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VOLUME 11, NUMBER 7, APRIL 1ST, 2003

“Friends” Holds Annual Fund Raising Ball

Reef Ball Raises Funds for Environmental Projects

By Erin Pagliaro

The third annual fund raising event for the local volunteer environmental organization, Friends of the Environment, was held in the Pavilion at Abaco Beach Resort on March 15. The event was attended by over 200 community members, including a visit from “Quincy,” the dancing Abaco parrot.

This year’s Reef Ball was especially successful due to the generosity of an anonymous donor who offered to match the net profits from the event’s tickets sales (after all expenses for the Ball have been deducted), which generated many ticket donations by supporters who were unable to attend. Furthermore, the anonymous donor offered to match any donations pledged at the Ball of \$500 or more. This announcement was met with pledges from 16 donors for \$500-\$1000 each for a total of \$9,400 in pledges. “I am very pleased to see so many community members and businesses step up to the plate and commit funds when we have such a unique opportunity to double their efforts!” said Friends’ President Erin Lowe-Pagliaro. This money will go a long way to aid Friends in attaining its goals for this year.

Friends introduced an annual Environ-

Please see **Reef Ball**

Page 2

International Day Is Celebrated



Abaco Central High School held its International Day on March 14 when they showcase all the countries represented at that school. Shown above is their display of national flags which were paraded as part of a special assembly. See story in School News on page 12.



Advance Clocks One Hour April 6

Daylight Savings Time begins 2 a.m. April 6. Set your clocks ahead one hour either at bedtime on Saturday evening, April 5 or on Sunday morning, April 6.

Ambassador Meets with Americans



Mr. Richard J. Blankenship, U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas met with Americans at Mangoes Marina on March 14. He is shown here explaining the services which the Embassy provides for American citizens.

The United States Ambassador to The Bahamas, Mr. Richard J. Blankenship, met with American citizens at Mangoes Marina on March 14. He stressed that relations between the

two countries is very good. There is a bilateral agreement between

Please see **Ambassador** Page 10

Reef Ball Received Pledges



Pledges of \$500 to \$1000 were made at the Reef Ball after the announcement that those pledges would be matched by an anonymous donor. Shown above are, left to right, Mr. Michael Albury with the pledge from Sea Spray Resort, Founding Member Mr. Frank Kenyon, Dr. Frank Boyce with a pledge from Abaco Family Medicine, and Chad Sawyer with pledges from Abaco Insurance and Price Right. The total raised from the pledges was \$16,400.

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Friends' Fund Raiser Is a Success

Reef Ball

From Page 1

mental Award Program this year which is designed to recognize businesses and individuals within the community for their efforts to protect our natural environment. This year they presented three awards. Willis and Gloria Weatherford of Pop's Place Take-away Restaurant in Marsh Harbour for providing paper packaging (a

healthy alternative to styrofoam) for their take-away meals. Milanne (Mimi) Rehor of the Wild Horses of Abaco Preservation Society for her determined efforts for years to save the wild Barb horses of Abaco. B.G. Harmon citrus groves for commercial-scale organic farming in Abaco.

Among the projects which Friends has identified to work on are to

- Organize a recycling program for Abaco.

- Support the Department of Fisheries to designate a Marine Protected Area as a fishery replenishing zone and provide a marine patrol officer.

- Work in conjunction with the Bahamas National Trust to establish an infrastructure for the Abaco National Park

- Provide support for the Department of Agriculture in the eradication of the invasive raccoon population which is disrupting the community of Cooper's Town and threatening the survival of the Abaco Parrot.

Attendees enjoyed a selection of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and drinks served by Abaco Beach Resort's Anglers Restaurant and danced to the classic oldies music of Nassau's popular band Modern Vintage. There were many extra event details this year from commemorative glasses that avoided using excess plastic to elaborate

decorations, center pieces and informational billboards. These extra touches were the inspiration of a group of Reef Ball committee volunteers chaired by Mrs. Pattie Toler, who diligently handled the event's coordination.

The new President of Friends, Erin Lowe-Pagliari, recognized the founding members: Suzanne Bethel, Frank Kenyon, Candace Key and Rudy Malone, without whose vision back in the mid-1980s, the community of Abaco would not be benefiting from so many successful conservation projects to date. The out-going President, Lory Kenyon, was acknowledged for her hard work over the past two years and presented with a gift from the Board.

If you would like to be involved in any of the Friends' projects, please contact the office of Friends of the Environment at 242-367-2721.

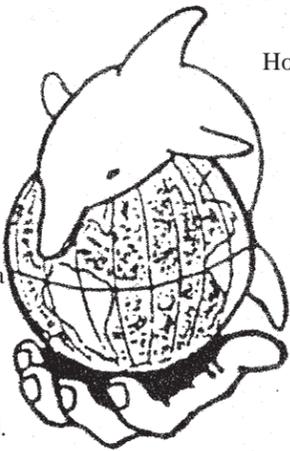


A large crowd turned out for the Reef Ball sponsored annually by Friends of the Environment. It is their major fund raising event and this year proved to be very successful. Shown above are, left to right, Ron Pagliaro, Friends President Erin Pagliaro and three from the Bahamas Marine Mammal Survey. The Parrot Man wore a stunning costume depicting our Abaco parrot. Second from right is Diane Claridge, who with her husband heads the BMMS project.

Friends of the Environment

wishes to thank the following businesses for their overwhelming generosity in making our third annual Reef Ball a huge success!

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And to all those individuals who gave so generously of your time and materials to make the Reef Ball a tremendous success - YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE! FRIENDS' Board Members thank you for a smashing, successful, super evening. YOU are the true friends of the Environment!



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Treasure Cay Holds Annual Meeting

The Treasure Cay Property Owners Association held its 31st annual general meeting on March 18 at the Treasure Cay Community Centre. Their guest speaker was the U.S. Ambassador to The Bahamas, Mr. J.

Richard Blankenship. The group of more than 160 property owners considered many topics pertaining to the management of that community. Mr. Jos Konsten, General Manager of



The Treasure Cay Property Owners Association annually recognizes a citizen who has gone beyond the call of duty to serve that community. This year they awarded the trophy to Dr. Ronald Wilson, who has served the community tirelessly in his capacity as doctor at the Corbett Clinic. He is shown here on the right being presented with a beautiful glass trophy by Mr. Ed Whitcraft, President of the TCPOA.

Treasure Cay Ltd. gave the meeting an overview of the situation of utilities in the Treasure Cay area. BEC has fully integrated that area into the Marsh Harbour power grid. BEC has taken the two generators there to Marsh Harbour for servicing. They will be installed at Treasure Cay for a back-up system. The situation with the water and sewerage systems has not changed. Treasure Cay Ltd. has negotiated with the Bahamas' government in the past to sell these utilities but there has been no discussions for a year.

Treasure Cay Ltd. has spent the past two years cleaning up from Hurricane Floyd. This included rebuilding their marina costing \$7.5 million. Since that is now completed, they will be concentrating on landscaping, improving lighting and are presently redesigning the traffic circle. Within a couple of weeks Treasure Cay will have a newly renovated police station with three officers. The station presently being renovated. Officers will be on duty 18 hours

daily and the office will provide 24-hour phone service.

Mr. Konsten explained that the hotel site has been taken off the market. There have been many prospective buyers. The final deal fell through on November 30. Now Treasure Cay Ltd will landscape the area. They have renovated their Coco Beach Bar on the beach. He acknowledged that the property on the north end of Guana Cay, owned by Treasure Cay Ltd., is under contract but there is no sale until there is money.

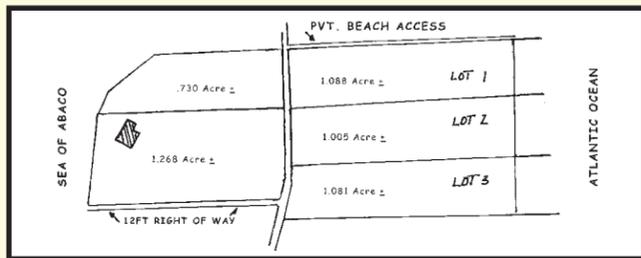
Other business included the announcement of a Treasure Cay Home Tour to be held on April 8. About ten homes and condominiums will be open. Tickets will be \$12. The proceeds will go toward the Community Center.

The tennis club is very busy, with the members very active and enthusiastic. Annual dues are \$300 for a single person, \$400 for a couple and \$450 for a family.

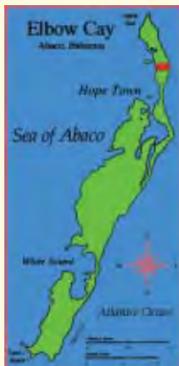
Please see **TCPOA**

Page 21

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South Abaco News

Cherokee Sound

By Lee Pinder

Results from the Cake Raffle

On the afternoon March 21 the school held a Cake Raffle to raise much needed money to repair the boys' bathroom facility. The event raised \$253, not quite enough to complete the repairs, but at least a start. A little more cooperation and participation from family and friends could have gotten the job done.

Our school is a government school and as such should be their responsibility to do major maintenance on the building and its equipment including the repairs to the boy's bathroom. However, obtaining government assistance is often extremely slow and entails lots of applications and begging to get things done.

We are a small school with only 15 students in all and a small community and, thank goodness, our principal is a go-ahead person who puts the needs of her students first without waiting for government to do something for us. Every situation that occurs in Cherokee is not necessarily the immediate responsibility of "The Government." There were rumbles of dissatisfaction about our need to do the job ourselves, when, in fact, there should instead have been praises for Ms. Lowe and her determination to help ourselves.

Ms. Lowe and Ms. Sutherland go above and beyond the call of duty to give our children a good education and part of that responsibility means a safe, clean and properly functioning work place for them to learn. Instead of finding fault, a positive attitude would be much more productive

than a negative one. Cherokians have in the past and will continue to do so in the future, I am sure, do what needs to be done.

School News

From March 10th thru the 14th the students celebrated Commonwealth Week during which time they had a visitor from another British Commonwealth country, Canada.

Ms. Pat de Boer gave a talk to the children about her country, its crest, the various provinces, province birds and flowers, wildlife and agriculture. She also presented each student with a Canadian flag and pins showing flags from her province - Alberta.

The children really enjoyed her visit and afterwards wrote thank-you letters to her Member of Parliament in Canada who had given her the flags and pins for distribution.

More Visitors

Robin Weatherford of Marsh Harbour held a special assembly at our school where he was accompanied by a group of college students visiting from North Carolina as part of their island tour. Mr. Weatherford is responsible for arranging volunteer groups of young church people who have been to Cherokee several times. They come during summer vacations to hold a Summer Camp for our children where they learn about the Bible, do arts and crafts and play games, a time the children all enjoy very much.

Two Students Will Move On

Angus Sawyer and Kyle Albury were successful in their entrance exams at Forest Heights Academy and both will be attending school there in September. Congratulations, boys.

Club Cherokee

A very successful meeting was held with a mini-workshop on Bahamian turtles and how we can protect them more as they are on the Endangered Animal list. In addition, the children are going to join an "adopt-a-dolphin" program with the Friends of the Environment group.

Rescue At Sea

Again, one of our number came to the rescue of some unfortunate accident victims at sea. On March 21st in a very small boat left our shores for a day of sunbathing and picnicking at Little Bay with seven souls on board. Unfortunately, the craft was not built to carry such a heavy load. When they arrived at their destination and were trying to disembark, they were swamped, the motor would not start and they were stranded. Thankfully, no one sustained any injuries

and two of the party were able to make their way back along the treacherous rocky shoreline to the settlement to find a rescue party to pick up the remaining passengers and tow the boat back to port.

Thanks to Trevor Sawyer, who immediately dropped everything and set out on this rescue mission, the rescue was a success. Living in the islands as we do, none of us knows when we may need help and we commend Trevor as our local "Hero of the Day" for his lifesaving efforts on behalf of these visitors to our shores.

Sandy Point

Whale Walk and Run

On March 29 the Bahamas Marine Mammal Survey will be holding a Whale Walk

Please see **South**

Page 29

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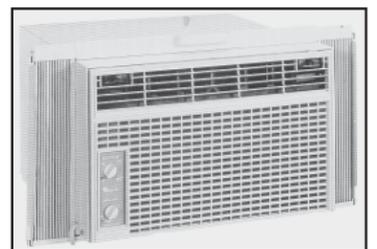
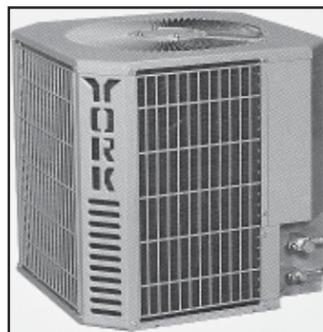
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Abaco Chamber Hears Motivation Talk

Ms. Agatha Marcelle, MP and Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Tourism was the guest speaker at the Chamber of Commerce meeting of March 13. The meeting was held at the Conch Crawl, the newly reopened restaurant at the Conch Inn. She gave a motivational talk which gave members much to think about.

Ms. Marcelle spoke about the present status of The Bahamas in comparison with other countries of the world. Within the Commonwealth which includes 54 countries, The Bahamas ranks sixth in gross national income per capita after Singapore, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Cyprus. When compared to the 86 countries of the Western world, we are ranked fourth in our standard of living and wage earning after the United States, Canada and the Cayman Islands. However, that

same study by the World Bank also concluded that we are almost at the bottom of the scale when it came to productivity.

These are impressive numbers and indicate that we are doing something right. Ms. Marcelle discussed the world situation and explained that world happenings will affect us directly. The world is changing and is presenting many problems. She suggested that we accept these obstacles as opportunities and recommended that we get better at what we need to do.

The Bahamas sells only one thing, that is tourism — leisurely, slow vacationing. However, she said that the mind set of many of our tourists is changing. They are expecting more and better service. But our behavior is not changing to reflect these changes in our visitors. As employers we must be aware of the changes and keep pace. We must make sure that our employees

are equipped to deal with the changes.

Ms. Marcelle explained that productivity is the standard to measure what your employees do. If there are no standards, then employees can't know whether they are measuring up or not. To be a successful employer, a person must get involved and let workers know what they are to do and how to do it. Employers must communicate with their staff and must change as the situations change. Competition is becoming more keen. We have many benefits, we are a safe destination, we offer a diverse product, we enjoy great natural resources. But she felt that our attitudes and low productivity are hindrances.

Our high standard of living has caused our people not to work hard. We watch our visitors enjoying a leisurely life and we want that same lifestyle, not realizing that those same people work hard when they are at their work. One of the challenges of government is to motivate people to work better. Many want to work for government so they do not have to work hard. It is difficult to find committed employees.

The second five star hotel in The Bahamas is about to open on Exuma. They want fresh fish but cannot entice the fishermen

to go fishing. Bahamians do not want many jobs but they are not trained to anything else. These are all challenges which have to be overcome.

Ms. Marcelle stressed that we must protect our environment. The environment is being damaged. The Ministry of Tourism is working with the BEST Commission and the Ministry of Environmental Health to bring about changes. She mentioned that Singapore is a very clean tidy country with a disciplined society. On the other hand The Bahamas has evolved to be a loose undisciplined society. We need to make harsh decisions to protect our environment.

People resist change. But our tourists have changed and we must make changes to accommodate them. Our society grew fast and developed rapidly. Many want to be entrepreneurs without working. And much of our high standard was not earned but came as a result of the drug trade which helped drive us to a false standard of living.

Her advice is that employees do not understand what we want but we must work with them. They need to feel that they are working with us, not for us.



Ms. Agatha Marcelle, MP and Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Tourism, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held on March 13 at the Conch Crawl. She is shown here being presented with a gift from Ms. Cindy Hayward, Secretary of the Chamber.



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News of the Cays

Hope Town Heritage Day Is Celebrated

By Candace Key

The day dawned bright and hot as officers and many volunteers of the Wyannie Malone Historical Museum in Hope Town hurried about setting up and organizing the many activities they had planned. During the program the students entertained the crowd with their Loyalist historical song, *It's Our History*, written by former Hope Town resident Mr. Gordon Wynn. Museum Chairman, Mrs. Suzanne Bethel, welcomed the gathering and Mrs. Candace Key, Hope Town School Principal, gave a brief talk about the trip she and her students had taken to perform at the Bahamas Heritage Festival in Nassau.

Mr. Chester Thompson delighted the crowd with his quips and examples of *The Way Things Were* in days gone by. We then passed out special t-shirts to be worn by the people taking part in the next part of the day — the sculling demonstration. The shirts read *A Gentleman and a Sculler!* Folks gathered at the harbour's edge as Chester Thompson, Boot LeBoutillier and Tricia Elden showed off their sculling skills. It was soon time for the Maypole plaiting done by Hope Town students and their teachers and other adults who had done the plaiting at former Commonwealth Day activities as a child.

Festival goers had the opportunity to view the newly constructed museum officially opened at the festival last year. In addition to regular exhibits, they were able to see the museum's ambitious project of having

their irreplaceable pictures damaged by Hurricane Floyd restored by Mr. Andrew Aitken at his photo studio. The before and after examples are truly remarkable.

A favourite exhibit this year was the fabulous display of Lucayan Indian artifacts

found on Abaco by Mr. David Bethel of Marsh Harbour. Most people viewing the artifacts had never had the opportunity be-

Please see **Cays**

Page 7



A special program entertained the people attending Hope Town's annual Heritage Day on March 8. Mr. Chester Thompson is shown giving the gathered crowd an insight into life in Hope Town "during the days gone by." Seated behind is Mrs. Suzanne Bethel, Chairman of the Wyannie Malone Historical Museum Association. The quilt is a Heritage Quilt made for the museum by Mrs. Jacqui Haines from England, who is a long time visitor to Hope Town.



Hope Town's legendary Abaco dinghy builder, Mr. Winer Malone, watches with interest as the sculling races and demonstrations get underway at the Wyannie Malone Museum's Heritage Day. Mr. Chester Thompson and Mrs. Tricia Elden demonstrate the art of sculling.



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More News of the Cays

Cays

From Page 6

fore to see palmetto ware or carved pieces from that era. David has generously donated many of his valuable pieces to our museum. A Lucayan skeleton was found in Hope Town many years ago when a local builder was excavating to build a rain-water tank. Because of museum ethics concerning a native skeleton for exhibit, the skeleton remains at the Museum Antiquities Corporation in Nassau.

While adults enjoyed the sandwiches and viewed the beginning of the second and final museum building which will complete the Balcony House design, children excitedly took part in three-legged races, sack races, baby-bottle relays and wash-tub boat races. The day was clearly a contemporary "blast from the past!"

Reward Goes to Camp Director

By Dottie Shrier

A highlight during the recent Hope Town Sailing Club Commodore's dinner was the presentation of the *Press on Regardless* Trophy. John Foster, Race Committee Chairman, described the award and its recipient

"This award was established by the race committee in 1992 under a deed of gift. A *Press on Regardless* Award will be made to that person who, in the judgement of the committee, has made a significant contribution during the season. Dogged determination, enthusiastic participation, outstanding sportsmanship or the like rather than placement at the finish line will be the deciding factors."

This year the committee selected Jim Laughlin (the younger) to be the recipient

of the award. We did so in recognition of what this very special man has done for the young people on this island as leader of the Hope Town Sailing Club Summer Camp.

Some of the winter residents and visitors may not be familiar with the camp. While our club provides some financial support for supplies and expenses, Jim has devoted his summers to the program for the past 10 years and does so on a volunteer basis. The camp provides a combination program of sports, crafts, boating and water safety for island kids and visitors.

Without Jim and people like his wife Margie and Ellen Hardy, the camp would not exist. The program keeps 15 to 50 kids busy during the long summer days. About 80 percent are island kids. Jim collects six to eight of his friends and family to come here and serve as instructors, again all as volunteers.

In the real world Jim teaches school at Princeton Day School in Princeton, New Jersey, and has done so for 13 years. He

has summered here in Hope Town for 37 years and has crewed with his dad many times over the years.

Commodore Tony Bennett and John Foster presented the award, both agreeing that Jim is the kind of person that deserves this award.

Man-O-War Bodybuilder Competes

By Arthur Elden

The 2003 NPC Sunshine Bodybuilding Championship was held in West Palm Beach on March 15. Veteran bodybuilders Arthur Elden from Man-O-War and Jennie Whyllly from Freeport, Grand Bahama, were part of the 91 competitors who participated. Jennie competed in the women Over 40 Division and placed third. Arthur competed in the Men's Masters Over 60 Division and placed second.

Arthur and Jennie then teamed up to com-



The Hope Town Sailing Club honored Mr. Jim Laughlin for his work with the Hope Town children each summer. He and friends have had a summer program for the past 10 years which includes sailing, boating safety, sports and crafts. Shown is, left to right, Mr. John Foster, Race Committee Chairman, Mr. Tony Bennett, Commodore of the Hope Town Sailing Club, and Mr. Jim Laughlin.

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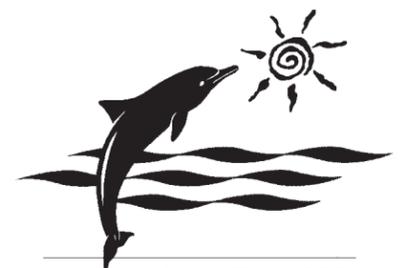
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The Editor Says . . . Self Help for Towns



With local government budgets cut five percent for the remainder of this fiscal year and minimal hope of any additional funds for next year, towns are scrambling for creative ways to pay for routine maintenance.

Cherokee recently held a cake sale to raise money to repair the boys' bathroom at the school. This would normally be a local government obligation. The town also raised monies over the years to restore their old school building which was not an obligation of local government.

Man-O-War formed a town management committee years ago for town improvements. One of their main areas of assistance was with creative garbage handling methods. The management committee purchased a diesel-powered chipper/shredder to reduce the volume of yard trash and convert it into useable mulch. This was only one of many community projects they funded.

These organizations have ranged from broad based town interest groups to committees more focused on their goals. Examples are:

- Volunteer fire departments in Hope Town, Man-O-War, Marsh Harbour, Cooper's Town, Guana Cay and other towns.
- The dune restoration in Hope Town after Hurricane Floyd and a similar costly clean-up in Treasure Cay.
- The construction of a public swimming pool in Hope Town.
- Assisting with the maintenance and operation of the lighthouse in Hope Town.
- Several towns have humane societies for animal control.
- Green Turtle Cay and Hope Town have historical, cultural or museum groups which are somewhat focused but with interests extending beyond their primary interest.
- One Marsh Harbour Town committee member works outside of the Committee's scope and raises funds for the town's roadside maintenance. Marsh Harbour has twice the road mileage of neighboring towns but maintains the verges at half the expense of the other towns.

The list above is not intended to be a comprehensive listing but gives an idea of the potential for concerned town residents to operate in tandem with local or central

government. The parallel group is sometimes independent of the local government people and occasionally is served by some of the same people. When serving in a civic capacity, they are then wearing a different hat and are responsible directly to the town and those contributing the funds instead of their local government masters.

There are organizations where the Administrator sits unofficially on the committee and others operating totally outside central government's realm.

The town maintenance committee in Man-O-War looked at the growing garbage problem years ago and took a novel approach. They noted that local government is responsible to collect garbage from residences but businesses must make their own arrangements. In a small town this service is often provided by the same contractor although arranged for privately.

Since local government is not allowed to collect or solicit funds, impose or collect taxes, the privately operated town maintenance committee can undertake this task. They can raise funds and spend the money as its members dictate. Many civic organizations operate this way. Easily seen examples are the Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club and Pilot Club raising money for their own favorite project.

In the case of Man-O-War, the maintenance committee assessed rental house owners with a voluntary fee to help fund garbage collection and other town chores. This

request was based on the rental properties' commercial nature and was a voluntary assessment, not an imposed tax. This is working quite well for Man-O-War.

Treasure Cay and Scotland Cay have active homeowner associations which impose an annual assessment for community maintenance in addition to the government property tax levied against foreign property owners in the Family Islands. This generally works well when the assessment is collected and used by an administrative group comprised of a majority of those being assessed. Even with a supportive association there are usually a few malcontents who refuse to honour their assessment for a variety of reasons.

There are as many types of these groups as there are towns. Each town has to find what will work best for that particular town with the resources available. The fact that there is money involved is sure to bring those to the surface who get involved either for personal gain or to promote their own area of interest. There may also be personal rivalries as to who will control the money or the group.

Despite the problems that the formation of such a group brings, it is imperative that towns develop some type of auxiliary group to raise funds and take some burden off the elected Town Committees.

For these groups to be successful, the group must have the town's welfare at heart.

Then they must come up with creative ways of raising money. Appropriate methods will vary according to the manpower and resources available. It is under adverse conditions that we find new and novel ways to accomplish our goals.

Hope Town organizes volunteers to keep the shoreline clean which does not require money. That might not be an appealing or compelling project for some towns but it works for them. In another town, an elected Town Committee member asks (some might say "begs") individuals or businesses to pay for invoices related to town maintenance. Other towns hold fund raising projects to accomplish specific goals.

Much of the success of any of these ideas is dependent on the pride we have in our towns. How clean and tidy do we want them to be? Do we care if derelict vehicles are on our streets or if soda cans litter the road sides?

Our number one industry is tourism. We are all dependent on it. Even if we have no direct contact with visitors, it is their presence and spending which pays us at the end of the week. If we want to keep them returning we must have attractive, clean towns and litter free beaches. This does not happen unless we make it happen. Government does not have the funds to make it all happen. It happens when we get involved and we make it happen, whether within or independent of local government.

Generally Speaking . . . Critical Solutions

By S. Timothy Roberts

Nationally as well as internationally there is a crisis facing us, and it has nothing to do with economics or world politics and is not related to the war in Iraq, but the consequences of overlooking it and not dealing with it will affect our generation and generations beyond. The problem is neglected and idle youth. The circumstances around our problems in Abaco may be unique, but the problem itself is not unique.

Every generation we witness seems to worsen every time, compared to our own generation, and we can often be found criticizing these modern children. However, we ought to look at how we can help our upcoming generations. The children of today are the ones who will shape our communities and nation in the years to come. We must give them the attention and nurturing they deserve.

It is not my intent here to exacerbate the reasons why many youth are going astray and are becoming problems in the community, I'm sure any of us with the least amount of common sense can see or already know where the problems lie. Rather, I would like to press toward solutions to turn the energy of youth to more positive endeavors.

We as a community need to band together and mold our youth in better ways, and one

of the most positive things we can do is encourage involvement in some form of sporting activity. The needs here are twofold. First, we need to provide sporting opportunities that more children can be involved in. Second, we need as parents, guardians, teachers and youth workers to encourage them in whatever sport they choose.

Sports are good for youth because they often promote team work, discipline, self-control, competitiveness and help develop social skills while the children have fun. It keeps them off the streets and out of the

trouble idle hands can bring.

Another solution is the formation of clubs. This includes church sponsored youth groups but is not limited to just those types of clubs. There can be after school clubs that offer games and activities, or educational fun. Businesses, particularly computer businesses, could offer computer clubs after school including everything from games to advanced computer concepts to prepare them for the working world.

Please see **Roberts** Page 35

All About Town

By Isobel Sherman
War and Abaco

The topic of conversation this past week has been The War in Iraq. Many people are very afraid of The War and how it will affect Abaco and The Bahamas. This past few days people have asked me if my daughter will be coming home until after the war is over. Why? Yes, the United States is at war but the war is in the Middle East. The threat of terrorism is real in the U.S. but that does not put my daughter in any more danger than she has been since 9/11.

What is of concern if the effect on tourism to Abaco as a result of the war. We all know that the price of gasoline has gone up and as a result the prices of food will also rise.

Yes, the war is scary and I personally hope and pray it will be over soon. However, since 9/11 the world is not the same and never will be again. Being on guard is something we will have to live with until the day the Lord comes again.

Animal Cruelty

I wrote a story for the last issue of *The Abaconian* involving cruelty to two young puppies by a five-year-old and eight-year-old. Now today, I have heard another story about young children being cruel to animals.

A young dog was stoned to death by a group of primary school children. What is happening in this world? Does anyone care that these children are showing such violent behaviour at such a young age? What will happen when they get older? This same violent behaviour will be transferred on humans. I don't know the answer but I do know that there has to be an answer and it is not just by shutting off the TV because of the violence. Somehow we have to reconnect basic human kindness in this world and start to be our brother's keeper.

alsand have a little more relaxation time. Now it is back for the last half of the semester and final exams. I love having my daughter home with me, whether she has her nose in a text book or is sleeping late. However, the question has not been answered. Is spring break really a break? I guess it is how you look at it. It is a break from cafeteria food and dorms but it is not a break from the books.

War and Abaco

The topic of conversation this past week has been The War in Iraq. Many people are

Please see **Sherman** Page 34

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Letters to the Editor

A Message from the Government Engineer

Dear Editor,

First, I would like to thank everyone for the positive response to my last letter. I did not receive any negative responses.

Secondly, I would like to respond to some of the concerns of the Central Abaco Council raised in the March 15 paper.

- We cannot prevent persons from obtaining a building permit by circumventing the normal channels, but the Department of Public Works will not issue an occupancy certificate if the proper procedures and applicable codes are not followed. The utility companies should not be servicing any buildings unless the owners produce an occupancy certificate. Unfortunately, this rule is also ignored at times.

- We are aware of the continuing problem of illegal building in the Mud, Pigeon Peas and Sand Banks as well as other areas. A number of attempts have been made to hire heavy equipment to knock down new construction. However, none of the heavy equipment operators approached are willing to go into these areas.

- I have been on this island for three years and I do not remember anyone mentioning the pothole in Spring City. Unfortunately, we need to rely on the public to inform us of problem areas particularly in out of the way places as we do not have a gas budget sufficient to allow us to patrol all the streets of Abaco. The pothole in Spring City has been investigated and will be dealt with as soon as possible.

- It is easy to make vague statements like "Works employees are lazy." Ever since I arrived here, I've heard nasty things said about my road crew employees. My question is since all of them were on temporary status with the government and all have been working at the same position for more than ten years, why were they not replaced many years ago? My employees do whatever I ask them to do. Unfortunately, we have to work within a very limited budget with failing equipment; we are currently out of cold mix (the stuff used to patch potholes); and our old tractor has been out of commission for two months while waiting for a part.

- Regarding the issuing of government contracts, I agree that there has been inconsistency in the tender process. Whenever public funds are involved, the process should be open and fair. To ensure this, the following procedure should be adhered to as closely as possible:

- Invitations for tenders should be posted in a public place. The posting should state where contract documents or scope of works could be obtained.

□ All contractors should be given the same documents to bid on. If clarification or additional information is given to one contractor, the same information should be given to all other contractors preparing a quote.

- Tenders should be received in a sealed envelope (unsealed envelopes should be returned) before a pre-determined deadline (date and time).
- Tenders should be opened in the presence of at least two, but preferably three senior government officers. Bidding contractors should be allowed to be present during tender openings.

- Spring City is in a water reserve park. I don't know this for a fact, but I believe the government does not want any further development in the reserve. This may be why lands for a cemetery have not been granted.

- Channel marker lighting into the new port is not included in the current project because the Port Department has said they will have the lights installed. Council may want to write Capt. Allens of the Port Department explaining the urgency.

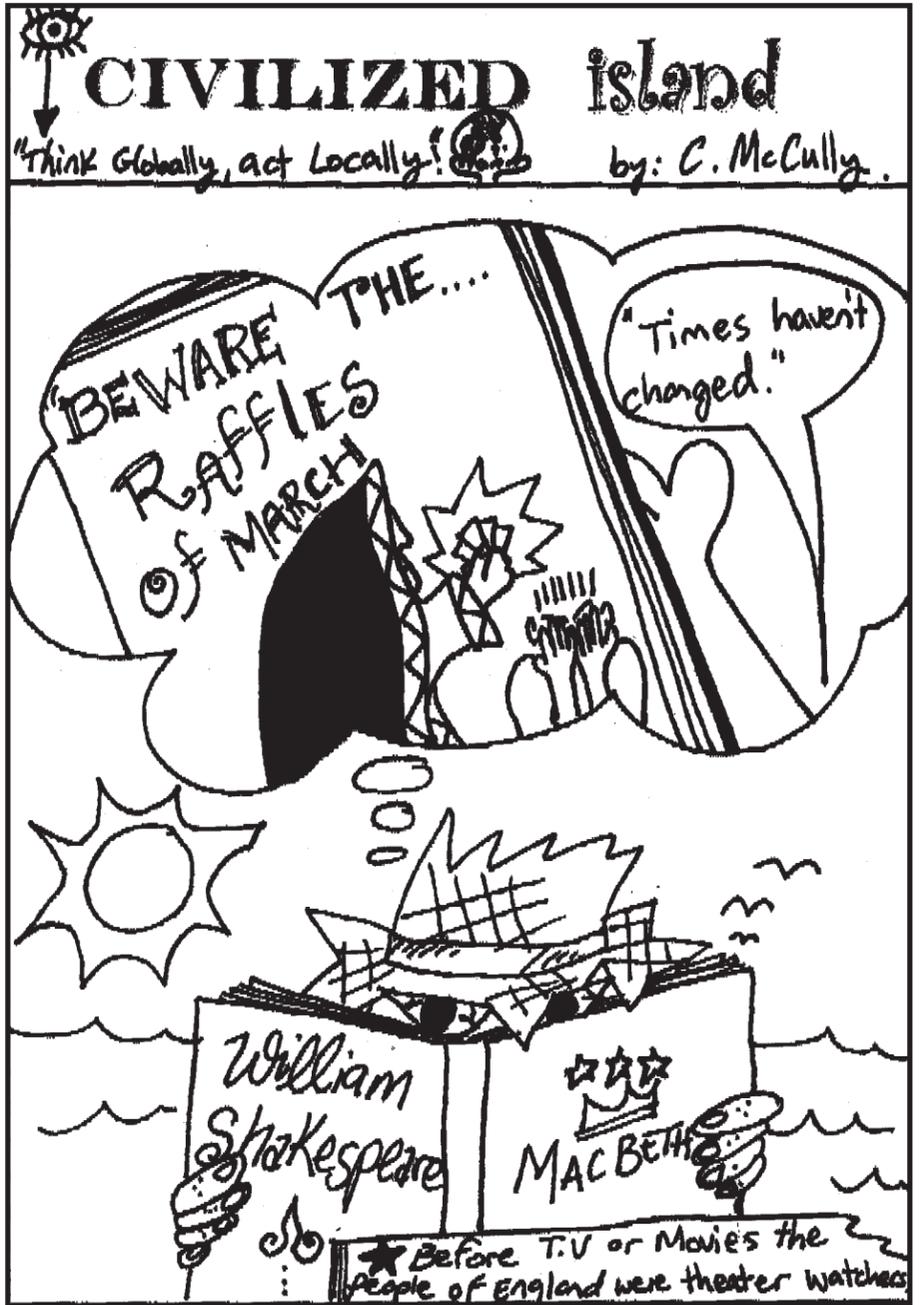
- Regarding the octagonal building at the site of the proposed Goombay Park. It was the Department of Public Works who requested the use of this building first at the outset of this project, even before the current Council was elected. And it was Works who directed the contractor to adjust the fencing around the building so that it could be retained. The present Public Works office is in deplorable condition and is a totally unacceptable place for receiving the public; it is vermin infested and does not have sufficient space.

I would be happy to further discuss any or all of the above points with the Council at their convenience.

At the risk of being sent home on the next boat to Canada, I give you one final point. The Central Abaco Primary School recently had its lower field cleared, the piled topsoil and fill was to be re-leveled over the field after the debris was removed. A Dundas Town Councillor who will remain

un-named (he knows who he is), took it upon himself to have this valuable fill removed from the site to "benefit the community of Dundas Town." I estimate that 25 to 30 loads of this fill, valued at approximately \$500/load, were removed. Only three or four loads appeared at the Dundas Town basketball park, leaving more than 20 loads unaccounted for. At least 10 loads of this fill went to the construction site of an expensive home in Treasure Cay. This was verified by four people including the Councillor himself. I believe the people of Dundas Town, especially teachers and students of the primary school, have a right to know how these missing loads of fill benefitted their community?

John Schaefer, P.Eng.
Abaco Area Engineer



Health and Family Life Education Program

By Portia Jonsson

The Health and Family Life Education Program is sponsored by the Department of Education and aims to reduce the number of teen pregnancies and the incidence of sexually transmitted infections among adolescents. The program focuses on adolescents and the individuals who influence them, for example parents, teachers, guidance counselors, peers, law officers, church and community.

Mrs. Sandy Edwards, Health and Family Life Coordinator on Abaco, has worked with this program for the past two years and will be hosting two Adolescent Health Education Training workshops. The first workshop for students will be held on March 17th and 18th at the Learning Resource Centre and a one-day workshop for parents will be April 11th. The training will give adolescents the answers to questions and concerns they may have and assist adults in providing the necessary skill adolescents need to make wise decisions.

Topics to be discussed include Introduction to Human Sexuality, Understanding Yourself/Self Esteem, Making Responsible Choices About Sex, Life Skill for Adolescents, Communicating with Young People about Sexuality, Reproductive Anatomy, Puberty and Adolescent Development, Unintended Teen Pregnancy, Child Abuse/Violence, Sexually Transmitted Infections-AIDS/HIV.

Please see **Family Life** Page 35

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Central Abaco News

Ambassador

From Page 1

the two countries which brings cooperation in the war against the drug war. He spoke at length of the transshipping of drugs through The Bahamas. After 9/11 the border between Mexico and the United States was closed. The drugs then began to be shipped from South America up the Pacific Ocean to Baja California. However, the most successful route is up through the Caribbean which is the route being used now. The boats take 12 hours to get to Haiti where they refuel. They then head for the southern Bahamas and travel up through the Bahamas at night to Bimini, Grand Bahama and Abaco where they cross over to Florida.

Since Mr. Blankenship has been assigned to Nassau in December 2001, drug seizures have increased dramatically. Already this year in two months the seizures are 90 percent of last years' seizures. He explained that the production in Columbia is being seriously damaged by a spraying program backed by the U.S. government. He feels that his personal involvement has been important in the success. The money seized which at the moment is \$1.2 million is split between The Bahamas and the United States. If The Bahamas spends that money on the drug war, then the United States will give them the full amount.

The Ambassador stressed that he wants

all Americans including the children born in the States to Bahamian children to register with the Embassy. This can be done through a phone call, a fax or an E-mail. The Embassy is there to be supportive of Americans and offers many services.

He has traveled extensive through the islands since 1967 and loves the entire country. He made a plea to the Americans to be mindful of the environment and observe regulations, fishing laws and help protect the natural beauty of the country.

Patti and Bob Toler hosted him for this Abaco visit. They are wardens of the American Embassy who relay messages to American who live on Abaco.

Native Plants Were Used in Dock Landscaping

By Erin Paglarlo

Following a local workshop on invasive species by the BEST Commission, the Department of Works made hasty changes to the freight dock landscaping plan to replace invasive plants with native ones. Original landscape contract called for 95 invasive Scaveola or Hawaiian Seagrape to be planted on the new freight dock grounds. Scaveola has been identified as one of the most threatening invasive species on Abaco, along with the casuarina and the raccoon as it rapidly replaces native vegetation along shorelines, spreading at an alarming rate.

The Scaveola were all replaced with local cocoplum, accented with native seagrape and buttonwood. These native plants are hardy, salt-resistant species adapted to our island landscape and are readily available at our local nurseries.

For information on how you can plant native, call Friends of the Environment at 367-2721.

Faith Convention Center

By Portia Jonsson

Many people have been wondering when the Faith Convention Center on Don MacKay Boulevard in Marsh Harbour at the entrance to Sweeting's Village will be completed and open for business. Phase 1 should be completed between May and June of this year. Construction of this building has been ongoing since 1999.

The building will serve as a facility to host functions including concerts, weddings, banquets, family reunions, conferences, seminars, graduations, conventions and more. The center will be available for rent by the hour, day or week. There will be a recreation area and gymnasium for indoor activities like basketball, tennis and volleyball. Catering services, parking attendants and security officers will be provided, if needed, by the staff of Faith Convention Center. Alcoholic beverages will not be allowed or served on the premises. No discotheque will be permitted.

The center will serve as the home base of World Outreach Ministries International. Mr. Larry Williams, Pastor of World Outreach Ministries International, is the contractor and owner of the building.

The single story 23,000 square foot, fully air-conditioned, smoke-free building will

have a seating capacity for over 2,000 persons and will be the first of its kind on Abaco. The parking lot, when completed, will be able to accommodate over 100 cars. The Convention Center will benefit the entire island from Sandy Point in the south to Crown Haven in the north.

Mr. Williams, the man responsible for the building, is a native of Abaco, born in Dundas Town. He served as president of his family business, Williams and Sons Construction, for two years. Five years ago he opened Kingdom Wash and Shell Service Station in the Royal Plaza in Dundas Town.

Message for U.S. Citizens

By Isobel Sherman

The United States Embassy in Nassau is asking for all U.S. citizens including those who have Bahamian parents to contact the Embassy by fax or E-mail if they have not been in contact with the Embassy in the past six months. The Embassy is asking that you forward your name, address, and phone, fax and email address. You can do this by faxing them at 1-242-356-7174 or email them at ascn@state.gov. You can also call them between 9 a.m. and noon on Monday-Friday at 1-242-322-1181, ext 4547 or 4584.

Three-Way Stop

By Isobel Sherman

Anyone who has driven on Crockett Drive to the Forest Drive junction will notice that traffic markings have been painted on the newly paved intersection. All vehicles must stop before entering the traffic circle.

Please see **Central**

Page 11



A new sign sets off the buildings and landscaped areas of the new freight dock in Marsh Harbour. The work is almost completed with fences, scales and a guard gate in place. All three new ramps and the paving are completed. Cleaning up the western area is still to be done. Two men are due to come from Nassau to manage the complex. The administration building is in the foreground with the domestic warehouse showing on the right.

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More Central Abaco News

Central *From Page 10*

Vehicles can then enter the traffic flow around the circle to continue. This is still confusing for many drivers.

The problem may be two fold. The stop sign is written only on the road and also people are unsure of what to do at a three way stop. It is a dangerous place for traffic and made more dangerous with the new road to the dock crossing Crockett Drive about 500 feet from that junction.

Seasonal Water Hazards Are Working

By Isobel Sherman

The three catchment basins in the area of the new road connecting the freight dock

with S.C. Bootle Highway are apparently working. The heavy rains experienced March 17 and 18 put the new drainage system to the test. No flooding occurred including the area behind M&R Grocery Store. The signs "Seasonal Water Hazard" are placed long the new road from the freight dock to S.C. Bootle Highway.

COB Office Moves

By Isobel Sherman

The College of the Bahamas Office has moved to the Resource Centre across from Sawyer's Market in Marsh Harbour. The same office hours apply, Wednesdays and Fridays from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Restaurant Reopens

By Isobel Sherman

Mr B's Restaurant has reopened its doors at a new location. Mr. B's was located in the Colina Insurance Building and was known for its \$2.99 breakfasts. Now under the new name Mr. B's Kitchen and Takeaway, Mr. B's is once again serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Located on Tamarind Drive in Dundas Town, Mr. B's is open 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 7:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

New Restaurant Opens

By Portia Jonsson

The Backstreet Cafe is located just behind Memorial Plaza in the Jenco building. The Mediterranean-style cafe is pleasant and relaxing and has a seating capacity of 40

persons. Bahamian and international dishes are served cafeteria style so the wait is minimal. The cafe specializes in grilled, baked and steamed dishes. Pork, chicken, beef and fish will be on the menu everyday along with an international dish from a different country. Jamaican curry chicken was on the menu the day I dropped by.

Terrell pastries are sold there along with Starbucks coffee. Backstreet Cafe specializes in health foods for people who are diabetic. Senior citizens receive a 10 percent discount. Breakfast is served 7 a.m.-10 a.m. and lunch 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Monday through Saturday. Sunday brunch is 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The Backstreet Cafe is a family-owned business managed by Troy Unjehm and the chef is Oral Roberts.

Please see **Central** Page 34



Work on the Faith Convention Center continues with landscaping and a stuccoed wall making it attractive. The building is the project of Mr. Larry Williams from Dundas Town.

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School News

Forest Heights Academy

Students Visit Cuba

By Leslie Kennedy

Seventeen students from Forest Heights Academy spent their mid-term break exploring the Island of Cuba. Organized by the Spanish Club and escorted by their Spanish teacher, Susan Parotti, the group left from Nassau bound for Havana.

After a fairly uneventful flight, first observations could not overlook the impressive Jose Marti International Airport with what appeared to be an endless runway. All easily cleared customs and immigrations and checked into the five-star Hotel Plaza, which has been in business for 90 years. Located in the heart of the historical centre, the hotel had wonderful access to the city.

Havana is exactly as one would expect. The Spanish influence of the architecture feels classic with the European flavour of the Plazas. Sadly, only the hotels and popular restaurants are maintained with poverty a strong contrast to the interspersed wealth.

A proper tour of the city must include the Museo Nacional de la Revolucione, a magnificent building which was originally the Presidential Palace. The history of Cuba is chronicled here with fascinating pictures, information and displays.

A true surprise was the recently renovated Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes. The former Asturian Center facing the Parque Central was designed by the Spanish architect, Manuel del Busto. The ornate and gilded building is a prime example of 20th century Spanish renaissance with state-of-the-art facilities. The art ranges from original Rubens and Van Dyck paintings to Etruscan and Egyptian artifacts dating back to 944 B.C.

At this point it is important to mention the warmth and consideration with which the Cubans treated the students as they took endless tours of the city in some of the more inventive modes of transportation such as bicycle rickshaws and covered mopeds, all affordable.

It was then time to leave the city heading

southwest to the more mountainous region of Pinar del Rio. This was done in the comfort of a luxurious tour bus, air-conditioned with big easy chairs. An intelligent young woman well versed in English and Cuban history narrated the tour. As the bus wound its way up the sierra, it passed through endless tobacco plantations. This region, as well as all of Cuba, has soil that any Abaconian gardener would cherish with the rich ochers strongly accenting the vibrant greens of the tobacco.

Once reaching the top of the range, students were treated to the scenic view of the

Jurassic valley of Vinales. The low mountains were quite unusual as the guide accurately described them as giant sleeping elephants. Numerous and lengthy caves can be found in their interiors and the tour included a walk and boat ride through one.

Returning back to Havana, the bus passed countless Cubans holding each of their particular wares up for sale. These ranged from honey, garlic and vegetables to whole lambs. Lack of transportation is a real problem in Cuba, and it was quite strange to be able to easily cross a four lane highway with little traffic. The only obstacles seemed to be the

more prevalent carts drawn by Brama bulls or small horses.

On the way back the tour guide became quite candid in her discussion of Cuba, and it was soon made known that she was previously a university teacher of creative writing. She shared some interesting facts about Cuba when she spoke of the aging population with an ever increasing male ratio and the high density of the population in Havana. The chief problem, of course, is the lack of money to build and rebuild this slowly crumbling country. On the



The Spanish Club of Forest Heights Academy organized a school trip to Cuba during their mid-term break. They are shown here with the Spanish architecture so typical in that country visible in the background. Seventeen students went accompanied by their teacher and other adults. They enjoyed all aspects of their trip, the people, the museums, the ornate buildings and the scenery. They had plenty of opportunities to practice their Spanish first hand.



Mr. Richard Blankenship, U.S. Ambassador to The Bahamas, spoke to the students of Forest Heights Academy on March 14. He is shown here accepting the gift of a half model from Man-O-War. Presenting the gift is Joshua Malone.

Please see **School**
Page 13

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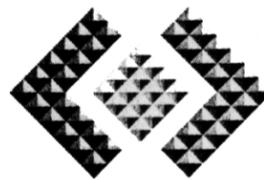
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More School News

School From Page 12

other hand, she avidly described the importance of the infant industry of tourism, and Castro's Cuba truly showed the group that they meant to show hospitality with ease.

So reluctantly, the travelers left Cuba much wiser for their experiences. Most are anxious to return, captivated by the culture, the ever present music and the Cuban people. But most importantly, they learned how fortunate they are to live here on Abaco.

Ambassador Visits School

Forest Heights Academy hosted the United States Ambassador to The Bahamas, Mr. Richard Blankenship, on March 14 who spoke to the students on their choices in life. He illustrated his topic with incidents from his life and how some of his choices during his high school days affected his later life. He did not realize at that time how crucial those decisions were.

Mr. Blankenship took up his position as Ambassador in December 2001 after a six-month approval process. He was unanimously approved by the Senate. He is a political appointee, not a career ambassador. He is in charge of American interests in The Bahamas which includes the Coast Guard, the DEA, even any American ships visiting Bahamian ports.

He accepted the appointment because he wanted to make a difference. And he feels he has done well in his efforts to slow the narcotics shipments passing through The Bahamas. He brought out the fact that drugs are used locally wherever they pass through.

A student asked him why marijuana is illegal while cigarettes are not. He answered that the United States is slowly controlling the areas where cigarettes can be smoked but that they do not have the courage to outlaw them completely. He stressed the dangers of all products containing nicotine, cigarettes, chewing tobacco and snuff, that are very harmful. He also mentioned that 75 percent of marijuana users switch over to using cocaine and heroine which is not the case with cigarettes.

The students were most attentive during the program and presented him with a half model bboat hull made in Man-O-War.

Scholarship News

By Isobel Sherman

Anyone interested in applying for a government scholarship loan for the school year 2003/04 forms are available. They can be obtained from the Scholarship and Tertiary section of the Department of Education in Nassau and Freeport and also on the new web site www.bahamaseducation.com. It is hoped that forms will also be available on Abaco.

Those wishing to apply for the Bahamas Supermarket Scholarship are reminded that the application deadline in Nassau is May 1st. If you have not applied to the Lyford Cay Foundation, you will have to wait until next year as the application deadline of March 31 has passed.

Abaco Central High School

By Isobel Sherman

Commonwealth Day

Commonwealth Day was observed by schools on March 10 with most holding a special assembly. Under the theme *Partners in Development*, which was the Com-

monwealth Day theme this year, Abaco Central High School's assembly included presentations by several countries. These were Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Haiti, United Kingdom, Jamaica,

Please see **School** Page 22



Youth from Central Abaco participate in the Abaco Youth in Action, a basketball program for boys and girls ages 8 to 14. The program runs each Saturday morning under the direction of Anthony Davis, Elva Davis, Ishmael "Stretch" Morley, Jude Hart and Lyndon Davis. The youth learn basketball drills and are then divided into teams to play against one another. They are shown here on a break.



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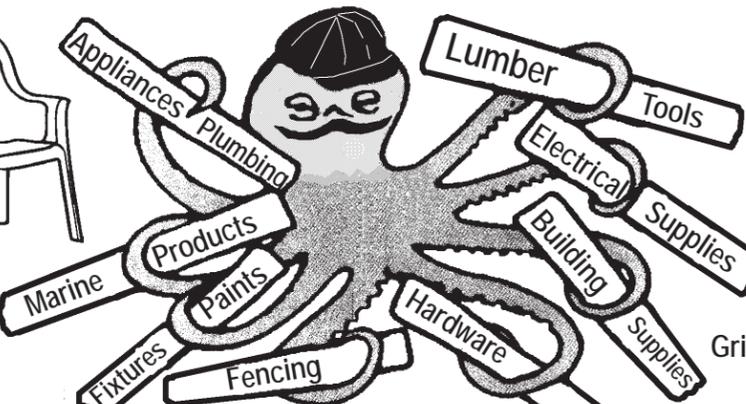


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Hope Town School Performs in Nassau

By Candace Key

Hope Town School was a buzz of activity for the two weeks following our exciting invitation from the Minister of Tourism to perform our cultural activities at the Bahamas Heritage Festival in Nassau. We practiced perfectly plaiting the Maypole, using our quill pens more neatly, practiced making better dolls from palm thatch, throwing native hardwood tops better or honing our quilting skills. All of these activities had been demonstrated by the children at the 25th anniversary of the Wyannie Malone Museum's Heritage Day last year in Hope Town.

We had been drawn to the attention of the Minister of Tourism and invited to perform these activities again for hundreds of children and adults at this historic festival held at Arawak Cay in Nassau during the week of March 2-8. It was held in celebration of the Bahamas' 30th Independence

Anniversary and in conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Youth and Culture, the Ministry of Education and the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. In 1994 The Bahamas sent many talented citizens to Washington to perform in the Smithsonian's Folklore Festival. The Smithsonian and The Bahamas were working together again to recreate an even bigger showcase of Bahamian culture.

The main objective of the Festival was to research, showcase and preserve Bahamian culture including music, dance, arts, crafts, boat building, sail making, food, straw work, storytelling, Junkanoo, children's games and other traditional customs in a way that has never before been done. We all agreed that their objective was more than met!

From the time the seven students of Grade 5 and 6 and their Principal/ teacher, Mrs. Candace Key, arrived, they could feel the

excitement building. The students were invited to help officially open the ceremony by singing the national anthem with the legendary Kayla Lockhart Edwards. The students formed the receiving line on the stage for the appearance of the Prime Minister, Mr. Perry Christie, Tourism Minister, Mr. Obie Wilchcombe and several cabinet members and Parliamentarians.

The students then went to their appointed

areas where crowds of children began to appear. They all wanted a palm thatch doll and to try their hands at quill pen writing or throwing tops. When the children managed to break away from the children's area. They would demonstrate plaiting the Maypole in the other area of the festival. The afternoons found the girls working with master quilt

Please see **Heritage**

Page 15



Hope Town School children along with their Principal Candace Key were invited to be part of the Bahamas Heritage Festival held in Nassau on March 3-7. They pose here at the story board in the children's area. They demonstrated games and crafts typical of life many years ago. Photo by Candace Key



The Hope Town students practiced plaiting the Maypole to make it always come out right. Here Katie Joseph and Stephanie Sweeting are teaching the Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Obie Wilchcombe, how to plait a Maypole at the Bahamas Heritage Festival to celebrate 30 years of independence. Photo by Candace Key



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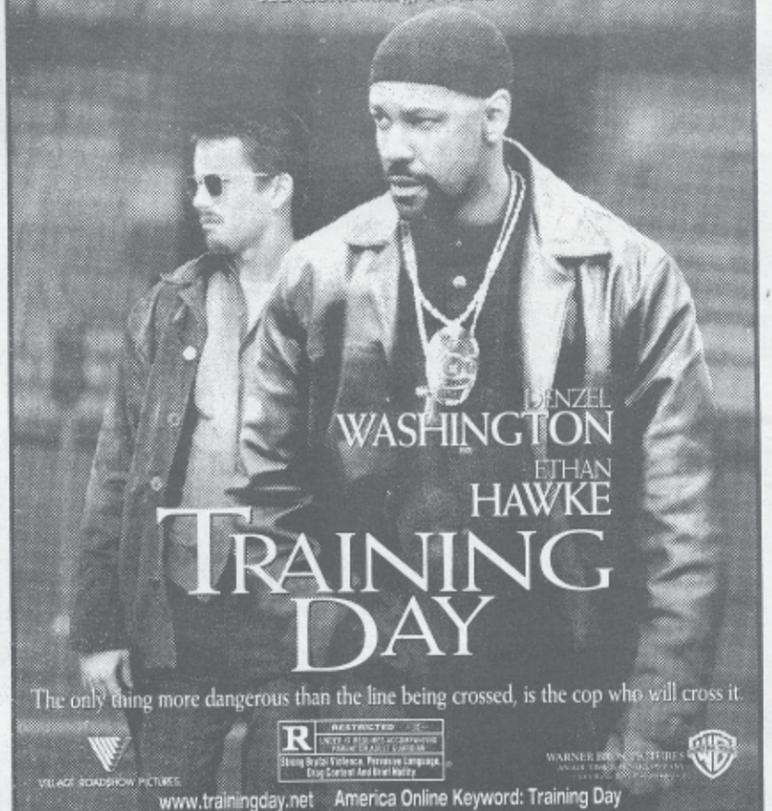
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Historic Bahamas Heritage Festival

Heritage

From Page 14

makers from Nassau, Cat Island and Long Island. They learned new stitches and ways to improve their skills in quilting. The children's area also featured rolling hoops, homemade wooden scooters, jumping rope with vines and making grass dolls.

We felt lucky to be at a location so close to the main stage. The children could teach and direct their activities while watching and

listening to a wide variety of music and dancers both contemporary and legendary, adult and children. We all learned the conch dance step!

During the few brief lulls at our area, the children rushed over to drink fresh coconut water out of their own coconut, eat homemade ice cream, learn from a boat builder or Junkanoo artist, watch a talented straw worker or just relax over a tasty conch salad.

Each afternoon we would pack up our supply trunk and hurry back to the hotel to swim and play on the water slides at Atlantis and view their magnificent fish displays. Evenings featured journal writing while eating pizza in the hotel room. The students also visited Ardastra Gardens during their exciting week. The students felt very mature because of their experience as teachers. They had taught others and learned much themselves from others. It was a thrill-a-minute week. They were featured on tele-

vision, radio and newspapers. all which built confidences even higher. The trip was generously sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism and the Wyannie Malone Historical Museum and supported by appreciated donations from residents and visitors.

The exhausted but excited students returned to Abaco on Friday to perform many of the same skills at Heritage Day in Hope Town the next day. All agreed it was clearly a trip of a lifetime!



Andrew Blanc and Vaughn Rolle, center, from the Hope Town School throw tops with Festival volunteers from the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Education. The ladies enjoyed the sport that they had participated in as children. This was another activity that the Hope Town children demonstrated at the Bahamas Heritage Festival held in Nassau. Photo by Candace Key

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Ambassador Addresses Treasure Cay Owners

Mr. J. Richard Blankenship, the United States Ambassador to The Bahamas, spoke to the property owners of Treasure Cay, many of whom were Americans, on March 18 at the Treasure Cay Community Center. He explained that his main responsibility was to insure the safety of Americans who are in The Bahamas. There are approximately 20,000 Americans in this country. He urged all U.S. citizens to register with the Embassy in Nassau and encouraged them to give the Embassy their E-mail address. The Embassy disseminates information of interest to U.S. citizens and that is the easi-

est way to communicate.

Mr. Blankenship explained that one of the biggest problems in this country was trying to stop drugs from being transported through The Bahamas to the States. This is the second largest U.S. war on drugs after Columbia. The U.S. is being quite successful in its spraying program of coca fields in Columbia. He assured the group that the relationship between the two countries is good but he will continue to pursue the U.S. drug policy. Keeping the drug trade under control will assure that property values will be maintained. The efforts to con-

tain the drug flow is being very successful. The seizures of cocaine were up by 160 percent in 2002 and seizures of marijuana were up 180 percent in 2002. Already there has been an increase of 90 percent this year over last year's seizures, in two months.

U.S. security will be increased as a war against Iraq is eminent. Boats entering the United States from The Bahamas will be scrutinized more carefully for drug smuggling, weapons and illegal immigrants.

The Ambassador was enthusiastic as he described his job and the work it entails. He finds it challenging but very rewarding as he feels that he can make a difference.

The Embassy offers many services to U.S. citizens. They are speeding up the issuing of passports and visa. He expects that all U.S. citizens traveling aboard will eventually have to have a current passport.

He opened the meeting to questions. He commented that he did not feel that rela-

tions between the United States and Cuba would be normalized until Cuba had a free vote and released political prisoners. He felt that when Cuba was open to tourism from the United States that it would be a significant blow to The Bahamas. The country is beautiful, has lovely beaches, great fishing and will be a popular place for tourists to visit.



Mr. Richard J. Blankenship, U.S. Ambassador to The Bahamas, spoke at the annual meeting of the Treasure Cay Property Owners Association on March 18. He is shown above, center, along with Mr. Ed Whitcraft, President of the TCPOA, on the left and Mr. Bruce Barth, Past President of the TCPOA. Behind is Mr. Abdelnour Zaiback, Consul at the Embassy in charge of the passport and visa department.



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Stray Dog Problem Is Discussed

Mr. Chris Roberts of Abaco Animals Require Friends (AARF) made a plea to the Marsh Harbour Town Committee for local government to find funding to set up a temporary animal shelter. He presented his case to the Committee on March 4 and was accompanied by Mimi Rehor, Linda Giovino and Gretchen Cuffe.

Mr. Roberts has been active in spay and neuter programs on Abaco along with Kathleen Hargreaves and Harry Meline of the Spay Neuter Incentive Program (SNIP). These efforts have been financed by donations and fund raising efforts. He felt that government needed to share in the responsibility by providing funding for groups which are trying to cope with the problem of stray dogs.

Mr. Roberts explained that the SNIP program had a pilot project on Abaco which was very successful. Within three years they spayed or neutered 1300 animals through clinics mostly in Central Abaco but also in Cooper's Town and Sandy Point. The spay and neuter program is ongoing. This method leaves the animals in the area found and yields a gradual reduction of stray animals as they die of natural causes. He explained that if those animals were removed, wilder dogs would fill the vacuum. More than 200 animal adoptions have been arranged in the States through local groups.

There are active animal groups in Marsh Harbour, Hope Town, Man-O-War and Treasure Cay which are working to control the stray dog population. However, all these groups need funding to do more than their present efforts. At this time local businesses are carrying the brunt of the costs. Mr. Roberts felt that the government needs to provide essential services including the control of stray dogs.

Mr. Roberts suggested two remedies. The first would encourage businesses to fence an area near their business property to keep the dogs confined during the day. The dogs would be released at night to protect business property. Another suggestion was to

build a temporary shelter which could house animals until a home could be found. Most supporters of these organizations are strongly opposed to having the dogs put down even if done in a humane way. The initial cost of a temporary 50-dog shelter including six months' operation would be under \$15,000.

A growing problem is the number of potcakes breeding with pitbulls. Potcakes are very valuable and have many desirable traits. They are very intelligent, friendly and gentle and can be trained. However, the cross breeding will give them traits which will make them much more dangerous.

A proposal will be submitted to central government for assistance with funding.

Government Is Concerned with Illegal Immigrants

The government is committed to slow the flow of illegal immigrants to this country. During the month of January the Department of Immigration, the Royal Bahamas Police and the Defence Force along with the U.S. Coast Guard have apprehended many individuals on New Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco, Bimini, Exuma and Andros. They also interdicted seven Haitian boats in Bahamian water. They repatriated 250 illegal immigrants to Haiti, Cuba, Jamaica, Canada, Honduras, the United States and India and are continuing the repatriation exercise in February. The cost of this for January was \$42,666. But allowing the immigrants to remain in this country would be far more costly.

The Ministry of Labour and Immigration is appealing to the public to call their hot line, 242-322-3884, to inform them of any illegal immigrants entering the country, hiding out, or congregating so they can be apprehended, processed and repatriated.

Bids Opened for Haitian Freighter



Nine bids for a confiscated Haitian freighter were opened March 10 by Senior Administrator Alexander Williams. Bids ranged from a low of \$15,000 to a high of \$50,000. The bids have been sent to the Port Department in Nassau to evaluate the bidders to determine which of the highest bids can qualify with the purchase requirements. The blue 104-foot steel-hulled freighter, the St. Innocent, was apprehended in North Whale Cay Channel on January 23 with 24 undocumented Haitians on board. No one aboard knew who captained the boat. The 26 immigrants were taken to Nassau and deported to Haiti. The boat has been on anchor outside the harbour of Marsh Harbour since then.



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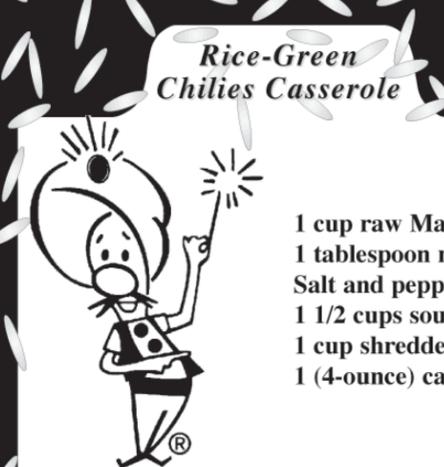
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1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
1 (4-ounce) can chopped green chilies

Cook rice according to package directions. Add butter and seasonings. Set aside. Fold sour cream and chilies together. In a buttered casserole, place a layer of rice and a layer of chilies and sour cream mixture. Cover with half cheese. Repeat layers, topping with cheese. Bake at 350°F for about 20-25 minutes, until heated through.





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SeaWind Begins Service - Not Abaco Yet

The *SeaWind*, a brand new ferry owned by Bahamas Fast Ferries, arrived in Nassau the second week of March from the shipyards in Australia where it was built. The boat will begin regular service to Sandy Point by the third or fourth week of April and expects to begin service with four trips weekly. Travel time will be about three and a half hours and the boat docks at the western end of Potter's Cay in Nassau. It is temporarily replacing the *SeaLink* for two weeks serving Andros, Exuma and Eleuthera, allowing the *SeaLink* to go on dry dock.

The Docks Committee in Nassau has approved the ramp to be constructed in Sandy Point. The Port Board in South Abaco

had already approved the ramp. Construction will begin immediately and is expected to be complete in two weeks. The *SeaWind* may make a trial run which will allow Abaconians to view the boat.

The Bahamas Fast Ferry Service now has regular service between Nassau and North Eleuthera that has had a tremendous economic impact on Harbour Island. The company feels that the primary artery for economic growth in the Family Islands is the transportation system.

The luxury class *SeaWind* can accommodate approximately 390 passengers and features reclining table seats, an on-board ser-

vice for meals, snacks and beverages and an audio/video theater in the main passenger compartment. The ferry can carry 30 - 40 vehicles and containers which load through

the stern. The boat cruises at 18 knots and can tolerate all weather conditions. The *SeaWind* will be available for charter through the Bahamas Ferries office in Nassau.



The new ferry of Bahamas Fast Ferries has begun service to Andros, Eleuthera and Exuma. However, it cannot come into Sandy Point until a ramp can be constructed. Nassau has given approval and the dock is expected to be completed within two weeks. Service should begin to Sandy Point by the third or fourth week of April. The ferry can accommodate passengers, vehicles, freight and even containers.

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Guitar Club Is Formed

By Portia Jonsson

A Guitar Club was formed at Forest Heights Academy on March 12th. The club meets Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.-1 p.m. in the music room at the school and consists of 10 student members. Shane Cash, an 11th grade student from Hope Town, teaches the

class and lessons are free. Most of the club members are beginners at playing guitar. The Guitar Club has a wide range of guitars ranging from electric, nylon acoustic and steel string acoustic. Members are responsible for providing their own instrument.

Chris Thompson Real Estate

Elbow Cay and The Abacos, Homes and Property

ELBOW CAY

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Fabulous Villas located at the mouth of Hope Town Harbour. These 2 bed/2 bath villas are beautifully furnished with West Indian decor throughout. A dip pool is shared and surrounded by open decking. Sold fully furnished, totally turnkey, rental history.



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Price: **\$1,500,000**

ELBOW CAY

HOMES & LAND



"OCEAN HOUSE" Incredible parcel of property with 2 bedroom, 2 bath home located on the Atlantic Ocean in historic Hope Town Settlement. 74 feet of ocean front on long white sandy shore. The house has open floor plan with large kitchen and great/dining room, vaulted ceilings, good rental history.

Price: **\$1,300,000**

"LITTLE ORCHARD" - Island Style home, 3bd/2bth located on 2 lots 90X158ft. each, central a/c, fully furnished, wrap around decks (upstairs) Downstairs has a 1bd/1bth furnished apt. w/central a/c (rental income \$800 per month). Fully enclosed workshop, 30kw generator, 3 telephone lines, cable TV. Lots are fully landscaped with mature fruit trees and citrus. A must see!

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"DORROS COVE" - Large hillside lot - 110' x 200' - with great views of the Atlantic, cleared and ready to build your perfect island home. Underground electric & telephone, great buy.

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"MARNIES LANDING" - Private marina community at the southern end of Elbow Cay offering 1/2 acre lots with views of the Atlantic Ocean, Sea of Abaco, or both. Each lot comes with private dock slip at the marina, homesites staggered for optimal views.

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"MARNIES LANDING" LOT #7B - Rare opportunity to buy not only one of the most beautiful 1/2 acre lots in Marnies with panoramic views, but also have 2 private dock slips, one for a runabout up to 30' the other up to 60'

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VILLA JUNKANOO



Custom home in private marina community facing the Sea of Abaco. Turn-key 4B/4B, open kitchen, dining area and great room. Includes 2 dock slips, one can accommodate up to a 60' yacht.

Price: **\$1,390,000**

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Airport Overflows To Grass



It is a common sight at the Marsh Harbour airport to see outgoing passengers crowding the grass at the round-about at the Marsh Harbour airport. The present terminal was too small by the time it was completed and the situation has deteriorated since then. Hundreds of people have to crowd the terminal for check in but the building cannot possibly hold them all during the wait for their flight. The grassy knoll with the flagpole now has several benches thanks to the Scurvy Few Motorcycle Club. These are not adequate to hold the overflow. There is not shelter from the sun, heat or rain. The situation is hampering the growth of our number one industry, tourism.

BEC Costs Will Increase

Bahamas Electricity Corporation will be charging more beginning with their April electricity bills. The reason is the higher fuel costs that they are experiencing. Fuel costs are a major part of their expense and fuel prices have been increasing worldwide for several months. The fuel surcharge on their April bills will reflect these increases.

The Hon. Bradley Roberts, BEC General Manager, suggests that consumers conserve electricity by turning off electrical appliances when not in use and lowering water heater temperature. Raising the thermostat on air conditioning units and using a fan will lower electric charges along with using fluorescent bulbs in light fixtures.

Security Will Be Tightened

The Administrator's Office in Central Abaco is advising that there will be increased security measures on Abaco. These are in response to the security measures emanating from the Department of Homeland Security in the United States and will include the following:

- a. An increase of inspection and surveillance at air and sea terminals
- b. The introduction and enforcement of the use of proper identification for all authorized personnel
- c. A reduction of access to restricted areas of the air and sea ports
- d. Increased patrols of law enforcement officers at ticket counters, baggage makeup areas, aircraft, vessels, etc.

e. The institution of unattended baggage procedures

f. The deployment of plain-clothes surveillance officers in terminals and other areas as is deemed appropriate

g. The removal of unattended or unauthorized vehicles from terminal areas.

Additionally, security briefings have been provided to all employees. The police and other law enforcement officers have been assigned to doors leading to air operation areas air-side.

The traveling public should expect to find these security measures in place immediately and their cooperation is requested and anticipated.

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Bananas Production Is Threatened

By John Hedden

Historically, bananas have been an important component of the diet of Bahamians as cooked (fried plantain), fresh fruit and sweets (banana bread and pudding). Today, bananas have become an important agricultural commodity in The Bahamas for provision for the hospitality industry and for the native Bahamian cuisine. A combination of importation and local production meets this demand.

Traditionally, Long Island was known as the banana producing island, but many fac-

tors including disease, climate, soil and labour shortages have crippled production. Government records from packing house receipts show that total Bahamian production in 1998 amounted to just over 1 million pounds. However, figures are not available for more recent years. Abaco now produces the largest banana crop in the country and in 2002/2003 alone produced some 1 million pounds of bananas on an annual basis. Other islands involved in commercial production include Andros, Grand Bahama and Long Island while all islands

produce fruit for subsistence / local consumption.

Earlier in the 20th century Gros Michel type cultivars made up the major production types, but the onset of Panama disease in the early 1950s wiped out commercial production especially in Long Island. As a result Dwarf Cavendish types were used to replant fields because of their resistance to this disease and wind throw (high winds). More recently the Grand Nairn cultivar has become the commercial variety of choice because of superior fruit quality and consumer acceptability (Chiquita and Dole brands). All major producing islands also planted this variety.

However, in the last 15 years another disease has taken hold, devastating Cavendish production worldwide. This is Black Sigatoka disease, and there is no cure. Plantains are also affected by this disease. Containment is possible through a combination of chemical, field hygiene and climatic procedures known as Integrated Pest Management systems. However, the chemical aspect makes the cost of control extremely expensive and will be ultimately reflected in the market price of the product.

Black Sigatoka has repeatedly spread throughout The Bahamas Islands, devastating fruit production, especially on Abaco. As a result Bahamian production is now on the decline and will continue to decrease because of poor cropping and control practices. Lack of proper field hygiene is the major culprit.

Worldwide production is also rapidly falling and will continue to do so until disease resistant clones have been developed and tested. Cuba is a world leader in this respect and is now testing some 27,000 acres of resistant cultivars. There is some question as to the palatability of these new types, but test marketing and availability of alternatives will ultimately determine their success.

The sad thought is that the banana forms a major component of the staple diet of people in poor countries around the tropical world. The loss of the "edible" banana will have serious consequences for human nutrition in these areas unless a research breakthrough is forth coming.

For The Bahamas it is yet another blow for an agricultural industry that is struggling to assert itself. Self sufficiency, food security, agricultural sector viability? What next?



The leaves of the diseased bananas plant shown above have already died from an infection of Black Sigatoka. The bananas will probably not ripen fully. Black Sigatoka is a fungal disease which is threatening to ruin banana production world wide. This banana plant was on the Pepper Pot Farm of Mel Wells and is being examined by Krista Kelly and Margo Albury, both students at Forest Heights Academy.

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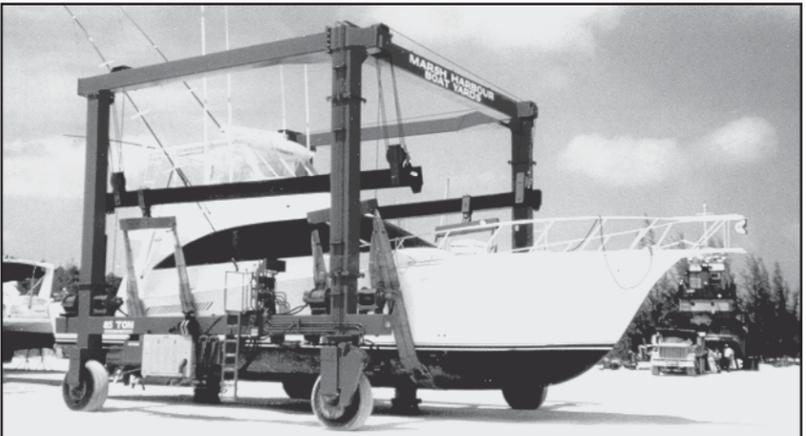
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T. Cay Pleased with Progress

TCPOA

From Page 3

Membership includes unlimited court time as well as participation in special programs such as ladies' competitions, social events and discounts on lessons. Treasure Cay Ltd. is constructing bathrooms at the site.

Mr. Jerry Roberts heads up the Treasure Cay Humane Society and gave a report on the status of a security building planned which would include areas for a fire station and humane society. However, there are still legal problems to be resolved setting up a trust before the Treasure Cay Ltd. can donate the property. The property is on the road going into Treasure Cay. Until then the Humane Society is actively getting the stray cat population under control. Mr. Roberts appealed for help in catching the stray dogs of that area. Several musicians performed at a concert held on March 20 as a fund raising for the Humane Society. The tickets were sold out well in advance of the concert.

Water & Sewerage Still Unresolved

Dr. Jerry Gedon, a retired veterinarian now doing research, gave a report on diseases that humans contact from animals which applies here. He spoke briefly on each. These included dengue fever which travels from cattle to humans, heart worm whose larva can be transferred from dogs to humans by mosquitos, West Nile virus, a form of encephalitis carried by birds, pink eye from cats, and several others. He brought out the fact that in other countries racoons, recently introduced on Abaco, are carriers of rabies although rabies has never been identified in The Bahamas.

He strongly urged everyone to watch for any containers holding water and for each person to take responsibility to empty that water, not leaving it for others to do as mosquitoes carry several diseases. He mentioned that one cup of water can breed 100 mosquitoes every 10 days and the easiest way of controlling mosquitoes is to destroy their larva in

standing water.

Treasure Cay is undertaking an upgrading including several civil projects which are costing \$132,000. This is a joint effort being financed from three sources. The massive clean-up effort after Hurricane Floyd was financed by donations from many sources. The remainder of the money, \$40,000, has gone to this upgrading as well as \$43,000 by Treasure Cay Ltd. with the balance coming from the Treasure Cay Amenities fund. Some of

the projects being undertaken including repairing roads, paving the parking lot at the Community Center, installing three crosswalks which will be ten-foot wide by five and a half inch high raised bumps to slow traffic and repairing potholes.

The problem of the water and sewerage systems was discussed in more detail. The sewerage treatment plant is antiquated and will require about \$3 million to bring it up to new standards. There are about 500 units on the system which means a cost of approximately \$600 per unit connected. Several ways of raising money have been suggested but there has been no decision.

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More School News

School From Page 13

the United States and The Bahamas.

International Day

Abaco Central High School held their Annual International Day on March 14. The day began with a parade of countries marching into the quadrangle where many of the countries presented a cultural item or a talk about their country.

Each country had an exhibit in different classrooms showing off their country and also selling food indigenous to their coun-

try. Each country's display was judged on decoration, information presented and food displayed. The judges were Ms. Cindy Armbrister and Ms. Jackie Estavez.

The Bahamas' booth had a display which included a bush medicine display, liquor display, an Androsia display, a straw craft display, sponges, an old sewing machine and an outline of the history of the Bahamas. In addition, Bahamas sold their native food from a thatched roof enclosure and they baked bread in an outside rock oven. Two large Royal Bahamas Policeman made from plywood guarded the entrance to the Baha-

mas booth.

The United States had a display that ranged from U.S. inventions to books, music, and other typical items. There was a corner dedicated to a special computer display of 9/11 and the Space Shuttle Columbia. At an activity corner students played on a PS 2 Play Station. Southern fried chicken, hamburgers, French fries, apple pie, cheesecake and chili were sold. Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Jamaica and Guyana also sold food.

The winning booths were Bahamas in first place, The United States in second place and Guyana in third place.

Mr. Mohammed Rahim headed the International Day committee assisted by Mrs. Lori Thompson and Miss Denise Gadsby.

Miss International Day Is Named

As part of the International Day festivities at Abaco Central High School a contest was held to name Miss International Day. Each country had a contestant that was dressed in a costume indicative of the country. The contestants were Miss Trinidad Jevina Gray, Miss Haiti Belinda Jacobs, Miss Guyana Malissa Singh, United States

Whitney McIntosh, Miss Bahamas Kechelle Thurston, Miss Jamaica Shakera Davis and Great Britain Alexis Brown.

The girls modelled their costumes and explained what they were wearing. Miss Haiti was named Miss International Day. She wore a costume made from the flag of Haiti. Second place was awarded to Miss Whitney McIntosh, who wore a cowgirl outfit complete with a genuine Texas hat and snake skin boots. Third place was awarded to Shakera Davis, Miss Jamaica, who was dressed in a colourful red, green and black outfit depicting the colours of Jamaica's flag. The judges were Ms. Jackie Estavez and Ms. Cindy Armbrister.

Track and Field

Mrs. Elva Davis took junior track athletes to the National Track and Field Championships in Grand Bahama on March 20-22. She has been training these young juniors for the past several months. Special permission was granted for them to compete because Abaco could not have an Inter School meet this year. Mrs. Davis feels the

Please see **School** Page 23



Each country represented at Abaco Central High School made a display, dressed in native costumes, performed native dances and offered food typical of that country. Shown here is Renardo "Prince" Davis proudly showing off Bahamian herbs, explaining their uses.

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More School News



Hope Town School recently held an "I Love My Island" clean-up campaign on their adopted area of mangroves below the school. The Hope Town Council asked people to adopt certain areas to keep clean and attractive. The school realizes the importance of mangroves to us as "nature's nursery" and conducts periodic clean ups of the area. You never know what you will find during the clean-up. Both photos by Candace Key



During very dry periods the endangered Abaco boa snake may seek water in people's rain water tanks. That is what this little fellow did and was found by Bonson and Lance Roberts. They took it to their Hope Town School where all 40 children stroked it gently and learned how helpful these non-poisonous snakes are to us. It is illegal to harm these snakes. The class then walked to the woods, thanked the snake for the valuable lesson he taught us and released him.

School

From Page 22

young juniors will do well at the Nationals.

Other News

Abaco Central High School is having a raffle. Drawing will be April 16. First prize is a bicycle donated by Road Runners Bicycle Store.

As reported by Silbert Mills of Radio Abaco there is a petition being circulated asking to have the Ministry of Education remove or transfer Mr. Benjamin Stubbs, Principal of Abaco Central High School. Apparently the petition has 12 signatures.

Not wanting to go into details the matter arose over discipline of a young man by Mr Stubbs. Suffice to say there are 500 students at Abaco Central and the staff of Abaco Central stands behind their leader and principal.

Correction

Grade levels of two students of the Agape Christian School were incorrectly given in the last *Abaconian*. Caralee Bethel is in the 12th grade and Dawson Malone is in the 11th grade. We regret the error.

Abaco Markets Plans to Reduce Debt

Abaco Markets continues to make changes to its organization to reduce its debt. Their stock has dropped in value and the company sales figures were down at the end of 2003. Much of this was caused by changes in their accounting system rather than a drop in sales. They expect to show modest growth during this year.

The company plans to raise \$3-5 million through a rights offering over the next few months. The company plans to sell off some of its businesses which have not been profitable and some real estate which will reduce their debt load. The site of the Golden Harvest Supermarket which burned down in 2001 is on the market. Other assets which they plan to sell include a building which was formerly their headquarters and perhaps a some of their recently acquired business in Nassau and Turks & Caicos including a Bellevue Business Depot store in Nassau and the United Bookshop in Nassau.

The company plans for Abaco are to develop Solomon's Abaco into a supermarket rather than a "club" store which would have offered large quantities at wholesale prices.

Mr. Reginald Sands is no longer on the company's board.

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Obituaries of Family and Friends

The funeral for **Louise Visa Munnings**, 83, originally from Fox Town, was held in Nassau on March 16. Interment was in Nassau.

She is survived by her husband Capt. Clement Fox, Sr.; sons Ronald, Jasper, Cecil, Clement Jr., Sidney and Benjamin Fox; daughters Doris Fox, Fredrica Clarke and Min. Margaret Bastian; grandchildren Everette, Bryan, Brandon, Jasmin, Alex, Kyle, Sidney, Dashanique, Dwayne, Renae, Dorean, Frederick, Jonella, Sheryll, Justin, Berniquea, Jerique, Ceron and Lachello; sisters Vyrona Archer, Florence McIntosh and Virginia Lightbourne; brothers George, Johnathan and Joseph Russell; aunts Ethlyn Smith, Leona Russell, Alice White, Olga Wells, Ruth Wells and Olla; uncle Erskin Wells; nieces and nephews; sons-in-law Pastor Ronald Bastian and Anthony Clarke; daughters-in-law Shereen, Jennifer and Debbie Fox; brothers-in-law Kidd McIntosh and Thomas Lightbourne; sisters-in-law Geneva Russell, Ella Russell, Reta Sands and Evelyn Russell; god-children Anthony, Eva, Resina, Roy, Eric, Christian and Susan; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral for **Angela Pandora Davis**, 47, of Murphy Town was held on March 15 at Bethany Gospel Chapel in Murphy Town. Bishop Livingstone Williams Jr. officiated. Interment was in the Murphy Town Public Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband Thomas Davis; daughters Jewel and Melissa Davis; adopted daughter Diane Colebrooke; sons Angelo and Achaz Davis; parents Alexander and Mable Saunders, Enos and Betty Laing; brothers Randy Curry, Larry and Brian

Saunders, Alvin, Ricky, Kenneth, Tony, Anthony, Keith, Lamonte and Kingsley Laing and Marlin Fullford; sisters Elizabeth Curry, Ethelyn Darville, Roselyn, Terry and Tamara Saunders, Sandra, Genieve, Laura, Taneil and Jacqueline Laing, Philencia Dames, Lisa Forbes, Nurse Jennifer Morrison, Monique Knowles and Jewel Fullford; father-in-law Bishop Raymond Davis; sisters-in-law Lillian and Vivian Laing, Beryl Curry, Nicole Saunders, Sheila Simms, Ettamae Williams, Gloria Mills, Maggie Rogers, Lucille and Rosemary Davis; brothers-in-law Van Darville, Carl, Clyde and Scott Davis, Bishop Livingstone Williams Jr., Leland Simms, George Mills, Koysgen Forbes, Clyde Dames, Olive Miller, Maria Wallace, Gertrude Dawkins; Emily Stuart, Doreen Barnett and Victoria Laing; aunts-in-law Mena Bootle, Hilma Curry, Inez Knowles, Leota McDonald and Elva Bootle; uncles Leland Dawkins and Benjamin Laing; uncles-in-law Rupert Bootle, Leonard Knowles and Douglas McDonald; nieces Shiquera Williams, Felicia Sawyer, Charlene Brice, Evante and Vanissa Darville, Larranique Saunders, Shantique Wright, Sherise Simms, Gina Clarke, Moesha Forbes, Lexie Dames, Terrell, Tia and Nettie Laing; grand niece Kiana Swain; nephews Alrick, Alvano and Ricky Laing Jr., Merrick, Kareem and Leslie Parker Jr., Randy Curry Jr., Andres, Nathan and Nicolas Darville, Ryan and Oneal Williams, Shawn, Shayne and Jermaine Simms, George Mills Jr., Ray, Talleas Dames and Alex Forbes; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral for **Teasha Ann Wilson**, 102, of Cooper's Town was held on Grand Bahama on March 15. Interment was on Grand Bahama.

She is survived by her sons Bertram Wilson and John Russell; daughter Ethlyn Hanna; daughters-in-law Gretchen Wilson and Louise Russell; son-in-law Kermit Hanna; grandchildren Rodney, Dwight, Marcel, Vincent, Kirk, Portia, Janet, Don and Tracy Wilson, Shelley Pinder, Earlin and Shirley Feaster, Myrtle Grant, Marcella, Donald, Ross and Vernell Hanna, Geraldine McIntosh, Almira Woodside, Lorena Russell, Emily Robillard, Althea Butler, John Jr., and Lamont Russell; grand-

children; great grandchildren great, great grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

Edith Joan Higgs, 74, of Marsh Harbour passed away on March 12. A service was held at the Marsh Harbour Cemetery on March 18. Mr. Vernon Malone officiated.

She is survived by her son Joseph Dupius and his wife Norma; daughter Marjorie Key and her husband Seth; granddaughters Alicia, Felicia and Jeanie; grandsons Tommy, Sean and Scott Malone and family; brothers James and Bobby Malone and wife Yvonne; and many other relatives and friends.

Support Citizens Against Crime



33rd Annual Abaco Anglers Fishing Tournament

April 10 - 17, 2003

Entry Fees	Adults \$85.00 Juniors \$40.00
Dates/Times	Thursday, April 10, 2003 thru Thursday, April 17, 2003 - 7 am to 6 pm
Weigh Stations	Lighthouse Marina, Hope Town ** Other locations may be added
Banquet	Abaco Inn, Elbow Cay Friday, April 18, 2003 Cocktails at 6 pm (cash bar) Dinner at 7 pm Awards Presentation Following Raffle: Donations from area merchants Music by DJ Frankie Trophies by Pete Johnston

Fun For The Entire Family!

Abaco Red Cross Is Active

By Isobel Sherman

Leader Attains Certification

Mr. Sarone Kennedy, Group Leader of the Bahamas Red Cross Society on Abaco, was recently certified as a Health, Safety and First Aid Instructor. To take the instructors' course Mr. Kennedy first had to pass the basic first aid course and have a valid CPR certificate and a valid AED (automatic external defibrillation) certificate. The instructors' course was given at the Red Cross Society in Freeport and was a three and a half day course.



Sarone Kennedy

As a result of this certification Mr. Kennedy will be offering three courses in the spring of 2003 to Red Cross members and the general public. These will be a first aid course, CPR course and AED course. These courses have a limit of six persons at a time and with a minimum of three persons to hold the course. They are given in three three-hour sessions. The venue will probably be the Marsh Harbour Government Clinic.

In addition, Mr. Kennedy will be offering renewal of CPR and AED certificates for persons whose certificates have expired within six months.

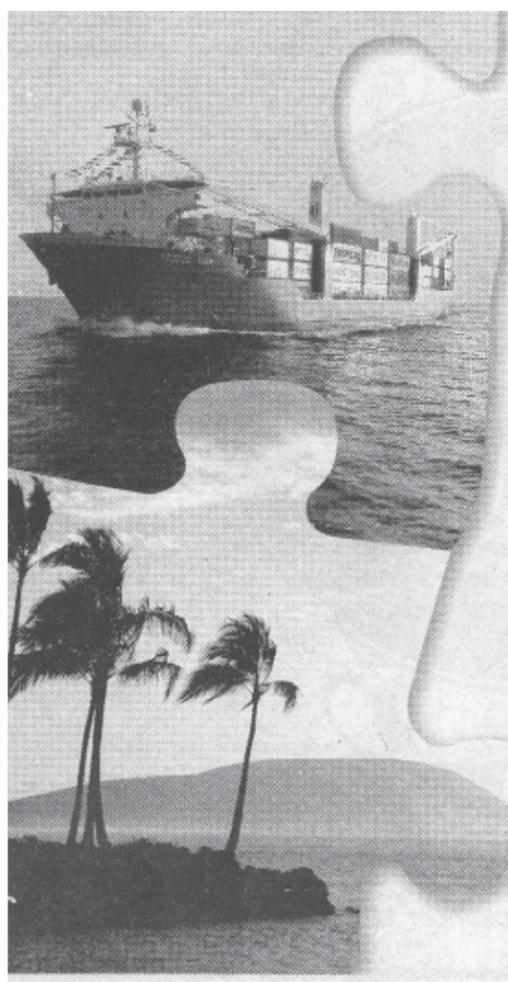
The Red Cross Has Several Functions

The Bahamas Red Cross members can do three things that most people may not be aware of. Upon the recommendation of the Social Service Department, the group can provide emergency food assistance, emergency medicine for prescriptions and emergency travel assistance for medical reasons.

The Central Abaco branch of the Red

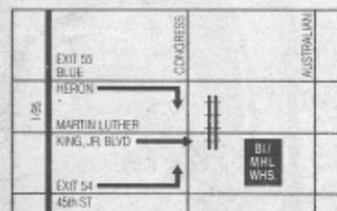
Cross is one of the largest in the Bahamas with 78 members. This group is planning several fund raisers. According to Chairman Kennedy the level of services the group can offer is dependent on the level of donations from private and corporate citizens and from fund raising. The group meets the first Thursday of the month at the Magistrates Court in Marsh Harbour from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Sandy Point has now formed a Red Cross branch and has chosen Mr. J. Pinder as Chairman.



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Ray Weatherford, Shelly Russell and John Bethell

Every Child Counts Had Busy Month

By Lyn Major

ECC Asks for old Bicycles

The Every Child Counts program, working with students who are not able to cope with normal classrooms, will be starting a program to teach its students to restore old bicycles. If you have any old bikes that are without too much rust and restorable and which you would like to donate for this purpose, please call ECC at 367-2505 or take the bikes to their building behind Solomon's Abaco in Marsh Harbour.

Workshops Study Problem Affecting Students

March was a busy month for the Every Child Counts program. There were two weekends of training. On March 7 - 9 Dr. Sharon Kossack, Ms. Jacqueline Sullivan and Ms. Marilyn Hayes held training seminars at St. Francis de Sales School and the ECC Learning Centre. Dr. Kossack continued her clinical educator training with teachers from St.

Francis, Abaco Central High and Forest Heights on Friday and Sunday. Ms. Sullivan, language pathologist, and Ms. Hayes, doctoral student in autism, held a workshop on Saturday on characteristics and interventions for autism and all the conditions of the autistic spectrum. They discussed new brain research and brain-based teaching strategies. It was well attended by teachers from St. Francis, Central Abaco Primary, Cooper's Town Primary, Cherokee All Age, Abaco Central High and ECC.

On March 22 a workshop was held on the characteristics and interventions for the developmentally disabled and mentally handicapped. It was conducted by Mr. Marsden Lawley, a vocational specialist. All workshops were given by professionals who donate their time. They were free of charge and were open to the public.

Solar Ovens Are Demonstrated

The Work-Study students of ECC built

solar ovens in their science classes in March. With the help of volunteer Monica Bianchi, the students worked in pairs to construct ovens made of cardboard and aluminum foil. As the children arrived at school one morning, they placed chicken, rice and corn dogs in black or metal pans, wrapped the pans in plastic bags and set them in the ovens in the sun. The younger ECC class helped prepare the food for cooking. At noon time lunch was

served and was delicious and moist. During the four hours the food "cooked," students monitored the temperature of the ovens and studied the science of solar cooking. Great fun and great food was enjoyed by all.

Students are busy making art projects for an art show and are preparing ceramic pieces for the ECC's Open House and art show to be held in May.



Students are busily making fish from clay which will be fired. They will then paint them to be sold as wall ornaments. The Every Child Counts program for special children raises its own funds through this and many other projects.



Students at the Every Child Counts program in Marsh Harbour proudly show off the solar ovens that they constructed. They cooked lunch in them during the morning hours and shared the food with all the children for lunch. They are being taught practical lessons that can equip them for a productive life. Photos by Monica Bianchi

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By
Dave Gale

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This also applies to Bahamian parents with children born in the United States.

The information should be sent by E-mail to acsn@state.gov or by fax to 242-356-7174

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at **242-322-1181 ext. 4406, ext. 4547 or ext. 4584**

Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 Noon

People in the News

Local Resident Competes

By Portia Jonsson

Among the National Bowling Team members participating in the Concecabol Championships in Panama on March 29-April 5 will be Mr. Sonith Lockhart of Dundas Town. A few months ago he traveled to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, to compete in the Bahamas Team Roll-Off. Fourteen men from The Bahamas competed to select the top six who would make up the National Bowling Team. The winner of this competition was Sonith Lockhart. He also set a record as being the first bowler to bowl over 5,000 plus pins in 24 games roll-off in six-game blocks. Total rolled was 5,024 pins which gave him a 209.33 average.

Sonith has been bowling for 19 years, representing The Bahamas all over the world including the United Arab Emirates, United States, Portugal and Argentina. A lady, Michelle Sands, got him started in bowling. He is presently the Bahamas National Bowling Champion and has held this title since 1999. In addition, he is a USA Certi-

fied Bronze Level Bowling Instructor. He plans to teach bowling at the brand new 24-lane bowling center in Grand Bahama.

Sonith will also participate in the World Ten Pin Bowling Association competition scheduled for September 6-21 in Malaysia and the World Cup on September 27-October 4 in Honduras. He has been doing physical training for these competitions since last December under the instruction of Mr. Churton Toote, who is described by Sonith as a fierce trainer. Two hours of running and walking begins at 5 a.m. in addition to gym training, aerobics and weight lifting. Sonith says as with any sporting event in the world 75 percent of preparation is gym work and the remaining 25 percent is mental preparation. He says he is 100 percent prepared and is definitely bringing back the gold medal.

As the Bahamas Federation of Amateur Bowlers is a non-profit organization, team members are required to furnish funds for their own expenses. Sonith is therefore seeking financial support to help defray some of

his expenses. Any assistance rendered to enable him to represent The Bahamas at these events will be greatly appreciated. For more information please call 367-3273. Good luck, Sonith!

Employee Is Honored



Imperial Life Financial recognizes employee contributions and honors their achievement. It honored Mrs. Oeisha Roberts of the Marsh Harbour office as the Most Valuable

Employee of 2002 at an appreciation luncheon held in Nassau during February. She received this honor by providing ultimate customer service to their clients, by maintaining consistent performance and by going beyond the call of duty.

Mrs. Roberts joined the Northern Branch of Imperial Life Financial Service Team in 2001 as a Customer Service Representative.

Also honored was Mr. Dashwell Flowers, who was named Director of the Northern Region.

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<p>Area Code 242 unless listed otherwise</p> <p>Casuarina Point</p> <p>Different of Abaco 8 rm 20 cott 366-2150</p> <p>Cherokee</p> <p>Lee Pinder 3 hse + 366-2053</p> <p>Grand Cay</p> <p>Rosie's Place 352-5458</p> <p>Green Turtle Cay</p> <p>Bank Apartments 3 apts 365-4105 Bluff House 8 rm 20 cott 365-4200 Chris Plummer 3 hse 365-4648 Coco Bay Cottages 4 cott 365-5464 Green Turtle Club 34 rm 365-4271 Island Properties 9 hse + 365-4465 New Plymouth Inn 9 rm 365-4161 Ocean Blue Properties 13 + 365-4234 Roberts Cottages 3 cott 365-4105</p> <p>Guana Cay</p> <p>Dolphin Bch Resort 4 rm 10 cott.365-5137 Coco Paradise 8 cott 365-5197 Donna Sands 12 hse + 365-5195 Guana Seaside 8 rm 7 cott 365-5106 Harbour View Haven 365-5028 Ria-Mar Rentals 5 + 365-6241 Sea Shore Villas 365-5028</p> <p>Hope Town</p> <p>Abaco Inn 22 rm 366-0133 Club Soleil 6 rm 1 cott 366-0003 Elbow Cay Prop 43 hse + 366-0035 Hope T Harb Lodge 22 rm 366 0095 Hope T Hideaways 50 hse + 366-0224 Hope T Villas 3 hse + 366-0030 Island Colours + 366-0290 Lighthouse Rentals 4 cott 366-0154 Sea Gull Cottages 3 hse + 366--266 Sea Spray Resort 5 villas 366-0065 Tanny Key 30 hse + 366-0053 Turtle Hill 4 villas 366-0557</p> <p>Lubbers Quarters</p> <p>Sea Level Cottages 4 hue 366-3121</p> <p>Man-O-War</p> <p>Island Home Rentals 8 hse+ 365-6048 Ria-mar Rentals 9 + 365-6241 Schooner's Landing 5 condos 365-6072</p>	<p>Marsh Harbour area</p> <p>Abaco Beach Resort 82 rms 367-2158 Abaco Real Estate 6 hse + 367-2719 Abaco Towns 32 effc 367-2227 Alesia's 3 rms 367-4460 Ambassador Inn 6 rms 367-2022 Bustick Bight Resort 8 rms 367-3980 Conch Inn 9 rms 367-4000 D's Guest House 6 rms 367-3980 Great Abaco Club 12 hse + 367-4151 Island Breezes Motel 8 rms 367-3776 Lofty Fig Villas 6 eff 367-2681 Pelican Beach Villas 6 cott 367-3600 Sunset Point Resort 8 rm 367-5333</p> <p>Moore's Island</p> <p>Moore's Is Bonefish Camp 8 rm 366-6334</p> <p>Sandy Point</p> <p>Oeisha's Resort 366-4139 Pete & Gay's Resort 14 rm 366-4119 Rickmon's Bonefishing 10 rm 366-4477</p> <p>Spanish Cay</p> <p>Spanish Cay Resort 18 rm 6 hse 365-0083</p> <p>Treasure Cay</p> <p>Bahama Beach Club 365-8500 Banyan Beach Resort 21 rm 365-8111 Island Dreams 45 hse + 365-8507 Treasure Cay Resort 95 rms 365-8801</p> <p>Walker's Cay</p> <p>Walker's Cay Resort 353-1252</p> <p>Wood Cay</p> <p>Tangelo Hotel 19 rm 3 villas 365-2222</p> <p>General for Abaco</p> <p>Listings for the entire island Abaco Vacations + 800-633-9197 Bahamas Vacations + 800-462-2426 Abaco Bound + 242-367-5576</p> <p>Web Sites</p> <p>with general Abaco information www.abacoinet.com www.abacoinfo.com www.abacos.com www.go-abacos.com www.oii.net</p>
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Meredith

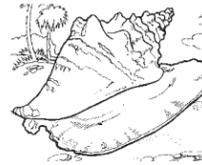
Adrianna

**The Man-O-War School
would like to thank the
many individuals and
businesses who
donated goods, cash,
or their time and
labour to make this
year's Flea Market a
great success.**

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Kenson *Aaron* *Charles*
Hannah *Kyle* *Faith* *Mrs James*
Kevin *Mrs James* *Ms Joan*
Cathy *Michael* *Shirley*

Visitors' Guide



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unless listed

Restaurants • Services • Transportation

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

Emergency Services

Police (Marsh Harbour) 367-2560
 Fire - Marsh Harb. Volunteer Fire Dept. 367-2000
 Fire - Hope Town Volunteer Fire Dept. VHF Ch 16
 Ambulance - Trauma One - Marsh Harbour 367-2911
 Fire - Dundas Town Volunteer 367-2935 or 4935
 Man-O-War Fire & Rescue 365-6911
 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 or Murphy Town to Ammons Dr \$12 + \$3
 Bristol Cellers thru A. Beach Hotel or Gov't dock thru
 Dundas Town \$10 + \$3
 Dove Plaza, Stop Light or Sawyer's Market \$10 + \$2
 Gov't Clinic thru Western Auto \$ 6 + \$2
 Gov. freight dock through Dundas Town \$10 + \$3
 Murphy Town to Shell Sta \$14 + \$4
 Pelican Shores to Frankie Russel house \$14 + \$4
 Eastern Shores to Peas & Rice house \$14 + \$4
 Beyond Russell house or Peas & Rice house \$16 + \$5
 Great Cistern \$20 + \$5
 Spring City \$15 + \$5
 Snake Cay \$35 + \$10
 Treasure Cay \$60 + \$ 10
 Casuarina Point \$60 + \$10
 Treasure Cay Airport or Bah Palm Shores \$70 + \$ 10
 Little Harbour or Cherokee \$80 + \$10
 Crossing Rocks \$100 + \$10
 Sandy Point \$135 + \$10

• **Between Marsh Harbour Ferry and:**
 Ab Beach Hotel thru Wally's & Eastern Shore \$ 2 each
 Jib Room \$ 3 each
 Golden Harvest \$5 + \$3
 Stop Light, Dove Plaza, Gov't dock \$ 6 + \$3
 Government Freight Dock \$ 7 + \$3
 Gov.Clinic, W. Auto or Nat. Insurance \$ 9 + \$3
 Mother Merle restaurant \$10 + \$3
 Waiting time \$20 per hour, \$10 per half hour
 Children under three - free • Uncaged pets - as people
 Luggage \$.50 each over four, Surf boards \$3.00 ea.

• **Between Northern Abaco Airport and:**
 • Treasure Cay, Bahamas Star, or Moxie \$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
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 Continental Connection - Miami
 Ft. Laud and W Palm Bch 367-3415
 Golden Airlines - Ft. Lauderdale 954-359-8020
 Island Express - Ft. Lauderdale 367-3597
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 Government Clinic Marsh Harbour 367-2510
 Corbett Clinic Treasure Cay 365-8288
 Government Clinic Cooper's Town 365-0300
 Government Clinic Green Turtle Cay 365-4028
 Government Clinic Hope Town 366-0108
 Government Clinic Sandy Point 366-4010
 Government Clinic Fox Town

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 10:30 1:30 pm 3:30 5:30 (min \$40)

Guana & Scotland Cay to Marsh Harbour 30 minute trip
 8 am 11:30 2:30 pm 4:45pm

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Green Turtle Cay to Treasure Cay Airport • Daily
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Treasure Cay Airport to Green Turtle Cay • Daily
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*One way adult fare \$7 (Children \$3) • Round trip \$11
 Additional to some destinations • Charter any time
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Abaco Adventures

Treasure Cay to Guana Cay - Wed & Sat 10 am, return 5 pm \$25
Treasure Cay to Guana Cay - Sun 11, 12:30, 4, return 11:45, 3 & 5
Treasure C. to Man-O-War & Hope T - Thur 10 am, return 3:30 \$35
Charters available - Phone 365-8749 VHF Channel 16

Pinder's Ferry Service

Connects Abaco & Grand Bahama - Approximately 1 hour trip
Crown Haven to McLean's Town - Daily 7:00 am & 2:30 pm
McLean's Town to Crown Haven - Daily 8:30 am & 4:30 pm
 Fare \$40 one way • \$80 round trip • Children \$20 one way • \$40 round trip
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Abaco Marinas

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 Walker's Cay Marina 75 F 353-1252

Green Turtle Cay
 Bluff House 45 F 365-4200
 Green Turtle Club 32 F 365-4271
 Black Sound Marina . 15 365-4531
 Other Shore Club 12 F 365-4195
 Abaco Yacht Service 10 F 365-4033

Treasure Cay
 Treasure Cay Marina 150 F 365-8250

Man-O-War
 Man-O-War Marina ... 26 F 365-6008

Marsh Harbour
 Boat Harbour Marina 183 F 367-2736
 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 Customs at
 Walker's Cay, Spanish Cay, Green Turtle Cay,
 Treasure Cay or Marsh Harbour

Dive Shops

Marsh Harbour
 Dive Abaco 367-2787
 Abaco Beach Dive Center 367-4646

Hope Town
 Dave's Dive Shop 366-0029
 Froggies 366-0431

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
Guana Cay Dive Shop 365-5178
Man-O-War Dive Shop 365-6013

Rentals

Bikes & Scooters • Boats • Cars & Carts

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 A & P Car Rentals 367-2655
 Blue Wave Boat Rentals 367-3910
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 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
 Ria-mar Golf Cart Rentals 365-6241
 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
 Cas's Carts 365-8771
 Claridge's Cart Rentals 365-8248
 Cornish Car Rentals 365-8623
 JIC Boat Rentals 365-8465
 Rich's Boat Rentals 365-8582
 Triple J Car Rentals 365-8761
 Abaco Adventures - Kayaks 365-8749



Everyone reads The Abaconian.

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

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

Marsh Harbour
 Buddy Pinder 366-2163
 Jay Sawyer 367-3941
 Justin Sands 367-3526
 Terrance Davis 367-4464
 Danny Sawyer 367-3577

Green Turtle Cay
 Ronnie Sawyer 365-4070
 Jeff Survanice 365-4040
 Ricky Sawyer 365-4261

Man-O-War
 David Albury 365-6059

Restaurant Guide

Prices \$ Low, \$\$ Moderate, \$\$\$ Upper
 (Based on dinner entree range)

‡ Provides ride from town
 + Picnic tables & restroom only

Marsh Harbour
 Anglers \$\$\$ 367-2158
 Backstreet Cafe 367-2782
 C&G Restaurant \$ 367-3227
 Conch Crawl \$ 367-4444
 Golden Grouper \$ 367-2301
 Henry's Jerk Center \$ 367-5959
 Hummingbird \$\$ 367-2922
 Jamie's Place 367-2880
 Jib Room \$ 367-2700
 Kentucky Fried Chicken (lunch) 367-2615
 Mangoes \$\$\$ 367-2366
 Mavis Country Kitchen \$ 367-2002
 Pop's Place \$ + 367-3796
 Sapodilly's \$\$\$ 367-3498
 Sea Shells \$ 367-4460
 Snack Shack \$ + 367-4005
 Snappas \$ 367-2278
 Subway 367-2798
 Wallys \$\$\$ 367-2074

Dundas Town
 Ambassador Inn \$ 367-2022
 Mackerals 367-5932

Murphy Town
 Lazy Parrot - SC Bootle Hwy 367-5331

Hope Town
 Abaco Inn \$\$\$ 366-0133
 Boat House \$\$ 366-0065
 Cap'n Jacks \$ 366-0247
 Carlton's Island Grill \$\$ 366-0253
 Harbour's Edge \$\$ 366-0087
 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
 Orchid Bay 365-6175

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
 Jolly Roger Bistro \$ 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
 Sundowners 365-4060
 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
 Rickmon Bonefish Lodge 366-4477



Dundas Town Committee 13 March 03

This was Dundas Town's first meeting since November which had a quorum. Monthly meetings were attempted in December and January but a quorum was not present. The February meeting had a quorum but the chairman adjourned the meeting as the Administrator added "budget" to the agenda without the chairman's approval.

Before starting this meeting, Chairman Cay Mills thanked two of his supporters, Deputy Chairman Faron Newbold and Committee member Carl Archer for supporting him in his "hour of bereavement." This was in response to the November meeting when the Committee gave him a vote of no confidence vote asking for his resignation.

On the onset of this March 13 meeting, minutes from December 10 were read. Administrator Williams noted that these were not minutes as that was not an official meeting but nevertheless it was a good recording of the comments made then. The December meeting was attended by the public and without a quorum was conducted on the format of an open town meeting.

The minutes of the November 19 meeting were then read as that was the last official meeting. It was during that meeting that the report on the expenses made to Ocean View Park were presented which indicated a lack of communication between the Chairman and the Committee members.

Following that report in November a vote of no confidence in the Chairman was taken and accepted by a majority of the Committee. At that time, the Chairman Mills adjourned the meeting and has been unable to muster a quorum between

Local Government at Work

November 19 and March 13.

In response to matters arising from the minutes, the Administrator presented a letter received two days earlier from the Attorney General's office confirming that a local government committee or council has the authority to elect their chairman or council representative and also the authority to remove that person either as chairman or council delegate. The Attorney General's letter further stated that if the chairman refuses to resign, the Minister has the authority to dissolve the committee.

After reading the letter and presenting a copy to Mr. Mills, the Administrator asked for Mr. Mills resignation.

Mr. Mills did not accept this suggestion.

The Administrator noted that the Deputy Chairman was present and could continue with the meeting.

Mr. Mills adjourned the meeting with a statement that the Administrator would hear from his attorney. None of the items on the agenda was brought up for discussion when the meeting was abruptly adjourned.

Central Abaco Council 18 March 03

Chief Councillor Mike Malone announced the resignation of Mr. Colyn Rees from the Licensing Board. No reason was given but it is believed it is due to frustrations over the lack of interest by Board members and the inability to form a quorum and hold meetings.

Members for various boards were to be selected but this was deferred when several Councillors complained that they were unaware of this request and were not prepared with suitable nominees. Many Boards are either non-functional or marginal in their ability to form a quorum and meet.

Administrator Williams asked Councillors to select members who had both an in-

terest in serving as well as enough time to render their services. He pointed out that many persons express an interest but do not have the time to attend meetings or perform the other required duties of board members.

A letter from Nassau required that local government budget submissions do not exceed last year's budget. Councillors felt that a realistic budget should be submitted so Nassau knows local requirements even though they are not expecting any more funds than last year.

Hotel Licensing 19 March 2003

Only three Board members came which did not constitute a quorum. The meeting was not held.

Hope Town Council 20 March 2003

Mr. Walter Sweeting, Chief Councillor, brought members up to date on budget shortfalls and necessary town maintenance items.

It was suggested that Hope Town and Guana ask their Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) to assume a heavier burden with town requirements including creative ways to finance these needs. Man-O-War has a town maintenance committee which raises money independently of local government although they work in conjunction with local government.

One of the solutions to the money shortage in Man-O-War has been alleviated by the Town Maintenance Committee asking for donations from rental houses to assist with garbage collection. Private residences are provided with garbage collection but commercial establishments are not and must

make their own provisions for trash removal.

For purposes of garbage collection, rental houses are considered in Man-O-War to be commercial and therefore able to assist with the trash collection and other expenses.

Mr. Sweeting suggested that Hope Town had the potential to raise \$60,000 to \$80,000 annually by this method for town projects.

The Council office still needs a copier to replace the one destroyed in a power surge when the neutral wire to the meter opened giving everything in the building a 220-volt surge.

Councillors agreed to hire a plumber to determine the problem with the public toilets in Hope Town. The men's side works but overflows in the women's side. Repair costs will not be known until the problem is identified.

The public dock in Guana Cay is badly in need of repairs. It is apparently safe for light traffic but the stringers and cross bracing are rotten or broken. Temporary alternate landing sites for freight were discussed until repairs can be made. A Works engineer estimated that repairs may be \$60,000. The last repairs were in 1997.

Mr. Ross Thompson, Councillor from Hope Town, proposed that Hope Town traffic be severely restricted. He suggested that the roads be closed to all traffic as of April 30, 2003, by way of public notice. As of May 1, 2003, he wants only emergency and essential vehicles allowed in the town proper with some type of coded gate to give access

Please see **Local Govt.** Page 29

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On Green Turtle Cay:
The beach: • 1.46 acres on Atlantic Ocean. 135' on beach. \$480,000
 • Two one-third acre lots on Bight O Bay beach. 90' frontage. Close to town and public dock.
 • Fourteen lots across from Bight O Bay Beach. Water front on Inner White Sound. 1/2 acre and up. Starting at \$78,650
Quiet waterfront: 1.35 acres on Black Sound, with dock, close to beach. \$650,000
A jewel of a home with pool set high on a bluff overlooking Sea of Abaco. One acre of property stunningly landscaped with wooden walkways and decks. Six buildings set out in "pod" arrangement. 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 bath. Wicker and rattan furniture throughout including pieces by Tommy Bahama. \$2.8 million
Ocean Beach: 1/2 acre lot on high ridge with gorgeous ocean view. Many fruit trees. Five minute walk to beach. Reef close enough to swim to. \$102,000
White Sound: Four inland lots within 5 minute walk of waterfront and public dock. \$47,200 each
 • 1/2 acre lots within 5 minute walk of public dock, water front and Green Turtle Club. \$60,000-\$70,000 each
 3/5 acre inland lot in **SOLD** near Coco Bay. \$42,000
Green Turtle Estates: 1/2 acre only 125 feet from ocean beach. Firm \$183,000
 • 1/4 acre inland lot **SOLD** minute walk of beach. \$42,000
Coco Bay: 1/3 acre **OFF THE MARKET** about 3 min walk to beach. \$59,000
 • 2.68 acres with **UNDER CONTRACT** Coco Bay. \$650,000
 • 1/2 acre on ridge orvd **SOLD** water. \$59,000
Bluff Harbour: Furnished private home. Three bedrooms, three baths plus caretaker cottage. 2000' water front. Secluded. One acre. Boat ramp and dock site. Needs repair.
 • 2 lots with 140' w **SOLD** \$430,000

North End: NEW! Stunning furnished hilltop, 3 bedroom, 2 bath hom with fireplace, perched 35 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. Vaulted ceilings. 125' on ocean. Panoramic views of ocean through French doors, 3000 sq. ft. under roof plus 1,000 sq. ft. of screened-in porch. W/D, A/C in master bedroom lus ceiling fans throughout. One acre. \$1.4 million gross
Black Sound: 2 **SOLD** bath furnished house. One acre. Water front. 10' dock with amenities. \$500,000
 • **NEW!** Secluded two-acre parcel with house stretching from Bluff Harbour to the Sea of Abaco. Over 1000 feet of water front. Stunning views. Two bedrooms / 2 baths. New protected dock on Bluff Harbour. Gazebo on Sea of Abaco. 30,000 gallon cistern. Stand-by generator. Many mature trees. Garage. \$3,000,000
Inner White Sound: Two bedroom suites; 3 bath; Kit/liv/dining fully furnished villa on water. In pristine condition. Good rental income. \$275,000
 • **Four unit income producing** 2 bed 1 bath apartment complex. Fully furnished. Water views. Dock. Laundry. Two years old \$700,000 plus closing
 • **Stunning new home.** Interior still under construction. All materials on site to complete. Truck. 2 bed 2 bath. A/C throughout. Views of ocean, Guana Cay and Sea of Abaco. \$775,500 ONO
New Plymouth: New - Two story building near Long Dock overlooking water in town of New Plymouth. Furnished. 3 bedrooms & 2 baths. Prime location \$275,000 plus 7% to close
On Munjack Cay:
10 acres. Dock. 320' on Sea of Abaco. Good elevation. \$300,000
One-quarter acre on beach, 125' frontage. \$183,000

On Little Ambrigris Cay:
10 acres. Dock material on site. Beautiful beach. High hill. \$515,000 gross

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS
2002

IN THE SUPREME COURT

No. 23

Equity Side

IN THE MATTER OF the Quieting Titles Act, 1959

AND

IN THE MATTER OF ALL THAT piece parcel or lot of land being Lot Number One Hundred and Fourteen (114) in the Settlement of Cherokee Sound on the Island of Abaco one of the Islands in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

AND

IN THE MATTER OF the Petition of Lewis E. Pinder

NOTICE

The Petitioner in this matter claims to be the owner in fee simple of the said piece, parcel or lot of land and has made application to the Supreme Court of the Bahamas under Section Three (3) of the Quieting Titles Act, 1959 to have his title to the said land investigated and the nature and extent thereof determined and declared in a Certificate of Title to be granted by the Court in accordance with the provisions of the said Act.

Copies of the filed plan may be inspected during normal working hours at:-

1. The Registry of the Supreme Court, BITCO Building, East Street in the City of Nassau, Bahamas;
2. The Chambers of L. C. Hull & Co., Don MacKay Boulevard, Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas;
3. The Office of the Senior Administrator for Abaco in Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas; and
4. The office of the Assistant Administrator for South Abaco in Sandy Point, Abaco, Bahamas.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any person having dower or right to dower or an adverse claim or a claim not recognized in the Petition shall within Thirty (30) days from the publication of the Notice inclusive of the day of such publication file Notice in the Supreme Court in the City of Nassau in the Island of New Providence aforesaid and serve on the Petitioner or the undersigned a statement of his or her claim in the prescribed form verified by an Affidavit to be filed therewith. The failure of any such person to file and serve a statement of his or her claim within the time fixed by the Notice aforesaid shall operate as a bar to such claim

DATED this 14th day of March A.D., 2003

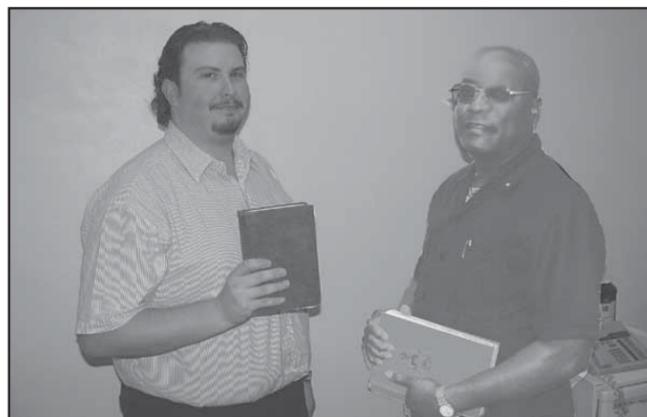
L. C. HULL & CO.,
Don MacKay Boulevard
Marsh Harbour, Abaco
Bahamas
Attorneys for the Petitioners



Local Government

Local Govt. From Page 28

to authorized vehicles. This would include the garbage truck, restaurants, tourist rental pick-ups, water delivery truck and food stores which use their vehicles for their business. He felt the town was losing its atmosphere, appeal and charm which would



Mr. Mitchell Albury, a Committee member of the Marsh Harbour Town Committee, was sworn as a Councillor at the Council meeting on March 18. He is taking the place of Mr. Nicholas Albury, who died in an airplane crash in January.

lead to economic erosion if not curtailed soon.

Councillors agreed and will investigate various gates or methods to limit access. One method might be an automated swing gate using a card reader as used in parking lots. Authorized persons would be issued a card to activate the gate.

Mr. Thompson asked that the police send an officer regularly to come on the first ferry and leave on the last ferry. He wanted a police presence for traffic and vehicle

awareness and other infractions committed regularly on the island. Councillors agreed with the concept giving experiences from Guana and Man-O-War Cay in support. A letter will be written to the Police Department to this effect.

He further suggested that the freight companies be asked to deliver freight closer to its final destination to avoid unnecessary truck traffic in town. He felt that all freight for the North

End could be delivered to the public dock there. This was accepted and the freight boats and contractors will be asked to cooperate. This will relieve congestion on the two government docks in Hope Town harbour.

Discussions will be held concerning the size and number of vehicles allowed on Elbow Cay. Mr. Thompson would like to see a moratorium on any more vehicles allowed on Elbow Cay. He felt that workmen can be dropped off at their respective docks and walk, if necessary. Administrator Williams asked that Council draw up regulations related to traffic, vehicle size and number for review, then to be submitted to Nassau for further review and acceptance. Bimini and Harbour Island have confronted similar problems with traffic and have imposed rules on size and number allowed.

South From Page 4

and Run in Sandy Point. The run will be either 5 K or 2.5 K and will start at 10:30 a.m. There will be several age groups and each finisher will receive a BMMS T shirt, refreshments and a completion certificate. There will be first, second and third prizes in each age group and for the funniest costume for a runner and a walker and random drawings for prizes.

The Sandy Point PTA will be selling food and drink until 5 p.m. as well as supervising music and games during the day. The BMMS Research Center will host an open house with video games and demonstrations throughout the day.

Proceeds will benefit the Bahamas Marine Mammal Survey. Entry fee is \$5 for children 12 and under and \$10 for adults and children over the age of 12.

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- Outboard Motor Boring & Resleeving
- Cylinder Head Resurfacing
- Shaft, Rudder, Strut Fabrication & Repair

On the waterfront at the end of Key Club Rd.
Marsh Harbour - Phones: 367-4011 or 367-4879 Fax: 367-4018

U.S. Embassy Provides Taxpayer Assistance

A representative from the United States Internal Revenue Service will visit Nassau to provide U.S. Federal Taxpayer Assistance at the following location and time:

AMERICAN EMBASSY
APRIL 7 - 10, 2003
9 a.m. - Noon
2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Appointments can be made by contacting the U.S. Embassy at telephone 242-322-1181, ext. 4584. Please bring all completed forms and documents with you at time of interview.

Abaco Info

Cruisers Net
VHF Ch. 68 at 8:15 a.m.
Royal Marsh Harbour Yacht Club
VHF Ch. 78 at 8 a.m.

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☆ Cabbage Cove - 1/3 Acre - Sea of Abaco Beach-front Building Sites - Mid-way between Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay.....	# AB5142 -	\$ 118,000.
☆ Elbow Cay - "Marnie's Creek" - 1/2 acre hillside building sites, a private dock slip for each parcel - Fabulous Sea of Abaco views -	# AB5114 - from:	\$ 230,000.
☆ Elbow Cay - "Tahiti North" - 2.5 acre building site - north of and adjoining Dorro's Cove - 91' of Sea of Abaco frontage - 1,200' depth.....	# AB5065 -	\$ 1,500,000.
☆ Green Turtle Cay - Coco Bay Area - 1 Acre - 140' x 300' - Ocean Beach-front Building Site - super views.....	# AB5113 -	\$ 275,000.
☆ Green Turtle Cay - "Coco Sound" - 28 prime residential building sites - between Coco Bay and White Sound from 1/4 - 1/2 acre.....	# AB5090 - from:	\$ 59,000.
☆ Green Turtle Cay -104' x 80' Building site.....	# 3619 -	\$ 86,000.
☆ Green Turtle Cay - Splendid hill-top one acre building site. Great elevation, Wonderful White Sound and Sea of Abaco views.....	# AB5094 -	\$ 485,000.
☆ Marsh Harbour - Great Abaco Club - Two Adjoining Hill-top lots - Each with private boat slips -	# AB5148 -	\$ 295,000.
Available separately or together.....	# AB5149 -	\$ 295,000.
☆ Sand Banks Creek - One Acre plus - Wooded lots with over 90' of water frontage on Bay - 3 miles south of Treasure Cay Limited Number Available.....	# AB5069 - from:	\$ 63,700.
☆ South Abaco - Old Kerr's - 24.69 acres - 327 ft. magnificent sandy beach-front. 1/2 hour from Marsh Harbour. Suitable for construction of cottages or small resort.....	# AB5104 -	\$ 222,000.
☆ Tilloo Cay - "Thompson Tract" - 7 acres. - sea-to-sea, good elevation - for great Sea of Abaco and Ocean Views - can be divided into 2 3.5 acre parcels.....	# AB5113 -	\$ 965,000.

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Abaco District Managing Broker
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Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas
Tel: (242) 367-4608 - Fax: (242) 367-5452
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Christopher Plummer
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e-mail: bpepperinn@abacoinet.com

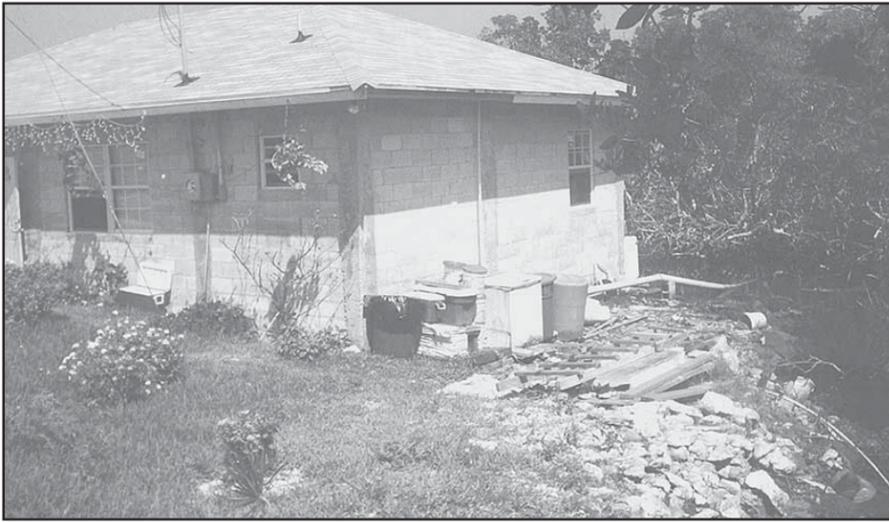
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Roscoe Thompson, III
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03/15/03

Grand Cay Has Problems, Too



Little Grand Cay, the cay on which the Grand Cay settlement is located, has very little buildable space left for the town to expand. The nearby larger cays, Big Grand Cay and Grand Cay are owned by the company that owns Walkers Cay severely limiting the community of Grand Cay. This home was recently built on the edge of a mangrove swamp. Note that the septic pipe disposal line flows directly into the mangroves.



Another house on Grand Cay is very primitive. Again, it was built right on the edge of the mangroves.

Cedar Harbour Plans Home Coming

By Portia Jonsson

Cedar Harbour residents are busy preparing for their 2nd Annual Homecoming Festival scheduled for April 18th-21st. The opening ceremony will take place on April 18th together with the Little Miss Cedar Harbour Pageant and Talent Show at the Cedar Harbour Community Park. A cultural show featuring the Royal Bahamas Police Force Pop Band will be held on Saturday night. A church service beginning 11 a.m. is scheduled for Sunday morning at Ebenezer Baptist Church to be followed by an evening gospel concert. The festival will

culminate with a beach picnic planned for Easter Monday. In addition, there will be the usual basketball and volleyball games, lots of food and drink, music, bouncy castle and face painting for the kids and lots more. The public is invited to come out and join in the festivities and make this homecoming one to remember for a long time.

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Green Turtle Cay Office

Chris Farrington - Agent
Office# (242) 365-4695
Fax# (242) 365-4697
Email: chris.f@batelnet.bs



Casaurina Point #1392 - BONEFISHERMAN'S HEAVEN - Best flats 5 minutes away from this 3/1 home on large landscaped lot with boat house, seawalled and dock. Major reduction - \$299,000



Great Guana Cay #1221 - MOTIVATED SELLER - Vacant property running 100' on this gorgeous beach by 700'. Perfect for building your dream island home. - #349,000
#1222 - 2/1 house on this magnificent beach. Gazebo, and breathtaking views make this a perfect vacation home. Great for rentals! - \$549,000



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#0306 - 3/2 home with ocean views and only minutes away from a beach. Complete with generator, cistern, tool room and lots of storage. Lovely landscaped grounds. - \$375,000

New! Two affordable lots - Coco Bay Area, 2 minutes to beach - \$30,000 each

New! Nice Neighbourhood-building lot, walking distance to the beach, park and public dock - \$35,000

Beachfront - 100' frontage by 800' + deep located on Long Bay Beach. - \$365,000

Waterfront Home - 4/4 home with swimming pool and guest cottage. Beautiful views, mature landscaped grounds. Offered at \$710,000

Black Sound - Harbour side lots near settlement. 1 acre plus 100' on the water. - \$305,000

Guana Cay - Vacant lot running 70' on a lovely beach. \$240,000

Marsh Harbour - Two, 2/1 apartments with 1/1 efficiency in the rear. Conveniently located in Cove Estates. - \$228,000

NEW! Yellowwood - Vacant lot, 20,850 sq. ft. in growing area. Not many lots still available. Don't miss this opportunity. Call today!

Rental! Unit available in Regattas of Abaco! Contact us for further information.

Bahama Palm Shores - Vacant Property starting at \$15,000.

Man-O-War - 2/1 cottage in town close walking distance to beaches and conveniences. Perfect for a vacation cottage. - \$159,000

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Abaco Suffers First Traffic Fatality of 2003



Godfrey Fox lost his life in the early morning hours of March 21, 2003. This was the first traffic fatality for Abaco this year. He was in his Toyota Corolla traveling west on Forest Drive when his car left the road, snapped a telephone pole, ripped out a chain-link fence, then landed upside down with both rear wheels torn off. His body was found a few feet to the side of the car. It was speculated that Mr. Fox remained in the car until it stopped, then crawled out only to succumb to his injuries. Speed would appear to be a factor considering to the damage evident to the car, fencing and telephone pole. The accident occurred just west of the curve to the entrance to Central Pines Estates on Forest Drive.

Treasure Cay Held Yard Sale



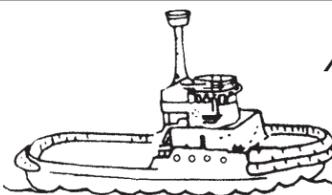
On March 8 Treasure Cay held its annual yard sale. Anyone can participate and this year there were many who took advantage to clean out their houses. It is primarily a fund raising event for the Treasure Cay Library. All proceeds of donated items benefit the library. Along with donated items, they have a major book sale. Treasure Cay has the best library on Abaco but it requires much effort and work to maintain it.

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- ★ Man-O-War Cay - "Joe's Beach Cottage" - 2,296 sq.ft home. 1 bedroom, 1 bath 2nd floor living space. 2 bedroom, 1 Bath 1st. floor apartment. Good income producer - Minute from ocean beach. Furnished - # AB61 - \$ 410,000
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- ★ Marsh Harbour - Great Abaco Club - "Casa Linda" - 3 bedrooms - 2 baths - 1,487 sq.ft. Home - Attached Garage - Private Dock - Fully Furnished..... # AB49 - \$ 585,000
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Environmental Health Benefits Everyone

By Portia Jonsson

In 1999 Ms. Bertha McPhee was sent to Abaco to set up and head the Department of Environmental Health. The Department faced numerous challenges implementing guidelines, rules and regulations because of the way environmental issues had been carried out for many, many years before on Abaco. Over the years improvements and changes have been made by the Department but there is still a lot of work to be done by the community.

I met with Ms. McPhee at her office on March 4th to discuss the role of the Department of Environmental Health and the problems it faces in Abaco.

Before beginning our discussion, Ms. McPhee wanted to respond to a letter written to the editor of *The Abaconian* by A Concerned Citizen in the March 1st, 2003 issue with reference to the Department of Environmental Health's responsibility for removing abandoned cars. Ms. McPhee stated that the Environmental Health Department is not responsible for the removal of abandoned or derelict vehicles.

The Derelict Motor Vehicle Disposal Act gives the director the power to serve notice on the derelict vehicle for removal within 14 days. During the 14-day period the Department tries to locate the owner of the derelict vehicle. If the owner is not located within that time, then the vehicle is impounded and taken to an area where it is kept for an additional 21 days. If nobody claims the vehicle after this period, then it is disposed of. In the event the owner is found, then the government has the right to charge the owner for expenses incurred in disposing of the vehicle. The Government

has put in place a Derelict Vehicle Program in Nassau due to the large number of derelict vehicles there, but this program has not yet been extended to any of the other islands.

The responsibilities of the Department of Environmental Health cover many areas that affect the public. The monitoring of consumer products deals with imported bottled water, locally produced water, locally produced drinks and piped water. Samples of the above are taken from each district including Central Abaco, North Abaco and South Abaco once a month and sent to the Environmental Risk Lab in Freeport, Grand Bahama. Chemical and bacteriological tests are carried out on the water and chemical, bacteriological, yeast and mold tests are carried out on the drinks.

Building control reviews all building applications for construction on Abaco from Walker's Cay to Moore's Island. Residential applications are checked for correct room size and ventilation. The minimum room size for a three bedroom house is eight feet by 10 feet and the minimum room size for a two bedroom house is 10 feet by 10 feet. In Nassau and Grand Bahama electricity will not be turned on unless the owner is in possession of an Occupancy Certifi-



Ms. Bertha McPhee

cate. The Certificate must be signed by a licensed plumber and licensed electrician.

Environmental Health is responsible for conducting inspections for all licensed premises i.e. restaurants, beauty salons, dry good stores, hotels, processing plants and fish houses. All establishments that process food for sale must be in possession of a Certificate of Sanitation. This certificate is issued if the requirements of the Department are met. A consumer has the right to ask to see the Certificate of Sanitation. Those persons operating without a Certificate of Sanitation are in violation of the law and can be taken to court and fined.

Vendor approvals are made in collaboration with the Police Department. There are four types of vendors including seafood vendors i.e. sale of conch salad, itiner-ary vendors i.e. meals on wheels, temporary vendors i.e. cook-out and steak-out and school vendors. School vendor approvals are issued every school term. After a vendor makes a request for inspection, an inspection is carried out in the home where the food is being prepared and in the car where the food is being transported. A health certificate must be obtained from a government clinic and doctor, not a private doctor. Random checks are always carried out. After approval is given by the Department of Environmental Health, the vendor still needs to obtain a Peddlers/Vendors permit

from the Police. A vendor approval just says that the vendor has met the requirements of Environmental Health.

Officers carry out general sanitation inspections throughout each district on Abaco. A day or two is used to conduct yard to yard inspections to ensure that premises are not in violation of the law. Premises must be free of accumulating water, containers or pits which breed mosquitoes and no open cesspits. If a yard is found to be in an unsanitary state, then the owner will receive a verbal warning and/or written notice, depending on the severity of the condition, to be put right within 14 or 21 days. If the problem persists after the 14 or 21 day period, then a public health order will be served. This will be the first legal action taken against the owner of the premises. With the as-

sistance of the Police, a summons can be served depending on the severity of the condition.

Port health has a Vector Control Officer and Health Inspector collecting manifests from all international vessels bringing any food product being offered for sale into the country. All food products must be accompanied by the necessary certificates and papers. Vector Officers are also responsible for ensuring that all used products i.e. clothing, coming into the country are sprayed

Environmental Health covers many areas that affect the public.

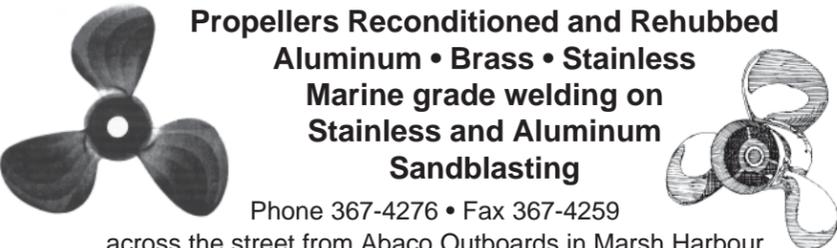
Please see **Health**

Page 33

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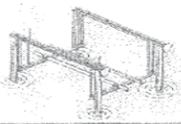
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Staff Expands as Duties Increase

Health *From Page 32*

before going into the local community. All vessels coming from Haiti which did not pass through Nassau are inspected by the Vector Officer to make sure it is not bringing in any larva. Vector control treats ponds or any standing water. Species identification on rodents and mosquitoes are done in addition to light trapping and ground fogging.

The Department of Environmental Health is also carries out epidemiological inspec-

tions. If a person becomes ill after eating at a restaurant and it is reported to the Department, an investigation for food poisoning will be done.

Ms. McPhee said the biggest problem the Department of Environmental Health faces on Abaco is the indiscriminate dumping and disposal of household and commercial waste.

The Department is not pleased with the disposal of garbage by means of burning although this method has been used for many years throughout the Family Islands. The concern stems from the fact that the gar-

bage is not being sorted. Used oil creates a problem. Ms. McPhee believes that people who generate oil should be responsible for its disposal. This should not be the responsibility of the government. She would like to see some sort of document given when people go into the dump site to say that the garbage has been disposed of properly.

The community must continue to work hand and hand with the Department of Environmental Health in an effort to keep Abaco clean and beautiful so that our children and grandchildren may enjoy it for many more years to come.

Civic Organizations

Kiwanis Club of Greater Abaco

Tuesday, 7 p.m., weekly at Touch of Class, Treasure Cay, 367-2536

Pilot Club of Abaco

Third Tuesday, 7 p.m., Mackerals Restaurant, Dundas Town, 367-3457

Pilot Club of South Abaco

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SERVING ALL THE BAHAMAS



Central From Page 11

Fabric Store Opens

By Portia Jonsson

Mrs. Kim Roberts is the owner and manager of Bahama Dawn Designs, a new fabric store located in the C&A Soft Drinks building next to the Marsh Harbour Community Library. Bahama Dawn Designs opened for business on March 12th and is well stocked with over 1000 bolts of fabric, sewing notions, quilt patterns and sewing and quilting books. There is a wide selection of Androsia fabric and custom made quilts from wall hangings to bed quilts. Gift items made by Bahama Dawn Designs such as ditty bags, backpacks, pillows, place mats and silk paint-

ings are also available at Java Coffee Shop. Store hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. by appointment only. Telephone number 367-4648.

Sherman From Page 9

very afraid of The War and how it will affect Abaco and The Bahamas. This past few days people have asked me if my daughter will be coming home until after the war is over. Why? Yes, the United States is at war but the war is in the Middle East. The threat of terrorism is real in the U.S. but that does not put my daughter in any more danger than she has been since 9./11.

What is of concern if the effect on tourism to Abaco as a result of the war. We all know that the price of gasoline has gone up

and as a result the prices of food will also rise.

Yes, the war is scary and I personally hope and pray it will be over soon. However, since 9/11 the world is not the same and never will be again. Being on guard is something we will have to live with until the day the Lord comes again.

Cays From Page 7

pete in the Couples Competition and placed first. This is the second time that they have won a championship in the United States.

Arthur says he hopes to compete in more shows this year with the next one being in May or June.

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NEW LISTING

Ruffale Apartments

MARSH HARBOUR - Great investment opportunity. 7 apartments comprising 6 units with 2 bed 1 bath, approx. 675 sq. ft. each and 1 bed 1 bath, approx. 575 sq. ft. All apartments are furnished and air-conditioned. Good monthly income. Nicely landscaped lot with mature trees. Well situated in a great location. \$795,000. □1669



NEW LISTING

Sunrise Point

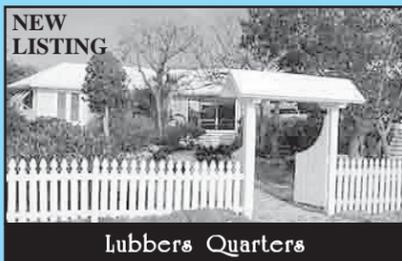
ELBOW CAY - WHITE SOUND - 2b/1b beach house, completely renovated. Beautiful views of the Atlantic Ocean and great area to surf. 800 sq. ft. finished living space. Additional 800 sq. ft. on ground floor closed in with plumbing and electric for easy expansion, large storage shed, lot size: 75' on the ocean x 210' deep, nicely landscaped, excellent rental history, turnkey. \$649,000 Internet Ref. □1659



NEW LISTING

Tilloo Cut

ELBOW CAY - DORROS COVE - Spacious island home, 1700 sq. ft. pod style with 3 beds, 2 baths, fireplace, and look out tower. Panoramic view of the Sea of Abaco, Tilloo Cut and the Atlantic Ocean. Excellent elevation, large storage area on ground floor, steps away from Tahiti Beach, includes almost 1 acre of landscaped property, private dock slip, fully furnished. \$990,000 Internet Ref. □1671



NEW LISTING

Lubbers Quarters

LUBBERS QUARTERS - Secluded waterfront house surrounded by beautifully landscaped gardens. This solar-powered home features 166 ft. waterfront, panoramic sea views, hardwood floors, open beam ceilings, standby generator, water tanks for home & garden. 1.5 acres with additional property available for purchase. US\$840,000 gross. Internet Ref. □1644

REGATTAS OF ABACO - 2ND FLOOR - New, fully furnished 2 bedroom 2 bath condo with pool, tennis court, fitness centre and beautiful beach. Asking \$280,000.

GROUND FLOOR - 2 bedroom 2 bath, tile floors, central air, granite countertops, major appliances, covered patio and quality finishes. Price \$199,900.

MARSH HARBOUR - Off Fire Road - Elevated duplex lot. 6,000 sq. ft. Call for details

EXCLUSIVE! 2 Storey bldg. 2 apts. upstairs (1,500 sq. ft.) open space downstairs (1,500 sq. ft.) which can be renovated to additional apartments or ideal location for retail store, doctors office or private club. Lots of parking! Near airport. Asking \$450,000 - A MUST SELL!!!

CHEROKEE AREA - 3 bed 2 bath (built 1998) home. Fantastic views of ocean and Winding Bay Beach. \$240,000. Owner anxious to sell!

BAHAMA PALM SHORES - Lots available starting from \$16,000. Walking distance to beach.

EASTERN SHORES - WATERFRONT LOT sea to sea. There is a 85 foot beach, good elevation, buildable on both sides. Last one available in area. Price \$350,000 gross.

FOREST DRIVE - 4 bed 3 bath 2 storey house on 59,940 sq. ft. property, double garage, concrete construction. Asking price \$310,000.

HIGH ROCK AREA - Charming and well kept 3 bed 2 bath, 1,700 sq. ft. home on 124' x 125' enclosed lot. This home features a family room, large master bedroom, tiled floors, new kitchen, heated swimming pool, sundecks, central A/C and generator. Price upon enquiry.

GREAT ABACO CLUB - 3/2 with master spa bath, fully furnished, vaulted ceilings, deepwater dockage and more. Gated community with Beach Club privileges and good rental record. Price upon enquiry.

ELBOW CAY - "Summer Winds" - Dorros Cove - Newly renovated, spacious 3/2 ocean front home, awesome view of the Atlantic, large heated pool, water maker, back up generator, central a/c, 2 car garage, walking distance to Tahiti Beach, private dock slip, tastfully decorated, fully furnished. \$1,290,000. #1427

HOPE TOWN POINT - "Bellfree" - One of a kind property located on the North End of Elbow Cay. 1000 sq' cottage designed for easy expansion. 2/3 acres, awesome views of the Sea of Abaco, private deep water dock with 50 amp service for serious boaters, includes 13' Whaler and golf cart. Internet ref: #1338

ELBOW CAY - North End - 1/2 acre building sited with ocean view very close to Sandy Beach. Excellent value \$114,000. Internet# 1680

HOPE TOWN - "Coconut Cottage" - Adorable 1,000 sq.' 2/2 Colonial-style cottage with Atlantic Ocean views. Across the street from a beautiful beach and close to town. Partially furnished. \$415,000. Internet #1429

LUBBERS QUARTERS - NEW LISTING - Waterfront lot with dock access. \$140,000.
NEW LISTING - Interior lot with view. \$46,000.

TILLOO CAY - Ocean front property in the Bight of Tilloo. Excellent elevation with sea to sea views. Access to dock, and power to property. \$89,000. #1630

TILLOO CAY - 4 water front lots in protected bay south of "The Castle". Superb elevation, sea to sea views, deep water with sandy bottom. Access to Tilloo beach. Starting at \$125,000. Also interior lots from \$75,000. #1631

LUBBERS QUARTERS - "Trade Winds" - Two gorgeous cottages located on 1.5 acres of beautiful landscaped waterfront property. One cottage brand new, 2 bed 1 bath with loft, second cottage 1 bed 1 bath with french doors, mexican tiles, porches, A/C. Private dock. Great investment property. Price \$646,000. #1589

See Page 3 for our Featured Properties

Roberts *From Page 9*

Summer is often a time of abandon for a lot of children. They are usually left to entertain themselves and often find trouble. This is the time when camps, sporting activities, camping and other such activities need to be organized to give youth outlets for their unspent or misspent energy.

Most parents and others who could provide these services are working and often are unable to find the time to do some of these things so this is where church youth departments are very useful. Businesses

could also be used to donate time and resources to these children as well as provide summer jobs and learning experiences.

We have to realize how precious each of these children are. We cannot allow their lives to go to ruin and waste as we stand idly by. There are so many things out there just waiting to take advantage of them and lead them down the wrong paths. We need to guide and direct them in ways that will help them grow into brighter futures.

Jesus warned in Matthew 18:6, "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him

that a millstone were hung about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." These children are precious in God's eyes and should be in ours, too.

Family Life *From Page 9*

Adolescents and adults may feel free to call or visit the Learning Resource Centre for any questions or concerns you may have on any of the Adolescent Health Issues. You may request workshops for your groups or organizations. Telephone numbers are 367-5393 and 367-5394.

AA Meetings

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

The AA group in Hope Town meets Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the library.

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MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Fly rod, 9' #8 Thomas & Thomas w Ross reel w/ acc, used once, cost \$750. Best offer. 365-6433. tlbrabant@yahoo.com

PETS FOR SALE

Miniature Pincher, female, 6 months. Serious inquiries only. Call 367-3202 days, 367-5413 nights

REWARD OFFERED

\$5000 Reward offered for return of small green silk case of jewelry stolen or lost between Jan 27-29 in Elbow Cay or Marsh Harbour. Those with information or leads please contact the Abaco Inn.

BOAT WANTED

WANTED 23-26 ft. Mako. Must be in good condition. 365-8188

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE



John Deere AMT 626, old, running, jury-rigged. New muffler, fuel pump, fuel filter, rear bearings. \$2200 Call Donna Kern 367-3986

1 stand lathe with accessories. New motor, hardly ever used. \$450. 1 table saw, quite old but in good, reliable condition. \$100. Sold separately or buy as a set for \$500. Call 357-6679 or 367-3020 for more details.

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

98 Ford Taurus Sta Wgn, special addition, leather interior, center console, alum. wheels, 24 valve engine, low mileage, like new. Call 365-8188



93 Toyota Camry. Call for price. Phone 367-2326 days

Jeep Wrangler, perfect condition, 30,000 miles. \$12,000 Call 365-5153

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17' Mako Good shape, 90 Yamaha, Bimini & dodger, GPS, VHF and DF. \$10,000 Call 365-6433. tlbrabant@yahoo.com

18' x 8' Panther Air Boat, 97, with trailer, low hours, excellent cond. Ph 367-2672

22' Laravee, 1996 w/ 130 Yamaha, Bimini top, new gauges, excellent condition. US \$10,000 Call VHF 16 "Snow Goose" or 554-8465

23' Albury Brothers with 1999 200 HP Mercury. Call Don at 365-6086 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

BOATS AND MARINE ITEMS FOR SALE

29' Phoenix, 1984, twin 170 HP Yanmar diesels. Contact 365-6006 day or 365-6140 nights.



30' 2" Formula with 2 - 225 Yanmar diesel engines, excellent condition. Call Wallace 365-6048



34' Mainship III, 1983, 200 HP diesel and 8 KW gen. Sleeps 4, large flybridge, 2 A/C, icemaker, transom door, swim platform, more. Only 7 gph at 10 mph cruise. Ready to cruise or fish. Located Spanish Wells. 242-333-4601



42' Uniflight Sportsfisher "Ol Smoothy" twin diesel, 1 engine needs work, many extras. Located at Treasure Cay Marina L dock. \$40,000 Call 365-8093 or 250-652-2478



44' Thompson Trawler, 1977, new teak floor, dinghy, motor, blue Sunbrella, low time, Ford Lehman diesel & 15 KW generator, icemaker, 2 refrigerators, Princess stove, much more. Located in Hope Town. \$99,000. Call Jill/Chris at 366-0151



44' Brewer, drk green hull, electric winches & Hood Seafurl, fully equipped incl. ice maker, comb. washer/dryer, very well maintained and ready to sail and cruise any ocean. Currently at Man-O-War. \$249,000 Call 365-6369

