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The Abaconian

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VOLUME 10, NUMBER 2, JANUARY 15th, 2002

Voter Cards Are Issued

National Elections Will Be Called in Early Spring

The distribution of voters cards began on January 7 throughout the Bahamas. The cards can be picked up at the Administrators' offices or other government offices designated by the Administrators. The officials would like voters to pick up their cards and inform the officials if they have moved. Some people who have moved will now be eligible to vote in a different constituency or polling division if they have lived in the new polling division for at least three months. The Parliamentary Commissioner, Mr. Errol Bethel, is wanting to have as accurate a register as possible.

Voter registration was opened on November 6, 2000, and more than 121,000 people have registered. The voter registration is continuing and voters are urged to register as soon as possible. The register will remain open until the time an election is called. At that point the register is closed.

The government were not able to give out voters cards until the boundaries for the con-

Please see **Voter Cards** Page 14

Junkanoo Entertains Green Turtle Cay



Crowds filled the narrow streets of Green Turtle Cay on January 1 for the town's annual Junkanoo rush. They were thrilled by the dancing and costumes as the revelers paraded through town accompanied by a brass section this year. The festivities were interrupted by a fight which brought the event to an abrupt end.

Photo by Annabelle Cross

Santa Sails to Green Turtle Cay



Santa Claus sailed into Green Turtle Cay on December 8 to open the Amy Roberts Primary School's annual Christmas Fair. The fair was a great success and the little ones were able to whisper their wish lists in Santa's ear. Photo by Anne Bootle

No Light Resulted in Crash



This is the result when one car failed to stop at the Barclay's Bank corner in Marsh Harbour. The stop sign was erected because Abaco's only traffic light was blown down in Hurricane Michelle on November 5 and has not been replaced. The dark green taxi ignored the sign and was thrown against a power pole. Fortunately, no one was injured.

Eleven Abaconians Honoured

Eleven Abaconians received honours this year by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in her New Year's Honours list. A total of 40 persons from around The Bahamas were honoured. Two received the knighthood awards.

Member of Parliament Robert Sweeting was one of three who was made Officer of the British Empire, an OBE. He was honoured for his outstanding contribution to his community. Four received an MBE, the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. They were Roosevelt Curry of Grand Cay for his contribution to the growth and development of the construction industry, Mr. Michael Levarity of Green Turtle Cay for his service as a contractor and builder, Mr.

Please see **Honours** Page 3

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Abaco's Road Hazards Are Diverse

Hit and Run Cow Damages Truck



This cow wandered onto the Great Abaco Highway on December 24 and was hit by a passing truck, causing fatal injuries to the cow. It died early Christmas morning. Two other cows ambled off uninjured after the accident.



Kendal White of Sandy Point got a surprise while driving to Marsh Harbour about 8 p.m. Christmas Eve. A large black cow walked out of the bushes in front of his truck, demolishing the hood, a fender and the radiator. No one was injured and the distressed cow was found in the bushes about 40 feet off the highway.



The ditch that Cable Bahamas dug along Great Abaco Highway for installing their fiber optic cable poses a risk to motorists who need to pull off the road. The ditch is wide enough and deep enough in places to damage a car seriously that might get a tire caught in it. Recently a motorcycle got caught in the ditch, causing the cyclist to sustain minor injuries.

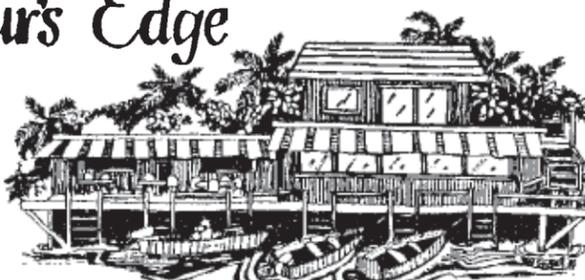


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Dock Construction Continues



A surveyor is shown doing preliminary work on the freight dock in Marsh Harbour. The new dock will accommodate several boats both in the international and national areas. It will also include a dock for the Guana Cay and Scotland Cay ferries with adequate parking.



Dredging of the turning basin and channel is continuing on a 24 hour schedule. The dredged material will provide the fill to make the new dock area. The pile of fill shown above now has a front loader and a street light allowing a 24-hour operation. The dock is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Honours

From Page 1

Roswell Sawyer of Green Turtle Cay for his development of the fishing industry and his community involvement and Bishop Archilus Cooper of Cooper's Town for long and devoted service to his community.

Receiving the British Empire Medal were Rev. Dr. Allen Mills from Cedar Harbour for his involvement in the civic and religious community, Mr. Joseph Norris of Treasure Cay for community development, Rev. Copeland Morley of

Dundas Town for his contribution to the religious community, Rev. Roland Swain of Murphy Town for his years of dedicated service to the community and Mrs. Terry Russell for dedicated community service to the public. One Abaconian, ASP Leland Russell, received the Queen's Police Medal for outstanding and meritorious service to the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

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News of the Cays

Green Turtle Cay

By Annabelle Cross

2001 is now history and will always be defined by the events of September 11. Let's all hope for a peaceful 2002.

Cultural Events Draw Many

December went by in a rush with lots of holiday activities to keep everyone busy. Starting the holiday season on November 30 and December 1 was *An Abaco Christmas* - two evenings of music featuring Valerie Pyfrom, Clifford Terry, and Abaco's own Bryan Thompson, Joan Albury Moss, Jes'Us and the Amy Roberts Primary School's chorus. The concerts featured traditional carols as well as selections from Broadway musi-

icals. The final song of the evening *The Prayer*, a duet by Bryan Thompson and his mother Valerie Pyfrom, brought thunderous applause. Dr. David Hepburn was an excellent MC. During a brief power failure, he managed to keep everyone entertained.

Amy Roberts Primary School's annual fair and raffle was held on December 8. Santa made an appearance arriving by sailboat. The fair offered delicious food and fun games. The raffle was drawn late in the day with more than 40 prizes for lucky winners. Again this year I did not win anything! All proceeds will benefit students of the school.

The Momentum Dance Company of Miami performed at the Garden Theatre on

December 8 with a matinee performance and one later that evening. Beautiful weather was a plus for those in attendance. Once again thanks to the Abaco Cultural Society for sponsoring these events.

Christmas Traditions Continue

The Gospel Chapel, the Miracle Church of God and St. Peter's Anglican Church all had their annual Sunday School programmes. The teachers and children all work hard to have these programmes which are so much a part of our island Christmas. The Methodist Church held its annual candlelight service which is always well attended.

On December 20 the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony was held at Quincentennial Park. The ceremony included carol singing and speeches by local government representatives. Because December 20 is my birthday, I was invited to light the tree which I did on the first attempt.

Santa, who loves Green Turtle Cay, was once again present to hand out candy-filled stockings to the children. Refreshments were served.

Another holiday tradition that seemed to have died was revived this year - caroling before dawn. Waking to the sound of drums and singing may seem like an annoyance but not at Christmas time on Green Turtle Cay. These were the sounds of Christmas. Hopefully, it will continue in 2002.

The days following Christmas saw guest houses and hotels filling up. Streets and stores were busy with all the visitors. Beautiful weather made it possible for them to enjoy boating.

Violence Mars Junkanoo

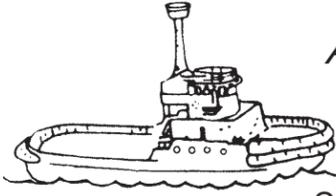
Junkanoo was once again the highlight of January 1st. The parade was well organized this year with a brass music section as well

Please see **Cays**

Page 5



Students of the Amy Roberts Primary School joined in the festivities at the Junkanoo in Green Turtle Cay on January 1. This year for the first time the "rush" included a brass section which added to the crowd's enjoyment. Photo by Annabelle Cross



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More News of the Cays

Cays *From Page 4*

as the drums, whistles and cow bells. Crowds lined the streets to see the costumes. Some joined in the "rush." Homemade food was on sale all over town.

Unfortunately, not everyone came to enjoy the parade. There are troublemakers everywhere. As soon as the parade made its way on the basketball court to perform, a fight started. Within 10 minutes the crowd had left the area, not wanting to be caught in the violence. The troublemakers ran from the parade area and made their way to the ferry dock, throwing bottles along the way. A few persons were hurt when they were pushed and shoved. One of the troublemakers forced his way into a home near the ferry dock. Occupants of the home received minor injuries but were finally able to get the intruder out. Police later caught him in yet another home.

Fortunately, no one was seriously injured except our community's reputation. Never before has violence been a part of our

Junkanoo celebration. Hopefully, our visitors will not let this one incident keep them away from future parades and hopefully, the police will do all they can to see that those responsible are punished.

Memorial Service Commemorates September 11

A Memorial Service for the victims of September 11 was held at the Gospel Chapel on December 2. This service had been postponed from an earlier date because of Hurricane Michelle. A choir made up a members from all the local churches sang hymns, the Wesley School band performed *God Bless America* and Amy Roberts Primary sang an original song written as a tribute to the United States. The sermon was delivered by Father MacKenzie. Donations were collected to be divided between the straw vendors and the September 11 victims. Following the service refreshments were served at Quincentennial Park.

Two Are Honoured
 Congratulations to Mr. Roswell Sawyer

and Mr. Michael Levarity, who were named on the Queen's New Year's list. They will be awarded the Member of the British Empire medal in a ceremony to be held at a later date. Both men are active in the community. Mr. Sawyer is presently serving on the Town Committee.

Now it's back to work and back to school. Gloomy winter weather will take us through the next few months.

Happy 2002 to all!

Tilloo Cay Fire Mars the Holiday

By Isobel Sherman

An early morning fire Christmas morning on Tilloo Cay marred the holiday for Dr. and Mrs. Bill Anspach. The fire destroyed the hanger where Dr. Anspach kept his amphibian plane. It also destroyed a backhoe, a small tractor, a truck and a small generator as well as water pumps. He estimated the total cost of the damage to be in the vicinity of \$300,000 since the plane alone was worth \$200,000.

In a phone interview Dr. Anspach said the cause of the fire is not known but that the only equipment that was operating in the hanger was a water pump. He credited the Hope Town Fire Brigade with their prompt action in coming to the scene of the fire in less than 25 minutes. Tilloo Cay is about five miles from Hope Town. He stated that their prompt action saved the large generator that was housed in a building not far from the hanger.

Dr Anspach said that another factor that kept the fire from spreading was that there was no wind.

Hope Town Celebrations for New Year on Elbow Cay

By Stephanie Humblestone

Driving rain, cold weather and wind did not dampen the New Year's spirit on Elbow Cay. The two main venues, the places to be, were the Abaco Inn and the Hope Town

Please see Cays Page 24



The annual Junkanoo event in Green Turtle Cay draws hundreds of visitors and Abaconians from many towns. This year's well planned event did not take into consideration those who arrived to cause trouble. A fight broke up the crowd before the festivities were over.



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Central Abaco News

Last Minute Shopping

By Isobel Sherman

There were traffic jams in the business district of Marsh Harbour on December 24 as many residents from all over the island and cays came to do their last minute Christmas shopping. Most stores stayed open until 5 p.m. but some closed at noon and some like Price Right stayed open until 9 p.m.

Lines of traffic on Don MacKay Boulevard moved slowly or not at all as drivers were trying to turn into shopping areas. Parking spaces were at a premium. Banks closed at 1 p.m. and that brought more persons into the stores as bank employees did their last minute shopping.

Many persons traveled to the airport to get a flight. A travel agent said that there were no seats in or out of Marsh Harbour

from the December 31 until the January 8, which means tourism is picking up.

Christmas Eve Fire

By Isobel Sherman

A fire damaged a house on Bay Street in Dundas Town on Christmas Eve night. The Dundas Town Fire Department and the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department responded to the call but the house was completely destroyed. It belonged to Mr. Glenn Mills but was not occupied at the time of the fire.

A Quiet Christmas

By Isobel Sherman

Christmas Day dawned with showers. In Marsh Harbour the airport was very quiet as only two scheduled flights came in. An American Eagle flight from Miami and a U S Air flight from West Palm Beach were

the only two scheduled flights. The only place serving Christmas brunch and dinner was Abaco Beach Resort.

Christmas Day was as usual very quiet with only two churches holding services St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church and St. John the Baptist Anglican Church.

Junkanoo Demonstration

By Isobel Sherman

On Boxing Day evening there was a Junkanoo demonstration in front of Dove Plaza in Marsh Harbour. For several years some persons have been keeping Junkanoo alive on the mainland of Abaco and each Boxing Day they do a rush out in front of

Dove Plaza. Two of the original and die-hard Junkanoo workers are Churton Toote and Kirk Thompson. Hubert Smith, long a Junkanoo leader in Green Turtle Cay, assists now in Marsh Harbour. Abaco Central High now has a Junkanoo group complete with dancers.

New Year's Celebrations

By Isobel Sherman

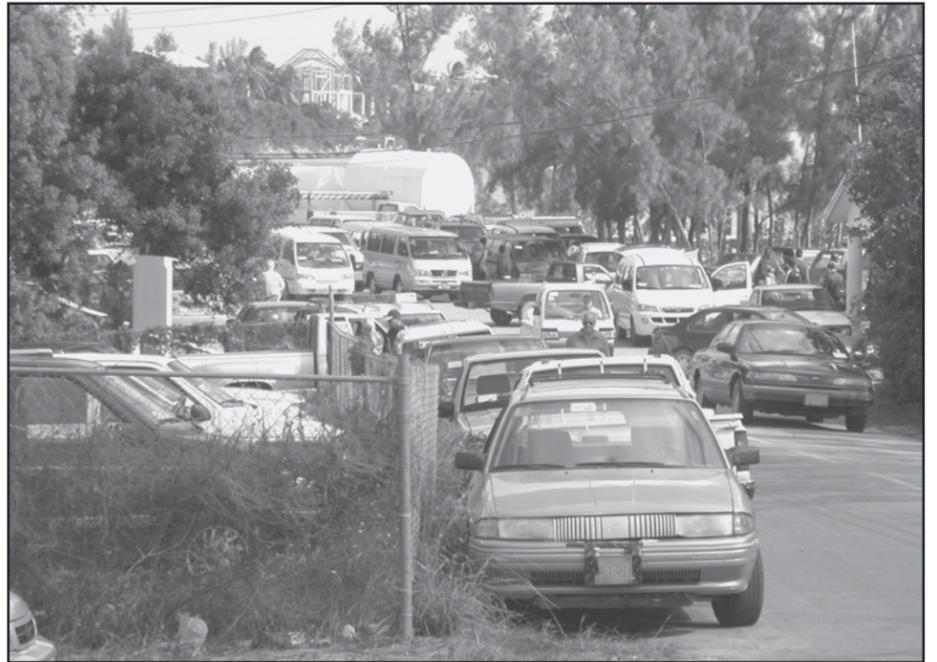
People celebrated the New Year's arrival in different ways. Many restaurants and hotels on Abaco offered dinners and parties

Please see **Central**

Page 27



Pilings have been cemented in place along Stede Bonnet Road in Marsh Harbour. Town Planning is concerned as no permit was granted for these and the road is scheduled to be paved. There are set back requirements for fencing and construction which have to be approved by Town Planning.



Traffic congestion at Crossing Beach in Marsh Harbour continues to be an expanding problem as more and more people move to and from the cays. Commuters keep adding several cars to the congestion each month.

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South Abaco News

Cherokee Sound

By Lee Pinder

Warning Light "Out"

Again, the light on top of BATELCO's Tower in Cherokee is burned out. This can present quite a problem if it is not replaced before night flights start to arrive in Marsh Harbour. Without landing facilities, an extra week didn't really matter, but now with the possibility of foreign planes arriving after dark, I personally would feel much safer if we had the red light glowing on top of that 200 foot tower for all to see.

Celebrations Postponed because of Inclement Weather

The New Year crept in on kitten's paws as 2001 turned into 2002. The Watch Night Service at Epworth Methodist Church was poorly attended because of inclement weather. All celebrations, in general, were dampened by a spitty rain that postponed our traditional burning of Guy Fawkes until January 2nd, thereby giving Cherokee residents one more night of peace and quiet.

There were eight "Guys" at The Spit with the usual goofy names like "Fiddlesticks," but this year there were probably a few stray "Osama Bin Ladens" there, too, with one lone "Guy" standing all by himself further up the beach to the east, and there always

seems to be one riding a bicycle (but I can never figure out where he could be going).

All were elaborately dressed in their very best outfits to make a good impression, since they were the stars of the show. We want to thank all the entrants for doing such a good job and for making the whole evening more fun for everyone.

Afterwards there were lots of beautiful fireworks to finish off the evening. I'm happy to report that "the mischief-makers" kept their foolishness to a minimum this year and I actually heard of only one troublesome incident and saw only two masqueraders over the whole holiday season. (But, they are never any trouble. In fact, you can't even get them to speak.)

"It" Really Effects Us All

I have to say I fully agree with Timothy Robert's last article in *The Abaconian* and appreciate his bringing Mr. Franz Hepburn's letter to the attention of Abaconians. We need to seriously think about the observations noted by exiting tourists and make a concerned effort that our Abaco tourists do not go away with the same bad taste in their mouth.

Tourism is very important to us all, whether we are directly involved with it or not. It affects us all in many and various ways. Tourists often see things we don't. I was recently embarrassed when a visitor said

he was appalled that some of our local fishermen would take the small immature conchs and the very small fish, not for their own table, but to sell, not even giving them a chance to grow, thereby endangering future supplies. This gentleman has been a frequent visitor returning often to Cherokee to bon-fish, but I felt as if he was trying to tell me that he wouldn't be coming back, he was so upset. We can only wait and see.

This is not the first time we have lost returning visitors to our island because of a few who pay no attention to the laws. These offenders hurt the ecology, they hurt the economy and even if they don't realize it yet, they hurt themselves. Today many people in the world are thinking about conservation and are highly offended when they see it so blatantly abused.

I also found Andrew Curry's Letter to the Editor very challenging as it ran along the same lines and it brought to mind this old saying, "I am but one, but I am one. I can't do everything, but I can do some things."

Harry Potter Is Popular Movie

By Stephanie Humblestone

J.K. Rowling's wiz kid, Harry Potter, hit the screens of the RND Theatre in Marsh Harbour on January 1st. It was a much awaited New Year's treat for adults and children alike. Although the theatre attracted a large crowd for its premier performance at 7:30 p.m., many more were unaware that the two and a half hour movie was showing.

Around the world *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, has broken box office records. It is predicted that it may possibly surpass such box office hits as *Titanic* and *Star Wars*. The movie's popularity has survived much controversy about the possible detrimental effect of its content on children.

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Abaco is big, diverse, financially sound and progressive. By automobile the length of Abaco equals the distance from North Miami to Ft. Pierce with W. Palm Beach representing the Marsh Harbour area. That covers a lot of territory.

It is divided governmentally into

- two parliamentary districts
- three administrative districts
- six local government districts

Responsibilities are further allocated to over 20 government agencies with offices and staff. These are antonymous departments that report to their parent organization in Nassau with little or no interaction with other agencies here or in Nassau. The only time they come together is during the hurricane season when some of the agencies sit around the table grudgingly to plan a disaster response while trying to ensure that no one interferes with their "turf."

Additionally, there are four government corporations which report to their Nassau counterparts with little interplay locally. Typically these corporations they have their own agenda and do not participate in planning with others.

Added to this are our elected and appointed Local Government Councils, Town Committees and the Statutory Boards. Town Committees are comprised of elected volunteers who hopefully have their town's interest at heart. They are generally amateurs in the political process and deal with the various established agencies with varying degrees of success.

Council members are drawn from the Town Committees and presumably are the ablest and most experienced at the local governing process. Councils deal with broader issues and have more interplay with central government and various government agencies. The different Councils have different agendas and different success rates at reaching their goals.

There are two moderating forces that are partially effective in this process, our representative to Parliament and the three Administrators.

Councils in other parts of the Bahamas work closely with their elected Member of Parliament. Our Councils have made little effort to use this resource. There is also a reluctance on the part of our elected Parliamentarian to work with Local Government lest he be accused of trying to influence them.

The Administrators walk a fence between Central Government and Local Government. One of their jobs is to provide advice when asked

which is not often. They attempt to keep Local Government from getting into trouble and venturing into areas where they do not belong. This has to be done with a bit of finesse so they are not seen as meddling and attempting to influence Local Government members.

Our Administrators are also burdened but put on a patient composure when they get a 5 p.m. call from Nassau that a political dignitary will be arriving the next morning on the 7:30 a.m. Bahamasair flight who needs to be escorted and chaperoned for the day. Perhaps on the same short notice, a public meeting has to be arranged for the next afternoon.

It was an interesting revelation recently in talking with the representative for South Abaco, Mr. Robert Sweeting, to find out that he occasionally discovers a governmental event happened by reading this paper. The bureaucratic process leaves him out of some information. (We are not immune as many events happen that we are unaware of until afterwards.)

In June the present three-year term for Local Government ends and elections will be held. Hopefully, some of our current officials will be re-elected to provide some continuity to the process. Committees and Councils with all new members must start the learning process anew.

Town Committees and the Councils are political in nature and have rules and guidelines to follow. They operate with a budget supplied by Nassau. Monies are generally for items related to town and area maintenance with little freedom to make capital improvements. By creatively stretching the maintenance definition, some minor capital improvements have been made. Local Government is not allowed to raise or collect money but is dependent on the budget sent by Central Government.

Some of the more progressive towns have overcome these obstacles by forming community welfare committees outside the reach of Local Government. These groups can raise money for town projects and see them to completion. In many cases the persons on the Local Government Town Committee are the same as those on the non-governmental town welfare committee.

Another community minded group is the newly formed Chamber of Commerce which organized to look after the commercial and promotional aspects of Abaco. This is not a governmental function in general terms although the Ministry of Tourism does play a promotional role. Chambers of Commerce are independent of Local Government and have different goals and agendas. By nature, they must cooperate and work with the established agencies although it is not bound to the same protocol as Local Government. A Chamber has no inherent or legislated power. However, politicians do listen when an organized group presents its case.

The Abaco economy is based on tourism, both transient and second home-owners, and fishing. Tourism is visible and accountable. Empty airplanes and empty hotel rooms are easy to see and the effects are obvious. The effect of the fishing industry on our economy is less obvious

While talking to several major businesses recently, we were interested to hear that those harvesting crawfish are having a poor season and their businesses were hurting noticeable from this sector. Fishing is a quiet but important industry to many on Abaco.

Several of our communities have three population bases to contend with, the original Abaco residents, the foreign second homeowners which may equal the native population, and a recent influx of Haitians chasing job opportunities.

Hope Town and New Plymouth have interesting economies and social structures. They have populations of approximately 400 and 500 respectively. Page 23 of this newspaper indicates that Hope Town has nine restaurants and Green Turtle Cay has eight. It takes a larger population than 400 or 500 persons to support eight or nine restaurants and the jobs they create. Our heavy tourism base gives the support. This substantial tourism volume also gives Local Government challenges in providing for the native and transient persons in their towns.

Two random indicators give some insight into the Abaco phenomena. The 2001 Yachtsman's Guide to the Bahamas shows that Abaco has approximately 945 commercial dock slips provided by 24 marinas. This is more than twice as many marinas as any other Bahamian island and nearly the number of commercial dock slips as Nassau and Grand Bahama combined. It is estimated that Abaco has more private docks than all the rest of the Bahamas. It is believed that the Abaco Port Boards review more dock applications than any other island including New Providence.

Another indicator shows that five commercial banks serve Abaco's native population of 13,000 people. One bank for every 2,600 people is not a normal ratio.

How do all these groups come together? In many instances they do not. Each group, whether governmental or private goes its own way, trying to stay ahead of the problems or opportunities inherent with our growth. Somehow our goal needs to be to get the various groups communicating and working together.

The Abaco phenomena provides ample food for thought and presents many opportunities for improvement.

All About Town

My Thoughts on Harry Potter - the Movies and the Books.

By Isobel Sherman

I just arrived home after viewing *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* with my daughter. After seeing the movie and having read the first three Harry Potter books and having heard and read all of the controversy about this movie, I decided to give my opinion in the words of P. Anthony White "for what's its worth."

First, let me begin by saying I grew up in a time that was without video games, without computer games. Cartoons were Mickey Mouse, Bugs and another few good old classics along with Gene Autry, Roy Rodgers, Lone Ranger and some other cowboy movies. How could I forget Howdy Doody and the Mickey Mouse Club. American Bandstand will be saved for another article.

I grew up reading - why? My dad read three newspapers daily but never any books; my mother did not read either so I guess God gave me my love of reading. I read about

witches in Snow White, the Wizard of Oz and bad people in Cinderella and Rapunzel just to name a few. They were called fairy tales in those days. Now in modern times these new stories such as *Harry Potter*, *Lord of the Rings* and *The Dark Is Rising* series are called fantasy fiction. Notice I said FANTASY OR MAKE BELIEVE.

When J.K. Rowling released her first Harry Potter book in England, children left their computers, televisions and video games and started to read - yes, READ. Something that many or most children had put aside for many years not only in England but in the whole world. That in itself is an accomplishment. Four books later a movie of the first book was released and children all wanted to see it.

Then comes the outcry from persons especially in The Bahamas saying the movie is Satanic because it is about wizardry or another word magic. Yes, it is about wizardry and the special effects are something to behold but I sat with a whole theater full of adults and children. I do not honestly think any of the adults feel that their child would be harmed by seeing the film. Why? It is FANTASY. Even more importantly, it distinctly makes the difference between good and evil and good wins out just like in all the fairy tales of old and even in cartoons of old and new. Good always overcomes evil even in the music video *Fantasia*.

I am not going to deny that there are some persons who believe in witchcraft and Satanism and some practice it. But the movie does not encourage a person to go that road. There are too many persons in The Bahamas who say they do not believe in Obeah or Voodoo, yet at the same time will tell a person "they may be fixed." And in the next breath say they are a Christian.

How children perceive things like movies and stories they learn from adults. I remember when the movie Peter Pan came out, a

child tried to fly in a city in the United States like Peter Pan. That was sad but it was obvious no adult told him it was only make believe. When the first Superman came out, the same thing happened to a boy in South America who tried to fly like Superman. Now as far as I am concerned the only thing a child may try after seeing Harry Potter is to put a broom between his/her legs and push off to fly, in which case they will get nowhere. I am reminded that Mary Poppins flew up with her umbrella.

I applaud JK Rowling because she got children to read again. If parents are doing their job, they teach their children the difference between fantasy and real life. They watch the video games they buy or the videos or television shows they watch as well as the books they read. That is where the problem is: parents are falling down or just are not checking. Yes, the occult is evil. Yet look at all the commercials on television asking people to call to have their future told. To me that is far worse than a two-hour movie that tell a fantasy story about a little boy whose parents were killed being raised by an aunt and uncle. They make him live in a tiny space under the stairs before he goes off to wizard school. The movie leaves a good amount of the book out, but on the whole, it is entertaining. Isn't that what fiction and fantasy movies are supposed to be about - to allow an escape to relax or entertain for a brief time before assuming roles again in the real world?

I know many persons will disagree with me on my views and I know that there are many persons who practice Satanism and the occult. But I doubt any of them saw Harry Potter because Harry Potter the movie was like the good witch in the wizard of Oz who helped Dorothy and her friends overcome evil because good always overcomes evil.

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Letters to the Editor

Would Like Letter Writers to Sign Names

Dear Mr. Editor,
I wish to refer to the Abaconian of December 15, 2001, and in particular to the Letters to the Editor.

I am at a loss as to the reasons why so many of your contributors fail to sign their names. The issue described above had at least two well written and relevant letters, but I had no choice but to write them off, as I cannot evaluate issues unless I know from whence they came. Most unfortunate!

I have written over 250 letters to the press and various government ministries during the past twenty years, some very controversial, but on every occasion I have had the courage to sign my name.

Continue to speak out, my fellow Abaconians, and don't be afraid to identify yourself. Remember, there is nothing to fear but fear itself.

Happy 2002 to all your readers.

Yours, etc., Patrick J. Bethel

Trash Is a Disgrace

Dear Editor,
We wish to address the problem Abaco is facing regarding illegal, unsightly, unsanitary and foul dumping of garbage by some citizens of the Abaco community.

Our community must consider that each and every time individuals dump their bags of garbage by the side of the road or in the pine forests or toss a Coke can out the window of their vehicles, it costs them and all the members of our community MONEY! Local government must pay someone to pick up all this garbage. The funds our government must spend on this effort would be better spent on real physical improvements in the various settlements on Abaco.

A good example of this wasteful behavior is the large accumulation of garbage on the road across from the entrance road to Spring City. Local government had to contract for several truckloads of fill to be placed across the roadway in order to stop individuals from using this area as a their dumping ground. Then men had to be paid to gather up the trash and burn it. This exercise cost local government approximately \$600 to \$800. This sum of money could have been spent in the Spring City community in many better ways. I'm sure the Spring City residents would have rather spent that money in their community for worthwhile physical improvements such as the basketball court.

We have seen, within sight of the Marsh Harbour dump, bags of garbage, old bathtubs, appliances and other tash dumped by the side o the road. Not only has illegal dumping increased since the storms of 1999, it is blatant. There is no excuse for this trashing of Abaco. We have a well maintained dump facility for which local government

spends a considerable amount of money. USE IT!

The Lord provided us with these beautiful islands as our home and made us the Earth's protectors. When we dump garbage indiscriminately and illegally, we disrespect our environment and The Bahamas and we insult our Creator.

Sincerely, Chris and Molly Roberts

Taken Advantage Of

Dear Editor
Thanking you in advance for your time and space.

Beware, Bahamians!

This very day I was sorely taken advantage by the Margarita or the firm that is filling in for her, the Tropic Something.

I spent my husband's hard earned money to purchase two mini blinds that were green and had to be made to order. Purchased at Lowe's in Florida and a week of waiting, they arrived and to my amazement, the bill to clear two mini blinds that cost \$78.42 and only weighed 22 pounds, the amount to clear the item came to \$259.

To my pleasant surprise it was not customs charges for a pleasant change but the shipper who thought we as Bahamians are stupid, illiterate, and just plain old chumps.

They are taking advantage of us by not advising us of a standard charge which used to be measured by whatever is greater, weight or cubic foot.

I am only asking that you ask more questions.

So this leaves me with no blinds for I do not have \$259 for blinds that cost \$78. So I hope that someone can use them and I eat the cost and loss.

Sincerely, Sandra Darville

Please see **Letters** Page 22

ISLAND LIFE



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Nov 98

The Stars Intrigue Us at Night

By Alice Bain

Abaco is one of the most unique and beautiful spots on the planet—our beaches and reefs are unparalleled and the Sea of Abaco draws tourists and cruisers from all over the world. Everyone knows about the legendary clarity of our waters, but many take for granted another Abaconian treasure: Our clear night skies. Stars here are brighter and more easily seen than any other place I have ever lived, and it is only since my time in Abaco that I have really paid attention to the phases of the moon and the wanderings of the planets. In recognition of this, I offer this bimonthly column, in the hopes that others will enjoy the night skies as much as I have.

The Milky Way

I had always heard of the Milky Way as a child, but light pollution and hazy skies prevented me from ever really seeing it. The first glimpse I had of it was at the top of a mountain in North Carolina. I was delighted when I first moved to Abaco to realize that the Milky Way here is visible in a grand, uninterrupted arc from one side of the sky to the other.

The Milky Way is our galaxy. The ancient Greeks called it the "galaxies kuklos" (milky circle) and the Romans named it the "via lactea"—the milky road or way. We are seeing this immense pinwheel edge on from our position. It is composed of stars, planets, comets, asteroids and interstellar dust. The sun lies about 2/3 of the way from the center of the Milky Way on one of the galaxy's arms—vast formations of stars

which radiate spirally from the galactic center.

During the month of January the Milky Way is visible on clear nights as a cloudy smear of light crossing the sky (between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.) from the southeast to the northwest. (Due to the Earth's rotation, the orientation of the Milky Way changes during the night from east-west at 6:00 p.m. to north-south at midnight.) With a small telescope or even a pair of binoculars, this cloudy smear begins to resolve into dust-like points of light, giving some feeling for the true size of the galaxy. Each of those minuscule glowing motes of dust is a star, like our sun . . . and there are approximately 200 billion of them in our galaxy alone.

Visible as black patches on the face of the Milky Way are clouds of interstellar gas and dust. These clouds block out the stars behind them, just like the clouds in the sky block out the sun on a cloudy day. And, just like raindrops form inside our earthly clouds as water condenses from vapor into droplets, stars and planets form inside these galactic clouds as gasses and dust condense. A group of very new, recently formed stars, the Pleiades, shines high in the southeastern sky at 7:30 p.m. Astronomers studying the dust cloud behind and around the Pleiades have found even more new stars forming in this region.

This grand spectacle, the Milky Way in all its glory, is becoming increasingly rare around the globe as air quality diminishes and neon signs abound. We on Abaco are privileged to still be able to view the sight that so inspired our ancestors.

Phone Service Will Allow Direct Collect Calls

By Stephanie Humblestone

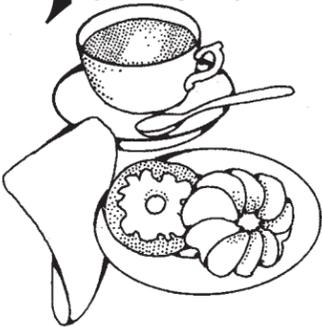
Public telephones will soon be installed on private property locations throughout Abaco. A private phone company from Texas proposed to Batelco last year to provide a phone service for tourists allowing them to make collect calls. This is a speed dial service with a one button push to access the operator. These are not coin phones and do not compete with the local market.

"This is a win-win situation," said Mr. Wesley Walters, a director with the company. "Batelco has no installation charges, no maintenance, no billing, and no advertising costs and the customer has the benefit of the service." He felt it would give The Bahamas a better, progressive image. "This service is free of charge to location owners

and can generate income for owners, giving them a percentage of the billing."

The system is presently installed throughout the Caribbean and in Nassau. For purposes of installation, an affiliate Bahamian company has been formed called NCIC (Bahamas Ltd.) in partnership with Blue Phone Ltd.. The project itself is referred to as The Blue Phone Program. On Abaco Capt. Tommy Bethel is the local representative.

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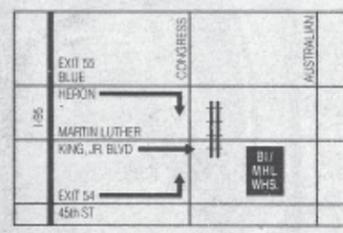
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New Moorings Are in Place at Fowl Cay

By Bradley Albury, Age 12

On December 9th, 2001, work continued to place new moorings in Fowl Cay and Mermaids Reef. As you may already know,

but just in case you did not, moorings are buoys anchored into the rocks, and sand and are usually placed at national underwater parks so that visitors and locals can tie up.



Divers worked strenuously to cement moorings into the rock at both Fowl Cay and Mermaid Reef. These moorings are for boaters to keep from anchoring in these delicate reef areas. Anchors break off coral and damage the fragile eco-system. Photo by Lory Kenyon

You may wonder, "Why not just anchor?" but that's the precise reason they were placed. You see, throwing an anchor is likely to kill large amounts of the coral head. This is how the procedures went: on December 9-12, 2001, Froggies Out Island Adventure, a lovely little dive company located on Abaco, took Joe Santamaria and Karl Syfrett from JPS Industries to Fowl Cay and also Mermaid's Reef. Once they found the appropriate site, they gathered all their apparatus, put on their scuba gear, and went in the water. This job, of course, was easy to them for they are used to being in pitch black helping put down oil rigs. While in the water which was cold, mind you, they drilled a hole in the rock. Next came the cement (ugh, try descending twenty-five feet without it all floating away). After the cement was quite painstakingly placed into the newly drilled hole, hooks which held the ropes to tie the moorings on were placed in the ce-

ment. After all work was completed, there was a total of nineteen moorings in Fowl Cay, five at Mermaids Reef and fifteen at Sandy Cay Reef, all in all thirty-nine moorings were placed to help our reefs prosper for future generations to enjoy.

A special thanks to JPS Industries, Friends of the Environment, Froggies Out Island Adventure, Dive Guana, Island Marine, Joe Santamaria, Karl Syfett, Troy Albury, Ron Engle, Cooter Schoonermaker, Christopher Lightbourn, Dave Sammer, Carry Newell, and a few of us in the Lighthouse Scuba Club, namely Ashley Knowles, Clint Russell, Eric Albury, Jordan Wells, and Bradley Albury.

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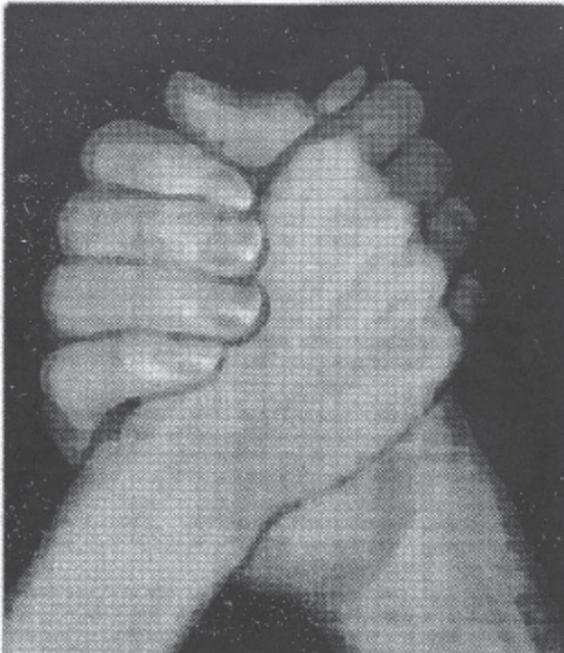


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AIDS Is on Increase in Bahamas

By Alice Bain

The subject of AIDS awareness in the Bahamas is in the news again. According to Dr. Perry Gomez, Director of the Bahamas AIDS program, the HIV infection rate is now once again on the increase in this nation. Dr. Marc Binard of Abaco Family Medical Clinic, commented on the subject of AIDS on Abaco.

"I think the main point to make here is that HIV is a significant concern for Abaconians of all ages, races and religions," said Dr. Binard. "Many people are worried about AIDS," he continued, "and of those concerned, there are many who appear to be using precautions such as abstinence and safe sexual practices - but there are also some who should be more careful but have a feel-

ing that 'it won't happen to me.'"

"There are some misconceptions about HIV in the Abaco community. Many people don't feel that they can be HIV positive and be without symptoms. This is dangerous, because it is possible to have HIV and to pass the infection to others and yet have absolutely no symptoms at all. The only sure way to know that you do not have HIV is to get a test. There also seems to be a reluctance among Abaconians to get tested. The importance of early testing doesn't seem to be appreciated.

AIDS has gone from being a deadly, untreatable disease to being more of a chronic medical condition due to the introduction of new antiretroviral drugs. The onset of full-blown AIDS can be delayed

significantly by taking these drugs, which, while they don't cure AIDS, will suppress infections to the point where most people can live an otherwise normal life. But these drugs give most benefit when administered early in an infection before full-blown AIDS develops. They cannot be administered if we don't know which people need them."

The Caribbean basin as a whole has been in the international news, quoted as having the second-highest overall rate of infection in the world after sub-Saharan Africa. The infection rate among adults in the Bahamas is 4.13 percent (according to the CIA statistical factsheet on the Bahamas available online). In more graphic terms that means that one in every 25 adults is HIV positive. In the Caribbean area, only Haiti has a higher rate of infection, at over 5 percent. The stigma attached to HIV infection makes it difficult to gather accurate statistics, and no official statistics exist solely for Abaco.

In a speech at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS in June of this year, Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hubert A. Ingraham, commented, "HIV/AIDS is not confined to any particular sector of Bahamian society. It has spread to the general population predominantly

through heterosexual contact and from infected mothers to infants. The youth of our country is especially at risk as well as women and those engaged in dangerous sexual behavior." Women have been shown to be more likely to contract the virus during sexual contact than men and are more likely to be the victims of rape, incest or other sexual coercion which may expose them to the virus.

It is of vital importance that anyone who has engaged in risky behavior or who has been assaulted or coerced be tested for the virus. Appropriate treatment, when started early, can significantly prolong life. An intervention program instigated in 1995 by the AIDS Foundation of The Bahamas supplies medication to treat HIV-infected pregnant women and has successfully reduced the rate of virus transmission from mother to infant. According to Dr. Binard, pregnant women are the only group of people who are regularly tested for HIV on Abaco, and the infection rate for that group at least seems to be low. "However," he continued, "there is no demographic group that can claim to be unaffected by HIV; it is a concern for all Abaconians across the board."



Hurricane Michelle broke this Aquasport loose at the Crossing Beach public dock and left it beached there. Although it looks salvageable at first glance, the stringers inside the hull are reported to be broken giving the boat little value. The derelict Aquasport was still hard aground two months later, apparently abandoned.

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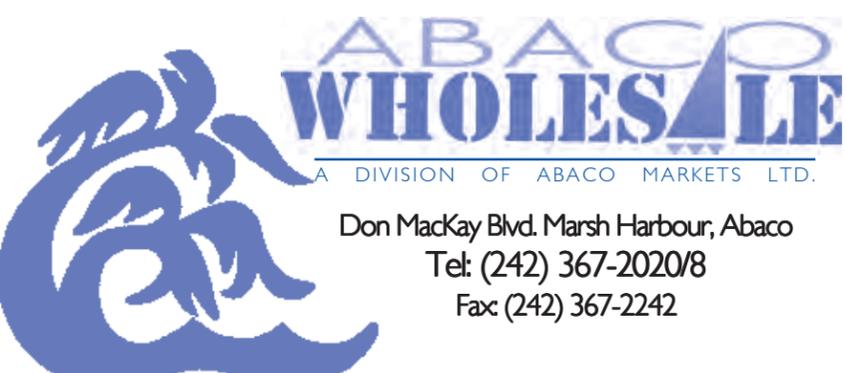


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Researcher Attends International Conference

Local whale and dolphin researcher, Diane Claridge, was able to attend an important gathering of scientists to discuss marine mammal research and conservation issues thanks to a kind contribution made by Friends of the Environment in Hope Town. Mrs. Claridge travelled to Vancouver, British Columbia, to participate in the Fourteenth Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals held from November 28th to December 3rd, including a one-day workshop on the Biology and Conservation of Beaked Whales.

Mrs. Claridge is the Project Director of the Bahamas Marine Mammal Survey (BMMS) based in Sandy Point, an on-going research program that is documenting the occurrence, distribution and abundance of whales and dolphins in the Bahamas. The project has just completed its tenth year of fieldwork here on Abaco, and Mrs. Claridge and other BMMS scientists presented results of this research at the conference.

At the Beaked Whale Workshop, BMMS scientists presented information on the distribution and occurrence of beaked whales in The Bahamas and the residency patterns of dense-beaked whales off Sandy Point. During the Conference, BMMS scientists further presented work on the social structure of dense-beaked whales off Abaco and genetic relatedness of bottlenose dolphin groups in Abaco, while BMMS' senior scientist, Dr. Ken Balcomb, gave a first-hand account of the mass stranding of whales caused by US Navy sonar last year here on Abaco.

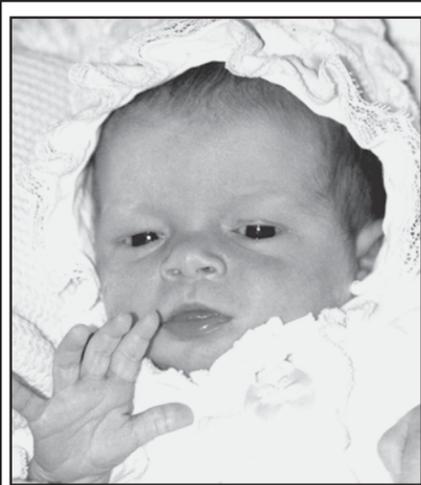
Dr. Balcomb's talk was one of the best attended during the conference as there is increasing concern about the effects of anthropogenic or man-made underwater noise on marine mammals which can interfere with their need to communicate, disrupt their ability to feed and cause catastrophic panic and/or mortal injury.

During the conference there was another recurring area of concern for marine mammals: marine debris. "It was extremely distressing to learn how often plastic is found

in the stomachs of whales and dolphins. This appears to be of particular concern in those species that feed on squid such as the beaked whales and dwarf and pygmy sperm whales, species that are common on Abaco.

Scientists from Japan and Taiwan said that it is common to find stranded beaked whales that have their entire stomach full of plastic bags," Mrs. Claridge reports. "I recalled the number of times I've been out on the boat here on Abaco and seen plastic bags floating. We really need to dispose of our garbage properly. This is a responsibility that all the people of Abaco need to embrace."

"This conference was an important opportunity for scientists to present results of their on-going work to their peers, to exchange ideas and learn about new technologies and their applications to research and to become informed about global conservation concerns for marine mammals. I always come away from these meetings feeling incredibly inspired by what I've learned and fulfilled by the act of sharing what I know with others. I am extremely grateful to Friends of the Environment for covering my travel expenses which allowed me to participate," says Mrs. Claridge.



Kalina Mae Weatherford was born on December 21 in Freeport, Grand Bahama to proud parents Neil and Sacha Weatherford of Marsh Harbour. Grandparents are Jeff and Phyllis Albury of Man-O-War and Sidney and Katherine Weatherford of Guana Cay.

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Change Me

From Page 9

stituencies had been established. The Boundaries Commission order was signed late in December allowing the issuing of the voter cards. No changes were made in the constituency boundaries on Abaco.

According to the Parliamentary Election Act, the number of voters in a polling division should not exceed 400. Most constituencies will have changes made to polling division boundaries within constituencies including two on Abaco which have more than 400 voters registered.

In Central Abaco Murphy Town will have two Polling Divisions, No. 8 and No. 11, instead of one because the number of registered voters has increased since the last election. South Side road will divide No. 8 from No. 11.

The Administrator's office began issuing the voter cards on January 8 and staff members will accommodate voters in each community on the mainland and on the cays by making them available on specific days in each town.

In South Abaco Administrator Benjamin Pinder began distributing voter cards on January 7 in Sandy Point and continued the distribution in each community as he visited them. He went to

Moore's Island on January 8 with the cards. He expected to finish the distribution within a week or two.

In North Abaco Administrator Ivan Ferguson began the distribution of voter cards on January 8. The complication with the distribution is that there is only one master register. That register has to be taken to each community for the distribution to take place in that community. He expects to complete the distribution quickly.

Voters will be able to pick up their cards in the administrator's offices in Green Turtle Cay, Cooper's Town and Grand Cay, at the Post Office in Treasure Cay and at the Government Clinic in Fox Town on those days when the Administrator or a staff member has the master register in that town.

**Abaco Family Medicine
NOTICE**

The office of Dr. Frank Boyce and Dr. Marc Binard, no longer has any association with Abaco Medical Clinic, the office of Dr. Elaine Lundy. Dr. Boyce and Dr. Binard will continue to provide 24 hour, seven day a week emergency and after hours medical coverage to their patients.

**New Gym Is Opening
in Marsh Harbour**

By Alice Bain

A new gymnasium will be opening in Marsh Harbour on February 1. Robert Malone, Stephanie Humblestone, Lester Albury and Michael Albury will be opening Abaco Fitness in the Memorial Plaza. "We pledge to give personal attention to our members," says Lester Albury. "We will have specialists available to help people develop personal diet and exercise programs and to encourage people to set goals and monitor their own progress. We plan to host lectures on health-related issues."

The 2,000 square foot space will be divided into separate areas for free weights, state of the art weight machines, cardiovascular and an aero-

bics room with a specially sprung floor. Television and music will be provided, and the equipment will be wiped down twice daily with a special cleaning product. Plans are in the works for a cyber-booth with access to internet health sites, and client records will be computerized.

Stephanie Humblestone will be teaching yoga classes at the gym, and karate and aerobics classes will be available. "We will be opening with an open house on February 1st for people to meet us and try out the equipment," says Robert Malone. "This is an expanding effort, and customer feedback will be invited."

Hours will be 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays.



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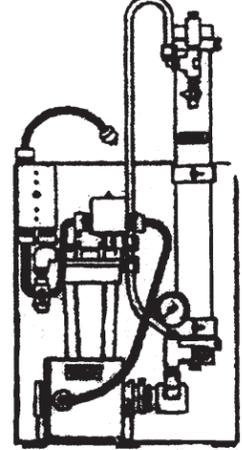
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Viewpoint For What It's Worth

By Patrick J. Bethel

I can no longer remain silent, as hard as I try, simply because sometimes I put the interest of my fellow Abaconians before my own.

Hurricane Michelle passed through Abaco eight weeks ago today, fortunately doing little damage. But our only traffic light at an intersection where over 5000 vehicles pass every day was badly damaged. To date no replacement.

Now let's examine traffic lights damaged in Nassau, quite a few. How many are still out after eight weeks? It is my understanding, and I stand to be corrected, that all have been replaced or repaired.

Why do "Out Island" communities continue to be treated with disrespect and disdain? Yes, it has been this way for 200 years, but why should it continue?

One would have thought that with the calibre of persons in place today at the local level greater accountability could be expected.

What is the problem? I do not accept that

it is the lack of interest or ability, but rather apathy and for some unknown reason, fear of central government. Some would suggest that unconsciously it is a carry over of colonialism when we sat and waited for government officials to do it. Surely, those days are past. What will it take to awaken the people to the realisation that often we are ignored and unfairly treated?

While on the subject of neglect, let me highlight a few other areas which should be a priority during 2002:

1. Road signs, virtually none in the town or on the island. When I visit other Out Islands where there is only one quarter of the traffic, I find the roads signs much better posted. Why can't we do our own thing and in the process help our visitors and maybe save a life?

2. Sidewalks, especially on tourism strip and Forest Drive. We had had less than a 1000 feet of sidewalks in nine years.

3. Zebra crossings, especially on tourism strip and near our schools. Our children should come first. This time make sure

the right quality and colour of paint is used.

4. Street lights. Sometimes more than 20 percent remain out for months. Who is responsible?

5. Cats' eyes on all the dangerous curves of the Great Abaco Highway. It can be done for \$20,000. This should certainly be a priority in 2002 as it may save a life.

6. Finally, the now famous "LINES," the \$200,000 contract. Why can't they be completed? Why didn't government insist on the right quality of paint so that the lines would last? Why weren't lines constructed on Forest Drive and the Cherokee Road, two very dangerous stretches of road? And by the way, please don't forget the two special Bethel and Thompson curves.

Sorry for the long epistle, just hope it makes a few think.

Happy new year to all my fellow Bahamians and visitors.

North Abaco News

The request for tenders for a concrete sea wall in Cooper's Town has been put out. The sea wall is to replace the inadequate one which was destroyed in Hurricane Floyd in September 1999. The tenders are due in the Ministry of Public Works office by January 17, 2002. The sea wall will be approximately 3000 feet long and is expected to cost in excess of \$400,000. Construction should begin within two to three months after the successful contractor is chosen.

The road along the waterfront was repaired and paved since the initial damage. However, Hurricane Michelle in November 2001 washed away the foundation causing the road to have extensive damage. The road will have to be repaired after the sea wall is constructed.

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Jollification Included Abaco Artists

The Bahamas National Trust held their annual arts and crafts festival on December 8 and 9 at their headquarters in Nassau under the theme Junkanoo Jollification. The festival showcases locally manufactured and original handcrafted items. Over 50 booths were set up to display their unique creations this year. There was increased participation from the Family Islands this year with Abaco leading the way.

Among Abaco participants were *The Basket Lady* Harriet Thompson who lured many to her booth with her unique hand woven baskets, vases and other items made from native pine needles from Abaco's pine forests. She shared a booth with Colette Bootle with her scenic paintings of beautiful island

life ranging from white sandy beaches to white picket fences.

Another participant from Abaco was Karen McIntosh of Abaco Ceramics who displayed her delicate array of ceramic pieces, giving visitors a crash course in how the exquisite pieces are made. Her Christmas ornaments were my favorite. Stained glass art was a favorite with many visitors. Rome Heyer captured everybody's attention with a wide variety of beautiful stained glass items ranging from jewelry to decorative mirrors.

Many spectators agreed that this year the items were more affordable and many were even able to place orders for personal pieces.



Several Abaco artists displayed their work at the Bahamas National Trust annual arts and crafts festival. Smiling for the camera are Bootle and Harriet, The Basket Lady, at their booth at the Jollification.



Karen McIntosh, proprietor of Abaco Ceramics in Treasure Cay, stands next to her display of ceramic, hand painted Christmas ornaments. Sales were good and many artists received commissions for additional work. The show is to encourage Bahamian artists to develop their talents and to give the public an opportunity to see what is available.



Rome Heyer of Green Turtle Cay displayed stained glass items which she specializes in.

Best Wishes for the New Year from the The Abaco Chapter of the **SCURVY FEW MOTORCYCLE CLUB** of the Bahamas

We would like to express our gratitude to all of those who helped to make our
4th annual Toys for Tots Rally
on December 9th a great success.

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Marsh Harbour Police Department
Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department

We have made every effort to recognize the many individuals and organizations supporting this cause.

If we have inadvertently forgotten a name, we sincerely apologize.

Your kind contribution has been greatly appreciated.

Best Wishes for the New Year

The Scurvy Few Motorcycle Club meets monthly, the first Thursday of each month at noon at the Bistro

Police Report

As Reported to Stephanie Humblestone

A Marsh Harbour man had his travel document, birth certificate and wallet stolen from his house on December 13.

An Elbow Cay house had a door lock forced on December 14. Stolen were a satellite card, a computer system and an assortment of tools valued at \$475.

A Murphy Town house was broken into through a window on December 14. Stolen were a \$500 satellite card and boot adapter, a \$400 ID bracelet with the initials "RJM," a \$700 gold wedding band with three rows of diamonds and a \$13 bottle of wine.

A fight broke out at the Detour Nightclub on December 17. One man had a head injury and was escorted to the Government Clinic by two policemen.

A minor riot at the Detour Nightclub in Marsh Harbour on December 17 resulted in a man being wounded by a female when she cut his left forefinger with a knife.

A mini brawl broke out at M&M Disco in Cooper's Town on December 17 involving a group of men from Fox Town and another group from Cooper's Town. Jermaine Mills received a broken jaw and extensive damage to his truck. Persons arrested and charged were; Uganda Russell, Kelsey Cornish, Lacardo Curry, Marcus Laing, Ray Burrows, Devon Mills, Cedric Gardener, Jabaar Kemp, Jessico Mc Kinney and Alvaro McDonald.

A Murphy Town resident was arrested on December 17 for assaulting a police officer and obstructing the course of justice.

A Murphy Town man arrested on December 17 for possession of dangerous drug with intent to supply.

Sawyer's Market in Marsh Harbour had a break-in on December 18 and an attempt to open the safe. Two residents of Pigeon Peas were subsequently arrested.

A woman in Fire Road reported that someone entered a shop on December 18 and stole \$400 in cash from the cash register. There was no sign of forced entry but the back door was found open.

A Murphy Town man was arrested on December 18 and charged with possession of cocaine hidden in a Nutra Choice Vitamin bottle.

A resident of Pigeon Peas reported on December 26 that his one year old daughter

had been indecently assaulted by a man living in the same residence. As the assailant fled, the father stabbed him.

Resident of Pigeon Peas said he witnessed a fight on December 26. While attempting to stop it, he was chopped in the head and on the left arm by one of the men involved in the fight.

A resident of Hope Town was arrested at the Detour Night Club and Sporting Lounge in Marsh Harbour on December 27.

A resident of Dundas Town reported on December 27 that her brother was assaulted by a young neighbour man at the Murphy Town Ball Park. The attacker was arrested and subsequently charged.



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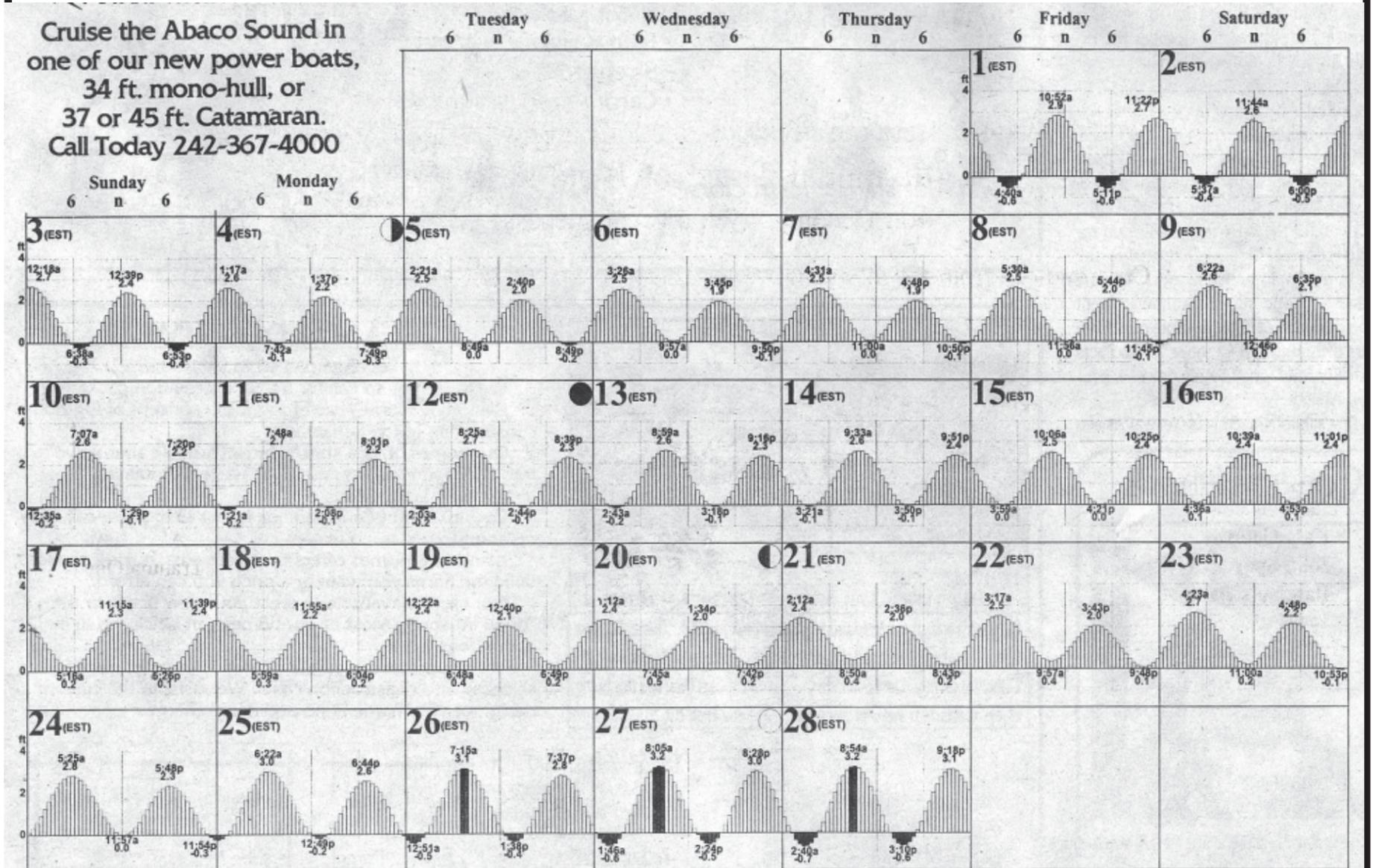
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Club News

Rotary Club Club Is Sponsoring Golf Tournament

By Isobel Sherman

The First Annual Scramble Handicap Golf Tournament sponsored by the Rotary Club of Abaco will be held on January 26 at Treasure Cay Golf Course. The tournament is open to both men and ladies. Proceeds from the tournament will aid the Rotary Educational Fund for Abaco students.

There will be a brunch from 10:30-11:30 and tee off time will be noon. Each team will have four players. There will be a 19th hole.

The prizes, which will be bid at each hole include the following: Closest to the pin - a seven-day Caribbean cruise for two, a hole-in-one - a 2002 Nissan Sentra, longest drive - four cases of beer or soft drinks. Shirts and plaques will be awarded to the winning team.

Entry forms are available from CIBC, the Treasure Cay golf course, Abaco Water and Riviere and Associates. The entry fee is \$100. You can contact Drexel Major at 367-3344 or Barry Whiting at 367-3712.

A Valentine Dance Is Planned

The Rotary Club of Abaco will be staging a Valentine's Dinner and Ball at the Pavilion at Abaco Beach Resort on February 15. Music will be supplied by the Impact band and prizes will be given for best dressed male and female. Dress is semi-formal red and white. Tickets are \$50 per person and will include a free drink from 7-8 p.m. Proceeds will aid the Rotary Education Fund.

Pilot Club

The Pilot Club of Abaco and the youth arm, the Anchor Club, are service clubs whose theme and pledge this year is *Self Above Service*.

Every month the Pilot Club prepares a meal for senior citizens. In October the Pilot Club along with the Anchor Club delivered 56 lunches to the elderly and the shut-ins of Central Abaco and in November delivered 40 breakfasts.

The Brain Minders program is used throughout the world by Pilot Clubs to promote safety among children and to make the public aware of the seriousness of brain related disorder accidents. In October the President of the Pilot Club, Mrs. Major, presented a public service announcement video on safety to ZNS to promote our Brain Minders program. On October 22 Projects Director Sharon Dorset began our new program on Abaco.

The first school visited was Central Abaco

Primary School. Mrs. Dorset presented the program to 34 students who listened and enthusiastically responded. They were most excited about the flip chart presentation and their Brain Minder Buddy certificates.

In November Mrs. Dorset and President Mrs. Major visited St. Francis de Sales School with the program to grade one using huge drawings of the characters in the flip chart. The children were excited and at the end of the program the children took pictures with the characters. They were given Brain Minders Buddy certificates and balloons.

We hope to visit all schools on Abaco before the end of June 2002.

On December 6 the club held its first Precious Pearls Carol Service at Trumpet Assembly Church of God to honor the senior citizens in Central Abaco. Later Pilot President Mrs. Major and the Anchors delivered care baskets and Christmas gift bags to senior citizens who were unable to make it to the Carol Service.

The Pilot Club held a *Blast From the Past*



Anchor Club members were active in community service projects including helping senior citizens and students at the Every Child Counts program at the St. Francis de Sales School in Marsh Harbour.

dance party on December 1 at the Abaco Beach Resort. Part of the proceeds will be used to assist the *Every Child Counts* program for students with learning disabilities.

The Anchor Club had many projects for

last year. They promoted the Brain Minders program, helped deliver meals, helped with the Carol Service and gave out Christmas

Please see **Clubs**

Page 26



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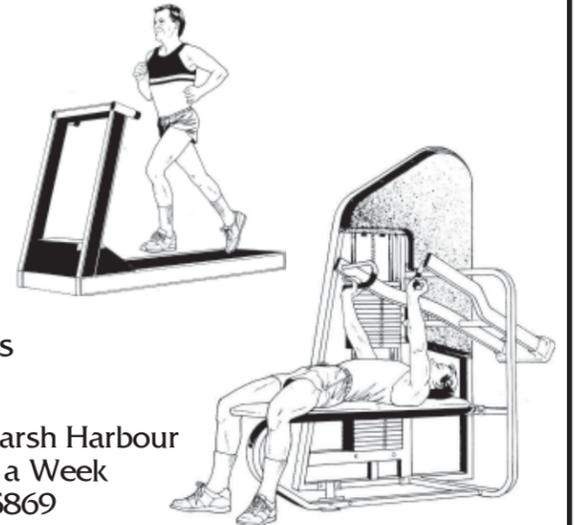
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Custom Island Log House on Lubber's Quarters

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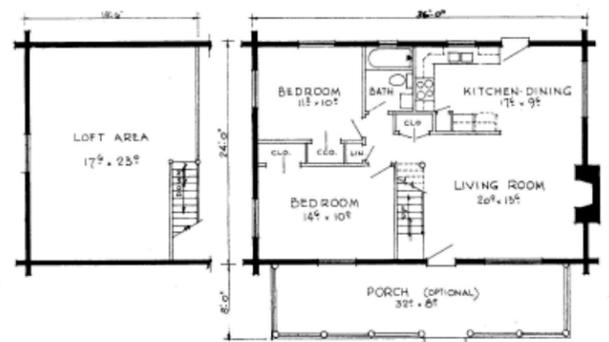
THE SAUGEEN: 1300 sq.ft.

US\$43,000 Package price delivered to Marsh Harbour

Stamp tax and duties extra

Package includes:

- 8" cedar log walls, treated
- Main floor and loft structure
- All interior partition framing
- Roof structure (steel or asphalt)
- All windows and exterior doors
- Exterior siding and trims in cedar



Phone 519-389-4846
Fax 519-389-3027
E-mail: info@oceanfrontier.com
Or write to: Andrew Hill
Island Log Homes
RR # 1 Port Elgin
Ontario NOH 2C5
Canada

Congratulations



Kirsten Bootle

graduated from Newman University in Wichita, Kansas, on December 15 with a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and Marketing. She is the daughter of Mrs. Anne Bootle of Treasure Cay.



Area code 242
unless listed

Visitors' Guide

Restaurants • Services • Transportation

Abaco Chamber of Commerce • 367-5822 • Fax 367-5823 • abaco-chamber@abacoinet.com



Emergency Services	
Police (Marsh Harbour)	367-2560
Marsh Harb. Volunteer Fire Dept.	367-2000
Hope Town Volunteer Fire Dept.	VHF Ch 16
Trauma One Ambulance Service	367-2911
Dundas Town Fire Dept.	367-2935 or 4935
Bah Air Sea Rescue Assoc	VHF 16 or 366-0282

Taxi Cab Fares for one or two passengers Plus extra for each passenger above two	
• Between Marsh Harbour Airport and:	
Ferry Dock	\$12.00 + \$3
Abaco Beach Hotel through Golden Harvest	\$10.00 + \$3
Dove Plaza to Stop Light	\$10.00 + \$2
Western Auto	\$ 6.00 + \$2
Gov. freight dock through Dundas Town	\$10.00 + \$3
Murphy Town or Pelican Shores	\$14.00 + \$4
Eastern Shores or Spring City	\$15.00 + \$4
Gov. Clinic	\$ 6.00 + \$3
Snake Cay	\$35.00 + \$10
Treasure Cay B	\$55.00 + \$ 5
Casuarina Point	\$60.00 + \$10
Airport - Treas. Cay B	\$65.00 + \$ 5
Bahama Palm Shores	\$70.00 + \$10
Little Harbour or Cherokee	\$80.00 + \$10
Crossing Rocks	\$100.00 + \$10
Sandy Point	\$135.00 + \$10
• Between Marsh Harbour Ferry and:	
Abaco Beach Hotel through Wally's	\$ 2.00 + \$2
Jib Room	\$ 5.00 + \$2
Stop Light or Dove Plaza	\$ 6.00 + \$3
Government Freight Dock	\$ 7.00 + \$3
Gov. Clinic, W. Auto or Nat. Insurance	\$ 9.00 + \$3
Waiting time \$20 per hour, \$10 per half hour	
No children under three years to be charged.	
Uncaged pets will be charged as passengers	
Luggage \$.50 each over four, Surf Boards \$3.00 ea.	
• Between Northern Abaco Airport and:	
Treasure Cay, Bahamas Star, or Moxy	\$14 + \$6
Bronks or Highway Liquors	\$10 + \$5
Sand Banks	\$20 + \$5
Joe's Creek	\$35 + \$5
Black Wood	\$14 + \$5
Fire Road	\$25 + \$5
Cooper's Town	\$30 + \$5
Cedar Harbour	\$45 + \$5
Wood Cay	\$50 + \$5
Mount Hope	\$55 + \$5
Fox Town	\$60 + \$5
Marsh Harbour or Crown Haven	\$65 + \$5
Marsh Harbour Round Trip	\$85 + \$5
TC Hotel to Marsh Harbour	\$55 + \$5
TC Hotel to Joe's Creek	\$25 + \$5
TC Hotel to Sand Bank	\$16 + \$5
TC Hotel to Moxey	\$10 + \$5
TC Hotel to Bronks	\$ 7 + \$5
From TC Hotel to All Areas N. of T.C. Airport	Add \$10
Waiting Time	\$12 Per Hour

Air Lines Serving Abaco	
Air Florida - Ft. Lauderdale	367-5599
Air Sunshine - Ft. Lauderdale	367-2800
American Eagle - Miami	367-2231
Bahamasair - Nassau & W Palm B	367-2095
Continental Connection - Miami	
Ft. Laud and W Palm Bch	367-3415
Discover - Orlando	
Golden Airlines - Ft. Lauderdale	954-359-8020
Island Express	367-3597
Lynx Air International - Ft. Lauderdale	954-772-9808
Major Air Service - Freeport	367-4826
Twin Air - Fort Lauderdale	365-8677
USAir - Ft. Laud and W. Palm Bch	367-2231
Vintage Props & Jets - New Smyrna B.	367-4852
Abaco Air Charters	*367-2266
Cherokee Air Charters	*367-2089
* Local charter companies serving S. Florida and within the Bahamas	



Ferry Schedule Departure times shown • Daily unless noted	
Albury's Ferry Service	
Marsh Harbour to Hope Town	20 minute trip
‡7:15 (M-F) 9 am 10:30 12:15 pm 2 4 5:30	
Hope T. to Marsh Harbour	20 minute trip
8 am 9:45 11:30 1:30 pm 3 4 ‡5 (M-F)	
Marsh Harbour to Man-O-War	20 minute trip
10:30 am 12:15 pm (M-Sat) 2:30 (M-Sat) 4 5:30	
Man-O-War to Marsh Harbour	20 minute trip
8 am 11:30 (M-Sat) 1:30 pm 3:15 (M-Sat)	
Marsh Harbour to Scotland Cay & Guana	30 minute trip
‡6:45 am 10:15 1:15 pm 3:30 5:30	
Guana & Scotland Cay to Marsh Harbour	30 minute trip
8 am 11:30 2:30 pm 4:45	
<i>Fare • OneWay / Round Trip Adult \$ 8/\$12 Children \$4/\$6 Charters any time • Phone 367-3147 or 365-6010 VHF Ch. 16 Hope Town and Man-O-War ferries leave from Crossing Beach Guana Cay and Scotland Cay ferries leave from Conch Inn ‡ Workman's special Mondays thru Fridays from Crossing Beach</i>	

Green Turtle Ferry	
Green Turtle Cay to Treasure Cay Airport • Daily	
8 am 9 11 12:15pm 1:30 3 4:30	
Treasure Cay Airport to Green Turtle Cay • Daily	
8:30 am 10:30 11:30 1:30 2:30 3:30 4:30 5	
<i>One way adult fare \$7 (Children \$3) • Round trip \$11 Additional to some destinations • Charter any time Phone 365-4166, 4128, 4151 VHF Channel 16</i>	

Abaco Adventures	
Treasure Cay to Guana Cay - Daily	10 am Sunday 12 noon
Guana Cay to Treasure Cay - Daily	4 pm Sunday 3 & 5 pm
<i>Fares One Way \$10 • Round Trip \$20 • Charter any time Phone 365-8749 VHF Channel 16</i>	

Abaco Marinas	
Slips Fuel Phone	
Walker's Cay	
Walker's Cay Marina	75 F 353-1252
Green Turtle Cay	
Bluff House	15 F 365-4200
Green Turtle Club	32 F 365-4271
Black Sound Marina	15 365-4531
Other Shore Club	12 F 365-4195
Abaco Yacht Service	10 F 365-4033
Treasure Cay	
Treasure Cay Marina	150 F 365-8250
Man-O-War	
Man-O-War Marina	26 F 365-6008
Marsh Harbour	
Boat Harbour Marina	183 F 367-2736
Conch Inn	75 F 367-4000
Harbour View Marina	36 F 367-2182
Marsh Harbour Marina	52 F 367 2700
Mangoes	29 F 367-2366
Port of Call	24 F 367-2163
Abaco Yacht Haven	7 367-3079
Hope Town	
Hope Town Marina	16 366-0003
Hope Town Hideaways	366-0224
Lighthouse Marina	6 F 366-0154
Sea Spray	24 F 366-0065
Spanish Cay	
Spanish Cay Marina	75 F 365-0083
Guana Cay	
Guana Beach Resort	22 F 365-5133
Orchid Bay	32 F 365-5175
Boats coming from U.S. can clear at Walker's Cay, Green Turtle Cay, Treasure Cay or Marsh Harbour.	

Medical Services	
Marsh Harbour	
Abaco Medical Clinic	367-4240
Abaco Family Medicine	367-2295
Government Clinic	367-2510
Cooper's Town Gov. Clinic	365-0300
Green Turtle Cay Gov. Clinic	365-4028
Hope Town Gov. Clinic	366-0108
Sandy Point Gov. Clinic	366-4010
Treasure Cay Corbett Clinic	365-8288

Dive Shops	
Marsh Harbour	
Dive Abaco	367-2787
Abaco Beach Dive Shop	367-4646
Hope Town	
Dave's Dive Shop	366-0029
Froggies	366-0024
Guana Cay Dive shop	365-5178
Man-O-War Dive Shop	365-6013
Treasure Cay JIC Divers Down	365-8465
Treasure Cay Adventures	365-8111
Green Turtle Cay	
Brendal's Dive Shop	365-4411
Green Turtle Divers	365-4271

Dive Shops	
Marsh Harbour	
Dive Abaco	367-2787
Abaco Beach Dive Shop	367-4646
Hope Town	
Dave's Dive Shop	366-0029
Froggies	366-0024
Guana Cay Dive shop	365-5178
Man-O-War Dive Shop	365-6013
Treasure Cay JIC Divers Down	365-8465
Treasure Cay Adventures	365-8111
Green Turtle Cay	
Brendal's Dive Shop	365-4411
Green Turtle Divers	365-4271

Bonefish Guides	
Sandy Point	
Patrick Roberts	366-4286
Nicholas Roberts	366-4175
Derrick Gaitor	366-4335
Ferdinand Burrows	366-4133
Vernal Burrows	366-4107
Kendall White	366-3058
Cherokee	
Theodore Sawyer	366-2111
Will Sawyer	366-2177
Marty Sawyer	366-2115
Noel Lowe	366-2107
Junior Albury	366-3058
Hope Town	
Maitland Lowe	366-0133
North Abaco	
O'Donald McIntosh	477-5894
Pope McKenzie	365-0125
Orthnell Russell	365-0120
Alexander Rolle	365-0024
Edward Rolle	365-0024
Green Turtle Cay	
Ronnie Sawyer	365-4070
Jeff Survance	365-4040
Ricky Sawyer	365-4261
Man-O-War	
David Albury	365-6059



Everyone reads The Abaconian

Restaurant Guide	
Prices \$ Low, \$\$ Moderate, \$\$\$ Upper (Based on dinner entree range)	
‡ Provides ride from town	
+ Picnic tables & restroom only	
Marsh Harbour	
Anglers	\$\$\$ 367-2158
C&G Restaurant	\$ 367-3227
Conch Inn Bistro	\$\$\$ 367-4444
Daily Bread (lunch)	\$
Flippers	\$\$ 367-4657
Golden Grouper	\$ 367-2301
Jamie's Place	
Jib Room	\$ 367-2700
Kentucky Fried Chicken (lunch)	367-2615
Lacaye	\$ 367-4910
Mangoes	\$\$\$ 367-2366
Mavis Country Kitchen	\$ 367-2002
Pop's Place	\$ + 367-3796
Sapodill	\$\$\$ 367-2498
Sharkees	\$ + 367-3535
Snack Shack	\$ + 367-4005
Subway	367-2798
Wallys	\$\$\$ 367-2074
Dundas Town	
Ambassador Inn	\$ 367-2022
Murphy Town	
Lazy Parrot - SC Bootle Hwy	367-5331
Hope Town	
Abaco Inn	\$\$\$ 366-0133
Boat House	\$ 366-0065
Cap'n Jacks	\$ 366-0247
Club Soleil	\$\$\$ 366-0003
Harbour's Edge	\$ 366-0087
Hollywood Temptations	
H T Harbour Lodge	\$ 366-0095
Munchies	\$ + 366-0423
Rudy's Place	\$\$\$ 366-0062
Man-O-War	
Pavilion	\$ 365-6185
Hibiscus	365-6380
Guana Cay	
Coco Paradise	365-5197
Guana Seaside	\$\$\$ 365-5106
Nippers	\$\$\$ 365-5143
Mermaid Cafe	\$\$\$ 365-5137
Floyds	365-5133
Treasure Cay	
Florence's Cafe	\$
Harbour Cafe	\$ 365-8635
Hudson's Delight	\$ 365-8648
Island Boil & Sports Bar	\$ 365-8849
Spinnaker Restaurant	\$\$\$ 365-8469
Touch of Class	\$\$\$ 365-8195
Traveller's Rest	365-8654
Green Turtle Cay	
Bluff House	\$\$\$ 365-4200
Green Turtle Club	\$ 365-4271
Laura's Kitchen	\$ 365-4287
McIntosh's Restaurant	\$ 365-4625
New Plymouth Inn	\$\$\$ 365-4161
Plymouth Rock Cafe	365-4234
Rooster's Rest	\$ 365-4066
Wrecking Tree Rest.	
Harbour Cafe (ferry dock)	\$ + 365-8635
Sandy Point	
Big J's	\$ 366-4020
Oeishas	366-4139
Pete & Gays	\$\$\$ 366-4119
Seaside Inn	\$\$\$ 366-4120
Rickmon Bonefish Lodge	366-4477

Rentals	
Bikes & Scooters • Boats • Cars & Carts	
Marsh Harbour	
A & P Car Rentals	367-2655
Blue Wave Boat Rentals	367-3910
Concept Boat Rentals	367-5570
Laysue Boat Rentals	367-4414
Pier One Boat Rentals	367-3587
Power Cat Boat Rentals	367-4620
Rainbow Boat Rentals	367-4602
Rental Wheels Scooters, Bikes, Cars	367-4643
Rich's Boat Rentals	367-2742
Sea Horse Boat Rentals	367-2513
Sea Star Car Rentals	367-4887
Wilmac Car Rentals	367-4970 or 367-4313
Green Turtle Cay	
Bay Street Rentals	477-5300 365-4070
C & D Cart Rental	365-4084
D & P Cart Rental	365-4656
Donnie's Boat Rentals	365-4119
New Plymouth Cart Rentals	365-4188 or 4149
Reef Boat Rentals	365-4145
Sea Side Carts	477-5497
T & A Cart Rentals	375-8055
Guana Cay	
Donna Sands Cart Rentals	365-5195
Guana Cay Cart Rentals	365-5016
Man-O-War	
Conch Pearl Boat Rentals	365-6059
Island Treasures Cart Rentals	365-6072
Water Ways Boat Rent	357-6540 & 365-6143
Hope Town	
Bike Shop Bicycle Rentals	366-0292
Cat's Paw Boat Rentals	366-0380
Dave's Dive Shop Boat Rentals	366-0029
Hope Town Cart Rentals	366-0064
Island Cart Rentals	366-0448
Island Marine Boat Rentals	366-0282
Sea Horse Boat Rentals	366-0023
Sea Spray Resort Boat Rentals	366-0065
T & N Cart Rentals	366-0069
Treasure Cay	
Alison Car Rent	365-8193
C & C Boat Rentals	365-8582
Claridge's & Chris's Cart Rentals	365-8248
Cornish Car Rentals	365-8623
JIC Boat & Cart Rentals	365-8465
Resort Cart Rentals	365-8465
Rich's Boat Rentals	365-8582
Triple J Car Rentals	365-8761
Abaco Adventures - Kayaks	365-8749

Tours & Excursions	
Marsh Harbour	
Abaco Outback - by kayak	367-5358
Hope Town	
Froggies - by excursion boat	366-0431
Treasure Cay	
Abaco Adventures - by kayak	365-8749

AARF/SNIP Look for Dogs to Fix

Who Let the Dogs In?

By K. Hargreaves

At first the AARF/SNIP people couldn't understand why they weren't seeing the same large numbers of dogs waiting to be spayed or neutered at October's week-long Project Potcake clinic in Marsh Harbour and Sandy Point. They were using the same tried-and-true methods that always worked so well before. They just weren't finding as many dogs as they expected.

It wasn't until more than half way through the week that it finally dawned on them: This was the October clinic, the seventh in a series of clinics aimed at reducing the number of stray roaming and feral dogs on the island by as much as 75 percent. And October 2001 was when they predicted they'd finally see the fruits of their labour back when it all began in the winter of 1999.

"I think we were all just going at the clinics with such focus that the results kind of had to come up and poke us from behind on the shoulder before we realized we'd actually done what we set out to do," says Chris Roberts, president of Abaco Animals Require Friends (AARF).

"We kept looking at each other and saying 'What's wrong? Where are all the dogs? How come we can't go out and find 20 or 30 Potcakes that need fixing like we used to?'" agrees Kathleen Hargreaves of SNIP (Spay Neuter Incentive Programs Inc.)

Kelly O'Meara, the Humane Society International project director who monitors our work at these clinics, finally said, "Well, that's what you expected, isn't it? The dogs aren't here because you've already done them." We were like, "Duh! That was really the first time it sank in," recalls Hargreaves.

While previous clinics recorded as many as 150 sterilizations, with even higher numbers possible had time allowed, the October clinic only resulted in a total of only 77 animals. Of that number, 32 - over 40 percent - were cats, according to Harry Meline, SNIP's treasurer and record keeper. Additionally, close to half of that total came from animals seen at the Sandy Point clinic.

That clinic, the third in a planned series of three, also reflected another positive change in the way the clinics unfolded. In the beginning AARF and SNIP "collectors" (the people who went out on the streets and obtained residents' permission to have their dogs spayed or neutered) always knew where they could find another half dozen dogs when veterinary surgeons Derrick Bailey and Owen Hanna were ready for them. This time, noted Sandy Point clinic organizers Tommy & Erica Asselin and Diane Claridge, there just weren't any.

When AARF and SNIP formed an alliance back in the winter of 1999, the task ahead of them seemed goliath. Back then rough estimates of the dog population in the Marsh Harbour area placed the number of reproductive Potcakes at somewhere between 800 and 1200. Less than three years ago, AARF and SNIP speculate, fewer than one percent of the dogs on Abaco were spayed or neutered. Today that number is closer to 75 percent, they say.

According to Hargreaves, who says she and her husband Harry Meline created SNIP, a 501 (c) 3 Stateside charity, specifically so they could "do something concrete to help the pathetic dogs we used to see all over the island." The explicit purpose of Project Potcake was to "significantly reduce the breeding Potcake population in a relatively short length of time without resorting to that ineffective, personally offensive and traditional method of trap and removal, a euphemism for catch and kill. We knew it could work," she explains.

"I have never done anything that was so

rewarding in my entire life. And every single one of the more than 800 Potcakes and 100 potcats we've handled since this whole thing started has made it all worthwhile. If we can do the same in other places, particularly Nassau, all the better," she concluded.

Project Potcake will focus on reducing Potcake populations at communities from Sandy Point to Crown Haven beginning this winter. SNIP and AARF have also accepted an invitation to organize a clinic on Eleuthera in March 2002. In April SNIP and AARF will travel to Miami Beach to take part in an international conference focusing on *The Challenges of Animal Protection on Island Nations* jointly sponsored by The Pegasus Foundation and The Humane Society International during The Humane Society's week-long annual exposition.

People interested in additional information on Project Potcake may contact AARF's Molly Roberts at Abaco Realty in Marsh Harbour or by writing SNIP at email address Potcats@aol.com.



After several very successful spay and neuter clinics held in Central Abaco over the past three years, the organizers realize that they are succeeding in their goal of controlling the numbers of stray dogs. They are now holding clinics in Sandy Point and Cooper's Town to reduce the numbers in those areas. Shown above is Dr. Bailey of Community Animal Hospital caring for a dog.

The Bahamas Bobsled Association

wishes to thank all who supported our efforts for Youth Sports by way of our **Annual Big Hill Soap Box Derby on November 27th 2001**

Special thank you to our Number 1 sponsor this year: Sawyer's Soft Drinks

Burn's House Ltd. donated some of the beer.

Our chief raffle salesman: Mr. Sherlock Russell

Cameron Sweeting for selling the most raffle tickets of all the young people.

Following are the people without whom this event could not have happened:

Raffle prizes: Island Cart Rentals, Bridgette Boyer, Lighthouse Marina, Imports Unlimited, Dolphin Beach, Froggies, La Von Dean, Fantasy Boutique, Cracker P's Bar & Grill, Anne Ray, Valdo Proza, Perry Petry, Hope Town Cart Rentals, Island Marine, Seahorse Marine, Ebb Tide, Patrick Cash, Deidre at Edith's Straw Market, Classic Marine, Monica Cook, Margaret Fox, Robert Lowe, Munchie's

Food: Abaco Inn, Abaco Wholesale, Cap'n Jack's, Harbour View Grocery, Harbour's Edge, Hope Town Harbour Lodge, LVA Grocery, Rudy's Place, Sea Spray Resort, Sweeting's Grocery, Vernon's Grocery

Many people helped with a multitude of tasks and allowed our Association the use of equipment, tables, etc.

Chester Thompson, Clay and Lisa Wilhoite, Mark and Charmin Malone, Willard Bethel, Pat McCully, Peter Albury, Brian Nottage, Marty Cash, Derek Gape, Kenny Maltarp, Frank Knowles, Tanya Duncombe, Stafford Patterson, Olivia Patterson, Brian Nottage, Johnny Cartwright, Molly Andersen, Tom Albury, Scott Patterson, Kerry Cash, Linda Stewart, Rebecca Risberg, Tia Knowles, Ashley Sands, Jillian Parotti and Brittany Taylor.

There were also many volunteers also helped with the preparation of food. To them, I say thank you. You are much appreciated.

We were able to deposit a total of \$6669 in order to aid Youth Sports. Our net profit looks to be about \$5,000 thanks to the generous donations of food, prizes, liquor, sodas and trophies gathered by a person who humbly prefers to remain anonymous.

Sincerely, Patrick Stewart - President, BBA



**Have a
Happy, Healthy
and
Prosperous
New Year**

APS

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**From the
Management &
Staff:**



Pathfinders Scholarships Assist Students

By Stephanie Humblestone

Applications for the 2002 Pathfinders Scholarship should be submitted to its board of directors by February 1st. Criteria for recipients will include ability, motivation and financial need.

Abaco Pathfinders is now in its second year. Last year it helped place 11 students from Abaco in colleges and vocational institutes in the United States and Canada. The organization was conceived and developed by a small core of second home owners on Elbow Cay. It is affiliated with a similar body Stateside called Florida Cares Corporation which was the brain child of Mr. Ira Sochet, one of Pathfinder's directors.

Chaired by Mr Jim Blumberg, Pathfinders has an interesting and diverse body of committee members reflecting the different sectors of Hope Town and Abaco communities. Its administrator, Mrs. Kathy Weldon, has 30 years experience in education and has lived part-time on Abaco for 20 years.

Essentially the aim of Pathfinders is to assist young people to find a satisfying and lucrative path in life. This entails a good higher education and proper training. If fo-

cuses not only on academic areas but also the technical fields. The goal is to provide funding for deserving individuals from Abaco.

Applicants are interviewed to determine suitability and deservedness. Recognizing that it is not financial assistance alone which determines success in college or technical school, the organization has set up a guidance board to help students choose the most suitable school. At the beginning of the academic year students are given a volunteer mentor who monitors their progress, helps them adapt to their new environment and is there for advice.

Of the 11 students granted financial as-

sistance last year 10 are still completing their studies and doing well academically and socially. Keora Brown in a pre-med program received the Prime Time Scholarship last year and was assisted with books and incidentals by Pathfinders. Tabitha Cash is studying business at Valdosta State University and is doing well. Rory Duggan has found studies challenging but rewarding at Savannah College of Art and Design. Darlene Higgs, another pre-med student, has joined Christian groups and has made good friends. Another medical student, Madeleine Joseph, is studying at the University of the West Indies. Bernadette Jean Noel changed schools and is now at Clark Community

College in Springfield, Ohio. She was nominated International Student of the Year. Jerome Menard is working toward a bachelors degree in culinary arts at Johnson and Wales University in Miami. Olivia Patterson is studying marine biology at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida. Waseela Rahim is studying graphic design at Humber University in Toronto. Tecuma Sherman, daughter of Isobel Sherman, is studying education at Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach.

The Pathfinders Scholarships provides \$1000 a year for many of the students while some students receive more.

AA Meetings

The AA (Alcoholics Anomymous) group of Marsh Harbour meets Mondays and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Marsh Harbour Community Library.

The AA group in Hope Town meets Mondays at 7 p.m. at the clinic.

New Exclusive Listing!






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Kathleen Albury-Cole — Sales, Property Appraisals
June Russell — Sales

“Cariacalla”, Pelican Shores
Luxurious Mediterranean living. This outstanding offering overlooks the scenic, bustling harbour of Abaco's largest settlement. Three spacious bedroom suites serve this 2,900 square foot residence. The open plan living area is perfection for entertaining and comfortable living. Fully appointed with custom crafted imported furnishings, mahogany and cypress crown molding detail and rich Cuban tile. Among the many amenities is a glass-walled fitness room. The deepwater dock with boatlift and boathouse with bunk are situated on the harbour. A quaint, rustic garden house, walled kitchen garden and winding stone paths add to the serenity of the gardens.
Listing #6010
Please call us for details.




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Featuring the finest in residential, commercial, vacation homes and investment properties.



An island style two story owner built home situated in lovely Man-O-War. The bottom story is currently used as a rental and upstairs as the main residence. The entire building consists of 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. This home is only one lot away from an Atlantic Beach and is offered completely furnished. - \$475,000



A 2 bedroom, 1 bath home nestled in the heart of Great Guana Cay. This home is already established in the rental market and would be ideal for a vacation home. All new doors and windows and a new water maker. - \$169,900



This 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home was owner-built 2 years ago. This island style home is in immaculate condition and features a 17,000 gallon rainwater cistern, solid maple kitchen cabinets and is offered fully furnished. - \$355,000



Uniquely situated home on Hope Town's picturesque harbour. Features 4 beds, 4 baths, an open living, dining and kitchen with an office off to the side, extensive outdoor patios with a large dock. The home is less than 5 years old, has an 18,000 gallon cistern and runs 137' on the water.



This well equipped home sits on a double elevated lot comprising of almost an acre of land that offers fantastic sea views. The home features 1 bed, 1 bath, an open kitchen, living and dining room, two patios, and a laundry room upstairs with 2 beds, 1 bath, kitchen and living room down stairs. There are two adjacent lots, each being over 10,000 square feet, that can be purchased with or without the home.



Unique harbour front offering in Marsh Harbour - An immaculate 3/2 home with an additional waterfront lot that offers a 23' x 70' boat slip with deep water draft. The home is on an interior lot with the vacant lot of over 18,000 square feet on the harbour to build a dream home.

Call today to list your property with us or inquire about our many listed properties. Located one building east of Memorial Plaza.

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Green Turtle Agent • Chris Farrington - 242-365-4465

More Letters to the Editor

Letters

From Page 9

Dear Sir:

As always, some space in your paper for my thoughts is much appreciated.

On the afternoon of January 7, 2002, a motorcyclist was run off the Great Abaco Highway at the Snake Cay turnoff by a vehicle belonging to Abaco Big Bird Poultry Farm. This occurred in the late afternoon. The motorcyclist could have corrected and stayed on the road but the front tire was caught in the rut left by the recent excavation for future cable service and he lost control of his bike. He wound up off the highway and suffered some bad scrapes, bruises and hopefully only a temporary limp and nominal damage to his motorcycle. The vehicle that ran him off the road did not bother to stop. A Good Samaritan did stop, helped this individual lift his motorcycle from the ground and ensured that he was fit to resume riding. I do not know why, but this motorcyclist did not file a police report and seems uninterested in pursuing the matter.

Upon hearing of this, I took it unto myself to make a phone call to Abaco Big Bird. Asking for the general manager, I was transferred to a lady in the office instead. It was my intent to simply inform the farm that the incident had occurred and hope that perhaps the driver would be cautioned about his driving habits. The lady did not seem too interested in my call, particularly due to the fact that I, myself, was not involved and did not witness the event. I deeply regret that I informed her that the suspect vehicle was a panel-type delivery van. This was an incorrect assumption on my part.

Because I would not give her the name of the motorcyclist, this individual basically informed me that she was not interested in hearing potential hearsay. While I can appreciate any local residents' unwillingness to believe potential gossip, I was rather upset that what I had to say was blatantly ignored and that this lady did not seem to show any concern for the downed rider.

While I am positive that no inappropriate language was used by either one of us, I am certain that blood pressure was increased on both sides of the phone. Fed up with being disregarded and disbelieved, I eventually hung up. I received a phone call about 45 minutes later from the same lady, very jubilantly informing me that Abaco Big Bird's panel van had been inoperable for several weeks and suggesting that in future when I "concoct further tales, I should get my stories straight." Bravo, and I do not blame her for her position. If I had been in her shoes, I would have taken the same position, particularly after being misinformed about the suspect vehicle.

All in all, it is a sad shame that a motorcyclist can be run off a public road by an inconsiderate driver and that said driver will not even stop to show concern. The Snake Cay turn-off is a very dangerous section of highway with already too many incidents and accidents under its belt. When you are on a 300-pound motorcycle, it is a terrifying sight to see a white school bus coming around the corner directly in front of you on the wrong side of the road. To be a motorcyclist living on Abaco today, you must have eyes in the back of your head to contend with surrounding traffic.

Unfortunately, whenever anyone around

here hears "motorcycle," the image of a young guy roaring down the road on one wheel immediately comes to mind. I am proud to say that I am a responsible motorcyclist and that I am affiliated with a group of responsible motorcyclists. The individual run off the road that day is in his mid-fifties, has been enjoying motorcycling for the past 35 years and is also a responsible motorcyclist. I think that it is the civic duty of residents to report to the police reckless or dangerous motorcyclists and likewise riders should report reckless or dangerous drivers. Too many incidents occur around here and go unreported and unnoticed.

Unfortunately, there's no sign of things improving.

I have no resentment for any of the employees of Abaco Big Bird, but I do hope that the driver of that white school bus reads this letter and uses a little more caution with his driving. I can assure him that an incident with a car or truck would be a lot more eventful than with a motorcycle. If I personally am run off the road, I will certainly be quite vocal about it.

Thanking the public in advance for consideration of others on the road.

Brant M. Albury

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Obituaries of Friends and Relatives

The Hon. Charles Walter Frederick Bethell, CBE, 92, passed away on January 2 in New Orleans, Louisiana, while visiting his daughter. His funeral was in Nassau on January 9.

Mr. Bethell was prominent in politics for many years, serving in the House of Assembly for 20 years, then serving in the Legislative Council, now called the Senate. During this time he served in many capacities from Speaker to the House and Government Leader in the Senate to chairman of several boards.

Mr. Bethell was prominent in the business world as well serving as president of Bethell Estates until three years ago. Bethell Estates has many Abaco businesses including Abaco Yacht Services, Abaco Outboards, Rainbow Rentals and Lighthouse

Marina.

Mr. Bethell was very fond of Abaco and the family owned much property throughout Abaco. Mr. Bethell was a frequent resident of Anna's Cay, his home outside Hope Town harbour, which he owned for over 50 years.

He is survived by his wife Mrs. Brenda Bethell, who was with him in New Orleans; daughters Julie LeCorgne and Kristin Bethell; son Charles; son-in-law Parker LeCorgne; grandchildren Anna and Parker LeCorgne, Jr.; brother John Herbert Bethell and many nieces and nephews.

The family asks that friends make donations to the Bahamas National Trust or the Bahamas Humane Society in his memory.

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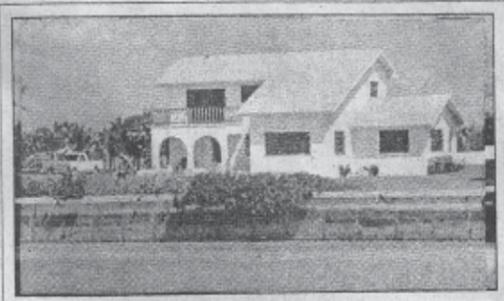
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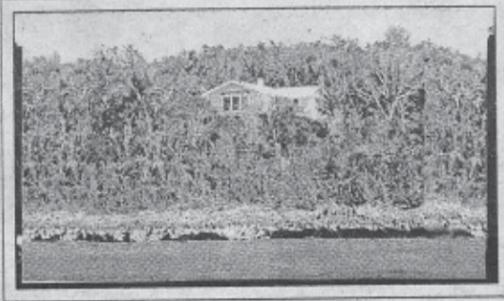
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More News of the Cays

Cays

From Page 5

Harbour Lodge. Both establishments worked hard preparing for the New Year's Eve parties. When it began raining early on 31st December, it became evident that "Plan B" would have to be put into operation. This would involve shifting the focus and the large crowds to the inside.

At the Lodge where over 100 guests dined, another two hundred came later to share celebrating the New Year, owners Ray and Catherine Ketay and their right hand staff managers, Tanya Duncombe and Tom Hazel, erected an enclosed area for the buffet dinner.

Champagne flowed to the music of DJ Jarrod. As the evening drew on and there periods of no rain, local members of the community left their homes for the "action," braving the elements. Speculation about whether the firework display could be held on the beach abounded but as midnight approached it became patently clear that it was not to be. "We will store the fireworks for another occasion," said Tom Hazel, better known as "Sweet Cheeks" to locals and visitors alike.

However, despite the fact that the Lodge beach was not the setting for the planned firework display, the Junkanoo parade went ahead as usual. One of the organisers, Hope

Town resident Michael Myers, said that the 30 participants did a great job. "They rushed three times," meaning that they circled three times, playing drums, cowbells and other traditional musical instruments.

"They were determined to go on with the show," said Mr. Myers, who estimated that about a dozen of the musicians were from Hope Town. Another one of the organisers, who was also a musician, was Churton Toot was also not to be deterred. "We weren't going to get rained out like in Nassau this year," he said.

Fortunately there was a small window of time just after midnight when the rain subsided and the show could go on. "Junkanoo

was organised by the Hope Town Association with contributions from businesses and private individuals," said Mr. Myers, an organiser of the event for the last six years in Hope Town.

Meanwhile at the Abaco Inn, three miles south of the settlement, a large crowd of over 300 were enjoying *A Tropical Mask Ball* and the live music of the three-strong group *Sounds of Abaco* from Treasure Cay. One hundred and ten guests had also enjoyed a set dinner. "It was lots of fun," said Wilma Kemp, a long time employee of the Inn.

Please see **Cays**

Page 27



The Amy Roberts Primary School on Green Turtle Cay held a very successful fund raising fair on December 8. Santa arrived in time to open the fair. Many were thrilled with the prizes that they won in the raffle concluding the fair.



The New Plymouth Gospel Chapel held a memorial service on December 2 to honour those who died in the terrorist attack of September 11. The original plans for the service were for November 4 but had to be postponed because of the threat of Hurricane Michelle.

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Each \$47,200

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Two waterfront lots on Bluff Harbour: 140' total frontage. Good elevation. Beautiful views. Dock site. Total 1/2 acre
\$430,000

Inner White Sound: On water. Two bedroom three bath fully furnished villa. Kit / liv and dining room. In pristine condition. Excellent rental history. *\$270,000*

10,000 sq. ft. lot: Just steps away from ocean beach. 1 1/2 miles from town. *\$47,200*

Income Producing Apartments:

Two-year-old two story building with views of Coco Bay. Use of shared private dock. Two 2 bed one bath furnished apartments with A/C throughout on 2nd floor. Two 1 bedroom one bath apartments on ground floor. Separate shed with laundry facilities.
B \$600,000 ONO

Coco Bay:

1/3 acre within five minute walk of beach.
\$42,000 gross ONO

Stunning two bedroom two bath house. Views of Sea of Abaco, Guana Cay and Atlantic Ocean. 400 ft. to beach. 18 ft. ceilings in great room House is new with interior still under construction. Stand-by generator. All finishing materials and furniture on site. A/C throughout. Truck and golf cart included.
\$775,500

On Munjack Cay:

10 acres with 320' on Sea of Abaco: Dock. Good elevation. *\$300,000*

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Sandy Point 3 bed, 1 bath
 13,545 sq. ft.
 Lot #119

Dundas Town 2 storey, 4 bed, 2 bath
 on 1/2 acre
 Lot #25

Murphy Town Vacant Land
 108' x 104"
 Lot 78B

Dundas Town 3-2 bed, 1 bath triplex
 9,000 sq. ft.
 Lot #18B

Murphy Town
 3 bed, 2 bath
 Hill top
 Lot 67

Offers should be addressed in writing to:

U. Cartwright/Ms. M. T. Rolle
P.O. Box AB20567
Marsh Harbour, Abaco

For conditions of the sale and any other information, please contact U. Cartwright/Ms. M. T. Rolle at (242) 367-2141, 367-2142 Abaco. Serious enquiries only may be considered for qualified purchasers. Interested persons in Nassau may contact Mr. Jones at 242-502-3024

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Cherokee Polo's Seaside Cottage. Fully furnished, sleeps 6, A/C, \$900/week for 2. Call 407-933-4463 www.polosseasidecottage.com

Hope Town Specialist A collection of upscale pools, docks, reunions, special occasions, honeymoons. Hope Town Hideaways. 242-366-0224 Fax: 242-366-0434

Man-O-War house for rent 2 bed / 1 bath, sleeps 6, good view of sunsets. \$850 weekly for 1-4 people. Call 365-6140

Marsh Harbour new duplex 2 bed/2 bath furnished. Deposits and references required. Call 357-6947

Marsh Harbour Apartment for rent 2 bed/2 bath. Call 367-2446

Sweetings Village 2 - 2 bed/2 bath apts., furnished including water and gas. \$1000 month. Call 367-2660

Treasure Cay 2 bed/1 bath furnished house on large property. Monthly or long term only. Call Donna at 367-3472 after 5

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More Club News

Club *From Page 18*

gift baskets to senior citizens.

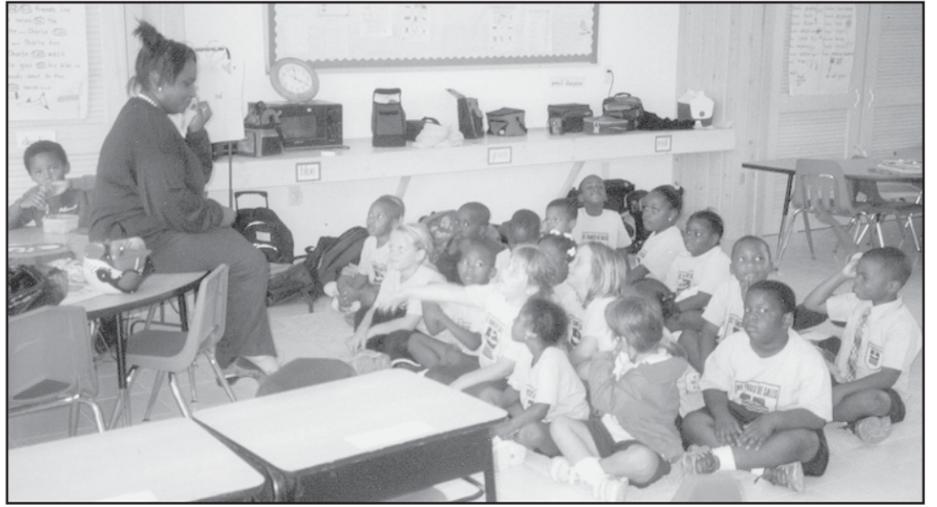
On November 22 they shared a rewarding Thanksgiving lunch with the children in the *Every Child Counts* program at St. Francis de Sales School. The children en-

joyed the meals which were prepared by club members and their parents. They pledged to work closely with these children and hopefully build a lasting relationship with them.

Scurvy Few Take Gifts to Moore's Is.



Members of the Scurvy Few Motorcycle Club, Abaco Chapter, traveled to Moore's Island to distribute toys which they had collected in their Toys for Tots drive in December. They had very good support from the community so were able to make many children throughout Abaco happy.



Children are interested in the Brain Minders program as Mrs. Neulissa Major stresses the importance of safety.

NOTICE

ESTATE of LORRAINE CHRISTINE MALONE late of the Settlement of Hope Town in the Island of Little Guana Cay (a.k.a. Elbow Cay) one of the Abaco Chain of Cays, The Bahamas, deceased

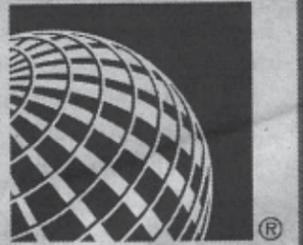
NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claim or demand against the above Estate are required to send their names, addresses and particulars of the debts or claims certified in writing to the undersigned on or before 22nd January, 2002, and if required, to prove such debts or claims, or in default be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts or claims are proved; after the above date the Personal Representative will distribute the assets having regard only to the proved debts or claims of which he shall have had notice

AND NOTICE is hereby given that all person indebted to the said Estate are requested to make full settlement on or before 22nd January, 2002.

ALEXIOU, KNOWLES & CO.
Attorneys for the Personal Representative
Stratton Drive
P.O. Box AB 20115
Marsh Harbour, Abaco

Remember - Register to Vote

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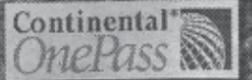


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Central *From Page 6*

for bringing in 2002. In Central Abaco Abaco Beach Resort offered a package to bring in the the year at the Pavilion and other restaurants such as Mangoes, Sapodillys and the Bistro had special packages.

Many persons saw the New Year in at the church of their choice as some attended Watch Night Services.

Voltage and BEC

By Isobel Sherman

Several persons have been complaining about the brightening and dimming of their lights the past week. There have been times when the voltage has dipped low not only in Marsh Harbour but on other areas of Abaco also. One resident measured at one time only 90 volts coming into his house. Low voltage is just as damaging as high voltage. At the same time there have been spikes in electricity where high voltage has come into the house. Christmas night there was a black-

out, which affected Marsh Harbour as well as Elbow Cay.

On December 28 the gentleman at the power house at BEC said that they had been having troubles in Cooper's Town and North Abaco for the past several days. Transformers caught fire in Coopers Town on Christmas and there had been problems caused by lightning in North Abaco. As a result when things like this happen, there is temporary low voltage or dimming of lights as well as possible short surges.

The technician said that low voltage for a few seconds cannot harm any appliance and he also said that the circuit breakers in a house would trip if there was a high spike or surge in electricity.

He pointed out that, except for Sandy Point, Moore's Island and Treasure Cay, the power house in Marsh Harbour generates electricity for the whole of Abaco. More manpower is needed in order to maintain as well as repair the system.

Cays *From Page 24*

Fortunately, the short break in the weather coincided with midnight so the fireworks went ahead on the nearby dunes.

The poor weather had a sobering effect on the cay which is known for celebrating. Parties wound down earlier than usual. The harbour did not have the heavy traffic normally associated with festive occasions. On New Year's Day Elbow Cay awoke a little earlier than other years to less headaches and unsettled stomachs.

Civic Organizations

- Kiwanis Club of Greater Abaco**
Tuesday, 7 p.m., weekly at Touch of Class, Treasure Cay, 367-2536
- Pilot Club**
Third Tuesday, 7 p.m., Central Abaco Primary, Dundas Town, 367-3457
- Rotary Club of Abaco**
Mondays, 6 p.m., weekly at Bayview Restaurant, Dundas Town, 367-3114

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Honda CBR 600 RR Motorcycle in good condition \$7000 OBO Call 365-6140 or 477-5308

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1991 Chevy Cavalier Convertible \$3500 Good running condition. Ph. 367-4643

84 Bronco II low mileage, runs good, needs power brake booster. \$1800 OBO. Call 375-8370



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28' Baja Twin Yamaha 200, LOADED, very well maintained, rigged for fishing, great for cruising and diving. Dry docked at Green Turtle Shipyard. \$28,000 OBO 561-451-2122

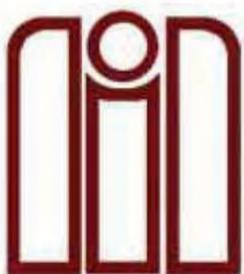
32' Endeavour sloop, 1977, 20 HP Yanmar diesel. DUTY PAID. Call 365-6006 or 365-6140

37' Endeavour 1980 sloop-rigged sailboat w/ Perkins 104, 40 HP diesel, currently moored near Marsh Harbour Marina. DUTY PAID. Bahamian registered. \$30,000 OBO Call 367-2269

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