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VOLUME 9, NUMBER 7, APRIL 1st, 2002

Chamber Guest Advocates Planning Marsh Harbour's Growth Needs Guidelines

By Alice Bain

Mr. Amos Ferguson of Ferguson Associates, Architects and Planners from Nassau, addressed the Abaco Chamber of Commerce on March 14 in a meeting held at Sapodilly's Restaurant in Marsh Harbour. He gave a short talk about zoning and land use—land use can be residential, commercial, recreational, educational or industrial—and by zoning you introduce regulations that allow legal recourse if the land use plan is not followed. Marsh Harbour presently does not have any zoning in place. He explained that the role of the town planner is to take the goals and wishes of the community and to chart a clear and logical path to achieving them.

Mr. Ferguson gave a definition of town planning and talked about the difference be-

Please see **Planning**

Page 30

Scouts Enjoy Kayak Adventure



Cub Scouts with their leaders enjoyed their experience as they learned about our environment on a recent kayak trip. They explored the Marls off The Crossing just north of Crossing Rocks. For details about their trip see story on page 13.

Advance Clocks
One Hour April 7st



Daylight Savings Time begins 2 a.m. April 7. Set your clocks ahead one hour earlier either at bedtime on the 6th or on the morning of the 7th.

Royal Bank Opens Renovated Branch in Treasure Cay



Royal Bank held an official Grand Opening ceremony of their new location in Treasure Cay on March 21. Shown above is, center, Gov. Julian Francis of the Central Bank, cutting the ribbon. To his right is Mr. Ross McDonald, Vice President in the Bahamas and Cayman Islands and Mr. Nathaniel Beneby, Area Manager, Family Islands, and to his left is Mrs. Sylvia Poitier, Manager of the Treasure Cay Branch, who is assisting in cutting ribbon, and Ms. Joyce Coleby, Manager of the Abaco branches. The newly renovated branch office will continue to be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The branch offers a full range of banking services.

Tourism Recognizes Partners



Native son, Mike Smith, MP, on roght, is presenting Administrator Benjamin Pinder with a certificate of appreciation for his efforts on the tourism field. The Ministry of Tourism honoured Industry Partners on March 22. Please see story on page2.

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Accident Results in Traffic Death



Very early in the morning of March 23 the driver of this car burned to death after he lost control and sheared off a power pole at the Snake Cay cutoff. A passing vehicle stopped soon afterward and assisted a passenger in getting out. However, the driver was pinned in the wreckage. He alerted persons in Marsh Harbour. When a rescue crew returned to the scene, the car was engulfed in flames with the driver still in place. The driver was a Haitian resident of Sand Banks outside Treasure Cay.

Tourism Addresses Chamber

By Alice Bain

The Abaco Chamber of Commerce held a meeting at Sapodilly's restaurant on March 14. Mr. Don Cornish of the Abaco Ministry of Tourism addressed the members on Abaco's summer Goombay Festival. The festival has been held for five years now (the 2002 summer season will be the sixth) and is held every other weekend during the months of June, July and August. The festival started off at Crossing Beach but outgrew that location during the first year and was moved to a stretch of road directly in front of Dove Plaza, which is cordoned off for the events. Mr. Cornish wants to clear up some misconceptions about Goombay.

"It is not," he said, "a party for natives. Neither is it an opportunity for crime. In fact, the large crowds and the police presence at every Goombay Festival should act more as a deterrent to crime." Mr. Cornish explained that Goombay is not a fund raiser for the Ministry of Tourism. Goombay costs money—Mr. Cornish estimated that each Festival costs approximately \$10,000 to put on, \$2,000 of which is just in paying for the music.

Mr. Cornish stated that Abaco needs to offer a "balanced tourism product"—and that tourists that come here are often in search of our native culture—the "Bahamian Experience." Goombay provides an outlet for the energy that tourists bring to Abaco and provides a cultural experience that Marsh Harbour is not otherwise able to supply. Because Goombay provides a service for tourists, and tourists provide the base for Abaco's economy, Mr. Cornish said he would like to see more local business support for the Goombay Festival.

The Chamber of Commerce will be having an open meeting at the Jib Room on April 18th when the guest speaker will address the subject of the FTAA trade agreement which is scheduled to go into effect in the Bahamas in 2005.

Tourism Awards Abaco Industry Partners

By Alice Bain

The Abaco Ministry of Tourism held its "first annual" Industrial Partners Reception on March 22 in conjunction with William Brewer Company/Bristol Cellars. Marsh Harbour's own Impact Band provided musical accompaniment to get the party started.

The Ministry's Kendy Anderson welcomed the assembled crowd to the proceedings and the always debonair Mr. Don Cornish provided a short opening speech. Antoinette Davis, the Ministry of Tourism's Senior Manager for the Abaco area, introduced the keynote speaker for the evening, Mr. Michael Smith, Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Tourism and Member of Parliament for the South Beach constituency on New Providence. Mr. Smith delivered a short ad-

dress on behalf of the absent Tommy Turnquest, and directly thereafter Mrs. Anderson announced the awards to the Ministry's esteemed Industry Partners. Mr. Smith assisted in awarding the certificates.

An impressive list of people, organizations and companies were awarded, amongst them Senior Island Administrator Everett Hart, the Customs Department and the Immigration Department. Awards went to resorts, bonafish camps, kayak tour companies, hotels, restaurants, bands, taxi drivers, reporters, ferry services, banks, airlines and local artisans among other categories.



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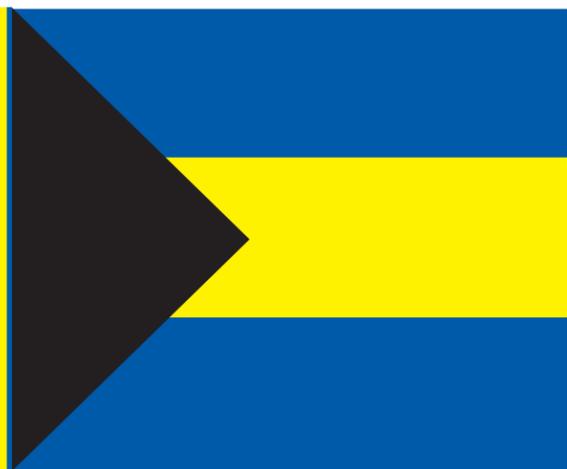
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Central Abaco News

Concert Shows off Talent

By Alice Bain

Abaconians were treated to a soiree of magical musical moments at New Visions church on March 16th. The concert was the brainchild of local musicians Viki Hart and Jennifer Hudson, who met at last year's National Orchestra concert at Abaco Resort pavilion. The program included Jennifer Hudson on violin, Viki Hart on violin, voice and piano, Brian Thompson on voice, Joan Albury Moss on voice and local gospel a capella band "Jes'us" -Basil Been, Anderson Alcime, Kevin Stirling and Gentry Morris, who also played the piano to back up other singers' solos and duets.

Viki Hart and Jennifer Hudson started the evening with a violin duet concerto and performed another one later in the evening. Brian Thompson stunned the audience with his melodious tenor renditions of various songs while Joan Albury Moss, a soprano, sang several selections.

Viki Hart stunned the audience with an incredibly professional, powerful and moving aria from an opera while Basil Been, the bass singer of "Jes'us" group sang two solos. The Jes'us themselves gave wonderful, upbeat performances of gospel favorites and tenor Kevin Stirling also took part in a duet. The sheer variety and quality of talent in evidence at this show was amazing; Abaco is fortunate to give a home to such gifted musicians!

Proceeds from the show benefitted the Kirk of the Pines Church fund, St. Francis de Sales School and Forest Heights Academy. Another concert is planned for April 13 and will be held in Treasure Cay. Subsequent concert dates are to be announced.

Bad Intersections Are Being Paved

By Alice Bain

Marsh Harbour is now seeing some long-awaited road-surface improvements. Two intersections in Marsh Harbour have been newly repaved with hot mix asphalt and two more are slated for repaving soon.

Bahama Hot Mix has been using an asphalt machine to repair rough roads at the K & S Auto Service and Abaco Wholesale corners on Don MacKay Boulevard. Next week the machine will move on to the intersection where the traffic light used to be and the corner of Front Street and Queen Elizabeth Drive.

In the old "chip and sand seal" method (which Bahama Hot Mix will be using to pave the corner of Crockett Drive and Forest Drive), the surface is coated with RC250 tar and covered with a layer of "89 stone." This is repeated once more and rolled in. Any loose gravel is swept off a week or so later, and until then cars must drive through the gravel and dust. The new method is true hot-mix asphalt mixed in a machine at Treasure Cay and heated to 375 degrees Fahrenheit. Another machine then spreads this mix on the road surface,

which is ready for immediate use and is completely dust-free. This is a more durable surface and is the same type used in Nassau, Freeport and the United States.

The extension to Stede Bonnet Road has been halfway surfaced with "chip and seal" but work has been temporarily halted due to a property dispute. The Front Street in Marsh Harbour has a badly broken surface and will be repaired with concrete soon to maintain its traditional look. Some cracks and missing spots in the new asphalt by K & S corner were caused by a minor malfunction in the asphalt machine. Bahama Hot Mix has indicated that they plan to rip this faulty piece of road up and repave it properly.



Musicians who performed in Marsh Harbour on March 9 are shown above at the conclusion of the concert. A wide variety of talent was displayed and enjoyed by the large crowd. The concert was performed in the New Visions church.

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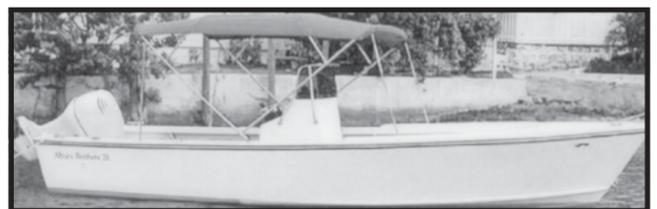
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South Abaco News

Bahama Palm Shores Bush Fire Is First Call

By Carol Phelps

A first time response for the Casuarina - Bahama Palm Shores Volunteer Fire Rescue Truck took place on March 19 when a call came to Bob Cornea that a bush fire was out of control at Bahama Palm Shores. Cornea placed a call to Judie Albury who summoned volunteers.

The truck and small crew arrived within

12 minutes of the call. The Palm Shore residents heard the siren and immediately Mark Boyles, Dale and Louise Blank, Jack and Cathy Nesbitt, Earl and Marge Ilmihon, David Nottage and Carol Albury as well as several Haitians arrived at the scene. The Haitians dug fire breaks and cut fallen trees to remove them from the fire's path.

A strong southerly wind made the fire difficult to contain. After three hours, the fire was subdued but continued to smolder and smoke lightly through the night.



Bro. Bob Cornea headed the volunteer firemen in Bahama Palm Shores when a bush fire got out of control. This was the first call for the newly formed Casuarina/Bahama Palm Shore Volunteer Fire and Rescue. They have a truck purchased by the South Abaco District from the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department. They hold training sessions each Saturday to acquaint themselves with the equipment and learn methods of fighting fires.

Volunteers helped in many ways. Una Nottage brought several painters' masks to help ease the burning the lungs and eyes of the volunteers. Iretaa Lowe provided ice cold water to drink.

The thirty-year-old fire truck was purchased for \$2000 by local government. The homeowners of both settlements have the responsibility to maintain and operate it. There are approximately 90 homeowners between the two settlements. It has been suggested that each homeowner contribute \$10 per month to insure the truck will be properly maintained and ready to go.

Operational instruction meetings are held each Saturday and residents are urged to attend to learn the basics of fire prevention and the operation of the fire apparatus.

Moore's Island

School Is Still Not Repaired

Just before midnight on September 4th, 2001, the fire that damaged one of our classrooms has affected the school tremendously. With the haste that everyone came to investigate, I would have thought that within weeks everything would be back to normal.

Today, six months later, nothing is being said and nothing has been done here. Because of the fire, four other classrooms are without electricity. Teachers and students are complaining. Parents are fed-up and are ready !!! What happens during rainy weather when windows and doors have to be closed. The poor or no lighting will eventually have its affect on the eyes.

I know September 11th has and continues to carry the blame for a number of things but this one where there should be no excuse. Let's consider grades three, four, five, six and seven, more than half of the school suffering in hot, dark classrooms for six long months.

The principal, Mr. Christopher Rahming, has done all he can but it's only one voice crying out for help, only because he is concerned.

If nothing happens in short order, some form of action will be taken. The Department of Education and the Ministry of Works are quite aware of the situation.

Please consider our Moore's Island little darlings. We had all the patience in the world but it's all used up.



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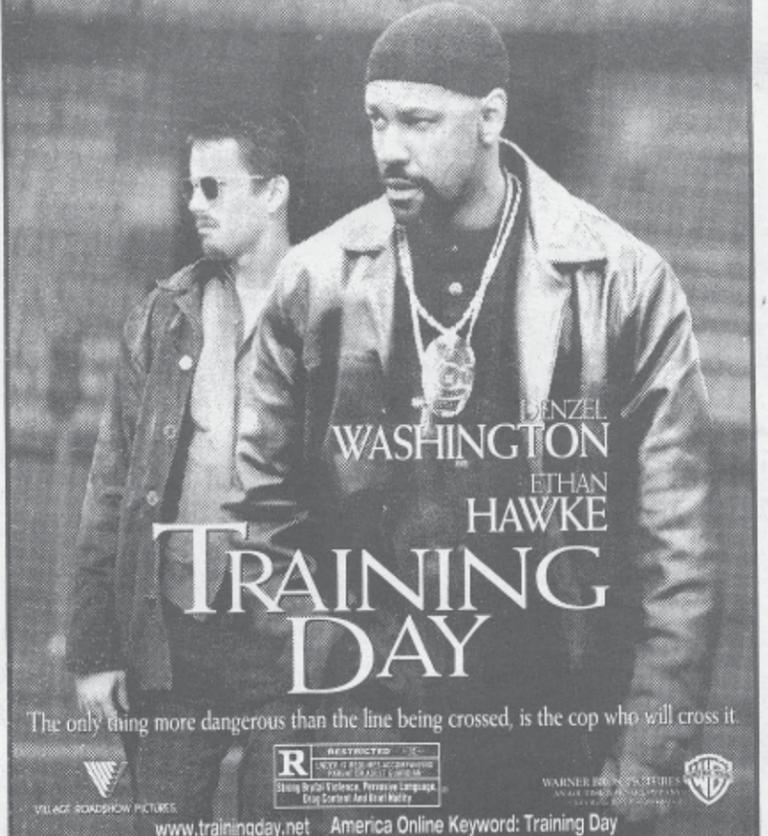
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BEC Helps the Community



Mr. Benjamin Beneby, Manager of BEC Abaco Operations, is shown above making a donation to Chief Fire Officer John Hall of the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department. The money will go toward building a fire station.

By Anita Rolle

The Bahamas Electricity Corporation is once again assisting a viable organization on Abaco. They have recently contributed \$2000 to the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department. BEC has been donating to the community for many years, ranging from monetary donations to service contributions.

The Corporation has assisted hurricane victims by installing electrical lines from Crossing Rock to Little Abaco. BEC recognizes the achievements of the youth of our community. Each year the Corporation makes presentations to graduating students of Abaco Central High School with the highest academic achievements. Among

other organizations BEC has made contributions to include the All Abaco Regatta and the Treasure Cay Primary School.

Rev. Kenneth Knowles, Assistant Manager of Distributions Department, commented, "I encourage other corporate citizens to contribute to the growth and development of our community."

Another important contribution by way of service is the electrical lines and lighting at the community parks which are widely used by our youth and sporting organizations. The Bahamas Electricity Corporation incorporates an in-house policy when it comes to making contributions to the community.

Auction Will Sell Guana Resort

The Guana Beach Resort is set to be sold at auction on May 27 with J.P. King Auction Company of Alabama handling the sale. The sale will include an eight-suite beach front hotel, a marina and several sites for residential and commercial development.

Bidders for the property will be required to bring a cashier's check ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000 (USD) depending on which of the 15 parcels they want to purchase, according to Craig King, president of the auction company.

"This is one of the best opportunities I've ever seen for someone who wants to invest in an island resort. It's a gorgeous location in a high-growth area with an outstanding reputation as a premier vacation and honeymoon spot on one of the world's top-ranked beaches," said Mr. King.

Gordon and Mary Sadler, who have owned the resort since the 1990s, are relocating to North Carolina, where they plan to establish a resort in the Smoky Mountains. "We enjoyed the islands for more than a decade, but we've always loved the mountains as well," said Mr. Sadler. He said that the island has come a long way in the last decade. "When we first bought the property, it was the only business on Great Guana Cay," said Sadler.

Now, Great Guana Cay is the fastest grow-

ing tourism destination in rapidly growing Abaco. It is home to three hotels and restaurants, more than 125 rental homes, and Orchid Bay, an exclusive 450-acre private estate development.

Individuals interested in more information about the auction may contact J.P. King Auction Company at (800) 558-5464 or internationally (256) 546-5217.

El Niño Is Forming Once Again

Weathermen are now telling us that El Niño is once again forming in the Pacific Ocean. El Niño is a phenomenon during which the waters off South America warm abnormally affecting weather around the globe. The water is about four degrees warmer already. Some of the changes worldwide are beneficial while others are devastating. It causes heavy rains along the west coasts of North and South America and droughts in other areas. The one benefit that we can appreciate is that the upper level winds are strong over our area which discourages the development of strong hurricanes. El Niño will last all this year and well into next year.

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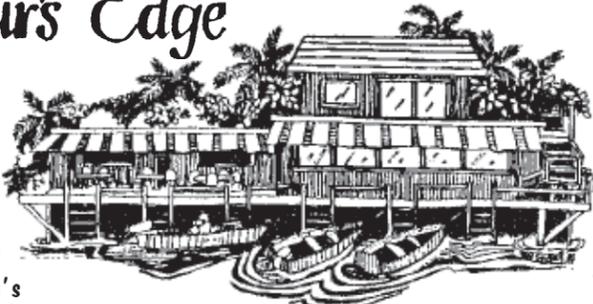
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The Editor Says . . . The Role of Volunteer Groups



Money allocated annually to Local Government and governmental departments is usually minimal. At least those receiving the money feel it is minimal. In comparison to some of our Caribbean neighbors, The Bahamas is relatively wealthy and has a high standard of living. However, geographically, The Bahamas was dealt a poor hand with populated islands scattered over 700 miles. Each major populated island requires an airport, schools, health services, phones, electricity, water and a host of other things which other countries do not have to replicate.

Government does reasonably well at sharing its financial resources so everyone's standards are raised. With over three-quarters of the country's population, Nassau gets the majority of the funds and services. The Out Islands are looked after but smaller remote settlements are frequently left wanting.

On Abaco government provides the essential services with some exceptions. Fire services are provided in all Out Islands only at airports and this is to meet international aviation standards. Sewerage processing is a luxury found only at private resorts and a few neighborhoods in Nassau. There is simply not enough money to provide all the services to all the scattered islands.

All communities are served with public schools. In some instances, children are bussed to a larger school where more subjects, specialized teachers and better resources can be consolidated. In Central Abaco the educational demands have exceeded government's ability to keep up and five private schools offer a high school curriculum. Government recognizes the contribution these schools make and the burden they take off the public system. Some of these schools are given a financial subsidy by government (Grant-in-Aid).

The public and private schools are separate but operate as parallel systems. That is, they all are geared to graduating students to further pursue their education or to enter the work force.

No government can supply all the needs of its population. This gap is filled by civic and community organizations, many of which are volunteer groups. Abaco has many such groups which fulfill some of these needs. Many groups have materialized over the years

to fill neglected society needs or interests.

BASRA and the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department are two of the area's oldest volunteer groups, both starting in the early 60s.

Much of Abaco's activity is water oriented by fishermen, visiting boaters, boating residents and others. BASRA volunteers look for those boaters and aircraft for the entire island.

The Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department and the others in the area that have subsequently formed provide a valuable service to the community. Last year's disastrous Golden Harvest fire saw five fire engines, three fire pumps on the waterfront and volunteer firemen from five different towns unified in fighting the fire. These were on the scene for eight hours at virtually no cost to government.

The Marsh Harbour fire department has averted two potential disasters when fires broke out in the Haitian Mud and Pigeon Pea residential areas. Fourteen houses were lost in the first instance and 20 in the second. The numbers could easily have been double or triple that amount. The consequences to the central part of Marsh Harbour could have been far reaching.

Our service clubs, the Rotary Club, Pilot Club and Kiwanis Club offer their services to various community projects.

Some organizations exist primarily for

social reasons, some are a mixture social and community service while others are focused to a particular cause. All provide opportunities for leadership qualities to emerge.

The civic causes they espouse include!

- Animal control in several communities
- Community centers and storm shelters
- Business and general island economic prosperity
- Community museums and historical preservation
- Environmental issues
- Environmental issues
- An ambulance service
- Parent teacher associations
- Keeping the kerosene lighthouse operating in Hope Town and many more.

The lowly PTA associations should not be overlooked for the contributions they make to the schools. The building housing the library and computer room at Abaco Central High School was donated to the school by the PTA years ago. Water coolers, library books, copy machines, air conditioners, sporting equipment and other school needs are met by PTA groups.

There is a trend appearing for local government to partner with some of these groups to stretch their budget dollars. Fire departments are sometimes given a small subsidy to assist with operating expenses. The ser-

vice they provide saves government thousands of dollars annually. Compare Marsh Harbour's five used fire engines bought on a shoe-string with the new half-million dollar fire engine government bought for Freeport last year.

Some towns have used a community group for projects such as constructing roads and schools with the town providing the labour and government, central and local, buying the materials. This gets maximum use of scarce budget dollars.

The scouting and brigade groups for children fill a valuable need at youth development, skills enhancement and character building.

The goals and accomplishments of these various and diverse groups should be noted and exploited by local government to maximize community benefits.

Local government has begun using some of its funds in a similar fashion to fire departments, civic groups and tourism projects where there is a definite benefit to the community.

All of these groups take a load off government and fill a variety of social and community needs. Town Committees and Councils should look at the resources in the communities and give assistance as appropriate. These community self-help groups can assist in making the money go farther.

Generally Speaking . . . *Great Expectations*

By S. Timothy Roberts

There is much rhetoric in the political arena recently and the electorate will soon be knee deep in issues and non-issues, accusations, retaliations and more and will be left there to fend for themselves.

Will we, the electorate, live up to expectations? As it stands now in political circles, the electorate is elevated to the level of "maturity," a position that carries great responsibility.

The Bahamas and its people have grown in leaps and bounds in our almost 30 years of independence. We are a marvel among the developing nations of the world in what we have accomplished socially and economically. We can be proud of this. Do not be deceived, however, we are still far from having arrived. There is much growth we as a people still need, especially in the area of politics and democracy.

We are still plagued with crime and AIDS/HIV which per capita we rate among the highest in the world as well as other social problems. These are social issues that will not go away as long as we as a people depend on the government to do something about it. We need to take responsibility for the problems we face on the social level.

The job of the government is to take care of the affairs of the country, both domestically and internationally. While they have some responsibility to deal with the social aspect of the country, it ought to be only when

we as a people are failing to deal rightly with our social ills.

The government that we choose, while they must show compassion and concern for the social development of our country, must deal precisely with economic issues. We must consider what the future holds. We must consider now where The Bahamas could be in five or ten years.

Happening at this moment and coming in the near future are two serious and complex challenges that are unavoidable. Whoever forms the next government may be, will be, intrinsically responsible for this country's success or failure. Therefore, we must make sure the next government is fiscally responsible and dependable.

We have the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) pressuring for transparency in our banking industry (our country's number two industry) and threatening to dry out the economy in the process. The Free Trade of the Americas Agreement (FTAA), though still in draft form, promises to affect seriously the economic structure of the entire Bahamas in ways that still have not been yet understood.

We ought to consider seriously who is the most capable group to get us through these perilous waters. We must decide, and we must decide responsibly.

When we go to the polls, we are not voting for what is best for me. The days of "all for me, baby" are in the past. We must think "what is best for the Bahamas" when we go to the polls. We must look beyond ourselves and see the greater good.

There is certain structure how, whether it is right or wrong, the Bahamas governmental system works. The capital, Nassau, is the financial/economic center of The Bahamas. What affects Nassau, positively or adversely, affects the rest of The Bahamas. How central government handles the OECD, the FTAA and other challenges WILL affect the whole Bahamas.

We in the Out Islands are not oblivious to the trials and triumphs of Nassau. We, too, are responsible for the fate of our country and our countrymen. We must unequivocally be prepared to stand and be counted. If we

Please see **Roberts** Page 9

ALL ABOUT TOWN

Where Were the Parents?

On March 14 the a joint meeting was held of the PTA's of Abaco Central High School and Central Abaco Primary School to be addressed by a very special guest speaker. If there were 20 parents there, that was a lot.

How can we improve the lives of our children if we cannot take the time to attend a meeting dealing with educational issues? I was embarrassed as the guest speaker had traveled from Grand Bahama and his message was a vital and important one that every parent who had children should have heard.

It seems to me that there is another problem schools have to deal with and that is parent education. Parents have a responsibility to take a part in the education of their children. Where were you, parents?

Principal Needs Phone

Mr. Benjamin Stubbs Principal of Abaco Central, moved into the principal's residence adjacent to the school in the beginning of November and as of this date he still does not have a phone. That is atrocious. The man has family in Grand Bahama and in college in the United States. He has a computer and wants to be online. He remarked it has been so long since he has used the Internet he might have forgotten how to use it. Of course, that was only a joke. But the principal of the largest high school on the island of Abaco should at least have a phone in his home. Why does he have to wait and be inconvenienced?

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Letters to the Editor

Bahamasair Needs to Privatize

The Editor,
I recently had to travel to West Palm Beach for medical reasons, and being the good citizen that I am, I chose to fly Bahamasair. Actually, it had more to do with the fact that Bahamasair had one of the cheaper fares. But the fact remains that I chose to use a service that they were supposedly providing.

Well, rather than lamenting about the obvious, let me get right to the point. Why is Bahamasair such a joke? The primary reason I think is because of a lack of needed aircraft and equipment. The secondary reasons all have to do with the Bahamian work ethic, but the biggest reason for the inability for Bahamasair to run as a profitable and professional operation is because it is run by the state. Anything that the government, any government, tries to run will not run efficiently. You don't have to be a college graduate to figure it out. Just look around you. The attitude is that the government "get plenny munny, so I een going kill myseff woikin fa nobawdy."

So what is the cure? Simple - PRIVITISATION! The government, both the present one and the next one, whomever they may be, needs to get out of the business of trying to operate a business. It is not the place of the government to be in business in the first place. It is still possible to maintain the "National Flag Carrier" status (if that is seen as being absolutely necessary) of Bahamasair as a privately owned airline, and as such, it will certainly be run more efficiently.

This is truly a no-brainer if you ask me. Will it ever happen? I doubt it because everything in this small country is so politically based and motivated that one cannot really expect any major breakthroughs any more. So what are we to do? Go to Cuba to live, I guess. At least, down there you know right up front what you're dealing with.

Anyway, I don't really expect this letter to make any difference at all. I just feel the need to unload every now and then. This is still a "free" (albeit third world) country, right?

Sincerely,
William (Billy) Roberts

Residents Need to Have Say in Town Development

Dear Residents of Abaco,
A meeting was held at Abaco Central High recently to discuss impacts of a proposed concrete plant in the Parker's area of Murphy Town. Island Construction explained the op-

erations of the proposed facility, and the residents of the community voiced their concerns.

It was nice to see a meeting conducted prior to the commencement of this operation as this is a consideration not usually given to the Bahamian public I hope that meetings such as this will serve as a model for all future large developments and proposed industrial operations. I was very impressed with some of the questions raised at this meeting.

The Bahamian people are becoming more aware of these issues that affect them, not only the residents of Murphy Town, but also the Bahamian community as a whole. Bahamians need to be involved in the process of planning developments in their country and should have a unified and forthright voice in requesting information from government officials and developers.

Public meetings and notifications are absolutely necessary to ensure that the community can be aware of potential impacts to themselves, their neighborhoods or their surroundings. Public meetings give the people a chance to have their say in influencing government requirements, approvals or restrictions on these developments.

Currently, the Bahamas lacks proper procedures and laws for notifying the public, and often it is not until after the operation or development has been given approval and construction begun that the residents become aware of the changes that are being made to their community. I am glad to see the participation of the Bahamian public in this instance, and I hope that they will continue to demand this information from their local and central government officials.

Many Bahamians feel that they are individually beyond influencing these decisions by government, but they should remind themselves that the Bahamian people elect many of these government officials, and therefore these officials are "public servants." These officials SHOULD be looking out for the best interest of the public by providing them with information prior to approval. Without this process, poor planning will continue and the quality of life within our communities will suffer.

This company is planning a large scale rock quarry operation in the southern portion of Abaco. Residents of Sandy Point and the community of Abaco must involve themselves in the discussion of this plan. This proposed rock and fill operation near Sandy Point, if carried forth, will impact the well fields in that area and may involve large scale dredging and blasting, which may negatively impact the nearby fisheries resources. A democratic nation such as the Bahamas should allow the public to make informed decisions about what is proposed in our own backyards, and the public needs to get serious about being involved in the planning of these developments.

A Concerned Resident



School Needs Community Help

To the Editor:

Sounds like the situation at Abaco Central Primary School is pretty dire. We AS THE COMMUNITY OF ABACO, regardless of where we live, cay or mainland, must respond. Six hundred of our sweet children are counting on us. "It takes a village to raise a child!" We must respond to PTA President Quentin Bastian's plea for help. Civic minded organizations like the Rotary Club, Pilot Club, Royal Marsh Harbour Yacht Club, Bahamas Surf Association, Hope Town Sailing Club, Hope Town Association, Friends of the Environment, various churches, second homeowners, winter residents, citizens and many more can put their collective tal-

ents, hours and fund raising skills together to supplement whatever contractually is supposed to happen at the school

Case studies of how this scenario can work include Headmistress Candace Key's never ending campaign to provide Hope Town school kids with computers, art supplies, books, working bathrooms, air conditioning, landscaping, extracurricular activities and guest speakers. (She has been known to tell NASA astronauts and other famous people that no, they can't go on the boat today. They must visit "her kids" at the school!) Another instance is Mrs. Lyn Major and the mothers of the students at the *Every Child Counts* program for special education. Mrs. Major started the program from nothing five years

Please see **Letters** Page 28

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School News

Guest Speaker Addresses Combined PTA

By Anita Rolle

The Parent Teachers Associations of Abaco Central High School and Central Abaco Primary School held a combined meeting on March 14, 2002, at the high school. Special guest speaker was Mr. Cecil Thompson, District Superintendent for Grand Bahama and Bimini and the Cays.

Mr. Benjamin Stubbs, the principal of the high school, encouraged parents to stop by the school from time to time. Said Mr. Stubbs, "This shows us that you are concerned about your children." Also in attendance was Ms. Sandy Walker of the Adolescent Reproductive Health Education program. She briefed parents on the program and encouraged them to give her feedback periodically. (Workshops are held on a regular basis for the high school students).

Mr. Thompson in his speech appealed to parents to be mindful of diversity, stating that we must "strive to be more world class as Bahamians." He compared education to banking - parents make deposits by supporting their children's education, i.e., participating in every aspect of school life; in the end we make withdrawals when we reap successful children in the future. Mr. Thompson said, "We have a moral responsibility and a legal duty to our children." Encouraging parents to be good mentors for their chil-

dren, Mr. Thompson advised, "Be educated and set a good example to your children."

The evening was topped off with a special surprise for parents. Mr. Stubbs treated the small group to a solo performance, a capella and hitting every note! Bravo Mr. Stubbs!

Inter School Sports

By Isobel Sherman

Inter School Sports Day was held on March 8th at the track in Murphy Town. Forest Heights Academy, S.C. Bootle High School and Abaco Central High School competed. At the end of the day S.C. Bootle won even though first and second place winners in all of the relays were won by Abaco Central High School.

Peer Leader Training Continues

By Anita Rolle

A workshop for Peer Leaders was held at the Learning Resource Center last month. Participating in the workshop were senior students of the Abaco Central High School.

The two-day workshop included the following topics: Human Sexuality, Communication with Peers about Sex, Reproductive Anatomy, Puberty and Adolescent Development, Avoiding Teen Pregnancy, Sexual Abuse, Gender Violence and Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

The workshop consisted of lectures throughout the day. Students were encour-

aged to participate by asking questions, making comments, and giving feedback. Students were also given the opportunity to express themselves by creating a group dialog which they performed for the rest of the workshop participants. Sitting in for a short while, it was evident that the students were excited about the workshop and eager to learn.

Co-ordinator of the program, Ms. Sandy Walker encourages anyone interested to call or visit the office with any questions or concerns they may have about reproductive health issues. You may also request workshops for your group or organization.

Please see **School**

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Ms. Sandy Walker is shown with a group of young people from Abaco Central High School who participated in her Peer Leader program which studied reproductive health. These students will work with students at their school to help reduce the incidence of pregnancy and AIDS.



The Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department is visiting every school in Central Abaco to educate the students about fire safety. Corporal Elroy Knowles with the Police Department is a trained fire fighter and is one of the volunteers in Marsh Harbour. The visits are popular with the students as they can climb onto a fire truck and hear the sirens up close. The children shown above are at the Agape Christian School in Marsh Harbour.

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More School News

S.C. Bootle Fair Features Concert



S.C. Bootle High School in Cooper's Town held its annual school fair on March 23. The successful event drew large crowds, particularly for the concert given by Sweet Emily. Booths with a variety of food and many games entertained everyone all day. Shown above is the popular "Dunk the Teacher" booth.



The art students at S.C. Bootle High School did paintings which were transferred onto shirts. These shirts along with sand candles and homemade soap were offered for sale at the school fair on March 23. Funds raised are going toward a gazebo where students can relax during lunch. Shown above are, l. to r., Lakita Cartwright, Bareshia Pinder, Sanchia Rolle and Dominica Evans.

School

From Page 10

Abaco Central High One Phone Line

By Isobel Sherman

It has been almost two years since a fire at Abaco Central High in the Administrative building and yet today there is still only one phone line. A trench was dug and a multi-phone cable was installed but as of this date the school is operating with only one phone line. Persons get angry when they call and the phone is always busy. Most times it is busy with incoming calls. Even the principal, vice principal and senior mistress have to wait long periods before they can get a phone call out.

I think it is time that Abaco Central High School was given the phone lines it needs including one for the Internet.

International Day Is Celebrated

By Anita Rolle

On March 15 the Abaco Central High

School was transformed into a cultural haven. Under the theme *Celebrating Diversity*, Commonwealth Day was celebrated as International Food Day. Coordinator of the event for his second year, Mr. Mohamed Rahim noted that countries other than Commonwealth were invited to participate in an effort to expand the exercise. Those represented included Great Britain, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, the United States, Dominica, Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago, and, of course, The Bahamas.

The day began when students did a march pass carrying flags of the countries represented. Following, an assembly was held where the various countries rendered their National Anthem and presentations were made pertaining to that country. The crowd was treated to presentations consisting of historical facts, music and dancing. Immediately following the assembly, guests were invited to visit the various classrooms that had been virtually transformed into little communities.

Please see **School**

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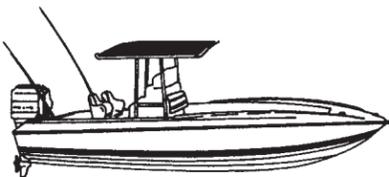


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Batelco Installs Heavier Towers

By Alice Bain

Foundations have just been laid for a new BaTelCo tower in Marsh Harbour. R.W. Harris Inc. of Tampa, Florida, has been working in conjunction with Bahamas Marine of Nassau in this endeavor. The company has now moved on to pour foundations for similar towers in Treasure Cay, Green Turtle Cay, Cooper's Town and Fox Town. Each tower requires three base pads, and each pad consists of a five-foot diameter cylindrical

steel cage sunk 22 feet into the ground and filled with concrete. Anchor bolts are set into the top of the concrete columns and penetrate the foundations to a depth of seven feet. Workers check the tops of the base pads carefully to insure that they are level.

The new Marsh Harbour tower will start going up in a month or so, as it takes 28 days for the pads to cure. The tower will be 270 feet tall and is being built to accommodate

new high performance microwave dishes that the old tower was not designed to handle. These new towers are free standing and are much heavier duty than any previously used on Abaco.

A microwave link between Marsh Harbour and Sandy Point will increase the bandwidth available to BaTelCo and should become an integral part of BaTelCo's new DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) internet service which is presently being tested here on Abaco. The towers and dishes to the north will serve as a redundancy loop linking us to Freeport, so that if one dish goes dead or one tower is wrecked in a storm, the rest of the micro-

wave network will still be serviced by the remaining portion of the loop.



A special drilling machine is boring the holes for pads for erecting new Batelco antenna towers. The work is being done by the R.W. Harris Company of Tampa, Florida. The special auger makes a five-foot diameter hole. A total of eight towers will be erected to accommodate larger antennas and additional equipment for expanded phone and internet communications.

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Obituaries of Relatives and Friends

The funeral for **Serlene Elizabeth Adderley Miller**, 52, formerly of Sandy Point was held in Nassau on March 17. She is survived by her husband Ashlyn Miller; mother Nollie Peggy Adderley, children Norma, Tiffany, Travis and Treven; son-in-law Eric Frankie Dean; grandson Seldon; adopted chil-

dren Aneka King and Julian Miller; father-in-law Willis Miller; brothers Leslie, William, Henry, Wellington; sisters Lorraine Smith, Shawan Adderley, Kelly Russel and Shirley Barr; brothers-in-law Leslie Smith, Hubert Russell, Wenfred Miller and Franklyn Barr; sisters-in-law Lagloria, Virginia,

Evamae and Linda Adderley; uncles; aunts; nephews, nieces; cousins; stepchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral for **Prince Alfred Lewis**, 89, of Cooper's Town was held at the New St. Andrew's Baptist Church in Fire Road on March 16. Officiating was Rev. Eulin McIntosh assisted by Evangelist Leslie Cornish. Interment was in the Fire Road Public Cemetery.

He is survived by his daughters Barbaramae and Minnie; stepchildren Deloris and Pappy; son-in-law George Johnson; sisters-in-law Ethilee Lewis, Corajane Russell and Mable Burrows; grandchildren Cynthia Diann, Lisa, Coranell, Mackell, Shanacka, Leon, Lionel, Jonathan and Prince; grand daughter-in-law Catherina Thompson; grandsons-in-law great grandchildren, nieces; nephews and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral for **Frederick "Freddie" Newbold**, 85, of Murphy Town was held on March 23 at the St. Andrews Methodist Church in Dundas Town. Officiating was Rev. Carla Culmer assisted by Elder Livingston

Williams and Pastor A.B. Lewis. Burial was in the Dundas Town Public Cemetery.

He is survived by his sons Delgano, Denvill, Wilbert, Patrick, Sterling and George; daughters Althea, Frederica, Andrea, Lovely and Mable Newbold, Carlene Edgcombe and Amanda Davis; grandchildren Trevor, Elvis, Lynden, Faron, Dereck, Dwight, Nisharoan, Shaivar, Rashad, Patrick Jr. Prince, Kino, Kyle, Brenton, Brandon, Kristian, Jamine, Michael, Calvin and Shan Newbold, Deborah Basden, Lisa Knowles, Temra Ferguson, Jacqueline Ritchie, Bernadette Major, Sherell, Shaquera, Shontae, Shjanena and Neya Sands, Britnae Davis, Tasha Rolle, Evelyn and Tantalier McIntosh, Lakeisha, Lasasha, Shamere, Nakia, Ranada, Nakishka, Navado and Valantino McKenzie, Hilnequia Gibson and Gendayia Edgcombe; great grandchildren; sister Joyce Smith; nephews and nieces; daughters-in-law Viola, Andrea, Mary and Sally Newbold, Sandramae McKenzie and Louise Beneby; sons-in-law Cubel Davis Jr., and Samuel Edgcombe; and many other relatives and friends.

Kayak Trip Teaches Cubs

By Alice Bain

The Abaco Cub Scouts recently went on a kayak adventure tour courtesy of Abaco Outback. The troop of seven boys between the ages of eight and 10 went to the Crossing just north of Crossing Rocks and kayaked on the west side of Great Abaco Island among the mangroves, in the marls area. Several Scoutmasters accompanied the boys on their grand adventure, and the group was guided by Abaco Outback owner-operators Erin and Ron Pagliaro.

Jason Evans, one of the Cub Scouts, commented on his experience. "It was really adventurous! We kayaked and we swam in a blue hole. Everyone went swimming and we had a great time. We saw an Indian Cormorant, and we swam under the mangroves. We

jumped in another blue hole, too." The troop visited the second blue hole, an inland sinkhole, after lunch.

Cody Unhjem also talked about the kayaking experience. "We saw herons and egrets. I was in a double kayak with a Scoutmaster and then later I was on my own in a single kayak. I kind of preferred to be on my own though! I really want to do this again!"

The Scouts learned up close and personal about ecology on Abaco and had fun doing so. "It was certainly an enjoyable day," said tour company co-owner Erin. "This is the youngest group we've ever taken out, and they did twice as well as I imagined they could. We had a good time and the boys learned a lot. It was a fun group, and I hope we can do this more often in the future."



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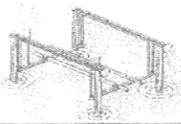
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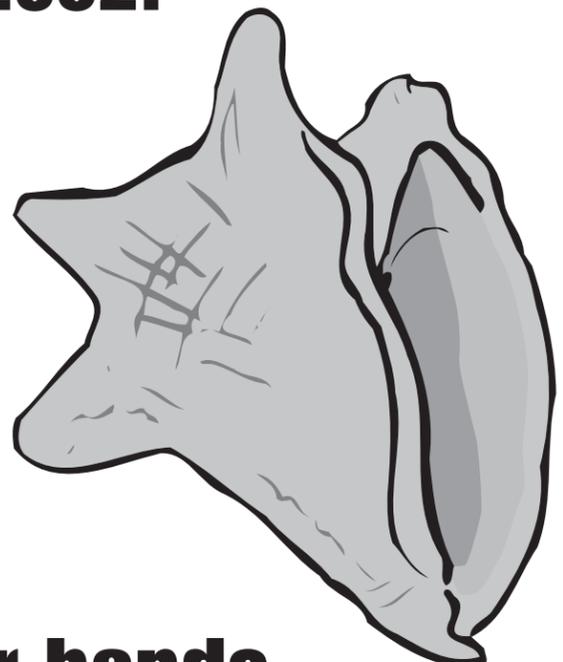
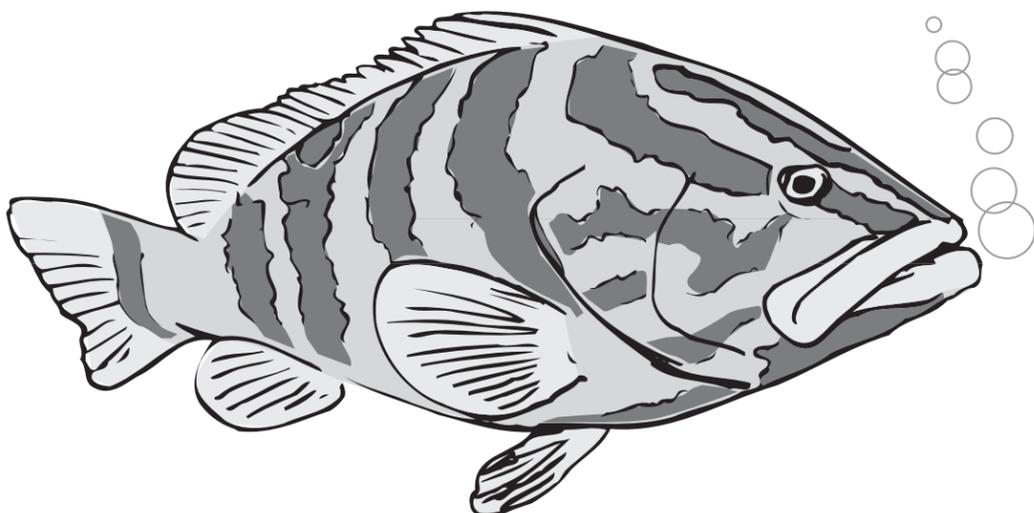


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Police Report

Two residents of Sweeting's Cay, Grand Bahama, left Grand Cay on a fishing trip in a 17-foot boat to dive for conch at the back of Walker's Cay. As of March 1 they have not been seen or heard from. Searches by police, emergency services including BASRA have all proved negative.

A resident of Treasure Cay reported on March 3 that he was attacked by a man he knew. The assailant hit him on his head and left shoulder with two bottles.

A Grand Cay resident reported on March 3 that someone broke into his residence through a window and stole 20 pounds of lobster and 200 pounds of conch.

A man living west of Marsh Harbour reported on March 4 that someone unknown stole face stones and gravel valued at \$1000 from his property. The Police were given

leads to follow up.

A female resident of Crown Haven reported on March 5 that her mother's house had been broken into. Thirty dollars in cash was stolen. The lady was asleep at the time and was awakened by a neighbour who informed her that a man whom he identified by name had just run out the back door of her house. The accused has not yet been located.

A Hope Town resident reported on March 10 that her husband came home drunk and assaulted her by slapping her in the face. She requested police action and her husband was charged with assault.

A Treasure Cay resident was arrested and charged on March 10 for possession of dangerous drugs. A small quantity was found in his pants.

Court Report

Court Report of February 28

Kamar Lawrence, a Jamaican national, appeared on charge of possessing dangerous drugs. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 14 days imprisonment.

Kamar Lawrence appeared on charge of possession of dangerous drugs. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

Leeland Swain of Green Turtle Cay was charged with disorderly behavior and obscene language. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$25.00 on the first count and \$125 on the second count.

Leo McKenzie appeared on charges of possession of dangerous drugs. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$150 or two month's imprisonment.



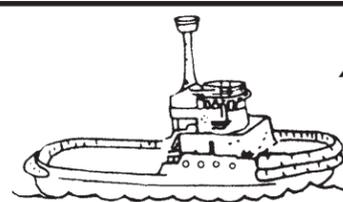
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Lenten Tea Features Fashions



The Anglican church women of St. John the Baptist Anglican Church in Marsh Harbour held their annual Lenten Tea on March 24. This event featured a fashion show. Shown above are the younger ladies modeling a variety of styles of dresses. Each participant provides her own clothes. The show was organized by Nicola Ferguson and the general program was organized by Valarie Dean and Ellen Strachan. The money raised went toward various projects of the church which include a new church bus.

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Bald Eagle Sightings Reported

By Alice Bain

Two Bald Eagles were sighted over Marsh Harbour recently by local ornithologist Ron Pagliaro, of Abaco Outback kayak adventure tour company. On March 13th Ron and his wife Erin were getting ready to take a group of visitors on a kayak trip. "I looked up over the harbour," says Ron, "and saw some Man-O-War birds, and in the flock I saw two birds that looked like hawks with blunt wings. I got my binoculars out excitedly. When I got a better look at the birds and realized what I was seeing, I started yelling for Erin to get the camera!"

Last year Ron and one other birder sighted a Bald Eagle over Marsh Harbour but did not get photographic evidence of the eagle so it could not be officially recorded. This time they got some pictures of the eagles. "We were very lucky to see them," continues Ron. "Two of the twenty shots I took actually came out so that you could see the field marks of the birds." A boater also spotted one of the eagles over the harbour again that night around dark.

The photographs are unfortunately not of a quality that would reproduce well in the

newspaper, but enlargements of the two successful shots clearly show a large raptor with a white head and a white tail—unmistakable field marks of the Bald Eagle. There has never been an official recorded sighting of a Bald Eagle in the Bahamas.

If the sighting can be confirmed by various birding associations in North America, this will add an important piece of data to the body of knowledge concerning the range and habits of these famous birds. Bald Eagles include Florida in their range but have not been sighted in the West Indies.

Seeing them here raises questions. Are they "rare vagrants" who just wander over once in a while? Are they colonizing on Abaco? Or were they blown off course during a hurricane last year and decided to stay? Ron and other Abaconian birdwatchers will be keeping their eyes open for clues to this mystery. Although the sighting has not yet been reviewed by any ornithological organizations, Ron has sent copies of the photos in and it should be confirmed by the end of March.

Fishing Tournaments Begin

April is the start of the billfishing tournament season on Abaco. On April 14 the first leg of the Bahamas Billfish Championship 2002 entitled the South Abaco Championship begins at Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour. The BBC is a series of five tournaments This year four of those legs will be held on Abaco.

Rolex is the Title Sponsor of the Rolex Grand Prize which now stands at \$800,000 for the angler who boats a marlin breaking the existing Bahamian record of 1069

pounds. This year several of the championships will be hosted by boat builders, which will showcase new models. The first tournament will be hosted by Hatteras Yachts.

The Bertram Hatteras Invitational Shoot Out will once again be held at Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour in May. Other tournaments scheduled include the MHMY Billfish Bash, the Treasure Cay Billfish Tournament and the Green Turtle Club annual fishing tournament.



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14.7oz CBA Spag. & M/balls Reg or Jumbo	\$1.39
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18.8oz Campb Chky Veg Soup	\$1.59
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Viewpoint

Comments on the Referendum

By William (Billy) Roberts

I am probably one of the last people to weigh in on the result of the vote on the referendum. I hope you will allow me to comment very briefly on the subject.

Politics aside, the referendum, in and of itself, was a very needful and sensible proposal, especially where the equal rights for women was concerned. However, the FNM, under the leadership of Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham, made a terrible miscalculation in

their timing in presenting the referendum to the people. The timing itself was extremely suspect, and because of this fact alone (there were many others as well), it was bound to become a political issue, as it did.

Everybody involved in politics in any way in this country, used the referendum for political mileage as far as I am concerned. The problem is, that so many of these people riding on the tidal wave that the referendum created, couldn't tell you why they felt and

voted the way they did, and in fact, they still don't know for sure. They are merely parroting the words of various leaders and those seeking leadership positions. People who are easily lead may be funny to some, but they worry me.

As I write these lines, I have just learned that the general election date has been announced. I am prepared. That's as much as I will say at this time. Are you all prepared? And please, if I hear one more person say that they aren't even going to vote, I think I will puke. This upcoming election has got to be the most exciting, and one of the most important ones to date.

Maybe it's just me. Maybe I need to get a life or something, but I have to tell you that there are not many subjects that interest and incite me more than politics. I definitely will not be as involved as I once used to be, not that I ever was really all that involved, but I can assure you that I am still very interested in what is going on in my country, and as long as I am able to, I will cast my vote and I will offer my opinions from time to time.

I am very cognizant of my freedoms and rights, and I will avail myself of them when

I feel it is necessary. "Evils that befall the world are not nearly so often caused by bad men as they are by good men who are silent when an opinion must be voiced" - (a quote from the book "Perfect Murder/ Perfect Town" by Lawrence Schiller.)

Finally, I offer a piece of advice to the leadership of the FNM. Mr. Ingraham please do your party a favour, and the people a service, and step down. You have led your party well and you are a natural born leader. However you have apparently become intoxicated (just like another very great figure in our political past) with power and thus your time has expired. I know it is hard to accept, but there are others who are just as capable of your job as you are, although my first choices would not have been the same as yours. However, the past is history, and it cannot be altered. The future can be though.

Good leadership is hard to find these days for sure. However, a graceful exit from a powerful position is even harder to come by these days. The news media is chock full of various such cases. Let's not make that mistake. It's an embarrassment to the whole nation. Nuff said.

Friends Plan Environmental Workshop

By Lory Kenyon

Friends of the Environment are planning a workshop as a followup of their initial meeting in Marsh Harbour held on February 19. It will be held on April 13, from 9:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Pavilion at Abaco Beach Resort. We ask that you plan to stay for the entire session.

A professional facilitator will run this meeting, with small groups meeting in the morning, lunch break and group reports given to the entire workshop in the afternoon.

The Board has chosen eight topics from the general meeting for discussion at this workshop. If you would like to attend, pick your top three choices in which you want to

participate and send them to us prior to the workshop. The topics are:

1. Abaco National Parks.
2. Recycling/Oil Waste Disposal.
3. Environmental Education; Schools and Community.
4. Environmental/Historic Walking Tour Maps.
5. Styrofoam Alternatives/Recycled products.
6. Pump Out Stations.
7. Fishing Licenses/Regulations/Enforcement
8. Personal Water Craft Use Restriction/ Legislation.

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Dock and Boat Licenses May Be Expired

Port Officer Cyril Morley requests the boating public to renew their boat and dock licenses for 2002. Commercial boats, commercial docks and all private docks have annual licenses which expired December 31. Fishing, rental and charter boats fall within this category. Private recreational boats have annual licenses which expire the end of March.

Master's licenses (Captain's) also expire on December 31 and must be renewed. There are several categories of commercial Master's Licenses. Operators of private boats are not required to have an operator's license.

Private boats require a license which expires March 31 and should be renewed before that date. Boats registered on Abaco are given an AB number which ends in a two or three letter designation of the home port such as GTC, MH, MOW or HT. Like an automobile license, the number stays with the boat but the license must be renewed annually. Letters, three inches tall or larger, must be applied to the boat's bow for public identification. All private and commercial

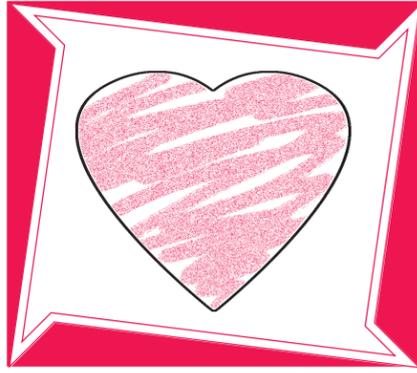
(rental) jet skis must be licensed.

Commercial docks include those at marinas, fish houses and charter boat companies. Private docks are those usually associated with a residence. This license can be equated to a lease for the crown land the dock is built on. Docks built in private excavated boat basins are not exempt from this license.

This marine revenue is a significant income source for the Treasury. Abaco leads the country with about twice the number of marina docks as its nearest competitor. Abaco also leads the nation in the number of private docks.

Port Officer Morley's office is located in the Administrator's complex in Dove Plaza in Marsh Harbour.

Remember Register to Vote



AA Meetings

The AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) 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.



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North Abaco News

Treasure Cay

Property Owners Hold Meeting

The Treasure Cay Property Owners Association held their annual meeting on March 19 at the Treasure Cay Community Centre.



The Treasure Cay Property Owners Association annually awards a trophy to one person who has contributed significantly to that community. This year the award went to Mr. Noel Lister, who organized a program to beautify the area after the devastation of Hurricane Floyd. Shown above is Mr. Wardy Thompson, on the left, giving the award to Mr. Lister's son, as Mr. Lister was unable to attend the meeting due to an illness.

The annual meeting discusses many topics important to the home owners, the various committees present their reports and the financial records are made public. Approximately 100 owners were present and there were many additional proxy votes.

Treasure Cay residents are planning to build a combination fire house, humane society and a garage for an ambulance. Treasure Cay Ltd. will be providing the land but construction cannot begin until the land is made available. They have collected about \$50,000 toward the building and have pledges which will be available when construction begins. The pledges would bring the total to \$90,000. The estimated cost will be about \$160,000. The feeling at the meeting was that they are eager to proceed.

Another area which concerns the residents is the situation with the water and sewerage. Government will eventually be purchasing these utilities and a purchase price has been agreed upon. But so far Treasure Cay Ltd. is providing the services. The sewer system is in such poor condition that raw sewerage puddles in several areas. There is a need for much new equipment. It is estimated that the system will require about one million dollars to revamp it. However, since Treasure Cay, Ltd. no longer has a franchise to oper-

ate these utilities, they have no guarantee on how long they will operating it and will have an income from it. With no guarantee of recouping their investment, they are allowing the situation to remain unchanged.

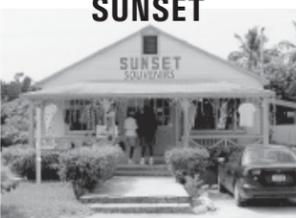
The government is just completing a new water system which will serve Treasure Cay, Black Wood and eventually Green Turtle Cay. It was brought out in the meeting that one reason the government has not acted sooner in the purchase is that when the new water system is in use, they will have to begin repaying the loan from an international bank. If plans for a new hotel develop, government will go ahead. If the hotel does not happen soon, the feeling expressed at the meeting was they would like Treasure Cay Ltd to purchase water wholesale from the government for reselling which would give the area

much better quality of water than now available.

BEC is still upgrading the wiring in Treasure Cay. There is concern that the work will not be completed before the fishing tournaments begin next month. The fishing tournaments are important to the economy of the resort; however, the boats require large amounts of electricity. At present Treasure Cay is still served by generators located in the resort. BEC will probably move them to another island in the Bahamas when they eventually service that area from the generating plant in Marsh Harbour. But the home owners would like the generators which are currently providing their power to be left in

Please see **North**

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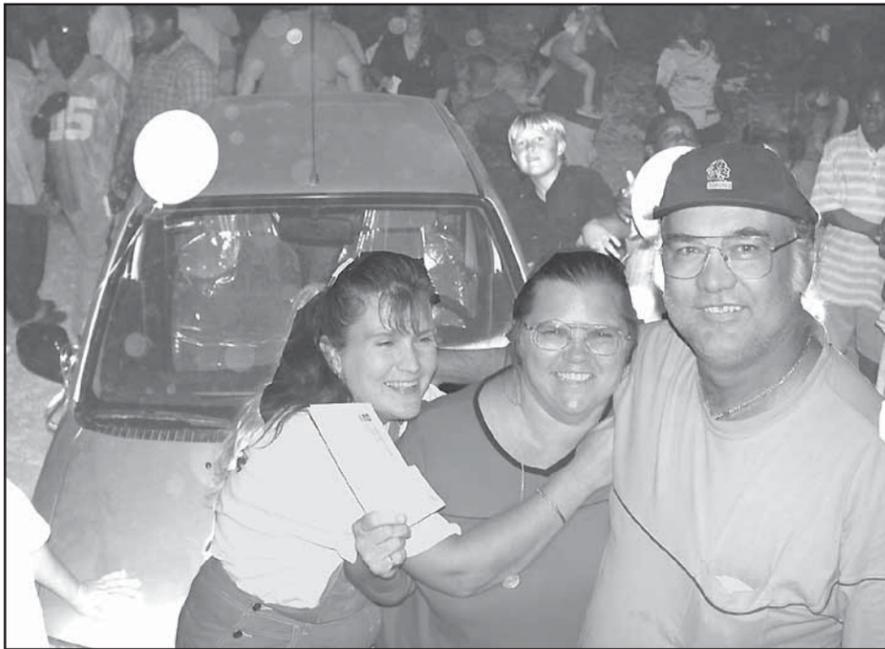
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More School News

St. Francis Raffles Car



Mr. Willie Albury, shown above with his wife Clarise and daughter Dawn Russell, is jubilant that he won the 2001 Diahatsu Cuore, the top prize in the St. Francis de Sales School raffle. Lots of games and entertainment helped raise money for many projects needed by the school.



Face painting is always popular at school fairs. The boy shown above is getting the finishing touches on his mask. The all-day fair provided the residents of Central Abaco a delightful day all the while helping the school.

School

From Page 11

Stepping into a room felt as though you'd landed in another country. The liveliest room by far was Haiti. This crew drew the largest crowd of teenagers to their room which included a disco/club scene. The United States was very interesting with its elaborate setup including a computer set up with a slide show of the events of September 11.



Mr. Alfred Dean, shown above with his wife, was chosen as Teacher of Year for Abaco Central High School. The school celebrated with a motorcade and a luncheon on March 22. Mr. Dean is the music teacher and has developed a popular school choir and a Junkanoo band.

The day would not be complete without Junkanoo and everything else Bahamian. The Bahamian room included everything from Junkanoo costumes and Androsia print to straw crafts. Each room showcased and sold tasty dishes and sweet treats (and samples for those not too adventurous), historical facts and information pertaining to that country. Guests were able to get a taste of different cultures in many aspects.

When asked what goes into the preparations for such an event, Mr. Rahim stated that the committee, which is comprised of teachers at the school and the school's secretary, met on several occasions devising plans for the big event. Mr. Rahim said, "Almost every item for the event was donated by teachers, students and other persons in the community. The committee members worked tirelessly, ensuring that everything was in place."

Also enjoying the celebrations were Ms. Vernel Thurston, Head of the Social Studies Department at Freeport High, and Mr. Cecil Thompson, District Superintendent for Freeport, Bimini and the Cays. Proceeds from the event will go towards the purchase of a television and VCR for the school and a computer for the staff room.

Please see **School**

Page 23



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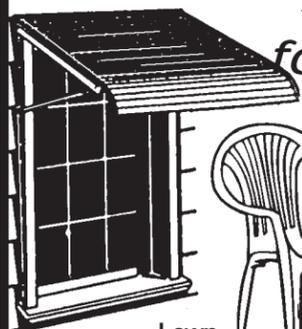
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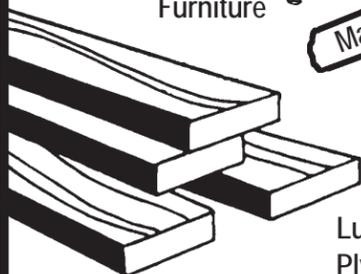
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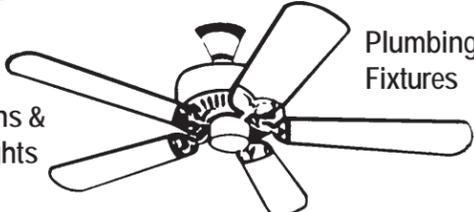


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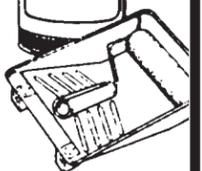
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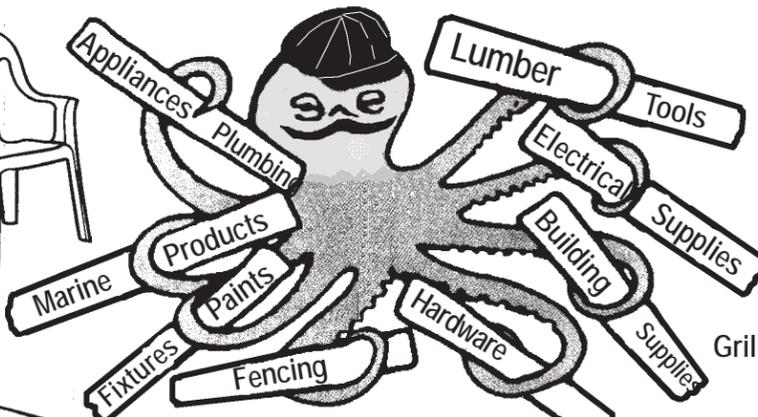


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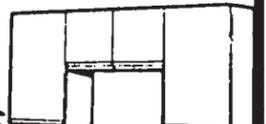


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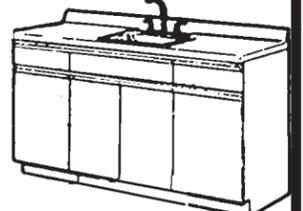
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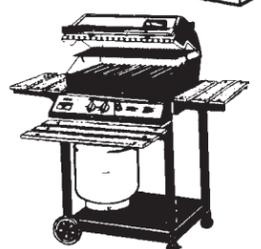
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More School News

School *From Page 22*

I could not have completed my extensive tour without my special "tour guide," Mr. Charles Poitier of the Physical Education Department. Many thanks, Mr. Poitier.

Alfred Dean is Honoured

By Isobel Sherman

On March 22 Mr. Alfred Dean was honoured as Teacher of the Year for Abaco Central high school. The day included a motorcade through the streets of Marsh

Harbour, Dundas Town and Murphy Town. A special assembly was organized which included skits by students and a performance by the Junkanoo Band of Abaco and the ACH Dancers. Special music was provided by Petrel and Sherell Carey and a soloist from Florida Memorial College, Mr. Kenyarda Scott. Guest speaker was Mr. Mel White, Director of Music at Florida Memorial College.

the school realized the diversity of its teaching staff and wanted to include other countries besides the members of the Commonwealth. Thus, International day replaced Commonwealth Day. After the parade there was an assembly where Mrs. Nadene Beneby read the Queen's message for Commonwealth Day 2002. Then each participating country spoke about their country and some performed. Most told about their countries and what their flags meant. The speaker from the United States explained that the country is the melting point for all cultures and thus there is a diversity of cultures in the United States.

International Day

By Isobel Sherman

The Third Annual International Day was held at Abaco Central High School on March 15. The day began with a parade of nations. Nations parading were Great Britain, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States and, of course, The Bahamas. The idea for the day began when

After the assembly persons were invited to tour each country's exhibit and purchase

Please see School Page 35

Countries Were Featured



Abaco Central High School celebrated Commonwealth Day by having an International Day which showcased all countries represented in the school. Each country paraded its flag and talked about its customs and traditions. Each country organized displays and offered foods typical of that country. The Bahamas, shown above, included artifacts, bush medicine and Junkanoo costumes.



The Haitian room portrayed scenes from Haiti and offered produce and prepared food typical of what one would find there. The room, as always, was popular with music.



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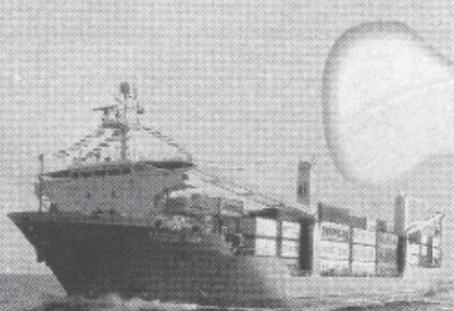
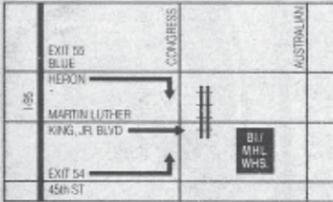
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Town Considers Block Plant Site

A special meeting for Murphy Town residents was called on March 18 to present a proposal by Island Construction of Freeport for a batch cement plant at the Parker freight site. No company representatives were present and information was minimal. It was concluded that a company representative should be invited to answer questions so another meeting was scheduled in two days time.

On March 20 Mr. Larry Albury, a principal of Island Construction, made a detailed presentation of the project and answered questions to an audience of about 30 persons.

The company proposes to erect a 57-foot tall silo to store the cement. Sealed container trucks, similar to petroleum tank

trucks, will bring the cement from Freeport. The cement would be blown into the silo with all dust trapped in a filter at the top. A second filter would capture any dust emitted below at the mixing area.

Sand and gravel will also be barged from Freeport where the company mines a particularly hard limestone rock and crushes it to aggregate size. They do not use sand taken from the sea. Their sand is also crushed and graded from the mining operation. This gives an angular sand particle as opposed to the rounded sand taken from the sea bed.

A two-chamber hopper will be adjacent to the tower with a conveyor belt feeding sand and gravel to the mixing chamber. Scales ensure an accurate mixture. The sand, gravel

and cement then empty into a waiting cement-mixing truck. A block molding machine would be situated nearby.

No mining is scheduled in central Abaco, either on land or in the sea. They may later mine rock farther from central Abaco where they have applied for another project.

Island Construction was hoping for a favorable decision as they are preparing to supply concrete to the new dock site in Marsh Harbour for the American Bridge Company.

Questions by residents were related to safety, potential pollution, increased traffic and the further conversion of the site to industrial uses.

When asked what the company would contribute to Murphy Town, Mr. Albury said they

were prepared to assist with materials for community projects. The owners of the Parker site own a 20-foot strip along the east side of the present road and are willing to deed this to government for widening the road.

In answering a question on the timing of the move and the location, Mr Albury explained that other companies were contacted by American Bridge but the terms were not acceptable. Island Construction was then contacted and their proposal was accepted. Mr. Albury's family owns the site which is accessible to the barges and is presently used for light industrial purposes.

Please see **Block Plant** Page 30



This photo of a cement operation in Freeport shows the system which will be used in Murphy Town if a proposed project is approved by the Central Abaco Council. The operation on Abaco will be much smaller but will have a silo for the cement powder while the sand and gravel will be in two hoppers shown above on the left. The cement is mixed in a hopper under the silo before being emptied into a cement truck for hauling to the construction site.



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The Nominations Committee

Wishes to announce that applications are now being invited from all qualified members who wish to be considered for recommendation as candidates for the seats to become available on either The Board of Directors or The Supervisory Committee at the 25th Annual General Meeting to be held on May 25th, 2002.

All members interested in serving in either capacity should collect an application form from any of the Teachers and Salaried Workers Co-operative Credit Union Limited offices in Nassau, Freeport or Abaco.

Completed applications, along with other information requested, should also be returned to any of the offices on or before the close of business on Friday, April 5th, 2002.

Any applications, not fully completed or without the requested supporting information, or received after the aforementioned date will not be eligible for consideration.

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Classes will continue every Tuesday, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., for two and one half (2½) months.

For more information regarding this program you may contact:

Ms. Maxine Ferguson at: (242) 367-7127 or 477-5062

The Port Department at: (242) 367-2034

Agriculture Is Doing Will on Abaco

By Alice Bain

Abaco's agricultural sector continues to show slow growth. The citrus growers are, by all accounts, having an average year. Jim Gilbert of the Bahama Star Farms reports a good crop and a steady market for fruit in the U.S. Bahama Star grows lemons and oranges but most of their crop is in ruby red grapefruit. In that type of fruit alone last year they shipped 45 million pounds to the U.S. and European markets. Abaco has several advantages over U.S. citrus farms; our soil is porous and therefore less likely to harbor harmful fungi, we do not have the citrus canker that has been troubling the Floridian groves, and Abaco is not subject to frosts during the winter. The trees here do not go dormant like they do in the U.S.—they keep growing and putting out new leaves year round.

Randy Key also grows citrus locally at Bahama Palm Groves and reports a decent crop and a fair market price for his product. Bahama Palm Groves grows lemons, limes, tangerines, tangelos, red grapefruit and oranges and sells its produce primarily on the local market. Pinewoods Nursery recently

closed its fruit and vegetable retail operation, but the packing plant is still supplying citrus to the public on a wholesale basis in quantities down to a quarter case. Mr. Key also reports that Bahama Palm Groves plans to continue its line of fresh juices from its fruit, and to expect to see that product returning to local grocery stores soon.

Ben Harmon is reclaiming a citrus grove that was operated last during the 1980's—and has lain fallow long enough that the fruit from the trees can now be classed officially as "organic" produce. Mr. Harmon has been using fish emulsion, seaweed and chicken manure to fertilize the trees instead of chemical fertilizers and explains that in the years that the grove was uncultivated, a natural balance of insects has developed that keep most pests under control. Organic produce commands a higher price than conventionally grown fruit. Mr. Harmon harvested 32,000 boxes of fruit last season and shipped it all to the United States. He estimates that the farm could be in full production within four years and at that point could be producing up to 6,700,000 boxes of fruit a year!

Mel Wells of Pepperpot Farms says that

the banana fields are still recovering from the bruising they sustained late last year courtesy of Hurricane Michelle. The storm did a lot of damage, but the new plantings that Mr. Wells got in the ground just prior to the storm survived and are now growing nicely towards a new harvest this summer. Pepperpot Farms is also growing tomatoes and cucumbers for the local market, and several acres of onions.

Sawyer's Farms grows 70 acres a year of tomatoes, cabbages and bell peppers and reports an average year. Most of its produce goes to Nassau, but some is available on the local market as well. Ricky Albury is also experimenting with potatoes on some of his land this year in a partnership with some American growers in Michigan. He has planted 50 acres of redskin and baking potatoes and will see how the plants do during the next three months before harvest. Mr. Albury also grows cucumbers, bananas, can-

taloupe melons and some of the tastiest watermelons on the island. He is the only farmer of wild hogs in the Bahamas.

Two Scholarships Were Awarded

Two students attending Abaco Central High School were awarded full music scholarships from Florida Memorial College in Miami, Florida. Patrell Carey and Durrell Burrows will be enrolling for the fall semester, majoring in music. Florida Memorial will give the two scholarships perpetually in recognition of their alumnus, Mr. Alfred Dean, music teacher at Abaco Central.

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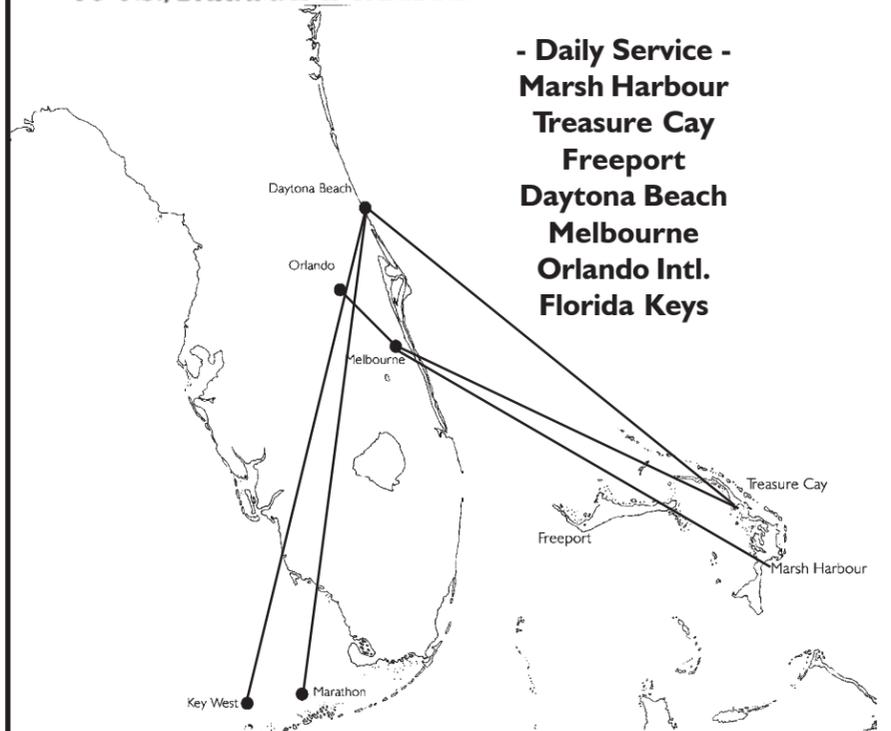
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Local Government at Work



Marsh Harb. Town Comm 12 March 02

This was the first meeting held since December 4 due to a lack of a quorum in both January and February.

The lack of road signs was brought to the Committee's attention by Administrator in Training Dr. Huntley Christie. Members responded that numerous requests have been

Attention, Parents

This is a notice to all parents of grade 11 and 12 students who want their students to continue their education beyond high school. There will be a meeting on April 11 to explain the process of applying for the Government Scholarship Loan Scheme and other pertinent matters about higher education. The special guest that evening will be Ms. Judy Dorset who is the Education Officer in Scholarship and Tertiary Education Section of the Department of Education In Freeport.

The meeting will be at Abaco Central High School at 7 p.m. and all parents are urged to attend to learn more about the process of getting an education for your child.

made including a personal visit by previous Chief Councillor Mike Malone and Administrator Everette Hart to the Ministry of Works in Nassau in late 1998 or early 1999 without success.

Three ground-mounted transformers with exposed bare terminals at a warehouse near Spring City were brought to the Committee's attention by Chairman Yvonne Key. The building's owner and BEC were to be contacted to safeguard the transformers.

Councillor Mike Malone presented figures showing the representation of the Marsh Harbour polling districts compared with the resident voters in those areas. The numbers show that Polling Division 5 in Marsh Harbour should have an additional representative in Local Government. A letter will be sent to Nassau asking that this imbalance be corrected.

The Minister of Works, Mr. Kenneth Russell, may come to Abaco to resolve the impasse with the waterfront road connecting the Stede Bonnet Road and Calcutta in Marsh Harbour. Ownership claims have stopped the paving of this roadway.

A renewed liquor license for a restaurant in Marsh Harbour is being researched as there appears to be no record of an initial application or approval.

Marsh Harb. Town Comm. 19 March 02

A special meeting was convened at the request of Candy Pinder. She noted the many instances where decisions made by the Marsh Harbour Committee are overturned by Council. The issue of representation and the ability of Council to override town decisions was discussed. A letter of complaint and suggested measures of relief will be sent to Nassau.

Port Authority Cent. Abaco 21 March 02

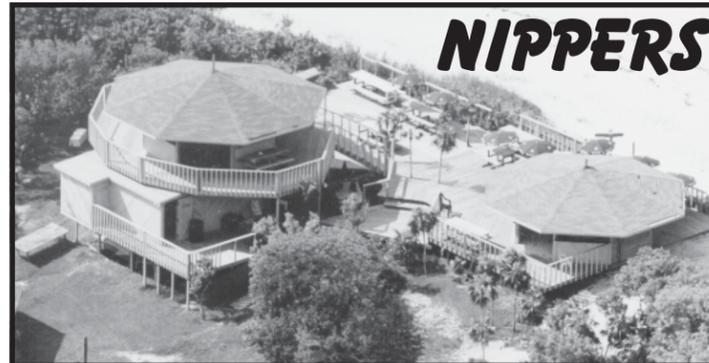
A request for a dock on property along the highway at Busic Bight was deferred pending a determination of the status of the land where the dock was to be located.

Members were asked to consider a speed limit for boats in the harbour of Marsh Harbour and at what point should it take effect. A decision was not requested but rather a broad request for thought on the topic.

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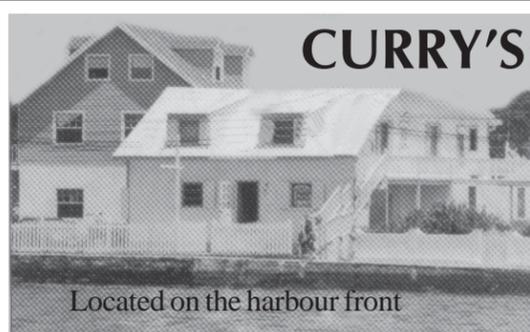
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Happy Easter to Our Readers

Hats Off to Mr Mrs Daniel Parker

the world's most proud Grand and Great-Grandparents for the safe delivery of six grand and two great-grandchildren within a six month period. We the gratified children and grandchildren, at this time take profound pleasure in having you both specially recognised for a job well done.

Our hearts and prayers are with you always. Congradulations, and may God bless you!

The six grands are:

Valente Carey	Aug. 19 th , 01
Torrin Miller	Aug. 20 th , 01
Natae Brynan	Oct. 25 th , 01
April Parker	Nov. 28 th , 01
Delgado Parker	Jan. 16 th , 02
Sarrina Parker	Jan. 31 st , 02

The two great-grands are:

Nathanya Burrows	Nov. 20 th , 01
Deante	

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APS

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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	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 367-2287
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 Treasure Divers	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	
Derrick Gaitor	
Ferdinand Burrows	366-4133
Vernal Burrows	
Kendall White	
Anthony Bain	366-4107
Floyd Burrows	366-4175
Links Adderly	366-4335
Valentino Lightbourne	
Ricky Burrows	366-4233
Marsh Harbour	
Buddy Pinder	366-2163
Jay Sawyer	367-3941
Justin Sands	367-3526
Terrance Davis	367-4464
Danny Sawyer	367-3577
Man-O-War	
David Albury	365-6059
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	
Pope McKenzie	477-5894
Orthnell Russell	365-0125
Alexander Rolle	365-0120
Edward Rolle	365-0024
Green Turtle Cay	
Ronnie Sawyer	365-4070
Jeff Survanca	365-4040
Ricky Sawyer	365-4261



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 Café (ferry dock)	... \$ + 365-8635
Sandy Point	
Big J's	\$ 366-4020
Oeishas 366-4139
Pete & Gays	\$\$\$ 366-4119
Seaside Inn	\$\$\$ 366-4120

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

More Letters to the Editor

Letters

From Page 9

ago and today it has transformed the lives of many beautiful Abaco children and their families. She, too, has tapped the wonderful resources of people, talent and money for "her kids."

These 600 children at Abaco Central Primary are "our kids." Let's show them that we care. Every kid deserves a teeter-totter and a swing set on their school playground. Every kid deserves a classroom full of literature and learning tools. Every kid deserves a working toilet. No job is too big for this ABACO COMMUNITY of hardworking and good people. Let's join hands, hearts and minds with the Abaco Central Primary PTA, staff and students and help "our kids."

Horrorified by Cruelty

The Editor,

Today, while driving through town (Marsh Harbour) on my way home, I happened to pass a little dog that seemed to be experiencing some difficulty getting across the street. Thinking that the dog was probably just suffering from the natural effects of aging, I continued to drive on. As I passed the dog, it began stumbling about, and I suddenly realised that it had a few open wounds on its body.

Well, although I am a dog lover, ordinarily I would have probably kept on driving. For some reason though, my conscience got the better of me, and I drove straight away to Dr. Bailey's office to ask for assistance in capturing the dog and bringing it back to his office for observation. As it turns out, a customer at Dr. Bailey's office offered to help, and we were given a sedative to administer upon subduing the dog.

The dog was soon subdued and sedated by myself and the Good Samaritan who came along to help. To our total disgust and horror, the open wounds that I had seen turned out to be apparently intentionally inflicted wounds that were infested by maggots! So obviously this poor creature was probably hacked up by some barbarian and left to suffer. Bear in mind that this dog weighed all of 25-30 pounds. According to Dr. Bailey, by the size of the maggots, the dog would have probably been in this condition for approximately four to five days. I tell you, as a man's man, I find this kind of behaviour very repulsive and absolutely barbaric. Anybody who could do to a dog what was done to this dog, deserves a few lashes of the cat-o-nine tails, and I will be glad to oblige.

I realise that to a lot of people it seems silly that so many of the rest of us get so attached to our animals. They are only dogs after all. Right? Wrong! They are companions who never back talk you, they never complain about anything, not even pain sometimes (as was the case with the little dog we attempted to help), they are always glad to see you, they have distinct personalities of their own, etc. In other words, they are intelligent creatures if given the opportunity to prove it.

On two separate occasions within the last few weeks, I have had to reprimand young boys because of the way they were treating their dogs. Now I know you might ask - What business is it of mine? Well, allow me, please. It is my business for two reasons. 1.) It is against the law of this land to mistreat animals. I am a tax paying citizen, and as such I will say what I please to whomever I please as long as I am not threatening anybody's life, and especially if their actions are unlawful in the first place. I am a former officer of the law myself, and once you have been in that profession, it sticks with you forever. Besides, if I or some other citizen doesn't say or do something, then nothing will be done because I have never known a Bahamian police officer who went

out of his way to correct a cruel act to an animal.

Reason 2.) I love animals. If that is a problem for anybody, then I suggest you get over it as soon as you can because I am not an easily dissuaded man. Incidentally, both of the individuals that I had to reprimand are from a specific national background. I have proven it to be true over and over that the act of abusing animals seems to be a regular thing for these people. I'm sorry if the truth hurts. It usually does. It hurts me from time to time, and I'm as tough as rusty metal. So sue me!

In closing, let me offer some insight to the less illuminated. If we are ever to be considered a first world country (HA HA!), we have to act a certain way. (God help us!) I believe most people are good natured by most measures, and probably wouldn't hurt a fly. If, however, you see someone abusing an animal and say nothing, then you are allowing that behaviour to go unchallenged. The same applies to many other aspects of our lives. Unless enough people are offended by certain behaviour and actually say something about it, that behaviour will never change. We are our brother's keeper whether we like

it or not. And surely any person or animal which is defenseless deserves our assistance. It's the right thing to do. I believe that all life is the creation of a living and loving God. If I respect Him, I must respect His creation. By the way, Dr. Bailey decided that the most humane thing we could do for this poor dog was to put her down, thus we did. It was the right thing to do.

Sincerely
William (Billy) Roberts




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Treasure Cay Properties - Offered by Treasure Cay Specialists

<p>ROYAL PALM Canal Front Condos with on-site Tennis and Pool Phase I 3 bed SOLD wide slip \$266,000 Phase II 3 bed SOLD wide slip \$266,000</p> <p>ATLANTIS Canal Front Condos with on-site Pool Bldg. 3 Downstairs 2 bed / 2 bath with boat slip \$182,000 Downstairs 2 bed SOLD with boat \$194,000 Bldg 4 Upstairs 2 bed / 2 bath, boat slip \$194,000 Bldg 5 Upstairs 2 bed / 2 bath, boat slip \$194,000</p> <p>MARINERS COVE Townhouse Condos with on-site Tennis and Pool Garden/Pool View 1 bed / 1 bath beginning at \$70,000 2 bed / 1 bath beginning at \$105,000 Marina View 1 bed / 1 bath beginning at \$78,000 2 bed / 1½ bath beginning at \$121,000</p> <p>VILLAS Ocean Villa Subdivision 2 bed / 2 bath - SOLD open location. Starting at \$194,000 Beach Villa Subdivision Garden villa 2 bed / 2 bath extra features Starting at \$151,500</p> <p>TREASURE HOUSES Ocean front luxury units with lagoon pool / waterfall 2 bed / 2 bath SOLD formal house \$275,000</p> <p>BAHAMA BEACH CLUB New luxury condominium project on Treasure Cay Beach. 3 bed / 2 bath / Den / Lanai / on-site pool and many other features Starting at \$412,500 Plus 14% closing</p> <p>CASUARINA BEACH/OCEAN BOULEVARD "Toad Hall" Package deal. Extra large ocean front lot with unlimited opportunity for building your dream home. Directly behind is your present main home on its own lot. Two storey with 4 bed / 3 bath upstairs and large living / dining / kitchen downstairs. Detached double garage with 1 bed / 1 bath guest apt. above. \$1,169,000 "Sea Grapes" Directly on the ocean modern CBS fully tiled 3600 sq. ft. home on extra large lot with 215 ft. ± frontage. Features 3 bed / 3 ½ bath, fully equipped kitchen, large living / dining area (open concept). Two bedrooms / living / dining / kitchen all face ocean side and have direct access to beautiful garden and beach. Garage and utility in main house with additional detached garage / work shop / storage. Grounds fully landscaped with irrigation / sprinkler system. \$2,225,000</p>	<p>GALLEON BAY CANAL / ESTATES "Burns House" canal front 2 storey 2,250 sq. ft octagonal home. Lower 3 bed / 2 bath living / family, utility and screened porch. Upper vaulted ceilings living / kitchen, master bed / en suite bath \$652,000 "Honey's Home" canal front, 2 storey home on extra large lot with direct 200 ft Greenway Beach access. 3 Bedroom, 3 bath, fully furnished with many extras including backup generator, RO system, boat lift, work-shop/garage, cabana, etc. \$769,000 "Safe Harbour" Canal front with excellent elevation. Octagonal 825 ± sq. ft. garage / efficiency guest house with plans for main house. Dock with power in place. Must see. \$369,000 "Laguna" brand new canal front, octagonal home, fully furnished, 3 bed/2 bath, modern open concept, living/dining/kitchen plus partially covered deck. Perfect island retreat for some lucky family \$676,500 "Island Times" 2500 sq. ft. modern spacious 3 bed / 2 1/2 bath, living/dining/kitchen opening onto covered patio facing waterfront. Double garage/utility. Extra adjacent lot. Total frontage 108 ft. \$830,250</p> <p>SANDPIPER BEACH "Point of View" 3 bed / 2 ½ bath split level open concept home with cathedral ceilings and skylights. Master bedroom suite accesses large ocean-side deck with beach, beach and more beach \$1,476,000</p> <p>BRIGANTINE BAY ESTATES "Sea Cliff" newly completed 2 storey CBS home fully furnished. Living / dining / kitchen downstairs, bedrooms upstairs. Direct greenway access to Treasure Cay beach \$431,000 "Sableau Soleil" Canal front with dock. Island simplicity home, 3 bed / 2 bath, detached garage with half bath. Waterfront view from master bedroom and open concept living / dining / kitchen \$430,500</p> <p>WINDWARD BEACH "Hughes" Exceptional beach lot with high ocean front elevation. Two storey, open lower level. All living upstairs. 3 bed / 2 bath, open concept, living / dining / den / kitchen. Your imagination completes this house. \$523,000 "Coconuts" Two ocean front lots with 3 bed/2 bath CBS family/beach home SOLD bedrooms and living/dining/kitchen h ocean view. Bathrooms have outside access. Many extra features including pool, detached garage and VW automobile. Must see. \$875,000</p>
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VACANT LOTS AVAILABLE

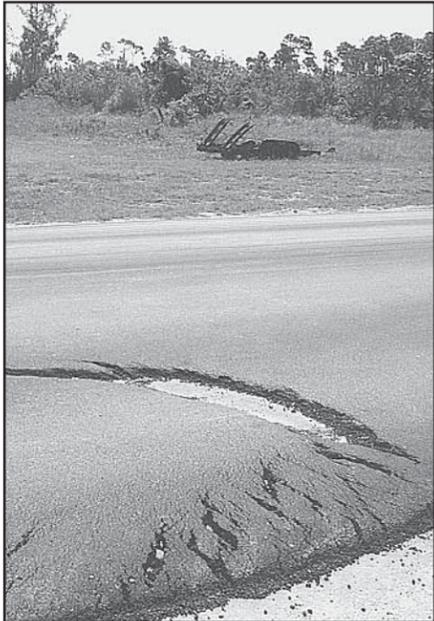
- Windward Beach / Oceanfront beginning at \$150,000
- Canal Front beginning at 99,000
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Treasure Cay has one of the world's best Beaches, Golf Course, Tennis, full service Marina, just naming a few amenities. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information. - We not only sell here, we live here and love it.
Mailing address: P.O. Box AB22183, Treasure Cay, Abaco, Bahamas • E-mail: tcrealestate@oii.net

Paving of Intersections Continues

By Alice Bain

Marsh Harbour is now seeing some long-awaited road-surface improvements. Two



This is an example of a problem with the new resurfaced paving at an intersection in Marsh Harbour. The company will be repaving that area.

intersections in Marsh Harbour have been newly repaved with hot mix asphalt and two more are slated for repaving soon. Bahama Hot Mix has been using an asphalt machine to repair rough roads at the K & S Auto Service and Abaco Wholesale corners on Don MacKay Boulevard. Next week the machine will move on to the intersection where the traffic light used to be and the corner of Front Street and Queen Elizabeth Drive.

In the old "chip and sand seal" method (which Bahama Hot Mix will be using to pave the corner of Crockett Drive and Forest Drive), the surface is coated with RC250 tar and covered with a layer of "89 stone." This is repeated once more and rolled in. Any loose gravel is swept off a week or so later, and until then cars must drive through the gravel and dust. The new method is true hot mix asphalt mixed and heated to 375 degrees Fahrenheit in a machine at Treasure Cay. Another machine then spreads this mix on the road surface, which is ready for immediate use and is completely dust-free. This is a more durable surface and is the same type used

in Nassau, Freeport and the United States.

The extension to Stede Bonnet Road has been halfway surfaced with "chip and seal" but work has been temporarily halted due to a property dispute. The Front Street in Marsh Harbour has a badly broken surface and will be repaired with concrete soon to maintain its traditional look. Some cracks and missing spots in the new asphalt by K & S corner were caused by a minor malfunction in the asphalt machine. Bahama Hot Mix has indicated that they plan to rip up this faulty piece of road and repave it properly.

Roberts

From Page 8

have success, it will be felt and appreciated by all. But should we fail, there will not be enough to go around for the big dogs, much less the small ones.

We have a great responsibility to vote, and we are now dealing with a new monster that has been dubbed "globalization." This creature will have no mercy on those who do not conform and join.

As a Bahamian, I urge everyone to vote, and I urge everyone to vote for the safety and prosperity of our nation. We owe it to our country.

"Well Done" Water Makers

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Serving all of Abaco including:

Guana Cay, Elbow Cay, Man'O'War Cay,
Green Turtle Cay and Marsh Harbour.

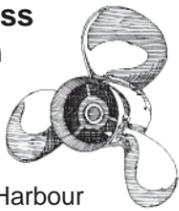
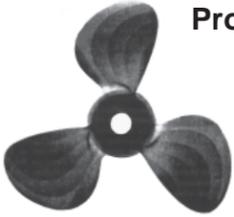
We case all of our wells down to the water and use Professional well screen at the pump levels. Get your well done today to supply your water maker for your home or business.

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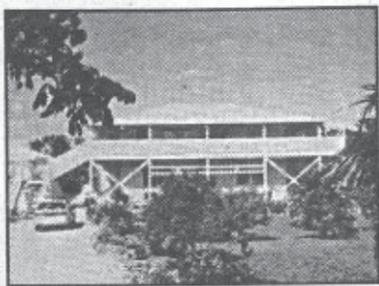


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Bahama Palm Shores. 2 adjacent lots. Close to beach. #3646. \$35,000 ea. OBO.
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Planning

From Page 1

tween planned growth and organic growth in towns and cities. Marsh Harbour has been growing "organically," that is, there has historically been no long-range plan in place to direct the future development of the town. He mentioned that this situation has led to problems as the city grows. Unless we take control of the growth soon, he predicted that we will have more problems in the future.

During the question period after Mr. Ferguson's talk, Chamber members expressed their frustration at the lack of success that the Town Planning Committee has had in Marsh Harbour and asked what

the proper procedure was for submitting plans to Central Government. It is clear that in order for Marsh Harbour to take control of its own growth, the town must agree on a plan, submit it to Central Government and have it passed into law. He felt that the process by which this might occur is still obscure, but it is clear that both Local Government and the business community need to be a part of local planning. As a body representing the Abaco business community, the Chamber intends to take an active role in pursuing an effective town plan for Marsh Harbour.

Block Plant

From Page 24

Environmental questions were directed to Ms. Bertha McPhee, Manager of the Abaco office of Environmental Health, but she was unable to give definitive answers without more information on the project. She hoped to be given further information including an environmental impact assessment for the project.

- Mr. Albury did comment that
- there were no hazardous chemicals used,
 - the cement, sand and gravel were non-polluting
 - the materials were not combustible
 - the materials were not subject to leakage
 - there was no threat to nearby marine life.

Resident were concerned with the poten-

tial for dust emissions. It was explained that dust is not a problem with filters and present technology.

The general feeling of the meeting was one of acceptance of the proposal. One woman wanted Murphy Town to be open to change and growth. She wanted her town to share in the growth of the central Abaco area. She wanted the town youth to experience jobs and economic investment. She was concerned that too many opportunities are bypassing Murphy Town.

The Town Committee members will now evaluate the residents input and make a recommendation to Council which will make the final decision.



Casuarina Point - 3/1 house on double lot, 391' of canal frontage, quiet area. \$299,000



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Man-O-War Cay - Just reduced- 3/2 home, one lot from the beach. Owner built! \$415,000



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Palm Ridge - 2/1 home with sleeping loft, 3+ acres, 100' beachfront, very private. 1\$455,000



Hope Town - Established restaurant on the harbour, fully equipped, residence included. \$1,495,000



Guana Cay - beach front lot, 10,000± sq. ft. \$119,000



Hope Town - 3/2 home on double lot, nicely landscaped, lovely location, many extras. \$495,000



Hope Town - 3/2 new home, outside decking, very private, entertainer's delight, furnished. \$475,000



Cherokee Sound - 3/1 home, quiet location, private porch, furnished. Call for more details

BREEF Warns of Crashing Conch and Grouper Stocks

The population of Nassau grouper is crashing due to overexploitation of spawning aggregations, and signs are that conch are being overharvested before they can breed.

These startling conclusions are the result of research by the Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation headed by Sir Nicholas Nuttall. He pointed out that the grouper catch in 2001 was less than half a million pounds – about a third of the 1999 catch. And recent surveys of discarded conch shells show that 75 percent are undersized.

“Grouper stocks are approaching the point of no return,” Sir Nicholas said in a letter to the press recently, “and we have learned that once the fish are gone, they do not come back. So we must either limit our catch or lose them.”

He urged citizens to make their views known during the general election campaign and vote for candidates who will act decisively on these issues. Copies of an independent fisheries report commissioned by BREEF are available for a processing fee of \$10 by calling the organization’s office at 362-6477.

“We must leave our election candidates in no doubt that we expect them to rescue the grouper and conch. Remember that it is very difficult to get conservation measures adopted. Change is unpopular and data is hard to collect and verify,” he said. “The easiest time for MP’s to act is in the first few months of a new parliament when they know they have a secure job for the next five years. If they act soon, those who win this election will be able to take credit for the recovery of our fish stocks at the 2007 poll.”

BREEF began its campaign to save the Nassau grouper in 1997. It commissioned a comprehensive study by British fisheries experts which showed that the population decline would become irreversible if conservation

measures were not taken. In fact, the Bahamas has the last remaining viable grouper fishery in the entire region, the fish having been pushed to the point of commercial extinction elsewhere.

Fishing contributes more to the country’s gross national product than agriculture, banking or insurance. Landings of conch are valued at over \$1.5 million a year and landings of scalefish are valued at over \$3 million a year, while the crawfish industry is the world’s fourth largest – contributing \$65 million to the economy. But catches and average sizes are declining and experts warn that the industry is not being effectively managed.

“If the Bahamas continues to expand and develop the fishing industry, without adequate management controls in place, it is inevitable that economic and social benefits from the industry will decline, causing serious economic, social and environmental problems,” the report warned.

Protection of spawning aggregations and a three-month ban on grouper fishing during the winter breeding season are two measures that have been suggested to slow the decline. But closed seasons are not a practical option for the conch fishery, which is also in decline throughout the region due to high fishing pressure.

Most scientists agree that the best solution to overexploitation of fish stocks is the creation of a network of marine reserves, similar to the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park which became a no-fishing zone in 1986.

The BREEF report concludes that a system of marine reserves would be “an effective means of promoting sustainable fisheries.” Evidence from the Exuma park, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and other protected areas around the world show that such reserves help replenish declining fish stocks.

“We believe that, with the agreement of

fishermen, you can close off part of the sea to give our conch and grouper vital breeding space,” Sir Nicholas said. “Each island should have its own marine reserve to spread the burdens and benefits fairly.”

In the late 1990s BREEF held workshops with fishermen and local government officials to discuss the creation and siting of marine reserves. The organization then commissioned four top scientists to rate the 33 sites identified by the workshops. In January, 2001, the government selected five of these sites to be closed to fishing as an experiment. But the policy has not been legally implemented.

“The next government will decide the future of the marine reserves policy and whether we will continue to be able to enjoy eating

conch and grouper,” Sir Nicholas said. “We can help raise money to create a network of marine reserves, but ultimately success or failure rests with the Bahamian citizen.

“Will you support a closed season for grouper and never buy or catch undersized conch? Will you demand that our politicians implement a system of marine reserves to protect our fishery stocks? It is our responsibility to act now,” he said.

BREEF was formed in 1994 to invest in marine environmental education targeting Bahamian science teachers throughout the country. It is a private, non-profit organization based in Nassau which has helped train hundreds of local teachers at the Bahamian Field Station on San Salvador.



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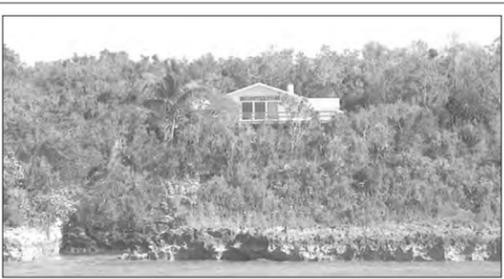
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The Stars at Night: Part 4 Orion

By Alice Bain

The constellation Orion (the Hunter) is one of the brightest and most recognizable in the winter sky. Centered high in the southern sky at 7:30 p.m., the three bright stars that make up Orion's "belt" are unmistakable. Four very bright stars mark the "shoulders" and "knees" of the Hunter, a fainter star marks his head, and a "sword" hanging from the belt contains the famous Large Orion Nebula, otherwise known as M42.

Orion's left shoulder (as you look at the constellation) is the star Betelgeuse (pronounced "beetle juice" and meaning, literally, "the armpit" in Arabic). Betelgeuse is a red supergiant — a massive star 650 times as large as our sun — with a diameter larger than the orbit of Jupiter! It is also one of the most obviously red stars in the sky, especially when contrasted with another star in Orion, the blue-white supergiant Rigel. Rigel is diagonally opposite Betelgeuse, in the position of Orion's right "foot" and is the

seventh brightest star in the sky. The star Bellatrix is Orion's right shoulder, and Saiph is the name of his left foot. The three famous "belt" stars are named, from west to east, Mintaka, Alnilam and Alnitak and they point southeast to the brightest star in the sky — Sirius in the constellation Canis Major.

In Greek mythology Orion was a hunter who boasted that he could best any animal on earth. Gaea, the earth goddess, heard of this and was angry, so she sent one of the smallest animals, the scorpion, against Orion. The scorpion stung Orion on the heel and he died — and ever since then the two of them have been at opposite ends of the night sky. Orion dominates the winter sky and Scorpio lurks in the south during the summer — but you will never see both of them in the sky at once. Ancient cultures from the Egyptians and the Hebrews to the Hittites and the Sumerians all recognized Orion, the giant hunter of the winter sky.

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Bahama Palm Shores - Two residential lots 150' from the beach, great sea views. Asking price \$42,500

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Solomon's Abaco Expands

By Alice Bain

Abaco Markets has recently constructed an extension to Solomon's Abaco, and now they are redesigning the store as a fully stocked retail grocery outlet. The changeover has already begun at time of writing and should be well under way by the time this article sees print. Solomon's will have 720 linear feet of retail dry groceries (compared to the Golden Harvest's 900 feet), a 12 foot beverage cooler, 25 doors of frozen foods, 32 feet of fresh meat, 32 feet of produce and 32 feet of dairy. They will have a butcher department for ordering specific cuts of meat and deli items. Abaco Markets will also be bring-

ing in par-baked Dominoes Pizzas and selling them through the Solomon's Abaco outlet; the pizzas are ready made and just need to be popped in the oven to finish baking.

About 3,000 retail items have already been added to the shelves at Solomon's Abaco. During March they will be upgrading their point-of-sale system to handle more customers with eight checkouts at the store. The new parking lot affords ample space for customers to park. Solomon's Abaco will continue to stock and sell wholesale products; the customer will be able to buy one bottle of mayonnaise or a half-case if he wants to. Abaco Markets is

presently awaiting BEC to upgrade their power supply so that they can utilize the new lighting they have installed at this location. Store hours will soon change to reflect the increased retail activity to Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The upgrade should be finished before June. Abaco Markets is presently hiring staff for the expanded Solomon's store. They report that they plan to upgrade and expand the Treasure Cay Mini Market later in the year.

Condolences

By Lee Pinder

Evelyn Edith Pinder, born December 15, 1920 in Cherokee Sound and died within twenty feet of that very spot on March 12, 2002, after a long illness. Ms. Evelyn lived with her husband, Percival, in Nassau for many years, but they always kept their home in Cherokee. A few years ago they started spending more of their time here. Mr. Percival died here in October 1999. Probably she will be long remembered for the delicious pies she made and for her cheerful smile and sunny disposition, her love of the church and her God. We shall all miss her terribly.

A memorial service will be held at Epworth Chapel on April 7 at 3 p.m.

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Waterfront lots with private boat slips in a secure gated community starting at \$180,000
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20 acres water front near Marsh Harbour.
New road access
\$200,000 NET. NET. Firm
Phone 242-322-4782 Leave Message

Near Cherokee Private Sale: 3 bed 2 bath house built 1998, beautiful views, additional acreage also available 366-2266



Dundas Town split level house 3 bed/1 bath, 2 bed/1 bath with basement. Includes 1 bed cottage in rear. Call 367-3177 or 357-6656

Elbow Cay's Best Houses and Land, Rentals and Sales, Hope Town Hideaways. Call 242-366-0224 or Fax 242-366-0434. On the internet at www.hopetown.com

Elbow Cay, ocean front home, brand new, custom built by builder, 80' wide lot, 2 bed 2 bath upstairs, 1 bed apt. downstairs, Walk to Sea Spray. \$850,000 Call 321-784-0163 or leave message for Cliff at 366-0065

Great Cistern 1/2 acre lot \$50,000 net, 1/4 acre lot \$25,000 net. Both lots have sea view. Call Donna after 5 p.m. at 367-3472

Guauna Cay 3/3 furnished on 1/2 acre w/apt downstairs. \$265,000 all inclusive. Photos and info at www.caribpro.com

Guauna Cay residential lot for sale (1/4 acre) Located just outside settlement, 2 lots in from ocean. Call 242-357-9057. \$72,000

Property and Houses FOR SALE

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY MUST SELL REAL ESTATE IN ABACO

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

Little Harbour 1/2 acre, great elevation, spectacular ocean views, desirable area, excellent building site, elec. and dock, available \$98,500 net. Call 359-6064



Lubbers Quarters one of a kind, custom built home facing Tahiti Beach/Tilloo Cut and open ocean. 2.4 very private landscaped acres with 251 feet on Sea of Abaco. \$835,000 net completely furnished. Owner 242-366-3129. US 561-308-2106 or 828-926-5384

Marsh Harbour Duplex, 2 bed 1 bath on Crockett Dr. Call Mr. Malone at 367-2044 days

Marsh Harbour, Govt. Sub. 2 bed/2bath house furnished, fenced yard, 105'x120' property. Call 367-5343 or 242-477-6661

Property and Houses FOR SALE



REAL ESTATE SALES Abaco, Bahamas

UNDISCOVERED BEAUTY

Fabulous home, more than one acre on Sea of Abaco fishing grounds, secluded and romantic. 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths, fireplace, attached garage with workshop. CBS construction, cement tile roof, dual zone A/C. Covered terraces, fruit trees, dock with davit and more! \$676,500

OUTSTANDING VALUE

Prestigious Great Abaco Club. Recently built villa-style CBS home, deep water dockage with lift and single user dock. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, master spa bath, attached garage. Full-length terrace. Best buy on the site. \$589,000

14% RETURN ON INVESTMENT
Great Abaco Club. Private and secure. Delightful tropical style villa, CBS construction. Deepwater protected dockage. 4 bedrooms, 4 baths. Fantastic rental income. On-site management & maintenance, proven appreciation. \$690,000

BEST KEPT SECRET IN ABACO

Turtle Rocks. 1/2 acre with good elevation, sightlines to the Sea of Abaco and private beach access, Unspoiled area, secluded yet very convenient. Buy now. \$23,000

GREAT ABACO CLUB

Wonderful family home or great income producer. Fully furnished and equipped to highest standards. Gated and secure, deep water protected dockage. 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, French doors, covered terrace. Beach and health club privileges, consistent property values, on-site manager. \$750,000

242-367-2365

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE

Commercial property for sale on Don MacKay Blvd. opposite Callenders & Co. 90' on main road by 300' deep, Call 242-367-4918

COMMERCIAL RENTALS



2100 sq. ft. Warehouse next to the Abaco Water Bottling plant. Not being divided. This fenced -in area has electric and phone. Great site for light manufacturing, assemblage, warehouse, whatever. 2100 square feet for just \$1400 permonth. Call Michael Albury at 367-2951 or 359-6658

Commercial Space Available. Royal Harbour Village. Please call for details. 242-367-3262

RENTAL HOUSES AND APARTMENTS

BAHAMAS VACATIONS 100+ private Out Island homes, resorts, villas for rent. Free listing. Call 1-800-462-2426
<http://www.bahamasvacations.com>

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

Great Abaco Club - luxury vacation rentals with all resort amenities. Ph. 242-367-4151 www.GreatAbacoClub.com

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

Marsh Harbour

LUXURIOUS Down town, fully furnished two bed / two bath condominium in gated community. Pool, tennis courts, fitness centre and beach facilities. \$2000 per month. Contact Cindy at 242-325-7355 (9-5)

Sweetings Tract 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

Spanish Wells, Eleuthera - 2 bed, 1 1/2 bath, sofa bed, central A/C, TV/VCR, fully equipped kitchen and much more. Rates for 4 persons \$150/night (2 night min.) \$600/ week, \$1500/month, \$100 per person per week (up to 6 persons). For further info call Lana Russell 242-366-0034 ph/fax.

North

From Page 20

place.

The homeowners were told that the approvals for a new hotel are complete except for a concession from the government which the resort developers are requesting. The plans are now for a 175 room hotel. The developers will work with an internationally well known hotel chain which will provide the management and marketing for the hotel.

Mr. Jerry Roberts, who has been heading the humane society in Treasure Cay, asked that someone else take over his duties. He has been doing it for many years. The situation with stray dogs is getting worse and a program to get them under control is essential.

The Treasure Cay Amenities Management

Committee is working to locate owners who are delinquent in paying their assessments. The committee is made up of representatives from both Treasure Cay Limited and from the Treasure Cay Properties Owners Association. They plan to have a second annual meeting which will be held in the fall. This meeting will held prior to the collection notices and will present a full yearly accounting, mainly for the benefit of Bahamian homeowners.

**Support Your Communities!
Get Involved!**



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16 x 20 Storage Units and Yard Space
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Trucks • Cars • Boats • Etc.
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- Regular hours - five day week
- Vacation schedule**

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- 5 - 10 years = 3 weeks
- 10 + years = 4 weeks

**Application forms available at
Abaco Wholesale, Marsh Harbour**



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**GOVERNMENT NOTICE
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS**



**INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION PROJECT - PHASE 1
(Hurricane Floyd)
Loan No. 1266/OC-BH**

**Request for Tenders for Installation of a
Timber Dock at Fox Town Dock, Abaco**

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas has received a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to finance a Program for the Rehabilitation of Infrastructure in the country. Part of the proceeds of the loan will be applied to:

- Installing a Timber Dock at Fox Town, Abaco

The Contract is for approximately \$145,000 and contractors are invited to submit tenders with comprehensive details of their relevant experience in undertaking similar projects. The contract will be awarded to the tenderer providing the most economical and acceptable quotation.

Indicative quantities for major items are: Timber Docks: 1,350 square feet

Tender Documents are available at the office of the Director of Public Works at the Ministry of Public Works, John F. Kennedy Drive, for a fee of \$50.00. Certified cheques should be made payable to the "Public Treasury, Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas"

Tenders must be returned not later than 2 pm (1400 hours) Thursday 25th April 2002, hand delivered and addressed to:

**Director of Works
Ministry of Public Works
3rd Floor, West Wing
John F. Kennedy Drive
P.O. Box N - 8156
Nassau, Bahamas**

The Ministry reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

**Signed
Anita Bernard (Mrs.)
Permanent Secretary**



**GOVERNMENT NOTICE
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS**



**INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION PROJECT - PHASE 1
(Hurricane Floyd) Loan No. 1266/OC-BH
Request for Tenders for Installation of a
Timber Dock at Green Turtle Cay Ferry Dock, Abaco**

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas has received a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to finance a Program for the Rehabilitation of Infrastructure in the country. Part of the proceeds of the loan will be applied to:

Installing a Timber Dock, moorings and concrete boat ramp at Green Turtle Cay, Abaco

The Contract is for approximately \$55,000 and contractors are invited to submit tenders with comprehensive details of their relevant experience in undertaking similar projects. The contract will be awarded to the tenderer providing the most economical and acceptable quotation.

Indicative quantities for major items are: Timber Docks: 300 square feet
Mass Concrete: 15 cubic yards

Tender Documents are available at the office of the Director of Public Works at the Ministry of Public Works, John F. Kennedy Drive, for a fee of \$50.00. Certified cheques should be made payable to the "Public Treasury, Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas"

Tenders must be returned not later than 2.00pm (1400 hours) Thursday 25th April 2002, hand delivered and addressed to:

**Director of Works
Ministry of Public Works
3rd Floor, West Wing
John F. Kennedy Drive
P.O. Box N - 8156
Nassau, Bahamas**

The Ministry reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

**Signed
Anita Bernard (Mrs.)
Permanent Secretary**

Abaco Anglers Fishing Tournament



32nd Annual Abaco Angler's Fishing Tournament April 18 - 26, 2002

Awards Banquet April 27 at Sea Spray Resort

Open to all men, women and children

Adults \$85 - Juniors (under 16) \$40

All waters between Walker's Cay and Hole-in-the-Wall

Trophies are Bronze Sculptures by Pete Johnston

The door prize is a Gold Piece donated by Pete Johnston of Little Harbour

Donations from local merchants will be raffled

A live band will provide music.

Call Lighthouse Marina at 366-0154 for information

School

From Page 23

food indigenous to each country. The day was very successful

Special guests included Ms. Bernell Thurston, head of the Social Studies Department at St. Georges High School on Grand Bahamas and Mr. Lynden Davis, Manager of Commonwealth Bank in Marsh Harbour.

New Chicks Arrive

By Isobel Sherman

Two hundred baby chickens came to Abaco Central High School recently from Freeport. Once again Mr. Cecil Thompson, District Superintendent for Grand Bahama, was responsible for procuring the chickens and their transport.

Sid's Food Store

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Serving New Plymouth and the entire Green Turtle Cay Area

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- Frozen Meat
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Green Turtle Cay

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Tel: 242-367-2655 • 367-5250
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For all your vertical and mini-blind needs contact Sidney Albury at 367-2091 or 367-2031. Sales and Service.

Have sciatica? TMJ? Lower back pain? Headaches? Get relief with muscular therapy. Call Karen Lane @ 367-5215

Anything Under the Sun Construction, specializing in stamped concrete, designed resurfaced concrete, wood decks and fiberglass pool installation. Call 477-5848

Swimming Pool Maintenance. Splish, Splash Pool Service will stop you cleaning and keep you swimming. We offer bi-weekly service including chemicals. Call 477-5848

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

(11) 1250 gallon water tanks - \$1600 each, includes duty & freight. Contact Elbow Cay Properties at 366-0569

Kentzwell model, 2500X Digital keyboard \$3000, Cassio "Midi" electric guitar, very rare \$1000, Korg 2000 voice digital mide processor \$1000. Call 477-5943 or 366-2115

New TRANE A/C unit, 3 ton condensing unit (12.0 SEER) air handler w/heater and thermostat. \$2000 OBO Call 366-0287

BUSINESS FOR SALE

C & G Restaurant, Bar and Bakery All stock and equipment. Asking \$43,500 Phone 367-3767

POSITION WANTED

Young Christian lady seeking live in position to care for an elderly person. Call 367-4568 between 9-5

VEHICLES FOR SALE



Always a good selection of cars, vans & trucks. Pre-owned quality vehicles, competitively priced at Marsh Harbour Auto Sales. Ph. 367-2111

1985 GMC R/V Van, sleeps 2, with stove, refrig & pottie, in good condition. DUTY PAID. \$3500. Ph. 242-367-7248 Fax 972-723-0291

1993 Suzuki Swift, automatic, runs excellent. Asking \$2500. 10' x 5' utility trailer \$1500. Call 367-4643

1994 Dodge Dakota, King Cab 62,000 miles. \$10,500 ONO Phone 367-2997



1996 Nissan Mauma Power windows/door locks, upgraded stereo with CD player, Katskins 2 twne leather seats, woodgrain. Asking \$15,000 OBO Call 242-477-5844 or 242-367-2778

96 Dodge Dakota Pick-up SLT Club Cab, 57,000 miles. \$14,900. Call 365-8818

98 Hyundai Accent 2 door, stick shift. \$4500 OBO Call 367-4643

1999 Ford Explorer 4 WD, fully loaded, like new, 30,000 miles. Call 365-8055

Mobile Trailer Home in West Palm Beach, 60' x 12' fully furnished. For more information call 367-2997

HELP WANTED

Ladies: Want a bigger paycheck? Control your income with Avon! Earn up to 50% commission on your own time! Call today. Tel/fax 242-362-6045 / pager 242-340-8673

Need SEASONAL/PART-TIME: waiter/waitresses/bartender and cook. Please call SPANISH CAY RESORT AND MARINA 242-365-0083 or fax resume to 242-365-0453.

Energetic mature female with organizational and management skills, willing to travel, is seeking a management position with a private/public organization or property management. Phone 375-8015 or 367-3520

BOATS AND MARINE ITEMS FOR SALE

All Mercury's
40 HP \$600 225 HP \$6000
23' fishing boat with 200 HP \$7000
Call 367-2326

1996 Yamaha Waverunner III 650 35 hours on engine. Completely redone. Asking \$5000 OBO 357-6851 or 477-5660

13' fiberglass dinhy \$1000 OBO, 6 HP Suzuki outboard \$400 OBO. Call 366-2266

14' Abaco Dinghy, good cond. \$8000. Call Edwin's Boat Yard #1, 365-6006



21' Aero Sport with stern bracket for outboard motor, motor not included. Asking \$4000. 22' trailer, dual axle. Asking \$1800. Call Freddie at 367-3177 or 357-6656

22' C Dory cabin cruiser, Sleeps 2, ice box, outriggers/electric down riggers, snapper reel, 115 HP Mariner, SS prop, trailer \$17,500. Call Art Heck 366-3047 or 366-3016

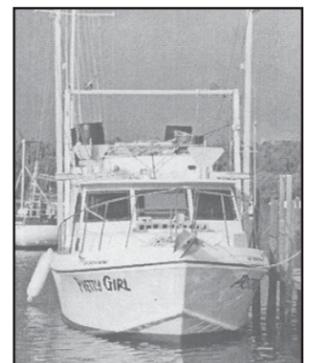
23' Proline fiberglass boat with 200 HP Yamah outboard, hydraulic steering, VHF, GPS. \$8000 Phone 365-5195

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

BOATS AND MARINE ITEMS FOR SALE

28" Intrepid 1993 - twin 200 HP Yamahas with low hours, radar arch with collapsible Bimini top, rocket launcher seat w/rod holders, swim platforms w/ ladder, VHF, stereo, depth finder, fish finder, fresh water wash down, live well, running lights, forward seating, built-in cooler, \$49,500 OBO 365-8771 day or 365-8467 after 5 p.m.

37' Endeavour 1980 sloop-rigged sailboat w/ Perkins 4-108, 40 HP diesel, curenly moored near Marsh Harbour Marina. DUTY PAID. Bahamian registered. \$30,000 OBO Call 367-2269



38' Delta Off Shore Fiberglass, 260 HP 3208 Caterpillar engine - Turbo charged, 12 KW Northern Lights generator with Luggar engine, 275 gal water, 550 gal diesel, 400 gal gas, 5000 lb. freezer, stabilizers, radar, GPS, VHF, small chest freezer, fridge, stove with oven, sink, hot water heater, head with shower, air conditioned, sleeps 6. Ready to go. Asking \$59,000. Call Peter Sweeting @ 365-6035



52' Houseboat 1988 custom aluminum hull, 2 Volvo turbo 130 HP dual prop I/O. 10 KW gen set, 2 Cruisair A/C, fully furnished & equipped. 320 gal diesel, 700 gal water, sleeps 8 fully galley, 3 staterooms. Call Kevin Taylor 912-723-6352 (W), 912-723-4241 (H) \$99,500

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