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Art for the Parks paints need for conservation



Above: a patron at the Art for the Parks event admires a collection of work by Dave Lowe. The annual event, hosted at Abaco Beach Resort by the Bahamas National Trust, aims to raise awareness about parks around The Bahamas and, in particular, Abaco. Abaco has six national parks with another few proposed focusing on Snake Cay and the blue holes. The event was opened by BNT Executive Director Eric Carey and North Abaco MP Renardo Curry. Ricky Johnson, who recently passed away, was an excellent spokesman for Abaco's environment who's consistent enthusiasm was remembered during the opening remarks.

By Jennifer Hudson

The Annual Bahamas National Trust 'Art for the Parks' Art Show once again brought together a large group of Bahamian artists and craftsmen from Nassau and Grand Bahama as well as Abaco to raise awareness and funding for Abaco's six national parks. The show opened on January 25 with an evening cocktail party and silent auction.

At the short opening ceremony BNT Executive Director, Eric Carey, expressed his pleasure that the talented artists had once again come together here on Abaco to assist the BNT. The six national parks of Abaco are a significant part of the entire national parks system, he said. He also mentioned the two new proposed Abaco national parks at Snake Cay and the Blue Holes, both in South Abaco. He asked for a minute's silence in honour of Ricky Johnson, Abaco's well known nature guide and enthusiast, who sadly passed away earlier in the week.

The Hon. Renardo Curry, M.P. for North Abaco, spoke in support of the Bahamas National Trust and then David Knowles, Director of Parks, gave a vote of thanks to the artists, sponsors, supporters, volunteers and guests. He also thanked Lynn Gape, Deputy Executive Director, BNT, who, he stated, "Started everything

Please see Art

Page 2

Police shooting leaves questions



Above: scene of the shooting in the Mudd on Jan 23. Job "Mr. Versatile" Munnings was killed during what official reports label a "special duty police operation." Conflicting reports that lingered after the shooting have frustrated many who knew Mr. Munnings.

By Timothy Roberts

According to the Royal Bahamas Police Force, while officers were on a "special duty police operation" they shot and killed a 35-year-old man near the Haitian shanty town called the Mudd on Wednesday January 23, 2013, around 7:45 p.m.

The family of the man, now identified as Job Munnings, a local reggae artist who

went by the stage name 'Mr. Versatile,' claims they are getting conflicting reports about the incident, and believe officers shot an innocent man.

The Nassau Guardian Reported that Assistant Commissioner Emerick Seymour

Please see Shooting

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Abaco rejects referendum

Prime Minister orders numbers houses to shut down



Above: a "Vote No" protest organized by First Assemblies of God in downtown Marsh Harbour on referendum day.

By Timothy Roberts

Bahamians voted overwhelmingly against the regularization and taxation of web shop gaming and a national lottery at the polls on Monday, January 28 and now wait to see if Prime Minister Perry Christie sticks to his word and shuts down web shops in The Bahamas.

Based on the unofficial results voter turnout appeared to be just about 46 percent with over 79,000 of 172,130 (from last voter's register) registered.

On question one - Do you support

the regularization and taxation of web shop gaming? - The "Yes" vote garnered 30,767 (39%) vote to the "No" vote's 48,012 (61%). On question two - Do you support the establishment of a national lottery? - The "Yes" vote was counted at 32,170 (41%) and the "No" vote captured 46,961 (59%).

Results from the Bains Town and Grants Town constituency as well as the

Please see Gambling

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Art From Page 1

and is still here.”

Most of the thirty exhibiting artists support the show year after year and art aficionados enjoy perusing their work, often buying new pieces for their collections. There were five artists who exhibited at Art for the Parks for the first time this year.

Kevin Carroll of KP Photography has now chosen to make Abaco his home, having relocated here from Nassau since April. He is a self-taught artist with 35 years of experience and specializes in scenic photography both colour and black and white. He achieves the very vibrant colours in his colour photography by what he describes as “tweaking the colours for artistic effect.” He also specializes in architectural and aerial photography and many of his photographs are displayed in hotels and businesses with some being commissioned for the new Bahamar project. His black-and-white photographs are reminiscent of the memorable photography of the late Colin Rees who is sadly missed from this show. Mr. Carroll says that he is often compared to Mr. Rees and deems this a great compliment. “I am not trying to copy his work but feel that I am filling a niche where a large void has been left by this great photographer,” stated Mr. Carroll.

Gina Marche is the owner of “Coconut Treasures” from Freeport. Everything she makes is, therefore, crafted from coconut shell and her jewelry, Christmas tree ornaments, magnets and clips show the versatility and different hues of the coconut shell.

Linda Turtle exhibits frequently in Nassau, where she resides, and this year decided to bring her stained glass work to Abaco. Her vibrant sun catchers, candleholders and mobiles were very eye-catching addition to the show.

Erica Feszt is a young artist from a

very artistic family. Although this was her first year exhibiting here, she did donate a hand-painted stool last year for the silent auction. Erica paints in watercolours and acrylics and especially enjoys painting women. She describes her work as a cross between reality and fantasy. “I want people to relate to their feelings through my paintings and get in touch with themselves,” she stated. Her brother, Atilla, with whom she shared a stall, has exhibited for many years at the Art for The Parks and encouraged her to join in this year. He paints in acrylic and terms his work ‘fashion art.’ As well as designing patterns for textiles and clothing he also does murals and was recently awarded the prestigious ‘ Jackson Burnside Award for Visual Artists’ in Nassau. Their mother, Joli Feszt is an art teacher who sometimes also exhibits at this show.

Mary Strachan of Abaco was displaying her shell jewelry, figurines and mirrors here for the first time.

After an absence of four years, water colour on silk artist Marjolein Scott, was back again this year. In addition to her original artwork and giclee prints on canvas, tile, postcards and mugs, she was displaying her stunning new line of high-quality T-shirts which are adorned with exquisite all over designs taken from her original works.

The artwork on display was very varied and guests were able to view and purchase paintings in all mediums including oils, acrylics and water colours as well as jewelry, photography, bags, pine needle baskets, handcrafted wood products, jewelry and fabric art.

Funds for the BNT were also raised from the auction of a very fine large and colourful quilt beautifully made and donated by Abaco artist Kim Roberts. Complimentary wines were generously provided by Bristol Wines and Spirits and hors d’oeuvres by the Abaco Beach Resort.

Persons from the Bahamas National

Trust were on hand to answer questions and encourage people to sign on as members or renew their memberships. They also had a variety of BNT goods such as T-shirts and books on sale. Nancy Albury, Project Coordinator of the Bahamas Caves Research Foundation, manned a booth to give people an awareness of the beauty and importance of Blue Holes and the work of the Bahamas Caves Research Foundation. Information was handed out on the exciting proposal for the South Abaco Blue Holes National Park.

Results were announced for the student BNT art competition entitled ‘Nature Rocks’ and winning entries were posted for art show guests to admire. Entrants were required to design a CD cover with a nature theme. Some even went as far as to write songs. The winners were students from the following schools:

- Category I:
Crossing Rocks Primary School
Treasure Cay Primary School
Man o War Primary School.
- Category II:
All three winners from Mary E. Al-

- bury High School
Category III:
Abaco Central High School
S.C. Bootle High School
S.C. Bootle High School.

Overall winner with a cover entitled ‘Born to be Wild’ was Celena Russell, a student at Creative Art Studio.

Lynn Gape, Deputy Executive Director of the Bahamas National Trust, expressed her appreciation for the continued sponsorship of the Abaco Beach Resort through these tough economic times. She was thrilled that so many artists are coming forward wanting to be in the show and was delighted with all the activity at the BNT booth with much interest from guests in becoming members.

This very popular annual event continued throughout the weekend with the addition of many outdoor activities on the Saturday. This gave people the opportunity to come back and purchase arts and crafts while enjoying the many additional eco-friendly events.



Above: two art lovers proudly display their recent purchases. Artwork by Timmy Higgs.

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TAHITI HAI DORROS COVE 4b 2b plus efficiency apt. Panoramic water views, fun island-style décor. Dock slip included **WEB: 15429 US\$879,000.** Kerry.Sullivan@SothebysRealty.com



CLIFFORD SAWYER HOUSE Historic refurbished 3 BR 2 bath. Pool, garden, decks, studio, near docks and all amenities. Great rental. **WEB: 12088 US\$875,000.** Jane.Patterson@SothebysRealty.com



THE GREAT ESCAPE New Price New construction, in town but private, 3b/2.5b, good breeze, harbour & lighthouse views, Furniture by Pottery Barn. **WEB: 16349 US\$695,000.** Kerry.Sullivan@SothebysRealty.com



COCONUT COTTAGE 2b 2b two storey home w/ small detached studio. Great ocean breezes, covered porch. Beach & amenities close by. **WEB: 16256 US\$589,000.** Jane.Patterson@SothebysRealty.com



HOPE TOWN New Price BANANAQUIT COTTAGE 2b 2b with covered decks, views of the Sea of Abaco and lighthouse. Room to expand ground floor. **WEB: 15561 US\$547,000.** Jane.Patterson@SothebysRealty.com



YELLOW CEDAR COTTAGE New construction! Ocean and harbour views, 3b/2b, 1400 sq. ft., beautiful gardens, excellent rental potential. **WEB: 15823 US\$495,000.** Kerry.Sullivan@SothebysRealty.com



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VALENTINE'S In the heart of Hope Town, close to all amenities, 3 BR 2 bath, upper level deck with lighthouse views. Dock nearby. **WEB: 12051 US\$425,000.** Jane.Patterson@SothebysRealty.com

Lots & Acreages



- A #13179 NORTH END LOTS 70A-B North end building site. B\$125,000 / B\$145,000. Kerry Sullivan
- B #11440 NORTH END LOTS 51A Ocean views and public dock 5 mins away. \$185,000. Jane Patterson
- C #17330 LOT H Bulkheaded 1/4 acre on the North End. Mins away from sandy beach. \$325,000. Jane Patterson
- D #12584 HERON VIEW North End with 50% dock ownership. New Price US\$249,000. K. Sullivan
- E #10342 NEW SETTLEMENT Hillside lots with ocean views starting at \$140,000. Kerry Sullivan
- F #16088 LOTS A-D Approx 1/4 acre each, ocean views, near beach. From \$165,000. Jane Patterson
- G #15471 OCEAN VIEW COMM. LOT 1 Large wooded lot; very private. B\$165,000. Kerry Sullivan
- H #10785 ELEVEN AT BIG POINT 1/2 acre beachfront building site. US\$395,000. Kerry Sullivan
- I #16445 WHITE SOUND LOT B4 & B5 Two waterfront lots near public dock. \$250,000. Kerry Sullivan
- J #16426 LUCAYOS LOT 11 **Under Contract** 10,180 sq. ft. elevated site. US\$159,000. Jane Patterson
- K #11680 BIG ROCK HILL One acre oceanfront, 140' on the Atlantic. US\$665,000. Kerry Sullivan
- L #10350 SHEPHERD NEEDLE HILL **SOLD** 3.7 acres, 140' on the Sea of Abaco. US\$995,000. K. Sullivan
- M #15941 OCEAN BLUFF 1/2 acre oceanfront near Tahiti Beach with dock. \$365,000. Kerry Sullivan
- N #15195 JOANIE'S LOT Dorros Cove, elevated 1/2 acre, open views. US\$220,000. Jane Patterson



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AYNYA
Dickie's Cay - Calling all boaters. Sea to sea property with deep water dockage in Man-O-War's protected harbour. Other features include home with incredible sea views, in ground pool, fish cleaning station, and a dock house with bunk beds and kitchenette. A boater's delight.
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MAN-O-WAR CAY
2 bedroom home perched on an oversized lot with views of the creek and Sea of Abaco. Boat house features 1 bedroom, bath and kitchenette, complete with deep water dock. \$525,000-Ref. #7365



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AURORA
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BAHAMA PALM SHORES
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\$240,000-Ref. #7675



MAN-O-WAR CAY
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Central & All Abaco

Airport Authority board members tour new airport terminal

By Canishka Alexander

Board members of the Airport Authority toured the new Marsh Harbour terminal on Jan. 16 to gather what Anthony McKinney, chairman of the Airport Authority, called an impression of the facility. Noting that the terminal is not complete with lots more work to be carried out, McKinney still described the building as magnificent.

As far as Family Island infrastructure is concerned, McKinney said the terminal was well above the norm.

He was joined by Manita Wisdom,

deputy chairman; Milo Butler III., general manager; Dr. Gregory Carey, Annischka Holmes-Moncur, Michael Foster, directors; and Dr. Deepak Bhatnagar, financial advisor to the board. Also accompanying them was MP for South Abaco Edison Key; Donald Dean, principal of The Architects Incorporated; James Edgecombe, principal of FES Construction; and Bobby Jones of Civil Aviation.

Based on their observations, he and his colleagues would give their opinions of the building instead of a written report.

McKinney shared that the airport meets some of the criteria both nationally and internationally, however, some things need to be done to bring it up to pre-clearance standards. He admitted that those standards were not anticipated, but

that a facility of this scope and magnitude ought to be used to its maximum.

Simply put, he said the Marsh Harbour terminal should receive as many of the facilities as Freeport and Nassau has. While McKinney could not say for certain if pre-clearance was being considered, he did say that it should be.

McKinney explained that the Airport Authority had no remit in the construction of the terminal, but going forward a change would be necessary in the way airports on the Family Island are run, and that Airport Authority may have a role to play in that. In fact, he said, that is the direction in which the company intends to go.

"The Airport Authority is the airport authority for The Bahamas not for Nassau. It is a matter of what scope of work it is asked to do, and that is something that is not at my level," McKinney said. "Airport Authority really can do everything as far as managing, security clearance for airports, fire and rescue, the whole nine yards.

"Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD) is a company that is a subsidiary of the Airport Authority, so NAD is wholly owned by the Airport Authority. NAD has a management contract with Vantage [Airport Group] out of Vancouver, and that is who manages NAD. NAD is owned by the people of The Bahamas."

Meanwhile, Mr. Key said he was pleased to be a part of the tour. He recalled being at the airport contract signing and has seen the progress from then to now. Like McKinney, he was pleased with building.

"It's elaborate and should be a building that supplies Abaco's needs for many years to come."

He was hopeful that Abaco will soon

offer pre-clearance service.

"Abaco has the second busiest airport, and we are growing. I think that Abaco will play a major role in the future development not only of Abaco, but of the entire Bahamas," Mr. Key envisioned. "We are one nation and one people."

At one point, Mr. Key was a licensed pilot holder to fly private airplanes, and he commented on the significance of the control tower as well. He said that Abaco has been fortunate to never have had an accident with planes coming in and colliding.

"So it should play a significant role in controlling and monitoring traffic from the tower. It should be a plus," he concluded.



Above from left to right: James Edgecombe of FES Construction; Donald Dean of The Architects Incorporated; Dr. Gregory Carey, director; Manita Wisdom, deputy chairman; Milo Butler, III, general manager; Anthony McKinney, chairman; Bobby Jones of Civil Aviation; Annischka Holmes-Moncur, director; MP for South Abaco Edison Key; Michael Foster, director; and Dr. Deepak Bhatnagar, financial advisor to the board.



Above: Airport flight control tower that will play a significant role in managing the increasing flight routes into and out of Abaco.

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Road damaged due to mysterious illegal cutting



Above: A cut in Charles Sawyer Blvd. materialized overnight between January 24 and January 25 and went completely across the road. The cut in the road appeared between the shanty town known as the Mudd and a group of houses on the opposite side of the road and seems to have been made by a circular saw. Ministry of Works is looking into the matter as no one was authorized to cut into the road.

Tourism Information Center opens on tourist strip in Marsh Harbour

Press Release

Steps away from the tourist strip in Marsh Harbour is the newly opened Satellite Office of the Abaco Tourist Office. The Satellite Office, which is located at Harbour Place-Suite B (Rhonda Hull's Building), will serve as a Tourist Information Center that will be open Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm.

Through this office, our visitors will have the convenience of stopping by to pick up complimentary brochures, guides and maps to help them better discover and explore Abaco and its surrounding Cays. A friendly tourism representative will also be on hand to ensure that our visitors get the most out of their stay by answering questions and sharing information on tours, attractions, events, day trips, lodging, dining and shopping experiences.

The Abaco Tourist Office saw the need to open up a Satellite Office in the tourist area of Marsh Harbour, after they were relocated to the Government Complex late last year. With the new office at Harbour Place, it will make it far more accessible for our visitors to take advantage of the resourceful information that is available to them on the Abacos.

Community rallies to assist Dan Russell with medical expenses

By Canishka Alexander

A Cookout was held in aid of Dan Russell's Medical Expenses on Jan. 19 at the BAIC Park offering a silent auction, bouncing castle, hoopla game, food, desserts and drinks for supporters of the event.

During the morning hours, people stopped by to purchase chicken and wild boar/pork souse with Johnny cake. In the afternoon, there was a choice of chicken (fried, BBQ or baked), barbecue ribs or fried fish and conch fritters. Estin "Music

Man" Sawyer contributed a few hours of playing music for Dan, whom he called a good friend. Meanwhile, the food line kept growing and growing.

Dan's brother Charlie Russell explained that the fundraiser was needed to assist Dan because he has throat cancer and has no medical insurance. Charlie said that a tumour has to be removed from Dan's throat, and once it heals, he will have to undergo plastic surgery to close

Please see Medical Page 7



Above: Dan Russell (far left) standing with friends at his benefit fundraiser.



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Central & All Abaco

Medical From Page 6

Woslee patches potholes throughout Central Abaco community As roads continue to deteriorate, one company gives back

By Canishka Alexander

up the opening by his throat.

Following Dan's surgery in Cuba, he will remain hospitalized for 10 days to two weeks. Charlie estimated that the surgery cost around \$15,000 and perhaps a bit more with plastic surgery.

Presently, Dan has a tube inserted in his throat for him to breathe, and although he experiences no pain, he must regularly have his throat dressings changed. As an outgoing 61 year-old man and local fisherman, Dan is hopeful that he will have a successful surgery and recovery for his continued livelihood. Of course, Dan has had quiet moments where he seemed anxious about doing the surgery to restore his health.

Meanwhile, Charlie thanked Melinda Pinder and Fallon Albury for their tremendous help and support as well as Maria Albury and Adele McDonald.

He also thanked the community of Abaco.

"It was a whole-island effort, and we are thankful for the prayers and the support," he said.

Melinda Pinder was also grateful as she shared comments with her Facebook friends: "Thanks everyone for all of your help; it's amazing when so many persons work together what can be accomplished!"

In the middle of January, Woslee Construction embarked upon a community project to patch potholes in Central Abaco. According to Don Wilmott, general superintendent of Woslee Construction, finding a way to give back is something the company has always done.

He explained that for the past five to six years, Woslee has been helping the community by donating computers and laptops to local schools. They've also assisted local churches like Friendship Tabernacle Church and Grace Baptist Church among others.

On Jan. 16, several employees were observed fixing potholes at the entrance of Central Pines Estates Subdivision.

"We usually get four or five employees to fix potholes in the road," Wilmott shared. "Every day, when we come to work we see a lot of potholes all over Abaco. We want to do this community service three times a week for two to three hours."

The plan is to take workers on a two-mile route from where they are based at the complex and go half a mile into Central Pines to address potholes then double back to Forest Drive on the main strip and

extend their service to K & S Gas Station on Don Mackay Boulevard. They will be applying the all-weather blacktop patch to areas riddled with potholes throughout the evening and sometimes throughout the day.

"There was a lady who dropped in one of the holes and burst her tire, and that made us want to do something until the government can fix the roads," he recalled.

"It's only a little thing they decided to do to help the community. It's just us - it's in us."

Below: Don Wilmott, general supt. of Woslee Construction, oversees the work of Woslee Construction employees. According to Mr. Wilmott, his workers will be applying blacktop to potholes throughout the community three times a week.



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From the Editor's Desk // Snooze



very proficient at keeping our own status quo.

Here comes the part of the editorial where I transition from some vague metaphor to an even more vague series of points. If one thing, I am predictable.

Expand this outward from us as individuals. This same attitude reflects and magnifies in society. Except at this stage it becomes much more harmful because when tough decisions must be made it's not just ourselves, individually, we have to argue against, it is ourselves magnified. The neurons in our brain, the pathways, love lighting up to things we want to hear.

This is why it is so important to keep ourselves accountable. Why we must be able to consistently step back and charge each other with better stewardship of our communities and our country. When I sleep through my alarm or conveniently horse-whisper myself out of fulfilling my new year's resolution in the morning, I have all day to reflect on my lameness and can take steps to correct it for the next morning. 24 hour cycles: very easy to diagnose and adjust. Society is a little less tangible.

And we are much less likely to realize we are sleeping through our alarms.

Alarms are sounding all around us. We must have the courage to rise up. While the snooze button is convenient (passing the blame, borrowing more money, brushing problems under the rug) we will eventually wake up in a cold sweat and realize just how much we've slept through.

So I ask you to commit yourself to something this week, this month, this year that will actively make you a better person. Because making yourself a better person will reflect in our community and society. It will magnify there. And pretty soon hitting the snooze button won't be an option.

Hold yourself accountable. Hold your neighbors and friends accountable. Help each other wake up.

I recently started walking in the mornings. Not just the "morning" morning. I mean the REAL mornings. 5:30 am kind of mornings. I've started doing this as part of some misguided new year's resolution and I find every excuse I can to talk myself out of it. You never sound more rational to yourself when it's still dark out.

If there's one thing you should know about me, among the many things you should not know about me, is that I am not, never have and never will be a "morning person."

I'm a night owl.

In fact I'm writing this editorial, the one you're reading right now, at the eleventh hour. It's been dark for a long time out there and it's the time of night that parents invented ghouls for in order to keep their kids away from. Alas, these are the hours I'm more familiar with. But I've learned these are not the hours that will make me better as a person. Those kind of hours, the ones that are so vital to "self-improvement" are the ones that don't come easily. The ones that seem counter to your nature.

The ones that actively fight you.

Don't we all wish we could stay in bed when five thirty rolls around? Aren't we all the best salesmen for the path of least resistance? Ever heard of horse whisperers or, more popularly, dog whisperer? Well, we are "me-whisperers." We all know exactly what to say to ourselves. We know exactly what we want to hear. We are

Community Calendar

•Feb 1-2: Music Doing Good ECC Benefit Concert

•Feb 8: Carnival Arrives

•Feb 9: FRIENDS Reef Ball @ Hope Town Lodge

•Feb 16: Man-O-War Primary School Flea Market

and Bazaar

•Feb 16-21: Sandra Riley & Alton Lowe Book Signing and

Art Show @ Sand Dollar Shoppe

•Feb 22: Constitutional Reform Town Hall @ SC Bootle

and St. John's Anglican Hall

•Feb 22-23: Love Rush Junkanoo

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 Page 9

Letters to the Editor

Fundraiser Thank You

Dear Editor;

Thanks to God and to those who made this fundraiser for Dan Russell possible. Thanks to the overwhelming support shown for Dan's Medical Fundraiser. Thanks to the business places, stores and people that donated food items, drinks, water, ice and funds. And to those that cooked food, desserts, helped serve and set up, you are also appreciated. Also, to each one that purchased food, drinks and contributed in any manner, thanks, you all made this possible.

I want to personally thank Melinda Pinder, Maria Albury and Adelle McDonald. Working with you ladies made it easy. It's amazing what can be accomplished when people can agree and work together.

Thanks from Dan Russell and Family,

-Charlie Russell

Up a Pole

Dear Editor;

I was done wrong by Batelco. Here is my story and my suggestions to the company for improvement. On Thursday, 10th of January a technician was up a pole in my remote community of Cherokee Sound working on some "lines". He inadvertently caused my telephone number to ring three streets over at a neighbor's house. My phone went dead as did my internet connection. My neighbor's phone number failed to work as well. There were similar complaints from others that evening. It

was said by the "grapevine" that the repair person was called via cell phone to alert him to the problem and to ask him to return and make adjustments. Reportedly he responded that he was on his way back to Marsh Harbour and unwilling to return.

You can imagine the irritation that caused among neighbors. I made my first call to Batelco's customers service department early Friday morning. I was given the standard apology from a person at a desk in Freeport and was told it would be three to five days before a technician would be able to fix the problem. (In fact it was five days before my phone was fixed and seven days before my internet reconnected.)

After listening to what happened the customer service rep suggested that I drive the 25 miles into Marsh Harbour to lodge a personal complaint with the customer service reps there. That is what I, and others, did. I was told that there was a technician in Cherokee at that moment making right what went wrong. The customer service rep even made a phone call to the manager and he confirmed that the problem was being taken care of right then.

Again, nice apologies were offered.

I returned to Cherokee anddid not see any technician up a pole. My phone number was still ringing to my neighbor's home and my phone was still dead. A walk around the settlement found a technician fixing another phone and he told us that there had been a technician in Cherokee to fix the switched lines but as soon as he got his bucket up the pole to start work he was called and told to stop what he was doing and drive 50 miles North to Treasure Cay,

as he was needed more urgently there. I later learned from the manager that another mistake had occurred and that it had been assumed that the phone problems were fixed in Cherokee before the technician was dispatched to Treasure Cay.

Stuff happens right? I am as human as the next person, and I usually make lots of mistakes, and I really don't fault the technician who started all this mess. I forgive. But what I find harder to forgive is the lack of customer service that I received later. So here are my suggestions to Batelco executives: There is a value to saving a customer and the customer's story is crafted by how you handle the situation. When a mistake happens and you do something wrong you should make nice right away. Make that a priority and make sure your customer knows it. Inform your customer service reps so they know too. Think about how much a saved customer is worth. How much does a negative story cost Batelco? How much does a lost customer cost?

All you have to do to turn around the negative into the positive is add something extra that the customer was not expecting. Something that would add a smile. Something that would add a "good" to the situation, and make a pleasant surprise the last memory the customer has. In this case that "something" might be restoring phone and internet service within a day, not within a week or not charging the customer for the week that the phone and internet was out of service and empowering the customer service rep. to do that. It might be allocating extra "minutes" for the cell phone usage the customers used to try and sort

out the matter.

The customer's perception of good or bad service is the measure of your success or failure. And right now, with all the challenges you face both internally and externally, you need to build, not damage, your customer relationships.

Jo-Ann Bradley
Cherokee Sound

Society for Pothole Preservation

Citizens of Abaco please don't stand idly by and watch the destruction of our "Historic Potholes." We have grown up with these truly wondrous marvels. They have become part of our very identity, our culture, as it were.

With no impact study, a contract to repair these island-style, mini grand canyons was signed for 1.2 million, calling an end to spilt coffee, soft drinks and up ended ice cream cones in the back seat, not to mention the changing of flat tires in the middle of a rainy night.

We will virtually lose touch with our friends that sell frontend alignments, tires, radiators, auto parts in general. It is likely to initiate a veritable avalanche of decreasing insurance rates.

The daily skill test of driving from A to B will be put on the back burner. The ability of our dearly loved Taxi Drivers to

Please see Letters Page 20



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Central & All Abaco

Resident forced to abandon home due to pressure from illegal community

By Timothy Roberts

An Abaconian has decided to move out of the house she owns and pay rent after years of receiving no assistance from government agencies, both current and previous, in preventing illegal building and dumping to occur within inches of her property boundary.

Martha 'Dee Dee' Russell said that after more than eight years she "just can't take it anymore" and has given up hope of receiving any help from the government or the Police Department as a pile of garbage at the back of the immigrant shanty town known as the Pigeon Peas has grown to over twelve feet high just inches from her fence.

The Pigeon Peas is overcrowded with huts built inches apart and Ms. Russell has watched helplessly as it has grown. She pointed out a home that recently expanded and the wall is just inches from her back fence. "I can't even put up a new fence." She said.

She complained that children are out playing until after midnight and have on several occasions started fires. Aside from the danger of the fire spreading, Ms. Russell also suffers from a respiratory disease known as COPD and cannot take inhalation of smoke. She also said that some children have even climbed her fence and killed some of her cats.

Across the road in front of her home lies the larger shanty town known as the Mudd. Ms. Russell said that loud music plays until late in the night and "you can see them drunks [urinating] along the side of the road; it's disgusting. This is what we

live with; it ain't right."

When dealing with the police over the children who killed some of her cats she said she gave the police the name of the children's father. "I even took pictures of him; he came right to my fence and threatened me." Her lawyer even carried pictures to the police and they said they could not find him. "The [man] lives right here," she said pointing to a house within feet of her fence.

"I have called [the Department of] Immigration to get rid of illegals; because these are illegals - most of them. I have called the Ministry of Works because you are not supposed to build any closer than ten feet to a boundary." She said she was all but cussed out by someone at the Ministry of Works and said the Department of Health told her "ain't nothing we can do." She said the Department of Immigration said they would come and check it out, but "that day ain't come yet."

She said she's even been told by Haitians that she doesn't have the rights that they have in The Bahamas. When she bought her house she had to pay fees and get deeds conveyed and more, but they can build wherever and whenever with no worries.

She said she asks the Prime Minister to "come buy my two houses because I want to get out of this country; I'm ashamed to even know I was born in this country."

"So I'm packing up my stuff and moving. Nearly eight years I've put up with this and these last two years has gotten much worse."



Above: the home of Abaco resident Dee Dee Russell (far right) overshadowed by a mounting pile of garbage on the fringe of the illegal community of the Pigeon Peas. Ms. Russell has for years reached out to various governmental organizations for help.



Right: the mound of trash over twelve feet high has grown unimpeded for years as living conditions in the area worsened. Residents such as Ms. Russell as well as legal immigrants to this country who are seeking a better life are confronted with unchecked illegal activity.

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Central & All Abaco

New president introduced for the Abaco Cancer Society

Certificate of appreciation given by Abaco Police



Above: New President Jo-Ann Bradley (4th from left), Patient Advocate Veronica Saunders (3rd from left), Vice President/Thrift Shop Manager Marjolein Scott (extreme left), Treasurer Lillian Cash (2nd from right), with Thrift Shop volunteers.

By Jennifer Hudson

The Abaco Cancer Society begins the New Year with a new president. At a meeting on January 5, Jo-Ann Bradley was elected to this position taking over from Lillian Cash. Other officers remain the same. In accepting the position of President, Ms. Bradley stated that she was not only pleased but also humbled to have been elected since the society has been led by very competent people throughout the years.

She stated that she has always been very impressed with the Abaco Cancer Society as it is a very strong organization here and helps many cancer patients each year with their travel expenses. Since she herself has breast cancer, Ms. Bradley feels that this enables her to bring special strengths to the society.

"I have been in remission now for

three years and feel wonderful thanks to modern medicine. Because of my situation I am able to empathize with cancer patients and understand what they are going through. This, I feel, makes me uniquely able to work with the people of Abaco in this capacity," she declared.

Ms. Bradley acknowledged the work of the Abaco Cancer Society Thrift Shop, saying how pleased she is with the excellent work it is doing in raising funds to assist cancer patients with airfares to their places of treatment. The Thrift Shop is the brainchild of Marjolein Scott and is manned by a very hardworking group of volunteers every Saturday morning between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

After having to close for several weeks due to damage from Hurricane Sandy, the Thrift Shop reopened just before Christmas with record breaking num-

bers of customers who had obviously been missing their Saturday morning shopping at 'the best shop in town'. The society is very grateful for the patronage of its customers and would also like to thank those persons who donated plentifully so that the shop could be well stocked for its reopening.

Donations of clothing, household goods, books and furniture are welcomed on an ongoing basis and may be brought to the shop on Saturday mornings or left at Abaco Groceries during their open hours.

Although a long way off yet, President Bradley would like people to mark on their calendars the Abaco Cancer Society's major fundraiser of the year which will be an Art Show on November 30 to be held at Pete's Pub in Little Harbour. Also the Cancer Society will be holding a Walkathon, date to be announced.

Below: Ryan Simms being awarded his certificate by the Abaco Police.

Press Release

On Friday 18th, January 2013, a certificate of appreciation was issued to Ryan Simms of Marsh Harbour, Abaco.

Mr. Simms was also issued a cheque in the amount of \$50.00 for services rendered to the Royal Bahamas Police Force, Abaco Unit over the years.

Being the individual he is, Ryan Simms during the year 2010 found an offensive instrument in a public domain. Once the instrument was located he quickly notified the Police Department where the necessary steps were taken to stop any further crime being carried out.

As a result of Mr. Simms actions the environment remains sterile from further breaches of the law and Mr. Simms is noted for his act of honesty, while facing a critical decision.

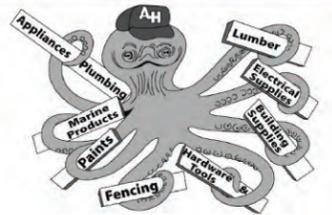
As a result the Royal Bahamas Police Force Abaco Unit saluted Ryan Simms for an outstanding job.

Mr. Simms is employed at the Marsh Harbour International Airport.



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TREASURE CAY BLUEFIN 3b/2b 1,100 sq.ft. with private dock & detached garage. **WEB: 13947 US\$880,000.** **YELLOWFIN 3b/2b** with dock. **WEB: 13946 US\$1,250,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com



TREASURE CAY BAHAMA BEACH CLUB 3, 4 & 5 bed luxury condos on beach with great views & every imaginable amenity. Pool & Bar. **WEB: 14720 Starting at US\$530,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com



TREASURE CAY ROYAL PALM 2404 New Listing Canalfront 3b 3b. 1220 Sq. Ft. condo overlooking marina. Dock & Storage closet. Furnished. **WEB: 17417 US\$520,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com



NORTH ABACO FIRE ROAD #8 Waterfront 2BR/2B furnished 1200sf home on 22,192sf Lot with dock on Sea of Abaco. **WEB: 16128 US\$249,999.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com



TREASURE CAY RESIDENTIAL LOTS St. Andrew's Golf Course lots - **\$35,000.** Canalfront Galleon Bay lots - **\$235,000.** Sunrise Point beachfront - **\$925,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com



WINDING BAY COTTAGES 44 & 45 Unobstructed views of the Atlantic with all the amenities of the Abaco Club. **WEB: 14403 US\$2,000,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



SOUTH ABACO SCHOONER BAY Lot #3, Block A North Harbour's Edge Beachfront lot faces south and includes private dock. **WEB: 12818 \$650,000.** Info.Bahamas@SothebysRealty.com



SOUTH ABACO LITTLE HARBOUR HOME Ocean Views 3b/2b **WEB: 12186 \$379,000.** **LITTLE HARBOUR COTTAGE** 2b 2b w/ generator, needs TLC. **WEB: 12185 \$209,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



SOUTH ABACO SCHOONER BAY - Waterfront Lot - Harbour Island 52 ft on harbour facing Schooner Bay Village. Enjoy a seaside golf cart community. **WEB: 5671 \$160,000.** Info.Bahamas@SothebysRealty.com



TILLOO CAY TRANQUILITY Stunning views from this 2 bed 2 bath home on 3 3/4 acres with pool, 80-foot dock and private boat basin. **WEB: 14333 US\$1,250,000.** Laurie.Schreiner@SothebysRealty.com



TILLOO CAY BLUE DOUBLOONS Waterfront 2-storey 2 BR 2 bath home. Decks for entertaining, A/C, 15kW generator, golf-cart and boat. Turn key. **WEB: 16252 US\$765,000.** Laurie.Schreiner@SothebysRealty.com



LUBBERS QUARTERS DRIFTWOOD 2b 1b Caribbean home with extra loft and private dock. Screened in deck and outdoor bar area. **WEB: 15172 US\$305,000.** Laurie.Schreiner@SothebysRealty.com



LUBBERS QUARTERS CLEARWATER COTTAGE Affordable home. Open floor plan, 1 bedroom and 1 bath. Beach and dockage. **WEB: 16441 US\$175,000.** Laurie.Schreiner@SothebysRealty.com



GUANA CAY SONREAKERS 6b 5b home on 135ft of beach in Orchid Bay. Fantastic snorkelling right at your back door. Great rental. **WEB: 15645 US\$2,500,000.** Christopher.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



GUANA CAY ORCHID BAY Highest elevation with panoramic views, Luxury 5bed 4.5 bath on 4 acres. Patio and pool. Excellent rental. **WEB: 12362 US\$2,250,000.** Christopher.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



GUANA CAY DOLPHIN VIEW & RAINBOW PARROT NEW LISTING Two homes, 7b, 6b on 1 beachfront estate, convenient location close to all amenities. **WEB: 17406 US\$1,650,000.** Christopher.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



GUANA CAY HARBOUR VIEW HAVEN Triplex & cottage with excellent income potential. Room to expand. Convenient location. **WEB: 16998 US\$475,000.** Christopher.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



GUANA CAY TRIPLE COTTAGE Rustic Beach cottages, minutes walk from mile long sandy beach, close to all amenities. Good rental. **WEB: 16156 US\$380,000.** Christopher.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



MAN-O-WAR CAY ANNE BONNY Charming down east 3 bed cottage with 360 degree views. Protected dock for two boats. **WEB: 13058 US\$950,000.** Christopher.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



MAN-O-WAR CAY TROGLODYTE 1.01 acres sea to sea at Cave Hill. 130 ft of beach front. 80 ft dock with boat lift. **WEB: 15217 US\$950,000.** Christopher.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



MAN-O-WAR CAY HILLTOP LOT Located in the Eastern Harbour, with private dock, deepwater access. Fantastic Views. **WEB: 14129 US\$495,000.** Christopher.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



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Chris Albury
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Kristi Wong
Estate Agent
t 242.367.5046



Leslie Pinder
Estate Agent
t 242.367.5046

Member of
the Bahamas MLS

info.Bahamas@SothebysRealty.com



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MARSH HARBOUR CHATTERBOX, PELICAN SHORES Two bed 2.5 bath. Panoramic view of Fanny Bay. Cabana with summer kitchen. **WEB: 14421 US\$1,000,000.** Kristi.Wong@SothebysRealty.com



MARSH HARBOUR YELLOWFIN, GREAT ABACO CLUB Best buy on the market! 3b 2b on double deep water canal lot with large pool. **WEB: 14138 US\$899,000.** Laurie.Schreiner@SothebysRealty.com



MARSH HARBOUR HIGH ROCKS VILLAS 4b 3b w/ views of the Sea of Abaco, pool & extreme privacy close to town. Huge verandah perfect for entertaining. **WEB: 16472 US\$575,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



MARSH HARBOUR COVE ESTATES LOT 91 1.5 acre commercial parcel, rare opportunity in the heart of town. Income producing. **WEB: 16073 US\$455,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



MARSH HARBOUR COVE ESTATES BOBBY HILLTOP **NEW LISTING** 4b 2b recently renovated cottage, close to town & all amenities. **WEB: 17416 \$330,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



TREASURE CAY BEACHFRONT LOTS Banyan Beach commercial lot opposite golf course. **WEB: 17137 US\$1,200,000.** SUNRISE POINT LOT 1 **WEB: 16195 US\$549,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com



TREASURE CAY SAIL A VIE **NEW LISTING** Canalfront 3b 2b, 1994 sq.ft. idyllic home enjoys exceptional privacy w/ dock & boat lift. Furnished. **WEB: 17393 US\$920,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com



TREASURE CAY TREASURED TIMES 3b 3b, furnished canalfront home. Dock with utilities. Lots on 2 sides can be purchased. Private. **WEB: 11583 US\$820,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com



TREASURE CAY ROCK POINT LANDING Beachfront 4 bed 3 bath, 2 storey home with 2 garages, 3 carports. Off main road and very private. **WEB: 12965 US\$940,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com



TREASURE CAY SEA SHELLS Beachfront 3b 2b on Windward Beach Rd. off main road and very private. Open living area floor plan. **WEB: 17148 US\$800,000.** Stan.Sawyer@SothebysRealty.com



WINDING BAY HOPE COTTAGE 4b 4b home in Ritz Carlton's Winding Bay with every imaginable option included. **WEB: 12982 US\$1,500,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



WINDING BAY THE ABACO CLUB LOT #30 Great dune elevation, 1.6 acres. Close to Buster's Beach Bar & all amenities. **WEB: 12122 US\$1,300,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



WINDING BAY THE ABACO CLUB LOT #32 Best priced beachfront estate lot available. This property encompasses over 1.5 acres. **WEB: 15106 US\$1,100,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



WINDING BAY THE ABACO CLUB Exclusive resort overlooking fabulous 18 hole links golf course & stunning beachfront. Starting at **US\$850,000.** Bill.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



SOUTH ABACO SANDY BEACH HIDEAWAYS 4 BR 2 bath waterfront home. 20 min drive from Marsh Harbour. Relax on patio overlooking the beach. **WEB: 14358 \$750,000.** Leslie.Pinder@SothebysRealty.com



TILLOO CAY BEACHWOOD COTTAGE Enjoy picturesque sunsets from this cozy 1 bedroom 1 bath waterfront cottage with dock. **WEB: 10075 US\$265,000.** Laurie.Schreiner@SothebysRealty.com



TILLOO CAY LOT 17 Stunning views and deep water frontage for a large vessel. Build your island dream home on this elevated lot. **WEB: 16175 US\$187,900.** Laurie.Schreiner@SothebysRealty.com



TILLOO CAY TOP-A-TILLOO This property is a STEAL with amazing views and solid construction. Walking distance to dockage and beach. **WEB: 11546 US\$159,500.** Laurie.Schreiner@SothebysRealty.com



LUBBERS QUARTERS WILL'S PLACE II Quality built 3 BR 3 bath home with huge deck for entertaining. Serene ambience and amazing views. **WEB: 16253 US\$595,000.** Laurie.Schreiner@SothebysRealty.com



LUBBERS QUARTERS GARDEN COTTAGE Two homes with total of 3b 2b with deeded dockage and beach across the street. Excellent rental history. **WEB: 12309 US\$299,000.** Laurie.Schreiner@SothebysRealty.com



GUANA CAY ORCHID BAY - BAREFOOT COTTAGE 5b 4b home. Access to pool, tennis & beach. Fishing, snorkeling off private 65' dock. **WEB: 12456 US\$1,550,000.** Christopher.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



GUANA CAY SEA SHORE VILLAS 3 townhouse villas with private swimming pool. 250' dock, cabanas, gift shop & laundromat. **WEB: 15029 US\$1,350,000.** Christopher.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



GUANA CAY ORCHID BAY LOT 6 135' of beach frontage w/ 25' elevation, underground services. Gated community. **WEB: 13638 US\$975,000.** Christopher.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



GUANA CAY WATCH HILL **Newly Listed with Improved Price** Fantastic 3b 3b beachfront home on large lot, dock slip included. **WEB: 13638 US\$875,000.** Christopher.Albury@SothebysRealty.com



GUANA CAY SHORE THING 3b 1.5b elevated home with views of the Atlantic and convenient beach access. Great Rental. **WEB: 16681 US\$575,000.** Christopher.Albury@SothebysRealty.com

Lots, Acreage & Other Properties

MAINLAND

- #4071 BAHAMA PALM SHORES LOT 43 \$30,000. Bill Albury
- #14359 BAHAMA PALM SHORES LOT 29 \$62,000. Leslie Pinder
- #4632 MARSH HBR./HIGH ROCKS Waterfront lot. \$599k. Bill Albury
- #7011 MARSH HBR./HIGH ROCKS 2 acres. \$1,250,000. Leslie Pinder
- #7086 MARSH HBR./ROYAL HBR Canalfront lot. \$525,000. Bill Albury
- #5899 N. ABACO Grape Tree waterfront lot. US\$100,000. Stan Sawyer
- #5990 FIRE ROAD 13.6 acres. Road to bayside. \$368,500. Kristi Wong
- #17130 LITTLE HBR Tom Curry's Pt #2 Waterfront 1 acre. #199,500. L.Schreiner
- #6022 LITTLE HBR. 1/2 acre + with deeded dock. \$119,000. Bill Albury
- #17436 PELICAN SHORES 3 waterfront lots. From \$249,000. Bill Albury
- #7063 TURTLE ROCKS 18,000 sq. ft. beach access. \$65,000. K. Wong
- #6085 REGATTAS #306 Views of pool, tennis. \$325,000. Leslie Pinder
- #6086 REGATTAS #401 Near world class boating. \$325,000. L. Pinder

TREASURE CAY

- #11155 MARINA ENTRANCE #5 Choice canalfront. \$270,000. S. Sawyer
- #16180 BRIGANTINE BAY Block 85 lot 2. \$59,995. Stan Sawyer
- #13858 OCEAN BLVD. Lot 82, Block 2. 10,560 sq. ft. \$55,000. Stan Sawyer
- #16257 BRIGANTINE BAY Lots 8, 9, 10 on Windward Beach. \$59,885 ea. Call for price on all 3 Lots as a package. Also see MLS listings #16194 and #16298. Stan Sawyer
- #16299 ROCK POINT LOT 8 90 feet of frontage. \$185,000. Package price for Rock Point Lots 7 and 8. Stan Sawyer

- #12564 ATLANTIS 2207 2 BR 2 bath, dock. US\$ 450,000. Stan Sawyer
- #13782 BEACH TOWNHOUSE - End unit. \$349,000. Stan Sawyer
- #11148 PAPI'S PALACE 3b 2 two storey on TC beach. \$795,000. Stan Sawyer
- #16176 THE ENGLISH HOUSE 3b 2b w/ 124 ft on TC beach. Great Views. Must See \$1,895,000. Stan Sawyer
- #16128 FIRE ROAD #8 Waterfront 2b 2b w/ dock. \$249,999. Stan Sawyer
- #14582 PINEAPPLE POINT #5 Canalfront furnished 2 bed 2 bath ground floor unit with dock slip. \$695,000. Stan Sawyer
- #16537 CANALWATCH Canalfront 2b w/ partial dock. \$495,000. Stan Sawyer
- #16568 HIGH & DRY Canal View Home 1,344 sq. ft., 2 storey, 3 bed 2 bath, furnished. \$465,000. Stan Sawyer
- #13807 ROCK POINT LOT 4 12,311sf waterfront US\$320,000. Stan Sawyer
- #13779 BAHAMA BEACH CLUB #2054 Beachfront furnished 3 bed 3 bath. Golf cart garage. US\$875,000. Stan Sawyer
- #12303 BAHAMA BEACH CLUB #2004 Beachfront furnished 5 bed 4 bath. Covered carport. US\$1,195,000. Stan Sawyer
- #15595 BAHAMA BEACH CLUB #2032 Beachfront furnished 3 bed 3 bath. Excellent rental. US\$549,000. Stan Sawyer
- #15314 BAHAMA BEACH CLUB #2088 Furnished beachfront 4 bed 4 bath. Covered carport. US\$1.95m. Stan Sawyer

GUANA CAY

- #5121 LOT 32 AND 32A 90 feet on water. \$500,000. Jane Patterson
- #5120 LOT 26 22,000 sq. ft. corner lot. \$250,000. Jane Patterson



LUBBERS QUARTERS

- A #110312 ABACO OCEAN CLUB LOT 46 Large waterfront lot. \$250,000. Laurie Schreiner
- B #13186 ABACO OCEAN CLUB LOTS 21-22 Two adjoining lots, boat slip. \$149,900. L. Schreiner
- C #10707 ABACO OCEAN CLUB LOT 152 Dockage. NEW PRICE \$99,000. Laurie Schreiner
- D #15719 1 ACRE BEACHFRONT LOT Ideal dream home location. US\$125,000. Laurie Schreiner



TILLOO CAY

- E #11897 TILLOO BEACH LOT 27 **New Price** Superior elevation, shared dock. \$75,000. Kerry Sullivan
- F #10287 1 ACRE WATERFRONT Great elevation, room for dock. \$220,000. Laurie Schreiner
- G #16175 TILLOO BEACH LOT 17 Elevated, deepwater frontage. \$187,900. Laurie Schreiner
- #10599 BEACHFRONT LOT Best beach location. NEW PRICE \$375,000. Stan Sawyer
- #16284 SOAP POINT LOT 3 Secluded waterfront lot, ideal for a seaside home, elevated with 43,560 sq. ft. and dock. \$199,000. Laurie Schreiner

South Abaco

Haitian boats wreck south of Little Harbour

By Timothy Roberts

As a result of a combined effort of the Department of Immigration, Royal Bahamas Defense Force and the Royal Bahamas Police Force, 63 Haitians were apprehended shortly after making landfall in South Abaco on January 10.

Shortly after 11pm a report came into the Marsh Harbour Police Station of a Haitian vessel coming ashore just south of Little Harbour. The migrants made landfall aboard a 43 foot motor vessel and a 23 foot sport fishing vessel. The larger vessel was demolished between the rocks and waves.

Authorities apprehended 32 undocumented Haitian nationals from bushes along the road to Little Harbour in the early morning hours and, with the assistance

of additional Department of Immigration officers from Nassau, captured another 31 through the day.

Apart from being dehydrated, the migrants all appeared to be in fair health. Two drivers of two private vehicles that were in the area at the time are assisting Police in their investigation.

The immigrants reported that they had been at sea for two weeks. They reportedly said that they had come together to make the trip without the aid of a smuggler.

While in Abaco the additional Immigration Officers conducted a number of small raids and pickups resulting in the apprehension of an additional fourteen undocumented immigrants.

The undocumented immigrants were flown to New Providence for processing and detention until they are repatriated.

Bahama Palm Shores Art Group explores nature through canvas



Above: the Bahama Palm Shores Art Group on one of their field trips.



Above: the intact 23' motor boat and remains of a 43' vessel that over 60 undocumented immigrants made landfall in. Authorities captured several dozen illegal immigrants throughout the day and are working with the boat drivers to complete the investigation.

By Jennifer Hudson

A group of ladies gathers each Tuesday morning in Bahama Palm shores armed with parchment, paint, brushes, easels, water and a large helping of enthusiasm. These talented ladies gather together to enjoy painting the beauties of nature which surround them. The group formed approximately one year ago and while numbers vary from week to week they usually number between six and eight.

While the group is not off-limits to men, so far none have expressed an interest in joining. In order to keep the group relaxed and informal meetings are not advertised but anyone wishing to join is welcome.

The ladies look to member-artist Ann Capling for professional guidance since she has completed a Visual Arts Course in Ottawa but it is stressed that no one is in charge of the group, they all watch one another, share and learn from each other. While none of the other members, apart

from Ms. Capling, has received any formal art training they are all very talented and feel that they are making great progress with Ms. Capling's guidance. Their styles are very varied and while one lady paints in very vibrant colours the others all tend to paint in more subdued hues.

While they all enjoy painting their beautiful surroundings, a couple of them have now discovered that they also enjoy portrait painting.

Each week they visit a different location where, after a brief look around they all begin to scatter in various directions to paint whatever catches their eye. Their first painting trip was to Casuarina Point which was followed by meetings in various members' gardens.

"We make an early morning start since the light is much better for painting in the early morning or the late evening. The shadows are longer then, the sun is too bright in the middle of the day," explained Ms. Capling.

While the members rely on Ms. Capling for ideas they often come up with their own. They have tried various techniques such as painting with one colour, painting with only one brush and negative painting which involves painting the background around an object and then the object which has not been painted will stand out. "Normally they begin with a pencil sketch of their subject and then begin to pencil in the values from light to dark," explained Ms. Capling.

The group members work at home finishing their paintings during the following week and several of them are quite prolific in their work, sometimes producing several which they bring and share with their friends at the next meeting. The members enjoy sitting quietly amidst the beauties of nature while putting paint to paper which they describe as "their invitation to be alone" and also enjoy getting together at the home of one of the artists to survey and discuss their work and glean new ideas.

These meetings are not confined just to the discussion of painting as anyone is invited to read a poem or share something special which adds something very unique to this art group.



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South Abaco

RC Laser Sailing Event moves to Little Harbour

Press Release

The weather was not looking good for an afternoon of sailing, but the weather cleared for a good day of RC Laser racing in Little Harbour. Several enthusiasts met at Pete's Pub for some lunch and then set the course and had a practice race. Usually one practice race is held to get the bugs worked out and to give new sailors a chance to figure out the starting sequence and the course.

Sailing happened right off the beach in Little Harbour, so a high tide was necessary. Winds and seas on the other side of the dune were very rough, but the harbour provided shelter and good steady B rig racing.

Jim Kaighin humbly won all the rac-

es, so it was a close race for second place. Randy Key and Dwayne Wallas traded 2nd's and 3rds, but Dwayne had one more 2nd place and took the second spot overall.

After the racing, the group moved to the Palm Room and enjoyed Lenore's famous brownies. The group again thanks Amy Sands for again taking pictures and counting down the starts. Also thanks to Amanda Darville for some additional picture taking. Thanks to Dave and Lenore Mulock for setting the course and running the races.

Round 3 scheduled for Treasure Cay on January 26 has been postponed and will be rescheduled. The next firm date on the tour is Schooner Bay, Saturday February 23.



Above: fierce competitors line the beach in Little Harbour. Intense focus is required to maneuver the miniature RC sailboats.

Bonefish tagging continues in Abaco's marls

By Jennifer Hudson

The Abaco Fly Fishing Guides Association (AFFGA) began a bonefish tagging programme in 2009 for two reasons:

1. To prove opinions on how the fish are acting and to get scientific data in order to figure out their movement patterns i.e., their spawning locations, travel corridor and home range.

2. To prove the locations where bonefish spawn in order to protect these areas.

The overall effort of research on bonefish populations is for conservation and education towards the goal of long-term management. Tagging programmes are also in effect in Grand Bahama, Eleuthera, South Andros, Cuba, Mexico and Belize.

"A lot of people don't think of protecting bonefish because it is not a food fish but it is very economically important to the Bahamas," stated Cindy Pinder, Secretary of AFFGA. "The Nassau grouper is protected by a closed season when spawning in order to prevent spawning aggregations from being fished out which would result in there being no grouper in the future. If bonefish spawning areas are not protected this could prove irreparable harm to the bonefish industry. Bonefishing pumps \$141 million into the Bahamian economy annually with 5 ½ million of that coming from Abaco."

"This is all very new cutting edge science which will enable us to find the issues which are threats to the bonefish habitats and which would ruin their spawning grounds such as cruise ship ports, marinas, hotel developments or oil tanker groundings. Hopefully it will enable us to better protect the bonefish," stated Ms. Pinder.

"In 2009 AFFGA applied to the Prime Minister's office for a crown land grant in Cross Harbour, South Abaco, to protect the area against building. This application was passed and forwarded to the Ministry of the Environment in 2010 for a zoning order but the application has stalled and we are still trying to get the area protected," she stated.

AFFGA, Bonefish Tarpon Trust, Cape Eleuthera Institute, Bahamas Na-

tional Trust and Fisheries Conservation Foundation have all been working on the Bahamas Bonefish Initiative tagging. Tagging was begun in Abaco in 2009 with a large group effort taking place in 2010. In October 2012 it was repeated on a large scale but this was unfortunately interrupted by Hurricane Sandy and had to be halted after two days. The tagging during those two days was done by Capt. Buddy Pinder, Capt. Dee Albury and three persons from Cape Eleuthera Institute. The tagging was resumed over Thanksgiving as a joint effort between Zack Judd, Aaron Adams of the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust, Captain Buddy Pinder, Justin Sands, Paul Pinder, Jody Albury, Tom Albury and Richard Albury, bonefishermen from Cherokee Sound, Sandy Point, Marsh Harbour and Lubbers. Whereas during the first two days the fish were caught with nets, during the second effort they were all caught with fly rods. In all a total of almost 800 fish were tagged with spaghetti tags.

"Tagging took place in the marls which is the bonefish home. So far there have been 33 recaptures of tagged fish and this provides information on how they leave their home range, the travel corridor they use and their spawning location. Most of the recaptures occur less than 1 mile from where the fish was originally tagged. However a fish which was tagged by Capt. Buddy Pinder in the Marls in November 2010 was recaptured 776 days later in January 2013 near Pigeon Island in Eleuthera showing that this fish had travelled at least 106 miles," informed Ms. Pinder.

Any anglers who catch a bonefish with a tag are asked to report it. The tag looks like a very thin piece of spaghetti about 1 ½ inches long and will be found near the dorsal fin on the fish's back. On the tag will be found the contact information www.tarbone.org telephone: 242 334 8552. Also will be seen the tag number which will be a four digit number preceded by three letters. When reporting to the website, telephone number or any of the bone fishing guides here on Abaco persons are asked to state the date found, the location and the length of the fish with the tag number.



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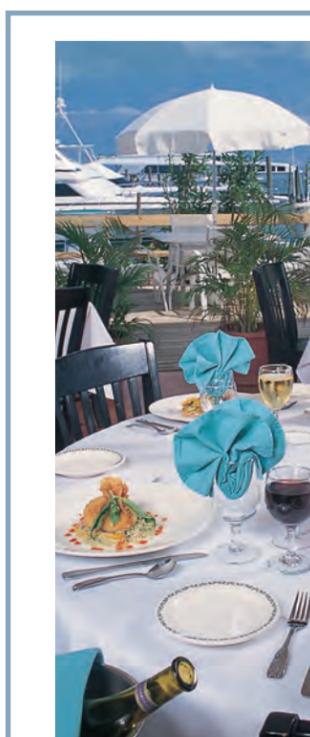
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- **Dr. Arthur Clarke;** Jan 31st & Call for other dates
- **Dr. Carnille Farquharson;** Family Medicine
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- **Dr. Winston Forbes;** Cardiology/Internal Medicine
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- **Dr. F. Bartlett;** Pediatrics
Please call for dates
- **Dr. Lucio Pedro;** Obstetrics/Gynecology
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- **Dr. Timothy Williams,** General Practice
Please call for dates
- **Dr. N. Akazie,** Please call for dates
- **Dr. Marc Binard,** General Practice & Internal Medicine
Feb 4th - Feb 15th
- **Dr. George Charité;** General Practice, Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine, Daily
- **Dr. Rogers;** Ophthalmologist
Feb 21st

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The Cays

New curator at the Albert Lowe's Museum on Green Turtle Cay

By Mirella Santillo

At the end of 2012, Ivy Roberts, the long-time Curator of the Albert Lowe's Museum on Green Turtle Cay, retired. She was replaced at the beginning of January 2013 by Christopher Farrington, a resident of New Plymouth, who moved to Green Turtle in 1989.

With roots in Nassau and on Long Island, Mr. Farrington lived in Nassau where he was a pilot for Bahamas Air from 1970 to 1976. He then operated a Marine Sales and Repair business until a Resort Manager's position opening at the Green Turtle Club brought him to Abaco. He managed the popular resort for ten years at which time he decided to go into Real Estate to compliment his wife's job as property manager. He worked for Coldwell Banker until obtaining his Real Estate Broker's License and starting his own company in 2010.

His busy work schedule did not prevent him for keeping up with some of his hobbies, one of these tracing his ancestors' roots. His meeting with Joy Lowe- Jossi, an expert in genealogy who participated in several Island Roots Heritage Festivals, transformed the simple hobby into a quest.

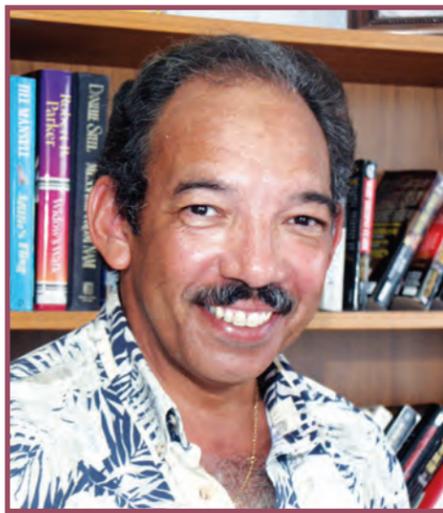
When the owner of the Albert Lowe's Museum, Alton Lowe, decided to catalogue the many marine artifacts he had inherited or collected over the years, he sought the help of Mr. Farrington who said he has al-

ways been in love with history, especially marine and local history. By then he was ready to engage in a new position.

In 2012, they started to renovate the museum's basement where many of the relicts were kept and to transform it in an exhibition gallery. The gallery will be called the "Wreckers' Gallery". Of course the gallery will also be a showcase for Mr. Lowe's art work.

There will be various exhibitions, such as "Men of the Sea" and "Woman of the Sea" among many others. The first exhibition which is currently being put together, will concentrate on cultural activities on Abaco from the opening of the museum to present time.

You can find Mr. Farrington and, most of the time, Alton Lowe as well, at the museum from 9:00am to 12:00pm and from 1:00pm until 4:00 pm.



Above: Christopher Farrington, new curator at the museum in Green Turtle Cay.

Cay Topics luncheon held in Hope Town



The first ladies' Cay Topics Luncheon for 2013 was held in Hope Town, on January 15. The "luncheon, for ladies who listen, lunch and learn," is a highlight of the season for many in Hope Town. This luncheon, which received rave reviews, was held at The Harbour's Edge. As a bonus, Jennifer Lightbourn of Lightbourn Farms provided platters for each table filled with the farm's organic micro-greens, sprouts, fresh herbs, veggies and edible orchids. A basket of produce from the farm was auctioned and the proceeds donated to Every Child Counts. The guest speaker was Lorraine Morecraft, an avid cook and sailor who loves to create delicious, inventive meals both aboard and ashore. This cruising "foodie" shared her best tips, favourite tools, secrets for success, and stories about cooking and cruising from Maine to The Bahamas and the Caribbean. It was a mouth-watering talk.



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TREASURE CAY

Houses

- "**Girasole**" # 1551- Delightful 4 bed, 4.5 bath elevated Italian villa style beach home, plus 2 bed, 2 bath separate guest accommodations. Elegantly furnished, many upgrades/extras. 45,000 s/f landscaped grounds, 100' + beach frontage. **\$4,450,000.**
- Brigantine Bay Canal Home** # 1589 - Newly built 4 bed, 4 bath unfurnished home. 3,150 s/f under air, 4,850 s/f total. Many extras. 15,306 s/f parcel, 91' canal frontage, lay-along & finger docks, boat lift. **\$2,995,000.**
- "**The White House**" - # 2131-Awesome 4 bed, 4.5 bath, 2 level tastefully furnished Ocean Blvd. beach home, 3,312 s/f under air, plus garages 58,500 s/f landscaped parcel-150' beach frontage. panoramic sea & beach views. **\$2,655,000.**
- "**Top of the Rock**" # 2014 - 3 bed, 3 bath "turnkey" furnished home, 1,824 s/f living space, 740 s/f covered porches, double garage. 198' beach frontage on 2 lot parcel. Fantastic elevated views along entire Treasure Cay Beach. **\$2,300,000.**
- "**Turquoise**" - # 1696 - Ocean Blvd 3 bed, 2.5 bath, 2,127 s/f furnished beach home on oversized 1.561 acre parcel with 170' of sandy Treasure Cay Beach frontage. **\$2,250,000.**
- "**Casa Linda**" # 2107 - 5 bed, 5.5 bath Ocean Blvd. furnished beachfront home, 3,677 s/f under air, plus double garage & beach pavilion, oversized 6,000 s/f parcel, pool, 130' beach frontage. Fantastic sea views. **\$2,249,000.**
- "**Turtle View**" - # 1778 - 3 bed, 2 bath, 4,088 sq. ft. elegantly furnished home on landscaped 14,000 s/f parcel with 68' frontage on Treasure Cay Beach. **\$1,995,000.**
- Package Price option to include Galleon Bay bulkheaded canal lot with dock & garage. **\$2,199,000.**
- Cutwater Way Canal Home** - # 1524 - 3 bed, 3 bath, 3,600 s/f home on Brigantine Bay. Newly built in 2008, elegantly furnished, many upgraded features. 144' bulkhead, 70' dock, boat lift. **\$1,995,000.**
- "**Trident House**" - # 317 - 3 Bed, 3.5 Bath furnished beachfront home on Treasure Cay Beach. 3,500 s/f living space, 2 garages, 16,000 s/f parcel with 100' sandy beach frontage. Fabulous Sea Views **\$1,850,000.**
- "**Tranquility**" # 1307 - 4 bed, 5 bath, tastefully furnished 2 level canal home on 2 lots. 3,580 s/f under roof, plus decks/balconies. 90' canal frontage, dock, boat lift, Great water views, excellent condition. **\$1,799,000.**
- "**Windward Palms**" # 1454 - Splendid 3 bed, 2 bath furnished beach home. 2,500 s/f under roof, 1,600 s/f patios & walks, 16,000 s/f landscaped parcel, 100' sandy beach. Meticulously maintained, Many extras. **\$1,500,000.**
- "**Hull's Landing**" - # 2204 - 3 bed, 3 bath plus loft, turn-key furnished Galleon Bay canal home. 2,700 s/f under air, + garage & covered porch. Pool & dock. Many extras. 10,000 s/f parcel w/80' canal frontage. **\$1,499,000.**
- "**Rising Sun**" # 1780 - Windward Beach, 3 bed, 2.5 bath 2,118 s/f furnished home on 25,925 s/f parcel with 150' of sandy beach frontage. Superb sea views! **\$1,310,000.**
- "**Camelot**" Windward Beach # 1699 - Inspiring 3 bed, 3 bath, 2,600 s/f "turn-key" furnished beach home on 19,000 s/f parcel with 101' sandy beach frontage. Refurbished in 2000. Well Maintained, Includes 2003 Suzuki vehicle. **\$1,299,000.**
- "**Harbour's Edge**" - # 2000 - 3 bed, 3 bath furnished Harbour front Home, panoramic harbour views, 3,033 s/f under roof. 15,210 s/f landscaped parcel, 90' deep water frontage. **\$995,000.**
- # 2084 - **Thompson Beach Cottage** - 3 bed, 2 bath turnkey furnished beachfront home on Windward Beach. 19,000 s/f parcel with 103' sandy beach frontage. Spectacular sea views **\$975,000.**
- "**Our Paradise Place**" - Cottages 6 - # 2049 - 4 Bed, 3 bath, 2 level, 2,900 s/f under roof beachfront residence. Turn-key furnished. Excellent condition. Includes golf cart. **\$949,000.**
- "**Dolphin Watch**" - **Galleon Bay** # 1534 - 3 bed, 3.5 bath furnished home (includes 2nd bed, 2 bath guest cottage). 2,800 s/f living space. 74' beach frontage with dock. **\$895,000.**
- "**Full Moon**" - # 2163 - 4 bed, 4 bath, 2 level furnished canal home, 2,990 s/f under air, recently renovated, many upgrades. 86' deep water dock & boat lift. **\$ 895,000.**
- "**Yellow Coconut Cottage**" - # 2211 - Elegantly furnished 3 bed, 2.5 bath, 2 level Brigantine Bay canal home. 1,541 s/f under air, plus balconies, patios & garage. Private boat slip & 20,000 boat lift, golf cart, many extras. **\$799,000.**
- Palm Bay Harbourfront Townhouse** # 2 - # 1071 - Newly constructed, furnished 3 bed, 3.5 bath, 2,077 s/f. Great water views. **Owner Financing Available \$799,000.**

TREASURE CAY

Houses

- "**Sea Cliff**" # 2179 - Luxury 3 bed, 3 bath, 2 level elevated sea view home. 2,550 s/f under roof, tastefully furnished & well maintained. 12,589 s/f elevated landscaped lot. Excellent rental income potential. **\$599,000.**
 - "**Laguna**" - # 1875 - Charming 1,550 s/f 3 bed, 2 bath furnished Galleon Bay canal home. 102' canal frontage with "T" dock & 16,000 lb boat lift. **OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE. \$595,000.**
 - "**Carrollville**" # 1352 - Near Treasure Cay - 3 bed, 2 bath, 2,100 s/f hilltop home on 6 acres from highway to Sea. 165' water frontage. Spectacular sea views. **\$595,000.**
 - Palm Bay** # 9 - # 2108 - Newly constructed 4 Bedroom, 3.5 bath, 2,077 s/f turn-key furnished harbourfront townhouse. Golf cart included. Private boat slip. Excellent vacation rental income potential. **80% 15 Year Financing Available! \$579,000.**
 - Treasure House** # 2 - # 1777 - 2 bed, 2 bath topsider style 1,000 s/f furnished beachside villa. Exceptional elevated Sea & beach views. Close to beach & pool. **\$569,000.**
 - "**Elysium**" # 1460 - 4 bed, 2 bath, 2,840 s/f under roof furnished home on 2 lots (22,000 s/f) on Ocean Blvd. Includes double garage. Close to beach. **\$525,000.**
 - Treasure House** # 11 - # 1592 - Delightful 2 bed, 2 bath comfortably furnished 1,000 s/f Topsider style beachside villa. Community pool, well maintained villa. Exceptional sea & beach views. **\$549,995.**
 - Treasure House** # 4 - # 1582 - Charming 2 bed, 2 bath fully renovated & tastefully furnished 1,000 s/f Topsider style beachside villa. Many upgrades. Community pool, well maintained beachfront complex. **\$499,950.**
 - Beach Villa** # 715 - # 2072 - 2 bed, 2 bath, 950 s/f turn-key furnished beachfront villa. Well maintained, excellent vacation rental income potential. **\$499,000.**
 - # 1921 - **3 Marlin Dr.** 3 bed, 3 bath, 1,276 s/f furnished home near beach on 12,800 s/f parcel **\$399,000.**
 - "**Toad Hall**" # 1373 - 5 bed/4 bath, 4,000 s/f, Ocean Blvd. furnished ocean view home includes 1 bed/1 bath apt. on 12,000 s/f parcel. Private beach access. **\$399,000.**
 - Beach Villa** # 605 - # 1635 - 1 bed, 2 bath well maintained & elegantly furnished "turn-key" villa. Washer/dryer. Many extras & upgrades. Can be modified for 2nd bedroom. Close to beach. **\$365,000.**
 - Ocean Villa** # 916 - # 1737 - 2 bed, 2 bath "turn-key" 900 s/f furnished villa. Unobstructed sea views, Close to beach. Good vacation rental potential. **\$349,995.**
 - Treasure House** # 8 - # 1697 - Beachside 2 bed, 2 bath, 1,000 s/f furnished Topsider villa. Community pool, great sea views. **\$345,000.**
 - # 1898 - "**Starfish Cottage**" **Beach Villa 503A & B** 2 adjoining, self contained 1 bed, 1 bath furnished villas near beach. Great Rental Income Potential. **\$329,000.**
 - Beach Villa** # 655 - # 2241 - 2 bed, 2 bath exceptionally large 1,013 s/f attractively furnished villa near beach. Excellent vacation rental income potential **\$319,000.**
 - Beach Villa** # 673 - # 1847, 2 bed, 2 bath furnished 1,000 s/f, Near pool/beach, refurbished, well maintained. **\$299,000.**
 - Beach Villa** # 607 - # 1982 - 2 bed, 2 bath, 900 s/f villa, furnished near beach, pool, shops & marina. **\$229,000.**
 - Beach Villas** # 651 - # 2230 - Charming 2 bed, 2 bath furnished villa near beach, pool & shopping. **\$219,000.**
 - Beach Villa** # 714 - # 2239 - 2 bed, 2 bath, 950 s/f furnished beachfront villa. Recently renovated. Excellent rental income potential. **\$219,000.**
 - Beach Villa** # 601 - # 2240 - 2 bed, 2 bath, 865 s/f "turn-key" furnished villa. Recently renovated, well maintained, near beach. Priced to Sell! **\$199,000.**
 - Beach Villa** # 527 - # 1852, Charming 2 bed, 2 bath furnished, near pool/beach, shopping **\$179,000.**
- Condos**
- Royal Poinciana Beachfront Condo** # 2505-Phase 4 # 716) Premier 3 level, 3 bed, 4.5 bath, plus loft newly built condo. 2,860 s/f under roof, 644 s/f covered/open balconies/porches. **OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE! \$1,995,000.**
 - Bahama Beach Club** 2047 - # 1468 - 3 bed, 3 bath, ground level Phase 5 unit, 1,750 s/f living space condo, close to beach, tastefully furnished, numerous upgrades & enhancements. Superb sea views. **\$887,000.**

- Bahama Beach Club** 2020 - # 1139 - 3 bed, 2 bath, 1,650 s/f 2nd level beach condo, elegantly decorated. Superior beach & ocean views. **\$872,000.**
 - Carleton Landing - Carriage House** # 1 - # 1621 - 3 bed, 3 bath, 1,755 s/f ground level furnished condo on Brigantine Bay. New construction. Includes community pool, finger dock/private slip, 2 garages. **\$855,000.**
 - Carleton Landing - Carriage House** # 2 & 4 - # 1620 - 3 bed, 3 bath, 1,755 s/f unfurnished 2nd level condos on Brigantine Bay. New construction. Community pool, finger dock/private slip, 2 garages. **EACH \$799,000.**
 - Carleton Landing - Carriage House** # 3 - # 1984 - 3 bed, 3 bath, 1,755 s/f unfurnished ground level condo on Brigantine Bay. New construction. Community pool, finger dock/private slip, 2 garages. **NOW \$639,000.**
 - Bahama Beach Club** # 2025 - # 2057 3 bed, 3 bath ground level condo, 1,650 sq. ft. Tastefully furnished, well maintained. Great views. Excellent rental income. **\$599,000.**
 - Bahama Beach Club** # 2035 - # 1981 - 3 bed, 2 bath, 1,650 s/f furnished ground level condo. Overlooks pool & beach. Best Priced Condo at Bahama Beach Club **\$499,950.**
 - Sandollar Condo** # 3 - # 1599 - 2 bed, 2 bath, 1,000 s/f ground level furnished unit, Sensational sea views, community pool, Golf course nearby. **\$499,000.**
 - Atlantis Condo** # 2202 - # 987 - 2 bed, 2 bath, 2nd level furnished canalfront unit, w/ boat slip, boat lift, golf cart, garage. "Turn-Key", Near beach. **\$485,000.**
 - Atlantis Condo** # 2203 - # 1000 - 2 bed, 2 bath, 2nd level, 1,000 s/f furnished waterfront unit, includes fully serviced boat slip & golf cart garage. Overlooks Brigantine Bay, Optional Boat Lift. Near beach. **\$464,000.**
 - Royal Poinciana** # 2511 - # 1483 - Deluxe 2 bed, 2 bath ground level furnished 1,300 s/f beachfront condo. Well maintained. Great sea views, excellent rental income potential. **\$455,000.**
 - Royal Palm** # 2435 - # 1881 - 3 bed, 3 bath 2nd level turn-key furnished 1,264 s/f harbourfront condo. Well maintained end unit. Sensational marina views **\$419,000.**
 - Royal Poinciana** # 2512 - # 2060 - 3 bed, 3 bath, 2nd level furnished beachfront condo, includes loft, on site pool & tennis court. Great sea views, excellent rental income potential. **\$399,000.**
 - Royal Palm** # 2403 - 3 Bed, 3.5 Bath, 2nd level, 1,264 s/f turn-key furnished harbourfront condo. Totally renovated & refurbished in 2008. Many upgrades, well maintained, owner occupied. Fantastic marina views. **\$399,000.**
 - Royal Palm** # 2477 - # 2052 - 3 bed, 3 bath, upper level 1,264 s/f tastefully furnished "end unit" condo. Includes 2 extra large private boat slips. Great water views. **\$399,000.**
 - Sand Dollar Condo** # 7 - # 1456 - 2 bed, 2 bath, 1,000 s/f ground level furnished beachfront condo. Well maintained, superb sea views, community pool. Best Value! **\$389,000.**
 - Royal Palm Condo** # 2420 - # 1546 - 3 bed, 3 bath, (including loft) 2nd level, 1,264 s/f furnished condo. Great harbour & marina views. Well maintained, near beach, excellent rental income potential. **\$349,000.**
 - Atlantis Condo** 2117 - # 1741 - Turn-key, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 875 s/f ground level furnished unit. Well maintained, overlooks Brigantine Bay, includes private dock & boat slip. **\$295,000.**
 - Royal Palm** # 2317 - # 1467 - 2 bed, 2 bath ground level 950 s/f furnished harbourfront condo, includes private boat slip & finger dock. Great harbour views, close to beach. **\$199,000.**
- Mariner's Cove Condominiums**
- # 1181 - 4 bed, 3 bath, 2 level, 1,650 s/f furnished harbour front condo, tastefully refurbished **\$499,000.**
 - # 2010 - 3 bed, 2.5 bath, 1,236 s/f 2 level furnished harbourfront condo. Fully refurbished in 2008. Close to beach & marina **\$399,000.**
 - # 2215 - Well maintained 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, 800 s/f furnished 2 level harbourfront condo. **\$250,000.**
 - # 985 - 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 level harbourfront end unit. Refurbished in 2000 **\$249,950.**
 - # 1942 - 1 bed, 1 bath, 450 s/f 2nd level furnished unit overlooking community pool. **\$199,000.**
 - # 655 - 2 bed, 1 bath condo with marina view **\$189,000.**
 - # 959 - 2 bed, 1 bath furnished 3 level condo overlooking marina, includes garage. **\$189,000.**
 - # 2073 - Best Priced Condo # 1211 - 1 bed, 1 bath, 462 s/f ground level furnished harbourfront condo. Great harbour views. **\$149,000.**

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North Abaco

Murphy Town holds first meeting of 2013

By Mirella Santillo

Six members of the Murphy Town Committee met in the evening of January 16 for the first meeting of the year. On the agenda was the resolution of a payment issue between the Chairman and a contractor. The contractor was invited to give his side of the story, and after a lengthy debate, Eugene Dawkins approved the motion of paying the requested sum by four monthly installments. He was seconded by Paul Curry. One member objected to the motion.

During the discussion, Administrator Preston Cunningham reminded the committee members to clearly explain to prospective contract holders of the work they are to fulfill, and to call extra meetings in the case of emergency work requiring payment that has to be done. He also said that a price should always be agreed upon in advance in order to avoid misunderstandings. Mr. Cunningham is planning to inspect roads in the Murphy Town district to evaluate whether the repair work falls under the jurisdiction of Central or Local Government.

The issue of the Great Cistern Garbage not being picked up for three weeks was mentioned. It was finally done during the second week of January, but a lot of trash had been spread out over the whole area. The Chairman said he would take care of having it cleaned up momentarily.

Only the electrical work is to be completed before the Burial Society can be reopened. According to Chairman Simms it will be ready by the end of January.

Also, the work on the Community Center's site is scheduled to start at the end of the month.

Police appreciation party held in Treasure Cay

By Vernique Russell

2012, according to police, has been a busy year in North Abaco. Some crimes had visible signs of increase and signs of decrease in other areas but they believe residents were certain that police did their best to ensure that justice prevailed. At the end of the last year the North Abaco branch of the Police Force could reflect on the year with pride for their knowing, without a doubt, that they put their best foot forward.

With that in mind, the Royal Bahamas Police Force North Abaco Branch gathered together with well-wishers and the community to celebrate its successes in 2012. The event took place in the form of a party celebration at the Treasure Cay Public Beach Park. Hundreds from the community, officers and supporters were in attendance. The community did its part to say thank you to the people who keep the streets and community safe by contributing food and drinks to assist.

The menu featured many popular Bahamian dishes and a large variety of beverages. The sound of Caribbean and Bahamian music filled the air and the attendees danced the night away into the early morning. The officers were grateful for the support that they received from the community and hopes that the support would continue throughout the year. The party was held on January 4.

Central & All Abaco

Gambling From Page 1

Centreville Constituency showed the greatest support for the "Yes" vote.

Prime Minister Christie said in a statement following the results:

"All offending web-shop owners and operators are placed on notice that all their gaming operations, including all on-line gaming and the numbers games, must cease with immediate effect. Failure to do so will leave all such web shop owners, operators and web shop gaming patrons exposed to arrest and criminal prosecution without further notice or warning."

The Prime Minister urged web-shop operators to cooperate to prevent "relevant law enforcement authorities" from having to take "coercive action to compel the necessary result."

The Abaconian will

The No Vote campaign expressed great satisfaction in the initial results of the referendum. "I am not surprised," said Dr. Ranford Patterson, president of the Bahamas Christian Council.

"Bahamians were able to see through all the gifts and stuff that they (the Vote Yes campaign) were doing, the bribery that they were trying to do. Our message played a major role in this.

"This is a major victory for the church."

Island Luck CEO Sebas Bastian said the outcome was disappointing. "Obviously, I would have preferred a yes vote," he said. "I am disappointed in the low number of people who were interested in the process. I wasn't expecting it to be that low. It really speaks to the fact that the people rejected the process, not gambling."

"Unfortunately it was made political. I feel bad for my employees who are now in limbo. I will hustle and survive somehow, but what will they do?"

Asked if his web shops will open tomorrow, he said, "I am still watching the results. I haven't made a decision."

Free National Movement Leader Dr. Hubert Minnis reported that he was pleased with the results and said that "I am very, very happy that the Bahamian people have spoken." Mr. Minnis had pushed a "No" vote and criticized the process as flawed.

"I congratulate both the Bahamian people and church and this has galvanized the church and the Bahamian people will realize how important the church is to our society, and it also shows how important a role the church must play for us moving forward, not only in morality but keeping governments on the right path and ensuring that the government does what's best for the people."

Shooting From Page 1

said "The individual attempted to disarm the officer and in the process the police firearm was discharged, killing the victim, who was pronounced dead on the scene a short time later by a local doctor on the island."

Tabitha Munnings, the victim's sister, said her brother was not a troublemaker. She said her family does not believe the account told by police about the shooting and wants answers to why Munnings was shot.

The family flew from Nassau to Abaco to meet with police on January 24 and then met with Commissioner of Police Ellison Greenslade on January 25. There have been no updates from the police on the outcome of those meetings.

"The inspector said to me they were conducting a patrol last night, at a dark building, and my brother and this guy [were there]," Ms. Munnings said. "The police approached the building and apparently my brother got into a struggle with the police and the gun miss and went off."

She said police said her brother was shot twice in the chest.

"My question was, 'If the gun miss and went off, how could he be shot in the chest twice?' They said 'investigations [are] pending; we're looking more into it', she said. "I told them I wasn't buying that story because it didn't make sense."

She said people who claimed they witnessed the shooting said her brother was an innocent man who walked into the line of fire.

"They didn't say my brother was armed, they didn't say they approached my bother to arrest my brother for so and so."

Munnings said her brother was a musician who was often seen around town selling his music and he had two young children.

"He was a straightforward person; he would let you know what's on his mind," she said. "But he wasn't a troublesome person. Many people here in Abaco said he was a humble person. He never bothered nobody; he just sold his DVDs."

Munnings said her family wants the Royal Bahamas Police Force to properly investigate the shooting and provide justice.

**Editors note: due to the emotionally charged nature of this story, only the facts and details known at the time of publication were included in this article.*



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Job Description - Education Coordinator

This is a full time position. Bachelors degree is preferred but not required. Teaching experience is required.

Implement FRIENDS Education program

- Work with Program Coordinator to fulfill education portion of strategic plan and committee annual work plan.
- Manage and oversee after school programs
- Coordinate with program coordinator to ensure that there are educational materials at all FRIENDS events
- Promote and encourage FRIENDS education activities & field trip opportunities within the Abaco School district
- Design course work and field trips in conjunction with FRIENDS Program Coordinator and Education Committee
- Promote and implement these activities with updates

Integration of ACRE* into Education Program

- BGCSE Biology and Combined Science Coursework Skills
- Activities available for drop in students/visiting families children: Examples including using native plant nursery, water testing, bio diesel, work with invasive species, coral reef monitoring through reef check, etc. Should be coordinated with FRIENDS strategic plan as possible.
- Work with Program Coordinator to develop on going research programs in which students and visitors can take part.
- Determine how best to integrate students if possible into research undertaken by researchers staying at the ACRE Center: Field work or lab work; Community or classroom Presentations; Interns vs. class involvement

Summer Camps/Spring Break Camps

- Work with program coordinator to modify current curriculum for several summer and spring break camps with varying age ranges and demographics
- Run central Abaco Camps and coordinate North, South and Moore's Island Camp
- Promote camps at schools locally

Public Relations

Coordinate with ED and Development Officer to promote ACRE at conferences, events, school trips, Government meetings, etc.

Administrative

Track and record numbers of education visits, programs, etc. Assist with grant reporting. Produce monthly reports on education programs including but not limited to: of on-going scientific studies, results from BGCSE studies, etc. A template will be provided.

**ACRE stands for Abaco Conservation, Research and Education Center. ACRE is a new FRIENDS' program initiative and includes a new building which can host researchers and students. The goal of the program is to increase FRIENDS' capacity to provide environmental education for Bahamian and foreign students, to increase research conducted in Abaco and provide connections between the two to benefit conservation efforts locally, nationally and internationally.*

Harbour's Edge



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CRIME REPORT

Armed Robbery

At 8:55pm on 19th January, 2013, a 34 year old male of the Mudd, Abaco, reported that sometime around 7:00pm same date while walking out the Pigeon Peas towards his residence in the Mudd, Abaco, he was robbed by a slim, dark, tall male dressed in light blue long sleeve shirt and dark colour long pants. The male was armed with a silver coloured handgun. The culprit stole \$400.00 in Bahamian one hundred dollar bills from his pocket and made good his escape. He does not know the culprit's name but he knows him by face and knows where he lives in the Mudd. Police action requested.

Officers from the Central Detective Unit Abaco outpost are investigating this matter.

Investigation continues.

Stealing From a Dwelling

(Suspect arrested charged.)

At 4:00pm on 11th January, 2013, a 41 year old male of Dundas Town, Abaco, reported that sometime around 3:34am on Thursday 3rd January, 2013, a male dressed in dark clothing that he knows entered his residence and stole \$300.00. The suspect when asked stated that he borrowed the cash and intends to pay it back. Police action requested.

Update

Officers of the Central Detective Unit Abaco Outpost arrested the suspect in this matter and charged him with the offence. Investigation continues.

Causing Harm.

(Suspect arrested and charged.)

On Saturday 12th January, 2013, at about 3:02p.m, a 32 year old female of the Pigeon Peas, Marsh Harbour reported to the Marsh Harbour police station that sometime around 3:00p.m. same date, while in the Pigeon Peas, a female known to her threw some rocks at her and one hit her in the face causing injury. Police action requested.

Suspect Arrested

AT 3:20 pm, a 29 year old female of the Pigeon Peas was arrested. Investigation continues.

Threats of Death & Assault with a Deadly Weapon. (Suspect arrested and charged.)

At 4:30pm on 10th January, 2013, a 23 year old male of Marsh Harbour, Abaco reported that sometime around 3:55pm same date while at a local gas company on Don McKay Blvd., a male known to him attempted to knock him down with the vehicle he was driving and threatened to kill him. Police action requested.

Suspect Arrested

On 11th January, 2013, the male suspect in this matter of Dundas Town was arrested reference to this matter and charged. Investigation continues.

Threats of Death. (Suspect arrested and charged.)

At 1:21pm on 11th January, 2013, a 28 year old male of Crockett Drive Marsh Harbour, came in at the Marsh Harbour Police Station and reported that on Thursday 10th January 2013, sometime around 3:45 pm, while in the parking lot of a local gas company located on mckay blvd, he saw a male known to him, an argument ensued resulting in the male threatening to kill him putting him in fear for his life. Police action requested.

Suspect Arrested

On 11th January, 2013, the male suspect in this matter of Dundas Town was arrested reference to this matter and charged. Investigation continues.

Illegal Landing. (Haitian Nationals arrested and sent to Detention)

At 11:05pm on 10th January, 2013, an anonymous caller reported that a Haitian Vessels came ashore in the area of Little Harbour. Police assistance requested.

A team of Police Officers and Reserves from Sandy Point assisted by Defence Force and Immigration Officers arrested 63 Haitian Nationals. The officer arrested forty-five (45) males and eighteen (18) females, a total of sixty-three (63) Haitian Nationals. They were taken to the Immigration Department for processing.

Threats of Death & Assault. (Suspect arrested and Charged.)

At 9:37 am on Tuesday 8th January 2013 a 27 year old female of Pigeon Peas, Abaco came to M.H.P.S. and reported that sometime around 9:00 a.m. on 8-1-12 while she was at her residence she got into an argument with her sister's boyfriend which resulted in him attempting to hit her with a bottle. Police action requested.

Suspect Arrested

At 10:40am on 9th January, 2013, officers of the M.H.P.S. arrested a 32 year old male of The Mudd, Abaco, in reference to this matter. He was brought to M.H.P.S. where he was charged. He was arraigned on 10/1/13, pleaded not guilty and given bail in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Threats of Death & Causing Harm. (Suspect arrested)

At 9:50 a.m. on Tuesday 8th January 2013, a 28 year old female of the Pigeon Peas, Abaco came to M.H.P.S. and reported that sometime around 9:00 a.m. same date, while she was near the basketball court in Pigeon Peas, Abaco she was approached by her children's father who

started arguing about his children. This led to him hitting her with a rock and beating her about the body. Police action requested.

Suspect Arrested

At 10:40am on 9th January, 2013, a 32 year old male of The Mudd, Abaco, was arrested in reference to this matter. He was brought to M.H.P.S. where he was charged. He was arraigned on 10/1/13, pleaded guilty to Causing Harm and fined \$500.00. The defendant pleaded not guilty to Threats of Death and given bail in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Shopbreaking

At 6:55 p.m. on Tuesday 8th January 2013, a 33 year old of Pelican Shores, Abaco contacted MHPS and reported that at about 5:30 p.m. while checking his office located in Marsh Harbour he met a man he knew in said establishment without his permission. Police Officers went right away to the scene where they arrested a 56 year old male (of no known address) in reference to Shopbreaking. He was transported to Marsh Harbour Police Station where he was charged for the offence. The defendant was arraigned on 10/1/13. He was not allowed to enter a plea because of his mental condition and was remanded to Sandilands.

Housebreaking

At 7:35 p.m. on Tuesday 8th January 2013, a 26 year old male of Forest Drive, Abaco, came to MHPS and reported that sometime between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on 8-1-13 culprit(s) broke into his apartment and stole his black Acer laptop valued at \$700.00. Police action requested. Officers of the M.H.P.S. and the Central Detective Unit Abaco outpost are investigating this matter. Enquiries are continuing.

Housebreaking

At 11:25am on 7th January, 2013, a 38 year old male of Murphy Town, Abaco, reported that sometime between 12:00pm on 21st December, 2013 and 8:30am on 7th January, 2013, some unknown person/s entered his residence through and stole two mattresses valued at \$450.00. Police action requested.

Officers of the M.H.P.S. and the Central Detective Unit Abaco outpost are investigating this matter. Enquiries are continuing.

DRUG ARREST

On 8/1/2013 sometime around 11:20am officers of the traffic division Abaco were on mobile patrol on forest drive in Dundas Town when they arrested a 25 year old male suspected reference to being in possession of marijuana. The suspect resisted violently before being subdued. The brown tobacco-like paper was retrieved in the presence of the suspect which had a grassy substance in it believed to be marijuana. He was later transported to the MHPS where he was charged.

Housebreaking

At 8:00am on 25th January, 2013, a 42 year old male of Cherokee Sounds, Abaco, reported that sometime between 7:00am on 21st January, 2013 and 7:00am on 25th January, 2013, some unknown person/s entered into his residence and stole an assorted of mixed currency, and an assortment of jewelry. Police action requested

Officers of the Central detective Unit along with officers of Sandy Point Police Station are investigating this matter.

Assault

At 6:15pm 22nd January, 2013, a 43 year old male of Dundas Town, Abaco, reported that sometime around 12:30pm same date while at work, a co-worker known to him assaulted him. Police action requested.

Investigation continues.

Stealing from a Vessel and Trespassing

At 2:00am on 27th January, 2013, officers of the Marsh Harbour Police Station arrested three (3) boys' ages 11 years; 13 years and 9 years of age all of The Mudd, Abaco for stealing and trespassing. These boys were arrested on the premises of a local boat yard located in Dundas Town where they were found in possession of an assortment of stolen items including an iPod, screw driver, blanket, food items, first aid kit, whistle, gloves, satellite beacon etc. Investigation continues.

Abaco Traffic Fatality #1

On Saturday 26th January 2013 at about 2:00 am an anonymous caller contacted the Marsh Harbour Police Station and reported that a traffic accident occurred on forest Drive, in the area of Texaco Service Station involving two vehicle, Police assistance is requested.

General Information.

Officers of the M.H.P.S., C.R.O. and Traffic Division responded and discovered a white 1996 Honda Civic driven by a 23 year old male of Dundas Town and a second vehicle a 2003 Blue and white Nissan Pickup truck registered to Bahamas Electricity Co-operation and driven by a 36 year old male of Dundas Town. Both vehicles received extensive damages.

1. The 23 year old male received injuries to the upper body area and was taken by ambulance to the M.H. Government Clinic. (Deceased.)

2. The 36 year old male received to the face area and was alert. (Treated and discharged.)

The scene was visited by members of the Marsh Harbour Emergency Medical Team.

It appears that speed was a major factor in this incident. An intensive investigation has been launched into this matter.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters From Page 9

drive from the airport to the ferry landing as if floating on a cloud will be lost to oral history and not pass on to future generations.

Whatever happens, do not notify Ministry of Works, depriving them of ripping up the freshly laid tar.

-Coalition for the Preservation of Historic Potholes

Don Wood
Marsh Harbour

Reaching out to a Friend

Dear Editor,

Again, please allow a little space in your paper for the following.

Open letter to Martha Russell: Martha, we are no strangers, we talk sometimes. We are some family, your Pa Horton from Hope Town, my Gran'ma Nettie was from Hope Town, her father was Hilton Russell.

I don't write this to criticize you or blast you, I care about you and your long time problem with some neighbors in [The Mudd], Marsh Harbour.

I've read your letters to The Abaconian and heard you on ZNS radio, Nassau. I know it seems that no one cares! It's Sad! Haitian pastors and police should have had your problem fixed long time! They wonder why you vex, I know its stress. It is enough for you to cuss you and me to cuss! I know one lady in local government that could have fixed the problem a long time ago. I don't know why there's the delay.

If neighbors discipline the kids, bush crack, problem gone! Find a preacher that can Paley Creole and who believes in telling people what water baptism is all about. Prayer can help also!

P.S. Martha, next letter please don't blame Prime Minister Ingraham or Christie and please start letter with Sir or Mr. Prime Minister. Ok, you can say, we say, sorry for things. As a boy I knew Nurse Christie, good woman back then, she treated my problem. Problem was an [unfortunate] ant sting.

I feel good that Nurse Chirstie borrowed my comic books for Prime Minister Christie (now), and his brother to look and read and yes she brought them back, ok. God bless her memory. Everyone I know spoke well of her.

I'm not PLP, but I wish no harm to come to Prime Minister Christie, or the former Prime Minister Ingraham.

May God bless The Bahamas and help us see our need to turn from our wicked ways, whether its numbers lottery or raffle tickets and all chances to win. People usually lose more then they win. I brought two raffle tickets lately, to benefit a school. I didn't win stuff, but I won a smile from the lady of which the school bears her name.

-Read Bible and do right.
-Lee Lowe

No Progress

To Perry Christie,

When are you going to be an honest man and do something about the illegal immigrants? I have now moved out of my home because these people are building day and night. The kids are such a nasty bunch; they are still hurting the cats and dogs.

It is not good to call the popo's ,if they do come they just talk sweet to the illegals and leave. Well so much for being for the Bahamian people. I guess that is what you like, the white people to have to leave their homes because you refuse to do anything with them.

Well the people that work in the Treasury, what do they do all day? One month now I went for my money the court ordered, but every time I call about getting it there is some excuse that it is not ready yet. What do these people do all day? I guess Perry needs it for the Haitians. White people don't count since he went in. Well anyway Perry, shame on you for not sending someone to stop the [stuff] from going on.

Well, like I said, you gave this country away.

-Martha Russell

Business

Entrepreneur Watch

ReNu U Salon

By Vernique Russell

The growing community of Treasure Cay has been afforded the opportunity to have in its vicinity Renu U Salon. Renu U salon is a new establishment offering the finest service in hair care. ReNu is located in the Brent Lowe Plaza on the Sherlin Bootle Highway, a block before the Treasure Cay Airport.

Owner, Tanya McIntosh, graduated from the halls of Sherlin Bootle High School in 2011, with her heart set on becoming a doctor of cosmology.

On December 21, 2012, ReNu U opened their door to the general public, offering the latest styles and all the basic hair care service. The salon is also equipped with a nail technician who provides any and all services when it comes to hands and feet. The salon is open daily Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm, with the exception of Wednesday.

Walk-ins are welcomed but appointments are preferred. It is the desire of the owner to ensure that every customers leaving feeling like royalty. At ReNu U, it is their mission statement to combine accessibility, professionalism and creativity to offer you the latest designs in nail and hair technology.

Not only is customer satisfaction guaranteed, but it is the norm. They are encouraging the public to look out for their holiday's specials.

Interested person can reach the salon at 577-0737 or 475-2032. They are encouraging you to come in today and let them ReNu U!

Gift of Life Consultant Group

By Vernique Russell

The road to obtaining proper documentation to work in the Bahamas for immigrants can be tedious and difficult. With the hope of easing the burden of the immigrant when applying for work permits and citizenship, the Gift of Life Consultant Group was born. Operating currently as a home-based business, the owners seek to provide assistance.

The other side of the business is a connection kit for adoption. The group hopes to provide young women who find themselves in a pregnant situation with another option. Choose life and be a blessing

to someone else by giving a baby up for adoption, is what they say.

They are fully operational and are mainly an online business. They are hoping to open an office in the Marsh Harbour area once they have built their clientele.

The company is hoping to make a great impact on the local community here in Abaco by creating opportunities for all. The company can currently be reached at 242-525-8067 or via email at giftoflifereoup@gmail.com.

Champ's Porch Barber Shop

By Samantha Evans

Trevor Swain is a local entrepreneur, role model and resident of Murphy Town. He is the owner of a number of businesses and his latest business, Champ's Porch Barber Shop, is not only providing a much needed service for the residents of Murphy and Dundas Town, but the entire community of Abaco in general. Champ's Porch Barber Shop is open Monday to Friday 5pm to 8pm and on Sundays all day to accommodate those persons who work all day and cannot make it to the Barber Shop until they get off from work. Services provided for males include shape-ups, shavings, clips, cuts and designs. Services for females include semi-fade, skin fade, Mohawks, and eye brow cutting. He recently added a new service to his business in the form of a stylist, who does braiding and weaving Mondays to Saturdays 9am until 8pm. For an appointment call 475-1031.



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Further Business

Flawless Diva Beauty Parlour

By Samantha Evans

On Thursday, January 10, 2013, Flawless Diva Beauty Parlour opened its doors next door to the Church of the Latter Rain in Dundas Town. Owners Mizpah Johnson and Latoya Meoche Swain decided to join forces and open this business. Mizpah is no stranger to the beauty world, but her niece just received her cosmetology certification in June of last year.

They specialize in hair care for females such as cuts, perms, and treatments along with weaves. They also sell make up, weave, hand bags, beauty supplies, and accessories. In the future they plan to offer classes for budding beauticians.

They are open Tuesday to Thursday 9am to 5pm and Fridays and Saturdays from 9am to 6pm. They will be adding a nail technician and another beautician to their staff very soon. They can be contacted by calling 559-8433 or 646-2621.

Sweets by Meeks opens on top floor of Dove Plaza

By Canishka Alexander

Tamika McIntosh, proprietor of Sweets by Meeks, offers a delicious line up of pastries to tantalize the taste buds of her customers. Located in Suite #206 of the Dove Plaza in Marsh Harbour, Sweets by Meeks has an eye-catching display of cupcakes; pies and tarts; cheesecakes, cookies; doughnuts; danishes; and cakes

for every occasion.

Tamika entered the culinary profession as a hotline chef at The Abaco Club on Winding Bay, and soon discovered that she had a passion for making pastries. As she operates in this new venture, Tamika pledged to deliver optimum customer service by providing quality, and creatively made products. So far, her customers have given her positive feedback on her business' Facebook page after trying out her daily pastry samples.

"I try to make something I would like," Tamika said. "I have to be happy with the product first before I make it for my customers."

Tamika is assisted by Maggie Saunders, who is also committed to delivering outstanding customer service. Maggie said that their top seller has been the chocolate cake stuffed with cheesecake. Customers also have the options of ordering vanilla sponge cake, carrot cake, Devil's food cake, yellow cake, pina colada cake, and red velvet cake.

Twenty four hours' notice is required for all orders and a minimum of 72 hours for wedding cakes. Customers can also highlight their special occasion with Edible Images, cake toppers and candles at an additional cost.

Sweets by Meeks is open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The telephone number is:(242)475-1851.

Real estate market sees improvements

**Editor's note: the above is an opinion piece and presented as-is.*

Dwayne Wallas

Overall, in my view 2013 will be an improvement on the previous year, which was better than the one before that, which was better than 2010. I am seeing slow but steady progression of confidence coming back to the real estate market. The US and European press is no longer scare mongering about the real estate market, they are now occupied by the financial unsustainability of the governments of the world. Whether to buy real estate or hold off is tied to confidence in the market and the economy. I believe that confidence is coming back to the market after 4 years following the 'housing bubble' which, I believe, was basically a result of an over-confident investor pool.

Anecdotal evidence I can give you relate to the condo market in Abaco. There are a large number of condos in Treasure Cay (I think over 500 units) and of those typically 5-10% are on the market for sale all the time, it is just the nature of catering to retired individuals who become less able to travel and therefore need to sell their island condo. Between 2008 and mid 2010 there were 6 sales of condo units in

Treasure Cay (2 sales per year). For the years 2011 and 2012, there have been 11 sales in the Treasure Cay Condo market (5.5 sales per year, more than double the previous years). If that isn't a good real estate market indicator, I don't know what is. I see condo buyers are typically cautious people, they don't want to deal with landscapers, want the security of a community, it is usually easy to rent and manage. If you see these cautious people buying real estate finally it is usually a good sign for the market generally.

There is a similar story for condos in Marsh Harbour, which aside from the brand new Crossing project, the only condos here are the Regattas which saw absolutely no sales activity from mid 2007 until mid 2012. That is a 40+ unit condo complex that didn't see a single sale for 5 years. The dam broke last year and there was one sale with another one probably coming along soon. Albeit at significantly lower prices than during the bubble years of 2006/2007. Typical pricing was up to \$360,000 in 2007 and current pricing is at a more reasonable \$245,000 price tag.

The above two overviews of micro markets are, I think, a good gauge for the state of the real estate market generally. People are starting to come out of the woods, the fires have receded and seeds are starting to grow again.

Overall, I am seeing an increase in my personal real estate business. Inqui-

Please see Real

Page 22

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Further Business

Real From Page 21

ries from potential buyers on the upswing. Local Bahamians are starting to try to buy real estate a bit more which means the local economy is improving. On the other hand I also have an increase in people wanting to sell, so perhaps all those folks who knew that they had to wait it out to sell – they have reached the end of their holding capacity and need to get things sold to free up cash flow.

Paralleling all of that, Abaco has a very robust real estate market. As of today, 507 actively marketed properties are for sale right now in Abaco on the Bahamas MLS database. Contrast that with 507 currently on the MLS as actives in Nassau (including PI). Astounding isn't it? As far as expired listings (unsolds) Abaco has 1,100+ while Nassau has 1,500+. Nassau shows 487 sold properties, while Abaco shows only 205 solds.

Peripherally, the real estate market in Abaco will be directly and positively impacted by the pending opening of the new airport terminal, modernizing air travel to the island. Additionally, if we get direct air service to another major hub in the US (Delta from Atlanta?) it will further enhance our tourism business and our real estate market. There is also underway the construction of a new government medical clinic which will give retirees and second home owners a boost of comfort and peace of mind while living or visiting here, that there is adequate medical care in the event of an emergency.

Lastly, if you have not yet toured the

new government complex you should. It is beautiful and offers complete gov't services and departments including an extension of the Public Treasury and soon perhaps an arm of the Registrar. It is a testament to the former PM's confidence in the island of Abaco to grow and continue to contribute to the economy and coffers of the Bahamas.

I expect 2013 to be a good year, but it will not rival the activity we saw in the market in 2006/2007. A client was recently telling about how the 5's are good years and the 0's are bad. And I think he may be on to something – 2005 good, 2010 bad. 1995 good (tech bubble), 2000 bad (tech bubble busted) – so on that vein, we should be building up to 2015 which should be a good year. Lets hope so.

Woslee steadily progresses on construction of Teachers Credit Union on Abaco

By Canishka Alexander

The construction of Teachers and Salaried Workers Co-Operative Credit Union Limited's Business Complex on Abaco began during the last week of September 2012. Now just a few months later, the site is noticeably buzzing with activity.

As he began the tour of the construction site, Don Wilmott, general superin-

tendent of Woslee Construction, pointed to a series of buildings lined up in alphabetical order from A to F. Beginning with Building A, which is located near the front entrance that faces Central Pines Estate, he revealed that it would house a food store. The total square footage of the site totals between 55,000 to 64,000, Wilmott supplied. To put its size in better perspective, the newly completed Government Complex that was also built by Woslee is between 64,000 to 66,000 sq. feet.

Some portions of the building rise to two stories. Others remain at a single-story level. Across from Building C where there are plans for a restaurant, the layout veers sharply to the left toward Buildings D and E where workers were beginning to prepare slabs for the construction of office spaces. In Building E, he hinted at a popular fast food restaurant occupying that space. Building F completes the circuit as the Teachers and Salaried Workers Credit Union and Bank facility.

Wilmott said with the addition of the Teachers Credit Union Business complex in the area, it is becoming the second phase of Abaco's newest downtown area with the completion of the Government Complex, and other government projects coming on stream.

Of course, Woslee has had its share of challenges with most of the land being filled with cavities; however, it is not a permanent deterrent to the upgrade in Abaco's infrastructural boom. Wilmott added that the Teachers Credit Union

building will be beautiful once completed with a complimentary parking and garden area.

Currently, 60 people are employed by Woslee, and Wilmott indicated the number of employed persons will increase to 12 or more workers as they move up to the second floor and start to fabricate some of the roofs like the one atop the food store. There were plans to install purlins on the food store's roof toward the end of January.

Amazingly, of those employed, only two people on the site are not from Abaco and one of them is Mr. Wilmott himself. Working along with Wilmott is Oneil Moss, project manager who is mostly stationed at Woslee's head office, and Bruce Smith, the site project manager.

"We encourage subcontractors to hire locals and bring them on because we want to make this an Abaco community type project. We want to say: 'This is what the Abaconians did, and this is a fine example of what they can do,'" Wilmott boasted.

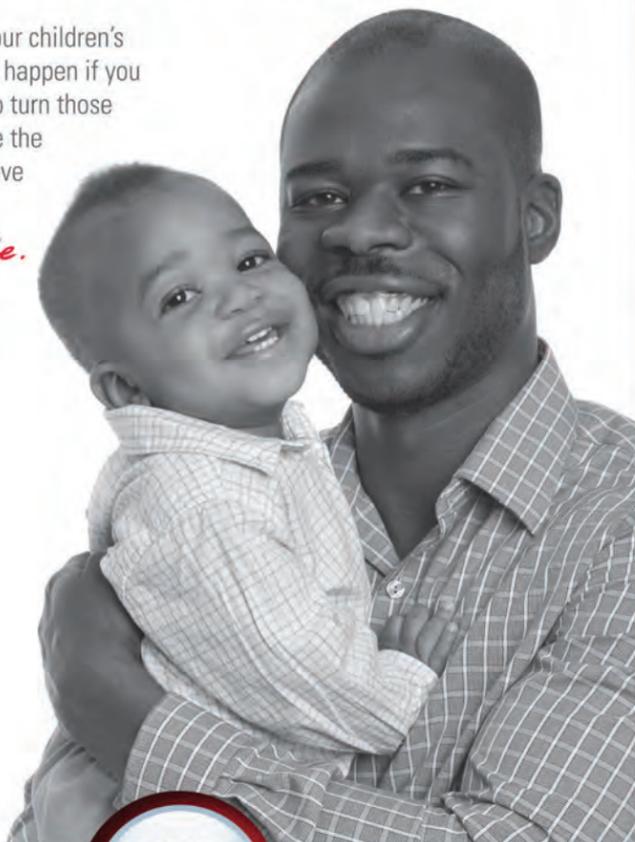
He noted that every area of expertise is filled by Abaconians from the blocks, plastering, form, concrete work, plumbing, electrical, and air-conditioning – they are all subcontractors from Abaco.

"This is a prime example that Woslee is for the people of Abaco and Bahamians."

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	Treasure Cay Resort +		95 rms	365-8801
	Mark's Bungalows		4 units	365-8506
	Abaco Estate Services +			365-8752
	Island Dreams Rental +			357-6576
			Turtle Rock	
	Villas at Palmetto Beach		3 villas	262-820-1900
			Wood Cay	
	Tangelo Hotel		14 rm 1 villa	365-2222
			Web Sites with Abaco Information	
	http://www.abaconian.com		http://www.abacos.com	
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Bring errors & revisions to our attention
Revised Dec 2012

Emergency Services	
Police - Marsh Harbour	367-2560 • 911
Police - Hope Town	366-0667
Police - Man-O-War	365-6911
Police - Treasure Cay	365-8048
Police - Green Turtle Cay	365-4133
B. Electricity Corp	367-2727, 367-2846, 367-4667
Water & Sewerage	475-1499, 475-5518
The following services are provided by volunteers	
Fire - Marsh Harbour	367-2000
Fire - Hope Town VHF Ch 16 • Fire - Green Turtle Cay	365-4133
Fire - Man-O-War	365-4019
Abaco Crash Fire & Rescue	365-9111
BASRA Bah Air Sea Rescue Assoc - all areas	Marine VHF 16
Hope Town	366-0549 Marsh Harbour 367-3752
Guana Cay	365-5178 Treasure Cay 365-8749

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

Dental Services	
Agape Family Dental, Marsh Harbour	367-4355
Diamante Dental, Marsh Harbour	367-4968
Man O War Dental Clinic	365-6508

Pharmacy	
Abaco Island Pharmacy, Marsh Harbour	367-2544
Chemist shoppe, Marsh Harbour	367-3106

Veterinary	
Caribbean Veterinary Centre, Marsh Harbour	367-3551
Island Veterinary Clinic, Marsh Harbour	367-0062

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
Regional - Freeport	367-0446
Silver Airline - Miami	
Ft. Laud and W Palm Beach	367-3415
Sky Bahamas - Nassau	367-0996
Western Air - Nassau	367-3722

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 Since 1978, Marsh Harbour	367-2787
Dive Time, Man-O-War	365-6235
Froggies, Hope Town	366-0431
Treasure Divers, Treasure Cay	365-8571
Brendal's Dive, Green T. Cay	365-4411
Dive Guana	365-5178
Man-O-War Dive Shop	365-6013

Taxi Cab Fares one or two passengers	
Extra \$3 for each passengers above two	
• Marsh Harbour Airport to: Effective Dec 08	
Clinic, Downtown, Stop Light	\$10
Ab Bch Resort, Eastern Shore close, Ferry	\$15
Spring City	\$15
Dundas Town, Nat Ins bldg, C Abaco Primary Sch	\$15
Murphy Town & Great. Cistern	\$20
Snake Cay	\$35
Casuarina Point	\$60
Cherokee, Winding Bay, Little Harbour	\$80
Bahama Palm Shore	\$90
Crossing Rocks	\$105
Sandy Point	\$150
Leisure Lee	\$50
Treasure Cay Airport, G Turtle ferry	\$80
Treasure Cay Resort	\$85
Fox Town	\$165

• Between Marsh Harbour Ferry and:	
Clinic, downtown, Ab Beach Hotel	\$ 10
Nat. Ins. Bldg, Murphy Town, Gr. Cistern	\$10

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

• Treasure Cay Airport to: Effective Dec 08	
Green Turtle Cay ferry dock	\$10
Madeira Park	\$20
Sand Banks	\$25
Treasure Cay Resort	\$30
Leisure Lee	\$45
Black Wood	\$20
Fire Road & Cooper's Town	\$40
Cedar Harbour	\$60
Wood Cay	\$70
Mount Hope	\$80
Fox Town	\$85
Crown Haven	\$90
Marsh Harbour airport	\$80
Green Turtle Ferry to Marsh H Airport	\$80
Treasure Cay Hotel to Marsh Harbour	\$85
Treasure Cay Hotel to Green Turtle Ferry	\$25
Treasure Cay Hotel to Blue Hole	\$30

Ferry Schedules • Departure times shown • Daily service unless noted

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

Albury's Ferry Service • Ph 367-3147 or 367-0290 • VHF Ch. 16 • Hope Town & Man-O-War from Crossing Bch	
Marsh Harbour>Hope Town	7:15am 9:00am 10:30am 12:15pm 2:00pm 4:00pm 5:45pm
Return:	8:00am 9:45am 11:30am 1:30pm 3:00pm 4:00pm 5:00pm 6:30pm
Marsh Harbour>Man-O-War	10:30am 12:15pm 2:30pm* 4:00pm 5:45pm
Return:	8:00am 11:30am 1:30pm 3:15pm* 5:00pm
Marsh H.>Guana Cay/Scotland cay From Conch Inn	
(6:45am - Union Jack Dock)	10:30am 1:30pm 3:30pm 5:45pm
Return:	8 am 11:30am 2:30pm 4:45pm 6:30pm
Fare • Adult prepaid one way \$17 / open return \$27, • Kids 6-11 half, Under 6 free (Phone after hours 359-6861)	
Note: During the month of August through December there are some adjustments made to the schedule. You are advised to contact the office for the changes.	

Green Turtle Ferry • Phone 365-4166, 4128 • VHF Ch 16 • Ten minute ride	
T Cay Airport>Green T Cay	8:30am 10:30am 11:30am 1:30pm 2:30pm 3:30pm 4:30pm* 5:00pm
Return:	8am 9am 11am 12:15pm 1:30pm 3:00pm 4:30pm**
* Note: 4:30 pm trip to GTC not on Sundays ** Note: 4:30 pm trip will be made from New Plymouth only	
New Plymouth :One way adult \$12 (Children \$7) • Round trip \$17 (Children \$10) • Extra to some G T Cay docks	

Abaco Adventures • Ph 365-8749 or 375-8123 VHF Ch 16 Charters Available	
Treasure Cay to Guana Cay Sunday departs	11:00am & returns 3:30 p.m. \$40 Round Trip
T Cay to Man-O-War/ Hope Town - Saturday departs	9:30 am, \$45 Round Trip

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

Bahamas Ferries Summer Schedule only (April to Dec)	
Sandy Point & Nassau Every Friday & Sunday, except holidays, under 4 hours. Call 225-3376 or 366-4119	
Call for rates.	

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

Attractions	
Albert Lowe Museum	Green Turtle Cay
Capt Roland Roberts House, reef exhibits..	Green Turtle Cay
Memorial Sculpture Garden	Green Turtle Cay
Wyannie Malone Historical Museum	Hope Town
Elbow Cay Light Station	Hope Town
Swim Mermaid Reef off Marsh Harbour	Pelican Shore
Drive to & swim in Blue Hole	Treasure Cay farm road
Art studio & working foundry	Little Harbour
Working boatyards	Man-O-War cay

Pocket Beaches	
• Crossing Beach in Marsh Harbour	
• Witches Point - 3 miles S. of Marsh Harbour	
• Little Harbour - 20 miles S. of Marsh Harbour	
• Cherokee - 23 miles S of Marsh Harbour	

Miles of beach (most exposed to ocean)	
• Treasure Cay • Green Turtle Cay • Guana Cay • Elbow Cay	
• Man-O-War Cay • Casuarina Point • Bahama Palm Shore	
• Sandy Point & more	

Items of interest	
• Man-O-War boat yards • Blackwood blue hole & sisal mill	
• Cedar Harbour plantation ruins - need guide	
• Hole-in- Wall lighthouse - last mile very rough road	
• Abaco wild horses by appointment 367-4805	
• Bird watching - ask tourism 367-3067	

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

Abaco Marinas - Slips - Fuel - Phone	
Green Turtle Cay	
Bluff House	45 F 365-4200
Green Turtle Club	32 F 365-4271
Black Sound Marina	15 365-4531
Other Shore Club	12 F 365-4195
Abaco Yacht Service	10 F 365-4033
Treasure Cay	
Treasure Cay Marina	150 F 365-8250
Man-O-War	
Man-O-War Marina	26 F 365-6008
Marsh Harbour	
Boat Harbour Marina	183 F 367-2158
Conch Inn	75 F 367-4000
Harbour View Marina	36 F 367-2182
Mangoes Marina	29 367-4255
Marsh Harbour Marina	52 F 367 2700
Hope Town	
Hope Town Marina	16 366-0003
Hope Town Hideaways	366-0224
Lighthouse Marina	6 F 366-0154
Sea Spray	60 F 366-0065
Spanish Cay	
Spanish Cay Marina	75 F 365-0083
Guana Cay	
Bakers Bay Marina	158 F 365-5802
Guana Hide-aways	37 577-0003
Orchid Bay	64 F 365-5175
Boats can clear Customs at Green Turtle Cay, Treasure Cay or Marsh Harbour	

Bonfish Guides	
Casuarina Point	
Junior Albury	366-3058
Cherokee	
Noel Lowe	366-2107
Marty Sawyer	366-2115
Randy Sawyer	366-2284
Will Sawyer	366-2177
Crossing Rocks	
Tony Russell	366-3259
Green Turtle Cay	
Rick Sawyer	365-4261
Ronnie Sawyer	365-4070
Hope Town	
Maitland Lowe	366-0234
Tom Albury	366-3141
Man-O-War	
David Albury	365-6502
Marsh Harbour	
Jody Albury	375-8068
Sidney Albury	477-5996
Richard Albury	367-0367
Terrance Davis	375-8550
Buddy Pinder	366-2163
Justin Sands	367-3526
Danny Sawyer	367-3577
Jay Sawyer	367-3941
North Abaco	
O'Donald McIntosh	477-5037
Alexander Rolle	365-0120
Edward Rolle	365-0024
Herbert Thurston	365-2405
Sandy Point	
Valantino Adderley	366-4323
Anthony Bain	366-4107
Derek Gaitor	366-4249
Nicholas Roberts	366-4486
Treasure Cay	
Capt. Joe Pritchard	559-9117

Restaurant Guide	
Prices \$ Low, \$\$ Moderate, \$\$\$ Upper	
(Based on dinner entree range)	
+ Picnic tables & restroom only † Provides ride from town	

Marsh Harbour	
Abaco Pizza	\$ 367-4488
Anglers	\$\$\$ 367-2158
Curly Tails	\$\$\$ 367-4444
Golden Grouper	367-2301
Island Family Rest	367-3778
Java Coffee House	367-5523
Jamie's Place	367-2880
Junovia's	367-1271
Jib Room	367-2700
Kentucky Fried Chicken	367-2615
Mangoes	\$\$\$ 367-2366
Pop's Place +	367-3796
Snack Shack +	367-4005
Snappas	367-2278
Wallys	367-2074

Hope Town	
Abaco Inn	366-0133
Cap'n Jacks	366-0247
Harbour's Edge	366-0087
H T Coffee House (B & L)	366-0760
H T Harbour Lodge	366-0095
Munchies	366-0423
OnDa Beach	366-0558
Sea Spray †	366-0065
Sugar Shack +	366-0788

Little Harbour	
Pete's Pub	366-3503

Lubber's Quarter	
Cracker P's	366-3139

Man-O-War	
Bradley's on the Harbour	365-6380
Dock'n Dine	365-6139
Island Treats Snack Bar	365-6501

Guana Cay	
Baker's Bay - Market Place	612-1021
Grabbers	365-5133
Nippers	365-5143
Orchid Bay	365-5175

Treasure Cay	
Coco Beach Bar & Grill	365-8470
Florence's Cafe	365-8354
Spinnaker Restaurant	365-8469
Touch of Class	365-8195
Treasure Sands Club	365-9385

Green Turtle Cay	
Bluff House	365-4200
Jolly Roger Bistro	365-4200
Green Turtle Club	365-4271
Harvey's Island Grill	365-4389
McIntosh's Restaurant	365-4625
Miss Emily's Restaurant	365-4181
New Plymouth Inn	365-4161
Pineapple Restaurant Bar & Grill	365-4039
Plymouth Rock Cafe	365-4234
Shorties Take-a-way	365-4342
Sundowners	365-4060

Sandy Point	
Nancy's	366-4120



Abaco Cays Realty, Ltd.

Specializing in the "Gems" of Abaco, her Cays



Cherokee Sound
 - 30,600 s.f. - 0.702 Acre
 - 2,040 s.f. Residence
 - 280 s.f. Guest House
 - 3 Bed - 3 Bath
 - 1120 s.f. Covered Decks
 - 90 s.f. Open Decks
 - Ocean Views
 - 1/2 mile to Settlement
 #CSH1209 \$570,000



Green Turtle Cay
 - 17,191 s.f. - 0.394 Acre
 - 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath
 - Covered Screen Porch
 - Wood Floors
 - Shellstone Tile
 - Dead End Road/Private
 - Community Dock Access
 #GTH1149 \$499,000



Green Turtle Cay
 - 4 Bd, 2 Bth
 - 1,962 s.f.
 - 2 kitchens
 - 30,874 s.f. - 0.708 Acres
 - 360 views
 - 30' elevations
 - Centrally Located
 #GTH1192 - \$1,200,000



Elbow Cay
 - Best Estate on Elbow Cay
 - Beach lot 2.24 Acres
 - 419' Atlantic Beachfront
 - 395' on Canal
 - 2 Cottages with dock
 - Creek Parcel 1.39 Acres
 - 160' on Nigh Creek
 - 25' Elevations
 #HTH1200 \$2,999,900



Green Turtle Cay
 - 1,190 s.f. Residence
 - Land - 2.68 Acres
 - 150.60' Atlantic Beach
 - 196.60' Coco Bay Beach
 - Dock - 50% Shared
 #GTH1169



Green Turtle Cay
 - 3 Bedroom, 3 Baths
 - 1,282 s.f. under air
 - 887 s.f ground floor - bed-bath-garage
 - 1,597 s.f. decks
 - 15,710s.f. - 0.360 Acre
 - 200' on Coco Bay Beach
 - 8,000 gallon cistern
 #GTH1152 - \$1,285,000



Great Guana Cay
 - 12,105 s.f. - 0.277 Acre
 - 60' Atlantic Beach
 - 642 s.f. - 2 bd - 2 bth
 - 336 s.f. open decks
 - Beautiful views of Atlantic Ocean
 - 10,000 gal. cistern
 - Close to town
 #GGH1191 \$499,000

ELBOW CAY

"BERKLEY'S BLUFF" - 31,000 s.f. - 0.7116 Acre - 100' of Atlantic ocean frontage - 275' depth - Great elevations - overlooks surfer's beach. #HTV1125 - BRING OFFERS **REDUCED** \$325,000.
"SEA TO BAY" - 148,104 s.f. - 3.40 Acre - Sea to Sea parcel - 201.87' on the Atlantic Ocean - 159.15' on the Sea of Abaco overlooking private harbour inclusive 2 boat slips - Great elevations - Can be Divided. #GGV1008 \$1,472,000.
"CLAIRE'S BEACH" - Beachfront building site - 31,243 s.f. - 0.717 Acre - 117' of Atlantic beachfront - Dock access - good elevations superb ocean views. #GGV1006 - \$478,000.
"LOST SHAKER" - 36,839 s.f. - 0.847 Acre - 65' of Atlantic beachfront - Dolphin Beach Estates - oversized parcel - good elevations easement to beach. #GGV1000 \$460,000.
"ATLANTIS" - 19,239 s.f. - 0.4417 Acre - 95' of Atlantic beachfront - Dolphin Beach Estates - Semi-private dock. #GGV1135 FORCLOSURE MUST SELL! \$350,000.
"SEAVIEW" - Dolphin Beach Estates - 24,292 s.f. - 0.557 Acre 136' prime waterfront - great elevations - fabulous views of Delia's Cay and the Sea of Abaco. Shared dock access or can build a private dock on shoreline - 8' depth at MLW - #GGV1118 - \$368,000.

GREEN TURTLE CAY

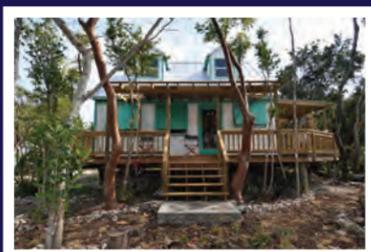
"COCONUT BEACH" - 63,815 s.f. - 1.465 Acre - Prime beach front lot - secluded beach cove on north end - driveway in place and approved building plans available - GTV1172 NEW \$675,000.
"PLAYING HOOKY" - 15,948 s.f. - 0.3661 Acre - Prime building site - Unobstructed views of Coco Bay - Public dock access - Beach access - #GTV1080 \$240,000.
"OCEANVIEW LOT" - 22,141 s.f. - 0.508 acres - corner lot Atlantic beach and ocean views - beach road access 30' away close proximity to Green Turtle Club. Snorkeling just offshore. #GTV1157 - \$275,000.
"CONCHED OUT" - Lot 2 - 30,361 s.f. - 0.697 Acre - 125' of Atlantic beachfront - 12' elevations - #GTV1008 - \$350,000. Lot 3 - 36,440 s.f. - 0.836 Acre - 117' on Coco Bay - 30' elevations - #GTV1206 - \$697,000. Lot 4 - 36,440 s.f. - 0.836 Acre - 117' on Coco Bay - 25' elevations - #GTV1207 - \$697,000.



Great Guana Cay
 - 18,321 s.f. - 0.420 Acre
 - 110' Atlantic Beach
 - +/- 1000 s.f. - 3 Bd - 2 Bth
 - master on second level
 - Abaco's best beach
 - golf cart
 - 6 KW standby gen.
 - Rental History
 #GGH1204 \$675,000



Green Turtle Cay
 - 4 Bd, 4 Bth
 - 4,948 s.f. / 2 levels
 - 19,083 s.f. - 0.438
 - Each level private living space/kitchen
 - Sea of Abaco
 - Dock/boatlift/10,000
 #GTH1181 - \$1,699,000



Green Turtle Cay
 - 7,264 s.f. - 0.166 Acre
 - 877 s.f. - 3 Bd - 1 Bath
 - 12' x 16' Shed
 - 90' L - Shaped Dock
 - PGT Storm Windows
 - Galvalume Metal Roof
 - 1/2 or Full Ownership Offered - #GTH1197 \$174,000 - \$347,000



Green Turtle Cay
 Marina Resort for Sale
 - +/- 621' on Black Sound available
 - +/- 378' Sea of Abaco frontage available
 - +/- 2.78 Acres
 - Restaurant & Pool Bar
 - Shell Fuel Dock
 - Great for private estate
 #GTH1151 - \$3,470,000



Green Turtle Cay
 - 1,823 s.f. - 0.0419 Acre
 - 1,723 s.f. - 2 bd, 2 bth
 - On Settlement Harbour
 - Corner Lot
 - Workshop/Garage
 - Fully Furnished/turn key
 - City water
 - Great Rental Property
 - Water views
 #GTH1193 - \$375,000



Man O' War Cay
 - 10,056 s.f. - 0.23 Acre
 - 1,200 s.f. Residence
 - 192 s.f. Snore Box
 - 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath
 - 16,000 gal. cistern
 - 17 KW Diesel Gen.
 - Central A/C + Split Unit
 #MWH1024 \$499,000



Green Turtle Cay
 - 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath
 - 928 s.f.
 - 74,182 s.f. - 1.703 Acre
 - 198' of Gilliam Bay Beach
 - 478' on the Sea of Abaco
 - Overlooks town flats
 - Bonefishermen's Dream Property
 #GTH1205 - \$399,000



Man O' War Cay
 - Sea to Sea property
 - 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath
 - 1,096 s.f. Beach Res.
 - 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath
 - 625 s.f. Guest Cottage
 - Land 0.764 Acre
 - Workshop/Laundry
 #MWH1164 - \$1,040,000



Green Turtle Cay
 - 4 Bedroom, 4 Bath
 - 2,048 s.f.
 - 4,617 s.f. - 0.106 Acre
 - 4 Single Townhouses
 - Resort/Accommodation
 - Views of the Sea of Abaco
 - 384 s.f. of sun porches
 - Rental History
 - Located at Bluff House Resort
 #GTH1199 - \$499,000



Man O' War Cay
 - Northern Tip of MOW
 - Sea to Sea Parcels
 - 3 Options Available
 - Private Marina 8'MLW
 - Private Beaches
 - Exceptional Estate
 - Great Elevations
 - Price Upon Request



Scotland Cay
 - 13,601 s.f. - 0.312 Acre
 - 84' on canal
 - 2,678 s.f. Residence
 - 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath
 - Dock & Lift - 15,000 lb
 - 60x20 Dock slip/marina - garage
 #SCH1196 \$1,399,000

"NO NAME CAY PARCELS" - 1. One Acre +/- 345' of Atlantic shoreline \$225,000. 2. One Acre +/- 250' of Atlantic Shoreline \$259,000. 3. One and a Half Acres +/- 525' of Atlantic Shoreline \$418,000. Combine all three for a very private estate. - #NCV1188

"SEABREEZE" 14,960 s.f. - 0.343 Acre - close to ocean beach clubs & town. #GTV1173 \$145,000.
"COCO BAY BREEZE" - Prime building site - .2699 Acre - Dock Access - Beach Access. #GTV1007 \$47,500.

MAN O' WAR CAY

"SUMMERPLACE" - 10,719 s.f. - 0.246 Acre - Prime building site - over 150' of Sea of Abaco frontage - private dock - fabulous Sea of Abaco views. #MWW1082 - **UNDER CONTRACT**

CENTRAL ABACO

"SAND BANKS CREEK" LOTS 4&5 - #4 1.120 Acres - 97.42' on the creek. #5 - 1.155 Acres - 100.92' on the creek. Both lots creek to highway - near Treasure Cay. #CAV1182 - \$89,500.
"RED BAY & LOGGERHEAD CREEK" - 0.233 - 67.42 Acres of prime development opportunity, possibilities unlimited. ACV1184 - ACV1185 - ACV1186 \$139,000 - \$1,685,500.

SOUTH ABACO

"LITTLE HARBOUR LOT" - 42,166 s.f. - 9.68 Acre - 165' on Hurricane Hole - Easement to Little Harbour 2,773 s.f. 10' wide. #SAV1208 \$255,000.
"THE GATEWAY" - AT WINDING BAY
 Over 16 Acres of prime development property - 1,638 linear ft of creek frontage. Great location for Eco-Resort or commercial property. Located at the entrance to Winding Bay (Ritz Carlton) and Little Harbour, just 20 minutes from Marsh Harbour airport. SAV1198 - **REDUCED** \$1,200,000.

Great Guana Cay - Green Turtle Cay - Man-O-War Cay
 Hope Town - Marsh Harbour - Treasure Cay



Chris Plummer - Green Turtle Cay - Guana Cay 242-365-4648
 Faron Sawyer - Scotland Cay - Marsh Harbour 242-367-3450
 Silbert Mills - Marsh Harbour 242-367-2935
 James Pleydell-Bouverie - Man O' War Cay 242-365-6416
 Paul Thompson - Elbow Cay 242-366-0029

Please view all of our exclusive listings at
www.AbacoCaysRealty.com
 Contact us at: info@abacocaysrealty.com

242-365-4648



the abaconian

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VOLUME 21 NUMBER 3 FEBRUARY 1st, 2012

Historic 120 mile run raises reef awareness



Above: Rhonda Claridge about 30 miles into her run from Crown Haven to Sandy Point. In an interview with The ABAconian she said that this is the point, just north of the Treasure Cay Airport, that she most felt like giving up. She still had another 90 miles, and hours, to go. She was thrilled with how friendly all the passing motorists were and was overwhelmed by the show of support from each community she passed. For more on the story see page 12.

Matthew Grammatico recognized as top BGCSE student in the country



Above: Matthew Grammatico - top BGCSE student in the entire country.

By Canishka Alexander

Matthew Grammatico, of Forest Heights Academy, received the overall top BGCSE results for private schools and overall top BGCSE student for 2012 in The Bahamas at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology's annual National Awards presentation on Jan. 17.

According to this budding prodigy, this has been his greatest accomplishment to date.

"Without question," Matthew said of his achievement, "it was incredible to receive an award of such distinction after having set the goal many years ago."

Although he had set such a high standard for himself, however, Matthew stated that he was nervous about the outcome and even underestimated his performance although he was confident about some subjects.

In preparation for the BGCSE examinations, he began studying months in advance and was devoted to a study schedule.

"I also studied from textbooks and ensured I understood the content, [and] not just memorized it. I also did many past papers and put my all into the coursework," Matthew recalled. "I also set the goal of receiving the best results when I collected a BJC award in Nassau. I sat next to that

year's recipients of the award, and said to myself, I really want that to be me. Having a goal to work towards encouraged me to study."

Matthew encouraged students to do what he did by studying months in advance, and avoid leaving things until the last minute. He suggested taking as many subjects as possible to better prepare them for college and to increase their chances of winning an award.

He added: "I would tell them that with hard work and determination - anything is possible."

Grateful to his supporters, Matthew thanked all of the teachers and faculty at Forest Heights Academy particularly those teachers who offered extra classes, and his former teachers at St. Francis de Sales School, who gave him a "fine foundation." He was appreciative to his family for always being supportive of him.

Matthew is currently attending Chelsea Independent College in London, and is studying his GCE A-Levels. He has hopes to attend university this fall where he will study Natural Sciences. Once he completes his undergraduate studies, he plans to pursue a master's degree, and quite possibly become an educator someday.

School & Youth News

Junior Junkanoo parades through Hope Town



Above: the Junior Junkanoo Group in Hope Town celebrate the theme "Sailing in Abaco."

Press Release

Each year, thanks to the sponsorship of Hope Town Association, a small group of volunteers band together to revive the Junkanoo tradition in Hope Town. Interested youth of Hope Town are invited to join Junkanoo workshops in order to learn music and choreography and create costumes. A theme based on current events or local culture is chosen to inspire the costumes and dance.

This year's theme was "Celebrating Sailing in Abaco." Many of the youth Junkanoo group are also part of the Junior Sailing Program, so they were very excited about the theme.

Students dedicated themselves to Saturday morning workshops and proudly dis-

played their hard work during an afternoon parade on New Year's Eve through the settlement. A Junkanoo group from Treasure Cay was hired to help with the music for the parade.

Locals and visitors lined the streets, cameras in hand, to watch the group go by. This has become a popular event in Hope Town, especially for those unable to attend late night events.

Thanks go to Monise John, Justin and Amanda Higgs, Olivia Patterson and Erika Russell for their efforts as well as the other volunteers. For more information about the Youth Junkanoo program or to contribute, please contact Hope Town Association (via Lory Kenyon, 366-0121).

Souse-Out and Walk-a-Thon at Angels Academy engages parents, community



Above: students from Angels Academy complete their walk-a-thon.

On Saturday, January 26 Angels Academy held its annual Souse-Out and Walk-a-Thon. Students, from Pre-Kinderergarten to Grade Six, raised funds from sponsors and walked from the school (located along Front Street in Marsh Harbour) to the Crossing and back. During the walk and afterwards, volunteers at the school dished out containers of chicken, pork and pig's feet souse along with johnny cake.

The fundraiser netted the school a sum slightly over the \$3,000 mark.

Since buying the school in 2012, Michelle Roark has emphasized improving the availability of learning tools for the school's students. An expanded library and new equipment for a computer lab are some of the accomplishments to date. The Souse-Out, along with the other annual fundraiser, the Wine and Cheese Night, will go towards furthering educational opportunities for the students at Angels Academy.

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<p>Eastern Shores</p> <p>Even Tide / Low Tide - 3B/3B rental history, turn key, waterfront. #1374 - USD\$1,199,000</p>	<p>Eastern Shores</p> <p>On Da Rocks - 2B/2B + Lot 16, 9,381 sq. ft. Sea-to-Sea . #13808 - USD\$849,000</p>	<p>Eastern Shores</p> <p>Sur La Mer - 2B/2B + bonus room Rental history. 130' Sea of Abaco. #2007 - USD\$700,000</p>	<p>Great Abaco Club</p> <p>Grouper Therapy - 4B/4B, 7ton lift, 60' protected yacht slip. #13711 - USD\$899,000</p>	<p>MARSH HARBOUR AREA</p> <p>Great Cistem #13791 106' Elevated Waterfront 14,248 s.f. lot \$159K Murphy Town #2013 & #2014 TWO 80'X90' adjacent lots \$23,400 ech Marsh Harbour #13903 2.05 acres adjacent Maxwell. \$195K Pelican Shores #1127 163' Harbour frnt 90' dock 26,200 s.f. lot. \$700K Royal Harbour #1005 Lot #26 off front street 14583 s.f. lot. lot. \$175K Stede Bonnet Road #13901 Res. Lot 8, 125 s.f. lot. \$68K Sunrise Bay #1066 Lot 12 13,226 s.f. lot. Gated community. \$238K</p>
<p>Great Abaco Club</p> <p>Lea ~Sing - 2,200 sq. ft. 4B/4.5B. Gated community, 50' dockage. #2009 - USD\$875,000</p>	<p>Guana Cay</p> <p>Coconut Tyme - 3B/2B up 1/B1/B down. 18,601 sq.ft. lot. #1103 - \$499,000</p>	<p>Guana Cay</p> <p>Dolphin Bch Est - 3B/3B 130' protected waterfront 1.165acre lot. #12387 - \$975,000</p>	<p>Bustic Bight</p> <p>Bustic Bight - 2B/2B + Ctg. 1.26 acres 373' seawalled waterfront. #13817 - \$349,000</p>	<p>SOUTH ABACO</p> <p>Casuarina Point #1777 Lots 90 & 91 10,000 s.f. lot. each. \$44,500 Gilpin Point OWNER FINANCING Interior \$40K+ Beachfront \$225K+ REDUCED Long Beach #1224 Lot 31 12,600 s.f. lot. elev. views. \$99K Long Beach #13018 Lot 315 Vacant Corner Lot \$55K. Long Beach #1074 Lots 413 & 414 near beach \$79K each. Long Beach #13907 Lot 410 Hill Top \$79K Old Kerr #13987 14 acres 209' of bchfront, 45'+/- elevations. \$248,500</p>
<p>Eastern Shores</p> <p>'Tween Waters - House & Cottage Waterfront Lot - 12 Royal Harbour, Marsh Harbour "Great Buy" #2011 - USD\$1.2M</p>	<p>NEW</p> <p>Royal Harbour</p>	<p>REDUCED</p> <p>High on Tilloo - 4.3 acres 243'+ Seaf of Abaco & 251' Oceanfront. #15003 USD\$795,000</p>	<p>NEW</p> <p>GAC Lot #29 - Gated Community 50' +/- secure deepwater dockage. #2015 - USD\$295,000</p>	<p>NORTH ABACO</p> <p>UNDER CONTRACT Joes Creek #1100 Lot #12 18,000 s.f. lot. \$21.5K Leisure Lee #1002 Lots 27, 28 29 & 30 "Open to Offers". \$43,900 ech Leisure Lee #17201 Interior Lot 22 10,000 s.f. lot. \$45K Red Bay #13021 5 acre parcel off S.C. Bootle Highway \$150K NEW Treasure Cay #13791 Interior Lot 58 Block 3 \$35,000. Treasure Cay Lot 44 Blk 167 multi-family \$45K Treasure Cay #13018 Lot 8 Block 190 "Open to Offers". \$59K Treasure Cay #13019 Lot 9 Block 190 Interior Lot, canal views. \$59K Treasure Cay #13020 Comm. lot adjacent school 9.4 acres \$175K Treasure Cay #14798 Lot 78 Block 1 Section 1. 10,000 s.f. lot. \$59,900 REDUCED Turtle Rocks #2001 Hilltop lot. 16,969 s.f. lot. \$35,500K Turtle Rocks #2012 10 Acre 60%+ BELOW APPRAISAL. \$335K Turtle Rocks #10771 2.28 acres \$150K</p>
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2/2 furn. with boat and dock. Ref. AS11897

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School & Youth News

Abaco Central High School recognizes students at awards assembly

By Mirella Santillo

One hundred and fifty students of Abaco Central High School were recognized for their achievements during the 2011-2012 year at a special assembly held at the school on the morning of January 22, 2013.

The long ceremony had the theme "Committed to Excellence." Moderated, as usual, by two students, Gina Raymondville and Kirkland McIntosh, it was also a showcase for many other students who demonstrated their talents in reciting poetry, singing and interpreting musical pieces in the school band. A panel of educators, among them the District Superintendent, Dr. Lenora Black, the Principal, Ricardo Ferguson and the Representative of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, Ishmael Morley, was present.

The popular Principal Ferguson took the stand amid cheers to speak about the qualities needed to achieve excellence, such as determination, drive, desire and discipline, which he called the "four D's." Other advices he offered were to be truthful, to have a good attitude, to use time wisely, to have clean language, to develop a sense of urgency, to be punctual, to demand respect and to surround oneself with positive people.

Dr. Black acknowledged the parents who had come to witness the rewarding



Above: Some of the Abaco Central High School students who were recognized at the special awards assembly on January 22. Principal Ricardo Ferguson (foreground far-right) has emphasized excellence among the student body since taking over the post at Abaco's largest high school.

of their children's achievements. "...To a greater degree it is the parents' support that determines the success of students," she assured. She then congratulated the students on their achievements, saying that they served as a role model for their peers.

She proudly announced that the top attainment in Office Procedure in the country came from ACH and that the top score for History in the BGCSE also came from the school. She expressed the hope that this year twelfth graders would go beyond those results.

Rev. Willish Johnson, who has an impressive education background, has been on Abaco since she was appointed at St John Anglican Church in 2010. As the guest speaker she gave a very up-beat and motivating speech, illustrated by several

stories.

"Education is the passport to the future, for it belonged to the ones who prepare today" was her introduction, as she urged the parents to take control of their children's life by taking away everything that could deter them from studying, citing the story of Dr. Ben Carson whose mother took away his TV privileges and sent him to the library instead. Complementing the teachers, she advocated patience and courage as she stated that "the very students who discourage you, need you more than they know".

She reminded students to be committed and to behave and present themselves according to what they want for their future. She urged them to commit to excellence in all areas of their lives, academi-

cally, socially, athletically and spiritually.

The awards presentation started with the distribution of certificates and prizes to students most improved and most outstanding in various subjects until the distribution of the Special GGYA Awards, recognizing the Bronze Level completion and finally calling students with the highest GPA in grades 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

GGYA Awards went to Cloder St Fleur, Payton Stubbs, Malesha Joseph, Jessica Pierre, Gina Raymondville and Joanne Jeune.

The highest GPA in grade 7 was achieved by two students: Destiny Seymour and Sam Cajuste. In grade 8 the award went to Kadesha Canton; it went to Isaiah Seymour in grade 9, to Conrad Cornish in grade 10 and to Olujimi Scott in grade 11.

The recipients were cheered by the body of students and congratulated by Dr. Black as she handed them their awards.

ECC student returns from study abroad in Italy

By Mirella Santillo

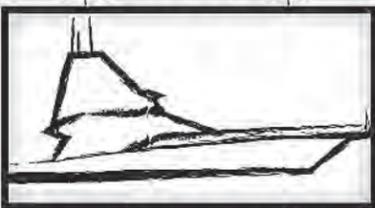
Meeting with Blake Russell, barely one week after his return to Abaco from a six month stay in Italy, he was already working on a, art piece to put in a fund raising event for Every Child Counts school.

The enthusiasm he brought back from his European experience was obvious Please see Italy Page 5

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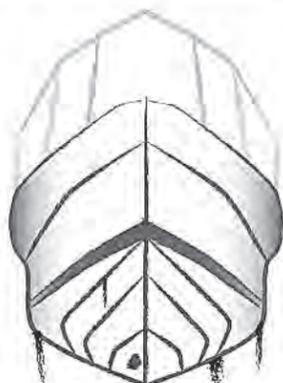
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School & Youth News

Italy From Page 4

through the way he described his trip: from the many plane rides (West Palm Beach to Chicago, Chicago to London, London to Rome) to his final destination at the Villa San Giovanni, near Viterbo in Lazio where he stayed from July 2, 2012 to January 6, 2013 at the home of Rita Pesseri, a former resident of Hope Town, who had coached him in art in Marsh Harbour a few years ago. She did so in Italy as well, introducing him to a new media-oil- that soon became his favourite painting material.

According to Blake, while in Italy, he developed a better understanding of the human body in terms of an art subject by studying muscles and limbs. He learned how to mix and blend colours and use temperature tones. He was also introduced to a new discipline that he intends to pursue: sculpting.

"I did not know I had so many hidden talents", confessed the young man who planned to make use of them all in his future career. Of course, he also learned enough Italian to get by.

Ms. Pessari introduced him, as well, to yoga as a means to get in control of his life, something, he said, has become very useful.

His several visits to Rome and to the many surrounding towns were cultural experiences that will stay with him forever, he said. He visited museums, churches and posed besides public fountains. In the rural areas he picked olives, learned how to make olive oil and harvested grapes to

make wine. He brought back many photographs, including some that will be used as art material.

Back in Marsh Harbour, at ECC, he is attending classes to graduate in June and is still working on perfecting his art work.

"I hope to go back to Italy one day, perhaps twenty years from now," were his parting words.

Majority Rule Day celebrated among Abaco schools

History particularly poignant for Abaco

By Canishka Alexander

Public and private schools throughout Abaco observed the 46th Anniversary of Majority Rule in The Bahamas and the 40th Year of Independence on Jan. 10.

St. Francis de Sales Catholic School was among them.

Cecil Simon, History teacher, admonished students to pay careful attention to what was being done as part of their positive experience at St. Francis, so that they could tell their children and grandchildren about it in the future.

Simon subsequently turned the ceremony over to Marlique Hield, moderator, who was joined by her peers in the singing of the national anthem, prayer, and Scripture reading. Abidemi Simon introduced Rev. Dr. Silbert Mills of the Bahamas Christian Network (BCN) as the guest speaker.

Dr. Mills highlighted the journey of how The Bahamas has gotten to where we are today expounding on the voyage of Christopher Columbus to our shores, and later on to the abolishment of the slave trade.

Despite gaining freedom in the 1800s, black women were not allowed to vote until Nov. 26, 1962. Indeed, businesses and politics were controlled by whites. Dr. Mills noted, however, that in the early 1900s, token blacks were allowed into the mainstream of politics.

Having experienced the injustices of prejudice firsthand, Dr. Mills recalled tidbits of what his mother had told him.

"My mother could not go to theaters because she was black. She couldn't go to certain restaurants in Nassau because she was black. The sign read: 'Whites only, no coloureds allowed,'" he said. "Prejudice was alive and well in The Bahamas.



Above: St Francis students, of both white and black heritage, learn about their common, and recent, history. Many of their parents and grandparents witnessed or participated in the struggles associated with the march towards majority rule and the legacy it left behind.

We can't imagine a Bahamas or Abaco like that."

In a government led by Great Britain, Dr. Mills said they began to gradually chip away at the attitudes of suppression and prejudice. The United Bahamian Party (UBP) became the governing party when The Bahamas was allowed to make decisions on their own, and soon the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) was formed. Meanwhile, the Martin Luther King Jr. movement in America had a dramatic impact on blacks in The Bahamas.

In 1965, the UBP was accused of fixing boundaries, so they could always

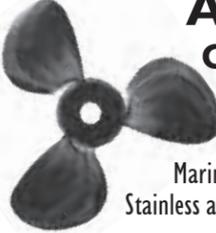
win elections. On Black Tuesday, Former Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Sir Lynden Pindling, took the mace, the symbol of authority, out of Parliament by throwing it out of the window. The act showed that power had been taken from the white minority and placed in the hands of the black majority. Sir Milo Butler then tossed the hourglass out of the window.

In 1967, an election was held on Jan. 10. The election results came in with 18 seats for the UBP and 18 for the PLP.

Please see Majority Page 6



Above: Blake Rusell, ECC student, visited many landmarks in Italy, here he is at a Colosseum in Rome.



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School & Youth News

Majority From Page 5

It was a dead tie.

Sir Randol Fawkes representing the Labour Party, and Sir Alvin Braynen as an independent candidate both joined the PLP to form the new government of The Bahamas.

“On that day, 46 years ago, because those two men joined with the Progressive Liberal Party, the advent of majority rule was realized,” Dr. Mills’ voice thundered. “There was a chanting in the streets of the capital, there was dancing in the streets

here in Abaco. Black Bahamians had been able to become victorious in becoming the winners and leaders of our nation. It ended an era of the white minority, handing over the power to the black majority.”

But for Abaco it didn’t end there. Dr. Mills said that the move didn’t settle well with Abaco because many people were not supportive of black majority rule. When the PLP petitioned the British government to make The Bahamas an independent nation, Abaco resisted not wanting to go with the majority. It was stated that we in Abaco wanted to be our own country.

The matter was so serious that the British government ordered Sir Lynden and an Abaco delegation to travel to Parliament in London to debate whether Abaco should remain a British colony or become independent with the rest of The Bahamas. According to MP for South Abaco – Edison Key – he is the only surviving member of that PLP delegation that made the historic visit.

Dr. Mills said: “The implication of Abaco wanting to secede from the remainder of The Bahamas is far-reaching and plays deeply in the matter of Majority Rule. History has it that the British government rejected the Abaco delegation’s petition to remain a British colony. Forty six years later, we stand on the accomplishments of that day – a day when freedom and justice was made available to all men.

“Majority Rule Day has made so many things possible for us. Colour doesn’t matter anymore, but who you are and what you can dream of.”

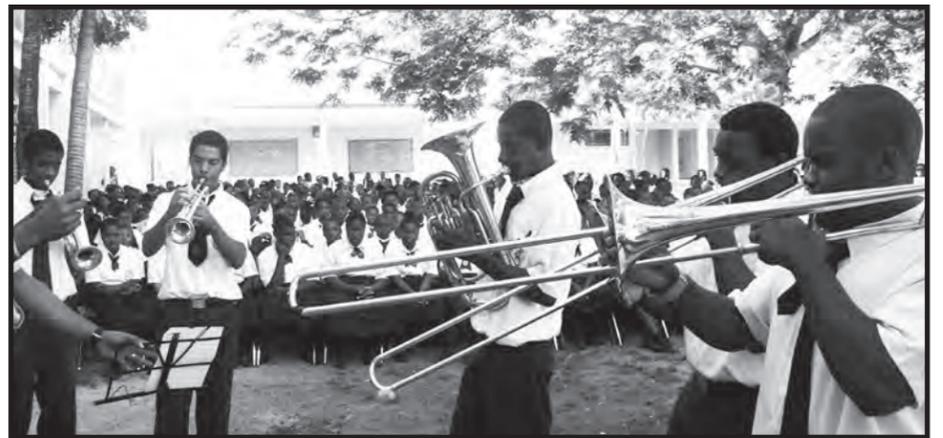
A selection was sung by the school choir before Principal Josephine Kumar addressed the school by reading a Majority Rule Day message from the Governor General His Excellency Sir Arthur Foulkes. She told students that their generation is a privileged one thanks to Bahamian stalwarts who were courageous enough to fight for the freedom that they now enjoy today. Conversely, she expressed that her biggest fear is that the students will refuse to learn their history. Nevertheless, she still encouraged them to rise above mediocrity and to build upon the legacy of their forefathers.



On January 10, the administration, staff, students and facility managers of S. C. Bootle High School paused from their regularly scheduled classes for a short assembly highlighting Majority Rule Day.

The Social Science Department, headed by Laura Lee Davis, was responsible for coordinating this special event. The assembly was moderated by three 12th grade students: Clydesha Cornish, Keiasha Curry, and Sherrie Romer.

Above: The school’s choir led by Mr. Enzil Cooper sang a bi-lingual rendition entitled: “I am Delivered.” Audea Russell, a student of S.C. Bootle High, read a poem called “Majority Rule Day.” Significantly, this poem was written by Ms. Davis.



At Abaco Central High School, in front of a panel of guests comprised of Ruth Smith, with the Department of Education, Administrator Cunningham, PTA President Solukee Innocent and Vice-President Pastor Jason Quashie, significant historical events leading to the Majority Rule Day of 1967 were narrated by Jessica Pierre and Harmony Williams. Moderated by two students, Olujimi Scott and Paytan Stubbs, the assembly unfolded with skits about the political situation in the 50’s and 60’s and with impersonations of Sir Lynden Pindling, particularly when he threw the House of Assembly Speaker’s Mace out of the window on Black Tuesday.

Teacher Yasmin Ginton read a poem she had composed and musical medleys of old Bahamian songs were performed by the school band (above) or the school choir.

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Central Abaco Primary reenacts scenes from Majority Rule Day

By Samantha Evans

On Thursday January 10, 2013 public schools across the Commonwealth of The Bahamas were called upon to remember the events of January 10, 1967, which marked Majority Rule Day. All of these schools were asked to host a thirty minute assembly. At Central Abaco Primary School, the principal read the message from Governor General Sir Arthur Foulkes which spoke about the struggles prior to majority rule and the opportunities it brought to all people of the Bahamas especially people of color.

Sir Foulkes stated that this is probably the most important day since the end of slavery in the colony of The Bahamas in

1834. This day is celebrated to remember the decision made by the majority of the people of African descent. In a sense, this day is seen as the second emancipation day in The Bahamas. Sir Foulkes recalled that this day was significant in that it removed the mental shackles and chains that hindered the growth of people of colour.

A play written by Kayla Wallace -District Teacher of the Year- assisted by Roberta Lindsay showcased the talent of some of the grade five and six students to reenact the events of that day prior to Sir Randol Fawkes and Sir Alvin Bryanen joining the Progressive Liberal Party and thus forming the new majority government.

In attendance was retired principal Shirley Butler-Barr, Felemease Sawyer Education Officer, President of the Abaco Christian Council Pastor Stephen Knowles, and many parents of Central Abaco Primary School.



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School & Youth News

St. Francis de Sales wins Grade Six Spelling Bee

By Samantha Evans

Twenty-three spellers took part in the Grade 6 Spelling Bee held at St. Andrews Methodist Hall on Friday, January 11 beginning at 10am. The Spelling Bee began with a devotional, then the competition kicked into full gear.

The spellers spent nine rounds on the seen list of words before they were given words from the unseen list. At this point six spellers remained and the competition heated up.

After six rounds on the unseen list, the top three spellers remained. In third place was Dionne Alleyne of Moore's Island All School, in second place was Kiara White of Agape Christian School and the winner was Leota Davis of St. Francis de Sales School. The coach receiving the trophy on behalf of St. Francis de Sales School was Ms. Simon- Grade 6 teacher.

Smith Memorial students excelling at the BJC Level

By Samantha Evans

Smith Memorial is a local school that has flown under the radar. But for the past five years or so they have been silently making their mark in the BJC exams with their students performing extremely well and moving on to high school where they continue to excel academically. Rev. Hamfreh Rahming and his wife have been running the Smith Memorial Academy for many years now and they run a very strict school compound.

The little school that sits on the hill next to the Miriam Cornish Clinic in Dundas Town, is a now sought after school for Junior High School instruction. According to Ms. Rahming, they do not allow the students to trifle with their talents and abilities. They work the students hard and challenge them to pull out the best God has placed within them. They know what is required for their students to advance so they work towards achieving those goals daily.

The children are disciplined and committed to upholding the standards of the school and embrace the vision of their teachers. This year, three of the former grade nine students were honoured at the District Awards Ceremony held on Friday, January 18, for performing exceptionally well on their BJC exams.

The students, Jonnah Bootle, Lamanda Burrows and Paulette Burrows, passed at least five BJCs with Bs or greater. Smith Memorial begins at 8:30am and ends at 2:30pm.

CAPS awards students of excellence

By Canishka Alexander

"Thanking God for Students of Excellence" was the celebratory theme for Central Abaco Primary School's Awards Day Ceremony on Jan.11. Two hundred and thirty three students were recognized for their accomplishments.

A hearty welcome was given by pre-school students followed by a selection by the Grade 5 trio made up of Keith Mortimer, Angelique and Antonique Palmer. The students sang Mary Mary's "Can't Give Up Now."

Moderator Tanae Roberts, head girl for Central Abaco Primary, soon introduced Pastor Kyle Johnson, youth minister at First Assembly of God Church, to students and teachers. Pastor Johnson was welcomed as a dynamic man of God and as the guest speaker for the ceremony.

In his remarks, Pastor Johnson began with the biblical story of David, and talked about how David was chosen from among his brothers to carry out God's work. The students were encouraged to adopt Godly principles and to become soaring eagles who strive for excellence.

Led by George Mills and Leroy Thompson, the school's senior assistants, students in each grade level were recognized for their academic excellence. Robertha Lindsay, Grade 5 Coordinator, and Kayla Wallace, District Teacher of the Year, assisted with the distribution of awards to 139 students on the Honour Roll (3.0-3.49 GPA); 43 on the Vice Principal's List (3.5-3.79 GPA); and 13 students on the Principal's List (3.8-4.0 GPA). Nineteen students were awarded for being the most outstanding in their respective grades, and 19 others received most improved certificates. Throughout the audience, proud parents wore shirts that read: "My Child is an Honour Student at Central Abaco Primary."

The ceremony was brought to a close by Jefferique Victor, who gave the vote of thanks.



Above: Student Benjamin Cornish receives an award from Ms. Mercius, school treasurer.

Success Training College recruitment campaign on the way

By Samantha Evans

Persons who missed the Fall recruitment of Success Training College now have another opportunity to enroll for the Winter semester which will begin in several weeks. On Saturday, January 12, 2013, Sharon Rolle, Administrator for the college, was on Abaco for the recruitment process.

She met with those persons who were interested in starting their college level education this term. She told them that Success Training College has a great track record on the island of providing affordable quality education to persons of all ages and graduating students once they finish the curriculum so they have made the right choice.

She told them the expectations of the college, fees and tuitions and how long it would take them to complete their Associates Degree. Those persons who were present were interested in Early Childhood Education, Paralegal Studies and Business Administration but the college also offers degree programs in Human Resources Management and Accounts.

Even though Business Administration is the most popular degree program on the island, interest is growing in other areas and, hopefully, the college will graduate its first group of Early Childhood teachers in the coming years.

Students to enroll for this semester will receive a 25% discount off of tuition only which is a great help for working adults. Interested persons can contact Enid White-Gardiner, the local coordinator at the Public Treasury, or Success Training College Office in Nassau by calling 225-7162.

Dundas Town Township launches BGCSE classes

By Samantha Evans

The Local Government Township Committee launched their latest initiative where they offer BGCSE classes to Grade 12 students and recent high school graduates. According to Chairman Faran Newbold, these classes have been a dream of the committee for the past year or two but due to financial restraints they could not offer them.

This year, he noted, they have made provisions to ensure that classes will be done to help improve the passes the students in the Dundas Town and Central Pines Communities receive. He added that they would have liked to offer classes for BJC candidates but they decided to give the graduates their full attention since they are about to enter the work or college world.

The classes being offered are Math and English Language Skills, and will be held from January 22 to May 8, 2013. The classes will be held at the Dundas Town Burial Society on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The coordinator of the classes is Samantha V. Evans.



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Artist Highlight

Artist Profile: Sebastian Andrews

By Jennifer Hudson

Eighteen year old Sebastian Andrews is just beginning to understand and more fully explore his innate artistic talent as the result of being selected as this year's scholarship student at Walter Bartman's Hope Town painting workshop held on Elbow Cay from January 3-13. Mr. Bartman is recognized as one of Maryland, USA's finest art teachers and conducts workshops all over the world.

Sebastian has loved to draw since a very early age, drawing cartoon characters from the shows he watched on television from about the age of six or seven. His talents were encouraged as a student at St. Francis de Sales School by his art teacher, Mr. Ajero. Most of the work Sebastian did at school was with coloured pencils and he credits Mr. Ajero with giving him much good instruction in the art of working in this medium.

Sebastian remembers always doing well in art lessons at school. He took and passed the BJC art examination and also BGSE Art. He is particularly interested in graphic design and so chose this as his subject for BGSE achieving a good result.

Sebastian was selected as this year's scholarship student to attend Walt Batman's Annual Painting Workshop in Hope Town. The selection of a promising young artist each year is made by Abaco artist Marlee Mason. Sebastian attended the workshop for its entire duration of ten days going across on the 9.00am ferry and staying each day until the last ferry in order to finish his day's painting.

His ferry transportation was sponsored by Albury's Ferry Service.

At first, Sebastian admitted to feeling rather nervous because he had never worked in paints before and was now amongst a group of 28 competent artists. However, the group quickly made him feel at home and were all very helpful to him.

"They were all very nice and gave me canvasses, brushes and paints and helped me a lot. Mr. Bartman was an excellent teacher who gave me tips and took me through the steps in painting," stated Sebastian.

"My first attempt at oil painting which was of coconut trees with the water in the background was not too good," lamented Sebastian. However, he made so much progress during the ten days that at the end of the workshop he sold two paintings and a drawing at the local art show which was very exciting for him.

Mr. Bartman was very impressed with Sebastian, whom he described as a pleasure to work with.

"He came with the skills and ability I look for in a scholarship student. His drawing ability is exceptional, he just lacked an understanding of painting because he had limited experience and had never painted outdoors," stated Mr. Bartman. "In the workshop Sebastian was given an understanding of how to compose a composition and work with oil paint outdoors and he learned to paint boats, water, clouds, figures and sunsets, producing a wonderful series of paintings. All the artists felt that he was truly gifted and hope that he continues his dream of being an artist. He gained a lot of knowledge to help him on his career path. I liked his dedication, he was very committed and I enjoyed working



Above: teen artist, Sebastian Andrews, displaying some of his watercolours. Sebastian was selected, on scholarship, to attend the Walter Bartman Painting Workshop.

with him and look forward to following his career," stated Mr. Bartman.

Sebastian's goal is to become a graphic designer and he would like to try and obtain a scholarship to art college. In the meantime he is putting his skills to good use by painting portraits for people and is also working on a mural of a gazebo in his mother's massage studio which should greatly add to the clients' feeling of relaxation.

For the Hope Town workshop, art-

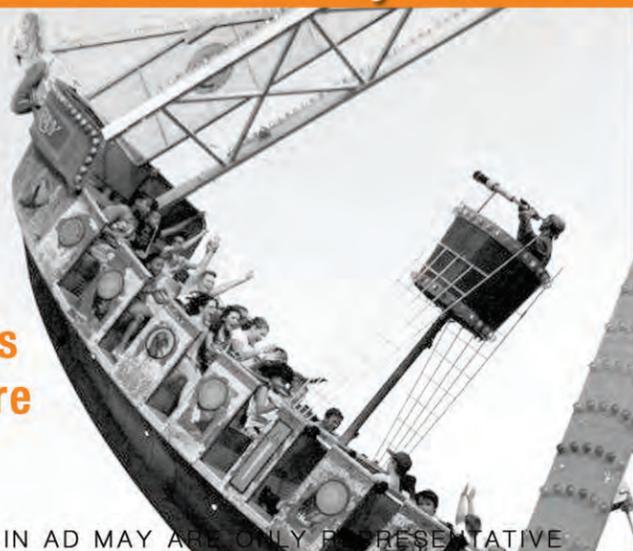
ist Marlee Mason supplied Sebastian with a basic art kit to which other artists added but Ms. Mason is delighted to announce that Furniture Plus has agreed to provide all the necessary art supplies for future scholarship students. Furniture Plus will also this week be providing the funds for the purchase of a beginning set containing an easel, oil paints, brushes, palette knives and canvas for Sebastian to continue developing his artistic talents.

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SPORTS

Rotary Club Golf Tournament raises money for community projects

By Mirella Santillo

The Tenth Annual Rotary Club of Abaco Golf Tournament, an annual fund raising event which took place on January 12th in Treasure Cay, was blessed with the perfect weather. The event is the major fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Abaco and in past years has allowed the club to pursue civic and community projects that benefit the island. Noted at this year's golf tournament was the Club's recent support of Abaco Crash Fire & Rescue in Treasure Cay which recently received an emergency vehicle dedicated to carry the jaws-of-life thanks to Rotarians' efforts.

The forty golfers, who met early that morning, were divided into teams of four.

The tournament, which lasted the whole morning, was a well disputed event which ended with two teams tied. The team comprised of Steve Wainwright, Sandy Hamel, George Riviere and Fran Relow won based on handicap.

Many of the golfers and Rotarians met again at six o'clock at Spinnaker Restaurant for the award presentation dinner, which was preceded by a cocktail hour and the opportunity to bid in a silent auction on a variety of items donated by local businesses. Popular items comprised of an Adirondack armchair built by Rotarian Chris Roberts, a giclée print of sea grapes donated by Timothy Higgs, a stay in a 3 bedroom cottage on Harbour Island com-



The Rotary Club of Abaco's efforts go towards many different projects on-island and abroad. Above: an emergency vehicle provided in part by Rotary Club to Abaco Crash Fire & Rescue



Above: golfer, Lloyd Williams, lines up a put under the watchful eye of teammate Roscoe Thompson. The pressure was on as each of the teams competed for the top prize.

pliments of Deborah Curry as well as a straw purse designed by Lillian Cash.

There were also gift certificates of various amounts, one donated by Dane Pritchard for pest extermination, another for services at Abaco Gas, and for drinks or food at Snappas' Bar & Grill. MC for the evening, Jo-Ann Bradley, and Rotary Club President Dwayne Wallas, welcomed the guests and invited them to partake in the meal which was a cornucopia of dishes prepared by Chef Noel St. Claude and his crew. There was something for every taste: pan-fried grouper with lemon sauce, spare ribs with mushroom sauce and roast-

ed chicken with side orders of baby green beans, sautéed potatoes, rice and salad, as well as an assortment of desserts.

While diners enjoyed their meal, door prizes were called by Rotary Past President Bryan Thompson. Brass & Leather, the Burns House Group and Abaco Gold were among other generous donors.

Fire Chief Colin Albury offered his thanks to the Rotary Club for its support of Abaco Crash Fire & Rescue in Treasure Cay, especially for the funds which

Please see Rotary Page 10



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Above: the winning team presented with their trophies by Rotary President-Elect Desmond Bootle (far right) and his wife Audra (far left.) The winning team consisted of Sandy Hamel, George Riviere, Fran Relow, and -not pictured- Steve Wainwright.

Rotary From Page 9

allowed the department to purchase the Jaws-of-Life, which he mentioned were used a couple of days prior in a car accident, saving an injured automobilist.

It was then time for the award presentation.

Shawn Thompson received a trophy for the Longest Drive. His female counterpart was Inger Kleim.

The Closest-to-the-Pin male winner was Ted Donaldson; the female winner was Pat Comber.

The runner-up team was composed of Michael Lenthall, Neil Rice, Frederick Gottlieb and Pat Comber who was the only one present to receive the trophy.

Mr. Wainwright did not attend the dinner, but his three partners, Sandy Hamel, George Riviere and Fran Relow, received their awards with smiles from Rotary President Elect Desmond Bootle and his wife Audra.

BBF President appoints members to resume basketball night league on Abaco



Above: a Jan 9 game between Agape and SC Bootle players highlights athleticism on Abaco. A night league will bring communities together outside of school sports.

By Canishka Alexander

While at the Agape Basketball Tip-Off Classic held last year, Bahamas Basketball Federation (BBF) President Charles "Softly" Robins saw that there was a need to resume a basketball league on Abaco. According to Coach Wayde Adderley, Robins appointed a few members to take the torch and get the league started to promote basketball.

In September, a formal election will be held in order to realign the board members.

The appointed members include: Coach Wayde Adderley, president; Godfrey Rolle, vice president; William Davis, treasurer; Eustace Penn, chief official; and Jamal Hepburn, secretary.

Coach Adderley gave an overview of the formation of night league basketball on Abaco, and so far, they've received great interest in the sport. Games were expected to begin on Jan.11 in Mt. Hope, and continue every weekend going forth by rotating games from one community to another.

Coach Adderley commended Wilton Saunders for being instrumental in basketball in the North Abaco community adding that they planned to start with about six teams in the league. At the end of the abbreviated season, the members would put a team together to send to the BBF tournament, or if they were to host the tournament on Abaco, they wanted to have some representation at that time.

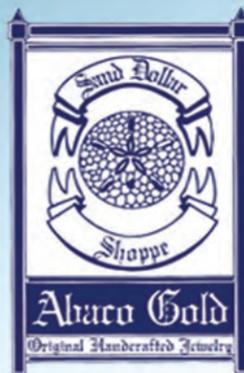
To make up teams, Godfrey Rolle explained that they looked at communities, and were targeting Sandy Point, Murphy Town, Dundas Town, Treasure Cay, Mt. Hope, and Cooper's Town. The members are still waiting to receive word from Central Pines, Green Turtle Cay, Crossing Rocks and Spring City, where players expressed interest and made commitments to support the league. Rolle emphasized that the players only have half a season with about two months before the BBF tournament rolls around during Easter.

Meanwhile William Davis was excited about reinvigorating the Abaco Basketball Association, and getting all communities involved.

"Basketball used to be the most exciting sport, and was family oriented with the competition and camaraderie; it was the sport that glued Abaco together as an

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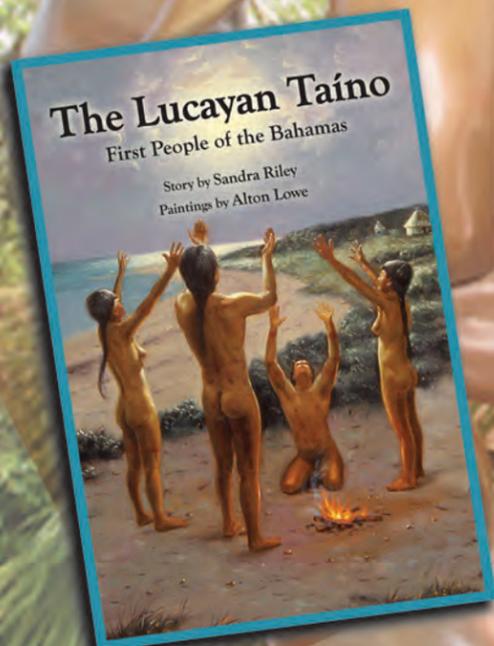
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SPORTS

BBF From Page 10

island and kept communities in touch with one another,” Davis reminisced. “Based on those facts, we decided to take up the mantle. We’re trying to get the basketball association back on the level where it used to be, and put the energies of our young men to doing some very positive things.

Davis sees the night league as a way to occupy the time of young men with interest in the sport, and as a way to represent our communities and island through basketball, and even one day – the country.

Like their colleagues, both Eustace Penn and Jamal Hepburn are eagerly looking forward to the season, and Penn predicted that it will be a good and competitive one. Hepburn was delighted that Robins did what he did for the league not-

ing that “it’s been a long time coming.” He and Rolle plan to go back out on the court as well.

And so as everyone does their part, Davis said that he hoped the business community will smile on the league by partnering with them to harness young people’s energies and turn them into something positive.

“This would be a great gesture for any business to partner with us with helping young men in positive directions.”

High school basketball games resume

By Mirella Santillo

The highschool basketball season resumed on January 9 with three games played between SC Bootle High School’s

Dynamic Dolphins and Agape Christian School’s Eagles.

The games were held at Grace Gymnasium just after school with the girls playing the first game. They were fairly even competitors with the Dolphins leading slightly to a victory of 21 to 14.

The junior boys game was next. It was a close game in the first half, with each team scoring 20 before the break; but the SC Bootle Dolphins took the lead in the second half, keeping it to the end of the game; they won 38 to 29.

However, the Dolphins never had a chance in the third game played between the two senior teams. Try as they might,

they could not beat the swiftness and skill of the Eagles who started to score as soon as the game started and went on scoring. Timothy Bullard, who just recently joined the Eagles, scored the most baskets.

Other names to mention are John Saunders, Jaron Cornish, Gregory Monroe, Kevin Deveaux and Godfrey Rolle. They all contributed to the final score of 68 to 29. It was a great game for the Eagles.

Coach Adderley mentioned that his senior team ranks fifth in the country.

Games will be held every Wednesday until the end of the championship.



Above: players at the Jan 9 game speed across the court.

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Historic island-long run supports reefs

Press Release

On Saturday January 12, Rhonda Claridge made history by running the length of Abaco from Crown Haven in the north to Sandy Point in the south (roughly 120 miles) to raise awareness of the plight of disappearing coral reefs and to raise funds for Abaco's conservation organization Friends of the Environment. Rhonda has had a successful career in ultra-running over the past five years, with eight podium finishes out of the ten 100 mile races that she has completed around the world, but Saturday's event was her longest and hardest run to date.

Despite the overwhelming challenge of Rhonda's effort, she was floored by the amount of support that was shown from the entire island of Abaco. Crowds came out in every settlement to yell words of encouragement and their enthusiasm was infectious. Residents made signs and posted them on lamp posts along the highway and many individuals joined her along the way either on bike or on foot.

A visitor that has been coming to Abaco for many years, Chris Fitzpatrick, rode her bike with Rhonda for almost 12 hours from Crown Haven to Marsh Harbour. Brother James rode his bike from Coopers Town to Treasure Cay generating support all along the way, urging people to come out of their houses. He got the customs and booking agents at the Treasure Cay airport to step outside and cheer her on. An eleventh grade student ran from Marsh Harbour to Spring City alongside

Rhonda barefoot. Others rode their bikes and ran distances up to fifteen miles, setting their own personal records.

Rhonda took on this challenge after reading an alarming article about the global status of coral reefs in the British newspaper The Independent. According to the article coral reef ecosystems are not predicted to survive past this century. Professor Peter Sale of the University of Sydney, a top United Nations scientist who has studied the Great Barrier Reef for decades, explained that humankind's burning of fossil fuels has led to warmer sea water temperatures and acidification, both of which are killing reefs.

"The report stated that children today are likely to be the last generation to see coral reefs," Claridge says. "Having been born in a country that has the third-largest barrier reef in the world, and that relies on coral reefs for both tourism and fishing, and having a personal connection to the magical underwater world of reefs, I was stunned."

Claridge, 45, grew up in Nassau and spent many weekends with her family anchored off of an island, playing in the sea. "I feel incredibly fortunate to have had those experiences. One of my earliest memories is of swimming with my mother, wearing a mask... an image of some purple and yellow fairy basslets in a reef hole, caught in a ray of sunlight."

She lived for a few years in Abaco and was an active member of Friends of the Environment, before moving to the high country of Southwestern Colorado, where she teaches English at Colorado Mesa University. "When you leave the Bahamas and come back, its rareness really strikes you.



Above: Rhonda Claridge (center in blue) joined by supporters for a section of her run.

The sea is not only beautiful; it's alive, and it supports the whole Caribbean."

Over the last five years Claridge has discovered a talent for long-distance running or "ultrarunning": "I don't have any exceptional athletic skills, but I can hang in there a long time." Limited to short visits to the islands, Claridge has wanted to contribute more to conservation of the Bahamian ecology, so she decided to raise money for Friends of the Environment over the holidays by running the length of Abaco's largest island on January 12th.

"FRIENDS largely facilitates and coordinates scientific research of The Bahamas, so that we get a big picture of changes that are occurring in our environment and have the hard evidence necessary for advocating new policies. FRIENDS also devotes enormous resources to educating the next generation about our environment: Kids go snorkeling, pick up garbage, work alongside scientists. They are going to be

in a position to manage and conserve our natural resources when they grow up."

Though she acknowledges that it is difficult for a small island nation to alter the effects of global oil and gas use, Claridge feels that the Bahamian government could be more outspoken internationally about the impacts of carbon burning on our coral reefs, and more proactive at home about conserving our natural heritage.

She ran in the hopes that people would pledge currency per mile of the run, and that the very generous will double their pledges if she finishes in less than 25 hours - both which happened as Rhonda finished in 22 hours and 45 minutes. You can still donate in support of Rhonda's run by visiting Friends of the Environment's website: www.FriendsoftheEnvironment.org or sending checks to Friends of the Environment, PO Box AB 20755, Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas, please note on the check that it is in support of Rhonda's run.



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Light refreshments will be served

SPORTS

Abaconians compete in Marathon Bahamas

By Adrian Whylly

Several people from Abaco participated in Marathon Bahamas 2013 in Nassau on Jan. 20. With more than 560 participants competing in the half marathon, there were well over 1,000 participants registered for the entire event (including the full marathon runners).

Those running the half marathon ran 13.2 miles, while the full marathon runners completed 26.2 miles beginning at Junkanoo Beach and finishing at Arawak Cay.

Below are the names of the participants and the time they took to complete their respective races:

- Brent Cartwright time- 1:56:35 (85th)
- Brian Higgs time - 2:09:22 (159th)
- Kimberly Sturup time - 2:39:28 (349th)
- Adrian Whylly time - 1:57:16 (89th)
- Tony Bethel-Benet time - 2:00:07 (109th)
- Mary Whylly - Cheersquad



Above: Brian Higgs about to cross the finish line at Marathon Bahamas.

Below: A finished race. From left to right -Brent Cartwright, Brian Higgs, Adrian Whylly, Kimberly Sturup, Tony Bethel-Benet.



Abaco Swim Club improves times for nationals



Back row from left are: Jewel Pinder, Taylor Albury, Suzie Pinder. Front row from left are: Miller Albury, Carter Albury, Maddox Pinder. Not pictured: Kiana Hicks.

By Canishka Alexander

Trophies and ribbons adorned the swimmers from the Abaco Swim Club who attended the Swift/Gunite Pools Invitational Swim Meet on the weekend of Jan.19 at the Betty Kelly Kenning National Swim Complex.

The Abaconian met with six of the seven swimmers who attended the meet this week to hear about their successes. Kiana Hicks was not present during the interview. She placed second overall for

girls 8 and under.

Eight-year-old swimmer, Carter Albury competed in the 50 back, 50 fly, the 50, 100 and 200 free, and 50 breast. Carter placed first in all of his heats to finish third overall in the 8 and under age group. The smallest of them all - Maddox Pinder, 6, swam in the 100 and 200 free, 50 breast, 50 fly, 50 back.

Meanwhile, Miller Albury, 13, par-

Please see Swim

Page 18

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School & Youth News

ECC hosts Bingo Night at Jib Room



Above: Charlie Cook calling Bingo numbers at the recent ECC event which was held at the Jib Room in Marsh Harbour.

By Mirella Santillo

Marsh Harbour residents showed up in large number to participate in a fund-raising Bingo night to benefit Every Child Counts, the well-known Marsh Harbour school for special needs children.

The event took place at the Jib Room Restaurant and Bar on the evening of January 8. The owners, Mr. and Ms. Leffler, had offered their restaurant as a venue for the event. On the menu that night was grilled chicken or beef burgers with all the trimmings. The guests were given until 7:00 pm to eat their dinner before engaging in the much-awaited Bingo games.

Connie Caccamo and Mary Gottlieb moderated the event. The numbers were to be called by the very dynamic Charlie Cook who had the audience laughing at his puns, while explaining how the games would be ran. Volunteers walked the room, offering the much in demand bingo cards to the players.

There were no money winnings, but whoever called BINGO would receive a gift certificate ranging from \$25.00 to \$100.00 compliments of Maxwell's Supermarket. The amount of the certificate was announced before each game.

Every so often, Ms. Gottlieb called the door prize numbers. At the end of the evening, patrons left with either a bottle of wine donated by Tupp's Wines-Beer- Spirits or by Frederick Gottlieb & Co., another carried a gift bag bearing the label of Monkey's Uncle or Java Coffee House, another again had a small bag of soaps made by ECC students. There was also a complimentary lunch for two at the Jib Room donated by Mr. and Ms. Leffler.

Before leaving, a Bingo winner gave back her grocery gift card to the school so it could be used for much needed supplies. She urged people to do the same and quite a few did. Another guest addressed the audience and proposed - "make a donation and we will match it"- and that suggestion too, was well received among the participants.

It was the second time that a Bingo game took place at the Jib Room Restaurant and Bar to benefit Every Child Counts and it has become a popular event that will most likely be repeated next year if not sooner.

Ms. Gottlieb, Ms. Caccamo, Wendie Bishop and Susan Harward were the volunteers who organized the function.

Abaco students excel in national and district awards

By Canishka Alexander

"Excellence for All...Yes, We Say So!" was the Department of Education's theme for the Abaco District Award Ceremony, which took place on Jan. 18 at New Visions Ministries. Highlights of the ceremony included a selection by Abaco Central High School's Boys Choir and St. Francis de Sales School's Male Teachers Ensemble.

In her remarks, Dr. Lenora Black, district superintendent, challenged students to remain committed to excellence. Subsequently, she announced that on Jan.17, the Examination and Assessment Division of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology held its annual National Awards presentation and exhibition under the theme "Rewarding Excellence in National Examinations" to focus on the 2012 Bahamas Junior Certificate (BJC) and Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) results.

Twenty eight students from Abaco were recognized during the ceremony. Among them was Matthew Grammatico, whom Dr. Black said made history for Abaco. Grammatico, a student of Forest Heights Academy, received eight As, and three Bs on the BGCSE examinations.

"This is no common feat; it is extraordinary," Dr. Black emphasized. "Approximately 5,000 students wrote BGCSEs, so, Abaco, that speaks volumes."

Ending her remarks, Dr. Black expressed thanks for the level of synergy among Abaco's 26 schools, and thanked teachers, administrators, parents, guardians, second homeowners and business houses in the community for their commitment to excellence.

Thereafter, Rev. Jacinta Neilly, was introduced as the guest speaker. Rev. Neilly told students that Abaco is on a map of greatness, so they must continue to pursue excellence in every way. Like the Biblical Daniel, she explained that he used what

God had entrusted in him, so in the same way, students must do excellent things to make room for their gifts. In the end, Daniel was able to find favour with the king.

Awards were soon presented to each school beginning with top achievers in the primary schools, all-age schools and high schools on the island. There were some who were awarded on a national and international level in sports categories of National Track and Field and Carifta meets namely Moore's Island All-Age School's under 20 female and male teams, and Elroy McBride as a Carifta Gold Medalist; and the Bahamas National Judo Championships.

At the RBC Bahamas National Swim Championships outstanding contributions were made by Lilly Higgs, Miller Albury and Margaret Albury Higgs. Higgs attained high point trophies and a slate of top-place wins at the RBC Bahamas National Swim Championships; Caribbean Island Swimming Championships; and Carifta.

There were also numerous first-place awards for the National Arts Festival where St. Francis de Sales, Moore's Island, Central Abaco Primary, James A. Pinder, Abaco Central High repeatedly placed in gold, silver and bronze categories.

Special mention was made of Garniqua Stuart, a recent graduate of Moore's Island All Age. Stuart placed second in pop solo, and first place in dance drama and most outstanding dancer. As a result, she received the Hubert Farrington Special Award.

Additional national awards were made to students, who placed in the Coastal Awareness Month Poster Competition; National Young Chef Competition; and the National Poster Competition. S. C. Bootle's Model United Nations (MUNS) team placed first, and traveled to the United Na-

Please see Awards Page 14



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School & Youth News



Above: Lenisse Merlien of S.C. Bootle High, receiving her award for top BJC score in mathematics. She shared this honour in a tie with another Abaco student - Sujith Swarna, of Forest Heights.

Awards From Page 13

tions with the Minister of Foreign Affairs last year.

The remainder of the awards was given to recipients of the Minister's Awards for Numeracy and Literacy; GLAT; BJC results of 5 Bs or better; BGCSE results of 5 Bs or better; and overall top winners of GLAT, BJC and BGCSE. The winners included: Ava Koepper of Agape Christian School for Top GLAT Grade 3; Top GLAT Grade 6 - Giovanni Rolle of Moore's Island All-Age School; Abaco's Top BJC (Public Schools): Lenisse Merlien 4 As, 3 Bs, 1 C (S. C. Bootle High School).

For Abaco's top BJC results among private schools, it was a four-way tie with 6 As and 1 B among Jonnalee McIntosh

of St. Francis de Sales Catholic School; Catalina Albury of Forest Heights Academy; Rebecca Roberts of Forest Heights Academy; and Sujith Swarna of Forest Heights Academy. Top BJC craft in the country was awarded to Jasmine Robyn Miller of St. Francis de Sales Catholic School. There was another tie between Lenisse Merlien of S.C. Bootle High and Sujith Swarna for the Top BJC Mathematics Score in the Country.

In public schools, Barbrianna Dawkins of Abaco Central High attained top BGCSE marks for -Abaco. Matthew Grammatico of Forest Heights Academy for the overall top BGCSE results for private schools and overall top BGCSE student for 2012.



Above: Catalina Albury, of Forest Heights, receives her award for top BJC results for private school.

Cyber Learning Center awards excellence for first quarter

By Samantha Evans

On Tuesday January 22, 2013 beginning at 6pm, Cyber Learning Center held their First Quarter Awards Ceremony (covering September to December 2012) at the new school location in the JoshHann Plaza on Don Mackay Blvd. Parents gathered to share the good news of their children's performance and to learn what they can do to help their children achieve excellence for the remainder of the school term.

Sharon Greene, principal, spoke on the school's theme: Believe! Achieve! Succeed! She told the parents that they must continue to encourage their children to achieve. They must always be engaged in some type of activity that will help them to believe, achieve, and succeed. She told the students that they have to believe in themselves which is required for them to succeed.

She reminded them to stay grounded in their work, complete their homework assignments given, produce good work and to get to bed on time. After she spoke, the awards were distributed. The top achiever awards went to: Kia Ewing-Kindergarten, Quashawn Smith-Grade 1, Dashawn Smith-Grade 2, Blaine Toote-Grade 3 Jayden Edgecombe-Upper Primary, and Cody Albury-Juniors. The Best Behaved Award went to Jayden Edgecombe. The most improved awards went Arvanee Rolle-Grade 2, Randall Sawyer-Grade 3, and Kiajaha Reckley-Upper Primary.

Pilot Club donates food items to elderly in North Abaco

By Canishka Alexander

On Jan.19, the Central Abaco Primary School Anchors along with Abaco Pilot Club Youth Director Neulesa Major and advisors Cindi Hollingsworth, Christine Brown and Paul Knowles travelled to North Abaco to distribute care bags to senior citizens. Leroy Thompson assisted as the driver, and he easily found the homes of the senior citizens.

Ms. Major said that everyone had a great time.

"We really enjoyed giving back. We packed 40 bags of food items, which we gave out and hope to do it [again] in the near future."



Above: members and advisors of the CAPS Anchor Club and Youth Pilot Club distributed care bags to the elderly in North Abaco on January 19. Leroy Thompson assisted the groups as the driver.

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Church News

New Rehoboth Ministries joins fight against hunger in schools

By Samantha Evans

There are many children on the island of Abaco who go hungry every day and some of them only get a meal to eat while at school and this is due to the many ministries that donate lunch to schools across Abaco on a daily basis. Another ministry has joined this effort, New Rehoboth Ministries, and according to Pastor Earlyn Baillou and his wife Joan, they heard of the wonderful work Lovely Reckley was doing and wanted to join the fight against hunger among school aged children on the island.

On Tuesday, January 15, the church donated twenty-five hot lunches to the Guidance Department of Central Abaco Primary School where counselor Samantha Evans can feed up to one hundred children on a daily basis if this amount of lunch was available, but they have not gotten donations to feed this many children yet for the school year.

Students flock to the counselor in droves only to be turned away due to insufficient lunches. This additional 25 lunches was greatly needed which allowed Ms. Evans and the school to feed children who would have otherwise gone hungry. This is the first school that the church has committed their resources to assisting every Tuesday but plan to do more for this school and others once resources increase.

They encourage other churches to join them in the fight against hunger and adopt a school; any school on the island of Abaco.

Zion Baptist Fox Town Church installs new pastor

By Vernique Russell

The journey for Pastor Daniel Curry began in 1990 when he accepted the Lord as his personal Savior. Since that day of redemption in 1990, he got busy in the works of the ministry and worked continually. His first major promotion came in 1995, when he was promoted to the Deacon's board, a position that he maintained for a few years.

His passion however has always been with the young people of the ministry so when he was appointed as Youth Leader, Sunday School Teacher and District Youth Coordinator at Zion Baptist Fox Town Church, it came as no surprise that he fulfilled the mandate and did so influentially. When the late Rev. Merlin McIntosh passed away in July 2012 after serving faithfully as senior pastor for 15 year, Pastor Daniel Curry had met the criteria and was commissioned to serve as Senior Pastor.

On Sunday, January 13 at 3pm, hundreds gathered to celebrate the milestone in the life of the Zion Baptist Fox Town Church and in the life of Pastor Curry. The service was uplifting and a true testimony of God's faithfulness. He was ordained and installed as Pastor by Bishop B. Wenith Davis out of Nassau. Bishop Davis is the President of the Zion United Convention in the Bahamas. Pastor Curry is the only pastor at the church at this time thus Senior Pastor.

The community of North Abaco extends warmest regards and congratulation to Pastor Curry and the Zion Baptist Fox Town family.



Above: Pastor Daniel Curry being ordained as Senior Pastor at Zion Baptist Church in Fox Town, Abaco. His journey to his position started in 1990.

First Assembly begins marriage ministry

By Samantha Evans

According to the church, marriage is a covenant that two people make with God to live together and become one. But sometimes couples experience difficulty and need a safe confidential place to share their concerns and seek counsel. On Saturday, January 5, First Assembly of God launched their marriage ministry called "Marriage Formula: 2HB1 (two hearts become one)."

The event was hosted by Bradley and Lovely Reckley at their home at 7pm with approximately 16 couples in attendance. This ministry was initiated by Pastor Deion Gibson and his wife. They stated that what concerns them is that the divorce rate among Christians is so high that they want to create a healthy atmosphere for Christian couples. The purpose of this ministry is to provide counseling for: young married couples and those who have issues such as anger management, conflict resolution, financial struggles or just need help so that they can reconcile their marriage.

At the first meeting, persons who were engaged were also invited so that they can

get an insight into what they will be getting into when they get married. The couples engaged in interactive games to see how well the couples knew each other. They had a great time; in fact, some of the men realized that some of the problems they encountered can be prevented if they pay attention to details, respect their wives, wake up and become men of integrity.

Finally, they dealt with ex-spouses and how to avoid conflict with them. Pastor Gibson realizes that healthy couples will create healthy communities so this ministry is vital with the divorce statistics increasing. Ms. Gibson sees this ministry growing into an extension of a cell group where couples can learn to pray and read the Bible together. Couples from any denomination are welcomed if they believe this will be a good outlet for them.

Gatherings are held the last Friday of each month at a location to be announced. First Assembly of God will be hosting a marriage retreat over the Good Friday weekend which will be open to couples from anywhere across The Bahamas and will be held on one of the beautiful cays in Abaco. Interested persons can call the church office for information.

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Opinion

Insights for your Innerspring

Systems: How a series of actions yield intentional results every time

Submitted by Whitney Bain

It's all around us; patterns and designs, framework and structure. For some time now scientist have recognized how close a parallel there is between the animal kingdom and human society. If you were to consider the ant and its labyrinth-like tunnels in an ant hill, you would quickly realize that our arterial highways are similar if not eerily identical. Taking an overhead view of a busy city soon shows how our stop and go traffic patterns mimic those of the ants busily gathering food and resources and then instinctively stopping at a four-way, allowing another ant to proceed and afterwards moving ahead themselves.

Why is the company Apple so innovative? One might say that they have achieved that level of success because of technology or skilled manpower, but arguably the other companies have the same access to similarly qualified persons and technology with which they can affect the outcome of their own products. So if Apple has access to the same technology, the same human resource and similar organic resources; why do they stand out, year after year and product after product. Could it be that they approach things differently?

Rather than view the potential client as a walking cash machine firstly, maybe they seek to identify what the masses need or desire and then build strategy and machines around those needs. I have heard it said that Apple builds machines that you did not even know you needed and when presented to you, you find that it draws you to acquiring it; the look, the feel, the interactive experience. What is the allure of these devices? Why do they captivate persons so? Why is our physical movement as a society so closely similar to that of the ant or migratory birds or schools of fish?

As I considered these questions I came to the conclusion that powerful systems are at work. In the background, behind the scenes and sometimes oblivious to the observer; systems orchestrate the

outcomes of all kinds of activities. They are so powerful that individuals, groups, societies, nations and regions are knowingly and unknowingly affected by the subtle impression of a word or barometric pressure increases or by the opinion of one designer at a Spring Fashion Show. Join me as we take a look at this far-reaching phenomenon known as systems.

Success is Intentional

Businesses are the result of a vision of someone who has a driving passion to see the conceptual become reality. As this concept develops in the womb of the mind it must be nurtured and eventually brought to maturity. Once the developed concept has been delivered we see the result of what the person was thinking months before. Wrapped up in this conceptual result, which is now a reality; are many systems. When a baby is born they come complete with all the systems necessary to maintain and extend its life; the skeletal, respiratory and reproductive systems are all there. While it will take the child a while to be acquainted with the systems, the daily interaction that comes from need as well as the desire to experiment; allows the baby to discover the beauty and power of the systems that give it continued life. And so a business concept is also delivered with systems that must be discovered and experimented with.

As a business do you experiment enough? Are you comfortable with just doing things how they have always been done? Are you aware of the systems that exist in your business, that need to be understood and developed? Do you recognize how powerful your business is, and how great an impact it can have on your current customers? Success is easy to come by, just stick with what you are doing and eventually you will succeed!

However, there is a caveat; there must be a 'method to your madness' as the saying goes, you must plan the success you desire and have a proper method to execute the plan. This is what systems are all about; it is the creation of a method where an intended outcome is realized through a planned series of actions. The Quality Sciences are aimed at educating persons about the creation of systems that produce identi-

fied outcomes. Just like accurately following a recipe for pound cake gives you the same result over and over again, so following a designed system of actions would always give you the desired outcome, or at least get you very close to it. Recognizing that opening the oven door may cause some variation in how your pound cake turns out, so the fickle nature of humans can cause slight variations in the application of the 'system of action' being applied to a situation but it almost always gets you on the target or very close to it. So let's look at a 'system of actions' that can assist you in achieving intentional success in your business life;

Identify output – this means that you need to identify the arena in which you want to operate; whether retail (sale of goods and services to the end customer), wholesale (B2B, sale of goods and services to business), professional service provider (doctor, lawyer, technician), professional facilitator (teacher, social worker) or nation builder (parent, government worker). If you are already in one of these arenas then you can adopt the steps that follow to make your position clearer thereby enhancing your impact to the population you serve.

Identify customers – there are specific customers for each of the areas I listed before and some of the customers may very well use one or more of the services listed above or over the course of their lifetimes. If you want to improve the success of your business you must know who your customers are.

Identify customer needs – it is business suicide to create a series of products or services without determining if there is a market for it. It is critical to any business

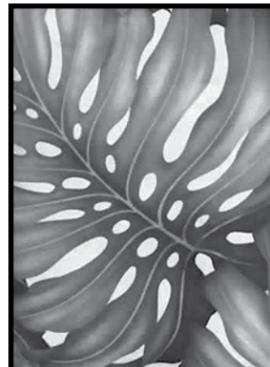
venture to identify the segments of the population that fall in the arena in which it operates; next it must study the segment and identify its needs. Conducting a 'market test' is crucial to gauge the level of product/service acceptance or rejection. This can be done through surveys, taste tests, interviews and focus groups.

Generate potential solutions – once your market segment is scrutinized you can then present solutions for each of those needs you would have identified. This will enable you to offer tailor-made solutions for the identified needs and enhance the level of the product or service delivered. The byproduct of this action is customer loyalty. The bespoke nature of your product or service delivery communicates a level of caring to your customer that goes beyond a superficial exchange of money for goods and creates an emotional attachment. This is the concept I recommend you use in supplying goods and services. Don't just sell goods to a customer, let your customers know that you genuinely care; and you will become a friend that happens to provide 'this or that' product or service. Overwhelmingly, customers will buy from people they trust. At this stage you will be creating and fine-tuning the system you need to sell your product or service.

Plan implementation – there must be a method to how you present your solutions to your marketplace. You must select the most suitable delivery method and plan its introduction carefully by laying out progressive steps that would take you to your

Please see Insights

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Opinion

Insights From Page 17

desired conclusion. In short, use the information you gathered in your market tests and interviews to service the market in an intelligent, well planned fashion. This point marks the activation of the systems you have created for the promotion you are working on.

Implementing the solutions – putting solutions to work is very exciting. Once you have done your home-work well you can expect a great acceptance of the solutions from your core market. The level to which you implement the solution can leave such an impact that it causes portions of your market to become evangelists for your products and services. These raving fans will spread the word about what you are doing and your product or service will then become infectious. This is the outcome of a system in action. By its very nature it dictates actions and habits and without any prompting from you the system will live and thrive vicariously through your core market.

Selecting measurements – many cash registers and accounting systems have the capacity to perform some level of measurement. Measurements tell you how well you are doing when compared to what you planned. Measurements show what is doing well and what needs to be improved. A key part of this exercise is capturing information or data. Customer information is a rich resource and when acted upon correctly will bring sustained business viability. If you are not currently capturing it you are allowing future revenue to walk out of your business. The action of data mining will allow future decisions to have a stronger likelihood of success because key pieces of information tell how a customer will respond to a new product or service in the future.

Evaluating the results – as I indicated at the beginning, following a recipe will almost always bring you to your desired outcome however, there are variables that can affect that end result and so it is vital to know what you wanted the outcome to be, see what it actually turn out to be and then make adjustments to your implementation strategy as you recycle the products or services into the ‘system of actions’ once again.

Several years ago I had the pleasure of communicating with Mr. Simon Cooper, the then President and Chief Operating Officer of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company. It was a very pleasant exchange and one that I will remember. As the company planned its direction for that coming year he said something in a communication piece that has profoundly impacted my thinking and it has influenced what I have written to you today; he said that “‘restless renewal’ means developing a culture where we never sit still but constantly challenge, innovate and improve our processes. Innovation is more important than ever because today’s luxury market is changing and we need to adapt to meet the needs of our evolving guests.” Now this was stated to those in the hospitality profession but you can just insert your own market or profession to get the point of what he is saying.

I encourage you to be open to change and desirous of working to make your operation better today than it was yesterday through an intentional plan for success aided by a ‘system of actions’. If you have any questions or comments about this article you can send them to whitney_bain@yahoo.com. In the next article we will explore why your company or organization needs more than a Vision and Mission Statement in order to reach its full potential.

SPORTS

Swim From Page 13

icipated in the 50, 100 and 200 back as well as the 50 and 100 free. Although he dropped time on all of his events, he was not as disappointed because he competed against swimmers whose ages ranged from 13 to 17 years old. Nevertheless, Miller made personal best times, and was a few milliseconds off from qualifying for Carifta in one of his events.

Christopher Pinder, Abaco Swim Club coach, added that Miller Albury will continue training toward his goal for Carifta.

For the girls, Jewel Pinder, 10, swam in the 200 individual medley (IM), 100 and 200 free, 50 and 100 back, 50 fly, 50 and 100 breast. She placed third overall in the 9-10 girls age group.

Next to her was 10-year-old Taylor Albury, who participated in the 50, 100 and 200 free, 200 IM. Among her finishes, Taylor earned a silver, and three bronze medals. Finally, Suzie Pinder,

10, swam in 50 and 200 breast, 200 free and 50 back. She placed third in the 50 breast.

Pinder was proud to announce that every one of the swimmers made it to the finals on the final night of the swim meet.

“We had three of the seven place in top overall in their age groups; we had two third places and one second place,” he explained.

For the swimmers who did not have times to compete in nationals, Pinder said that each swimmer that went on the trip placed a national time in at least one event. The swimmers will attend another swim meet later this month.

Also at the Swift meet in Nassau was Albury Higgs, who won all seven of her races in the 11-12 girls age group. She is expected to build on her successes at the Carifta Swimming Championships.

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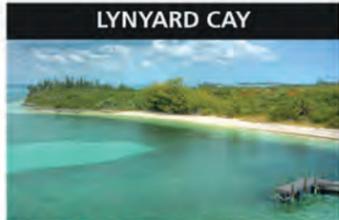
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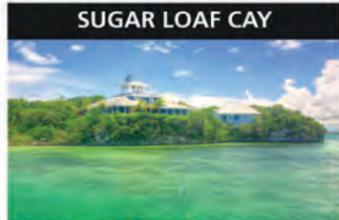
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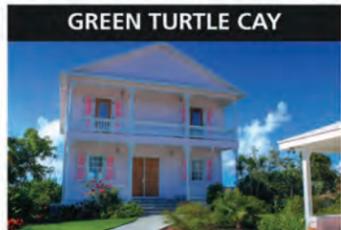
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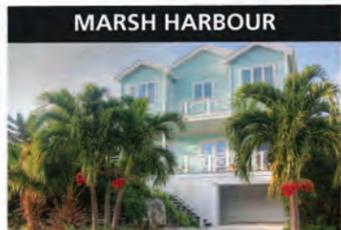
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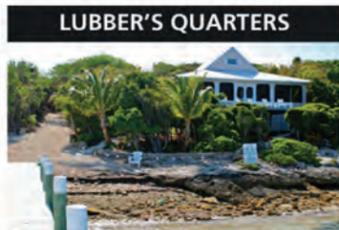
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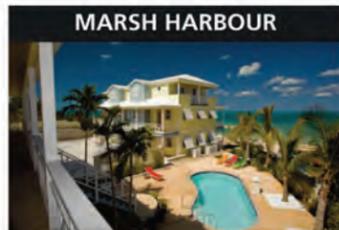
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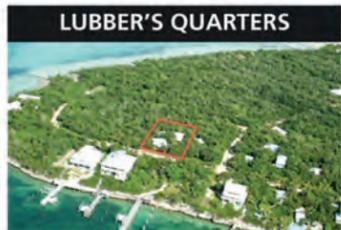
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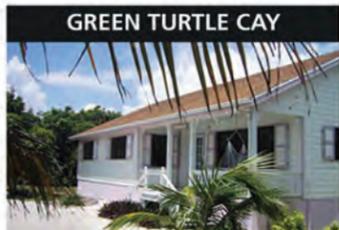
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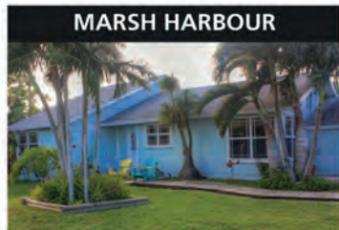
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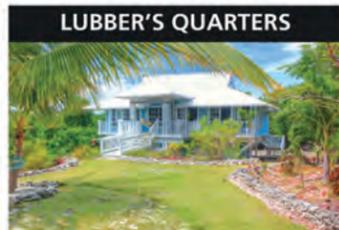
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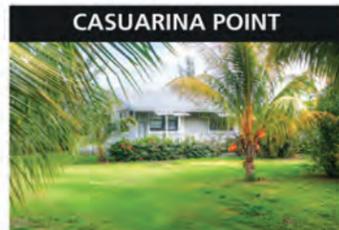
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