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# The Abaconian

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VOLUME 11, NUMBER 12, JUNE 15th, 2003

## Pigeon Peas Fire Leaves 200 Homeless Prime Minister Commits to Bring About Changes



A disastrous fire swept through an area of the Pigeon Pea community in Marsh Harbour on May 28, destroying about 70 homes. The Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department was not able to save any of the houses in the confined area but kept the fire from spreading to other parts of the community. This photo shows the fire consuming a house built along the fence delineating Abaco Hardware property. The metal wall of the warehouse got red hot, igniting the stock within the warehouse. The fire left about 200 persons homeless. Thanks to Mr. Harold Davies for this spectacular photo.

On May 28 fire swept through an area of Pigeon Peas destroying about 70 homes, leaving an estimated 200 to 215 persons homeless. Despite the valiant efforts of the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department, all the houses in that 0.9 acre area were completely burned.

The Fire Department was phoned at 5:31 p.m. by a Haitian and Assistant Fire Chief Claude Sawyer was on the scene with the first fire engine within four minutes to quickly analyze strategies to battle the fire. The fire began in the middle of a very densely packed area where houses were so close that the firemen were unable to lay out their fire hoses. Chain link fences prevented normal access. Three trucks from the Fire Department responded and later that evening the truck at the airport responded. Two water lines were connected directly to a fire hydrant but pressure was low because of a break in a three-inch line close to the Anglican Church.

The firemen were assisted by many town people. A forklift was used to get a hose over one fence beside the lumber yard while another fence behind Sawyer's Market was lifted by a forklift to allow access to the area. Several containers behind Sawyer's Market were moved away from the fence. Residents on the rooftops were passed hoses to access the fire. However, the amount of water available was insufficient. Those on the roofs had to abandon their effort.

Please see **Fire**

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## Hope Town Celebrates Earth Day



The Hope Town School hosted about 250 school students for their annual Earth Day celebration. Environmental groups, government officials and many interested persons enjoyed the program and the displays which highlighted some of the environmental problems Abaco faces. The guest speaker was the Ambassador for the Environment, His Excellency Keod "Code" Smith. Shown above are the judges of the school displays with Hope Town School Principal, Mrs. Candace Key. They are, left to right, Mrs. Key, Mr. Keon Smith, Mr. Everette Archer from Murphy Town, accompanying Mr. Smith, Mr. David Knowles, Abaco's local officer with the Department of Agriculture, and behind, Mr. Wayne Cornish, an Abaco officer with the Department of Fisheries.

By Candace Key

What a day to celebrate our island's unique diverse environment! May 23 dawned bright pink in the east, showered rain just enough to brighten the leaves

and then continued with a light ocean breeze on the gathered crowd at Jarrett Park in Hope Town.

Please see **Earth Day**

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## Prime Minister Tours Pigeon Peas



The Prime Minister, the Hon. Perry Christie toured Pigeon Peas on May 31 to view the burned out area and to begin a study of the area problems. He is in the center accompanied on the left by the Haitian Ambassador to The Bahamas, Mr. Louis Harold Joseph, and on the right ASP Clarence Russell, Abaco's Police Chief, and Insp. Cleophas Cooper, Abaco's CID Chief. In the background is a house under construction.

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# Christie Visits Haitian Communities

The Prime Minister of The Bahamas, the Hon. Perry Christie, visited Abaco on May 31 to personally view the site of the disastrous fire in the Pigeon Peas which destroyed 70 houses. He walked around the entire Haitian community and the adjoining Mud area talking with residents and seeing for himself the burned out area and the living conditions which exist in those two areas.

Mr. Christie brought with him the Haitian Ambassador to The Bahamas, Mr. Louis Harold Joseph, the Hon. Obie Wilchcombe, Minister of Tourism, Sen. Trevor R. Whilly, and the Hon. Fred Mitchell, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Public Service.

After an extensive tour, Mr. Christie held a meeting with Haitians and local officials in the Marsh Harbour courtroom to assess the current situation and discuss the larger problems which these communities present.

He emphasized that much more infor-

mation was needed before he can develop a long range program to change the situation which exists. He assured the Haitians that his government would process the immigrants who qualified for status. Any Haitian who was in The Bahamas ten years prior to January 12, 1995, can apply for status according to a treaty between The Bahamas and Haiti. Each application will be dealt with individually. Those who arrived here after the January 12, 1985, date may be repatriated.

"Not everyone will like the outcome," said Mr. Christie, "But progress must come." The Bahamas is working with the Haitian government to stop the flow. He appealed to the Haitians here to cooperate with the government and not to be angry.

One of the goals of the Bahamian Defence Force will be to intercept Haitian vessels in the Southern Bahamas. The Defence Force will have an expanded presence on Inagua which will include a detention cen-

ter for holding the illegals until they can be repatriated.

Mr. Christie was adamant, "Construction (of new houses) must stop right now. The Prime Minister said so!" He told the Haitians that he had come with government ministers to assess the problem first hand. "I will not allow a community of this nature to exist in the middle of Marsh Harbour," he said. It was his duty to ensure that the Bahamas evolves in its own peculiar way and must not allow outside events to dominate our culture.

A recent agreement between The Bahamas and Haiti has not yet been ratified by the Cabinet yet. However, Mr. Christie is committed to finding solutions and asked for the cooperation of the Haitian community. He noted that he was visiting Marsh Harbour with the Haitian Ambassador which signified his commitment.

He stressed that the government is there for the benefit of the people. He feels that Abaco will see unprecedented development within the next year or two and that development on Abaco will continue because of the beauty of the island and because of the people, their culture and heritage. He challenged Abaco to demonstrate to the rest of The Bahamas and the world that it can solve problems. He closed the meeting stating his belief that the Bahamas greatest asset is its people.

## Ministers Discuss Haitian Problems

The Prime Minister's trip was followed by a visit on June 3 by the Hon. Shane Gibson, Minister of Housing and National Insurance, and the Hon. Melanie Griffin,

Please see **Christie**

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On June 3 the Prime Minister sent a delegation to tour the Pigeon Peas and Mud communities on a fact finding trip. They talked with fire victims and other residents about their living conditions. They held a meeting with Bahamian leaders, pastors and Haitians to gather facts as background for making policies concerning the illegal immigrants which inhabit the communities. They were accompanied by several other government officials. Shown above are, left to right in the front, ASP Clarence Russell, Abaco's Chief of Police, Commissioner of Police Paul Farquharson, the Hon. Shane Gibson, Minister of Housing and National Insurance, the Hon. Melanie Griffin, Minister of Public Services and Community Development, Ms. Barbara Burrows with the Department of Housing, and Dr. David Allen from the Cabinet Office with the Urban Development Commission.



The Hon. Dr. Marcus Bethel, Minister of Health and Environmental Services, and the Hon. Alfred Gray, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Local Government, were on Abaco on June 4 to see about the fire in Pigeon Pea. They went through that community and the Mud talking with the residents and assessing the living conditions. Government has said they will put into place policies which will clean up these slum areas. Dr. Bethel is on the left and Mr. Gray on the right in the photo. Behind them is Mr. Carl Smith of the National Disaster Preparation Committee.

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# 35 Firemen Respond to Fire

## Fire

From Page 1

The intense heat was made even more dangerous by LP tanks which were concealed in some of the houses. One of these exploded so violently that it knocked three firemen to the ground. Fortunately, none was injured. One observer saw the blast throw a timber 100 feet into the air.

The operation was initially hampered while waiting for BEC to turn off electrical power to the area. While the electricity was still on, there was a danger of the firemen getting shocked from drop cords in the puddles.

The residents were desperately trying to salvage mattresses, furniture and personal belongings. They were throwing everything over the fences, out of harm's way.

It was a windy evening. Fortunately, the wind was not blowing north or south to-

ward the adjoining businesses which were threatened but it was coming from the east. Otherwise, the fire department might not have been able to contain it. Abaco Hardware was the business most in danger with a large warehouse just 20 feet from the burning houses. The heat was so intense that building materials, electrical supplies and air conditioning insulation within the warehouse were set on fire from the red hot metal building walls. Some resources were diverted to control this.

Effort was made to confine the fire to the residences. The surrounding businesses contained flammable material which could have been more dangerous. The hardware warehouse had building materials which could have fueled a very dangerous fire. An added danger could have been from building materials and chemicals that generate toxic fumes when burned.

Twenty-five local firemen were on the

scene. These firemen were assisted by five men from the Man-O-War Fire Department, four from Guana Cay and one from Hope Town. The fire was under control by 8 p.m. By that time the fire had consumed all the buildings within the block. It was another two hours before all danger was over. A light rain after 8 pm. helped with the final clean-up. The Police supported the Fire Department by patrolling the streets and providing control over the agitated fire victims.

The burned out area is approximately 120 feet by 300 feet or 36,000 square feet which is just under an acre. When it was realized that the water and equipment available were insufficient to suppress the fire, efforts were

shifted to protecting the Abaco Hardware lumber yard on the south and Sawyer's Market on the north. The Burns House liquor warehouse was threatened to a lesser extent.

Emergency services were on the scene before the fire was under control, registering the homeless and providing help. Mr. Silbert Mills, Co-Chairman of the Disaster Preparedness Committee, convened a meeting along with Administrator Alexander Williams at 8 p.m. that night to make plans for the care of the homeless people. Although shelter was found for them that

Please see Fire

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Residents of Pigeon Peas hurriedly emptied their belongings out of the houses which were near the fire and which eventually totally burned. The hose of the fire department is shown draped over the fence in a futile attempt to contain the fire. Photo by Cay Russell

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# Building Density Hampers Efforts

## Fire

*From Page 4*

night, no one accepted the shelter offered by the Catholic Church. A special bank account was set up for donations but the response has been poor. The Department of Social Services, under the direction of Ms. Charlemae Fernander, has provided clothing and coupons for food. The local Red Cross chapter located emergency shelters.

Many groups and individuals are donating funding, food and clothing. The Disaster Preparedness Committee set up an emergency distribution center in a vacant warehouse with supplies. The tournament entrants of the HMY Billfish Blast donated \$10,000 along with many boxes of food, clothing, even games and toys. Much of what they donated they purchased locally.

That donation was made to the victims through the Catholic Church. Abaco Markets opened Abaco Wholesale that night to provide an immediate supply of food and water.

The cause of the fire has not been determined. One is that a child accidentally started it while cooking. Students from that area reported it resulted from two women who were squabbling. There are not firm numbers as to the number of houses or the number of displaced persons because the area was very crowded. Often several single people and families dwell in the same building. Many of the homeless do not have proper papers to be in The Bahamas and do not want to be identified. There is also a problem that some not affected have signed up to benefit from the emergency supplies.



The area between Burns House warehouse and the fence quickly filled up with furniture, mattresses and household belongings removed from the houses which later burned down in Pigeon Peas. Photo by Harold Davies

Several factors kept this disaster from becoming worse. The wind did not blow the fire toward the businesses. and it happened in daylight. If it had been at night, the consequences could have been much worse.

The area which was burned out is part

of the Pigeon Pea community, an area of squatters, mostly Haitian, who began living there nearly 40 years ago. The land is part of the Key Tract or generation land which has never been legally divided. The

*Please see Fire*

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Crowds watched as the fire progressed through one area of Pigeon Pea. The intense heat, poor water pressure and dense housing kept the Marsh Harbour Fire Department from saving the houses. They were able to contain the fire so it did not spread to adjoining businesses.

*Photo by Cay Russell*



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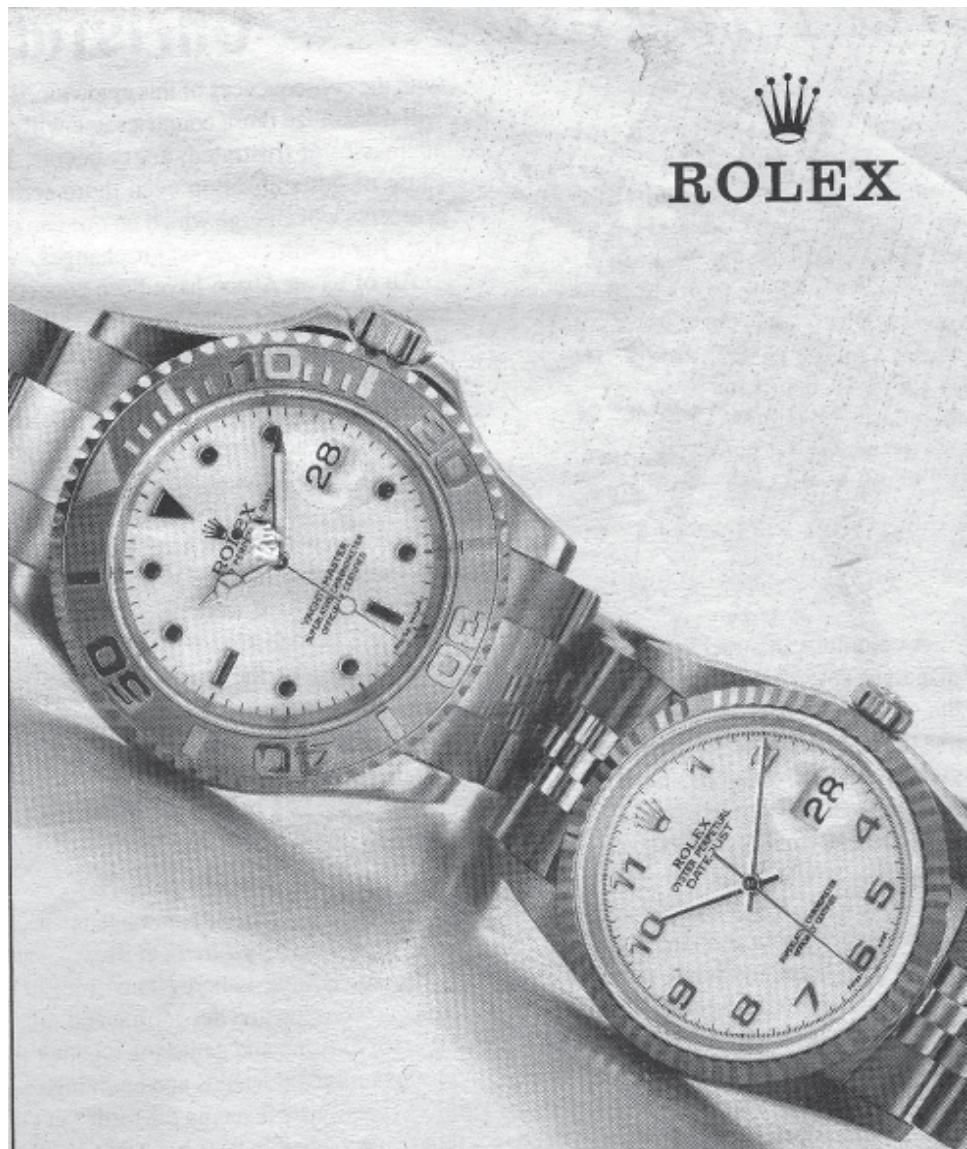
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# South Abaco News

## Cherokee Sound

By Lee Pinder

### Newest Arrival

Congratulations to happy parents, Carol and Blain Sweeting, on the birth of their son, Dylan Alexander Blain Sweeting, born April 23 in Nassau. The couple already have a daughter, Elizabeth, who turns three years old this month. Mother and baby are doing fine.

### Congratulations

Best wishes to newlyweds Chantell Weatherford and Darren Albury, who tied the knot in a civil ceremony on May 28 at the Administrator's Office in Marsh Harbour with only their immediate family in attendance. Chantell has a nine-year-old daughter, Jessy, from a previous marriage, but this marriage is a first for Darren. We understand she is not working at the present time but Darren is one of Cherokee's crawfishermen. The couple has bought a new home in Sweeting Village and plan to take up residence soon.

### Family's Appreciation

The family of Brandin Pinder would like to thank all those who gave financial support for his surgery. Because of your help he is again a happy and healthy little boy and the family would like to sincerely thank all who helped to make this possible.

### Convalescing

Mrs. Viola Sawyer has been moved into Marsh Harbour to the Sybil's Home for convalescing and is reported to be settling in. Her family would like to thank all the many friends for their continued calls of concern.

## In Hospital

Freeman Roberts is still in hospital in Nassau. His treatments have taken much longer than anticipated, but he is looking forward to returning home soon and wants to thank all those who have been sending along their greetings and best wishes for his speedy recovery.

## School News

The upper grades took a field trip to Hope Town on May 16 to enter their project on *Crawfish* in the Earth Day Science Fair hosted by the Hope Town School. They received an honourable mention prize. The lower grades went to Green Turtle Cay on their field trip on May 29 where the children visited Alton Lowe's Art Gallery as well as the Sculpture Garden. Both of these outings help to familiarize the children with their Abaconian roots and experience interaction with the other schools on the island. Not to mention that the students always seem to have such a good time.

The school held an in-house spelling bee in the month of May. The winners were as follows: sixth grade was Samantha Sawyer, fifth grade was Caitlyn Albury and fourth grade Chandi Lowe. Congratulations to all the winner, keep up the good work.

### A Generous Benefactor

One of our many visitors to our island wanted to give something back to the community and to show his appreciation for the hospitality shown him during his recent visit to Cherokee. He learned that the copy machine in the school was broken and could not be repaired. He sent us a new one. So, you see, we really do have Guardian Angels.

Please see South

Page 7



Bahamas Ferry Ltd. is constructing a ramp for docking its new ferry SeaWind which is now making three weekly trips to Sandy Point, bringing passengers, vehicles and freight. The sea bottom will have to be scraped to give enough depth for the ferry at all tides.

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# More South Abaco News

## Sandy Point's Homecoming Draws Hundreds



Sandy Point held its annual homecoming on June 6-9. The location is on the beach so everyone can enjoy the water front. The Bahama Ferry SeaWind brought 250 people and 25 vehicles for the occasion. The ferry left people and vehicles behind but could not make a second trip.



Shore activites at the Sandy Poing homecoming are held just to the right of the picture. They offered dominoes, volleyball, games as well as water activities including gum elemi boat races which were held on June 6.

### South

*From Page 6*

gels. We want to send along a big thank you to this anonymous donor.

#### A Significant Donation

When restoration work started on the "Old School," one of the main goals was to bring the building back to look as it did originally over 100 years ago. And a very important part of the whole appearance was the exterior wooden shutters and doors. We had hoped to be able to save the original hinges and hardware, but alas, this was not possible. Little did we know, at the very same time, someone else was also contem-

plating this very same problem.

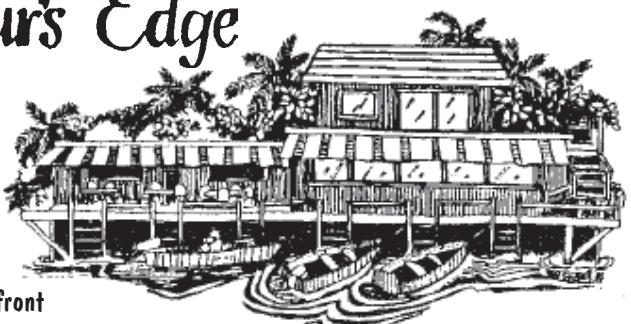
An old friend, neighbour and artist, Pete Johnston of Little Harbour, has offered to take a mold from the original hinges and bolt hangers and reproduce them for us from bronze. His offer to do this for Cherokee's Old School project could not have come at a more opportune moment. We hope he realizes the deep appreciation we all feel towards him for this kind offer.

The restoration work is fast coming to an end with the finishing interior work now in progress. Completion is not far away.

*Please see South*

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## Harbour's Edge



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## The Editor Says . . .

The recent fire in the Haitian community was a wake-up call that there are serious problems with Haitian Nationals on Abaco which must be addressed. This has been said many times before but 70 houses burned has gotten attention. The magnitude of one fire displacing over 200 persons strained the ability of local resources to provide adequate relief.

We are thankful that no lives were lost and there were no injuries of any consequence either to the residents or to the firemen.

Three sides of the burned area, just under an acre in size, had no access due to six- and eight-foot chain link fences securing neighboring businesses. The residents were frustrated in attempting to salvage their possessions. Bedding, appliances, furniture and personal belongings did get salvaged; but, in general terms, not much was saved.

It is difficult to describe or visualize the housing situation in this area to anyone who has not seen it. Many of the houses are so close together that you cannot pass between them even though they are separate buildings. Sometimes the best access to a fire is across rooftops. There are no yards, straight paths or roads between many of the buildings.

The Disaster Committee did a commendable job of meeting immediately and getting emergency shelter, food, water and clothing on short notice for such a large number of displaced persons. At five o'clock in the afternoon everything was normal and at sundown there were 200 or more homeless and angry people to contend with. They were angry because they felt that the fire department had not done enough to save their homes. In reality, the fire was too intense to save the houses. The firemen did keep the surrounding businesses from going up in flames.

Only 40 displaced persons requested shelter that night. The Catholic church opened its doors; however, no one showed up. Either the church was too far away, about a mile, or they preferred to find their own shelter closer to where their homes had stood.

Government, in its ponderous way, was quick to acknowledge the problem. Three

high level government delegations led by the Prime Minister visited the site and met with the residents. They did not bring answers but wanted facts to enable them to make decisions for the immediate short term crisis of the displaced and to consider long term solutions for the thousands living in the two slum squatter settlements.

**What is the problem?** The chief enumerator for the official 2000 census found 1500 Haitians living in the Pigeon Peas and the Mud settlements with Bahamian status, either citizenship, work or residence permit or a travel document. The census people found no illegal persons during the census exercise, not even one, in either of these two Haitian communities.

An educated Bahamian of Haitian origin who grew up in the Haitian community estimates the total population in the two settlements between 4500 and 5500 persons. This may be as good an estimate as any. That would give the area two or three illegal persons for each legal one.

Many persons living in the Mud and Pigeon Peas were born here. This does not grant them citizenship under Bahamian law. However, the Haitians are resentful of a system that tolerates their presence but which they feel does not allow them any legal status.

Some of the Haitian Nationals have been educated, received Bahamian citizenship, moved out of the slum area and are now living within the Bahamian community.

The communities are built on either private "generation" land in Pigeon Peas or government-owned Crown Land in the Mud. Both areas are essentially in the center of downtown Marsh Harbour. Several efforts by the private sector have been unsuccessful in evicting the Pigeon Peas residents. There has been virtually no effort on government's part to halt construction in either settlement. New houses are built continually. Note the photo on page one of this issue with a house under construction behind the Prime Minister on his walk through the Mud.

The statements from the Prime Minister and his ministers who visited Abaco were emphatic that further construction must stop. Hopefully, government's resolve will bring about compliance in many areas that are now being tolerated or overlooked.

**How do we solve the problem?** There is nothing to stop another fire like this one except care by the residents themselves. A fire in the Pigeon Peas several years ago took 20 houses. A fire in the Mud took 14. In general terms the houses in the Mud are separated better and fewer houses are lost in a fire.

Further illegal construction must stop for many reasons but a primary one is that more houses mean more capacity for more persons. New immigrants will come to live with their relatives and friends. Abaco is a favorite destination because we give them good paying jobs and we are not far from Florida

The open discussions brought out that

# The Fire - A Wake up Call?

there are areas in this country where Bahamians live in similar deplorable conditions. All solutions that involve land, housing, incentives, assistance or other programs to solve the Abaco problem must apply equally to Bahamians on Eleuthera, Long Island, Nassau and throughout the islands. Preferential treatment cannot be given to immigrants above that extended to Bahamians.

Government is faced with some hard decisions which the Pigeon Peas and Mud residents must accept. One of the larger unresolved issue is what to do with an estimated 2000 or more persons who may be left after those able to secure legal status are provided for.

Haitian children now attend government schools even though many cannot speak English. All the immigrant residents receive health benefits at the government clinics, they have police protection, they are accorded many benefits equal to Bahamians. They are given employment and earn wages comparable to Bahamians. Without any skills they are able to earn \$10,000 to \$12,000 annually compared to the average per capita income of \$250 which they could expect to earn in Haiti.

It was pointed out repeatedly that they must make an effort to learn our language, emulate our lifestyle, aspire and work toward becoming Bahamians if they want to continue living here.

The Haitian immigrants created the problem with our assistance by giving them employment. Many of the well kept yards

on Abaco are due to a Haitian gardener. Their desire for a better life and their arrival here from Haiti started the problem we are faced with today. In fairness, we took advantage of their willingness to work as common labour. Those who found sanctuary here have friends and relatives back in Haiti who also want the better life. Couple those incentives with our nation that tolerates their presence and you have the basic formula for their expanding presence.

Senator Edison Key suggested a gradual approach by starting with those living here who have Bahamian status. He suggested they be encouraged and assisted to move out of the slums. Then work with those who may be able to acquire status. Successful initial solutions will probably begin small and must be programs that cause little or no resentment.

Helping those Bahamians living in these two communities to a better life is a winner without serious challenges. Helping those who can get status is also a non-controversial winner. A gradual program of enforcing our laws concerning building codes, business licensing, sanitation and other aspects of life in the slum areas is another way to proceed. There are many small efforts that can be initiated in enforcing the laws of this country. A series of small successful moves can precede the more difficult choices.

However, the tone must be set that change will come and is on the way.

## Letters to the Editor

### Fire Department Deserves Praise

Dear Mr. Editor,

I wish to publicly express my appreciation to the brave, unselfish, dedicated firemen of the Marsh Harbour Fire Department, along with those from Great Guana Cay and Man-O-War Cay, for the outstanding job they did at the fire on Wednesday, 28 May. Their expertise saved most of the Pigeon Peas community and probably a section of the town.

What a pity they were so badly maligned by the very people they risked their lives to save.

Yours etc.

Patrick J. Bethel

### Be Patient for Pay Raise

Dear Editor

To my members here on Abaco, it seems as if we really will not be paid the \$1200

until December. Your president, Mr. John Pinder, is still pushing for payment at the end of July. I felt we would have gotten it if all the unions were on one accord but it's not like that. The main one that I am thinking about is the B.U.T., if they were with Mr. Pinder, then perhaps all would go as planned for July. But on the other hand, a little late is still better than not at all. Some of you may agree with me and some may not but that's life. But I am asking the members of the Abaco Branch to please keep up the good work and the government and the union would take care of this issue. May God bless each of us during these tough times.

Wayne D. Bastian  
Ministry of Public Works  
Chief Shop Steward of the BPSU  
Abaco Branch

Please see Letters

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## All About Town

### By Isobel Sherman A Word of Warning

The Bahamas should take a word of warning from a recently released report by the Pew Commission in the United States on the oceans' ecosystems which border the shores of the United States. According to the recently released report those oceans are over fished, polluted, infested with invasive species, dotted with dead zones and in a real state of crisis. This independent report states that the oceans can be saved. Another recent study found that 90 percent of the world's big fish have disappeared. The commission, composed of scientists, politicians and philanthropists, was bipartisan and sponsored by an environmental charity. They stated that strengthening land pollution laws, making more no fishing zones and imposing limits on fishing techniques are just some of the ways the oceans' ecosystems can be saved.

### Thoughts to Ponder

The Oxford Dictionary defines the word gossip as "casual talk usually about another person." The definition does not imply that this "casual talk" could be harmful, malicious or false. However, in many cases the "casual talk" is all three.

On this island gossip seems to be the rule. More often than not the gossip is not true or a gross exaggeration of the truth of the matter. Gossip is wrong. Idle talk about other people is wrong. There are potentially harmful implications for the person being gossiped about. The harmful part is as the gossip goes from person to person it changes, usually for the worse. If the people who are gossiping do not even know the person, they can get the wrong idea or concept of what that person is really like.

Gossiping is wrong but it will not go

Please see Sherman

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## The Abaconian

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Contributors: Margo Albury, Krista Kelly, Candace Key, Ann McFaden, Lee Pinder

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# More South Abaco News

## South

From Page 7

There is now a newly poured sidewalk leading from the road back to the school which also adds to its beauty.

As each job is done, pride swells in our hearts to see that what has been accomplished. This is something we can all be proud of.

### South Abaco District Holds Town Meeting

As required in the Local Government Act, the South Abaco District Council held an open town meeting to inform the residents of their actions and to hear from the residents about their concerns. The meeting was held in the J.A. Pinder School in Sandy Point on June 2 with nearly 50 persons attending, mostly Sandy Point residents.

Mr. Robert McKinney, Chairman of the Sandy Point Town Committee, chaired the meeting. Several government department heads were present to answer questions and inform those present on their department's action plan.

The Chief Councillor of the South Abaco District Council, Mr. Jason Roberts, explained how the District's budget of \$303,940 is allocated. Very little of the money can be used at the discretion of the Council or the town committees. Most is pegged for garbage collection, maintenance, janitresses and other employees. The District's allocation for the new year beginning July 1 had not been released yet.

The amalgamation of the Crossing Rocks Primary School with the Sandy Point Primary School may happen this September but certainly will occur by the next school year. According to School Superintendent for Abaco, Mr. Hezekiah Dean, this will give the Crossing Rocks students more educational value with students in a single grade classroom. Crossing Rocks now has two teachers for six grades.

Mr. Dean said the population of South Abaco cannot support a high school at this time. However, as Sandy Point grows, it may become a reality.

A question concerning rumors of schools operating until 5 p.m. and how that would affect children taking a 75-minute bus ride was put to rest by Mr. Dean. He explained that several years ago there was talk of extending the school hours to take non-academic activities out of the class time. This would allow sports, tutoring, clubs and other activities to take place within the school environment but not deter classroom activities. The concept had roots in the problem of social promotions. It was thought that using after school time to bol-

ster slower students would alleviate the social promotion problem. However, it has not materialized and to his knowledge is not presently under consideration.

He assured parents that children who take an hour long bus ride is a factor which would have to be taken into consideration if such a plan were undertaken.

A parent asked that a shelter be erected at the school bus stop in Sandy Point to protect the children on rainy days.

Chief Councillor Jason Roberts explained the need for a terminal building at the Sandy Point airstrip. Residents are served by flights into Nassau but there is no shelter, benches or restrooms at the passenger area.

According to Mr. Richard Gibbs of the Housing Department, the new subdivision outside Sandy Point is nearly finished with electrical work to be completed. Letters of acceptance were issued February 28 but many were not picked up and the offers are being withdrawn. Improvements cannot be made to lots based on the letter of acceptance but must follow an initial deposit.

The withdrawn lots will be offered to those persons on the second waiting list, then to those on a third list. After that, the price is expected to go up and the lots will be offered to any Bahamian and no longer be reserved for Sandy Point residents. Those who initially applied but did not accept government's offer would be eligible to reapply for available lots after the persons on the three lists have been given an opportunity to purchase a lot.

South Abaco Administrator Jolton Johnson announced that Nassau had allocated money for park improvements in South Abaco as follows:

- \$15,000 for Sandy Point
- \$ 5,000 for the Sandy Point seawall
- \$20,000 for Crossing Rocks
- \$10,000 for Casuarina Point which does

not have a park presently

- \$10,000 for Cherokee
- \$10,000 for Moore's Island

The new subdivision does not yet have a park but it is surrounded by Crown Land so a park is feasible when the need arises. No one lives in the subdivision yet.

The Works Department has been sent a

new tractor and Bush-Hog, and the road verges are being mowed and improved. The intention is to improve them from Sandy Point all the way to Marsh Harbour.

The road by the beach which was severely damaged by Hurricane Floyd in 1999 will be raised two feet and be protected by a new seawall. Work is expected to begin this month.

Mr. Johnson had BEC install a street light at the bend where the highway turns along the beach. The new light makes this corner much safer.

The Administrator's office has job applications for the Winding Bay project near Cherokee. By the end of the month an office should be established near the project outside Cherokee.

It was announced that two corporate citizens made donations to the school. One ensured that all students will have access to a computer and the other donated school supplies.

Complaints were made to the Administrator that garbage is being left at the dump entrance and not being taken into the dump site.

Further complaints were made about overgrown lots in town and derelict cars scattered around Sandy Point. Mr. Johnson said he would work with the Council and Town Committee to find who owned the



The South Abaco District Council held a Town Meeting on June 2 when residents heard from their elected Council and could voice questions, comments and complaints. Shown above is Ms. Julie Greene, Deputy Chairman of the Sandy Point Town Committee welcoming those attending. Seated are, left to right, Administrator for South Abaco, Mr. Jolton Johnson, Sandy Point Town Chairman Robert McKinney, and Chief Councillor Jason Roberts.

Please see South

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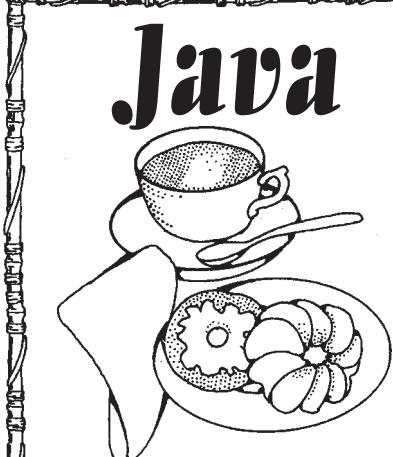
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# Earth Day 2003 Is Celebrated

## Earth Day

From Page 1

Earth Day 2003 was presented by the newly formed Abaco Science Association, made up of a science teacher from each school on Abaco and led by Mr. Jim Richards of S.C. Bootle High School as its president. This is the first activity planned by this exuberant group. The function was co-sponsored by Friends of the Environment and hosted by the Hope Town School. This celebration is usually scheduled between the worldwide Earth Day in April and World Environment Day in June.

The first ferry to arrive at the dock in Hope Town that morning brought the honoured guest, the Ambassador for the Environment, His Excellency Mr. Keod "Code" Smith, his official traveling companion, Mr. Everette Archer from Murphy Town, Fisheries officers Mr. Wayne Cornish of Marsh Harbour and Mr. Leon Pinder from Little Abaco, Agriculture Officer Mr. David Knowles from Marsh Harbour, Mrs. Diane Claridge with the Bahamas Marine Mammal Survey of Abaco, Mrs. Gillian Watson from Save Our Sea Turtles in Nassau and Mrs. Monique Sweeting of the Bahamas National Trust in Nassau. All of

these were guest speakers or presenters. They all enjoyed an official tour through the newly constructed building that houses the Wyannie Malone Historical Museum.

Soon afterwards, several Albury's Ferry boats pulled up filled with excited young environmentalists, their teachers and parents - approximately 250 in all, representing 10 Abaco schools. They quickly found their designated areas under the huge shady fig tree and eagerly set up their environmental projects - mainly in celebration of some aspect of our marine environment.

The official opening featured an earth prayer, earth pledge and song led by Mrs. Nan Cook of the Hope Town School and volunteers. His Excellency, Ambassador Koed Smith, addressed the crowd concerning the importance of preserving and protecting our fragile unique piece of the earth.

After Ambassador Smith gave the charge and officially opened the program, he and his group of Ministry officers acted as judges for the school projects. They showed great interest and listened intently as each school's designated student speakers explained the project they had undertaken or the experiment they had performed. They were extremely impressed with the depth

of the projects from the schools. The project topics included shells, manatees, effects of pollution, sea turtles, endangered Bahamian birds, protection of our reefs and the marine environment. There were two categories of contestants, primary and high school. When the points were tallied, the winners were

### Primary

1st Treasure Cay Primary

2nd St. Francis de Sales

3rd Man-O-War School

### High School

1st Forest Heights

2nd S.C. Bootle High School

3rd Abaco Central High School

The overall winner which garnered the most points of any division was Fox Town Primary. The judges were very impressed with the student presentation of their project.

The first place prizes were field trips most generously donated by environmentally conscious groups, Abaco Outback, Froggies and Dive Abaco. Environmental books, posters and plants were featured as 2nd and 3rd place prizes.

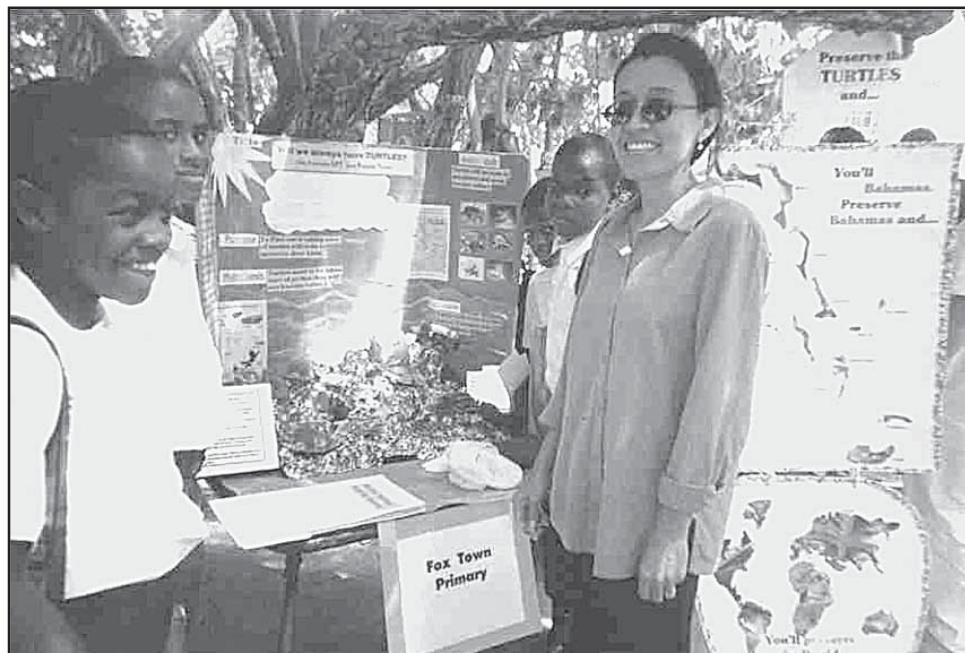
The day featured interactive activities ranging from environmental movies in the "Earth Theatre," earthshakes (fruit smoothies), Smash-the-Trash game, a wall

Please see Earth Day

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Ten schools set up displays at the recent Earth Day celebration in Hope Town. S.C. Bootle High School students are enjoying the day relaxing in front of their exhibit on the destruction of the coral reef. This exhibit earned the school second place in the competition.



Fox Town Primary School was declared the overall winner at the Earth Day celebration in both primary and high school divisions for their sea turtle exhibit. Some of the Fox Town School students and their teacher are pleased with the judges' decision. Prizes included snorkeling trips, dive trips and kayak trips, all donated by local organizations.

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# Central Abaco News

## New Business Holds Open House

By Isobel Sherman

Island Petals held an open house on May 30. Island Petals is a gift and flower shop owned by Melanie Bethel located in Royal Plaza in Marsh Harbour. Melanie says Island Petals is not just a flower shop. The store has some very unique gift items which include hand made straw baskets from Abaco, candles and a wide selection of items made from shells as well as aromatherapy body lotions and shower gels. It offers beautiful silk flower arrangements and fresh flower arrangements are available. For the

open house there were door prizes and an array of refreshments as customers browsed and socialized.

## Library Update

By Isobel Sherman

The Marsh Harbour Community Library will begin summer hours on June 16. During the summer the library will open only on Mondays from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

The Library is looking for the August and September 2002 issues of the National Geographic magazine. In addition, anyone who subscribes to National Geographic and would like to donate issues to the library is asked to contact Mrs. Yvonne Key at 367-2243.



*Island Petals, a new gift and florist shop in Marsh Harbour, held an open house on May 30. A couple of the winners of the door prizes are shown above. Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Bethel, on the left, visiting home from Florida, were surprised to receive a gift basket. Mrs. Mary Sawyer, center, was very pleased with the mirror she won. On the right is shop owner Melanie Bethel, who welcomed all the shoppers and browsers who enjoyed viewing the variety of gift items she carries.*



*Viola's Laundromat which has been in operation in Dundas Town for many years has now moved to a new home nearby, just off Forest Drive. Shown above is Viola Johnson showing off her new building and all the new equipment.*

## Anglican Church Holds Fair

By Isobel Sherman

St. John the Baptist Anglican Church of Marsh Harbour and St. Martins Anglican Church of Sandy Point held their second annual Church Fair on May 31 on the grounds of St. John's. They offered great entertainment with a swing ride and a bouncy castle with a slide for the children. Organized games and many booths provided recreation for children and adults alike.

The fair according to one member was very successful even though the weather kept some people away.

## Business Moves to New Home

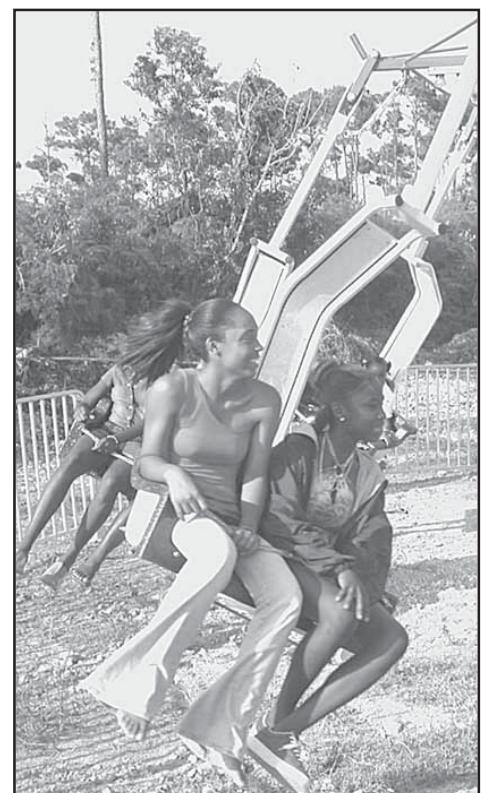
By Isobel Sherman

For over 12 years Viola's Laundromat has been just off Forest Drive in Dundas Town. Operated by Viola Johnson with the

assistance of her two sons and daughter, Ms. Johnson has taken great pride in her business. Now her son Irvin Young has constructed a new building for the Laundromat about 500 yards away. It is complete with

Please see Central

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*The annual fair that the Anglican churches of Marsh Harbour and Sandy Point holds is always a popular event. This year they offered several new attractions which included the ride shown above. The fair raises money for much needed upkeep and repairs of the churches and church halls.*

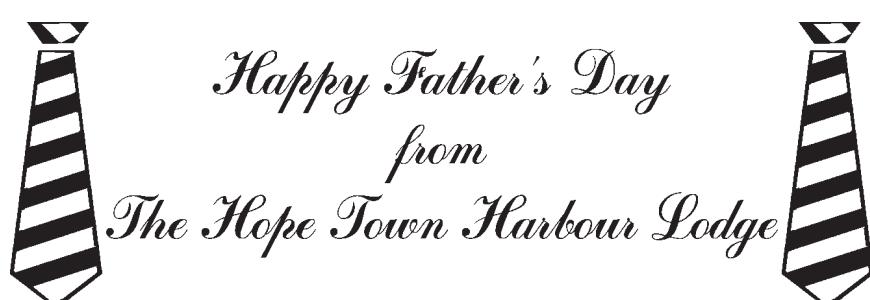
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### Soup du Jour

**Tuna & Corn Bisque:** delicious creamy soup with a faint flavor of curry, garnished with grated cheddar cheese and parsley.

### Salad

**Spinach salad:** Fresh leaf spinach, chopped red onions, sliced eggs, bacon bits & herbed croutons, served with a balsamic & olive oil dressing.

### Entree Selection

**Prime Rib au jus with Yorkshire pudding:** succulent prime rib cooked to your liking, served with garlic mashed potato, fresh mixed vegetables and horseradish sauce.

**Lobster Thermador:** Chef Pherrol's delicious lobster tail cooked with sweet bell peppers, Bermuda onions, mushrooms and spices in a white wine sauce and baked in shell. Served with risotto, fresh asparagus and hollandaise sauce.

**Lamb Shanks:** cooked in a red wine gravy with fresh vegetables and spices, served with garlic roasted potatoes and mint jelly.

**Fresh Grouper:** cooked in a pistachio crust with mango relish and served with risotto, fresh asparagus and hollandaise sauce.

### Dessert

**Granny Apple Pie:** Buttery caramel and toffee, studded custard fresh Granny Smith apples piled high in our melt-in-the-mouth shortbread crust topped w/whipped cream.

**Rum Runners cake:** infused with Dark Rum & Topped with Whipped Cream. All above served with fresh rolls & butter.



\$40.00 per person

### Children's Selection

Fish or Chicken fingers served with fries.

### Dessert

2 delicious scoops of Chocolate &/or Vanilla Ice-cream

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# School News

## First Annual Abaco Island Awards Ceremony Was Held

By Jennifer Hudson

Under the Distinguished Patronage of Sen., the Hon. T. Ricardo Whilly, the Outstanding Students in Bahamian High Schools Foundation presented the First Annual Abaco Island Awards Ceremony on May 29 at the New Vision Ministries Church. The hall was packed to capacity with parents, family and friends present to support the 80 students who were being honoured. Mr. William Davis, Abaco Coordinator, introduced the special guests for the evening and Committee member, Mrs. Neulessa Major, encouraged the young people to use their God-given abilities to strive for success.

Sen. Whilly began his address by giving an insight into the history of the awards ceremony. The Outstanding Students in Bahamian High Schools Foundation was inaugurated in Nassau in 1995 and has since held award ceremonies on the grounds of Government House each year. Since its inception, thousands of Bahamian high school students have been honoured. The awards have now been extended to include the top two junior high school students also.

The awardees must have maintained a grade point average of 3.0 or above and be in Grades 10 to 12. Eight hundred students have already received awards in Nassau this year alone and since 1995 scholarships amounting to \$70,000 have been awarded. Last year a few students from Abaco traveled to Nassau to receive their awards but since the number of awardees on Abaco this year is so high, it was felt that it is now time for Abaco to have its own awards ceremony. Next year it is the intention of the committee to award scholarships to deserving students on Abaco and towards this end a plea was made to businessmen to assist by donating \$1000 scholarships. The Senator concluded by stating that young people have more opportunities today but they also face more challenges and he challenged them to be ready to seize all opportunities to move Abaco forward. *Let your light shine so all the Bahamas can see.*

Two musical items were presented during the evening, one a delightful rendition of the song *From A Distance* by the choir of Forest Heights Academy under the direction of Ms. Viki Hart, and the other a well executed clarinet solo by Raquel Smith, a talented student from Abaco Central High School.

Then came the part all the students had been waiting for, the presentation of the certificates and trophies. All students with a GPA of 3.0 and above received a certifi-

cate and ribbon. In addition, special awards in the form of trophies were made to the graduating students and those who had achieved a 4.0 GPA.

Sports awards were presented to Tristan Russell of Forest Heights Academy, Keith Walker of Long Bay School, Arnold Russell

of Abaco Central High School, Nathan Smith of St. Francis de Sales School and Reneisha McIntosh of S.C. Bootle High School.

The students left with the encouragement to *Keep Your Eyes on the Prize.*

The presidents of the Kiwanis Club and

both Pilot Clubs on Abaco presented short remarks on behalf of their organizations which are co-sponsors of the awards ceremony.

## Cherokee Sound School Kids Learn about Our Reefs

Provided by Reef Relief

It was a squally Thursday morning when the students of Cherokee Sound All Age School rode the ferry to Green Turtle Cay. They had come to visit the newly opened Reef Relief Environmental Center in New Plymouth.

Nine students in grades one through four, their teacher, Ms. Diane Sutherland, and two parents were given a tour of the Capt. Roland Roberts house where the center is located by Reef Relief founder, Craig Quirolo. The students viewed a video presentation about coral reefs, highlighting the fact that coral is an animal, a sea creature in the same family as jellyfish and sea anemones. They learned something of the history of this restored house built in the 1840s and the Roberts family who first lived here.

The school kids enjoyed a video presentation about coral reefs and the center's many dramatic underwater photographs.



All Abaco students who excelled in academics with a GPA of 3.0 or better were honored at an awards ceremony on May 29. This is the first time that the Outstanding Students in Bahamian High Schools Foundation has held a ceremony on Abaco. The group is appealing to Abaco businessmen to donate \$1000 scholarships to be offered next year.

Please see School

Page 13

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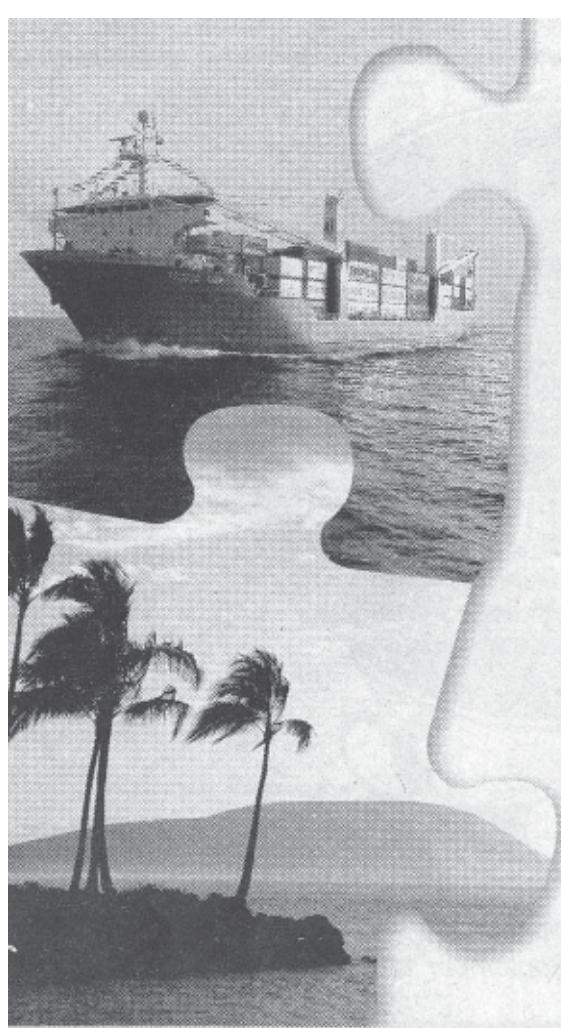
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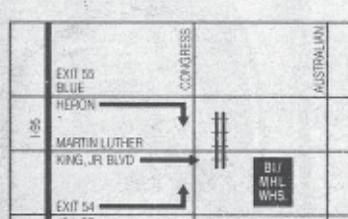
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# More School News

## School From Page 12

They were very curious about a display on conchs and how they grow to maturity and talked about the possibilities of conch farming in the future, perhaps even in their own community of Cherokee Sound where many parents fish for a living.

Craig shared with the group information related to the center's coral nursery project, showing pictures of the restoration of Elkhorn coral.

The students then discussed different ways to help protect the reef. For example, not anchoring on it, standing on it or not putting fuel into the water. Coloring books with reef fish and descriptions of the fish also proved popular with the kids and their parents.

When asked what ideas they remembered about their morning at the Environmental Center, one boy raised his hand eagerly and said, "Coral is a living thing." The Center hopes everyone who visits will take away that simple and beautiful idea.

### Agape Christian School Students Work Toward Field Trip

By Portia Jonsson

In an effort to raise funds for a grade 9 field trip to Eleuthera students and their teacher, Mr. Rich Roberts, of Agape Christian School held a car wash at the school grounds on May 31st. Eight students will travel to Eleuthera with Mr. Roberts, his wife Netica Roberts and parent Sheri Roberts over the Labour Day and Whit Monday holidays for a five-day tour of the island. They plan to attend the Pineapple Festival as well. The students sold popcorn and

sweets at school to help with their travel expenses.

### First Commencement

#### Exercise Held

By Portia Jonsson

Agape Christian School held its First Commencement Exercise themed *Dreams Come True* at the Marsh Harbour Gospel Chapel on May 30th. A dream holds different meanings for different people. The dream that was celebrated that night began ten years ago, planted by God in the hearts of at least eight people. A great deal of prayer, research and planning blossomed into Agape Christian School opening in 1994 with 29 students and three teachers. The first Commencement realized the culmination of nine years of dreaming and with this exercise a new dream began for the graduates.

Four young ladies Caralee Bethel, Alicia Sawyer, Cora Sawyer and Alanna Thompson made up the Class of 2003. Alicia Sawyer and Cora Sawyer were awarded the Salutatorian and Valedictorian titles respectively. Cora Sawyer gave a very emotional Valedictorian speech.

Mrs. Cecile Albury, in her principal's address to the graduates, said she could only describe this night as a dream come true. Mrs. Albury was sad they were leaving because she would not be able to protect them anymore, but she inspired them to trust the Lord and walk with Him, spread their wings and fly. Never forget, dreams do come true.

Receiving the subject awards for Physical Education, Language Arts, Literature, Mathematics, History and Science was Cora Sawyer. Alicia Sawyer received awards for

Art and Religious Knowledge whilst Alanna Thompson captured the Computer Science award. The graduates were honored with certificates and plaques awarded to them during an Awards Ceremony held the previous evening at New Vision Ministries. The Honor Awards are given to all 10th, 11th, and 12th graders who achieve a GPA of 3.0 or above.

Keynote speaker was Bro. Peter Brind, a school principal in Cardiff, Wales. He told the Class of 2003, every dream with God comes true and He wanted to speak something amazing in their lives. He told the class that they will have some good, bad and really awful days but regardless of the circumstances, God is in control and He is planning their lives.

As a token of love and appreciation, the graduating class presented the school with

a new school sign.

Congratulations Class of 2003, good luck and God be with you.

### SAT I

By Isobel Sherman

The College Board is actively encouraging students applying to take the SAT I college entrance examination and their other tests to apply online. The web site is [www.collegboard.com](http://www.collegboard.com). The first SAT I test for outside the United States will be in December 2003.

### Abaco Central High School

By Isobel Sherman

#### Students Reprint Pamphlet

For the science exhibition at Central Abaco Primary last November six students

Please see School

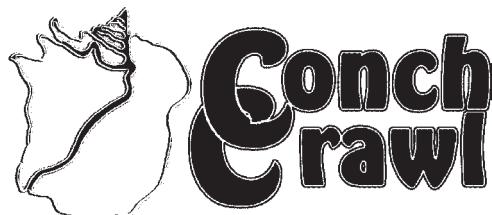
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History was made on May 30 at the Marsh Harbour Gospel Chapel when Agape Christian School held its first graduation. Shown above are the four graduates, Caralee Bethel, Alicia Sawyer, Cora Sawyer and Alanna Thompson, proudly showing off their diplomas. The school opened in 1994 with 29 students. Abaco now has seven high schools.



Students of the lower grades of the Cherokee Sound School traveled to Green Turtle Cay on May 31 for an educational field trip. They enjoyed their tour of the Capt. Roland Roberts home, newly renovated and transformed into an educational facility to educate about the importance of preserving our reefs. The students are shown above with their teacher, Ms. Diane Sutherland. Looking on is Mr. Craig Quirolo who heads the Reef Relief organization.



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Bicycle with rider	\$100.00	\$55.00
<b>Passengers</b>		
Adult Passenger	\$90.00	\$50.00
Child Passenger under 12 years	\$55.00	\$30.00
Child Passenger under 3 years	Free	Free
<b>Other</b>		
Unaccompanied Vehicles	\$40.00*	\$20.00*
Vehicles over 5 ton gross	POA	POA

\* Price additional to Accompanied Passenger Vehicle Transportation Price

### TIDAL SCHEDULE - SANDY POINT, ABACO

Date	Depart Nassau	Arrive Sandy Point	Depart Sandy Point	Arrive Nassau
MAY, 2003				
Wed. 7th	9:00am	12:30pm	1:00pm	4:30pm
Fri. 9th	11:00pm	2:30am	3:00am	6:30am
Sun. 11th	Mon. 1:00am	4:30am	5:00am	8:30am
Wed. 14th	3:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	11:00pm
Fri. 16th	5:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	12:30am
Sun. 18th	6:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	2:00am
Wed. 21st	9:30am	1:00pm	1:30pm	5:00pm
Fri. 23rd	Sat. 12:00am	3:30am	4:00am	7:30am
Sun. 25th	Mon. 2:00am	5:30am	6:00am	9:30am
Wed. 28th	3:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	11:00pm
Fri. 30th	5:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	12:30am
JUNE, 2003				
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# Our Fish and Resorts Draw Anglers

By Isobel Sherman  
**ShootOut XXIV**

The 24th ShootOut was held on May 13-18 at Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour with 64 boats participating. For the last 23 years this prestigious tournament was called the Bertram Hatteras Invitational ShootOut and it was well known for its high level of entertainment along with top quality angling. Under new management this year the tournament was simply named the ShootOut. It is still an invitation only tournament. Hutch Hutchengs, who has been one of the organizers of every ShootOut tournament, was joined this year by Kaye Pearson of Show Management which manages numerous boat shows and other events in Florida. John Neophytou, Manager of Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour, worked along with Mr. Hutchengs and Ms. Pearson.

This tournament has always had many social events for the participants and their

families and guests. This year a floating bar was docked near the beach. Taylor Kundoff, a pianist from Colorado, provided entertainment nightly. Another tent for dining was erected alongside the Pavilion tent and it was possible to reserve tables for the sumptuous dinner served each evening.

Hatteras Yachts won this year's event, giving them ten straight wins. A total of 30 marlin were released. In the release category first place was *Tropicat III* while *Ruckus* won first place in the boated category.

The motto of the tournament remains the same: "Good Friends - Good Fishing."

## Billfish Blast

The Fourth Annual Boat Harbour-HMY Billfish Blast was held on May 26-30 at Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour. This tournament is by invitation only and is limited to 50 boats. This year 44 boats participated, up from 33 last year. No lay day is set but anglers can fish three out of the four days.

This year's winning boat was *Blue Bayou* which won first place overall and first place for releases. The boat captured the award for top angler, Sonny Freeman, and the top lady angler award.

During the tournament no billfish was brought to the dock but a total of three white marlin, seven sail fish and 25 blue marlin were caught. The tournament encourages a catch and release policy but will allow any billfish over 101 inches to be brought in. This means that the fish will be over 400 pounds. Additionally, their largest dolphin was 52.5 pounds, largest wahoo was 71 pounds and the largest tuna was 83 pounds.

The tournament was organized by Larry Smith, Sales Manager for HMY, a yacht brokerage firm from Fort Lauderdale. He was assisted by Laurie Ciecielski, Public Relations for HMY. It is intended to be a fun party for clients of HMY which emphasizes the love of fishing, creates a great competition and provides a time of camaraderie. They include captains and crew in all the festivities.

Their shore activities are popular as each day features a different topic. This year they celebrated Memorial Day with a fire works show. Their entertainment included the

popular ventriloquist, Jeff Durham.

## Second Leg of the Bahamas Billfish Championship

The second leg of the Bahamas Billfish Championship was the North Abaco competition hosted by Walker's Cay on May 4-9. There was a total of 37 boats fishing. The big fish they caught was a blue marlin weighing 684 pounds, caught by Paul Royhouse on *COB Too*. The total number of blue marlin caught and released was 18. The anglers caught and released one white marlin and three sailfish.

## Spanish Cay Championship

The Spanish Cay leg of the Bahamas Billfish Championship was held on May 19-23. This was the third leg of the 2003 Bahamas Billfish Championship. Forty-six boats participated. The biggest fish brought to the dock was a blue marlin weighing 630 pounds, caught by Gerry Pohl on *Palawan*. During this leg five fish were boated while all the others were caught and released. A total of 25 blue marlin, ten white marlin and five sail fish were caught and released.

This is the first time the Bahamas Bill-

Please see **Tournaments** Page 15



This is a great shot of action on the high seas. This fish was one of those caught during the Boat Harbour - HMY Billfish Blast which was held on May 26-30. Photo credit Laurie Ciecielski.

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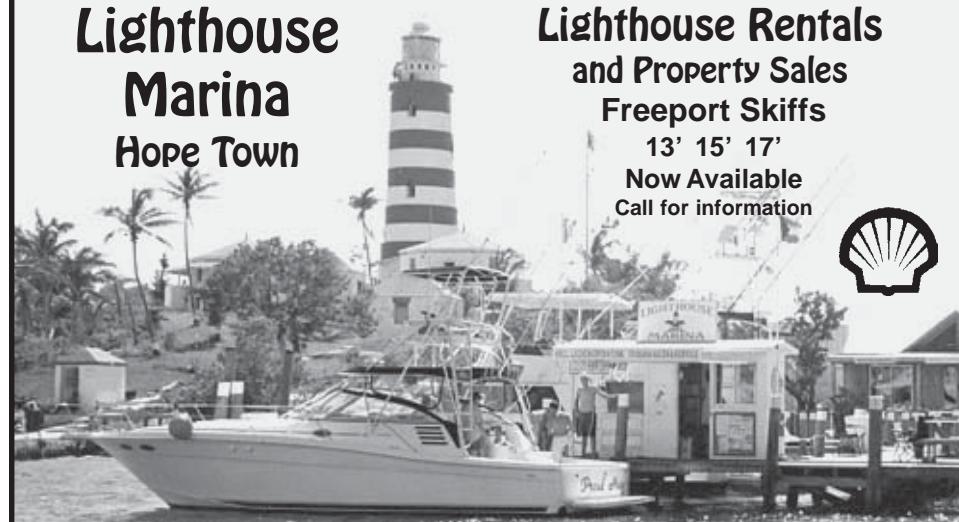
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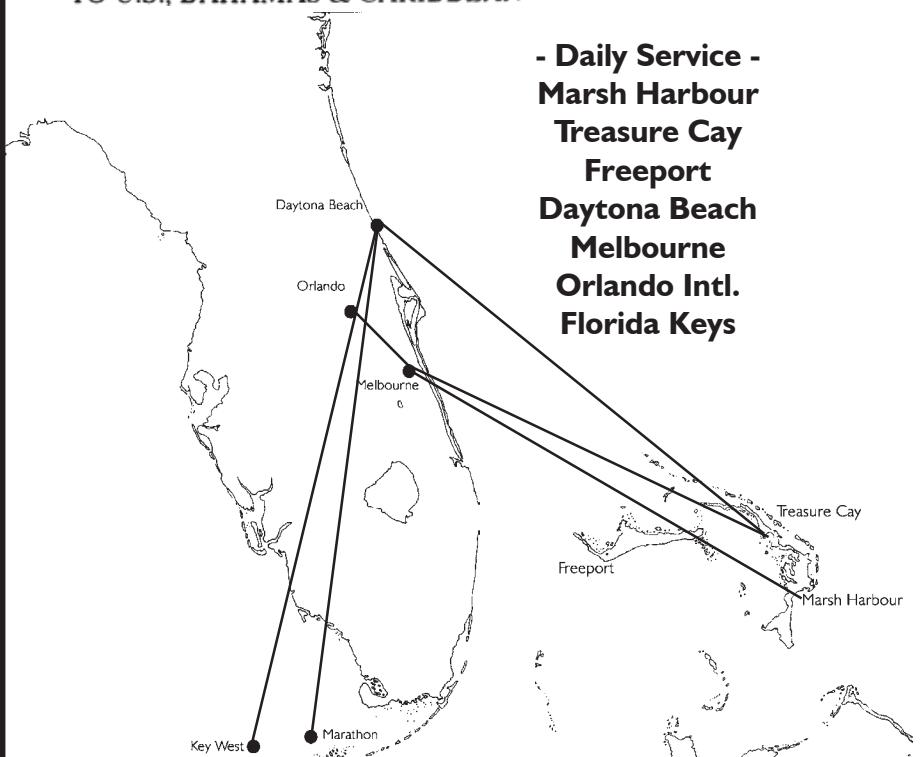
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**Tournaments**

From Page 14

fish Championship has gone to Spanish Cay. Reports coming back indicate that the fishermen enjoyed their stay at that beautiful island.

**Treasure Cay Billfish Championship**

The fourth leg of the Bahamas Billfish Championship was held in Treasure Cay from June 1-6. The biggest one of all the BBC tournaments this year was caught on June 5, a 984 blue marlin caught by Kim Manning on *Chupacabra*. Only three blue marlin were brought to the dock. The to-

tals for the fourth leg were 28 blue marlin caught and released, five white marlin and four sailfish caught and released.

These tournaments encourage the release of the big fish by awarding points for catching and releasing them. For the BBC the boats received 400 points for releasing a blue marlin, 200 points for releasing a white marlin and 100 points for releasing a sailfish. In the four legs of the tournament so far two-thirds of the boats coming in first, second and third places did not boat a fish.

The final leg of the BBC will be held at Boat Harbour in Marsh Harbour on June 15 to 20.



*The Dolphin Derby, a fishing tournament sponsored by Pete's Pub and Gallery of Little Harbour, is a popular event for local fishermen. This year the dates were May 6 - 10. This photo shows Buck with a 51.5 pound dolphin. He was winner of the largest dolphin. The overall category winner was the Jamaica Miss which caught 581 pounds of fish. Rollie on Cool Runnings brought in a 65.5 white marlin. Other categories included largest tuna, largest wahoo and largest grouper.*

**Church Fairs Are Great Fun**

*These girls are obviously enjoying the Anglican Church bazaar held on May 31. Cotton candy was just one of the attractions which always draws a crowd to that annual event. The girls pictured above are Tallia, Allissa and Ajah Bastian, all daughters of Wayne Bastian.*

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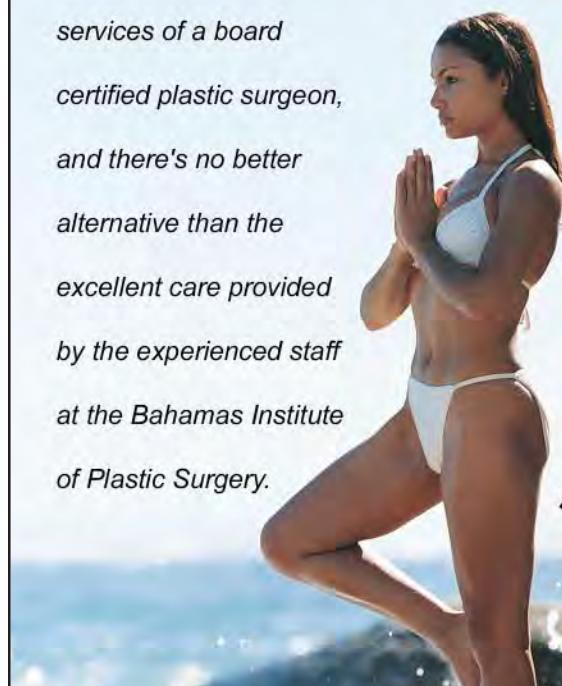
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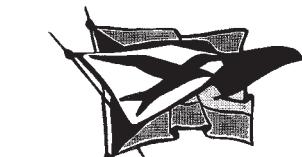
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Marsh Harbour, Abaco

# North Abaco News

## Fox Town Hosts Little Abaco Home Coming



Fox Town held a home coming on the holiday weekend of June 6-9. They had varied activities, games, volleyball, dominoes and basketball. The highlight was the crowning of Teen Little Miss Abaco on the night of June 6. Onasha Parker, 14 years old, is shown here, center, with hostess of the event, Ms. Melissa Parker, on the right and organizer of the home coming festivities, Ms. Claudine Parker, on the left.

### Green Turtle Cay Considerers Heritage Festival

An exploratory meeting was held May 20 in the new Plymouth Court room to explore the re-introduction of a Heritage festival in the fall. This would highlight the islands connection with Key West and reinstate the Islands Roots celebration held in Green Turtle Cay in 1977.

Key West, with a population of 18,000, has developed a very successful week-long festival that attracts as many as 30,000 people.

Mr. Don Cornish of Tourism and Administrator Gary Knowles headed the meeting with a small group of local government

members and residents. It was felt the concept had merit for improving tourism in a quiet time of the year and to enhance the cultural aspects and awareness of the town's past.

A planning group will meet soon to explore the concept further.

### North Abaco Council Holds Town Meeting

North Abaco District Council held its annual Town Meeting on June 4 in the Fire Road Community Center. Nine people were there at the start of the meeting attended with five more arriving before the meeting concluded.

A question arose over the new primary

school for Cooper's Town under discussion several years ago and the status of the bridge connecting Little Abaco with Great Abaco.

Administrator Gary Knowles did not know about a new school but said he would look into it. He was aware of the work due to start this month on the bridge as reported recently by Area Engineer John Schaeffer in *The Abaconian*. Mr. Knowles did state that government recently made extensive renovations to the Fox Town Primary School, S.C. Bootle High School and Cooper's Town Primary School.

Questions about the Fire Road Creek and the new water system to Treasure Cay could not be answered immediately but inquiries will be made.

It was noted that dock piling are still on the ground beside the new Cooper's Town public dock and the question was asked if the dock was finished. Administrator Knowles will contact the area engineer for more information.

The Administrator told the group that the first hurricane preparedness meeting took place three weeks previously and hurricane shelters have been designated as noted.

- Full Gospel Assembly - Treasure Cay
- Community Church - Treasure Cay
- St Simon by the Sea Anglican Church T.C.
- Revival Time Pentecostal, Cooper's Town
- Magistrates Court, Cooper's Town
- St. Andrews Baptist Church, Cooper's T
- End Time Harvest, Crown Haven
- Revival Time Pentecostal, Crown Haven
- New Hope Baptist Church, Mt. Hope
- Ebenezer Baptist Church, Cedar Harbour
- Gospel Chapel, Green Turtle Cay
- Amy Roberts School, Green Turtle Cay
- Green Turtle Cay Courthouse Additional

shelters may be authorized at the next meeting on June 24.

A question was asked why the Haitians are allowed to build on the road into the farm behind the airport. It appeared that no effort was made to stop this construction.

A request was made for an electrical outlet at the Cooper's Town cemetery to assist those preparing for funerals. The room applauded the request in support of the outlet.

Mr. Knowles suggested this be considered by each Town Committee. He suggested that a church or burial society might arrange for an electrical outlet to be installed. It would require a meter and a deposit to the electric company.

A woman complained of no work available for women in North Abaco. She said that Haitian women are doing all the maid work in Treasure Cay. She wanted the Haitian women off the job to let Bahamian women have this work.

Mr. Knowles reminded the group that a handy man / gardener is needed at the Cooper's Town Clinic. Only one person has shown an interest so far.

The Chief Councillor for the North Abaco District, Steve Pedican, gave a general breakdown for the North Abaco requested budget totaling \$876,000 for the coming fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003. This was the requested amount but it is not known yet if Nassau will honour this request. The budget for recurring expenses is divided five ways according to the maintenance requirements of each local government group.

Please see North

Page 31

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# Government Commits to Setting a Haitian Policy

**Christie**

From Page 2

Minister of Public Services and Community Development. They were accompanied by Mr. Paul Farquharson, the Commissioner of Police, Dr. David Allen from the Cabinet Office with the Urban Development Commission, Mr. David Cates of the National Disaster Commission and Mr. Davey Rolle from the Defence Force. This group spoke to the residents before taking a motor tour through the Mud.

Mr. Gibson realized that the immediate problems relating to the fire victims had to be kept separate from the long term problems that the Haitian community presents. He said that solutions must be

found for the basic problems.

Rev. Carlton Dorsette pointed out that many of the younger Haitians are wanting status. Life for the young people stops after high school. Many of the youth feel oppressed, have no future to look toward to and can find no job opportunities. They are unable to buy land because of their lack of status and they feel that the police treat them unfairly. Those advising the government ministers definitely do not want any solutions which would create another slum area.

Sen. Edison Key noted that government controls the low cost land. Bahamians as well as Haitians have suffered from a lack of low cost land. He wanted to see construction of any new houses

stopped. He wants assistance given to Bahamians now and then move to others. He felt it was time to give status to many of the Haitians.

In response to Sen. Key, Mr. Gibson said that some Bahamians in other areas of the country live in similar conditions as the Haitians on Abaco. Whatever solutions are decided on will apply equally throughout the country.

Policies for land acquisition in Central Pines may be relaxed by the Ministry of Housing to facilitate the ability of qualified low income residents to purchase lots there. However, this delegation was not sent to Abaco to assign land but rather came to gather facts.

Commissioner Farquharson commended the volunteer fire department for their quick response and thanked ASP Russell for providing security.

## Health and Local Government Ministers Visit Haitian Areas

On June 4 a third delegation arrived consisting of Hon. Dr. Marcus Bethel, Minister of Health and Environmental Services, and the Hon. Alfred Grey, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Local Government, to assess the situation. They were accompanied by Mr. Carl Smith of the National Disaster Committee. Dr. Bethel stressed that the government is making a great effort to present a compassionate answer to the problems of the fire victims. This situation is being handled by the Red Cross, the Christian Council, Social Services and other non-intimidating groups.

## Christian Council Is Involved

On June 5 the Bahamas Christian Council sent a fourth delegation to Abaco to assess the spiritual needs of God's people af-

fected by the fire or living in the Haitian communities. This group included Rev. C.B. Moss, Vice President of the Senate, and Pastor Lester Cox. Both these men are Administrative Assistants to the President of the Bahamas Christian Council. The President had another commitment so could not come. They met with Bahamian and Haitian pastors to discuss ideas of resolving these conditions.

The pastors emphasized that something had to be done. Many suggestions were discussed. They want construction of new houses in the two Haitian communities to be stopped. They emphasized that Bahamian laws be must be adhered to and enforced. One pastor talked about opening up Campbell Town, the location of a Haitian community developed by Owens Illinois pulpwood operation during the early 1960s. Others were opposed to the concept of a segregated community, feeling that it would be better for them to be integrated into the Bahamian society. They thought that encouraging movement into Central Pines subdivision would be better.

Rev. Moss felt that God may have used this incident to bring the Haitian problem to the forefront. He exhorted the pastors that the church must dwell on the good. The churches are here to assist and give moral strength as the government enforces its decisions. He said that many people must be consulted and many points of view must be considered before and policies will be adapted.

All these visiting groups and their technical advisors returned to Nassau with a better appreciation for the problems of the fire victims and the long term problems that these two communities present.



Two members of the Bahamas Christian Council met with Bahamian and Haitian pastors on June 5 to discuss the problem of illegal immigrants from the Christian viewpoint. Pastor Lester Cox and Rev. C. B. Moss are both Administrative Assistants to the President of the Bahamas Christian Council. Mr. Moss is also the Vice-President of the Senate. Shown above are, left to right, Pastor Cox, Rev. Carlton Dorsette from Dundas Town, Rev. C.B. Moss, and Mr. Jolton Johnson, Administrator for South Abaco.

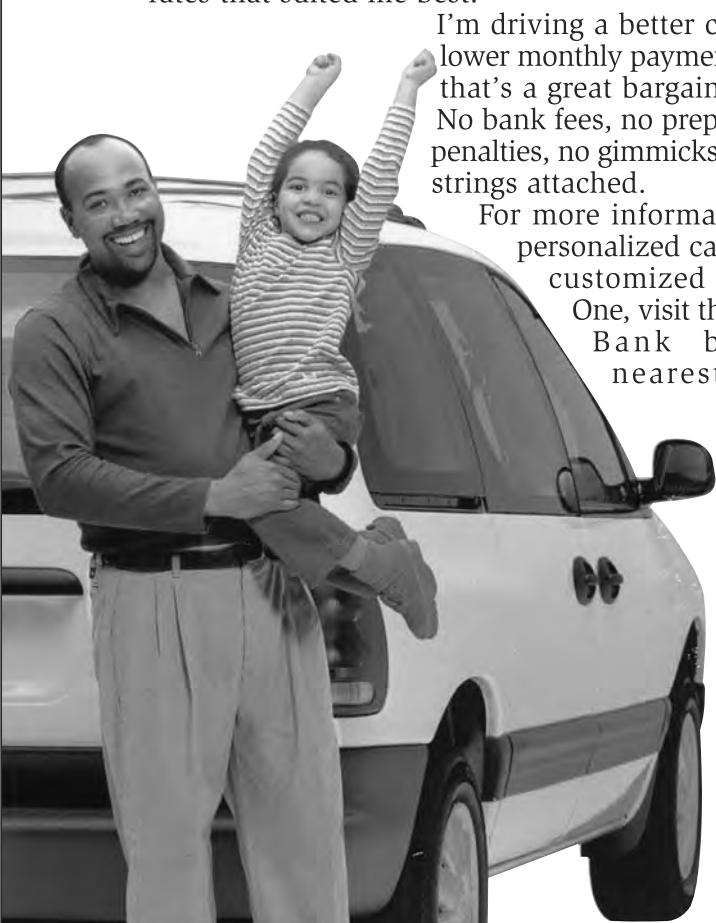
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# Abaco Pathfinders Introduces New Awardees

The Abaco Pathfinders held a reception and dinner for the donors and recipients of the Abaco Pathfinders Scholarships and to present the ten new scholarship recipients. The venue was Below Decks at Abaco Beach Resort. Mr. Jim Blumberg, Chairman of Abaco Pathfinders, thanked all those donors who have supported the program. Kathy Weldon, Administrator of the program, gave an update on all of the students who have received a scholarship. In the past two years Abaco Pathfinders has awarded scholarships to ten students each year who are continuing their education. They are all doing very well, academically averaging a 3.5 GPA. Two are graduating this year, both with distinction. One of them, Kenneth Strachan from Cooper's Town, plans to continue his schooling, beginning medical school in January.

Among the students, five are planning careers as teachers, four will be accountants, three nurses, three doctors, a dental hygienist, a physical therapist, two in graphic design, a speech therapist, a ma-

rine biologist, a chef, a psychologist, two lawyers and two business majors. The students come from all parts of Abaco from Fox Town to Sandy Point. Abaco Pathfinders would like to encourage more male students to apply.

The staff of Abaco Pathfinders does much more than provide monetary assistance. Pathfinders has a continuing monitoring system in which each student has a specific monitor to turn to for help. It has developed a handbook to help students research a school, apply to that school and understand a little of how the process works. The organization was well received at the College Fair held in Marsh Harbour last fall. It enabled the Pathfinder staff to meet several prospective recipients.

During the evening the current recipients present each gave a word of advice to the new recipients. It was a time of socializing and for members of the Abaco Pathfinders organization and the donors to get to meet with those awarded scholarships.



Nine of the ten students awarded Pathfinders scholarships attended a reception and dinner at Abaco Beach Resort on June 4. The event gave those donating the funding the opportunity to talk with the new recipients. Some of those who are already receiving scholarships were also in attendance. Shown above are, front row, left to right, Barnard Curry, Patricia Gerard, Racquel Smith and Tavia Cornish. In the back row, left to right, are Ricardo Curry, Hilary Rutter, Bianca Bethel, Shamika White and Sandra Pinder. Not pictured is Michelle Sawyer, who was attending school in the States.

Photo by Harry Weldon

## Farmers' Association Will Organize Show for Independence

By Isobel Sherman

The Farmers Association of Abaco is working with the Independence Cultural Committee to have the second annual agricultural show as part of the Heritage Festival planned for July 4, 5 and 6. The Farmers Association is targeting July 5 for the day of their display. They are inviting participation or displays in the following categories: agriculture, home gardening, pro-

cessing, environmental, arts and handcrafts, livestock, ornamentals, vegetable production, eco-tourism, fisheries, bush medicine, extension and education and product sales and marketing.

Anyone interested can contact Patrick Bethel at 367-4114, Jill Wells at 366-3076, Margaret Swain at 367-2652, Sheila Kelly at 367-5802 or John Hedden at 359-6954. Participation is most welcomed.



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# People in the News

## Abaco Loses Two Educators

By Jennifer Hudson

The end of this school year will be a very sad time for Mr. Mike Meeson and his wife Gae, as they will be saying goodbye to their school family at Forest Heights Academy. The Meesons have grown to love this family as their own and feel very close to their students.

The Meesons' story on Abaco began in 1967 when, just two days after they were married, they arrived here on a contract for the British Overseas Development Board, Mr. Meeson as Principal at Marsh Harbour All Age School and his wife as teacher at Dundas Town School. When the high school in Spring City opened, they both moved there as teachers.

Very reluctantly in 1973, the Meesons left the Bahamas as the government made a decision to offer teaching positions to Bahamians only. They emigrated to Australia in 1975 where they settled in Perth. In 1989 Gae returned to Abaco for the funeral of her friend Sharon Albury, but it also turned out to be a fortuitous visit because whilst here she was asked if she and her husband

would return to Abaco to start a private school. Mr. and Mrs. Meeson hurried back to the Bahamas. They worked for the government for one year and then in 1991, in partnership with Randy and Emily Key and Henry and Lynn Key, they opened Forest Heights Academy on the campus which is now St. Francis de Sales School. The school opened with an enrollment of 140 students from pre-school to Grade 10. In 1998, Forest Heights Academy moved to its present campus and the school as we know it today was born.

Mr. and Mrs. Meeson are justly proud of their school and the high standards that have been attained and stated that last year was a pinnacle year for the school. The top six places in the BGCSE examinations for Abaco as well as four of the top five in the BJC examinations for Abaco went to Forest Heights' students and they earned several awards for best student in the Bahamas. The Ministry of Education honoured the school by awarding a certificate designating it the best school on Abaco and ZNS Radio added further accolades by announcing that it can now be classed as one of the best schools in the entire Family Islands. The Meesons stress, however, that this has

definitely been a combined effort and that all this would not have been achieved without a great school board, great staff and fantastic students.

The decision to leave their beloved school has been an extremely difficult one for both Mike and Gae Meeson. They feel that it is time for them to return to Aus-

tralia both for medical reasons and in order to assist their aging parents.

## Daniel Wiltfang Graduates from U.S. Naval Academy

By Jennifer Hudson

Congratulations to twenty-two year old Daniel Morgan Wiltfang, who graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, on May 23rd, 2003. His proud parents, Dan and Linda Wiltfang, and brother, Jason, were at the memorable ceremony and found it difficult to fully describe the awe and tradition of the occasion.



Daniel Wiltfang

the Academy Daniel also gained several other distinctions. He lettered for three years in Navy Sailing, taking part in the Tall Ships of New York race and in the Cowes Regatta at the Isle of Wight, Great Britain, for the 125th Jubilee of the American Cup. At Cowes he sailed on the *Mariette of 1915* which won the Concourse D'Elegance award.

Daniel's goal is to eventually become a pilot for the United States Navy. But first he will travel to L'Ecole France Langue in Nice, France, to participate in a language immersion programme and then back to Annapolis for a short term of temporary duty.

After graduation from Forest Heights Daniel spent one year in Argentina on an exchange programme and is now fluent in both Spanish and French.

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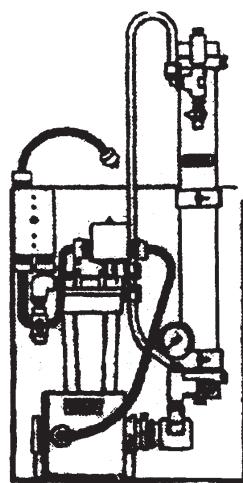
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# National Arts Festival Judges Local Talent

By Jennifer Hudson

Each year the National Arts Festival is held to give performers, both young and old, the opportunity to showcase their talents and to be assessed with others. Classes are judged in Nassau and throughout the Family Islands and all entries are judged nationally.

The judging for Abaco took place on the evening of May 12 at the Abaco Central Primary School and May 13 at Abaco Central High School. The five judges who traveled to Abaco for the occasion were Dr. Anne Peterson, Dance, Ms. Joan Callender, Singing, Ms. Keva Cartwright, Drama, Ms.

Jill Austin, Instrumental and Mrs. Patricia Bazard, Coordinator.

I was present for the Gospel section of the competition and enjoyed some very talented group and solo performances and a very dramatic and moving Sacred Dance by Sherrell Henfield for which she was awarded the outstanding score of 99 percent. All Abaco competitors scored well with scores ranging from 85 percent to 99 percent. The judges were extremely impressed with the standard of performance on Abaco and voiced the opinion that not only is there much talent evident here but there is also great enthusiasm for performing.



*The National Arts Festival judges came to Abaco to judge individuals and groups in many different categories of performing arts. Here one primary school is singing. The outstanding performers will be asked to perform at the Prize Winners' Concert to be held in Nassau. The Zion Baptist Youth Choir and Sherrell Henfield have already been invited.*

ing.

The last island to be adjudicated was Cat Island and once all scores are in, the Prize Winners' Concert will be finalized. It is expected to be held in Nassau on June 10th with the awards presentations taking place the following day. The Zion Baptist Youth Choir and Sherrell Henfield have already been invited to take part in the Prize Winners Concert. Transportation will be provided by the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture. According to Mr. Dean, music teacher at Abaco Central High School and Coordinator for the Arts Festival on Abaco, Abaco Central High School is in the running for the Governor General's trophy for having a total of thirty-six entries in this year's festival.

Whilst in Abaco the adjudicators, along with Supt. A. Russell visited Abaco Central High School to present plaques for participation in last year's festival.

Mr. Dean said that in preparing for this

year's Arts Festival on Abaco he had made every effort to contact schools not only on Abaco proper but on all the surrounding cays. Next year there are plans to hold the festival earlier in the year and the Ministry hopes to distribute all the set pieces by December 2003 so that judging can begin in January of 2004.

## Abaco Results

By Portia Jonsson

The festival was open to all amateur talents in the performing arts including song, dance, musical instrument and drama. Over 30 individuals and groups throughout the Abaco community participated in the festival. A large crowd turned out to cheer and support the performers as well as enjoy the entertainment. Winners in this festival will travel to Nassau to compete in a concert featuring the overall winners in this nation-

Please see Arts Festival Page 25

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# News of the Youth

## 2003 Bahamas Youth Camp Planned

The Assemblies of God will be hosting a Youth Camp at Camp Abaco just south of Marsh Harbour, during the summer holiday for ages 7-19. The Youth Camp will run from June 30th-July 19th with an extensive list of activities. Special features at the camp will include services, quizzes, puppets, skits, games, and a banquet and awards. A new sport this year will be

kayaking. The camp's schedule is as follows:

### Junior Camp 7-9 yrs.

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### Intermediate 10-12 yrs.

July 7th-July 12th

### Teen Camp 13-19 yrs.

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For application forms and information call 366-0636 or 366-3021 or mail application to Camp Abaco, P.O. Box AB-20595, Marsh Harbour Abaco.

## Summer Experience

By Portia Jonsson

Central Abaco Primary School is offering an exciting and fun filled summer program. Classes will begin July 7th and end July 30th meeting from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday through Friday. Subjects focused on will be Language Arts, Reading and Phonics, Mathematics, Introduction to Computer, Arts and Crafts, Drama and Creative Dance and Field Trips.

The summer program will be open to all school children ages 5-11 years old from

any primary school on Abaco. Children visiting for the summer holiday are also invited to attend. All interested persons please contact any one of the following: Mrs. N. Major 367-4571, Mrs. M. Dean 367-2640, Ms. C. Mackey 367-2351 and Ms. C. Wright 422-3605. Fees for the summer program are \$60 per week, which includes all materials, lunch and field trips. A maximum number of 60 children will be accepted. The deadline for registration is June 31st, 2003.

## Arts Festival

From Page 24

wide competition. Some of the competitor performed two numbers. A perfect score for each number was 100.

Name/Group - Class	Total Points
Sherell Roker - Liturgical Dance	99*
Alita Bain - Liturgical Dance	75
The Knights - Modern Dance	90*
Joyce Etienne - Gospel	173
Kashif Burrows - Pop	163
Zion Bapt. Youth Choir - Gospel	192
Jes'us - Male Gospel	187
Maxine Swain - Gospel	80
Daphne Brown, Vashti Mills - Gospel	85
Raquel Smith Woodwind Solo	84
Berlinda Jacobs and Hernatt Nicholas - Drama	82
Anointed - A capella Gospel	170
Shakeria Blanc - Gospel	155
Central Abaco Pri.- Choir	171
Abaco Central High - Gospel	176

Antonio Mills - Brass Solo Trumpet	79
Shaul Rahming - Gospel	155
Anderson Alcime - Gospel	184
Renardo Adderley - Gospel	187
Whitney McIntosh - Liturgical Dance	58
Alita Bain - Modern Dance - Solo	46
Sherell Roker - Liturgical Dance Solo	90
Tavon Ferguson Junkanoo Drummer	84
Roger Smith - Junkanoo Drummer	79
Santonio Knowles -Junkanoo Drummer	89
Cardina Rolle - Gospel	176
Carson Mitchell - Gospel	181
Deandra Armbrister - Gospel	163
Jaynell Cornish - Gospel	82
Daphne Brown - Gospel	157
Britney Edgecombe - Gospel	164

\*As at the end of the festival in Abaco, Sherell Roker and The Knights had received the highest points so far in the competition nationwide in their class.

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Bahamas Realty is pleased to announce our newest representative in the Abaco Cays, Patti Love.

Mrs. Love has lived in Hope Town for 23 years, successfully balancing a career and raising two children. Originally from Illinois, Patti attended Northern Illinois University, Dekalb where she completed her B.A. Degree in Business Administration. Mrs. Love has utilized her formal education in the Tourist Industry sector from restaurant Management to managing the office for a small Aviation Company. Patti has also been employed in the legal field by two prominent firms in Abaco. She found the legal profession challenging and was taught discipline and attention to detail.

Her future with Bahamas Realty will be complimented with the opening of her Property Management endeavour, "Island View Properties" in Hope Town. Both businesses will be located in the center of the settlement of Hope Town and will be open in the Fall of 2003.

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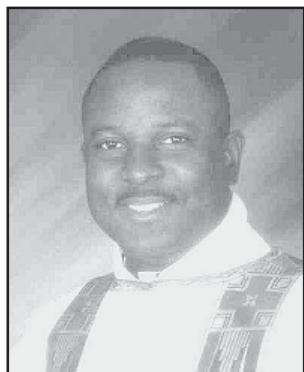
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# Church News

## Father Rolle Serves Five Churches

*Bu Jennifer Hudson*

On March 1st the Parish of St. Peter and St. Anne in Treasure Cay welcomed Father Dwight Rolle as their new Priest in Charge. Father Rolle spent his boyhood in Nassau attending St. Cecilia's Catholic Primary School and Aquinas College High School.



Upon leaving school he spent three years working in a trade with his father and assisting Bishop Eldon as he traveled throughout the Bahama Islands. It was the church youth ministry that gave Father Rolle the desire to enter the priesthood and in 1995 he entered Codrington Theological College, University of the West Indies. He was ordained to the Deaconate in 1999 and to the Priesthood on June 5th 2000.

After his ordination Father Rolle became Assistant Curate at St. George's Church in Nassau and then his first posting as Priest in Charge was to Cat Island, a mission parish of eleven churches where he stayed for one and a half years. During that time he began a restoration project as many

churches were in a state of disrepair.

Father Rolle is now happily settled in his new Parish here on Abaco, where he finds the more contemporary style of worship an interesting contrast to the more traditional style of worship in Cat Island. The Parish of St. Peter and St. Anne is a large one comprising five churches: St. Peter's in Green Turtle Cay, St. Simon by the Sea in Treasure Cay, Holy Saviour in Blackwood, St. Chad in Fox Town and St. Anne in Crown Haven. Services are no longer held at St. Georges in Cedar Harbour. He holds three services in North Abaco every Sunday. Mass is held each Sunday in Treasure

Cay while all other churches have Mass twice a month. Morning Prayer is held each week in all churches.

Father Rolle says that in North Abaco people in general are very excited about their church and there is a great spirit of togetherness and self-help. He states that congregations are larger in the north than in the south so the needs are greater. There is need for a full time cleric to deal with pastoral matters and it is the intention of the Archbishop to fulfill this need and to form a team ministry.

Father Rolle describes himself as a hard worker and states that "he is willing to give

his all as Jesus did." Two of the challenges that lie ahead are to establish a strong youth programme to serve the needs of the considerable number of young people in the Parish and also to build a Retreat on the land next to the Church in Treasure Cay for the use of both visiting groups and Bahamians.

It had not been feasible for Father Rolle's wife, the former Rochelle Pearson of Nassau, to accompany her husband to Cat Island so the couple are delighted that she is now able to reside here in Abaco with him.

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# Police Report

A visitor staying at Abaco Beach Resort reported on May 29 that someone stole \$4800 from his room of which four thousand was in the safety deposit box in his room.

A resident of the Mud was arrested at the Police Station on May 30 for causing harm as reported by a woman from Marsh Harbour.

A resident of the Pigeon Peas was arrested on May 31 for stealing gasoline.

A resident of Pigeon Peas was arrested on May 31 for chopping the hand of a man from Dundas Town. The man was released when the complaint was dropped.

A night club in Marsh Harbour was broken into on May 31 and beer and liquor valued at \$551 was stolen.

A Dundas Town resident was hit on the head with a bottle when he was at the Murphy Town basketball park on May 31. He reported to the police the name of his assailant.

A Dundas Town man found his nephew unconscious with a stab wound to his shoulder on May 31. The wound was treated at the clinic and the man was released.

## Sherman

*From Page 8*

away. But there is something much worse. I don't have a name for it except maybe "GIOPB" (getting into other people's business). What amazes me is how many persons think they have the right to give persons unsolicited advice or instructions on how they should live their lives or solve their problems. These people have no idea of the true situation or the circumstances. These GIOPB persons seem to feel they are helping or in some cases actually trying to cause more harm or stress to the affected person or persons.

There are many persons on Abaco with serious problems who are trying to overcome them. They are struggling either to get out of the situation or to recover after getting out of it. In most situations the

GIOPB persons have absolutely no idea of what the person has been through. Yet they criticize, condemn and seldom encourage. Some of their favourite sayings are, "Why don't you," or, "Did you know."

All of this can add to the stress for the victim. How much it affects that person depends on each individual. Some can ignore it completely, and some can take it for so long, then get annoyed by it.

As one individual told me who has gone through a serious problem, "Boy, people can talk and tell you how to live your life. That's Abaco. You have to be strong."

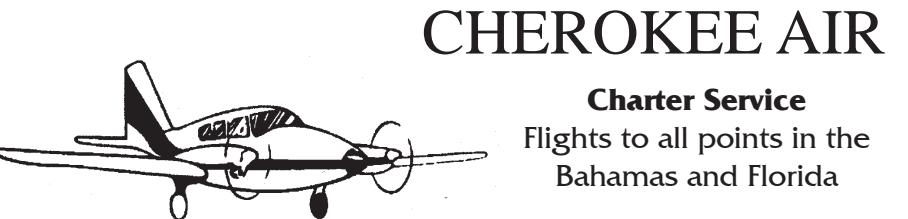
If one person who is guilty of GIOPB reads this and pauses to think, it was worth my effort. As a colleague said to me, "Before you criticize, gossip or give unsolicited advice, walk a mile in the other person's shoes."

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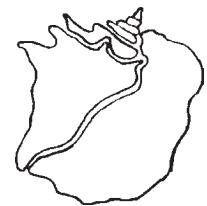
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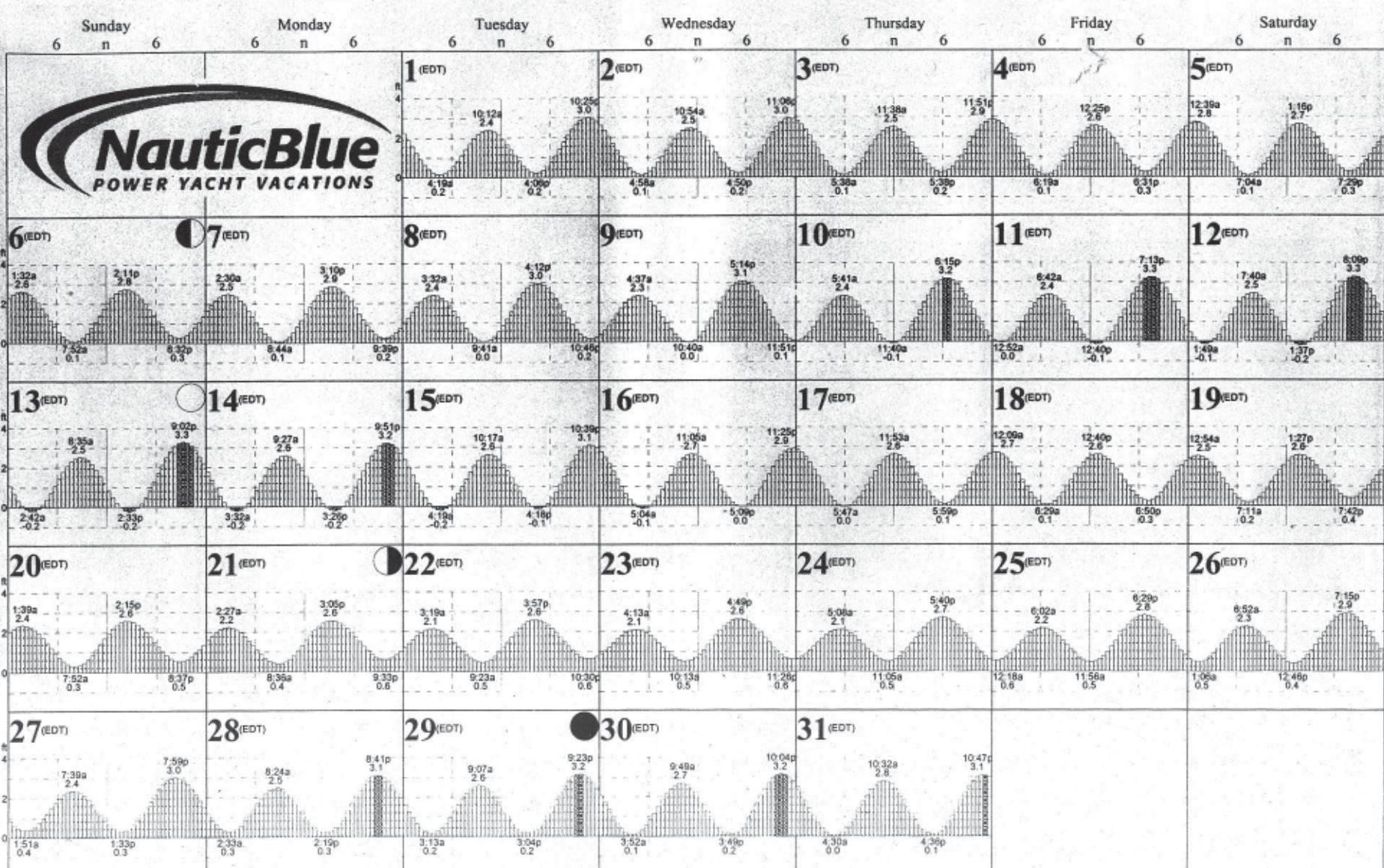


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# Coral Reefs - An Important Part of Our World

By Ann McFaden

By now it is no shock to learn that coral reefs are in serious trouble. In existence for about 200 million years, this delicately balanced marine environment relies on the interaction of hard and soft corals, sponges, anemones, snails, rays, crabs, lobsters, turtles, dolphins and other sea life - exactly what thousands of people come to the Bahamas to enjoy!

Many of the world's top reef scientists feel that by the middle of this century, many of the world's coral reefs will be functionally extinct. There is no one absolute reason why coral reefs are dying — there are several. Top contenders in the swan song for the reefs are:

- Nutrient loading into coastal waters from agriculture and poorly treated sewage.
- Heavy sedimentation from coastal construction and poor land user practices - such as destruction of mangroves.
- Over-fishing and destructive fishing practices.

These, combined with global-scale problems like abnormal atmospheric warming and geological changes plus ozone depletion are creating a deadly combination that has begun what

could be a death knell for the coral reefs.

Enter the tourism industry - not a super top-of-the-line adversary but one that can be controlled on a very personal basis.

Coral reefs occupy less than one quarter of one percent of the earth's marine environment, yet they are home to more than a quarter of all known fish species. They are deserving of protection for their intrinsic value alone. In addition, the economic, tourism, fishing and recreational resources of tropical areas depend upon healthy coral reef ecosystems. Barrier reefs protect shorelines from erosion and storm damage. The food, tourism revenue, coastal protection and the newest industry to be taking a look at corals - medications- these industries are worth about \$375 billion dollars a year.

How can we fit in here? As with everything, progress is made in small steps and visitors and residents alike can begin with awareness and education.

When out on or in the water - just follow some simple suggestions:

Avoid all contact from fins, hands, equipment and anchors. Even the slightest touch can crush polyps, leaving them vulnerable

to disease and bleaching (loss of the symbiotic algae and thus their color)

Approach reefs carefully and avoid swimming too close so you won't "accidentally" bump or land on them. YOU could get some nasty scratches! Move away from the reef when adjusting your fins or mask - DO NOT stand on the corals! Divers need to be vigilant with buoyancy control.

Avoid kicking up sand - this can cause a layer of silt and sand to cover the polyps and smother them.

Resist the temptation to feed the fish - remember they are still an animal "in the wild" and feeding them disturbs their natural feeding habits. Poking, grabbing at tails and fins, jabbing at and chasing the fish make them wary of people and their actions become unpredictable - you could get injured.

Take pictures, leave bubbles - the reef is

not a souvenir shop

Boaters need to take care - they can cause tremendous damage physically by crushing fragile corals upon impact, by running aground or dropping anchors on the reef. Use the correct size mooring buoys whenever available. If you must anchor, find a sandy place away from the reef so that neither the anchor or chain will drag over the coral. This also protects divers and snorkelers from landing on the reef when entering the water.

Bring your trash to shore - do not teach it to swim! Plastic bags and other marine debris can injure or kill animals. And if you see garbage, bring it in.

Coral reefs look sturdy - but inside all that gorgeous color and protective shell lives a delicate creature worthy of our attention and care - like all of us!



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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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Excursion boat • Froggies • Hope Town	366-0431

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Government Clinic Green Turtle Cay	.... 365-4028
Government Clinic Hope Town	.... 366-0108
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Government Clinic Fox Town	....

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8 am	9:45 11:30 1:30 pm 3 4 5 (M-F)
<b>Marsh Harbour to Man-O-War</b>	20 minute trip
10:30 am	12:15 pm (M-Sat) 2:30 (M-Sat) 4 5:30
<b>Man-O-War to Marsh Harbour</b>	20 minute trip
8 am	11:30 (M-Sat) 1:30 pm 3:15 (M-Sat)
<b>Marsh Harbour to Scotland Cay &amp; Guana</b>	30 minute trip
‡6:45 am	10:30 1:30 pm 3:30 5:30 (min \$40)
<b>Guana &amp; Scotland Cay to Marsh Harbour</b>	30 minute trip
8 am	11:30 2:30 pm 4:45pm
Fare • One Way / Round Trip Adult \$10 / \$15 Children \$5 / \$8	
Charters any time • Phone 367-3147 or 365-6010 VHF Ch. 16	
Hope Town and Man-O-War ferries leave from Crossing Beach	
Guana Cay and Scotland Cay ferries leave from Conch Inn	
‡ Workman's special Mondays thru Fridays from Union Jack Dock	

**Green Turtle Ferry****Green Turtle Cay to Treasure Cay Airport** • Daily

8 am	9 11 12:15pm 1:30 3 4:30
------	--------------------------

**Treasure Cay Airport to Green Turtle Cay** • Daily

8:30 am	10:30 11:30 1:30 2:30 3:30 4:30 5
One way adult fare \$7 (Children \$3) • Round trip \$11	

Additional to some destinations • Charter any time

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Port of Call ..... 24 .... F ... 367-2287

## "Fearsome" Sinkhole



This is an interesting sinkhole described as "fearsome" located on the side of a hill near Sunset Point north of Marsh Harbour. It is about 50 feet in diameter with water 20 to 30 feet below the rim. The size of the stalactites on the far side are brought into perspective when comparing them to the man standing above and behind on the far side. There are many "blue" holes in the forest throughout Abaco with the water several feet below the rim. Most sinkholes are in the forest but this is interesting because it is on a hillside.

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## NOTICE

**IN THE ESTATE OF ARNOLD JOSEPH EDWARDS**  
(a.k.a.) **ARNOLD EDWARDS late of Dundas Town, Abaco**  
**and of 199-5721 Avenue, Whitestone, Queens County**  
**New York, U.S.A., Deceased**

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claim or demand against the above Estate are required to send their names, addresses and particulars of the debts or claims certified in writing to the undersigned on or before 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2003, and if required, to prove such debts or claims, or in default be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts or claims are proved; after the above date the Personal Representative will distribute the assets having regard only to the proved debts or claims of which he shall have had notice

AND NOTICE is hereby given that all persons indebted to the said Estate are requested to make full settlement on or before 15th May, 2003.

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

## Works Dept. Gets a New Tractor



Abaco has received a new Massey Ferguson farm tractor with a Bush Hog weed and grass mower. The tractor was recently assigned to the Works Department. One of its primary assignments will mowing the road verges between Marsh Harbour and Sandy Point. Work has begun on the Sandy Point end of the road. The tractor is pictured here in Crossing Rocks. This initial work will be slow due to trees and road sides which need additional grading.

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**BUSINESS Establishment SURVEY**

The Department of Statistics is conducting its **Annual Business Establishment Survey** from April 15 until the end of September. The Survey requires that businesses and institutions provide the following information:

**Number of employees** 1  
**Wages & Salaries** 2  
**Annual hours worked** 3  
**Revenues & Expenditures** 4  
**Depreciation & Acquisitions** 5

The data generated from survey is used to measure each sector's contribution of national output, and provide information essential to the estimation of national income and the gross national product of The Bahamas.

So if you are involved in the production of goods and services, you can help contribute to our national income by completing the Annual Business Establishment Survey questionnaire accurately and in a timely fashion.

All survey questionnaires should be returned to the Department of Statistics.

**Department of Statistics**  
Clarence A. Bain Bldg.  
P.O.Box N 3904  
Tel: 326-4604/2  
Fax: 325-5149

**The Officer-In-Charge**  
Department of Statistics  
The Regent Centre  
P.O.Box F 42561  
Freeport, Grand Bahama  
Tel: 352-7196  
Fax: 352-6120

**Help Your Sector And Our Nation's Progress**



## North

From Page 16

- Treasure Cay Town Committee
- Green Turtle Cay Town Committee
- Cooper's Town Town Committee
- Little Abaco Town Committee
- North Abaco District Council

Contracts, salaries, wages and stipends take the bulk of the money for such things as garbage collection, school upkeep and maintenance.

A capital budget of \$101,000 was requested for seven items:

- Restrooms at the major parks
- A roof for passengers at the airport
- A pavilion at the ferry dock
- Road construction
- Additional street lights
- Alleviate flooding at Wood Cay
- Improve the bonefish landing in North Abaco

The Council is working to upgrade the garbage collection system with covered and proper collection equipment. This will be more expensive and require more money.

A home coming celebration is scheduled for Fox Town on June 6 - 8 and a Cooper's Town home coming on July 10 - 12.

Sandwiches and soft drinks were served at the conclusion of the meeting.

## Well Field Extends to Spring City

Shown on the map on the right is the Central Abaco water reserve area with the two present collection areas noted. The new well field was established a year ago to more than double the available water supply. Additional wells and pumps can be installed to further increase the supply as the area grows.

Development in the wellfield reserve is not allowed although the rule is not well enforced. A recent application for a hotel on the road between the airport and Spring City was deferred by Environmental Health pending clarification of their sewage disposal method. In theory Marsh Harbour development will stop at the airport roundabout. The shore area between Marsh Harbour and Snake Cay could be developed if there were road access.

### It Pays to Advertise

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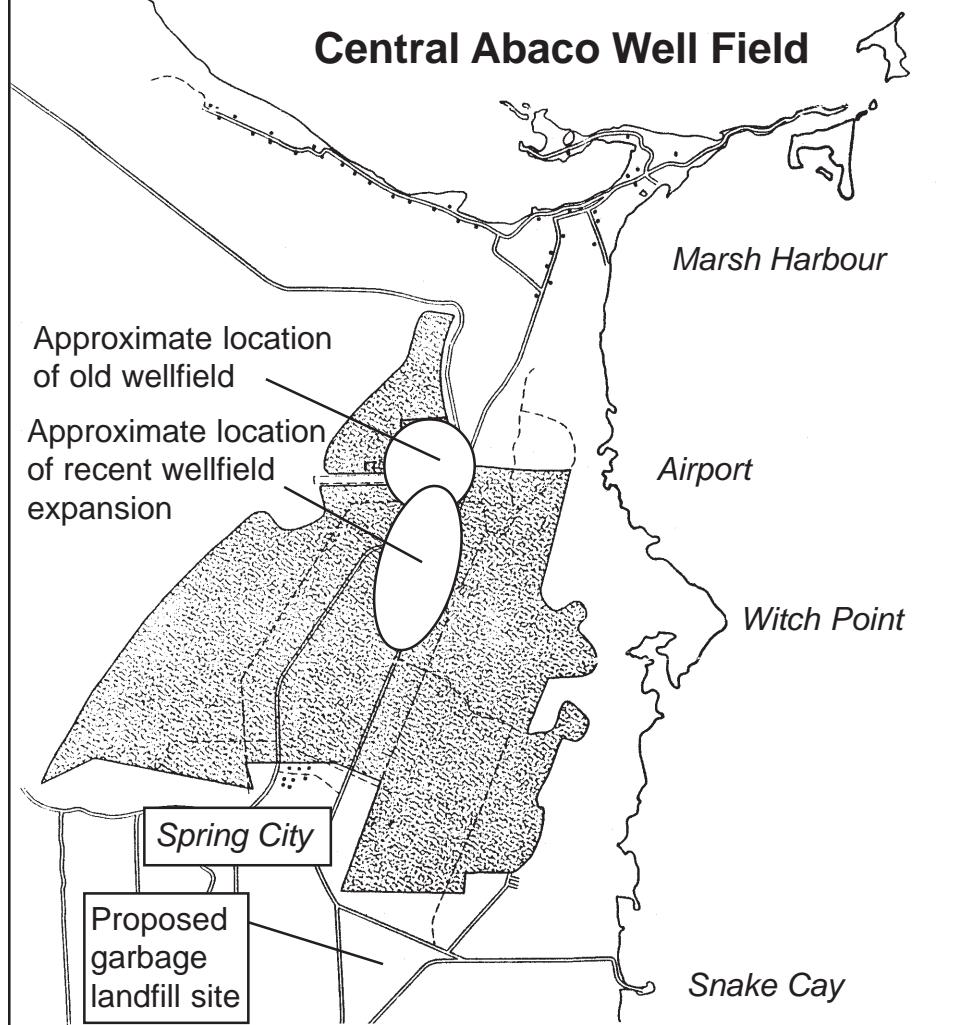
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### Real Estate

**Ocean Duplex Beach Villa:** On Treasure Cay Beach. One bedroom/bath/kitchen/living room in each unit. 50' patio. Two extra building lots included. Like new in and out. Fully Shuttered

Price: **\$480,000 (gross)**

**On Treasure Cay Beach:** 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 car garage plus full efficiency apartment.

**On Treasure Cay Beach:** 4 bedrooms 3½ bathrooms. Extra lot included. 200' on ocean, 600' depth.

**1305 Mariners Cove:** 1 bedroom, A/C, TV, fully furnished, facing pool.

**Harbour Entrance View:** 4 bedrooms 4 bathrooms plus efficiency apartment. Two storey with glorious uninterrupted view over the Sea of Abaco.

**Mariners Cove Town Houses:**

2 Bedroom Price: **\$105,000 (gross)**  
1 Bedroom Price: **\$88,000 (gross)**

# Cancer Society Holds National Raffle

By Jennifer Hudson

The Cancer Society of the Bahamas is sponsoring a raffle which offers very interesting prizes. They include a 2003 Ford Explorer, fully loaded, a Caribbean cruise for two with a choice of destination and a 25-inch colour television. Tickets, priced at \$10 each, are on sale at Pine Woods Nursery, AID, Standard Hardware, Van's Insurance, Shell Marsh Harbour, Bellevue Business Depot, all banks and on all the cays. The drawing will take place on June 28th in Nassau.

The proceeds of the raffle are for the Cancer Caring Centre, which is the largest project ever undertaken by the Cancer Society of the Bahamas. Today, it is a \$2 million dream with a further \$2 million endowment to subsidize the future operating costs of this much needed facility. Proceeds from this raffle and other public donations will help to make this dream a reality.

The Cancer Caring Centre will be a place of comfort, security and peace for patients receiving cancer treatments and will be a home away from home for patients and their families. The two storey building will be located adjacent to the present Cancer Society Headquarters in Nassau, close to doctors and hospitals. The building will house ten rooms, each with a patio and garden view. The second floor will be reserved for Family Island patients staying in Nassau for short term treatment. Full time staff will include an administrator, nurses and security. A doctor will be on call at all times and a network of volunteers will serve to enrich the patients' lives and make their stay



**Still Sporty  
at Forty**

as pleasant as possible.

The hardworking Cancer Society of Abaco has, over the last few years, donated \$36,000 towards the Centre and one room, which will be designated the Abaco Room, will be reserved solely for patients from Abaco needing cancer treatment in Nassau.

Within the last three years the Cancer Society of Abaco has assisted thirty-eight cancer patients by providing airline tickets and donations towards cost of treatment in

the sum of \$20,000. Now the Society seeks your assistance in helping this most worthy cause by purchasing tickets for the upcoming raffle.

The Cancer Society of Abaco would like to make special mention of the hours of time and effort donated to selling raffle tickets by the late Mr. Sherlock Russell of Hope Town. Sadly, he suffered a massive heart attack and passed away in Hope Town last month. But prior to his passing he had al-

ready sold twenty complete books of tickets for the Cancer Society Raffle. He sold tickets not only for the Cancer Society, but for every charitable organization he could possibly assist, raising tens of thousands of dollars for charity during his lifetime. He will be sadly missed and dozens of charities will be the poorer for his passing. Let us try to emulate Mr. Sherlock and do what we can to support these worthy charities.

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with boat slip \$182,000  
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Bldg 5 Upsta **SOLD** bath, boat slip \$194,000

### MARINERS COVE

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Garden/Pool View 2 bed / 1 bath \$113,000  
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### VILLAS

Beach Villa Subdivision  
Garden villa 2 bed / 2 bath extra features \$157,300  
Ocean Villa Subdivision  
2 bed / 2 bath special garden location with pool view \$260,000  
2 bed / 2 bath **SOLD** greenway access to ocean plus extra features \$272,000

### APARTMENTS

Rock Point four-plex, 2 storey CBS apartment building, each level has 2 full apartments with 2 bed, 1 bath, living/dining/kitchen. Great rental investment. Must see. \$350,000

### TREASURE HOUSES

Ocean front luxury units with lagoon pool / waterfall  
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### BAHAMA BEACH CLUB

New luxury condominium project on Treasure Cay Beach. 3 bed / 2 bath / Den / Lanai / on-site pool and many other features Starting at \$425,000  
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### BRIGANTINE BAY ESTATES

"Sea Cliff" newly completed 2 storey CBS home fully furnished. Living / dining / kitchen downstairs, bed rooms upstairs. Direct greenway access to Treasure Cay beach **MOTIVATED SELLER** \$431,000

"Sableau Soleil" Canal front with dock. Island simplicity home, 3 bed / 2 bath, detached garage with half bath. Waterfront view from master bedroom and open concept living / dining / kitchen. \$430,500

### WINDWARD BEACH

"Seclusion" Ocean front CBS house, 2 bed / 2 bath plus detached 20' x 30' 2-car garage with extra bath. House has wonderful view as well as prevailing tradewinds \$800,000

### LEEWARD BEACH ESTATE

"Blue House" One-of-a-kind beach front home designed by the Architect / Owner for family and beach living. 5 bed / 4 bath, large living / dining area with modern kitchen, wrap-around deck. Many, many extra features. \$2,100,000

### CASUARINA BEACH/OCEAN BOULEVARD

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"Sea Grapes" Directly on the ocean modern CBS fully tiled 3600 sq. ft. home on extra large lot with 215 ft. ± frontage. Features 3 bed / 3 ½ bath, fully equipped kitchen, large living / dining area (open concept). Two bedrooms / living / dining / kitchen all face ocean side and have direct access to beautiful garden and beach. Garage and utility in main house with additional detached garage / work shop / storage. Grounds fully landscaped with irrigation / sprinkler system.

**MOTIVATED SELLER** \$1,600,000

"Serenity" A real "Estate" property. Modern 4 bed/4.5 bath, 5600 sq. ft., two storey CBS home with incredible ocean views. Upper level extra large, open concept living/dining/kitchen with outdoor covered balcony and master en-suite bed/bath. Lower level 2 bed/2 bath, lounge, wet bar plus additional bed/bath and double garage. Property has two fully landscaped lots with 290 feet ocean front. Special property with many, many additional features including 2 bed/1 bath caretaker's cottage. \$3,800,000

### GALLEON BAY CANAL / ESTATES

"Safe Harbour" Canal front with excellent elevation. Octagonal 825± sq. ft. garage / efficiency guest house with plans for main house. Dock with power in place. Must see. \$369,000

"Laguna" brand new canal front, octagonal home, fully furnished, 3 bed/ 2 bath, modern open concept, living/dining/kitchen plus partially covered deck. Perfect island retreat for some lucky family \$676,500

"Island Times" 2500 sq. ft. modern spacious 3 bed / 2 ½ bath, living/dining/kitchen opening onto covered patio facing waterfront. Double garage/utility. Extra adjacent lot. Total frontage 108 ft. \$830,250

"Seaductress" / "Harbour's Edge" Modern CBS 3 bed/ 3 bath home including private entry suite, pool, 80 ft., full serviced dock, 2 car garage including two vehicles. Exceptional location and view. Many more features, must see to appreciate.

**MOTIVATED SELLER** \$1,200,000

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# History Is Still Alive in Hope Town

By Margo Albury and Krista Kelly

There are many attractions in Hope Town, the lighthouse, lots of gift shops, great beaches and surf. The Wyannie Malone Historical Museum offers a different type of attraction, something more original. The museum is located in its new building on Gillam Street, next to the Post Office. The building that stands there today is only "phase one" of what is going to be a magnificent structure. Another complex, "phase two," is now under construction and will feature new displays reflective on the life and times on Elbow Key in the last 200 years.

The museum has only been at its present location for the last three years. The different locations of the museum over the years is an interesting story itself. The idea for a museum was presented to the community of Hope Town in 1977 by Byrle Patterson, Shirley Higgs, and Vernon Malone. Without any hesitation, a location was looked for and found. A local of Hope Town, Harrington Albury, donated the use of his house to the community. Local residents donated artifacts, and by the end of 1977 the museum was opened. This was the home of the museum for quite some time. The Bicentennial Celebration of Hope Town in 1985 was held at the building. However, in 1987 the owner, Mr. Albury, asked to have the home returned to him. The committee was soon able to find another available house, and the museum resided there until 1999. Since the house was not for sale, talk of building began in order to find a more secure home.

In the meantime, The Wyannie Malone

Historical Museum received the "American Express Preservation Award for 1991." In 1994 land was purchased on Gillam Street, and construction began in 2000 and was completed in 2001. The construction of the second building has been planned for this year to coincide with the 25th Anniversary Year of the Museum's founding.

The actual museum is an amazing thing. It is filled with lots of artifacts that have been collected over the years. Wyannie Malone, for whom the museum was named, came to Hope Town in the 18th century from the Carolinas, after losing her husband in the war. Wyannie and her family were not accepted in America because they were supporters of England during Revolutionary War. There is much to be learnt about her and the life she had during the early years of Hope Town in the museum. She can be considered one of the great founders of Hope Town. The Museum is opened ( depending on volunteers) Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. and on Saturday 10 a.m.-12 Noon.



An artist's rendition of the Wyannie Malone Historical Museum is shown here. The first building was completed in 2001 and the two story building behind is now under construction. The museum was begun by Hope Town residents who wanted to preserve their town's history. Many volunteers now work to keep it maintained and open to the public. It depicts life as it was lived 100 to 200 hundred years ago.



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# More Letters to the Editor

## Letters

From Page 8

### Yacht Club Survey Was Biased

Dear Sir,

In response to the alarming "survey" published in your last edition, I must give voice to the questions it invites of the Yacht Club in question:

1) What were you thinking? I suspect that you were so intent on self promotion that you lost sight of the effect(s) of your crowing.

2) Your figures and methodology are seriously questionable and preclude being called a true survey. 700 members? only 96 people answering? You don't really think that's a fair representation do you?

3) The Royal Marsh Harbour Yacht Club (Royal?) has obviously devolved from its original role in Abaco. Management personnel of this club are deft history revisionists who have "gotten away with murder." RMHYC, you embarrass yourselves, please get your own house in order. Your management does not serve you well, nor does

it promote your club, rather, they presume to inflate their personal agendas at your expense.

4) Your complaints - The "Ugly American" type of comments - are meanspirited in some instances and futile in others. Grow up. Why do your respondents keep coming back? They come back because it is cheaper here in the winter than at home, it's that simple. This is not the only beautiful vacation spot in the world, it IS special though, and there are lots of us who don't WANT it to become an extension of what you are escaping from. You mind your business, please don't mind ours too!

5) The whole thing is just silly, and if it weren't for the coming coincidental increase in the rate of Cruising Permits, wouldn't bear comment. Remember what your pastor said about "cutting off your nose to spite your face?"

Mr. Editor, I ask that you withhold my name because these people have proven themselves vindictive and spiteful in all of my encounters with them to date, and I seek to spare myself one of the many headaches they spread every time they come to Abaco.

# Fire Nears Neighboring Houses



Houses were built up against the Abaco Hardware fence 20 feet from the metal building. As the fire approached the 8 foot chain link fence, the firemen had to retreat as it was too hot to stay between the building and the flames. It was during this phase that the metal building got so hot that it ignited merchandise inside the building. Photo by Harold Davies

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**Man-O-War Cay - 0331** This property has two lovely homes. The primary residence features 3bds/3bths, modern kitchen, dance studio, art room, upstairs master bed and bath with double Jacuzzi, double vanity, and his and her walk in closets. Also has BBQ pit, extensive decking and takes in gorgeous views of the Atlantic. Guest cottage features 2/2, utility room and wrap around decks as well. This is a MUST see! Call for more details.



**Guana Cay - 0271** Ridge House is perch on a high bluff over looking lovely Boat Harbour. Has 4 bedrooms upstairs, with living, dining and kitchen, which are all open and command fantastic views of the Sea of Abaco. Features 800 sq. ft. of outside deck, and downstairs has a self contained apartment which is 800 sq. ft. and is comprised of 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. Offers a private dock and is presently on the rental market and rents for \$2,400 a week. \$699,000



**Great Abaco Club - 0082** Lovely home in gated community, features 3/2, modern kitchen, Jacuzzi tub, vaulted ceiling, private dock slip with boat lift, and a covered deck as well as a sun deck. Has the convenience of the resorts facilities. This home is a boater's dream.

\$585,000



**Guana Cay - 1386** A fantastic building site near Boat Harbour on Guana Cay. Features elevations of 35'+/- and thick lush vegetation. Just a short walk to the main town where restaurants, grocery stores and other conveniences can be found. This lot also has a dock slip on the protected Boat Harbour. \$90,000



**Guana Cay - 0338** Beach house features 2/1 on 9,000 sq. ft of property, 11,000 gallon cistern, 336 sq. ft of outside decking and has a fantastic rental history. \$375,000



**Man-O-War Cay - 1369** Cozy cottage in heart of town, featuring 1/1 with upstairs sleeping loft, close walk to beach and conveniences. Would be a great vacation cottage. \$149,900

## Green Turtle Cay Office

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



#1322 Three bedrooms two bathroom modern home located in Treasure Cay near to beaches and golf course. Immaculately cared for home with all the modern amenities such as central A/C, cable etc. Offered at \$295,000



#0337 Unique waterfront with shared dock. Two bedrooms, two baths, octagonal tree house overlooking the Sea of Abaco. Perched high above the ground among the trees, this house is aptly named Hummingbird.



#0333 Waterfront estate in White Sound, Green Turtle Cay. Two bedrooms, two baths, master bath has a spa. The modern interior consists of two dinning areas, an island counter bar, living room and kitchen. All rooms enjoy a magnificent view of the harbour. Offered at \$850,000

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- Nice Neighbourhood – cleared lot with fruit trees near to beaches, park and a public dock. \$45,000
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- Greenway Canal Lot- Located on Brigantine Bay, Treasure Cay. \$35,000

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The houses are so close together that firemen could not get their hoses and water to the burning houses behind. Some residents took hoses on the roof tops but discovered that they could not apply the water effectively to the burning buildings. The heat and flames soon drove them back. Here are two typical houses only a foot or two apart, with no way to apply water behind them. The eight-foot fence separating the houses from the lumber yard is visible here. On the other side a six-foot fence separated similarly spaced buildings from the back of Sawyer's Market. On the east side a five-foot chain-link fence bordered the property. The west side of the burned area opened onto the only road accessing Pigeon Peas. Photo by Harold Davies



This is the road in Pigeon Peas separating the east and west sections of the community. This road provided the only access into the burning section and was not fenced. The houses extended to the edge of the road as noted by the flames. The building with the men on the roof is immediately behind the lumber yard and had enough separation from the burning area so it was spared.

Photo by Cay Russell

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Marsh Harbour - Great Abaco Club - 3 bedroom, 3 bath - 1,320 sq.ft. home - Private 50' Lay-along Boat Dock - Great Sea of Abaco View. Tastefully Furnished and fully equipped - Beautifully Landscaped # AB93 -      NEW LISTING \$595,000

★ Bahama Palm Shores - Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath - 1,300 sq.ft. home. with 1 bedroom, 1 bath detached cottage/apartment on almost 1/2 acre lot. One Block from beach, two minute walk.....# AB76 -	\$ 275,000.
★ Elbow Cay - Dorros Cove - "Lady Bug Loft" - 3 bedroom, 2 bath - 1,600 sq.ft. home on 1/2 acre overlooking Tahiti Beach. Private boat slip. Fabulous views - Fully furnished.....# AB83 -	\$ 840,000.
★ Great Cistern - "The Chandlery" - 4 bedroom, 2 bath lovely 2,200 sq.ft. home, one acre of land - with cabin, called "Heaven" by current owner, perfect for studio, guest house or income property.....# AB25 -	\$ 349,900.
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★ Great Guana Cay - "Ridge Runner" - 2,160 sq.ft. home - 1.1 acres - 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2nd floor living space - 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 1st floor apartment, Private Dock, Fabulous views - Furnished.....# AB85 -	SOLD
★ Great Guana Cay - "Oceanfront Hideaway" - mini-resort Beach-front - 6 unique 2 bedroom, 1 bath, rental log cabins- 2,000 gal/day Watermaker - Central location.....# AB26 -	\$ 1,275,000.
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★ Leisure Lee - "Leisure's Rest" - 3 bedroom - 2 full baths, plus 2 -1/2 baths - 2,700 sq.ft. home - beautifully landscaped. Fully Furnished.....# AB84 -	\$ 350,000.
★ Man-O-War Cay - "Outrageous" - 4 bedroom - 3 1/2 bath home. Furnished, Beach Access, Ocean View, Semi-Private Dock.....# 2899 -	\$ 875,000.
★ Man-O-War Cay - "Joe's Beach Cottage" - 2,296 sq.ft. home. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 2nd floor living space. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, separate 1st floor apartment. Good income producer. Minute from beach - Furnished... # AB61 -	\$ 410,000.
★ Marsh Harbour - Pelican Shores - "Pelican Point" 3 bedroom, 3 bath home - 1 bedroom, 1 bath garage apartment - 2 Acres - over 1,000' water-frontage - private dock with boat lift - Fabulous Views furnished.. # AB67 -	\$ 2,990,000.
★ Marsh Harbour - Eastern Shores - "Beach Point House" - 5 bedroom, 3 bath, 2,500 sq.ft. home. 1,200 sq.ft. of verandahs and decks. 3/4 acre on Sea of Abaco - Two complete living units, Beach - Great views.... # AB89 - New Price \$ 1,450,000.	
★ Marsh Harbour - Great Abaco Club - "Villa Douglas" - 3 bedrooms - 3 baths - 2,650 sq.ft. Home, Covered Verandas, Garage - Private Dock, Boat Lift - Furnished.....# AB71 -	\$ 1,500,000.
★ Marsh Harbour - Eastern Shores - "Lookout House" - 4 bedroom, 3 baths - 1,600 sq.ft. on sea-to-sea 3/4 acre. New addition and renovation. Natural foliage - Private dock - Fabulous views - Furnished.....# AB91 -	\$ 1,120,000.
★ Marsh Harbour - Great Abaco Club - "Casa Linda" - 3 bedroom, 2 bath - 1,487 sq.ft. home, Attached Garage - Private Dock - Boat Lift - Furnished .....	\$ 589,000.
★ Marsh Harbour - "Running Light" - Commercial - 100' Prime Marsh Harbour Waterfront - 1/3 acre 2,600 sq.ft. of office or residential space in two buildings - Great Parking - Private Dock.. # AB42 -	\$ 750,000.
★ Sand Banks Creek - "Dannie's Den" - 2 bedroom, 2 bath new home + 80' Waterfront - Almost 1 1/2 wooded acres. - Private Dock.....# AB73 -	\$ 395,000.
★ Treasure Cay - "Honey's Home" - 3 bedroom, 3 bath - 1,600 sq.ft. home - 2/3 Acre on Galleon Bay Canal Private Dock with Boat Lift - Great Canal and Sea of Abaco Views. Furnished.....# AB66 -	\$ 765,000.
★ Treasure Cay - "Son Burns" - 4 bedroom - 3 bath - 2,160 sq.ft. home - almost 3/4 Acre on Galleon Bay Canal - Private Dock - Fully Furnished.....# AB72 -	\$ 635,000.
★ Treasure Cay - "South View" - 3 bedroom, 2 bath Home. - Canal-front Location - Great Sea of Abaco Views, Good family home - Fully furnished.....# AB30 -	\$ 340,000.

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Abaco District Managing Broker  
Retta Thomas - Office Manager  
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John Cash  
Estate Agent  
Treasure Cay, Abaco  
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# More School News

## School

From Page 13

from Mrs. Michelle Bailey's Grade 11 Biology class produced an informative leaflet on the *Endangered Birds of The Bahamas*. The pamphlet was reprinted for Earth Day 2003. The leaflet outlines three endangered birds. The Abaco Parrot, the White-Cheeked Pintail Duck, the West Indian Flamingo and the West Indian Whistling Duck. The last page of the pamphlet lists things a persons can do to help these endangered birds. The students who produced this leaflet are Malisa Singh, Oprah Davis, Leonard Edgecombe, Joyce Ettienne, Michelle Cartwright and Deshonna Rolle.

### Teacher Appreciation Week

The week of May 19-23 was Teacher Appreciation Week in The Bahamas. It is a week when students, parents and the community at large show their appreciation for teachers. At Abaco Central High School the administration hosted the teachers to a luncheon at Bay View Restaurant on May 23.

### New Exam Center

If you have been down town Marsh Harbour at lunchtime lately, you may have noticed an abundance of students in aqua and white school uniforms. They are twelfth grade students from Abaco Central High

School who are on lunch break from taking their BGCSE examinations. This year for the first time the students can sit their examinations in air-conditioned comfort. That was not the primary reason for changing the venue. It was done to meet security requirements for the examination as the high school could not operate all classes and conduct the examinations as well. Ninth grade students taking their BJC examinations will also use the Resource Center.

### Student Project Destroyed

Last year a clean up campaign of Snake Cay took place involving several schools and youth groups. The campaign was sponsored by Nickelodeon through the Ministry of Tourism. Several businesses houses were involved as well as Department of Environmental Health. The object was to highlight the mangrove ecosystem and why it should be preserved and kept clean. To this end several Marine Biology students from

Abaco Central High made and erected a large sign at the Snake Cay landing on the creek depicting the mangrove ecosystem and why is needs to be preserved.

Several weeks ago someone knocked the sign down upsetting the students. A group of Governor General's Youth Award Scheme will be repairing and re-erecting the sign soon. Road Runners Bicycle Store in Dundas Town will provide the supplies for this venture.

### Abaco Central Back on Track

The Governor General's Youth Award Scheme is back on track at Abaco Central High School after an absence of two years. Recently six grade 10 boys joined the S.C. Bootle Governor General's Youth Award Scheme group for a 15-mile hike and camp out. This allowed the boys to be able to participate in the Bahamas Governor General's Youth Awards Scheme Annual Summer Camp Out. Which will be held in

Abaco this year with Abaco Central High School being the home Base.

Presently Mrs. Michelle Bailey, head of the science department at Abaco central High will be advising the group until a permanent advisor can be found.

### Baccalaureate Is Planned

Abaco Central High School will be holding their annual Baccalaureate service on June 22 at the Dundas Town Church of God.

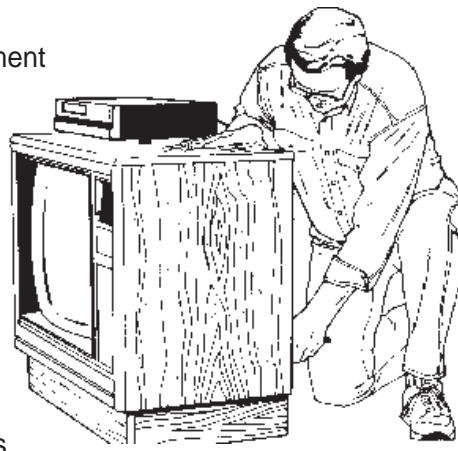
Seventy students in grade 12 will be graduating from Abaco Central on June 24. The ceremony will be held at New Visions Ministries and the guest speaker will be Ms. Veronica Owens, Parliamentary Secretary with the Ministry of Education.

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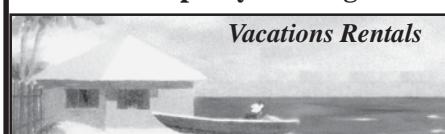
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Little Harbour Great ocean view, furnished 2 bed with A/C, 2 baths, sun deck, screened porch, w/all amenities. Rent \$850/wk. Long term rental available. Sell for \$250,000 Call 242-366-3515 or 850-230-8212

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Marsh Harbour, Sweeting Tract, two furnished apt. each 2 bed / 1 bath including water and gas. \$1100 month. Call 367-2660

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### COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR RENT



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## Tourist Killed in Boat Accident

A visiting boater, William Lee Todd of Ormond Beach, Florida, was killed in a night-time boating accident off Green Turtle Cay May 31. About 9 pm an outboard motor boat driven by Hanna McIntosh returned from the Abaco ferry landing when his boat ran over the rubber dinghy which was returning to its parent ship, the Sponge Cake.

Mr. Todd's body was recovered from the water a short time later.

**South** From Page 9

lots and take action to have them cleaned. He explained how legal action can be taken

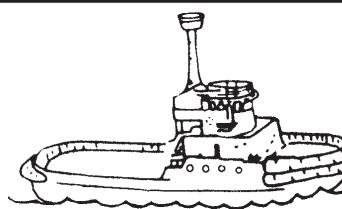
against the owners.

It was noted that Sandy Point does not have a public boat ramp.

A plea was made for parents to work more closely with their children's teachers, particularly where the child is experiencing learning problems.

Mr. McKinney felt the community building and storm shelter outside town would be much farther along if more of the town men would volunteer their labour. Only three or four people are presently helping with most work being hired. This slows the process as money must be raised to pay for the workers.

Sandwiches and soft drinks were served after the meeting.



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**Murphy Town**  
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**Murphy Town**  
3 bed, 2 bath  
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**Casuarina Point**, unfinished house for sale. Call 375-8738, 366-3030 or 366-2310 for more information

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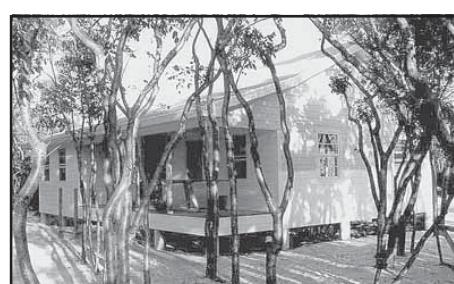
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Memorial Plaza  
P.O. Box AB 20123  
Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas

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E-mail: seagraperealty@hotmail.com

**Elbow Cay:** Lot on Centerline Road, 90' x 100', good title. \$75,000

**Elbow Cay:** Acre in Back Creek, access to water. \$80,000

**Tilloo Cay:** Two lots on Sea of Abaco, 100' wide, approx 250 feet long, deep water, hill top views. Please enquire.

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**Fire**

From Page 5

Pigeon Pea settlement is on land claimed by Ricky Albury. Many attempts have been made to rectify the living conditions there and in the adjoining Mud community. Although these communities are in the center of Marsh Harbour, they are mostly hidden by businesses along the main roads and by bushes around the perimeter. The Mud is located on nearby Crown Land and is not nearly so densely concentrated.

The residents of both areas have built without permits, without proper sanitation facilities and on private or government land. Houses continue to be built on a regular basis. Illegal electric lines and water lines crisscross the area. Persons with a legal electric or water connection often allow adjoining buildings to make a connection for a

fee. Wires and pipes extend throughout both settlements.

There have been several other major fires in our Haitian communities. In 1994 five houses burned in the Mud. Another fire in the Mud in 1998 left 85 to 100 persons homeless after 14 to 18 houses burned. Thirty-four families were homeless after a fire destroyed 18 to 20 houses in Pigeon Pea in 2000. The Haitian community of Sand Banks near Treasure Cay had a serious fire in 2001 leaving 74 persons homeless. Just last year a fire in Charlie Boo Corner in Marsh Harbour burned four houses leaving 10 persons homeless. It is remarkable that there have been no fatalities or injuries. Much credit for this can be attributed to the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department's prompt response and skills.

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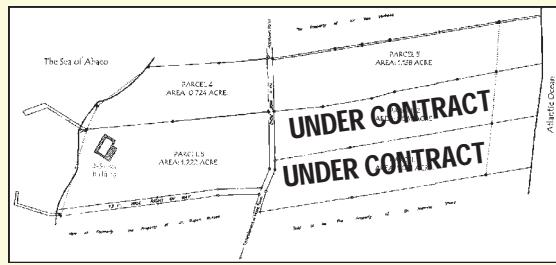
3860 N. Lake Blvd.

Lake Park (West Palm Beach)

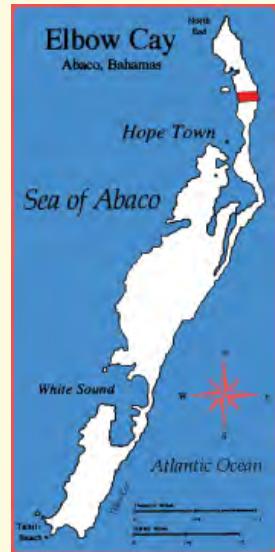
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### MARSH HARBOUR

Leslie Dinder & Donna Darville  
Tel: 242-367-5046 (-5045 fax)  
[leslie@damianos.com](mailto:leslie@damianos.com)  
[donna@damianos.com](mailto:donna@damianos.com)

### HOPE TOWN & ELBOW CAY

Kerry Sullivan  
Tel: 242-366-0040  
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[kerry@damianos.com](mailto:kerry@damianos.com)

### LUBBERS QUARTERS & TILLOO CAY

Laurie Schreiner  
Tel/Fax: 242-366-3143  
[laurie@damianos.com](mailto:laurie@damianos.com)

### ELBOW CAY PROPERTIES HOPE TOWN

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### WHITE SOUND



### WHITE SOUND/ELBOW CAY

- Internet Reference #1681
  - 3.1 Acres 100 ft. frontage on the Sea of Abaco
  - Excellent Elevation
  - Just south of Aunt Pat's Bay Subdivision
  - Ideal for development or a private estate
- \$990,000

### RUSSVALE APARTMENTS



### MARSH HARBOUR

- Great Investment
  - Internet Reference #1669
  - 7 Apartments in Total
  - 6 - 2bed 1 bath units
  - 1 - 1 bed 1 bath unit
  - Air-conditioned
  - Furnished
- Individual units at \$150,000

### LOTS FOR SALE

BAHAMA PALM SHORES - Starting at \$16,000.

LEISURE LEE - Canal lots \$60,000.

CORAL ISLAND - Starting at \$12,000.

CASUARINA POINT - Section III - 2 lots side by side, 105' x 125' and 96' x 125', \$16,000 each.

TILLOO CAY - 1/2 acre oceanfront lot with shared dock in the Bight of Tiloo. \$85,000. Internet Ref. #1770

TILLOO CAY - Lot #27, Tiloo Beach Subdivision - fabulous view of the Sea of Abaco, access to common dock area and Atlantic Beach. Int. Ref. #1631. \$75,000.

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

### OTHER LISTINGS

GREAT ABACO CLUB - 3/2 with master spa bath, fully furnished, deepwater dockage, gated community with Beach Club privileges. Good rental record. \$589,000. Ref. #1417

REGATTAS OF ABACO - Ground floor 2/2, central A/C, granite countertops, appliances. Int. Ref. #805 \$199,000.

ELBOW CAY - "Tahiti Hai" - Dorros Cove Subdivision - Newly renovated 4/2 on a 1/2 acre lot with separate gardener's apt. Central a/c, wrap around porch, panoramic views, dock access, steps away from Tahiti Beach, and 10 minutes to Hope Town. Internet Ref. #1640. \$960,000.

NEW LISTING! ELBOW CAY - "Aerial View" - Quality constructed 2,048 sq' 3/2 home in Dorros Cove, central a/c, cathedral ceilings, large covered verandah, Bermuda roof, ocean views, near Tahiti beach, dock access, fully furnished and landscaped. \$600,000. Internet Ref. #1813

NEW LISTING! LUBBERS QUARTERS - "Flip Flops" - Beautiful beach bungalow on 1.19 acres with dock. Sandy white beach with breathtaking sunsets. This property has lush landscaping and nature trails. Numerous improvements. Call for details.

Laurie Schreiner: 242-366-3143

### SUNRISE POINT



### BEST DEAL ON THE OCEAN

- HOPE TOWN/ ELBOW CAY
  - Internet Reference #1659
  - 2b/1b, 800 square feet
  - Additional 800sq' closed in for expansion
  - Fully furnished
  - Great area to surf
  - Excellent rental history
- \$649,000

### TRADE WINDS



### LUBBERS QUARTERS

- Internet Reference #1589
- 1 bedroom 1 bath with dock - \$220,000
- 1 bed 1 bath with loft & dock - \$260,000
- Large vacant lot with dock - \$90,000
- Hilltop large lot with dock - \$130,000

### COCONUT COTTAGE



### HOPE TOWN/ELBOW CAY

- Internet Reference #1429
  - Adorable Colonial style 2/2
  - Ocean view - across the street from sandy beach
  - 1,000 sq. ft. - central a/c
  - Elevation with nice breeze
  - Detached garage
  - Excellent rental
- \$415,000

### MOONSHADOW



### LUBBERS QUARTERS

- Internet Reference #1644
  - Secluded waterfront with beautiful gardens
  - 166 ft. of waterfront
  - Panoramic seaviews
  - Hardwood floors
  - Solar Powered
  - 15 acres
- \$840,000

**Central**

From Page 11

12 brand new washers and dryers and a commercial washing machine and a commercial dryer. The new Laundromat opened on May 30 and will be managed by Ms. Johnson and her daughter Lee Esther. They will retain the name Viola's Laundromat. One new feature is pick up

and delivery of laundry.

**Earth Day**

From Page 10

mural, environmental book reading area, parrot identification game, turtle information, quiz and Friends of the Environment plant sale.

Wax coated paper cups and utensils were

used by the Hope Town School to serve brunch to encourage us to adopt a more environmentally friendly packaging practice than using plastic or Styrofoam.

Daily there are more assaults on our environment and requests to destroy areas for development. It is imperative that we educate the young about becoming good stewards of our earth. Our lifeline is our envi-

ronment.

As the day drew to a close, it was difficult to say who had enjoyed themselves more, the children or the adults. It was clear that if these students who were present continue their deep interest in our environment protection our small corner of the earth will be in good hands in the next generation.

# Classified Advertisements

## Items for Sale, Commercial Service, Cars & Boats

Minimum for 3 lines in one issue \$9  
Picture and 4 lines \$25  
Additional lines at \$2 per line  
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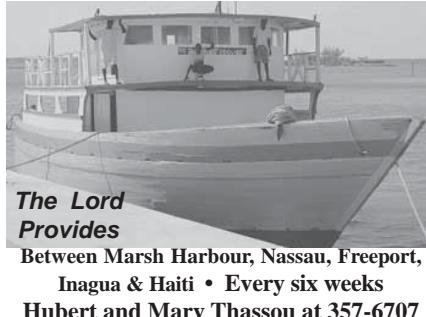
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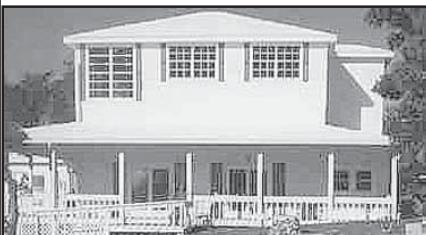
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94 Ford Escort 4 door/5 speed. Call 375-8330

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**95 Ford F250 truck** with P/S, A/C, 6 cyl. with automatic transmission. \$7500 OBO. Call days (9-5) 367-2615 nights after 6 367-2596

**98 Ford F150 truck**, V6, automatic, air, tape player. \$16,500 OBO, **95 Dodge Dakota truck**, V6, automatic, air, CD player, remote entry, power window, back cover. \$10,000 OBO, **90 Ford F150 truck**, V8, automatic, air, power windows, tape player, new paint. \$10,500 OBO. Contact Earl or Noreen, phone 367-2289 Cell 357-6813

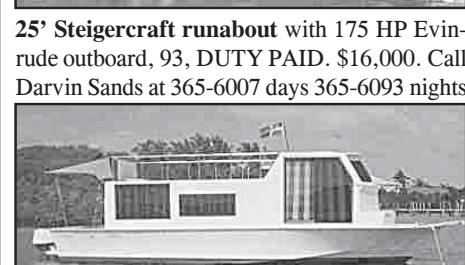
**Jeep Wrangler**, perfect condition, 30,000 miles. \$12,000 Call 365-5153

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Mercury Outboard Engines  
135 HP \$5000 200 HP \$5000  
Contact National Marine @ 367-2326

**Wave Runner Seadoo**, Bombardier, two man, excellent cond, cover, low hours. Can be seen at Scotland Cay \$2,950. Call 375-8226 or 561-738-0996

  
**25' SteigerCraft runabout** with 175 HP Evinrude outboard, 93, DUTY PAID. \$16,000. Call Darvin Sands at 365-6007 days 365-6093 nights

  
**36' Uniflight Houseboat** with 115 HP Yamaha. Sleeps 5, hold 250 gal water and 75 gal gas. Ready to live on. More info call Buddy at 365-6152

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

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