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VOLUME 12, NUMBER 4, FEBRUARY 15th, 2004

Sen. Smith Talks on Tax Alternatives

Chamber Hears Minister Explain Recommended Value Added Tax

Officers March to Annual Church Service



The Royal Bahamas Police Force and the other uniformed government department officers held their annual church service on January 25. Members of the elite Royal Bahamas Police Force Band from Nassau led the officers in a showy parade. The service was held at the Trumpet Assembly of God Church in Dundas Town. See story on page 18.

The Abaco Chamber of Commerce had as its guest speaker Sen. the Hon. James Smith, Minister of State for Finance at its January 29 meeting. He spoke on alternative taxation systems that could replace the current primary system of customs duties. He went into detail giving the advantages and disadvantages of each of the systems. The meeting was held in Anglers Restaurant at Abaco Beach Resort.

Alternative tax systems will have to be put into place if The Bahamas enters into any of the trade agreements now under consideration. Countries form trade barriers by imposing high tariffs or import licences. In The Bahamas our main source of revenue is from customs duties and the country is currently having a problem raising enough revenue. All governments of The Bahamas including the present one have made it clear that no taxes will be levied on income or capital.

Mr. Smith first explained the current tax system and some of its weaknesses. Most of the revenue that the government raises comes from customs duties on imports and exports. Today with a budget of about \$1 billion, about 46 percent comes from customs and excise taxes while 23 percent comes from stamp duties and 9 percent comes from tourism taxes. The remaining 30 percent comes from property tax, motor

Please see **Smith**

Page 2

Chinese Ambassador Visits Abaco



The Chinese Ambassador to The Bahamas, Mr. Jiao Dongcun, made a three-day familiarization visit to Abaco during the last week of January. He was impressed with the good economy that Abaco showed. He toured farms, the cays and the new freight dock, traveling the length of Abaco. He is shown here accepting a gift from the Hope Town Council being presented by Council member, Mrs. Diane Bethel.

By Jennifer Hudson

The Chinese Ambassador to The Bahamas, His Excellency Jiao Dongcun, accompanied by three Chinese Embassy officials, one of whom is responsible for Trade and Industry, paid an official visit to Abaco from January 26 - 28. Those accompanied him were Mr. Dayu Chen, Second Secretary; Mr. Jian Xu, Third Secretary and staff member Mr. Yi Bi. The visit was a familiarization tour to let the Ambassador see the status of Abaco's development. During their three days here

the Ambassador and his party had a busy itinerary to cover.

Their first visit was to the new Port Department in Marsh Harbour where they were taken on a tour of the dock facilities and government offices by Assistant Port Director, Capt. Cyril Roker, and Superintendent of Customs, Mr. Gary Smith. Later that day they toured several farms accompanied by Mr. David Knowles from

Please see **Chinese**

Page 17

Min. Smith Addresses Chamber



Sen. the Hon. James Smith, Minister of State for Finance, addressed the Abaco Chamber of Commerce on January 29, outlining various alternatives to the customs duties and stamp taxes. Trade agreements that The Bahamas is considering committing would not allow the present systems as they are restrictive to free trade. Shown listening to him are, left to right, Art Sands and Michael Albury.

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Value Added Tax (VAT) Is Recommended

Smith *From Page 1*

vehicle tax and several other revenue items.

The reliance on international trade for taxes can cause problems which was evident in the slowdown of the economy after 9/11. Imports into The Bahamas dropped which meant government revenues dropped. Mr. Smith felt that the existing taxes are not adequate for The Bahamas today. Growth in revenue is slower than growth in expenditures.

Mr. Smith mentioned that another weakness is that the present structure impacts low income households more than upper income households because lower income families spend proportionately more of their income on goods. This means they pay a larger share of the import duties. Many feel that the present system relies too heavily on international trade and not on domestic sources of revenue. Customs protect local production and discriminate against imported goods.

At this time The Bahamas has observer

status in the World Trade Organization and has begun the process for becoming a full member. The Bahamas is also negotiating in the Free Trade Area of the Americas and considering status in the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. Any one of these trade agreements will require that this country change its tax regime and accept non-discriminating procedures.

Mr. Smith pointed out that any system that is accepted must produce the same or more revenue as the customs and stamp duties which for most items is a total of 42 percent. The total revenue taken in by government is \$1 billion annually which is 20 percent of Gross Domestic Product and is among the lowest in the Caribbean. Customs and stamp duties raise about \$550 million and it is this amount which will have to be replaced.

All options being considered will shift the tax base to domestic consumption. Other taxes such as business licence fees and property tax will remain in place. Mr. Smith then described three other forms under con-

sideration.

Sales Tax is a tax of five to seven percent charged on gross sales. However, this tax would not raise enough revenue if sales were anywhere in the amount of the annual imports.

Payroll Tax has the appeal that a system is already in place for collecting the revenue. National Insurance now collects 8.2 percent up to a ceiling of \$21,000. The payroll tax could be a higher percentage and the ceiling could be raised. However, revenue from that system would also be too low to replace customs and stamp taxes. Some oppose this as being too much like an income tax.

Mr. Smith explained that many countries around the world have in place a Value Added Tax and this is allowed by the trade agreements that The Bahamas is considering signing onto. The rate of the VAT would be much lower than the existing customs and stamp duties and would be applied to a

much greater range of goods and services. According to Mr. Smith, it would reduce the cost of living for Bahamians and would make the tourism product more competitive.

More than 120 countries with 70 percent of the world's population have a VAT in place. There are many variations of the Vat but some common characteristics. Many items would be exempt such as food, education, health, financial services and small businesses. The VAT would probably be somewhere between 10 and 20 percent depending on how much revenue needs to be raised. But the rate would definitely be lower than the current customs and stamp duty rates because it will apply to a much broader range of goods and services.

A VAT taxes consumption at all stages of production and would require intensive training in both the government and the private sectors to acquaint everyone with the system.

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News of the Cays

Green Turtle Cay

By Annabelle Cross

2004 is moving right along and January is already history! The weather has been for the most part mild and comfortable.

New Fire Truck Arrives

Green Turtle Cay has a brand new fire truck, that arrived on January 10th. It has already been used twice! The first time was in January when a golf cart burst into flames while traveling in the area of the dump. No one was hurt and the fire was put out before it could spread. Then again on February 2nd there was a fire at Abaco Yacht Services. Two ladies on their early morning walk noticed smoke and flames coming from a boat stored in the shipyard. They

alerted neighbors who called for the fire truck. The fire was extinguished before it could spread to other boats in the yard.

Wine Tasting Raises Funds

The Island Roots Heritage Committee held a wine tasting fund raiser on January 30th. The event was sponsored by Burns House and hosted by Pat and Louise Green at their home. Price Right donated fruit and cheeses and committee members and friends provided other hors d'oeuvres.

Approximately 200 persons from Green Turtle and other Abaco communities enjoyed a fine selection of wine, food and entertainment. Coffee Butler of Key West (and a descendant of Green Turtle Cay) was the guest of honor, and he entertained the crowd with his music and songs. He was

joined by our own "Island Spice," Kevin McIntosh and had the crowd dancing to their beat. A light rain could not stop the music and dancing! Leonard and Mary Lowe were the lucky winners of dinner for two at the Green Turtle Club and Vido Russell the lucky winner of a bottle of champagne.

On display were many photographs of Green Turtle Cay from as early as the 1920s. Old tools used to build boats and homes in the community were also displayed. Junkanoo pieces added color and decoration to complete the GTC Heritage theme.

The funds raised will be used for the upcoming Island Roots Heritage Festival to be held the first weekend in May. The festival will celebrate and showcase our heritage and revive our connection with our sister city, Key West. It is hoped that descendants of Green Turtle Cay will come back home and celebrate with us in what is hoped to be an annual event.

School Hosts Drug Council

Amy Roberts Primary School hosted a team from the National Drug Council on January 26th. The general public was invited to hear about the team's efforts in re-

habilitating and keeping children off drugs. It is an awesome responsibility for parents today to keep their children focused when they are exposed to so many negative influences. And in a society when it has become necessary for both parents to work outside of the home, there is less and less quality family time. Also vexing for many parents is the fact that while we, along with people like the team from the drug council, struggle to help our children stay focused, those responsible for bringing drugs into our country seldom face justice!

GTC Man Honored with Cacique Award

Congratulations to Mr. Vertrum Lowe on winning a Ministry of Tourism Cacique Award! Mr. Lowe won in the category of handicraft for his model ship building. His two granddaughters accompanied him on his trip to Nassau for the Awards on January 30th. Mr. Lowe had the honor of having one of his models presented to South African President Thabo Mbeki as a gift

Please see **Cays**

Page 5



The Island Roots Heritage Committee of Green Turtle Cay held a wine tasting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lowe to raise funds for the town's Heritage Festival to be held in May. Shown above are, left to right, Karen McIntosh, Heritage Committee Chairman; Julie Farrington, Committee Treasurer; and Kendi Anderson, Tourism representative.



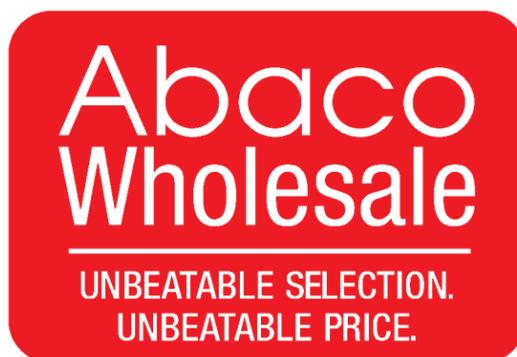
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More News of the Cays

Cays *From Page 4*

from the Bahamas. Mr. Lowe was one of two Abaco winners of a Cacique Award.

Also nominated from Green Turtle Cay were Brendal Stevens of Brendal's Dive



Mr. Vertrum Lowe was honored with a Cacique award in the category of handicraft. Mr. Lowe has made many models of the sailing ships which were built on Abaco and which plied the waters between Abaco and the rest of the world. His meticulous workmanship and his ability to create accurate details makes his work truly unique. Many of his models are on display at the Albert Lowe Museum in Green Turtle Cay. He is shown here holding the Cacique award.

Shop and Lynn Johnson of Green Turtle Club. Congratulations to Lynn and Brendal on their nominations!

Town Happenings

Congratulations to Eyvette Curry on the birth of her baby girl Towanna. Big brothers R.J and Randol were eager to welcome her home.

Mr. Doyle Roberts died on February 3rd at Sybil's House. He was 76 years old. A funeral service was held at the New Plymouth Gospel Chapel on February 4th. Mr. Doyle is survived by his children and their spouses: David and Anita Roberts, Diane and Greg Newbold and Wendy and Dwayne Bethell, grandsons Anthony Roberts, Franklin Bethell and William Newbold and many other relatives and friends.

Valentine's Day Events

Three fund raisers are scheduled for Valentine's Day. A souse breakfast will be held at St. Peters Hall with funds to benefit the 6th grade field trip. Junior Junkanoo will have a food fair at the basketball court from 11 a.m until 5 p.m. and Sundowners will have a Valentine Party during the evening with all proceeds to benefit the Every Child Counts Programme. A busy Valentine's Day and our children will benefit!

Hope Town Firefighters Suppress Dump Inferno

It took ten firefighters from Hope Town Volunteer Fire and Rescue more than four hours to quash an out-of-control fire at the public dump on Elbow Cay on January 19. Flames jumped from a household garbage burn pile into an area in which old vehicles and appliances were located. Dense black

smoke from burning plastic and rubber tires blanketed the area, and firefighters were forced to wear breathing apparatus to battle the blaze. A backhoe was finally brought in to move some of the debris and allow

access to the fire.

"This is the fifth time in two years that

Please see Cays Page 32



A fire at the Hope Town dump burned into an area of old vehicles and appliances. It took 10 firefighters four hours to get it under control. The acrid smoke required that they use breathing apparatus. The situation at the dump is a serious one as burning puts many dangerous chemicals into the atmosphere.



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Central Abaco News

New Guide Book Launched

A new Abaco publication, *Destination Abaco*, was launched on February 6 at a cocktail reception at Abaco Beach Resort. The new visitor-oriented magazine is produced by Exeuprint Ltd. with Jack Albury as publisher and Ruth Saunders as editor and graphic artist. The magazine is geared toward our visitors with places to go and things to do as well places to dine, shop and stay. In the first issue diving is the featured article highlighting Abaco Dive Adventures. The magazine will come out every six months.

The booklet is being distributed to the

Bahamas Tourism Offices around the world and has already drawn favorable reviews. The handy booklet size makes it easy to browse or carry as a guide. The goal of the publication is to put information in the tourism offices worldwide which will attract visitors to Abaco as a different destination from Nassau and Freeport.

Those attending the reception were primarily advertisers and supporters of the venture. Managers of government departments were invited who are involved with the tourism elements of our economy.

Library Offers Computer Services

Marsh Harbour Community Library now

has six computers complete with printers. One computer has Internet access provided by oii. The computer room at the library is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. when it is available for students. Anyone wanting this service must be a member of the library. There is a charge of 25 cents for printing each page. Student membership is \$4 per year. Adult membership is \$10 per year. The library is open for general use on Monday - Friday from 3:30-5:30.

Marina Offers Seminars

The Marsh Harbour Marina offers more than dockage and delicious food to boaters and other visitors. During the winter it offers weekly seminars every Thursday beginning at 9:30 a.m. to educate and inform. The series, called the *WD40 Your Mind Seminars*, offer advice and hints specifically for our boating visitors.

This fifth annual series began on last month with a seminars on *Fishing Off Your Sail Boat or Trawler* followed by discussions on *Bottom Fishing and Your Engine's Cooling System*, all presented by Tom Leffler, owner of the marina.

Upcoming seminars will feature Mimi Rehor speaking on the wild horses of Abaco, officers from the Port Authority and Customs speaking on regulations for cruisers, a marine survey and minor repairs and even a cooking segment, *Cooking with Marvin Dean*, who is the Jib Room Restaurant chef.

Trauma One Asks for Help

By Portia Jonsson

Trauma One has provided ambulance service 24 hours a day seven days a week since September 1995 and has responded

Please see **Central**

Page 7



Destination Abaco is a new guide book to encourage visitors to come to Abaco. The booklet was launched on February 6 at a reception at Abaco Beach Resort. Bringing this about is Jack Albury, publisher, and Ruth Saunders, editor and graphic artist, both shown on the left. The photo includes Memose Daniels, the editor's assistant, and Tanique Pratt, a SCUBA diver featured on the cover of the booklet.

"Barefoot Elegance"





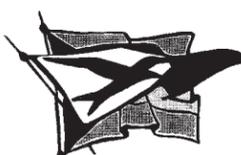
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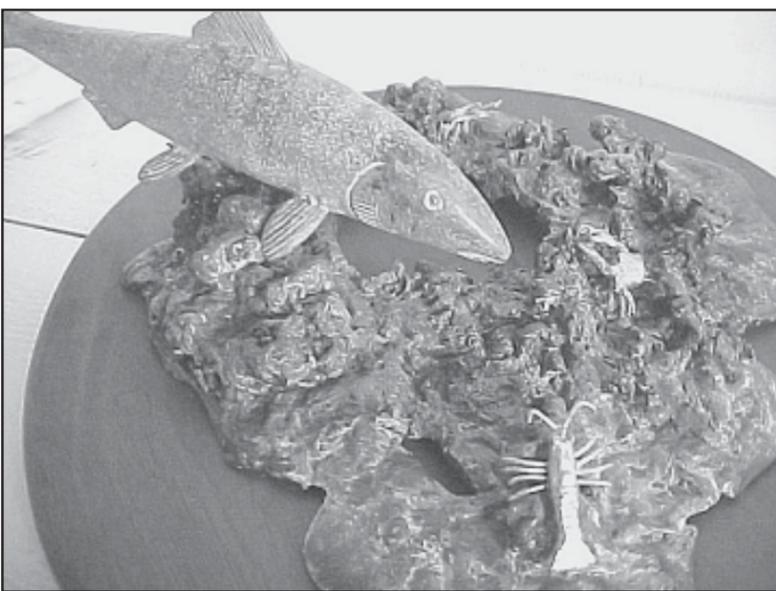


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Sports News

Central

From Page 6

Sailors Compete in Superbowl R/C Regatta

Five diehard sailors and the race committee endured a light drizzle and chilly temperatures to sail on Superbowl Saturday, January 31. The Marsh Harbour Sailing Club sponsored a remote control Laser regatta at the Great Abaco Club in Marsh Harbour. All races were close with almost everyone winning a race. Even Hugh Cottis abandoned his race committee chairmanship position to sail respectably in the last two races. Randy Key won the award for the most creative sail design. The next regatta is scheduled for Valentine's Day. For more information, contact Jim at 367-3086.

Each racer was allowed one throw-out race.

Sail No.	Sailor	Total Pts.
1	Jim Kaighin	9
78	Charlie Cooke	13
	Randy Key	14
14	Dave Lowe	20
11	Hugh Cottis	29



Racing remote controlled sailboats is proving to be quite popular in Marsh Harbour. Here the sailors are competing in a Superbowl Regatta.

Rotary Sponsors Golf Tournament

By Jennifer Hudson

Golfers of all skill levels came together on the course at Treasure Cay on January 31st to participate in the Third Annual Rotary Club of Abaco Golf Tournament. All funds raised from this event will be used for the educational needs of schools and students across Abaco. The major project of the club this year is the refurbishing of the Every Child Counts playground.

Despite the rather damp, grey day a great time was had by all the participants, some of whom traveled from as far as Scotland and South Carolina to support the event.

Forty golfers participated. In order to give each team an equal chance, players were placed in groups of four with varying handicaps as follows: 0 - 9 handicap (Captain); 10 - 17 handicap; 18 - 24 handicap and over 25 handicap.

Several prizes were at stake and these were presented to the winners during an awards banquet held at the Spinaker Restaurant in Treasure Cay later that evening.

Mrs. Jackie Estevez, President of the Club, acknowledged with gratitude the generosity of the local businesses that had donated prizes and supported the event since its inception.

Prizewinners were as follows:

Longest Drive (Front 9)

Men - Peter McIntosh

Longest Drive (Back 9)

Men - Doug Plowden

Longest Drive (Front 9)

Ladies - Margaret Gray

Closest to the Pin (Front 9)

Men - Doug Plowden

Closest to the Pin (Front 9)

Ladies - Margaret Gray

Birdie on Hole No 9

Peter McIntosh's Team.

The winning team consisted of Vernon Wells, Dick Wilson, Doug Wells and Rick Judge. Special mention was made of Bill Thorndycraft, who almost hit a Birdie (however, the bird was in a tree!)

The prize for a Hole-in-One would have been a 2004 Suzuki Car but, unfortunately, nobody's luck or skill was quite up to par that day. One of the golfers jokingly expressed his opinion that not even Tiger Woods on a good day would have been able to hit that Hole-in-One the way the pin was placed! However, Rotary Club members, their families and friends enjoyed a most fulfilling day and look forward to coming together again next year for another fun-filled tournament.

The golf tournament benefits the Every Child Counts program.

to an average of three calls per week. Most actions require about three hours. Many times the service provides multiple trips for air evacuation, return to residence or alternate transport which are all recorded as one incident. This results in about 27 man-hours per week exclusive of daily vehicle checks and maintenance to insure readiness.

Trauma One does not charge a patient and fees for this service. Funding is through donations and a monthly allowance from the Central Abaco District Council of \$416. This allowance does not cover the costs of fuel, licenses and insurance. Each response requires disposable sheets, gloves disinfecting materials and other necessary items. The vehicles require maintenance and repairs.

Trauma One is the finest volunteer staffed ambulance team in the Bahamas operating in concert with a network of other teams from the various communities.

Trauma One needs support to continue this service and asks for assistance to continue its work. All donations are recorded and acknowledged. You may send a cheque to Trauma One, P.O. Box AB-20594 Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas.



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The Editor Says . . . Our Marine Tourism Economy



Abaco has more marinas and private docks than any other island in The Bahamas, and this reflects the popularity of Abaco as a boating paradise. Marine visitors have been courted at boat shows, by the Ministry of Tourism and by the marinas themselves. Government seems to view this group as a source of substantial additional revenue and has mandated increased fees to be imposed on these visitors.

The change from \$100 to \$150 and \$300 in the cruising permit effective last July 1st was the first shot at this group. The amount of the fee has less importance than the manner in which it was implemented.

The Bahamas is an archipelagic nation with thousands of square miles of sea interspersed with hundreds of islands and settlements. The nation's economy is based on tourism. Putting cash registers on our borders sounds like an easy way to reap the benefits of the alluring sea - like self-service gas stations, pay before using. More subtle ways must be found to tax the sand and sea.

Tax collections provide instant gratification for government. However, jobs, restaurant meals, groceries and investments also give government operating revenue. While slower to provide money to the Treasury and not nearly as obvious, these methods are more compatible to our visitors.

Recently marina owners became aware of a 645 percent increase in their annual dock license fees. The new dock license fee came to light just before Christmas to further alarm marina owners.

A local marina owner has recently received a letter from the Port Authority in Nassau clarifying the effective date of the increased dock license fees as July 1, 2003. That marina, as well as all others, now owes six months of retroactive license fees at the higher rate. Marinas that paid \$1,000 or \$2,000 last year must now pay \$6,450 or \$12,900, respectively. For a commercial marina, this is much more than an apparent raise from \$100 to \$645.

The reduced number of boating visitors to the marinas appears to be entirely due to the cruising permit increase imposed last July. The effect on marina occupancy from substantially higher dock rates due to increased license fees has yet to be felt.

Rate sheets for winter and spring dockage have been advertised and the boats arriving have budgeted for their stay based on published rates and information. The marinas are unable to recoup this increase on such short notice from their winter arrivals. Furthermore, they will have to review their dock license payment for last year and apparently pay the increase for the six month period July 1 - December 31. This expense cannot be recovered and translates to a substantial loss for the marina.

Boating visitors are an important component of the Abaco economy. Using waterfront restaurants as a gauge of maritime interest, Elbow Cay leads with six restaurants offering dockage. Marsh Harbour is close behind with five, Guana Cay has three, Man-O-War has one. Green Turtle Cay and Treasure Cay likewise cater to the boaters with waterfront restaurants.

Another interesting statistic is that Abaco leads the country with 13 fishing tournaments last year.

- Abaco Anglers Family Tournament
- Abaco Insurance Tournament
- Bertram Hatteras Shootout
- Billfish Blast at Abaco Beach Resort
- Boat Harbour - Bah. Billfish Tournament
- Green Turtle Cay Classic at Bluff House
- Little Harbour Dolphin Derby
- Sea Spray Family Tournament
- South Abaco - Bah. Billfish tournament
- Spanish Cay - Bah. Billfish Tournament
- Treasure Cay - Bah. Billfish Tournament
- Treasure Cay Tournament
- Walkers Cay - Bah. Billfish Tournament

Abaco's numerous boatyards and storage facilities are another sign of our robust marine activity. Customs officers find it particularly convenient to be able to go into a boat yard and point their fingers at 50 to 100 boats and determine the duty status.

The appeal of Abaco to our visitors is

heavily oriented to the Abaco maritime culture and heritage. Even those arriving without a boat are exposed to a ferry ride to reach Green Turtle Cay, Guana Cay, Man-O-War or Elbow Cay where a large percentage of visitors stay.

Those arriving in their sailboats or power boats are similarly attracted to the Abaco Sound. This protected waterway is unique to Abaco and is a prime reason for our boating popularity. Quick statistics are not available but we suspect we lead the country in bareboat charters. Speedboat rentals is another area where we lead and cater to the visitors' recreational needs. The number of rental boats on Abaco probably matches or may exceed the number of rental cars available.

Using the statistics in the 2003 *Yachtsman's Guide to the Bahamas*, Abaco leads the country in the number of boat slips and marinas.

Island	Slips	Marinas
Abaco	1019	28
New Providence	639	9
Grand Bahama.	520	7
Exuma	113	7

There is no comparable source for information on private docks but Abaco would easily head the list. The 100-mile-long Abaco Sound with offshore barrier islands offers the first level of protection to boaters while towns with protected harbours are the frosting on the cake. Boaters find the combination irresistible.

The Exuma island chain is said to attract a substantial number of sail boats but only a few use marinas in George Town harbour or contribute significantly to the local economy. Most boaters visiting Exuma remain on anchor and spend minimal amounts ashore.

Abaco has a few frugal boaters who anchor and spend minimal amounts while here. However, the large number of suc-

cessful marinas on Abaco would suggest that a substantial number of boats pay for dockage and use shore facilities.

Boaters contribute much more to Abaco's economy than just dock fees and cruising permits. They support our restaurants, our grocery stores, hardware stores and even hotels and rental houses for their guests. Many are a loyal part of our society who contribute in many ways, supporting our community events, volunteering in our schools, museums and libraries, contributing to local scholarship funds, school fund raising events and churches. Some become property owners and investors who continue to contribute to our economy.

The marinas in Nassau are believed to attract the high-end boater wanting gambling, night clubs and the glitz of Bay Street and Atlantis, an all together different visitor from those we cater to. With few private docks, many Nassau residents are obliged to keep their boat at a marina realizing that the associated costs of maintaining their boat will be high.

Abaco's appeal to boaters and land visitors alike is our low-key lifestyle and family-oriented values coupled with the recreation available in an extensive protected waterway.

Bahamians in Nassau and other Family Islands find it hard to believe that Abaco's summer season is busier than the winter and spring which are the traditional high points for most places in the Bahamas. Much of our summer attraction is our beautiful waters, cleaner and less crowded than Florida.

We hope that the policy makers in Nassau become more familiar with the diverse Abaco economy. Revenue strategies must be devised and implemented that are acceptable to Bahamians and visitors alike. Without the visitor, the Bahamian economy would collapse, leaving fishermen and bankers to foot the whole bill.

Generally Speaking . . . Everything Is Eventual

By S. Timothy Roberts

Everything is eventual and almost always unavoidable, just like "death and taxes," we all have to deal with it at some point in our lives. However, there are some things that have the clause "if" attached to it; everything is eventual if . . .

What we have here in The Bahamas is a situation that is avoidable (as much as I feel it unlikely to be avoided) if we make the right adjustments to our attitudes and actions.

It is with increasing concern that I broach this subject yet again to try to spread awareness of the impending dangers our economy is facing, and in particular in its number one industry.

I was disturbed to notice in an editorial in *The Tribune* of certain customs among those in the hospitality industry in Nassau and who knows where else in The Baha-

mas. A friend of the editor asked him if it was common practice for taxi drivers to charge \$1 per piece of luggage over two that a passenger carried.

This is especially disturbing in a time when tourism is ebbing toward decline. Also, in that same issue or *The Tribune* was an article about expanding tourism efforts in the Out Islands. Among the problems facing the Ministry is litter and high prices. Across The Bahamas this problem seems to be getting worse.

Complicating this matter, of course, is the hotel workers labour union which insists on raising wages and getting more benefits for employees. While all of us would appreciate a raise in our salary, we have to live in the realm of reality and not the ridiculous.

The Ridiculous: In the same editorial in *The Tribune*, the writer cites one of the is-

Please see **Roberts** Page 39

ALL ABOUT TOWN

By Isobel Sherman
Partner Abuse

I do not know why but one day I happened to see a yellow pamphlet lying on a table at school. The pamphlet was put out by the Crisis Center in Nassau and the information contained in the pamphlet is something I would like to share. It is a pamphlet on Partner Abuse, which is defined as "the physical, verbal, psychological mistreatment of a person by their spouse, partner or companion." According to the pamphlet, the facts of partner abuse are considered to be the most unreported crime in this country. It is a serious crime but is rarely prosecuted or punished. Partner abuse ranges through all socio-economic levels and almost all partner abuse involves the male assaulting the female. Fifty percent of all marriages have at least one episode of violence and the longer the abuse continues the harder it is to break.

Many persons might ask why the abuse continues or why the abused partner stays

in the situation. There are several reasons why some persons stay in the situation. The main one is fear because the abused person has no one to turn to for help or protection. The victim feels shame and often blames herself for the abuse.

In addition, there is a feeling of isolation because many battered women have no financial independence, jobs or friends for support. The lack of these combined with a lack of societal support often forces the victim to stay in the situation at the risk of losing her life either by physical violence or by the stress caused by the verbal and psychological abuse. In addition, the children also suffer. The end result of prolonged abuse damages the victim psychologically and physically. Even when the victim leaves the situation, it will take a very long time for recovery. It is a scar that must be carried for life, not only by the victim but also by the children.

Please see **Sherman** Page 37

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Letters to the Editor

Praise for the Science Conference

Dear Editor:

Please permit me the opportunity to talk briefly about a recent scientific conference held in Abaco and to simply commend the organizers. Oh, I also want to highlight to those who would listen the need for a national repository for all of this scientific information.

The Abaco Science Alliance was organized by a small but powerful environmental NGO (non-governmental organization), Abaco Friends of the Environment – affectionately now called just “Friends.” The idea for the Abaco conference was hatched at the most recent Natural History Symposium of the Gerace Research Centre (that’s another wonderful story still to be penned).

Friends is rapidly becoming synonymous with the protection of the Abaco environment. Whether it is supporting the Bahama Parrot Research and Conservation Project or initiating a recycling campaign in the cays, Friends is having a major positive impact. Its success is enviable, and it amazes me the level of membership and volunteer engagement they are able to enlist. (I have only seen better in the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park).

While the conference was a full scientific meeting with all of the technical terms that brainy science people use (there were tons of PhD’s there - including several of our own - Marshall and Tinker), it was still very educational to all of us who attended. It was especially pleasing to see the school students in attendance, even on a Saturday!

We heard presentations on the Bahama parrot and the need for constant conservation efforts. We heard intriguing stories about fire and its value to the Bahamian pine forest. And the historical biological and biophysical data that we can learn from old burnt tree stumps! We got stark reality checks and an urgent call to action when told of the exponential (and in some cases sadly irreversible) rate of deterioration of Abaco blue (ocean) holes.

Hats off to Friends for a wonderful experience on Abaco and, indeed, for displaying a new phase of environmental leadership. **Now to part two: (Minister Sears, please read this section).**

As all of the information was being presented, I was again reminded both by personal internal nudges, but also by many of the Bahamians in the audience and American presenters, of the need to urgently take charge of this whole mess of the management of scientific research and more importantly, the information that is generated. People are always amazed at these conferences at how much information about the Bahamian environment there is out there (literally somewhere else).

In my former life at the Department of Agriculture, I desperately attempted to establish some form of national Scientific Research Council (I am sure someone has a better name for this) to bring order and procedure to what is currently an uncoordinated and poorly managed system involving several government departments and institutions.

I envisioned that this Research Council would be responsible for reviewing research proposals submitted to the government and determining whether the research was something we were interested in. Further, this body would seek to have the researcher adjust the research objectives to meet Bahamian research needs.

By this time, had the cries been heard, we would have now evolved a fluid system for matching these foreign academics with Bahamian counterparts, thus increasing our national capacity to conduct our own scientific research. We would have reduced

our dependency on the foreign researcher to tell us about us and where we live. These Bahamian counterparts could come from COB or other tertiary institution’s staff and students or from independent Bahamian researchers.

Perhaps, most importantly, this Research Council would have influenced and created an airtight information “repatriation and storage” system. This would ensure that all of the information that results from research on our living laboratories in the bush or on the reef comes back to The Bahamas. I should hastily add that many of our researchers do send back their information; but where does any information end up when there is no information management system? . . . lost in the annals of some government department, inaccessible to the persons who thirst for the knowledge and who could put it to good use!

By now, we should have a system where any Bahamian academic or layperson could walk into a library somewhere or log onto the internet and be taken to a Bahamas Environmental Information System. This person could then for whatever purpose needed have access to the chemical make-up of Anchialine ponds on San Salvador or Andros. Perhaps something less technical is needed like the life history of the land crab or conch . . . this should all by now be accessible by the click of mouse by even the 5th grader from Claridge or Xavier’s primary.

I beg the attention of Minister Sears because I know he had initiated an effort to attempt to better manage this business of scientific research. I recall that this committee was enthusiastically coordinated by COB and that a draft was developed for the Minister. Minister, please jumpstart the process and get it going again so that we can complete this much needed process. So that we no longer have to send ten e-mails to North Carolina or Miami, Ohio, to learn about the Bahamian bush from Dr. Somebody who studied right here in our backyard!

Eric A. Carey
Bahamian Naturalist and Environmentalist
A Message to the BEST Commission

Dear Editor,

Would you kindly print the following letter in your next paper.

To Stacey Wells-Moultrie,

Thank you for recently visiting Hope Town and all of Abaco on behalf of the BEST Commission to assess the area’s environmental concerns and priorities. As Director of the Committee for a Clean Island, I would like to take this opportunity to again bring to your attention Abaco’s need for proper waste management.

Our situation in Hope Town is especially dire, as the settlement has outgrown its dump site and, consequently, garbage is



burning every day. The dump site is surrounded by residences, tourist lodging, restaurants, the school and Hope Town itself. Thus, whichever way the wind blows, harmful smoke affects people. Among the items burned are PVC pipe, plastics, pressure-treated wood, marine paints and other trash that are known to be carcinogenic (cancer-causing) when burned. It is against the law to burn these materials in the United States because they are so harmful to humans. On Abaco residents and tourists complain of headaches, asthma, sinus infections, allergies and other ailments caused or intensified by the toxic smoke.

This is a public health issue in many respects. On Great Abaco dump sites pose a threat to the precious underground freshwater table. Dangerous chemicals can leach through the porous limestone whenever it rains. A chemist whom we brought to Abaco to conduct tests said that dioxins, a product of burned plastic, can travel airborne for 15-20 miles and, therefore, may be polluting surrounding reefs and sea life.

It is also an economic issue. I have witnessed tourists who have been on the receiving end of the dump smoke swearing that they will not return to Abaco. Clearly the negative impacts of burning hazardous waste are far-reaching, and this should be the BEST Commission’s number-one priority as it considers the Abaco environment.

Our committee has researched viable solutions, contacted all appropriate government representatives and been promised by various government officials that the garbage will be shipped off the cays to a properly-managed landfill on the mainland. But a year has passed and we have seen no sign of change, nor have we heard otherwise from government. We urge the BEST Commission to act now to minimize the damage to Abaco’s environment, economy, and current and future generations. There are many Abaco residents as well as property and business owners willing to assist in

Please see **Letters** Page 34

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School News

New Scholarship Is Offered

By Isobel Sherman

A new scholarship worth \$40,000 is now being offered. Open to all 11th and 12th grade students throughout The Bahamas, the scholarship is sponsored by Sunshine Insurance and Students of a Free Enterprise of Elmira College, New York.

Students are asked to write an 800-1000 word essay on the topic *An Idea or Ideas That Can Boost the Bahamian Economy*. Entries can be faxed to 242-394-0019. The scholarship is tenable at Elmira College in

New York. Unfortunately, the deadline is February 6, so interested parties keep this scholarship in mind for next year.

Abaco Central High

By Isobel Sherman

Desk Are Being Refurbished

Mr. Fred Whyly, the owner of Dymacs Company, is a skilled carpenter and cabinetmaker. He came up with the idea that he could refurbish desks that were unusable in an economically feasible manner. The idea was discussed with the high school principal, Mr. Benjamin Stubbs. The idea was then taken to Sarah Swain, who is heading

the drive to obtain desks and chairs from alumni of Abaco Central High. She gave Mr. Whyly copies of her search for furniture on the Internet and agreed to help fund the repairs.

Mr. Whyly found eight desks at the dump. He was able to refurbish four with new desk tops made from plywood with Formica on top. These new tops are far superior to the tops that come on new desks. They are made from real plywood and not pressed wood. He painted the frame and installed and repainted legs that he got from a desk he could not use. Mr. Stubbs and District Superintendent Hezekiah Dean were so impressed with the final result that Mr. Dean has agreed to see if Mr. Whyly can refurbish more furniture for the Ministry of Education. A new desk from the United States landed is about \$50. Mr. Whyly believes even if he has to buy the parts for desks and assemble them here, he can do it for a much cheaper price.

Mr. Whyly gives Sarah Swain much of the credit for his new endeavor as it was because he read about her organizing an alumni programme to obtain much needed furniture for the high school that led him to think that he could refurbish old broken desks.

Mr. Dean has asked Mr. Whyly to bring a proposal to him for refurbishment of school furniture and the assembly of new school furniture.

New Uniforms Are Proposed

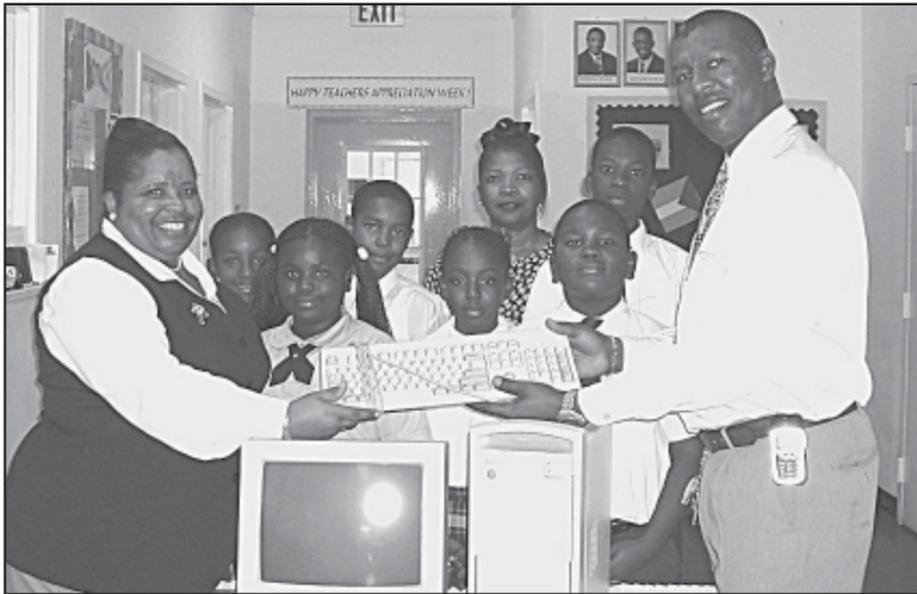
Mr. Benjamin Stubbs is proposing a new uniform for the students of Abaco Central High School which was presented at a monthly staff meeting.

Carnival Assists School

A donation of \$1500 was presented to Abaco Central High School on February 2 by Mr. Scorpio from Nassau. Mr. Scorpio was in charge of the carnival and this was a donation from the carnival. The donation will be used by the physical education department to aid the boys' basketball team

Please see **School**

Page 11



On February 2nd Central Abaco Primary School was given three computers. These computers were donated to the school by Mr. Kevin W. Lynch, an attorney from New Jersey. Making the presentation on behalf of Mr. Lynch was Chief Councillor for the Central Abaco District, Mr. Cay Mills. Mrs. Eunice Mills, School principal, and Mrs. Beatrice Moxey, vice-principal, accepted this generous gift. Students at the school now have access to eight computers.



Mrs. Nicola Saunders, Security Officer at Central Abaco Primary School, recently completed an intensive three-week Security Officer Training Course offered by the Ministry of Education. This course took place at the Royal Bahamas Police Training College in Nassau. A total of 34 Security Officers took part in the course and Mrs. Saunders placed 3rd overall with a final examination score of 95 percent. Some of the areas covered during the course included finger printing, judges' rulings, customer care and access control.

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School News

School *From Page 10*

in purchasing new uniforms. Receiving the check on behalf of the high school was Mr. Patrick Smith, Senior Master.

Assistance Is Requested

International Day will be held at Abaco Central High on March 12. The day will feature food and displays from the following countries: Bahamas, Jamaica, United States, United Kingdom, Argentina, Haiti,

Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana. Most of these countries are represented by staff members at Abaco Central High. The countries of the United States and Jamaica have only one or two staff members representing them and they are asking if anyone in the Abaco area would help with donations of food, borrowed items for display and even time to help with the booth. Anyone wishing to help could contact Miss J. Champagne for Jamaica and Mrs.

Beverly Rolle or Mrs. Isobel Sherman for the United States. Contact Abaco Central at 367-2334.

Basketball Team Will Travel

The Mighty Marlins boys' basketball team of Abaco Central will be traveling to Nassau the week of February 23 to participate in the Hugh Campbell Senior Boys Basketball Tournament. The team, under Head Coach Patrick Smith and Assistant Coach Kevin Rolle, has been preparing the team since the start of school in September. Funds are needed to finish paying for the uniforms. Anyone wishing to help can contact Mr. Smith at 367-2334.

Teacher Will Be Honored

Huel Moss Day is slated for February 20. The day will begin with a motorcade through the business district of Marsh Harbor. A special assembly will follow at Abaco Central High School where Mr. Moss will be honored. Pastor Derek Benjamin will be the guest speaker. Mr. Moss left Abaco on January 12 to become principal of South Andros Secondary School in Kemps Bay, South Andros. He taught at Abaco Central High School for 10 years.

Improvement

There has been a severe dust problem for the second block of classroom at Abaco Central High

School. The fine black soil called by a gardening expert as salt soil from the Everglades in Florida puts a fine black coating on all objects in the first floor classrooms of that block including teachers and students. The soil is so fine it comes through screens.

The problem arose because a few years ago sod was laid in the quadrangle. Supposedly it was of golf course quality. How-

Please see School Page 17



The quadrangle at Abaco Central High School was sodded months ago. However, the foot traffic killed most of the grass, leaving a fine black soil which blew into classrooms and was tracked inside during rainy weather. Sand and pea rock have now been spread over the area.



Mr. Benjamin Stubbs, Principal of Abaco Central High School, Mr. Hezekiah Dean, District Superintendent, and Mr. Fred Whyllly, owner of the Dymacs Company, examine desks refurbished by Mr Whyllly. He rescued the desks from the dump and rebuilt them.

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People in the News

Winding Bay Sponsors Local Student

Seventeen-year-old Abaconian Jillian Parotti has a golden opportunity to pursue her dream of becoming a world-class chef, thanks to the generosity of international entrepreneur Mr. Peter de Savary, who is developing The Abaco Club on Winding Bay near Cherokee Sound. Ms. Parotti, who graduated last year from Forest Heights Academy in Marsh Harbour, has recently been admitted to Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island. Beginning in September, she will pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in culinary arts under Mr. de Savary's sponsorship.

"Good luck in Rhode Island. You're a very personable young woman who deserves to succeed," Mr. de Savary told Ms. Parotti as he congratulated her at the company's Marsh Harbour office. Mr. de Savary has generously agreed to sponsor Jillian's education at Johnson & Wales as part of his commitment to the Bahamian people to train prospective employees and as part of his commitment to contribute to the local community. Besides financial aid, he has offered her work experience at another one of his developments in Rhode Island.

Ms. Parotti is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Parotti of Murphy Town.



Mr. Peter de Savary, founder and Chairman of the Abaco Club on Winding Bay, presented Jillian Parotti of Murphy Town with a letter of sponsorship to study at Johnson & Wales International University in Providence, Rhode Island. Ms. Parotti, a graduate of Forest Heights Academy in Marsh Harbour, will pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in culinary arts, commencing in September.

Students Earns Perfect Score

Bianca Bethel has been named a President's Scholar at Florida Southern College. She is one of 87 honored for having a perfect 4.0 GPA for the fall semester. Bianca is a junior at the school which is located in Lakeland, Florida. She is the daughter of Will and Kim Bethel of Marsh Harbour.

Realtor Names Appointment

Real estate broker, Sandra Evans, BRI, has just returned from showcasing her Abaco listings before 650 of the top realtors in the U.S. The annual convention is sponsored by the Council of Residential Specialists which is the educational arm of the National Association of Realtors.

Mrs. Evans has participated at these events before and has passed six professional courses offered by the CRS. She says, "On these occasions my Abaco listings always generate a great deal of excitement. Everyone wants to know more about our enviable lifestyle." Sandra states that the opportunity for increased business awareness and the relationship building with other realtors is a great advantage for her clients here.

Mrs. Evans is extremely pleased to announce the appointment of William Thorndycraft to her sales team. As resident of Abaco for the past 42 years, Bill is well known and well respected throughout the entire island. He is a valuable addition to Sandra Evans Real Estate Sales.



Sandra Evans and Bill Thorndycraft

AA Meetings

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

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

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Obituaries of Family and Friends

The funeral service for **Leola Bessie Lightbourne**, 84, of Sandy Point was held at the Assemblies of God Church in Sandy Point on February 7. Pastor Erskine Wells and Rev. Rupert Rolle officiated. Interment was in the Public Cemetery in Sandy Point.

She is survived by her sons Silbert Fox, William Lightfoot, Rudolph and Jimmy Lightbourne, James, David and Mack Greene; adopted sons George Bain, Carrington Lightbourne and Cecil Colebrook; daughters Lessie Rolle, Diana Smith and Barbara Jenkins; adopted daughters Gloria Adderley, Beryl Lightbourne, Beckie Deveaux, Josephine Fox, Eunice Rolle, Candy Davis and Francena Cleare; brother Whitney Clarke; brother-in-law Capt. Ernest Dean; aunt Doris Bain; sons-in-law Dudley Smith and Rev. Rupert Rolle; daughters-in-law Inez Fox, Cathy Lightfoot, Rachel Lightbourne, Annie and Leona Greene; grandchildren Sheila, Enoch, Cheryl, Leviticus, Wayne, Yvonne, Bradley, Gardinia, Gretamae, Earl, Perry, Yvette, Ron, Felecia, Andrea, Ambimbola, Nakisha, Altanas, Shawn, Henretta,

Zenalde, Kendra, William Jr, Tia, Tishka, Taesha, Billy, Lillian, Craig, Dudley Jr, Jameel, Rudolph Jr., James, Tim, Valentino, Terry, Ajene, Aswad, Akil, Kamu, Gendi, Cotrina, Celia, Ramona, Jameson, Lavente, Alvin, Danero, Tenny, Margaret and Marco; great grandchildren; nephews Captains Jay, Marcus, John and Ernest Dean Jr, Wilfred, Whitney, Hercules Clarke, Sgt. Randy Lightfoot, Sgt. Danny Lightfoot, Dion and Kendrick Lightfoot, Emil Saunders and Floyd Armbrister; nieces Shirley Saunders, Susy Duncombe, Salomie Gibson, Carolyn Burrows, Sharon and Christine Dean, Genese Armbrister, Lenora Bain, Sheila Pratt and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral service for **Atilus Paul**, 42, of Marsh Harbour was held on February 7 at the Trumpet Assembly of God in Dundas Town. Rev. Carlton Dorsett officiated assisted by Min. Rochelle Vilmar. Interment was in the Public Cemetery.

He is survived by his mother Argentine Cassius; wife Rose Marie Jean Louis; daughters Manouchka and Diann Paul.

The funeral service for **Josilia Clerisier**, 38, of Marsh Harbour was held on January 31 at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Marsh Harbour. Rev. Fr. Roger Madrazo officiated and interment was in the Public Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband Seleson Odeus; children Joanna Clerisier, Denise, Wendy and Merlene Odeus; mother Charitable Antoine; father Josieus Clerisier; sisters Panous Clerisier, Josette, Anouse, Lisele, Suzanna, Roseandrea and Delagrace; brothers Lavaner, Johnny, Baslien, Aliece, Baliece and Venieus; aunt Rose Antoine; uncles Jean, David and Mark Antoine and Shodius Valsaint; cousins; and

many other family members and friends.

The funeral for **Thomas Edwin Sweeting** of Man-O-War was held in the Man-O-War Cay Gospel Chapel on February 7. Bro. Mark Lacy and Bro. Frank Perry officiated and interment was in the Man-O-War Public Cemetery.

Mr. Sweeting is survived by his wife Sally; son Paul; stepsons Philip and Rowan; daughters June and Juanita; stepdaughters Marina and Lorraine; grandson Darren; step-grandsons Nicholas and Tad; granddaughter Sarah; step-granddaughters Sonya, Kimberly, Dawn and Katie; brother Percy; sisters Corene, Byrl, Mary and Venie; and many other relatives and friends.

Abaco Administrators Will Be Transferred

Administrators throughout The Bahamas are being routinely transferred. For some it is during February while for others it will be May or June. Those being moved include all three administrators on Abaco. Mr. Gary Knowles, the Administrator for North Abaco has already reported to Fresh Creek, Andros, and has been replaced by Donald Cash. Mr. Alexander Williams, Adminis-

trator for Central Abaco, and Mr. Jolton Johnson, Administrator for South Abaco, will both remain here until the spring. Mr. Williams will be returning to Grand Bahama where he will be the Administrator in Freeport and Mr. Johnson has been assigned to Mayaguana. Mr. Charles King will be replacing Mr. Williams and Mr. Bove will be coming to South Abaco.

Bins Are for Aluminum Cans



Friends of the Environment now has two bins in Marsh Harbour for collecting aluminum cans to be recycled. They are located at the far end of the Abaco Shopping Center and next to Sea Star Rentals on Pole Line Drive. The cans will be shipped to Florida to a recycling plant. The Friends organization asks the public to use these in their effort to conserve. Inside the bin is a wire cage to hold the cans. The public is asked to cooperate by putting only aluminum cans in the wire cages.



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Church News

The Hope Town Assembly of God Has New Pastor



Rev. Bob Haswell is the first full time minister of the Assemblies of God Church in Hope Town since the death of Bro. Victor McDonald,

who passed away on December 21, 1998. General Superintendent Pat Paul of Nassau and Presbyterian Cecil Forbes of Treasure Cay were present to install Rev. Haswell as pastor.

Brother Haswell is an ordained missionary appointed by the General Council of the Assemblies of God located in Springfield, Missouri. He will be serving under the authority of the General Council of the Assemblies of God of The Bahamas.

Brother Bob says, "I have spent more time running businesses than ministering in churches. God called me in 1977 after I retired from the insurance industry. During the next 13 years my wife and I started two churches. In 1989 my son and I founded Craftsmen Limousine, building limousines and buses. I have retired again following my wife's death from cancer in 2003. The day after her funeral in a mission service God called me to again serve Him, but this time as a missionary.

"I am appointed to the Hope Town church for an undetermined time with two years certain. I find Hope Town is a great place to live, filled with friendly interesting people who are making me feel at home. God has given me a heart for people. I am especially drawn to those whose lives are troubled."

Pastor Bob welcomes visits and can be called at 366-0544. Welcome aboard, Pastor Bob.

Update on Ministry of Housing Subdivisions

By Jennifer Hudson

Four families have now taken up residence in their new homes in the Central Pines Subdivision in Dundas Town and between 15 and 20 additional homes are presently under construction. Of the 423 lots, 136 have been sold outright, 73 are being paid on and two are awaiting financing. The Ministry of Housing is still awaiting word from Nassau regarding when telephone service will be taken to the area.

In Central Pines Estates the original policy was that only one lot could be purchased per family. However, the Minister

has now stated that families will be allowed to purchase two lots.

No homes have yet been completed in the Sands Cove Subdivision at Sandy Point but five are now under construction. Of the 98 lots available, 26 have been sold and 16 are being paid on. Though not yet connected, all utilities are already in this subdivision including telephone service.

The new Murphy Town Subdivision has been sold out for quite some time and eight or nine families are already in residence.

Mr. Gibbs, Office Manager on Abaco, stated that there has been some talk of ex-

Lowe Art Gallery Hosts Exhibit

Striking scenes of Abaco, both land and sea, will be featured this month in the annual winter open house art exhibition at the Lowe Art Gallery on Green Turtle Cay. A private showing of paintings by Alton Roland Lowe and sculptures by James Mastin will be held on February 27, 2004, from 2 p.m. to 6:40 p.m. Following the private showing, the exhibit will be open to the public by appointment through the end of March.

Last year the exhibit drew several hundred visitors from throughout Abaco, Nassau and the United States. The gallery is located on Black Sound a few minutes outside the village of New Plymouth at the home of the Bahama's premier artist, Alton Roland Lowe, with a private dock at the head of Black Sound. The grounds are lushly landscaped with flowering trees and other ornamental plantings from around the Caribbean and are not to be missed.

Mr. Lowe was born in Green Turtle Cay and has returned to live there after an early education in Miami and a successful career in the United States. More than 80 of his paintings of Bahamian subjects, including flowers, seashells and historical scenes, have been reproduced by the Bahamas government onto official postage stamps of The Bahamas. These stamps have won international competitions and are coveted by collectors from around the world. The new edition of stamps designed by Lowe will feature native Bahamian medicinal plants. Many of these stamp paintings will be on display in the exhibition for the first time.

This year's exhibit will feature all new original oil paintings by Mr. Lowe. His paintings capture the nuances of Bahamian life in exquisite detail. His works include landscapes, seascapes and native floral arrangements.

The exhibit will also feature the dramatic, lifelike bronze sculptures by James Mastin, who created the Loyalist Memorial Sculpture Garden in New Plymouth, Green Turtle Cay and the Historical Sculpture Garden in Key West, Florida. His new works, *Family of Man* and *Family of Woman* are spiritual meditations on the interdependence of each generation upon the next. The works are inspired by the biblical texts of the Garden of Eden. Mr. Mastin's current projects include a 30-foot high tribute to survivors of the holocaust to be installed in Sunrise, Florida, later this year and a historic tableaux honoring the 18th century Haitian soldiers who fought for freedom in the American colonies in Savannah, Georgia.

The open house is part of a series of cultural and entertainment events scheduled in Abaco.

panding the Spring City and Crossing Rocks subdivisions. This may possibly take place later in the year but so far no date for commencement has been announced.

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Hundreds Enjoy 7th Annual Abaco Arts Festival

By Jennifer Hudson

The seventh annual Abaco Beach Festival was held at the Abaco Beach Resort on January 31st and February 1st with a cocktail party and preview for invited guests on the evening of January 30th. This year the show attracted a larger number of artists than ever before, several of whom traveled from Nassau and the United States.

Also this year the show format underwent several changes, the greatest of which was the layout of the show. Instead of the booths all being placed in straight rows down the middle and sides of the marquee, the centre booths were placed in the form of pods which made for a more intimate and attractive feel. The different types of art, instead of being integrated as in previous years, were placed in separate areas. Six-

teen artists had their work displayed in the fine art gallery while the other section contained sculpture and carving art of four artists; fabric art of three artists; jewelry art of three artists; stained glass art of two artists; photographic art of two artists and ceramic art of one artist.

Another great improvement and which I know was appreciated by the artists was the fact that during the cocktail reception the food and wine serving area was kept outside the marquee. This not only allowed additional space for the displaying of the art work but kept the atmosphere within the exhibition area more in keeping with that of a show rather than a party.

The Abaco Beach Hotel put a lot of effort this year into trying to make the art show different and take the level up a notch. Ac-

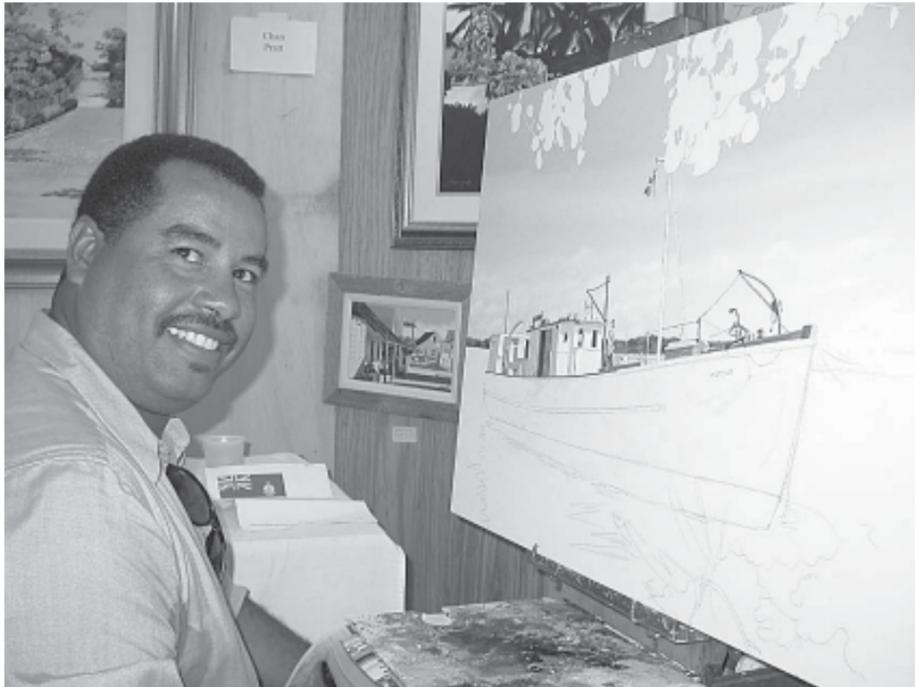
ording to the many favourable comments received, they certainly achieved their goal.

The artists were very pleased with the fact that the show was much better publicized this year, thus bringing many more customers which meant, of course, that they received more exposure and achieved a far greater volume of sales and commission orders.

The artists from out of town were very impressed with the show, expressing their opinion that this year's show was very well

organized and much more of an art show rather than a craft show which is what they were expecting.

As one artist mentioned, the show provided an excellent opportunity for community bonding as people traveled in from all over Abaco for the event. Other visitors were there from even as far afield as Cuba, Germany and England, several of whom come at this time each year especially for the art show.



Well known Bahamian artist Chan Pratt had a dramatic display of paintings at the Art Festival held at Abaco Beach Resort on the first week end of February. He is especially known for his realistic paintings of flowering trees. He is shown here working on a commissioned painting of the M/V Autogo, one of the freight boats owned by the late Charles Sawyer.



Kathy Hura of Little Harbour is a versatile artist whose booth was quite popular at the Art Festival. This year's Art Festival was the best the Abaco Resort has offered with many more artists, a great variety of high quality artwork and a pleasing layout. Whether looking for art to buy or enjoying museum-style browsing, there was a wide variety of styles and media to please everyone.

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Junkanoo Awards Include School Computers

The award ceremony for the Junior Junkanoo and Senior Junkanoo was held on January 31 at the Central Abaco Primary School. The Hon. Neville Wisdom, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, was here for the occasion and personally presented the prizes to the children. Mr. Wisdom praised the Abaco youth and organizers for having the largest Junior Junkanoo outside of Nassau which was especially outstanding since this was the first major Junior Junkanoo effort on Abaco. The crowd was estimated to be equal in size to the crowd watching Junior Junkanoo in Nassau.

In his talk to the children he pointed out that activities like Junkanoo are beneficial occupying their time and giving young people enthusiasm for life. He urged them to do the good things, to be good Bahamian citizens. He stressed the need to do well in school, to read and do math. Par-

ticipation in Junkanoo teaches discipline and other important lessons for life.

The results of the competitions follows.

Senior Junkanoo

- 1st Spring City Rockers won \$2500
- 2nd Green Turtle Cay won \$1500
- 3rd LA Conquerors won \$1000
- 4th Supreme Dancers

Junior Junkanoo

Category C

- 1st Man-O-War School won two computers and two desks
- 2nd Hope Town won one computer and one desk

Category B

- 1st Central Abaco Primary won two computer and two desks
- 2nd Green Turtle Cay won one computer

Please see **Awards** Page 39



Abaco Central High School was first place winner in Category A. They are shown here showing off their trophy. Each first place winning school was given two computers and two computer desks given by the Ministry and provided by Abacom.



Central Abaco Primary School won first place in Category B. They will display the perpetual trophy for the year. They won two computers and two computer desks for their efforts.



Members of the Junkanoo Committee are shown here with Ministry people from Nassau. The Committee was given an additional \$3500 by the Hon. Neville Wisdom, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, who was guest speaker at the Junkanoo awards ceremony. Shown above are, left to right, William Davis, Mr. Wisdom, Administrator Alexander Williams, Mr. Carl Brennen, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, Mrs. Neulissa Major, Mr. Colon Curry and Mr. Persival Vola Francis, Coordinator for Junior Junkanoo.

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16'-20' with driver	\$350	\$200
Over 20'	commercial rates apply	
Commercial Vehicle(per lane foot)	\$35	\$20
Motor bike with rider	\$110	\$60
Bicycle with rider	\$100	\$55
Passengers		
Adult Passenger	\$90	\$50
Child Passenger under 12 years	\$55	\$30
Child Passenger under 3 years	Free	Free
Other		
Unaccompanied Vehicles	\$40*	\$20*
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

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Ambassador Tours Farms

Chinese *From Page 1*

the Department of Agriculture. Farms visited were the neem farm, Pepper Pot Farm, Abaco Big Bird Poultry Farm, the Albury mutton farm and the new Bahama Select Juice Plant.

The following morning the Ambassador and his party toured Great Guana Cay, Man-O-War Cay and Hope Town and later in the day visited Treasure Cay, the wild horse preserve and Bahama Star Farm. The Ambassador was very pleased to see what

is being done to save the rare wild horses of Abaco. This project had special meaning for him as in his own country the panda is an endangered species which is being protected.

During their final morning on Abaco the Ambassadorial party toured Sandy Point and the new subdivision there, Crossing Rocks and Casuarina Point. A stop was made at the Winding Bay project where the Ambassador and his party were taken on a tour by Mr. Mark Scott, Project Manager.

At a dinner reception on January 27

hosted by Mr. Dongcun for about 30 government officials and business leaders in the community at the Abaco Beach Resort, he informed the invited guests how very impressed he was with all he had seen during his tour.

He stated that he has been resident in the Bahamas for a period of just five months and Abaco is the only island he has yet visited apart from Grand Bahama. He further stated that he found his fact finding trip to be most enlightening and informative and was amazed at the amount of development and business activity he saw. Whenever time permits, His Excellency says that he definitely plans to return to Abaco for a private visit which will allow him the opportunity to explore the beauties of Abaco more fully. It was obvious that the Ambassador enjoys being with people and is comfortable talking to everyone he meets.



The Chinese Ambassador to The Bahamas toured several farms during his three-day familiarization visit to Abaco. He is shown here at the Abaco Big Bird Poultry Farm south of Marsh Harbour. He is discussing the operation with Lance Pinder while a member of his entourage and farm operators look on.

School *From Page 11*

ever, foot traffic every day soon killed the sod in most areas and all that was left was fine black soil. When it rained, black mud was tracked into the classrooms. When it was dry and windy, the dust problem arose.

Last week it was so bad that Principal Benjamin Stubbs called the District Superintendent, Mr. Hezekiah Dean, to see the problem for himself. Mr. Dean promptly made arrangements for sand and pea rock to be delivered to the school and be spread on the problem areas. This was done on February 5.

The original plan for the quadrangle when the second block of classroom was constructed was to pave the entire quadrangle. That would have been the perfect permanent solution for this area.

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Police Held Annual Church Service

By Jennifer Hudson

Members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force and other law enforcement agencies gathered at the Trumpet Assembly of God Church in Dundas Town on January 25 for their annual church service after a colourful parade through town. Present at the service were members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force, the Bahamas Immigration Department, the Road Traffic Department and the Port Department. The service was conducted by the Abaco Christian Council and was broadcast live on Radio Abaco.

Moderator for the service was Elder Sarone A. Kennedy, Sr., Vice President of the Abaco Christian Council. He was assisted by several other ministers. The sermon was preached by Rev. Carlton Dorsette, President of the Abaco Christian Council and Pastor of the Trumpet Assembly of God Church.

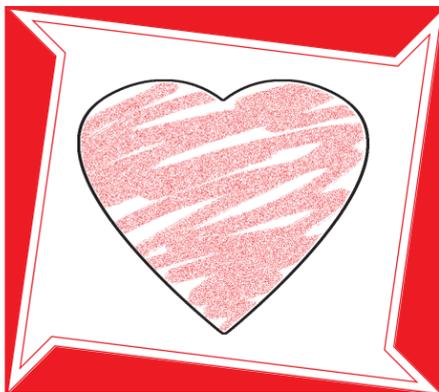
In his sermon Rev. Dorsette stated, "We are all under civil authority, under the governing power of another and are thus subject to the governing authorities of our land, all of whom are ordained by God. All officers are appointed by God so people who resist authority are resisting God and God will judge all. "Rev. Dorsette quoted several passages from the Bible which exhort us to: 1. Honour the law enforcement officer 2. Be afraid to disobey civil rule (break the law) 3. Do good 4. Pay your share of the taxes (do not try to defraud Customs) 5. Pray for those in authority over us 6. Do not curse leaders but pray for peace.

Several musical items were presented by the Trumpet Assembly Praise Ministry, the combined law enforcement choir and the

young choir of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church who sang with joy and fervour.

A very precisely executed drill display was performed by the young lads of the Trumpet Assembly Drill team under the direction of their commander who is an ex-police officer.

Offerings to assist in the work of the church were presented by Actg. Supt. Clarence Russell III, Officer in Charge, Abaco District of the Royal Bahamas Police Force, Mr. Gary Smith, Superintendent of Customs and Mr. Frederick Bonamy, Superintendent of Immigration. This impressive service closed with the remembrance of law enforcement officers who lost their lives during the past year and the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by three members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force Band. After the playing of the National Anthem, the colours were retired by members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force.



Viewpoint Children Need Parks and Playgrounds

By Portia Jonsson

As a mother of two young children, I am constantly looking for ways to keep them entertained - whether it means a trip to the beach, a visit to a friend's house or an afternoon at the movies.

During my last visit to Nassau I could not help but notice the parks and playgrounds in just about every neighbourhood there. I was told the playgrounds were funded by a large corporate entity. It would be nice if Local Government and some of the large businesses here on Abaco could fund playgrounds for our children.

It's a shame that the playground at the Crossing Beach has fallen into such disre-

pair. Even if new ones cannot be funded, maybe this one can be repaired. In Spring City there is also a children's playground that has been allowed to decay. Considering the large number of children in Spring City, it would be a worthwhile project.

I suspect other communities throughout Abaco would welcome children playgrounds. These would not have to be elaborate or expensive, children just need somewhere to play.

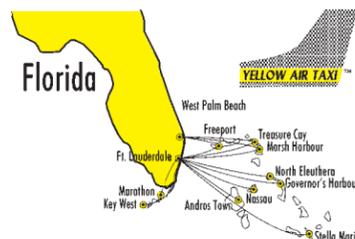
Children are the future of our community. They need safe, well-equipped neighbourhood parks and playgrounds where they can meet, socialize and have fun.

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Juice Plant Will Soon Be Operational

By Jennifer Hudson

One of the newest businesses to come on stream on Abaco is Bahama Select. This is a solely Bahamian owned company which was formed six months ago to take advantage of the huge amount of citrus fruit available on the island.

The company will produce two lines, the first of which is Just Juiced. This FDA-certified product is the equivalent of Tropicana and will be produced in half gallons of orange, grapefruit and lime flavours. The bottled juice will be sold through major distributors to stores in the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands while bulk juice will be exported to Florida.

The second line is Fresh which will be

produced in eight flavours and will compete with V8 Splash. This product contains no preservatives or additives and will have a shelf life of six months due to pasteurization. This will be the first pasteurized shelf-stable product bottled in plastic in The Bahamas. The technology for shelf-stable products in plastic is brand new. Up until very recently plastic bottles would have melted if heated to the temperatures necessary for pasteurization.

However, a new type of plastic bottle has been produced from a stronger type of plastic and with expansion slots which can withstand heating to a temperature of 180 degrees and then the rapid cooling process. In the Fresh line, the orange and grapefruit

flavours will be from Bahamian fruit but concentrate will be imported for the remainder of the flavours. All lines will be sold at or below the price for comparable products.

It is expected that the plant will produce 40,000 gallons of juice per month at a rate of 10 gallons per minute and should be fully operational by mid-February.

The packing plant for USDA Certified Ruby Red grapefruit is already in operation and fruit is being shipped to Fort Pierce for the U.S. market. The fruit is grown in the old B.G. Harmon groves which are being managed by the new Bahamas Select Company. The company is starting with 15 employees but expects to increase to 25 once fully operational.

The owners of Bahamas Select would like to establish a processing plant a little later down the line to assist farmers because, as Mr. Michael Albury says, "Most of the equipment needed to process foods is already there. There are many fruits and vegetables which would be ideal for processing and which would appeal to the Bahamian market such as tomatoes, pigeon peas and beans, and it would provide an opportunity for farmers to have the excess of their crops processed instead of having to leave them to rot down in the fields." Mr. Albury would encourage Abaco farmers to consider other crops they could grow which would lend themselves to processing.



Bahamas Select, a new citrus juice processing plant will soon be in operation just south of Spring City. The Chinese Ambassador was taken on a tour of the plant during his visit to Abaco. He is shown here examining the plant with Michael Albury, one of the owners of Bahamas Select. When it is in full production, the plant will be able to process 40,000 gallons of juice monthly.

BASRA Rescues Two Moore's Island Men

A boat from Moore's Island with two men aboard was the subject of a major search and rescue operation on January 29. The two men set off from Moore's Island to Marsh Harbour in a 17-foot boat on the evening of January 27 but never arrived.

Family members reported them missing the following evening and BASRA was alerted. A search and rescue operation was planned for the following morning using two BASRA volunteer aircraft piloted by Clay Wilhoite of Hope Town and Don Copeland, a second homeowner on Scotland Cay who was in Florida at the time of the alert. Mr. Copeland flew his aircraft directly from Stuart to participate in the search. The U.S. Coast Guard in Miami agreed to make one of their Falcon jets available should it be required.

Rescue coordination was managed by BASRA in Hope Town. Local airlines were requested to keep an eye open for the missing boat and an Abaco Air flight leaving Marsh Harbour first spotted what looked like a boat about 10 miles southwest of Marsh Harbour. BASRA aircraft made several low level searches and saw the pair of men waving pieces of wood in the air to attract attention. Boats from Moore's Island were guided to their location by the aircraft which remained circling above.

The men, Edmund Stuart and Erskin Boulding, were safely returned to Moore's Island after spending two very chilly nights in the Marl's. Their boat had apparently run out of gas.

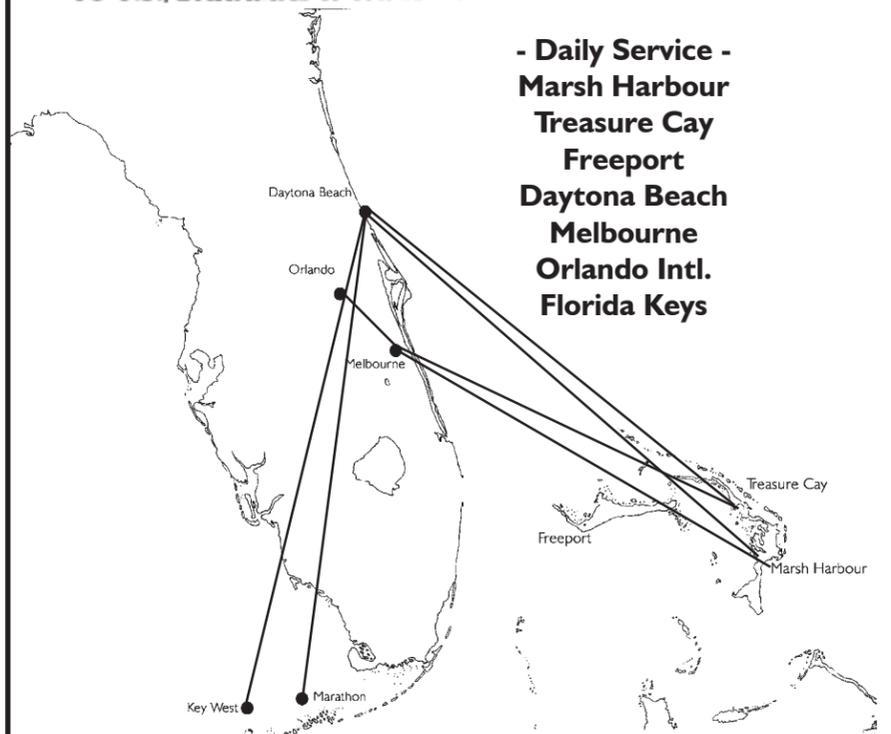
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- ★ **Great Guana Cay - "Aquarium"** - Boat Harbour Area - 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,100 sq.ft. Home. Great Elevation, Superb views - Fully Equipped. #AB98 - **\$345,000.**
- ★ **Green Turtle Cay - Family Residence** - 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath - 2,265 sq.ft. living space on two floors on 1 1/2 secluded acres. #AB35 - **\$945,000.**
- ★ **Green Turtle Cay - "On De Sound"** 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.**
- ★ **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 Beachfront - over 1 1/2 acres. #AB95 - **\$925,000.**
- ★ **Treasure Cay - "Son Burns"** - 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.**
- ★ **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 **UNDER CONTRACT**
- ★ **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 - "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 - "Dammie's Den"** - 2 bedroom, 2 bath new home + 80' Waterfront - Almost 1 1/2 wooded acres. - Private Dock - #AB73 - **NEW PRICE \$355,000.**



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Kathleen Albury, BRI
Estate Agent
Appraiser

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Based in Elbow Cay



Chris Plummer, BRI
Estate Agent

Joined H.G. Christie, in 2000.

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Marsh Harbour, Central Cays and South Abaco

- ★ **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 - **\$225,000.**
- ★ **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.**
- ★ **Marsh Harbour - "Pelican Point"** - 3 bedroom, 3 bath home - 1 bedroom, 1 bath garage apartment - 2 Acres -private dock - Fabulous Views. - Furnished # AB67 **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 - **NEW PRICE \$175,000.**
- ★ **Marsh Harbour - Eastern Shores - "Beach Point House"** - 5 bedroom, 3 bath, 2,500 sq.ft. home. 1,200 sq.ft. of verandahs and decks. 3/4 acre on Sea of Abaco - Two complete living units, Beach Great views. #AB89 - **\$1,450,000.**
- ★ **Marsh Harbour - "Harbour View Villa"** - 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**
- ★ **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 - "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.**
- ★ **Murphy Town - 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath** home. Centrally Located. Newly Completed and ready for immediate occupancy. Great Value. #AB107 - **WHY RENT? \$142,000.**



"Steiner House"

Treasure Cay- Treasure Cay Drive - 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath - 2,200 sq.ft. home on two levels - upper level deck - almost 1/2 Acre - Good Sea of Abaco Views. Short stroll to beach. Great family home. fully Furnished. #AB116 - **\$925,000.**



"Point of View"

Elbow Cay - Dorros Cove - 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2,500 sq.ft residence with 2 bedroom, 1 bath - 1,100 sq.ft guest house. Southeastern point of island. Swimming Pool - Private boat slip. Superb ocean and cay views. Fully Furnished - # AB112- **\$2,100,000.**



Derek A. Lee, BRI
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"Surcouf"

Green Turtle Cay - 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. Fully furnished - Ready for Occupancy - #AB86 - **NEW PRICE \$585,000**



"Spinnaker Point"

Marsh Harbour - Great Abaco Club - 3 bedrooms - 3 baths - 1,320 sq.ft. Home, Private 50' Lay-along Boat Dock, Tastefully furnished and fully equipped. Excellent Rental Record. # AB93 - **NEW PRICE \$550,000.**



"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**



John Cash, BRI
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"Blueberry Hill"

Marsh Harbour - Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 970 sq.ft. residence with 2 rental cottages, 2 bedroom, 1 bath and 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Centrally located but good privacy. Fully Furnished. Swimming Pool. Great Income Producer. # AB115 \$347,000.



Commercial

Marsh Harbour - Commercial - over 1/3 Fenced Acre - 2,160 sq.ft. Showroom/Office/Warehouse Building - Great for service business or wholesaler - Good relocation property for businesses expanding into Abaco from Nassau or Freeport. AB110 - **\$290,000.**

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- ★ **Marsh Harbour - Great Abaco Club - Canal Front Building Sites**
- ★ #40 - 9,778 sq.ft. - AB5155 - Extra Large Corner Parcel - **NEW LISTING - \$249,000.**
- ★ #41 - 7,070 sq.ft. - AB5156 - Good Elevation - Sea View - **NEW LISTING - \$299,000.**
- ★ #45 - 6,968 sq.ft. - AB5066 - Good Elevation - Sea View - **NEW PRICE - \$285,000.**
- ★ #46 - 8,105 sq.ft. - AB5157 - Good Elevation - Sea View - **NEW LISTING - \$295,000.**
- ★ **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 Beachfront Building Sites - Mid-way between Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay - # AB5142 - **\$118,000.**
- ★ **Elbow Cay - "Marmie'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 - "Madiera Hill"** - 1.497 Acres - 312' x 209' - Waterfront access super views. # AB5143 - **\$395,000.**
- ★ **Green Turtle Cay - "Coco Sound"** - 28 prime residential buildings sites - 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.**
- ★ **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.**
- ★ **PRIVATE ISLAND - "Carrington Cay"** - 1.4 Acres - Near Leisure Lee - #AB5147 - **\$375,000.**



"Sunset Point Resort"

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



"Ceylon's Isle" - "Rosewood"

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

Police Crime Report

A resident of Joe's Creek was arrested on December 15 for making threats of death and assault with a dangerous weapon resulting from an incident on November 10. He was charged with making threats of death and causing public terror. Two other matters are under investigation against the man.

A window valued at \$250 and an air conditioner valued at \$500 were broken on December 16 about midnight at a Murphy Town residence by the occupant's estranged wife.

On December 17 a local customs broker filed a fraud complaint against a client who presented a U.S. check for \$4,213 in November and was just informed by his bank that the clients U.S. account had been closed.

A resident of the Pigeon Peas area in Marsh Harbour reported that a house mate had died on December 18. Foul play was not suspected. The victim was known to have been under a doctor's care for TB.

A woman driving a pickup truck attempted to run over a Cooper's Town man while he was driving home from Marsh Harbour on December 18. His car was damaged extensively. The woman has admitted to the offense and may be charged for assault with a deadly weapon.

A Marsh Harbour house was broken into during the night of December 19 and \$3700 was stolen.

A rental car driven by a man from Cooper's Town had the rear window broken and the roof dented from thrown stones while parked at a club in Crown Haven about 11 p.m. on December 19. The assailants were identified to the police in the complaint of December 22.

A man living in Hard Bargain, Moore's Island, reported on December 20 that another resident there whom he knew struck him on his forehead with a chain for no known reason.

A woman living in the Mud, Marsh Harbour, was slapped in the face by her son on the morning of December 21. Her son was confronted by police and charged when admitting to the offense.

A Marsh Harbour man reported someone stole 31 sheets of 5/8 inch plywood and 14 sheets of 3/8 inch plywood with a total value of \$1,076 from his lot during the night of December 22.

A house on Don MacKay Boulevard was broken into between 5 and 11 p.m. on December 24 and a \$500 12-gauge shotgun was stolen.

A 15 speed bike was stolen from a Marsh Harbour residence during the noon hour on Christmas Day.

A resident of the Bight, Moore's Island, was stabbed in the face about 4 a.m. December 25 while at a disco there. The assailant is known and may have had a hand gun.

An employee of Albury's Ferry had a bag containing \$1,316 stolen shortly before noon on December 26 while at the ferry dock at Crossing Beach. A suspect was named and later arrested.

A 40-foot container was broken into on Forest Drive between December 24 and December 26. Stolen were two windows.

A woman living in Spring City had four hub caps stolen off her Nissan while parked near the new government dock in Marsh Harbour in the pre-dawn hours of December 25.

A house in the Pigeon Peas area of Marsh Harbour was broken into before dawn on December 26. Stolen were a \$200 cell phone, birth certificates for four persons, travel documents and a man's passport.

A resident of the Charlie Boo Yard in Marsh Harbour was arrested on December 26 for steeling.

A resident of the Pigeon Peas area of Marsh Harbour was arrested on December 26 for causing harm and for immigration infractions.

A house on Forest Drive in Murphy Town was broken into during the evening of December 27. Stolen were two gold chains, five gold rings and Tommy Hilfiger tennis shoes.

A house in the Pigeon Peas area of Marsh Harbour was broken into during the early evening of December 27. Stolen were a Haitian passport valued at \$650, a Bible and

a hymn book.

A house on the Stede Bonnet Road in Marsh Harbour was broken into between December 25 and December 28. Nearly \$200 was stolen.

A house on Grand Cay was broken into sometime between December 23 and 28 and a \$570 VCR was stolen.

A resident of Crockett Drive in Marsh Harbour was arrested December 28 for causing harm to a Green Turtle Cay man.

A Cooper's Town man was arrested on December 29 for shop breaking and stealing at the G & M Food Store in Treasure Cay.

A Murphy Town man was assaulted by a man he knew while at a take-out restaurant on Crockett Drive in Marsh Harbour. The assailant drew a handgun causing the victim to fear for his life. Subsequently, a Murphy Town man was arrested at his residence December 29 when found to be in possession of an imitation hand gun. He has been charged and released on police bail.

A Marsh Harbour man was arrested on January 1 when found in the Hibiscus Café at 2:50 a.m. He pleaded not guilty and was released on \$1,500 bail.

A Cooper's Town man was arrested at 2:40 a.m. December 29 at the Treasure Cay round-about for shop-breaking.

The Cherokee Air office at the Marsh Harbour airport was broken into during the night of December 29. A cell phone was stolen and the office was ransacked.

The office of Abaco Air at the Marsh Harbour airport was broken into during the night of December 29. A money box containing \$20 was stolen.

A man from Cherokee had a container and gasoline valued at \$280 stolen from his boat between December 27 and 30 while docked at the Marsh Harbour Importers and Exporters fish house.

The Shell Depot in Murphy Town was broken into during the night of December 29 and a pair of \$96 safety boots was stolen.

The Abaco Petroleum office on Don MacKay Boulevard was broken into during the night of December 29. Stolen was a \$800 cash register and a pickup truck. The truck was later recovered at the entrance to the Mud.

The Zig-Zag hanger at the Marsh Harbour airport was broken into during the night of December 29 with the office being ransacked and graffiti written on aircraft.

RND Cinemas at the Marsh Harbour airport round-about was broken into during the night of December 29 and an empty cash drawer was stolen.

A man from the Pigeon Peas area of Marsh Harbour was arrested on December 30 in the vicinity of Ocean View Park in Dundas Town for possession of suspected marijuana.

An employee at the Marsh Harbour airport reported on January 2, 2004, that a \$1,000 hand-held UHF radio was stolen on September 13, 2003. The radio was the property of the Marsh Harbour International Airport Fire and Civil Aviation Department

A woman of Cove Estates in Marsh Harbour was attacked and beaten by two

Please see **Police**

Page 23

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Police Crime Report

Police *From Page 22*

women she knew while she was on the S.C. Bootle Highway a little before 10 p.m. on January 2. The rear view mirror on her car was damaged.

A Marsh Harbour woman was assaulted and knocked in her stomach while at a relative's house in Cove Estates by another resident of Cove Estates. The assailant's boyfriend also choked her. This happened a little after 10 p.m. on January 2.

A woman living near Cove Estates was slapped in the face while at her residence late in the evening of January 2 by a woman who lives in neighboring Cove Estates.

A Murphy Town man was arrested about

9 p.m. on January 2 for assaulting five police officers and police dog "Bob." Taken as evidence were two fishing spears, a hatchet, a machete and a steel pipe which were used in his assault on the officers. Also taken were three boxes of cigars, two packages of matches, two boxes of mosquito coils and \$74.45 in cash.

A resident of Hard Bargain, Moore's Island, reported that sometime between December 17 and January 2 someone broke into his house and stole 15 pounds of crawfish, three Garmin Global Position Satellite receivers valued at \$1,000 and \$85 in coins.

A woman living in Hard Bargain, Moore's Island, was awakened by an intruder about 2 a.m. on January 3. The in-

truder, whom she did not recognize, fled when she screamed. Nothing appeared to be stolen.

The glass front door to Forest Heights Academy was found smashed sometime between 11 p.m. on January 3 and 8:30 the next morning. Nothing appeared to be stolen.

A resident of the Pigeon Peas settlement in Marsh Harbour was arrested and later released on January 5 in reference to break-ins December 30, 2003.

A Cooper's Town man was arrested on January 5 for causing harm to a Treasure Cay resident.

Pedro Dean was arrested after a robbery in the Charlie Boo area of Marsh Harbour in the evening of January 5. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years in jail.

A Dundas Town man was arrested on January 6 and later released on bail concerning an assault on a Dundas Town woman.

A Moore's Island woman had her house broken into sometime between December 31 and January 7. Stolen were three gold

bracelets and \$300.

A Freeport man was arrested and later released on bail in Grand Cay on January 7 for possession of suspected marijuana.

The glass front door to Bahamas Family Market in Marsh Harbour was smashed by a rock sometime between 11 p.m. on January 7 and 6:30 the next morning. It was not clear if anything was stolen. A man was later arrested.

The Treasure Cay Primary School was broken into some time between 5:30 p.m. on January 7 and 8:30 the next morning. The thief stole \$1400 from a file cabinet.

A Pelican Shore resident reported a boating accident at 8:55 p.m. January 8

Just before sunset on January 15 a Dundas Town man was put in fear of his life by a death threat while in Murphy Town from a young man.

A Marsh Harbour man was arrested about 9:30 p.m. on January 15 when found in possession of four 52-pound bags of Pedigree dog food without a satisfactory account of how he acquired them.

Please see Police Page 26



This is the scene at Long Bay near Crossing Rocks on January 20 when a 20-foot boat hit a reef offshore. A drug deal was suspected and police investigated, assisted by an OP-BAT helicopter. However, the two men, one from Eleuthera and the other from Nassau, were released when no drugs were found.

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<div style="background-color: #008080; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">ELBOW CAY</div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">FLAMINGO VILLAS</div> <p>Fabulous Villas located at the mouth of Hope Town Harbour. These 2 bed/2 bath villas are beautifully furnished with West Indian decor throughout. A dip pool is shared and surrounded by open decking. Sold fully furnished, totally turnkey, rental history.</p> <div style="text-align: right;"> </div> <p>Price: \$1,870,000</p>	<div style="background-color: #008080; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">ELBOW CAY</div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">HOMES & LAND</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p>"OCEAN HOUSE" Incredible parcel of property with 2 bedroom, 2 bath home located on the Atlantic Ocean in historic Hope Town Settlement. 74 feet of ocean front on long white sandy shore. The house has open floor plan with large kitchen and great/dining room, vaulted ceilings, good rental history.</p> <p>Price: \$1,300,000</p> <p>"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</p> <p>Price: \$532,500</p> <p>"DORROS COVE" Lot #18 hillside, ocean view, electric and telephone in place, ready to build - \$151,500 Lot #21 hilltop, Sea of Abaco and ocean views, private dock slip at Tahiti Beach - \$233,000 Lot #23 hilltop, Sea of Abaco, ocean & Tiloo views - SOLD</p> <p>"MARNIES LANDING" - Private marina community at the southern end of Elbow Cay offering 1/2 acre lots with views of the Atlantic Ocean, Sea of Abaco, or both. Each lot comes with private dock slip at the marina, homesites staggered for optimal views. Starting at: \$230,000</p> <p>"MARNIES LANDING" LOT #7B- Rare opportunity to buy not only one of the most beautiful 1/2 acre lots in Marnies with panoramic views, but also have 2 private dock slips UNDER CONTRACT to 60'</p> <p>Price: \$325,000</p> <p>PRISTINE OCEANFRONT PROPERTY, secluded, private North Elbow Cay. Lot #54 109' white sandy ocean front - \$495,000. Lot #53 121' white sandy ocean front - \$495,000. Combine both lots for incredible parcel of 1+ acres of ocean front. Call Greg Roberts for details and appointment to view.</p> <p>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. Lots starting at \$60,000. Call Greg Roberts for details.</p>	<div style="background-color: #008080; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">ELBOW CAY</div> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CASA LUISA</div> <p>Custom built 3 bed/2 bath island home. 2200+ sq. ft. one lot away from Atlantic, ideal rental or second home. Open floor plan, second floor master suite with ocean views, cable, phone, central a/c, offered exclusively, and shown by appt. only.</p> <div style="text-align: right;"> </div> <p>Price: \$630,000</p>
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A Growing Raccoon Problem

By Jennifer Hudson

Abaco has experienced a rapidly growing raccoon population over the past five or more years. Raccoons have been sighted frequently in North Abaco for some time especially in the vicinity of Blackwood and Cooper's Town but they have now moved into Central and South Abaco. Rev. Charles Carey, Principal of Wesley College, travels into Marsh Harbour from the Treasure Cay area each day and says that most days he sees a raccoon along the road. I live in Central Abaco and found raccoon tracks all over my car one morning last week.

These are very beautiful creatures with grayish brown fur and beautifully ringed tails. They are excellent climbers and very strong swimmers though they will only venture into deep water as an escape route from trouble. They prefer to live in forested areas with ponds, lakes and marshes and December to March is their breeding time. Being mostly nocturnal, they have a keen sense of hearing and acuity of sight. Although nocturnal they will venture out during the day if they are hungry. Some people believe that if they are seen out in the daytime, they are rabid but that is a myth.

Raccoons, unfortunately, are becoming a problem. They are primarily meat eaters

and are attacking chickens. They have now killed ten of Rev. Carey's chickens which has necessitated his getting a trap to catch the offenders. Within the last two weeks, Rev. Carey has caught six raccoons, four of which he has turned over to Mr. David Knowles at the Ministry of Agriculture. Raccoons grow to between 12 and 35 pounds and the largest caught by Rev. Carey was approximately 20 pounds.

The Ministry of Agriculture sent one of the raccoons into Nassau to be tested for rabies but, fortunately, it was not found to be carrying disease.

There are other problems posed by the raccoons. They have a highly developed sense of touch which enables them to easily unlock doors and get into trash cans and other types of mischief, and they are often found in attics or under houses or porches. They are frequenting the S.C. Bootle High School in the area where the students eat their lunch. There is concern that these creatures may pose a threat to the parrots.

An expert from Canada was recently on Abaco giving advice on how to set humane traps for the raccoons, and he is expected back in March for developing a plan for keeping their population under control.

Life on the Carnival Road

By Portia Jonsson

When most people hear the word "carnival," they automatically think of fun, rides and games. Not many think of the hard work that goes into putting the whole thing together. For two weeks last month the Holiday Carnival was in town providing entertainment for hundreds of local residents.

Mr. Brent Lynn, Carnival Coordinator and Lot Manager, shared with me what life is like for him and his family traveling with the carnival. He and his wife, Leann, have a combined total of 20 years in the carnival business. Their 14-year-old daughter has been traveling on the road with them for the past three years. Brent and Leann were married in Freeport, Grand Bahama, three years ago.

Brent said the carnival is made up of units, which book different carnivals and different routes. Some of the units go week to week and others go much longer. They usually travel stateside visiting county fairs and shopping malls but Brent and his family only work in The Bahamas.

The Holiday Carnival has been in The Bahamas since December last year. They visited Nassau from December 5th to January 11th before traveling to Abaco on January

16th to February 1st. Their next stops are Grand Bahama and Exuma. This will be the first time the carnival has visited Exuma.

According to Brent, it takes two days to set up a carnival and depending on the weather, 12 hours to take everything down.

Leann said she had a great time here in Abaco and thinks the Abaco people are warm and friendly. She said although she meets a lot of interesting people, she regrets not being able to make friends because she is never in the same place long enough. She describes her life with the carnival as hard work and fun. There are good days and bad days.

Brent said he regrets that during his trips to The Bahamas, he is not able to see more of the islands or experience what they have to offer. However, this trip he and his family were able to spend a full day in Hope Town. He said they enjoyed their short stay there and loved the Bahamian food.

The Abaco Holiday Carnival included 13 rides and 14 game tables along with popular carnival foods like pizza, corn dogs and cotton candy. Thirty Bahamians were employed at the carnival during the two-week period.

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Kathleen serves all of Abaco and currently resides in Hope Town, Elbow Cay.



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- 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'
- NEW near Leisure Lee - Waterfront property - 100' ± beachfront. 143' on Abaco Hwy. 800' deep. Over 2.2 Acres Offered at: \$399,000
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Workshop Was Held on Drug Abuse Prevention

By Jennifer Hudson

The Bahamas National Drug Council and Ministry of Health in conjunction with the Inter-American Children's Institute (INN), the Organization of American States and the Pan American Health Organization, conducted a three-day encounter workshop on Abaco on January 26-28 at New Vision Ministries to train educators on drug abuse prevention. Fifteen persons from schools on Abaco, Grand Bahama and the Berry Islands actively participated.

The team presenting the programme were Mrs. Kathleen Johnson, Project Manager, Representative-Pan American Health Organization; Ms. Marian Pinder, Senior Trained Psychiatric Nurse, Coordinator-Drug Prevention Encounters; Ms. Ruth Ferguson, Deputy Principal Nursing Officer; Mrs. Janet Bridgewater, Nursing Officer No 2; Ms. Janet Johnson, Nursing Officer No 2; and Mr. Charles Sawyer, President Bahamas National Parent Teacher Association.

Topics addressed follows.

1. Explanation of the methodology
2. Analysis of the problem
3. Consequences of drug and alcohol abuse
4. Necessary efforts to prevent or control the situation

5. Prevention strategies and role of the youth, family, community and teaching institution

6. Formation of short-term prevention proposals.

The INN Drug Abuse Prevention programme has developed a participatory education methodology for drug abuse which has been tested in over sixteen countries.

Many interesting and helpful presentations were made followed by group discussions. Some of the points brought out were that:

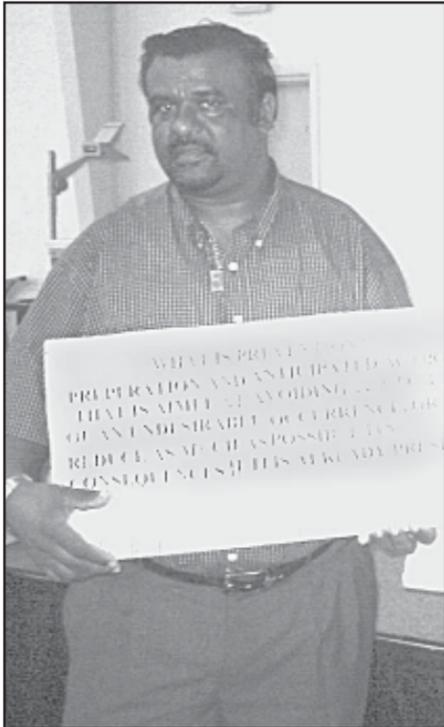
- a. Educators and families must be taught to detect the early signs of drug abuse so that it can be caught and treated in its early stages
- b. When young people are told that they

must not participate in drug activities, they must be given other options and activities to occupy them

c. Families must get involved in helping their family members, not leave it up to educators and others

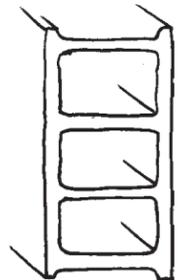
d. Society must be educated to accept ex-drug offenders back into society instead of pointing fingers which only makes matters worse.

Additionally, the team did a panel discussion about the workshop activities at the Amy Roberts Primary School Parents Teachers Association Meeting in Green Turtle Cay. Resource support was given by Mr. Van Johnson, who gave clarity on correctional services for the adolescent.



One of the participants of the recent workshop on drug abuse prevention was Mr. Roodatram Kawalram, a teacher at Treasure Cay Primary School. He is shown here making a presentation to the group.

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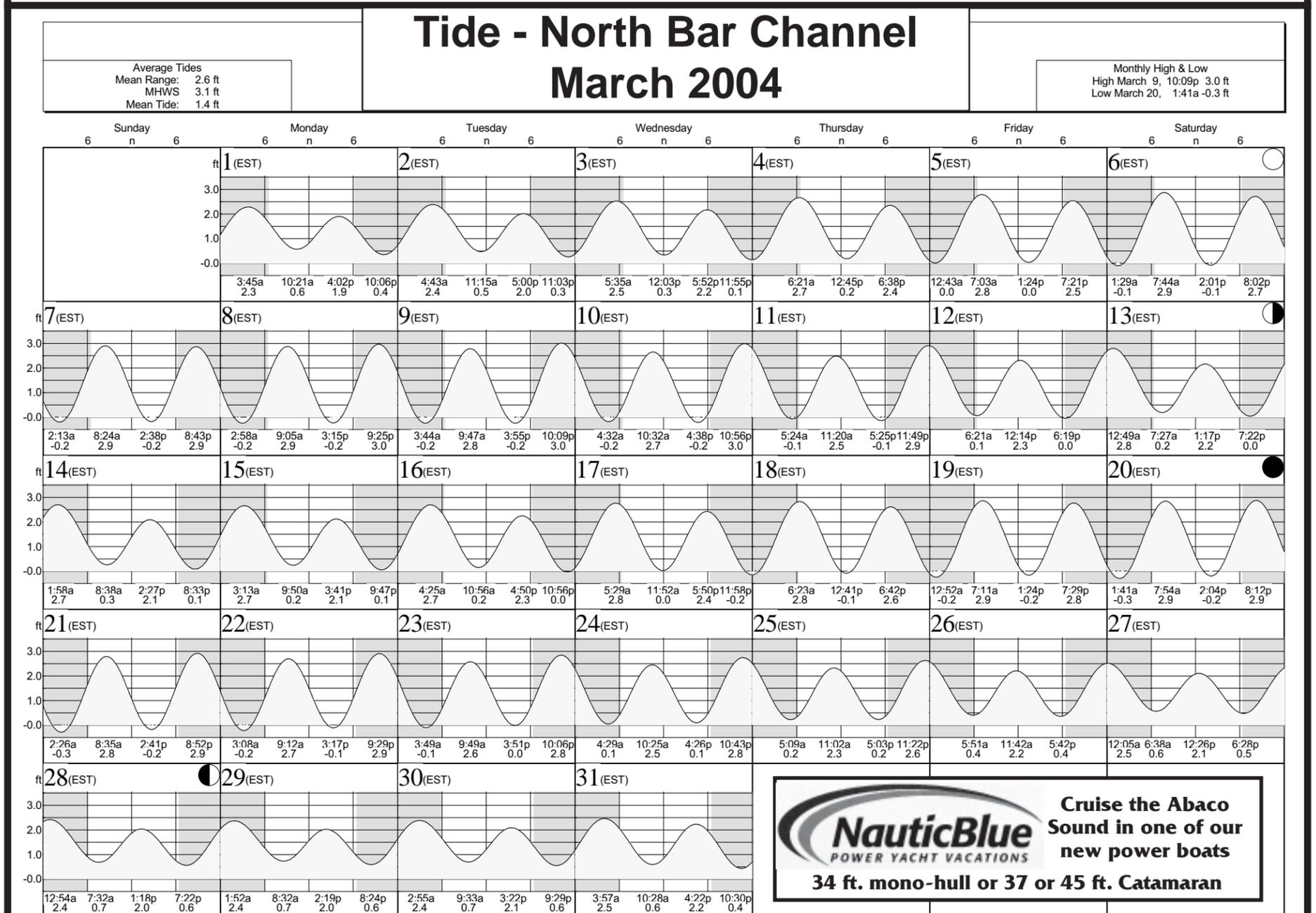
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Police Crime Report

Police *From Page 23*

Nine men were arrested on January 15 in the waters off Hole-in-the-Wall after receiving information of a drug drop. Taken into custody were six men from Sandy Point, one man from Crossing Rocks, one from McLean's Town, Grand Bahama, and one person from Long Island. Also seized were a 38-foot midnight blue "go-fast" boat and a 21-foot Man-O-War outboard powered boat. The suspected drugs were not located and the men were subsequently released.

A Columbian was discovered January 16 in the Hole-in-the-Wall area by police conducting a search. He claimed he had paid to be dropped off in Miami after stopping in Haiti and Jamaica. When found, he had made a fire hoping to be discovered. He was turned over to Immigration officers and later taken to Nassau.

Thirty-five hundred dollars were stolen from a Spring City woman's purse sometime between 6:15 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on January 16.

A Blackwood rental car office was broken into during the night of January 19. Stolen were a 19-inch television, a dual cassette radio and \$120 in cash. A 1998 van was also taken and later recovered in the area of the Treasure Cay Primary School.

A Fire Road merchant had his business broken into sometime during the night of January 20. Clothing and \$20 were stolen.

Bahamas Electricity Corporation in Marsh Harbour reported that between 3 p.m. on January 19 and 9:30 the next morning a front window had been smashed although nothing appeared to have been stolen.

Acting on information, officers went to the Island Homes area north of Crossing

Rocks on January 20 and found two men suspected of drug possession and a 20-foot boat washed up on the beach. One man was from Nassau and the other was from Eleuthera with a suspected link to drugs. An OP-BAT (Operation Bahamas and Turks Island) helicopter was in the area and landed to assist in the investigation. No drugs were found and the men were released.

A medical exam on January 21 determined that a 12-year-old girl was seven months pregnant. Investigation led to the arrest of a man who admitted having sex with the minor. He was arrested and held without bail.

A resident of Cove Estates in Marsh Harbour was arrested on January 22 when found in the Mud with suspected marijuana.

About 10:30 p.m. on January 22 an employee of the L. C. Hull & Company law firm in Marsh Harbour discovered a man had broken into the building, then left when confronted. The suspect is known to the police but has not been located.

An assailant armed with a knife fled after he attempted to rob a man near the carnival in Murphy Town about 11:30 p.m. on January 23. A Murphy Town man was subsequently arrested. A second man from Marsh Harbour was also arrested for obstruction and assaulting a police officer.

Correction

The Abaconian reported that Chief Councillor for the Central Abaco District, Mr. Cay Mills, was released on bond for refusing to move his vehicle and allow access to the Murphy Town park by the carnival equipment. Mr. Mills was taken to the Police Station and his car was towed there for obstructing government property. However, he and his car were later released without any charges being brought or any fines or bail imposed. *The Abaconian* apologizes for the oversight.

Mr. Gary Smith Is New Customs Superintendent



By Jennifer Hudson

Mr. Gary Van Smith took up the post of Superintendent of Customs on Abaco at the beginning of this year following the

departure of Ms. Sheila MacDonald. He will have responsibility for overseeing a staff of 26 persons in six stations throughout Abaco.

Mr. Smith has been employed by the Department of Customs for the past 35 years working throughout New Providence and the Family Islands. For the past eight years he has been in charge of the Investigation and Intelligence Unit in Nassau. He also served as Enforcement Liaison Officer for the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council which took him throughout the entire Bahamas and Caribbean region.

This post is actually a homecoming for Mr. Smith as he was born in Marsh Harbour to Samuel and Cynthia Smith and received his early schooling at the Marsh Harbour school. He completed his schooling on Eleuthera, then went on to further studies at the C.R. Walker Technical Institute and the College of the Bahamas. His qualifications include a Diploma in Criminal Justice and a Diploma in Labour and Industrial

Relations from the University of the West Indies. Mr. Smith is extremely well qualified for his post having also completed courses with the United States, Canadian, Dutch and U.K. Customs Services. In 1995 he was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to study organized labour in the U.S.

He served as Executive Vice President of the Bahamas Public Services Union for 10 years and in 2000 represented the Bahamas Labour Union Movement at the ILO meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

Mr. Smith was recently joined in Abaco by his wife, Ruth, who has taken up a post with the Department of Education in Marsh Harbour. The couple has one son, Kyle, aged 22 years, who is employed in New Providence. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have always been very involved with their church in Nassau and are already active members of the St. Andrews Methodist Church in Dundas Town.

Mr. Smith states that he is looking forward to working with the various law enforcement agencies in Abaco and delivering quality service. "Sixty to 70 percent of revenue nationally comes from Customs and Abaco is a significant contributor," said Mr. Smith. He requests members of the public to report any violations they may see or have knowledge of.

He has an "open door" policy and invites members of the community to stop by or call at any time if they require information or to discuss any concerns they might have relating to Customs.

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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

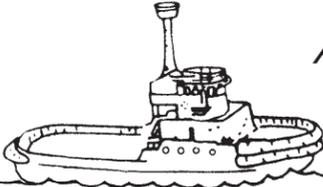
www.abacoinfo.com

www.abacos.com

www.go-abacos.com

www.oii.net

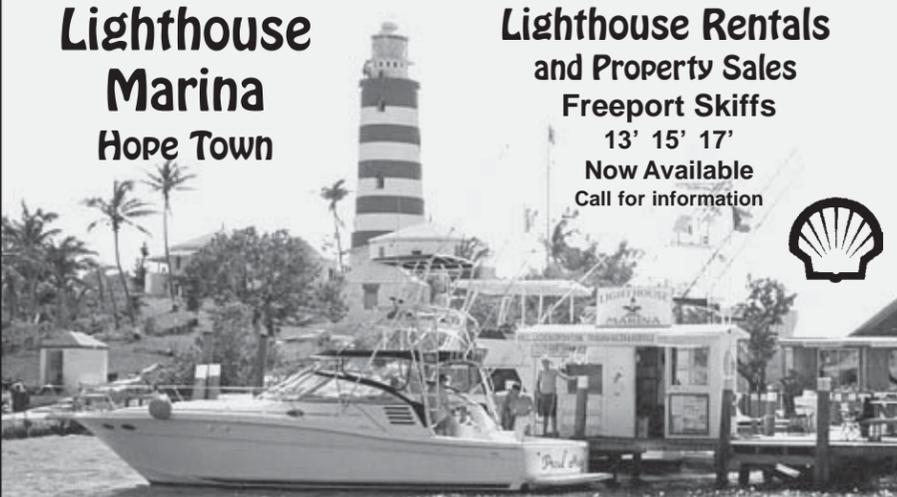
www.bahamas.com - Min. of Tourism



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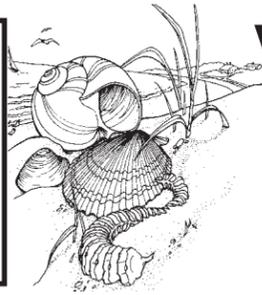


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Visitors' Guide



Restaurants • Services • Transportation

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

Area code 242 unless listed

Emergency Services	
Police (Marsh Harbour)	367-2560
Fire - Marsh Harb. Volunteer Fire Dept.	367-2000
Fire - Hope Town Volunteer Fire Dept.	VHF Ch 16
Ambulance - Trauma One - Marsh Harbour	367-2911
Fire - Dundas Town Volunteer	367-2935 or 4935
Man-O-War Fire & Rescue	365-6911
Bah Air Sea Rescue Assoc	VHF 16 or 366-0282
Fire - Green Turtle Cay Volunteer	365-4133

Medical Services	
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 Moxy	\$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	
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
Calypso Air - Ft. Laud & W Palm Bch	954-3594191
Continental Connection - Miami	
Ft. Laud and W Palm Beach	367-3415
Island Express - Ft. Lauderdale	367-3597
Major's 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	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
Kayak • Abaco Adventures • Treasure C	365-8749



Ferry Schedule Departure times shown • Daily unless noted

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

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

Abaco Adventures • Ph 365-8749 VHF Ch 16	
Treasure Cay to Man-O-War/Hope Town - Wed 9:30 am, return 4:30 pm	
\$25 OW \$35 RT	
Treasure Cay to Guana - Sun 12 Noon, return 3 \$20 OW \$25 RT	
Pinder's Ferry Service Between Abaco & Grand Bahama -	
Crown Haven Abaco to McLean's Town -Daily 7:00 am & 2:30 pm	
McLean's Town to Crown Haven - Daily 8:30 am & 4:30 pm	
Fare \$40 one way • \$80 round trip • Children half fare	
For information call Grand Bahama 353-3093 or Abaco 365-2356	
Bus serves Freeport and McLean's Town • Rental automobiles at both terminals.	
Bahamas Ferries Between Nassau & Sandy Point under 4 Hr.	
Tuesday	Lv Nassau 8 am Lv Sandy Point 12:30 pm
Friday & Sunday	Lv Nassau 3:30 pm Lv Sandy Point 8 pm
Adult fare \$90 RT, \$50 OW • Call for rates on cars, trucks and cargo	
Call Sandy Point 366-4119 • Marsh Harbour 367-5250 • Nassau 323-2166	

Please bring errors, omissions or corrections to our attention

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			

Dive Shops - Marsh Harbour	
Dive Abco	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	365-5178
Man-O-War Dive Shop	365-6013

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



Everyone reads The Abaconian.

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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	\$ 367-4460
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	365-5175
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

Marina Owners Ask for Relief from Minister James Smith

Government increased the commercial dock fees in April 2003 from 95 cents a foot to \$6.13 per foot or a 645 per cent increase. This became effective with the new fiscal budget year on July 1, 2003, although it was not publicized until eight months later in mid-December. Initial information led most to believe it would be effective January 1, 2004.

On reading the new dock fee schedule published in the December 15 issue of *The Abaconian*, marina owners asked for a meeting with Abaco's new Tourism Director, Mrs. Juritzan Outten. She was unaware of the changes but promised to look into it. Her superiors in Nassau were also unaware of this increase.

More recently, the marina operators came together on January 29 for a meeting with Minister of State for Finance, the Hon. James Smith, who was in Marsh Harbour as the guest speaker at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon. He listened to complaints for an hour, then told those attending that he thought he could persuade Nassau to provide some relief.

Mr. Smith interpreted the complaints and reduced business to be a result of new dock fees. It was pointed out that the boaters are not yet aware of any price changes due to this. Once dock prices are adjusted for this increase and new rates are published, it was felt there would be a further decrease in boats at the marinas.

A Hope Town marina owner said last year at this time he had 22 boats and this year he has just one at his docks. He attributes this to the cruising permit increase which was imposed without forewarning. Essentially boaters were told on arrival either pay or leave.

Changes by government to the cruising permit fee are not anticipated although the \$150 and \$300 permit now allows two visits to the Bahamas within a 90-day period. This will be helpful to marinas in Bimini and West End which cater to weekend boaters from Florida.

A marina operator on Guana Cay was

recently embarrassed while representing his facility at the Stuart, Florida, boat show. He was constantly assaulted verbally by boaters who felt unwanted in The Bahamas as a result of the cruising fee and the manner in which it was imposed. He assured the boaters they were welcome.

Bahamas' tourism representatives adjoining his booth at the boat show were confronted to the extent they walked out after the first evening and did not return. The show organizers said the tourism staff forfeited their right to be there next year by leaving.

The manager of the Orchid Bay development on Guana Cay said its plans for marina expansion are now on hold pending a review of the situation.

Most of the marinas have delayed their dock license payment for this year. The deadline for payment is March 31.

Last year the fee was determined by adding the footage along both sides of the main dock and on both sides of all fingers. On hearing the recent complaints from marina owners, the assessment is now based on usable dock space, ie, measuring footage where a boat can lay. This change will reduce the tax liability only marginally.

Marina rates on Abaco begin in the 40-cents-a-foot range compared to Nassau rates of \$3 and more per foot.

Medical Specialists Now Come to Abaco

The latest advances in medical care are becoming available to Abaconians. Specialists at the Auskell Advanced Medical Center now visit on a regular schedule. There has been a big jump in the number of visitors to the clinic with the coming of Dr. Danny Johnson, ankle and foot specialist, Dr. Maya Hestmo, bone and joint specialist, and Dr. Gregory Neil, plastic and reconstructive surgeon.

"People generally think of the hotel industry as a service industry," Dr. Neil said, "But service means taking care of people's needs and exceeding their expectations. Therefore, providing medical care is actually the ultimate service industry," Dr. Neil added.

Dr. Johnson was quick to point out, "Our clientele here has always been very sophisticated. They tend to do their re-

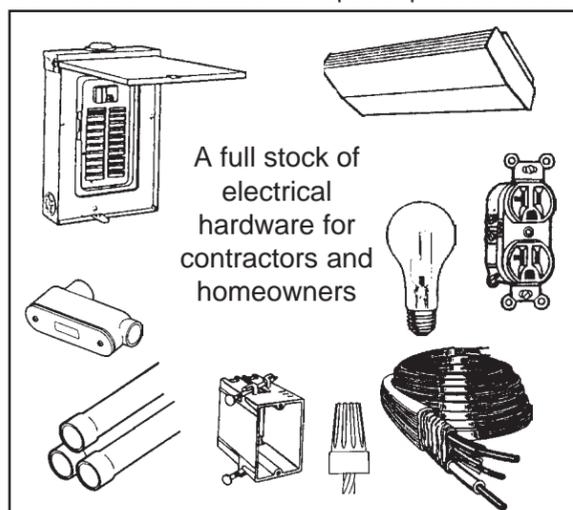
search beforehand and come prepared with questions."

"So far our patients here have been extremely resourceful, and they make it easy for us to provide the best care. That's what it's all about," said Dr. Hestmo.

Speaking about plastic surgery and a healthy lifestyle, Dr. Neil stressed the importance of healthy eating combined with regular exercise. He said plastic surgery such as a tummy tuck, liposuction and facial rejuvenation is not a substitute for healthy living. In fact, he added, the patients who get the best results are the ones who pursue a healthy lifestyle before and after surgery. Dr. Neil mentioned that he has been seeing and treating a lot of skin cancer. He recommended using sun block or wearing a hat at every opportunity.

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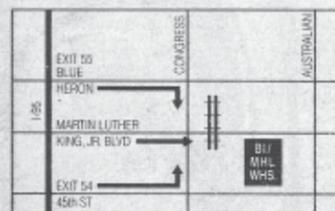
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Ray Weatherford, Shelly Russell and John Bethell

Scouting News

Scouts Clean a Blue Hole

By Rayallan Fredericks

Scouts of the North Abaco Troop 4 packed their backpacks and saddled up for a day of community service on January 18th. The third Saturday in each month the Scouts take time to help preserve the environment in whatever way they can. On this Saturday Troop 4 chose to clean the blue hole located near Treasure Cay on the way to the Bahama Star Farm. For us service is an honor. We respect our community and show our appreciation by keeping it clean.

At the blue hole we began our clean up campaign. Garbage was picked up, palm trees were trimmed and branches of trees, which could be dangerous, were slashed off. With our help a blue hole changed from a neglected site to a majestic wonder. It was almost unbelievable and amazing to see how a little contribution from the public can change the appearance of our environment. If you want to play a part in making your environment a beauty, it's not difficult. Here's the equation: Your help towards your



The North Abaco Scout Troop 4 is shown on a recent project that they undertook. Each month they tackle a community service project and this time the project was to clean around a blue hole near Treasure Cay. They were amazed at the change they made, working together to improve their environment.

community + the participation of the public = a more beautiful, enchanted and clean environment that would benefit you and others in the future.

When you help your community, you are showing your appreciation towards your environment and God. It's not all work. When you are done, you'll feel great about yourself and your accomplishments. Additionally, you can enjoy the view and cleanliness of your surroundings. For instance, when we were done, we swam in the blue hole, had races, took pictures and much more. The fun we had that day will linger in our memories forever, so help your community today and be apart of helping the future.

The Treasure Cay community will be holding its annual Treasure Cay Yard Sale and Book Sale on March 6. This event is a fund raiser for the Rose Mary Roberts Library and this year will be held in the Coco Beach Bar parking lot. The book sale will be held at the library. Anyone can donate items for the library or sell by dropping them off at the library or contacting Jerry Roberts at 365-8474. Others can take items and sell them on their own if they want.

Barefoot Man Is Coming on March 7th

It has become an annual event at Nippers Beach Bar, a gathering of sailors, fishermen, yachtsmen and winter residents along with throngs of Bahamians who all have something in common - they are Barefoot fans. This year the gathering will be on March 7th during Nippers famous weekly pig roast. George (the Barefoot Man) Nowak will be performing along with Sea n B, his back up duo, and popular Stone McEwan.

The shoeless minstrel has been visiting The Bahamas for the last three decades and his love for Abaco has inspired him to write a number of well known songs, popular with locals and tourists alike. Tunes such as *The Fig Tree*, *Layin' Low in Abaco*, *Home Town Ferry*, and *Conched Out at the Conch Inn* are all available on his popular CDs. The Barefoot Man makes his home on Grand Cayman where he is a popular tourist attraction performing several days a week.

"I can't stay away from Abaco," says Barefoot. "I have so many friends here, the fishing is superb and the solitude of an empty Out Island beach is so inspiring for the music that I write." The Barefoot Man has recorded 15 CDs that include mostly his original tropical-laced ditties which are a blend of calypso, reggae, country and lots of humor.

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Public Notice

Illegal Construction

The Department of Public Works in conjunction with the Police Department will be intensifying their patrols of Pigeon Peas, The Mud, Sand Banks and other like areas. All residents of these areas should be aware that illegal construction will not be tolerated by the government and any infractions will be dealt with to the full extent of the law.

Avi Gouvenman Depatman de Travay Piblik ansamn ak depatman Police va fe patrouy pi r èd nan Pigeon Peas, The Mud, Sand Banks é lot plas yo ki minm jan. Tout residents nan plas sa yo doue Konprann Gouvenman sa pa va tolere konstrikasyon Illegal yo é va jije moun net atout laloua.

Department of Public Works

Aisle of Palm Realty

Brent Cartwright / BROKER

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Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas
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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.

Marsh Harbour 1028 - Two harbour front lots, Elevated and deep water. \$225,000 & 325,000
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Guana Cay - BEST PRICED beach lot on Guana Cay! 10,000 sq. ft. lot on beach with resort amenities included. \$139,900
Guana Cay - A selection of oceanfront, beachfront and inland hilltop lots with shared dockage available. Call for info.
Treasure Cay 1024 - Two bed, 1 bath condo overlooking marina features new kitchen, furnished, pool, tennis courts, lots of storage, great rental, beach and golf nearby. \$175,000
Guana 1041 - Two cottages on the Sea of Abaco. 2/2 1400 sq. ft., private dock, tasteful decor. \$732,250 each

Regattas 1002 - 2/2 furnished ground floor condo unit, Pool, tennis courts, beach, and spacious covered patio.
Bahama Palm Shores - 1065 Interior vacant lot on hill with electricity and short walk to beach. \$15,000. Other lots available

REDUCED #1003 Best priced home on Elbow Cay - 2/2.5 home on 17,000 sq. ft. lot. Offers sea views, central A/C, cypress tongue and groove walls and plans for a main house of 4,000 sq. ft. with 3/3.5 on two levels with wrap around patios. A MUST SEE \$399,500

NEW LISTING - Guana Cay Settlement - 2/1 home in the heart of Guana Cay. Cozy and well kept. Short walk to beach and harbour. Offered \$185,000

Guana 1019 - Two new adjacent cottages in settlement. Each with 2/1.5 on two floors. \$200,000 ea. or \$347,000 for both.

Please call us for information on these fine listings or any of our other listings throughout Abaco

web site: www.aisleofpalmrealty.com

National Park Study Continues

A five-person team from the Bahamas National Trust and the University of Florida interviewed small groups of Abaconians for input on the future use and management of the Abaco National Park. This was a follow up to an earlier visit.

The study is being funded by Disney Cruise Line and will lead to park uses and management styles. The team was composed of members of the Bahamas National Trust in conjunction with the University of Florida.

To get diverse opinions on park goals, small groups were made up of persons oriented toward hunting, tourism, business and environmentalists. By separating the groups, the researchers were able to get information on individual goals by persons of a similar interest. These will be evaluated later to come up with usages and management programs that would be accepted by the community and within budget limitations.

First thoughts might suggest that the hunters would be at odds with the conservationists. However, it appears that the two groups can easily co-exist within the park. Over the years the hunters have kept the road network in the forest passable, but may be the main source for accumulated trash and debris.



Lisa Marks was one of the presenters at the recent group meetings held by the Bahamas National Trust. Disney Cruise Lines is funding a study on goals for developing the Abaco National Park, which is the home of the Abaco parrot. Mr. Michael Lightbourn of Treasure Cay is listening.

The grid of logging roads is a boon to researchers who can readily mark blocks for intense study which ranges from parrot research to the effects of forest fires. In fact, several blocks have been marked for controlled fire studies with a burn frequency of one, two, three and four year intervals.

Update on Ministry of Housing Subdivisions

By Jennifer Hudson

Four families have now taken up residence in their new homes in the Central Pines Subdivision in Dundas Town and between 15 and 20 additional homes are presently under construction. Of the 423 lots, 136 have been sold outright, 73 are being paid on and two are awaiting financing. The Ministry of Housing is still awaiting word from Nassau regarding when telephone service will be taken to the area.

In Central Pines Estates the original policy was that only one lot could be purchased per family. However, the Minister has now stated that families will be allowed to purchase two lots.

No homes have yet been completed in the Sands Cove Subdivision at Sandy Point but five are now under construction. Of the 98 lots available, 26 have been sold and 16 are being paid on. Though not yet connected, all utilities are already in this subdivision including telephone service.

The new Murphy Town Subdivision has been sold out for quite some time and eight or nine families are already in residence.

Mr. Gibbs, Office Manager on Abaco, stated that there has been some talk of expanding the Spring City and Crossing Rocks subdivisions. This may possibly take place later in the year but so far no date for commencement has been announced.

Treasure Cay's First 2004 Wedding



Bride and Groom: Lucinda Littleton and David Robinson from Columbus, Ohio
Wedding Planner: Yvonne Key
Location: Treasure Cay Beach
Date: January 14, 2004
Minister: Rev. Carla Culmer
Witness: Mary Sawyer
Use of Villa: Myrtle Roberts
Wedding Cake: Debbie Russell
Music: Estin Sawyer
Flowers: Buds n Blooms
Photos: Jeff Cooper
Guests: Spectators
Honeymoon: Regattas of Abaco

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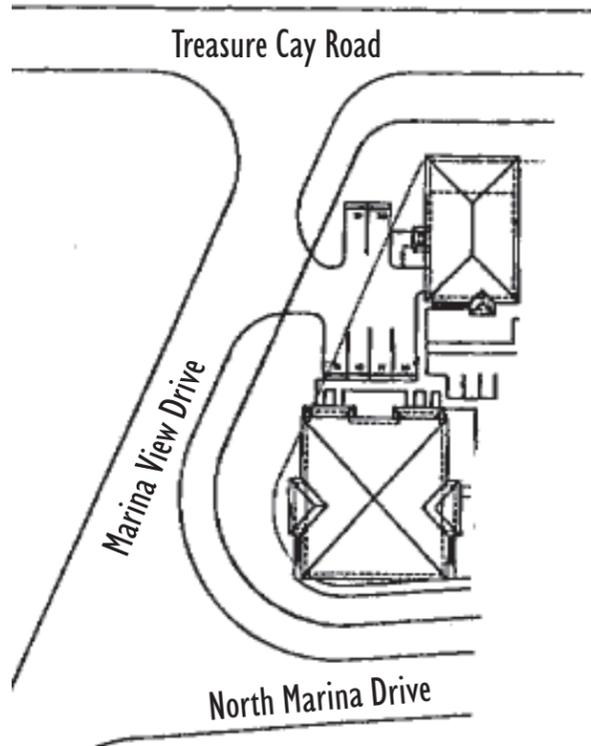
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ainsley@mlrealty.net



Orchid Bay Cottages #2041 - Enjoy this 2 bed, 2 bath cottage with its own private dock. It has the amenities of the pool, restaurant, tennis courts and beach access. \$732,250



Orchid Bay - #5056 A beautiful development in the postcard pretty town of Guana Cay. Amenities include tennis, pool, on site restaurant and marina. Bay front lots, beachfront lots and interior lots featuring elevations are available. Don't miss the chance to own your piece of Paradise. Call for details.



Great Abaco Beach Club Lot 54 - Vacant canal front lot in gated community looks out to the Sea of Abaco and features gorgeous views. This lot boasts the most canal frontage in this sub-division. **UNDER CONTRACT.**



Cherokee Sound - #5083 3 bed/ 2 bath home in clean tidy settlement. Has utility room, large kitchen, sunken living room, mini split A/C, well-kept lawn, work shop and storage building. House comes with a dock slip on the creek. \$360,000



Man-O-War Cay - "SunSplash" #5082 4 bed, 3 bath island home beauty. Situated on 1.189 acres this home features lots of privacy, Bahamian-built furniture, close to town and includes a guest cottage. Watch the sunrise every morning from the extensive patios and enjoy the views of the turquoise Atlantic Ocean. Step off this property and sink your toes in soft powder white sand. This home was built by Man-O-War carpenters who are known for their great building skills. A rare and unique offering. Here is your chance to own a piece of paradise. \$1,970,000



Marsh Harbour - Pelican Shores - #5078 Lovely 2 bed 2 1/2 bath home in one of the most desired locations. Features open living area, ceramic tile through out, laundry room and a private dock. This home commands a gorgeous view of the sea of Abaco. **FANTASTIC LISTING! \$940,000**



Elbow Cay - #0355 2 bed, 2 bath beach front home overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. This home features a large deck with private pool, screened-in gazebo and much more. The lucky owner of this home will have a true island paradise. \$1,185,000



Elbow Cay - #5017 A 3 b/2 b home on ocean front lot. Open floor plan, has views of the cool blue Atlantic Ocean. Features private pool, spacious decks and a 12 KW generator. \$955,000



Sandy Point - #5072 One and a half story house with 3 beds/ 2 baths. Also utility room, garage and boat house. Sits on two acres of lovely beachfront property. An ideal area for those who love bon-fishing and deep sea fishing. Call today! \$450,000



Man-O-War - #0331 Elegant 3 bedroom, 3 bath island beauty comprising 3,200 sq ft. with all modern day features. Features include Corian counter tops, six-burner stove, dance studio, hobby room, wine cellar, barbeque pit and much much more. Relax on the large wrap-around decks and take in the breathtaking views of the turquoise Atlantic Ocean. Property includes guest cottage with 2 beds and 2 baths and ocean views as well. The well landscaped lawn adds charm to this lovely home. Only steps away to a white sandy beach. The lucky owner of this home will have an island paradise. \$1,610,000



Guana Cay - 3 b/2 b home with views of the Sea of Abaco. Private dock and lovely landscaped yard. \$650,000

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

Yellowwood - vacant lot now available. Call for more details.

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

Bahama Palm Shores - two lots side by side, in fast growing community. **UNDER CONTRACT**

Man-O-War - Vacant interior lot in town, close walk to restaurants, grocery stores and the beach. \$99,000

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

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

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

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

Guana Cay - 4b/ 2b house with a self contained apartment with 2b/1b, on lovely Boat Harbour. Gorgeous views of the sea, features private dock. \$699,000

Bahama Palm Shores - vacant lot with foundation on it for 2 bedroom 1 bathroom house. House plans available. Great for starter home. \$35,000



Treasure Cay - 3 bedroom 2 1/2 bath waterfront home with swimming pool. Tastefully furnished and tiled throughout. This is a must see. Offered at \$633,000



Green Turtle Cay - #0333 Two bedroom / two bathroom house with a dock. The modern interior consists of two dining areas, an island bar, living room and kitchen. All front rooms overlook the 150' dock and harbour of White Sound. This is the last available deep water property on White Sound, Green Turtle Cay. \$850,000



Green Turtle Cay Office
Chris Farrington - BRI
Office (242) 365-4695 Fax (242) 365-4697
Email: chris.f@batelnet.bs
P.O. Box AB 22758, Green Turtle Cay, Abaco



Green Turtle Cay - #5077 Located in the heart of a story book Colonial village, this 150-year-old landmark has been meticulously maintained in its original decor. Consisting of 10 guest rooms, a 40-seat restaurant, lounge, pool and patio. A rare find that will allow you to enjoy a lifestyle reminiscent of the old days. Offered at \$1,780,000



Green Turtle Cay - High on a bluff, 1/3 acre waterfront lot boasts spectacular views of the Sea of Abaco and breathtaking sunsets. Near resorts and marinas. \$338,000

Green Turtle Cay - 1/2 acre lot virtually on the Atlantic Beach. \$210,000

Green Turtle Cay - Ocean view lot 200 ft. from the beach. \$95,000



Treasure Cay #1322- Three bedroom two bath home near beache and golf course. Fantastic home in a great location. Fully furnished and ready to enjoy. Offered at \$265,000



Green Turtle Cay - #0272 Island getaway perched high on a bluff overlooking the Sea of Abaco. Three bedroom three and one half bathroom comprising 3,289 sq. ft. of living area and plenty of decks leading to and surrounding the swimming pool. Fantastic sunsets await you at this brand new home. Offered at \$1,980,000

Green Turtle Cay - near beach and public dock 1/4 acre lot cleared and planted with fruit trees. Only \$45,000

Treasure Cay - one lot behind greenway and canal. Great builder's lot with views of canal. \$35,000

Treasure Cay - Lot near golf course and beach. \$25,000

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More News of the Cays

Cays

From Page 5

we have been called to a fire at the dump," said Assistant Fire Chief Bonnie Hall, "It's time that a long term solution to the mounting volumes of garbage is found. The toxic fumes from fires pose a serious hazard to the island and it's inhabitants."

Professional Services of Elbow Cay donated over 5000 gallons of fresh water to fight the fire.

Hope Town Fire and Rescue is an volunteer organization and is funded entirely by donations and fund raising events. the only government fire services are at Abaco's two international airports.

Hope Town Cup Race

By Dottie Shrier

On a beautiful February 4th the Hope Town Sailing Club successfully held the first of a two-race series. Seventeen boats competed for the Hope Town Cup Trophy. Both Marsh Harbour and Hope Town were represented on the starting line.

With easterly five to six knot winds the triangular course started near the southern tip of Sugar Loaf Cay. At the conclusion of the race elapsed times were "corrected" by appropriate handicaps and the following boats took the honors. Tied for first were *Grumpy Ole Men* captained by Bob Knaus and *Quest* captained by Al Shapiro. In third place was *Grimalkin* with Jim Laughlin, fourth was *Looking Good* with Art Wilder, and fifth was *Echo* with Pete Justi.

Judging from comments, the racers all enjoyed the day and are eager to enter the final Hope Town Cup race on February 6th. For any sailor wanting to join in, the Club

has races scheduled for February 18 and March 3. All are welcome.

Heritage Day Is Scheduled

By Dottie Shrier

Preparation is well underway for this increasingly popular event. This day is noted for fun, games, food and parades stressing the heritage of the people of Hope Town.

At 10 a.m. on March 6 the program will commence with a festive small boat parade followed by several fun events such as sculling competitions, races and Maypole dances involving the Hope Town school children. Following these events, around noon, the results of the Silent Auction will be announced and food will be available for sale.

Included in the silent auction will be a beautiful handmade heritage quilt and six decorator benches. The benches are four feet long, very sturdy and decorated entirely by Hope Town artists. They are suitable for garden, porch or patio or as an objet d'art. There is a 14-foot Hobie Cat sailboat and many other interesting and attractive items for auction. All the items will be on view two weeks before Heritage Day at the museum's Balcony House. The bidding forms will be inside with the volunteer. Museum hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Phase Two of the Wyannie Malone Museum complex will be on display. The second building, the Balcony House, not yet completed inside, will be open for inspection to show how much progress has been made. Plans for the future layout will be exhibited.

It will be a great day and everyone is welcome.

Hope Town Begins Ladies' Lecture Series

Cay Topics, a newly formed lecture series, will begin on February 16th at the Hope Town Harbour Lodge, presented for "Ladies who like to listen, learn and lunch." (The last is optional.)

The programs will be held at 11 a.m. with a question and answer period following the talk. A quick buffet lunch will be available for those who would like to stay to meet the speaker and friends. There is no fee for the series and ladies can come to one, two, three or all as their schedule permits.

The first speaker on February 16th will be Ruth Harkin, wife of a well known husband, will give a non-political talk about

her own fascinating career as a corporate lawyer and her experience and travels worldwide.

The March 10th lecture will feature our morning wake-up-call star, Patty Toler, founder with her husband, Bob, of the Cruiser's Net as we know it today.

On March 24th Mimi Rehor, the mover and shaker behind the preservation of the wild horses of Abaco, will speak and show a video of the current herd.

The fourth and last of the series on April 7th will be for men as well as women when the guest lecturer will be Dave Gale of Parrot Cay, author, business entrepreneur, ardent preservationist and founder of Abaco's BASRA, (Bahamas Air Sea Rescue Association) on Abaco. He will also show a video pertaining to his talk.

For any questions please call, Anne Krout at 366-0153 or VHF "Sandlily;" Dottie Shrier at 366-0349 or VHF "Niagara;" Peggy Brawley at 366-0318; Betsy Helm at 366-0561; Meg Peacock at VHF "Galatea;" Sharon Girard on VHF "Alize."

New Real Estate Office Opens in Hope Town

Bahamas Realty will be opening an office in Hope Town office. Located ad-

Please see **Cays**

Page 33



Heritage Day in Hope Town will be March 6 and plans are well underway for an unusual, entertaining day with many activities. The funds raised at this annual event will begin the interior work on the second building of the Wyannie Malone Historical Museum. The two-story building is solid concrete with a clapboard exterior and will house the museum's rare artifacts as well as serve as a hurricane shelter.

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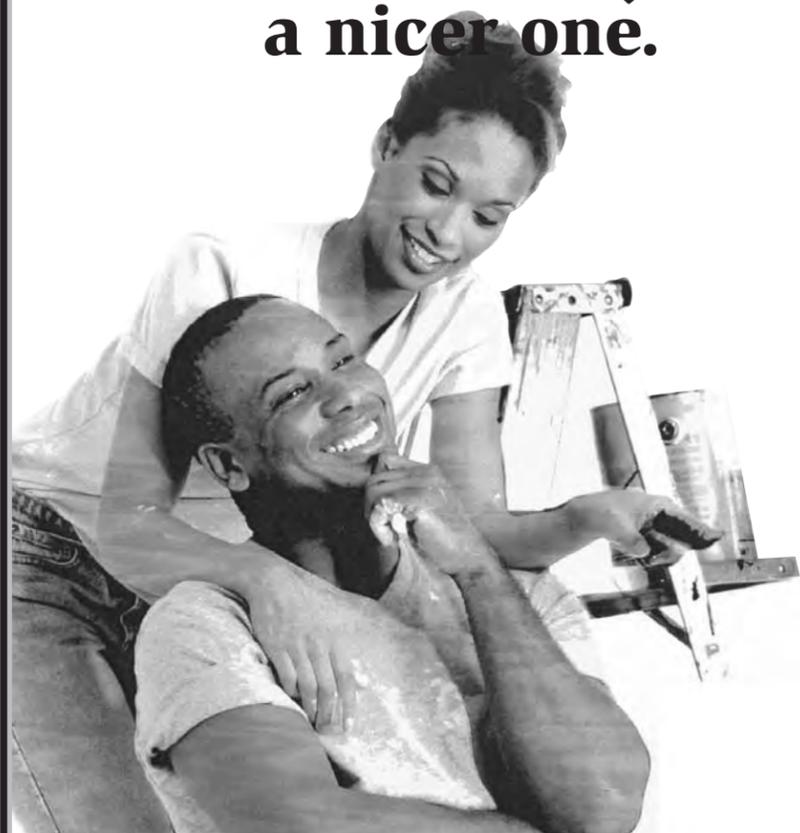


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Cays *From Page 32*

Adjacent to the restored Clifford Sawyer house, the office is located on Fig Tree Lane just up from the lower dock. The office is being managed by Mrs. Patti Love, a long time Elbow Cay resident, in conjunction with her other business venture, Island View Properties, a property management company. The phone number is 366-0601.

Man-O-War School News

If you want to see Junkanoo, go to Green Turtle on New Years, Nassau or Marsh Harbour on Boxing Day and Man-O-War Cay in mid-December. Yes, this is not a misprint; the settlement of Man-O-War was treated to its first ever Junior Junkanoo Parade on the evening of December 12th. This was a practice 'rush' for the youngsters before they competed with other schools in Marsh Harbour. They were very excited to know that most of the community was lined up on the street to admire their costumes and cheer them on. This was an evening that won't be forgotten.

The students are eager to collect their first place trophy at the awards ceremony. We thank Mr. Collin Curry, who taught us how to make costumes, and everyone who helped in any way. We thank the Junkanoo Committee and those experienced Junkanoo musicians, Mr. Cedric Ferguson and Uriel Delancy, who encouraged and coached our inexperienced group. We all had a great time.

Man-O-War PTA members and community volunteers are busy planning for our yearly fund raiser. The Flea Market has become an Abaco institution. This is the 18th year and the Flea Market gets bigger and better each year. In case you have not made it out to see for yourself, this is what you can expect: great food including homemade coconut ice cream, crab races, a raffle

drawing with prizes given that day, games for children and adults, booths with used and new items and beautiful artwork for sale by Abaco artists and photographers. We invite everyone to come out on February 21st. The event will begin at 9:30 and

will end at 1:30. Call Albury's Ferry to check out special ferries that run that day.

If you want to reserve a table or space on a table to sell, please call the school 365-6049. Ten percent of the proceeds from all vendors go to the school. Remember that

only the school sells food items. The income generated from the Flea Market helps us maintain the school building and grounds, purchase teaching aids, books and supplies and enables students to travel off island to academic and athletic activities.



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Canal Front Condos with on-site Pool
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MARINERS COVE

Townhouse Condos with on-site Tennis and Pool
Marina View 1 bed / 1 bath \$113,000

VILLAS

Beach Villa Subdivision
Garden villa **SOLD** extra features \$157,300

ROCK POINT

Apartment four-plex, 2 storey CBS building, each level has 2 full apartments with 2 bed, 1 bath, living/dining/kitchen. Great rental investment. MUST SEE! \$350,000
"Pilot House" Two storey home with commanding view down the Sea of Abaco. Upstairs 2 bed / 2 bath with living/ dining/ kitchen/ utility. Downstairs 1 bed / 1 bath efficiency. Boat ramp to garage, ocean side decks plus many other features. \$1,080,000

TREASURE HOUSES

Ocean front luxury units with lagoon pool / waterfall
2 bed / 2 bath octagonal house \$356,000

BAHAMA BEACH CLUB

New luxury condominium project on Treasure Cay Beach. 3 bed / 3 bath / Den / Lanai / on-site pool and many other features Starting at \$475,000 Plus 14% closing

BRIGANTINE BAY ESTATES

"Sea Cliff" newly completed 2 storey CBS home fully furnished. Living / dining / kitchen downstairs, bed rooms upstairs. Direct greenway access to Treasure Cay beach **MOTIVATED SELLER** \$369,000
"Sableau Soleil" Canal front with dock. Island simplicity home, 3 bed / 2 bath, detached garage with half bath. Waterfront view from master bedroom and open concept living / dining / kitchen. \$430,500

LEEWARD BEACH ESTATE

"Trident"/"Turquoise Seas" You cannot be more "on the beach" than in this special home. Offering 3 bed / 3 1/2 bath in the main house with detached garage / bed / bath / attic plus storage. Vast deck oceanside with widow's walk. WOW! \$2,520,000
"Cross Winds" Split level CBS home extra large lot across from 2 beach greenways. Private. Master bed/ bath suite upstairs. Lower level 2 bed / 2 bath, cozy living room/ kitchen/ dining/ utility. Apartment annex 1 bed/ 1 bed, living kitchen, enclosed patio. Plus! Plus! Plus! \$984,000

SANDPIPER BEACH

"Top of the Rock" situated on two elevated ocean front lots with natural and tropical gardens. Main house 1 bed / 1 bath with detached 2 bed / 1 bath guest accommodations plus additional 400 sq. ft. entertainment / bunk house efficiency. Great holiday beach property. \$2,100,000

CASUARINA BEACH/OCEAN BOULEVARD

"Toad Hall" Package deal. Extra large ocean front lot with unlimited opportunity for building your dream home. Directly behind is your present main home on its own lot. Two storey with 4 bed / 3 bath upstairs and large living / dining / kitchen down stairs. Detached double garage with 1 bed / 1 bath guest apt. above. \$1,292,000

"Another World" This name gives you an idea of this special family island beach home. 5 bed/ 5 bath CBS house on world reknown Treasure Cay beach with many features/ extras including a van and golf cart. Areal "MUST SEE" \$1,440,000

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

"Titzl House" Located on Ocean Blvd., spacious CBS, 2 bed/ 2 bath home, patio off living/ dining/ kitchen, airy Bahama room, mature landscaping. Priced to sell PRICED TO SELL! \$215,000

GALLEON BAY CANAL / ESTATES

"Safe Harbour" Canal front with excellent elevation. Octagonal 825 ± sq. ft. garage / efficiency guest house with plans for main house. Dock with power in place. Must see. \$405,000
"Laguna" brand new canal front, octagonal home, fully furnished, 3 bed/ 2 bath, modern open concept, living/dining/kitchen plus partially covered deck. Perfect island retreat for some lucky family \$714,500
"Seaductress" / "Harbour's Edge" Modern CBS 3 bed/ 3 bath home including private entry suite, pool, 80 ft., full serviced dock, 2 car garage including two vehicles. Exceptional location and view. Many more features, must see to appreciate. **MOTIVATED SELLER** \$1,200,000
"Lot Fifteen" Canal front, newly completed and designerfurnished dream house. CBS 3 bed / 2 bath 3,000 sq. ft. with double garage. Fully landscaped with irrigation system. Many extra features. \$850,000 + 14% closing

WINDWARD BEACH

"Seaclusion" Ocean front CBS house, 2 bed / 2 bath plus detached 20' x 30' 2-car garage with extra bath. House has wonderful view as well as prevailing tradewinds \$738,000

VACANT LOTS AVAILABLE

- Windward Beach / Oceanfront beginning at \$150,000
- Canal Front beginning at \$99,000
- Golf Course / Interior beginning at \$25,000

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Dr. Jerome Lightbourne - Pediatric
Cardiologist
February 20, 2004

Dr. Elaine Lundy - General Practitioner
February 21, 2004

For Appointments Call 367-0020

More Letters to the Editor

Letters

From Page 9

implementing a plan for proper waste management.

We sent a letter to the pertinent members of central government a year ago with a proposed solution and budget for Elbow Cay and a petition signed and letters written by concerned members of the Abaco community. In reply, we received a short note from Minister of Tourism Obediah Wilchcombe expressing his concern about but lacking a committed effort to rectify the situation. We are now appealing to the BEST Commission for help in bringing this urgent matter to the forefront of government action.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Claridge, Director
Committee for a Clean Island

N.B. I urge Abaconians concerned about garbage disposal problems to write letters urging those in government to act now and to forward their letters to The Tribune and The Nassau Guardian. Here are a few addresses: Minister of Health, Sen. the Hon. Dr. Marcus C. Bethel, Ministry of Health, P.O. Box N3729-3730, Nassau; Mr. Livingston Hepburn, Acting Director of the Department of Environmental Health, P.O. Box N19048, Nassau; The Tribune, P.O. Box N3207, Nassau; and The Nassau Guardian, P.O. Box N3011, Nassau.

Killing the Golden Goose

To the Editor,

Most people are familiar with the saying *Don't kill the golden goose*. Abaco is the golden goose of The Bahamas. Consistently, we have contributed in excess of \$50 million dollars to the Public Treasury and consistently we receive less than 10 percent back. More like a golden cow! No other island in The Bahamas produces this kind of revenue and gets back so little. I have always wondered why? Maybe. Less than 10 percent of the people of Abaco can be bothered to get involved. Maybe we have become a generation that says "whatever" instead of what can I do to make my island

a better place. Maybe we don't care, so they don't care.

One thing I do know is, like most countries, there is only so much money to go around. Everyone wants a piece of the pie - there is one thing politicians love and that is pie. Our leaders have become paralyzed from the neck down. Doing nothing but sitting around talking and eating pie - your pie! Occasionally they look in the pie pan and fish out some crumbs and send them to Abaco. "Aw, gee, we need to give them Abaco people something. We so grateful for their generosity."

Now everyone knows if you want to accomplish something, anything in life, it requires taking action. If you want to get in shape, start a new business or get an education, it all requires taking action. How is it that you think anything will get done if we don't take some action. Ever notice that when something needs to get done the same 10 percent of people do 90 percent of the work. Well, we need to wake up to the fact that the politicians in Nassau don't care if they kill the golden goose. They don't live here!

For example, at this time, Exuma is getting a new airport. Exuma does not contribute a quarter of the revenue that Abaco does. Exuma does not have a quarter of the air traffic that Abaco does. In addition, Exuma's old airport is better than Abaco's to begin with. Yet, off our money goes to fund Exuma's airport.

We are fortunate in that we have a choice. We have the freedom to get involved, to speak out. We can complain to one another about the roads or the dump or the quality of the schools until hell freezes over. Nothing will change until we take action against the source. You can do something or you can do nothing. But ultimately you and I are the ones responsible for the quality of life on our island and in our country. I invite you to be a pain in the butt to irritate and aggravate. To care, call or write your prime minister and insist that more of your money stays on Abaco.

Andrew Curry

Complaint Against Batelco

To the Editor,

"You have reached a number that has been disconnected."

I'm quite certain that my friends and family do not expect to hear this message being played in their ear when they call my telephone number but twice in the last two months this has been the case. Why? Because Batelco turned my telephone off - automatically. You think this is because I did not pay my huge telephone bill, but that is not the case. My bill was paid through Royal Bank's Online Banking on Friday and now on Tuesday afternoon I pick up my telephone to hear the same annoying message: "You have reached a number that has been disconnected."

I will admit that the phone bill I received on Monday afternoon did have a due date of the previous Thursday (I paid it on Friday without seeing the bill) but you'll note that I did not receive it until four days after the date it was supposed to be paid! I know. I know.

Batelco will say, "You should have come by the office when you knew it was due and paid it." As if I have an extra 30 min-

utes on my lunch hour to go and stand in the line at Batelco and pay a bill I have not even seen. Terms like "cloned cell phone numbers" are becoming more and more common, and, frankly, I am not comfortable paying a bill for phone calls that may not be mine. I have no idea whether the balance Batelco tells me may include a dozen 20 minute calls to Columbia!

So, what are we to do? I know for a fact this same thing has happened to several other people that paid their bills and still got their phones turned off. Batelco staff tell us that the computers do this automatically when the bill is not paid. This makes no sense since the computers must show a bill has been paid. I doubt that the staff would allow a cheque or payment sit without depositing it. And to deposit it, it must be entered into a computer program of some sort in order to keep track of it.

So again, what are we to do? The answer - nothing. What can we do? Bills don't reach us before the due date. We can't pay the bill in the office early because it takes too long. And even if we wanted to stand

Please see **Letters**

Page 35

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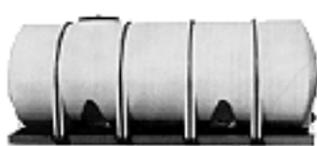
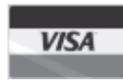


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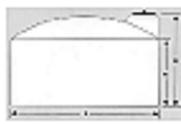
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More Letters to the Editor

Letters

From Page 34

in line to pay the bill, we might be paying for some computer geek that cloned your phone to call his girlfriend in Barbados! All of this amounts to a no-win situation since we need the phones!

Fuming mad,
Tara Sands

Need for Reducing Electrical Consumption

To the Editor:

As a long-time member of Abaco Friends of the Environment I was asked this past summer to indicate on an E-mail my areas of interest in matters relating to the Abaco environment. One of these areas of interest is the matter of energy usage, particularly as it relates to electrical generation and consumption. As most people know, electrical energy used in the Marsh Harbour area, including the cays, is generated by large diesel generators which produce large amounts of the desired product (electricity) but release into the air considerable undesirable by-products such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and other pollutants, adding to the so-called "greenhouse gases."

It would seem to follow that any efforts to reduce these undesirable by-products would be a good thing. Efforts such as investigating wind generation, solar water heating and decreasing unnecessary consumption should be considered and, if practical, be implemented.

One thing I have found that can help reduce consumption is inexpensive and has a very short pay-back time for the initial investment is an insulating jacket for your

home water heater. Such a jacket with fiberglass insulation and a vinyl covering costs only \$16 at Home Depot and may even be available at local hardware stores. With duty that would raise the cost to \$25. So the average home owner can expect to save from four to nine percent on their monthly electrical bill. It's easy to self-install and should pay for itself in just a few months. Cutting back the water heater temperature from 140 to 120 F would add to the savings.

Perhaps some local organization such as a fire department, scouting groups or even Friends of the Environment could purchase water heater wraps in large lots and sell them as a fund raising effort. This could be done while the Bahamas Electricity Corporation investigates the possibilities of wind generation.

Bruce Wolck

Comments on Winding Bay

Dear Sir,

I have just returned from Abaco and, in particular, Cherokee, which I have visited over the last fifteen years. I was interested in what is happening at Winding Bay and you may care to share my thoughts with your readers. Upon visiting Winding Bay my first reaction was of shock and deep sadness. Winding Bay, that pressure valve of marriages and affairs, the solace of bereaved and sad and the inspiration and contemplation place of all is being developed.

"It" (that is, Winding Bay as developed by the Abaco Bay Limited) could be great. The sales brochure is full of promises and optimism. Your government has stated that "it" is in the best interests of The Baha-

mas. Something must have convinced the politicians and senior government officers of "its" benefits because little cash is being received for the sale of 187 acres of government (your) land. The cash that will be received will only be paid when Phase I is complete and when sales have taken place. Moreover, the government appears to be paying for all the infrastructure (telephone, optic fibre routes, electricity and water) to be brought to the site at huge cost, but at no charge to the developer.

So what are the predicted benefits? Some cash and jobs for The Bahamas. At present, there is not much unemployment on Abaco and certainly not in Cherokee - so the jobs will probably go to others. This is nothing new and not a problem in itself, but where will all these long term workers live? Will a paradise be created at Winding Bay and a shanty town created elsewhere?

The sales brochure of "it" is compelling. The architect is a golf course specialist and there is no doubting the superb location. The government is committed to expedite the planning process, but the overall layout in the brochure is simplistic with little detail. I do hope that the dreams of those involved are not forgotten in the reality of speed. Your newspaper should regularly canvas views and act as a medium to ensure superb enduring design throughout this development process.

"It" will be exclusive. Indeed, the brochure states that "The Abaco Club is a private beach-front sporting retreat where members and guests can become one with nature, unwind and be subtly pampered by attentive staff."

The beach itself has not been sold and will remain open to the public, but the club

will be the opposite - very private and secluded - a retreat for the rich. Nothing wrong with that. I just question why your government thinks that a club that is so exclusive merits so much government support.

"It" will accept those of any race or religion - provided one is judged to "fit in" when interviewed! Several plots have already been sold we are advised, so presumably there are those already judged to have the right attitude. I hope that this exclusiveness will not translate into fences, major security and more prohibiting "no trespass signs."

"It" will also provide a new road and footpath for the public to have access to the beach. Access already exists. "It" will also provide eight parking places and a public lavatory to be cleaned by the government - think of the mosquitoes!

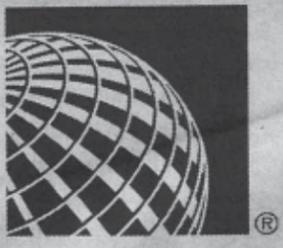
The development, which will be bigger than Cherokee when finished, has the potential to get it right or add little to Bahamian life - making it just another quality facility for the international jet set. The character of Winding Bay has changed already - that is the very nature of development. The brochure refers to "it" having "more than 100 species of native flora and fauna in a natural setting." All very laudable - the reality could be totally different.

From now on it is a case of ensuring that "it" is developed in an appropriate way for Abaco and Cherokee. Will the members of "it" be interested in what goes on outside the boundaries? Will all this international cash help Abaco? Is the money good money, and, if so, will it benefit its neighbours?

Please see **Letters**

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Continental Connection

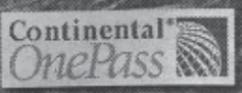


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Viewpoint

Chief Councillor Speaks Out Against the Carnival

By Portia Jonsson

The Chief Councillor for the Central Abaco District, Mr. Cay Mills, discussed an article that appeared in the February 1st, 2004, edition of *The Abaconian* and voiced his feelings on the carnival.

With regard to *The Abaconian's* article, Mr. Mills said it was not correct in its information. He was not "released on bail" because he was not charged. In fact, Supt. Clarence Russell apologized to him and he was released at 7:30 p.m. He was detained at the Police Station since 11 a.m. that morning. Mr. Mills felt that the Police were working with the carnival more than the elected official, who is solely responsible for parks and playgrounds.

Mr. Mills says he fully stands by and believes that no organization should come to an island especially school grounds and deprive kids from daily school activities for their own selfish gain. He also feels that the Administrator overstepped his power by giving the carnival permission to operate from January 16th, and when they arrived on January 14th, they were given access to

the school grounds without consultation with him or Council members. A copy of the letter granting access to the carnival on January 14th rather than January 16th was sent to Mr. Mills at the park, via the police, where he was staging a protest.

Chief Councillor Mills feels that all parties concerned should have been called to discuss what was best for everyone rather than the police cutting the chains of the gate which he and school principal Mr. Benjamin Stubbs put there. He feels that Local Government is a good thing and will work because nobody knows what is needed on Abaco more than the people who live here. Additionally, Mr. Mills said Local Government would work once the administrators continue to be administrators rather than think they have power almighty like the commissioners of old.

Mr. Mills said he has signed on and been elected as Chief Councillor for the Abaco District not for bragging rights but for others to say, after his term in office has ended, that he made a positive contribution to the district that he represented.

Finally, he added that there are many people who walk through life and when they die nobody knows whether or not they actually lived in a particular area. The Chief Councillor said he wants to be one of those remembered for trying to make a difference while he lived. He wants his brothers that are left here to brag and boast about this guy called Cay Mills who tried his best to make life easier for the people of Abaco, especially the youth.

"All caring governments should put lots of focus on our youth," Mr. Mills said, "because they are the future of our nation."

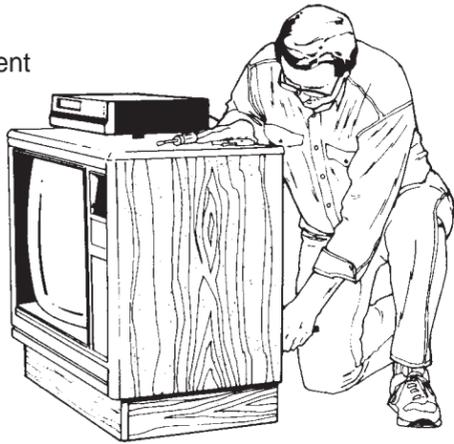


Chief Councillor for the Central Abaco District, Mr. Cay Mills, is upset with the damage which the carnival did to the track at the Murphy Town Park.

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A Thank You Note From the Owen Family

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the many relatives and friends who have been a source of comfort and strength and who have shown their kindness either by flowers they sent, their cards, telephone calls and visits, but most of all, their prayers during the illness and the loss of our loved one, Mr. Kenneth Owen.

Special thanks go to:

Mrs. Veronica Saunders and the Kirk of the Pines Church Family, Pastor Christopher Dean and the Zion Baptist Church Family, Pastor Baillou and the New Rehoboth Ministries International, Pastor Kenneth Knowles and Mrs. Natalie Knowles, Pastor Morley and Mrs. Morley, Brother Silbert Mills, Pastor Hepburn and the Anglican Church Family, Mr. Richard Gibbs and Family, Mr. Desi & Mrs. Mae Smith and Family, Mr. Malcolm Spicer and Family, Mr. Sidney Kerr, Mr. Malfred Martin and Family, Mr. Patrick Roberts and Family, Mrs. Kayla Edwards, and the Spring City Community.



A very special thank-you goes to:

Donna, Ronnie, Wynsome and Nikki Ferguson of Spring City, Norma Delancy and Gladys Smith, Mrs. Monica Adderly and Family, Mr. Derek Miller, Dr. Swana and Family, Mr. & Mrs. Alva Knowles, Mr. Ivan Curry, Mrs. Rosemary Thompson, Mr. Cay Russell, Buds 'n' Blooms, the manager of Regatta's, Mr. Chris Smith, Mr. Hugh & Sylvia Cottis, Mr. Jack Hardy and Family, Mr. Gareth Thompson of Abaco Central High School (ACH), The Staff at ACH, Ms. Eunice Mills of Central Abaco Primary & Staff, Students & Teachers, Mrs. Naomi Wheeler, the Community of Moore's Island, Se. Edison Key and Family, Mr. Robert Sweeting and Family, Pastor Moncur and the Seventh-Day Adventist Church Family, the Sandy Point Community, especially Dolly Russell, Annie Green, Anastasia Bullard and Ismae Stuart.

May the Almighty God continue to bless you and keep you in our fervent prayer. Thank you and may God bless you.

From the Owen Family: Catherine, Angharad and Llewellyn

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Sherman

From Page 8

In reality, there are only a few things an abused woman can do according to this pamphlet. If she chooses to stay with the partner for whatever reason, she can get counseling and try to help her children to understand but not accept violence. If she decides to leave the abuser, she needs to plan ahead and have several options open to her. The main one is to create a support group of friends, family or professionals which she can rely on. The other is to make sure the police and medical persons know of the abuse.

All of the advice given in this pamphlet is excellent. The hard part is taking the advice and also realizing that there is no quick

overnight solution to the problem. We as a society needs to come clean and admit that domestic violence partner abuse and child abuse is a real and growing problem. We must commit ourselves as a society to providing help for not only the victims but also for the abusers and potential abusers. It will continue to be a problem as long as the victims must find the help they need for themselves and for their children.

Dieting

The word dieting is a very popular word in this 21st century. The new Atkins Diet has taken the United States by storm and has spilled over to The Bahamas. This diet

Please see **Sherman** Page 38

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Lot size 7400 sq. ft.

Dundas Town

L-shape apt. complex
3 - 2 bed, 1 bath units
9,000 sq. ft.

Dundas Town

Area for small shop
Lot #18B

Dundas Town

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

Murphy Town

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

Murphy Town

Duplex 2 - 2 bed, 1 bath
7440 sq. ft.
Fairly new structure
Lot #3

Murphy Town

Duplex 2 bed, 1 bath
and 1 bed efficiency
8900 sq. ft.
Lot #68

Bahama Coral Island

Vacant land
10,890 sq. ft.
Section #3 Block A Lot #1

Treasure Cay House Priced for Quick Sale, 2 miles south of Treasure Cay. Good location, Good view, Good price. Call 365-8028

Sandy Point Road Is Repaired



Reconstruction of the road leading into Sandy Point is nearing completion. Hurricane Floyd wiped out the road where it parallels the beach. Temporary repairs were made to allow travel to and from the town. A major shoreline project including using large boulders is now almost complete.

Sherman

From Page 38

even has restaurants, including fast food restaurants such as McDonald's, Burger King, and Wendy's and now Subway, introducing items on their menu for Atkins dieters. Although the Atkins diet has been modified over the years, the main thrust of the diet is to limit carbohydrate intake.

The object of dieting is not only to lose weight but somehow in the process be able to adjust your eating habits to a much better system so the weight will not come back on. Dieting like everything else in life is about choices and the choices persons makes

about the food they eat.

Another popular weight loss system is called Weight Watchers. This concept has been around many years and also has changed over the years. The goal of weight watchers is for a person to lose weight and to keep it off. Each food is given points and each person who joins weight watchers is told how many points he can eat in one day in order to lose weight. Yes, I said each member, because in order to follow the weight watchers plan, you must join weight watchers either by attending a local chapter or by joining on line.

I believe that I can change my eating

The Island Pharmacy, a Bahamas Development Bank Assisted Business

By Jennifer Hudson

Mr. Ricardo R. Miller, R.Ph. is the proud owner of the recently opened 'Island Pharmacy' situated on the south side of the Post Office building. His business was financed by the Bahamas Development Bank for which he has high praise for the efficient way in which they assisted him.

Mr. Miller, who is originally from Long Island, obtained a B.Sc in Chemistry from the University of Virginia and an Honours degree in pharmacy from University in Trinidad. Upon graduation he worked as head pharmacist at Sunrise Medical Centre in Freeport for one year. During that time he decided that he would like to open his own business and being 'an island boy' he wanted to contribute to a Family Island. Abaco was his island of choice for he felt that there was a need here as the island is well developed with the potential to serve both Bahamians and tourists. According to Mr. Miller pharmacists are in very great demand these days, especially in England, the United States and Canada and he was offered many positions but preferred to remain in the Bahamas. Mr.

Miller is happy to be in his own business as it provides a greater opportunity for him to use his pharmaceutical skills to help people on a more personal level.

The Island Pharmacy is not only a shop where one can purchase a large variety of pharmaceutical supplies and have prescriptions filled, it offers a great deal more. The majority of people do not realize that they can go to Island Pharmacy for several services for which they would previously have had to wait in a Doctor's office. Therapy Monitoring Services offered include Glucose, Cholesterol and Triglyceride testing. If he detects a problem, Mr. Miller will then refer the patient to a doctor. People are welcome to visit the store for advice on medications and herbal remedies or to receive diet and exercise advice.

Although the store has only been open since October 2002, Mr. Miller is pleased with the way business is building but he derives his greatest reward from the satisfaction he gains from being able to assist people with their problems.

habits or food choices permanently with Weight Watchers. If I am successful in this endeavor, there will be a time when I will have lost the weight and more importantly will have changed my eating habits so the weight will stay off.

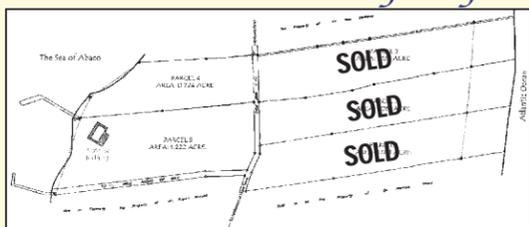
There are many other types of weight loss systems and diets. The aim of all of these is to lose weight and to keep it off. However, in the finally analysis it is all about will power and self-discipline. These lie within each person. To those who are

dieting, no matter what the diet, good luck, and I wish you success.

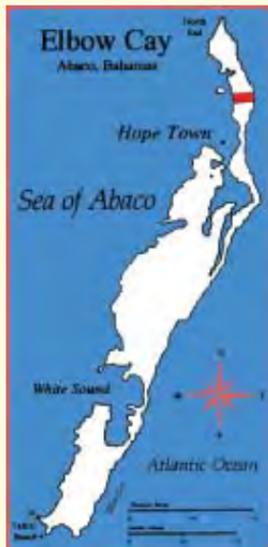
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Sea To Sea Estate Property



Boaters' Paradise still available on the pristine Sea of Abaco. All ocean front lots are under contract, however the Sea of Abaco still awaits with its perfect deep water dock on parcel 5, as well as the ideal island cottage. Parcel 4 is a magnificent lot, deep water for a dock, as well as beautiful property for a custom home or cottage. The best beach on Elbow Cay with its long winding white sand shores is just a short walk away. Beach access is provided to the north of parcel 3. Call today to schedule an appointment to view this one of a kind property on Elbow Cay.



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Select Properties

NEW! Lubbers Quarters. 3,000 s. f. house under construction. High elevation, sea to sea views. Building ongoing w/materials to complete. Community dock. #8628. \$694,000

Bahama Palm Shores. Priced to sell! Nice 12,000 s. f. home site on Coco Plum Drive, 3 blocks to the beach! #7095. \$15,000

REDUCED! Casuarina Point. 13,000 s. f. home site, great up and coming area. Close to beach, quiet, near boat ramp. Priced to move! List #7159. \$12,500.

Guana Cay, "Beach Watch". Super Atlantic beachfront get-away home! 2/2 direct oceanfront, rooftop deck, porches. Immaculate move-in condition! List #8295. \$690,000

Guana Cay. Home site just steps from the gorgeous Atlantic Ocean beach. Perfect for small vacation cottage. #8348. \$50,000

Guana Cay. Great 2/2 vacation cottage within steps of Guana's gorgeous beach. Convenient to Seaside Village and dockage. Good rental potential. #7900. \$391,050.

Marsh Harbour. Family home. Convenient in-town. Master-built 1,500 s. f. 2 bed, 2 1/2 bath. Master suite w/spa bath, custom chef's kitchen. List #8551. \$250,000

Treasure Cay, Windward Beach. Gorgeous 18,000 s. f. home site on Sea of Abaco. Well-priced. #8335. \$125,000 **UNDER OFFER!**

REDUCED! Treasure Cay. Windward. Canal front site, just reduced for quick sale! Best price in Treasure Cay for canal front home site. Seawall needs work. #8334. \$65,000

Turtle Rocks. Mainland Abaco. Two adjacent 1 acre home sites just minutes out of town. Just a short walk to the beach. #8147. \$38,600 and \$41,000

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Awards *From Page 16*

and one desk
3rd South Abaco, Sandy Point, Crossing Rocks and Cherokee won one computer
4th Treasure Cay Primary
5th Fox Town Primary

Category A

1st Abaco Central High School won two computers and two desks
2nd S.C. Bootle High School won one computer and one desk

Mr. Wisdom realized that four schools had not received a computer so promised that they would get one each. A total of 14 computers were supplied by Malcolm Spicer of Abacom. The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture provided 13 and one was donated.

The costs of producing the Junior Junkanoo ran over budget and Mr. Wisdom presented the committee with \$3500 to help defray expenses.

Letters *From Page 35*

Time will tell.
One of the attractions of Abaco for me and my family is its very limited development. It is a truly unspoiled part of the world with a lifestyle to suit. Visitors like us spend money but unlike the future members of "it" with real estate, we can go elsewhere, unlike those already living in Cherokee.

Good luck - to all involved in the development. It looks highly profitable, and it, therefore, has the chance to get "it" right. I, for one, shall return to inspect and hope to find a real enhancement to the environment. Albeit, a beach cleaned every day by tractors and equipment is not my idea of bliss - that alone will be a battle against time and tide which wait for no man.

Yours faithfully,
John Nettleton

Roberts *From Page 8*

sues negotiated by the hotel union and the hoteliers. "We were appalled at the inordinate amount of time spent in recent contract negotiations between the Bahamas Hotel Catering and Allied Workers Union and the Bahamas Hotel Employers' Association arguing over tips for about 100 bellmen at 11 resorts."

"The union argued that they should be paid \$2 in and \$2 out as a mandatory gratuity by every guest of a group or convention checking in or out of the hotel." Whether or not their services were used, they should receive \$4 for just being there, whether seen or needed or not.

Tourism in other regions continues to grow and the stopover times are increasing even after the events of 9/11 and the war in Iraq. Yet, in The Bahamas' stopover time

dropped from 5.9 nights to 5.8 from 2000 to 2001, while Cuba, for instance, went from 10 nights in 1999 to 10.6 in 2001.

Even Turks and Caicos, the small country at the southern end of The Bahamas, enjoyed a significant rise from 7.5 nights in 2000 to 11.5 nights in 2001. Jamaica and Bermuda showed considerable rises in stop-over time.

And what do all of these islands have in common that leaves The Bahamas out in the cold? They are cheaper - particularly in the case of Cuba, much cheaper.

The tourism industry is plagued with high costs in utilities and labour, and there is no end in sight to these problems. There needs to be major changes in costs and attitudes or eventually there will be a dead economy in The Bahamas.

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