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VOLUME 11, NUMBER 19, OCTOBER 1ST, 2003

7th Regatta Races Hampered by Weather Shore Activities Expand and Entertain While Sailboats Compete



The Abaco Rage raced in Class A in the All Abaco Regatta, coming in second in the first race. The races were hampered by bad weather so the last race was a double race. The New Courageous, a competing Class A boat, won the Prime Minister's Cup, the Governor General's Cup and the Abaco Championship Cup by coming in first for all three races.

The seventh annual All Abaco Regatta Committee successfully staged another major Abaco event. Since 1996 the events have become larger and better. September 25-27 brought life once again to the Regatta Village at the Treasure Cay ferry dock as crowds enjoyed the party environment, entertainment, games, food, drink and home coming atmosphere.

Simply the Best was the theme of the 2003 All Abaco Regatta. This is a championship invitational regatta for the winning sloops in a select few of the year's regattas. The regatta committee invites the winning boats from three other regattas, the Family Island Regatta on Exuma, the North Andros Regatta and the Long Island Regatta, to compete to determine the champion winners. This year seven boats competed in Class C, nine

Please see **Regatta**

Page 2

Drugs and Plane Confiscated Seven Men Arrested at Marsh Harbour Airport Sept. 27

See story Page 25

Business Outlook Studied Our Economy

By Jennifer Hudson

On September 17th the First Annual Abaco Business Outlook Conference was held at the Abaco Beach Hotel under the theme *Abaco on the Go*. The one day seminar was presented by The Counsellors, a Nassau marketing agency. At a cocktail reception

the previous evening participants were officially welcomed by Mr. Emmanuel Alexiou of the Abaco Beach Hotel and Ms. Joan Albury of the Counsellors.

The Counsellors has previously conducted

Please see **Outlook**

Page 5

Solomon's Opens SuperCenter



The Hon. Allyson Maynard-Gibson, Minister of Financial Services and Investments, officially opened Abaco Markets' new Solomon's SuperCenter in Marsh Harbour on September 20. She is sampling locally produced Island Delight fruit drinks offered her by Levy Severe. Shown above are, left to right, Mr. Severe, Mr. Robert Sweeting, MP, Mr. Craig Symonette, Chairman of the Board of Abaco Markets, Mrs. Maynard-Gibson and Mr. Lowell Albury, Sr. Vice President of Abaco Markets with responsibility for Abaco.

Shore Entertainment Was Popular



More booths, more games, more food and more entertainment was the story of the 7th annual All Abaco Regatta held at the Treasure Cay ferry dock on September 25-27. The Regatta Committee lived up to this year's theme, *Simply the Best*.

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Regatta Showcases Bahamian Culture

Regatta From Page 1

boats in Class B and five boats in Class A. The Hon. Neville Wisdom, Minister of Youth Sports and Culture gave the keynote address at the culminating ceremony and awards presentation on September 27. He encouraged the sailors to pass their knowledge of sailing on to the next generation. He felt that not enough young people were involved in sailing and blamed it on the fact that there is too much arguing and bickering among the sailors. He wants their attitude to be a positive one. He praised the organizers for having Bahamian food and Bahamian music and being a showcase for everything Bahamian. He explained that the regattas have developed to the point that they are becoming a tourist attraction, appealing not just to Bahamians but to visitors. He wants to encourage these events showing visitors our Bahamian culture.

The shore activities were more diverse

this year. Booths were well patronized. Several people erected tents offering food and games. For the first time there were several bouncing games for the children. A huge sinking Titanic slide was a great success as children climbed up and were able to slide down the deck of the sinking boat. A tower with four bungee harnesses allowed children to make 20 foot and higher jumps. The crowds of people attending were pleased with all the entertainment.

Regattas Are a Bahamian Tradition

The Bahamian regattas are unique in several ways. The competition is between boats from the major islands of the country and competition is quite keen. The regattas are an attempt to preserve a way of life from the past when the populations in the Family Islands were dependent on fishing. The boats are constructed along the lines of native fishing sloops of years gone by. Cotton main sails are hoisted by hand without benefit of winches.

Two other features are notable. The boats start at anchor lined up on the start line with their sails down. When the gun goes off, half the crew propels the boat forward by pulling on the anchor line and hoisting the anchor. This gives the boat forward motion, allowing the rudder to take effect and giving the

helmsman control.

During this exercise, the other crew members are hoisting the mainsail. The forward motion lets the helmsman bear off the wind

Please see **Regatta** Page 39



The Hon. Neville Wisdom, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, attended the awards ceremony of the All Abaco Regatta. He is shown on the right above looking on as Mrs. Vyrona Archer presents the Garnet Archer Memorial Trophy to Emmitt Munroe, owner and skipper of the New Courageous. The trophy was for the Outstanding Skipper of the regatta.



The Lonesome Dove, skippered by Jeff Gale of Hope Town, is at anchor and the crew is preparing for the start of a race. Eight crew members on this 21-foot boat act as ballast, hiking out on pries as the boat heads into the wind.

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Solomon's Opens with Great Fanfare

The grand opening of the new Solomon's SuperCenter in Marsh Harbour was a huge success on September 20. Solomon's SuperCenter is one of the flagship stores of Abaco Markets, Ltd., a large multinational company specializing in wholesale and retail grocery operations. The superCenter is the transformation of Solomon's Abaco, a fixture in the grocery business on Abaco since 1980.

Abaco residents have been anticipating the opening of the store which replaces Golden Harvest which burned down in June 2001 and Abaco Markets which burned down in June

1999. This new 22,000 square-foot store offers over a million items to choose from in a modern state-of-the-art store comparable with any in the States. A large convenient produce section, walls of freezer display, a well stocked deli, a complete butcher shop and extended dairy displays are all designed to make shopping a pleasure. The opening day saw many sale items as well as samples, a variety of give-aways and even hamburgers and hot dogs for all their customers.

The opening ceremony featured the Hon. Allyson Maynard-Gibson, Minister of Financial Services and Investments, as keynote

speaker. Several members of the Board of Directors were present include Mr. Craig Symonette, Chairman of the Board of Abaco Markets.

The honour of cutting of the ribbon to officially open the store was given to Mrs. Monica Adderley, Abaco Markets' longest serving employee with 28 years. Mr. Lowell Albury, Senior Vice-President of Abaco Markets in charge of the Abaco operations, credited several individuals and companies which helped bring about the creation of the SuperCenter. Lind Design worked with them to develop the concepts they wanted included in the new store. The construction was done

entirely by Abaco companies which included R.C. Construction, K & W Refrigeration and Marco Air Conditioning. Solomon's SuperCenter is going to be used as the model for upgrades of the Freeport, Nassau and Turks and Caicos Islands operations.

Mr. Symonette spoke about Abaco Markets, Ltd. as a leader in the business world. The company has stores on three islands in The Bahamas and an operation in Turks and Caicos. The company employs 850 people and contributes more than \$1 million annually to National Insurance. The business license for the company costs between \$650,000 and \$700,000 annually.



The official opening of Solomon's SuperCenter in Marsh Harbour was a grand event. The new supermarket is a state-of-the-art store with more than one million items and the newest technology to please all their customers. Platform guests included the Hon. Allyson Maynard-Gibson, Minister of Financial Services and Investments, Mr. Craig Symonette, Chairman of the Board of Abaco Markets, and Mr. Robert Sweeting, MP for South Abaco. At the podium is Mrs. Leslie Davies-Baptiste, Marketing Director from Freeport.

Minister Speaks of Opportunities

The Hon. Allyson Maynard-Gibson, Minister of Financial Services and Investments, spoke glowingly of the opportunities presented on Abaco. "It is now for you as entrepreneurs to examine what are the niche opportunities which may be created here today by the opening of this SuperCenter and to take advantage of them with all of the energy and creativity that you can muster," she told those attending the ceremony. She felt that there were opportunities available for Bahamian farmers and other entrepreneurs to market their goods and services at the new \$5-mil-

lion Solomon's SuperCenter.

"I was delighted to see the Bahamian products showcased there," she said. "It is a golden opportunity which must be embraced. Most of all" she said, "it's a tangible and eloquent expression of confidence in our collective future in The Bahamas, and the team behind Solomon's SuperCenter is to be heartily congratulated for what they have accomplished." She recognized that Abaco has the fastest growing economy in the Family Islands and felt that this is an opportune time to build for the future.

Policy Changes Are Proposed

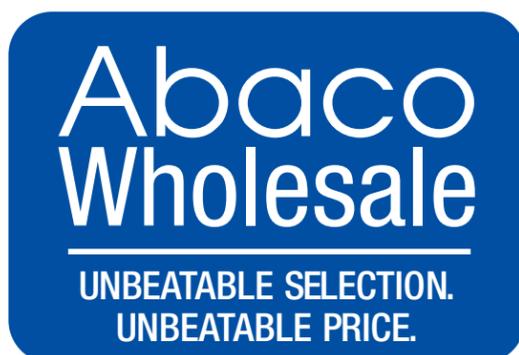
Mr. Craig Symonette, Abaco Markets' chairman, used the occasion to present to the Hon. Allyson Maynard-Gibson several concerns of the retail community. He brought out four changes that he would like to see government make, reducing costs bringing about savings which could be passed on to the consumer.

The first change would be to allow a Bahamian company to deposit the U.S. dollars it earns into a U.S. account to pay U.S. suppliers. "We should not be asked to convert to Bahamian dollars in order to convert to

Please see **Solomon's** Page 38

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Seminar Shows Good Abaco Economy

Outlook *From Page 1*

thirteen such seminars in Nassau and five in Grand Bahama with great success. On noting the fast rate of development that has been taking place in Abaco of late, the company felt that it was now time to hold a similar conference in Abaco so the First Annual Business Outlook Conference

was held in conjunction with the Abaco Chamber of Commerce and other corporate sponsors.

The aim of the seminar was to present a wealth of information on present growth and future plans for Abaco in the areas of transportation, shipping, health, construction, investment strategies, education, agriculture and fisheries. Thirteen speakers

presented viewpoints within their areas of expertise, nine of whom were government officers and prominent business people from Nassau and four of whom were Abaco businessmen. Each speaker's contribution will be dealt with more fully later. Question and answer periods followed the speeches and some very pertinent and heartfelt topics were aired.

An extremely good turnout of approximately one hundred people attended this conference which was without doubt a resounding success. Everyone came away expressing how much they had learned and how valuable the day had been in helping them to see both the actual growth and possibilities for future growth in Abaco. Attendees at the seminar expressed how much they are looking forward to next year's event and those persons who were unable to attend this year will have another opportunity to avail themselves of this valuable experience in 2004.

The conference ended with a very pleasant meal; and after each person had placed his or her business card in a plate, three lucky winners were drawn for prizes donated by Solomon's and the Counsellors.

Please see **Outlook** *Page 19*

Economic Growth on Abaco Is Strong

By Jennifer Hudson

Heading the list of speakers at the First Annual Abaco Business Outlook Conference was Mr. John Rolle, Deputy Manager-Research, Central Bank of the Bahamas. Mr. Rolle has been with the Central Bank since 1990 and holds positions with various economic and investment associations.

Mr. Rolle presented an overview of the economy in Abaco which, he said, has seen phenomenal growth in recent years. During the 1980s and 1990s, Abaco has grown faster than any other island of The Bahamas, experiencing an annual growth rate of 3-4 percent annually compared to a rate of 2 percent for the rest of the Bahamas.

There has been a huge increase in the number of cruise and sea visitors in the 1990s. In stopover visitors Abaco fills one quarter of the total number of hotel rooms in the entire Family Islands, though Exuma may soon break this with the Emerald Bay project. The

rooms on Abaco are of a higher quality and command higher rates than any other Family Islands. Although the stopover sector has not recovered as quickly in the Family Islands as in New Providence, Mr. Rolle expressed the opinion that since the economy in the United States has now begun to move again, the 2004 tourist season is likely to see the number of tourists picking up.

In the area of fisheries Eleuthera is slightly ahead, but in agriculture Abaco is the major producer with citrus being the major output.

Although there has been some recent softening in activity in the construction industry, the real estate sector has realized a high amount of property sales to non-residents. In 2002 the government approved \$30 million in sales to non-Bahamians in Abaco as against only \$13 million in 2001.

Mr. Rolle concluded by saying that Abaco's economy is significant to The Baha-

mas. Abaco's proximity to the United States has helped in its success and Abaco has attracted very sizeable foreign investments to push it further along. The many small businesses owned by Abaco residents causes stability which produces longer term horizon profits. He hopes that these seminars will help to zero in on the economies in the island.



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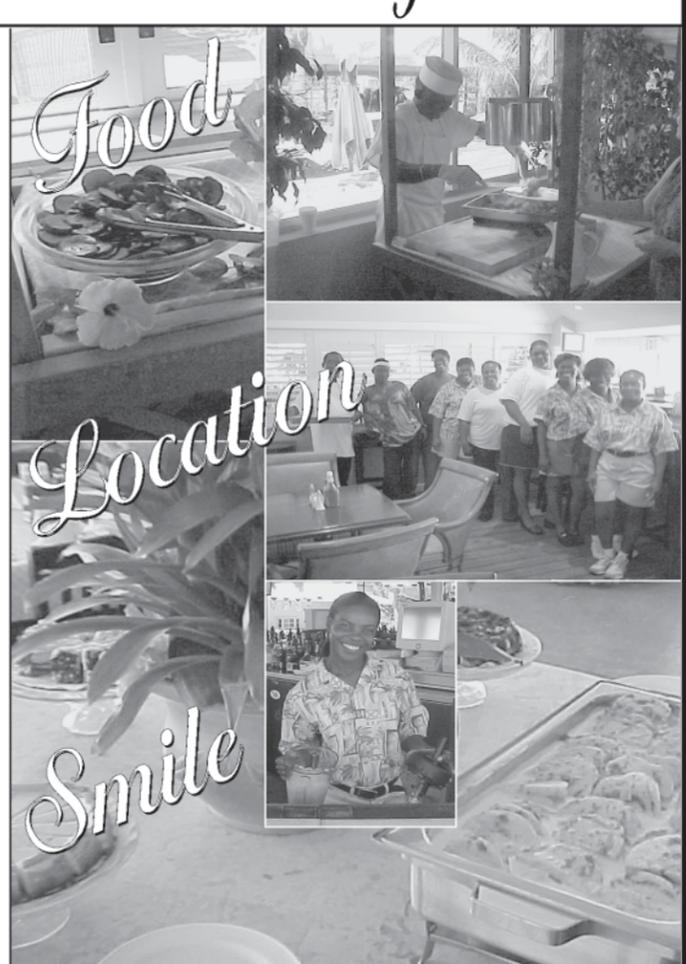
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South Abaco News

Cherokee Sound

By Lee Pinder

Construction of School Shed

It has taken almost a year for final approval to be returned on the planned storage shed to be built at the western end of the school. This new storage space will be helpful in keeping sports equipment and other school items safe and dry. The space has been needed for a long time and hopefully construction will start soon.

Construction Completed

Linda and Charlie Lowe's new vacation home is now complete, furnished and ready for occupancy, and we are looking forward to seeing its owners back in Cherokee even more often than before now that they have a place of their own.

More New Residents

Other old friends are planning to move back to the island. Joey and Peter Bradley are in the process of doing some repairs and adding a shed onto the back of their property. Peter was a former teacher at Cherokee All-Age Elementary back in the 1970s. Since then the couple has maintained a second home here and have revisited the area often. As a local teacher, he is well known to the community and has been busy renewing many old friendships. We are told that they now plan to make Cherokee Sound their primary residence and we welcome them into the community.

An Access Road to the Beach

For over 200 years the people of Cherokee and their descendants have had the use of Winding Bay beach. When The Abaco Club development first took over the land, they

assured us that our people would continue to be able to use the beach.

A few concerned citizens have been meeting with the project's people trying to iron out an agreement as to where the "access road" could be located. We only hope that an amicable agreement can be reached to the satisfaction of The Abaco Club as well as the people of Cherokee.

The Need for "Stop" Signs

Almost everyone who has traveled our main road to Marsh Harbour lately is complaining that a serious accident is waiting to happen in the construction area of the new Winding Bay project. The large heavy duty trucks hauling rock and sand back and forth across the main Cherokee road do not stop when they reach the main road; in fact, they don't even slow down. Are they not aware that only a few hundred yards down the road is a community of over 200 persons who need to travel this road almost daily and we are desperately concerned for our own safety?

This has been reported to the Road Traffic Department and we hope they will be able to help us solve this problem before it is too late, but in the meantime keep alert and *Watch Out for Trucks.*

Let's Save Our Marine Life

Three representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries called a meeting in Cherokee at the schoolhouse on September 24 with the purpose of trying to set up a permanent area to locate a marine reserve in Abaco sometime in the near future.

Ms. Timica Rahming and Jeromy Saunders from Nassau were accompanied by Wayne Cornish from Marsh Harbour, who explained

their goals and asked for the community's assistance in helping the Ministry in finding a suitable location for this reserve.

Ms. Rahming said that three critical qualities were needed in order to establish a good marine reserve - healthy mangroves, reefs and seabeds. She pointed out that it is imperative that a pristine location be found and that an already dying area would not be suitable. She further stated that we need to preserve our marine life as it is one of the most important parts of our nation's tourist industry for without our beautiful clear waters and still abundant sea life, there probably would be no tourists.

One of their main points of interest is trying to preserve the Nassau Grouper which has been extremely depleted by over-fishing in some other areas of the Caribbean and is already in need of help in our own area.

Representatives from the Ministry have already visited North Bimini, the Berry Islands, Southern Eleuthera and the Exuma Cays to find other suitable locations for their marine reserves within The Bahamas and have left the best for last, Abaco. Once their team receives suggested locations, Ms. Rahming stated that an intense investigation of the pro-

posed sites would take place to make sure that they were in fact suitable for their purposes. She said they would then return to the different communities on Abaco with detailed maps showing the areas under consideration before a final decision was made.

It was pointed out that setting up a reserve would be permanent and that its success or failure actually depended on local residents and fishermen to maintain to pristine qualities of the area. Ms. Rahming said that if we did not report misuse of the reserve to local authorities, the whole purpose of the reserve would be lost. Once the mangroves, reefs, seabeds and the various marine life that they maintain is lost - it cannot come back. She further pointed out the great importance of a marine reserve to make sure that future generations can still enjoy the sea around us. Every day you hear a fisherman tell about the lack of fish or the deterioration of the undersea life. It is our responsibility to save it now or we may not be able to save it at all.

Mr. Cornish stated that he had attended

Please see **South**

Page 22

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News of the Cays

Hope Town Swim Marathon Is Scheduled

By Jennifer Hudson

The 25-metre six-lane swimming pool which has been under construction in Hope Town for several years is nearing completion. The pool committee, through community support and donations, has been able to raise most of the money necessary for building the pool but there is still a shortfall in funds. In order to help raise the final amount, a swim marathon is to be held on October 11th beginning at 11 a.m. Participants will swim a distance of four miles beginning at the beach area on the eastern side of Boat Harbour and will finish at the Abaco Inn on Elbow Cay. They may swim either by them-

selves or as part of a relay team where four competitors will cover the distance, swimming one mile each within a time limit of three hours. This will be quite a challenging event. Entry fee is ten dollars per swimmer.

The corporate sector is being asked to sponsor either a swimmer or a team with a donation of \$500 and in return they will receive recognition with press coverage and the displaying of their logos. Many companies have already generously responded. Bahamas Wholesale Agency, the primary sponsor, is providing all of the trophies for the event.

It is planned, after the opening of the pool, to reorganize the Abaco Swim Club to train swimmers to compete with other clubs throughout the Bahamas and these swimmers will have the opportunity to go on to train for

and participate in the nationals in New Providence, Carifta and other larger international events. These opportunities will be open to children from the whole of Abaco.

Helping to organize the marathon is Olympic swim coach, Andy Knowles, who is extremely impressed with the great community effort displayed by the Hope Town residents and businesses in getting this pool built and is delighted that soon the ranks of competitive swimmers in the Bahamas will be swelled by swimmers from Abaco. Mr. Knowles will be accompanied to the meet by a contingent of approximately 30 swimmers representing most of the Nassau swim clubs along with 20 supporters. It is expected that

they will be joined by approximately 20 swimmers from Abaco. Mr. Andy Knowles and his family are showing tremendous support by entering a family team in the event. The team, comprised of Andy, his father, brother and son, will represent three generations. Jeremy, Andy's son, will be traveling home from studies abroad especially for the event.

Hope Town has raised nearly \$200,000 to construct the pool but this initiative is about \$80,000 short. Mr. Knowles, is raising funds for the marathon in Nassau. He is encourag-

Please see **Cays**

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A 25-metre swimming pool nears completion in Hope Town. The town residents have raised most of the necessary funding and do much of the labour themselves. They meet every Saturdays to speed up the work and hope to complete it by the beginning of November. They are shown here working on the decking and fencing. A swim marathon on October 11 will hopefully raise the remaining funds for completing the project. Photo by Linda Knowles



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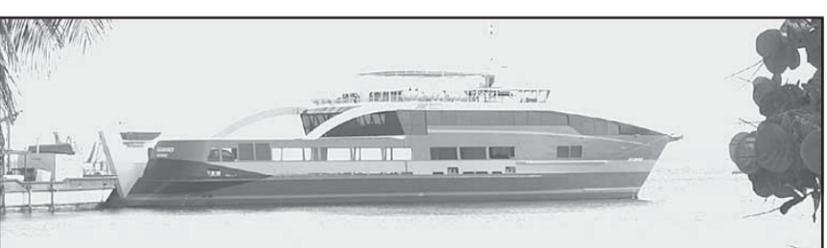


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16'-20' with driver	\$350	\$200
Over 20'	commercial rates apply	
Commercial Vehicle(per lane foot)	\$35	\$20
Motor bike with rider	\$110	\$60
Bicycle with rider	\$100	\$55
Passengers		
Adult Passenger	\$90	\$50
Child Passenger under 12 years	\$55	\$30
Child Passenger under 3 years	Free	Free
Other		
Unaccompanied Vehicles	\$40*	\$20*
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Wednesday	9 am	12:45 pm	1:30 pm	5:15 pm
Friday	3:30 pm	7:15 pm	8 pm	11:45 pm
Sunday	3:30 pm	7:15 pm	8 pm	11:45 pm

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The Editor Says Seminar Features Our Growth



- Foreign reserve contribution
- Freight - incoming tonnage
- Gasoline and diesel fuel consumption
- Government employees resident here
- Hotel and guest house occupancy
- Marina occupancy
- Mortgage applications
- National Insurance collections
- Property tax revenues
- School enrollments
- Telephone and communication revenues
- Vehicle registrations
- Visitor arrivals by air and sea
- Work permit applications

Perhaps there are persistent persons who

know where to find some of this data and assemble it for viewing. Most information from government agencies is not confidential but is frequently tucked in obscure places and guarded by zealous civil servants. We think graphs with annual information on the above topics would be an eye opener.

We have more than 25 government agencies on Abaco with in-house staff. Many of them have increased their staff to properly service our growth and needs.

Over the years the commercial transportation sector has been quietly growing to meet the demands of the area. Our shipping companies, including the mail boat from Nassau,

have had to acquire larger freighters to service our needs. An ocean ferry recently connected South Abaco to Nassau and a passenger ferry connects North Abaco to Grand Bahama. By the end of the year a large ferry is expected to ply between Grand Bahama and Sandy Point. Locally the ferry capacity to Guana Cay, Man-O-War and Elbow Cay has increased greatly.

The airlines serving Central Abaco have expanded and new ones have sprung up to match passenger demands. Most government infrastructure has grown in fits and starts to keep pace with growth but our airport remains an exception.

We recently had an Abaco Business Outlook seminar thanks to the Councillors Marketing firm in Nassau. About 100 professional and management-type persons attended the day-long event held at Abaco Beach Hotel. Knowledgeable government persons and other speakers gave valuable information on Abaco's past, present and future. Details given by the first two speakers are summarized in this issue by Jennifer Hudson, with more to follow in the next edition.

Various people we are in contact with have different opinions on the state of our economy. Some think it is robust, some consider it holding steady, while others complain it is performing below average.

Those in Nassau who see the big picture are unanimous in stating that Abaco's economy is robust, indeed. This was verified by our writer, Jennifer Hudson, who informally researched her story prior to the seminar by contacting many local business leaders.

Overall real estate sales are ahead of last year with current sales to foreigners of \$30 million compared to last year's \$13 million. Several sizable developments are in the negotiating and planning stages and formal announcements could come at any time. As is natural, government will probably make the first announcements - perhaps there will be statements during the fall PLP convention. During a recent visit to Abaco, the Hon. Allyson Maynard-Gibson mentioned that approximately \$200 million in foreign development is slated for Abaco.

Our growth is being fueled by Bahamian investors as well as foreigners. We develop businesses to accommodate this growth and are frequently immune or unaware of the overall expansion taking place around us.

Statistics are collected in government offices in Nassau which would show this Abaco growth very dramatically - facts we rarely see, such as the annual increase in

- Agricultural exports
- Airline seat capacity
- Bank deposits
- Building permits
- Business License fees
- Crown Land applications
- Development Bank applications
- Duties collected
- Electricity and water consumption
- Fisheries exports

By S. Timothy Roberts

It is uncertain when exactly the Marsh Harbour International Airport was last upgraded; however, current guesses lean toward about 1985-86, or thereabouts. This would make the current airport approximately seventeen years old.

When that airport was built it was quite possibly just adequate enough for the traffic coming through Marsh Harbour. However, now it is completely unbearable at peak hours and a disgrace to Abaco and The Bahamas.

And this is not an issue just for Abaco. But throughout The Bahamas many airports are in a state of disrepair and need heavy maintenance or upgrades, including Nassau International Airport, one of the major hubs to the Caribbean. It is such an extreme national disgrace simply because we are supposedly a "premier tourist destination" in the world and tops in the Caribbean. Yet the "door," as it were, to our country is run down, overcrowded and in disrepair.

Imagine what an impression one might get on their first visit walking through one of these airports? I would venture to guess they might think we're not serious about attracting their business to our shores. They may think we have no pride in our country, and I am afraid I wouldn't be able to disagree.

Now Sol Kerzner of Kerzner International Ltd., who signed a deal worth \$600 million to begin Phase III of his Atlantis Resort on Paradise Island, just signed a deal to even further expand the Atlantis brand across the globe.

Kerzner International Limited in a news release announced today that it has agreed to form a joint venture with Nakheel LLC, an entity owned by the Government of Dubai, to develop Atlantis, The Palm, the first phase of which is expected to be an approximately \$650 million development to include a 1,000-room resort and an extensive water theme park situated on 1.5 miles of beachfront.

"We are very excited to be a part of Sheikh Mohammed's incredible vision for tourism in Dubai," said Chairman of Kerzner International Sol Kerzner. "We have seen the incredible commitment the government has to developing the country's infrastructure, from its airport and airline to such projects as Internet City and Media City and its re-

Generally Speaking . . . Upgrade Now

cently opened 6,500-delegate convention facility. With its year-round warm weather, great beaches, excellent infrastructure and unparalleled airlift, Dubai is the ideal location for our second Atlantis."

Kerzner and Nakheel have jointly agreed to invest a total of \$120 million in the form of equity financing to the project. The balance of the financing will be raised at the project level.

Kerzner gave the Bahamian government the ultimatum that the Nassau International Airport must be upgraded and become a world class airport before they can proceed with Phase III. Atlantis looks to attract the lucrative business of conventions and conferences, but they require an airport with a good infrastructure, safety equipment, security and clean environment.

This is a "no brainer," and is long overdue. As a tourist destination we ought to want the first impression tourists get to be a great

one, not just a good one. And Nassau, as the premier destination in The Bahamas, ought to have the best airport in the region.

Abaco, the third city of The Bahamas, and Marsh Harbour International Airport, the second busiest airport in The Bahamas, deserves much more attention. With the FAA's recent critical (rightly so) eye on our airport, with the expansion of tourism, and investments in Abaco, with all the security issues that have arisen from events in the past couple of years, there really is no question that Marsh Harbour's airport needs an immediate and extensive facelift and improved infrastructure.

Great care must be taken to not build an airport that is only suited to today's traffic, but to account for at least another 10 years growth. If tourism is to be our leading industry, we must take these actions, or we will be left out in the cold.

All About Town

By Isobel Sherman

Who Are Your Teachers?

For the first few weeks in September I have wondered how many parents of students at Abaco Central High School have been asking their children the question, "Who are your teachers?" The reason that the question should be asked is because there are many classes which do not have teachers. These include math, English and science. Some other teachers on the staff are trying to step in and help but there is just so much they can do and still teach the classes they are assigned to.

Yet in the first few weeks of school I have not heard of one parent coming to the school to ask about this teacher shortage. I can remember the days at Abaco Central when parents would be at the school demanding teachers and proper scheduling. Looks like those days are gone.

Instead, I have students coming to me every day complaining that they don't have a teacher for this class or the next. Now, I am a mere teacher who can actually do nothing about the situation except to write about it. The voices of concerned parents could do so much more. As a colleague told me, this situation of silence would not happen in Freeport.

Abaco Central High School is the largest high school on the island and has a student population of over 535 students. We are not talking about a few classes not having teachers. We are talking about full teaching timetables in English and science and two timetables in math. To me it is not just a mere shortage; it is a crisis.

We have been told a math teacher is coming but no one has said when and one math teacher would only alleviate one part of the shortage.

Getting Used to a New Name
Ever since its existence persons have called the government freight dock in Marsh Harbor "the dock." As of last month, we

must get used to the new name Port of Marsh Harbour and begin to refer to it as the port. Actually to continue to use the name "dock" does a great injustice to this modern large facility. For many of us the word "port" meant the Port of Palm Beach in Florida but now the name "port" has taken on a new meaning much closer to home.

Hurricane Isabel

God spared the Bahamas and in particular the wrath and rage of Hurricane Isabel but the whole island was on guard. Even though Hurricane Isabel was a thousand miles away, residents became very concerned and nervous.

Persons began boarding up their residences and businesses and some even made plans to leave the island. However, by the 14th it was clear that Hurricane Isabel's track was going to take her east of the Bahamas and even though the forecasted track could have changed, it did not. In fact, Hurricane Isabel passed way east of Abaco.

The fear that Hurricane Floyd placed in the residents of Abaco is still very fresh and real. Hurricane Floyd was a disaster and Hurricane Isabel until she started to weaken would have been a catastrophe had she hit Abaco with the full brunt of her Category 5 fury.

We must all be thankful to God for sparing us Isabel's wrath. I know I was not the only one praying that the Bahamas and actually all other lands be spared. God blessed us in The Bahamas and on Abaco by letting Hurricane Isabel pass us by.

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Columnist/Graphic Artist: Timothy Roberts

Contributors: Richard Fawkes, Lee Pinder, James Richard,

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Letters to the Editor

Upset with Rude Reply

Dear Editor,

I hate to criticize anybody. However, if we simply allow public (government) corporations to conduct their public relations the way they do sometimes, without questioning it, then we deserve what we get. A few lines will suffice. Thank you.

The service from BEC has improved. And we here in Bahama Palm Shores are hopeful that very soon we will have "regular" phone lines. So, the complaint I wish to issue, is not driven by any petty indulgence, but rather because I am sick and tired of the way Bahamians conduct themselves sometimes.

Some five to six weeks ago we were experiencing a lot of electrical fluctuations and some outages. So one morning my wife decided to call BEC to enquire as to whether they had gotten the problem fixed so as to know what to expect to which she was told, "If you was listening to the radio, you would know."

So taken a little aback, my wife proceeded to explain that not all of us happen to be listening to the radio at the pertinent times always. She then went on to ask if the problem was that BEC didn't have enough generators, or what? The response? "Y'all f---ing Conchy Joe Marsh Harbour people...."! At this time, my wife held the receiver away from her ear for a few seconds in amazement. When she put it back to her ear, this fool was still carrying on. So my wife, in anger, told him that "Y'all don't know your ass from a hole in the ground" and hung up. (By the way, we are not, in fact, Marsh Harbour people. We do not live in Marsh Harbour, nor are we descended from Marsh Harbour directly. I am in fact a Conchy Joe, but both points are irrelevant, aren't they?)

After an initial verbal complaint to the management, and upon their instruction, I put the complaint in writing and hand delivered it to their office in Marsh Harbour right after the incident. To date, no response whatsoever although my wife had been assured that "they would get to the bottom of this." So, what's my point? Simple.

First of all, I never really expected to hear from BEC anyway because I have become accustomed to the fact that, like many other ordinary Bahamians, we simply should not expect anything to be done about such things.

Secondly, we hear so much about what the government is doing wrong and what they should be doing to make our lives better, etc. However, the real problem in this beloved country of ours is the inability of ordinary Bahamians to conduct themselves in a professional manner. To further exacerbate this problem is the fact that management, who are supposed to be the professionals, are unable, or unwilling, to do anything about such matters.

So, where does this leave us? It leaves us in a position where we aspire to First World status; however, as far as our attitudes are concerned, we are for the most part still living in a Third World country. Things are as good as they will ever be in the Bahamas right now. The only way that will change is for the average working person to get a shot of real "National Pride," instead of the government trying to instill such a thing where it obviously cannot take root.

What really upsets me the most about this whole situation is that quite possibly the person who talked to my wife so rudely is probably someone I know because I know many of the guys working for BEC Abaco. I like to think that my male friends would never talk to a woman the way this person talked to my wife. But then again, I come from the old school, and that mold seems to have been shattered long ago.

Excellence will only come about if we desire it strongly enough.

Sincerely,
William (Billy) Roberts
A citizen who gives a damn

Ferry Scheduled Between Freeport and Ft. Lauderdale

A new fast ferry will begin service between Fort Lauderdale and Freeport beginning November 1. *The Cat* will be a 320-foot high speed catamaran which will be on a regular schedule. The *Cat* is owned by Bahamas Florida Express, a Bahamian owned company. The company will offer a special introductory price of \$109 for Bahamians and \$70 for children plus taxes. *The Cat* will be able to carry 900 passengers and will travel at a speed of 42 knots. The boat will leave Freeport daily at 9:30 a.m. arriving in Fort Lauderdale two hours later. The return trip will leave Fort Lauderdale at 4 p.m. The boat has many amenities to keep its passengers happy. These include a café, bar, gift shop television lounge and casino.

The ferry is being chartered by Bahamas Florida Express which is a Bahamian-owned company headed by Craig Symonette. Mr. Symonette is a well known businessman involved in ferries serving other Family Islands including the SeaWind, the ferry serving Sandy Point from Nassau.



Police Win Independence Award



The Royal Bahamas Police Force on Abaco accepted their award for the most original window display in a competition sponsored by the Independence Committee. The theme of the competition was the celebration of the Bahamas' 30th anniversary of Independence. The officers shown above are, left to right, Insp. Gregory Barr, ASP Clarence Russell, officer in charge of Abaco, Insp. Godfrey Ferguson and Insp. Cleophas Cooper, CID officer.

Our Policy

The Abaconian must know the identity of any person writing a letter to the editor. We cannot print letters unless we have that information. We will withhold publishing that name if requested to do so and will then keep the name confidential.



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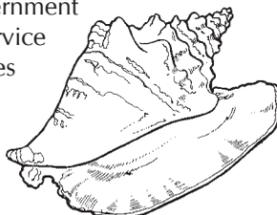
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Central Abaco News

Restaurant Announces Changes

Hummingbird Restaurant and Bar is announcing exciting new changes. Located in Memorial Plaza, owner Barbara Simmons is pleased to announce that Dee Delancy is joining her as managing partner. Dee is well known from her many years at Wally's Restaurant and brings 19 years of hospitality experience to her new role.

Nathaniel Malone, a sixteen-year-old grade eleven student of Forest Heights Academy, was the lucky winner of a mountain bike in the Back to School Supplies' raffle sponsored by Bellevue Business Depot. Any customer was eligible for entry in the raffle with a purchase of \$50 dollars or more of back to school supplies.

Nathaniel was the first boy to win the raffle in the four years Bellevue has been running the promotion. He bought all of his school supplies at the store and would like to thank Bellevue for his prize. His reaction on being notified by the store manager that he had won the bike was initially one of disbelief. "I couldn't believe my luck. I do not usually win things," he said. The winning ticket was drawn by Shoshanna Davis of St. Francis de Sales School, who was in the store shopping with her mother, Customs officer Molly Davis, and several of her school friends.



The partners plan many improvements including a sophisticated new decor, extended hours, and an expand menu. A renewed emphasis will be placed on service and style.

Library News

By Isobel Sherman

Beginning in October the Marsh Harbour Community Library will be offering homework help on Mondays through Fridays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. The computer room will be

open and research help will be available only on Mondays and Wednesdays for 3:30 until 5:15 p.m. Students must be members of the library to use the computers and there is a charge for printing out documents and for photocopies.

New children's books have been donated to the library over the summer. Membership is \$4 per year for students and \$10 per year for adults.

New Restaurant Opens

By Isobel Sherman

Chef Neil Albury has owned the Hibiscus Restaurant in Man-O-War for the past few years. The food served there has been so delicious that many persons often traveled from Marsh Harbour to Man-O-War to have lunch there or dine there in the evening. As of two weeks ago traveling to Man-O-War to dine at the Hibiscus is not necessary because Chef Neil has opened a branch of the restaurant in Marsh Harbour.

Located in the building behind Memorial Plaza, Chef Neil told me that the response to his restaurant has been overwhelming. In his first two weeks of operation in Marsh Harbour over 1500 meals were served. In fact, he added four more tables to increase

the seating capacity of the restaurant. Neil would like to have a larger dining area.

Hibiscus serves a regular luncheon menu and a buffet menu at lunch. Daily lunch specials are also a feature. Dinner is served nightly.

I readily admit that I was a fan of Hibiscus Restaurant in Man-O-War and I have eaten there every time I have traveled to Man-O-War. As a treat for myself, I had lunch at the Marsh Harbour Hibiscus Restaurant on Saturday. Once again the food was out of this world. First of all, it was difficult for me to make a choice but I chose the cracked conch. The conch was so tender you could cut it with a fork and the batter was very light. I thoroughly enjoyed my meal. Some of Neil's specialties are shrimp in coconut and conch bites with coconut, a very flavorful unusual dish and delicious. In addition to seafood entrees, the Hibiscus serves, as Neil puts it, the Bahamian dishes people want, chicken, macaroni, pork chops and fish.

The restaurant is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner. They also take reservations for both lunch and dinner.

Please see **Cays**

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More Central Abaco News

Cays

From Page 10

Abaco Youth In Action

By Jennifer Hudson

Abaco Youth in Action will be re-starting its sports programme on October 4th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Murphy Town Park. The first discipline will be soccer and will run for a period of eight weeks, followed by basketball in January and then baseball. Boys and girls aged 7 to 14 from all schools in Abaco are welcome to participate in this programme. The programme is under the direction of Lynden and Elva Davis.

The aim of the organizers is to prepare mini and peewee teams to travel to Freeport before the end of the year to participate in a tournament at the YMCA and then have the Freeport team here in return next year.

Beacon's Book Store

By Jennifer Hudson

Beacon's Book Store has moved from the Abaco Shopping Centre into the building next to Computer Creations on Don MacKay Boulevard. The new premises are slightly smaller but with a more "homey, intimate" feel. An

interesting variety of books is on sale ranging from Christian and motivational books to books about the Bahamas and cook books. Oxford and Macmillan brand text books and teaching materials can be ordered and received within one week.

Also in stock are Bible covers and cases, Gospel music CD's, cassette tapes and tapes for children as well as a wide selection of all occasion greeting cards and gift items such as mugs and plaques. Rubber stamps can be provided within one week and a copier repair service is also offered.

Christmas cards, calendars and two year planners are already in stock and will soon be on the shelves.

Opening hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and hours will be extended closer to Christmas.

Publishing and Internet Service Office Opens

By Portia Jonsson

Adnet, located Forest Drive between Roadrunners Bicycle Shop and Long Bay School, is open for business. The Desktop Publishing and Internet Services office, owned and operated by Mr. Richard Fox, offers use of

computers for internet access, printer access, word processing, computer games and educational resources for children. Adnet specializes in professional writing and marketing services for press releases and promotional articles, public service announcements, business plans and proposals, information pamphlets and much more. You can send and receive faxes at the office. Computer classes including Introduction to MS Word, MS Excel, MS Access and MS Power Point are offered at Adnet. Business hours are 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday or call 367-0023/4 for information.

Steak Out for Hugh Cottis Medical Fund

By Jennifer Hudson

On October 18th from 12 noon to 6 p.m. friends of Hugh Cottis will hold a steak-out in the parking lot of Forest Heights Academy on Don MacKay Boulevard. Mr. Cottis, as many people know, suffered a stroke at the beginning of the summer and has been in Nassau for the past three months receiving medical treatment. This steak-out is a fund raising to help with his medical expenses.

Please see **Central**

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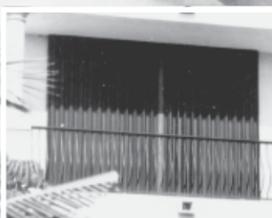
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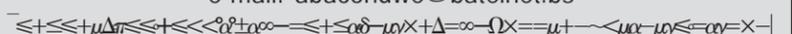
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School News

Forest Heights Academy New School Year Begins

Forest Heights Academy began the 2003 academic year on September 15. New and returning students were welcomed by their friends, teachers and a freshly painted building, maintaining the quality standards of their learning environment. Beginning its 6th year on the state-of-the-art campus, the student body is nearly at its capacity. However, there are still some openings in grade seven.

The teachers and administration are pleased with the results of the 2003 BJC and BGCSE examinations taken last spring. Congratulations to the 10th graders for their efforts on the BJC's and best wishes to the graduating class of 2003 now scattering around the world on their BGCSE results. Andrew Wilhoite is literally doing just that as he begins this year on the *Concordia* class afloat currently sailing in the Pacific Ocean, and many others have already begun their university studies.

Forest Heights would like to congratulate the new prefects of the Senior class of 2004. Chosen for their leadership qualities are Shane Cash, Destiny Cornish, Ron Kawalaram, Mashanna Russell and Ashley Sands. Head Prefects are Rebecca Risberg and Ovens Altidor.

Finally, in keeping with their love of music and drama, the Forest Heights Academy Choir and Drama Club are beginning work on their Christmas production and spring play. Meeting on Mondays after school, they will continue to develop these important skills to enhance their education.

As a final note, all parents are invited to the Annual General Meeting of the PTA on October 2 at 7 p.m. in room 106. Your par-

ticipation will be greatly appreciated to ensure a productive school year.

Fox Town Primary

The Fox Town Primary got a good start to the new school year. The enrollment is down slightly to just over 120 students. They have a staff of six teachers along with Principal Austin Mills. They have a new teacher, Ms. Nadia Smith, who is teaching first grade. This leaves them missing only a Spanish teacher. There is a possibility that a teacher may be assigned to teach Spanish in the Cooper's Town Primary and Fox Town Primary Schools.

Mr. Mills is pleased with the way the school is going this year. Last year a second home owner donated a copy machine and some books to the school which were greatly appreciated. He would like to see more library books for his students to enjoy.

S. C. Bootle High School PTA Meeting Was Well Attended

By James Richard

The first PTA meeting of the new school year was held on September 22 with many parents and teachers in attendance. Rev. Clayton McIntosh will continue in his capacity as PTA President. Principal, Mr. Leslie Rolle, brought much to the attention of parents including uniforms, textbook requirements and a summary of last year. He shared plans for the new school year which promises to be better than ever. New staff members were introduced to parents, and the lack of both a music teacher and one science teacher was discussed at length.

Finally, parents were given a chance to ask questions and voice complaints. Many worried about the amount of homework, the

crowding of the buses and the cost of textbooks. Much discussion about optional classes and class sizes also took place. After the formal meeting the parents and teachers were able to mingle and touch base concerning individual students.

Abaco Central High New Basketball Coach

By Isobel Sehrman

Abaco Central High School's Mighty Marlins basketball team has a new coach. Actually the coach is really the former coach of the basketball team. Mr. Pat Smith has returned to Abaco and to Abaco Central High School as a science teacher. Last week he began practices for the Boys Varsity and Junior Basketball teams at the school. He has returned from Langston University in Oklahoma and is enthusiastic about being back at the school and coaching basketball. Each afternoon the boys are out training, running before practice, which is held at Ocean View Court in Dundas Town. Mr. Smith hopes to take the team to the Vita Malt Tournament in Freeport as well as the Catholic High Invitational Tournament in Freeport and the Hugh Campbell in Nassau in February.

Mr. Smith was a teacher here for quite a few years. About eight years ago he accepted a position at Langston University and moved his family to Oklahoma. The first member of his family to return to Abaco was his daughter, Monique, who is employed at BEC. Monique returned two years ago after she graduated from college. Mr. Smith's wife and other children will be joining him by the year's end.

Abaco Central Takes to the Air

A group of staff and administration led by Principal Benjamin Stubbs spent an hour on September 17 talking on Radio Abaco. Representing the school were Mr. Benjamin Stubbs, Principal, Mr. Huel Moss Jr. Vice Principal, Ms. Phillipa Farrington, Mrs. Lori Higgs-Thompson, Mrs. Isobel Sherman and Mr. Camaru Raheim.

The show was to be a call in show but as it turned out so much information was being given that there were no time for callers. Host Silbert Mills wanted to know about the BGCSE results. A discussion followed in which Mr. Raheim explained the grading

Please see **School**

Page 13



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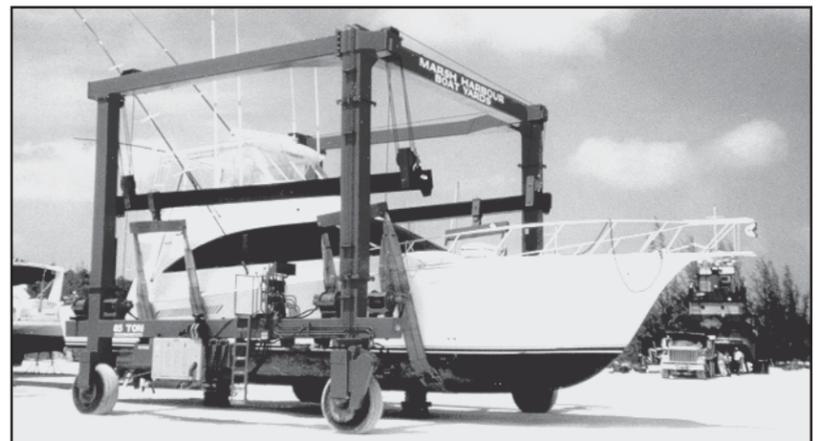
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More School News

School From Page 14

scheme of the BGCSE examinations. Other issues brought up during the hour were lack of security, shortage of furniture and the serious teacher shortage. Abaco Central staff is appealing to past graduates, parents and the whole community to rally behind the school and support it.

Mr. Mills invited the group back for another programme slated for October 30.

College Fair Update

Plans are in full swing for the Second Annual College Fair sponsored by Abaco Central High School. Over 60 colleges, universities, junior colleges, and technical

schools have been invited and the response so far has been good. Already two colleges not present at last year's fair have indicated they will be coming. The fair will be held November 18 at New Vision Ministries from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

SAT - No More Faxes

By Isobel Sherman

Persons wishing to register for the SAT examination this school year should be aware that registration can only take place by mail or online. The College Board is accepting no more faxed registrations. The first sitting of the SAT in the Bahamas will be December 1, 2003. On Abaco the examination is given at Forest Heights Academy.



S.C. Bootle High School welcomes several new staff members. They are, left to right, Jose Torres (Physical Education), Lauralee Davis (Social Studies), Tina Roberts (Math), Opal Farquarson (Home Economics) and Kevin Hepburn (Math). Missing from photo is Angela Pratt (Library and Religious Studies).

Visitors Donate Books to Schools



In November 2002 second home owner Daryl Muratori began a book drive to provide both library books and text books for the students of Central Abaco Primary School. So far the drive has produced approximately 2000 pounds of books with another 2000 pounds on the way and more being shipped. This, along with very generous contributions by the Wujack Foundation, John Strater and many other contributors like Bob Sylvester of Guana Sea Side Village. There are now some very good books for the children to read. He is still working on purchasing many more books such as audio books for the children who cannot read as yet but are eager to learn. If you know of schools or libraries that have books they would like to donate, please contact Daryl Muratori at 242-365-8895. Contributions are being accepted since there is a need for many text books for the classrooms and library books and the program is being expanded to other schools. Shown above are, left to right, Paul Wujack, Daryl Muratori, Bob Sylvester and John Strater.



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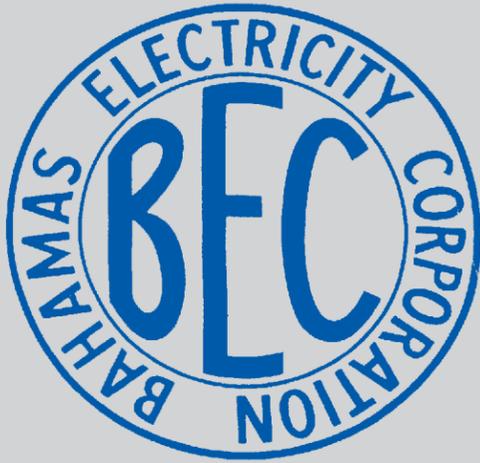
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To *ALL CUSTOMERS* in New Providence &

The Board of Directors and Management of BEC are pleased to announce that for the first time in its forty seven (47) year history the Bahamas Electricity Corporation will be passing on to all its customers in New Providence and the Family Islands significant reductions in electricity rates effective October 1, 2003. These reductions in our rates will range from 11 % to 17% based on the category of users.

Management reports that this benefit will be achieved as a result of improved cost efficiencies in its operations during the past twelve months, mainly from:

- Negotiation of a new fuel oil supply contract, saving the corporation a minimum of \$4.0 million per annum in fuel costs.
- Improvement in fuel operating efficiencies with significant projected savings of \$18.0 million from the commissioning of two (2) new plants — a 23 MW gas turbine at Blue Hills and a slow speed 30 MW diesel engine (No. DA-12) at Clifton Pier.

- Increased revenue of \$1.2 million from the signing of a new five year fuel tank lease agreement with the Corporation's supplier.
- Expected refinancing of a \$128 million IDB loan to a 10 year euro dollar loan with anticipated savings in interest cost of a minimum of \$5.0 million per annum (or \$50 million over the 10 year refinancing period).
- This financing will eliminate the foreign currency exposure risk involved with the IDB basket of currencies.

These reductions in electricity rates will consist of the following components:

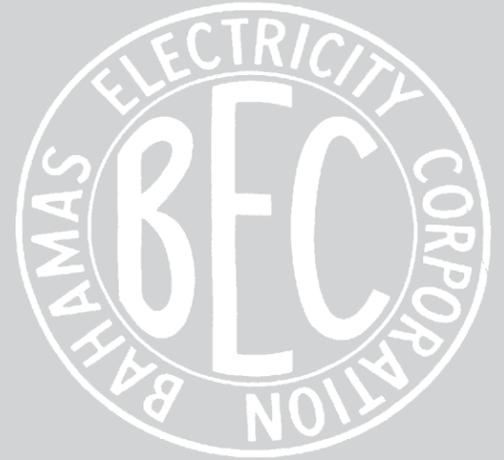
- (1) **Basic Rate Reduction**
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Large Commercial Customers (eg. Hotels)
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<i>Category of User</i>	<i>Average Reduction in monthly bill</i>
<i>Residential</i> <i>If you use 800 kwh or less per month your potential reduction is</i>	17%
<i>If you use 1,200 kwh per month your potential reduction is</i>	12%
<i>Small Commercial</i> <i>If you use 1,200 kwh per month your potential reduction is</i>	11%
<i>Large Commercial</i> <i>If you have an annual maximum demand of 20 KVA and use</i> <i>10,200 kwh per month your potential reduction is</i>	12%

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WHAT ARE THESE BENEFITS?

These reductions in the tariff rates, fuel surcharge adjustment and other changes will affect customers as follows:

RESIDENTIAL

i. A residential customer consuming up to 800 kwh per month with the tariff rate change, minimum rate threshold of 800 kwh and fuel surcharge adjustment, will realise a 17% reduction in monthly bills.

ii. A residential customer consuming 1,200 kwh per month with the new tariff rate, minimum rate threshold and fuel surcharge adjustment, will realise a 12% monthly reduction in electricity bills.

SMALL COMMERCIAL

On average, a small commercial customer consuming 1,200 kwh per month with the new tariff rate change and fuel surcharge adjustment will realise an 11% reduction in monthly electricity bills.

LARGE COMMERCIAL

Large commercial customers will benefit from a 5% reduction in the tariff rate, a 5% reduction in the fuel surcharge adjustments and a 2% reduction in the maximum demand charge. Additionally there will be a change from an annual maximum demand fixed charge to a semi-annual maximum demand fixed charge for the summer and winter periods.

For example, a large commercial customer with an annual maximum demand of 20kVA and using 10,200 kwh per month would realise a minimum of 12% reduction in monthly electricity bills

OTHER CUSTOMER SERVICE BENEFITS

The Corporation's customers can also expect the following additional benefits designed to improve service delivery and realise a return on their deposits held as follows:

Interest on Deposits

- Effective October 1, 2003, a 3% interest payment (calculated on a daily balance) will be accrued on all customer deposits and credited to their electricity accounts.

Interactive Voice Response (IVR)

- The (IVR) system was launched in New Providence on August 21, 2003 to allow customers electronic access to their accounts at their convenience 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This system allows customers to access current and past balances on their accounts as well as information on other corporate services, such as damage claims, etc.

IVR was introduced in Eleuthera in February 2003 as a pilot project and is now in place for Abaco customers. Call the toll-free number 242-300-0110 to access your account. The Corporation expects to provide this service to all other family islands during the next six months.

Automatic Meter Reading (AMR)

- The Corporation expects to officially introduce this long anticipated "Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) service to all New Providence residential customers in October 2003. The project is expected to be completed in the next four months. A few of the benefits of AMR are:

- (i) Remote and automatic meter reading
- (ii) Significantly faster meter reading time
- (iii) More accurate billings
- (iv) More cost efficiencies to both customer and BEC

In order to explain these rate reductions in our rates to all our customers, officers of the Corporation will be conducting three town meetings on New Providence and four on the family islands with the greatest customer base during the next few weeks. The Corporation will be announcing details of these meetings via broadcast and print media very shortly.

Our Corporate Vision at BEC is "to become the number one public corporation in The Bahamas, and to rank among the best utilities of our size and character in the region". We at B.E.C are committed to realising this vision.

FTAA Presents Challenges

By Richard Fawkes

Free movement of labour among the 34 countries in the Americas will not be part of the Free Trade Area of the Americas agreement (FTAA), according to Zhivargo Laing. Neither are issues of financial services and transportation on the table, he said.

"Could you imagine President George Bush signing an agreement that would allow Bahamians, Haitians, Jamaicans or any national from any country party to the agreement to come to the United States at will to work?" Mr. Laing asked. This makes FTAA different from the European Union and the proposed Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), he explained. FTAA does not intend a single currency or obligation to allow participating countries to own business in the other countries, as do the EU and the proposed CSME. As to foreign investments, Mr. Laing explained that although the FTAA will establish rules on investment, the laws on investment in force in the respective countries at the time the treaty comes into being will govern how each country deals with foreign investors.

Mr. Laing, the former Economics Development Minister in the last Free National Movement government who was responsible for FTAA negotiations, spoke to about 40 Treasure Cay residents at Full Gospel Assembly Church on September 22 on what he called the opportunities and challenges presented to The Bahamas by the prospect of joining the FTAA. He spoke to a diverse, conscientious group including teachers, business people and local government representatives who asked questions ranging from whether FTAA was a one-way street from the strong to the weaker nations to how will local fishermen and farmers survive the competition to whether all the changes will be implemented at once to the detriment of the Bahamian economy and sovereignty.

"Fear brings bondage," Mr. Laing told his audience as a way of explaining that the purpose of his talk was to separate myth from fact. Bahamians should not stay away from the table because of a lack of understanding of what FTAA is all about, he said.

Explaining that Abaconians are engaging in international trade every time they shop in Florida or provide a service to an American tourist, Mr. Laing said Bahamians should not say we cannot join FTAA because we have nothing to trade.

FTAA, he said, will provide access for participating countries to a \$12 trillion market, making it the largest trading bloc in the world if it comes about. That is why the United States is seeking the agreement and why all 34 countries in the hemisphere freely went to Miami in 1995 to begin the process of negotiating FTAA, Mr. Laing explained.

He said no agreement has been signed yet, that there is just a draft agreement so far which anyone can read by going on the internet to www.ftaa-alca.org.

The nine areas of trade being negotiated are market access, investment, services (whose negotiation is being chaired by The Bahamas at U.S. insistence), government procurement, dispute settlement, agriculture, intellectual property, anti-dumping and competition policy.

Mr. Laing said maintaining our sovereignty is not at issue under FTAA. "We have the sovereign right to decide to join or not to join and to live by the consequences of our decision," he explained.

Among the benefits to The Bahamas Mr. Laing said he saw was access by Bahamians business and professional people to markets throughout the hemisphere for exporting their products and services. He said Bahamians will have more choices for cheaper goods from more countries without having to pay duties. Customs duties, however, will still exist for areas of the world outside the agreement such as Asia, Europe and Africa.

Among the challenges were:

- The government's switching from customs duties to perhaps a sales tax to raise the approximately \$500 million annual revenue needed from that source
- Abaco farmers and producers who now depend on government subsidies or tariff protection to succeed will have to find other ways of becoming competitive with their counterparts from places like Mexico and Brazil

tion to succeed will have to find other ways of becoming competitive with their counterparts from places like Mexico and Brazil

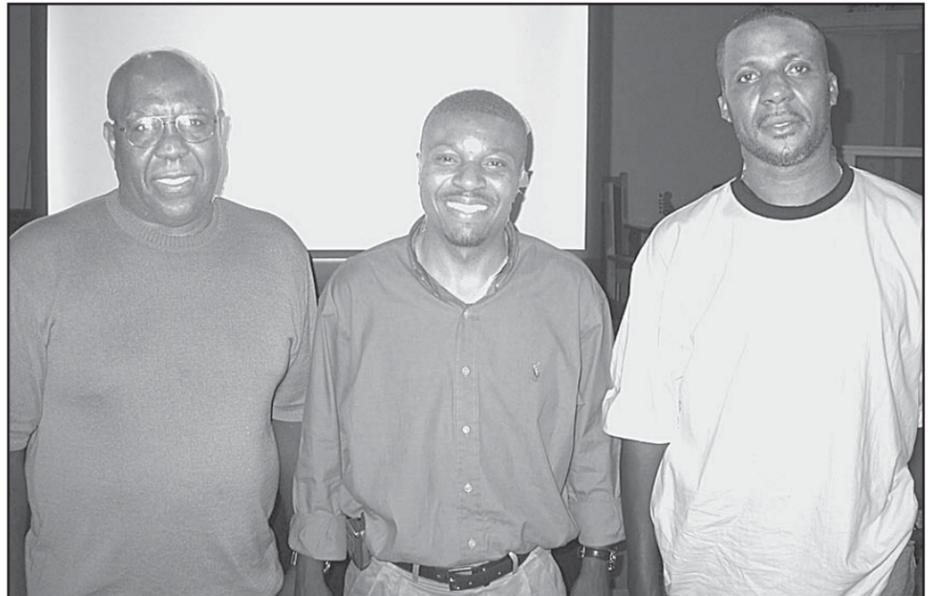
• Bahamian workers providing better quality service in order to compete with lower wages paid in other economies. He said he did not believe a solution to our non-competitive labour was to reduce wages or get

rid of unions.

Mr. Laing said the treaty envisions a provision granting special considerations to small economies under which The Bahamas would qualify by any definition of small. He said we should also be able to negotiate a gradual

Please see FTAA

Page 38



Zhivargo Laing discussed the proposed FTAA agreement with residents of North Abaco on September 22 at the Full Gospel Assembly of God Church. He was the Economics Development Minister in the previous government. He is shown here in the center with Rev. Stafford Symonette on the left, pastor of Full Gospel Church, and Curtis Cooper, moderator for the discussion, on the right.

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Sail-Away Party Raises Funds



Despite rough weather conditions, the Great Baker's Beach Sail-Away was a success on August 31 with a turnout of 50 boats and about 200 people. Everyone enjoyed the casual family party which was a successful fund raising event for two Abaco organizations, the Abaco Rage and Friends of the Environment. About \$2400 was raised which will be divided between the two beneficiaries. The event was organized by Bill Albury but the major sponsors were Price Right, Snappas, Nippers, Rock Around the Clock, Bristol Cellars, Hope Town T-Shirt Design and Froggies Island Adventures. Everyone took his own cooler but hamburgers, hot dogs, sodas and beer were for sale. Ice was provided. Aubrey Clarke was set up by Nippers to make his well known coconut and rum drinks using a hand cranked blender. His conch fritters were also appreciated. The organizers are hoping to make this an annual event. Photo by Bill Albury

Church News

Youth Celebration of Praise Planned

By Portia Jonsson

The Zion Baptist Church in Murphy Town is planning its annual Youth Celebration of Praise to be held on October 8th-12th. This year's theme is *Blaze It Up For Jesus, More Fire*. In keeping with the church's commitment to provide wholesome, spiritual and productive development of today's youth, a number of activities will be featured:

- Lecture, question and debate
- Panel Discussion Competition (1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies will be awarded)
- *Blaze It Up For Jesus Night* showcasing drama, music, dance, praise, worship and more
- Beach Fun Day Social at Treasure Cay

• Visit and walk around to the elderly in the community with food bags given to the elderly.

Anyone wishing to help with donation of food items is kindly asked to contact Bro. Leroy Thompson, Youth Pastor, 367-4923 or Sis. Emma Dawkins, Youth President, 367-2692

The week of activities will climax with a morning church service with Rev. Cedric Gaitor as guest speaker and a speech sermonette on Sunday night which will be delivered by two youth. A *Blaze It Up For Jesus* rush-out with cowbells and drums will also take place at the church.

You are invited to come and be a part of this great celebration of youth in Christ.

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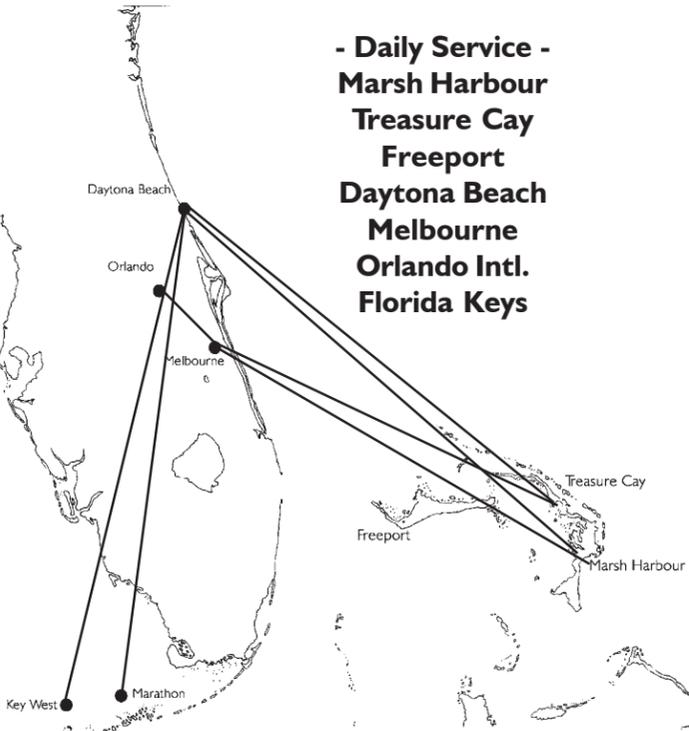


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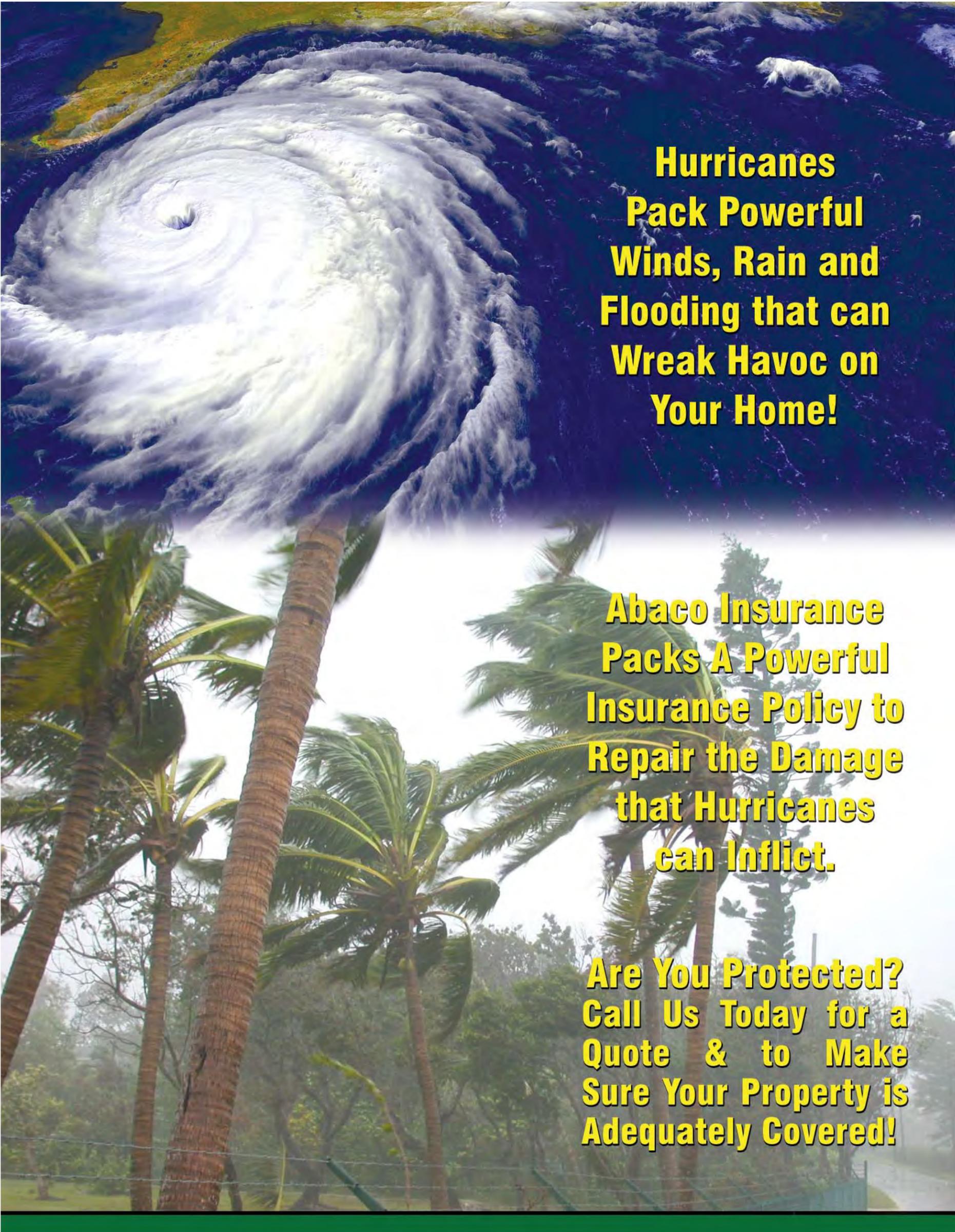
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Seminar Covered All Aspects of Economy

Outlook *From Page 5*

Minister Bethel Discussed Health Matters

By Jennifer Hudson

The second conference speaker was Sen. the Hon. Dr. Marcus Bethel, Minister of Health and Environmental Services, who introduced himself by stating how proud he is to be able to claim to be part Abaconian since his grandmother hailed from Abaco. He opened by saying that he wants to ensure the highest quality of care for the islands and that Abaco is the third major metropolitan area after Grand Bahama and Nassau.

Dr. Bethel discussed the suggested cause-way between Abaco and Grand Bahama which is of interest to him. He states that it would have a dynamic synergistic effect whereby both the Abaco and Grand Bahama economies will be able to feed off each other.

Dr. Bethel referred to the matter which was brought before Parliament by Sen. Edison Key regarding the high number of cancer patients on Abaco and the possible connection to drinking water. He stated that

water is checked for quality and reported on daily. The Department of Health has looked at statistics from Abaco and the rest of the Bahamas, and the Water and Sewerage Corporation has looked for high levels of chlorine in the Marsh Harbour area. Chlorine is the most effective way of sanitizing water and their findings were that the level was even lower than it should be. They could not conclude, therefore, that the water was having an adverse effect on the population of Abaco. The Ministry of Health, after studying figures, declared that it seems that the incidence of cancer in Abaco is no higher than anywhere else.

Protecting health and the environment is of high priority and safeguards are in place for food safety and security for food coming into the island. A health team at the new port facility will monitor this.

Dr. Bethel referred to the recent fire in the Pigeon Pea community. He recognizes that Abaco has one of the largest multi-cultural communities in the Bahamas with a large percentage of descendants from farm labourers who are bilingual. The fire highlighted some challenges and the inadequate infrastructure development, and Dr. Bethel

stated that we must continue to dialogue on health issues.

He closed by saying that we are all here for a season and we must hold this land in trust for future generations of all Bahamians.

Following his presentation, Dr. Bethel was asked several questions concerning environmental concerns in Abaco.

- Garbage disposal on Guana Cay - There will be no sanitary land fill. The cays will be outfitted with compactors to hold garbage and a weekly barge will transport it to the mainland.

- Development at Baker's Bay at the North End of Guana Cay - The environmental impact and the impact on ecology will be thoroughly assessed before any possible development would take place.

- Clinic upgrade - There are plans to upgrade the Marsh Harbour clinic. The Fox Town clinic has been renovated and is now operational and the Ministry is working on a new clinic for Sandy Point. Two clinics needing immediate attention are those at Grand Cay and Cherokee (which is non operational). The Ministry recognizes the need for a mini-hospital in Marsh Harbour



The Hon. Dr. Marcus Bethel

but no time frame was given.

- Oil Drilling - Dr. Bethel wanted people to understand that drilling is not taking place in routine fishing waters and is taking place at a depth of 6,000 feet. No oil has actually been drilled yet and if oil is discovered, environmental impact studies will be carried out and must be accepted by the government before any oil could be drilled.

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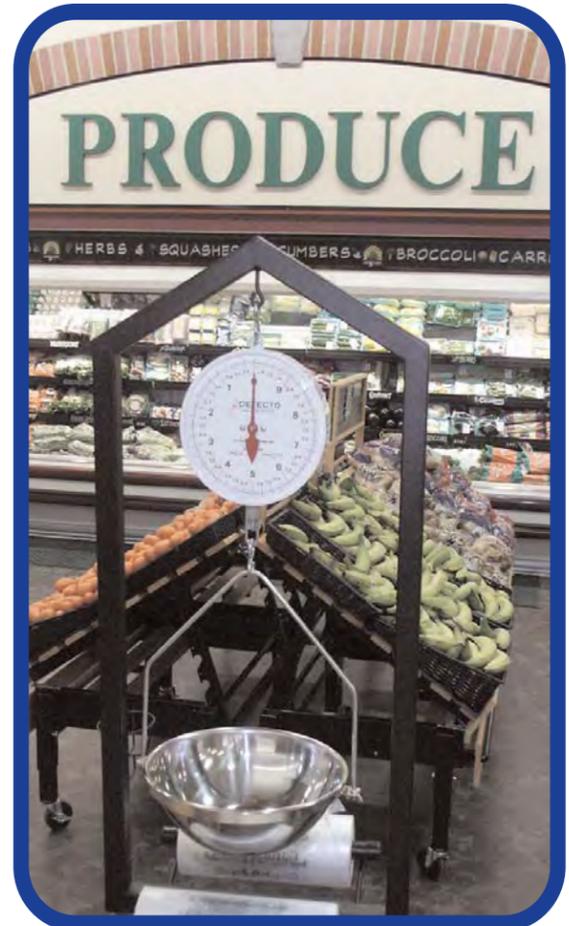
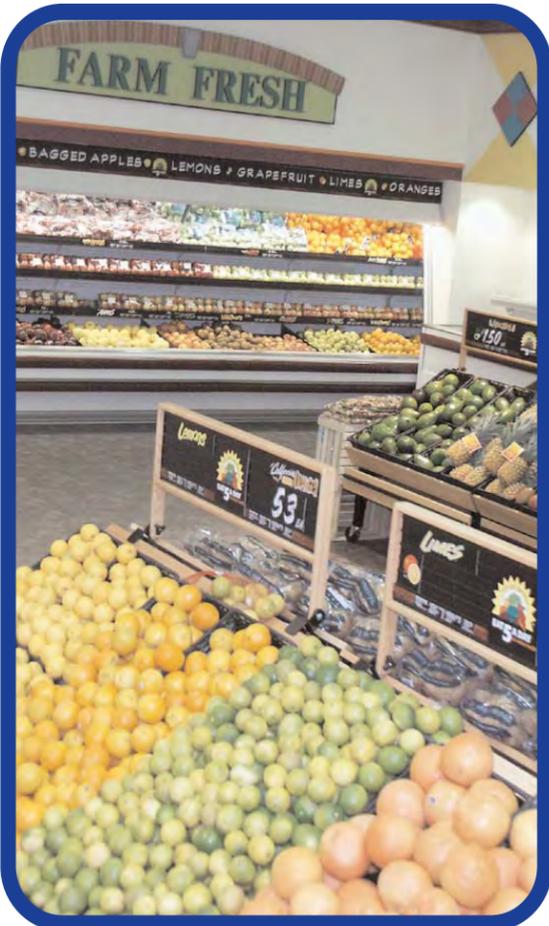
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Marsh Harbour, Central Cays and South Abaco

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- ★ **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 - Auxillary Generator. #AB87 - **\$430,000.**
- ★ **Marsh Harbour - "Pelican Point"** - 3 bedroom, 3 bath home - 1 bedroom, 1 bath garage apartment - 2 Acres -private dock - Fabulous Views. - Furnished # AB67 **UNDER CONTRACT**
- ★ **Marsh Harbour** - Cove Estates - "Laura's Hideaway" -Duplex - 2 -2 bedroom, 1 bath apartments, plus efficiency, 3 separate living units - great location, excellent rental income, furnished. #AB44 - **\$187,500.**
- ★ **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 - **\$1,450,000.**
- ★ **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 baths - 1,600 sq.ft. on sea-to-sea 3/4 acre. New addition and renovation. Natural foliage - Private dock - Fabulous views - Furnished. #AB91 - **\$1,120,000.**
- ★ **Marsh Harbour** - "Lightbourn" - Commercial - Almost 2 Acres - Prime Queen Elizabeth Drive Location, near stoplight - 3,600 sq.ft. Store or warehouse. # AB - AB99 - **\$1,400,000.**
- ★ **Marsh Harbour** - Commercial - over 1/3 Fenced Acre - 2,160 sq.ft. Showroom/Office/Warehouse Building - Perfect for service business or wholesaler - AB110 - **\$290,000.**
- ★ **Marsh Harbour** - "Villa Douglas" - Great Abaco Club - 3 bedrooms - 3 baths - 2,650 sq.ft. Home, Upper and Lower Covered Verandas, Garage - Private Dock, Boat Lift - Beautifully Furnished. #AB71- **\$1,320,000.**



Derek A. Lee, BRI
Broker

Joined H.G. Christie, in 1996.

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"Ceylon's Isle" - "Rosewood"

Man-O-War Cay - 2 1/2 Acres Sea-to-sea. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,920 sq.ft. residence. 1 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath guest complex on beach. 259' of beautiful Sea of Abaco beach. Lush landscaping, a myriad of fruit trees. Fully furnished and equipped. Superb Views. # AB111 - **\$3,700,000**



NEW LISTING

Murphy Town

Murphy Town - WHY RENT? 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath home. Centrally Located. Newly Completed and ready for immediate occupancy. Great Value. #AB107 **\$142,000.** For qualified first home buyers **\$135,000.**



"Lady Bug Loft"

Elbow Cay - Dorros Cove - 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,600 sq.ft new home, on almost 1/2 Acre overlooking Tahiti Beach. Private boat slip. Superb views and great proximity to beach and docking facilities. Fully Furnished # AB83 - **\$840,000.**



NEW LISTING

"Sunset Point Resort"

Marsh Harbour - Busic Bay - 8 Unit Bonefishing resort, with fifty seat Lazy Parrot Restaurant and Bar. Central Air-conditioning. Fresh water swimming pool. Excellent investment opportunity. AB100 - **\$901,000.**



"Harbour View Villa"

Marsh Harbour - Pelican Shores - 5 bedroom, 4 1/2 bath, 5,500 sq.ft. centrally air-conditioned home on approx. 1 acre with 115' of harbour frontage. Swimming Pool. Private dock. Great Harbour Views - beautifully landscaped #AB106 **Price Upon Request.**

Great Guana Cay, Green Turtle Cay, Treasure Cay and North Abaco

- ★ **Great Guana Cay - "Plum Loco"** - 3 bedroom, 2 bath - 1,228 sq.ft. home - on almost 1/2 acre with 100' of beautiful beachfront. Tastefully Furnished and fully equipped - #AB97- **\$752,000.**
- ★ **Great Guana Cay - "Aquarium"** - Boat Harbour Area - 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,100 sq.ft. Home. Great Elevation, Superb views - Fully Equipped. #AB98 - **\$345,000**
- ★ **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 - Ready for Occupancy - #AB86 - **NEW PRICE \$585,000.**
- ★ **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.**
- ★ **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. # AB66 - **\$765,000.**
- ★ **Treasure Cay "Oceana"** - Elegant Beach-front home - 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, 1,690 sq.ft., 1 bedroom, 1 bath 400 sq.ft. guest house. Garage. Beautifully landscaped and furnished. #AB92 **\$1,590,000**
- ★ **Treasure Cay - "South View"** - 3 bedroom, 2 bath Home. - Canal-front Location - Great Sea of Abaco Views, Good family home - Fully furnished. # AB30 - **\$340,000.**
- ★ **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.**



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Joined H.G. Christie, in 1998.

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e.mail: margot@abacoinet.com



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Estate Agent
Appraiser

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Based in Elbow Cay



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NEW PRICE

"North Star"

Great Guana Cay - Crossing Bay - 2 bedroom, 2 bath - 2,750 sq.ft. home with 1,100 sq.ft. of open deck - on 2.6 acres with 255' of beautiful Ocean beachfront. Fabulous Ocean and Sea of Abaco Views #AB94 - **NEW PRICE \$995,000**



NEW LISTING

"Plover's Nest"

Green Turtle Cay - Coco Bay - North End 1 bedroom, 1 bath - charming, compact home on 2 1/2 acres - Sea-to-sea - 130' Ocean Frontage and 130' Coco Bay frontage - Private Dock - Furnished #AB109 - **\$995,000**

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- ☆ **PRIVATE ISLAND - "Carrington Cay"** - 1.4 Acres - Near Leisure Lee - #AB5147 - **\$375,000.**
- ☆ **Bahama Palm Shores** - Beachfront Parcel - 100' wide - over 450' deep - over 1 Acre. Land Cleared for Building. 34' x 26' Storage Building - Pump House - Stairs to Beach - # AB5150 - **\$211,000.**
- ☆ **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 - "Madierra Hill" - 1.497 Acres - 312' x 209' - Waterfront access super views. # AB5143 - **\$395,000.**
- ☆ **Green Turtle Cay** - "Coco Sound" - 28 prime residential buildingsites - between Coco Bay and White Sound from 1/4 - 1/2 acre. # AB5090 - from: **\$59,000.**
- ☆ **Man-O-War Cay** - "L.U.A. Tract" - Over 1 Acre - Sea-to-Sea - Private Dock - AB5153 - **\$645,000.**
- ☆ **Marsh Harbour** - Great Abaco Club - Lot # 48 & # 49 **SOLD**
- ☆ **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.**
- ☆ **Tilloo Cay** - "Thompson Tract" - 7 acres. - sea-to-sea, good elevation - for great Sea of Abaco and Ocean views - can be divided into 2 - 3.5 acre parcels. # AB5113 - **\$965,000.**



NEW LISTING

"On De Sound"

Green Turtle Cay - Black Sound - 3 bedroom, 3 bath - 3,000 sq.ft. home on .83 acres. - 180' of waterfront. 1,200 sq.ft. 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage - 320 sq.ft. studio. 195' of private dock - fully equipped. - Great Rental - #AB108 - **\$1,390,000.**



NEW PRICE

"Son Burns"

Treasure Cay - 4 bedroom - 3 bath - 2,160 sq.ft. home on two floors, 750 sq.ft. of open sundeck on upper level, 750 sq.ft. of porch on lower. - almost 3/4 Acre on Galleon Bay Canal - Private Dock - Fully Furnished. # AB72 - **\$575,000.**



Chris Plummer, BRI
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Joined H.G. Christie, in 2000.

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Current Trends in Tourism in Abaco

By Jennifer Hudson

Abaco, along with the rest of the Bahamas, is in a state of "suspended animation" at this time of year as far as tourism is concerned for, as we well know, September and October are very quiet months. Many tourist related businesses close during these slow months and management uses the time to take a well-earned vacation and refurbish their premises.

Some persons have expressed concern that there may have been a decrease in the number of visitors over the past year but, according to figures released by the Ministry of Tourism, visitor arrivals by land and sea to Marsh Harbour, Treasure Cay and Walker's Cay are all showing an increase over last year.

The majority of business owners interviewed expressed the opinion that they had all felt this increase in visitor arrivals, some more than others. While a few businesses had suffered a bad year, most were quite satisfied that the year had gone well for them.

The ferry services had a good year, saying that their numbers were up despite the fact that the number of construction workers using the ferry is down by half as most of the post Floyd repairs have now been completed. This shows that there has been a definite increase in tourists traveling to the cays to offset the drop in local traffic.

Boat rental companies all felt that it was a good year with Rich Rentals experiencing their best season in three years.

Car rental services had mixed opinions. Whilst K&S Rentals said that they had a better season than last year and had been kept busy, another car rental service reported that their business was down 20 percent over the past two years and that pre-bookings are down 20 percent for the coming year; this may possibly be due to location of the business.

Taxi drivers were pleased with business, saying that they had more fares this past season, most being to the ferry dock.

Two restaurants on "the tourist strip" in Marsh Harbour report that business for them has been very erratic during last season and the amount of business is down from last year. They have served fewer customers and the serving staff say that the customers have been tipping less. On the other hand, the owners of the Jib Room report their best year ever.

The marinas report that 2002 - 2003 was a good year for them. The Moorings, although down on the number of boats in the marina, had a far better year than usual for their charter business. Boat Harbour reported that while the number of boats in their marina at times was slightly lower, it was nothing significant and business was excellent during the fishing tournaments as usual. Occupancy in the hotel remained on a par with last year. The Jib Room Marina remained full all season. The marinas in Hope Town experienced an extremely good year possibly, it was suggested, due to the fact that rates are report-

edly lower in Hope Town than in Marsh Harbour.

Hotels in Hope Town, Guana Cay and Treasure Cay all report that business has been much better during this year's tourist season with occupancy pretty much back to where it was before 9/11. There has been a large increase in the number of rental homes in Hope Town during the past season and Hope Town Hideaways reports a large new clientele. An increase in rental homes has also been seen in Green Turtle Cay. The Green Turtle Club has received a higher turnover in their restaurant and marina business. Although there has been an increase in rental homes on the cays, Marsh Harbour has realised a decrease of 30 - 40 percent. It has been noted that the renters on Eastern Shores tend now to be first timers as return visitors are preferring to rent in Hope Town.

Gift shops which sell regular souvenir items received about the same level of business this past season as in the previous season; however, John Bull, which sells higher end items, has made less sales. The manage-

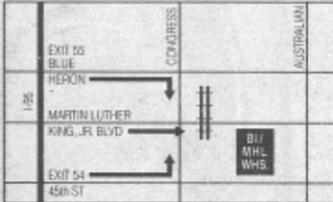
ment stated that there had definitely been fewer people visiting the store and the customers who had purchased items had spent less.

Real estate companies reported a good year with sales to non-residents being up. One company made the observation that whilst the amount that people actually spent on individual homes was, in fact, lower, the number of actual sales has been higher.

The overall picture seems to be that whilst the tourist business is holding its own pretty well despite world problems, there have definitely been some changes in its pattern. There now seem to be more "highs and lows" rather than the more steady flow of the past and whereas the busiest season was previously during the winter, summer is now proving to be better. The owner of the Hope Town Harbour Lodge stated that now he is seeing much shorter advance bookings and less actual spending which is another indication that visitors are feeling the pinch of the economy and whilst still managing to travel, they are watching their dollars more closely.

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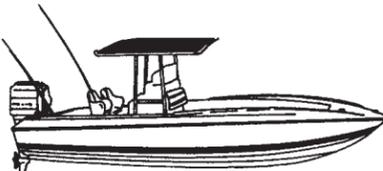


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Ray Weatherford, Shelly Russell and John Bethell

South From Page 6

workshops in Nassau sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and brought back with him several educational tapes showing the difference between those countries where they have set up marine reserves and other countries which did not - and the unbelievable difference it showed in both areas. Mr. Cornish invited those present to call his office if they were interested in viewing these tapes.

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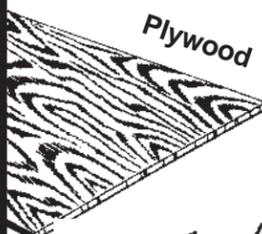
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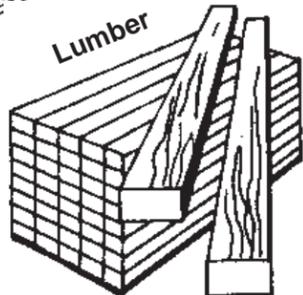
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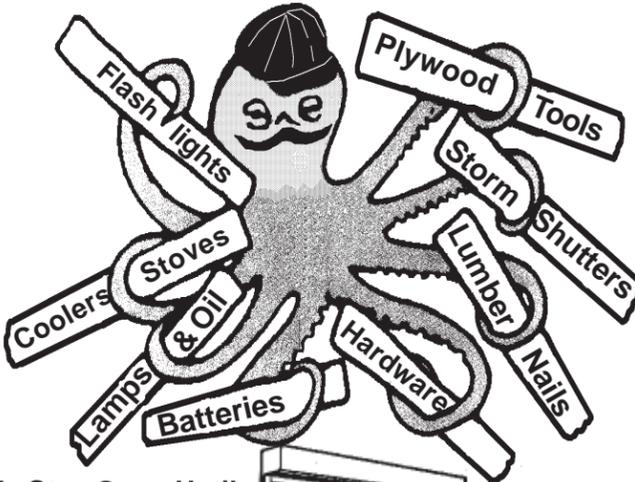
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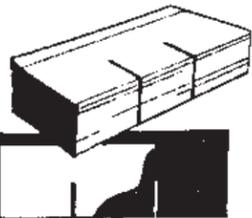
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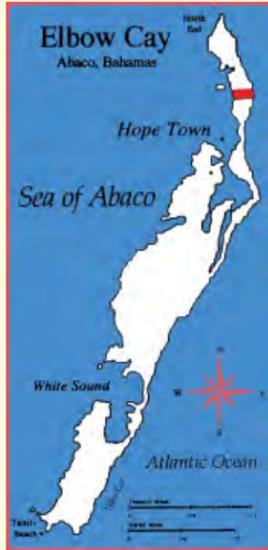
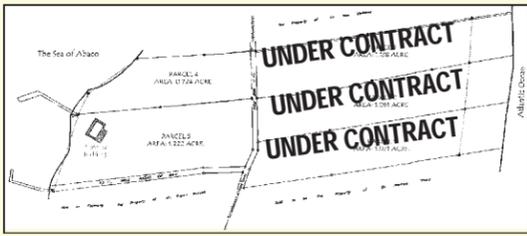


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Casuarina Point! Walk to 8 Mile Beach! Nice 13,000 s.f. home site. Good investment. Close to bone fishing. #7159 \$15,000

NEW! Guana Cay. Lovely beachfront 3/2 home. Open-plan living, gourmet kitchen, Atlantic views! Screened porch, wrap-around deck. Observation deck, sea-to-sea views. Good rental record - a must see! #8295. \$690,000

Heart of Hope Town! Superb opportunity. Gillam Street. 1920 Loyalist-type house, and commercial building. Great potential for restoration. #8155. \$286,000

Lubbers - 'Sweetheart's Garden' North end, west side, lovely 1.98 acres waterfront with 2/2 cottage. Small beach. Owner motivated! #8213 \$432,000

Marsh Harbour! Building site near Boat Harbour and all amenities. Build commercial or residential. #6351 \$120,000

Marsh Harbour! Landmark property. 6 unit self-catering inn on 1 plus acres of prime real estate. Room to expand, great investment. #7432. Serious inquiries only, please.

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Obituaries of Relatives and Friends

Dr. Frank Falkner, 84, died on August 21 of cancer at his Berkeley, California, home. He maintained a second home in Hope Town for many years.

Dr. Falkner was an internationally renowned pediatrician who was an authority on fetal growth and a professor emeritus at UC Berkeley. A native of England, Dr. Falkner was a professor at the University of Louisville, Georgetown University, the University of Cincinnati and the University of Michigan before joining the CAL faculty in 1981.

He was a co-editor of *Human Growth: A Comprehensive Treatise*, a highly regarded three-volume encyclopedia, and the editor of *International Child Health Journal*. During his 55-year career, he published 160 scientific papers, led major studies on child development and served as a U.S. emissary to the World Health Organization.

He is survived by a daughter, Sally Letzer, and a son, Michael Falkner.

The funeral service for **Elder Jeffrey Nathaniel Cox**, 88, of Cooper's Town was held on September 14 at the Revival Pentecostal Church in Cooper's Town. Bishop Henry Wright officiated assisted by Bishop Archilus Cooper. Interment was in the South Side Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife Princess Cox; daughters Brenetta Bullard, Victoria and Shirlean Rolle, Rosetta Murray, Delphine Russell, Engret Curry, Iona Knowles, Patrice Cox, Abedella McKinney and Greta McKenzie; sons Furnely, Paul and Odell Cox; adopted son Matthew Adderley; grandchildren Evangelist Kathrina Thompson, Rev. Yvette and Sonovia McIntosh, Rev. Cedric, Ambrose and Shawn Bullard, Rustin, Quintin, Marold and Seanica and Mandell Rolle, Shandeka, Paul Jr., Demetrie and O'Desha Cox, Kishna and Kingsley Murray Jr., Vernique, Toran, Tarik and Sabrina Russell, Nevin, Riche and Dorenda Curry, Niketo Edgecombe, Marnique, Maronicia and

Moriah Knowles, Paulette Forbes, Rolanda and Simpson McKinney Jr., Jewayna and Wayne McKenzie Jr.; great grandchildren, nieces, nephews; daughter-in-law Chantell Cox; sons-in-law James Bullard, Kingsley Murray Sr., Vernon Russell, Belthrum Curry, Pastor Mark Knowles, Rick Cox, Pastor Rudolph McKinney and Wayne McKenzie; sisters-in-law Dorcas and Curlean Cox, Miriam Roker, Annie, Florence, Estelle, Betty, Ruth, Delphine and Kathleen McIntosh; brothers-in-law Hezekiah, Wilson, Eddie, Calvin and Pastor Ronald McIntosh; god-children Tina Sawyer and Roswell McIntosh and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral for **Baby A'jah Jonice Arnetta Gardiner**, affectionately called Lil Mama, 11 months, of Cooper's Town was held in St. Simons by the Sea Anglican Church in Treasure Cay on September 20. Father Dwight Rolle officiated with Pastor Jollian McIntosh assisting. Interment was in the Fire Road Public Cemetery.

She is survived by her mother Phillippa McIntosh; father Kendrick Gardiner; step-mother Burella Gardiner; sister Ashanti McIntosh; brother Kendrick Gardiner Jr.; grandparents Genevieve, Fletcher and

Celeste McIntosh, Shelton and Iona Gardiner; great-grandparents Eric and Vivian Cooper and Marie McIntosh; adopted grandmother Kathleen Bain; aunts Prescola and Sharon Knowles, Edris Curry, Nerissa, Cinder and Jackie McIntosh; adopted aunt Cleopatra Woodside; uncles Alexander and McArthur McIntosh, Willard, Keeshawn and Hansen Gardiner; grandaunts; granduncles; great-granddaughter; aunt-in-law; uncles-in-law; and many other relatives.

The funeral for **Joseph Field**, 88, of Grand Cay was held on September 28 at the Shiloh Baptist Church on Grand Cay. Rev. John Russell officiated and interment was in the Grand Cay Public Cemetery.

He is survived by his daughters Lubertha Cooper, Alice Hanna and Portia Bowe; sons Otis, Whitfield, Elan and Myer Albury and Flavert Saunders; sisters Brenda Laing and Anna Russell; brother William Heild; sons-in-law Leonard Cooper and Vincent Bowe; daughters-in-law Mary, Inez, Mertis and Nelly Albury and Vernice Saunders; sisters-in-law Preslita Nesbitt and Amanda Russell;

brother-in-law Alfred Russell; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; nieces; nephews; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral for **Min. Lillian Emily Tinker Lightbourne**, 56, formerly of Murphy Town was held on September 23 in Nassau. Pastor Cyril Sands officiated, assisted by Pastor Tyrone Sands. Interment was in Nassau.

She is survived by sons Rev. Eric Lightbourne, Anthony, Kevin and Alpheus Lightbourne; adopted sons Keith and Devon Lightbourne; grandchildren Deonardo, Mioshi, Amahl, Bernard, Zephaniah, Demerro, Shekera, Sheteria and Ashavan; brothers Joshua and Elijah Tinker Jr.; sisters Leanczar Hanna, Eltamae Emmanuel-Laguerre and Marilyn Russell; aunts Clementina Fowler, Maria Martin, Mary Culmer, Christina Simms and Viola Johnson; uncle; daughter-in-law; sisters-in-law; brothers-in-law; nieces; nephews; and many other relatives and friends.

Civic Organizations

Kiwanis Club of Great Abaco

Tuesday, 7 p.m., weekly at Mackerel's Restaurant, Dundas Town, 367-5932

Pilot Club of Abaco

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

Pilot Club of South Abaco

Last Thursday, monthly, J.A. Pinder School, Sandy Point, 366-4001

Rotary Club of Abaco

Mondays, 6 p.m., weekly at Anglers Restaruant, Abaco Beach Resort



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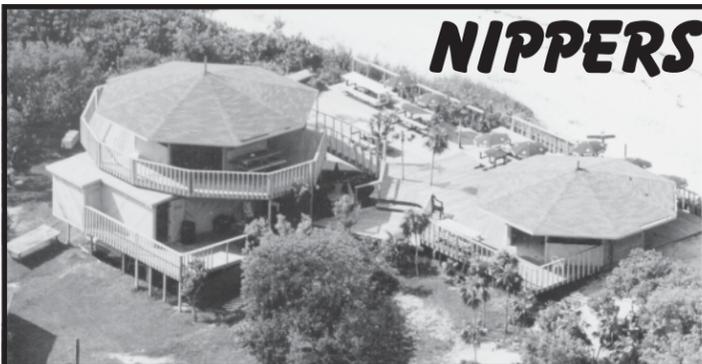
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Cancer Society News

Cancer Awareness Month

By Portia Jonsson

October is Cancer Awareness Month. In recognition of this the Abaco Cancer Society will be conducting free Pap smear examinations for women and prostate examinations for men on October 4th at the government clinics in Marsh Harbour, Cooper's and Town and Moore's Island beginning at 9 a.m. Testing is provided in the hope that anyone with a problem would have early diagnosis. Four doctors from Nassau will be in Abaco to conduct the tests and Cancer Society personnel from Nassau and Abaco will assist with the smooth running of the clinics.

Pap smears are used primarily to detect cervical cancer. Since its introduction in the early 1940's, the Pap smear is credited by saving tens of thousands of women's lives, decreasing deaths from cervical cancer. Every woman should have an annual Pap smear as part of a complete pelvic examination yearly.

A yearly prostate examination is recommended for every man over 50 or at age 45 for black men or men with a family history of prostate troubles. There are two main reasons for having regular prostate checkups. The first one is the early detection of prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is curable when caught early. But early prostate cancer causes no symptoms and can only be detected by regular checkups. The second reason is the diagnosis of other prostate problems causing bothersome symptoms. This yearly examination can help men avoid the potentially serious consequences of advanced prostate disease.

The Abaco Cancer Society urges all to avail themselves of this opportunity for free testing. Early detection still remains the most important course of action.

Calling all Professional Artists

By Jennifer Hudson

On November 22nd the Cancer Society of Abaco will be holding a fund raiser in the form of a Silent Auction at Mangoes Restaurant in Marsh Harbour. Two years ago a similar auction was held at which over \$11,000 was raised for Cancer Society funds. The Cancer Society is an extremely worthy cause which assists cancer patients with airline tickets and donates towards the Abaco Suite at the Cancer Caring Centre in Nassau where patients can reside whilst undergoing treatment.

Pieces of artwork have already been promised for auction by several artists but more are still needed. Whether your medium is paint, glass, cloth or ceramics, if you are an artist and could assist the Cancer Society by donating an original framed piece, a quilt, pottery or jewellery, your generosity would be greatly appreciated. Your contribution would receive acknowledgment and exposure in both local and national press.

Please contact Marjolein Scott at telephone 367-3744 or email her at barefootcontessas@hotmail.com.



Drugs, Men, Plane Seized at Airport



The Marsh Harbour airport was busy Saturday afternoon when an twin engine Aero Commander 500 landed with the OPBAT helicopter close behind. Approximately 50 pounds of cocaine was found and seven men were apprehended on Abaco. The episode began off the coast of Eleuthera about 2 p.m. on September 27. Authorities were notified that a plane was dropping bales to a go-fast boat. Police and the OPBAT helicopter arrived soon. Two Bahamians were arrested in the vicinity of Lower Bogue, Eleuthera, and approximately 800 pounds of cocaine was confiscated along with the go-fast boat after it ran aground. The aircraft was observed to be headed for Abaco and the OPBAT helicopter took chase. On landing in Marsh Harbour, the Aero Commander stopped away from the terminal with men scattering in different directions. Several men were found in the nearby woods and within the airport perimeter. Seven men were apprehended in the airport area along with approximately 50 pounds of cocaine. The aircraft was also confiscated. All those in custody have been transferred to Nassau with only the aircraft remaining on Abaco. The cocaine has an estimated street value of \$12 million.

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Health News

Dental Hygienist Is New

By Portia Jonsson

Agape Dental Clinic is pleased to welcome Mrs. Janet Ferguson, Dental Hygienist, as a member of its staff. Mrs. Ferguson is a graduate of Armstrong State College with a BSc. degree in Dental Hygiene and an Associate Degree in Dental Hygiene. She



Janet Ferguson

graduated from the Dental Auxillary School in Kingston, Jamaica, and has extensive experience as a dental hygiene educator and dental nurse in the school dental

program with the Ministry of Health.

Mrs. Ferguson came to Abaco for the first time in April this year on vacation and fell in love with the island. Shortly afterwards, she along with her husband, Inspector Godfrey Ferguson, and three children, Jasmine, Jade and Emerald, packed up and relocated to Abaco for the next two years. She was quick to point out that despite being a "new comer" to Abaco, she has strong family ties to the island. Her mother, grandparents, aunt and uncle were residents of Cherokee Sound.

So far, Mrs. Ferguson said that everything has been positive and her presence here has been warmly welcomed. The people of Abaco are very receptive to dental treatment. She added that she is happy to be working in an office with such high standards and practices offering state-of-the-art technology.

Agape Dental Clinic is fortunate to have found such an eminently qualified dental hygienist willing to relocate to Abaco. We are happy to have Mrs. Ferguson and her family join our community.

Three Schools Will Be Visited

By Portia Jonsson

In conjunction with the Bahamas Dental Association observance of Dental Month in October, school children at three schools in Abaco will receive free dental screening and dental health kits.

Heading this project is Mrs. Janet Ferguson of Agape Dental Clinic. Mrs. Ferguson has trained as a School Dental Nurse and spent the first 12 years of her career working in the school dental system with the Ministry of Health. She has a passion for working with children, educating them about the importance of good dental health care and introducing them to the dental experience. Two dental hygienists from Nassau, Margo Ingraham and Denise Johnson, will be assisting Mrs. Ferguson in this venture.

During these visits students will take part in a 30 minute dental health talk, perform activities and receive dental screening. This

screening will involve identifying students needing further treatment. This is not an examination, just a screening. Students will also receive Colgate dental health kits complimentary of Thompson's Trading Co. Discounts for some treatments at Agape Dental Clinic will be given as well.

In addition to teaching our children the importance of regular brushing and flossing, routine visits to the dentist and a healthy diet, it is important that we set a good example by practicing good dental hygiene. If parents do not brush and floss each day or regularly see a dentist, then it is unlikely that their children will either.

MMR Follow Up Campaign

By Portia Jonsson

The Ministry of Health/Department of Public Health conducted a MMR Follow Up Campaign for the entire month of September, encouraging parents to get this important inoculation for their children. This shot protects children and adults against mumps, measles and rubella. The campaign is a "follow up" from the government's mass MMR drive in 1997. The vaccine is being administered to every person between the ages of 4-

40 years old throughout the Bahamas.

The vaccine will be given only if the person has

- Not received the second dose of MMR vaccine
- No history of MMR vaccine given
- If not previously immunized against MMR, the first dose will be administered and the second dose four weeks later in order to provide completed immunization coverage.

Health officials must ensure that all women are not pregnant and do not intend to become pregnant within 28 days following the MMR vaccine.

Nursing Officer, Mrs. Carolyn Russell, is encouraging persons to come in to the clinic in Marsh Harbour between the hours of 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday to be vaccinated. For three Fridays in September and October Nurse Russell will be going into the Pigeon Peas and the Mud area educating individuals and administering the MMR vaccine.

In Sandy Point health officials will be conducting a door-to-door campaign whilst Cooper's Town will use letters to all church

Please see **Health**

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Police Crime Report

A Green Turtle Cay man was arrested on September 2 for having unlawful sexual intercourse. He was released pending a decision from the Attorney General.

A Black Wood resident reported that between the morning of September 1 and the next morning someone entered his house and stole \$2,000.

A Murphy Town man complained that his wife became angry during an argument on September 3 and attacked him with two kitchen knives and hit him on the head with a large stone. He suffered cuts on the left hand.

Three residents of the Mud were robbed of \$500 at gunpoint. It happened behind the Seventh Day Church on September 4 by two men. One of the men was subsequently arrested.

A Spring city woman reported being attacked and knocked down at her residence by three pit bull dogs on September 5. She received minor bruises and a neighbor was warned of prosecution.

A Bahama Palm Shore resident reported a break-in on September 5 at his residence.

A Crossing Rocks man was arrested in Marsh Harbour on September 7 for driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

A Murphy Town woman was arrested on September 7 for causing harm. She was released on bail pending a court appearance.

A Pigeon Pea resident was arrested on September 8 related to an armed robbery on September 4. He was arraigned in court and will have his case heard on September 22.

A Cherokee woman reported on September 8 that a Haitian entered her house and asked for sexual favours. He escaped when attacked by her dog.

A Dundas Town man under Warrant of Arrest was apprehended on September 9 after resisting violently and threatening to kill the officers.

A primary student complained that while in the girl's bathroom at school on September 10, another student entered her stall and engaged in inappropriate actions to the complainant. The offending student admitted to the offense and has been referred to Social Services.

A Murphy Town woman reported on September 10 that someone broke into her apartment and stole \$2000, a cell phone and gold and silver church accessories.

A Moore's Island resident reported that on September 10 an \$1,820 Garmin GPS satellite receiver was stolen. A relative is suspected.

The AID business in Marsh Harbour reported a smashed display window and break-in on September 11.

A Dundas Town woman was arrested for stealing \$4,325 by using someone else's ATM bank card. She was released on bail for a later court appearance.

A Marsh Harbour resident of the Mud was arrested in Crown Haven on September 11 for an earlier armed robbery complaint. He was arraigned in court and remanded to prison pending trial.

A resident of Pigeon Pea in Marsh Harbour reported that her car was moved at her residence without her permission on September 11.

A Dundas Town man was gun-butted and injured during an argument after a concert held at the Treasure Cay ferry landing September 13. Subsequently, an individual was arrested.

A routine night police patrol discovered a front window smashed at Bristol Cellars store in Marsh Harbour on September 13. A Marsh Harbour resident was subsequently arrested and charged with the offense.

A Marsh Harbour resident reported his ten-year-old granddaughter was attacked by a neighbour's dog on September 12 and suffered injuries to her face and head. She was flown to Good Samaritan Hospital in West Palm Beach for treatment.

Rebecca's Restaurant and Bar in Murphy Town was broken into during the night of September 15. Stolen were twelve assorted beers valued at \$36, five half pints of Bacardi valued at \$25 and three half pints of gin val-

ued at \$8.

A resident of the Mud reported on September 15 that someone lit a five-gallon container of flammable liquid next to his house during the night which damaged his house.

The caretaker for a residence at Leisure Lee reported that between September 13 and 15 someone broke into the house and stole assorted tools.

A Dundas Town man was hit with rocks and threatened with a cutlass by a Nassau man on September 15.

A Fox Town man left his car parked outside Wood Cay due to mechanical problems early on the morning of September 13. On returning the next morning he discovered it destroyed by fire. Arson is suspected.

A tenth grade student was suspected of being sexually molested by her father. Medical exams and interviews on September 16 were inconclusive and the Department of Social Services has been informed.

Bernard Forbes of Dundas Town was arrested for shop breaking and stealing on September 17. On arraignment he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years imprisonment.

A Marsh Harbour resident reported that someone broke into his house between September 12 and 18 and stole jewelry valued at

\$600.

A resident of the Mud was arrested September 18 for arson, then released pending further investigations.

While at the ball park adjacent to the Mud in Marsh Harbour on September 18, a young man pulled the string on the pants of a Nassau woman wanting to see what was inside.

Two residents of the Mud, a man and a woman, were arrested on September 19 for house breaking.

A Moore's Island man was shot in the upper thigh while attacking a police officer with a broken bottle. This occurred September 19 during an arrest for housebreaking. The suspect was treated in the Moore's Island Clinic and later in the Government Clinic in Marsh Harbour. He pleaded not guilty in a court appearance.

A Moore's Island woman's house was broken into on September 20 and five GPS receivers valued at \$1,800 were stolen. A suspect was subsequently arrested.

A Marsh Harbour resident was arrested and remanded until September 29 for violation of a court order on September 20.

The business of Riviere and Associates in Marsh Harbour was broken into between September 20 and 21 although nothing appeared to be stolen.



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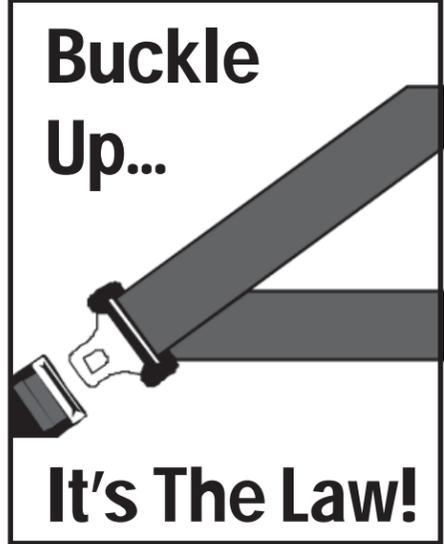
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Bahamas Darts Team Travels to France for World Cup XIV

By Malcolm Spicer, President BDF

On September 17 the Bahamas National Darts Squad set off for Europe for two weeks to participate in the British Open in Bridlington, England, and World Cup XIV in Epinal, France. The squad is made up of players from the Nassau Darts Association, the Grand Bahama Darts Association and the Abaco Darts Association. The four men that make up the team are Steve Harris, Barry Payne and Tony Moree and Wayne Copeland from Grand Bahama. Trudy Johnson from Nassau and Julie Nichols from Grand Bahama once again make up the women's team. Manager of the team, Byron Johnson from Grand Bahama, Captain Mike Russell from Nassau and Malcolm Spicer, BDF President, from Abaco make up the rest of the squad.

The Bahamas team won the Caribbean Cup held in Cayman in 2002, finishing 17th in at the World Cup competition held in Malaysia in 2001. With 38 countries participating, this is always a global affair and the Bahamas over the years has shown itself to be formidable opponents.

The men's World Cup and women's World Cup are actually separate events and this year for the second time there will be a Youth World Cup. With the advent of junior leagues appearing all over the world, the Bahamas has taken the forward step of appointing a Youth Officer for the Bahamas Darts Federation, Peter Duncombe from Grand Bahama. Peter will be traveling with the squad to gain experience with the Youth Cup and to gather ideas from around the world for the formation of junior leagues here in the Bahamas.

Batelco Tower Comes Down

By Jennifer Hudson

A landmark on the hill by the castle in Marsh Harbour since the 1960's is there no more. On September 13th the disused 225-foot high Batelco transmitting tower was demolished by Engineering and Wireless, a company from Atlanta, Georgia. This company has been in the Bahamas for the past three years on contract with Batelco and during that time has built thirty new towers throughout the islands. This year Engineering and Wireless and Batelco are moving the equipment off all the old towers and installing it onto new ones; the Atlanta company, then uses its boom truck to take down the old towers. Once the towers are down they are cut into sections and carted away as scrap metal.

During the month of September, Engineering and Wireless worked on Abaco and has already dismantled the towers at Cooper's

Town, Green Turtle Cay and the central Marsh Harbour mast in addition to the one at the castle. By the end of the month they will have completed their work in transferring all the equipment onto a new tower at Treasure Cay and will then take down the old one. The new 260-foot towers are more up to date, heavier and more hurricane proof than the old ones.

The castle site was the first inter-island communications base with a Tropo forward scatter antenna pointed towards the Soldier Road Batelco Station in Nassau from which

all communications were made from New Providence to Abaco. The old telephone exchange was also located at this site.

With the possibility of an impending visit from Hurricane Isobel, the old tower could have posed a threat to homes as it was in a residential area. So the company made sure they had it down before the storm approached too closely. Residents in the area were warned of the time the tower would come down as the resounding crash could have been very frightening to anyone who was unaware of what was taking place.



A team from Engineering and Wireless, an Atlanta firm, was contracted to install new Batelco towers and remove the old towers. One dangerous tower was located behind the castle in Marsh Harbour. Shown above are Mr. David McPherson in the foreground with a helper astride the tower they have just taken down.

Health

From Page 26

members encouraging them to be immunized.

Measles, mumps and rubella are serious diseases. Measles can lead to ear infections, pneumonia, seizures (jerking and staring), brain damage and death. Mumps can lead to deafness, meningitis (infection of the brain and spinal cord covering), painful swelling of the testicles or ovaries and sometimes even death.

The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine can prevent these diseases. Make sure that you and your children have these inoculations.

Advertise in The Abaconian

Joni E. Dam

Joni graduated from Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida, May 2, 1999, with a Bachelor of Science Degree, Cum Laude.

Joni graduated from University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida December 14, 2002, with a Master of Accountancy and a 3.4 G.P.A.

She is now a Certified Public Accountant as of May 8, 2003, Passing all four parts in first sitting.

Joni now works for PharMerica Inc. as their Senior Tax Accountant.



CONGRATULATIONS!

FROM MOM & DAD

Jana E. Albury

Jana graduated from Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida May 2, 1999, with a Bachelor of Science Degree, Magna Cum Laude.

Jana graduated from University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida December 14, 2002, with a Master of Accountancy and a 3.5 G.P.A.

She is now a Certified Public Accountant as of May 8, 2003, Passing all four parts in first sitting.

Jana now works for Price Waterhouse Coopers as a Senior Associate.



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--266

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 hue 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



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 passenger above two	
Between Marsh Harbour Airport and:	
Ferry Dock or Murphy Town to Ammons Dr	\$12 + \$3
Bristol Cellers thru A. Beach Hotel or Gov't dock thru Dundas Town	\$10 + \$3
Dove Plaza, Stop Light or Sawyer's Market	\$10 + \$2
Gov't Clinic thru Western Auto	\$ 6 + \$2
Gov. freight dock through Dundas Town	\$10 + \$3
Murphy Town to Shell Sta	\$14 + \$4
Pelican Shores to Frankie Russel house	\$14 + \$4
Eastern Shores to Peas & Rice house	\$14 + \$4
Beyond Russell house or Peas & Rice house	\$16 + \$5
Great Cistern	\$20 + \$5
Spring City	\$15 + \$5
Snake Cay	\$35 + \$10
Treasure Cay	\$60 + \$10
Casuarina Point	\$60 + \$10
Treasure Cay Airport or Bah Palm Shores	\$70 + \$10
Little Harbour or Cherokee	\$80 + \$10
Crossing Rocks	\$100 + \$10
Sandy Point	\$135 + \$10
Between Marsh Harbour Ferry and:	
Ab Beach Hotel thru Wally's & Eastern Shore	\$ 2 each
Jib Room	\$ 3 each
Golden Harvest	\$5 + \$3
Stop Light, Dove Plaza, Gov't dock	\$ 6 + \$3
Government Freight Dock	\$ 7 + \$3
Gov.Clinic, W. Auto or Nat. Insurance	\$ 9 + \$3
Mother Merle restaurant	\$10 + \$3
Waiting time \$20 per hour, \$10 per half hour	
Children under three - free • Uncaged pets - as people	
Luggage \$.50 each over four, Surf boards \$3.00 ea.	
Between Northern Abaco Airport and:	
Treasure Cay, Bahamas Star, or 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	MHH 367-2498, TC 365-8945
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 Adventures • 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 5:45	
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 5:45 (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 Man-O-War/Hope Town - Wed 9:30 am, return 4:30 pm \$25 OW \$35 RT	
Treasure Cay to Guana Cay - Sun 12 Noon, return 3 \$20 OW \$25 RT	
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 F 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 Adventures	367-2963
Hope Town	
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



Everyone reads The Abaconian.

Bonefish Guides	
Sandy Point	
Patrick Roberts	366-4286
Nicholas Roberts	
Derrick Gaitor	
Ferdinand Burrows	366-4133
Vernal Burrows	
Kendall White	
Anthony Bain	366-4107
Floyd Burrows	366-4175
Links Adderly	366-4335
Valentino Lightbourne	
Ricky Burrows	366-4233
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 Survanice	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
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-5pm)	367-2615
Mangoes	Closed Sep 3 - Nov
Gino's	\$ 367-2002
Pop's Place	\$... + 367-3796
Sapodilly's	\$\$\$ 367-3498
Sea Shells	Closed Until Jan 2004
Snack Shack	\$... + 367-4005
Snappas	\$ 367-2278
Subway	367-2798
Wallys	Closed Sep 6 - Nov 3
Dundas Town	
Ambassador Inn	\$ 367-2022
Mackerals	367-5932
Hope Town	
Abaco Inn	Closed Aug 31 - Oct 15
Boat House	\$\$ 366-0065
Cap'n Jacks	\$ 366-0247
Carlton's Island Grill	\$\$ 366-0253
Harbour's Edge	Closed Aug 30 - Nov 1
H T Harbour Lodge	\$\$\$ 366-0095
Munchies	Closed Sep 1 - Nov
Rudy's Place	\$\$\$... ‡ 366-0062
Man-O-War	
Pavilion	Closed Aug 30 - Nov 1
Hibiscus	365-6380
Guana Cay	
Coco Paradise	365-5197
Guana Seaside	Closed Sep 13 - Oct 24
Nippers	\$\$\$ 365-5143
Mermaid Cafe	\$\$\$ 365-5137
Orchid Bay	365-6175
Treasure Cay	
Florence's Cafe	\$
Coconuts	
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	

PLP Leaders Visit North Abaco

By Jennifer Hudson

Mr. Reynard Rigby, PLP Party Chairman; Mrs. Barbara Pierre, Secretary General; and Ms. Katanza Adderley were on Abaco for three days in September visiting constituencies in Green Turtle Cay, Little Abaco and North Abaco. Also in attendance from Nassau were Dr. Madlene Sawyer, Chairman of the Women's Branch of the PLP and members Cecile Dean Heastie and Vikki Grant. On September 5th they attended the meeting of the Dundas and Murphy Town Branch of the PLP held at the Abaco Central Primary School.

Mr. Rigby said that the group came to get a sense of where the PLP is on Abaco and stated how pleased the delegates had been

with the reception they received. He reported a spirited meeting on Green Turtle Cay where people pledged their commitment to continuing the work of the party. They had a very successful walkabout in Cooper's Town where they talked with young people who will be the next voters. The chairman expressed the need to build up the branches and motivate supporters and felt that "they are on the way to building very good branches throughout the entire island of Abaco."

Ms. Seymour, a teacher at the Central Abaco Primary School, pleaded for a visit from the Minister of Education as the school is in dire need of proper plumbing and playgrounds. Mr. Everette Archer suggested that a maintenance person be employed to over-

see any plumbing and property repairs on a continual basis.

Many people felt very strongly that something must be done regarding a sports programme and sporting facilities which are totally lacking in Abaco and that a Youth Officer for sports must be put in place.

The airport was another concern and the delegates were urged to take time to ascertain the conditions and note the severe lack of space and facilities for accommodating the large number of visitors who now travel in and out of Abaco. Many visitors are now saying that they will not return because of the

discomfort of the airport here. Mr. Jimmy Williams informed people of the fund raiser planned for October 11th in the Murphy Town Park.

Dr. Madlene Sawyer, Chairman of the Women's Branch of the PLP, addressed the women on the Women's Branch in Nassau. She stated that women have a special situation in our country as 50 percent to 70 percent of households in the Bahamas are run by single parents — women, and she encouraged the women present to form an Abaco Women's Branch.



Dr. Madlene Sawyer, the chairman of the PLP Women's Branch, visited Abaco recently along with Cecile Dean Heastie and Vicky Grant, members of the Nassau Branch. The ladies were pleased that local women are interested in forming a Women's Branch on Abaco. Within a couple of months a minister will visit Abaco to install the Abaco PLP Women's Branch. Shown above are, left to right, Ms. Cecile Dean Heastie, Dr. Madlene Sawyer and Ms. Vikki Grant.



The National Chairman of the Progressive Liberal Party Raynard Rigby and Secretary General Barbara Pierre were both in Abaco recently on a walkabout. They had a meeting in Green Turtle Cay, a luncheon in Wood Key and a meeting in central Abaco. They talked with local people to discuss their problems. They will report these to Nassau to seek solutions. The group shown above are, left to right, Mr. Einar Cornish, Chairman of the Cooper's Town Branch; Mrs. Barbara Pierre, Secretary General of the PLP; Sen. Edison Key; Mr. Raynard Rigby, Chairman of the PLP; and Mr. Jimmy Williams, Chairman of the Dundas Town and Murphy Town branch.

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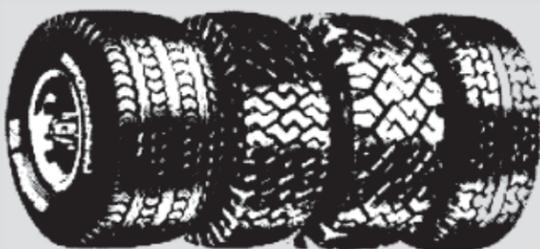
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Storm Insurance Details Explained

By Jennifer Hudson

Here in the Bahamas, along with our close neighbours in the Caribbean and coastal United States, we are now in the height of the hurricane season. Many people, especially those with residences in close proximity to the sea, have their homes insured against hurricane damage and those wishing to take out cover for their properties may still do so before any warnings or watches are posted for a hurricane in any part of the Bahamas. No insurance companies are permitted to underwrite catastrophe cover from the time of the first hurricane warning until all watches have been lifted.

There are four insurance companies on Abaco which underwrite catastrophe coverage: Insurance Management Bahamas Ltd., J.S. Johnson and Company, Abaco Insurance Agency Ltd., and Van Stratton Insurance Agency.

All insurance companies use the same criteria for assessing properties: type of construction (wood or concrete), elevation and distance from the sea. Premiums on waterfront properties are much higher than for properties inland as the closer to the sea the greater the risk from storm surges. All com-

panies have the right to decide whether they are willing to take on the risk. Properties on the cays carry a higher premium still due to their increased vulnerability. The majority of insurance companies charge a flat rate whether or not the owner possesses shutters for the property but Abaco Insurance did say that some of their carriers give a discount for shutters.

Anyone who pays insurance premiums knows that after Hurricane Floyd and 9/11, insurance rates rose considerably and have continued to rise each year since. However, the good news is that in 2003 rates began to decrease. All companies report that their rates are slightly lower this year and should continue to decline as long as there are no further catastrophes. Any major event anywhere in the world affects insurance rates

because the same big underwriters deal with insurance companies worldwide; therefore, any detrimental world events and large lawsuits in the U.S. affect us all.

When rates increased, according to all companies, very few people cancelled their policies; they just rearranged their cover slightly to make the premiums more affordable.

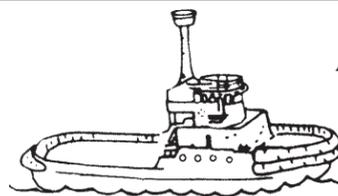
Robert Pinder of Insurance Management feels that since Hurricane Floyd people are much more knowledgeable about insurance and that his clients are more aware of what their policies mean. People can see the advantages of having their places adequately insured. "Insurance companies responded very well and very quickly in the time of need after Hurricane Floyd," he said, "enabling people to rebuild in record time and even

improve and beautify their properties."

Many people who feel that they are in a fairly well protected area opt not to carry catastrophe insurance but some companies report that they saw a small increase in the number of people requesting cover after Hurricane Floyd. In recent years since there has been an increase in the number of tornadoes on Abaco even homes inland are at risk. Companies advise policy holders to make sure that they are adequately insured.

Whilst all the insurance companies were unanimous in stating that their rates have decreased in 2003 and that there are good indications that this trend will continue, this may be offset somewhat by a three percent tax which the Bahamas government is considering adding to ALL types of insurance coverage.

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On Green Turtle Cay:

The beach: • 1.46 acres on Atlantic Ocean. 135' on beach. \$480,000

• **Two one-third acre lots** on Bight O Bay beach. 90' frontage. Close to town and public dock.

• **Fourteen lots** across from Bight O Bay Beach. Water front on Inner White Sound. 1/2 acre and up. Starting at \$78,650

• **Quiet waterfront:** 1.35 acres on Black Sound, with dock, close to beach. \$650,000

• **A jewel of a home** with pool set high on a bluff overlooking Sea of Abaco. One acre of property stunningly landscaped with wooden walkways and decks. Six buildings set out in "pod" arrangement. 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 bath. Wicker and rattan furniture throughout including pieces by Tommy Bahama. \$2.45 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. \$72,000 gross

• **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 TV. Sleeps ten. Good rental history. Screened in porch. Private secluded 1/2 acre of property. \$680,000

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• **Green Turtle Estates:** 1/2 acre only 125 feet from ocean beach. Firm \$183,000

• **Green Turtle** 1/2 acre inland lot within five minutes of the beach. \$53,000 gross

• **Windsong Villa** SOLD \$275,000

• **Bluff Harbour:** Furnished private home. Three bedrooms, three baths plus caretaker cottage. 2000' water front. Secluded. One acre. Boat ramp and dock site. Needs repair.

• **North End:** NEW! Stunning furnished hill-top, 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with fireplace, perched 35 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. Vaulted ceilings. 125' on ocean. Panoramic views of ocean through French doors, 3000 sq. ft. under roof plus 1,000 sq. ft. of screened-in porch. W/D, A/C in master bedroom plus ceiling fans throughout. One acre. \$1.42 million gross

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Local Government at Work



Central Abaco District Council 18 Sept 03

An interim meeting was called by Chief Councillor Cay Mills on September 18 to consider several urgent matters.

The dump site was bulldozed and cleaned by Paul Simms for a cost of \$4,200. This was necessary so the new contractor could start fresh and could be held accountable. This had been agreed to in general terms at the previous Council meeting and the invoice for \$4,200 was accepted.

A bill from Gregory Munroe for \$410 was approved. This was for work done to air conditioning units at Central Abaco Primary School in preparation for the new school year.

Councillors agreed to pay Herbert Strachan \$2,005 for repairing air conditioners and replacing seven ceiling fans at Abaco High School.

A plan was approved whereby janitresses at Central Abaco Primary School will rotate their hours so two are on duty during school hours and the others will report in the after-

noon just before the students are dismissed. This will allow for more efficient work while the classrooms are empty.

Haziel Reckley was hired at \$175 per week as a handyman/gardener to work between Abaco Central High School and Central Abaco Primary School.

Central Abaco District Council 25 Sept 03

Administrator Williams reminded Councillors that the meeting on September 18 was not an official meeting as he was not present. He was further concerned that jobs had been assigned and a person hired without being posted publically for competitive bidding and said that this practice must not continue.

Councillor's questions related to personnel assignments, supervision and pay were answered by the Administrator who is responsible for all personnel although Council should make recommendations.

After discussion, the business of September 18 was ratified and entered into the minutes.

Councillors were presented with a second request for a \$4,000 contribution by the All Abaco Regatta Committee. This had been

denied last month but the Regatta Committee Chairman made another plea for the funds. Chairman Mills felt the money would be better spent on the schools but the grant was allowed.

A \$200 per month raise was requested for the office staff by Councillor Cubel Davis Jr. This was approved after much discussion. Administrator Williams reminded Councillors that although this was within their authority, there is presently a freeze on all government employee's salaries and wages. When the freeze is lifted, the raise would be effective as approved on October 1 st.

One other factor is a general review being presently conducted by government on all local government salaries and wages to ensure that a uniform pay scale is in effect. Apparently there is a wide variance in pay for similar jobs in the various islands which government wishes to standardize.

Chief Councillor Mills asked for assistance with his cellular phone bill which has jumped from an average of \$200 a month to \$600 per month. He had not anticipated this expense when accepting the Chief Councillor's position. This was agreed to.

Mr. Mills submitted a bill for \$3800 he incurred in hiring a team of four students to clean the brush behind the Central Abaco Primary school just before school opened. In justifying the amount, he presented bids of \$5,000 and \$6,000 by two other persons for the work which they estimated would take two weeks to complete.

Councillors felt the amount was high for the 109 hours shown on the invoice and individual invoices were requested from each participant. The students had worked throughout several days and into the evenings working under floodlights to get the job done. Mr. Mills took them food to expedite the work.

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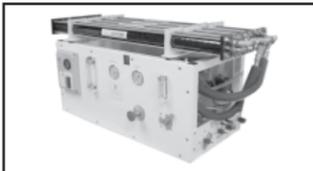
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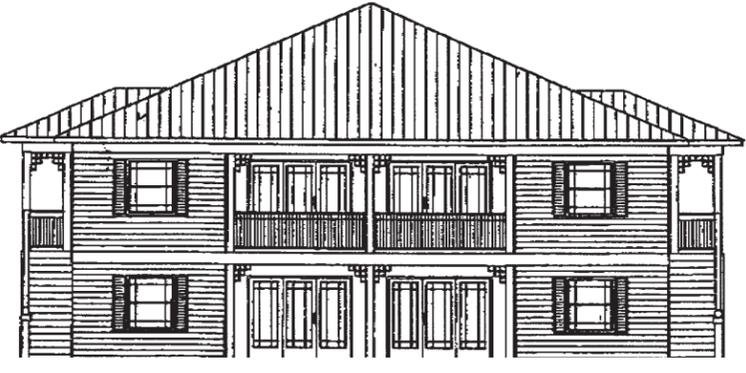
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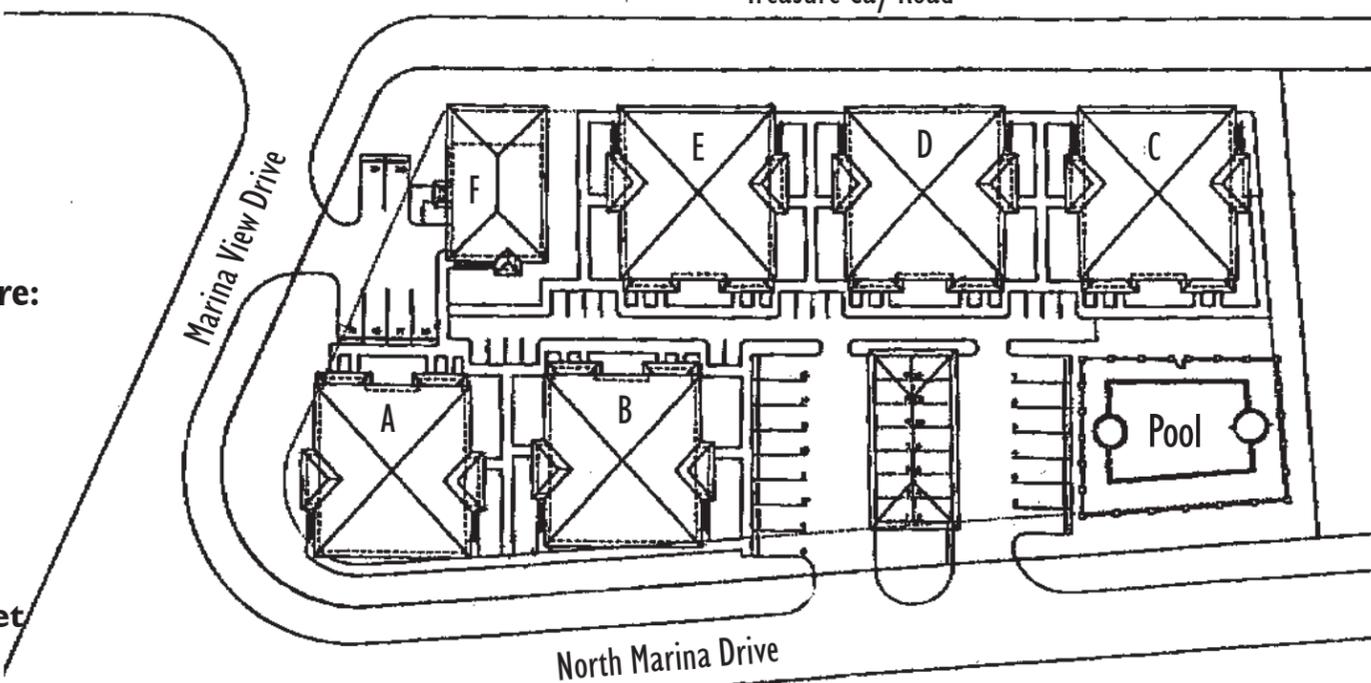
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Marsh H Airport Found with Serious Flaws

By Jennifer Hudson

In mid-September a very serious and potentially dangerous situation was discovered at the Marsh Harbour International Airport. Inspectors from the United States Federal Aviation Authority, FAA, arrived in Marsh Harbour on one of their routine visits and found the airport fire truck to be completely non-functional. Besides a dead battery, the truck had mechanical problems and a leak in the tank so it could hold only a third of its capacity of water. One of the hoses was not functioning. There were many other infractions concerning personnel not properly identified and security gates not kept locked which compromised the integrity of the airport.

Two Abaconians are employed by the Civil Aviation Department in Nassau as full time operators of the fire truck. One is left to wonder how the truck was allowed to get into such a deplorable condition. It is reported that the employees concerned wrote a letter to the Civil Aviation Department in Nassau which the Department say they never received.

In view of the fact that if there were a crash or other such emergency at the airport there would be no firefighting equipment available, two of the commercial airlines

coming into Marsh Harbour airport asked the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department to be at the airport to meet their incoming flights from the United States.

Fortunately, our local Fire Department was able to do this until the airport truck could be repaired, thus averting a situation which would have meant a severe blow to the tourism industry of Abaco. The volunteer firemen did much of the work to get the truck operational. The tank was patched by local welders. In a few days a mechanic and parts for the fire truck arrived from Nassau and the truck was back in service. Word has subsequently been received that a new truck is on order for this airport.

A handheld VHF radio allowing communication between the ground firemen and pilots was missing. This has since been remedied.

According to Mr. Bobby Jones, Manager for both the Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay airports, in peak season the Marsh Harbour airport can see between 9000 and 10,000 passenger arrivals per month which averages 300 per day. For a comparable period the Treasure Cay airport handles between 3000 and 4500 passenger arrivals per month.



Firemen from the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department manned a truck on standby at the Marsh Harbour airport while the truck normally in service was being repaired. This allowed commercial flights to continue coming into this airport after an inspection by the FAA found the truck inoperable and found many other infractions of security regulations.

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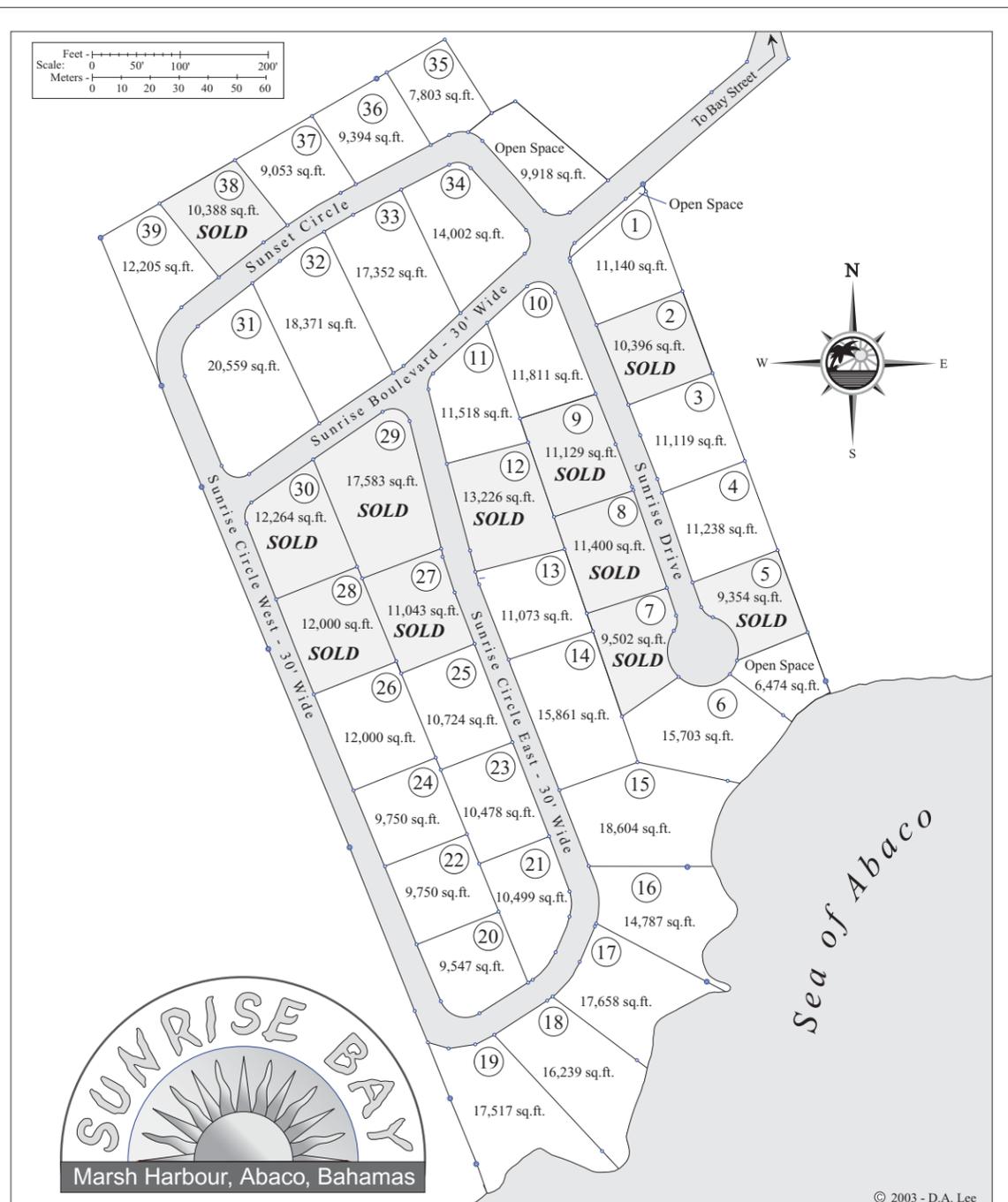
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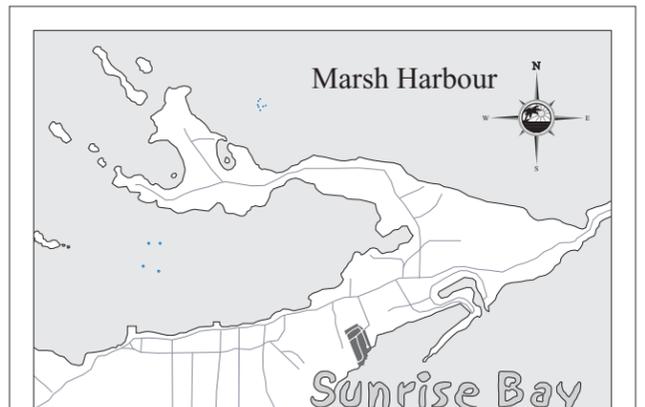
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Marine Protected Areas Meetings Held

By Portia Jonsson

The Department of Fisheries, working in close consultation with the Bahamas Reef Environmental Educational Foundation (BREEF), The Bahamas National Trust (BNT), local government representatives and a number of scientists, has proposed the establishment of a nationwide network of Marine Protected Areas for The Bahamas.

To bring concerned people together and share information about Abaco's proposed Marine Protected Areas (MPA's), Friends of the Environment held a preliminary meeting in Marsh Harbour on September 19th. The meeting was well attended by Friends members, fishermen, dive and boat rental operators, nature lovers and concerned residents. Also in attendance were Fisheries Officers for North Abaco and Central Abaco, Mr. Carroll Laing and Mr. Wayne Cornish.

The Department of Fisheries later sponsored a series of meetings in several communities to discuss more precisely the formation of marine preserves on Abaco. They invited fishermen, local leaders and interested people to gain insights as to where the local population would support these areas. About 40 people listened to a presentation by

Ms. Tamika Rahming, with the Department of Fisheries, outlining the reasons why marine preserves are necessary and their effectiveness. Mr. Jeremy Saunders accompanied Ms. Rahming for meetings and discussions.

The concept of marine preserves is to permanently set aside an area encompassing a variety of environments which support fish but where fishing is not allowed. This idea protects the entire ecosystem, allowing nature to respond without interference. As the populations grow, they will migrate and replenish those areas outside the preserves. In the areas where preserves have been established for several years, the recovery of depleted stock has been dramatic. The animals grow larger and have more offspring. Valuable species respond and become stronger. There is spillover as the population grows within the preserve, which benefits the surrounding waters. Some of the fish tagged have shown up over 200 miles away.

Throughout the world, properly designed and managed MPA's are increasingly regarded by scientists, conservationists and resource managers as perhaps THE best available tool to provide long-term protection to fisheries and other marine resources.

Since the sea is so vital to our existence we need to protect it before the impact of humans becomes so great that the damage is irreversible. Fishing preserves are being depleted worldwide with devastating consequences. It is not too late to preserve the Bahamian marine resources.

BREEF, an environmental organization based in Nassau, made recommendations to government in 1998 to set aside these preserves. After reviewing the situation, it was seen that there was a need for these and a study group drew up criteria. Thirteen sites were suggested of which two are on Abaco.

The suggestions for Abaco include one

preserve in the area of Munjack Cay and Green Turtle Cay and a second one from Pelican Cays National Park south to Little Harbour. Ideally 20 percent of the shelf-edge into deeper water needs protection. Each preserve should include sea grass, reef and mangrove areas and would have deep and shallow water. Marine Reserves must be numerous enough and sufficiently dispersed to provide adequate replication from damage from catastrophes such as hurricanes.

Five Family Islands are being recommended for the first preserves. These are

Please see **Reserves**

Page 35



Fisheries officers sponsored meetings throughout Abaco to discuss the proposed Marine Reserve Areas. They are, left to right, Mr. Jeremy Saunders, Ms. Tamika Rahming and Mr. Leon Pinder, local fisheries officer.

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Marine Protected Areas Are Suggested

Reserves

From Page 34

Abaco, Bimini, South Bimini, South Eleuthera and the Berry Islands. Bimini is the final stages and is drawing up management plans. Bimini's plan will allow bonefishermen to continue fishing as this is a catch and release type fishing.

The Bahamas already has some experience with a protected area within the Exuma Land and Sea Park. This park allowed limited fishing within the boundaries of the park until 1986. It was then determined that a complete ban on fishing was necessary. Today the Exuma Park provides testimony of the wisdom of that decision. Scientific research and casual observations demonstrate that the fish are larger and more abundant within the park when compared to areas outside. The spillover effect is apparent in adjacent areas. Also, there are more different kinds of fish inside, as compared to areas outside the park.

This concept protects against over fishing, it protects the genetic quality and it allows a more rapid recovery after a natural disaster. It takes about five years for results

to become obvious. One of the endangered species is the Nassau grouper which has been wiped out in most of the Caribbean and it could happen in The Bahamas.

Ms. Rahming emphasized that the government will set up preserves only where the people of that area agree to them. Local people will be the ones policing the areas and it is important that there be a consensus as to boundaries. The communities and Fisheries personnel will be working together to make the preserves successful. The next stage will collecting data from the chosen areas.

The banning of fishing for Nassau grouper during their spawning season when they come together in deep water aggregations was discussed. It is hoped that government will ban fishing for Nassau grouper during these times which are early each year. But that decision has not been made as yet. One well known aggregation area is outside Hope Town.

The group made several suggestion. One dive operator recommended Fisheries make a third preserve at the north end of Guana Cay. The reef in that area does not have nearly as much fish life as the Fowl Cay area which many people consider to be a protected area. He also suggested that dive operators could

be made wardens as they are out every day on the reefs and see what is going on. Some felt that the preserve north of Little Harbour would be too restrictive for Cherokee fishermen.

The Department of Fisheries needs local help and support if this system is to succeed. The long-term success of the program will mostly depend on strong community support at the local level throughout the islands. Local fishermen need to support the effort as they will be the prime benefactors of the expected fisheries "overflow" resulting from greater fisheries production within the Marine Reserves.

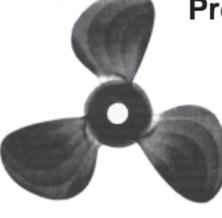
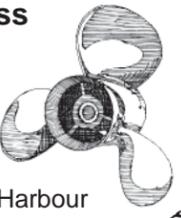
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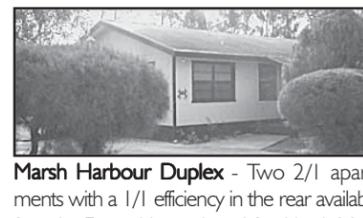
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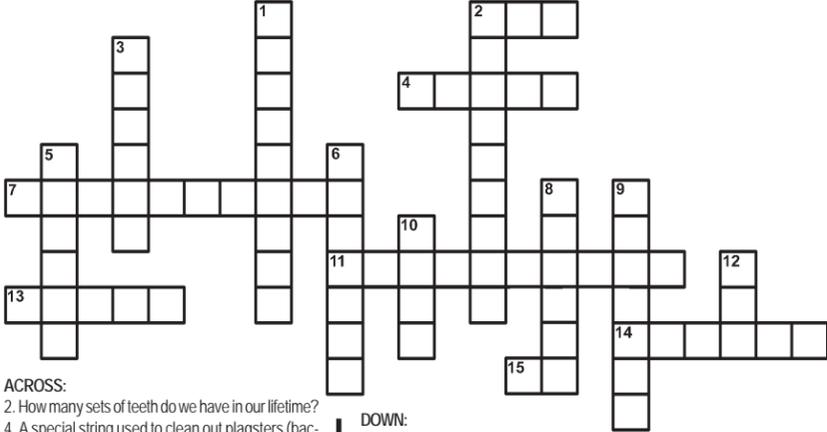
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 4. A special string used to clean out plaqsters (bacteria) from between teeth.
 7. The stuff you put on your toothbrush to help clean your teeth and gums.
 11. A small brush used inside your mouth to clean your teeth and gums.
 13. The part of your tooth that is visible above the gum.
 14. The hard white outside covering of your tooth.
 15. A Latin word for mouth.

DOWN:
 1. The work performed by dentist.
 2. When bacteria has rotted away a tooth deep inside the pulp, you will experience this.
 3. A rotten hole in your tooth caused by the plaqsters acid.
 5. Your large back teeth that are used for grinding your food.
 6. The softer tooth structure that is under the enamel of your tooth.
 8. Found inside your tooth, they give the sense of "feeling" when you chew, drink or eat.
 9. The result from an infection inside your tooth or gum caused by bacteria.
 10. This is found at the inside, base of your teeth.
 12. The flesh in your mouth that covers your upper and lower jaws and surrounds your teeth.

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Black Wood Elegant, fully furnished two bedroom apt. At entrance to Black Wood. Rent nightly or monthly. Call Gwendolyn Baillou at 365-0614 or 554-8424

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

Hope Town Specialist A collection of upscale homes with pools, private docks, etc., ideal for special occasions, reunions, honeymoons. Hope Town Hideaways 242-366-0224 or hopetown.com

Marsh Harbour 2b / 2b \$900/month. Furnished, A/C, located in Govt. Sub. Contact Tara Sands @ 367-3006 (w) or 365-6587 (h)

Marsh Harbour, Sweeting Tract, 2 bed/1 bath apt. Call Amos 367-2042

RENTAL HOUSES AND APARTMENTS

Marsh Harbour hill top apartments, 2 bed/1 bath, central A/C, fully furnished. Call 367-2951 or 366-0347 after 5

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Marsh Harbour, Sweetings Tract, small house, 2 bed 1 bath with fridge and stove. \$575 1st and last plus security. If interested call Jane in Nassau at 394-7988

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RENTAL HOUSES AND APARTMENTS

Treasure Cay 2 bed/2 bath villa on Solomon Mines parking lot. Reasonable rent. Call 365-4105

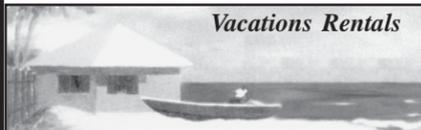
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2100 sq. ft. Warehouse next to the Abaco Water Bottling plant. Not being divided. This fenced-in area has electric and phone. Great site for light manufacturing, assembling, warehouse, whatever. 2100 square feet for just \$1400 per month. Call Michael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

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www.go-abacos.com/ipm



Upstairs office downtown Marsh Harbour in colonial building next to Solomon's. \$600 per month includes utilities. Ph 367-4887

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



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Rebecca Sweeting

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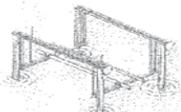
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These lifts are made of top grade aluminum and stainless steel to maintain their finish and strength in our saltwater environment.



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Bahama Palm Shores Section 4 Block 27, Lots 1 and 2 for sale. Call 366-2092 or 477-5291

Cherokee, Yellowwood, 1280 sq. ft. house, 2 bed/2 bath, central A/C, 12 KW generator. \$180,000 Nett. Also 2 lots 100'x150' 5 min from Winding Bay. Ph. 366-2092 or 477-5291

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Waterfront lots with private boat slips in a secure gated community starting at \$195,000
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Ocean Beach Lots (North End), 1+ acres with good elevation from \$245,000

Coco Bay Lots, 81 feet on beach from \$170,000

Bitia Bay Ocean Lot 8.26 acres from ocean to Inner White Sound, good elevation and protection from sea, spectacular views. \$1.6 M.

On the internet at www.bahamasinvest.com or call 365-4271

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

Great Cistern 3 story furnished 3 b / 3 1/2 b central A/C, cable, phone, storage and generator houses, all around decks overlooking water. Phone 367-5867

Little Harbour - beautiful ocean view, 2 story, 2 or 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, living & dining room, large game room with wet bar, ceramic tile and carpet, 3 large decks including 1 screened, central air, UV water purification system, electricity to home, plus 12.5 KW back-up generator. \$499,900. Call 242-366-3515 or 477-5198

PROPERTY & HOUSES FOR SALE



Victor R. Patterson
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Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas
Tel: 242-367-2749

E-mail: seagraperealty@hotmail.com

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

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

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

Lubbers Quarters: Hillside acre with private dock slip and utilities. \$120,000

LITTLE HARBOUR
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276+ ACRES BY OWNER
ADJOINING CHEROKEE AND NEW
WINDING BAY DEVELOPMENT
Fax 239-261-1213 or Write to
P.O. Box 4805, Miami Beach, FL 33141

Lubbers' Quarter boat slip for sale. Slip #6 in AOC marina. \$30,000. Call 366-3121

Marsh Harbour, lot in Sweeting tract, 100' x 100', good elevation, quieted land papers. Asking \$26,000. 367-3020 or 367-4453

Marsh Harbour 3 bed/2bath furnished home. Large yard w/fruit trees. \$250,000. Call 367-5503 or 357-6561

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For condition of sale and any other information contact M. Gardiner or M.T. Rolle at 367-2141.

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Multi family
Lot #65 Bl #167

Dundas Town

Vacant Land
10,810 sq. ft.
Lot # 21

Murphy Town

Incomplete duplex one unit completed comprising 2 bed, 1 bath 6,900 sq. ft.
Lot #60

Murphy Town

Commercial building 6,500 sq. ft.
Lot #70

Murphy Town

3 bed, 2 bath Newly repaired 10,000 sq. ft.
Lot #67

Dundas Town

L-shape triples 3 - 2 bed, 1 bath units 9,000 sq. ft.
Area for small shop
Lot #18B

Dundas Town

1/2 acre, 2 storey 4 bed, 2 bath, family rm
Lot #25

Murphy Town

Vacant Land 11,277 sq. ft.
Lot #78B

Murphy Town

Duplex 2 - 2 bed, 1 bath 11,232 sq. ft.
Lot #78

Bahama Coral Island

Vacant Crown Land 14,700 sq. ft.
Lot #2

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



Solomon's SuperCenter offered customers many samples, sale prices on many items, refreshments, balloons and gift items. A clown entertained the children with magic tricks and giveaways. A Revlon representative gave free make-up lessons. He is shown above applying make-up to Melissa Newbold.

FTAA *From Page 16*

application of certain provisions such as customs duties maybe all the way up to 2010. But he said the Bahamas government must take the lead because it has the information and was elected to do so, to educate the public and advise the Bahamian people on what we should do. "If I'm a doctor, there is no point in my asking you, the patient, how I should treat you," he said. If the governments of the 34 countries can agree on a treaty, their respective parliaments, congresses or national assemblies would have to ratify it before it can become operative, Mr. Laing said. An agreement is expected to be signed by January of 2005 to

come into effect by December of that year. Mr. Laing does not expect that to happen until at least 2007. Cuba is the only country in the hemisphere not participating in the discussions; it is excluded because of its communist type government.

Central *From Page 11*

A long time resident of Abaco, Mr. Cottis is a well known and well loved community leader. He was a District Education Officer and was transferred to Abaco in 1975 where he acted as DEO until 1995. After retiring as DEO, Mr. Cottis taught at Abaco Central High School and Forest Heights Academy.

Solomon's *From Page 4*

U.S. dollars," he said. "That in itself is a direct cost to the consumer." The second change would be the abolition of price control. "Price control came in for very good reasons back in the early '70s when the degree of competition in this country was limited," he said. "But in the free capital market that we all love and exist in and believe in, price control is actually a price upward booster, not a price downward booster for the Bahamian public. It needs to be abolished because by limiting the price of various essentials, you are actually maximizing the price of others because we have to pay for this somehow. Price control merely shifts the price; it doesn't control the price. The thing that con-

trols prices is free market competition." Mr. Symonette's third point called for the abolition of "the antiquated law of licensing," which stops the company from selling beer and wine in the supermarket. "In the United States," he said, "you can buy your beer and wine and sodas in the same place. If we can find more products to distribute our overheads over, the lower we can sell rice and baby food and things that we need." His last request was for an end to the time-consuming need to price each item individually on the shelf. "When you consider the labour cost of that versus having the price listed on the shelf and visually at the cash register with the modern checkout systems, these are the types of savings that will drive the prices lower," said Mr. Symonette.

REPORT PHONE COMPLAINTS TO NUMBER 914



In an effort to provide more efficient service to its customers, The Bahamas Telecommunications Company Ltd. (BTC), Abaco reminds the public that all telephone faults are to be reported to the Customer Service Department, Complaint Section at 914 to ensure proper record logging of the complaints. Telephone faults reported to other departments or personnel at BTC may not be properly logged, resulting in a delay of restoration of service.

Please help us to help you by reporting all telephone faults to the Customer Service Department, Complaint Section at 914. The Bahamas Telecommunications Company Ltd. appreciates your cooperation.

Chris Thompson Real Estate

Elbow Cay and The Abacos, Homes and Property

ELBOW CAY

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**

ELBOW CAY

HOMES & LAND



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

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

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

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**

ELBOW CAY

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**

LUBBERS QUARTERS

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**

LUBBERS LEE



Located on secluded north end of Lubbers Quarters, a beautiful sea-to-sea property offering over 4 lush acres. Sandy beach on west side, 100+ foot dock on east side, main house, cottage viewing Tahiti Beach and Tilloo.

Price: **\$1,290,000**

Chris Thompson
(chris@hopetown.com)

Ph: (242) 366-0216

"Family Island Specialists"

www.elbow-cay.com

Greg Roberts

(greg@hopetown.com)

Fax: (242) 366-0223

Regatta *From Page 2*

which fills the rising sail. At this point a third crucial move is made. Several planks or pries are slid out beyond the gun'l with the inboard end anchored to the deck. The crew scrambles out on the pries to "pry" the boat upright against the wind's leverage on the sail. These boats do not have ballasted keels as fitted on modern sailboats. When the boats come about, the crew scrambles off the pry which is now being extended out over the other side. They dodge the heavy wood boom as it swings across the deck and take up new positions on the other side. In a tight race these pries and their human ballast may overhang another boat for a few moments, amid much hollering and apparent confusion. By the first mark, the fleet usually opens up with more space between the boats and they continue in a more orderly fashion.

Race Results

Class C	
First Race	Second Race
1st - Irene Goodnight	1st - Irene Goodnight
2nd - Bul Reg	2nd - Sacrifice
3rd - Sacrifice	3rd - Thunderbird
Third Race	
1st - Irene Goodnight	
2nd - Bul Reg	
3rd - Thunderbird	
Class B	
First Race	Second Race
1st - Lonesome Dove	1st - New Chase
2nd - New Chase	2nd - Cougar
3rd - Cougar	3rd - Peacemaker
Third Race	
1st - New Chase	
2nd - Cougar	
3rd - Peacemaker	
Class A	
First Race	Second Race
1st - New Courageous	1st - New Courageous
2nd - Abaco Rage	2nd - Orig. Courageous
3rd - Orig Courageous	3rd - Southern Cross
Third Race	
1st - New Courageous	
2nd - Original Courageous	
3rd - Southern Cross	

Cays *From Page 7*

ing members of the general public to assist in raising the necessary funds and urged swimmers to come together in teams of four people to swim the four-mile swim. Bahamas Fast Ferries is offering a special discounted one-day excursion on October 11th to bring the swimmers and also participants of the golf tournament which is scheduled for the same day. The excursion, which will leave Nassau at 5:30 a.m. and return from Sandy Point at 8:30 p.m., is open to the general public. Applications to participate in the swimathon are available from any Texaco Service Station or may be downloaded from bahamasswimmingfederation.com.

Notice to All Artists

The Hope Town Harbour Lodge will be hosting its fourth annual Arts and Crafts Festival on November 20. This popular event draws many people who enjoy the wide variety of art work on display as well as the camaraderie in the casual atmosphere. The Lodge is requesting that all artists or craftsmen who would like to display their artwork register with them before November 15. Space

assignments will be made on a first come sign-up basis.

New Baby Arrives



Megan Hallie McCully

Megan Hallie McCully was born on August 30th at New Beginnings Birthing Center in Nassau and is the daughter of proud parents of Patrick and

Christine McCully. Christine had a good birthing experience and felt very comfortable with the assistance of Dr. Mildred Hall Watson whose calm nature and expertise made Megan's delivery a speedy one. She would highly recommend New Beginnings for any expecting parents who are seeking an alternative place to have their baby. Christine is the cartoonist for The Abaconian.

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Inventory Manager Needed

for progressive retail establishment in Marsh Harbour. Duties require heavy lifting, shipping and receiving. Must be computer literate and flexible to work sales. Job requires organizational skills. Please send resume to: Manager, P.O. Box AB 20121, Marsh Harbour, Abaco

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Includes set up and disassembly
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For all your vertical and mini-blind needs contact Sidney Albury at 367-2091 or 367-2031. Sales and Service.

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Officer Worker Needed. Opportunities for upward mobility possible for the right person. People skills and flexibility a must. Live-in position possible. Please respond by telephone between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily at The Bluff House Beach Hotel in Green Turtle Cay @ 365-4247

POSITION WANTED

Retired teacher of English seeks position as resident tutor. Call 365-8740

Need help with your bookkeeping but can't afford a full time employee? Experienced bookkeeper seeks part time employment. Contact 559-8614 or 367-4414

Need your boat delivered from Abaco to US or vice versa? Call Billy Roberts at 359-6211 or 367-5205/6 and leave message. "If you can't trust me, you can't trust your mama!"

Epic Batteries requires a battery technician/office assistant for Abaco office. Must be computer literate with some organizational skills. Automotive knowledge would be a plus. Please call 242-380-8031 anytime for an interview.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

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

97 Suzuki Swift, 4 door, A/C. \$3500. 100 cc motorcycle \$800. Call 367-4643

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Computer system, HP Vectra PII 400 mhz, 128 MB RAM, CD, 10GB HD, USB, Windows & various programs. \$550 Phone: 242-423-6293

BOATS AND MARINE ITEMS FOR SALE

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

J16' Carolina Skiff, 2000, 25 HP 3 cyl Yamaha, trailer and extras, excellent condition. \$5000 Call 365-8895

21' Wellcraft, no motor, good shape, with trailer, Bimini top, cushion, radio. \$4000 OBO 365-8633 Gilles



24' Formula w/225 HP Mercury, long deck, hard top, in good condition. Asking \$18,000 Call 365-5170



25' Steiger Craft with a 175 HP Evinrude (not working). Call 365-6059 for more details.



25' Grady White sailfish powered by 2/ 225 Evinrude ram ficht, 120 hrs. each. DUTY PAID. Excellent condition. Must see. Ph 367-2598

25' Albin, Swedish aft cabin trawler. Ideal Abaco cruiser. Needs some repairs and TLC. \$10,000 firm. Tel 367-2295 or 367-3006

32' Island Gypsy sportsfishing trawler, 1987, 8 KW Westerbeke generator, A/C, single Ford Lehman 175 turbo-charged engine. DUTY PAID. \$45,000 Call 365-4120

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Introducing Price Right's Preferred Perks Card!

Price Right's Preferred Perks program is an electronic based card program designed to reward customers. Preferred Perks is essentially our way to acknowledge and appreciate our shoppers.

To join, shoppers complete a sign up form in store and receive your Preferred Perks card. Shoppers will be amazed at how easy it is to join and there are no costs associated with our Preferred Perks program. Finally, a customer card with the customer in mind.

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