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VOLUME 11, NUMBER 22, DECEMBER 1st, 2003

Cable Bahamas Expands Services Hundreds Respond to Channel Upgrades



Customers lined up on November 21 and 22 to sign up for Cable Bahamas' new services. The company is offering a greatly expanded number of channels and packages to suit each viewers preferences. Shown above is JC Percentie, Sales Representative, explaining the services to Kelly Dam and Lisa Bethel.

By Isobel Sherman

Cable Bahamas announced major upgrades to their cable television services to Abaco. These became effective on November 21. The company introduced its upgrades at a promotion in Marsh Harbour on November 21 and 22 at Solomon's SuperCenter. The company is offering 53 channels of basic cable service plus several packages of additional channels which are available on Abaco for the first time.

Additional channels are available through their Freedom TV premium services, a collection of top premium channels available either individually or in packages which include movie channels, sports channels, special events and family channels. With the packages viewers are offered a total of 89 channels. Additionally, music will be available early next year with 40 channels of specific types of music, all without advertising. Also coming early next year will be a home theater pay-per-view movie and adult programming.

The new services are available through the one-time purchase of a set-top box for \$29.95 which includes a remote control. During the promotion at Solomon's customers who purchased a set-top box were given a free month of all the premium cable channels. The set-top box has extensive parental control features which allows parents to control access based on ratings or channel.

Please see **Cable**

Page 22

Inquest Begins in Aaliyah Crash

By Stephanie Humblestone

Over two years after the tragedy, a Coroner's Inquest has begun at the Magistrates Court in Marsh Harbour into the plane crash which claimed the lives of 22-year-

old R and B singer and actress Aaliyah and eight others.

The chartered Cessna 402, registered to

Please see **Aaliyah**

Page 2

Batelco Offers Improved Service



Batelco shows off its new bucket truck which is part of its program to offer better and faster service to its customers. Shown above on the ground is Patrece Williams, heading the Customer Service Department, in the bucket Mr. Henry Roamer, General Manager for Abaco, and Mr. Emalin Sawyer, Technical Manager for Abaco.

Students Visit College Fair



The college fair held in Marsh Harbour on November 18 gave students an opportunity to find out about a variety of schools, finding out what programs they offer and asking questions of the counselors. Students from six high schools attended.

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Inquest Will Seek Cause of Nine Deaths

Aaliyah *From Page 1*

Sky Stream Inc. of Pembroke Pines, Florida, and operated by Black Hawk International Airways Corp, burst into flames at around 6:50 p.m. on August 25, 2001, shortly after taking off from Marsh Harbour airport bound for Opa Locka, Florida.

Coroner William Campbell opened the inquest on November 17 into the deaths of all on board the aircraft: Aaliyah Haughton, Captain Antonio Luis Morales, Douglas Kratz, Eric Foreman, Keith Wallace, Gina Smith, Scott Gallin, Christopher Maldonado and Anthony Dodd.

"Whilst the inquest in law can reach a verdict of criminal liability of named persons, its overriding purpose is to find facts, not attach blame," Coroner Williams stated in his opening address.

After empanelling a jury of seven from a cross section of the Abaco community, he asked attorneys from abroad to identify themselves, having recognised that there are "persons/legal entities who have a substantial interest in the hearing."

Attorneys from Florida, California, Washington and Texas, representing huge corporations such as Cessna, Teledyne Continental Motors and Superior Air Parts, stood one by one, gave their names and stated that they were there simply to "observe."

Assisting the Coroner was prosecutor for the Coroner's Court, Inspector Bradley Neely. Two court reporters, Jacqueline Schultes and Katherine Habok, accompanied them from Nassau.

The Inquest will broadly follow the chronological sequence of events, starting with the identification of the bodies, autopsy reports, eyewitness and other accounts of the immediate pre- and post-accident events and responses by the emergency services. Many of the eleven named witnesses testified in the initial hearings from November 17-20, two of whom were recalled to the stand by jurors for clarification of their evidence.

On day one Dr. H.C. Govinda Raju, Pathologist at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Nassau who conducted autopsies on all nine of the deceased, gave a detailed and graphic account of their injuries, summing up each case with a probable final cause of death. Pilot Luis Antonio Morales was found to have traces of cocaine in his urine and alcohol in his stomach. However, Dr. Raju emphasised that forensic reports to be given in December will confirm and enlarge on this finding.

Day two Dr. Ravindranath Swarna at the government clinic in Marsh Harbour retraced his steps on the night of the crash focusing on the two survivors who were to die later, Scott Gallin and Anthony Dodd. Coroner Campbell questioned why a local charter was used instead of the air ambulance service, hence a delay in evacuation. Dr. Swarna explained that the service was on a case in Eleuthera.

"Was it more severe than here?" asked the Coroner.

No one has been able to answer this question.

Taxi driver Louise McIntosh of Cooper's Town and Annie Russell of Dundas Town drove the fated party to various venues for the shooting of the music video *Rock Da Boat* and on to the airport on the evening of the 25th of August.

It appears that Aaliyah curtailed her stay on Abaco and found a "last minute" charter service.

"It sounded like a break down plane, like a car without a muffler," said Ms. McIntosh when the Cessna 402 was coming down to land. She described how she doubted this was the plane the party were going to use.

Mr. Walter Evans, an airworthiness inspector with the Department of Civil Aviation in Nassau, was clearly attentive to this description and asked her to repeat it.

Ms. McDonald was one of the two to be recalled on day two when she was asked to verify the amount of luggage taken by her to the airport, overloading being one of the factors under investigation. She maintained that there were only five to six pieces of baggage accompanying the nine passengers and they appeared not to be "that heavy."

Porter Lester Archer, who handled the baggage from the taxi with ticket agent for American Eagle, Carrington Stuart, estimated that each piece of luggage weighed no more than 45-50 pounds. However, he gave the number of pieces at no more than "10."

Mr. Archer claimed that he watched the pilot load the plane. Customs Officer Donald E. Burrows later refuted this, saying that he observed Mr. Archer assisting Captain Morales. This discrepancy prompted the jurors to recall Mr. Archer to the stand.

Coroner Campbell asked once more, "Did you load the plane?"

"I did not," he stated categorically.

On day three of the inquest Inspector Bradley Neely confronted Mr. Stuart with a signed statement made immediately after the crash in which he stated that both he and Mr. Archer "put the luggage into the nose of the plane."

"I meant 'at the nose' and the police said they changed it," he replied.

Clearly confused but deciding to let the matter drop, Coroner Williams cautioned him about putting his signature too readily to something he had not completely checked.

Customs Officer Burrows claimed overhearing a conversation between Aaliyah and Captain Morales in which he expressed concern about the amount of luggage but she apparently said, "Everything has to go."

When Mr. Stuart was asked about the Cessna's hold, he said he was ignorant about its capacity but finally conceded that "maybe the luggage was a tight squeeze."

Other controversial areas were the preparedness of fire personnel at the airport

on the night in question. Fire fighters Rockling Bootle and Barry Swain left at the end of their shifts but before the plane with Aaliyah and entourage had taken off.

"Would it not have been prudent to have waited until after the plane had left?" the Coroner asked Mr. Bootle. What emerged from questions relating to the fire services in general at the airport was that they are understaffed, have no emergency cell phones and a system of operation in place which is questionable.

Airport Superintendent Bobby Jones stated on day three of the Inquest that the onus is on the firefighters to cover the airport at all times, regardless of "shifts" as Marsh Harbour is an "international airport," something Mr. Evans, Civil Aviation expert, had stressed earlier. However, Mr. Jones agreed that concerns relating to staff had been brought to his attention and he, in

turn, had relayed such concerns to Nassau but to "no avail."

Mr. Jones was the last witness of the three day hearing. He gave a vivid account of the crash site's swampy terrain in an area west of the airport called the "marles." He described "charred bodies" and horrendous injuries. Some of the jurors looked visibly shaken. A ten-minute recess was requested.

When the inquest resumes on December 8th, jurors will be taken to the site. Police photographer Officer Moultrie provided each juror with 15 enlarged photographs of the area, the dead and the injured immediately after the crash.

Key witness, Fire Chief Clay Wilhoite of Hope Town, the first person to arrive at the crash site, is summoned to attend when the inquest resumes along with teams of investigators, national and Stateside, from all sectors of the airline industry.

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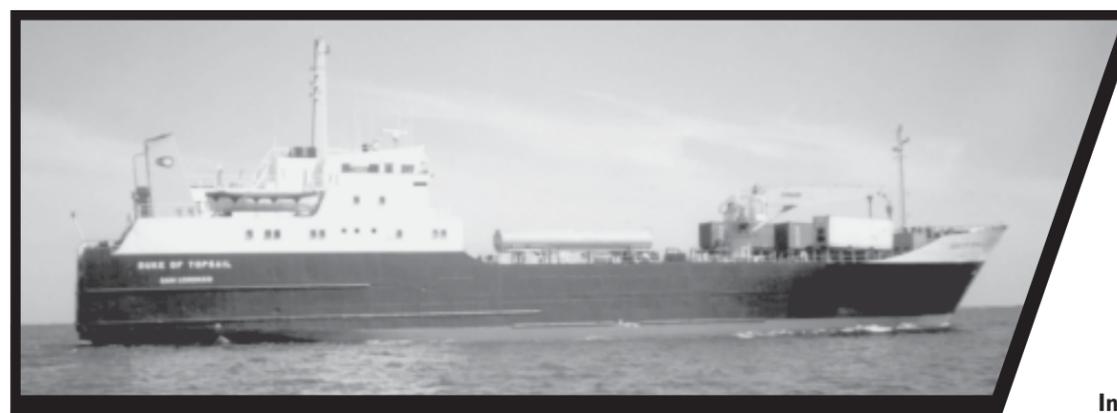


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Central Abaco News

St. Francis de Sales Church

By Isobel Sherman

On November 1st St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church celebrated 10 years in their church building by holding a gospel concert. The choir of Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Freeport and the choir of St. Francis Cathedral in Nassau came to celebrate with the choir of St. Francis de Sales. Also performing at the concert were soloist Joan Moss and the Praise Dancers of St. Andrews Methodist Church. William Tony Davis, choir director of St. Francis de Sales church, coordinated the event.

St. Francis de Sales Church will be holding an advent retreat on December 3-5. Father Glen Nixon, Pastor of St. Thomas More Church in Nassau will be the retreat master. The services will begin at 7 p.m. each evening.

Art and Craft Show

By Isobel Sherman

Abaco Beach Resort will be holding its Second Annual Christmas Art and Craft

Show on December 6 and 7 at the Marquee. Craftsmen from Abaco, Nassau and Grand Bahama will be displaying their wares. The show will be open each day from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

New Business on Abaco

By Portia Jonsson

Certifix Bahamas and F & F Total Supplies located on Forest Drive next to Road Runners are now open for business. Certifix Bahamas specializes in the service, installation and sale of air-conditioners. Parts for the air-conditioners are also sold. F & F Total Supplies deals with cleaning supplies for hotels, restaurants and hospitals. Both businesses share one office space. Daily rental of carpet and tile cleaners are available from F & F Total Supplies and all their supplies can be purchased either wholesale or retail. You will also find a large selection of bar mats, mops, brooms and mop buckets with wringer. Stop by today, make a purchase and enter their Christmas Travel Giveaway drawing. Store hours are Monday through Friday 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Sundays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. They are closed on Saturdays. Telephone number 367-0063

or send them an E-mail at f&ftotal@hotmail.com.

A New Diving Experience

By Isobel Sherman

Kay Politano and Tim Higgs of Abaco Dive Adventures have recently completed

a course to certify them as cave SCUBA divers and instructors. Both Kay and Tim completed a five-day, 12-hour-a-day course in Cave Diving. It involved about three

Please see **Central**

Page 5



Bingo games have been providing evenings of good family fun for the past few weeks at St. John's Anglican Church in Marsh Harbour. The Bingo Nights concept was the idea of the Anglican Church Women's Guild and people of all ages, including young children, have been turning out each Friday to enjoy the fun. Tickets are purchased for each game with a large variety of prizes. All proceeds go towards church funds. Bingo Nights will continue for the next few weeks and all members of the public are invited to go and join in the fun.



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More Central Abaco News

Central *From Page 4*

hours per day of classroom instruction and the rest of the day in cave dives.

Prior to their certification Kay said that Abaco Dive Adventures had a booth at a huge SCUBA Dive Show held in Miami. Although the booth was with other booths from dive operators in The Bahamas, Kay said that their booth had not only a SCUBA dive video but a video of cave diving which brought crowds to the booth. The reason was that the majority of the cave SCUBA divers in the United States do not know that there are excellent caves for diving in The Bahamas, particularly on Abaco. Most cave divers have to travel to Mexico or further south to dive. Diving in caves is restricted to only divers certified in cave diving.

Toys for Tots Plans Sixth Annual Event

On December 13 the Scurvy Few Motorcycle Club will be holding its 6th annual Toys for Tots Run at the AID parking lot. The Run this year is in memory of "Uncle Joe" Shirley, a faithful supporter of the event each

year, whom our community unfortunately lost earlier this year. The purpose of this annual event is to collect toys for distribution to the less fortunate children of Abaco. We ask that all people who attend please bring a new, unwrapped toy as their admittance fee. The event is open to all, but motorcyclists will be especially welcome. In addition to music, there will be face painting available for children as well as hamburgers, hot dogs, cotton candy and refreshments available at nominal prices to help defray expenses. The event will start at 11 a.m. and at 1 p.m. all motorcyclists will participate in a ride through the local communities, ending back at AID. Last year, the Club was able to distribute over 1500 toys to less fortunate children. Please assist the Club again this year, and hopefully, it will be a huge success for six years running!

Concert Raises Funds

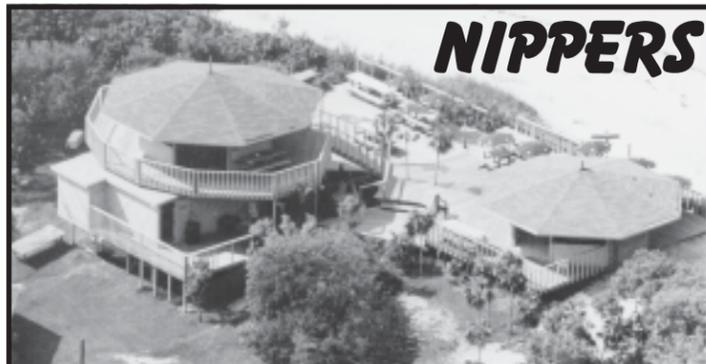
By Isobel Sherman

On November 22 the Youth Praise Dancers of St. Andrews Methodist Church in Dundas Town held a Youth Praise Con-

Please see **Central** *Page 7*



On November 14 the Abaco Chapter of the Bahamas Red Cross Society hosted Kathy Wells of the Freeport Branch of the Red Cross. She conducted the election of officers for the chapter in Marsh Harbour and held meetings in Sandy Point where a branch is being re-activated and in North Abaco where she hopes to form a new branch. Shown above are the officers for the Central Abaco Branch. They are, left to right, Willard Cooper, Assistant Disaster Officer; Barbara Johnson, Group Leader; Loran Coleby, Treasurer; Mrs. Gibson, Welfare Officer, and Michael Lundy, Assistant Group Leader.



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News of the Cays

Man-O-War Students Make News

Man-O-War School NewsTwo students from last year's grade six class were notified that they were two of only six Bahamian students to receive awards for essays submitted to the Royal Commonwealth Society Contest. Meredith Albury was awarded with the distinction of "Commended" for her essay. Ted Sands received the Sir Alwyn Allen Award for his age category. One hundred pounds sterling was awarded to Tad as part of this special prize. We congratulate them for their outstanding writing.

Recently Thurmon Sawyer, one of our alumni, graduated from law school. He is the first graduate from the Man-O-War All Age School to earn an advanced degree. Thurmon has a Juris Doctorate in International Commercial Law. He passed the Bar Exam in the top eight percent and is now practicing law in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We join Thurmon's parents, Molly and Spurgeon Sawyer, in their pleasure with Thurmon's achievement.

Students and teachers are busy making costumes to participate in Junior Junkanoo to be held on December 13 in Marsh Harbour. We thank Mr. Collin Curry for helping us get started.

We are happy to have Ms. Mary Lou Vaeth and Ms. Faith Tompkins returning to volunteer at our school. They have been helping Man-O-War students for many years. Ms. Edith Weatherford and Rev. David Hoard have volunteered their time to enrich the Religious Knowledge classes at our school. We thank these wonderful and caring people for what they add to our school.

Hope Town Sea Spray Resort Reopens

By Jennifer Hudson

The Sea Spray Resort and Boat House Restaurant in White Sound, the southernmost resort and marina on Elbow Cay, has now reopened for breakfast, lunch and dinner. During its closure over the past two months the resort has undergone considerable renovations and its style is now a little more upscale.

The menu has been expanded to include several new dishes, the most notable of which is Kobe Beef. This tender and mouth watering beef comes from cows which have had the best of treatment. Raised in the U.K. on a diet high in beer and massaged with sake (Japanese rice wine), these very contented cows are then slaughtered in Japan. This special treatment produces a very tender and tasty meat which receives high praise from its consumers. Boat House Restaurant is the only restaurant on Abaco to use Kobe Beef.

Starting on November 23rd the Boat House Restaurant will be serving Sunday Champagne Brunch.

Deplorable State of Roads on Elbow Cay

By Jennifer Hudson

Residents on Elbow Cay are tired of waiting for their roads to be fixed. The roads, which have been deteriorating rapidly over the last few years, are now in a deplorable state. Both the dirt road which leads to the North End and the tarred road which leads from the Post Office to the

southern tip of the cay are full of pot holes, some of which are so huge that it is impossible to even drive around them to avoid damaging vehicles. The practice of having to swerve to avoid potholes is very dangerous and could cause a serious accident.

At a recent open Town Meeting which was held in Hope Town with government officials in attendance, it was stated that money had been identified to fix the roads. However, several weeks later there is no evidence that any road work is about to begin. People are not clear as to whether the money allotted was to fix all the roads or just the section near the Abaco Inn which

remains washed out as a result of Hurricane Floyd. However, it is quite clear that ALL roads need fixing. Several people have now started petitions and campaigns to try to press the Ministry of Works into doing something to rectify the problem. Members of the Hope Town Fire Department have written a letter to the Deputy Prime Minister expressing their concern that they can no longer assure residents of Elbow Cay that they would be able to get their equipment to the site of a fire due to the poor condition of the roads. Even if they did

Please see **Cays**

Page 7



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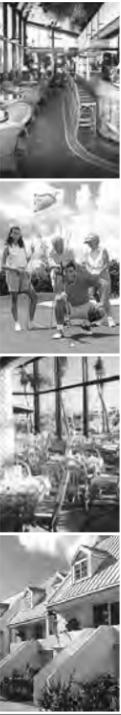


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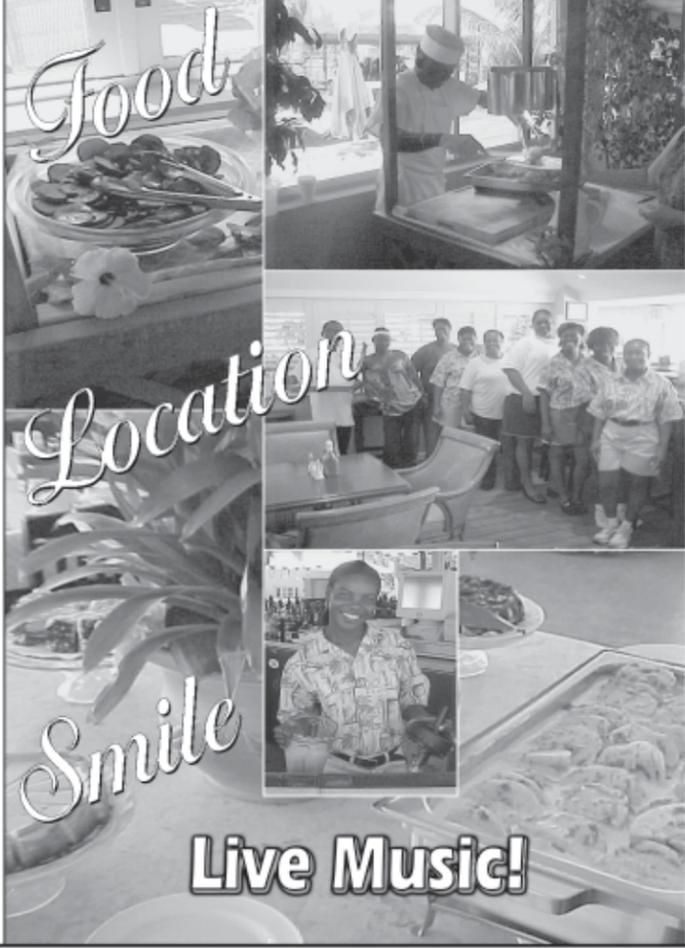
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More News of the Cays

Cays *From Page 6*

manage to get there the journey would be extremely slow when every minute counts.

Green Turtle Cay Capt. Roberts House Environmental Center Open

Contributed by Reef Relief

In Green Turtle Cay the Capt. Roland Roberts House opened its doors for the fall season on November 10th. After a two month "hurricane season hiatus," the Environmental Center looks forward to an exciting year of growth and expanded programs made possible by generous new sponsors.

Reef Relief is very pleased to welcome New England Biolabs Foundation as a new sponsor. Its funding will help support Reef Relief's coral survey of Abaco reefs with a focus on identifying the extent of emerging coral disease in the fragile reef ecosystem of Abaco.

"This is an important step to maintaining the health of the reef long term for many generations of Abaconians," said Reef Relief Executive Director, DeeVon Quirolo.

Abaco resident Sally Anstey is pictured here in the library of Capt. Roberts House. The house was recently restored and is now open to the public for touring and for learning about Reef Relief's program to protect Abaco's reefs.



Mrs. Anstey began another season of volunteering at the Capt. Roland Roberts House Environmental Center in New Plymouth, Green Turtle Cay.

She added, "We are equally happy to have as continuing sponsors the Green Turtle Foundation, Disney Conservation Fund and West Marine."

Their support helps keep the historic Capt. Roland Roberts house open and the reef mooring ball program afloat. Reef Relief has installed and maintains a chain of 18 mooring buoys on some of the most popular snorkeling reefs from Munjack Cay north of Green Turtle to No Name Cay just south of the island. Residents and visitors are encouraged to use the mooring buoys while sightseeing on the reef to avoid anchor damage to the beautiful corals below. A free map of the 18 sites with descriptions of the sea life to be found at each is available at the center. Or check online at www.reefrelief.org.

Everyone is invited to visit the Capt. Roberts House Environmental Center in New Plymouth on Green Turtle Cay. Come for a tour of the historic restored house and to learn more about protecting Abaco's reefs. Ms. Quirolo said that she and the volunteers are particularly looking forward to seeing the many friends, both adults and children in the community, who visited last year.

Anyone interested in some of the rewarding volunteer opportunities in the islands should stop by or call 242-365-4014 or e-mail deevon@bellsouth.net.

**Ads in
The Abaconian
Bring Results**

Central *From Page 5*

cert. Mr. Marvin Duncombe, a teacher at Abaco Central High School, was the Master of Ceremonies. Several churches had their Praise and Worship dancers and singers performing. These churches included the Church of the Latterain, March Harbour Church of God, Dundas Town Church of God, Abaco Youth Ministries, Zion Baptist Church, Grace Baptist Church and Trumpet Assembly.

In addition, Rasad Reckley played a saxophone solo, the Trumpet Assembly Drill Squad performed, the Praise and Worship team from Victory Tabernacle and as well a Mano, Forever One, Renaldo Davis and Anitra Cornish. Proceeds from the evening will go for uniforms for the St Andrews Methodist Church Praise Dancers.

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., Central Abaco Primary, 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 Restaurant, Abaco Beach Resort

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Abaco Inn UPCOMING EVENTS



2003
December



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- Dec. 22nd Open House & Caroling with Complimentary hors d'oeuvres
- Dec. 25th Christmas Dinner
Traditional Christmas Menu
- Dec. 31st "Millenium Ball" Live Music with the one and only Dry Bread

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The Editor Says . . . The Appeal of Local Artwork



Art is one of the attractions of the Abaco experience. Visit any boutique or gift shop and there will be a variety of locally produced art work. Local may include Nassau and to a lesser extent other Bahamian islands.

The definition of locally produced art is interpreted in different ways by different persons. The government agency, Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation, BAIC, classifies local art as anything originating in The Bahamas regardless of the status of the artist.

This follows manufacturing convention for the origin of an item by identifying the country of origin. National pride is thus served by the statement "Made in" or "Product of"

Whether the actual artisans were American, Mexican or some other nationality is not relevant. Neither does the purchaser know if a Mexican item was produced by a business owned by a Korean or staffed by Hondurian workers.

The enjoyment of artistic work is a personal experience that is predominately acquired during one's life and is affected by cultural and ethnic exposures, family ties, pride in one's roots and other more obscure reasons. Some art work is so compelling that it attracts a wide variety of admirers. This is unusual.

Granted, art has a personal nature different from shoes, peaches or refrigerators. The fame of the artist, his technique, perhaps the media he used or the way he presents his work will influence our appeal for the finished piece. Does the work attract our attention in its own right or because we have an affinity for the individual?

Our self taught local artists produce beautiful work which is unique and can hold its own when viewed along side art work of other residents here. It is the wide variety of art and the expressions of different people which draw the visitors who support the art industry. The successful boutiques and gift shops display a mixed assortment of artistic items hoping to have something to appeal to each visitor in their shop.

We are entering the holiday gift season which coincides with an upsurge in visitors. Art and craft shows along with boutique open houses will use this opportunity to present a

wide variety of Bahamian-made art.

Bahamian made . . . ? We are back to this illusive definition of the origin of the artwork.

We have been fascinated with the concept of the origin of artwork for many years. A foreign artist visiting Hope Town and painting the lighthouse cannot sell the painting here as he would then be gainfully employed. This is not allowed without permission. However, we can follow the artist to Florida and buy the painting there. We can then bring it back here without any stigma attached to the transaction.

At this point we can think of shortcuts to the process. Suppose we mail the payment to Florida and the art is sent to us. Suppose the art is left here and we send the money there. Suppose . . .

We have often thought that the Abaco area has been well served by having an "artsy" image. The image brings thoughts

of upscale shops and affluent shoppers. Itinerant artists have taken advantage of this by having local shops sell their work. It has generally worked to everyone's advantage.

Some of the foreign artists who live here have become well enough known with quality work to come out in the open and obtain the necessary permits to operate publicly. Others work quietly and sell through a local boutique. In any case, it is the variety and quality that generates the appeal.

Anyone with an artistic bent should use the craft and art shows to his advantage to get ideas and inspiration. It is not plagiarism to seek inspiration from Alton Lowe's paintings or Pete Johnston's sculpture. Buy some paint brushes or modeling clay and follow the leader.

Many have latent talent just waiting to be discovered or nurtured. We have watched

with interest the development of some of our local artists, many of whom have found their inspiration from others, both Bahamian and foreign.

Much of the material the visitors find attractive can be produced without special training. It does take practice, patience and inspiration.

Making craft artwork from seashells, driftwood or beach debris takes originality and an open mind. A bit of inspiration is required to get started but ideas will flow once the process is started. Fabric crafts are another area where a little inspiration will go a long way toward being able to make saleable items.

Hand crafts and more technical art forms have a great future in our economy. Hand crafts and art work are not for everyone but for those who are inclined, the talent can be developed into a paying vocation.

Generally Speaking . . . Black Hole

By S. Timothy Roberts

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines a **black hole** as "a hypothetical celestial object with a gravitational field so strong that light cannot escape from it which is believed to be created in the collapse of a very massive star," also "something resembling a black hole: as something that consumes a resource continually (a financial black hole) or an empty space."

This is not an article about science fiction or quantum theories, but, using the definition "something resembling a black hole." I intend to express my views on uninspired leadership as it relates to The Bahamas and its citizens.

This is a subject that has been on my mind much recently, and I really hope that in time we will change this predicament that we are in. It boils down to the fact that in the years that I have been alive I have yet to see a government, not only with a vision for the country, but with the will to carry it to fruition.

Previous governments, from the Pindling regime to the more recent Ingraham era have all produced their distinct benefits to the country, while also exemplifying some still severe shortcomings.

The Bible says in Proverbs "Where there is no vision the people perish." In like manner the economy, the way of life, the preservation of our history and culture are all perishing from lack of care and attention.

One of the most recent catch phrases used across the globe today is "sustainable." Every progressive country in the world is looking to find ways to create sustainable industries in order to keep a sustainable economy.

It is well established that tourism is our choice industry, and every government to date has spent large amounts of money to attract foreign investments which are a wonderful thing and has its place in our

economy. Yet it seems there is little done to attract, whether foreign or local, any interests in eco-tourism. This is something that is puzzling to me.

Eco-tourism, in all estimations, is an ideal tourism goal for The Bahamas. When you look at the country with its 700 islands and cays and the unique inherent beauties of each island, there is a whole wealth of possibilities.

Eco-tourism is exceptional in that it takes into account the locale and its surroundings, the ecology, the people and their way of life and builds a tourism attraction based on the native beauty of that area disturbing as little as possible of all its surroundings. Eco-tourism is based on the formula of creating an industry that is sustainable, that in some ways is self sustaining.

Whether I am biased in my beliefs or

not, I believe from what I have seen of The Bahamas we have much native beauty to offer. This is why it is so perplexing to me that the government cannot see this.

Is it that government is trapped in the big city (Nassau) and have blinded themselves to the existence of the *Islands of The Bahamas* and their potential. Or can it be that they are looking at the pot of gold before them and cannot see that there are pots of gold scattered throughout the rest of The Bahamas as well. Or, quite possibly governments are like black holes, where nothing - including light (or vision) - can exist.

Just touching on a few thoughts on tourism, I believe shows how much we lack what is possible for The Bahamas to have

Please see **Roberts** Page 19

ALL ABOUT TOWN

By Isobel Sherman

Thanks

Too often many persons in businesses go the extra mile for customers because that is the type of persons they are and too often those extra efforts go unnoticed. On behalf of Mr. Benjamin Stubbs, Principal of Abaco Central, the college admissions persons from several American universities and myself, I would like to use this forum to publicly thank Ms. Kayla Lockhart, agent for Southern Air at Marsh Harbour International Airport, and Ms. Patricia Lightbourne, Abaco Manager of Bahamasair, for their extra efforts in facilitating the college representatives to travel to Nassau on November 19 to attend the college fair in Nassau.

All of the persons were at the college fair on Abaco on November 18 and were scheduled to travel on Bahamasair. In addition, Ms. Lightbourne helped one of the

representatives whose luggage never arrived to make arrangements for him to contact a specific persons to get his luggage in Nassau. We applaud and appreciate your efforts on behalf of these visitors to our country and to our island.

No matter what was the reason or reasons for Bahamasair not flying, these two women helped visitors leave with good feelings about the Bahamas, Abaco and its people.

Exposure

The exposure of students that a college fair affords is of great value. It enables students to begin to see that there is a whole world out there to see and to learn from. It allows them to talk with persons from various parts of the world and that interaction is invaluable. They may never get to go abroad to college but the fact remains that

Please see **Sherman** Page 19

Letters to the Editor

Why Is the Beach Access Blocked?

Dear Sir,

I would like to use some space in your paper to ask the persons who have blocked off access to the beach at Casuarina Point to open it. It is one of the few beaches that

the public has access to on Abaco. There used to be church and company picnics held there but for almost a year the road has been blocked with loads of fill and personal boats and property. Would someone in the South Abaco District Council please check into this matter.

A Concerned Human Being

The Abaconian

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Batelco Upgrades Their Systems

Over the past year Batelco has been quietly improving and upgrading its system. Mr. Henry Romer, Senior Manager Abaco Operations, outlined many of these changes for our readers. He is particularly proud of its new policy to resolve service problems in less than 48 hours.

A few of the improvements were visible such as the fiber optic cable laid in a ditch to the airport. This gives the airlines the opportunity to connect to broadband services at high speed for accessing their reservation systems.

Batelco has installed a local WiFi hot spot in the terminal so computer users can log on while waiting for their flight. The connection is free at this moment but will likely change to a fee system eventually.

Two other WiFi hot spots are in operation, one at the Treasure Cay airport and the other in the Batelco office building in Marsh Harbour.

Once the cable installation to the Marsh Harbour airport was underway, a contract was let to restore the edge of the road. Mr.

Romer was disappointed that the restoration along the road was not completed sooner.

The fiber optic cable has been extended through the business section of Marsh Harbour and as far as Radio Abaco in Dundas Town, allowing broadband service. Most government offices are connected allowing instant transmission of financial and other data.

Coming to Nassau and Grand Bahama is the new GSM cellular standard which will allow 90,000 additional cellular customers when implemented in January. Abaco is expected to get this cellular upgrade in the spring. The GSM standard allows a handset to accept or place calls from throughout much of the world and allows seamless internet surfing. Text messaging and photo transmission are also features of the newer system. An immediate benefit to Abaco customers when the system is implemented in Nassau is that the current moratorium on additional cell phones will be lifted.

Switching to the newer cellular service

will require Batelco to add eight additional towers to its Abaco network. This is expected to reduce the dead spots in phone coverage. Current cellphone users demand mobility and the expanded network should provide seamless mobile access

Effective December 1, most of Batelco's customers on Abaco will be able to take advantage of its broadband DSL service. This allows internet use at the same time the phone is in use with a single phone line. No additional wiring is needed. This service will be offered on Green Turtle Cay, Man-O-War, Hope Town, Cherokee and other locations, possibly into Bahama Palm Shores.

Mr. Romer was disappointed that vandals have repeatedly shot the cable leading to Bahama Palm Shores. Neither phone nor DSL service can be offered there until the

cable is left intact.

Another Batelco service offered in conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism is a toll free phone for pilots at both international airports allowing flight plans to be filed and closed at both airports with a direct connection to Nassau Flight Control. Weather, customs notification and other flight information can be received or given.

Batelco's second visible upgrade was the installation of the free standing towers replacing the smaller guyed towers. These new towers are more wind resistant and able to accept more and larger antennas. The old towers were removed including one at the Marsh Harbour forward scatter site which was becoming a hazard due to corrosion.

Please see **Batelco** Page 22





New Year's Eve
Gourmet Dinner
With Live Music by Estin and
Guests Seeing in the New Year

December 31st, 2003
Dinner 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Starters

Roasted Butternut Squash Soup
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or

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or

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served with sweet chili sauce and soy sauce

Main Course Selection

Roasted Abaco Lobster
with lightly spiced corn fritters and a warm BBQ vegetable relish

or

Rack of Lamb with a Herb Crust
served with roasted vegetables and cheesy macaroni and a rich lamb gravy

or

Five Spice Panfried Duck Breast
served on a bed of crisp vegetable jasmine rice with a soy and sesame dressing

Dessert Selection

Chocolate Tart
with a crispy cup of vanilla ice cream

or

Caramelised Banana & Coconut Puddings
served with coconut ice cream and caramel sauce

Price per person \$55.00 including service
For Reservations call Tel: 367-2366

Sherman From Page 8

in that brief time they were exposed to the possibilities out there for a higher education.

Coming Back

Slowly the winter residents are returning to Abaco. During the past few weeks a few boaters have returned for the winter. I have been told that almost 30 boats are waiting in Green Turtle Cay to come down when the weather allows a safe sail and many others are still in Florida waiting for the weather.

Visitors are beginning to visit as some can be seen walking about Marsh Harbour. Let us hope we have a good winter season. Those restaurants that closed during September and October have all reopened in anticipation of the winter season.

Why . . .

Receiving the Abaconian is the easiest way to keep up with all the activity on Abaco such as:

- Infrastructural improvements by central government: roads, airport, docks, etc.
- Phone and electric company changes
- Fishing, boating & sporting activities
- Immigration, taxes or duty changes
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- Resort & hotel development
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Oct 01

School News

Math Is a Problem

During the recent Professional Days held for teachers in Abaco Mr Lionel Sands, Assistant Director of Education Testing and Evaluation, made the comment that Math is a problem for Bahamian students when they enter colleges abroad in the United States and Canada. Mr. Sands stated that in all other areas Bahamian students fly but it is Math that gives them problems. As a parent of a college student who has and is still struggling with Math at the college level I was relieved to know that it is a problem for Bahamian students and not just a problem for my daughter.

Forest Heights Academy Remembering

On November 11th Forest Heights Academy celebrated Remembrance Day with a program directed by history teacher, Mr. Bernie Kidd. Grade 11 portrayed the senseless killing of soldiers through many wars as victims of hatred, prejudice and greed. Mr. Kidd created a strong sense of drama that afternoon, presenting poignant poetry and prose accented with drum and bugle and the haunting music of Taps and The Last Post played by music teacher, Ms. Renee Hoard. This short gathering was long on emotion as the student body spent a minute of silence to thank those who have

died and are still dying for our freedom.

Mr. Kidd, proving to be a bit of a Renaissance man, was next seen on the volleyball court coaching the Senior Girls' Team. They played Abaco Central High School on November 12th after school at

Abaco Central. Mr. Kidd felt they made a good showing as Abaco Central has a skilled and experienced team. Still novices, the

Please see **School**

Page 11



These are the Students of the Month for October 2003 for Central Abaco Primary. Front row, left to right, Queneisha Thompson, Vanessa D'Haiti, Stacy Edmond, Aleeja Knowles and Rahede Smith. Second row, left to right, Blair Drakes, Tallia Bastian, Dontae Henschell, Toniska Russell and Shontol Johnson. Back row, left to right, Shaquille Jones, Yevens Pierre and Valentino Mitchell.



Each month throughout the school year, selected students at Central Abaco Primary School are awarded certificates for top performance in class and on the playground and named Student of the Month. This is September's group. Front row, left to right, Robert Joseph, Leslie McDonald, Domonique Curry, Tremeice Martin, Shavante Simms, Jermina Blanc, Michael Singh and Larry Dixon. Middle row, left to right, Tania Farrington, Eularease Greene, Alvando Smith, Lyndeisha Curry and Cicely Gomez. Back row, left to right, Shaquille Bootle, Melouse Joseph and Evans Pierre.

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More School News

School From Page 10

Forest Heights Falcons did some good serving and learned a great deal even though they lost the game.

Finally, Forest Heights would like to congratulate the Students of the Month for September and October: Juniors Margo Lowe and Bradley Albury; and Seniors,



Twelfth grade student Viline Baptiste of St. Francis de Sales School was the first place winner of the annual Essay Competition on AIDS in The Bahamas. Viline is a twelfth grade student at St. Francis de Sales School. She wrote on the topic Discrimination and Stigma Shown HIV/AIDS Victims.

twelfth grade student at St. Francis de Sales School. She wrote on the topic Discrimination and Stigma Shown HIV/AIDS Victims.

Akrisza Kemp and Miquel Miller. They were chosen by the faculty for their integrity, citizenship and leadership qualities.

Abaco Central High

By Isobel Sherman

Junior Junkanoo

The students of Abaco Central High School are preparing for Junior Junkanoo. Practice is held each afternoon at the school and work on the costumes is proceeding at a good pace. More drums arrived from Nassau recently. This year every island will have a junior Junkanoo competition in which schools will vie for the top prize in each school division. Abaco Central High School will be competing against S.C. Bootle High School. Denise Gadsby heads the Junkanoo Committee and is busy raising funds for instruments and costumes.

Giving Back

Sarah Swain is a 1994 graduate of Abaco Central High School. When Sarah read in *The Abaconian* that the school was short of desks and chairs, she decided to help. She went online and found out the prices of chairs and desks. She then paid a visit to the school and asked if it would be all right for her to try and enlist classmates of the Class of 94 to raise funds to buy the needed furniture. Sarah has continued on her quest and will be having a booth at the Christmas Bazaar to sell baked goods. Abaco Central applauds Sarah and hopes that more graduates of Abaco Central will give back to the school that gave them their education.

Update

The eleventh grade Marine Biology class at Abaco Central is pursuing ways to alleviate some of the environmental concerns they discovered during a clean up at Parkers a few weeks ago. The students are quite concerned about the oil spills in the area and they have decided as a class to see if they can make the public aware of the problem. Mr. Huel Moss, their teacher, is quite pleased with their intense interest and he has approached various persons including the editor of *The Abaconian* for advice in this matter.

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School News in Pictures



The Spelling Bee Competition for Grade 8 students for the Abaco School District was on November 14 at the Learning Resource Centre. Pictured, left to right in the front Mr. Barry Whiting of Burns House Ltd. (sponsors of this year's trophies), 3rd Place Candace Malone of Forest Heights Academy, 1st Place Vanessa McIntosh of S.C. Bootle High School and 2nd Place Eltisha Grant of S.C. Bootle. Back row, left to right: Teachers Joy Chaplin of Forest Heights Academy and Nadira Kawalram of S.C. Bootle Secondary School.



St. Francis de Sales School recognizes these outstanding students for the month of October. Front, left to right, Adam Cooper (Gr. 4), Tourissa Pierre (Gr. 1), Jessica Knowles (Kindergarten), Adrian Newbold (Pre-K), Luca Silvester (Gr. 2); middle, Max Sieuruk (Gr. 3), Jolene Whitlock (Gr. 5); back, Shagerra Edgecombe (Gr. 11), Agnes Fertil (Gr. 9) Diandra McIntosh (Gr. 8), Alexis Williams (Gr. 7), Villine Baptiste (winner of AIDS essay), Elsie Bain (Gr. 10), Freelandra Rolle (Gr. 6), Tamika Bain (Grade 12).



St. Francis de Sales School received outstanding results in the Bookkeeping and Accounts Pitman Examination for the 2002-2003 academic year. They all received First Class Passes. Their teacher, Mrs. Andrea Johnson, is in the center. The students are, left to right, Lowell Edgecombe, Adia Rolle, Lakara McKenzie and Oshanessy Armstrong.



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More School News

College of The Bahamas Visits School

By Portia Jonsson

Mr. Darwin Toussaint, Recruiting Officer at the College of The Bahamas in Nassau, visited with students of grades 8 through 12 at Agape Christian School on November 19th. One of his purposes of visiting schools throughout the Bahamas is to en-

sure that students take pride in their education and realize why they are in school. He told them that coming to school helps to prepare them for their career and they should take advantage of their education. They were advised that a lot of scholarships are out there but they would have to prove that they are worthy of one.

The students were asked about their career goals and many of them said teachers,

doctors, pilots, nurses and even a CPA. Mr. Toussaint advised them that they do not have to wait until college to "tap into" their careers or wait until grade 12 before thinking about a career choice. He said school days

are the planning days, exams are like the plans being approved, choosing the college is like purchasing the property and enrolling in college is like starting the building process. College is the building process.



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Every Child Counts Holds Open House

By Portia Jonsson

The Second Annual Open House for Every Child Counts Learning Centre was held at the school on November 9th. Many parents, students and guests attended the day's event despite the rain.

Every Child Counts is completely self-supporting including all salaries, building and operating costs. All funds raised are fully utilized by their program. Part of the mission of Every Child Counts is to provide help to all disabled students, whether their families are in the financial position to support that help or not. Approximately one-third of the families cannot afford the tuition, medication or doctor fees. The majority struggle to meet the cost of tuition and transportation but volunteer as needed to help the program with time and services where they can. Students are encouraged to assist the school by maintaining the building and grounds and producing products to help sustain the program.

Every Child Counts provides full time schooling to students who cannot succeed in a mainstream classroom because of physical, neurological or cognitive disabilities. Free professional, parent and volunteer training under the direction of Dr. Sharon Kossack, of Florida International University is provided in the areas of reading diagnosis, targeted teaching and special needs recognition, strategies and interventions. Additionally, free evaluations and recommendations for struggling students across Abaco are given and professional and educational materials are readily available.

Special guest speaker for the afternoon was Dr. Marion Crayton, trained in working with youth with special needs, who spoke on *Spirituality and Ministering to the Disabled*. Dr. Crayton said it is a blessing that children with disabilities on Abaco have a place to go to be educated. She said disabilities will touch most persons at one time or another in their life. Dr. Crayton congratulated the team at Every Child Counts for a job well done and encouraged them to "hold steadfast."

Two Visitors Assist at Every Child Counts

By Jennifer Hudson

Rev. Emily Pardue and her sister, Mrs. Marion Crayton, brought their special talents to the Every Child Counts School for two weeks at the beginning of November.

Rev. Pardue is an ordained Baptist Minister from Detroit, Michigan, with a ministry in drama, dance and deliverance. She is presently finishing a Doctor of Ministry Degree at Ashland Theological Seminary where she is adjunct professor. While on Abaco she is using her experience in dance

to encourage the young students in Every Child Counts in this activity and has been working with a group of 11 to 18 year-olds.

Rev. Pardue has previously taught dance groups in Bimini and has brought some of her dancers over from the United States to dance at the Dance Fest in Nassau. She enjoyed working with the children at ECC and was very surprised at how quickly they picked up the dance sequences. It was obvious from watching the students perform that they were thoroughly enjoying the experience.

Mrs. Marion Crayton is a final year Seminary student at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., and came to Abaco as part of her final year studies. In order to obtain a Master's Degree in Divinity from that particular institution it is necessary to participate in what is called "a Cultural Immersion" experience. This requires a candidate to spend a period of two weeks in a culture other than their own as it is felt that this will better prepare them for ministering to God's people.

Mrs. Crayton works with students with disabilities for the School Board in Maryland which has an enrollment of 145,000 students, 14,000 of whom have some type of disability. She is also Director of Ministry for persons with disabilities and their families in her home church where they are getting other churches to open up their doors to families with members with disabilities and encour-

age them to be a part of the community. Mrs. Crayton has a background in Special Education and has been working in the fields of audiology and speech pathology at the Every Child Counts School. She has been pinpointing cognitive and communication problems and has worked with small groups on building their communication skills.

Her prayer for Abaco is that people will

act with love and caring towards people with disabilities and she encourages families with a member with a disability to bring him or her out into the community. Too often, families hide away a member with a disability but it is everyone's right to be educated and she would like to see provisions made for children with disabilities to be taught in regular schools.



Two visitors have been assisting at Every Child Counts. Mrs. Marion Crayton on the left and Rev. Emily Pardue on the right are both specially trained for working with disabled students who are unable to attend normal classrooms. Mrs. Crayton works with children with audio and speech problems. Rev. Pardue teaches dance and drama. In the center is Lyn Major, the person who started the program and who directs it.

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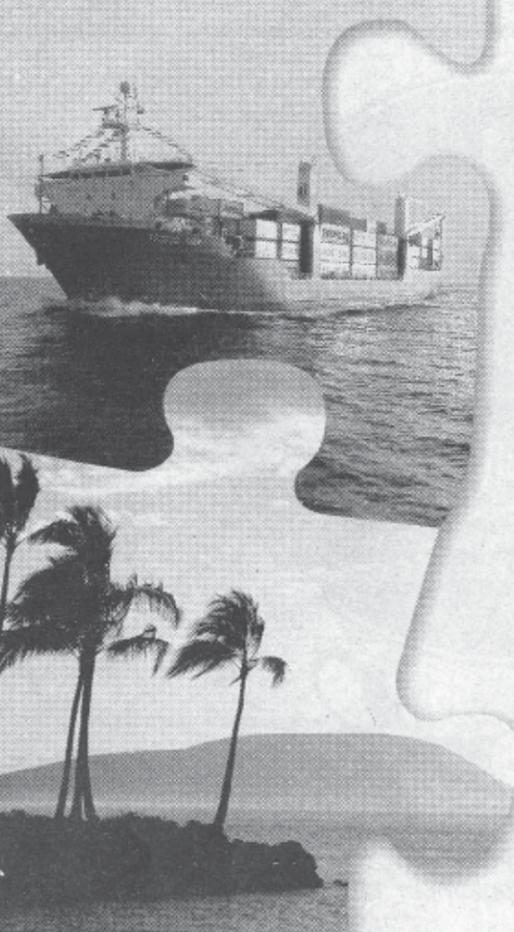
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School Give Individual Attention



Mrs. Marion Crayton is shown working with a small group of students who have speech problems. The classes at Every Child Counts are very small so students can get individual help in the specific areas they require. Mrs. Crayton is a Special Education teacher who works with disabled students in Maryland. Every Child Counts moved into their present facility, the old convent building in Marsh Harbour, last year with 22 students. They now have an enrollment of 38 with a staff of five teachers. This is the limit with their present facility. They are raising funds to build a workshop/classroom building to allow expansion. In addition to working with students directly, the school offers courses for teachers, parents and other interested persons in evaluating students with problems and how to work with them in a normal classroom.

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Students Learn About Colleges at Fair

By Isobel Sherman

The Second Annual Abaco Central High School College Fair was a tremendous success. Seventeen colleges and technical schools were represented. Several were unable to come at the last minute. Grade 10,11, and 12 students of Abaco Central High School, S.C. Bootle High School, Long Bay School, Forest Heights Academy, Agape Christian School and St Frances de Sales School attended the fair. In addition, several persons from Abaco attended the fair and this year Mr. Benjamin Stubbs, Principal, was impressed by the number of parents who came to the fair. Rod Sullivan, Director of Admissions at Palm Beach Atlantic University, remarked that there were more students at this fair than some fairs he has attended in the United States.

Students were allowed to visit each table to ask questions and have the counselors discuss each school. The students of Abaco Central were given a list of questions to act as a guide and many of them were briefed in what to do at the college fair prior to the fair.

The purpose of the college fair is to bring representatives from a variety of colleges,

universities and technical schools to Abaco so students can be exposed to the possibilities of advanced education both in the Bahamas and abroad. It was disappointing that BVTI and Terreave College, both Bahamian schools, did not attend the fair.

The fair was held in the New Vision Ministries building. A brief opening ceremony followed the theme *Igniting the Passion for Life Long Learning*. Chief Councillor for Central Abaco Mr. Cay Russell, welcomed the fair representatives to Abaco and admonished the students to take full advantage of the fair. Mr. Hezekiah Dean, District Superintendent for Abaco gave brief remarks and welcomed the college representatives. Mr. Dean remarked that when he saw the college fair last year on Abaco, he was surprised by the size of the event. This year even more colleges were represented. He said for a Family Island it was commendable.

The schools represented included Florida Culinary Institute and New England Tech in West Palm Beach, the University of Tampa, Jacksonville University, Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida Memorial College, Embry Riddle

University in Daytona Beach, Northwood University in West Palm Beach, College of St Benedict /St John's University in Minnesota, Acadia University and St. Frances Xavier University, both in Nova Scotia, Canada, Messiah College, Ramapo University in New Jersey, Bahamas Baptist College, the College of the Bahamas, Palm Beach Atlantic University and Success Training College.

Despite the fact that Bahamasair was not flying, representatives who were in Nassau were able to travel to Abaco via other airlines. All of the representatives were very pleased with the fair and many said they would be returning next year and were go-

ing to encourage other schools to come next year.

That night the representatives gathered at Mangoes for a dinner and social time. Plans are already underway for the Third Annual Abaco Central High School College Fair in November 2004.

Scholarships for International Students

By Isobel Sherman

At the recent Abaco Central High College Fair the fact was brought out that some universities offer international students

Please see **College Fair** Page 19

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College Fair

From Page 18

scholarships and aid. Ramapo University offers a tuition scholarship if the SAT is 1100 or better. University of Tampa offers aid to International Students. Embry Riddle offers scholarships to international students as does New England Tech and Florida Culinary. The College of St Benedicts / St John's University has aid for international students. Each college has criteria for the granting of aid so checking with the admissions office of each college will allow one to know the criteria. Bahamas Baptist Community College is offering 10 scholarships to Abaco students. These scholarship will cover half of the cost of tuition for two years and is based on academic achievement, need and church involvement.

News of Past Administrators

Wedding Bells Rang

Mr. Everette Hart, past Administrator for Central Abaco, married Ethylee Wilson on November 15 in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos. He is now serving as Administrator on Exuma. We wish them much happiness.

Assigned to New Post

Mr. Jack Thompson, former Administrator for North Abaco, has taken up a new post as High Commissioner to Canada from the Bahamas as of November 1. After leaving Abaco, Mr. Thompson was Chief of the Passport Office in Nassau. Good luck in your new position.

Roberts

From Page 8

or attain. There are many other industries and ideas that could be spoken of, but that would require much more space.

What can be done now in order to invigorate or revive inspired leadership? What can we the people of The Bahamas do in order to create a goal for tomorrow of a better and better Bahamas?

We have a voice, and we have (supposedly) representatives who are responsible for carrying out the will and desires of the people. We the people need to be more proactive in making the government produce results and lead us in the direction we all want The Bahamas to progress to.

When those who are our representatives and those who make up our government don't

carry out the people's will, we the people in charge of the government of The Bahamas need to fire the ones not doing the desired job. It is the power of democracy.

We need to pray for inspired leadership and visionary leadership for our country. We need to desire an effective government, not a black hole government where great ideas and inspirational views disappear into nothingness.

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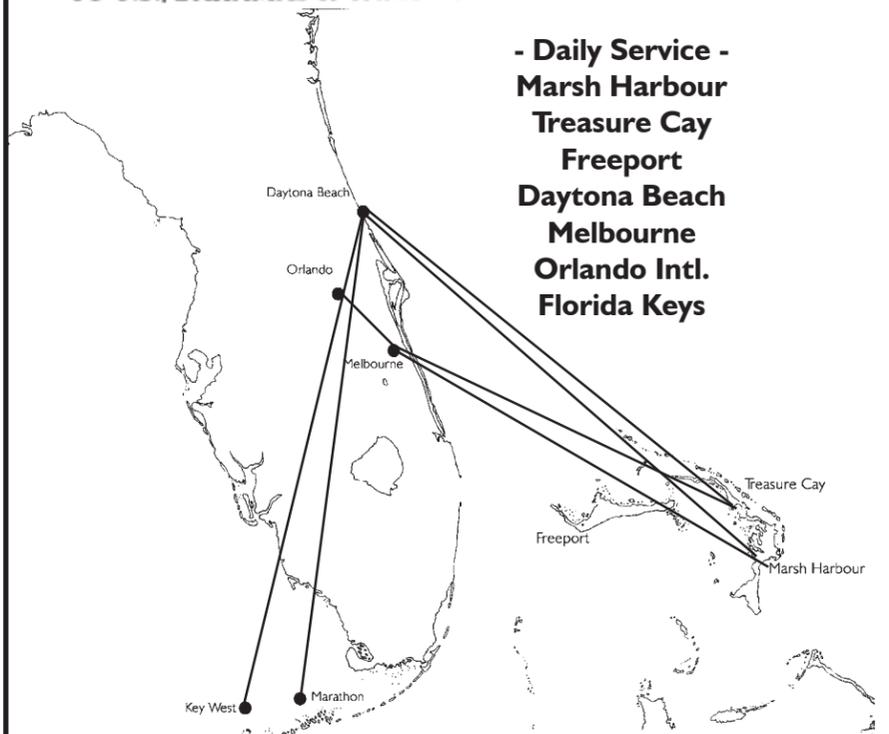
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Bahamasair Strike Cripples Country

By Jennifer Hudson

It was a strange sight to see the tarmac at Nassau International Airport full of Bahamasair planes on the morning of November 18 on arrival in the capital. It was also distressing knowing the number of residents and tourists who had been inconvenienced due to Bahamasair's Industrial Action and the amount of money this has cost the country in loss of revenue and bad publicity for our tourist industry.

Flights were first suspended on Sunday afternoon, November 16, and the fleet remained grounded until Tuesday evening when enough employees returned to work to allow evening flights into Miami, Or-

lando, Abaco and Rock Sound, Eleuthera. The flight schedules are now back to normal.

On Monday and Tuesday the Bahamasair check-in counters at Nassau International Airport were eerily vacant while all the charter desks were swamped with angry and agitated people trying to get onto alternative flights. At the Marsh Harbour airport the scene was a quiet one; few passengers were around and those who were, waited with an air of patience and resignation. The lady in charge of the Bahamasair counter, Ms. Patricia Lightbourn, was very accommodating in helping passengers find seats on charter airlines. Southern Air was put-

ting on extra service to Abaco and the smaller charter planes were doing their part.

A young couple with a small child was very concerned to arrive and find that there would be no Bahamasair flight. They were returning home to Canada after a sailing vacation on Abaco and had three more connections to make. A missed early morning flight could have been a nightmare for them. But, fortunately, they were able to get a charter with Sean Nixon and the lady valiantly overcame her fear of small planes in order to save the day.

Let us hope for the sake of the sanity of the flying public, the coffers of our country and our tourism industry which is still

trying to recover after 9/11 that this unrest by Bahamasair employees over non-payment of salary increases, the dismissal of two Freeport employees and uncertainty over possible salary cuts will soon be satisfactorily resolved.

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Oil wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

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THE MISSING - Drama
TIMELINE - Science Fiction/Fantasy
BAD SANTA - Comedy
GOTHIKA - Suspense/Thriller
BROTHER BEAR - Family
RADIO - Drama

PRESENTED IN **DOLBY** SPECTRAL RECORDING **DTS** DIGITAL SOUND

COMING IN DECEMBER 2003

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Obituaries of Relatives and Friends

The funeral for Mrs. Princess Cox, affectionately called Mother, 75, of Cooper's Town was held on November 15 at the Church of God Cathedral in Cooper's Town. Bishop Archilus Cooper officiated assisted by Bishop Henry Wright. Interment was in the South Side Cemetery.

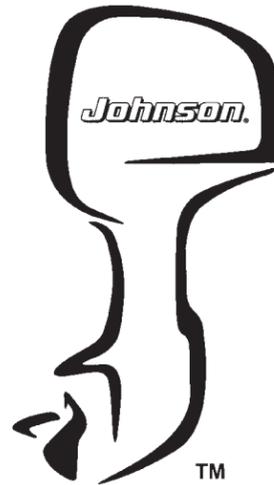
She is survived by daughters Brenetta Bullard, Victoria and Shirlean Rolle, Rosetta Murray, Delphine Russell, Engret Curry, Iona Knowles, Patrice Cox, Abedella McKinney and Greta McKenzie; sons Furnley, Paul and Odell Cox; adopted sons Leroy McIntosh and Matthew Adderley; grandchildren Evangelist Kathrina Thompson, Rev. Yvette and Sonovia McIntosh, Rev. Cedric, Ambrose and Shawn Bullard, Rustin, Quintin, Marold, Seanica and Mandell Rolle, Erica, Rickell, Rick Jr, Rickera, Torrie, Romeka, Kevelyn, Pauline, Shandeka, Paul Jr, Demetrie and O'Desha Cox, Kishna and Kingsley Murray

Jr, Vernique, Toran, Tarik and Sabrina Russell, Nevin, Richie and Dorenda Curry, Niketo Edgcombe, Marnique, Maronicia and Moriah Knowles, Paulette Forbes, Rolanda and Simpson McKinney Jr, Jewayna and Wayne McKenzie, Jr; great-grandchildren; sisters Miriam Roker and Betty McIntosh; adopted sister Ellen Newbold; brothers Wilson, Hezekiah, Calvin, Eddie and Pastor Ronald McIntosh; aunt Anne Marie McIntosh; uncle Roland McIntosh; 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 Annie, Florence, Kathleen, Estelle, Ruth and Delphine McIntosh; godchildren Ortlease and Elvis McIntosh and Miriam Seymour and many other relatives and friends.

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In Stock - 2 hp thru 250 hp at Lower than U.S. Prices.

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Gatorade, V8 Splash, Bluebird Juices, Water, Bottled, Malts and Canned Sodas

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Fax: 367-4190
P.O. Box AB-20948
Marsh Harbour, Abaco

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 34 hse + 365-4047
- New Plymouth Inn 9 rm 365-4161
- Ocean Blue Properties 13 + 365-4234
- Roberts Cottages 3 cott 365-4105
- Guana Cay**
- Dolphin Bch Resort 4 rm 10 cott.365-5137
- Coco Paradise 8 cott 365-5197
- Donna Sands 12 hse + 365-5195
- Guana Seaside 8 rm 7 cott 365-5106
- Harbour View Haven 365-5028
- Ria-Mar Rentals 5 + 365-6241
- Sea Shore Villas 365-5028
- Hope Town**
- Abaco Inn 22 rm 366-0133
- Club Soleil 6 rm 1 cott 366-0003
- Elbow Cay Prop 43 hse + 366-0035
- Hope T Harb Lodge 22 rm 366 0095
- Hope T Hideaways 50 hse + 366-0224
- Hope T Villas 3 hse + 366-0030
- Island Colours + 366-0290
- Lighthouse Rentals 4 cott 366-0154
- Sea Gull Cottages 3 hse + 366--0266
- Sea Spray Resort 5 villas 366-0065
- Tanny Key 30 hse + 366-0053
- Turtle Hill 4 villas 366-0557
- Lubbers Quarters**
- Sea Level Cottages 4 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
- www.bahamas.com - Min. of Tourism

Ph: (242) 323-2165 or 2166
Fax: (242) 323-8185
Nassau, Bahamas

Price Schedule - Sandy Point, Abaco

Passenger Vehicle	Round Trip	One Way
Up to 16' with driver	\$300	\$165
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*
Vehicles over 5 ton gross	POA	POA

* Price Additional to Accompanied Passenger Vehicle Transportation Price

Schedule - Sandy Point, Abaco

Day	Depart Nassau	Arrive Sandy Point	Depart Sandy Point	Arrive Nassau
Tuesday	8 am	11:45 pm	12:30 pm	4:15 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

For information visit our website: www.bahamasferries.com
Call Sandy Point 366-4119 • Marsh Harbour 367-5250 • Nassau 323-2166

Batelco Prepares for New Services

Batelco *From Page 9*

Access by Batelco to the States and beyond is through a redundant system with three access points. Abaco is looped into Nassau through a microwave station in Sandy Point and by a similar system in Fox Town connecting to Grand Bahama.

Nassau and Freeport in turn connect to Vero Beach, Florida, by underwater cable. A second underwater cable ring-loops through the Caribbean and enters the States in Hollywood, Florida. A third access is by a satellite connection.

An apparent deficiency in Batelco's expansion is the lack of phones in Central Pines Estates for houses now under construction. This was explained as an apparent oversight by the Department of Housing which is responsible for installing the utilities in that subdivision. Batelco may be contracted to do this work and is discussing this with relevant agencies. Government works in strange ways as the new subdivision in Sandy Point has no houses but has the wiring in place for a phone system.

Without much notice on Abaco, Batelco initiated an on-line billing service allowing customers to view their bill on-line. On providing proper identification, bills can be printed through the customer's computer, by-passing the mail system. Additionally, phone bills can be paid at any bank, giving customers further options.

A Batelco web site contains a current phone directory for both white and yellow pages. This allows companies opening in mid-year and residents with new phones to have their phone listed immediately instead of the current system of waiting for the next phone book to be published. White page listings are free and a schedule is being for-

mulated for the yellow pages.

An advanced billing system will be initiated in the spring, giving customers the option of receiving bills on-line automatically each month.

One of the most exciting changes made by Batelco according to Mr. Romer is its commitment to provide repair service in under 48 hours. To facilitate this, customers are asked to phone 914 with problems so the problems are logged and forwarded as appropriate. The log is forwarded to superiors in Nassau who follow up when complaints are not resolved in a timely manner. Mr. Romer apologized that those customers on the off-shore cays may exceed the 48 hour goal to solve problems due to the logistics of boat transportation.

Batelco service personnel live in many of the diverse communities on Abaco and this provides quicker access to problems by repair staff.

Mr. Romer showed one of Batelco's two new \$70,000 lift trucks which make service work much easier for Batelco's line-men.

Mr. Romer expects Batelco to play a major part in the growth and development of the Bahamas.

As this information was being given locally, the Minister of Works and Utilities, the Hon. Bradley Roberts, announced in Nassau that Batelco security deposits will draw interest for customers effective January 1, 2004.

Minister Roberts further said the company's commitment to service is being reflected in the reduction from months to days in resolving service problems. A plan is being formulated where service not resolved in under 48 hours may see the customer get credit for a month's phone rental.

Cable

From Page 1

It also offers an on-screen guide to programming.

Mr. Erik Russell, General Manager for Grand Bahama and Abaco, and Mr. David Burrows, Marketing Manager, along with the local Cable Bahamas staff were both at Solomon's to explain their company's new services.

Cable Bahamas has arranged with Solomon's SuperCenter to have a counter there where set-top boxes can be purchased. These can be installed easily or customers can request a serviceman to make the installation.

I went to Solomon's after school on Friday thinking that there would be few people interested. To my surprise the counter was

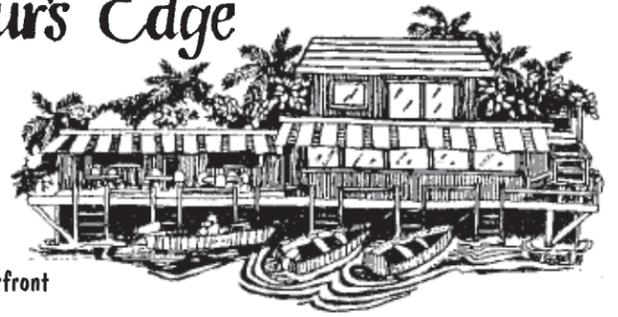
crowded. There were two representatives with laptops serving customers and answering questions. If you presented your cable bill or they searched for your account in their computer, you could purchase a box top set and it would be billed to your account.

I purchased one and figured I would never be able to set it up. To my surprise I was able to install it, even attached to my video. A simple toll free phone call and the system was turned on.

Now, it will take me awhile to see whether I want the gold pack, family pack, silver pack, but right now I am proud of myself that I installed the box top set.

Cable Bahamas did not expect the great response it received in subscribers opting for the box top. They had several hundred customers purchasing the set-top boxes and taking advantage of their initial offer.

Harbour's Edge



bahamian cuisine
on Hope Town's waterfront

Bar Opens Daily 10 a.m.

Closed on Tuesdays

Happy Hour 5 - 6 p.m.

Lunch & Dinner Daily

Lunch 11:30 am - 3 pm • Dinner 6 - 9 pm

ICE

Appetizers 11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m

Call 366-0087 • 366-0292 • VHF Ch 16

RENTAL
BIKES

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Run out of something? Don't sweat the small stuff this Christmas

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(242) 365-8350 FAX: (242) 365-8352
OPEN MON-SAT 8AM - 6PM AND SUN 9AM-1PM

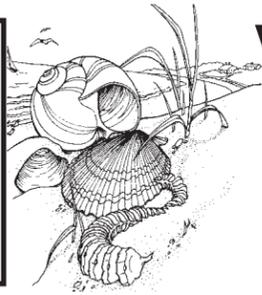
We may be small but we carry it all.

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www.abacosnapshop.com



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

Medical Services	
Abaco Medical Clinic Marsh Harbour	367-4240
Abaco Family Medicine Marsh Harbour	367-2295
Auskell Advanced Medical Clinic	367-0020
Marsh Harbour Medical Centre	367-0049
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	

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 Treasure Cay 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
Bimini Island Air - Ft. Lauderdale	954-938-8991
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	367-2498
Twin Air - Fort Lauderdale	365-8677
USAir - Ft. Laud and W. Palm Bch	367-2231
Vintage Props & Jets - New Smyrna B.	367-4852
Yellow Air Taxi - Ft. Lauderdale	954-359-0292
Local charter companies serving Bahamas & S. Florida Abaco	
Air Charter	367-2266
Cherokee Air Charters	367-2089

Tours & Excursions	
Kayak • Abaco Outback • Marsh Harbour	367-5358
Birding • Abaco Outback • Marsh Harbour	367-5358
Evening dinner cruise • Dive Abaco • Marsh H.	367-2787
Excursion boat • Froggies • Hope Town	366-0024
Kayak • Abaco Adventures • Treasure C	
Excursion boat • Froggies • Hope Town	366-0431

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 Center	365-4411
Guana Cay Dive Shop	
Man-O-War Dive Shop	365-6013

Rental Services	
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	15 365-4531
Other Shore Club	12 F 365-4195
Abaco Yacht Service	10 F 365-4033
Treasure Cay	
Treasure Cay Marina	150 F 365-8250
Man-O-War	
Man-O-War Marina	26 F 365-6008
Marsh Harbour	
Boat Harbour Marina	183 F 367-2736
Conch Inn	75 F 367-4000
Harbour View Marina	36 F 367-2182
Marsh Harbour Marina	52 F 367 2700
Mangoes	29 F 367-2366
Port of Call	24 F 367-2287
Abaco Yacht Haven	7 367-3079
Hope Town	
Hope Town Marina	16 366-0003
Hope Town Hideaways	366-0224
Lighthouse Marina	6 F 366-0154
Sea Spray	24 F 366-0065
Spanish Cay	
Spanish Cay Marina	75 F 365-0083
Guana Cay	
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	
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
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

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
Randy Sawyer	366-2284
Hope Town	
Maitland Lowe	366-0133
North Abaco	
O'Donald McIntosh	
Pope McKenzie	477-5894
Orthnell Russell	365-0125
Alexander Rolle	365-0120
Edward Rolle	365-0024
Green Turtle Cay	
Ronnie Sawyer	365-4070
Jeff Survance	365-4040
Ricky Sawyer	365-4261

Restaurant Guide	
Prices \$ Low, \$\$ Moderate, \$\$\$ Upper (Based on dinner entree range)	
‡ Provides ride from town	
+ Picnic tables & restroom only	
Marsh Harbour	
Anglers	\$\$\$ 367-2158
Conch Crawl	\$ 367-4444
Gino's	\$ 367-2002
Golden Grouper	\$ 367-2301
Hibiscus Cafe	\$ 367-2782
Hummingbird	\$ 367-2922
Jamie's Place	\$ 367-2880
Jib Room	\$ 367-2700
Kentucky Fried Chicken (lunch-5pm)	367-2615
Mangoes	\$\$\$ 367-2366
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	\$\$\$ 367-2074
Dundas Town	
Ambassador Inn	\$ 367-2022
Mackerals	367-5932
Hope Town	
Abaco Inn	\$\$\$ 366-0133
Cap'n Jacks	\$ 366-0247
Club Soliel	366-0253
Harbour's Edge	\$ 366-0087
H T Harbour Lodge	\$\$\$ 366-0095
Munchies	\$ + 366-0423
Rudy's Place	\$\$\$ ‡ 366-0062
Sea Spray	\$ \$ ‡ 366-0065
Man-O-War	
Pavilion	\$ 365-6185
Hibiscus	365-6380
Guana Cay	
Guana Seaside	\$\$\$ 365-5106
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
Spinnaker Restaurant	\$\$\$ 365-8469
Touch of Class	\$\$\$ 365-8195
Traveller's Rest	365-8654
Green Turtle Cay	
Bluff House	\$\$\$ 365-4200
Jolly Roger Bistro	\$ 365-4200
Green Turtle Club	\$\$\$ 365-4271
Laura's Kitchen	\$ 365-4287
McIntosh's Restaurant	\$ 365-4625
New Plymouth Inn	\$\$\$ 365-4161
Plymouth Rock Cafe	365-4234
Rooster's Rest	\$ 365-4066
Sundowners	365-4060
Wrecking Tree Rest.	
Harbour Café (ferry dock)	\$ + 365-8635
Sandy Point	
Big J's	\$ 366-4020
Nancy's	
Oeishas	366-4139
Pete & Gays	\$\$\$ 366-4119
Seaside Inn	\$\$\$ 366-4120
Rickmon Bonefish Lodge	366-4477



Everyone reads The Abaconian.

The Management & Staff of
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The Abaconian

SECTION B



VOLUME 11, NUMBER 22, DECEMBER 1st, 2003

Maritime Authority Meets on Abaco

Bahamas Has World's Third Largest Ships Registry



The Maritime Authority met in Marsh Harbour on November 12, the first time it had ever met outside Nassau. The Maritime Authority deals with ships registered in The Bahamas. The members are, seated, left to right, Peter Goulandris, Deputy Chairman, and Anthony McKinney, Chairman of the Authority. Standing behind are, left to right, Gary Sawyer, Pedro Rolle, Jackson Ritchie, Permanent Secretary Archie Nairn, Erma Rahming MacKay, Dudley Martinborough and Mervyn Jones. Gary Sawyer from Man-O-War is the first person named to the Maritime Authority from a Family Island.

In a first for the Bahamas Maritime Authority, it held its quarterly meeting in Marsh Harbour on November 12 in the new Port Administration building. Six members came from Nassau and were joined by one who flew in from Freeport. They were hosted by fellow member Gary Sawyer of Man-O-War Cay. This was the first time the Authority away from Nassau.

The Authority sets maritime policy for the Bahamas' Ships Registry which is the third largest in the world with 1400 ships registered. Only Panama and Liberia have larger registries. Bahamian registered ships are among the highest rated which translates to infrequent delays in foreign ports.

The Authority has thirty employees, mostly Bahamian, in its three offices in Nassau, London and New York. The largest office is in London. Some of the employees are foreigners with expertise in maritime matters.

The Bahamas is a member of the International Maritime Organization, an international body that sets safety, security and other standards affecting international shipping.

Please see **Maritime** Page 19

Rotary Club Assists Member



The Rotary Club of Abaco recently held a Steak Out in aid of one of its members, Mr. Hugh Cottis. Mr. Cottis, center, has had very large medical bills as a result of a stroke he suffered in June and his subsequent treatment and therapy. Presenting the check to Mr. Cottis is Mr. Hezekiah Dean, District Education Superintendent, on the right. Mr. Lyndon Davis, Manager of Commonwealth Bank, is on the left.

Man-O-War Held Town Meeting



The Hope Town District Council held a Town Meeting in Man-O-War on November 20. A disappointing turnout probably indicated that the residents of that community are satisfied with the local government decisions. Shown above is Senior Administrator Alexander Williams addressing the group while Chief Councillor Walter Sweeting and Fred Bonaby listen. See story on page 12B

Schedule of Events for December

- | | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|---|
| Dec 4 | All Abaco Wine & Cheese Tasting at Mangoes | Dec 13 | Junior Junkanoo Competition in Marsh Harbour |
| Dec 5-6 | Musical Concert in Green Turtle Cay | Dec 13 | Toys for Tots toy collection in Marsh Harbour |
| Dec 6 | Christmas Bazaar, Marsh Harbour | Dec 18-19 | Christmas Play presented by Hope Town |
| Dec 6 | Drawing for Groceries Price Right | Dec 22 | Boat Parade Marsh Harbour |
| Dec 6-7 | Craft Show at Abaco Beach Resort | Dec 23 | Raffle of Computer to aid Hugh Cottis |
| Dec 8 | Town Meeting in Marsh Harbour | Dec 23 | Raffle drawing at Abaco Hardware |
| Dec 11 | Chamber of Commerce - Alternate Point of View | Dec 24 | Drawing for car at Price Right |
| | National Health Scheme | Dec 26 | Senior Junkanoo Competition Marsh Harbour |

Rotary Hosts District Governor

By Jennifer Hudson

On November 17th the Rotary Club of Abaco was honoured to welcome District Governor Keith L. Daley from Jamaica as keynote speaker at its evening meeting at the Abaco Beach Hotel. Gov. Daley has been very active in industry and commerce in his home country. During his year's Presidency of Rotary he contributed significantly to the integration of persons with disabilities in communities throughout Jamaica with the installation of access facilities and special parking in public places. His publication *Building Guidelines for the Disabled* was widely acclaimed. Also in attendance at the meeting was Assistant District Governor, Mr. Richard Mc.Combe.

During the evening Governor Daley installed new members and made several special presentations. Inducted as new members of the Abaco Club were JoAnn and Peter Daley, both Paul Harris Fellows, who have transferred from the Rotary Club of Fort Myers where they served for many years. Also inducted were officers of the Interact Club of Abaco from St. Francis de Sales School. These were President, Niline Baptiste; Secretary, Charmile Adderley; Treasurer, Adia Rolle; and Directors, Bianca Taylor and Alicia Williams. President Niline Baptiste gave a very well presented speech on behalf of the club and its goals.

Mrs. Nadeen Beneby and her husband were presented with a plaque in recognition of vocational service to the communities of Abaco, Haiti and Cuba.

Mrs. Sandra Albury was recognized with a plaque for unselfish service to the club and it was stated that she truly exemplifies the Rotary motto of *Service above Self*. She has made great contributions to society and especially to the Abaco Central High School where she is considered to be their patron. She owns the distinction of having been the first woman president of the Rotary Club and first woman Deputy Councillor for South Abaco.

Recently a Steak Out was held to raise funds for Mr. Hugh Cottis, a long standing Rotarian and founding member of the Club, who suffered a stroke last June. The proceeds from this fund raiser in which many other businesses, organizations and individuals took part were presented to Mr. Cottis by Mr. Hezekiah Dean, District Education Officer. Mr. Dean spoke glowingly of his mentor, Mr. Cottis, who was responsible for giving him such a good start along his successful career path.

Mr. Cottis, who has met the enormous challenges of recent months with courage

and fortitude, was able to respond despite his present difficulties with speech and thanked everyone for their part in raising the money which "not only makes him very happy but will help to make all the hospitals he stayed in happy also!"

Governor Daley in his speech to the club stated that their goal is to motivate members to *Lend a Hand* which is their theme for this year. Through the fund raising efforts of Rotary, 200 countries of the world are now polio free and there are only six countries remaining where the disease must still be eradicated. By the year 2005 it is hoped that Rotary will have increased to 1.5 million members and the theme for that year will be "A century of service and a new century of success." The 100th anniversary ceremony of the Rotary Club will be held in Chicago which was the birthplace of Rotary, and Governor Daley stated that the formation of Rotary has been one of the most significant sociological developments of the twentieth century.

Annie's Restaurant and Takeaway

By Portia Jonsson

When you are in the Treasure Cay area, keep a look out for the new Annie's Restaurant and Takeaway which is housed in a neat green and white building on the S.C. Bootle Highway. This new restaurant opened for business on June 28th with the help of the Bahamas Development Bank.

With a seating capacity of 36 people, the restaurant is open seven days a week between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. offering a traditional Bahamian menu with some American dishes. Their specialty is all types of soups: chicken, pigs' feet, sheep's tongue and conch. Sandwiches along with the full menu are available at any time of day. Soft drinks and virgin daiquiris are available.

People may remember the flourishing Treasure Chest Restaurant which was formerly on this site but which burned down in 1996. Annie and James Williams decided in April 2002 to rebuild and are happy to now be open in their new restaurant with their daughter as the cook.



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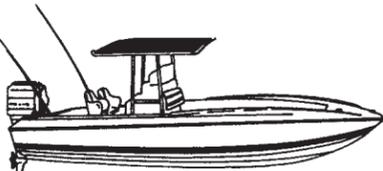


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- ★ **Bahama Palm Shores** - Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath - 1,300 sq.ft. home. with 1 bedroom, 1 bath detached cottage/apartment on almost 1/2 acre lot. One Block from beach, two minute walk. # AB76 - **\$ 275,000.**
- ★ **Bahama Palm Shores** - Elegant 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath - 2,000 sq.ft. home. with 1 bedroom, 1 bath detached cottage/apartment on double lot over 2/3 acre Near beach - Auxiliary Generator. # AB87 - **\$430,000.**
- ★ **Man-O-War Cay** - "Corn Bay" -15 acre family estate - two complete residences, two guest houses - Private Harbour, private beaches, Fabulous views. # AB11 - **SOLD**
- ★ **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.

Chairman
Abaco Chapter
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UNDER CONTRACT

"Pelican Point"

Marsh Harbour - Pelican Shores - 3 bedroom, 3 bath home - 1 bedroom, 1 bath garage apartment - 2 Acres - over 1,000' waterfrontage - private dock with boat lift - Fabulous Views.- Fully furnished. # AB67 - **UNDER CONTRACT**



NEW LISTING

"Sunset Point Resort"

Marsh Harbour - Busic Bay - 8 Unit Bonafishing 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.**



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.**

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

- ★ **Great Guana Cay** - "Oceanfrontier Hideaway" - mini-resort Beach-front - 6 unique 2 bedroom, 1 bath, rental logcabins- 2,000 gal/day Watermaker - Central location. # AB26 - **\$1,275,000.**
- ★ **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.**



Margot Lee
Estate Agent

Joined H.G. Christie, in 1998.

Based in Man-O-War Cay

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Kathleen Albury, BRI
Estate Agent
Appraiser

Joined H.G. Christie, in 2003 after five years of Real Estate experience.

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**



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.**

☆ **VACANT LAND** ☆

- ☆ **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 # 17 - **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.**
- ☆ **South Abaco** - Old Kerr's - 24.69 acres - 327 ft. magnificent sandy beach-front. 1/2 hour from Marsh Harbour. Suitable for construction of cottages or small resort. # AB5104 - **\$375,000.**
- ☆ **Tilloo Cay** - "Thompson Tract" - 7 acres. - sea-to-sea, good elevation - for great Sea of Abaco and Ocean views - can be divided into 2 - 3.5 acre parcels. # AB5113 - **\$965,000.**



Chris Plummer, BRI
Estate Agent

Joined H.G. Christie, in 2000.

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John Cash, BRI
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People in the News

Employee of the Year

By Portia Jonsson

The Marsh Harbour Branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia has named Mrs. Fredricka Ferguson Smith as the Employee of the Year for 2003/2004. The Bank of Nova Scotia honoured all of the chosen Employees of the Year from the bank's various branches and units throughout the Bahamas at a ceremony held in Nassau on November 15th.



Mrs. Smith is a 17-year veteran of the Bank and has held several positions including Manager's Secretary, Loan Interview Clerk and Personal Banking Officer. She has attained the International Certified Professional Secretaries rating and is a graduate of the College of The Bahamas and Miami Dade College Secretarial Science Program. Mrs. Smith is married to Christopher Smith and the couple has two children, Krystenique and Christopher II.

A Fond Farewell

By Jennifer Hudson

People from many churches on Abaco bade a fond farewell to Rev. David Stapleton in a special service held recently at the Kirk of the Pines. Not only has Rev. Stapleton been minister of the Presbyterian Church in Marsh Harbour for the past six years but he has also been a friend and visiting preacher to several other churches in the community. Paying tribute at the farewell service were members of the Methodist Churches in Hope Town, Dundas Town and Cherokee, New Visions Ministries, Abaco Youth Ministries and the Every Child Counts School where Rev. Stapleton was a dedicated volunteer. A friendship quilt made by members and friends of the Kirk of the Pines was presented to him.

Rev. Stapleton was a retired religious education teacher and minister of the United Reformed Church in England who responded to the need for a minister for the Presbyterian Church in Marsh Harbour and a religious knowledge teacher for Forest Heights Academy.

From the time of first learning of these

posts at his home in England it was just a mere two weeks before he was standing in front of a class at Forest Heights Academy on Abaco.

A lover of sports, Rev. Stapleton coached tennis and some hockey at the Every Child Counts School and started the Saturday Morning Club with the help of Henry Key. This club, which is held on the grounds of Forest Heights Academy, provides a fun time for boys and girls to get together and learn to play hockey.

"Although Bahamians don't know how to keep time," he said, "They certainly know how to smile and be friendly." He described his time on Abaco as having been a very rich experience and an unexpected bonus during his later years.

Rev. Stapleton returned to his home in a Norfolk village on the east coast of England on October 24th and will be working part time with the Methodist Church in North Norfolk.

Realtor Attends Convention

The National Association of Realtors held its annual convention in San Francisco on November 6th - 9th, 2003. Attending the convention were 23,000 realtors from all over the world, as far away as New Zealand. Included at the convention were many of the agents with Damianos Realty with its main office in Nassau. The president of the company, George Damianos, a strong believer in learning new methods, was pleased to have Donna Darville from the Abaco office along with several other agents from the Bahamas attend. The experience, exposure and education that the agents received is essential to the companies' efforts to provide exceptional professional service to their clients throughout the Bahamas and the world.

Please see **People**

Page 5

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SAFE HARBOUR

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

More People in the News

People

From Page 4

New Associate Is Named

Bahamas Realty is very pleased to an-

nounce that Chris Roberts is now associated with their Marsh Harbour office. After years in the construction business, Chris has decided to make a change and wear something other than his construction garb!

With his experience in the construction industry and knowledge of the market, he is a welcome addition to the real estate field. Chris graduated from Duke University with a degree in civil engineering and began his career with Cavalier Construction in Freeport. His career in construction has included international markets with SPAN International in Nassau and the Bahamian market with Osprey Developers also of Nassau. A frequent visitor to Abaco since childhood, Chris relocated to Abaco in 1990 and has been responsible for the construction of several private residences and public buildings, including St. Francis Catholic Church and The Shoppes of Royal

Harbour Village. Chris has served in local government on the Town Planning Board and is active in several areas of community service.



Rev. David Stapleton was honored at a special service before he moved back to England. He is shown here with friends, left to right, Kathy Schweizer, John Hudson and Angela Key. He was presented with a friendship quilt made specifically for him.

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MARSH HARBOUR SCHEDULE

DAYS	Depart Nassau	Arrive MHH.	Depart MH	Arrive Nassau
Daily	8:30am	9:00am	9:10am	10:00am
Tues, Wed	4:00pm	4:30pm	4:40pm	5:10pm
Fri, Sun	4:00pm	4:30pm	4:40pm	5:30pm

TREASURE CAY SCHEDULE

DAYS	Depart Nassau	Arrive TCB	Depart TCB	Arrive Nassau
Daily	8:30am	9:20am	9:30am	10:00am
Fri, Sun	4:00pm	4:50pm	5:00pm	5:30pm

Schedule & fares subject to change

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Fun for All at the Fair

By Portia Jonsson

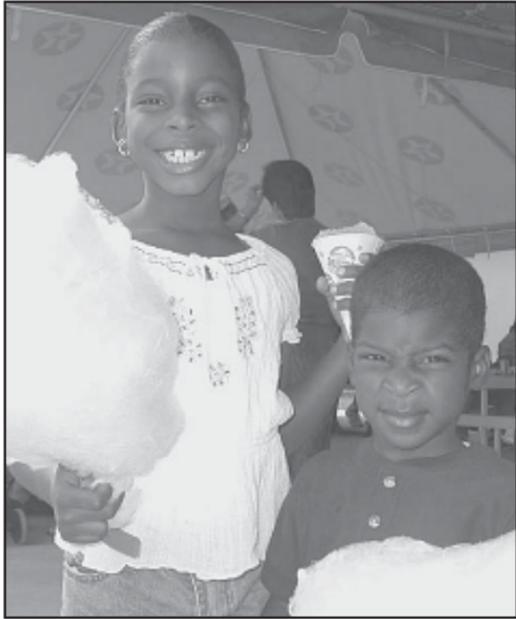
According to Mrs. Cecile Albury, principal of Agape Christian School, this year's

school fair was a resounding success. There was a steady flow of people coming in all day and proceeds from the fair surpassed last year's. She said she was quite pleased with the turn out.

Agape's Second Annual School Fair was held on November 22nd at the school grounds. There were lots of yummy food and treats like corn dogs, popcorn and cotton candy and loads of fair games. The bouncing castle and face-painting booth were most popular with the kids.

Unlike last year's fair, the weather co-operated and the sun was shining bright. It was a fun day for all at the fair and everyone had a good time.

Cotton candy is always a winner at school fairs. Here Hannah and Joshua enjoy the sweet treat.



Face Painting proved to be very popular at the recent fund raising fair at Agape Christian School. Shown here are Abigail Williams and Janice Sands showing off their artwork.



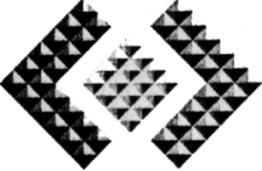
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REGISTRATION OF COMMERCIAL OPERATORS, UNDER THE BOAT REGISTRATION CHAPTER 277

All Commercial Operators are advised that section 3(1)(2) of the Boat Registration Act stipulates that:

No boat shall ply, be offered or let for hire for use in the waters of the Bahama Islands unless and until it is registered by the (Marsh Harbour) Port Authority under this Act.

No person shall act as Master of a boat required to register under this Act (hereinafter in this Act referred to as "a boat for hire") unless and until he has obtained a license from the (Marsh Harbour) Port Authority so to do.

Any vessel found operating without a valid certificate of registration and an unlicensed master will result ARREST and PROSECUTION.

In addition, all vessels are subject to a safety Inspection to be conducted by officers of this Department. Request for inspection should be made to the Captain Cyril A. Roker, Port Administrator, Marsh Harbour.

REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN YACHTS, UNDER THE BOAT REGISTRATION (YACHT) RULES, 1991

It has been brought to this Department's attention that many companies or persons have been conducting charters in the waters of The Bahamas without the proper registration to do so.

Be advised that section 3(1)(2) of the Boat Registration Act stipulates that:

No boat shall ply, be offered or let for hire for use in the waters of the Bahama Islands unless and until it is registered by the (Marsh Harbour) Port Authority under this Act.

No person shall act as Master of a boat required to register under this Act (hereinafter in this Act referred to as "a boat for hire") unless and until he has obtained a license from the Port Authority so to do.

Any vessel found operating without a valid certificate of registration and an unlicensed master will result ARREST and PROSECUTION.

If your vessel is plying for "hire" in the waters of The Bahamas, and is not registered with this authority, you are to contact this office at the earliest convenience if you wish to conduct same in The Bahamas.

In addition, all vessels are subject to a safety Inspection to be conducted by officers of this Department. Request for inspection should be made to the Captain Cyril A. Roker, Port Administrator, Marsh Harbour.

You are further advised that all vessels registered under the Foreign Charter Act are subject to pay four per cent (4%) Contractual fee for each charter that is carried out.

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Hope Town Representative
Ainsley Harrison



Phone 242
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Hope Town, Abaco



Marsh Harbour Great Abaco Club - Vacant property available in a gated community, this lot has the most canal frontage and is the largest lot in the development. \$239,500



Leisure Lee - #0178 Vacant canal front lot in growing development. Over 12,000 sq. ft. Dock at your own property and walk a short distance to a community beach. \$45,000



Hope Town #5004 Charming 3/3 three story home, large master bedroom with walk-in closet on second floor, presents sea views, large TV room. Situated in North End. Call today!



Marsh Harbour - #0234 Two acres of lovely vacant residential property situated in High Rock near Crossing Beach. This property runs on the Sea of Abaco and boasts of views of the surrounding cays. Also features some elevations. Don't delay.



Man-O-War Cay - #0331 Elegant home with 3 beds and 3 baths. Features a modern kitchen, large dining and family room with views of the turquoise ocean. Spacious outside decking gives ample room for relaxing and catching the cool island breezes. Also features a guest house with 2 beds and 1 bath. Many more extra features. A MUST see! Call today for an appointment to view.



Tilloo Cay #5019- Two adjacent water-front parcels, 1.75 acres in total and features elevations with views of the Sea of Abaco. Northern lot has 100' +/- of waterfront and is offered at \$192,000. Southern lot has 92' +/- of water-front and is offered at \$216,000. Call for more details.



Guana Cay #0271 4/2 home with a 2/1 apartment situated on a magnificent bluff presenting sea views of the Sea of Abaco. This home has a fantastic rental history. Also features a private dock. \$699,000



Orchid Bay - #0195 Lovely vacant lots available in this gorgeous new development. Interior lots and bay front lots available. Features tennis courts, nice pool, restaurant on the premises. All lots have beach access. Lots are moving fast. Behind arrow in photo above. Call today for prices.



Long Beach - Vacant lots available in this lovely subdivision. Long Beach is approx. a 35minute drive south of marsh harbour. financing available. Call Today.



Marsh Harbour - NEW LISTING #5050 Prime commercial property comprising of 13,300sq. ft. with large building in great condition. Can be occupied as a retail store, office space, and more. Conveniently located. \$299,000



Guana Cay - #5038 2 bedroom 2 bath home with central A/C, screened-in porch, adjacent to resort property. Great rental potential thru the resort with rights to use the resort's amenities. Fantastic offering. \$260,000

Casuarina Point - NEW LISTING! Two adjacent lots on the canal, set back on the waterway, protected and private. Call for more details!

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

Bahama Palm Shores - Call about our many listed properties in this fast growing community. Lots selling fast. Call today!

Man-O-War - Vacant interior lot, in town and close walk to beach

Guana Cay - Half acre lots, ocean and hilltop interior lots. All lots have beach access. Call for pricing

Hill Creek - 4.8 acres with 50' + elevations and 100' of waterfront-\$130,000

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



Guana Cay - Half acre lots that present ocean views, some interior hilltop lots available as well as ocean front. All of these lots have beach access. Don't miss out on this opportunity.



Guana Cay #0195- Lovely beach-front property available on one of the prettiest beaches in Abaco. Runs approx. 100' on the Atlantic and is close to town. Call today



Marsh Harbour - #0167 Charming, well kept home in Cove Estates with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. This home features a large fenced-in yard that is well manicured, central A/C, spacious kitchen and living area. Also features a separate TV room. Master bedroom includes walk-in closet and make-up vanity in addition to the comfortable bath. This is a GREAT priced listing! \$233,000



Casuarina Point - #1392 2 bedroom 2 bath home in excellent condition. Sits on the canal and features a dock, 4-car garage, screened-in porch and peaceful island style living. This property is definitely a bonafisherman's paradise. A lovely beach only a short walk away, providing a calm swimming area. \$229,000

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

Hope Town - Ocean view estates 1/3 acre, vacant lot with sea views and beach access, quiet area. \$99,000

Sand Banks - vacant property available on the highway to Treasure Cay, motivated seller. Bring offers. Call for more details

Elbow Cay - gorgeous 2/2 home on ocean beach with pool set in large deck overlooking the Atlantic. \$1,200,000

Fire Road, North Abaco - Starter home for sale. 2 beds, 1 bath, views of the sea. \$30,000

Yellowwood - vacant lot now available, call for more details.



Treasure Cay - Best priced lots available on Windward Beach and Galleon Bay. Some lots are suitable for a dock. Prices start at \$72,000.



Marsh Harbour Duplex - Two 2/1 apartments with a 1/1 efficiency in the rear available for sale. Fenced-in yard, and furnished. Motivated Seller! REDUCED \$170,000



Lubbers #0350 This interior vacant lot that comprises of 10,195 sq. ft. sits in Abaco Ocean Club on the ever so lovely Lubbers. Lubbers is a short boat ride away from the mainland of Marsh Harbour. \$45,000

Green Turtle Cay Office
Chris Farrington - Agent



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365-4697

P.O. Box AB 22758,
Green Turtle Cay, Abaco



Green Turtle Cay White Sound #0333- Water front house, 2B / 2B, master bath has a spa. The modern interior consists of two dining areas, an island counter bar, living room and kitchen. All front rooms enjoy a magnificent view of the harbour. Offered at \$850,000



Treasure Cay #1322- Three bedroom two bath modern home near beaches and golf course. Immaculately cared-for home with all modern amenities such as central A/C, cable etc. Offered at \$265,000

Green Turtle Cay Island getaway perched above the crystal clear waters, overlooking the Sea of Abaco, this 3B / 3 1/2B estate comprises a total of 3,289 sq. ft. of living area and over 2000 sq. ft. of wooden decks leading to and surrounding the pool. Beautiful sunsets await you at this brand new island getaway. \$1,980,000

Green Turtle Cay - Nice Neighbourhood - cleared lot with fruit trees, near beaches, park and a public dock. \$45,000

Treasure Cay - Greenway Canal Lot - with splendid unobstructed views of the canal. Owner says sell! \$35,000

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Police Crime Report

A package of ticket stubs worth \$512 was taken from the Bahamasair counter at the Marsh Harbour airport on November 3 late in the afternoon.

An \$8,000 generator and a \$500 jack hammer were stolen on November 3 from a triplex under construction in Dundas Town.

A vacant house in Treasure Cay was broken into between mid-September and early November. Stolen were a television, stereo set and computer system.

A resident of Hard Bargain, Moore's Island, was arrested on November 4 for disorderly behavior and obscene language.

A Dundas Town male was interviewed on November 4 by the police on a complaint of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor. He denied the offence and the Attorney General's office is being contacted regarding further action.

A resident of Charlie Boo corner was arrested on November 4 for being disorderly and being drunk at the Union Jack Dock in Marsh Harbour.

A resident of the Mud was arrested on November 4 and further processed by Immigration as being an illegal immigrant.

A resident of Murphy Town was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon on November 5 for intentionally backing his car and knocking a police officer off his motorcycle. He is presently out on bail.

A Moore's Island resident reported that sometime during the weekend of November 1 - 3, someone stole 14 gallons of gas valued at \$82 from his boat. A suspect's name was given the police.

A Honda generator and a \$120 battery were stolen from a truck parked in the owner's yard in Dundas Town during the

night of November 6 or during the next day.

The Marsh Harbour police received a late night call on November 8 from Spanish Cay that the restaurant and bar building were on fire and was later reported to be completely destroyed.

The car of a Fox Town resident caught fire while being driven between Fox Town and Wood Cay on the morning of November 10.

A 17-year-old male of Marsh Harbour was arrested and given bail for having sex with a sexually active 11-year-old girl on November 9. He will appear before the Juvenile Panel.

An 85 HP Yamaha outboard engine worth \$5,500 was stolen during the day of November 10 from a boat docked in Cedar Harbour. A suspect was named.

Seven Haitian nationals were arrested November 10 by the Cooper's Town police in cooperation with Immigration officers and transferred to custody of Immigration for processing.

Two residents of the Bahama Star Farm in the Norman's Castle area were arrested on November 11 for breach of the Shop Licensing Act.

A Dundas Town man was slapped in the face by another Dundas Town man on November 11 while at the government dock.

Two students of Abaco Central High School were arrested, then released pending further investigation on November 11 for an assault on another student.

An attempted rape was made at 3:30 a.m. on November 12 against a woman resident of the Mud by a Haitian man who gained entrance by posing as a police officer. He held a knife to her throat during the unsuccessful assault. She received a cut to her

throat and hand as she resisted.

A Dundas Town resident reported a man he knew trespassed on his property in the morning of November 13.

A resident of Sand Banks near Treasure Cay reported that sometime between late October and mid-November someone stole an alternator and fuel sensor, valued at \$600, from his Oldsmobile while parked in his yard.

A gold and silver watch worth \$300, a cell phone valued at \$300 and a \$20 bottle of Intrigue cologne were taken during a night time break-in on November 13 at a Murphy Town residence.

St. Francis de Sales School reported a

rock thrown through a window in the late afternoon or night of November 13. Nothing appeared to be stolen. A disgruntled student is suspected.

An outboard boat from Hope Town ran ashore on the Pelican Shore area of Marsh Harbour late at night of November 13 with the driver receiving minor injuries. The seat was broken off and the console and engine hood were damaged.

A Dundas Town woman was spit on and threatened with death by her ex-boyfriend late at night on November 15 while at a Marsh Harbour night club. He threatened again to kill her while at the police station.



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Mainland Abaco. Lovely adjacent 1 acre home sites. Between Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay. Walk to beach! Great investment! #8147. Priced at **\$38,600** and **\$41,000**.

Royal Harbour. Excellent location near Boat Harbour entrance. All the amenities nearby. Commercial or residential lot suitable for single family or duplex. #6351. **\$120,000**

Guana Cay. 2/2 cottage just steps from beach. Screened porches, tile floors, observation deck and more. Super rental. #7900. **\$391,050**

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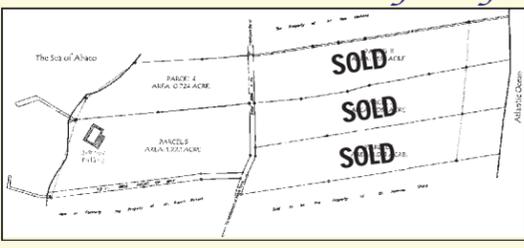
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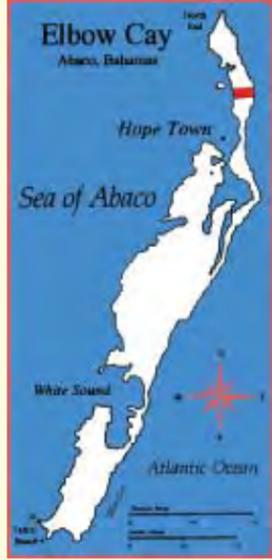




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South Abaco News

Cherokee Sound

By Lee Pinder

New Place In Town

Charmaine Saunders has opened a new ice cream parlor at the front of her house at the northern entrance road into Cherokee. It's called Rainbow Delight and looks like a little doll house. It will be open Monday through Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday evenings a half hour later until 9:00 p.m., Sunday afternoons from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and then again for an hour after church service from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Their specialty will be a variety of ice creams, milk shakes, sodas, Sundays and banana splits. Charmaine tells me that the menu and the hours are subject to change to whatever the traffic dictates. This is a first for Cherokee and a welcome addition to our community. This will give the young people someplace to congregate. We feel certain that they will do well.

Christmas Is Coming

With the holidays right around the corner, yards are being decorated, trees are

going up and presents are being wrapped. But in Cherokee we always get that little bit extra that always comes this time of the year. Already we are hearing grumblings about the "pranksters," who consist mostly of young people, but who are led (or being taught) by a few select grown-ups with the misunderstanding that "if a grown-up is doing it, it must be okay." Mostly their shenanigans are harmless, more bother than destruction and meant to tease or antagonize. At least, they have the good sense not to pick on the old or infirm, but rather seem to choose their victims from the "short of patience" types that will likely as not come out and throw an old shoe at them to shut them up or chase them away. Their "shenanigans of choice" is piling up the small boats one of top of another at every crossroad in the settlement or hanging lawn furniture all along the fences.

The pranksters' argument is that these periodic holiday sojourns are a Cherokee tradition that go back for as long as anyone can remember. The more classic pranks pulled are told and retold year after year, sort of like local legend, with the present crop of

pranksters always trying to come up with some new and different prank that will then be the highlight of next year's story-telling and the talk of the town throughout their generation. One of the most famous stories to date which goes back some fifty years is when every boat in the harbour was tied together in one long chain and anchored out by Riding Cay to flow out with the tide. The unfortunate recipient's complaints are that they are a pain in the b—.

HELP! We're Choking to Death

Smoke, smoke, smoke. Day in and day out. Where are the ecologists now? First, the terrible noise pollution with the airboat (which we understand will be sent back to the States, thank goodness), now it's air pollution with constant fires. Everyone is complaining and some of our older residents have respiratory problems

and the smoke is definitely affecting their breathing.

We realize from the recent coastal cleanup that strange things wash ashore and any smoke is unpleasant, but our feeling is that they are not only burning tree trimmings but from the awful smell they must be burning trash as well. We were told that there was supposed to be persons watching out for our environment so that things like this would not upset our delicate ecosystem.

Can we make a suggestion that the Winding Bay project please take pity on us and obtain a chipping machine so that they may compost their dead and cut trees. At least, hold off burning until the wind is out of the West and will blow the smoke out to sea and not over us.

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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
- **Four Three inland lots** within 5 minute walk of waterfront and public dock. \$47,200 ea
- **1/2 acre lots** within 5 minute walk of public dock, water front and Green Turtle Club. \$60,000-\$70,000 each
- **Green Turtle Estates:** 1/2 acre only 125 feet from ocean beach. Firm \$183,000
- **Green Turtle** 3 acre inland lot within five m of the beach. \$53,000 gross
- **Windsong Vil** \$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 hilltop, 3 bedroom, 2 bath hom with fireplace, perched 35 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. Vaulted ceilings. 125' on ocean. Panoramic views of ocean through French doors, 3000 sq. ft. under roof plus 1,000 sq. ft. of screened-in porch. W/D, A/C in master bedroom plus ceiling fans throughout. One acre. \$1.42 million gross
- **NEW!** Secluded two-acre parcel with house stretching from Bluff Harbour to the Sea of Abaco. Over 1000 feet of water front. Stunning views. Two bedrooms / 2 baths. New protected dock on Bluff Harbour. Gazebo on Sea of Abaco. 30,000 gallon cistern. Stand-by generator. Many mature trees. Garage. \$3,000,000
- **Four unit income producing** 2 bed 1 bath apartment complex. Fully furnished. Water views. Dock. Laundry. Two years old \$700,000 plus closing
- **Stunning new home.** Interior still under construction. All materials on site to complete. Truck. 2 bed 2 bath. A/C throughout. Views of ocean, Guana Cay and Sea of Abaco. \$575,000 ONO

Munjack Cay:

- **One-quarter acre on beach,** 125' frontage. \$183,000
- **Munjack C** ch lot UNDER CONTRACT \$95,000

Little Ambrigis Cay:

- **10 acres.** Dock material on site. Beautiful beach. High hill. \$515,000 gross

Abaco Main Land:

- **100' on the Sea of Abaco** x 200' Near Fire Road. \$59,000
- **110' of Sea of Abaco** x 200' with new nearly finished block 2 bedroom 2 bath house. Near Fire Road. \$177,000

Local Government at Work



Central Ab Town Planning 27 Oct 2003

Eight applications for building permits had been posted for processing. They included a car wash, a wall, an addition to a commercial building and routine residential construction. The total estimated value for the eight projects was \$1,771,420. All were routine and were approved.

An earlier request for an addition to a take-out restaurant on Crockett Drive was discussed as the partially completed structure did not meet the setback requirements and would reduce the available parking which is already marginal. A visit to the site was scheduled.

Central Abaco Council 30 Oct 03

Councillor Yvonne Key apologized for voting to give the All Abaco Regatta \$4000 at the last meeting. The funds had been denied at the September 25 Council meeting. She felt it was a breach of ethics to present the request again in the hope of a more favorable outcome. She was pressured by a colleague to reconsider the request

which she later regretted. This would set the precedence of continually reviewing Council decisions hoping for a different outcome. Chief Councillor Cay Mills supported Mrs. Key as he felt there were more important community projects which need funding and the Regatta did not leave any long term benefits.

Mrs. Key was concerned that a decision by Council to issue a contract to clean the dump site was later redirected by the Chief Councillor to a different individual. She did comment that the dump work was done very well.

The earlier proposal to rotate school janitresses with the bulk of the work to be accomplished after the students leave at 3 p.m. appears to be progressing well.

Councillors agreed to allow \$500 to be spent for emergency repairs by the Chief Councillor without consulting Council. Any expenses of this nature will have to be subsequently ratified by Council but this gives some freedom in repairing plugged toilets and other issues needing immediate action.

Chief Councillor Cay Mills attended the recent Freeport seminar on Local Government and found the sessions beneficial.

However, he did want it known that he is the longest serving Chief Councillor who does not have the power to sign checks even though the Act gives this power to the Chief Councillor.

Requests were made and authorized for the following:

- \$500 seed money each to Abaco Central High School and Central Abaco Primary School for their Junior Junkanoo program.
- \$2000 to the Junkanoo Committee to be split between the two adult Junkanoo groups in Central Abaco.
- \$500 to the Dundas Town Fire Department for specific repairs to their fire engine. They had asked for \$1,000.

They had asked for \$1,000.

• \$150 to Abaco Central High School to reserve a domain name for the school for ten years.

• \$1,181 for lights and bulbs for the Murphy Town ball park. BEC has agreed to donate the labour once the parts were purchased.

Marsh Harb Town Committee 11 Nov 03

Deputy Committee Chairman Yvonne Key reported to members that a derelict house on Front Street had been demolished

Please see **Local Govt.** Page 11

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"LITTLE ORCHARD" - Island home located in Buttonwood Bay, 3bd/2bth, fully furnished, central a/c, wrap around decking. Full 1 bed/1bath apartment below (rental income of \$800/month) Enclosed large workshop, 30kw generator, 3 phone lines, cable TV. Lot fully landscaped with mature fruit trees
Price: \$532,500

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Centreline Road, central Elbow Cay - three contingent lots, b/t 9-10 thousand sq. ft. each. Multi-zoned, residential or commercial, ideal spot for small business. Call Greg Roberts for details.

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Local Government at Work



Local Govt. *From Page 10*

and removed. It had been used as a refuge by several vagrants.

Recommendations were made to Works to widen the road through the hill to Sweeting's Village. However, there is no money for this. Works concurred that the road needs to be widened and will forward the request in the hope that the project will be considered when funds become available.

An earlier complaint about teachers and janitresses preparing food at the Central Abaco Primary School was without merit according to Administrator Williams. Their job description specifically requires them to assist with food in the Tuck Shop. It was unclear about the teachers' role in preparing food as they may be involved during a free period.

Marsh Harbour Committee members agreed to a request by the Port Director to maintain the grounds on the public side of the fence.

A request by Friends of the Environment

to adopt a coastal area to keep clean was accepted and Marsh Harbour will keep the Crossing Beach area cleaned.

It was agreed to spend \$700 on an invoice for sidewalk extensions and \$600 on an invoice for roadside cleaning in Spring City.

Marsh Harbour will get some public Christmas decorations as \$591 was allocated for this. Five areas will be decorated, some with lighted Christmas trees. They are:

- Airport Roundabout
- Marsh Harbour Port
- Yahama Park
- Water front gazebo near Wally's
- Touchton's or Sandy's Corner

A discussion took place over foreign artists working here and selling their art work here. Immigration will be asked to investigate.

An open town meeting is scheduled for December 8. Topics may include:

- Speed bumps on the road to the ferry dock
- Speed bumps at the top of the Pelican Shore hill
- Work permits for foreign artists
- Immigration and licensing issues

Central Abaco Port Authority 18 Nov

Committee members were pleasantly surprised that a dock approval was returned by the Docks Committee in Nassau in only two months.

The unlit pilings which mark the channel into the new Marsh Harbour port are

regularly snapped off by large boats while those remaining pose a hazard to small boats at night. It was suggested that they be re-

Please see Local Govt. Page 17

Marsh Harbour Christmas Boat Parade

**Monday, December 22 at 7 p.m.
Captain's Meeting at the Jib Room,
Dec 20 at 6 p.m.**



This event relies solely on community donations. We thank you in advance for your generous donation towards the fireworks display

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Man-O-War Holds Town Meeting

A substantial contingent of government department heads accompanied Administrator Williams to an open Town Meeting in Man-O-War on November 20. The six residents attending brought up a few issues but the general mood was one of satisfaction.

Most of the Hope Town Council members were there and they brought some of their concerns to the attention of the town.

Councillor Jeff Key asked Immigration Officer Fred Bonaby about the apparent large number of illegal construction workers on Elbow Cay. Mr. Bonaby was recently posted to Abaco and will make a visit Elbow Cay to familiarize himself with conditions there.

Another immigration question concerned the large number of Haitians now being granted citizenship. They wondered how applicants names could be posted locally rather than just being posted in the Nassau papers which have limited distribution on Abaco. Concerns were raised that some applicants may have a poor relationship with local communities, but the residents are not aware when these persons apply for citizenship.

The Administrator and others were made

aware of the unlicensed and illegal Haitian shops scattered throughout remote parts of Elbow Cay. A United States resident in Hope Town was mentioned as making and selling craft items from his home.

Mr. Bonaby explained that a foreign spouse of a Bahamian can obtain a spousal work permit six months after being married. Haitians living here prior to 1985 can apply for citizenship while those living here for ten years after 1985 can apply for residency.

It was stated that residents on the north-western end of Man-O-War have raised \$100,000 toward \$140,000 needed for a major electric supply upgrade by BEC. The status of the upgrade was wanted.

Port Director Cyril Roker was asked if someone could come to Man-O-War to facilitate the collection of boat license fees. It was suggested that someone from the Port Authority accompany Road Traffic on one of its routine trips. This would facilitate in the payment of dock licenses and other maritime fees. Mr. Roker drew a laugh from the audience when he stated that Abaco has only 114 docks registered. Persons with dock payments in arrears will be expected

to bring their delinquent licenses up to date.

Mr. Roker said his Department would accept used engine oil at the dock in Marsh Harbour. There is no provision for handling this at the dock site but he will endeavour to dispose of it.

The practice of several foreign persons collectively buying a lot and building their own house was questioned. Apparently this is a legal but gray area. It was explained that the intent of the law was to allow homeowners to work on their own house although it was not intended that they construct it. An area homeowner was mentioned who has possibly built and sold as many as six houses in the area.

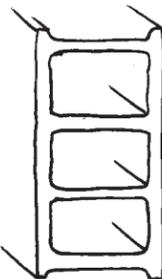
The Foreign Investment Board was criticized for not giving routine approvals for real estate transactions in a timely manner.

Property Tax Collector Joe Norris said most of the off shore cays have had their foreign properties recently reassessed. This includes Guana Cay, Scotland Cay, Man-O-War, Sugar Loaf and Matt Lowe's Cay. Hope Town is on his schedule. Values are being established at close to the actual market value.

Discussions on property tax collections then centered on how much money Abaco, Elbow Cay and Man-O-War contribute to

Please see **Town Meeting** Page 13

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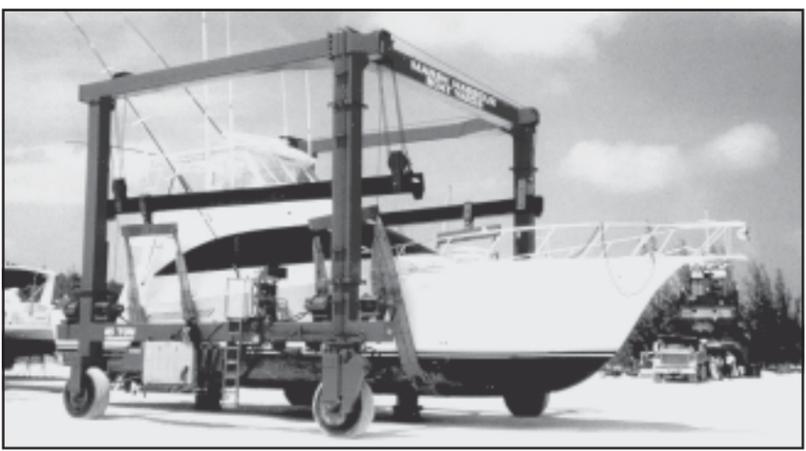
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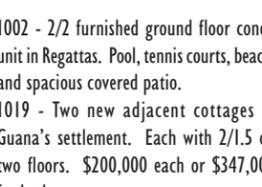
Tilloo Cay - #1021 Two adjacent parcels of waterfront land located just south of the Castle offering great elevations and deep water just offshore for a private dock. The northern lot offers 100' on the water and is offered at \$190,000 and the southern lot offers 90' with larger building area and is listed at \$199,000.



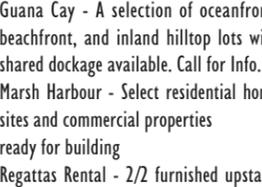
Coral Point - #1007 Over one and a half acres of elevated waterfront land near Great Cistern with foundation and walls poured to belt course for three bedroom home to overlook the Sea of Abaco. Finish the approved plans or modify to complete as you wish. Land runs 140'+ on the water by 400'+ deep. \$280,000 GREAT PRICE



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1002 - 2/2 furnished ground floor condo unit in Regattas. Pool, tennis courts, beach, and spacious covered patio.
1019 - Two new adjacent cottages in Guana's settlement. Each with 2/1.5 on two floors. \$200,000 each or \$347,000 for both.
1028 - Two harbour front lots in Marsh Harbour. Elevated and deep water. \$225,000 & 325,000
1041 - Two cottages on the Sea of Abaco on Guana. 2/2, 1400 sq. ft., private dock, tasteful decor. \$732,250 each.
1003 - 2/2.5 guest house on large lot on Elbow Cay. Approved plans for main home with 3/3.5. Sea views and private. \$474,000



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Guana Cay - Half acre private ocean front lot with 100' of water front, great elevations, electricity to property, and small step down beach. \$168,000



1031 - 4.8 acres from highway to deep water creek between Leisure Lee and Treasure. Great elevations throughout. \$130,000

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Hope Town Council Discusses District Affairs

Hope Town Council 20 Nov 2003

The monthly meeting of the Hope Town District Council was held in Man-O-War Cay. The meeting location is often rotated between the three towns represented, Hope Town, Man-O-War and Guana Cay.

Notices will go to the various hotels, restaurants and liquor establishments as their licenses must be renewed each year by December 31.

Each of the three towns may have \$1500 to spend on minor projects from an unused account dating back several years.

Hope Town proposes to put a small dock on the far corner of Sunshine Park where boaters can put their garbage without infringing on the parking spaces in the park area.

Central government asked each town to submit a list unused government buildings.

Discussions on government's request to clean towns of old appliances and junk cars drew a blank when members asked where the funds were for this and where the junk was to go. Hope Town's limited dump site cannot accept any more large pieces of debris such as cars. It was suggested that each town prepare a cost estimate for removing junked cars and appliances. The Council will contact appropriate organizations for recommended marine sites to dump this material to construct artificial fish habitats.

Town Meeting *From Page 12*

the Treasury in terms of property taxes. This drew a smile but Mr. Norris professed not to have that information.

Mr. Neville Albury stated that the fuel taxes alone paid by Albury's Ferry are greater than the budget allocated by government to Man-O-War. Those leading the discussions stated they were not in a position to comment as Nassau made these decisions.

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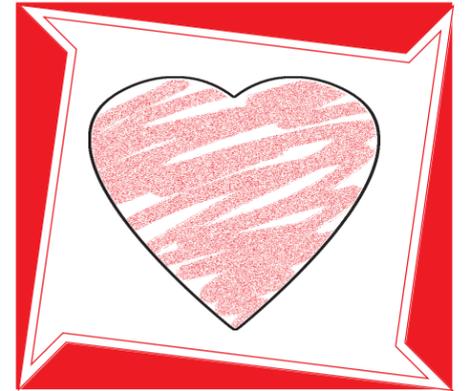
15 Korean Fishing Boats Impounded

North Andros fishermen were upset when 15 Korean fishing boats arrived at Morgan's Bluff, Andros. The new 45-foot boats apparently belong to a Bahamian which suggests the venture is legal. However, the Korean manufacturer has granted a \$2.5 million mortgage to the Bahamian firm of Netsiwell which clouds the ownership. A mortgage holder is usually the nominal owner.

Reports suggest there is a dispute between the Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation which facilitated the operation and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries which feels the boats are of foreign ownership and therefore unable to fish commercially in The Bahamas.

Five Koreans are to teach 80 Bahamians about the boats and fishing methods. Other information suggests the boats each have a

huge live well and will be catching fish live for air transport to Asia. Apparently fishermen from Andros, Eleuthera and other islands are planning to demonstrate in Nassau against the operation.



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Getting Ready for Junior Junkanoo

By Portia Jonsson

Students at many schools on Abaco are hard at work cutting, pasting, painting and decorating costumes in preparation for the first ever Junior Junkanoo Parade on Abaco set for December 13th. Teachers and students have been working diligently on this project everyday after school since the be-

ginning of October.

The students at Central Abaco Primary are no exception. Mrs. Neulessa Major heads the team of nine teachers on the Junior Junkanoo Committee for the school and serves as Secretary for the Junior Junkanoo Committee on Abaco. Mrs. Major and the other teachers at the school have just real-

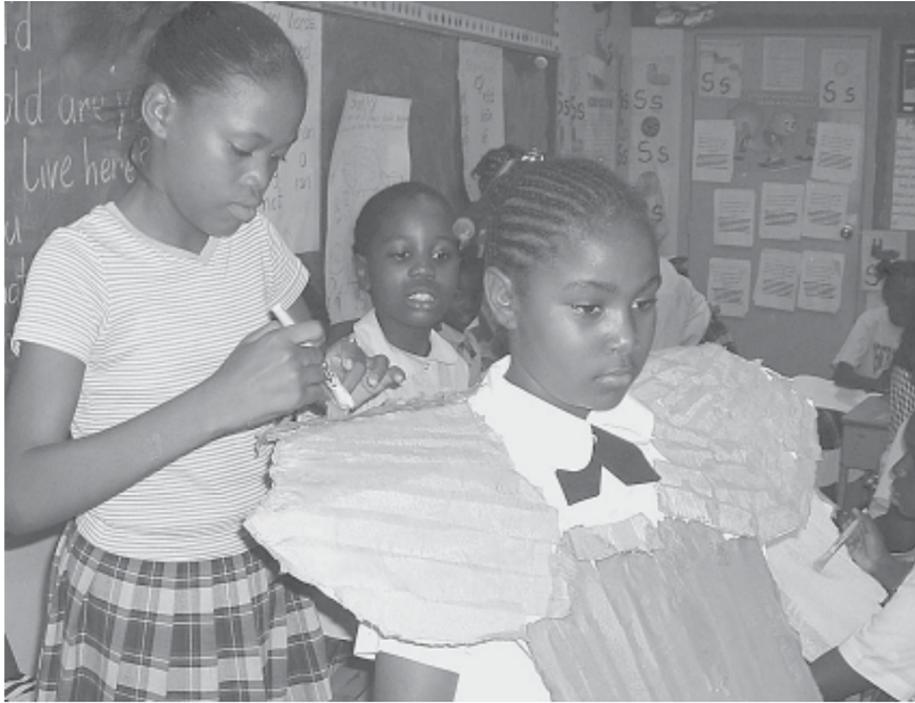
ized how costly it is to get the children ready for competition since undertaking this project. The cost for outfitting their team of 90 girl dancers is \$1500. A fun day was organized during the mid-term break in an effort to raise funds as well as the solicitation of donations from government offices and financial institutions. The Ministry of Education has assisted the school in supplying crepe paper, glue and contact cement and \$500 "seed money."

Since all the teachers on the committee are new to the art of creating a Junkanoo piece, Mrs. Major said it has been a learning experience for both teachers and students but she pointed out that Mr. Colin Curry and Mr. Churton Tooté of the Abaco Junkanoo

Committee have been very helpful in "steering them in the right direction." The teachers design a template for the students but each participant is responsible for cutting out, putting together, pasting, painting and decorating his or her own piece. It usually takes about one week to complete a costume.

Central Abaco Primary students are very excited about the parade and are anxious to "strut their stuff" for the crowd. They are confident that they will be victorious. Their team is 140 strong.

The sound of cowbells will "ring out" on December 13th at 4 p.m. in front of Dove Plaza. Everyone is asked to come out and support this cultural event and cheer on his favourite team.



Candace Cornish helps Nemara Saunders with the finishing touches of her Junkanoo costume. Both students will participate in the Junior Junkanoo Competition set for December 13th.

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Schools Will Compete on December 13 in Marsh Harbour



Mrs. Nimhard lends a hand with the pasting of crepe paper. Students at Central Abaco Primary are hard at work in preparation for the upcoming Junior Junkanoo Parade set for December 13th. The island wide competition will see most schools on Abaco competing. Central government is encouraging each major island to have a competition and is giving each school that competes \$500 for materials.

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CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Has Returned! November 29th, 2003 at Goombay Park

There'll be Games & Prizes
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- Bouncing Castle • Petting Zoo • Hoopla
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ON SALE!

- Arts & Crafts • Clothing
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- Cotton Candy • Popcorn
- Snow Cones • Ice Cream

There will be a Special Appearance by

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Register for your booth today (Registration Ends Nov. 8th)

Registration forms can be obtained from:

Justina Winder - Smart Business Solutions (above Doug's Place)

Brenda Sawyer at Abaco Petroleum Limited

Melissa Roberts - 367-2908 • Yvonne Key - 367-2243

Proceeds from the sale of booths will go to assist Sybil's House, Every Child Counts and The Goombay Park.

The Straw Lady of Abaco

By Jennifer Hudson

Recently, I spent a very interesting hour with Mrs. Genneth Parnell Darville, who could well be named *The Straw Lady of Abaco*. Mrs. Darville owns the Darville Straw Industry situated on Soldier Road in Marsh Harbour, just west of Memorial Plaza.

Mrs. Darville was born on Long Island where she learned to weave straw at the age of five years. In 1967 at the age of 35 years she left Long Island to work in Eleuthera. A new hotel, the Island Inn, had

just opened and she decided that this would provide a good opportunity to market her straw work. Always ready to seize a good opportunity, Mrs. Darville then made another move in 1976, this time to Abaco, as she had learned that there was nobody on this island doing straw work. For the next 27 years she crafted and sold her straw work from a house on Front Street in Marsh Harbour. When the landlord decided that he wanted to sell the property, Mrs. Darville moved to her present location. She is happy and states that now she has her sign up on the main street advertising her business the tourists are finding her.

Family members assist in the gathering of the palm from trees in Bahama Palm Shores where the palm trees flourish in the sandy soil. Only the shoot from the middle of the tree is picked and only one, or sometimes two, can be gathered from each tree. The family gathers between 18 and 20 dozen at one time, then carries them home to let them dry in the sun for three or four days.

The drying process can, however, take up to two or three weeks if there is no sun. Once completely dry, the fronds are stripped and, with fingers that are still extremely nimble, Mrs. Darville begins to weave her patterns. She creates several intricate types of weave, which include 11 string, 15 string, 23 string, shingle, spider and lace. Using different types of palm she is able to create different colour designs.

The Pond Palm produces a white strip and the Cocoa Palm produces a brown strip while the Silver Palm produces a beige strip. The combination of the different weaves and colours makes for very many different and attractive designs. A very long strip has to be woven in order to have enough to manufacture an article and it takes nine hours to weave enough to make one hat. Mrs. Darville then sews the long strip on her treadle sewing machine into whatever article she has in mind and then, if she feels it needs further decoration, she will embroider a design with raffia.

Anyone wishing to buy a gift will enjoy browsing through the colourful array of hats, baskets, dolls, table mats, book markers and purses in Mrs. Darville's shop which this talented lady has made so successful by working to the motto *Love, neatness and patience*.



Mrs. Genneth Darville sews straw work on her treadle sewing machine. Straw baskets and other items are created at her shop behind Memorial Plaza. She laboriously plaits the straw in intricate patterns and enjoys making beautiful items to sell.

Nassau Airport Will Be Renamed

The Nassau International Airport will be renamed the Lynden Pindling International Airport. This was announced by the Prime Minister, the Hon. Perry Christie, at the recent convention of the Progressive Liberal Party. The new name will become effective very soon.

Mr. Christie also announced at the convention that his government was committed to proceed on necessary upgrades to all international airports without delay.

The Bad Example

He whipped his boy for lying,
 And his cheeks were flaming red,
 And of course there's no denying
 There was truth in what he said-
 That a liar's always hated.
 But the little fellow knew
 That his father often stated
 Many things that were untrue.
 He caught the youngster cheating
 And he sent him up to bed,
 And it's useless now repeating
 All the bitter things he said;
 He talked of honor loudly,
 As a lesson to be learned,
 And forgot he'd boasted proudly
 Of the cunning tricks he'd turned.
 He heard the youngster swearing
 And he punished him again-
 He'd have no boy as daring
 As to utter words profane
 Yet the youngster could have told him
 Poor misguided little elf,
 That it seemed unfair to scold him
 When he often cursed, himself.
 All in vain is splendid preaching,
 And the noble things we say,
 All our talk is wasted teaching
 If we do not lead the way.
 We can never, by reviewing
 All the sermons on the shelves,
 Keep the younger hands from doing
 What we often do ourselves.

Distressed Properties For Sale

1. Property #51, 15,600 square feet, Murphy Town
 Crown Allotments with stone house, Murphy Town, Abaco
2. Property #55, 6,900 square feet, Murphy Town
 Crown Allotments with stone house Murphy Town, Abaco
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Speed Humps and Golf Carts May Be on Marsh Harbour Town Meeting Agenda

A public town meeting will be held in Marsh Harbour on December 8 at 7 p.m. at the Marsh Harbour Goombay Park. The Local Government Act requires that each town hold a public meeting at least once a year for residents to express their views and interact with officials.

One item which the committee wants to present to the public are speed humps. They have a request to install one on the curve near Leonard Thompson's residence approaching the ferry dock. Another speed reducing hump has been requested for the top of the hill leading to the Pelican Shore area.

Administrator Williams has recently experienced negative community views on the bumps installed in Hope Town. He found that bumps are desired when there are none

and are not wanted after getting them. He wants a comfortable town consensus before any speed bumps are installed.

Humps is the word used by the Ministry of Works for these traffic calming pavement bumps. Correctly constructed humps can be seen and road tested as you approach the Treasure Cay round about.

The use of golf carts on the streets in Marsh Harbour is another topic where public input is desired. Apparently there is no legal challenge to their being on Marsh Harbour roads when properly equipped and insured. However, golf carts are not usually on streets in larger towns and cities and it is felt that Marsh Harbour has reached the point where they are an impediment to the orderly flow of traffic in the down-town area.

Immigration issues over work permits, illegal immigrants, their squatter housing and their unlicensed businesses are other issues that may be presented.

The public is invited to ask questions of public officials including the Marsh Harbour Town Committee members. A typical meeting of this sort may have a representative from Customs, Immigration, Port, Works, Environmental Health, the Administrator, Town Committee members and others.

An open meeting in Man-O-War in mid-November brought out six town residents suggesting all is well there. An earlier meeting in Hope Town was quite spirited by those who filled the Methodist church to capacity. Officials there were taken to task on many issues.

Local Govt.

From Page 11

moved entirely and range markers be established on shore. This was accepted by all present and will be explored further.

It was noted that the daily Haitian ferry which left from the Crossing Beach area for Man-O-War with workmen is no longer based there and must have found a new and less obvious departure point.

BEC will be contacted for estimates on putting lights at either the South Side dock or the Bustic Bight landing beside the S.C. Bootle highway. Range lights are wanted at these south-side locations for fishermen and Moore's Islanders arriving after dark.

Classified Advertisements

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Picture and 4 lines \$25
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Little Harbour - Great ocean view furnished cottage, 2 air conditioned bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, screened porch, spacious outside decks with landscaped yards. Full kitchen with all amenities, metered electric power and 7000 gal. cistern. \$250,000 Call owners in US at 850-230-8212 or 242-366-3515 in Little Harbour to see cottage.

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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

Lubbers Quarters near Hope Town, water front house, below appraisal, views, dock, fully furnished, rental history, owner. 242-366-3100, www.sandybottoms.com



Marsh Harbour 3 bedroom/2 bath, furnished, w/carport. Beautifully landscaped w/asst. fruit trees. House on approx 26,000 sq. ft. property. Located hill top Cove Estates, Govt. Subdivision. Serious enquiries only. Tel 242-367-2564

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

Marsh Harbour lot in Sweeting's Tract, 100' x 100', good elevation. \$30,000. Call Don 365-6149 nights

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

Scotland Cay home, Sea of Abaco water front. Lg 3 bed/ 3 bath, lg workshop, modern CBS, just remodeled, terrific view, dock, 35 ft. marina slip, landing rights, completely furnished. \$780,000. Extra lot available separately \$250,000. Owner 561-746-3337 signal133@bellsouth.net or fax 561-746-2096

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Little Orchard Treasure: Huge main home plus two apartments, Sea of Abaco view \$545,900

Royal Harbour Beauty: Level cleared site, most desirable location in great area. \$69,800

Hot Hot Guana Cay: Hill top lots with shared dockage, views in every direction. \$65-\$72-\$80,000

Best Kept Secret: 1 acre at Coral Point, 150' frontage, beautiful, private & secure. \$148,800

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Bahama Palm Shores: Family homesite in best developed area. \$21,000

Bahama Palm Shores: View property. \$15,000

Cabbage Point: Pristine, water front, ecological preserve, low-impact home. Only \$118,000

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AIDS Day Is December 1

By Portia Jonsson

In an effort to keep teachers and students in Abaco abreast of the facts regarding HIV/AIDS infections in the Bahamas, representatives from the AIDS Secretariat in Nassau staged a two-day workshop at the Learning Resource Centre on November 11th and 12th.

Forty-seven million people worldwide are living with HIV right now. Three and a half million of them are children. In fact, most new cases of HIV are contracted by people before they reach their 25th birthday, and almost 95 percent of people living with HIV are in the developing world. This means that AIDS is a global epidemic; every society and every culture has had to make room for AIDS and The Bahamas is no different. More than

3000 Bahamians have already died from AIDS since the mid 1980s and over 6000 Bahamians live with HIV or AIDS.

World AIDS Day was inaugurated in 1988 to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS and facilitate the spread of the message of prevention. Now, a decade and a half later, World AIDS Day serves two purposes. It still helps to raise awareness and spread the message of HIV prevention, but now it also highlights the global strategies in the fight against AIDS and emphasizes the crucial areas where the whole world needs to improve.

This year's theme is *Live and Let Live: Stop Stigmatization and Discrimination*. Prejudice and stigmatization have been iden-

tified as major barriers to winning the fight against AIDS. People are afraid of AIDS and that fear keeps them ignorant of the facts about HIV and AIDS.

- Abstinence is the only sure protection, the only safe sex is no sex.
- A faithful uninfected partner is one way of reducing the risk of infection.

• With new treatments persons with HIV and AIDS can live longer, healthier, productive lives.

With the highest rate of infection occurring among adolescents and young adults in The Bahamas, the challenge we face is

Please see **AIDS**

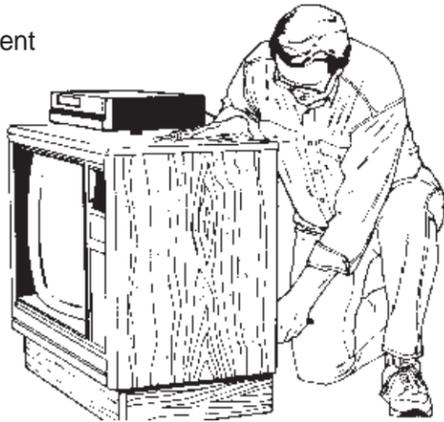
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Guana Cay Subdivision - 11 Lot subdivision in Guana Cay for sale exclusively by Abaco Real Estate Agency. The property is located approximately 1 mile south of the Guana Cay settlement and is accessible by golf cart or by boat. Amenities include: community dock, graded roads, all lots surveyed, subdivision

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- Lookout House** - Marsh Harbour 3 bed/ 2 bath cottage is located directly on the Sea of Abaco on Eastern Shores peninsula. Featuring private boat dock, central A/C, Cable TV, VCR/DVD, CD/Tape player, freestanding fireplace and much more. Offered at: \$1.12M
- Dorros Cove** - Elbow Cay Lots #39 & #40 Offered as one parcel. Approx 220' X 220' fabulous unobstructed ocean views. Offered at: \$310,000
Will consider selling separately for \$160,000 Each 110'X 220'
- Dorros Cove** - Elbow Cay Lot # 14 Approx 100' X 200' Offered at: \$150k
- Dorros Cove** - Elbow Cay Lot #41 Approx 85' X 160' Offered at: \$160k
- Dorros Cove** - Elbow Cay Lot #42 Approx 110' X 160' Offered at: \$165k
- Leisure Lee** - The beautifully conceived and executed land development at Joe's Creek on the Abaco mainland. Deep water, protected canal lots, approx. one-quarter acre in size, with average water frontage 100 ft. Offered from: \$60,000 Interior lots from: \$25,000
- Marnie's Landing** - Elbow Cay 15 Lots 1/2 Acre +/- with private boat slips from \$280,000

AIDS

From Page 18

to reach out with the message of prevention in innovative ways. Bahamians have to start making positive choices about their sexual behaviour. Every Bahamian must learn the facts about AIDS and every Bahamian must share the message of prevention.

Summary of AIDS in The Bahamas 1985 – 2003

- The HIV prevalence rate for the Bahamas is four percent
- 9593 persons have tested HIV positive
- 4495 persons have developed AIDS
- 70 percent have died
- 5098 are living with HIV and have not developed AIDS
- 1254 persons have AIDS
- The disease occurs primarily among

heterosexuals

- Male to female ratio is 1.1 to 1
- Young people are the fastest growing group of new HIV infections
- AIDS is the leading cause of death in young males and females 15-44 years
- Between ages 15-29 females with HIV outnumber males 2:1

Maritime

From Page 1

The Authority meets quarterly and usually has an extensive and comprehensive meeting. The agenda for this meeting comprised a half-inch thick booklet of items needing attention. The Authority is a true working board made up of business men with interests and knowledge of the shipping business. They work through the day without a lunch break; they do have a working lunch around the conference table.

Sailboat Is Trapped by Fowl Cay Reef at Night

By Jennifer Hudson

Yet another boat has come to a disastrous end on the treacherous reefs of Abaco. This time the accident happened at Fowl Cay. At approximately 4 a.m. on November 15th persons on the 50-foot sailing ketch *Adhara* sent out a May Day message that they had run aground off Fowl Cay. BASRA at Hope Town kept in touch with the couple on board until the BASRA boat was able to go out at daylight to assist. The rescue boat itself was unable to reach the damaged vessel and a small dinghy had to be used to get the people off the boat. Tide at the time was going down but once it started to come

up the stricken boat began to move and then sank.

A number of officials from Marsh Harbour went out to the site to survey the situation and interview the sailors who were identified as Thomas Fircuse, an American, and Frenchman Didier Lebas, who were enroute from Boca Raton to Marsh Harbour. It was discovered that the boat had actually hit the reef at 1 a.m.

The two men were taken to Man-O-War Cay and they then went to Guana Cay to enlist the help of divers to assist them in recovering whatever they could of their vessel and belongings.

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