. Archer was there, she and Dr. Beecham saw 106 students between them. "Some of the children just needed their teeth cleaned while others required dental work; sadly some of the children had suffered with toothache for a whole year since they cannot afford to pay for dental treatment," said Dr. Archer.

In addition to the trip she has just made to the Mandeville campus, Dr Archer volunteered in February for one week at each of the Kingston and Montego Bay campuses. "This is a bona fide ministry and I would like to see more people going there to work," she said.

Clinton Forbes Graduates from C.O.B.

By Samantha V. Evans

The College of the Bahamas held its 2007 commencement exercise on the last day of May in Nassau and one of Abaco's very own students graduated. Mr. Clinton J. Forbes graduated with a degree as a Trained Clinical Nurse. He is presently employed at the

Sandilands Rehabilitation Center in Nassau where he also did his internship. His proud parents are Eusias and Mary Cornish of Blackwood. He is a graduate of S.C. Bootle High School.



Bodybuilder Wins Again

The NPC 2007 Superior Bodybuilding and Fitness Championship and the Bahamas vs. Florida Invitational were held in Hialeah, Florida on May 12. Veteran bodybuilder Arthur Elden competed in both competitions, placing first in the Master over 60 in the Bahamas vs. Florida and third in the Superior Championship.

The Bahamas Novice Championship was held on May 18 in Nassau and Mr. Elden was honoured by the Bahamas Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation by naming the championship after him and presenting him with a plaque.

In attendance was the Minister of State for Youth and Sports, the Hon. Byron Woodside, Dr. Norman Gay and Arthur's first training partner, Mr. Richard Demeritte.

Leazona Richard Joins Pathfinders

By Jennifer Hudson

As a dedicated teacher, Mrs Leazona Richard has been molding young minds

and guiding her students for the past 11 years. After teaching in Bimini for four years, at S.C. Bootle High School in Cooper's Town for five years and at Forest Heights Academy for the past two years, Ms. Richard is now leaving the profession of teaching but will still remain in the field of assisting young people. She has accepted a full time position with the Abaco Pathfinders Scholarship Foundation which, she says, "will involve challenging and motivating kids going to college."

Ms. Richard began her work with Pathfinders at the end of March and her first duty was to be part of the interviewing process, contacting students and colleges and signing contracts. "My main goal will be to see that the kids finish the four-year scholarship programme allotted to them and not have lose their scholarships as has sometimes happened in the past because their grades had dropped. Once awarded a scholarship, students may reapply every year as long as they keep their grades up to par.

"I plan to visit the 11th and 12th grade students in the high schools to help them apply for scholarships and tell them what is available to them not only from Pathfinders but also from additional sources and help them understand what the process entails



Please see **People** Page 25.

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More People in the News

People From Page 24

and how to stand out from the crowd. I will target kids who attend schools throughout Abaco whatever their nationality as long as they have good grades, have a definite need and are willing to make a contribution to the community. We encourage them to return home after college."

Having been a part of both the public and private school systems, Ms. Richard is very well qualified for her new position as she "knows both systems and will not be focusing on one sector."

She qualified as a teacher at the College of the Bahamas before she did further studies in the United States and so will be able, from her own experience, to advise students entering either the College of the Bahamas or colleges in the United States. "We consider ourselves very fortunate to hire her," stated Mr. Michael Albury, Chairman of the Abaco Pathfinders Foundation.

Ms. Richard was very impressed with the caliber of students she helped interview recently. "They were articulate, well dressed and some blew the socks off us!" Students from Cooper's Town High School, Abaco Central High School and Forest Height Academy made the final cut. Also serving on the interviewing panel were Jim and Joan Blumberg, Jack Helm and Cathy Weldon.

This year for the first time the Monty Albury Award for Excellence was presented to the applicant who showed excellent grades, personality and a commitment to community service. This is a prestigious and not a monetary award. The plaque was presented to this year's recipient of the award, Bradley Albury, at the reception held on June 3.

Ms. Richard's Pathfinder's Office opened at the end of April and shares space in the office of the Friends of the Environment in Dove Plaza. Her schedule will be very busy as she will interface with colleges to access scholarships for the students, offer guidance and assistance throughout the year to students who are away studying, visit schools throughout Abaco, and head the mentoring programme for students while they are away.

In addition to all of that Ms. Richard will also be responsible for the organization of the annual Pathfinders Auction which takes place in March which is a huge undertaking. "I am so excited about the auction which will be a huge challenge to organize for it to be successful, but I feel that I am up to this challenge," enthused Ms. Richard, who added that she will be looking for the support from the community, the recipients and their parents.

"Without the auction there would be no funds to help the kids so the more money that is made, the more kids will be able to go to college."

When asked how she felt about leaving teaching Ms. Richard's reply was "I will miss being on a day-to-day basis with the kids in the classroom helping them with their problems, but I will be able to help all kids."

Ms. Richard is married to Mr. Jim Richard, Principal of Forest Heights Academy, and the couple has two children, a son aged seven and a daughter aged six.

Tournaments From Page 6

days to win with three blue marlin releases and three white marlin releases.

Therapy was able to finish second by recording 1,800 points first with three blue marlin releases and *Heads Up* also released three blue marlins to finish third with 1,800 points.

This year's Treasure Cay Championship, hosted by the Treasure Cay Resort Hotel and Marina, saw 47 blue marlin, 18 white marlin and four sailfish caught and released.



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News of the Cays

GTC says good-bye to school principal

By Julian Lockhart

Tears streamed, voices cracked, best wishes were given, hugs and kisses as friends, family, coworkers and families gathered to wish Anne Bootle farewell on June 16 as she retired after 38 years of teaching. The Prime Minister of the Bahamas, the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham, said during the farewell luncheon at the Green Turtle Club that Mrs. Bootle has made a tremendous impact on her students and her community since moving to The Bahamas.

Mrs. Bootle came to Abaco in 1969 when the government was looking for teachers and she never left. She has been a principal for 25 years of which the last 10 has been at the Amy Roberts Primary School on Green Turtle Cay.

Mr. Ingraham said, "We have been fortunate in The Bahamas to have benefited from the services of many wonderful

expatriate teachers who have given faithful service throughout the length and breadth of our country. For Anne, the cultural shock of being posted to Cooper's Town must have been great; adapt she did, however. Anne loved teaching and it showed. Her students came to love and respect her. Parents quickly came to understand that she was good for their children. Anne, I must be honest, I am sorry to see you retire. You have been a faithful servant, a stellar teacher and a role model par excellence," he added.

Mrs. Bootle shed a lot of tears over the weekend as her students gave her a farewell at awards day and graduation on June 15. She said all of the well wishes have surprised her.

When Mrs. Bootle arrived on Abaco in 1969 she started teaching at Cooper's Town Primary where she stayed for three years. During that time she married Cliff Bootle. She moved on to Treasure Cay Primary where she taught for 10 years before becoming the principal, a position she held for 15 years. During those years Mrs. Bootle had four children and lost her husband. Mrs. Bootle then moved on to the Amy Roberts Primary School where she spent 10 years as principal and is now moving on to a new chapter in her life.

Mrs. Bootle said, "I was just overwhelmed by everything that happened here today. The outflowing of affection and appreciation, I was almost lost for words. That was the biggest (Mr. Ingraham coming) honor of all. I have known Mr. Ingraham for many

years, and he has been a friend of my family and especially in times of trouble when my husband was sick and died. Teaching for me is not a job but a vocation and I have loved it. I have never gotten up in the morning and felt like I didn't want to go to work today. My teaching experience has been a joy to me," she added.

Mrs. Bootle said change is good and she has enjoyed every moment of her teaching experience from the bottom of her heart. Despite retiring as principal, Mrs. Bootle may take a job with education on Abaco if she receives a concrete offer. She has also

indicated that she would be willing to be a substitute teacher when needed on Abaco.

Mr. Ingraham said, "First of all, I don't think Anne is going anywhere yet. She is not going to be a principal anymore. There are many opportunities for the older persons in education to continue to serve and help them mentor some of the younger ones. We will continue to do that, especially here on Abaco," he concluded.



Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham attended the luncheon for Mrs. Anne Bootle, principal of the Amy Roberts Primary School on Green Turtle Cay. They have been friends for the 38 years that Mrs. Bootle has been with the school system on Abaco.

Man injured in boating accident on Tilloo



Chad Thompson, 22, was apparently thrown from his outboard boat when it hit the shoreline on Tilloo as he went through Tilloo Cut. He received a compound fracture and severe lacerations on his right leg. He was found by a passing boater who put splint on his leg before he was taken to Marsh Harbour to be flown to West Palm Beach. This accident happened in the early evening of June 13.

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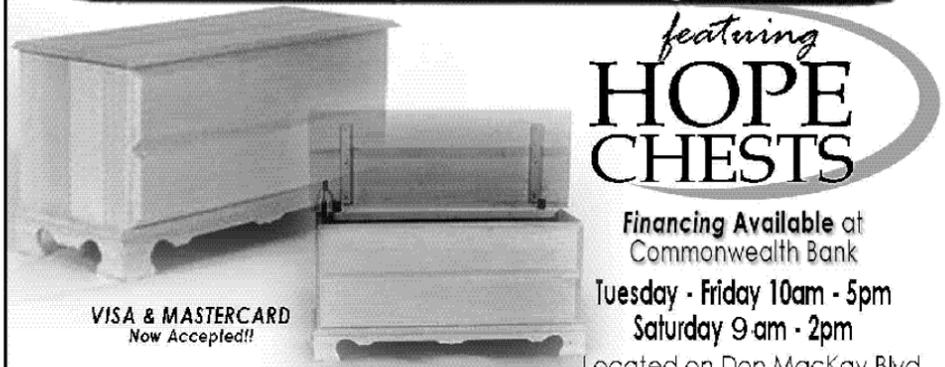
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Recycling Update

By Mirella Santillo

The Recycling Committee of the Keep Abaco Beautiful program, chaired by Ms. Bernadette Harding, met at Friends of the Environment office in Marsh Harbour on June 7th to monitor the progress of the recycling efforts on Abaco.

Mrs. Cha Boyce and Mrs. Lindsey McCoy discussed the situation on Elbow Cay, mentioning that there are now six collection sites in Hope Town. The Hope Town Association has taken over the management of the can recycling. However, people are still disposing of batteries on their own, shipping them over to Marsh Harbour. At the mention of batteries, a note was made to propose the implementation of a separate site for the disposal of batteries at the Hope Town dump.

Mrs. Uli Nowlan, who represents Friends of the Environment in Treasure Cay, mentioned the implementation of a new recycling site with 12 bins. The Treasure Cay Committee would like to improve the school grounds by having the children decorate a garbage bin for the school. The association is trying to find a site for batteries and scrap metals. Mrs. Nowlan said that eventually she also would like to see a bottle recycling station. "We are planning awareness drives to inform locals and renters of the recycling sites," she explained.

Mrs. Jo-Ann Bradley reported on Cherokee Sound. The can - recycling bins were full and batteries were also a problem. It was suggested that Mr. Paul Mills be contacted.

The need to push the "green bags" was brought up. It seems that people have not yet adopted the use of those bags while doing their food shopping. The green bags have been launched to reduce the use of

plastic bags which are not environmentally friendly.

Samples of biodegradable fast food containers made of corn starch and clear cups made of organic by-products were passed around and tested to find out how they resist water. The containers passed the test; to offset their higher price, it was suggested that a request be made to the government as to whether import duties could be raised on polystyrene food containers and lowered on environment-friendly products. The group also brought up the need to arrange a meeting with the Prime Minister to make him aware of the many environmental issues on the island.

Mr. Paul Mills was contacted to find out how his operation was run. Mr. Paul Mills with Mills Brothers Fabricating has started collecting cans and batteries from the recycling sites approximately two months ago. At present, he takes care of bagging the cans, placing the batteries on pallets and taking them to the Fast Ferry to be shipped to Nassau for processing. His driver picks up the items at locations in Sandy Point, Marsh Harbour, Treasure Cay and from the freight dock where the cays' recyclables come. He mentioned that Green Turtle Cay takes care of its own recycling. He is planning to recycle items stripped from cars and eventually to oversee the crushing of the many derelict vehicles abandoned all over Abaco.

Rotary Club Cleans Goombay Park



In spite of winds and rain showers from the first tropical depression of the season, Barry, five members of the local Rotary Club met early on June 2nd to pick up trash at Goombay Park beach to have the place clean for the opening of the Goombay summer festivities.

It took an hour and a half for Club's President Bryan Thompson and three members of the Community Service Committee to gather twelve bags of refuse and pile up a large amount of construction wood pieces.

The clean-up was under the auspice of the Ministry of Tourism's campaign Keep Abaco Beautiful. The group made the recommendation that a large container for recycling aluminum cans be put in the vicinity of the beach as well as a few garbage bins to help prevent people throw trash on the ground.

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Obituaries of Family and Friends

The funeral service for **Harvey M. Albury**, 52 of Marsh Harbour was held on June 13 at the Church of Christ in Marsh Harbour. Pastor David Cartwright officiated and interment was in the Marsh Harbour Public Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife Barbara Albury; sons Patrick, Calvin and O'Brien Darville; brother Billy Thompson; sister Annie Sawyer; brothers-in-law Kirk, Matthew, Raymond, Robert, David and Aaron Darville and Edward Sawyer; sisters-in-law Shirley Russell, Linda Sawyer, Joy, Edith, Julie, Bethsheba and Denise Darville and Elaine Thompson; nephews Ryan, Matthew Jr., Eric, Kristen, Hosea, Jeremy, Roberto, Charles, Johnnie, Shaun and Brandon; nieces: Kishanda, Tina, Andrea, Nikita, Jessica, Jordana, Lindalee, Beth, Robin, Angalique, Shauna, Julie, Susan, Selena, Dominique and Charise; mother-in-law Mrs. Geneth "Parnell" Darville; and many other relatives and friends

The funeral service for **Eric Bain Jr.**, 47, of Sandy Point was held on June at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Sandy Point. Rev. Napoleon Roberts officiated. Interment was in the Sandy Point Public Cemetery.

He is survived by his sisters Nadine Bain, Sharon Haynes and Daphne Dillon; brothers Gregory, Raymond, Timmy, Charles and Kenny Bain; aunts Manuella Lightbourne,

Remilda Bain, Jane Bain, Rachel Garcia, Evelyn Bain, Mavis Smith and Dorothy Nairn; uncles Morris Bain and Ronald Nairn Jr.; grandaunts Ida Glinton and Dorothy Nairn; sister-in-law Zelma Bain; nephews Gregory Bain Jr., Giovanni, Givante, Trae, Tavez, Timothy Jr., Joseph, David, Samuel, Michael Haynes, Eugene and Geno Butler and Wade; nieces Kanisha "K K" Murray, Shondrae Bain, Mia Dillon, Alicia and Rebecca Haynes, Jane Clarke and Crystal Pinder; cousins Shervin, Donald, Wellington, Freeman and Jenny Pinder, Patricia Leonard, Orlene Rodgers, Alperna Forbes, Zelma Baker, Solomon, Ross, Fletcher, Walter and Jimmy Lightbourne, Jane, Julia, Cora, Kelly, Aniska, Michael, Leon, Marilyn, Karen Woods, Bonnie Culmer, Raquel, Keith Clarke, George and David Turnquest, James, Johnny, Richard Bain, Carolyn Alcine, Judy Heard, Anthony Sr., Maurice Jr., Wade, Samuel, Aaron, Jessie and Ruthmae Bain, Seneca Pratt and Lawanda Clarke; and many other relatives and friends

Terry Bain, 34, formerly of Sandy Point passed away at the Princess Margaret Hospital on May 28th. She is survived by her parents Rev. Morris and Jane Bain; brothers Anthony, Maurice, Wayde, Samuel, Aaron and Jessie Bain; sister Ruthmae Bain; and

The Abaco Tourist Office kicks off Summer Festivities

By Michelle Mikula

Junkanoo Summer Festival, which is fairly new to Abaco's calendar of events, has resonated as one of the signature events for this destination.

Visitors and locals who grew accustomed to Goombay Summers on Abaco were surprised to find out that their summer ritual was replaced with Junkanoo Summer Festival. The Ministry of Tourism launched this event in 2006 placing New Providence, Grand Bahama, Exuma and Abaco under its umbrella.

Although its name changed, the Abaco Tourist Office, host of the summer event, has maintained the celebratory atmosphere paying homage to Bahamian heritage and culture, Abaco style. The indelible impressions that Goombay placed on their lives has continued with Junkanoo Summer Festival.

The Abaco brand of Junkanoo Summer Festival unfolds every Friday night at Goombay Park in Marsh Harbour until its closing on July 6th. The water front setting encircles booths that depict the pastel clapboard houses that are found throughout the Abaco cays. Each week visitors and locals are able to sample the island's diversity through the food, crafts, performances and other activities that take center stage.

In addition, the Abaco Tourist Office

has signed up other Bahamian talent such as Ancient Man, KB, Jay Mitchel, Geno D, the Royal Bahamas Police Marching and Pop Bands, Metellus Chipman and other special

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Viewpoint . . . Prepare for better jobs

By Julian Lockhart

It is graduation time again and scores of young Abaconians are stepping forth into the world after leaving the comforts of high school, and for the majority of them the end of the days of their parents supporting them and paying their bills. For some, they know what they will be doing come September, which college or university they will be going to and which career path they will be pursuing.

As for others they have no clue what they want to do with their lives, if they want to further their education, what their career path is or if they want to do anything, for that matter.

Abaco is in a unique position as it is on the cusp of a financial upswing with Ritz Carlton taking over the Abaco Club and pumping hundreds of million of dollars into the project, with Baker's Bay being completed by the end of 2009, with the Rocky Point Development in Sandy Point starting construction soon and a number of other projects popping up around Abaco.

There will be more money flowing through Abaco in the next five to 10 years because of these developments. The new airport and other projects are on tap. It is time for 2007 graduates and future graduating classes to start taking advantage of these opportunities. It seems to be the general thought of a lot of Abaconians that too many Nassuvians and Grand Bahamians are moving into Abaco to take jobs that Abaconians should have.

I agree that job opportunities on Abaco should go to Abaconians first, and they should be given the chance to fill any jobs that become available, whether that is resort job or one anywhere in town. However, employers are going to hire the best applicant for the job and are going to do so no mat-

ter where they are from. If someone from New Providence or Grand Bahama is better trained, educated and more qualified, they will get the job. This is where Abaconians can help themselves and new and future graduates can put themselves in position to harness these opportunities and be able to qualify for the top jobs at these resorts.

If you have no idea what you want to do with your life, then seriously think about going into some form of tourism-based career path. There are so many different jobs at a resort. It isn't just the bus boys, waitresses, maids and grounds crew even though without them the hotel can't survive. There are managerial positions, guest service persons, chefs, housekeeping managers, operations managers, golf course care, food and beverage managers and the list can go on and on. Also for those who want to be an accountant or engineer, resorts need those as well. So there are jobs available in those positions.

If we complain that others are taking the jobs available to us and don't put ourselves in position to succeed and take advantage of the opportunities, then we will never be in position to be the best applicant for a position. Education is very important and one doesn't have to go far to get a great one as the Bahamas Hotel Training College is one of the best and can put anyone in position to work on Abaco or anywhere in the Bahamas if they so choose.

The Abaco Club, Baker's Bay, Rocky Point and others will all be looking to fill top positions in years to come. A high school diploma alone won't help an Abaconian get those positions. It most likely will go to someone from outside the island. The only way to buck the trend that has already started is to develop the necessary skills, which start from learning how to put together a

Abaco students benefitted from this

By Julian Lockhart

An end of an amazing era in North Abaco education came to an end on June 16 when Anne Bootle retired from 38 years of teaching, grooming and educating the future leaders of Abaco and the Bahamas alike.

Mrs. Bootle arrived in Abaco 38 years ago when the government at the time was recruiting teachers from the United Kingdom and though the majority of her compatriots made a difference in countless of lives.

Thousands of students passed through her doors as a teacher, first for three years at Cooper's Town Primary, then for 25 years at Treasure Cay Primary, 15 as principal, then ending her career as principal of Amy Roberts Primary in Green Turtle Cay.

Along the way Mrs. Bootle married Cliff

Bootle, had four kids - Cliff, Fiona, Neil and Kirsten - one step child, five grand kids and four step grand kids. Even after her husband died 14 years into their marriage and with four young children Mrs. Bootle still didn't return to Edinburgh, Scotland. She explained, "By then the Bahamas was home, my children were Bahamian, I was Bahamian and I had no desire to return to the United Kingdom." She continued, "I teach because I love children. The mainstay of any nation is children and I hope to bring them to a better level." She will perhaps accept another position in education. She concluded, "I think my 10 years here on Green Turtle Cay has meant the most to me. It was a different caliber of person, different caliber of community and students. For some reason I became a different person



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 Great Cistem \$20 + \$5
 Spring City \$15 + \$5
 Snake Cay \$35 + \$10
 Treasure Cay \$60 + \$ 10
 Casuarina Point \$60 + \$10
 Treasure Cay Airport or Bah Palm Shores \$70 + \$ 10
 Little Harbour or Cherokee \$80 + \$10
 Crossing Rocks \$100 + \$10
 Sandy Point \$135 + \$10
 • Between Marsh Harbour Ferry and:
 Ab Beach Hotel thru Wally's & Eastern Shore \$ 2 each
 Jib Room \$ 3 each
 Solomon's Super Center \$5 + \$3
 Stop Light, Dove Plaza, Gov't dock \$ 6 + \$3
 Government Freight Dock \$ 7 + \$3
 Gov.Clinic, W. Auto or Nat. Insurance \$ 9 + \$3
 Mother Merle restaurant \$10 + \$3
 Waiting time \$20 per hour, \$10 per half hour
 Children under three - free • Caged pets - as people
 Luggage \$1.00 each over four, Surf boards \$4.00 ea.
 • Between Treasure Cay Airport and: Effective 13 Nov 05
 Treasure Cay Resort \$20 + \$5
 Madeira Park \$14 + \$4
 Green Turtle Cay ferry dock \$8 + \$4
 Moxey \$18 + \$5
 Bahamas Star farm..... \$24 + \$5
 Sand Banks \$24 + \$5
 Joe's Creek, Leisure Lee \$44 + \$10
 Black Wood \$18 + \$5
 Fire Road & Cooper's Town \$37 + \$5
 Cedar Harbour \$55 + \$5
 Wood Cay \$60 + \$5
 Mount Hope \$65 + \$5
 Fox Town \$70 + \$5
 Crown Haven \$75 + \$5
 Marsh Harbour Airport \$75 + \$10
 T Cay Hotel to Marsh Harbour \$65 + \$10
 T C Hotel to G Turtle Ferry (Blue Hole \$24)..... \$18 + \$ 5
 T C Hotel to Bonefish Marles \$22 + \$5
 T C Hotel to Joe's Creek \$35 + \$5
 T C Hotel to Moxey \$16 + \$5
 T C Hotel to Banyan Bch Club XX..... \$6 + \$3
 Green Turtle Ferry to Marsh H Airport \$75 +

Airlines Serving Abaco
 Abaco Air - Nassau, N Eleuthera, Moores Is 367-2266
 American Eagle - Miami 367-2231
 Bahamasair - Nassau,W. Palm B, Ft Laud 367-2095
 Chaulks - Ft. Lauderdale 954-359-0329
 Continental Connection - Miami
 Ft. Laud and W Palm Beach..... 367-3415
 Island Express - Ft Lauderdale..... 367-0169
 Southern Air - Nassau 367-2498
 Twin Air Calypso - Fort Lauderdale 367-0140
 Vintage Props & Jets - New Smyrna B. 367-4852
 Yellow Air Taxi - Ft Lauderdale 954-359-0292
 Local air charters serving Bahamas & S.Florida
 Abaco Air 367-2266
 Cherokee Air Charters 367-3450

Dive Shops
 Abaco Dive Adventures, Marsh Harbour 367-2963
 Above & Below, Marsh Harbour 367-0350
 Dive Abaco 1978, Marsh Harbour 367-2787
 Froggies, Hope Town 366-0431
 Treasure Divers, Treasure Cay 365-8465
 Treasure Cay Adventures 365-8111
 Brendal's Dive, Green T. Cay 365-4411
 Dive Guana 365-5178
 Man-O-War Dive Shop 365-6013

Points of Interest
 Albert Lowe Museum..... Green Turtle Cay
 Capt Roland Roberts House, reef exhibits.....
 Memorial Sculpture Garden Green Turtle Cay
 Wyannie Malone Historical Museum Hope Town
 Elbow Cay Light Station Hope Town
 Walkto&swimonMermmaidReefoffMHarbPelicanShore
 Driveto&swiminBlueHoleoffTreasureCayfarmroad
 Art studio & working foundry- Little Harbour
 Pocketbeaches•CrossingBeachinMarshHarbour
 • 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
 •GuanaCay•Man-O-WarCay•ElbowCay•Casuarina
 Point • Bahama Palm Shore • Sandy Point & more

Items of interest • Man-O-War boat yards • Blackwood
 bluehole&sisalmill•CedarHarbourplantationruins-need
 guide•HoleinWallighthouse-lastmireveryroughroad•
 Abacowildhorsesbyappointment367-4805•Birdwatching-
 ask tourism 367-3067

Ferry Schedules • Departure times shown • Daily service unless noted
 Marsh Harbour to Hope Town or Man-O-War - 20 minutes from Crossing Beach
 Marsh Harbour to Guana Cay - 40 minutes

Abaco Ferry Service VHF Ch 16 • MH/HT One way \$15 / RT \$20 • Children 6-12 half fare,
 Marsh Harbour > Hope Town 7:00am* 8:50 10:20 12:pm 1:55 3:55*
 5:40
 (Limited Sunday Schedule) Return 7:55 am 9:30 11 12:30pm* 2:55
 5 6:15 Marsh Harbour > White Sound 7am 12pm 3:15 Return 7:40 1:10
 4:25
 * to or from White Sound

Albury's Ferry Service • Ph 367-3147 or 367-0290 • VHF Ch. 16
 Marsh Harbour > Hope Town 7:15 am 9 10:30 12:15 pm 2 4
 5:45
 Return 8 am 9:45 11:30 1:30 pm 3 4 * Not on
 5 6:30
 Marsh Harbour > Man-O-War 10:30 am 12:15 pm 2:30*(M-Sat) 4
 5:45*

Return 8 am 11:30 1:30 pm 3:15* (M-Sat) 4:30
 Marsh H. > Guana Cay (& Scotland Cay with advance notice) from Conch Inn
 (6:45am - Union Jack Dock) 10:30 1:30 pm 3:30
 5:45
 Return 8 am 11:30 2:30 pm 4:45
 6:30
 Same day fare • Adult prepaid oneway \$16 / Round Trip \$22, •• Kids 6-11 half,
 Under 6 free

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

Abaco Adventures • Ph 365-8749 VHF Ch 16
 Treasure Cay to Guana Cay Sunday Lv 12 & returns 4:45 p.m. \$25 RT
 T Cay to Man-O-War/ Hope Town - Wed 9:30 am, return 4:30 pm \$35 RT
 T Cay to Guana Cay Sunset Cruise - Fr \$25 , call for time
 Pinder's Ferry Service Between Abaco & Grand Bahama -
 Crown Haven, Abaco to McLean's Town, Grand Bah. -Daily 7:00 am & 2:30 pm
 McLean's Town to Crown Haven - return Daily 8:30 am & 4:30 pm
 Fare \$45 OW / \$90 RT • Children half fare • Call Abaco 365-2356 for information

Abaco Marinas - Slips Fuel Phone
Walker's Cay
 Walker's Cay - Closed
Green Turtle Cay
 Bluff House45..... F..... 365-4200
 Green Turtle Club32..... F..... 365-4271
 Black Sound Marina...15..... 365-4531
 Other Shore Club12..... F..... 365-4195
 Abaco Yacht Service..10..... F..... 365-4033
Treasure Cay
 Treasure Cay Marina150 F..... 365-8250
Man-O-War
 Man-O-War Marina ...26..... F..... 365-6008
Marsh Harbour
 Boat Harbour Marina183..... F..... 367-2736
 Conch Inn.....75..... F 367-4000
 Harbour View Marina .36..... F 367-2182
 Marsh Harbour Marina52 F 367 2700
Hope Town
 Hope Town Marina.....16..... 366-0003
 Hope Town Hideaways 366-0224
 Lighthouse Marina6..... F..... 366-0154
 Sea Spray50..... F..... 366-0065
Spanish Cay
 Spanish Cay Marina...75..... F..... 365-0083
Guana Cay
 Orchid Bay32..... F..... 365-5175
 Boats can clear Customs at Green Turtle Cay,
 Treasure Cay or Marsh Harbour

Tours & Excursions
 Abaco Island Tours • Marsh Harbour 367-2936
 Above & Below • Marsh Harbour 367-0350
 Dive Abaco 1978, Marsh Harbour 367-2787
 Brendals Dive • Green Turtle Cay 365-4411
 Excursion boat • Froggies • Hope T 366-0024
 Excursion boat • Froggies • Hope T 366-0431

Points of Interest
 Albert Lowe Museum..... Green Turtle Cay
 Capt Roland Roberts House, reef exhibits.....
 Memorial Sculpture Garden Green Turtle Cay
 Wyannie Malone Historical Museum Hope Town
 Elbow Cay Light Station Hope Town
 Walkto&swimonMermmaidReefoffMHarbPelicanShore
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 Art studio & working foundry- Little Harbour
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 Miles of beach are generally on ocean exposures
 • Treasure Cay • Green Turtle Cay
 •GuanaCay•Man-O-WarCay•ElbowCay•Casuarina
 Point • Bahama Palm Shore • Sandy Point & more

Bikes & Scooters • Boats • Cars & Carts
Rentals * Marsh Harbour
 A & P Car Rentals 367-2655
 B & B Boat Rentals 367-7368
 Bargain Car Rentals..... 367-0500
 Blue Wave Boat Rentals 367-3910
 Concept Boat Rentals 367-5570
 Laysue Boat Rentals 367-4414
 Pier One Boat Rentals 367-3587
 Power Cat Boat Rentals 367-4620
 Quality Star Texaco Cars..... 367-2979
 Rainbow Boat Rentals 367-4602
 Rental Wheels Scooters, Bikes, Cars 367-4643
 Rich's Boat Rentals 367-2742
 Sea Horse Boat Rentals 367-2513
 Sea Star Car Rentals 367-4887
 Wilmac Car Rentals 367-4970 or 367-4313
Green Turtle Cay
 Bay Street Rentals 477-5300 365-4070
 Brendals Dive Bikes & Kayak rental .. 365-4411
 C & D Cart Rental 365-4084
 D & P Cart Rental 365-4655
 Donnie's Boat Rentals 365-4119
 Loggerhead Boat Rental..... 365-5461
 New Plymouth Cart Rentals.. 365-4188 or 4149
 Reef Boat Rentals 365-4145
 Sea Side Carts & Bikes..... 477-5497
 T & A Cart Rentals 375-8055
Guana Cay
 Donna Sands Cart Rentals 365-5195
 Dive Guana Boats & bikes 365-5178
Man-O-War
 Conch Pearl Boat Rentals..... 365-6059
 Island Treasures Cart Rentals 365-6072
 Ria-Mar Golf Cart Rentals..... 365-6024
 Water Ways Boat Rent ...357-6540 & 365-6143
Hope Town
 Bike Shop Bicycle Rentals 366-0292
 Cat's Paw Boat Rentals 366-0380
 Hope Town Cart Rentals 366-0064
 Island Cart Rentals 366-0448
 Island Marine Boat Rentals 366-0282
 J R's Cart Rental..... 366-0361
 Sea Horse Boat Rentals 366-0023
 T & N Cart Rentals 366-0069
Treasure Cay
 Alison Car Rent 365-8193
 Cas's Carts 365-8771
 Claridge's Cart Rentals 365-8248
 Cornish Car Rentals..... 365-8623
 JIC Boat Rentals 365-8465
 Rich's Boat Rentals..... 365-8582
 Triple J Car Rentals 365-8761
 Abaco Adventures - Kayaks 365-8749

Bonefish Guides
Sandy Point
 Patrick Roberts .. 366-4286
 Nicholas Roberts
 Derrick Gaitor
 Ferdinand Burrows 366-4133
 Vernal Burrows
 Kendall White
 Anthony Bain 366-4107
 Floyd Burrows 366-4175
 Links Adderly 366-4335
 Valentino Lightbourne
 Ricky Burrows 366-4233
 Jody Albury 375-8068
 Terrance Davis.... 367-4464
 Buddy Pinder 366-2163
 Justin Sands 367-3526
 Danny Sawyer..... 367-3577
 Jay Sawyer 367-3941
Man-O-War
 David Albury 365-6059
Crossing Rocks
 Tony Russell 366-3259

Cherokee
 Theodore Sawyer ...366-2111
 Will Sawyer..... 366-2177
 Marty Sawyer..... 366-2115
 Noel Lowe366-2107
 Randy Sawyer366-2284
 Casaurina Point
 Junior Albury366-3058
 Budy Pinder.....366-2165
Hope Town
 Maitland Lowe366-0234
North Abaco
 O'Donald McIntosh ..477-5037
 Pope McKenzie477-5894
 Orthnell Russell365-0125
 Alexander Rolle365-0120
 Edward Rolle365-0024
Green Turtle Cay
 Ronnie Sawyer365-4070
 Jeff Survance365-4040
 Ricky Sawyer365-4261

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 Cruise Line (954-971-7347) from Ft. Lauderdale or
 CloudX ferry (866-473-3779) from West Palm Beach to
 Freeport • Bus to McLeans Town • Ferry to Crown Haven
 • Bus to Green Turtle Ferry or Marsh Harbour • Taxi to



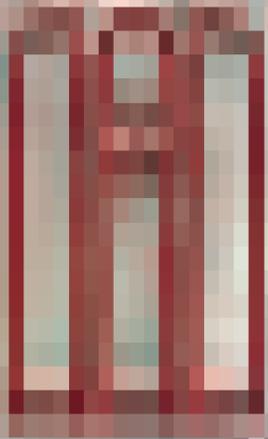
Everyone reads The Abaconian

Restaurant Guide
 Prices \$ Low, \$\$ Moderate, \$\$\$ Upper
 (Based on dinner entree range)
 + Picnic tables & restroom only ≠ Provides
 ride from town
Marsh Harbour
 Anglers..... \$\$\$ 367-2158
 Curly Tails \$\$\$ 367-4444
 Gino's..... \$ 367-2002
 Golden Grouper \$ 367-2301
 Hummingbird..... \$\$ 367-2922
 Jamie's Place..... \$ 367-2880
 Jib Room \$ 367-2700
 Kentucky Fried Chicken 367-2615
 Mangoes \$\$\$ 367-2366
 Pop's Place \$ 367-3796
 Sapodilly's \$\$\$ 367-3498
 Sea Shells \$ 367-4460
 Snack Shack \$ 367-4005
 Snappas \$ 367-2278
 Subway 367-2798
 Wallys \$\$\$ 367-2074
Dundas Town
 Mother Merle's \$\$
Hope Town
 Abaco Inn \$\$\$ 366-0133
 Cap'n Jacks \$ 366-0247
 Harbour's Edge \$ 366-0087
 H T Harbour Lodge \$\$\$ 366-0095
 Munchies \$ 366-0423
 Sea Spray \$ 366-0065
Man-O-War
 Hibiscus 365-6380
 Island Treats Snack Bar..... 365-6501
Guana Cay
 Blue Water Grill..... \$\$\$ 365-5230
 Grabbers \$\$\$ 365-5133
 Guana Seaside \$\$\$ 365-5106
 Nippers \$\$\$ 365-5143
 Orchid Bay 265-5175
Treasure Cay
 Florence's Cafe \$
 Coconuts
 Harbour Cafe \$ 365-8635
 Hudson's Delight \$ 365-8648
 Spinnaker Restaurant ... \$\$\$ 365-8469
 Touch of Class \$\$\$ 365-8195
Green Turtle Cay
 Bluff House \$\$\$ 365-4200
 Jolly Roger Bistro \$ 365-4200
 Green Turtle Club \$\$\$ 365-4271
 Harvey's Island Grill \$ 365-4389
 Laura's Kitchen \$ 365-4287
 McIntosh's Restaurant \$ 365-4625
 Plymouth Rock Cafe 365-4234
 Rooster's Rest \$ 365-4066
 Sundowners H Cafe Open Nights
 Wrecking Tree Restaurant
 Harbour Café (ferry dock) .. \$ 365-8635
Sandy Point
 Nancy's
 Pete & Gays \$\$\$ 366-4119

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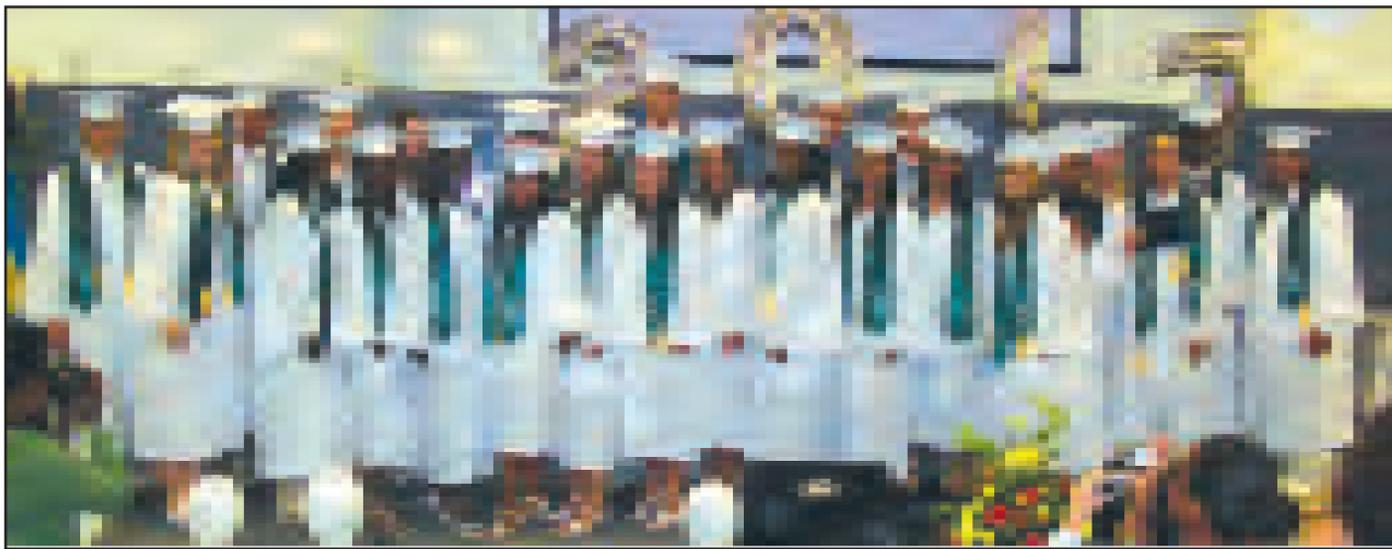
The Abaconian

SECTION B

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 12, JUNE 15th, 2007

June is graduation time

Students graduate from Abaco's seven high schools



Forest Heights Academy held its graduation on June 13 with 25 young people receiving diplomas. Four of the top five honour students were boys including the valedictorian and the salutatorian.

Forest Heights Graduation Ceremony

By Jennifer Hudson

For 25 young people of Forest Heights Academy, June 13 marked a milestone in their lives. This was their graduation day. Salutatorian Bradley Albury welcomed the graduating class, their families and visitors and reminded his classmates, "We will never stop learning and being scholars."

A BEC power cut presented a challenge but Mrs. Leslie Kennedy was given a flashlight to read while the generator of New Visions Ministry soon cut in and provided minimal power.

Graduation night was a first for Mr. Richard as it was his first year as principal

Please see **School** Page 4

Capt. Leonard Turns 90



Capt. Leonard Thompson, an outstanding Abaconian, celebrated his ninetieth birthday with his large family and many friends. One of those friends, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham, is shown here congratulating him. Capt Leonard was instrumental in developing tourism on Abaco. He began Treasure Cay Resort and later developed Abaco Beach

By Lee Pinder

That's how most of us know him or who have known him for many years; we simply call him "Cap."

Capt. Leonard M. Thompson cel-

brated 90 years of living the 17th of June, 2007, in his home in Marsh Harbour,

Please see **Capt Leonard** Page 17

Rain dampened Sandy Point's home coming

By Julian Lockhart

Despite Mother Nature putting a dampening on the festivities, the Sandy Point Development Association's Conch Fest and Home Coming still drew a nice crowd with solid entertainment, cold drinks and great food over the Labour Day holiday weekend. The event was held as the main fund raiser for community projects and to beautify the community of Sandy Point.

However, a consistent rain on Friday almost dampened the spirits of the planning committee, but association member, Oeisha Roberts, said they knew the rain was coming and they just have to make the most of it. Abaconians have been praying for rain for weeks. The folks in Sandy Point wished the rain had waited just three days longer to come.

Ms. Roberts said, "We are not disappointed in the weather because they called for it and we were just hoping for the best. The weather doesn't dampen out spirits because the event is two days and we hope

it works out well. We are trying to build a community library and recreational centre with a softball field. We have fish fries throughout the year so we have some money saved up. But this is our biggest event and we are hoping to make the money to start the library. Home coming brings old residents back home, and it does so every year. We are able to see a lot of friends and family. We will probably do a regatta next year because we didn't have the funds to bring the boats in this year," she added.

The home coming gives Sandy Point residents who have moved away a chance to return home for some fun, great food and the opportunity to see old friends and family. It adds to the domestic tourism totals as more Nassuvians return back to their roots to enjoy the tranquility and atmosphere the Family Islands have to offer.

Sandy Point normally has a regatta at this time of the year and regattas always

Please see **Sandy Point** Page 12

Agape's graduation inaugurates new



Eight students graduated from Agape Christian School on June 4. The graduation ceremony took place in the Caitlyn Grace Albury Gymnasium, the first time the new building was used. Shown above in upper row Denario Carroll, Samuel Cornish, Alisha Humes and Rashad Reckley. in the lower row are Hillary Roberts, Garrett Sands, Chelsea Sawyer and Shavanteh Spence. See story on page 4

St. Francis Has Happy Graduates



Salutatorium Dominica Evans and valedictorian Brittany Archer of St. Francis de Sales School were proud of their trophies and other honours given them for their excellent academic record. The St. Francis graduation was held on June 12 with 15 students receiving their diplomas. See story on page 4.

Coordinators officially launch BTVI program

By Mirella Santillo

It is now official; the Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute is launched on Abaco. The first semester started on May 4th with 60 people registering to take courses in cosmetology, business administration, carpentry and electrical installation.

The opening of the program was further reinforced by the visit from Nassau on June 7th of Mr. Paul Clare, BTVI Coordinator for Family Island Affairs, Mr. Fred Delancy from Freeport, Coordinator for the Northern Bahamas, and Mr. Samuel Rigby, his predecessor.

The three BTVI representatives were on Abaco not only to assess the repairs to the eastern campus buildings damaged by

hurricanes but also to launch the program with government officials and assess the needs of the communities regarding technical education. "Freeport and Abaco are the two largest campuses. We are here to familiarize ourselves with the communities, assess the needs and introduce some of the programs," explained Mr. Clare. "We have a survey form that will be distributed to find out what the demands are for the fall semester."

During the interview Mr. Clare insisted that the government was stressing the need for education, particularly technical education. The emphasis put on white collar jobs and the tourist industry for the last 15 years, he said, has left a void in many other fields,

especially in construction where skilled labor is missing. "Investors have to bring in foreign workers because of that lack of skills."

The program, he explained, starts with 15-week courses divided into three five-week modules. The participants have to take an entrance examination to determine their level of education. The purpose is to bring students to a BJC level, especially in mathematics and English. At the end of 15 weeks, the passing students will be certified and will be invited to take part in an apprenticeship program. Once placed, the students still have to attend classes one day per week to continue towards specialization.

At Radio Abaco Mr. Silbert Mills asked what was the goal of BTVI. Mr. Clare answered that "BTVI was the only institution which had been given the mandate by the government to teach in the technical and vocational field."

The question was asked if the certification from BTVI is recognized internationally. BTVI is in negotiation with a Florida university to bring the certification to an international level. "Right now, the standard is not respected, but it is being rectified," replied Mr. Clare. Mr. Kendris Field, Prin-

icipal of Abaco Central High School who accompanied the visitors throughout the day, added that they were accepting new students for the fall courses in sewing, plumbing and small engine repairs. The registration for these courses will start in August.

BTVI is the easiest institution to get in, added Mr. Clare. All you need to get in is to know how to write, but we will bring you to a BJC level. "Parents," he urged, "encourage your children to learn a trade. I can guarantee employment for the next 15 years," he added.

The visitors had a busy agenda with the first day reserved for a press conference with the local news paper, air time at Radio Abaco, visits various businesses to assess the extend of their interest and cooperation with the program, a session with the instructors, a visit of the campus and a presentation in Cooper's Town.

The second day's schedule was more flexible. They visited construction companies and Abaco Beach Resort to find out if they would partner in the program and met with builders to get a quote for the repairs of the campus. Mr. Field mentioned that

Please see **BTVI** Page 20.



Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute is now functioning on Abaco. Classes began last week and three school officials visited Abaco to assess the viability of repairing the Eastern Campus at Abaco Central High School to house the school. The building has been derelict for several years following severe damage from several hurricanes. The three officials are shown here with Mr. Kendris Field, principal of Abaco Central High School. He will be overseeing the BTVI classes.

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BEACHFRONT 4 bed, 4 bath home on 1 acre+ with 100 feet of beach. Solid CBS construction. 15 KW generator. **\$995,000.**
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 242.367.5046 www.SIRbahamas.com



CASUARINA POINT #3954 LUCAYAN BONEFISH VILLA
CANALFRONT 3 bed 1 bath villa, leads out to the Sea of Abaco, teaming with bonefish and sea life. **\$495,000.**
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GREEN TURTLE CAY #3862A TURTLE'S NEST
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GREEN TURTLE CAY #3862 TURTLES COTTAGE
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GREEN TURTLE CAY #3031 COCO BAY
HARBOURFRONT 115 ft. dredged canal, 40 ft. dock. Close proximity to resorts and beach. Perfect home site. **\$650,000.**
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 242.577.0298 www.SIRbahamas.com



GUANA CAY #3001 GUANA BEACH HOUSE
QUAINT beach house with 2 bed, 1 bath on stunning sandy beach. Property dimensions: 60 ft. on the water x 242 ft. deep. **\$650,000.**
 Kerry.Sullivan@SothebysRealty.com



HIGH ROCKS #3248 VILLA ESPANOLA
SEA VIEW Mediterranean-style 4 bed 3 bath home. Completely private. Formal living/dining rooms. Fully furnished. **\$980,000.**
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 242.367.5046 www.SIRbahamas.com



LUBBERS QUARTERS #1851 FLIP FLOPS
BEACHFRONT Very private beach house on 1.19 acres of lush, tropical foliage, sleeps 4 with private dock and beach. **\$440,000.**
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SUGAR LOAF CAY #2817 PARROT POINT
WATERFRONT unique 4.96 acres, private marina, 2 bed 2 bath plus 1 bed 1 bath cottage. Electricity from mainland. **\$2,875,000.**
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TILLOO CAY #3657 FARSIDE
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TREASURE CAY #1660 SERENITY HOUSE
BEACHFRONT ESTATE 290 ft. of sandy beach, modern 2 storey, 4 bed 4.5 bath 5,600 sq.ft. home on 2 expansive lots. **\$5,200,000.**
 Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com



TREASURE CAY #3073 MY ISLAND RETREAT
BEACHFRONT 4 bed, 3 bath retreat, cathedral ceilings, wrap-around screened-in verandahs. Great views. **\$1,300,000.**
 Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com
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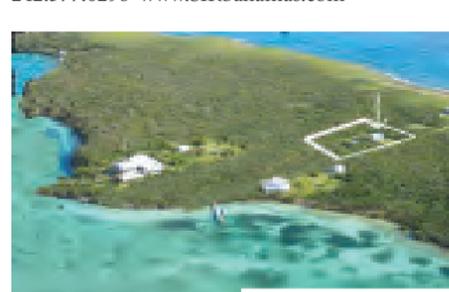
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TREASURE CAY
 HILLTOP ESTATES #2115 **\$600,000.**
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MARSH HARBOUR
 10-ACRES ON WATERFRONT #3100 **\$2,500,000.**

More School News

School From Page 1

Microsoft, for them to keep in mind as they prepare to leave St. Francis. They are: (1) Life is not fair. (2) The world will expect them to achieve something. (3) You will not make \$60,000 right out of high school. Each of you will have to work hard. (4) If you think your teacher is rough, just wait until you get a boss. (5) Parents weren't bored before you were born. They are now bored because they clean up all the messes you leave behind, pay all your bills and provide for you. Thank them daily. This is a "gimme society" we presently live in and very few people stop to say thank you. That is what humanity is all about - showing gratitude to those persons who help you. (6) If you mess up, it is not your teacher's fault or your parent's failure - it is yours. (7) Life is not divided into semesters or terms. (8) Television is not real life. (9) Modest employment is not beneath your dignity. Your ancestors called it opportunity. (10) Be nice to nerds; you may end up working for one.

Additionally, she continued that they should keep God first place in their lives and remember that St. Francis will always be their Alma Mater. After her encouraging talk, the students received their awards. Mr. Bryan Thompson and Mrs. Joanne Bradley of the Rotary Club presented the Interact students with their community service awards.

The next day the graduation ceremony began with the students entering the church surrounded by their parents, family, and friends. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Bryan Thompson, banker with FirstCaribbean Bank, who told them that how victorious they become depends on

of Forest Heights Academy. He gave the graduating students what he termed his "three best nuggets of wisdom."

1. "Choose your friends wisely as the world will judge you on the company you keep. Choose friends who will uplift and support you.

2. Choose your words wisely as the world will also judge you by how you speak. Think before you speak; you can show more maturity by what you say than a diploma on the wall.

3. Plan your future wisely. Decide what you want and figure out how to get it. Now you are leaving Forest Heights, and it is your chance to soar."

Fifteen of the 25 graduating students will be entering colleges and several of the others already have jobs to go into.

Keynote speaker for the evening was Mr Hugh Cottis, formerly District Education Officer for Abaco who was once also a teacher at Forest Heights Academy. Mr. Cottis's advice to the graduating class was "Have a goal; otherwise, you will be like a ship without a rudder." He admonished them never to stop learning and not to be afraid to accept any job for there is no experience that will not be beneficial. His closing wish for the graduates was for a future of success, happiness and health.

This was the first time in 23 years of teaching that Ms. Janet Wedgewood was the home room teacher of a graduating class. She reminisced, giving several amusing anecdotes of the students' escapades throughout the year.

Mr. Cottis presented the school's special awards which included awards for merit in curriculum subjects, Anchor Club, drama, fire marshal, citizenship and attendance.

Kerri Sawyer achieved the remarkable feat of perfect attendance, never missing a day of school throughout his entire progress from kindergarten to graduation.

Two students, Jonathan Evans and Cheynea Turnquest, were named to the Honour Roll while the three top students, Bradley Albury, Matthew Wedgewood and Christian Wilhoyte, achieved the highest distinction of reaching the Principal's List. "The guys really set the standard this year and really shone," stated Mrs. Kennedy.

Christian Wilhoyte, who has been selected to spend a year sailing the seas with Class Afloat, gave the Valedictorian's remarks which he closed by saying, "We have gathered many experiences that have made us what we are today. We should not dwell on mistakes of the past but learn from them and as we leave from here share our memories."

Now came the part of the ceremony for which the Graduating Class of 2007 had

been eagerly awaiting - the presentation of diplomas by Mr. Hugh Cottis and the moving of the tassel to the opposite side of their cap by Ms. Wedgewood, signifying their graduation. Following the benediction by Mr. Richard, the final moment had arrived when, with a resounding cheer, the 25 young people of the graduating class of 2007 tossed their caps into the air as graduates.

St. Francis de Sales

Awards Ceremony and Graduation

By Samantha V. Evans

Fifteen grade 12 students of St. Francis de Sales School have met the criteria needed to graduate and on June 11th these students received their awards at the St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church. Principal Josephine Kumar gave them ten paraphrased rules for life she borrowed from Bill Gates, CEO of

Please see **School** Page 6

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Phone 367-0080

Hope Town 1374 - Best priced sandy beach lot on island. Beautifully landscaped and ready for building.

Little Harbour 1335 - Spacious 2/2 cottage on large hillside lot, great ocean views.

The Abaco Club 1363 - Two adjacent beach lots with unobstructed views of Winding Bay.

Yellowwood - Five hillside lots with views of Winding Bay available starting at \$61,900

Guana beachfront home 1256 - 3/2 on high dune, endless views. Great rental history.

Guana hilltop lot 1320 - 55' elevations with bay and ocean views. A must see!!

Sea Glass 1337 - 3/2 home on Guana

Cay with beach access just steps away. \$439,000

Blue Surf Cottage 1362 - Spectacular 3/3 oceanfront home built with no expenses spared.

Orchid Bay waterfront lot 1368 - Bay lot, excellent height, good draft to shoreline.

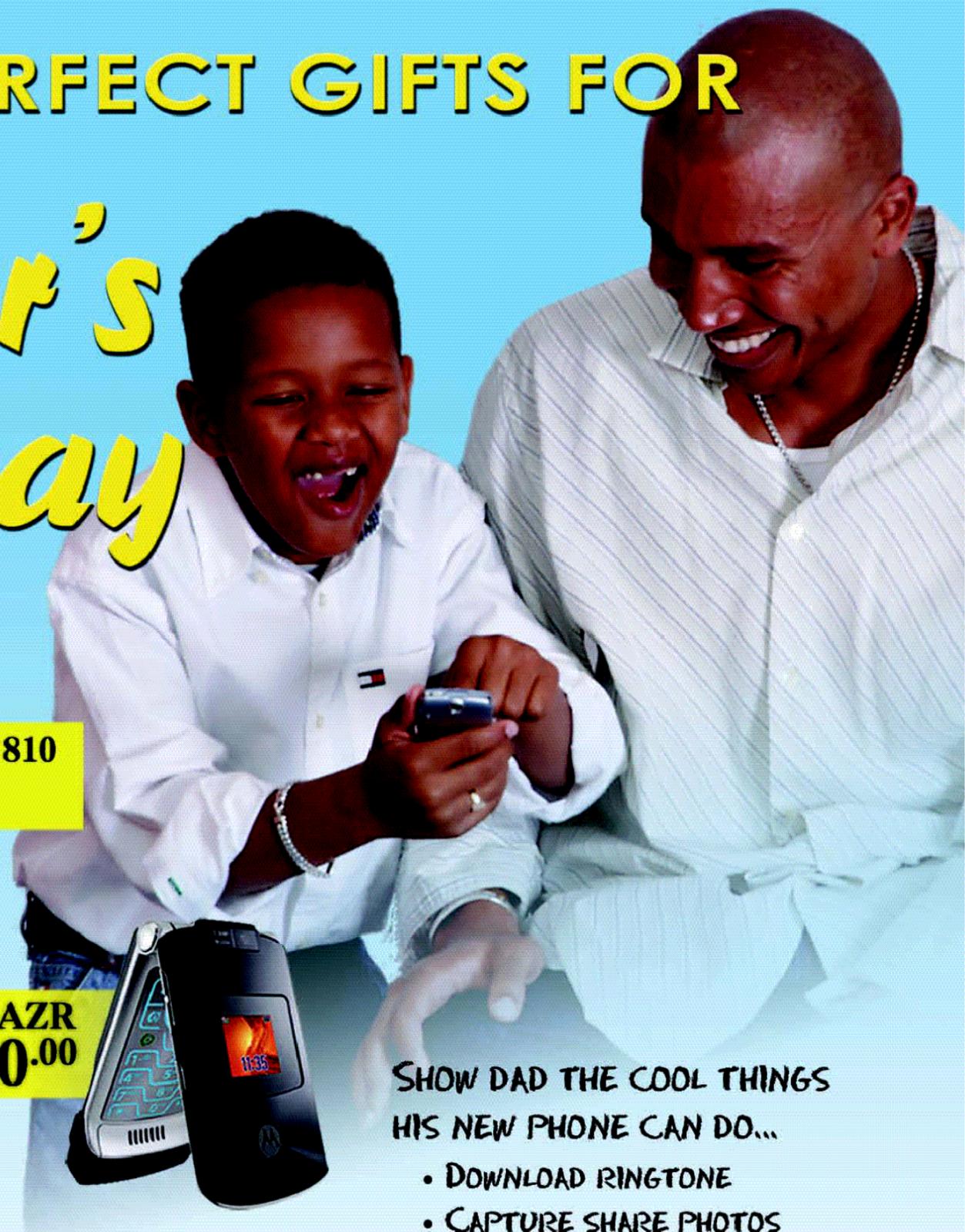
Bahama Palm Shores - A large selection of interior and beach lots starting at \$25,000

The Great Abaco Club 1189 - Jaffa is a 3/3 home on a double lot positioned to capture views from every room.

Royal Harbour waterfront lots - Two waterfront lots, both offering great dockage.

Regattas Penthouse unit 1334 - The only 3/3 unit in complex. Very spacious,

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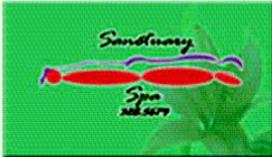
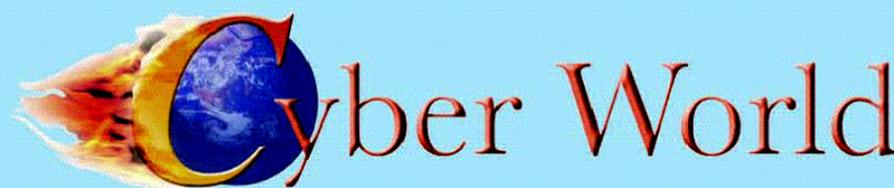
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More School News

School From Page 4

how long they persevere.

He told the graduates that they have persevered but this is only the beginning. They have many more victories to come. They will soon face globalization and realize that they will have to acquire new skills and be creative. They will have to be patient and persevere to pursue higher learning. He wants the young people to be aware that life is full of challenges so they will have to persevere to achieve their goals. He told them to be disciplined people by setting goals and stick to them. Once they do this they will be victorious.

St. Francis held Reflection Day

By Samantha V. Evans

On May 25th the grade six students spent the day at St. Francis Church for Reflection Day. On this day students shared their most cherished experiences with each other, stated what they liked best about this year, what they will miss the most about their primary school years and shared their future plans. They even shared some very funny and sad moments they experienced during this year. After sharing, they played games and had a fun, relaxing time with each other. Mrs. Olive Simon, the class teacher, presented gifts to her students. Lunch was provided for the students by the school.

St. Francis Student Honored

By Samantha V. Evans

Eighteen-year-old Stephen Jerron Knowles, a grade 12 student of St. Francis de Sales School was invited to participate in the People to People Future Leaders Summit 2007 for achieving a very high score on his

SAT examination. People to People International learned of Jerron from the College Board Student Search Service, the organization that administers the SAT and PSAT. It helps prepare young people for opportunities and responsibilities ahead. In the summer he will join students from 97 countries around the world to learn, be challenged and earn academic credit while exploring America's most prominent colleges and universities.



Jerron will spend 10 days this month at John Hopkins University in Baltimore, a leading American university where participants will attend various workshops including those on leadership skills. These students will develop their leadership skills and gain an edge in college admission offices. They will focus on team building, community service and professional aspirations. They will work on an action plan to make a difference in their communities, develop skills to help them lead tomorrow's world and build their college resumes.

Jerron will visit historically relevant monuments and museums while taking in the sights, sounds and nuances of American life.

Mrs. Josephine Kumar, principal of St. Francis de Sales School, stated that while Jerron lives out this life-changing experience, he will be showing the other participants what they have been teaching him

here on Abaco and at St. Francis de Sales in particular. He is an exemplary example of what excellence can result in. Jerron loves art and won the student art competition held at the Abaco Beach Resort earlier this year. He plans to attend a technical college to pursue a career in art in conjunction with communication technology and auto engineering. Jerron is the son of Pastor Stephen and Judith Knowles of Strong Tower Church in Dundas Town.

Spanish students travel to Costa Rica

By Samantha V. Evans

A group of 20 Spanish students from St.

Francis de Sales School took an amazing trip to Costa Rica for 11 days beginning March 29th. The students stated that they felt so fortunate to be able to make this trip. Not only did they get to visit many great places, but they were able to practice their Spanish skills. Loudline Josphe stated that this is the most exciting place he has ever been and he enjoyed every minute of it. He said that the place is absolutely beautiful, the cuisine and hotels were enjoyable and the teachers made the trip memorable. Some of the places they visited were the batos

Please see **School** Page 8.



This is the group of 20 Spanish students of St. Francis de Sales who visited Costa Rica for 10 days. They were impressed with the country, the cuisine, the scenery and the people.



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Seascape 3 BR 3 BA ocean front home on extra wide Windward Beach homesite. Garage and new furniture \$1,620,000

Sea Cliff, 3 BR 3 BA luxury residence, within steps of beach, professionally decorated. \$1,220,000

Mariner's Cove 1509 Town House, 2 BR 1 1/2 BA, direct harbour view in desirable 1500 building. Fully furnished, includes garage. \$365,000

Royal Palm 2 BR, 2 BA Marina front condo, fully furnished, with boat slip. Tropical decor \$575,000

Helen's Point, Galleon Bay Waterfront 4 BR, 3 BA Home, Sea of Abaco views \$1,560,000

Beach Villa 685 2 BR, 2 BA, steps away from pool and beach \$275,000 SOLD

Razzall House, Treasure Cay Beach 4 BR, 3 BA Ocean front, fully furnished with excellent rental history. \$1,735,000

Treasure House, Ocean front 2 BR, 2 BA Island decor, top-sider villa overlooking gigantic lagoon pool \$579,000

Royal Palm 2 BR 2 BA on marina with beautiful furnishings and boat slip. \$562,000

Bahama Beach Club 3 BR, 3 BA \$705,000 SOLD

Anchorage Estates Lots 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 \$834,949 UNDER CONTRACT

April 15, 2007

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Guana Cay



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This property great views of both the Atlantic and Sea-of-Abaco. This is the best deal on Guana Cay and won't last - hurry !!!

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Lynard Cay



Great investment for a very private and secluded piece of paradise.
Exclusive Listing
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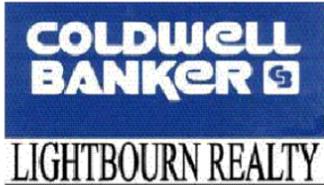
Beautiful 31,450 +/- sq. ft. Sea-to-Sea property has great elevation and 135' on The Sea of Abaco with deep water for a private dock.

B\$305,000 Gross

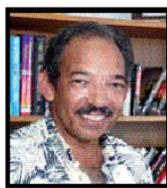
Purchaser Pays 1/2 Stamp Tax & Own Legal Fees.

15 June 2007

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EXCLUSIVE AGENTS

GREEN TURTLE CAY-A community of 23 3-bedroom Colonial-style homes under development. The homes front scenic Black Sound, parks and common areas. Dockage is available. Leeward is modeled after Abaco's historic New Plymouth, a white-picket-fence village of New England-style cottages, quaint restaurants and bars. Homes starting at \$1,050,000. - Call Chris



NEW LISTING



Green Turtle - #6023-Perched on a spectacular sea view lot, this 2,300 sq. ft. 3 bed/3 bath house is tastefully furnished & has a dock, swimming pool & large deck. Built in 2006, the front of the island-style home is graced with a veranda and framed in shade trees. It is equipped with high speed internet, an integrated sound system and a 1,000 gal per day water maker. The home is located near beaches & charming resorts. Offered at \$1,265,000 - Call Chris



Yellowwood Creek

Lot 1- Hilltop Lot with breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean, the world class Abaco Club Resort and the gorgeous three mile Winding Bay Beach. Comprises approx. 0.75 acres.- Offered at US\$195,000.00
Lot 3- Waterfront Located on the rocky shoreline, this lot comprises just over an acre with approx. 175' of waterfront & has unobstructed views of the Atlantic Ocean. It adjoins lot 4, which is also available. Electricity is near both lots. Offered at US\$312,000.00
Lot 4- Waterfront This lot is just over an acre & covers approx. 175' of rocky shoreline. Unobstructed views of the Atlantic Ocean. Offered at US\$300,000.00
Call Mailin



Leisure Lee- #5366 - This 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home is tucked away in Leisure Lee and offers privacy and tranquility. Features about 1,600 sq.ft of living space. Also features his and hers closets and a spacious en suite master bath. Open floor plan makes it easy and fun for entertaining family and friends. The large wrap around screened in porch adds charm and makes outdoor entertaining easy as you enjoy the gentle island breezes. Community beach access is only minutes away. Why rent when you can own your own home?! - Call Mailin



NEW LISTING

GTC #6076- 3bed/2.5 bath house overlooking an ornamental pond. Near beaches, town & public docks. The house is offered unfurnished, ceramic tiles Throughout, ceiling fans, central AC. Offered at \$645,000.00 - Call Chris



NEW LISTING

GTC #6077 2bed/2.5 bath house in Harbour View Estates. Nearby docking is available at Little Harbour. Tastefully furnished, beautifully landscaped grounds. Excellent rental history Offered at \$490,000.00 Call Chris



This CBS 3 bed/ 2 bath home features 1,600 sq.ft of living space. It was built in 1999 and very well-kept community boat ramp. Also features 1x6 v-joint cypress ceilings, ceramic tiles and utility room. Being sold furnished. Priced to sell! \$299,000 Call Mailin



NEW PRICE

Green Turtle Cay-#5532- 2 bed/2 bath beach house on Bita Bay. Central A/C, fully equipped kitchen & much more. Great rental history - Offered at \$995,000.00 Call Chris



•Bahama Palm Shores - #5742- Beachfront lot 200 x 416 Offered at US\$550,000.00
•Or split lot in half 100 x 416 Offered at US\$300,000.00 - Call Mailin



GTC Beach House #5777- 3 bed/3 bath w/ loft. 2 bed/1bath below. Wrap around porches, generator, water maker, central A/C. 1.6 acres. \$1,850,000.00 -Call Chris



REDUCED

Leisure Lee-#5739 A lovely 3 bed, 2 bath canal front home. Features 57' dock and over 17,000 sq.ft of property. Common Beach Access \$790,000.00- Call Mailin



Treasure Cay- #5740 Beachfront 2 bed/2bath villa with a "Lagoon" style swimming pool. Offered at \$636,000 Call Chris.



Turtle Rocks- Multi family lot, 27,507 sq.ft., power & cable to boundary, beach access, \$85,000.00



NEW LISTING

Green Turtle Cay, Big Bluff- #5878 1/2 acre + waterfront lot, ideal lot for house & dock- Offered at \$476,000.00- Call Chris



Bahama Palm Shores-

•Vacant lot, approx. 1/4 acre in size, two blocks from the beach. \$30,000.00 Call Lee
•Two side by side vacant lots, \$30,000.00 each- Call Mailin



Green Turtle Cay- 1.6 acre beachfront lot located on the most beautiful beach on the island. Approx. 130' on the beach and 560' deep. \$820,000.00 -Call Chris



Manjack Cay - 10 acres sea to sea Beautiful beachfront at both sides & protected anchorage. Great development property - Offered at \$2,000,000.00 -Call one of our agents today.



Man-O-War Cay # 5509 - 3bed/3bath, two story home near Atlantic Ocean. Upstairs loft, 17.5 KW generator, outdoor patios, basement, manicured lawn. \$750,000.00-Call Mailin



Yellowwood- 2H- # 5484- 37,368 sq.ft., featuring 184' on the Atlantic rocky shoreline, minutes away from Cherokee Sound and Winding Bay. \$265,000.00 -Call Mailin



Bahama Palm Shores - #5670 - 3 bed, 4,876 sq ft island home on 2 acre lot with 220' of beachfront, generator and pool. \$995,000.00- Call Mailin

- Green Turtle Cay, Coco Bay- 1/4 acre vacant lot, ocean views- \$150,000.00 (NEW LISTING)
- Green Turtle Cay, Coco Bay- vacant lot, beach access, 9000 sq.ft. - \$89,000.00 (UNDER CONTRACT)
- Green Turtle Cay, Island Reach- vacant lot, 16,390 sq.ft., 106' on Sea of Abaco, Beautiful views & sunsets. \$450,000.00 (NEW LISTING)
- *Long Beach- vacant lot, 1/4 acre in size, beach access, \$50,000.00 (REDUCED)
- *Casuarina Point- vacant lot in quiet community, 10,000 sq.ft and situated across from the canal. - \$80,000
- *Sand Banks- Canal property, small home, mature fruit trees. Very private. Lots also available -Call for details.
- *Bahama Coral Island- vacant property in Bahama Coral Island, financing available-Call for details.



More School News

School From Page 6

volcanos, the waterfalls, La Paz, Poas, hot water springs, museums, local schools and horseback riding.

The students, faculty and staff of one of the schools they visited invited them to their sports day. The students had a great day interacting with the Costa Rican students. The Costa Rican students expressed their interests in both sports and academics which intrigued the Abaco students greatly.

Briano Henschell and Kevanna McIntosh stated that the natural beauty and tranquility of Costa Rica was mesmerizing. The students said that when they visited the waterfalls, they enjoyed the beauty of the unique types of butterflies at the Butterfly

Aquarium. They even visited Braulio Carrillo Rainforest, the location where Jurassic Park was filmed.

Mrs. Jessica Brown, Spanish teacher at St. Francis, organized and coordinated this trip. She made sure that the students tasted various dishes. The final stop on the trip was to Museo de los Ninos (Children's Museum). Young people flock to the museum annually to learn about Costa Rican history, science and technology. The Abaco students were able to record their own television program and CD while there. All of the students stated that the trip was the best ever and they owe it all to Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Samantha Duverny and Ms. Davis, who are all employed at the school.



Several of the St. Francis Spanish students went horseback riding for the first time on their trip to Costa Rica. They enjoyed the trip, sightseeing through the beautiful countryside and visiting some of the attractions.

Agape Christian School held graduation

By Samantha V. Evans

On May 25th Agape Christian School held its fourth high school graduation ceremony in its 13-year history. Denario Carroll, Samuel Cornish, Alisha Humes, Rashad Reckley, Hillary Roberts, Garrett Sands, Chelsea Sawyer and Shavanteh Spence were the center of attention as the staff, family and friends of Agape celebrated the students' accomplishments in education over the last 13-15 years of schooling. The graduation was the first official ceremony held in the Caitlyn Grace Gymnasium with a crowd of over 300 in attendance. The gradu-

ates were excited and filled with anticipation as the evening began.

Rashad Reckley, Chelsea Sawyer and Garrett Sands were the students who presented speeches and challenges to their fellow classmates. The keynote speaker, Mr. Kenneth Romer from Freeport, challenged the students not to forget their dreams and to be wary of those who might be "Dream-killers." His challenge was well received. Mrs. Cecile Albury offered an inspiring Principal's address, but perhaps the favourite speech of the evening was by the Homeroom Teacher, Mrs. Renee Bethel,

Please see **School** Page 9



Twelve grade six students of Central Abaco Primary School traveled by bus, ferry and cruise boat to Fort Lauderdale to see a performance of the Lion King. While they were in Freeport they visited the Rand Nature Center.

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Failure to have your dock registered will result in PROSECUTION.

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More School News



A program produced by the music department of Abaco Central High School offered a variety of music. Shown here is the choir along with staff members.



The music department at Abaco Central is under the direction of Ms. Pauling Brice, who is preparing her students for sitting the BGCSE exam. Students performed on recorders and shown here are the bell ringers. The program included dancing and modeling.

School From Page 8

who shared memories and personality quirks of each of her eight students.

Perhaps most of the excitement and anticipation for the students came from the award presentations. Subject awards as well as attendance, honor roll and physical education awards were handed out by teachers and Agape board members. Chelsea Sawyer's hard work and commitment to her studies over the last year paid off as she won most of the awards throughout the evening.

There were moments of sadness as the class remembered their late friend, Caitlyn Albury, who passed away in 2003. Caitlyn's mother, Janet Albury, and sister, Joanne Albury, attended the ceremony and witnessed the presentation of the class gift to the school: a portrait of Caitlyn. The portrait

will hang in the gymnasium foyer. When all was said and done, everyone seemed to have had an enjoyable evening - the graduates perhaps most of all! Each student is done with high school now and is on to the next stage of life.

Central Abaco Primary Grade six students

see the Lion King
By Samantha V. Evans

A group of grade 6 students from Central Abaco Primary School along with their teachers traveled to Fort Lauderdale to see the Lion King over May 20-23. The group of 12 students and three teachers traveled

Please see **School** Page 10



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More School News

School From Page 9

on the ferry to McLean's Town on Grand Bahama to Freeport, then on the Discovery Cruise Line to Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Leroy Thompson, Senior Master, stated that the students got to see all the amenities a cruise ship offers including entertainment. They received first class service. While in Freeport they toured of the area and visited The Rand Nature Center where they were able to see the Abaco boa and other Bahamian snakes. In Fort Lauderdale they saw the Lion King at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts which was the real reason for the trip. The students saw a live production with all of the props and effects. They were all amazed by the way the stage changed to suit the different scenes. Mr. Thompson stated that the trip was great, and the students were able to bond with each other. The other teachers traveling with the group were Ms. McQueen and Mrs. Theodora Fernander, both grade six teachers.

Teachers' Luncheon

By Samantha V. Evans

Teacher Appreciation Week was observed at Central Abaco Primary School the week of May 21-25 and extended into the following week due to the number of churches in the community that wanted to honor the teachers. On May 25th the school administration treated the teachers to a luncheon and presented each of the teachers and specialists with gifts including vouchers for rental cars, flowers, hair cuts, hair styles, manicures and pedicures and other goodies. Each member of staff felt very appreciated. They were also treated to breakfast by Zion Baptist Church and Change Ministries International.

Students learn the importance of family

By Samantha V. Evans

Any effort to strengthen the family unit is always welcomed, especially in families where there are children. On May 4th the grade two students of Central Abaco Primary School spent the day on Green Turtle Cay to learn more about Family Life. The topic for this lesson was *Family Teaches Culture and Tradition*. While on the cay the students visited the Albert Lowe Museum, the Loyalist Memorial Sculpture Garden and they saw historical photographs dating back as far as the early 20th century. After learn-

ing about New Plymouth's history, the tour ended at the grounds of the Heritage Festival where they took pictures with pirates and took part in the parade.

Musical recital

By Samantha V. Evans

Under the theme *The Colors of Spring: Showcasing a Collection of Recital Pieces*, the music department of Abaco Central High School held its first musical recital on May 23rd at the school. The goal of this event was to show the diversity in music. Ms. Pauline Brice, music teacher, stated that the students need to be aware of all music types to successfully sit the BGCSE exam given to 12th grade students. She saw this as a great way to showcase their talents and to prepare them for national exams. The students performed on the recorder, as bell ringers, models and dancers. Special pieces were performed by Mr. Enrique Brown and Mr. Rori Young, both teachers of the school. Mr. Vincent Joseph was the guest artist and played the flute to Celion Dion's *My heart will go on*.

During the evening Ms. Brice explained the origin of music, stating that when it was formed, it was meant to be pleasant as it took advantage of all of the sounds of nature. As she spoke of various types of music, students from her music classes modeled various indigenous attires representative of those cultures. She spoke of the music from Africa that is tribal and rich; the music of Asia that is made up of strings, woodwind and percussion instruments; South American or Latin music has a lot of percussions; North American music has catchy rhythm; Jamai-

Please see **School** Page 11



Several church leaders began the Bridging the Gap Youth Program to train students to be leaders. Six girls were chosen to be the first group that they worked with. They are shown here with Mrs. Beverly Archer of Abaco Youth Ministries.

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More School News

School From Page 10

can music is known as Reggae and became famous because of the late Bob Marley; and Bahamian music such as Goombay, Heel and Toe and Junkanoo.

Music affects the heart, mind and soul of everyone. It is the universal language and a gift from God. At the end of the recital, light refreshments were served. Funds raised from this recital will go towards purchasing new musical instruments and to

repair old ones.

Students attend leadership training

In an effort to prepare young people to become leaders of this country, the organizers of Bridging the Gap Youth Program

have identified six youth whom they have begun training to become youth leaders. The students had their first training sessions in April and completed this year's training

Please see School Page 12

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decks and patios. The main house has living/ dining/ kitchen/ master bedroom suite, two guest bedrooms with bath, powder room, double garage and utility/ workshop area. Included with its own entrance is a private 1 bedroom/ 1 bath apartment with an open living/ dining/ kitchen with its own deck. Many features. MUST SEE.
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"Gramling House" newly built, 2 storey home located on Galleon Bay canal with a 45' dock. Upper level has 4 bed/ 2 bath. Open living/ dining/ kitchen. Lower level has 2 bed/ 1 bath, laundry room plus covered open boat/ car storage EXC \$859,100 FGS

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ABBREVIATION CODE

EXC - Exclusive listing
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School From Page 11

on May 26 after which time they will be installed as youth leaders. The facilitators for these sessions were Ms. Samantha Evans, Mrs. Beverley Archer, Ms. Margaret Phillips and Pastor Derek Benjamin.

The purpose of these sessions is to properly prepare them to handle different situations that can arise amongst their peers and to equip them with the tools they will need to be successful at resolving any possible situation. They learned topics such as decision making skills, qualities of effective leaders, goal setting, communication skills, and working with diverse groups. The six youth leaders are Stayse Edmond, Vanissa Darville, Robyn Young, Aisha Jones, Shavanti Darville, and Alexander Ben. They will receive continuous training throughout the year.

at that time. It was not until 2006 that he began to shine. He medaled at the Nationals in Nassau for the second time and was named the Most Outstanding Athlete for 2007. This is a great achievement for this 12-year-old student.

Delano stated that his uncle Mr. Kevin Rolle worked with him this year as well and is grateful that he takes the time to work with budding young talent. Delano will be going to Nassau for the trials for the CAC games over the week of June 11-15th with hopes of making the cut for the sports event scheduled for later this summer in Nassau. Delano has big dreams, one of which is to make it to the Olympic Games one day as a 100m sprinter. He presently holds the top spot in this event so he is the athlete to beat. Both of his coaches, class teacher Mr. Peart and the entire school family congratulates him on a job well done.

Delano named outstanding athlete in Nassau

By Samantha V. Evans

Coach Geoffrey Victor worked with Delano Davis, a grade 6 student of Central Abaco Primary School. It was in grade four that he realized that this young man had great potential in track and field events. Delano began his track and field career

Sandy Point From Page 1

draw huge crowds from throughout The Bahamas as people come for the good times and parties.

Director of the Abaco Tourist Office, Don Cornish, said they have to do a better job of helping them organize so communities can have some guidelines when they are planning their events. Mr. Cornish said, "I think this is important because it is an expression of our local culture. Home coming is a cultural activity that gives people a chance to connect to small communities around the Bahamas and the

committee has to work hard that their culture is readily available. We are special people and we have a heritage. When people come to see Sandy Point, they realize the struggle of the people to make the event successful at the end of the day. We have a special country and our culture should be shared. I think domestic tourism is well promoted but I think it can be developed better. We need to find a way to create a template for an event so people can have a way to make an event successful. These events ought to have a platform where it can be built on every year," he concluded.



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(Ref # 808) Elegant 3 bedroom, 3 bath furnished canalfront home, 3,430 s/f under roof on 2 landscaped lots totaling 0.714 acres. 180' of deep water canal frontage with 118' of fully serviced dock. Great harbour views. \$2,525,000.

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(Ref # 745) 3 bedroom, 2 bath single storey, 1,550 sq. ft. canal front home, fully furnished, located on elevated landscaped lot, carport & garage, deep water dock with boat lift. Includes van & golf cart. \$1,148,000.

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TREASURE CAY

Beach Villa 504 A & B

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(Ref # 688) Fully furnished 1 bedroom, 2 bath ground level condominium with superb view of Treasure Cay harbour & marina. Located in Marina Cove complex. Good rental history \$345,000.

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(Ref # 454) 2 bed, 1 bath fully furnished, two level poolside unit within view of Trasure Cay Marina & just a 5 minute walk from Treasure Cay Beach. Can be combined with listing # 455 to make a 3 bed/2bath with open living area. \$317,900.

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(Ref # 655) Fully furnished 2 bed, 1 bath end unit overlooking marina/harbour Complex offers pool and tennis courts, close to beach, restaurant and shops: \$317,900.

Mariner's Cove Unit # 1411

(Ref # 807) 1 bedroom, 1 bath, fully furnished ground level condo overlooking Treasure Cay Marina. Well maintained, includes pool, tennis courts, close to beach. \$222,000.

One Bedroom Mariner's Cove

(Ref # 455) 1 bed, 1 bath fully furnished ground floor poolside unit. Mariner's Cove offers pool, tennis courts, laundry facilities, on site management, good rental potential. \$200,000.

Beachfront Vacant Lot

(Ref # 462) 1.82 acre cleared lot with 144' of prime beach frontage, located on prestigious Ocean Blvd. All utilities available. Limited beach lots available in this area \$1,695,000.

Treasure Cay Beach Lot

(Ref # 654) Prime elevated parcel of 12,800 s/f with 118' of pristine beach frontage in protected cove. Fully cleared, all utilities available, superior sea views. \$1,480,000.

Treasure Cay Beachfront Lot

(Ref # 705) Choice 12,281 s/f residential parcel with good elevation on spectacular Treasure Cay Beach. 95' of sugar-fine white sand beach frontage. All utilities available. Sensational sea views. \$1,385,550.

Beach Lot

(Ref # 590) Located on Leeward Beach near the T.C. Point with 136' of fabulous beach frontage, views of Green Turtle Cay, total of 28,700 s/f, ready for construction, all utilities available, quiet & secluded Cul de sac. \$1,330,000.

Windward Beach Waterfront Parcel

(Ref # 817) Half acre waterfront residential parcel directly on Sea of Abaco with 124' of beach frontage near end of Windward Beach. Newly installed sea wall. All utilities available. \$482,000.

Galleon Bay Canal Lot

(Ref # 422) Prime Canal Front cleared lot totaling 10,295 s/f and 88' + of protected canal water frontage situated on the wide expanse of picturesque Galleon Bay, quick access to the Sea of Abaco. \$350,000.

Rock Point Waterfront Parcel

(Ref # 783) 12,200 s/f waterfront residential parcel near entrance to Treasure Cay Marina. 90' of newly installed sea wall. Fully cleared, all utilities available. Great views of Sea of Abaco. \$289,000.

Flamingo Drive Lot 66

(Ref # 558) Large residential lot situated on a quiet Flamingo Drive cul-de-sac, an ideal home building site, all utilities, including electricity, water, telephone, Cable TV & DSL access available at the lot line. \$66,000.

Residential Inland Lot

(Ref # 442) Choice residential lot on paved Flamingo Drive, located just one block from Ocean Blvd. 10,000 s/f & 80' on the road. All utilities are available at the property boundary including TV & DSL. \$45,000.

ABACO CLUB AT WINDING BAY

Lot # 2

(Ref # 727) Spectacular 1.1 acre estate lot overlooking the 18th hole with superb elevation & magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean. Easy access to the clubhouse and amenities. \$3,015,000.

GREAT CISTERN CAY

"Paradise Point"

(Ref # 659) Beautiful, fully furnished. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2,400 s/f waterfront home on 1/2 acre. 193' elevated Sea of Abaco frontage, Fantastic views, \$875,000.

LITTLE HARBOUR

Waterfront Property

(Ref # 347) 2.2 acres, sea to sea, total 280' water frontage, ideal for boat dockage in protected Little Harbour, large natural cave. **Reduced Price \$608,000.**

LEISURE LEE

"Double Eagle"

(Ref # 757) 3 bed, 3 bath, fully furnished home on 11,619 s/f canal front parcel, all, 68' fully serviced, deep water dock. 2,500 s/f of space, recently renovated. Underground utilities. \$776,000.

Canal Front Home

(Ref # 124) 2 bedroom 2 bath fully furnished home, open living/kitchen. 50' bulkhead & dock on deep water protected canal, close to beach. **Reduced Price \$348,000.**

Prime Canal Lot # 205 with Dock

(Ref # 823) Fully cleared canalfront parcel of 10,708 s/f with 130' + of deep water canal frontage. Fully serviced 105' new dock. Telephone & DSL Internet available. \$392,000.

Large Canal Lot # 195

(Ref # 602) Choice corner canal lot at junction of four canals, offering spacious 15,344 s/f with 197' of sea-walled, deep water canal frontage on two canals. Fully cleared, all utilities available, fantastic views. Close to pristine sandy beach. \$334,000.

Canal Lot 206

(Ref # 597) Cleared 11,242 s/f lot with 171 feet of bullheaded seawall, views of Treasure Cay and the Sea of Abaco. All utilities available. \$265,000.

Elevated Canal Lot

(Ref # 704) Located on deep water canal with 104' of protected frontage, 10,400 s/f, all utilities available, near beach access, quiet residential community \$299,000.

Choice Sea View Lot # 169

(Ref # 811) Excellent 10,439 s/f residential sea view corner lot with 194' of road frontage. Just a 3 minute walk to sandy beach. All utilities underground & available. \$107,000.

Joe's Creek Vicinity Lot 15

(Ref # 567) 2.139 acres on highway with 50 ft. elevated ridge & 956' depth. Ideal for private residence or small subdivision, electricity & telephone available. \$149,700.

GUANA CAY

Atlantic Oceanfront Parcel

(Ref # 746) Approx. 1 acre residential parcel with 154' of elevated shoreline on Atlantic Ocean, near Orchid Bay community, great ocean views. \$395,000.

Two Commercial Lots

(Ref # 368) 2 adjoining lots, harbour front road location, across from the public dock, total frontage 161 feet, Lot # 8: \$299,000. Lot # 9: \$349,000.

MARSH HARBOUR

Great Abaco Club, Canalfront Home

(Ref # 637) Elegantly furnished 4 bedroom, 4 bath, 2,800 s/f home. State-of-the-art kitchen. Canal-side pool, spacious patio, 42' deep water canal frontage, gated community \$2,185,000.

Sea View Lot with Dockage

(Ref # 493) Select residential lot in Great Abaco Club, 7,750 s/f in size, finger dock for 25' vessel, direct access to Sea of Abaco, gated community, all utilities available, use of all resort amenities, close to restaurants, shops, etc- **Reduced \$299,000.**

GREEN TURTLE CAY

"Beau Soleil"

(Ref # 662) Beautiful 4 bed 5 bath Beachfront Estate - Main House, Guest House and Apt. total 3,634 s/f on 0.878 acres on White Sound with 120' dock, fresh water pool 173' beach frontage, great elevation, magnificent views, furnished. \$2,975,000. (Main House & Apt. also available separately)

Oceanview Home

(Ref # 693) Newly built 4 bed, 2.5 bath, fully furnished 2 storey colonial style, 3,000 s/f + 300 s/f covered porches, residential neighborhood, beach access, large lot, ocean views. \$778,000.

Sea View Elevated Lot

(Ref # 684) Hilltop 0.405 acre parcel in planned residential community of "Island Reach", perched high on White Sound Bluff, one of the highest elevations on Green Turtle Cay, overlooking the Sea of Abaco, \$725,000.

BAHAMA PALM SHORES

Atlantic Ocean Beach Front Parcel

(Ref # 714) 45,343 s/f parcel with 100' beach frontage on fantastic 8 mile beach. Electricity available at road boundary. Ideal for permanent residence or vacation home. \$349,000.

Inland Lot - Near Beach

(Ref # 756) Large 13,000 s/f lot near white sandy Atlantic Ocean beaches, native vegetation, Good road access. \$38,000.

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Serenity, White Sound, Elbow Cay

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FAR NIENTE

North End, Elbow Cay 4 bed / 4 bath on the Sea of Abaco North End, Elbow Cay. Large open floor plan, fully furnished, beautiful beach
\$3,900,000



South End, Elbow Cay
 Oceanfront Lot 1/2+ acre, suitable for main and guest cottage, adjacent to private Dorros Cove community at south end of Elbow Cay, close to restaurant and marina **\$750,000**



TRANQUILITY

Little Orchard, Marsh Harbour 2 bedroom/2 bath house, perfect family home or excellent rental potential. Located close to restaurants, marina and beach
\$236,000



CONCH QUEST

Ocean front villa, 2 bedroom, 1 bath with room to expand. Open deck overlooks excellent surfing location. Just steps from marina and restaurant. Rental history available.
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White Sound

Hilltop lot adjacent to Aunt Pats Bay in White Sound. 1/3 acre with private dock slip and views of the Sea of Abaco and Atlantic **\$355,000**

High Hopes

North End, Elbow Cay Oceanfront home 3 bed/3 bath, large deck overlooking the Atlantic, fully furnished and excellent rental history
\$1,450,000

OCEAN FRONT

WHITE SOUND
 Lots #13 & #14 with dockage on White Sound Bay **\$495,000** each

White Sound

Ocean Front Lots #15 and 16, both with dockage on White Sound Bay, and just steps away from marina and restaurants

DORROS COVE

Lot #18 with dock slip and ocean views **\$362,000**
 Lot #21 with dock slip and panoramic views **\$425,000**
 Lot #43 with dock slip and ocean/sea view **\$365,000**

LYNYARD CAY

3 acres on Sea of Abaco, north of pond **\$730,000**
 1 acre north of pond on Sea of Abaco **\$365,000**



MAY HOUSE,

North End Elbow Cay Ocean front Large 1.5 acre property, 2 bed / 2 bath villa, generator room, can be subdivided
 Reduced **\$2,900,000**



TOWN BREAK

Hope Town 5 bed / 4 bath ocean-front turn key home on beautiful sandy beach, located north of historic Hope Town settlement. Open decking, beautiful decor and excellent rental history.
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KIWI HOUSE

White Sound, Elbow Cay Newly custom-built Bahamian style home, 2-story, 3 bed, 2.5 bath. Expansive decking, Pool, central AC, generator. Spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean
\$897,000



SUNBLIME

Hope Town Settlement Historic Hope Town house with dockage. Main house 4 bed 2.5 bath with detached dock house. Rental history available.
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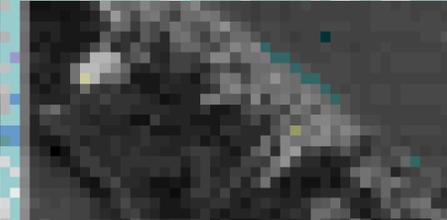
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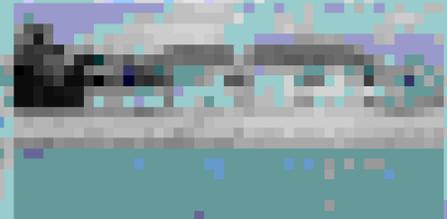
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Principal looks achievements at Abaco Central

By Mirella Santillo

For his first year as Principal Mr. Kendris Hield was given a tough assignment when he was posted to Abaco Central High School. The largest high school on Abaco, the school was faced with a growing population of students from different ethnic backgrounds prone to fights and violence, a campus in poor condition, not yet recovered from the damage of the two hurricanes of 2004 and academic performances barely reaching passing grade.

Since his taking over, the school grounds have improved considerably. The buildings were painted, the fence repaired and a security booth constructed at the entrance. The grass is kept trimmed; it looks again like a school should. "We did it with the little resources we had, not only for the school,

but also for the community," he explained.

The discipline has improved tremendously during the last school year," he said. "One thing I want the students to understand is that they are here to learn. Anything else is not welcomed. I must commend the police who responded quickly when we had problems. Every single person on the campus, student, member of the faculty and staff has the right to feel safe and nobody is going to infringe on that right. I had to press charges in certain instances. Assault is a crime, bringing a weapon to school is a crime, possession of illegal substances is a crime that will be reported, and the culprits will face a juvenile panel," he insisted.

Anyone visiting the school must now state his or her business to the security guard

or stop at the office. An alarm system has been installed and Mr. Hield is planning to add another security booth and install more surveillance cameras. Once discipline is in place, the students can start to learn. "When they respect each other and start to act as one, we'll focus them on studying. Academic improvement is not going to happen overnight, but we are going to see some improvements within the next two or three years, I am certain," he said.

He explained that during the 2006-07 school year, an agricultural program and a chicken farm were put in place. "We grew enough tomatoes, cabbages, onions and broccoli to sell and we slaughtered 150 chicken that we sold for \$5 a piece. The money was put back into the agriculture program. Next year," added Mr. Hield, "we will purchase two batches of 200 chickens



each, maybe ducks, too, and we will be growing more crops."

Another successful program was the implementation of the first Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute's classes on Abaco. On May 4th 60 students age 16 and up registered for the first semester courses which will run until July 7th. They had a choice of either cosmetology, electrical installation, carpentry or business administration. Registration for the second semester classes will be held from August 20th to 24th with placement examinations taking place on June 15th and 22nd.

With these classes being held during the summer and the remodeling of the Eastern campus which will be fitted to hold more BTVI classes in September, Mr. Hield said that the school will not close. "Anyway, for principals," he explained, "planning for the school year happens during July and August. It is the time to check the classrooms for repairs and painting, to put together time tables and human resources. It is the time to organize and plan for a better environment and keep the place maintained. This is a gov-

Please see **Hield** Page 17.



Mr. Kendris Hield, Principal of Abaco Central High School, took over his responsibilities last August. He faced many difficulties but has seen much progress. One of his projects was to re-introduce agriculture into the curriculum. The students successfully raised 150 chickens that they slaughtered and sold for \$5 each.

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In the heart of the settlement of Hope Town is a well established commercial building that has been there for over 30 years and has served the community by accommodating a variety of businesses and shops. The second floor is a two

Lubbers Quarters Vacant Lots

Marsh Harbour and Elbow Cay, there are two 80' x 125' choice lots available. Identical in size and price, both lots can boast picturesque sunsets and views of the Sea of Abaco. There is soon to be dockage close by. Roads are in great condition and this desirable location is walking

#3456 **\$180,000** **Abaco Ocean Club**
Magnificent lot of 20,040 sq. ft. in an upcoming subdivision of Lubbers. Down the lane you can sit to watch the magical Bahamian sunset.

#3390 **\$100,000 Abaco Ocean Club**
Beautifully located vacant lot with a

Lubbers Quarters

(2) Southern Breeze Cottage / This quaint cottage is located in the Abaco Ocean Club Subdivision, Lubber Quarters. Overlooking the Sea of Abaco and walking distance from Restaurants and Bakery. Included is a private Dock Slip in the protected Marina only steps from

EXCLUSIVE LISTINGS

Hield From Page 16

ernment organization that should be cared for year around. Next year," he concluded, "should be very eventful. There will be a stronger BTVI program and a technical program added to the curriculum, and we will have an upgraded basketball court, with the ACH Marlins logo and painted benches."

Capt Leonard From Page 1

smoking one of his signature cigars surrounded by friends and family. A former Royal Canadian Air Force Captain, an entrepreneur, a businessman, a father, a husband, an author of two books, a farmer, an elder statesman and a loyal Abaconian, he has had what you might call "the good life" and is still living it. Still just as sharp, just as knowledgeable and just as jovial as he was when I met him and his wonderful wife, Mary, 46 years ago in Nassau when he was then the Member of Parliament for

Abaco. He took all the fanfare and festivities in stride.

He was surrounded by his six children, coming from as far away as Mexico and as close as Hope Town, the home of his birth. There were grandchildren, great-grandchildren, old friends and acquaintances. The Hon. Hubert Ingraham, Prime Minister, was there as well as two former Members of Parliament for Abaco, Frederik Gottlieb and Robert Sweeting and their spouses, and a third, Michael Lightbourn, was unable to fly out of Nassau because of bad weather, or he, too, would surely have been there, as well as the present Representative for Abaco, Edison Key, and his wife.

It certainly says something for a man's character to be surrounded by so many distinguished gentlemen who have remained close lifelong friends and to be able to be blessed with so many who love him.

He took time out during the evening to be interviewed by ZNS, the government-owned television station for nearly an hour and to have many photo opts with dignitaries and family. Even though the gathering was

kept indoors by the inclement weather, a sumptuous meal was provided for the gathering as well as a birthday cake with all the trimmings. All the guests were presented with souvenir glass tumblers with his name and a drawing of his plane etched on the side to remember this momentous occasion.

Ninety years is a long time, but Captain's

not finished yet, in fact, far from it. We hope you make to 100 and we only hope we're still here to help you celebrate. Happy Birthday, Cap.

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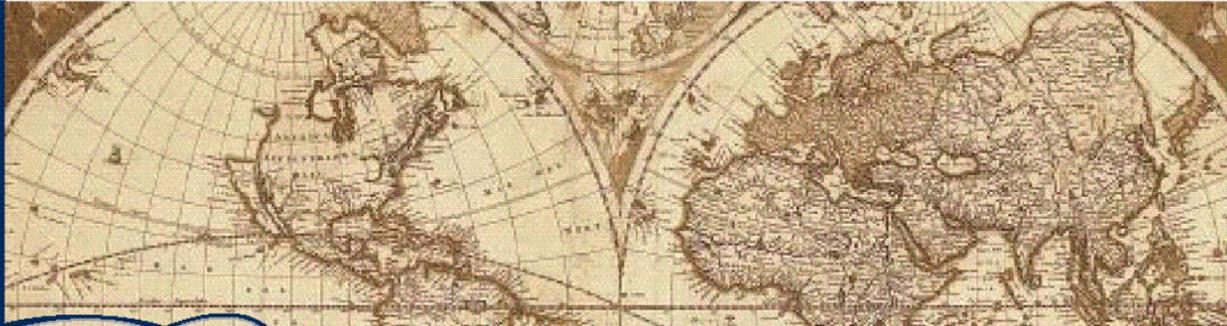
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PARROT POINT

Crabbing Season is Here

Jennifer Hudson

Scratching sounds in the yard, crabs skittering across the roads and the sight of cages full of these crustaceans clawing their way up the mesh sides let us know that crab season is here once again. The advent of the rainy season brings land crabs out from May to October. During the winter these creatures hibernate and block the entrance to their holes, but since they have gills, they come out of their holes following heavy rain.

A large number of the crabs which are sold commercially on Abaco are brought from Andros which is the "crab capital" of The Bahamas but many Abaco natives love to go out and catch crabs themselves. They not only enjoy the excitement of chasing and capturing the creatures but look forward to all the tasty delicacies which can be cooked up afterwards which include not only "boiled crab" but also "crab and dough," "crab and rice" and the very tasty "stuffed baked crabs."

Fifteen-year-old Stephan Johnson enjoys crabbing in the area of Casuarina Point where he lives, and he has become quite adept at it since he began three years ago. He enjoys going out in the evenings after he has finished his homework, wearing sturdy tennis shoes and carrying a machete, flashlight and pillowcase (some people use croaker sacks) to see how many he can find for that evening. "From 7 p.m. just before dusk onwards is the best time to catch crabs," informed Stephan. "Crabs love cocoa plums so I look especially around the cocoa plum bushes as I'm guaranteed to catch some there."

On average Stephan is able to come home with about six a night. He walks stealthily and knocks the bush with a stick or machete to disturb any crabs which may be lurking. Once he hears some rustling in the bush he makes his way in (he has had his share of poisonwood). When he finds the crab, he



Stephan Johnson enjoys crabbing and each night can usually come up with about six. His family keeps them for a couple of weeks feeding them until they are ready for the dinner table.

puts his foot on its two front biters and the body and grabs it from behind, then drops it into his pillowcase sack. When he has collected about five or six crabs, he returns home to put them in a pen behind of his house. There his mother feeds the crabs for a couple of weeks to flush out their systems before they can be eaten as they are scavengers and feed on all kinds of unsavoury material. In order for their systems to become purged, the crabs are fed on bread, mango skins and watermelon. Then three or four days before cooking they are given just water in order to cleanse them right out.

When they are ready for cooking, Stephan gets them out of the cage, snaps the big biters off, clips off the legs and scrubs the outside to get the dirt off. The crabs are then turned onto their backs and placed in the bottom of a pot with a little salt and water and steamed. A little lime juice and red pepper in the water spices up this boiled crab. The fat is eaten out of the back and the meat of the body is picked to pieces. Many

people like the female crabs because they enjoy the eggs which are contained in orange capsules and consider them a great delicacy.

There are two types of land crab, the white crab (which is actually a bluish grey colour) and the black crab. White crabs are the more common of the two and are plentiful in Casuarina Point, black crabs are scarce on the main island but can be found on the cays. "The black crabs are a lot smaller but better tasting," says Stephan. "But if you put black crabs and white crabs in a pen together, the white crabs will kill the black."

Recently, Stephan has been joined in his crabbing pursuits by his next door neighbour, 10-year-old Adam McKinney, who is eager to learn from his older friend's expertise. Adam has not yet built up the courage to grab the crabs with his hand but does very well picking them up with a pair of long barbecue tongs.

While the scratching of land crabs can sound very eerie, and they often take a person by surprise scuttling across a wash house floor, shed or garage, they are interesting creatures. Land crabs do not begin their life on land. They mate there but during the full moons of late summer and early fall, the egg laden females migrate to salt water in order to release their young before returning to land. This is why so often crabs are seen on the highways trying to cross to the beach. After the larval crabs have spent about six weeks at sea, they come ashore

and begin life as true land crabs. They must continue to have contact with water in order to breathe but can go for a day or two without dunking. This allows them to move inland up to as far as five miles from the coast as long as the areas are very low. They dig down below the water table and create a chamber that holds about a half gallon of water. Unfortunately, this creates a habitat not only for crabs but also for mosquitoes.

The crabs stay in their holes during the day and come out at night to feed, sometimes ranging as far as half a mile from their burrows. By dawn they are back at their hole waiting for the heat or intruders to send them scurrying back down into their pool.

If you have a crab in your yard which is annoying you, you could seek out its hole, then try dropping a polished sea bean down it. According to island folklore this will drive the crab crazy and hopefully it will leave. Or you may prefer to catch it and put it in your pot.

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Viewpoint . . . Protecting Our Number One Industry

By Vernique Russell

Over the years The Bahamas has climbed to greater heights in our number one industry with sun, sand and sea as our main product. We have done fairly well and made great achievements in this area. However, I believe that we are all responsible for ensuring that our number one industry is protected at all times no matter what the cost. We are all aware that tourism is our number one industry, and it is all of our business to treat our visitor with the uttermost respect and dignity. We depend on these people to feed our families, school our children and pay our bills. But I am afraid that we sometime take these visitors for granted and they often leave with a sour rather than sweet taste in their mouths. Whether you're a maid, bartender, taxi driver, ticket agent, waitress, security officer or a member of the executive board at your organization, you have a role to play.

Besides friendliness and hospitality, this small yet unique country only can boast of the beautiful sun that graces our sky, the beautiful sand that adorns our beaches and the crystal clear, turquoise water that sur-

rounds our islands. These products have successfully worked together by God's grace and have brought millions of people to our shores. I am of the opinion that even though these people chose to visit our country out of many other countries that boast the same product, we treat them like we are doing them a favour when reality is that they are doing us a favor. We can't afford to have our tourists leaving our shores disappointed and disgusted because of the attitude and service they receive while they are here. There are things that we can all do to help make our visitors' experience an unforgettable one that he or she will want to relive year after year.

Those of you who work directly in the tourism sector, I am calling on you to always cater to these people with respect. If you had a bad night or day, please don't wear it on your face. Attitude is a little thing that makes a BIG difference. Secondly, it seems as if we are losing our unique style of mannerism. Whatever happen to "Good morning, how are you," or "Good afternoon." We are straying away from the basic foundation that touches the tourists' hearts when they

first come to our shores. Change is good, I agree, but we must be able to differentiate which changes are good and those that will do more damage than good. We must be willing to go beyond the call of duty for our tourists. We must not develop a "that's not my job" attitude but always be willing to make it our job for guaranteed visitors' satisfaction. Finally, practice makes perfect! What we practice is what we will be comfortable doing. Many persons employed in the tourism sector can serve only tourists with a smile and treat natives extremely poorly. That contributes to the reason why it is always so easy for them to have bad days. If we practice with our locals when tourists are not on the scene, our performance would be top notch. We must realize that every person that walks through our restaurants,

gift store or grocery store doors deserves to be treated fairly. If we as Bahamians can appreciate our locals and give them the same treatment that we would give our tourists, then we can position ourselves to always be on our "p's and "q's" to provide service with a smile that is sincere and genuine.

Tourism is everyone business; we are all in this together. We all rely on the tourists that come to our shores in one way or another. It our job, our duty and our responsibility to ensure that they receive the best treatment possible and they return to our shore. Please, together, let's protect our number one industry, our future. Our children's future depends on it.

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25th
Anniversary

Photo Contest

THE bahamas at play

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2. Deadline for entries is June 22, 2007
3. All entries are to be delivered to Bahamas First General Insurance's office, #32 Collins Avenue, Nassau, N.P. between 9 am and 5 pm, weekdays only. Envelopes should be marked "Calendar Contest".
4. All entries must be accompanied by an official entry form available at Bahamas First offices or when published in newspapers.
5. Only colour images in horizontal format will be considered. Images must be provided as digital images on CD. Digital images must be of high quality (2700 x 2100 pixels or larger). Digital images showing any signs of photo manipulation, resolution enhancement or compression will be rejected. To ensure the best colour reproduction, digital images should be supplied in RAW, TIFF or high quality JPEG and in the original colour format the camera uses (LAB or RGB). All entries must be supplied with prints which will be used in the judging process. The photographer's name and photo subject should be written on the CD and on the reverse of the print.
6. Judging of entries will be based on creativity, imagery, composition, colour, originality and quality of photograph. The photos selected will appear in Bahamas First's 25th Anniversary 2008 calendar. The decision of the judges will be final.
7. All entries are submitted at the owner's risk. It is the company's intention to return all entries in their original condition. However, Bahamas First will assume no liability for any loss, damage or deterioration.
8. A gift certificate valued at \$500 will be presented for each of the photographs selected. More than one entry from a single photographer may be selected. Photographic credits will be given in the calendar. The number of entries per photographer is limited to a maximum of five photos.
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Entry deadline June 22, 2007

BAHAMAS FIRST
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Banquet ends a successful JA year

By Samantha V. Evans

Fulfilling the Dream was the theme of this 2006-07 Junior Achievement year, and the board with responsibility for Junior Achievement (JA) as well as the Central Abaco Youth Council Board has many reasons to be proud. On June 9th the first JA banquet was held at Mangoes Restaurant to end a successful year. Mr. Ishmael "Stretch" Morley, Youth Officer for Abaco, has responsibility for both boards and realizes that this day would not be possible without the commitment of all persons concerned. In preparation for this day, the club members had to close out their companies and sell any remaining products, determine their profits and losses, take final exams and go on relevant interviews. Persons from the business community were called on to conduct the interviews for the offices of President, Marketing, Production, and Human Resources. All scores were sent to Mr. Morley for tallying.

Guest speaker for the JA banquet was Denise Minnis, Assistant Director of the Ministry of Youth for the Northern Bahamas. She stated that the Ministry of Youth has some very exciting plans for the Northern Bahamas. Abaco can expect some new youth initiatives to begin very soon including the Fresh Start Program and the Self Start Program that the newly appointed Minister, the Hon. Carl Bethel, has committed \$1 million for young people to start businesses. Ms. Minnis stated that the minister is very proud of what Mr. Morley and his team have accomplished.

Mr. Edison Key, MP for South Abaco, and his wife celebrated this night with the youth. He told them that Abaco has grown



Mr. Revis Rolle, Administrator for Central Abaco, presented the trophy for the Most Distinguished Achiever Award to Brittany Symonette, who was in the JA compan sponsored by Batelco.



Ray Jay Sands was recognized for his sales abilities. He received the Overall Sales Award that is presented by Mr. Revis Rolle.

by leaps and bonds. In fact, he can remember when the very site where Mangoes now sits was just a bushy area. He told the teenagers to not take their parents for granted because if they do, they will regret it later in life. He encouraged them to take advantage of the years they spend in school and to not take their education for granted. He told them to be honest and to not do anything to ruin their reputation because it will go with them everywhere they go.

The presidents of the three JA companies spoke on their experiences this year and the awards ceremony followed led by Ms. Samantha Evans. Each of the companies

and sponsors were presented with plaques for their support. Brittany Symonette was given a special award for representing JA Abaco at the BAHAMAJAC 2007 speech competition. The Overall Sales Award went to Ray Jay Sands from BEC-sponsored company and the Most Distinguished Achiever Award went to Brittany Symonette from the Batelco-sponsored company. She received a trophy and will receive a scholarship toward her college education when she graduates next June. She is a grade eleven student at Forest Heights Academy. All plaques were donated by Treasure Cay Limited.

BTVI From Page 2

a letter had been sent to the Ministry of Education in Nassau to request financial aid for the material and said that labor would be provided by BTVI students from Grand Bahama and Nassau.

The Principal is confident that the buildings will be repaired and ready for the fall semester to implement a program which he said "is not merely for the high school students but for the whole community."

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4:00P	8:00P	604	Fr, Sa	7
Fort Lauderdale, Florida				
To: Miami, Bahamas				
6:00A	11:00A	601	Mo, Tu	3
8:00P	2:00P	603	Fr, Sa	7
To: Key West, Florida				
1:00P	6:00P	605	Fr, Sa	7
To: Marsh Harbour, Bahamas				
8:00A	1:00P	606	Fr, Sa	7
10:00A	10:00P	607	Mo, Tu	3
8:00P	8:00P	608	Fr, Sa	7
To: Treasure Cay, Bahamas				
10:00A	11:00A	609	Mo, Tu	3
10:00A	10:00P	603	Fr, Sa	7
Key West, Florida				
To: Fort Lauderdale, Florida				
4:00P	8:00P	604	Fr, Sa	7

Depart	Arrive	Flight	Days	Notes
Marsh Harbour, Bahamas - Bahamas				
To: Fort Lauderdale, Florida				
1:00P	7:00P	602	Mo, Tu	3
4:00P	8:00P	604	Fr, Sa	7
To: West Palm Beach, Florida				
10:00A	10:00A	602	Tu	3
11:00A	1:00P	603	Fr, Sa	7
1:00P	1:00P	604	Mo, Tu	3
4:00P	4:00P	605	Tu	3
Treasure Cay, Bahamas - Bahamas				
To: Fort Lauderdale, Florida				
8:00P	8:00P	603	Fr, Sa	7
4:00P	8:00P	604	Mo, Tu	3
To: West Palm Beach, Florida				
11:00A	1:00P	604	Mo, Tu	3
12:00P	1:00P	603	Fr, Sa	7
West Palm Beach, Florida				
To: Marsh Harbour, Bahamas				
11:00A	1:00P	601	Tu	3
2:00P	2:00P	602	Mo, Tu	3
3:00P	3:00P	603	Fr, Sa	7
To: Treasure Cay, Bahamas				
8:00P	8:00P	601	Fr, Sa	7
8:00P	8:00P	602	Mo, Tu	3

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Church News

PULSE Youth Conference

By Samantha V. Evans

The Church of God Dundas Town held its annual PULSE Youth Conference on May 24-26 to teach young people more about living their lives for Christ. The speakers



In an effort to raise money to buy a generator for St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, Father Roger and members of the parish organized a Souse-out breakfast on May 26th. The church is designated as a hurricane shelter and is badly in need of a generator. A constant flow of hungry people patronized the stand. Father Roger said that some money was raised from the cook-out, but not enough for a generator, so he is counting on the goodwill of local business people to help.

for the conference were Mr. Eddie James from Tennessee and Mr. Duerre Thomas from Nassau. Mr. James and Ultimate Call electrified the church with great music, dance, drama, and songs. The church was full to capacity nightly.

Mr. Thomas shared his testimony with the youth. He then told the audience that he is very disturbed by the many issues that the youth of Abaco are now plagued with. He stated that this generation of young people is not very interested in God. He told the young people to be respectful of their elders because he has seen too many youth who disrespect older adults. He addressed the following topics that he is also concerned about: sexual promiscuity, pornography, violence and

suicide.

Mr. Thomas encouraged them not to live only for today but to plan ahead so they can have something to work towards. Mr. Thomas encouraged the youth to pick friends who have a positive future in sight. He told the parents and adults to stop speaking negatively about the youth but rather say something positive to and about them. Fifty-five youth and adult volunteers visited

for this conference and will remain on Abaco up to a month after it is over to minister in various communities.

Fest for Youth

By Samantha V. Evans

On June 8 Abaco Youth Ministries began its Youth Fest under the theme *Thy will be*

Please see **Church** Page 22



The Church of God in Dundas Town held a PULSE Youth Conference that featured Mr. Eddie James and the Ulitmate Call dancers from Tennessee. The congregation appreciated their livelymusic.

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More Church News

Church From Page 21

done. On the first night a panel discussion was held with panelists Nurse Daniel Ekpa, Sgt. Remy Minnis, Mrs. Salomie Gibson and Pastor Emmit Archer. Nurse Ekpa told the youth that they must be prepared to live a life that is acceptable to God. He told them to accept the daily molding of their parents and begin to accept responsibility at different levels of their lives. Sgt. Minnis mentioned that the youth that good decisions save lives and bad decisions can destroy someone's life. Many persons attested to how his strength helped them to turn their life around so they would not end up in prison.

Salomie Gibson has a passion for education and believes that it is important for them to never give up. As long as they live there will always be persons who will try to

discourage them but they must know what they want and go after it. Finally, she stated that, contrary to what some young people believe, hard work never killed anyone. Therefore, they must work very hard because it is with their degrees that they can make a difference. Mrs. Gibson is the Chief Welfare Officer at the Abaco Office.

Pastor Emmit Archer was the final panelist and he stated that he is grateful that the youth of his church saw it necessary to put together such a diverse panel. He reminded them that God expects all of them to fulfill their purpose while on earth so the decisions they make should be in line with that. He stated that they plan to have more educational sessions like this as they work towards changing the focus of their church. On Saturday night they held the talent night and the youth fest ended with a church service on Sunday afternoon.



Abaco Youth Ministries held a Youth Fest with a panel discussion covering a wide range of topics. The church plans to have more educational sessions for the youth.

Rev. Lennis Cornish: A Man with a Servant's Heart

By Samantha V. Evans

A Servant's Heart was the theme under which Rev. Lennis Cornish celebrated his Sixth Pastoral Anniversary as Senior Pastor of his church. June 3rd was the day his church members chose to honor him at a Pastoral Anniversary Service held at the Church of God in Dundas Town. This is the first time his congregation has held a service in his honor. At his side was his wife, Mrs. Rowena Cornish.

Rev. Cornish is a very well respected and well known pastor. He has worked as a servant of God for the past 39 years. Rev. Cornish has served in numerous capacities and in 1995 he was promoted as Exaltrant with the Church of God before he felt led to pastor his own church, the Church of God, Marsh Harbour, that presently meets in the Learning Resource Center building. The church will soon move into its own sanctuary that is being built without financing from any banking institution.

He was described as a man of integrity, a "no nonsense man." Bishop Johnny Lowe, a District Overseer, stated that this kind of service is good so that those who

Financial Planning Seminar

By Samantha V. Evans

Financial Planning is something all employed persons need to learn more about if they plan to let their money work for them. Change Ministries International held the first of a series of Financial Planning Seminars at the church on June 7th so as to empower Abaconians to better plan for their future. The speaker for the evening was Keith

Please see **Church** Page 23



Student Expresses Dismay and Hurt over School Decision

To the School Board of
Agape Christian School

I am writing this letter concerning my recent expulsion from Agape Christian School.

I started at Agape Christian School in 1996 at two years old. Since then, I have never had any major problems before this incident. At the time I thought that Agape was the best school around. I thought that anyone could get the best education possible at Agape, but all that has changed.

Now here is my story concerning the events leading to this particular incident. I came into my eighth grade year with my mind full of potential. I was expecting a good year academically and full of possibilities. In September through December, my year started off pretty good.

However, when I returned after Christmas break, everything changed. There were some girls in my class that had got along with me from the start. But when I came back from my break, they had totally changed toward me. It started off with just some little rude comments occasionally and escalated from there.

The eighth grade homeroom teacher was a very nice teacher on the whole, but I think that she was just a little too nice. In her classroom, things were never controlled. When the comments were made from the girls, she did nothing about it. Personally, I think that if things were controlled, it would not have led to this today.

I resorted to having a series of meetings with the principal. In the meetings she would ask me what was been going on and why did I think these things were happening. I would tell her my side of the story. From there she would go and get the other girls' side of the story. She made it look like things were going to be resolved,

but they never were. In the meetings that we had, she would make me look like I was the one who caused it to happen to me.

On one occasion she pulled all of the boys out of the class to get their side of the story. The boys said that they didn't see me saying anything to them or them saying anything to me. I know that the boys are not around when the things are said, so they are not a useful source to solving the problem. All of this leads up this current incident being discussed.

On Thursday, May 24, 2007, I went to school like any other normal day. I sat down and started to do some homework from the night before because class had not started. One of the girls had told me to move and I said "No." One of the girls from across the room that I had been having problems with made this comment to another student, "Don't worry about Haley. She is just stupid. I just need to bust her in her head."

Because I knew that my teacher heard it and was going to do nothing about it, I walked out of the classroom to go to the office to call my aunt because at the time my parents were away. I asked her to call my mom in the States to let her know that this was happening again and to see what she said about it. She called the office back and said to let the girl's mom know about the comment she made to me. My mom requested this because the girl's mother is a teacher at the school. The secretary of the school never informed her mom to let her know what was said.

My mom had asked my aunt to come with me so we could talk to the principal. The secretary told me that we could talk with her at 9:30 a.m. because she was invigilating a BGCSE exam. We waited in the office until around 9:45 am. The secretary came back and said we would have to talk to the high school counselor because the principal could

not talk to us at the time. Therefore, I went into the staff room and told her my side of the story; she told me that she would talk to the girl that threatened me. I had her class next so I asked her if I could take my mock BJC in another classroom, and she agreed. I took my exam and then went to lunch.

While I was eating lunch, my homeroom teacher came to me and said that we were having a meeting in the chapel with all the grade eight girls, so I went into the chapel. She started off by saying that she was tired of what had been happening and that it was going to stop now. She sent the girls out of the chapel that had nothing to do with the situation.

After she sent them out, she told me and the girl who made the comment that we were getting detentions. She said that she was giving me one because I walked out of class. I told her that class had not even started yet. She also made this comment to me. She said, "You were very disgusting for walking out of class, and it stops now!" I got upset and left to go to the office to call my aunt. When I got in the office, they told me that I could not use the phone.

At that time I saw my cousin outside dropping her children's lunch, so I went to her car and asked her if she could give me a ride to my dad's shop. The principal came behind me and told me if I left school that I would be expelled. So I told her, "Expel me then." My cousin told me that I had to call my mom in the States to ask her if it was ok that I left. My mom talked with the principal on the phone and told her that if she had to expel me for that stupid reason, then to expel me. By that time, my aunt came to the school to bring her children's lunch, so I left with her.

Later that day when my parents got back from the States, they went up to the school

to talk with the principal. They went in the office to see if they could talk to her. However, at the time she was down by the gym practicing with grade twelve for their graduation. My parents went down there to talk with her. We walked in the building and sat down in the back. She never acknowledged that we were there. The reason she did not acknowledge us was because she had called the police and was waiting for them to come.

When the police officer arrived, she started to talk to him. The principal told my parents that she could not talk with them today, and she would meet with us Friday, May 25 at 11:30 a.m.

We went up to the school at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, and the principal was waiting outside with my expulsion letter and said that everything was final. She said I was expelled, and she refused to talk to us about the situation. We did go into the chapel, but it did not result in anything. This is how it all ended. No explanation. No meeting.

I feel like this was very unfair because being the Christian woman that she claims to be I think that she should have dealt with this problem differently. I think that she should have sat down and talked with me and my parents and dealt the situation at hand. I feel hurt that I have worked so hard this year to get good grades and do my best and it all had to end like this.

In this situation if my teacher and the principal had actually dealt with it, it would not have lead to this. I feel that I was treated unfairly and that what was done to me was not something that a Christian school should do to anyone.

Sincerely,
Haley Albury

More Church News

Church From Page 22

were blessed by him can give him his roses while he is still alive. Tributes were given by his children, Brother Edward Sawyer and Christina Basden. Church of God Dance Ministry performed a routine in his and Mrs. Cornish's honor.

The sermon was delivered by Bishop Archilaus Cooper, District Overseer and pastor of Church of God Cathedral in Cooper's Town. He stated that society measures a man by what is in his head before they make him a servant but God measures a man by what is in his heart. He stated that Rev. Cornish is a man with a servant's heart so the theme selected is fitting for him. Once a person makes a decision to be a servant, God puts a special seal on that person. This allows people to see that you are of God. Rev. Cornish is one of those pastors who remains true to evangelism by taking his ministries out into various communities on Abaco.

Rev. Cornish thanked his congregation for the opportunity to serve them. His members sent him and his lovely wife Rowena on a seven-day cruise to Puerto Rico.

Major, Vice President and Head of Sales at British American Financial Nassau Office. He spoke about various aspects of financial planning including planning for children, planning to get married, planning for college and planning for retirement.



Mr. Major stated that even though the majority of the Bahamian population is employed, only 24 percent of those employed have pensions where they work. He stated that a lot of self employed persons do not pay National Insurance so they do not even benefit from that. He encouraged the working population to invest in their own retirement fund so that they can retire comfortably. Mr. Major realizes that there are many places persons put their money so that it can grow such as in asues, lottery,

Please see **Church** Page 26.

On June 9th members of Friendship Tabernacle in Dundas Town held a Free Flea Market on the church grounds organized by Norma Delancy. Items of clothing, books, household items and toys were donated by church members and the public. The response by the residents was great and they look forward to doing this again.



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- Well experienced in day-to-day trouble shooting and problem solving of IT hardware and software issues
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- Minimum 5 years experience in construction management
- Working knowledge of timber and masonry construction methods
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- Working knowledge of construction materials
- Proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel
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Resume should be sent to Nick Sims, Development Department
 The Abaco Club on Winding Bay,
 P.O. Box AB 20571, Marsh Harbour, Abaco
 Or fax #242-367-2930

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY (Abaco) MUST SELL

June 1, 2007
The Abaconian

MISCELLANEOUS PROPERTIES



DUNDAS TOWN Crown Allotment

One two bedrooms, 1 bathroom, triplex. Approximately 9,000 sq. ft. lot no. 18B with an area for a small shop. Age-12 years the land is a portion of one of the Dundas Town Crown Allotment parcels stretching from Forest Drive to Front Street, being just under a quarter acre in size and on the lowside. A concrete block structure, with asphalt shingle roof and L-shape in design with a total length of 70 x 26 ft. Plus 50 x 22 ft. 2,920 sq. Ft. the interior walls are concrete blocks; ceiling is sheet rock and the floors of vinyl tiles.

APPRAISAL \$268,225.00



MURPHY TOWN Crown Allotment No. 77

All that lot of land having an area of 6,790 sq ft, being Crown Allotment No. 77, of Murphy Town, Abaco, Bahamas. Located on the subject property is a single storey single family concrete building. This house is less than 5 yr old and is in good condition with approximately 1,750 sq, ft of living space, and contains 3-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, living room, dining, kitchen, laundry, and utility spaces. There is no significant improvements or deterioration evident. The property is very well drained and not susceptible to flooding. Landscaping efforts are still in remedial stages. All major public and private utilities are situate within 100ft of the subject site. Property boundaries are clearly delineated. The subject property is situate off the Front Street, Murphy Town, Abaco and is painted light yellow trimmed dark yellow.

APPRAISAL



MURPHY TOWN Lot No. 120

Lot no. 120 Murphy Town - All that lot of land and improvements having an area of 5,040 sq. ft. being portion of lot # 120 of the original Murphy Town Crown Allotments. This property is comprised of a two storey concrete and wood structure still under construction consisting of approximately 1,728 sq. ft. of enclosed living space. The said building is utilized as a triplex apartment complex, with a 2-bedroom dwelling on the upper storey. The lower portion of the building houses two units, each with 1-bedroom, 1-bathroom, living/dining and kitchen spaces. The building is in average condition and appears to be structurally sound. The building also demonstrates a need for scheduled maintenance. The property is partially landscaped with boundaries clearly delineated. All major private and public utilities are situate within one hundred feet of the property site. This property is situated off the Front Street in Murphy Town, Abaco.



MURPHY TOWN Lot

All that parcel of land having an approximate area of 9,000 sq. ft., Located on the above mentioned lot is a single family wooden structure, 25 ft by 40 Ft with asphalt shingled roof. This house is approximately 15 years old and comprising of 3-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, living/dining area and kitchen. This house is in need of some serious repairs. The future life of this house depends on the repairs that will be carried out. Without repairs it is not more than about 5 years. If upgrading and maintenance is carried out it could be longer. The land rises above road level, to a height in excess of approximately 15 ft above sea level, with no likelihood of flooding in a Hurricane. This house is located off the main Murphy Town road about 150 ft to the northeast of the corner and is painted light green trimmed white.

APPRAISAL \$30,000.00.

Vacant Properties

BLACKWOOD

All that lot of land having an area of approximately 258,064 sq. Ft. This property is yet to reach its highest and best use. It is ideally suited to single or multi-family development as is the nature of surrounding properties within the community. The site may also serve well as a commercial site as the area remains un-zoned. The property remains largely in its original state. It is covered with low brush and broad leaf coppice vegetation interspersed with broad strands of mature yellow pine indigenous to the area. The property is well drained and represents no immediate flooding danger under normal conditions.

Appraisal: \$219,354.40.

The subject property is vacant and is situated at the southeastern entrance of the community of Blackwood, Abaco. The property is undivided and comprises approximately 6 acres of a larger tract of land of approximately 26 acres.

DUNDAS TOWN

Lot No. 21, Crown Allotment, this is vacant land approximately 10,810 sq. ft. situated off S.C. Bootle Drive.

Appraisal \$15,890.00

Wedding Planners Attended Seminar

By Jennifer Hudson

Wedding in a Conch Shell was the theme for the Ministry of Tourism's weddings on Abaco and so this was also a fitting theme for the Wedding and Honeymoon Luncheon held on earlier this spring in the St. Andrews Methodist Church Hall in Dundas Town. The 20 wedding planners who attended the luncheon were told by Mr. Don Cornish,

Director of Tourism for Abaco, "You put together the experiences that last a lifetime." He asked them to consider the reasons why people come to Abaco for their destination weddings and introduced Bernadette Hall who "put this all together."

Ms. Hall, who took over the organization of Abaco weddings last year from Kendy Anderson after the Ministry of Tourism office reshuffle, encouraged all the wedding planners to "give the wow factor." She asked the wedding planners to project an "island feel" and to sell the location not just for weddings but for romantic get-aways.

Ms. Freda Madrisotti, Director of Weddings and Honeymoons with the Ministry of Tourism in Nassau, amazed everyone present with the information, "There are more weddings being conducted on Abaco than on any other Fam-

ily Island in The Bahamas. Over 500 took place here last year, 99 percent of which were on the beach."

Ms. Sandra Kemp, Vice President of the Bahamas Bridal Association, gave an overview of the work that her organization does, working in conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism in the development of destination weddings in The Bahamas. She stated how much the BBA would like to start a Chapter on Abaco and gave details of membership requirements. Ms. Sabrina Huyler-Ramsay, Senior Chief Executive for Weddings and Honeymoons from Florida, explained how this association can assist wedding consultants on the international scene.

The hall had been attractively laid out in the *Wedding in a Conch Shell* theme by

Georgina LaRoda of Exquisite Bouquet, who organises parties, weddings, silk floral arrangements and shell craft; and Marisa Allen of Marisa's Catering and Bakery and who prepared the luncheon for the occasion. A large central table was laid out with all the accoutrements for a reception while another romantic table for two was set out under a palm thatch umbrella. Yet more tables contained examples of wedding favours, unity candles and other items all with the shell motif which could be incorporated into a wedding.

Ms. Hall voiced her opinion that we should aim to have an Abaco Bridal Association formed within a few months with which everyone present was in full agreement. A further meeting was scheduled to take place in two weeks at the Ministry of



A wedding seminar was held to assist wedding planners on Abaco. Several wedding experts discussed various aspects of the topic that the 20 Abaco participants found very helpful. The event was planned by Ms. Bernadette Hall, right, of the Abaco Tourist Office.

In Memoriam

Martin C. Taylor ("Marty" to all who knew him) was born in Lansing, Michigan, on December 19, 1933. In his Geneva, Ohio, high school yearbook, all the other boys were wearing regulation neckties, but there was Marty in a bow tie. He was a rare bird who refused to fly in formation.

As a young man he worked as a mechanic and Merchant Marine on an ore carrier on the Great Lakes. Marty's basic training as a pilot was at the United States Air Force Marana Air Force Base, Class of 55-P, and he received his wings and commission at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Oklahoma. Marty attended college in Southern California where he was also employed as an industrial and commercial appraiser.

In 1964 Marty proudly began a 31-year-long career as a pilot with United Air Lines. His final positioning was as a 747 Captain based in Los Angeles flying the Pacific routes. Annie, his friend and soul

mate, entered his life in 1966 and things were never the same. She encouraged him to buy a sailboat even though he had never sailed. "You'll love it!" she said and he did. Annie and Marty were married in 1969. They sailed the Abacos, Bahamas, for the past 29 consecutive summers aboard the only other woman in his life, *Aphrodite*, and her descendants. Marty was a member of the Royal Marsh Harbour Yacht Club.

Marty is survived by his loving wife, Ann Stiles Taylor, two x-children, five grandchildren, a brother, numerous devoted nieces and nephews and a multitude of friends in the United States, Belize and The Bahamas. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Hospice of the Palm Beaches or to The Busch Wildlife Sanctuary of Jupiter, Florida. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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Church From Page 23

stocks and bonds, all of which are high risk investments. However, he advises persons to investigate the source before they place their hard earned money there to ensure that it is a good source. One such source he recommended is Credit Unions because of the unique structure of these organizations.

He realizes that there are many financial institutions that offer the same things but he told the attendees to be sure that the person addresses all of their needs, that they feel comfortable with that institution and offers the most diversified solution to all of their financial needs. There are a few things that everyone should do to ensure that they have a balanced financial plan: (1) save up to three to six months' salary (2) protect your income against loss of life or health (3) invest in a home and/real estate (4) have securities and invest in stocks or bonds.

Mr. Major ended his session by leaving

four steps for financial success. Firstly, everyone should set financial goals; secondly, they should prioritize those goals; thirdly, they should initiate an action plan; fourthly, they should review and update that plan regularly. He told attendees that if they spend first, they will always owe; but if they save first, they will receive interest. He encourages parents to begin saving for their children now because he believes that it is never too early to begin to plan.

NCR

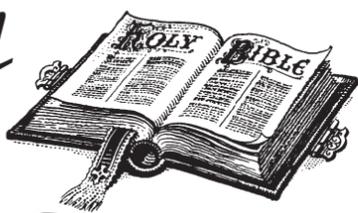
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Eastern Abaco Region of The Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Stephen Hale, Circuit Minister



Epworth Chapel
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 Sunday Services
 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.
 Mission House 366-2249

Cell 466-9090
 Email:
 revshale@yahoo.com

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 Dundas Town
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 Office 367-3050
 Manse 367-4647



St. James Methodist
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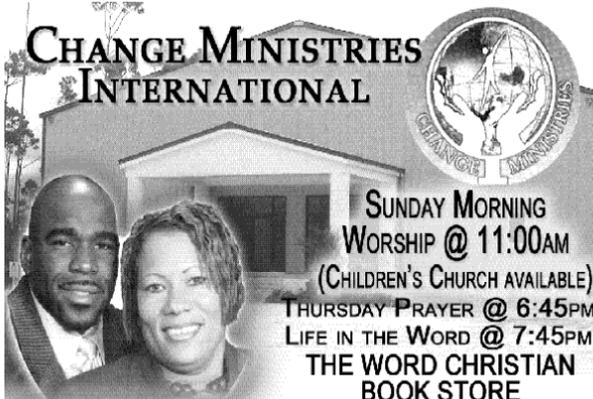
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
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Pastors / Leaders

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Sunday	Sunday School a.m.	9:45	Monday Night	7:00 p.m.
			Wednesday Night F.T.H.	

For Transportation call Rev. Jerry Cornish at 367-2457 or 367-4719 (church) or contact Bro. Val Nesbitt at 367-5565

Bishop Anthony Campbell
 242-367-4718 or cell phone 242-457-5565 • Dtcog@

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 Fax 367-6544 • islanpharmacy@yahoo.com

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Central Abaco Youth Council Update

By Samantha V. Evans

The Youth Council Board for Central Abaco was established in February of last year and is pleased to state that it has had a very eventful first year. The Council was established with five members:

Youth in Action has always been a hit with the youth especially on Saturdays when they could play basketball, soccer and other sports. Mr. Emery Curry stated that they were organized trips for the youth so that they could compete with other youth.

The Youth Council worked hard to get Junior Achievement reinstated on the island so that high school students could learn about business and enterprise. The team worked closely with the Junior Achievement Board to make this happen.

The second year has not been as active as many plans were side swiped due to a general election. However, they were able to accomplish the following. (1) Junior Achievement began in October as planned and Mr. Lionel Elliot visited Abaco for

the Achievers Orientation and to train the advisors (2) The baseball program got started with Mr. Leslie Rolle as coordinator (3) Achievers traveled to Nassau for the Junior Achievement Conference (4) Junior Achievement banquet was held to end the first successful year. Youth Month was postponed until October since the general election was held during May. The Central Abaco Youth Council Board will initiate the Fresh Start Program later this year.

Civic Organizations

Pilot Club of Abaco

Third Tuesday, 7 p.m., Central Abaco Primary, Dundas Town, 367-3457

Pilot Club of South Abaco

Last Thursday, monthly, J.A. Pinder School, Sandy Point, 366-4001

Rotary Club of Abaco

Tuesdays, 6 p.m., weekly at Back Street Cafe, Abaco Beach Resort

Clarification

In the last issue of the Abacomian, we had a story about a real estate intern visiting Abaco. We want our readers to know that Ms. van Vilstern was part of an internship program run by the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI). Ms. Sandra Evans, who sponsored her on Abaco, is also a member of FIABCI.

Correction

In the last issue of *The Abaconian* we incorrectly stated that the first billfish to be brought to the weigh station at Abaco Beach Resort this spring was during the HMY Billfish Blast Tournament. However, a billfish was brought in during the first leg of the Bahamas Billfish Tournament held April 22-27. We regret the error.

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- 1- Beach Manager
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- 2- Guest Relations Coordinators (Sales)
- 5- Room Attendants
- 3- Housemen
- 1- Linen. Room Attendant / Presser
- 5- Housekeeping Room Attendants
- 1- Snr. Housekeeping Manager
- 1- Reservation Agent
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- 1- Chief Kitchen Steward
- 4- Kitchen Stewards (Male)

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- Good communication skills with both upper management and labour
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COMMUNITY



March 1982



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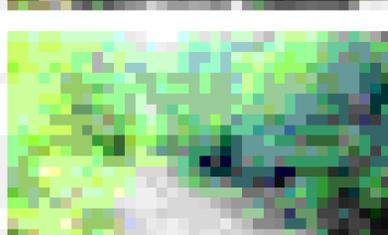
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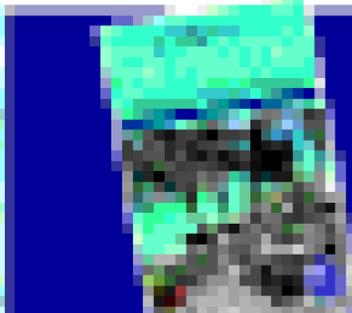


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CONSTRUCTION
 The construction of the new building is well advanced. The contractor, [Name], is expected to complete the project by [Date].

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