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VOLUME 11, NUMBER 15, AUGUST 1ST, 2003

Bahamasair May Quit Treasure Cay Officials Held Town Meeting to Discuss Changes



The Hon. Bradley Roberts, Minister of Public Works, led the delegation to hold a town meeting in Treasure Cay to discuss their proposal to contract out the Treasure Cay/Nassau route to a private charter company. Shown above are, seated left to right, Mr. Basil Sands, Chairman of the Board of Bahamasair, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Paul Major, Managing Director of Bahamasair, and standing, left to right, Mr. Gary Knowles, Administrator for North Abaco, Mr. Eric Collie with local government, and Mr. Steve Pedican, Chief Councillor for the North Abaco District Council.

The Hon. Bradley Roberts, Minister of Public Works, spoke at a town meeting in North Abaco to discuss proposed changes in Bahamasair's service to Treasure Cay. The corporation is considering contracting the route between Nassau and Treasure Cay to a private charter company.

About 65 people attended the meeting on July 17, making an emotional appeal to the officials from Nassau to reconsider the proposal.

Airlines over the world are having problems and are having to cut routes and make other changes to reduce their losses. All had to get union concessions, have laid off workers and closed stations. Bahamasair is no exception. Although it is an emotional topic, the Board of Directors feels it is necessary to contract out the routes that are not profitable. It was explained that in many other areas of the world it is common to arrive at a central airport but then passengers take a smaller airplane to their final destination. Hawaii and Puerto Rico were given as examples of this system.

Mr. Paul Major, Managing Director of Bahamasair, explained that the plan to contract out flights to several destinations to private charter companies is part of the government's campaign to reduce costs. The national carrier lost \$25 million last year and \$22 million this year. Although the government is subsidizing the airline with \$10 million, that is only half of what it needs to

Please see **Bahamasair** Page 2

Two Die After Plane Crash

On July 13 an Air Sunshine charter plane crashed about six and a half miles southwest of the Treasure Cay airport, the plane's destination. Aboard the ten-seat twin-engine Cessna 402 plane were nine passengers and the pilot. According to the U.S. Coast Guard,

the pilot of the plane, Hassan Moslemi, is credited for keeping the nose up when the plane landed in the water, thus preventing loss of life.

Please see **Crash** Page 2

Police Find Marijuana Growing



Sixty-four marijuana plants were uprooted by police on July 21 after they were tipped off that they were growing there. They were scattered in the pinewoods just off South Side Road near the south side dock. See story on page 33.

Flag Raising Marks Independence



Independence was celebrated throughout Abaco with each town planning its own events. On July 9 Abaco people came together to an island-wide flag raising held at the Central Abaco Primary School. It was preceded by a church service. Shown above are some in attendance. They are, left to right, Mr. Everette Archer, the Hon. Fred Mitchell, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sen. Edison Key, Mr. William Swain and Mr. Robert Sweeting, MP for South Abaco.

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Residents Want Bahamasair Service

Bahamasair *From Page 1*

keep operating. The corporation must reduce costs and find ways to make up the other \$10 million.

Bahamasair has only seven aircraft. The plane that is used domestically is a 50-seat plane. It is not economical to use that size aircraft for routes that do not fill the plane. The Treasure Cay airport averages only 14 passengers per flight, which is less than 30 percent of the plane's capacity. For efficiency Bahamasair is wanting to have only one aircraft type. This cuts expenses greatly in pilots, parts and servicing.

Treasure Cay is one of seven extremely

unprofitable routes. The others are Andros Town, Mangrove Town and San Andros, all on Andros, North Eleuthera and Arthur's Town on Cat Island. The Bahamasair officials estimate the these routes are costing \$4.2 million annually. The government is proposing putting these routes out for tender. At least three charter companies would be considered, Western Air, Southern Air and Caribbean Air. They all have 10- to 15-seat airplanes which would accommodate the passenger load for Treasure Cay. Those who wanted to fly in a larger plane could still go to Marsh Harbour to fly on Bahamasair. The costs of going into Treasure Cay are \$300 per rotation, landing and take-off. However, the actual cost is much higher but is absorbed

to a great extent by the fact that the Treasure Cay flights are combined with the Marsh Harbour flights. Another considerable cost is keeping two stations open on one island.

Mr. Basil Sands, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bahamasair, brought out the fact that in three years Bahamasair lost \$87 million. The airline is celebrating 30 years and has lost money for 30 years, a total of \$340 million.

The charter company which won the contract would have the advantage of accessing the Bahamasair reservation service. This Saber system, which cost \$13.1 million over 10 years, is an up-to-date reservation system available anywhere in the world. Bahamasair would still be involved but only with reser-

vations. The cost of travel on a charter aircraft would most likely be cheaper. Bahamasair would request that the staff now employed with Bahamasair be considered for employment with the charter company. If that was not possible, they would try to absorb the staff elsewhere. The Ministry of Transport would require that the charter company have adequate insurance and maintenance.

At the present time, the Bahamasair planes combines the two flights to Abaco, Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay. However, the flight between the two airports is only 10 minutes. Servicing of the planes depends on the number of landings and take-offs. Landing twice on Abaco is costly, as a full maintenance check costs between \$600,000 and \$1 million.

Marsh Harbour is the second best performer in the entire Bahamas after Freeport and the officials are considering increasing the flights to three daily.

Mr. Eugene Butler, flight inspector representing the Hon. Glenys Hanna Martin, Min. of Transport, assured the group that safety is paramount. Bahamasair has an excellent record and they intend to keep it that way. The Department of Civil Aviation will still have the responsibility to maintain the safety. In 2000 the country was deficient in continuous inspecting resulting in a downgraded rating. Now a new section has been set up which provides continuous surveillance. Any charter which gets a contract must comply with all government requirements in financial stability, must be competent, experienced and with a good safety record.

It was mentioned that government is considering the possibility of having one airport midway between the two existing airports.

Toward the end of the meeting Mr. Roberts suggested that a committee of five people from North Abaco put in writing their concerns and recommendations. They are to get their report to government within 14 days. After that the Board will make their decision.

Drowning Claims Two Lives After Crash

Crash *From Page 1*

Two persons perished after the plane crashed. Diane Parker-Diaz, 33, daughter of Treasure Cay businessman and Police Reservist Oswald Parker, and her three-year-old niece Diante Parker. Mrs. Parker-Diaz was dead when the Coast Guard arrived on the scene about an hour after the plane was ditched. It is believed that both drowned.

Surviving the crash were Mrs. Parker-Diaz's two children, six-year-old Andre Parker-Diaz and five-year-old Elisa Parker Diaz. Also on board were honeymooners from Greenville, North Carolina, and a family from Orlando, Florida with a one-year-old daughter.

When the pilot radioed that he had lost an engine, the U.S. Coast Guard was alerted. A jet was sent to the scene, dropping a raft which some of the victims were able to swim to. Two rescue helicopters were sent to the scene. A rescue swimmer was put in the water who helped the survivors into the helicopter basket. The helicopter flew the survivors to Freeport where they were taken to Rand Me-

morial Hospital. They have fully recovered.

Sergeant James Moss, A/C in charge of Little Abaco and one of the officers who responded to the call, provided this account of the police involvement in the incident. "About 3 p.m. on Sunday a plane crashed in the area of Cave Cay. The coordinates were given and the location ended up in the area of Cooper's Town. The police responded and two boats were dispatched to the scene. On arrival of the police and concerned citizens, they were joined by two U.S. Coast Guard helicopters. When the boats arrived, there was a Citation jet over the crash site. Some victims were pulled from the water by the Coast Guard officials.

"The police officials recovered the body of a black female adult and juvenile who were pulled out of the water. They were found face down in water. Police officials provided mouth to mouth resuscitation to both casualties but it proved fruitless. The child was handed to the Coast Guard diver to go to Grand Bahama for further medical attention.

"It was later discovered that the victims

were the daughter and granddaughter of Oswald Parker, businessman in Treasure Cay and Corporal in the Police Reserves.

"The crash is being investigated by the NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board) and the Department of Civil Aviation to determine the cause of the crash.

"The funeral of the woman was in the United States."

Diane Parker Diaz grew up on Abaco and moved to Florida about 15 years ago to live with her husband Elio. She was returning to Treasure Cay for the wedding of her brother, Ossie Parker, Jr. The funeral for Mrs. Parker-Diaz was on July 24 and burial was on July 25 in Miami Lakes, Florida. The funeral for four-year-old Diante Parker was held on July 26 here in Abaco.

The National Transportation Safety Board is going to raise the plane as that will help in their assessment of why the plane's engine failed. The plane is believed to be in tact in 50-foot deep water.

Air Sunshine has been banned from flying in the Bahamas until the crash is investigated which is expected to take nine months.

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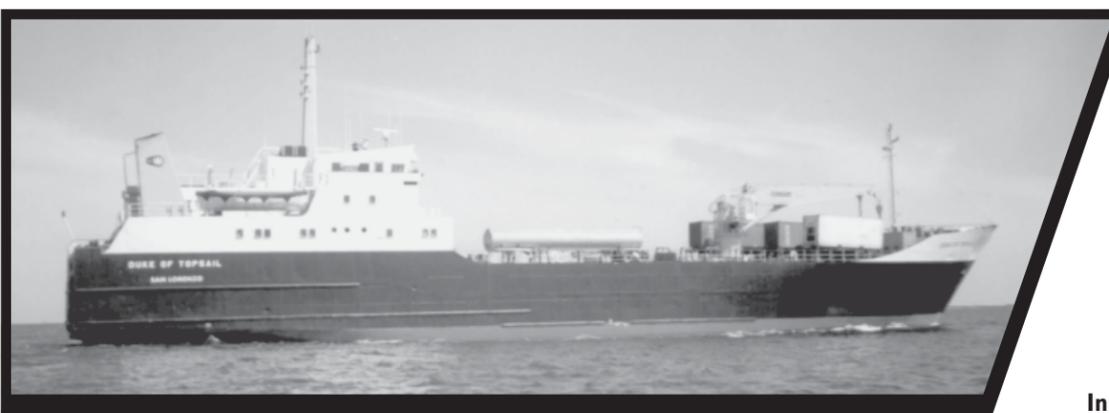
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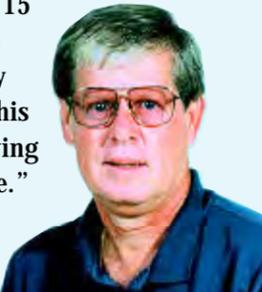
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South Abaco News

Cherokee Sound

By Lee Pinder
Condolences

Our sincere sympathy goes out to the family of Colin Kemp, a Cherokee second-home owner from Nassau, who passed away on the 18th of July after a long illness. He is survived by his wife Maybell and their son Mike. He had many friends in Abaco and will certainly be missed.

Vacation Bible School

A Vacation Bible School was held for 15-20 of our children from July 8th to 12th. The visiting teachers, Debbie Hurm, Judy Ballum and Tom Rogerson came from the Beach United Methodist Church in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. They have been to Abaco before, but this was their first visit to Cherokee and they hoped it wouldn't be their last. Another group from Calvary Church in the Chicago, Illinois, area, a team of 18 high schoolers called the WAVE (Winning Awesome Victories Everyday), who have been

visiting Abaco for the last nine years and coming to Cherokee for the last three years, were visiting again from July 10th to 28th. They also held daily sessions with the children of The Mud and Pigeon Pea communities and plan to have a study group go to Crossing Rocks. They are here by invitation from Robin Weatherford from Marsh Harbour and connected with the International Gospel Mission. These young people always seem to enjoy their visits and the children here certainly enjoy it, too. There will be two more Bible study groups visiting Cherokee before the summer is over and the children are thoroughly enjoying all the activities and crafts they provide for them. It seems like every year the visiting groups to Cherokee grows larger and larger. In our unique little community the children who are often strangers when they meet become fast friends and find a common bond to occupy their time, and, of course, being right on the water gives them a fun place to play.

Dredging Work Being Done in the Creek
A portion of the eastern part of the creek is being dredged and some of the excess fill is being taken to the dump to make the ground there more solid. We were hoping that long before now the approval would have gone through to move the dump to a more advantageous location away from the settlement and away from the high tides where we often experience flood conditions and debris floating into the sea. The debris inevitably backs up onto our beautiful pristine beaches. But, as usual, bureaucrats and government red tape are taking their time while the environment suffers.

Visitors from the Past

The congregation of Epworth Methodist Chapel in Cherokee is being visited by some very well known figures from the Bible: Mary Magdalene and Mary of Nazareth, as well as a very important figure out of Methodists' own history: Susanna Wesley, mother of John and Charles Wesley, the founders of Methodism. Dressed in period dress and giving an imitation of the life of these three women, Mrs. Libby Right, a visiting Methodist minister from Hampton, Virginia, has researched their lives and done a remark-

Please see **South**

Page 5



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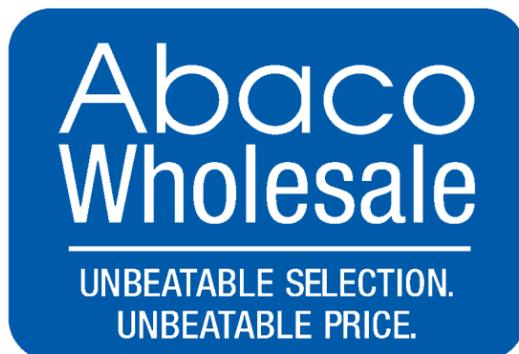
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More South Abaco News

South

From Page 4

able job of bringing these historical figures into the present so that we could meet them. Through her eyes the audience can better understand the important part they played in our history, some of their sacrifices and what moved them to their strong beliefs.

Libby's husband, Ed (also an ordained minister) is visiting and preaching throughout the Abaco Methodist District during the month of July. They are truly a delightful couple and we are pleased to have them with us. In addition, all three of their children and their families came to discover Cherokee and be with their families here.

Curiosity Abounds

Most of us are curious by nature, and we in Cherokee are no exception. "But, we would like to know what the heck were they do-

ing." One afternoon during one of our hotter afternoons in July, we heard the now familiar rumble of a U. S. Coast Guard helicopter overhead. Well, they hovered and circled and seemed to be searching for something. It wasn't long before a crowd had gathered, as it usually does when something out of the ordinary happens in town. We watched, we waited and we watched some more. Some grew tired and wandered back to their homes while others came to join "the watchers." They kept circling and hovering close to the tree tops. They even dipped down to scare away a bonefish just as one of our anglers was strategically casting to catch "that big one," which upset him just a little.

Of course, by now we are quite familiar with the "big bird" and see it often in our area. It is a welcome and comforting sight to see and know that someone is usually on an

important mission. In fact, we had just heard of one of their amazing rescue efforts off of Grand Bahama where a small plane had to ditch in the ocean, and they were able to save eight out of the ten occupants in the plane who had been in the water for over an

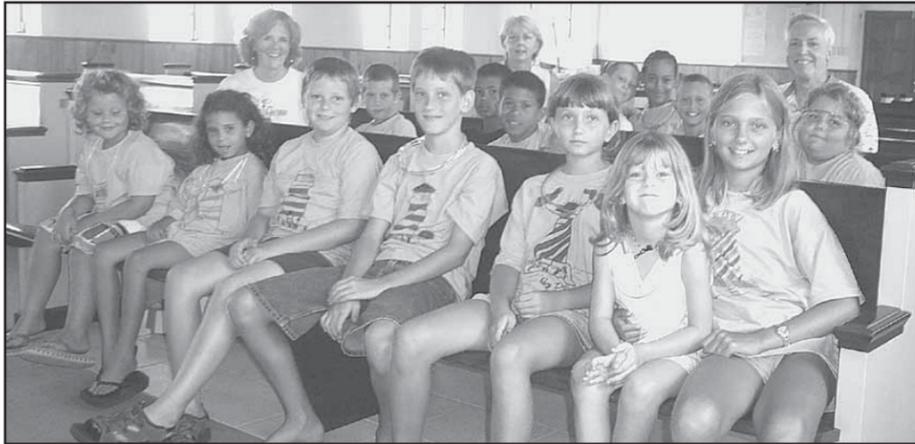
hour. Our biggest concern was that it might have been another accident, but we don't believe so because we never heard that it

Please see **South**

Page 38



Residents of Sandy Point have landscaped the round-about at their airport, making it look very attractive. The South Abaco Council provided the plants and volunteers did the work.



The youth of Cherokee are enjoying Bible schools conducted by young people from Methodist churches in the States. The groups teach Bible school and do repairs and minor construction on homes in Dundas Town and Murphy Town.



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Central Abaco News

Shark Attack

By Isobel Sherman

During the first two weeks of July two American visitors were bitten by sharks in two separate incidents on two different parts of Abaco. The first incident happened to Benjamin Brown of Florida in the waters off Walkers Cay. Mr. Brown was spear fishing when a shark bit him twice. He was flown in a private aircraft from Walkers Cay to West Palm Beach where he received treatment. He is expected to make a full recovery.

The second incident occurred in the waters off Guana Cay. Mr. Richard Horton also of Florida was spearfishing when a shark bit him. Mr. Horton was taken by boat to Marsh Harbour where he received emergency treatment before he was airlifted to Nassau.

Experts agree one of the dangers of spear fishing is shark attack.

Wrestling

Professional wrestling was introduced to

Abaco on July 19 at the Murphy Town Park with the Island Brawl wrestling promotion. The spectators were treated to live matches in seven different events including two women wrestlers. Beginning about 9:30 p.m. Saturday night the bell rang and the athletes pounded each other with slams, thumps, licks, kicks and falls until nearly 1 a.m. Sunday morning.

The final match pitted the ten contestants against each other all at once in one grand finale. Organized by Jacob Phennelus, the small crowd enjoyed the evening's entertainment.

In true form, the contestants wrestled with each other in the ring and occasionally chased each other outside the ropes among the stands. One underdog got thrown out of the ring, then was chased and pummeled against the fence between the bleachers. The spectators roared approval the whole time.

The skies were clear for the ring set up on

the basketball court but the \$25 admission price and \$50 ringside seats may have been too much for the 100 or more persons outside the tarpaulin-covered fence listening to the action. Perhaps they were waiting for someone to come flying over the fence. About 15

were seated around the ring with approximately 85 seated in the bleachers.

The teams were:

- Gangrel, the Vampire Warrior, against

Please see **Central**

Page 39



The second place winner of the last leg of the Bahamas Billfish Championship tournament was Lost Texan which caught and released five billfish. The boat is owned and captained by second home owner Johnny Crain, shown on the left. Fishing with him were, left to right, Tom Leffler from the Marsh Harbour Marina, Jim Weeks, second homeowner, and Tim Nettles, summer resident.



Wrestling came to Abaco for the first time on July 19 when seven pairs of wrestlers from Florida performed in Murphy Town. The action was lively and the audience was appreciative of all the antics of the men and women in the ring or out of the ring.

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All Abaco Regatta Plans Are Announced

Simply the Best is the theme for the 7th Annual All Abaco Regatta to be held at the Regatta site at the Treasure Cay ferry landing on September 25-27. The theme was announced at a press conference held at Mackerel's Restaurant on July 24. Mr. Jackson McIntosh, Chairman of the All Abaco Regatta Committee, said that the theme was

a statement that they wanted to improve the tradition of the regatta, the hospitality, the races, the village, the entertainment to make all "the best." The committee's goal is to raise \$180,000 to finance this year's event.

The Ministry of Tourism will promote the races as a domestic event with promotions to attract local travel to Abaco from other

islands. Mr. McIntosh announced that Fast Ferries will have a special trip to bring persons to Sandy Point from Nassau and arrangements have been made to bus the persons to the regatta from Sandy Point for a reasonable fee. Negotiations are underway for Bahamasair to provide jet service to the regatta into Treasure Cay from Nassau and for Major's Air to provide additional flights from Freeport.

A committee has been set up in Nassau of people with Abaco roots to raise funds there. They are planning a boat cruise on August 15 and cookouts at Montagu Beach on August 16 and 17 in Nassau. A similar committee is going to be set up in Freeport.

The Abaco committee is beginning to concentrate on fund raising and is planning several events. Beginning on August 2 there will be a fish fry every Saturday. The venue will alternate weekly between the regatta site in Treasure Cay and Goombay Park in Marsh Harbour.

Each community on Abaco is being called upon to do fund raising for the regatta. The committee has asked Green Turtle Cay to raise \$5000. Mr. McIntosh said the committee plans meeting with persons in Hope Town, Man-O-War and Sandy Point to ask the same thing to assist in raising the necessary \$180,000 budget.

On August 9 the Regatta Committee is sponsoring a \$20 Calypso Cruise on the *Legacy*. The cruise will begin at 7 p.m. and last until 11 p.m. Music will be provided by KB and Terez Hepburn on board as well as a variety of food and drinks. This is a major fund raiser for Abaco.

There will be a car raffle with the drawing on the final night of the regatta. Negotiations are underway with Friendly Ford in Nassau for a vehicle to raffle.

On July 13 the Regatta Committee presented its first constitution to the Minister of Youth and Sports, the Hon. Neville Wisdom, who pledged his support of the Regatta.



Scotia Bank managers presented sponsorship money to the All Abaco Regatta Committee members. Committee Chairman Jackson McIntosh accepted the check from managers Ms. Cleola Cooper on the left and Ms. Maureen Gardiner on the right. Other committee members are Ms. Wynsome Ferguson, left, and Mr. Mitchell Albury and Ms. Anita Rolle, right.



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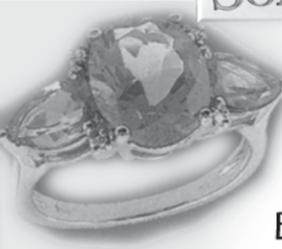
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The Editor Says Revisiting the Boating Fee Increase



In mid-June boating visitors were suddenly charged \$300 for a cruising permit as opposed to the previous \$100. A huge clamor from boaters and marine-oriented businesses caused the fee to be rescinded later the same day.

The Ministry of Tourism advised boaters a fee change was still being considered and would likely go into effect in January 2004.

Without notice, the fee was re-instituted on July 1 as a two-tier fee of \$150 for boats below 35 feet and \$300 for those above 35 feet. The abruptness of the increase on the U.S. holiday weekend left many boaters feeling they had been taken advantage of. The arbitrary increase without advance notice did not sit well.

It is generally agreed that the new fees were imposed without realizing the negative impact this would have on a large segment of our visitors and their vocal reaction that will extend beyond just our boating visitors.

Government justified this increase as legitimate because of increased port security costs, a realistic fishing license fee, to curtail poaching of Bahamian marine resources, for environmental protection and to reduce or manage pollution. It was felt that the old fee was not realistic.

The new fee spawned a web site (www.boycottbahamas.com) where Americans and Bahamians have been taking shots at each other over the issue. The comments on the web site are an interesting mix of the best and worst of both American and Bahamian human nature. In general, the comments posted recently are much more moderate by both nationalities than those posted several weeks ago. There are many worthwhile comments while the radical statements are inflammatory and only making matters worse. Several recent government statements indicate that the present policy is "under review."

Published statements from marine businesses in Bimini and West End indicate their boating traffic is definitely reduced as a result of the new fees. These two locations receive a lot of weekend boat traffic. It is premature to speculate on the effect to Abaco's marine economy and land interests that cater to boaters.

There is much more at stake to government and the country's economy at the end

of the day than just the increase the new fees may bring. The resulting loss of business if the fees are deemed excessive by boaters must be carefully evaluated.

One person noted that fewer boats means cleaner waters so the increase is beneficial to the marine environment as government intended. This is not a valid benefit as cleaner waters without paying visitors will not support us.

It is interesting that boats are blamed for the increased pollution of our harbours. George Town, Hope Town and Marsh Harbour are often mentioned as having extremely polluted waters due to boats. There is no doubt that the boats contribute to this.

In the case of Hope Town and Marsh Harbour, it is not polite to question where the effluent ends up from all the septic tanks ringing the harbours. We are led to believe that all land-based sewage in this area goes into septic tanks for bacterial break-down. However, restaurants that boast of serving 300 or more meals daily are probably responsible for 300 or more toilet flushes. Should we assume that all this is properly processed as it dissipates into . . .

Scientific studies in Key West found that their water pollution problems were primarily from land based septic tanks.

The new freight dock in Marsh Harbour has a "dockside pipe" to accept sewerage from boats. This is not a true pump-out facility for emptying boat holding tanks as the boat must provide the pump which is not the normal function of the boat owner. The pump is usually on the shore.

We are not aware of any marina on Abaco with true "pump-out" facilities although several newer marinas were mandated to provide this service. Boat sewage is a price we pay for their presence but their raw sewage contribution is only a part of the pollution problem.

Boaters are often blamed for taking excess fish and taking crawfish out of season. A recent example in the *Nassau Punch* told of the 300 boaters who entered Bimini over the U.S. Memorial Day holiday weekend. Assuming four persons in each boat, the long weekend and the 20 pounds of fish allowed each person, the columnist calculated 24,000 pounds of fish left the Bahamas. The arithmetic may be real but it is doubtful that 1200 boaters in a holiday mood took 12 tons of Bimini's fish back to Florida. Maybe the limit for mom and pop boaters should be less than 20 pounds.

It is our observation that only a few boaters actually fish to any extent. Again, it is much easier to blame the foreigners for our decreasing resources than to analyze the situation and discover that we are the ones depleting our own fishing resources.

Government assumes that everyone on a boat is fishing which is not the case. Most boaters do not fish at all. Perhaps the fishing fee incorporated into the cruising permit should realistically reflect the boat. A mom and pop boat, regardless of the length, should not be equated to a chrome plated fishing machine rigged with multiple rods, electric fishing winches and outriggers, a turbo-charged fishing chair in the cockpit, freezers within an arm's length of the chair and an athletic crew.

One Bahamian equated the fishing fee to a \$400 hunting license issued in Texas. However the Texas license is optional and paid only by those intending to hunt. It is not imposed on every visitor to Texas.

Then there are the long-liners which stay out to sea, never entering the Bahamas but which come close to shore during the night. These boats are into serious fishing which can rapidly deplete our marine resources but remain beyond our present capabilities to identify and stop. When daylight comes, they

are out over the horizon. Hope Town complains regularly about these boats whose lights can frequently be seen at night.

Our view is that over fishing, poaching, marine pollution and the other nasty and illegal things boaters are capable of doing, aside from the long-liners, are probably shared about equally between local and foreign persons. It is probably a minority of persons from either nationality that creates most of the problems.

Those who break the law will not change their bad habits because they pay more.

Marine visitors are an important component of the Abaco economy. Government and our marine-oriented businesses should study the economic impact boaters have to the area. The Royal Marsh Harbour Yacht Club made a study last spring and presented its findings to the Ministry of Tourism before this new fee was imposed. That report focused on the financial impact of boaters. Perhaps government read the report and concluded that they wanted the money quicker than when collected as taxes on beer, fuel and other items. Taxes to the treasury by way of beer, fuel and food create employment.

Boaters buy fuel and groceries. They eat out. They need repairs. All of this contributes to employment. More visitors by any source means more employment. Less visitors means less employment.

Abaco has been successful at providing an experience that our air and boating arrivals enjoy. Our business community has harnessed much of our economy to this influx of people. Changes to the fee structure must not lessen these arrivals.

We are selling sun, sand and sea which is a poorly defined commodity used to entice fickle clients. The same thing is offered by many others in Florida and the Caribbean. Government must find the balance between realistic fees and continued visitors.

Generally Speaking . . . There Is Always an Answer

By S. Timothy Roberts
(Part 1 of 2)

There is a situation that exists on Abaco and all The Bahamas. It is right under our nose, we see it every day; we live with it every day and we have done nothing to change the situation.

As is the custom of many Bahamians, myself included, it is debated on soap boxes all across town, but seldom do we make our thoughts known to the relevant people; that is, those in government or influential positions.

This situation is only exacerbated by lack of action and is both a problem of government as well as of the people. We cannot continue to drag our feet. We must act, put our heads together and come up with solutions.

Illegal immigration takes on many forms; however, the largest group by far are Haitians. As important to our socio-economic situation as immigration is, we need to be extremely careful about regulating

it to the benefit of all concerned.

I hesitate to call the Haitian immigration situation a problem inasmuch as we are just as big a part of any problem that does exist. But certainly it is a dilemma that requires serious thought and concrete answers of which, I believe, there are some.

As it is with any country, we cannot allow uncontrolled intrusions into our borders. However, we have a unique problem in that we have 700 islands spread over an area of water longer and wider than the state of

Florida. To patrol and guard such an area brings with it serious economic and logistical problems. However, I believe these problems can be overcome.

We cannot allow unfair practices to continue to any group of people. In this I speak of special rights or allowances given to foreigners while natives must still obey the laws of the land. I am not here referring

Please see **Roberts** Page 35

All About Town

By Isobel Sherman
**While on Vacation
Make a Visit**

Those families who are going to travel to the United States or even Canada on vacation and who have a child wishing to go to college can turn a portion of the vacation into a investigative trip. Make arrangements to visit a college your child might be interested in applying to for entrance. There is nothing like a visit to the school to see first hand if a school is appropriate for your child. Most colleges are happy to meet with potential students and their parents. In addition, they offer tours of the campus and usually have students there to answer questions as well as admissions counselors. A phone call can usually set up an appointment or some colleges have set times for their tours. There are many benefits of seeing a college campus first hand. One is that the admissions people see your student before he or she actually applies and when his applications comes in, they can associate a face with the application.

Students going into grade 10 should now start to search for possible colleges or vocational schools. In Grade 11 the search should be narrowed to schools they wish to apply to so that by first term in Grade 12 submitting applications should be the goal.

Potcake Update

Once again some pot cake puppies have been sent to the Buddy Dog Programmed for adoption. Puppies that were taken care of by Jenny Zehler and Kim Roberts were sent to the U.S. for adoption. In addition, two more potcake puppies and a blind Pitt bull puppy were sent to Florida where adoption awaits all three. The owners dumped the blind Pitt bull puppy, probably because it was blind. It was rescued and then a home was found for him.

Apparently in Florida more of our puppies could be adopted if they were a little older, three to four months old. Anyone who wishes to care for a puppy or puppies until they reach that age should contact Linda Giovani, Marianne Albury or Molly Roberts.

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Letters to the Editor

Potcake Found a Loving Home

Dear Ms. Sherman,

I am writing to thank you for your recent story *Potcakes Are Popular in States* (The Abaconian, May 1st, 2003).

In March of this year, we walked into the Buddy Dog Humane Society here in Sudbury, Massachusetts to see about adopting a puppy. We were pleased to find that they actually had puppies that day — this is rare up here in New England, as breeding is very controlled and almost all puppies are immediately adopted. This day, however, there were two adorable tan and white dogs labeled “Lab mix puppies — irresistible.” They turned out to be our Cooper and his little sister. (Cooper had been temporarily named “Terry,” possibly because of some Terrier lineage?)

We fell in love with Cooper right away. As soon as we brought him out of the ram-bunctious atmosphere of the puppy room, he was very calm, attentive, and friendly. We adopted him that day, and were told later that he was a “Potcake” from the Bahamas. (No wonder he was so confused by the foot of snow and ice in our yard!)

We had never heard of Potcakes before, and I decided to do some research: this is how I found your article, and learned that Cooper was probably one of the group of puppies sent to New England by Chris and Molly Roberts earlier this year. I was very surprised to learn of the hard lives that many Potcakes lead, and of the bad reputation that their circumstance has earned them. Aside from his whippy tail, big ears, and distinctive ridge of darker fur, our Cooper bears little resemblance to the sad, skinny dogs that I saw in pictures. Initially, Cooper had a few health issues left over from his life on the street, but some routine health care soon cleared these up and he is now a sleek, healthy boy with a beautiful coat and bright eyes.

Cooper’s temperament could not be better for family life: he is extremely gentle with our daughter, and is protective without being overly aggressive or territorial. He gets along well with other dogs and welcomes guests to our home. He is intelligent, playful, and as obedient as any six month old puppy can be. When we come home, he can hardly walk for wagging: our daughter asks, “what’s Cooper doing?” and we answer, “he’s saying ‘I love you.’”

Cooper is simply the best dog we have ever had. We are very grateful to the Roberts family and Buddy Dog for the work they do on behalf of these lovely dogs, and we thank you again for informing people about what wonderful companions Potcakes can be.

The Marobella Family
Sudbury, MA

PS: I am including a picture of the Royal Bahamian Potcake in his new natural habitat, a suburban Massachusetts living room!

Unhealthy Situation Exists

Dear Minister:

I have now received notice we cannot connect our next 44 three bedroom/three bath condos at the Bahama Beach Club Resort Phase 5 to the Treasure Cay sewer system. I am told the sewer system has not worked properly in several years and that raw sewage is being pumped “untreated” hourly into a lake on our local golf course. That’s the same golf course from where we obtain our drinking water!

This is a MAJOR HEALTH HAZARD for everyone on Abaco and the Bahamas. Therefore, as a Treasure Cay businessman, resident, husband and parent, I cannot responsibly proceed with further construction until an “environmentally safe” sewage treatment and drinking water solution is found. (Please see ad attachment re: Phase 5)

Mr. Jos Konsten at Abaco Utilities says his firm won’t repair the treatment plant because government did not renew the utility’s franchise agreement. Therefore, please advise if and when your Ministry will take over the utility company and local infrastructure to immediately rectify the problems. If not, would government allow a local bond issue to fund a new treatment plant?

I am headed to Nassau this week. I would very much like to meet with you on this issue and to learn more about a long term solution to our BEC power failures. Please advise if your schedule can accommodate my request. Thank you.

Craig H. Roberts

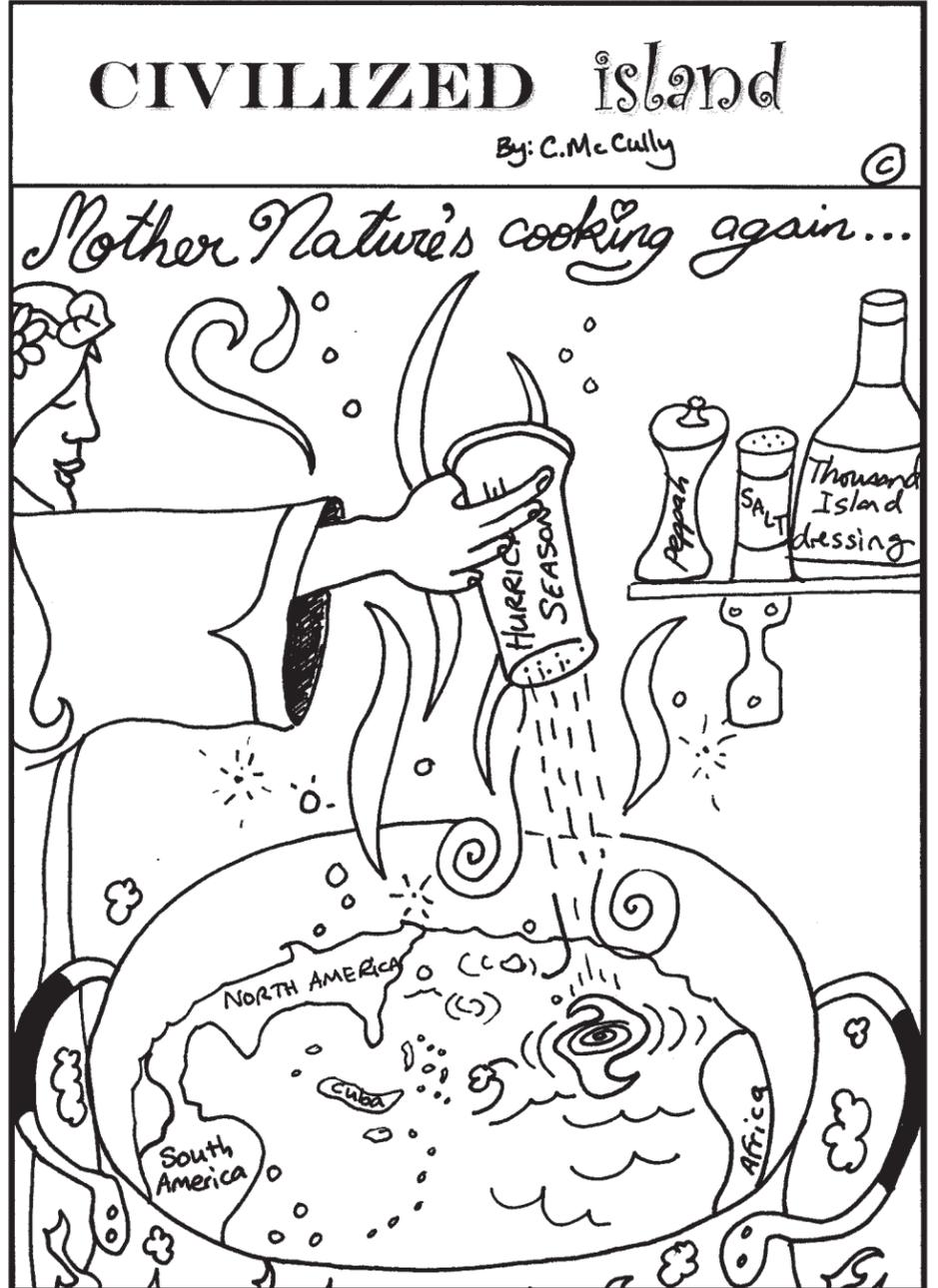
PS: As I am writing this e-mail to you at 10:30 a.m., the power and water just went off ...again!

The Disgraceful Dump

Dear Editor:

I would like to comment on the situation at the Central Abaco public dumping grounds. The present state is beyond what any person could call bordering on sanitary. From the period of time beginning June 19, 2003, through July 17, 2003, the dump was not cleared once. The dump site became so full that persons using the dump were beginning to reach the top of the ridge which comes towards the road. Also, lazy individuals were/are dumping their trash after hours at the sides of the gate near the main highway and this was/is piling up in a terrible fashion.

Bear with me, if you would. Let’s take a step back in time and revisit some history associated with the dumping ground. Mr. Eddie Sawyer was previously contracted to keep the dump cleaned. I cannot find any person who could make complaints with the way in which E & D Waste Services maintained the garbage dump while under contract to the Central Abaco Council. The dump



was cleared daily, and fresh fill was applied to the burnt remnants of the trash and compacted, back bladed, ready for the next day’s garbage. This process greatly reduced the unsanitary nature of waste sitting for weeks, allowing flies and other unsavouries to feed

on the rotting filth.

Time came for yearly contracts to be tendered to the Central Abaco Council. Mr. Sawyer placed his for the amount which he had been receiving monthly, \$5175. Mr. Anderson Wilmore, among others, placed his bid for the amount of \$5000. In the interest of saving pennies per day, watching out for the taxpayer, remember, that is You and I, the Central Abaco Council voted for Mr. Wilmore to take over the contract for dump maintenance. Mr. Wilmore made attempts to keep the dump clean, but his one backhoe was in a perpetual cycle of breaking down and being repaired. The difference



Cooper, a potcake puppy, has found a loving home with a family in Massachusetts. They had never heard of potcakes until they adopted the puppy from the Buddy Dog Humane Society.

Please see **Letters**
Page 31



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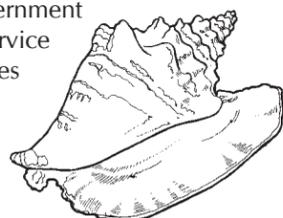
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Aug 03

Batelco Employees Given Health Tips

All the Batelco employees and many of their retired persons took advantage of a recent health seminar sponsored by Batelco and Sunshine Insurance, Batelco's health insurer. Rising health claims and increasing insurance premiums led both companies to reach out to the employees to alter life styles to reduce health problems.

Not only rising premiums were of concern but the lost time affected productivity within the company. Reducing health claims equates to lower insurance premiums and better productivity from employees.

The two-day seminar was held at the Abaco Beach Hotel and made two identical presentations with half the staff attending the July 17 session and the other half attending the next day.

Blood pressure, glucose levels and body measurements were taken to alert staff members to their potential for health problems.

Ailments which can frequently be avoided or managed by healthier choices include diabetes, high blood pressure, reduced cholesterol levels, stress and fatigue.

Topics covered related to nutrition, stress management, exercise and other easy to manage individual decisions leading to healthier persons and happier employees.

The team is traveling through the Bahamas holding similar clinics to reach all Batelco employees. Organizing the presentation was Helen Ferguson, Batelco's Director of Human Resources. Travelling with the group were Ms. Tina Lightbourn, Life and Health Manager with Sunshine Insurance, Ms. Yvette Anderson, Nutritional Consultant, and Mr. Tellis Symonette, Batelco V.P., Central and Southern Bahamas.

Please see **Batelco** Page 39



Batelco held seminars on two days to educate their employees on the benefits of healthy lifestyles with an emphasis on good nutrition, exercise and stress reduction. Shown above are, left to right, Mr. Tellis Symonette, V.P., Central and Southern Bahamas, Ms. Tina Lightbourn, Life and Health Manager with Sunshine Insurance, Ms. Yvette Anderson, Nutritional Consultant, Ms. Helen Ferguson, Batelco's Director of Human Resources, and Mr. Henry Roamer, Sr. Manager for Abaco.

Parrot Research Program Needs Assistance

By Portia Jonsson

The endangered Abaco parrot, which has the scientific name of Amazona leucocephala bahamensis (the white-headed Amazon parrot from the Bahamas) lives in the pine forest of Abaco. Once abundant, it was found on most of the Bahama islands but habitat destruction, capture of parrots for pets and hunting reduced its numbers. Similar problems plague other parrots in the West Indies and today the once common Abaco parrot is endangered.

According to a recent survey, there are an estimated 1500-2500 of these parrots nesting on the southern end of Abaco. The area, over 20,000 acres, has been declared a Bahamas National Park in an attempt to preserve the species. These parrots nest in holes in the ground and are particularly vulnerable to rats, raccoons and feral cats. The Ministry of Agriculture together with Friends of the Environment enlisted the help of two college students who are carrying out a parrot research program in an effort to study the parrots, their population numbers, habitat, food preferences and find environmentally acceptable methods to control their predators.

Ms. Caroline Stahala, a student of the North Carolina State University, will be on the island for one and half years. She will be conducting radio tracking of the birds and monitoring the survival rate of the female and juvenile birds.

Ms. Gina Mori is here through the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She will be on the island only for the months of July and August. Gina has been following the tracks of raccoons and cats. She is speaking with people throughout the community about raccoon sightings. Next year she plans to

establish a control program.

Because of the enormous undertaking the parrot research program is looking for some help. They are in need of an assistant with background interest in the preservation of the environment. The person must be enthusiastic, enjoy the outdoors and long walks in the sun and cannot be afraid on heights (treetop level platforms are involved). Housing at Long Beach will be provided along with transportation and a stipend. All interested persons are asked to e-mail their resumes together with a letter of interest to cstahal@ncsu.edu or gpmori3@yahoo.com.

Bahamians and visitors alike must continue to be educated about the parrots, their rarity, their predators. Most residents of Abaco are now aware of the problems faced by the Abaco parrot. But creative-minded people are still needed to come up with solutions for the problems these beautiful birds still face.

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Don't cut down all your poison wood trees. The fruit is a favorite food of many local birds, including white-crowned pigeons.

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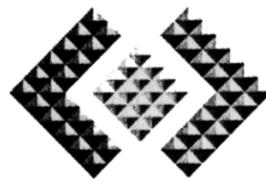
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Central Abaco News

New Clinic Opens

A new clinic is opening on August first in the Archer Building in Marsh Harbour, a block west of the traffic light. Spearheaded by Managing Director, Mrs. Angie Collie, the facility will be staffed by various medical personnel visiting from Nassau, Freeport and Florida.

One of the first to come will be Dr. Daniel Johnson, a podiatrist from Nassau who specializes in the treatment of various problems of the feet, ankles and lower legs. Dr Johnson is trained in acupuncture and psychiatry and is a director in the Auskell Clinic.

Dr. Johnson explained that a founding principle of the clinic is advanced patient care with attention to the patient's overall wellness as opposed to treating a specific medical condition with no further evaluation of the patient.

According to Dr. Johnson, Abaco people spend over \$1 million a year in Nassau and Florida on their medical needs. The Auskell Clinic hopes to serve those persons by bringing advanced technology to Abaco. Much of this specialized treatment can be done here locally.

Some of the other doctors committed to provide specialized treatment are Dr. John

Rogers, an eye specialist from Nassau who practiced in Marsh Harbour in the 80s; Dr. John Fifer, Jr., pediatric surgeon and the son of Dr. Fifer, who practiced here in the 80s; Dr. Dickie, plastic surgeon from Canada and Freeport, Mrs. Marina Gottlieb Sarles, physical therapist from Freeport and daughter of the late Dr. Enjar F. Gottlieb.

Within weeks of opening they expect to offer colonoscopy exams which is the primary cancer detection tool for colon cancer.

Certified physicians and health care persons will offer focused treatment in the following areas:

- cardiology
- certified mateusse
- ear, nose and throat
- eye
- gastrointestinal
- pediatrics
- podiatry
- psychiatry
- plastic surgery
- physical therapy
- urology

The clinic will be equipped to perform outpatient surgery for some conditions.

Mrs. Collie explained that the directors are aware that the present facility is too small to house all that is planned but it is adequate for the beginning. As more medical disciplines are offered, larger facilities will be needed.

Mrs. Collie is excited about two foundations the clinic will initiate and manage. The first is the Auskell Foundation to provide medical funding for needy children. The other is the Sylvia Johnson Foundation to provide scholarships for deserving students. More will be heard concerning these two foundations.

Manager Bids Adieu

By Isobel Sherman

Ms. Maureen Gardiner, Manager of the Marsh Harbour Branch of Scotia Bank, transferred to Nassau on July 25. Ms. Gardiner, who has been the manager the past 18 months, will take up a new position in Nassau as Manager of Compliance and Anti-Money Laundering in the Managing Directors Office. She is leaving with very mixed feelings. She loves Abaco, especially the people. She went on to state she loves the diversity of culture, the cays, the beaches and the fine working relationship she had with the staff at the bank. She is looking forward to her new position but not looking forward to Nassau as she says, "I'm an island person at heart." Her favorite cays are Guana Cay and Green Turtle Cay.

While on Abaco she was active in her church St John the Baptist Anglican Church and was a member of the vestry. She was a member of the Abaco Chamber of Commerce.

Ms Gardiner says she will be visiting Abaco often and she definitely will be returning to attend the All Abaco Regatta in September.

Prices Are Slashed

By Isobel Sherman

In these hard times it is not often one hears of a price reduction especially on food. However, two weeks ago Subway reduced their prices. The price reduction was dramatic as prices were slashed by over a dollar on most sandwiches. Subway is under new management of Yvonne White and her brother and they aim to please customers.



The Auskell Medical Clinic has opened in Marsh Harbour which will offer special services. The clinic will bring many different specialists offering residents the services that they normally had to go away to get. Nurse Angie Collie, organizer of the clinic, is shown here with Dr. Daniel Johnson, a podiatrist from Nassau who is a director in the Auskell Clinic.

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School News

S.C. Bootle High School

By Paul Sattem
Graduation

Overcoming Obstacles and Achieving Success was the theme of the Sherlin C. Bootle High School graduation in Cooper's Town

on June 25, 2003. It was a night that will be unforgettable for parents and students. The keynote address was delivered by school favorite, Mr. Michael Pintard, who challenged the graduates with his wit and wisdom. Mr. Rolle, headmaster, welcomed special guests including School Superintendent Mr.

Hezekiah Dean, Mrs. Felemese Sawyer in charge of curriculum, Administrator Gary Knowles and community pastors.

Valedictorian was Barnard Curry. Stories were told of his firm schedule and study times. Like a lot of graduates, it was clear that it contributed to his success. Salutatorian was Felix Mathurin Cooper, who brought

many to tears with his story of tragedy, yet God provided for his success including loving adopting parents.

Yes, S.C. Bootle is a place where "men become men." Many honors were given out including 23 students with perfect attendance. Deidre Curry received the High Flyer Award. The graduates' success at S. C. Bootle will give them a big step up in life. Even their song *I will Get There* showed confidence. Congratulations, Class of 2003

S.C. Bootle Dynamic Dolphins

Graduation night, June 25, marked the end of the academic high school road for eight seniors, members of S.C. Bootle Dynamic Dolphins senior boys basketball team including Capt. Serrano Balliou, Co-capt. Devito Cooper, Co-capt. Calvin McIntosh, Drexel



Once again a friend of S.C. Bootle and personal friend of Headmaster, Mr. Leslie Rolle, assisted the school. Pastor David Caskey of Bahama Mission, Church of Christ, supplied Bibles for the students. These lovely Bibles this year enabled each student to have his own copy. Thanks, Pastor Caskey. Mr. Leslie Rolle is on the left and Pastor Caskey on the right with a group of appreciative students.



Barnard Curry of Cedar Harbour was the valedictorian at S.C. Bootle High School this year. He plans to attend the College of the Bahamas in September assisted by a scholarship from Pathfinders.

Please see **School**

Page 13

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More School News

School *From Page 12*

Bootle, Demetrious Edgecombe, Clint Forbes, Frisco Wells, Wilson Delva and Castieo McDonald. Frisco won the first ever one-on-one GPA Swish trophy for having the highest GPA on the team.

Our Abaco boys have made history and put S.C. Bootle on the map by almost defeating the number one and number two teams in Freeport at the Vita Malt tournament.

For the "Big Dance," the Hugh Campbell Basketball Tournament, Mr. Godfrey Rolle filled in as head coach while Mr. Paul Sattem was taking care of his wife. Mr. Rolle was assisted by ever faithful Mr. Lyndon Scott. Our boys placed 7th out of 32 teams. We also got to play in the Kendal Isaacs National Gymnasium.

Special thanks to all Abaco people for supporting our boys, Mr. Rolle and Mr. and Mrs. Devaney.

Other players included Emerson McIntosh, Telmage Russell and Dynile Forbes. Dynile

received the sportsmanship award at Vita Malt and is now attending Tabernacle Baptist. Our boys have proved they are truly Dynamic Dolphins on and off the court. Praise God!

Long Bay School

Wayne Kellingbeck
Making a Difference

Long Bay School was pleased this year to be the first holder of the *Rotary Club of Abaco Speech Competition* trophy. We felt honoured to have had hardworking students being a part of this venture. Well done to Racquel Berry, Donnel Pubien and David Collie. Congratulations to our overall 2003 champion Lunata Anee and the coach for all the students, Mr. Wayne Kellingbeck. Their education does not ignore the value of scientific knowledge but values power, goodness and character.

Graduation 2003

Long Bay School celebrated its 6th annual graduation exercise under the theme *Empow-*

ered to Move Forward in the 21st Century on June 22. Our guest speaker was Ms. Agatha Marcelle, MP. She reminded the graduates not to be wishers but instead dreamers, for dreamers make things happen while wishers wish things to happen. Graduates were presented with awards, diplomas and trophies by the school principal, Mrs. J. Collie. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the primary school were Dorsinayer Smith and Carlos Decius respectively, while for the high school Keith Walker and Mitchell Hepburn respectively. Pre-registration for the new school year is presently going on. School re-opens on September 1 followed by our annual honours convocation on September 8.

Salute to Greatness

The King Humanitarian and Global Foundation recently held its Awards Dinner Gala in a salute to greatness. Our principal, Mrs. Jacqueline Colle, is a proud recipient of this award. She was among more than 500 principals and teachers in Nassau on July 12 and was recognized for playing a significant role

in the field of education in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. The keynote speaker was Mr. Stedman Graham, CEO and President of S. Graham and Associates. Congratulations to you, Mrs. Collie, you have proven once again that you are a champion of educating our youth.

Grade Level Competency Test Is Introduced

By Portia Jonsson
The Department of Education, Abaco Dis-

Please see **School** Page 14



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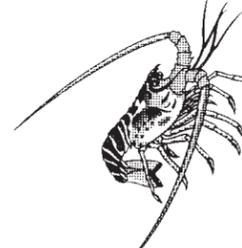
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The graduating class of S.C. Bootle is shown here singing for the audience of parents, friends and community leaders during their commencement program. Guest speaker was Mr. Michael Pintard, a favorite of the students.



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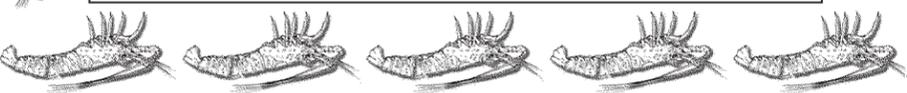


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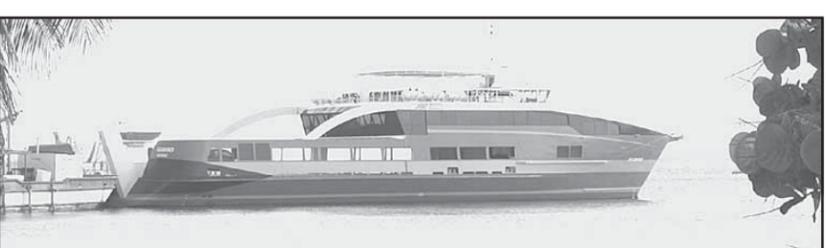


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Unaccompanied Vehicles	\$40*	\$20*
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* Price Additional to Accompanied Passenger Vehicle Transportation Price



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Friday	3:30 pm	7:15 pm	8 pm	11:45 pm
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More School News

School *From Page 0*

district, implemented the first ever Grade Level Competency Test in Mathematics and English for Grades 1-7 on June 12th and 13th in all of the schools throughout Abaco, both private and government. Other islands including Nassau and Eleuthera have already introduced this test. The results of the exams are an indicator showing which children need help in these subjects so that they do not have to repeat the grade again.

Mr. Hezekiah L. Dean, District Superintendent, Department of Education, who has

been in the field of education for 18 years previously working in the high school system in Grand Bahama, said when he came to Abaco last year he looked carefully at the GLAT, BJC and BGCSE exam results in the schools. He saw a need for the Grade Level Competency Test in Abaco. The test, he added, will give him a chance to see how children learn in a particular context, how well teachers are teaching and see comparisons between levels.

Mr. Dean said when the Department of Education decided to introduce Grade Level Competency Tests, they had to consider the

tests reliability and ensure that it was representative of the curriculum in the schools. Teachers in each school were asked to compile questions and then met with other teachers to put the questions in exam form. Mr. Dean believes that this will give teachers in any school the opportunity to make improvements to the entire district and not just their school. A two-day workshop was held by qualified testers in order to prepare them. Principals were kept abreast of what was happening in a special one-day workshop held for them. The same process will take place next year in order to train new teachers.

Mr. Dean added that in three years' time they will be able to see the benefits of labour put into the Grade Level Competency Tests.

Teachers Were Honoured

By Portia Jonsson

On June 29th the Bahamas Union of Teachers held a gala banquet at the Wyndam Nassau Resort and Crystal Palace Casino in honour of the Senior Teachers appointed in 1998. Three teachers from the Central Abaco area were among the honourees.

They were Patricia Campbell, Isobel Sherman and Jack Hardy. Ms. Campbell is a Grade 6 teacher at the Central Abaco Primary School. Mrs. Sherman teaches Home Economics to Grades 7-12 students at the Abaco Central High School and Mr. Hardy, also of Abaco Central High School, is an English teacher for Grades 10-12.

Please see **School** *Page 15*



These members of the S.C. Bootle Dynamic Dolphins basketball team graduated this past June. They represented their school at several tournaments where they did very well.



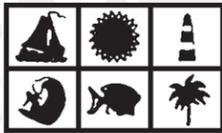
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More School News

School *From Page 14*

The teachers were featured in the special ceremony booklet and given awards from the Bahamas Union of Teachers.

Abaco Central High Extended Learning Program

By Isobel Sherman

The Extended Learning Programme for 25 grade eight students of Abaco Central High School got underway on July 7. The classes in mathematics and English were from 9 a.m. until noon for the month of July. The classes were held at the Learning Resource Center where students can learn in air-conditioned comfort. One parent told me after the first day that her son came home very enthusiastic. A similar program is being held at S.C. Bootle High School in Cooper's Town.

Preparing for School Opening

Parents of new students entering Abaco Central High and returning students are reminded that you can register from 9-12 Monday through Friday during July and August. Mr. Huel Moss, Vice Principal, is urging parents to register their children as early as possible.

Parents of students who attended Abaco Central High during the last school year and who have not picked up report cards are reminded that their children will not be allowed to begin school until the report cards and

outstanding fees have been paid. Any questions contact Mr. Huel Moss, Vice Principal, at the school between 9-12 Monday - Friday.

The school uniform will remain the same for the upcoming school year.

Zion Baptist Church Honors Mr. Dean

By Portia Jonsson

Under the theme *Crème De La Crème-Abaco's Finest*, the Zion Baptist Church and Abaco Central High School held a Gospel Explosion service on July 20th at the church to honor Mr. Alfred Dean. Special guests included Ms. Veronica Owens, Parliamentary Secretary, Ms. Felemease Sawyer, Mr. Benjamin Stubbs, Principal Abaco Central High, and Mr. Dean's mother from Andros. Many gospel ministers, some from as far as Mt. Hope, were in attendance.

Mr. Stubbs in his brief remarks said he had mixed feelings that evening. He was sad to see Mr. Dean go and Abaco Central High would not be the same without him. After three years as a music teacher at Abaco Central High, Mr. Dean is relocating to Cat Island to teach music at the two high schools there.

Seat Belt Laws Will Soon Be Enforced

Strict enforcement of the seat belt laws has been put on hold for another month.

The seat belt laws were passed in January 2002 and government announced that the laws would be implemented in July 2002. But that was delayed initially while government reviewed seat belt legislation in other countries. It is now 18 months since the laws were passed.

The legislators realized that there are problems with enforcing the laws. One problem is that anyone found guilty of a seat belt violation by the police has to go to court. They are considering allowing the officer to issue a ticket, eliminating the need to go to court.

They are also considering alternative penalties such as community service, a defensive driving course, or revocation of suspension of licenses for violations. Presently fines can range from \$1 to \$300. The Hon. Glenys Hanna-Martin, Minister of Trans-

port and Aviation, would like to have less fines and more emphasis on educational penalties.

Taxi drivers are not happy that they have to require all passengers to wear seat belts. However, buses and jitneys are excluded from this requirement. The law now requires that all children under five years have to be in a child seat in the back seat of a vehicle regardless of weight. In other places weight determines the use of a child seat. Older children as well as all passengers must use seat belts.

It is the responsibility of vehicle owners that their vehicles have seat belts. Motor vehicle dealers are required to ensure that all vehicles they offer for sale have seat belts.

Mrs. Hanna Martin recommends that everyone use seat belts even though she expects that modifications to the law are expected.



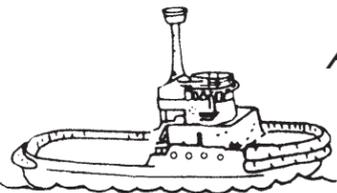
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Youth News

Zion Baptist Holds Bible School

By Jennifer Hudson

Zion Baptist Church, Murphy Town, has been the site of much activity during its very successful Vacation Bible School. There was a large enrollment of 120 young people assisted by thirteen helpers. In addition to the regular Bible teaching and indoor activities, the children were taken on a variety of field trips. They were most enthusiastic about the field trips that took them to Bahama Star Farms where they were able to see the wild horses, a blue hole, Cedar Harbour and Mount Hope.

The young people, armed with large white plastic garbage bags, spent one of the final days on a clean up along the roads of Murphy Town. They said, "We want to help make the island a better place."

Methodists Hold a Series of Bible Schools

By Jennifer Hudson

During the week of July 7th to 13th the Methodist Church held the second stage of its summer programme. A group of volunteer church members from Beach United Methodist Church in Jacksonville Beach, Florida, has been here conducting two Vacation Bible Schools, one at St. Andrews Church in Dundas Town and the other at the Methodist Church in Cherokee under the theme *Lighthouse: the Guiding Light of God*. Ten mission members were at St. Andrews and three in Cherokee providing activities for children aged four to twelve.

Each morning the session began with a Bible story with one of the leaders dressed in costume as a Bible character. Singing, hand clapping, a period of crafts and then fun outside let

off steam with all kinds of ball games.

The leaders were extremely impressed with the children who attended and said they found them to be "very gentle, very attentive, sweet and well mannered."

In the afternoons the mission group continued repairing houses for Methodist Habitat which been started the previous week by two youth groups from the U.S. The leaders said how much they have enjoyed their time in Abaco and, despite a terrible first night being eaten alive by bugs, they would most certainly come again.

As this group of church volunteers left, another group arrived to continue the work.

Bible Schools Continue

By Portia Jonsson

Since the 1960s because of our nation's close proximity to the United States, Bahamian and American Methodists have been traveling between our countries sharing spiritual, financial and material resources.

Following the departure of the Methodists from Jacksonville, college students from Helena United Methodist Church in Helena, Alabama, hosted a vacation Bible school during the week of July 14th-18th at St. Andrews

Methodist Church. Many children attended and enjoyed the week-long program filled with lots of activities including song-time, recreation, Bible story-time, arts and crafts and, of course, snacks. This year's theme was *Made by God* and was free of charge.

The college students lent a hand in the building of shutters for senior citizens in Moore's Island and home repairs for the elderly in Murphy Town. The Department of Social Services provided the supplies for these projects. This was the third group of college students to the island working through the Methodist Habitat.

Group leader and college minister, Ms. Robin Blakemore, said the people of Abaco are very warm, welcoming and generous and she had a wonderful time on the island. The vacation Bible school, which has been running since July 8th, will conclude on August 9th.

Another Bible School

By Portia Jonsson

During the week of June 30 to July 4 the Marsh Harbour Seventh Day Adventist Church held a Vacation Bible School for pre-

Please see **Youth**

Page 37



The children of Central Abaco have enjoyed many Bible schools. Here young children are enjoying the Bible school held at the Marsh Harbour Seventh Day Adventist Church.



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Local Government at Work



Dundas Town 15 Jul 03

An attempt was made to resolve the Dundas Town Committee impasse without success. This was the first meeting after a marathon three-hour meeting with the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Alfred Gray, two weeks ago. At that time the Committee was given various strategies for resolving their

impasse at removing their chairman.

The meeting agenda included a letter by Committee member Jimmy Williams to remove the Deputy Chairman, Mr. Faron Newbold. The letter was signed by a majority of four Committee members. There were no allegations of improper actions by the Deputy Chairman.

A motion was made for a vote but Chairman Cay Mills would not allow this.

A recess was called by the Chairman Mills, who went outside with the Deputy Chairman for a private consultation. On their return, Committee member Silbert Mills objected that a private meeting within the normal Committee session was not proper and showed disrespect of the majority.

This led to a breakdown of normal meeting protocol. Mr. Silbert Mills left the meeting amid rising voices and finger pointing.

Chairman Mills was then taken to task by Administrator Williams for not adhering to parliamentary procedure. Mr. Mills changed his mind and said the vote would be taken. However, Mr. Williams said this was now improper since one member left, believing the vote would not be taken. He said the vote should be rescheduled with all members present.

Protocol disintegrated further with the remaining members all trying to make their view known at once. Tempers rose and loud voices changed to belligerent shouts.

Committee members Ms. Maggie Cornish and Mr. George Cornish left during this discord.

Those remaining were unable to proceed and without any formal motion to adjourn, the one-hour meeting disintegrated.

Hotel Licensing 16 July 03

This is the first meeting to be held since 15 January 2003.

Questions were raised but left unanswered about the floating hotel docked in Marsh Harbour.

It was brought out that the Regattas of Abaco development, previously known as Abaco Towns, is converting their timeshare owners to condominium ownership and questions were asked whether the hotel tax applies under this plan.

Board members were not familiar with the Condominium Act and will seek further information. It was disclosed that the original Abaco Towns project, which began 18 years ago, attempted without success to get duty exemption under the Hotel Encouragement Act.

A management representative felt it was unfair to be charged the hotel tax when they did not receive any of the benefits of the Hotel Act. However, it was not known if the tax applies under these circumstances.

Commonwealth Bank Earns Award

When you go to Commonwealth Bank Marsh Harbour Branch you will see a large banner over the front window stating that the Marsh Branch achieved the status of Branch of the Year. On a table is proudly displayed the huge floating Branch of the Year Trophy. When the call was received in June that the branch was named Branch of the Year, there was yelling and smiling and clapping by the branch staff for this fine achievement. Congratulations, Marsh Harbour Branch of Commonwealth Bank!



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ChurchNews

First Annual Marriage Conference 2003

By Jennifer Hudson

The first Annual Marriage Conference entitled *Marriage Checkup* was held at Friendship Tabernacle in Dundas Town on June 27th and 28th. Pastor Rev Kenneth Knowles and his wife, Sister Nathalie Knowles, felt the need to gather people together to identify behavioral patterns and other weaknesses in marriages that eventually result in separation and to provide spiritual and physical help to enable people to structure a long and lasting marriage. Guest speakers for the conference were Rev. Vaughan L. Cash, Associate Pastor of Evangelistic Temple, Nassau, and his wife, Wendy.

On Friday evening Pastor Cash outlined the format for the conference. Proceedings began on Saturday at 7 a.m. with a Prayer Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Seminars continued all day in the church sanctuary with a break for lunch.

After an address by Pastor Cash in which he stressed the sacred and honourable estate of marriage which is not to be entered upon lightly and the need for honesty in marriage, the participants then separated into men's and women's groups for discussion.

Each family present received a gift and special gifts were presented to the newest and the oldest married couples. Persons attending the conference said that the sessions had given them much food for thought and they were very glad to have attended as they received a great deal of help.

Pastor Knowles and the Team look forward to continuing the theme next year.

Church Holds Fund Raiser

By Portia Jonsson

For the past three years the Church of the Latterain in Dundas Town has sponsored a Youth Power Camp during the month of July featuring special guest speakers from Nassau and Freeport. In an effort to raise funds to assist with the travel expenses of these persons, the Church of the Latterain held a fair on June 21st. The fair had all the usual fair games like hoop-la, clown toss and a bouncy castle. A special game room was set up for the kids to play videos games. Steak dinners, conch fritters, conch salad and cakes were on sale. Gift bags with matching hats were auctioned off.

The Third Annual Youth Power Camp will be held July 23rd to July 26th at the Church of the Latterain nightly at 7 p.m. The camp will feature a youth speaker and dance group from Nassau along with soloists from Freeport, Grand Bahama. The public is invited to attend.

Father Ramon Celebrates One Year

By Jennifer Hudson

Rev. Fr. Ramon Y. Saavedra arrived on Abaco in July 2002 as assistant priest to Rev. Fr. Roger. He was born and grew up in the Philippine Islands, the second of six children. After leaving school, he studied philosophy and went on to study theology. He was ordained into the priesthood in 1966 and served for one year in the Philippines. He was then assigned to the Seminary as teacher and spiritual director in which position he remained for almost four years.

At this point he was invited by Bishop Burke of the Bahamas to serve in the Bahamas for a period of two years. After spending two months traveling to the various islands of the Bahamas saying Mass, he took up his mission post on Abaco. Besides his work at the church in Marsh Harbour, Fr. Ramon says Mass in Hope Town, Man-O-War Cay and Treasure Cay.

During his year here, Fr. Ramon says that he has grown to love the quiet island with its friendly, hospitable people. In his spare time from his pastoral work he enjoys working on the computer and exercising.

Thanks to Many People

By Isobel Sherman

Father Roger of St. Frances de Sales Church in Marsh Harbour would like to thank many people who donated to the plight of the Haitians left homeless from the fire in Pigeon Peas. These include the parishioners of Mary Star of the Sea Church in Freeport and St. John's Church in Lyford Cay. He thanks the Billfish Blast Tournament sponsored by HMY and Abaco Beach Resort for a very generous donation. The Feed the Poor organization in Florida, arranged through Treasure Cay second homeowner David Price, shipped food and kitchen utensils for the relief effort. Twenty-five families from St. Frances Church lost their homes in the fire.

Gala Banquet

By Isobel Sherman

A gala banquet was held on July 11 at Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour. The honoree was Pastor Earlyn Baillou, Senior Pastor of New Rehoboth Ministries in Marsh Harbour. Pastor Baillou has been an active member of the Abaco community for over seven years. He resides in Dundas Town with his wife, Joan, and his son.

New Rehoboth Ministries recently broke ground for its church on the S.C. Bootle Highway in Marsh Harbour.

Church Honors Mr. Dean

By Portia Jonsson

Under the theme *Crème de la Crème-Abaco's Finest*, the Zion Baptist Church and Abaco Central High School held a Gospel Explosion service on July 20th at the church to honor Mr. Alfred Dean. Special guests included Ms. Veronica Owens, Parliamentary Secretary, Ms. Felemease Sawyer, Mr. Benjamin Stubbs, Principal of Abaco Central High, and Mr. Dean's mother from Andros. Many gospel ministers, some from as far as Mt. Hope, were in attendance.

Mr. Stubbs in his brief remarks said he had mixed feelings that evening. He was sad to see Mr. Dean go and Abaco Central High would not be the same without him. After three years as a music teacher at Abaco Central High, Mr. Dean is relocating to Cat Island to teach music at the two high schools there.

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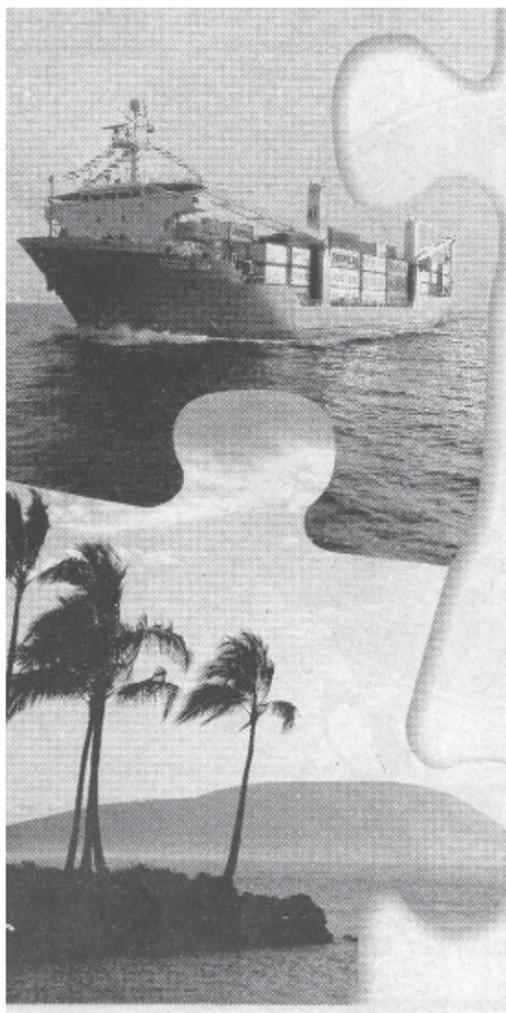
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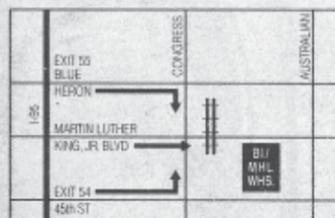
Thanks

*I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation of the overwhelming support that was given through prayers and financial support during my illness. I especially thank God for bringing me through. I also thank my family, Cherokee Assembly and community, Agape Christian School staff, students and parents, the entire Abaco community and my family and friends in Nassau who were there for me as well. Because of your support I am recovering very well. Ps. 46:1
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A Guide to Hurricane Preparation

General Information, Terms, Categories

Tropical storms and hurricanes are among nature's most powerful forces because of their size and potential for destruction. The dangers of the storms are from the storm surge, powerful winds, tornadoes and torrential rains which can combine to be devastating.

Abaco has been buffeted by several storms in recent years, the worst year being 1999. In that year Dennis brushed past in August followed by Hurricane Floyd in September 1999. That storm cost an estimated \$90 million of damage, destroying more than 400 homes. Rebuilding continues even today from that disaster. The year finished with the edge of Hurricane Irene in October which resulted in one death. Abaco residents are fully aware of just how damaging a hurricane can be.

What Is a Hurricane?

A hurricane is a tropical cyclone in which the winds move in a large spiral around its eye which has a calm, low pressure center. Hurricanes begin as areas of low pressure off the coast of Africa or anywhere in the Caribbean or Gulf of Mexico. These storms blow counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere. The whole system may be five to six miles high and can be 300-600 miles wide as it moves slowly westerly. In the western Pacific area they are called typhoons.

Formation of a hurricane depends on many factors coming together. Warm humid air and warm water vapor supply its energy. There needs to be convection activity and vertical

wind motion to take air from sea level to move it up through the system. The wind system must have the right amount of spin or twist which is provided by the rotating earth.

The center of the storm or eye may travel ten to fifteen miles per hour with the storm extending out from the center 150 to 200 miles. Inside the eye is calm and the skies may be clear. But that is deceptive because the wind on the other side of the eye blows in the opposite direction from the first part of the storm. If people do not understand when the eye of the hurricane is passing, they may be caught in deadly winds and torrential rain.

A storm surge is a rise in sea level near the "eye" of the hurricane. As this nears land, it becomes a wall of water which is the greatest threat to life and property. Most hurricane-related deaths are drownings. Because of the low pressure in the eye and the high winds, the ocean surface is raised. This arch of water can be as wide as 50 miles. As the storm approaches land this water can be raised up to 20 feet high which destroys buildings, erodes beaches and produces massive floods.

Since the mid 1990s there has been much more hurricane activity. These active seasons are expected to continue for the next 10 to 15 years. This is due to the higher than normal temperatures of the Atlantic Ocean. Although the hurricane season is officially from June 1 to November 30 each year, the peak of the season in terms of both number of hurricanes and intensity occurs in September and October. During this time most of the hurricanes are spawned in the Atlantic waters east of the Lesser Antilles. Storms earlier in the season tend to be of minimal strength and frequently form in the Carib-

bean area.

Terms and Categories

When weather reports are given on television or radio, they use terms which we should be familiar with.

- A **tropical depression** has winds up to 38 miles per hour
- A **tropical storm** has winds up to 72 miles per hour
- A **hurricane** has winds of 73 miles per hour or more

The weathermen also rate the hurricanes in categories according to their potential to cause disaster.

Category 1. Winds of 73 to 95 miles per hour. Damage may include flooding of low-lying coastal areas, small boats may be torn from their moorings in exposed anchorages.

Category 2. Winds of 96 to 110 miles per

hour. Damage will be moderate and may include flooding in low areas, cutting off access through low lying roads and some damage to roofing materials, windows and doors.

Category 3. Winds of 111 to 130 miles per hour. Damage will be major and may include high water blocking inland roads, serious coastal flooding, destruction to small buildings.

Category 4. Winds of 131 to 155 miles per hour. Damage will be severe and may include cutting off access roads, major damage to lower floors of buildings near shore because of flooding and battering of waves and debris, and collapse of roofs on many small buildings.

Category 5. Winds of more than 155 miles per hour. Damage will be catastrophic and may include buildings collapsing, many roofs collapsing, extensive shattering of glass and windows, small buildings overturned and blown away.

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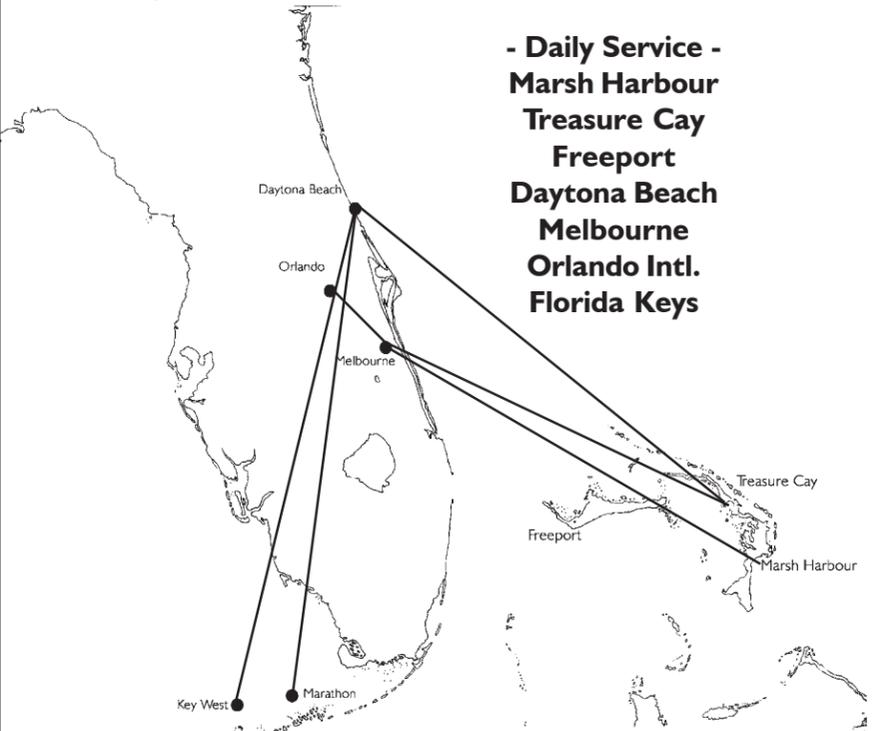
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Early Preparation Is Essential



Hurricane season is here once again and preparations must be started now to ensure that we are ready for any storm that threatens. The key to surviving is the preparations you make beforehand. After a hurricane is predicted to come close, too many things need to be done in a short period of time and some things are sure to be forgotten. It is good to prepare now before a storm is predicted.

If you wait until the last minute to purchase supplies, the lines may be long and store shelves may be empty, leaving you ill-prepared. The following suggestions are recommended.

Early Preparations

- The most important thing is shutters for all your windows and doors. They need to fit well and install quickly. If you use wood, you need at least 5/8 inch thick plywood. These shutters need to be made and fitted well before a storm is announced. If you need a ladder for installation, make sure you have one available. Now is the time to check to see that shutters are in good condition and you have the necessary hardware for installing them. It is good to keep a supply of boards for last minute repairs. If you do not have shutters, now is the time to purchase or construct them.

- Check the insurance on your house or business to be sure that the coverage is what you want. Check specifically if you are covered for flood damage, sewer backup and wind damage. See if you have "replacement cost coverage" or "actual cash value coverage." With replacement cost coverage the insurance company will replace your home or possession with exact replacements. If your policy is for actual cost value coverage, you will receive only the current depreciated value of your house or possessions.

- Collect all important documents which are irreplaceable or very important. These include insurance policies, ownership documents such as property deeds, titles of cars and boats. Remember birth certificates and passports and pictures you value and any other papers important to you. These should be kept in a plastic bag or container which can be sealed to be waterproof and kept with you. Make copies and keep the copies in another secure place. Remember to make copies of the items in your wallet, driver's licenses, credit cards, etc.

This is a good time to take pictures of rooms in your house which show your furnishings. Then have a camera and film on hand for recording damage for insurance claims purposes. These are excellent when

dealing with insurance adjustors as proof of what you have lost.

Protect Your Property

Protect your property the best you can. Remember that wind and water are essentially two very dangerous elements of any storm and your goal is to keep both these out of your house. Most damage to homes occurs when a window gets broken or doors blow in, allowing the wind to blow through.

- Check your roof for loose shingles or tiles and make sure they are securely fastened down. Check for other repairs that need to be done.

- Clean up your yard of debris that could be damaging in high winds.

- Check around your house for dead or dying trees. Trim shrubbery to reduce damage to the plants. If tree limbs are potential damaging to power lines, notify BEC to have their crew trim the branches. Do not attempt to do this yourself because of the danger of the live power lines.

- Secure all outdoor furniture, garbage cans and objects outdoors.

Get Necessary Supplies

Buy supplies early at the beginning of the season. These should include a battery-operated AM/FM radio with extra batteries, one

flashlight with extra batteries for each person in your family, candles, kerosene lamps, water-proof matches and a first aid kit.

Be very careful with kerosene lamps and candles during a storm. If the wind blows something over with a flame, it could start a fire. You do not need to contend with a fire during a storm.



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Elbow Cay and The Abacos, Homes and Property

FLAMINGO VILLAS

Fabulous Villas located at the mouth of Hope Town Harbour. These 2 bed/2 bath villas are beautifully furnished with West Indian decor throughout.



A dip pool is shared and surrounded by open decking. Sold fully furnished, totally turnkey, rental history.

Price: \$1,870,000

PINEAPPLE BEACH HOUSE



Premier designer home on beautiful sandy beach. Features 4B/3B, large open kitchen on second floor, great

decks, balcony, swimming pool.

Price: \$1,550,000

ATLANTIC HORIZONS

Custom Timber Peg ocean front home, views of Tilloo Cay and beyond.



3B/3B, spacious kitchen open to great room, large wrap around deck with pool, and private dock slip at Tahiti Beach.

Price: \$1,500,000

HOMES & LAND



"JOE'S CAY" - 3 Acre private undeveloped cay accessed from Elbow Cay, located in White Sound, great elevation, deep water for dock, rare opportunity, serious inquiries only.

Price: \$1,762,000

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

Price: \$517,500

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

Price: \$151,500

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

Starting at: \$230,000

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

Price: \$325,000

"EAST VIEW" - Located on Lubbers Quarters Cay. Development faces the Sea of Abaco across from Tilloo Cut and Tahiti Beach. Beautiful sunrises. Each homesite comes with a dock slip at the private marina. Great investment opportunity.

Starting at: \$89,000

VILLA JUNKANOO



Custom home in private marina community facing the Sea of Abaco. Turn-key 4B/4B, open kitchen, dining

area and great room. Includes 2 dock slips, one can accommodate up to a 60' yacht.

Price: \$1,390,000

OCEAN HOUSE

Incredible parcel of property with 2 bedroom, 2 bath home located on the Atlantic Ocean in historic Hope Town Settlement.



74 feet of ocean front on long white sandy shore. The house has open floor plan with large kitchen and great/dining room, vaulted ceilings, good rental history.

Price: \$1,300,000

LUBBERS LEE



Sea to sea property over 4 lush acres, beautiful beach on western side, 100 foot dock on eastern side, main house, and cottage, lots of decking, a rare find.

Price: \$1,290,000

"Family Island Specialists"

Chris Thompson
(chris@hopetown.com)

Greg Roberts
(greg@hopetown.com)

Ph: (242) 366-0216

www.elbow-cay.com

Fax: (242) 366-0223

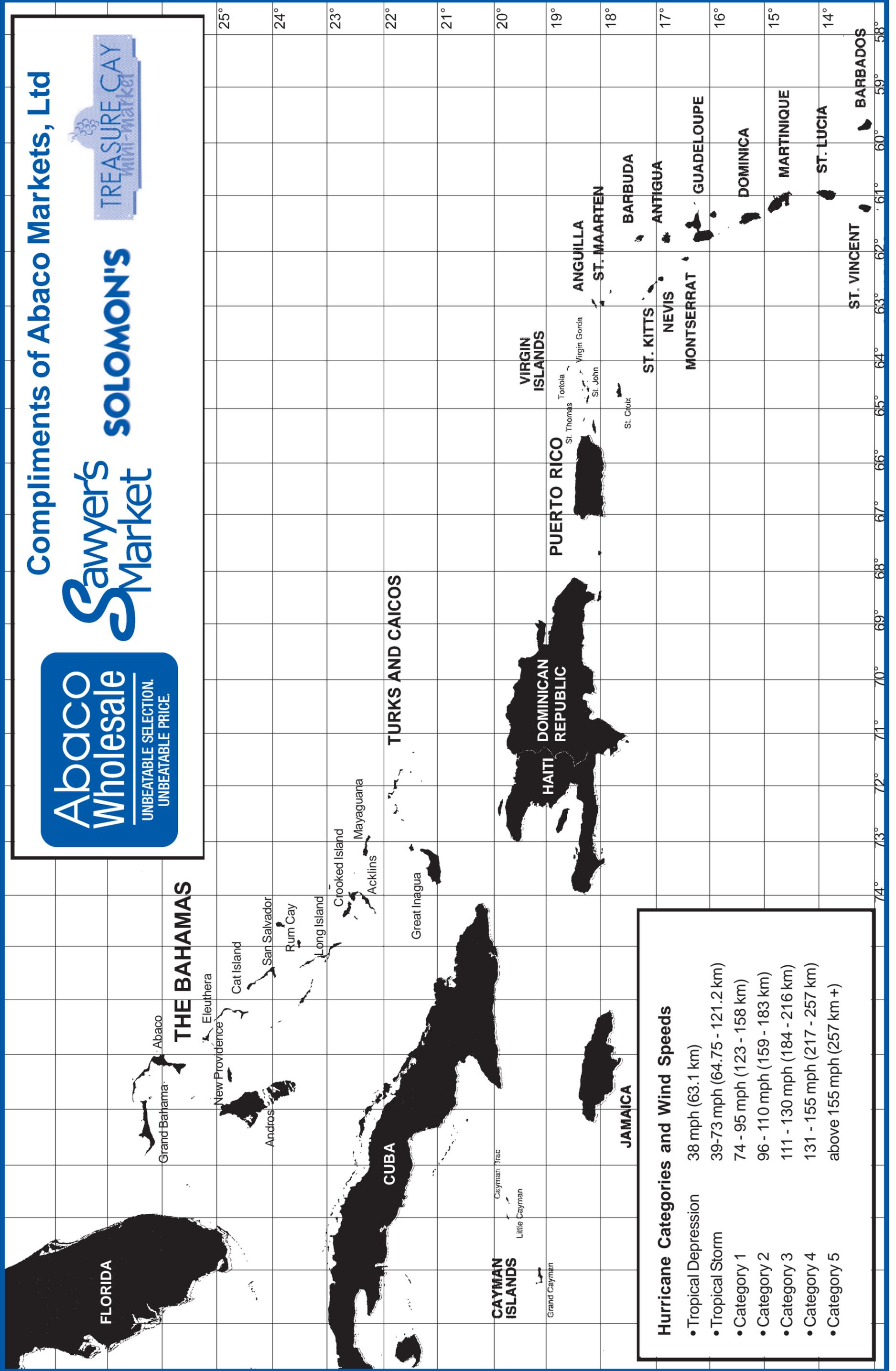
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Hurricane Categories and Wind Speeds

- Tropical Depression 38 mph (63.1 km)
- Tropical Storm 39-73 mph (64.75 - 121.2 km)
- Category 1 74 - 95 mph (123 - 158 km)
- Category 2 96 - 110 mph (159 - 183 km)
- Category 3 111 - 130 mph (184 - 216 km)
- Category 4 131 - 155 mph (217 - 257 km)
- Category 5 above 155 mph (257 km +)



Make These Preparations Early

Last Minute Preparations

No one ever knows when another hurricane will affect Abaco. However, it could happen any year and the best way to ride out the storm is to be prepared. We have had several storms affect Abaco during the past few years. We need to know what to do before the height of the storm and afterwards. This gives you some guidelines for last minute preparations. Everyone realizes now that the better prepared they are, the better chances they have of coming through with minimum damage and the better they can cope with the problems afterwards.

- Make the decision ahead of time as to where you plan to be during a storm. If your house is on low land or you feel it is not built securely, make plans to stay with friends or family in a well built home or go to a shelter.
- If you have elderly relatives, make sure they are somewhere safe and that someone is with them who can help them during the storm and afterwards.
- Children need special reassurances. It is good to talk with them about their fears and answer their questions honestly. Give lots of verbal reassurances.
- Gather clothing, bedding, toiletries, and

flashlights that you will need for the duration of the storm. Have a battery-operated radio with fresh batteries. If you have a VHF radio, make sure it has its own power supply.

- Make sure each person has sturdy shoes for protection after the storm for protection from debris.

Shelter Essentials

Each community has designated shelters that will be opened before a storm, giving you adequate time to get there safely. Even if you do not plan to go to a shelter, you should keep in mind which buildings will be open in the event you need to get to a shelter. Remember, they do not supply you with food, drink, bedding or other supplies.

- If you plan to go to a safer place than your home during the storm, you should remember to take the following with you.
- Your important papers such as insurance policies, birth certificates, passports, deeds, in a sealed plastic bag
- Quiet games for children, playing cards or dominoes
- Extra clothing and shoes
- Folding chair, lawn chair or cot
- Any prescription drugs you may require
- Supplies for infants such as disposable diapers, formula, baby food
- Take all necessary bedding as the shelters do not have pillows, blankets or bed rolls.
- Take all necessary water and food that you and your group will need for several days. Storms are unpredictable and you do not know how long you will need to stay at the shelter.
- A AM/FM radio
- Flashlight

Securing Your Boat

Secure your boat before a storm is close. It will weather a storm better on land so haul it out if possible. Alternately, it can be tied securely into mangroves or in a safe harbour, using long spring lines to accommodate the exceptionally high tides that accompany a hurricane. If your boat is at a marina, check with the management as some will not allow boats to stay at their docks during a storm. Do not be caught struggling with your boat when hurricane force winds are already approaching.

If you live on your boat, you are urged to secure your boat but then get to a shelter. It is not safe to remain on your boat during a hurricane. Your life is more important that the safety of your boat.

A boat on a trailer should be slid off the trailer and placed flat on the ground, lashed down and half filled with water. The trailer should also be lashed down. The engine and gas tanks should be removed and secured.

Make sure you have a secure supply of gas and oil for your boat after the hurricane is past if you are dependent on a boat for transportation.

Pets Need Care, Too

Arrange well ahead of time for a safe place for your pets during the storm if you do not plan to keep them in your house with you. Even animals which are normally outside need to be inside during a severe storm. Remember to have an adequate supply of water, pet foods and other necessary supplies. You need at least one week's supply of food.

Remember that shelters do not allow pets. Arrange for a safe place for your animals prior to the storm. Do not leave an animal tied.

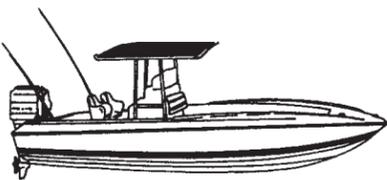
When a Hurricane Watch Is Issued

- Put up your shutters, starting with the most difficult shutters early, such as on second-story windows, picture windows and glass doors.
- Take down television dishes and antennas.
- Take inside or tie down all loose items such as patio furniture, garbage cans that may be blown about by the wind.
- Propane gas tanks should be secured in place. Turn off the gas when a hurricane warning is issued.
- Fill your automobiles with gas and park them near the house, if not in a garage or carport, but away from trees that may fall on them.
- Turn off electricity at the main breaker and turn off gas and water.
- If you have a cistern, disconnect down spouts so you do not contaminate your fresh water with salt.

Hurricane Names for 2003

These are the names chosen for the tropical storms and hurricanes of the 2003 hurricane season.

Ana	Grace	Larry	Rose
Bill	Henri	Mindy	Sam
Claudette	Isabel	Nicholas	Teresa
Danny	Juan	Odette	Victor
Erika	Kate	Peter	Wanda
Fabian			



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\$180	\$450	\$925	26' Paramount
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Bait, Ice & Guides			

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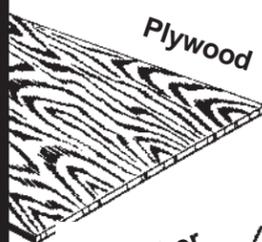
Tel: (242) 367-2163 Fax: (242) 367-3388

e-mail: merlin@abacoinet.com

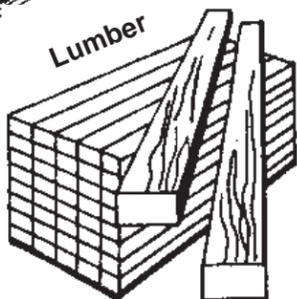
Monitoring VHF CH16 Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm

Abaco Hardware

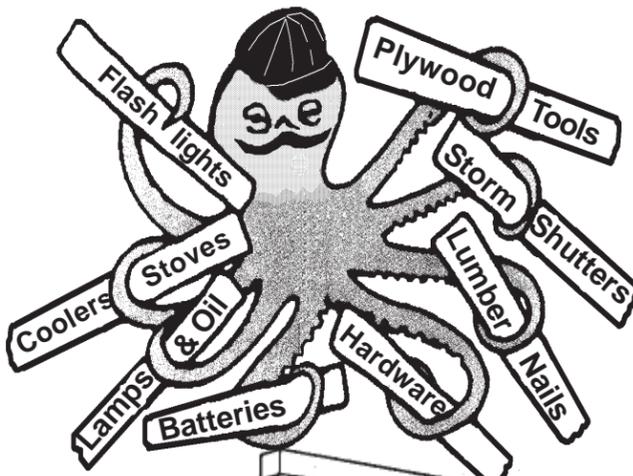
HURRICANE SUPPLIES



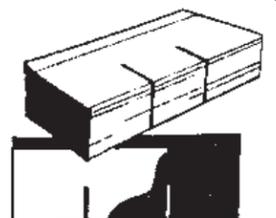
Plywood



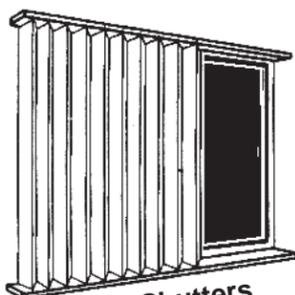
Lumber



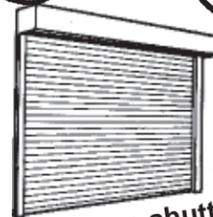
Roofing Paper
Roll Plastic Sheeting



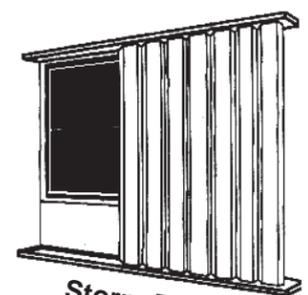
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Last Minute Preparations



Everyone is hoping that another hurricane will not affect Abaco this year since we have been hit several times in the past three years. But in the case that one does come close again, we need to be prepared and know what we should do before the height of the storm and afterwards. This article gives you some guidelines for last minute preparations and during the storm. Everyone realizes now that the better prepared they are, the better chances they have of coming through with minimum damage and the better they can cope with the problems afterwards.

- Make the decision ahead of time as to where you plan to be during a storm. If your house is on low land or you feel it is not built securely, make plans to stay with friends or family in a well built home or go to a shelter.

- Put your car on high ground in a place where you can get to it after the storm.

- If you have elderly relatives, make sure they are somewhere safe and that someone is with them who can help them during the storm and afterwards.

- Pregnant women in the last month or at high risk should check with their doctors before the storm. Babies frequently arrive when the barometric pressure is low.

- Children need special reassurances. It is good to talk with them about their fears and answer their questions honestly. Give lots of verbal reassurances.

- Prior to the storm, turn your refrigerator and freezer to their coldest setting. Freeze water in plastic containers to help keep your foods cold during any power outages.

- Make plans for which room your family will go to, preferable an inside room with no windows.

- Gather clothing, bedding, toiletries, and flashlights that you will need for the duration of the storm. Have a battery-operated radio with fresh batteries. If you have a VHF radio, make sure it has its own power supply.

- Make sure each person has sturdy shoes for protection after the storm for protection from debris.

Shelter Essentials

If you plan to go to a safer place than your home during the storm, you should remember to take the following with you.

- Your important papers such as insurance policies, birth certificates, passports, deeds, insurance policies in a sealed plastic bag

- Quiet games for children, playing cards or dominoes

- Extra clothing and shoes
- Pillow and light blanket or sleeping bag.
- Folding chair, lawn chair or cot
- Any prescription drugs you may require

If you go to a government approved shelter remember the following:

- Take all necessary bedding as the shelters do not have pillows, blankets or bed rolls.

- Take all necessary water and food that you and your group will need for several days. Storms are unpredictable and you do not know how long you will need to stay at the shelter.

During the Storm

Stay in a safe place for the duration of the storm. Do not venture out until the storm is subsiding. Keep listening to the radio to know

where the storm is traveling and what it is like in your area. ZNS will be the best source of storm news. Radio Abaco gives excellent coverage prior to a storm but may go off the air when a storm threatens their equipment. VHF radio is excellent to keep you in touch with your neighbors but remember that high winds may destroy your VHF antenna if you left it outside, leaving you out of touch.



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Nassau 393-7481 - Freeport 352-8071-8
Rock Sound 334-2060 - Nichol's Town 329-4184 - George Town 336-2780



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and Cosmetic
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ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Kenneth Dickie of the Bahamas Institute of Plastic Surgery invites you to a seminar on Thursday Aug. 14th at the Anglican Hall at 6:00 p.m. Please come to this complimentary seminar to learn about the latest techniques in cosmetic and reconstructive surgery.

Dr. Dickie will be talking live at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 14th on Radio Abaco 93.5. We invite you to listen and call in for questions about state of the art Plastic and Reconstructive surgery.

Dr. Dickie will also be available for consultations on Friday, August 15th at the Auskell Advanced Medical Clinic in Abaco. Please call 367-0020 now to schedule your appointment.

IN-HOUSE FINANCING AVAILABLE!!



More Hurricane Information

After a Hurricane

There are many precautions which people should follow after a hurricane has passed.

If a hurricane passes directly over Abaco, the eye can be deceptively calm. It is the center of the hurricane and can take from a few minutes to pass to several hours depending on how fast the hurricane is moving and the size of the eye. The calm will suddenly end as the winds return from the opposite direction, possible with even greater force. The most intense winds blow closest to the eye and are strongest northeast of the eye. Do not go out until you are sure that the entire storm is past.

- When you do go outdoors, be extremely careful.
- Power lines are likely to be down so be very careful where you step.
- Supervise children at all times, especially if power lines are down.

- Be very careful in turning your electricity back on. Stay out of puddles.
- Stay away from disaster areas, do not drive around sightseeing.
- If you must leave your home or the shelter, keep your driving to a minimum.
- If possible, let relatives and friends know that you are safe but keep all phone calls to a minimum.

- Find out if your water supply is safe before you use it. Until then, use only the water you have stored for the emergency.
- Let officials know if you or someone you know is injured and needs medical help.
- Keep listening to your radio for information about the area and for information about people you may feel are missing.
- Keep receipts for all items you buy before the power is restored. Your insurance may cover the cost of emergency food and ice.

A Note to Gardeners

Salt in the atmosphere from a hurricane can quickly poison grass, shrubs, trees and ground covers that are not tolerant of it. Hose down plants right away after exposure to salt if you have water pressure. This could save valuable decorative plants.

Emergency Shelter Locations

Grand Cay

Shilo Baptist Church
Grand Cay All Age School
Administration Office

North Abaco

Little Abaco
Fox Town Primary School
New Hope Baptist Church
Revival Time Pentecostal Church

Cooper's Town

St. Andrews Baptist Church
Magistrates Court
S.C. Bootle High School

Treasure Cay

Full Gospel Assembly Church
Treasure Cay Community Centre

Green Turtle Cay

Amy Roberts All Age School
Magistrate's Court

Central Abaco

Central Abaco Primary School
Long Bay School
International Gospel Mission
Marsh Harbour Church of Christ
RND Cinemas
New Vision Church
St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church
Abaco Central High School
Marsh Harbour Seventh Day Adventist Church

Central Abaco Cays

Great Guana Cay
Public School
Man-O-War Cay
Public School
Community Clinic

Hope Town

Mission House
Methodist Church

South Abaco

Cherokee Sound
Public School
Crossing Rocks
Public School
Dsco Inferno

Sandy Point

Anglican Church Hall
Govt. Clinic
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Public School

Moore's Island

All Age School
Govt. Clinic
Baptist Church in Hard Bargain
Baptist Church in The Bight

All shelters may be used in the immediate aftermath of any storm or during a major non-storm emergency. Shelters will be periodically reviewed to insure continued or upgraded rating.

It Pays to Advertise

Hotels and House Rental Agents

+ agents who have multiple cottages and houses

Area Code 242 unless listed otherwise

Casuarina Point

Different of Abaco 8 rm 20 cott 366-2150

Cherokee

Lee Pinder 3 hse + 366-2053

Grand Cay

Rosie's Place 352-5458

Green Turtle Cay

Bank Apartments 3 apts 365-4105
Bluff House 8 rm 20 cott 365-4200
Chris Plummer 3 hse 365-4648
Coco Bay Cottages 4 cott 365-5464
Green Turtle Club 34 rm 365-4271
Island Properties 9 hse + 365-4465
New Plymouth Inn 9 rm 365-4161
Ocean Blue Properties 13 + 365-4234
Roberts Cottages 3 cott 365-4105

Guana Cay

Dolphin Bch Resort 4 rm 10 cott.365-5137
Coco Paradise 8 cott 365-5197
Donna Sands 12 hse + 365-5195
Guana Seaside 8 rm 7 cott 365-5106
Harbour View Haven 365-5028
Ria-Mar Rentals 5 + 365-6241
Sea Shore Villas 365-5028

Hope Town

Abaco Inn 22 rm 366-0133
Club Soleil 6 rm 1 cott 366-0003
Elbow Cay Prop 43 hse + 366-0035
Hope T Harb Lodge 22 rm 366 0095
Hope T Hideaways 50 hse + 366-0224
Hope T Villas 3 hse + 366-0030
Island Colours + 366-0290
Lighthouse Rentals 4 cott 366-0154
Sea Gull Cottages 3 hse + 366-0266
Sea Spray Resort 5 villas 366-0065
Tanny Key 30 hse + 366-0053
Turtle Hill 4 villas 366-0557

Lubbers Quarters

Sea Level Cottages 4 hse 366-3121

Man-O-War

Island Home Rentals 8 hse+ 365-6048
Ria-mar Rentals 9 + 365-6241
Schooner's Landing 5 condos 365-6072

Marsh Harbour area

Abaco Beach Resort 82 rms 367-2158
Abaco Real Estate 6 hse + 367-2719
Abaco Towns 32 effc 367-2227
Alesia's 3 rms 367-4460
Ambassador Inn 6 rms 367-2022
Bustick Bight Resort 8 rms 367-3980
Conch Inn 9 rms 367-4000
D's Guest House 6 rms 367-3980
Great Abaco Club 12 hse + 367-4151
Island Breezes Motel 8 rms 367-3776
Lofty Fig Villas 6 eff 367-2681
Pelican Beach Villas 6 cott 367-3600
Sunset Point Resort 8 rm 367-5333

Moore's Island

Moore's Is Bonefish Camp 8 rm 366-6334

Sandy Point

Oeisha's Resort 366-4139
Pete & Gay's Resort 14 rm 366-4119
Rickmon's Bonefishing 10 rm 366-4477

Spanish Cay

Spanish Cay Resort 18 rm 6 hse 365-0083

Treasure Cay

Bahama Beach Club 365-8500
Banyan Beach Resort 21 rm 365-8111
Island Dreams 45 hse + 365-8507
Treasure Cay Resort 95 rms 365-8801

Walker's Cay

Walker's Cay Resort 353-1252

Wood Cay

Tangelo Hotel 19 rm 3 villas 365-2222

General for Abaco

Listings for the entire island
Abaco Vacations + 800-633-9197
Bahamas Vacations + 800-462-2426
Abaco Bound + 242-367-5576

Web Sites

with general Abaco information
www.abacoinet.com
www.abacoinfo.com
www.abacos.com
www.go-abacos.com
www.oii.net

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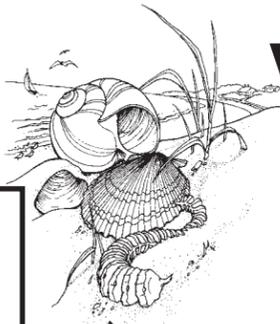
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Visitors' Guide



Restaurants • Services • Transportation

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

Area code 242 unless listed



Emergency Services	
Police (Marsh Harbour)	367-2560
Fire - Marsh Harb. Volunteer Fire Dept.	367-2000
Fire - Hope Town Volunteer Fire Dept.	VHF Ch 16
Ambulance - Trauma One - Marsh Harbour	367-2911
Fire - Dundas Town Volunteer	367-2935 or 4935
Man-O-War Fire & Rescue	365-6911
Bah Air Sea Rescue Assoc	VHF 16 or 366-0282

Taxi Cab Fares for one or two passengers Plus extra for each passengers above two	
Between Marsh Harbour Airport and:	
Ferry Dock or Murphy Town to Ammons Dr	\$12 + \$3
Bristol Cellers thru A. Beach Hotel or Gov't dock thru Dundas Town	\$10 + \$3
Dove Plaza, Stop Light or Sawyer's Market	\$10 + \$2
Gov't Clinic thru Western Auto	\$ 6 + \$2
Gov. freight dock through Dundas Town	\$10 + \$3
Murphy Town to Shell Sta	\$14 + \$4
Pelican Shores to Frankie Russel house	\$14 + \$4
Eastern Shores to Peas & Rice house	\$14 + \$4
Beyond Russell house or Peas & Rice house	\$16 + \$5
Great Cistern	\$20 + \$5
Spring City	\$15 + \$5
Snake Cay	\$35 + \$10
Treasure Cay	\$60 + \$10
Casuarina Point	\$60 + \$10
Treasure Cay Airport or Bah Palm Shores	\$70 + \$10
Little Harbour or Cherokee	\$80 + \$10
Crossing Rocks	\$100 + \$10
Sandy Point	\$135 + \$10
Between Marsh Harbour Ferry and:	
Ab Beach Hotel thru Wally's & Eastern Shore	\$ 2 each
Jib Room	\$ 3 each
Golden Harvest	\$5 + \$3
Stop Light, Dove Plaza, Gov't dock	\$ 6 + \$3
Government Freight Dock	\$ 7 + \$3
Gov.Clinic, W. Auto or Nat. Insurance	\$ 9 + \$3
Mother Merle restaurant	\$10 + \$3
Waiting time \$20 per hour, \$10 per half hour	
Children under three - free • Uncaged pets - as people	
Luggage \$.50 each over four, Surf boards \$3.00 ea.	
Between Northern Abaco Airport and:	
Treasure Cay, Bahamas Star, or Moxey	\$14 + \$6
Bronks or Highway Liquors	\$10 + \$5
Sand Banks	\$20 + \$5
Joe's Creek	\$35 + \$5
Black Wood	\$14 + \$5
Fire Road	\$25 + \$5
Cooper's Town	\$30 + \$5
Cedar Harbour	\$45 + \$5
Wood Cay	\$50 + \$5
Mount Hope	\$55 + \$5
Fox Town	\$60 + \$5
Marsh Harbour or Crown Haven	\$65 + \$5
Marsh Harbour Round Trip	\$85 + \$5
TC Hotel to Marsh Harbour	\$55 + \$5
TC Hotel to Joe's Creek	\$25 + \$5
TC Hotel to Sand Bank	\$16 + \$5
TC Hotel to Moxey	\$10 + \$5
TC Hotel to Bronks	\$7 + \$5
From TC Hotel to All Areas N. of T.C. Airport Add \$10	
Waiting Time \$12 Per Hour	

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

Tours & Excursions	
Kayak • Abaco Outback • Marsh Harbour	367-5358
Birding • Abaco Outback • Marsh Harbour	367-5358
Reef • Abaco Beach Dive Center • MH	367-4646
Reef • Dive Abaco • Marsh Harbour	367-2787
Reef • Abaco Dive Adventure • Marsh H	367-2963
Excursion boat • Froggies • Hope Town	366-0024
Kayak • Abaco Adventures • Treasure C	

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

Ferry Schedule Departure times shown • Daily unless noted	
Albury's Ferry Service • Ph 367-3147 or 365-6010 • VHF Ch. 16	
Marsh Harbour to Hope Town 20 minute trip from Crossing Beach	
7:15 (M-F) 9 am 10:30 12:15 pm 2 4 5:45	
Return 8 am 9:45 11:30 1:30 pm 3 4 5 (M-F)	
Marsh Harbour to Man-O-War 20 minute trip from Crossing Beach	
10:30 am 12:15 pm (M-Sat) 2:30 (M-Sat) 4 5:30	
Return 8 am 11:30 (M-Sat) 1:30 pm 3:15 (M-Sat)	
Marsh Harbour to Scotland Cay & Guana 40 min. from Conch Inn	
‡ 6:45 am 10:30 1:30 pm 3:30 5:30 (min \$40)	
Return 8 am 11:30 2:30 pm 4:45 pm	
Fare • OneWay / Round Trip Adult \$10 / \$15 Children \$5 / \$8	
‡ Workman's special Mondays thru Fridays from Union Jack Dock	

Green Turtle Ferry • Phone 365-4166, 4128, 4151 • VHF Ch 16	
Green Turtle Cay to Treasure Cay Airport	
8 am 9 11 12:15 1:30 3 4:30	
Treasure Cay Airport to Green Turtle Cay	
8:30 am 10:30 11:30 1:30 2:30 3:30 4:30 5	
One way adult \$7 (Children \$3) • Round trip \$11 Extra to some destinations	

Abaco Adventures • Ph 365-8749 VHF Ch 16	
Treasure Cay to Guana Cay - Wed & Sat 10 am, return 5 pm	\$25
Treasure Cay to Guana Cay - Sun 11, 12:30, 4, return 11:45, 3 & 5	
Treasure C. to Man-O-War & Hope T - Thur 10 am, return 3:30	\$35
Pinder's Ferry Service Between Abaco & Grand Bahama -	
Crown Haven Abaco to McLean's Town - Daily 7:00 am & 2:30 pm	
McLean's Town to Crown Haven - Daily 8:30 am & 4:30 pm	
Fare \$40 one way • \$80 round trip • Children half fare	
For information call Grand Bahama 353-3093 or Abaco 365-2356	
Bus serves Freeport and McLean's Town • Rental automobiles at both terminals.	

Bahamas Ferries Between Nassau & Sandy Point under 4 Hr.	
Wednesday Lv Nassau 9 am Lv Sandy Point 1:30 pm	
Friday & Sunday Lv Nassau 3:30 pm Lv Sandy Point 8 pm	
Adult fare \$90 RT, 50 OW • Call for rates on cars, trucks and cargo	
Call Sandy Point 366-4119 • Marsh Harbour 367-5250 • Nassau 323-2166	

Abaco Marinas	
Slips Fuel Phone	
Walker's Cay	
Walker's Cay Marina	75 F 353-1252
Green Turtle Cay	
Bluff House	45 F 365-4200
Green Turtle Club	32 F 365-4271
Black Sound Marina	15 F 365-4531
Other Shore Club	12 F 365-4195
Abaco Yacht Service	10 F 365-4033
Treasure Cay	
Treasure Cay Marina	150 F 365-8250
Man-O-War	
Man-O-War Marina	26 F 365-6008
Marsh Harbour	
Boat Harbour Marina	183 F 367-2736
Conch Inn	75 F 367-4000
Harbour View Marina	36 F 367-2182
Marsh Harbour Marina	52 F 367 2700
Mangoes	29 F 367-2366
Port of Call	24 F 367-2287
Abaco Yacht Haven	7 F 367-3079
Hope Town	
Hope Town Marina	16 F 366-0003
Hope Town Hideaways	366-0224
Lighthouse Marina	6 F 366-0154
Sea Spray	24 F 366-0065
Spanish Cay	
Spanish Cay Marina	75 F 365-0083
Guana Cay	
Guana Beach Resort	22 F 365-5133
Orchid Bay	32 F 365-5175
Boats coming from U.S. can clear Customs at Walker's Cay, Spanish Cay, Green Turtle Cay, Treasure Cay or Marsh Harbour	

Dive Shops - Marsh Harbour	
Dive Abaco	367-2787
Abaco Beach Dive Center	367-4646
Abaco Dive Adventure	367-2963
Hope Town	
Dave's Dive Shop	366-0029
Froggies	366-0431
Treasure Cay	
Treasure Divers	365-8465
Treasure Cay Adventures	365-8111
Green Turtle Cay	
Brendal's Dive Shop	365-4411
Green Turtle Divers	365-4271
Guana Cay Dive Shop	365-5178
Man-O-War Dive Shop	365-6013

Rentals	
Bikes & Scooters • Boats • Cars & Carts	
Marsh Harbour	
A & P Car Rentals	367-2655
Blue Wave Boat Rentals	367-3910
Concept Boat Rentals	367-5570
Laysue Boat Rentals	367-4414
Pier One Boat Rentals	367-3587
Power Cat Boat Rentals	367-4620
Rainbow Boat Rentals	367-4602
Rental Wheels Scooters, Bikes, Cars	367-4643
Rich's Boat Rentals	367-2742
Sea Horse Boat Rentals	367-2513
Sea Star Car Rentals	367-4887
Wilmac Car Rentals	367-4970 or 367-4313
Green Turtle Cay	
Bay Street Rentals	477-5300 365-4070
C & D Cart Rental	365-4084
D & P Cart Rental	365-4656
Donnie's Boat Rentals	365-4119
New Plymouth Cart Rentals	365-4188 or 4149
Reef Boat Rentals	365-4145
Sea Side Carts	477-5497
T & A Cart Rentals	375-8055
Guana Cay	
Donna Sands Cart Rentals	365-5195
Guana Cay Cart Rentals	365-5016
Man-O-War	
Conch Pearl Boat Rentals	365-6059
Island Treasures Cart Rentals	365-6072
Ria-mar Golf Cart Rentals	365-6241
Water Ways Boat Rent	357-6540 & 365-6143
Hope Town	
Bike Shop Bicycle Rentals	366-0292
Cat's Paw Boat Rentals	366-0380
Dave's Dive Shop Boat Rentals	366-0029
Hope Town Cart Rentals	366-0064
Island Cart Rentals	366-0448
Island Marine Boat Rentals	366-0282
Sea Horse Boat Rentals	366-0023
Sea Spray Resort Boat Rentals	366-0065
T & N Cart Rentals	366-0069
Treasure Cay	
Alison Car Rent	365-8193
Cas's Carts	365-8771
Claridge's Cart Rentals	365-8248
Cornish Car Rentals	365-8623
JIC Boat Rentals	365-8465
Rich's Boat Rentals	365-8582
Triple J Car Rentals	365-8761
Abaco Adventures - Kayaks	365-8749



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Patrick Roberts	366-4286
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Anthony Bain	366-4107
Floyd Burrows	366-4175
Links Adderly	366-4335
Valentino Lightbourne	
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Marsh Harbour	
Buddy Pinder	366-2163
Jay Sawyer	367-3941
Justin Sands	367-3526
Terrance Davis	367-4464
Danny Sawyer	367-3577
Man-O-War	
David Albury	365-6059
Cherokee	
Theodore Sawyer	366-2111
Will Sawyer	366-2177
Marty Sawyer	366-2115
Noel Lowe	366-2107
Junior Albury	366-3058
Hope Town	
Maitland Lowe	366-0133
North Abaco	
O'Donald McIntosh	
Pope McKenzie	477-5894
Orthnell Russell	365-0125
Alexander Rolle	365-0120
Edward Rolle	365-0024
Green Turtle Cay	
Ronnie Sawyer	365-4070
Jeff Survance	365-4040
Ricky Sawyer	365-4261

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

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

Dundas Town	
Ambassador Inn	\$ 367-2022
Mackerals	367-5932
Murphy Town	
Lazy Parrot - SC Bootle Hwy	367-5331
Hope Town	
Abaco Inn	\$\$\$ 366-0133
Boat House	\$\$ 366-0065
Cap'n Jacks	\$ 366-0247
Carlton's Island Grill	\$\$ 366-0253
Harbour's Edge	\$\$ 366-0087
H T Harbour Lodge	\$\$\$ 366-0095
Munchies	\$ + 366-0423
Rudy's Place	\$\$\$ ‡ 366-0062

Man-O-War	
Pavilion	\$ 365-6185
Hibiscus	365-6380
Guana Cay	
Coco Paradise	365-5197
Guana Seaside	\$\$\$ 365-5106
Nippers	\$\$\$ 365-5143
Mermaid Cafe	\$\$\$ 365-5137
Orchid Bay	365-6175

Treasure Cay	
Florence's Cafe	\$
Harbour Cafe	\$ 365-8635
Hudson's Delight	\$ 365-8648
Island Boil & Sports Bar	\$\$ 365-8849
Spinnaker Restaurant	\$\$\$ 365-8469
Touch of Class	\$\$\$ 365-8195
Traveller's Rest	365-8654

Green Turtle Cay	
Bluff House	\$\$\$ 365-4200
Jolly Roger Bistro	\$\$ 365-4200
Green Turtle Club	\$\$\$ 365-4271
Laura's Kitchen	\$\$ 365-4287
McIntosh's Restaurant	\$ 365-4625
New Plymouth Inn	\$\$\$ 365-4161
Plymouth Rock Cafe	365-4234
Rooster's Rest	\$\$ 365-4066
Sundowners	365-4060
Wrecking Tree Rest.	
Harbour Café (ferry dock)	\$ + 365-8635
Sandy Point	
Big J's	\$ 366-4020
Oeishas	366-4139
Pete & Gays	\$\$\$ 366-4119
Seaside Inn	\$\$\$ 366-4120
Rickmon Bonefish Lodge	366-4477

Obituaries of Family and Friends

The funeral for **Margaret Tomisina Lawanda Swain-Meeres**, 43, of Dundas Town was held on July 19 at the Friendship Tabernacle in Dundas Town. Rev. Floyd Swain and Rev. Kenneth Knowles officiated. Interment was in the Public Cemetery in Murphy Town.

She is survived by her husband Kendall Meeres; daughter Terrinque Pennerman; father Rev. Roland Swain; stepmother Mary Swain; sisters Meltina Swain, Lady Nathalie Knowles, Marsha Whittam, Ruth McIntosh, Nicole Scott and Pamela Munroe; brothers Rev. Audley Swain, Rev. Floyd Swain, Jason Swain, Rev. Rustin Swain, Rev. Anthony Swain, Shelrey, Paul, John and Hartley Swain; father-in-law John Meeres Sr.; brothers-in-law Rev. Kenneth Knowles, Martin Whittam, Rev. Clayton McIntosh, Ike Scott, Wayne Munroe, Reggie, Eugene and John Meeres Jr., Lunsworth Lightbourn, Patrick and Michael Bowe; sisters-in-law Epsy, Ginger, Dora, Vernal, Francetta Tiffany Swain, Margaret Meeres, Jackie Bowe, Helen Lightbourn, Joey Thompson and Judge Marilyn Meeres; aunts Lois Cornish, Lorraine Farrinton and Harriett Mitchell; stepsisters Jeanie Albury, Minerva and Tasha McKinney; stepbrothers Dan Simeon, Cedric, Bertram and Nigel Minns; nephews; nieces; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral for **Annamae Louise Lowe**, 64, of Dundas Town was held at the First Assemblies of God in Marsh Harbour. Pastor Keith Evans officiated assisted by Rev. Robert Cornea. Interment was in the Dundas Town Public Cemetery.

She is survived by sons Larry, Brent, Garth, James and Ricardo Lowe; daughters Angela Holloway and Susan Lowe; adopted daughter Norma Delancy; daughters-in-law Donna, Nancy and Angela Lowe; grandchildren Gary Richardson, Edward and Shamir Ambrister, Annamae, Danielle, Africa, Shaneika, Arthena, Jamie, Elkino, Marquita, Lindsay, Paxston, Theodorsha, Bionca, Brent Jr., Leonardo and Aaron Lowe; granddaughter-in-law Rabinette Richardson; great-grandchildren Shocoya and Jaro Curry, Jordan Richardson, Tania and Alonso; adopted brother Douglas McDonald; brother-in-law Leroy Lowe; aunt Stella; uncle Daniel; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral of **Ethelyn Redell Smith**, 67,

formerly of Crown Haven, was held in Nassau on July 26 and interment was in Nassau. She is survived by sons Aranha "Chris," Arlington "Ike," Rev. Kirk, Lindbergh and Paul Smith; daughters Kenlyna Green and Bloundell Poitier, Maudline Smith-Hanna, Ria Major, Donna Peters and Christine Cartwright; sons-in-law Clarence Poitier, William Green, Leroy Major and Oswald Peters; daughters-in-law Francey, Sandra, Sherol and Ruthmae Smith; brother Philip Russell; sister Alice White; grandchildren; brother-in-law; sisters-in-law; nephews; nieces; and many relatives and friends.

The funeral for **Blossom Ida Greene**, 62, formerly of Moore's Island, was held on July 26 at the Greater Bethel Baptist Church in Hard Bargain, Moore's Island. Pastor Preston Knowles officiated assisted by Pastor Nixon Simms and Pastor Geneva Williams. Interment was in the Moore's Island Public Cemetery.

She is survived by sisters Marilyn Davis and Nurse Ismae Seymour; nieces Petrell Lloyd, Iona McDonald, Melissa Rolle and Cherez Wallace; grandnieces Keith and Keithra Lloyd and Gabrielle McDonald; nephew Davon Seymour; brothers-in-law Phillip Erwin and Harry Davis and David Seymour; sisters-in-law Meltina Davis and Mildred Cornish; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral service for **Bulah Caroline Stuart**, 70 of Moore's Island was held on July 27 at the Zion Baptist Church in Moore's Island. Pastor Nixon Simms officiated assisted by Preston Knowles and Pastor Anthony Williams. Interment was in the Moore's Island Public Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband Roland Stuart; children Carolyn Gaitor, Yvonne, Shanty, Roland and Simeon Stuart; son-in-law Harold Gaitor; daughters-in-law Thelma and Elizabeth Stuart; grandchildren Jason, Rolando, Simeon Jr., Shannon, Simmiete, Shameka, Bulahneke, Shantera, Ragain Stuart, Shavonne, Shalanda, Daniel, Fredrick Heild, Samantha, Errol and Wayne Gaitor, Bernard Davis, Stacey Feaster and Shantinique Humes; great-grandchildren Ashley Gilbert, Jasman Stuart, Fredrico Heild and Ranard Davis; brother Handford Simms; sisters-in-law Menerva, Martha and Firstina Simms, Loretta, Kathline, Susan,

Olive Stuart and Icelyn Hanna; brothers-in-law Ivan and Nevil Stuart, Heman David and Calvin Williams; nieces Gloria Burrows, Shirley Newton, Emily Dames, Genewe Pinder, Hilda, Lucinda Knowles, Sybline and Brenda Davis, Daisymae Stuart, Loretta, Sylvia Simms, Bulamae George, Evelyn Williams, Patsy Swain, Meltina Hield and Eulose; nephews Randolph Knowles, Alfred, Brady, Leland, David, Elmore, Deac. Jefford, and Pastor Nixon Simms, Isreal and Livingston Rolle; nieces-in-law Sandra

Knowles, Rowena, Shiela, Jennifer and Princess Simms, Neka and Angela Rolle, nephews-in-law Michael Burrows, Philip Newton, Milton Dames, Nathan Pinder, Pastor Preston Knowles, Samuel Davis, Henry Davis Jr., Dudley Stuart, Salisa George, Grandville Williams, Basil Swain, Charles Heild and Paul; great-grandnieces and nephews; god-children; and many other relatives and friends.

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- **Fourteen lots** across from Bight O Bay Beach. Water front on Inner White Sound. 1/2 acre and up. Starting at \$78,650
- **Quiet waterfront:** 1.35 acres on Black Sound, with dock, close to beach. \$650,000
- **A jewel of a home** with pool set high on a bluff overlooking Sea of Abaco. One acre of property stunningly landscaped with wooden walkways and decks. Six buildings set out in "pod" arrangement. 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 bath. Wicker and rattan furniture throughout including pieces by Tommy Bahama. \$2.8 million
- **Ocean Beach:** 1/2 acre lot on high ridge with gorgeous ocean view. Many fruit trees. Five minute walk to beach. Reef close enough to swim to. \$102,000
- **White Sound: NEW:** one-year-old furnished 3 bedroom 2 bath home within short walk of public dock, major resort, bay beach and ocean beach. Tile floors. A/C throughout. Satellite T.V. Sleeps ten. Good rental history. Screened in porch. Private secluded 1/2 acre of property. \$680,000.
- **Four inland lots** within 5 minute walk of waterfront and public dock. \$47,200 ea
- **1/2 acre lots** within 5 minute walk of public dock, water front and Green Turtle Club. \$60,000-\$70,000 each
- **Green Turtle Estates:** 1/2 acre only 125 feet from ocean beach. Firm \$183,000
- **Green Turtle Estates.** 1/3 acre inland lot within five minutes walk of beach. UNDER CONTRACT \$3,000 gross
- **1/2 acre lot in Coco Bay** within five minutes walk of beach. UNDER CONTRACT \$55,000

- **2.68 acres** with 10 lots on Coco Bay. SOLD \$650,000
- **1/3 acre** in Bight O Bay. UNDER CONTRACT \$76,800 gross
- **Bluff Harbour:** Furnished private home. Three bedrooms, three baths plus caretaker cottage. 2000' water front. Secluded. One acre. Boat ramp and dock site. Needs repair.
- **North End: NEW!** Stunning furnished hill-top, 3 bedroom, 2 bath hom with fireplace, perched 35 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. Vaulted ceilings. 125' on ocean. Panoramic views of ocean. Ceiling fans throughout. One acre. \$1.42 million gross
- **NEW!** Secluded two-acre parcel with house stretching from Bluff Harbour to the Sea of Abaco. Over 1000 feet of water front. Stunning views. Two bedrooms / 2 baths. New protected dock on Bluff Harbour. Gazebo on Sea of Abaco. 30,000 gallon cistern. Stand-by generator. Many mature trees. Garage. \$3,000,000
- **Inner White Sound:** Two bedroom suites; 3 bath: Kit/liv/din. UNDER CONTRACT \$275,000 Good rental income.
- **Four unit income producing** 2 bed 1 bath apartment complex. Fully furnished. Water views. Dock. Laundry. Two years old. \$700,000 plus closing
- **Stunning new home.** Interior still under construction. All materials on site to complete. Truck. 2 bed 2 bath. A/C throughout. Views of ocean, Guana Cay and Sea of Abaco. \$680,500 ONO
- Munjack Cay:**
- **One-quarter acre on beach,** 125' frontage. \$183,000
- Little Ambrigris Cay:**
- **10 acres.** Dock material on site. Beautiful beach. High hill. \$515,000 gross

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More Letters to the Editor

Letters *From Page 9*

in the way the dump was maintained was soon apparent.

Fast Forward...the Council once again changes the person contracted to maintain the dump. Mr. Alex Archer was awarded the

contract at the same rate of \$5000 per month, even though he did not own any equipment to maintain said dump. A slice in time from June 19th through July 17th - four weeks of daily garbage piling up, and the dumping ground was not cleared even once. On July 18th Mr. Archer hired equipment to clear

the dump. The area was semi-cleared, but the sides of the main dump were still untouched, and the garbage which had been pushed to the south was not covered with any fill. The ground was left in such a state that vehicles were practically bogging down, it was left so soft and soggy.

Many persons may also be unaware that the majority of garbage from Marsh Harbour is hauled and dumped privately, and these services paid for with private funds. All garbage which goes into dumpsters owned by E & D Waste goes to its own dumping ground, just west of the public dumping ground. Can you imagine if this volume of garbage also went into the public dump each day? Also, there are three or four women who seem to make their living from picking through the

trash left on the dump. Maybe these persons need to be evaluated by psychiatrists at Sandilands...talk about hazardous to your health!

As modern enlightened Bahamians, we give lip service to freedom of speech, what is best for all concerned, wise appropriation of public funds, Hey, that's Our Money...but until the time comes when favouritism ends, our country can never improve any further. Talk about penny wise and pound foolish when it came to the Central Abaco dumping ground. For the \$40 more per week which E & D Waste Services was being paid, anyone could clearly see the difference in the level of service which 'Ve the taxpayers were re-

Please see **Letters** *Page 34*



The Central Abaco dump, once well kept and tidy, is now a disgrace. This is the entrance to the dump showing garbage strewn all along the roadside. The dump is not being maintained to the standards that these communities expect. Besides being an eyesore, it is a serious health hazard.

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- 2) Schools attended with degrees earned
- 3) Recommendations from qualified sources
- 4) Most recent position held or current employment status

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

Derek Lee, BRI
Abaco District Managing Broker
Retta Thomas - Office Manager
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Cherokee/Casuarina Committee Met

Three members of the Cherokee Town Committee met on July 21 at Different of Abaco in Casuarina Point for a Town Committee meeting. Chairman Nettica Symonette reviewed budget figures which had just been released for the new fiscal year. The South Abaco District was allocated \$303,000 for various maintenance items in Cherokee, Casuarina Point, Bahama Palm Shores, Crossing Rocks and Sandy Point. This is the same as allocated last year.

Separately, \$70,000 had been provided by central government for parks in the various towns in South Abaco. This had been allocated previously. With the money for parks the Cherokee ball field will be improved.

Casuarina Point will be reviewed as to a suitable park location. It is believed that an unimproved park site may exist in Bahama Palm Shores which can be improved.

On discussing the Cherokee dump site, it was disclosed that a central dump serving all of Abaco is underway although the time frame for this was not known. The collection of town garbage and maintenance of dump sites may change when this central dump site is constructed.

Chairman Symonette brought up the need for repairs of the boat ramp at Casuarina Point which is used by many boaters. A variety of ways to finance improvements to this ramp will be explored.



The Cherokee Sound/Casuarina Point Town Committee met on July 21 at Different of Abaco to discuss various town affairs. Shown above are, left to right, Lottie Rolle, secretary, Kathy Sawyer from Cherokee Sound, Kenneth Albury from Cherokee Sound, Administrator Jolton Johnson, and Chairman Nettica Symonette from Casuarina Point.

North Abaco News

Govt. Plans to Take Over Treasure Cay Water

The Hon. Bradley Roberts, Minister of Public Works announced in Treasure Cay on July 17 that the government will be taking over the water and sewerage utilities of Treasure Cay. He was sending two people to Treasure Cay on July 18 to immediately study the situation and make recommendation. The government took over the electricity and they realize that the water and sewer treatment plant are in very bad shape.

He apologized for the electrical problems that Treasure Cay experienced the beginning of July. He explained that the government has improved BEC's capabilities in Nassau. His government will make sure that Abaco has adequate power. Abaco is BEC's second largest system in the country and its need for electricity is increasing.

Wild Horses Will Soon Have New Home

The Wild Horses of Abaco Preservation Society (WHOA) plans to install a three-strand fence on the new reserve area of 640 acres in North Abaco. The government has granted them the use of land adjoining the Bahama Star Farm in the Norman Castle area of North Abaco. The area is a half mile by two miles. The society is asking for volunteer help to do the physical work as well as volunteers to provide transportation. Work will begin on August 2. The electric fence will be powered by solar energy.

WHOA is asking for donations to pay for the fence. Donations of \$35 and more are rewarded with T-shirts and with more generous donations certificates, commemorative tags and the donor's name will be on a plaque to be displayed at the Visitor Center planned for the reserve. For more information call 367-4805 or online at www.arkwild.org.

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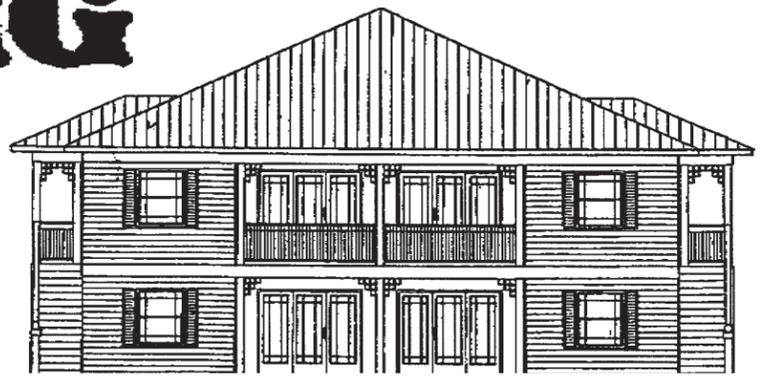


STCC MINISTRIES

Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	(1st & 3rd) Women's Ministry
	7:00 p.m.	(2nd & 4th) Men of Excellence
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Prayer & Bible Study
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Praise & Worship Practice
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Youth Power
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Family Bible Hour
	10:30 a.m.	Celebration Service

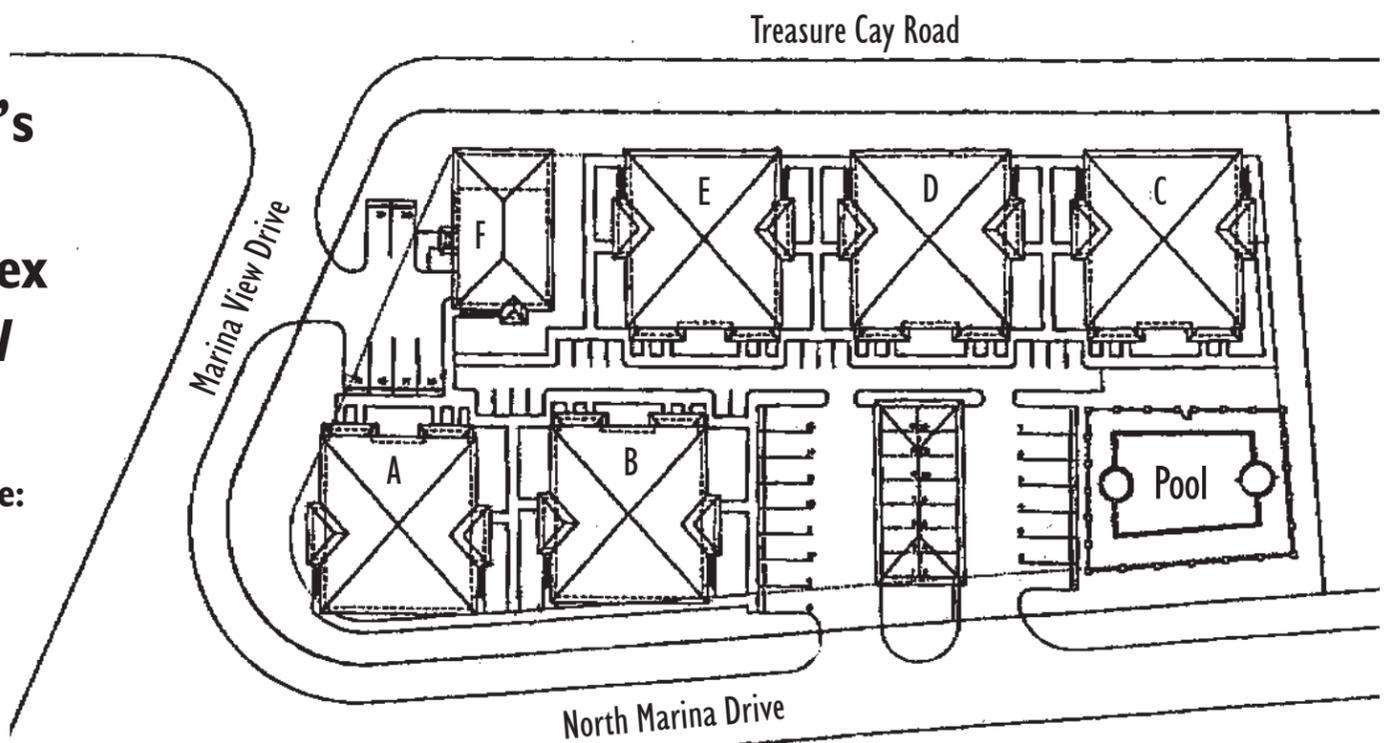
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Marijuana Field Discovered

Twelve police officers led by ASP Clarence Russell went into the woods near the South Side boat landing in Murphy Town and came out an hour later with 64 marijuana plants. These ranged in size from 10-inch seedlings to six- and eight-foot mature plants. Information led the officers to suspect the site existed and the July 21 mid-afternoon raid confirmed its existence. The area was littered with plastic pots indicating the plants were grown elsewhere and transplanted to this site. Also found were empty fertilizer bags, commercial nursery shade cloth, hoes, trowels, watering cans and a tank sprayer. A path led to a nearby swamp with a shallow well. The

path into the swamp indicated heavy traffic and the empty fertilizer bags indicated the plants were well tended. Overcast skies and light spryng rain failed to dampen the spirits of the police team as they uprooted the plants and brought them out to the road. The area had not been cleared and the plants were randomly scattered among the native vegetation. The plants were taken to the police station where a few will be saved as evidence. Most will be destroyed under police and administrative supervision. The investigation into the plants origin is ongoing.

Police Report

Abaco Hardware was broken into sometime between July 12 and July 14. Various items were stolen, value unknown. A Sandy Point man reported that a roll of felt and a bag of bolts were stolen from his office between July 11 and July 14. Georgia Murray of Murphy Town pleaded guilty of breaking into a house in Great Cistern on July 14. Two men from Hope Town and one man from the Mud were arrested for causing harm and fighting on July 15. A Dundas Town woman accused her brother of assaulting her on July 15. A Grand Cay man was arrested for fighting and causing harm on July 15.

A restaurant in Dundas Town was broken into on July 16 and food items were stolen. A Snake Cay resident reported that a Dundas Town threatened him at Ocean View Park on July 16. A Haitian was arrested in Hope Town for immigration purposes on July 16. A resident of Sweeting's Village was charged with smashing the windshield of a truck. The windshield was valued at \$682. Steven Albury of the Mud pleaded guilty to possession of dangerous drugs on July 18.

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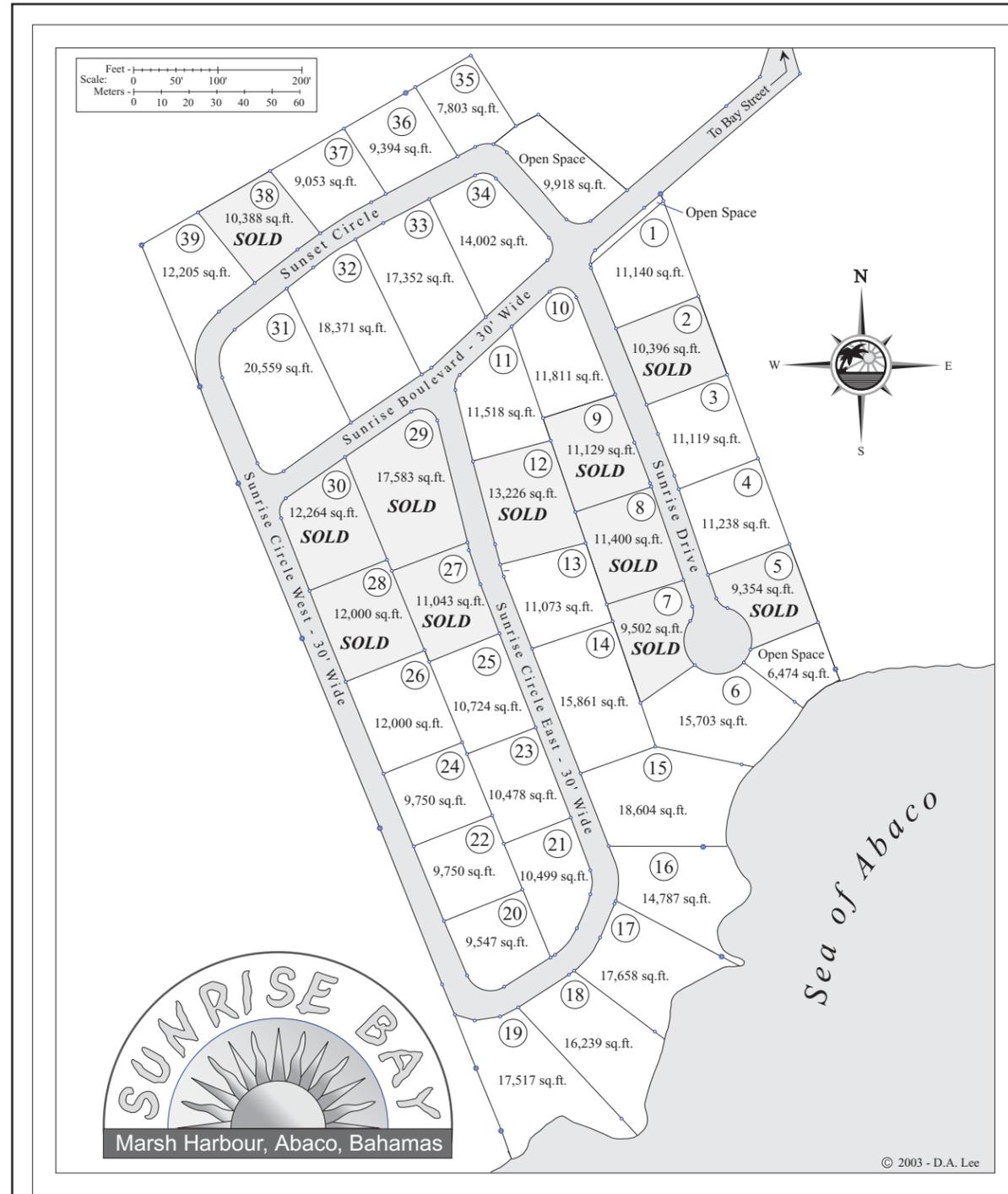
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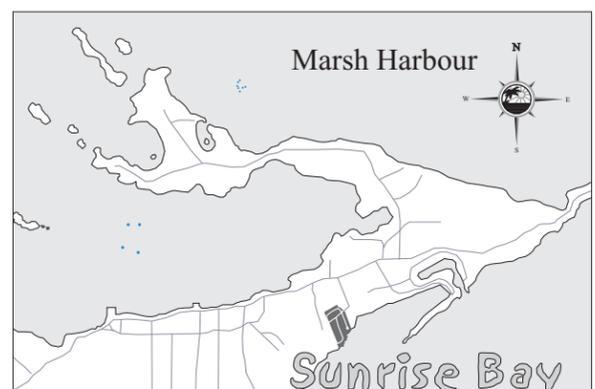
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Marsh Harbour

Sunrise Bay

Letters From Page 31

ceiving. I am all for saving money, but if the money saved is not producing a quality product, that ought to tell us something. Public contracts should be awarded to persons or companies which produce the desired results. Just because a bid is the lowest does not always make it the best. Just because a bid is placed by your cousin or uncle or sister does not mean that as a Council member, you should vote for 'Ve family. Another commentary on the sad state of affairs in our little unbiased corner of the world is that I must withhold my name for fear, Mother dear, for fear.

Solutions to the Cow Problem

Dear Editor,
The plight of the Black Angus cows prompts me to make some suggestions.

First, I am amazed that a few Angus cattle have a number of farmers completely cowed! Perhaps their appeal to government will result in the passage of a law making it illegal for these animals to use the roads between sunset and daybreak. Would the cows disregard the law just like the motorists?

Maybe the staff at the Bahamas Development Bank could each adopt one animal. Their ill-fated financial backing of this venture was

where the whole thing got started. Should those who made the mistake be now held accountable? Of course not - they're civil servants.

Could Mrs. Rehor add these animals to her horse farm? Then she would have a mixed farm for her visitors' centre!

How about turning the pigs loose in the forest/farm area? The wild pigs seem to make out - until a dog and a shotgun come along. You might call this a root-hog-or-die exercise!

How about some highway signs like "Watch out for reckless cows (and drivers)."

Could the Farmers' Association have weekly barbecues featuring Black Angus steaks. They could pay Boris a couple of dollars from the proceeds, look after other expenses and give any surplus to the Development Bank. All of us tax payers like to see a dollar or two coming back from time to time. Usually it's all out go.

Hope these frustrated farmers can glean a couple of nuggets from these frivolous suggestions. If not, just talk to the cows. They know what their problems are.

Friend of the Cows
Forest Fires

To the Hon. Bradley Roberts
Minister of Public Works & Utilities
Dear Sir:

Over the past years I have noticed that

forest fires have become a regular problem on the island of Abaco. Sir, it is apparent that forest fires are an annual situation. I feel that BEC needs to find a solution. If I am permitted, I would like to recommend a solution to this problem.

There are four seasons in the year and from what I have observed, it is normally around summer that these fires occur. I suggest that BEC hire extra persons around autumn to weed around the electricity poles. I believe that if grass is kept away from the poles, there would be no damage to them.

Sir, I do not know if you are aware but this is a serious issue. These forest fires are now inconveniencing our bread and butter. Around autumn and summer is a peak season for tourists and second homeowners on Abaco. Tourists began to complain, check out of their rooms and return to America because there was no electricity, telephone, water or cable during both the American and Bahamian holidays. As you can see this problem is now affecting our local businessmen, employees and, indeed, our tourist industry.

Mr. Roberts, I humbly ask that you find a solution to this problem. It is a strain on our taxpayers. I feel that it is cheaper for BEC to hire extra persons to weed around

the poles every year for three months than to buy material and pay overtime. It is sad to say but I must consider that we deal with people from all walks of life. Imagine if tourists get the impression that because of forest fires around autumn and summer such outages occur, our tourist industry would decline. Sir, everyone can't afford to cancel a vacation. As you are aware some of these tourists are just as poor as we are, making a sacrifice to vacation in our Bahamas.

Mr. Roberts, the fact that BEC comes under your umbrella, I would like you to take special consideration to this problem.

I await your response.
Yours sincerely,
Errily Russell

New Customs Regulations

To All Boaters
In a meeting with Customs Officer Forbes in Marsh Harbour on July 14, 2003, the following answers were received concerning the new Customs fees and procedures.

A cruising permit is normally issued for 12 months.

Please see **Letters** Page 35



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Cherokee Sound - # 1359 3/1 home in quaint community, close walking distance to beach and well-kept.

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Orchid Bay - #1355 gorgeous vacant beach front property situated in Guana Cay.

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Guana Cay - #0338 charming beach front cottage situated on a breathtaking beach. 2 beds, 1 bath, outside decking and has fantastic rental history. \$375,000

Great Abaco Club - Vacant lot available. This lot has the most canal frontage in the club. Don't miss this opportunity. \$239,500

Guana Cay - Gorgeous beachfront property available. 100' X 700' deep. \$349,000

Guana Cay - Beachfront lot, 70 x 250. \$240,000

Casuarina Point - vacant lot available, close to beach. \$17,000

Cabbage Point - Acreage available in 5 acre plots, with financing. 20% down balance over 5 years. Call today for more details.

Bahama Palm Shores - Call about our many listed properties in this fast growing community. Starting as low as \$15,000

Man-O-War - Vacant property available. Inland lots within walking distance of a beach. Call for more information.

Leisure Lee - Best priced canal lot. \$45,000

Man-O-War Cay - 2/1 charming cottage available in heart of town. Perfect for a vacation home. Close to all conveniences and close walk to a few lovely beaches. Don't delay. \$149,900

Casuarina Point - 3/1 canal front home, sea walled, dock, boat house, DRASTICALLY REDUCED. \$229,000

Guana Cay - 4/2 home with 2/1 apartment, on magnificent ridge, private dock, great rental history. \$699,000

Guana Beach House - 2/1 home close to town, fantastic rental history, spacious patio overlooking beach. \$375,000

Man-O-War Cay - 3/3 elegant home with 2/2 guest cottage, fantastic views, beautifully landscaped, steps to sandy beach, loaded with extra special features. \$1,610,000

Guana Cay - Elevated lot with bay and ocean views, private dock slip on boat harbour. Fantastic deal. \$90,000

Pelican Shores - Elevated harbour front lots available, one of a kind location in Marsh Harbour. Starting at \$225,000

Hope Town - new 2/2.5 home, on 17,000 sq. ft lot, with approved plans for main house, bay views, ready for occupancy. \$474,000

Marsh Harbour - 3/2/ home in Cove Estates, huge kitchen, spacious lawn, great deal. \$185,000

#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. \$275,000

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

- Two affordable Lots - Coco Bay area, 2 minutes to beach. \$30,000 each
- Nice Neighbourhood - cleared lot with fruit trees near to beaches, park and a public dock. \$45,000
- Beachfront- 1/2 acre lot virtually on the Atlantic Ocean Beach. \$210,000

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Letters *From Page 34*

You cannot leave the Bahamas during that period and return on the same cruising permit. You must check in again and pay the published fees.

Fees for entering the Bahamas: \$150 for all vessels under 35 feet and \$300 for vessels 35.1 feet or greater. \$150 for dinghy's/tenders over 18 feet.

The above fees cover the captain and three crew members. Any additional crew members over 6 years old must pay \$15 per person. A fishing license for three months is included. If you wish to extend your fishing license, it is an additional \$150 for 12 months. Also included is a \$15 exit/departure fee.

For those of you that keep your boat here for more than one year, it will now cost you \$500 per year for the next two. You can do that for a maximum of two years and then you must either leave the Bahamas or "duty in" your vessel. The cost to duty in your vessel is 27 percent for boats under 30 feet and 6 percent for boats 30.1 feet or greater.

In addition to the paperwork you now submit when entering the Bahamas, Customs Officers will now require a COPY of your State Registration or Coast Guard Documentation to be submitted with your application. They require that the copy show the name of the vessel and the length. Since some of the

Customs offices may not have a copy machine, I strongly recommend that you make several copies and bring them with you.

You should always ask the Customs officer for a receipt for the monies paid. You will not need to pay your exit fee of \$15 at the airport if you need to fly out of the country on an emergency or if one of your crew members goes home. Be sure to bring the receipt and a copy of your cruising permit. In the event the officer does not have a receipt book with him, you can go to the Customs office in Marsh Harbour at the new port facility and they will give you one.

Overtime - there are NO overtime charges for weekend Customs clearance.

This information covers Abaco and I assume it covers ALL of the Bahamas.

Don Van Beck
Commodore
Royal Marsh Harbour Yacht Club

Roberts *From Page 8*

to foreign investments, but rather to general living conditions including taxes, acquisition of property and permits, etc.

As the Haitians are the focus of this article, we know they build illegally on property that does not belong to them without obtaining permits or inspections. Then, ignoring any building codes, build far

too close together, run electrical wires exposed house to house and keep open cesspits next to their homes. This is a detriment to them as well as the rest of us.

There are many that are illegally here, yet work and have homes. They use government facilities such as clinics and schools free of charge. Yet they are not paying any taxes to contribute to their education and medical help.

These are the basic "problems" given rise to by the Haitian immigration situation. There are yet many more, but they cannot be denied their rightful place here.

The Haitians that are here serve a purpose just as everyone else does. They provide the much needed manual labor for construction companies, and handle a major portion of yard work that is generally not done by the average Bahamian. They are inexpensive laborers and therefore fulfill a much needed niche in the economy, which we would be remiss in doing away with.

They are valuable as human beings, as we all are, but they are also valuable to our economy, and to our way of lives. Just remember, all of our ancestors were immigrants at one point. However, we must ensure that immigration is handled in an orderly way, and that no one's rights are trampled on in the process.

We must solve this dilemma simply

because we need to maintain order in our country and not allow disorder to take over.

Remember, it is an immigration problem. The Haitians themselves are not a problem, their status and living conditions, etc., however, are. Together we can solve this dilemma.

Motoring Fees Increased

By Portia Jonsson

On June 26 the Road Traffic Department announced an increase in fees for drivers' licences, motor vehicle inspections and public bus franchises.

The cost of a drivers' licence rises from \$15 to \$20 per year and \$40 for two years. The Department also offers three-year licences for \$50. Motor vehicle inspection fees increase from \$20 to \$25 and omni buses are now \$300 per bus.

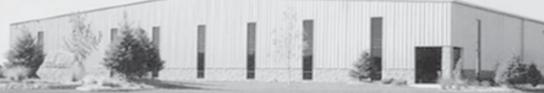
In his budget communication to the House of Assembly on May 28th the Prime Minister Perry Christie hinted at the prospects of an increase when he said the budget "Does not contain any major taxation increases and only very modest increases in a small number of fees."



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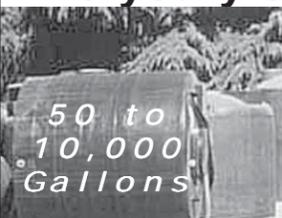


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Marsh Harbour - Cove Estates - Duplex - 100' x 100' lot - 2 - 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartments, plus efficiency - three separate living units. great location - Excellent rental income - furnished - Priced to sell.
#AB44 - **NEW PRICE** \$187,500



"Plum Loco"

Great Guana Cay - Dolphin Beach Area - 3 bedroom, 2 bath - 1,228 sq.ft. home - on almost 1/2 acre with 100' of beautiful beachfront. Tastefully Furnished and fully equipped - Beautifully Landscaped
#AB97 - **NEW LISTING** \$752,000

★ 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.
★ Bahama Palm Shores - Elegant 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath - 2,000 sq.ft. home. with 1 bedroom, 1 bath detached cottage/apartment on double lot over 2/3 acre - Near beach - Auxiliary Generator.....	# AB87 -	\$ 430,000.
★ 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.
★ Great Cistern - "Sea View" - 3 bedroom, 2 bath 1,900 sq.ft. home 700 sq.ft. of covered verandahs. Over 1/2 acre of land - central A/C - Private beach access - Superb Sea of Abaco Views - Furnished.....	# AB90 -	\$ 500,000.
★ Great Guana Cay - "Oceanfrontier 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.
★ Green Turtle Cay - Family Residence - 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath -2,265 sq.ft. living space on two floors on 1 1/2 secluded acres.....	# AB35 -	\$ 945,000.
★ Green Turtle Cay - "Surcouf" - 2,130 sq.ft. home on 1/4 acre - 2nd floor, 2 bedroom, 2 bath - separate 1st floor apartment, 1 bedroom, 1 bath - Across road from beach. Good rental income potential - Furnished..	# AB86 -	New Price \$ 636,000.
★ 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 - Great Abaco Club - "Spinnaker Point" - 3 bedrooms - 3 baths - 1,320 sq.ft. Home, Private 50' Lay-along Boat Dock, Tastefully furnished and fully equipped	# AB93 -	\$ 595,000.
★ Marsh Harbour - Eastern Shores - "Lookout House" - 4 bedroom, 3 bath - 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	# AB49 -	Under Contract
★ 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 - "Chameleon Bay" - 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2,478 sq.ft. Home. 150' of Treasure Cay Beach-front - over 1 1/2 acres.....	# AB95 -	\$ 925,000.
★ 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.
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7/15/03

Oil Exploration License Granted

Government has decided that current technology and safety measures are sufficient and has given to an American company, Kerr-McGee, the rights to drill for oil on the Bahama Bank. The July 22 announcement stated all drilling would be on the seabed. In making the announcement Prime Minister Perry Christie said that McKee Kerr had an impeccable safety record for these explorations.

The company which was founded in 1929 has extensive experience in off-shore drilling with their first off shore hole in 23 feet of water in the Gulf of Mexico in 1947. They

now have wells off Brazil in depths up to 10,000 feet.

The exploratory drilling will be looking for oil and natural gas with individual wells costing Kerr-McGee as much as \$20 to \$25 million each. Government will receive 25 percent of all oil produced above 300,000 barrels.

Company representatives noted that the offshore oil platforms are prized by fishermen as they function as artificial reefs hosting fish of all types.

The Results Are In

By Portia Jonsson

The Centre for the Performing Arts was the venue for the final round in the Annual National Arts Festival held June 16th and 17th in Nassau, Bahamas featuring the over-all winners in this nationwide competition. Representing Abaco were Sherrell Roker, Darren Smith, Leon Carroll, Patrick Albury and Zion Baptist Youth Choir under the direction of Mr. Alfred Dean, music teacher at Abaco Central High.

These performers did a superb job and represented Abaco exceptionally well.

Sherrell Roker captured 1st Place in the Liturgical Dance Category. Darren Smith, Leon Carroll and Patrick Smith of "The Knights" were also awarded 1st Place for their performance in the Modern Dance Division. In the Church Choir Class, the Zion Baptist Youth Choir walked away with the 1st Place prize.

Congratulations to all the winners for a job well done. The festival was open to all amateur talent in the performing arts (song, dance, musical instruments and drama).

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Youth *From Page 16*

school and primary school children. More than 30 kids from the community, including Spring City, attended the morning classes.

The theme for this year's Bible School was SCUBA (Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure), made up of many different

songs, Bible stories, Bible games, activities and Bible lessons.

The kids enjoyed a fun day on the last morning of Bible school which Mrs. Morris, class teacher, promised included a special surprise. Mrs. Morris said the Vacation Bible School was very successful and the kids all agreed that they had a great time.



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A Queen Was Chosen



Cooper's Town held its home coming over the Independence weekend, July 10 - 13. On July 11 they held a Cooper's Town/Black Wood Queen competition. Four lovely young ladies competed who were, left to right, first runner up Anissa Frank, Queen Antwanne Smith, third runner up LaToya Rolle and second runner up Alexandra Murray.

South

From Page 5

was. We commend these brave men for heroism and their many rescue efforts in the islands, and further, for keeping a protective eye on all of us on Abaco.

Sandy Point

By Jennifer Hudson

On the morning of June 28th young and old alike turned out to assist in phase one of the beautification of the roundabout at the airport in Sandy Point. The project is being funded by the District Council of South Abaco, which has provided flowers and other plants for this venture.

The Council is in the process of upgrading all the parks in South Abaco, which includes Sandy Point, Crossing Rocks, Cherokee and Casuarina Point. Kiddie swings will be added to all these parks.

Independence was celebrated with special events in South Abaco. On July 6th a Pre-Independence Service was held at the Assemblies of God Church in Cherokee. Deputy Administrator, Mr. Jolton Johnson, presented a speech from the Governor General. Each settlement culminated the holiday activities which included fireworks and games featuring hoopla, sack races and other games on the 10th.

The Fast Ferry is proving to be very efficient carrying sizeable loads of both passengers and freight between Nassau and Sandy Point.

As a result of the very successful recent Homecoming celebrations in Sandy Point, considerable funds were raised towards the completion of the Community Centre there.

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Central *From Page 6*

Tyree Pride, the Haitian Sensation

- Kahagas, the Japanese superstar, against Hack Meyers, former ECW star
- Ram Man versus Casey Thompson
- Self proclaimed Mayor of the World Harry Venis and his assistant Vicious Vinne against Cash Money and assistant Alex G
- The Jamaican Dream took on The Black Heart
- Ladies WWE superstar Luna Vachon against Cassidy.

Congratulations



Baby Oswald Hamilton Dave Roberts was born on June 3, 2003 to Timothy and Melissa Roberts of Marsh Harbour.

Batelco *From Page 10*

Sr. Manager for Abaco, Mr. Henry Romer, took part and was a good sport in volunteering to be measured in front of the group to illustrate some of the procedures to be discussed and illustrated throughout the day-long session.

Attendees were presented with a buffet breakfast and lunch with healthy foods prominently featured.

AA Meetings

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

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

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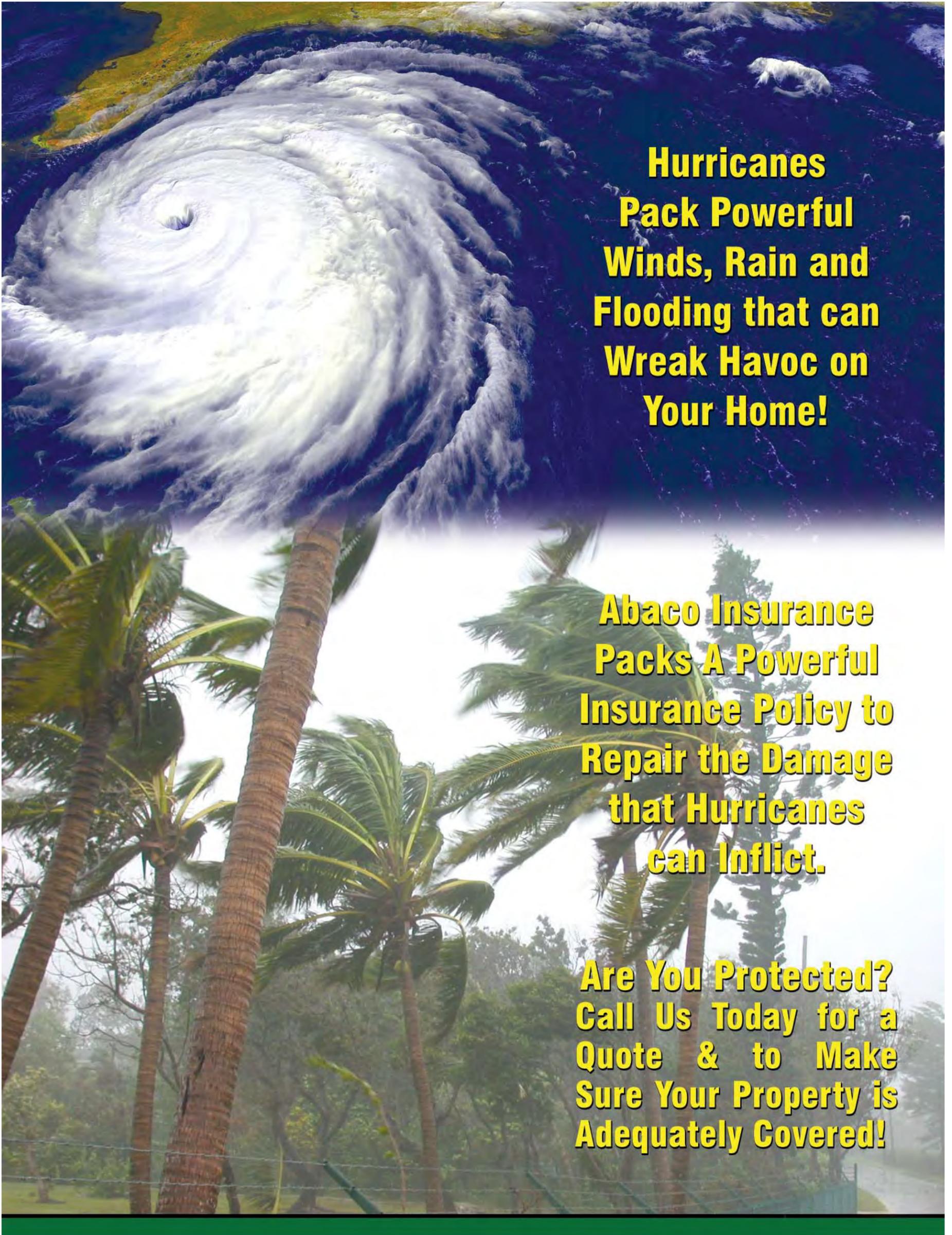
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