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Prime Minister Speaks to Chamber

Plans Are Discussed to Support Abaco's Growth

By Stephanie Humblestone

"I have come today to confirm that we in Central Government have accorded a high priority to the concerns of Abaco and that we are endeavoring to deal systematically with the challenges and opportunities which growth now brings to this island," said the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie, Prime Minister, addressing some 200 guests at a luncheon on March 18, hosted by the Abaco Chamber of Commerce and held at Abaco Beach Resort.

He described Abaco, from Crown Haven to Sandy Point and the offshore cays, as "primed" for economic growth but, he reminded everyone, "We are only as strong as our weakest link." He urged that the disadvantaged be identified and helped.

The Prime Minister commented that The Bahamas covers an area of 100,000 square miles with only a few populated islands. Central government is constantly challenged by this fact because it has to duplicate infrastructure on each of these islands. Placing safety and security as high priorities, he stated that three new police stations have opened, in Crown Haven, Treasure Cay and Moore's Island.

Mr. Christie felt that Abaco has an unlimited potential for growth. The island has a very strong heritage with the United States and a close connection with Florida. With

Please see Prime Minister Page 16

PM Christie Opens Basketball Court



The Rt. Hon. Perry Christie visited the Every Child Counts school in Marsh Harbour and toured the facility. The school is for challenged students who are not able to attend normal classrooms. He is shown here officially opening its basketball court. See story on page 18.

Min. of Works Signs Road Contract



A crowd gathered in Hope Town to witness the Minister of Works, the Hon. Bradley Roberts, sign a contract with Cleare's Heavy Equipment/Caribbean Asphalt to repair Elbow Cay's roads. He is shown here addressing the residents.

By Stephanie Humblestone

"I am here today for every 'Doubting Thomas,' who thought it would never happen," quipped the Hon. Bradley Roberts, Minister of Works and Utilities, addressing crowds gathered in front of the Hope Town Post Office on March 12. They were there to witness the signing of the

contract with Cleare's Heavy Equipment/Caribbean Asphalt to repair Elbow Cay's roads.

"It is our lucky day," remarked one local resident. This was the overall feeling.

Please see Roberts Page 4

Marine Preserve Is Controversial



The Department of Fisheries held a final meeting about boundaries for a marine preserve to be established near the Bight of Old Robinson. The preserve would allow the normal marine development of this important resource by not allowing anything to be removed. This will eventually replenish the surrounding areas. See story on page 7.

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Prime Minister Responds to Key's Resignation

Senator Edison Key, long time Progressive Labour Party supporter, recently resigned from his seat in the Senate and from the PLP party, making public his complaints and criticisms. The following is the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie's response.

It is with regret that I now take public note of the resignation of Mr. Edison Key from the Senate and the Progressive Liberal Party.

Mr. Key has given our nation outstanding service over many long years, including, in particular, his courageous role in repelling the Abaco secessionist threat in the run up to Independence more than thirty years ago. He served with distinction in both the House of Assembly and the Senate for extended periods, and I had sincerely hoped that he would have continued to serve in the latter chamber to which I appointed him in 2002. His resignation as a Senator coupled with his resignation from the Party is therefore a matter of unfeigned regret.

Mr. Key's decision is, I should add, a matter of deep personal regret for me as well. I have always had nothing but the highest personal regard and affection for Mr. Key. He was more than a political colleague; he was also a valued friend. Any suggestion that I have at any time harboured any ill will towards him is at once mischievous and demonstrably false. On the contrary, my decision to appoint Mr. Key to the Senate, notwithstanding his defeat in the General Election, and my continued confidence in him in that high constitutional office up until his resignation speaks to my sympathetic regard for Mr. Key and the high esteem in which I have always held him. Although I am, of course, disappointed in Mr. Key's decision to separate himself from my government and party, I continue to have nothing but goodwill in my heart towards him.

It therefore pains me to know that Mr. Key no longer reciprocates the feelings of friendship and fraternal brotherhood that I have always had for him. It is even more painful for me to come to the realization that Mr. Key is not content to simply fold his tent and walk away with dignity and grace. On the contrary, it is now apparent that he is determined to inflict as much hurt as he possibly can on me, my government and my party.

Out of consideration for Mr. Key I had initially decided not to make any formal public response to his resignation. However, now that he has made the calculated decision to release the full text of his resignation letter to the press, replete with all its falsehoods, I am left with little choice but to respond in similar fashion so that the public can know the true facts, especially as they relate to his allegations of ministerial corruption and his insinuation that I am not only tolerant of corruption but that I punish those who report corruption to me.

Accordingly, I wish to place on public record the following facts:

1. Although Mr. Key claims to have delivered his resignation letter to my office, there is absolutely no record of the receipt of that letter by anyone in my office either on the 10th January or any other date. Letters coming into my office are routinely booked by my secretarial staff before they are placed before me. There is no record of any such booking nor does any member of my staff have any recollection of ever receiving Mr. Key's letter.

2. It is astonishing, moreover, that on a matter of such constitutional gravity, Mr. Key, by his own admission, never called me to let me know that a resignation letter was on its way. Having shared a close bond of friendship and a political association spanning more than 30 years, I would have thought that simple courtesy, if nothing else, would have led Mr. Key to telephone me or to seek a meeting with me so that he could let me know, eyeball to eyeball, what he had decided to do and the reasons for his decision. That Mr. Key could not bring himself to do so is curious and even more so in the context of an original letter that is nowhere to be found. Nor did the President of the Senate - the person to whom senatorial resignations are constitutionally required to be sent - receive any letter of resignation from Mr. Key until very much later after the press had broken the story. This makes the matter even more curious.

3. The central thrust of Mr. Key's resignation letter is that he personally delivered to me a document showing that a corrupt deal was afoot and that rather than dealing with the allegation, I punished him for reporting it; that indeed I caused him to be ostracized and blacklisted from that day forward. This is absolute rubbish. There is no other way to describe it.

4. The truth of the matter is that Mr. Key did come to see me to inform me of his belief that a certain Minister was about to enter into a contract with a prominent U.S.-based firm in return for which the Minister and a political colleague of Mr. Key in Abaco stood to obtain a corrupt advantage. In support of that belief, Mr. Key supplied me with the document to which he refers in his resignation letter.

5. Let me say at once that I was immediately satisfied, based on my intimate knowledge of the bidding system in the Ministry in question that Mr. Key's belief was completely mistaken. I subsequently confirmed that that system had not changed.

6. In point of fact, however, the document upon which Mr. Key relied did not support his belief at all. It said or implied corruption or intended corruption against no one whomsoever, whether minister or otherwise. The document was all that Mr. Key had to go on and, frankly, it was odd

that Mr. Key thought that it lent support to his belief.

7. Secondly, and in any event, not only did the firm in question not receive any contract, they were not even invited to bid! While the firm in question had made it known that it intended to bid on the contract in question - which incidentally was for \$15 million dollars and not \$38 million dollars as alleged by Mr. Key - the Ministry's screening committee, comprising no fewer than nine public and private sector officials, disqualified the firm from even bidding because it did not meet the criteria the Ministry had set. The firm therefore was placed on the list of those "not invited to bid." And there the matter ended as far as that firm was concerned. The contract in due course was put out to bid and eventually awarded to another, totally unrelated firm of world renown about whom neither Mr. Key nor anyone else has ever made any complaint.

8. I should add that the firm in question also applied for a contract with another Ministry. This application was also turned down.

9. It cannot be emphasized enough that the bidding process in question is as transparent as can possibly be and that there are any number of checks and balances that make it virtually impossible for any minister to "pull a deal." Indeed, it bears emphasis that the system in the Ministry in question was designed many years ago for precisely the purpose of avoiding ministerial interference in the bidding process. I am completely satisfied that there was never any such intention on the part of the Minister or anyone else in my Government.

10. It follows therefore that Mr. Key is completely wrong in thinking that he made a credible complaint of corruption. Nothing could be further from the truth. His complaint was not only not credible. It was absurd.

11. Mr. Key's claim that he was ostracized and blacklisted as a result of making the allegation is patently absurd. I had no reason to be annoyed or irritated or offended by what he had done. Indeed I continued to have amicable meetings and telephone conversations with Mr. Key on other matters. At no time did he give even the slightest suggestion that he felt that he was being ostracized or blacklisted.

12. As for Mr. Key's assertion that he brought investors to me only to be completely ignored, this, too, is completely untrue. The fact of the matter is that Mr. Key and a business colleague of his did introduce to me four potential investors from Columbia and elsewhere who were interested in starting an agricultural enterprise in Abaco. This, however, was no more than a courtesy call. Indeed, it could not have

been more than that for the simple reason that as Prime Minister I do not process investment applications. This courtesy meeting was also attended by the Minister of Agriculture who, I am advised, subsequently invited Mr. Key to prepare and submit a formal project proposal to the relevant Ministry so that it could be put before the National Economic Council. Minister Gray has further advised me, however, that from that day to now, he has received no project proposal of any kind whatever from Mr. Key.

13. The only other matters to which Mr. Key refers of which I am aware were applications for Crown land in which Mr. Key and/or members of his family were personally interested. I regret that Mr. Key is disappointed over my Government's handling of these personal matters, but he can rest assured that my Government's policy regarding the disposal of Crown land was applied to him and his family no differently than it is applied to anyone else.

I regret that Mr. Key's decision to separate himself from my government was influenced, in part, by what he apparently perceived to be a loss of personal political influence in Abaco and his jealousy over the perceived ascendancy of other individuals, in particular, a former protégée towards whom Mr. Key appears to have developed a great deal of hostility in recent times.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Key seems to feel that I or other Ministers of my Government elevated other persons in Abaco over

him. Nothing could be further from the truth. By virtue of his senatorial status and his seniority in the party, there could be no question that Mr. Key continued to be held out as Abaco's "favourite son" in the estimation of my government and party right up to his resignation.

I shall make further comment on this matter as circumstances may warrant. Other Ministers have also been given leave to comment on this matter, as they may deem appropriate.

I also wish to advise that I propose to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Key's resignation from the Senate in short order.

Finally, I wish to re-state and re-affirm my personal commitment and my Government's commitment to service with complete integrity. This has been the watchword of my administration from its very first day and I am completely satisfied that my Government's record in this regard remains unimpeachable. Similarly, cronyism, favouritism and victimization have no place in the governance of our nation. Those are the old ways. Some may want to bring those old days back but I can assure you that as long as I hold the office that I do my Government shall continue to be guided only by integrity, even-handedness and fairness to all.



Rt. Hon. Perry Christie

Senator Key's resignation as a Senator coupled with his resignation from the Party is therefore a matter of unfeigned regret.



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Minister Addresses Abaco Problems

Roberts

From Page 1

ing of the 600-strong community. What has been a long and painful process of letters, petitions and threats of not paying taxes finally came to an end with the Minister's visit and his reassuring words.

"Your patience has served you well. In a few moments I shall be most pleased to sign a contract with Cleare's Heavy Equipment/Caribbean Asphalt to construct a hot mix asphalt road from the main government dock in Hope Town to the Dorros Cove gate, a distance of some 3.1 miles in total."

Smiles and cheers accompanied the Minister as he moved from the microphone to a small table set up at the foot of the Post Office. "I am painfully aware that the condition of the road here on Elbow Cay has long been a primary cause of concern to all of you gathered here today. It is, therefore, with great pleasure that I now invite Mr. Trevor Cleare and the Director of Public Works, Colin Marshall, to join me in executing this contract. LET THE ROAD WORKS BEGIN!" he cried to the applause of the crowds. The contract was for \$585,000. Government has pledged

\$300,000 and the balance is secured by donations from the community,

Originally, it was to be simply "sanded and sealed," but this was felt to be inadequate in the long term as traffic along the road, which is known locally as the Queen's Highway, is increasing along with the expansion of the small cay. "We wanted to do a good job and one which would last. It needs to be asphalted," said Lorin Senn, who lent his expertise in securing the best possible repair job and pledged personal funds to ensure that it would be executed.

"The use of asphalt here has been made possible through the kindness and generosity of the local community and second home owners in particular who have had the foresight to join hands with government to enhance the quality of the road," said Minister Roberts.

The Minister and his support staff then traveled the long, bumpy pot-holed road for lunch at the home of second home owner Phil Phillips, who had offered to "short fall" the remainder of the funds necessary for "going the extra mile" in terms of doing a good job.

Don Cash, who spearheaded the No Tar - No Tax threat, shook the Minister's hand

as did many others in the crowd. It was a good day for all.

On the way to Mr. Phillip's house Minister Roberts and a small group stopped at a dock in White Sound where the barge - the long awaited "phantom" barge - offloaded the first piece of machinery. Mr. Cleare climbed on board and drove it off the barge and on to Elbow Cay's soil for the job to begin.

"Weather permitting work will begin in a week and a half to two weeks and should be completed in six to eight months," stated Mr. Cleare.

A crew of sixteen, from both Abaco and Nassau, will work on sections of the road starting with the areas near town which are in most need of attention. "Initially, we will

do minor repairs and patching," stated Mr. Cleare.

This is timely as the deteriorating condition of the road recently caused a tourist to fall from a golf cart and break her ankle.

The Minister was accompanied by a small entourage from Nassau: Calvin Balfour, the Under Secretary Ministry of Public Works and Utilities; Colin Marshall, Acting Director of Public Works and Utilities; Samuel A. Miller, Senior Deputy Administrator of the Family Islands; and Steve Thompson, Assistant Secretary Ministry of Transport and Aviation. Among local dignitaries were Robert Sweeting, MP for South Abaco; and John Schaeffer, Area Engineer Ministry of Works for Abaco.

Hope Town Dump Is a Concern

The Hon. Bradley Roberts, Minister of Works, spoke about Elbow Cay's sanitation problem and said that the government was well aware of the dock congestion problem. The main government dock is used for garbage transfer as well as for freight and passenger shipments. "The existing landfill site needs to be closed since it is on private land," Minister Roberts said. "The burning which takes place at the present site is a health hazard for the local residents. My government is currently considering various options to facilitate the improved collection and transfer of garbage off the island."

He continued, "One of these options is to do repairs and upgrades to the Sunshine Park site. This would entail repairs to the existing timber seawall and create a concrete apron for freight off-loading and garbage transfer along the repaired seawall."

The cost of this option would be about \$150,000. Another option would be to create a new facility just south of the Sunshine Park area. This would entail reclaiming a big section of the land from the harbour adjacent to the main road using sheet piles. The advantage of this site is that Sunshine Park would be reserved for parking only, according to Minister Roberts. This would cost the government approximately \$500,000, he said.



The contract for repairing Elbow Cay's roads was signed on March 12 outside the Hope Town Post Office. The Minister of Works, the Hon. Bradley Roberts, on the right, is shown signing it with Mr. Trevor Cleare of Cleare's Heavy Equipment/Caribbean Asphalt. The contract was for \$585,000 of which government will pay \$300,000. The remainder of the money will be paid by members of the community, mostly second home owners.

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Don's work is on display at Conch Pearl Galleries.

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Minister Announces Coming Improvements

The Hon. Bradley Roberts, Minister of Works and Utilities, while speaking to the residents of Elbow Cay, outlined several projects in the planning stages for Abaco. He addressed other issues of ongoing concern to the people of Abaco. Top of the list was the Marsh Harbour airport. "Government is still reviewing plans for improvement and expansion of the Marsh Harbour airport including the construction of a new terminal building and resurfacing of the present runway," he said. "Studies are now being expedited in order that a solution to the severe congestion, both in the skies and on the ground, can be implemented at the earliest."

Recapping work recently completed on Abaco, the Marsh Harbour freight dock, the Grand Cay dock and the Fire Creek Marina in Fire Road, he went on to outline plans for upgrading BEC and introducing sophisticated cellular networks.

The Bahamas Electricity Corporation is "on the move" on Abaco as the power generation is being upgraded and the transmission and distribution infrastructure reinforced to accommodate developments like The Abaco Club at Winding Bay near Cherokee Sound. A 17-mile transmission line connecting Sandy Point to the Marsh Harbour system is expected to be completed by the end of this summer. BEC is upgrading the existing submarine cables to all the Abaco cays and expects that project to be completed by the end of the year.

With regards to telecommunications services, Mr. Roberts pointed out that engineers at the Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation have already designed the GSM cellular overlay for Abaco. That network will allow Abaconians access to new features like surfing the Internet via the phone and taking

and sending pictures from one phone to the next. It will enable BTC customers to use their phone "seamlessly" when traveling abroad,



The Hon. Bradley Roberts

according to the Minister. The installation of the new GSM system will commence in May. The new GSM system is the most modern in use in the cellular network and by next year will allow customers to access the Internet on their cell phones at speeds comparable to DSL. Batelco intends to reduce rates for GSM cellular service and for long distant calls.

"Since my government came into being there has been a marked improvement in the quality of service and efficiency provided by BTC," Minister Roberts said. "BTC has been able to reduce its average repair time for telephone faults from months to days and is in the process of introducing a plan where if your telephone service is disrupted and is out of service for more than 48 hours, the subscriber's rental fee for the month will be credited, except for Acts of God and natural disasters."

Other Abaco Projects

Without elaborating, Mr. Roberts listed additional work scheduled for Abaco.

- Minister Roberts said the government is currently preparing contract documents for repairs to commence on the two government docks in the Guana Cay harbour, together with the associated dredging. The work is due to commence in April or May, he said.

- He announced a new long-range planning department in the Prime Minister's office. Eleuthera is now getting a comprehensive land use study in conjunction with a developer there, and when completed Abaco will get a similar study.

- Approximately 4,000 feet of road on Guana Cay will be widened.

- A dangerous highway curve near Snake Cay will be made safer.

- The bad road near Sawyer's Market in Marsh Harbour will be repaired.

- A curve by Andy's Auto and Body Shop north of Treasure Cay is plagued by loose material washing onto the highway from an access road causing traffic to veer into the opposing traffic. This will be addressed.

- Bad roads in Sandy Point will be repaired.

- The verges between Marsh Harbour and Sandy Point are in poor condition and

will be improved.

- Marsh Harbour's Front Street will be resurfaced.

- The road into Great Cistern will be improved.

- Murphy Town's road to the South Side dock will be improved.

- Dundas Town will get minor road repairs.

- BEC will upgrade its facilities to accommodate the Winding Bay development and other developments either coming or expanding. It will extend its transmission line 17 miles from Crossing Rocks to Sandy Point in the summer of 2004. Its submarine cables feeding the cays will be upgraded.

- Batelco's cellular system will be upgraded to provide better reception on Elbow Cay and other cays. The GSM cellular system is scheduled for Abaco and construction on this system will begin in May.



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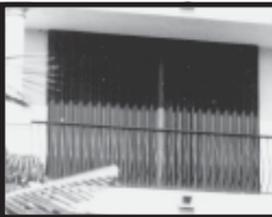
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South Abaco News

Cherokee Sound

By Lee Pinder

Condolences

Our deepest sympathies go out to the family of Spurgeon Sawyer, who passed away unexpectedly on March 21. Struck with a severe pain in his chest the doctors rushed him to Nassau for treatment where he succumbed later to another fatal attack.

Born in Cherokee Sound to Clarence (Coty) and Lorraine Mable Sawyer, he was only 56 years old. He is survived by his wife Mollie, formerly Mollie Weatherford of Man-O-War, two children, his son Thurman, a lawyer who is presently practicing law in the United States where he graduated from college, and a daughter Mailin Sands, who is a well known local real estate agent in Marsh Harbour, along with their respective spouses, his mother, Miss Mable, as well as many other grief stricken family and friends. Miss Mable divides her time between Man-O-War and Cherokee, where she still keeps a home.

An avid guitarist and good singer, we were often entertained by Spurgeon's music whenever a fellowship group gathered in Cherokee or Man-O-War. In construction by trade and a true baseball fan during his leisure hours, he was an influence and a driving force to help build a baseball field in our settlement which is now under final construction. I know its completion would have made Spurgeon very proud. Always wearing a big happy smile, he was loved by all who knew him and he will certainly be missed. The funeral service will be held in Man-O-War. May he rest in peace.

Sand Bar Is Open Four Days

The Sand Bar, Cherokee's only local restaurant, will open for four days a week beginning April 1st, weather conditions permitting. This is an additional two days per week. I'm sure this will make all the tourists happy as well as all their local customers who also enjoy its relaxed and laid back atmosphere.

Pete's Pub Is a Favorite Place

It seems the word gets around and this little out-of-the-way local bar and restaurant is known far and wide by boaters and tourists alike. It has been without directional signs on the main road for awhile and many a tourist has ended up in Cherokee trying to find their way to it. However, a brand new sign has been added to the Cherokee turnoff sign on the Great Abaco Highway and another one at the Little Harbour road. In fact, you can hardly miss their larger than life skull and crossbones Pete's Pub sign, advertizing that they are open everyday, come rain or shine. And just for your information, I might add that a couple of Cherokee girls handle their bar and kitchen, so you know you will get a big smile and a delicious meal, not to mention some of their famous island drinks to wet your whistle whenever you go there. Be sure not to miss their gallery where you can find out about their history and view some of their world renowned sculptures and artwork. Pete's Pub is truly an island experience you won't want to miss.

Winding Bay Update

Last week, you couldn't see anything. Now, rooftops are springing up above the treetops and people who have visited the project at Winding Bay tell me there are several houses already under construction. All the workers' vehicles have been removed from the main road and clean up crews are continuing their work by clearing away scrub and weeds on the verges of the roadway. This has helped the traffic flow and gives the passerby a better view around the many curves and corners.

Dedication of Our Old School

New doors have been installed and new chairs have arrived, so everything is ready. The dedication ceremonies will begin at two

o'clock on April 10. Many alumni from off Cherokee will be present and are planning to participate in an old play as well as some of the other festivities that weekend. This is history in the making, but also a chance to go back in time.

There will be many reminders of the Old School's history brought out and shared by all those who attend this function. So, go back 50 or maybe even 60 years and put on your thinking cap, dredge up those shared experiences and bring them along. We're looking for the oldest person still alive to have attended the old school in Cherokee and we want to know if you have a story to tell. I hope we'll see you on the 10th.

South

From Page 22



Jennifer and Trevor Sawyer who own Cherokee Boat Haven and the newly opened Conch Pearl Gallery in Marsh Harbour.

Amanda Sawyer is the first recipient of the newly founded Epworth Methodist Chapel Scholarship Fund and is shown here between Eleanor Jergensen, Church Board Chairperson, and Rev. Carla Culmer. Amanda graduated at the top of her class at Forest Heights Academy last summer and is attending Florida Southern University at Lakeland, Florida, majoring in psychology. Amanda's parents are

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No-Take Preserve Brings Vocal Protests

The Department of Fisheries held a meeting in Marsh Harbour on March 10 to get the public's view on the proposed marine preserve for Abaco. This meeting was the last in a series to determine the boundaries of the preserve suggested by participants in previous meetings. Chairing the meeting was Ms. Tamica Rahming, Assistant Fisheries Officer. Recording the comments from the meeting was Mr. Jeremy Saunders, Fisheries Superintendent. The reactions from the audience will be considered and boundaries will be made to accommodate the wishes of the population. No decision has been made and boundaries which were suggested previously are only proposed.

The Bahamas is 80 percent water and there is a need to protect this most important resource. Ninety percent of our exports are from the sea. The marine preserves are intended to protect this marine environment. The preserves will be permanent no-take zones. Nothing can be taken from these areas and land use will be restricted, allowing nothing that will negatively affect the water. The idea is that a no-take area allows fish to replenish their stocks without interference. The reserve then supplies the surrounding areas.

An ideal no-take area requires several different types of marine environments. These include mangroves which are fish nursery habitats for all species, sea grass areas, patches of coral reefs and deep water. The proposed preserve contains all these habitats.

The preserves will cause hardships for some people but Ms. Rahming reminded the group that these preserves are a way of insuring that the future of our marine resources are protected. In the Abaco area

our waters have a great deal of activity with residents and visitors all taking from the sea in great quantities. There is presently a tremendous visible change from what many people remember when fish, conch and crawfish were plentiful.

In places where this no-take system has been tried, it takes several years for the fish populations to increase. But then the changes are remarkable and the surrounding areas are well stocked. Even those persons who were strongly opposed to the preserves initially are convinced that the no take zones are very effective in restocking areas outside the preserves.

A workshop held in 1998 suggested that no take zones would be beneficial in protecting the country's marine resource. The next year scientists canvassed sites which would have all the types of habitats necessary for this type of program to be successful and 13 sites were suggested to Cabinet. This site on Abaco is one of the first five to be implemented. Scientists are beginning studies to collect data and will continue to monitor the success of the preserves. Worldwide many are watching to see the results of this program. Scientists expect the program will become a model for other countries of the world to follow.

The proposed marine preserve is in the area of the Bight of Old Robinson at the southern end of Abaco Sound. The suggested boundaries would be from the Little Harbour area and extend to the southern boundary of the Pelican Cay National Park. Ms. Rahming explained that the local population may suggest any exceptions such as allowing bonefishing which is catch and release sport.

Enforcing the regulations will be a major issue. Several suggestions have been made. 1. Expand the Department of Fisheries to have more staff out on the water. 2. Set up a new agency to enforce the rules. 3. License local fishermen to manage the preserve. To be successful, everyone is going to have to help patrol the area.

The people attending the meeting in the Magistrate Court were quite vocal in their objections to the preserve. Some felt that the government was already too restrictive. Others thought that the preserve covered too large an area. One person wanted to know how the preserve would be policed. Many negative comments were directed at visitors who are accused of taking more than they should. One person thought there were too many fishing tournaments and too many boats cruising our waters. They did not think that second home owners should have any say in this subject. Some wanted several smaller parks instead of a huge area. Some wanted the preserve to be away from Central Abaco and suggested Cross Harbour on Abaco's southern coast. Unfortunately, that would not restock Abaco Sound.

Some alternate sites were suggested but most did not have the required types of habitats which are necessary for the early stages of many fish. Ms. Rahming suggested that interested persons write a petition and get signatures. The Fisheries Department is willing to consider the wishes of the people.

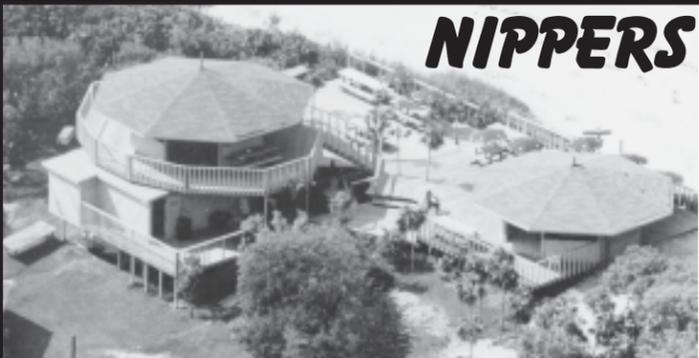
Several suggestions were made which would alter the original boundaries. These were noted and will be seriously considered.

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.

The AA group and the AlAnon group meet in the Treasure Cay Community Center on Mondays at 7:30 p.m.



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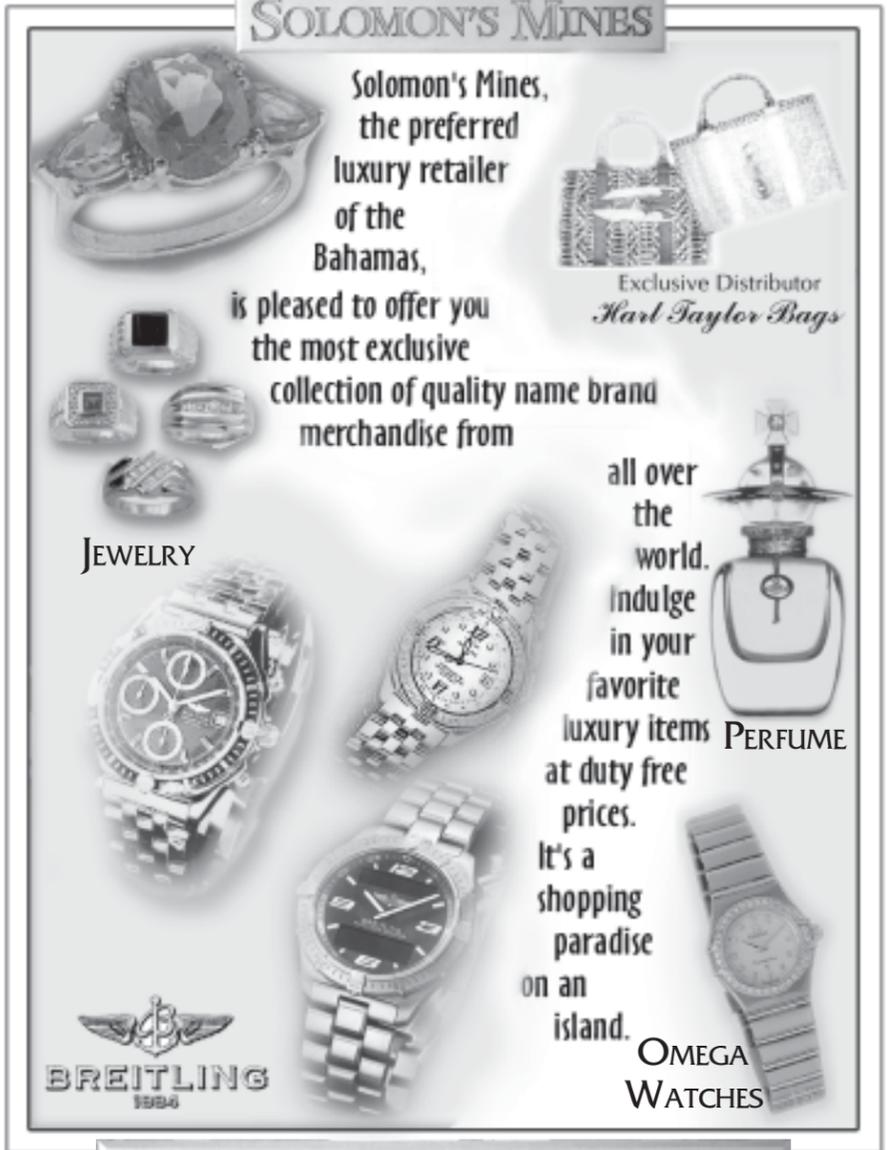
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The Editor Says . . . Our Newly Defined "Mega" Resort



Over the years Abaco has received attention from government - but it was usually for the wrong reasons. Aside from a futile jab against independence in 1973 and frequently electing a candidate outside the ruling party, Abaco has generally behaved itself and has prospered during the 31 years since Independence.

Commerce and trade have expanded greatly with a warmer relationship to the Florida East Coast than to Nassau. Tourism has been on a slow but steady increase. Our expansion has been greatest during American boom times. But even during U.S. recessions our economy has probably seen more activity than most other Bahamian islands.

None of this was planned but came incrementally over the years. Our two biggest resorts, Abaco Beach Resort and Treasure Cay Resort, came on-stream back in the 1960s but they began at a fraction of the size we see today. Like the rest of Abaco's development, they grew and expanded in bits and pieces over the years into the present large facilities. Electricity, water, phone and other services were gradually upgraded.

The history of Abaco and The Bahamas is filled with opportunistic ventures, piracy, ship wrecking, rum running, blockade running, sponging, crawfishing and other schemes. More recently, Abaco has seized the opportunities presented by a tourism economy. Many Abaco towns could be used for our example but we will expand on Elbow Cay.

An interesting comment was made in Hope Town recently suggesting that Elbow Cay be viewed as a huge single resort. During at a public meeting related to its garbage problems. Mr. Ron Pinder, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works, felt that a proposed landfill site on Abaco may have to be scrapped and a new site located as the area chosen was being considered for an undisclosed development. This turn of events, he said, might delay the Hope Town garbage solution temporarily as government wanted to accommodate new development.

Mrs. Rhonda Claridge, a Hope Town resident, was quick to put an interesting twist on this. She pointed out that if Hope

Town is viewed singularly as a resort, it is a very successful resort. As well as providing jobs, it is a substantial revenue generator for the Treasury.

She asked Mr. Pinder why government would consider assisting a new development with all its attendant problems and requirements to the detriment, or inattention to garbage, of an existing resort with a proven track record and high employment.

Mr. Pinder was taken back by this concept and responded that it was an interesting viewpoint worth looking into. In this context, Elbow Cay may be the fastest growing and largest resort in the Out Islands.

We have frequently used the Hope Town model to explain elements of the Abaco tourism product and adding the resort designation sums it up nicely. But it is a better operation than a conventional resort. Elbow Cay does not operate at the whim of a board of directors or management or unions or a wealthy conglomerate owner. It functions despite government neglect

In its resort mode, it is made up of independent businesses, none beholden to anyone else, yet all interconnected by the common denominator of tourism. The businesses are supported by the visitors but collectively and individually provide the entertainment offered by a resort. As more visitors come, more business opportunities present themselves. These are usually niche opportunities

and do not require major assets or heavy financing. The Bahamians providing these services make a good living.

Reverting to the mega-resort concept, Elbow Cay, Abaco's natural version of a planned resort, just gets a bit larger and more comprehensive with each new business (read concession) that sets up shop. Individually, they can come and go but the complex continues to function.

It would be interesting to see Hope Town audited financially as a singular business. A comprehensive balance sheet and accompanying profit and loss statement would be revealing. Listing the assets, employee payroll, annual operating revenue and expenses, overhead expenses (government employees, taxes, etc.) production figures (visitor count) and other business statistics for the Hope Town resort complex would be an eye opener.

Government ministers and departments are beginning to see the Abaco economy as a success story rather than a rebellious outpost. As a success, they are beginning to talk about the improvements we need to keep the economy growing.

At the recent Abaco Chamber of Commerce luncheon, the Prime Minister gave credit to Abaco's diverse and successful mix of second home owners, rental houses, small resorts and cruising boats. In short, he liked what he saw and liked the way Abaco has developed. He said that development must

not move faster than our people's capacity to absorb. The Abaco Club at Winding Bay is Abaco's first private development requiring extensive utility upgrades and other service improvements.

One of the things each new business or venture opening here requires is qualified help and this is a scarce commodity. The scarcity of employees has caused businesses to look outside their own community for help. This has provided jobs for many people who commute from towns away from the highly publicized tourism centers. This is good for the employee willing to either move or commute. Salaries are good for people with initiative and willing to work.

Even as the multi-million dollar Abaco Club gradually comes on-stream, it is just one cog in the wheel of the Abaco economy. It will cause minor disruptions as employees of existing businesses seize new opportunities and move to the lure of even higher wages.

Perhaps Mr. Christie's request for an Abaco consultancy group will allow government to hold hands with Abaco as it continues to grow. Perhaps the next time when new taxes or fees are contemplated, the business community can have some input to soften the impact. With the Abaco community and government working together, even greater economic times may lie ahead.

Viewpoint - School Uniforms

By Jennifer Hudson

It has become the custom now in many countries to abolish school uniforms except at the very elite private institutions but is this a good idea? How do the students of Abaco feel about having to wear school uniforms?

I was prompted to do a little survey on this after recently visiting the United States where the students spend much time and (their parents') money on preparing their wardrobes for school. Planning begins in the middle of summer, well before term is due to start for the new school year. Students crowd the malls looking for just the right fashions. This must be quite a drain on their parents' pocketbooks, especially for the lower income families as their children want to be "in" with their peers.

I was horrified recently while outside a high school in Florida when the students were released at the end of the day to see how they were dressed. As a former teacher in The Bahamas, I cannot imagine what it must be like to stand in front of a class of students dressed totally in "Goth" attire with their depressingly black clothes, heavy makeup, tattoos, chains, rings and other paraphernalia.

How refreshing it was to return to Abaco and drive along Forest Drive at three o'clock in the afternoon and see the students leaving Abaco Central High School looking crisp and neat in their attractive white and aqua uniforms. The other schools of Abaco,

along with the rest of The Bahamas, have their own attractive uniforms whether it be the plaids of St. Francis de Sales and Agape Christian, the bright red and white of S.C. Bootle High School or the more modern looking forest green and khaki outfits of Forest Heights Academy.

When asked how they felt about having to wear school uniforms, the students gave a few differing opinions but the majority were greatly in favour of the practice of wearing a school uniform. The differing opinions came from a few students in the private schools who said that they would prefer to wear clothes of their choice. But students in general are happy to wear school uniforms because it saves them the problem of having to decide what to wear every

morning. Most students are quite happy with the look of their uniforms. The young people who expressed most pride in their school uniforms are the students of Abaco Central High School.

I, myself, hope that they never abolish school uniforms in The Bahamas. I feel that uniforms can really give students a sense of belonging and of pride in their school. They help engender a feeling of equality amongst the students so that those from less affluent families do not have to worry about not having the large variety of clothes and "name brand" items as some of their peers.

I say a hearty "Congratulations" to the students of Abaco who enhance their community by wearing their school uniforms with pride.

ALL ABOUT TOWN

By Isobel Sherman

Bush Fires

I may be wrong but the season for bush fires, if it can be referred to as a season, started earlier than normal this year. The second week in March saw two major fires, one north of Cooper's Town and the other somewhere near the old Wilson City road and traveled to Spring City. The Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department was kept busy fighting the fire threatening Spring City and had previously fought a fire at Bahamas Coral Island.

Suffice it to say each location posed major problems in fighting the fire. The main problem was getting water to fight the blazes as the trucks had to travel to a distant hydrant.

No words of commendation can adequately express what a terrific and wonderful job the Marsh Harbour volunteers do. It is truly amazing the dedication and the professionalism these fire fighters have, not only in sacrificing their time to train and fight fires but also many dip into their own pockets for training and equipment. The hours that were spent just fighting the bush fire in Spring City alone is remarkable.

I don't know how many of us ever stop to think about the destruction fire can bring. It is probably the worst thing that could happen to a person or family other than personal injury or death. A fire can wipe out in a matter of minutes many possessions that simply cannot be replaced such as photographs and papers. To see records of pleasant memories go up in smoke can be and is often mind-boggling for the victims.

A family in Spring City lost their home and virtually all of their possessions. Yet, before any real effort by people to assist them in this tragedy, other persons were saying "insurance will pay." Maybe they did have insurance and yes, if they did, insurance will pay. But insurance can't bring back that picture of their wedding or the first birthday of one of their children. We need to have compassion for victims of fire, and we also need to give support and recognition to the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department that goes beyond the call of duty. A house in Spring City was lost to the fire and that is terrible but how many houses were spared because of the fire fighting abilities of the Fire Department. As P. Anthony White would say, "For what it is worth."

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Letters to the Editor

Thank You, Abaco

Dear Sir:
I am definitely of mixed emotions as I write this. Abaco has been good to me from the day I first set foot on its soil back in June, 1994. At that time, I had traveled via the *Sea Link* with my two small children to seek out, Columbus style, a new transfer territory. I was welcomed and introduced by Cephas Cooper and taken on a six hour "skim" of the central district including the schools. In those six hours, my children and I were sold on Abaco - the rest is, as they say, history.

The 10 years I spent as your servant, partner and co-educator of your children represent some of the most memorable years of my short life. I have been a part of your children's lives as they metamorphosed from mere children to successful adults, contributing to the positive advancement of the Abaco community and The Bahamas as a whole. We grew together, laughed together, cried together and learnt together. Some are alive and some are not, some have left home and some are still around the house and school. Some still communicate with me and some do not. But in all, the common denominator is Abaco Central High School. The aqua and white which flow through our veins will flow forever.

Abaco Central High and the community of Abaco have contributed much to what I am today as a professional educator. You have molded me from a Level I Teacher to Head of Department to Master Teacher to Vice-Principal and finally Principal. You have supported me and my efforts in helping to make Abaco Central High one of the more successful high schools in the country. For this, I am eternally grateful.

I regret leaving under the circumstances in which I did, not being able to complete many of the projects and programs that were in progress. However, God is always in control.

To the students of Abaco Central High, you all are little diamonds. You just need to be polished and buffed. This can only come from your parents, your teachers and, of course, God. Obey and respect your parents, listen and learn from your teachers, and honour and fear God. Good manners and good attitude will take you farther than just good academics.

To the great staff of Abaco Central High, under the leadership of Mr. Benjamin Stubbs, you represent some of the best The Bahamas has to offer. Continue to be the best by putting everything on the line everyday for our students. Remember, it's all about them. We have developed cherished relationships over the years. I love you and miss you.

To the parents and wider Abaco community, thanks for your support, advice, criticisms, love and friendship. You have so much potential as an island. With all your differences, you must work together to keep God's blessings flowing.

As you would have noticed, I have avoided calling names. That is, of course, to protect myself from leaving someone out (and having a rock thrown at me when I visit). You all know who you are. I LOVE YOU ALL! You all make me feel good to be a Bahamian and to be living in The Bahamas. Each of you is special in your own way. I look forward with much anticipation to returning home in the not to distant future.

May God continue to enrich and bless you. I leave you with this fact: God is Good, All the Time . . . And All the Time, God is Good!

From the top of my heart,
Huel P. Moss Jr., Principal
South Andros High School
Kemps Bay, South Andros

Bone Fishing on Abaco

Dear Editor:
I have been a second home owner in Treasure Cay for over 25 years. About 12 years ago I started bonefishing and found the sport to be my favorite thing to do down here. I started using a fly rod about eight years ago. I have fished with a lot of different guides from Sandy Point to Crown Haven and quite a lot of the time just waded on my own.

I was so surprised and disappointed to read about a bad experience that some visitor had with one of our guides. I can't help but believe that this was just a bad day for that particular guide. I can honestly say that in all my experiences I have always found the guides very pleasant, knowledgeable and always anxious to catch fish. Like all sports, some professionals are better than others, have better equipment and just seem to fit your needs. I think the guides as a whole are excellent and consider them a real asset to the fishing on Abaco. Please don't let one bad experience be your final try at a truly wonderful sport in which I think as a whole our guides are among the best in the world and are totally dedicated to their jobs.

Wardy Thompson

Property Assessments Are Increased

To the Editor:

I probably should not be writing this for I am not a citizen of The Bahamas but rather an American homeowner that pays taxes but cannot vote. My wife and I spend more than seven months a year here in paradise and do not rent our home mainly because we are retired and part of the pleasure of coming here is that we may do so anytime we desire. My wife has been coming to Abaco and the Family Islands for more than 35 years and I have been doing so for over 25 years.

I consider this our main home rather the larger house we maintain up north. A large majority of our friends are native Bahamians, of all races, and we feel blessed to know such honest and fine people.

But enough about ourselves for that is not the purpose of this letter. Our new tax bill shows a very large increase in what we have to pay as do all of our neighbors that are also foreign property owners.

From what we have read in the local papers it appears that almost all of this money goes to Nassau and that very little is returned to Abaco.

The only service we receive for these taxes is garbage pick up. The local ambulance service depends on contributions as does the local fire department and both depend on volunteers not only in Marsh Harbour but also Guana, Man-O-War, Hope Town and, I believe, Treasure Cay. The equipment of all of these is second or third hand, maintained by donations and manned



by volunteers.

We've been told the public schools are short of almost every kind of supplies from cleaning products to pencils and paper. Their funds are raised by raffles, cake sales and donations. Are these services paid for by taxes, some of it ours, in Nassau and Freeport or by donations?

Now if all of the above is true, which we have no reason to doubt, and if, in fact, the Family Islands send over \$50 million a year to the central government, why are the local institutions not properly funded? Is this area being used as a cash cow without any return. Someone please tell me that none of this is true and all the citizens of Abaco are being fairly treated.

William D. Hill

Ed. Note: The rates for property taxes have remained constant. However, property is being reassessed and the valuation of property has increased to keep up with increasing property values in general.

Bahama Palm Shores Residents Sign Petition

To the Editor:

Property owners in the community of Bahama Palm Shores are petitioning the central government to take over the upgrading and maintenance of their roads. In 1999 Hurricane Floyd wiped out a section of one of the main roads, endangering the lives of property owners and visitors alike. Residents have previously asked the government to repair this damage, to no avail.

The community, located 18 miles south of the Marsh Harbour airport, has experienced a 50 percent increase in population in the last eight years. In 2000 residents of Bahama Palm Shores formed a community association, the Palm Shore Owner's Association. This group has devoted considerable funding and volunteer labor to road maintenance in the last two years, but the task has become insurmountable. The heavy

Please see **Letters**

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Why . . .

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Oct 01

North Abaco News

Pianist Benefits TCPOA Emergency Fund

By Bruce Barth

A sellout crowd of 150 filled the Treasure Cay Community Centre to attend its second *Evening with the Classics*, a concert featuring pianist Dr. Amy Blount.

Dr. Blount began her piano studies at two years of age. She graduated from The Juilliard School of Music and later taught at its School of Music. She has performed numerous solo performances in New York City and throughout the Southeast.

Dr. Blount has more recently received her degree as a Doctor of Naturopathic



Dr. Amy Blount presented a concert of classical music at the Treasure Cay Community Centre on March 26 to a sell-out crowd. This is her second concert at Treasure Cay. Photo by Jill Rohan

Medicine and has served as a professor at the Florida College of Integrative Medicine. She is currently completing a Master's degree in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine and is in private practice at the Lane College of Integrative Medicine Medical Clinic in Winter Park, Florida.

Her concert included works by Frederic Chopin, Johannes Brahms and Franz Liszt. Following a standing ovation, she offered an encore, a total departure from the classics, which fully demonstrated Dr. Blount's versatility - a ragtime piece originally written by Billy Joel.

The proceeds of the evening will go to the Emergency Fund of the Treasure Cay Property Owners' Association.

TCPOA Held Annual Meeting

The lack of a good water supply and a functional sewer system was the topic most were interested in at the Treasure Cay Property Owners Association annual meeting. The meeting, the organization's 32nd, was held at the Treasure Cay Community Center on March 16 and was chaired by Ed Whitcraft, president of the organization. The water and sewer discussion was particularly timely as the current water delivery system had not been providing water consistently to quite a few condos within the resort.

Mr. Whitcraft announced that Mr. Craig Roberts, developer of the Bahama Beach Club, was turned down for a permit to build an additional 44 units which would double the size of that resort. He was originally turned down when he asked permission to connect into the sewer system at the resort as the system was already overloaded. He

Latest Update

Treasure Cay Impasse Resolved

The government of The Bahamas has agreed to purchase the privately owned Abaco Utilities Water and Sewer System within 14 days. According to Treasure Cay Resort President Jos Konsten, "This appears to be a done deal!"

Min. Bradley Roberts announced the acquisition during a meeting on March 26 in Nassau attended by Mr. Konsten, Bahama Beach Club lawyer Mr. Craig Roberts of Graham Thompson & Co. and several government officials.

If all goes as expected, the new water pipeline now installed from the Treasure Cay airport well field will be connected

to our system. In addition, engineers will study ways to safely upgrade our water and sewage pipeline infrastructure and treatment plant to accommodate existing needs and the anticipated rapid growth in our community.

This is certainly great news for all Treasure Cay homeowners, guests and for future generations! My sincere thanks to the government of The Bahamas and especially Min. Bradley Roberts, a man of action and a man of his word!

Craig H. Roberts, Developer Bahama Beach Club, Ltd.

then asked to put in his own sewer system but government denied this request, preferring instead that he contribute to a solution which would upgrade the system for the entire resort.

The government committed to taking over the water and the sewer systems in the

mid 1990s. Several years ago the government put in an extensive well field north of the Treasure Cay airport, pumping system, storage facilities and waterlines to provide water for Treasure Cay and Black Wood.

Please see **North**

Page 11

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More North Abaco News

North

From Page 10

However, the lines extend only part way into Treasure Cay, stopping short of the existing Treasure Cay pumping station. Government and the Treasure Cay Resort have not completed negotiations for the Water and Sewerage Corporation to take over the systems. The sewerage system is very old and not operating properly. The waterlines through the resort are equally old and in very poor condition.

The well field and water system that government put in was financed by a loan from the International Development Bank but government is not receiving revenue from the system. Government is paying the debt but the income from the resort goes to Treasure Cay Resort. Government has many projects in the Family Island which total more than \$100 million. Since Treasure Cay Resort is privately owned and is comprised mostly of expatriates, the government is

reticent to acquire the system.

Mr. Whitcraft suggested that the property owners should come up with a concept for financing the project which would require developers, condo owners and other owners to pay for the service. This could be in the form of assessments, increased rates or other forms of payment. The cost to upgrade the sewer system was \$3 to \$4 million several years ago. However, new technologies are now available which would be less expensive, maybe only \$2 million. This would bring the cost down to about \$4000 per connected unit. Mr. Whitcraft suggested that property owners should work with government to solve this very serious problem. The water test results are not good, showing both salinity and bacterial contamination. Leakage within the system is 39 percent. The problem will not go away quickly, easily nor cheaply.

It was suggested that an engineering firm be hired to assess the systems and give a

cost estimate of putting in a decent system.

Mr. Jos Konsten, Manager of Treasure Cay Resort spoke briefly at the frustration of not being able to resolve the water and sewer problem. Treasure Cay Ltd. has been unable to make progress in their negotiations with government since 1992 when the government no longer issued the franchise to them for the water supply.

Discussion about the water system and sewer system was quite heated with people blaming various persons and bodies for the bad situation.

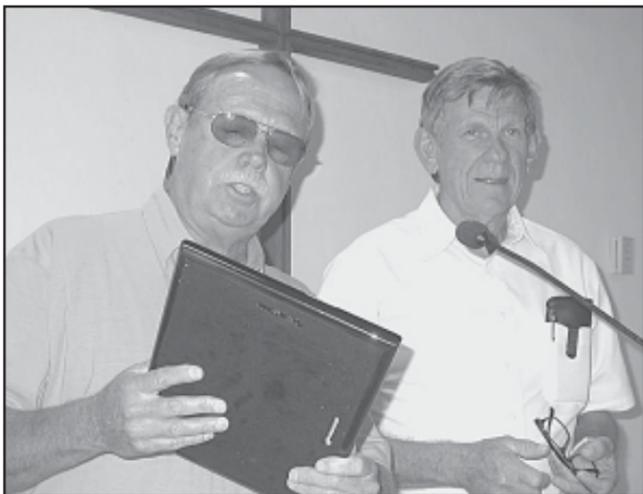
Other topics which were discussed included the search for a doctor to assist Dr. Ron Wilson, who is alone at Corbett Medical Centre. Dr. Michael McPhal has been

interviewed and is willing to relocate to Treasure Cay when he receives approval from the Bahamas Medical Council and Bahamian Immigration. He has had previous experience in the Caribbean and has made a two year commitment. He will be coming with his wife and eight-year-old daughter.

The TCPOA plans to clean up the greenways leading to the beach. Several are overgrown and not easily accessible. Residents and visitors alike need to have easy access to the beach. Mr. Whitcraft is asking all water front property owners with a groyne to construct steps over it to allow

Please see **North**

Page 15



Mr. Everette Pinder was honored at the recent Treasure Cay Property Owners' Association meeting for his long years of dedicated service. He was presented with a plaque thanking him for his years of service to the community. He has recently retired from his position of Administrator/Manager of Treasure Cay Ltd.



The Treasure Cay Property Owners' Association annually gives an award to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to that community. This year the award went to John and Edna Lacey, who have worked for years to make their community a better place.

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School News

Every Child Counts Gets a Helping Hand

By Portia Jonsson

On March 11th a group of 33 volunteers traveled to Abaco for the first time to assist in the construction of a much needed classroom/workshop for the students of Every Child Counts Learning Centre. The group called Youth on a Mission consists of high school students, advisors and parent from St. Helen's Parish, Holy Cross, and John Carroll High School in Vero Beach, Florida. They work physically and spiritually to help people less fortunate than themselves. They look for special gifts and talents in the people they meet and share their gifts and

talents with others.

Youth on a Mission donated \$8,000 towards the cost of building materials for the classroom plus their own expenses and the high school students also gave up their spring break holiday. The group stayed at St. Simon by the Sea Anglican Church camp in Treasure Cay.

Mr. Richard Schlitt, Director of Youth on a Mission, said that this is the first time the group has constructed a building. Usually they go to poor areas to clean, paint and carry out minor repairs.

The building is now framed-in and shingled. Local businessmen, parents and volunteers will continue to work on the new building. The building will house a classroom and workshop for the older students so that some of the younger ones can move up and spread out in the other classes.

Mrs. Lyn Major, ECC Director, said that there has been an overwhelming support from the community, parents, volunteers and many others and much has been donated. She thanks everyone for their generosity.



A group of 33 volunteers from Florida have constructed a building for Every Child Counts in Marsh Harbour. The building will provide a classroom and workshop for the older students so they can learn skills to help them become useful, fulfilled adults.

Agape Christian School Teachers Train at School

By Portia Jonsson

For 10 days during the month of March Agape Christian School played host to a group of six teachers in training from Emmaus Bible College in Dubuque, Iowa. The group was headed by Dr. Henry Pitman, Dean for Academic Affairs, and his wife, Ruth Pitman.

Since 2000 Dr. Pitman and students enrolled in the Teacher Education Program at the school have been coming to Agape Christian School during their spring break to participate in teaching, learn and enjoy Abaco. Over the past five years a total of 35 students have enjoyed the experience. Since completing their studies at Emmaus Bible College, five graduates have returned to teach at Agape

and two are still teaching there.

Dr. Pitman said this was his ninth trip to Abaco and he looks forward to it every year. He and the students have enjoyed the experience and he considers the people at Agape Christian School friends. He really enjoys being a part of the school and watching it grow.

The group spent the last day of their trip sightseeing in Treasure Cay and planned to visit the Blue Hole.

Forest Heights Academy Dinner Theatre Comes

By Jennifer Hudson

Senior students of the Drama Club of Forest Heights Academy have been busily rehearsing every Monday and Friday afternoon since September for their upcoming

Please see **School**

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Students from the Emmaus Bible College in Dubuque, Iowa, did 10 days of student teaching at Agape Christian School in Marsh Harbour during their spring break. This annual program has brought students here who have later returned to teach at the school. They are, from left to right, Rachel Bishop, Jessica Drees, Elaine Walter, Kelli Wilson, Sarah Nauman, Lucas Jackson, Ruth Pitman and Dr. Henry Pitman (team leaders).

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More School News

School *From Page 12*

production *Love Letters Lost*. This musical play, produced by Ms. Leslie Kennedy and co-directed by Ms. Alana Carroll, teachers at the school, features students who performed in the excellent school production of *Annie* last year. It is a delightfully light-hearted romantic story set in a small village book-store, showcasing two love stories in one and enhanced by the songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber and many other very familiar and well loved show tunes.

The plot takes place during the present day and so the students have put together their own costumes. Props and sets have been designed and constructed by staff member Ms. Susan Parotti assisted by students, and all publicity has been handled by students of Grade Twelve. Susan Parotti

has taken over the choreography since the departure of Jane Uberreiter, who laid the groundwork. Background music for the cast vocals was recorded by Claire Kanter, a talented and generous winter resident, with senior student Cleveland Dawkins performing one of the pieces.

Performances will take place on April 30th and May 1st in the school's outdoor auditorium. The performance on the 30th will begin at 7 p.m. and will feature the play only but on May 1st there will be a Dinner Theatre performance with a lasagna dinner (prepared by the Parent Teacher's Association) served at 5:30 p.m. prior to the performance. This will be a lovely occasion for people to dress up, have dinner, then enjoy the play.

Tickets are on sale at the school office priced at \$10 for Friday's performance and

\$20 for Saturday's Dinner Theatre. There will be limited seating so it will be advisable to purchase tickets as soon as possible.

All proceeds will go towards the creating of the Forest Heights Academy Theatre. Drama has become very popular in the school. By having their own theatre on the premises, it will be much easier for the students to stage their performances, become more creative and perform more often.

Students Are Honoured

Competition is an important factor in life and the Ministry of Education has been quite busy giving Abaco's students many chances to show off all of their talents.

First was the Annual Spelling Bee. On February 9th grades 7 and 8 participated in the school event. Winners Taj Anderson, Margo Lowe and Candace Malone then went on to the Abaco District Competition. They met a well prepared group and all did well with Margo Lowe placing fourth.

During the last week of January Senior Rebecca Risberg was chosen to go to Nassau as one of 30 students who attended the UNESCO sponsored Youth Focus Bahamas. These young adults spent several days

discussing subjects ranging from pollution to Bahamian culture.

Then on March 4th and 5th Abaco was truly abuzz as the All Abaco Track and Field Meet took place. Placing in this exciting event were: Brandon Sweeting, First Place shot put; Alex Murray, First Place 400 meter and Corenthea Johnson, Third Place javelin. Brandon and Alex both attended the National's last year.

Meanwhile, on March 5th the Rotary Club hosted their Annual Speech Competition. Bradley Albury and Kristen Hoard in Lower School spoke on *Tourists in All Respects Are Good for The Bahamas*. Kristen brought home the Third Place Trophy. Akrisza Kemp and Miquell Miller, Upper School, spoke on *How Abaco Has Changed in Values in the Past Fifteen Years*. Miquell not only took First Place in her category but scored the most points overall. She will go to Nassau in April to represent Abaco in the National Texaco Speech Competition.

Finally, Students of the Month, chosen by the faculty for January and February are:

Please see School Page 14



These are the upper school drama students of Forest Heights Academy who will be presenting the musical play *Love Letters Lost* later this month. On May 1 the production will be combined with a dinner for a very special treat. Some of these actors and actresses were in last year's play *Annie*.

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More School News

School From Page 13

Upper School, Rebecca Risberg and Krista Kelly, and Lower School, Rayanne Malone and Taj Anderson.

So a hearty congratulations to all. It is students like these who will ensure a bright future for Abaco.

10th Graders Complete Work Experience

From February 16 through the 20th For-est Heights tenth graders got a taste of the working world. After choosing jobs they felt would be of interest to them, they wrote letters of applications and sent their resumes. All were accepted. So with "butterflies" and uncertainty they arrived, understanding the true meaning of Monday morning.

All chose interesting jobs including: veterinarian and medical assistants, teacher's aides, boat mechanics, office personnel, bank tellers, waitresses; a jeweler, a computer technician and even an apprentice pilot. While on the job they kept journals and answered questionnaires to help them in writing their reports for office practice.

Their journals reflected their varied reactions. Many came away with a renewed sense of what they want to do in the future. But all realized that jobs are not always fun and come with many challenges. Joel Sweeting put it well when he said, "Life

is long when it comes to work but short when it comes to time." None the less, confidence and the camaraderie of the workplace was their paycheck in this valued experience.

Abaco Central High International Day

By Jennifer Hudson

International Day at Abaco Central High evolved from the celebration of Commonwealth Day. The diversity of cultures among the members of staff at Abaco Central made an International Day possible. This day has always been held the Friday after Commonwealth Day.

The roots of staff members lie in Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Argentina, United Kingdom, United States and, of course, the Bahamas. In addition, the country of Haiti was added due to the Haitian background of many students.

Staff members decorated a classroom with items from their respective country and displayed information about their country. In addition, native food dishes from that country were prepared and sold.

Over the years the food items for particular countries have become quite popular. This year the International Day Committee took lunch orders from the various businesses in Marsh Harbour and delivered these orders. Jack Hardy and Ken Roberts

of ACH handled this job. It seems that the most popular country for the delivered lunch was Guyana.

The day started with students marching in a parade of nations. They paraded with

the flags of the different countries into the quadrangle. The Junkanoo Band of ACH escorted them.

On stage in the quadrangle students performed from different countries. Haitian students danced, Guyanese sang and a fashion

contest followed. The following countries were represented in this contest. Miss Haiti, Janet Stremy, in a costume of red and blue; Miss Trinidad and Tobago, Sherell Mc Kinney, in a native costume; Miss Jamaica,

Please see **School** Page 15

Students perform a Bahamian dance at Abaco Central High School. They showed off their Bahamian culture at International Day celebrated on March 17.



The students of Cyber Learning Center raised funds with a bike-a-thon on March 26. They cycled from Marsh Harbour as far as the Cherokee turn off. They are shown here at the Snake Cay turn off with their police escort where they took a break.

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Grilled French Rack of Lamb: Encrusted with honey and herbs, served with mint jelly, whipped potatoes and fresh asparagus tips.

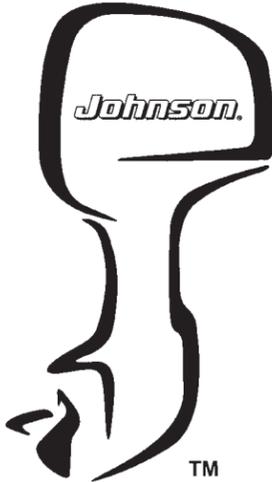
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More School News

School From Page 14

Shakeria Davis, in red green and black, the colors of the flag; Miss Bahamas, Tyesha Murray, in a Junkanoo dancer costume; Miss Guyana, Iesha Knowles, in a native dress; and Miss United States, Jovansia Davis, dressed as a Texan cowgirl.

The booths and food of each country were judged in a separate contest. The prize is a floating trophy donated by Island Development. Judges for the contests were J. Estevez, Assistant Manager of Commonwealth Bank, Mrs. Smith of the Ministry of Education and Kendi Anderson of the Abaco Tourist Office.

This year the prize for the best booth went to the United States. That room had been first runner up for the past three years. First runner up was The Bahamas, second runner up was Guyana and third runner up was Trinidad and Tobago.

International Day 2004 was termed the best ever and the most successful. Mohammed Rahim was Chairman and was assisted by committee members Ken Roberts, Beverly Rolle, Eva Adderley, Zally Chu, Joyce Champaigne, Jack Hardy and Raquel Gaitor. Proceeds from International Day will be used on projects decided by the staff of Abaco Central High.

Principal Holds Meeting in Sandy Point

By Isobel Sherman

On March 16 Mr. Benjamin Stubbs, principal of Abaco Central High, traveled to Sandy Point to meet with the parents there. One item on the agenda was informing parents of the proposed uniform change for September. The uniform will be navy pants, white shirt, navy tie and black shoes for the boys and navy pleated skirt, white blouse, navy cross tie, white socks and black shoes for the girls.

Students of Abaco Central High School cooked their native foods which were later sold to raise funds. This was in celebration of International Day which showcased the culture of all the different nationalities represented at the school.



North From Page 11

access. No one can block access to the beach. The Executive Committee will also be erecting signs and will be replacing signs that disappear. The Committee outlined the projects they expect to do this next year which will include paving, resurfacing and filling potholes.

The Humane Society of Treasure Cay is active and has attracted several additional volunteers. The group is not able to have the services of a veterinary doctor until there is a building where animals can be processed. They will have part of the Emergency Services building when it is constructed. Mr. Jerry Roberts heads that humane society. Money has been raised for constructing the Emergency Services building and the property is available but construction has not begun.

Tournament Awards

At the recent Hugh Campbell Basketball Tournament in Nassau members of the Might Marlins basketball team of Abaco Central won several awards. Most Valuable Player awards went to Valentino Stuart and Dennis Murray. The Sixth Man Award went to Quintince Williams. Best Effort Award went to Brandon Stuart. Sportsmanship Awards went to Darren Smith and Ataro Mitchell and the most Rebounds award went to Devero Smith.

Scores of the games played were Freeport Anglican 45, ACH 32; ACH 49, Mangrove Cay Andros High 36; and CC Sweeting High 43, ACH 38.

Pre-Screening May Be an Option

By Isobel Sherman

The United States Government is considering Palm Beach International Airport as one of the sites for its 90-day testing of a program where travelers can pay a fee and register in advance for government background checks or advanced screening. These travelers who have registered and

have passed the government checks would then be able to avoid lengthy security checks at the airport. The traveler would avoid being randomly selected at airports for additional screening. The program is slated to begin in June 2004. The amount of the proposed fee has not been decided.



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Development Plans Are Under Consideration

Please see **Christie** Page 1

this history and culture and its natural assets, it has a bright strong future. It will bring a new way of life for the Bahamas and great employment opportunities. He encouraged Bahamians to take advantage of the opportunities and the need to grow in ownership along with the economy. He wants to see meaningful involvement of Abaconians in this process of growth. This growth requires an efficient and effective government which will facilitate growth. Abaco is a high priority island primed for unprecedented growth. The people are ready and government must put into place policies to support this.

Tourism:

Mr. Christie announced that tourism is currently the strongest it has ever been in Abaco with foreign arrivals in Abaco for the year January to December 2003 totaling some 93,568 visitors. (This is without the 384,568 Disney cruise visitors to Castaway Cay.)

Mash Harbour and the nearby offshore cays welcomed 64,500, of which 62,918 came by air and 1,582 by sea. Treasure Cay and Green Turtle Cay welcomed 27,784 visitors and Walkers Cay had 11,165 visitors, of which 4,866 arrived by air and 6,299 by sea.

Commenting on the changing face of tourist accommodation, he described the "wonderful mix" of hotel rooms and second homes as "the basis for a successful industry."

The leading island of choice in The Bahamas is Abaco. Visitors realize that this area is safe and secure to live. Its growth is from second homes. Abaco's economy was insulated from 9/11 by the second home owners. "A study of the history of tourism on Abaco shows its success is from a mix of small hotels and second homes. This has proved to be a sustainable tourism industry. The people of Abaco must be conscious of the fact that thousands are lining up to buy homes. Abaco has determined the right balance."

Development:

Moving on to upscale, high-end development on Abaco, he described the multi-million dollar Abaco Club with a golf course at Winding Bay as a "catalyst for other new investments in Abaco," likening its potential positive impact on Abaco to Emerald Bay's on the Exumas.

Direct foreign investment in Abaco he put at around \$500 million with a diversity of investors. "Our challenge is always to ensure great sensitivity in determining what investments should be approved by government," stated Mr. Christie, recognizing that there is always the danger of development moving faster than the country and its people can absorb.

Determining that the people of Abaco should not be left in the dark concerning major investment and development on their island, he gave his assurance that the Hon. Allyson Maynard-Gibson, Minister of Financial Services and Investment, would make public any such investments when they are approved.

"There are," he continued, "currently under consideration several other projects which have been earmarked for Abaco, including those concerning the agricultural and fisheries sectors."

Mr. Christie acknowledged that Abaco has traditionally been driven by residential investment and this will not change. "I hope that Abaco will continue to have a strong mix of local and foreign investors." In particular he encouraged linkages between the tourism industry and domestically grown produce.

After extending this as a challenge to the Chamber of Commerce, he proposed that an advisory group from the Chamber be es-

tablished to meet with him or other relevant ministers on a regular basis.

He applauded the recent "joint venture" between government and local community of repairing Elbow Cay's roads and saw it as a signpost to the future.

Marsh Harbour Airport:

The Prime Minister then moved on to the much awaited issue of the meeting - the Marsh Harbour airport.

"Of the 93,000 tourists arriving here last year, 63,000 landed at Marsh Harbour airport," said Mr. Christie. "There is no doubt that the Marsh Harbour airport has outgrown its usefulness and its capacity to deal with the number of persons coming through the facility," he stated

He emphasized the importance of radical change by introducing modern safety and security measures for the maximum comfort of users of the airport.

Most critical, he said, was the construction of a control tower for which the Minister of Transport, Ms Glynnis Hanna-Martin, is presently receiving quotes which range from \$750,000 to \$2 million. "I firmly expect for this matter to be reviewed by Cabinet by the end of the financial year, which is in June, so that budgetary allocations can be made for the year 2004/5." Once a decision is made, he estimated that the tower would be constructed within six to twelve months.

Mr. Christie spoke of plans for a new terminal building which he saw not as a luxury but as a security measure. "I commit here and now that in the shortest possible time the Marsh Harbour International Airport will be in full conformity with the

Please see **Christie** Page 17



The Chamber of Commerce of Abaco presented the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie with a plaque of appreciation for addressing the Chamber members on March 18. He was also given two prints of photographs that Mr. Colyn Rees took of Abaco in the 1950s. Mr. Christie detailed many of the projects planned for Abaco. He is shown here on the right with Art Sands, Vice Chairman of the Chamber on the left, and Michael Albury, President of the Chamber, in the middle.

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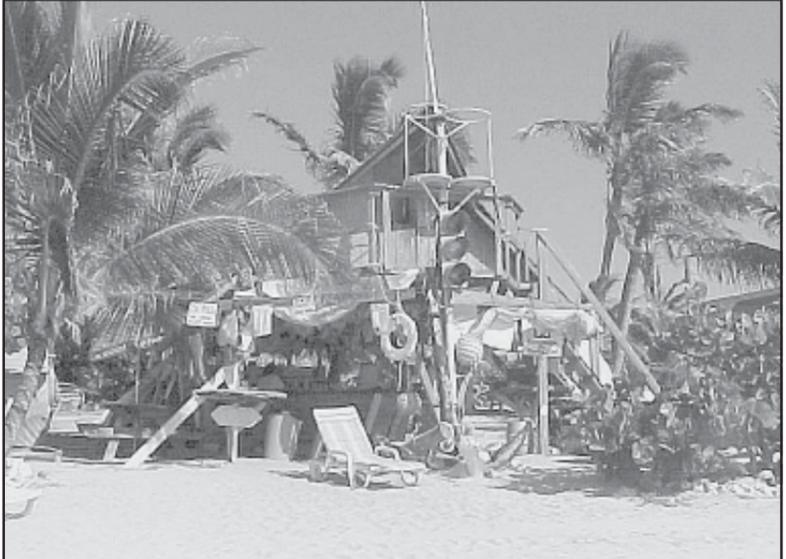
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Christie Asks for Abaco's Input

News From Page 16

requirements as laid down for international flights."

As an interim measure he pledged that physical improvements to the airport would take place. He drew a parallel with Exuma's airport which had to be given a last minute "facelift" for the opening of Emerald Bay.

Solid Waste Disposal:

Acknowledging that Man-O-War has been shipping its solid waste to the mainland for some time, Mr. Christie recognized that Elbow Cay had a serious solid waste disposal problem. "Just yesterday," Mr. Ron Pinder, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Environment, held a "useful town meeting" on Elbow Cay to propose some short term remedies.

"A new modern landfill site has to be identified," stated Mr. Christie, adding that the proposed Snake Cay area may not be available because there have been "proposals for some tourist developments there."

He referred to a loan from the Inter American Development Bank which, among other things, called for the construction of a landfill site in Marsh Harbour. "The programme comes to an end in mid-year 2005 so we have to find somewhere soon,"

said Mr. Christie.

Master Plan for Abaco:

Concluding with his present involvement in preparing what he called "A Master Plan for Abaco," the Prime Minister said, "We will assign a team to commence the necessary work for a master plan. It is long overdue and vital for the proper growth of the island." This will curtail random developments springing up. He stated that the government is currently preparing one for Eleuthera, having already completed one for the Exumas.

The plan would be a 20-year plan which would identify for future generations areas appropriate for hotels, hospitals and residential areas. The planners will be consulting with the people of Abaco. This will assure that all the beaches will not be committed so that none is left for Bahamians. There is a need for open spaces and parks. Government is faced with a challenge. There is a need for revenue provided by resorts. But government must hold back on some development to maintain a balance and not give everything away.

Questions:

After dining and mingling among the guests, Mr. Christie opened the floor to questions. These covered subjects as diverse

as more consideration to sports in general in Abaco to whether second home owners are abusing The Bahamas by using their homes as rentals and why noisy bars are built next door to churches. On being asked about casinos on Abaco, he stated that he is not aware of any applications for a casino. He did mention that he had a proposal for a monstrous development for South Abaco.

He commented that there was no money for many projects but felt that Abaco could take advantage of outside people who volunteer. He mentioned two projects that showed the assistance that these people contribute. One woman working with the Every Child Counts is proposing growing native orchids, potting them attractively in coconut cloth pots and shipping to the

United States for sale at \$30 per plant. Another woman has taken on the project of protecting the wild horses of North Abaco. Projects of this type can be of great benefit for attracting tourists to Abaco.

The Prime Minister shared many personal anecdotes and commented on how lovely it was to feel the space and enjoy the beauty of Abaco.

Michael Albury, President of the Chamber of Commerce, and Art Sands, Vice President, presented the Prime Minister with a commemorative plaque and photographs by Colin Reese dating back to the early '50s of Bahamian fishermen.

Traveling with the Prime Minister were the Hon. Glynnis Hanna-Martin, Minister of Transport, and the Hon. V. Alfred Grey, Minister of Agriculture.

Calypso Airlines Will Aid Pathfinder Students

Calypso Airlines has generously offered to be the "official airlines" of Abaco Pathfinders' Scholarship Foundation. Because of the company's desire to support Pathfinders' efforts in helping Abaconian students further their education, Calypso has agreed to provide transportation to and from Florida twice each school year to all Pathfinder students going to school in Florida. Calypso also donated two club

memberships of 10 round trip tickets each to the Pathfinder fund raising gala and auction held on March 12.

Calypso Airlines is a new airline which provides daily service from Treasure Cay and Marsh Harbour to both West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale. One of its owners has a home on Elbow Cay. Pathfinders is very grateful to this new business for its spirit of community support.

Two Donations Go to Wild Horses



Victoria Albury of Abaco Insurance Agency is seen here presenting two donations to Mimi Rehor of the Wild Horses of Abaco. The first donation came from Royal Star Assurance (formerly Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Company) in Nassau. Royal Star has been committed to protecting our environment for years and this commitment continues with their

support of Mimi and the wild horses' project. For 20 years Royal Star has been offering insurance coverage through Abaco Insurance Agency in Marsh Harbour. Abaco Insurance also made a donation to this cause. Mimi says the donations are a "blessing" after last month's theft of equipment from the reserve where the horses are kept. However, the everyday costs of this operation are overwhelming.

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Prime Minister Visits Challenged Students

By Portia Jonsson

During his brief one-day visit to Abaco on March 18th the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie, took time out of his busy schedule for a quick stop at the Every Child Counts Learning Centre. Accompanying the Prime Minister was the Hon. Glenys Hanna-Martin, the Hon. Alfred Gray and other government officials.

Mr. Christie met with Mrs. Lyn Major, the school Director, students, teachers and volunteers at the school. He offered words of praise, encouragement and support to Mrs. Major and her staff for their tremendous labor of love and dedication to the students and the school.

The Prime Minister toured both the up-

stairs and downstairs areas of the school including the classrooms. He then cut the ribbon on the new basketball court to symbolize its formal opening. Additionally, Mr. Christie was able to see the results of the hard work carried out by volunteers, parents, local businessmen and others in the construction of an additional classroom and workshop.

Mr. Christie said this was his first time visiting this particular school. There is a need for citizens of The Bahamas and the government to find a way to identify the most disadvantaged among us and give them the most relief. The reason for the Prime Minister's visit was for him to see what has been done without one cent of government

money. He said that seeing what has been created by those who came from abroad over the past few years speaks for itself, and he could never praise them enough.

The Prime Minister went on to say that this was personal to him because he has a challenged child and knows first hand what Mrs. Major and her staff are faced with. He thanked and congratulated them for the service they are giving and said that they cannot be paid enough for it. It is more than work, it is a labor of love. "Every

child has a stake in this country," said Mr. Christie. He wishes to provide opportunities for the most disadvantaged. He added that he truly hopes that as a result of this others would be inspired to get involved in helping the country's disadvantaged, giving them a better chance in life. He thanked everyone for the hospitality and courtesy.

Mr. Christie was presented with an orchid basket by the volunteers of the school and informed of the desire to start an orchid farm and national orchid museum.



The Prime Minister was impressed with the idea of cultivating native Abaco orchids, then shipping them to be sold in the United States. The Every Child Counts school is hoping to develop this way of raising funds for the school and at the same time teaching skills to the students which can develop into lifelong work. Shown above are, left to right, Minister of Works, the Hon. Bradley Roberts; Ms. Monica Bianchi, volunteer at ECC; a student; and the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie. Ms. Bianchi is the person developing the orchid growing project. She makes the pots attractive by wrapping them in coconut cloth.

Concert Proceeds Go to ECC



A cheque was presented to Mrs. Lynn Major, Principal of the Every Child Counts School, by Jennifer Hudson on the right and Joan Moss on the left, two of the performers in the recent Magical Musical Moments concerts. Proceeds from the concerts were to assist the school in the wonderful work they are doing with their special students. The two concerts were held in Marsh Harbour and Hope Town.

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* Movie listings subject to change without notice.

COMING IN APRIL 2004

Obituaries of Family and Friends

Kenneth G. May, 76, of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, and a part-time Hope Town resident, died on February 15 at his Florida home. A funeral service was held on February 19 at New Smyrna Beach. He was a noted entrepreneur and manufacturer and the founder of Coronado Paint Company and Coronado Laboratories/Lighthouse Products of New Smyrna Beach. He donated paint for maintaining the lighthouse and other community projects.



He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Phyllis; two sons, Paul Keaveney and Ken May, Jr.; a daughter, Carol Leach; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral for **Hezekiah "Kid" McIntosh, 66**, of Cooper's Town was held at the Revival Time Pentecostal Church in Cooper's Town on March 21. Rev. Ronald McIntosh officiated. Interment was in the Cooper's Town South Side Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, Florence; sons Min. Lynden, Rev. Franklyn and Trevor McIntosh; daughters Ettajane Adderley, Annalyse Coakley, Kathryn Adderley, Keva Bastian and Vernetta Saunders; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; brothers Wilson, Kelvin, Edwin and Pastor Ronald McIntosh; sisters Miriam Roker and Betty McIntosh; daughters-in-law Jacqueline, Rev. Kelly and Gwendolyn McIntosh; sons-in-law Chris Adderley, Perez Coakley, Vincent Adderley, Wayne Bastian and Nehemiah Saunders; sisters-in-law Estelle, Delfane Kathleen, Annie and Ruth McIntosh, Vyrona Archer and Virginia Lightbourne; brothers-in-law George, Jonathan and Joseph Russell; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral service for **Zelda Roberts Neely, 78**, formerly of Crossing Rocks, was held in Nassau and interment was in Nassau.

She is survived by her sons Oswald and Val; daughter Eleanor; sibling Lottie Nichols; adopted sisters Natalie Hutchinson, Iva Patton and Mable Sands; step-daughter Madlyn Neely; adopted daughter Maude

Edith Roach; daughters-in-law Laura Roberts and Henrietta Roberts; brothers-in-law Israel Williams, Sr. and Eric Nicholls; grandchildren Dorothy Marshall, Victor Tony Johnson, Valique Roberts, Lavaughn Roberts, Gaynell Albury, Garnell Pratt, Cherise Adderley, Brent, Robert, Tissley, Ricardo and Monique Munroe, Hilary Gibson, Ellis Neely, William Jade Hunt; great-grandchildren; grandsons-in-law Neil Albury and Barron Pratt; nieces Stelletha and Barbara Johnson, Dorothy McKinney, Brenda Russell, Mae Walker, Gloria Russell, Rev. Carolyn Bain, Betty McKenzie, Bernice Wells, Vernell Ingraham, Daisy Watkins, Zelma Roberts, Janet Sands, Rosemarie, Patricia, Pamela, Prescola Nicholls, Louise McNair, Gloria Thompson; nephews Rev. Napoleon, Samuel and Boisy Roberts, Lloyd Walker, David, Willard, Philip, Rev. James Williams and Israel Williams Jr., James, John and Barry Johnson, Philip, Perry Nicholls and Percival Nicholls, Roosevelt Carey, Kenneth, Oswald, Rodney, Richard and Alfred Bonaby; and many other nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Dorothy Leona Russell passed away on March 20th after a long illness. She was 70 year old. Her funeral was at New Vision Ministries in Marsh Harbour on March 23. Bros. Ted Pearce and Bob Cornea officiated and interment was in the Marsh Harbour Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband Earl Russell; children Doris Ericsson, Ann Russell, DeeDee Roberts, Rosalee Swanson, Terry Russell, Carol Russell and Stephen Russell; grandchildren Adlana, Ace, Erica, Tristin, James, Tyler and Celena; great-grandchildren Alexandria, Courtney, Monica, Jordan, Aden; sons-in-law Earl, Haman, Ejnar and Edward; daughter-in-law Katherine; grandson-in-law Jed; brothers and sisters-in-law Victor Pearlson, Olga Russell, Hartwell and Gwendolyn Russell and many other relatives and friends.

Spurgeon Clarence Sawyer, 56, passed away on March 22 after a short illness. His funeral was on March 27 at the Church of God in Man-O-War. Pastor David Hoard and Pastor David Cartwright officiated. In-

terment was in the Man-O-War Cemetery. He is survived by his wife Molly Sawyer; son Thurman Sawyer; daughter Mailin Sands; daughter-in-law Jeren Sawyer; son-in-law Grant Sands; mother Mable Sawyer; uncle Carroll Sawyer; aunt Lorraine Sawyer; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law

Everette and Rachel Weatherford, Nellie Weatherford, Scott and Kay Weatherford, Ella and Sidney Sands, Willis and Gloria Weatherford, Ray and Pam Weatherford; and many other nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends.

Crawfishing Season Is Over

The Bahamian crawfish season closed at midnight, Wednesday, March 31, 2004, for all persons, Bahamians and visitors. The crawfish are protected with a closed season during their spawning period until harvesting is again allowed on August 1st, 2004.

Taking crawfish by any method after March 31 is illegal and Fisheries officers will be looking for violators.

All commercial fishermen with a compressed air license must have their compressors ashore on April 1 and not be found with them in their boat.

Bahamians may have any quantity of fish or crawfish but must observe the minimum sizes. Crawfish on hand on April 1 should be documented with Fisheries. Fresh crawfish found by officers after the season closes will not be viewed kindly.

Bag limits for non-Bahamians are six crawfish per person during the open season. Crawfish within the bag limit may be kept in a home or boat freezer after the season closes but should be documented as being on hand on April 1.

The bag limits are not accumulative for successive days or for people no longer in that group. The bag limits may be legally taken to Florida by boat or aircraft.

There are no limits to the amount of

fish or crawfish that can be legally purchased by visitors for local consumption or to be taken to Florida. However, amounts above the bag limits should be documented with receipts and invoices to clarify the origin of the fish. Buying crawfish after March 31 at a commercial fish house from their inventory is acceptable. A receipt from a fisherman for crawfish in mid-April will probably raise some eyebrows.

Any crawfish in freezers of Bahamians, second home owners or visitors on April 1st, the first day of the closed season, should be documented with a letter to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries or to local fisheries officers. You may or may not be inspected by an officer to verify the quantity. Remember, for non-Bahamians the amount of crawfish on hand must not exceed the bag limit for the number of people in the house on on the boat.

The Bahamas government has the responsibility to protect and manage the fishing resources for the benefit of the Bahamian people. The intent of the law is to allow visitors to catch crawfish for their immediate enjoyment but not to compete with commercial Bahamian fishermen. The closed

Please see **Crawfish** Page 20



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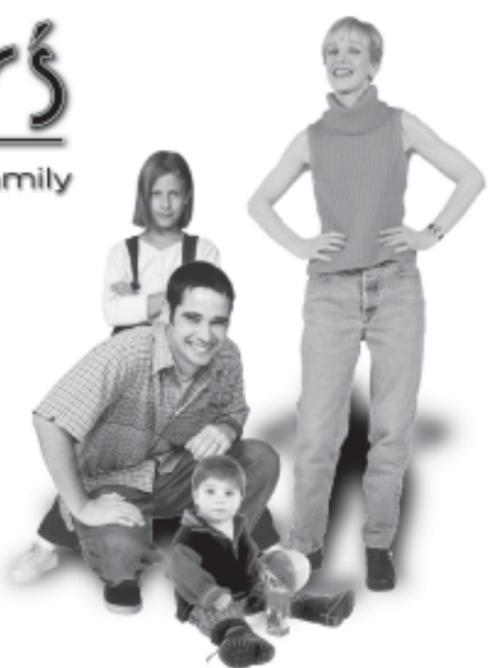
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Licensing, Cent. Abaco Dist. 4 March 04

The chairman could hold the meeting for lack of a quorum. .

Dundas Town Committee 11 March 04

The focus of this meeting was the town budget for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2004. Chairman Cay Mills asked members to review the previous budget carefully since it is the foundation for estimating next year's figures. He further stated that Dundas Town has doubled in size with the opening of the Central Pines subdivision and is the fastest growing town on Abaco. There are presently 10 - 15 houses there under construction.

Before discussing the budget, he stressed that playground equipment is needed for Brown Bay Park on the waterfront beside the Methodist Church.

Chairman Mills asked members to consider changing the name of the Haitian cemetery on S.C. Bootle Highway to the Central Pines Graveyard.

In a request from Council for staffing statutory boards, Michael Lundy will be appointed to Town Planning and Wade Archer will be appointed to Licensing.

Chairman Mills asked Committee members to approve his request that the Central Abaco dump which is located on the S.C. Bootle Highway in Dundas Town be taken from Council's jurisdiction and be assigned to the Dundas Town Committee. Due to the amount of garbage taken into the Dundas Town site, the other towns on Central Abaco should then budget to assist Dundas Town in its upkeep.

In preparing the town's budget request

Local Government at Work

for next year, the following annual amounts were agreed on.

- Last year's amount for town garbage collection was \$36,000 and members agreed to request an additional \$36,000 totaling \$72,000 to allow for twice weekly collection as opposed to the present single pickup each week.

- An amount of \$72,000 will be requested for garbage collection in the 500 lot Central Pines Estates subdivision.

- Additionally, cleaning the verges in Central Pines Estates including the road to the primary school is estimated to require \$30,000. Garbage collection and cleaning the road verges in this new subdivision was not previously required as the subdivision just recently opened.

- A janitress for the new restroom at Ocean View Park has been budgeted at \$3,600.

- Maintenance for Ocean View Park, Independence Park and the town cemetery is budgeted at \$21,600.

- Brown Bay Park maintenance is budgeted for \$5,000

- Maintenance of the Haitian cemetery on S.C. Bootle Highway will be budgeted for \$5,000 which is a new item this year.

- Maintenance of settlement roads will remain the same as last year at \$15,600 and side road maintenance increased from \$10,800 to \$15,600 due to additional roads being constructed.

- Maintenance of Forest Drive verges through Dundas Town will remain at \$15,600.

- Other upkeep has been raised from \$10,000 for this fiscal year to \$15,000 for the coming year.

(Minor items have not been shown.)

The total requested is \$278,400 and is \$144,800 above last year's budget or a 192 per cent increase.

Hotel Licensing, Cent. District March 17

The Hotel Licensing Board of Central Abaco met on March 17 and discussed the recent seminar on hotel licensing organized by Mrs. Melanie Farrington from Nassau. Mrs. Farrington is Director of Hotel Licensing within the Ministry of Tourism. The members were disappointed because they did not get direct answers to their questions.

The group is unable to make any of its hotel inspections because they have not received the report from Nassau listing the infractions for the hotels in the area. The Nassau team makes a list of deficiencies that have to be improved before each hotel can receive its license for the year. The local Board follows up to make sure the infractions are corrected.

The group felt that some of them should have accompanied the inspection team from Nassau. That would have given Board members a better understanding of what their duties are now. They also felt that the inspections are cursory and not thorough enough.

Port Authority 18 March 2004

Only three members came which did not constitute a quorum.

Licensing Board 24 March 2004

A wholesale grocery license was granted for a new building being erected beside Pinewoods Nursery close to the Marsh Harbour

airport.

Marco Air Conditioning was granted an amendment to their license allowing the sale of office furniture and supplies.

Abaco Beach Resort was granted a license for a gift shop and art gallery in the Little Switzerland building at the entrance to their property.

Other routine applications were approved for fine sculpture, custom auto parts, and a shop selling tobacco, packaged imported coffee, art and souvenirs.

Crawfish

From Page 19

season is to allow the stock to replenish. Bag limits for non-Bahamians are in place to allow recreational fishing during open seasons..

Bag limits, season dates and other issues related to fisheries resources are under study by government and revised rules and guidelines are expected to be made public in the near future.

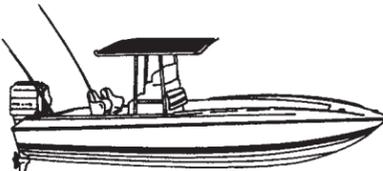
Closing the season for Nassau Grouper for 30 days in January throughout the Bahamas was a move in this direction. The establishment of year-round no-take fisheries zones is another protective measure being formulated.

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Parents and Guardians Day
Sponsored by
Abaco Youth In Action
Parents, guardians, friends,
come see your child play
Basketball
Ocean View Park in Dundas Town
4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, April 3rd,
**Hamburgers, Hot Dogs,
Drinks for Sale**
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AND MERCPANGA BOATS**
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26' Paramount \$180 \$450 \$925
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Bait, Ice & Guides
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We, Percy Albury's family,
would like to express
our heartfelt appreciation to everyone at the
Reef Ball
Saturday, March 20th
who helped revive



Percy Albury

Thank you all for the prayers,
concern, phone calls and visits
since that trying evening.

It is impossible to find adequate words to
express our feelings of gratitude to
Doctors Frank Boyce and
Marc Binard
who went the extra mile
to bring Percy back to us.

Also, we would like to thank
Brandon Thompson & Brian Fredericks
for their help.

Our love and thoughts go to everyone!
Thank God for Life.

More Letters to the Editor

Letters

From Page 9

equipment traffic required by new construction in the area has contributed to further deterioration of the roads. "We are concerned for the safety of our residents and visitors," says David Nottage, President of Palm Shores Owner's Association. For further information on this project, please contact Louise Blank at 477-5686 or for general information David Nottage at 375-8040. Bahama Palm Shores property owners need to sign the petition by April 15.

Comments on the Hope Town Road Situation

Dear Editor,

Please allow me a space in your newspaper.

For quite some time I've been hearing and reading about the Hope Town highway. Referring to the letter in the March issue under the heading *It Could Be Better in The Bahamas*. I think the heading of the letter should have read like this, *It Should Have Been Better for Hope Town under the FNM Rule*.

I'm still lost to think that anyone in Hope Town voted for the FNM, knowing full well the way they were left out for over nine years. As we all know, much revenue goes into Treasury from Hope Town. But now this new PLP gets all the blame for the bad roads.

Let me say right here I believe Hope Town will have new roads in the near future. Help and hope is on the way.

What some people don't realize is that under the former government rule, the roads were kept up by individuals. Now under this new government these same ones have nothing to do with filling the pot holes or craters as now they are called. They just want to make it look bad for the PLP.

If the former government did what they were supposed to do in their nine years in office, Mr. James Stolpestad of St. Paul, Minnesota, would have not had to go back home with a broken leg.

I know how bad the roads were before the election in 2002. I worked in Hope Town for approximately three months and rode in the back of a pick-up truck for approximately 90 percent of the time. The eight hours of work were fun but riding back and forth on the Hope Town road was disgusting.

I told the FNM off every day for three months. My boss got tired of hearing me telling them off. Several times he said, "You still talking about them?"

To be honest with you, if I were an elected member of any government and could not get anything for my town who supported me, I would not seek office after the first term.

Now I know that there are those who are saying, what are you to be writing a letter about Hope Town and their problems.

Well, I'll have you know I have a deep feeling for that town. First of all, my beautiful wife came from there. Come July will be 35 years - a long time to be with one woman. I also have a daughter in Hope Town, a son-in-law, two grandchildren, four brothers-in-law and four sisters-in-law plus lots of friends. My granddaughter is 11 years old and my grandson is just about three, and they have been riding these bad roads since they were born. I'm sure they think this is the way the roads are supposed to be.

But let me say again that I believe you will have the roads paved in the near future. Just keep filling in the craters like you did under the FNM rule. Help and hope is on the way. I really believe Big Bad Brad will not let five years go by without paving the roads, unlike the former government's

nine year rule.

But if for some reason they don't, vote them out.

But really, I should not say that because that is exactly what you did in 2002.

If the roads are not paved, don't vote at all, at least for the FMN. You all know what you got for nine years - a Big Duck Egg

I say shame on any government who treats a town the way you have been treated. You have a right to be very upset.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

Samuel David Albury

Thanks to BEC

To Whom It May Concern:

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the full cooperation and assistance we received from BEC regarding the housing project of Three Beaches at Fig Tree Island, Turtle Rocks

Working together was certainly a display of teamwork between a government corporation and local entrepreneurs. Our time has been great and we now have two home owners experiencing a wonderful way to live and own Bahamian land. With development plans for our property to continue at a proper pace, we will continue to build harmonious, wise, workable and environmentally friendly places to live. All the while, we can share our vision.

Thank you for helping us grow. Great job, everybody. Thank you.

Nick Miaoulis, Proprietor

South

From Page 6

Church News

The annual missions meeting and auction held at the Epworth Methodist Chapel on March 20th and 21st raised over \$5,000. Twenty percent of these monies go to Nassau to support the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church and 20 percent is sent to Africa to aid missionaries working there. Sixty percent stays in Cherokee to support the local church, its congregation and local charities.

School News

The school has postponed its dinner sale from March 27th to April 3rd. The chicken dinner is \$10 per person and will include two sides with drinks and dessert extra. I'm sure your support will be appreciated.

Forest Fires Continue and So Does the Littering

Our drought has continued for over a month and a half. As a result, we are experiencing many forest fires, as we do almost every year around this time. As we travel back and forth to Marsh Harbour in the forest areas on the Great Abaco Highway, the fires are exposing the tons of discarded cans and bottles that litterers toss out. This is an eyesore and an embarrassment. What must our tourists think when they see how we take care of our beautiful island?

We must all try to set a better example. It would be so easy to keep a litter bag in your vehicle and keep your trash until it can be discarded in a proper receptacle. There are no trash collectors or clean up crews to clean the miles and miles of roads on Abaco. Maybe you are not the culprit, but we should all try and do our part to help keep Abaco clean.

Hotels and House Rental Agents

+ agents who have multiple cottages and houses

Area Code 242 unless listed otherwise

Casuarina Point

Different of Abaco 8 rm 20 cott 366-2150

Cherokee

Lee Pinder 3 hse + 366-2053

Grand Cay

Rosie's Place 352-5458

Green Turtle Cay

Bank Apartments 3 apts 365-4105

Bluff House 8 rm 20 cott 365-4200

Chris Plummer 3 hse 365-4648

Coco Bay Cottages 4 cott 365-5464

Green Turtle Club 34 rm 365-4271

Island Properties 34 hse + 365-4047

New Plymouth Inn 9 rm 365-4161

Ocean Blue Properties 30 + 365-4636

Roberts Cottages 3 cott 365-4105

Guana Cay

Dolphin Bch Resort 4 rm 10 cott.365-5137

Coco Paradise 8 cott 365-5197

Donna Sands 12 hse + 365-5195

Guana Seaside 8 rm 7 cott 365-5106

Harbour View Haven 365-5028

Ria-Mar Rentals 5 + 365-6241

Sea Shore Villas 365-5028

Hope Town

Abaco Inn 22 rm 366-0133

Club Soleil 6 rm 1 cott 366-0003

Crystal Villas 7 villas 366-0522

Elbow Cay Prop 53 hse + 366-0035

Hope T Harb Lodge 25 rm 366 0095

Hope T Hideaways 63 hse + 366-0224

Hope T Villas 3 hse + 366-0030

Lighthouse Rentals 4 cott 366-0154

Sea Grass 10 hse + 366-0290

Sea Gull Cottages 3 hse + 366--0266

Sea Spray Resort 5 villas 366-0065

Tanny Key 43 hse + 366-0053

Turtle Hill 4 villas 366-0557

Lubbers Quarters

Sea Level Cottages 4 hue 366-3121

Man-O-War

Island Home Rentals 8 hse+ 365-6048

Ria-mar Rentals 9 + 365-6241

Schooner's Landing 5 condos 365-6072

Marsh Harbour area

Abaco Beach Resort 82 rms 367-2158

Abaco Real Estate 6 hse + 367-2719

Abaco Towns 32 effc 367-2227

Alesia's 3 rms 367-4460

Ambassador Inn 6 rms 367-2022

Bustick Bight Resort 8 rms 367-3980

Conch Inn 9 rms 367-4000

D's Guest House 6 rms 367-3980

Great Abaco Club 12 hse + 367-4151

Island Breezes Motel 8 rms 367-3776

Lofty Fig Villas 6 eff 367-2681

Pelican Beach Villas 6 cott 367-3600

Sunset Point Resort 8 rm 367-5333

Moore's Island

Moore's Is Bonefish Camp 8 rm 366-6334

Sandy Point

Oeisha's Resort 366-4139

Pete & Gay's Resort 14 rm 366-4119

Rickmon's Bonefishing 10 rm 366-4477

Spanish Cay

Spanish Cay Resort 18 rm 6 hse 365-0083

Treasure Cay

Bahama Beach Club 365-8500

Banyan Beach Resort 21 rm 365-8111

Island Dreams 45 hse + 365-8507

Treasure Cay Resort 95 rms 365-8801

Walker's Cay

Walker's Cay Resort 353-1252

Wood Cay

Tangelo Hotel 19 rm 3 villas 365-2222

General for Abaco

Listings for the entire island

Abaco Vacations + 800-633-9197

Bahamas Vacations + 800-462-2426

Abaco Bound + 242-367-5576

Web Sites

with general Abaco information

www.abacoinet.com

www.abacoinfo.com

www.abacos.com

www.go-abacos.com

www.oii.net

www.bahamas.com - Min. of Tourism

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Local Art

Majors Air Service Flight Schedule



Service between Freeport and Marsh Harbour

Day	Times			
	Depart FPO	Arrive MHH	Depart MHH	Arrive FPO
Friday thru Monday	7 a.m.	7:45 a.m.	8 a.m.	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday thru Thursday	4 p.m.	4:45 p.m.	5 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
Friday thru Monday	7 a.m.	7:45 a.m.	8 a.m.	8:30 a.m.

Visitors can take advantage of a one-day Casino Excursion to Freeport or an overnight package. Package options include air fare, ground transportation and hotel accommodation.

For more information call
Ph 242-367-4826 Marsh Harbour
Ph 242-352-5778 • Fax 242-351-5693 Freeport
majorsair@coralwave.com

Hotels and House Rental Agents

+ agents who have multiple cottages and houses

Area Code 242 unless listed otherwise

Casuarina Point

Different of Abaco 8 rm 20 cott 366-2150

Cherokee

Lee Pinder 3 hse + 366-2053

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Guana Seaside 8 rm 7 cott 365-5106

Harbour View Haven 365-5028

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Elbow Cay Prop 53 hse + 366-0035

Hope T Harb Lodge 25 rm 366 0095

Hope T Hideaways 63 hse + 366-0224

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Oeisha's Resort 366-4139

Pete & Gay's Resort 14 rm 366-4119

Rickmon's Bonefishing 10 rm 366-4477

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Spanish Cay Resort 18 rm 6 hse 365-0083

Treasure Cay

Bahama Beach Club 365-8500

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Treasure Cay Resort 95 rms 365-8801

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Walker's Cay Resort 353-1252

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Bahamas Vacations + 800-462-2426

Abaco Bound + 242-367-5576

Web Sites

with general Abaco information

www.abacoinet.com

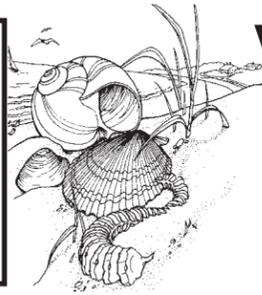
www.abacoinfo.com

www.abacos.com

www.go-abacos.com

www.oii.net

www.bahamas.com - Min. of Tourism



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	357-6684
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
Excursion boat • Froggies • Hope Town	366-0431



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 Guana Cay Sunday Lv 12 & returns 4:45 p.m. \$25 RT	
T Cay to Man-O-War/ Hope Town - Wed 9:30 am, return 4:30 pm \$35 RT	
T Cay to Guana Cay Sunset Cruise - Fr \$25, call for time	
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.	
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 • Rev 5Mar2004

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 Abaco	367-2787
Abaco Beach Dive Center	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 Guana	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
Dive Guana Boats & bikes	365-5178
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.

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

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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	
Blue Water Grill	\$\$\$ 365-5230
Guana Seaside	\$\$\$ 365-5106
Nippers	\$\$\$ 365-5143
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
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SECTION B



VOLUME 12 NUMBER 7, APRIL 1ST, 2004 SECTION B

Hope Town Celebrates Heritage Day



A competition between Bahamian dinghies being sculled was one of the attractions of the Hope Town Heritage Day celebration. The competition attracted both old timers including Winer Malone and Chester Thompson and the younger generation. The ability to scull a dinghy is not a common skill as it once was.

By Jennifer Hudson

Pride filled the air at Hope Town on March 6 as descendants of Wyannie Malone, other Hope Town residents and visitors from near and far all joined in the celebration of Heritage Day. Heritage Day is an annual event which raises funds for the Wyannie Malone Historical Museum. The funds raised this year will allow the museum to complete the interior of their newly built Balcony House.

The theme for this year's Heritage Day was *Boats, Schooners and Ships* in remembrance of the fact that Wyannie Malone and family arrived all those years ago by boat.

Mr. Leonard Thompson gave an interesting background of boat building in Hope Town and reminisced on how much Hope Town has changed since he was a boy in the early 1900s when everyone needed a boat. Hope Town was the birth place of three-masted schooners including the famous *Abaco Bahamas*. This large schooner, 155 feet long and 35 feet wide, was built from wood which had to be dragged from the pine forest and crafted without the help of any

Heritage

From Page 2



Advance Clocks One Hour April 4

Daylight Savings Time begins 2 a.m. April 4. Set your clocks ahead one hour either at bedtime on Saturday evening, April 3 or on Sunday morning, April 4.

Auskell Medical Clinics Officially Opens



The Auskell Advanced Medical Clinic in Marsh Harbour was officially opened on March 20 in a ceremony which included cutting the ribbon to a newly renovated and enlarged clinic. Shown above is Mrs. Vyrona Archer cutting the ribbon assisted by Mr. Percival Archer. Looking on is Mrs. Archer's grandchild, Austin, and Mrs. Angie Collie, one of the two founders of the clinic.

By Portia Jonsson

Auskell Advanced Medical Clinic, which provides state-of-the-art quality care on Abaco and offers the most up-to-date specialist medical care, officially opened its facility on March 20th. Hosting this grand opening ceremony were the clinic's founders, Dr. Daniel Johnson and Mrs. Angie Collie.

Auskell, named after Mrs. Collie's chil-

dren, Austin and Perkell, first opened its doors in August of last year. Mrs. Collie was inspired to help found Auskell after she became aware of a 12-year-old boy who needed to see a cardiologist, but whose mother could not afford to take him to Nassau or leave her other children behind. It seemed reasonable to Mrs.

Please see **Auskell**

Page 8

Dumps Present Problems on the Cays



Man-O-War has shipped all its garbage to the mainland for years. It was the only way they found to satisfactorily handle their garbage. Hope Town still has serious problems from burning their trash. Parliamentary Secretary for Health, the Hon. Ron Pinder, recently inspected the dumps on the cays to know better how to resolve the problems. See story on page 4.

Coming Events

- April 1-7 Easter Cantata - Hope Town April 1, Marsh Harbour April 4, Man-O-War April 7
- April 1-4 WhaleFest Hope Town April 2, MH Apr 3
- April 9 Good Friday - Public Holiday
- April 10 Cherokee Day - Dedication of Old School
- April 12 Easter Monday - Public Holiday
- April 23 Earth Day
- April 21-24 Bahamas White Marlin Tournament
- Apr.25-30 Bah. Billfish Cham. - Abaco Beach
- Apr. 30 Musical by Forest Heights Academy Dinner and Musical Theatre May 1

Hope Town Has a Rich Heritage of Ships

Heritage From Page 1

power tools. It took a dozen men a whole year to build a sailing ship and launching in those days was also a very slow process. The boats had to be lowered with hand made jacks and in order to assist the progress of the boat into the water people would scatter its path with aloe to smooth the way.

Many young boys built their own six-foot skiffs in which they would go off fishing. Capt. Thompson closed by stating how proud he is to have been born in Hope Town and reiterated the fact that although things have changed greatly in Hope Town since his boyhood, people still need boats.

Mr. Dawson Roberts, a lawyer from Nassau, spoke of his father, Jenkins Roberts who was born in Hope Town in 1886 and was the master boat builder who actually built the schooner, *Abaco, Bahamas*, before moving to Nassau to become foreman of the Symonette Shipyards on Hog Island (now Paradise Island). There is now a replica of the *Abaco, Bahamas*, crafted by Mr. Vertrum Lowe, on display in the Wyannie Malone Historical Museum.

Mr. Vertum Lowe brought four of his incredibly detailed models of two-masted schooners which were used for sponging in the old days for display at the festival. He said that though his work is tedious, he en-

joys it. His model ships are in homes all over the world. He is sad that the talent is disappearing as the young people are not interested in carrying on these traditions. "They are only interested in Kalik and computers," he sadly stated.

The old time art of Plaiting the Maypole was demonstrated and much fun was had by the dancers and onlookers, especially when a few knots in the ribbons showed that today there is much less time for practising such arts as in days gone by!

Next came the small boat and flag parade which was most interesting and colourful as all the boats in the parade flew a flag of special importance to the Bahamian Heritage. Leading the group was BASRA One, the response boat for Bahamas Air Sea Rescue Association and Hope Town Volunteer Fire and Rescue.

The first flag displayed was the red and yellow Royal Standard of Ferdinand and Isabella which was brought to The Bahamas by Christopher Columbus and first planted on Bahamian soil on the island of San Salvador. Following this was the British Union Jack brought to The Bahamas by the Eleutheran Adventurers in 1648. With minor interruptions, the Union Jack was the national flag of The Bahamas until Independence from Britain in 1973.

Next in line, the pirate flag, the Jolly Roger with its skull and cross bones, was used throughout The Bahamas from the late 1600s until 1718 to strike fear in the hearts of ships' captains and crews. Although never officially the flag of The Bahamas, the Jolly Roger does represent an important era in our history.

Following this was the flag of the independent Commonwealth of The Bahamas which was first flown over the Hope Town

park on July 10th, 1973.

The final boat in the parade, in celebration of the heritage of Hope Town, proudly displayed the Hope Town flag. The four corners of this flag represent four events that helped shape its local history: 1. the arrival of the Loyalists in 1785, most notably, Wyannie Malone, who would now be tenth great-grandmother to the present youngest generation in Hope Town; 2. the building of the Elbow Reef Lighthouse in 1864 which put a large crimp in the wrecking trade; 3. the Hope Town schooner era when many beautiful schooners such as the *William H. Albury* were built; 4. Bahamian Independence.

The remainder of the day was for visitors to wander at their leisure and enjoy the varied displays in and around the museum and its new addition, the Balcony House. Stephen Knowles displayed samples of native Bahamian woods and demonstrated the old time art of the wooden spinning top, while Reg Patterson informed of the values of Bush Medicine and Deidre Rolle and Virginia Williams wove straw items. Mark Malone, serving the old time Swiggle (gin and coconut water), soothed many a parched throat on that very hot day.

Several Hope Town residents took to the water in their Abaco dinghies to demonstrate the art of sculling which was how the local people got around in years gone by before the advent of the motor boat. Old timers such as Winer Malone and Chester Thompson made it look so easy, having learnt that tricky art as young boys and had many, many hours of experience over the years. It was pleasing to see a couple of the



Plaiting the Maypole was one of the many activities which entertained the crowds gathered to celebrate Heritage Day in Hope Town on March 6. This annual event raises funds for the Wyannie Malone Historical Museum. The organizers are hoping to complete the interior work on the museum's second building, the Balcony House, this year.

Please see **Heritage** Page 5

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Sailing Ships Was Theme of Heritage Day

By Bro. Bob Haswell

Last March 6 most of the residents of Hope Town made their way to Jarrod Park to the Heritage Day celebration organized by the Directors of the Wyannie Malone Historical Museum. With the tourists I estimated there were over 500 people in attendance. The sun was shining bright, and the day was warm.

As I waited for the festivities to begin, I interviewed Hope Town's master boat builder, Mr. Winer Malone. I had been watching him get one of several boats he had built set up for the sculling race. These boats are Abaco dinghy sailing boats. Ac-

ording to Winer the style is still the same used by the early settlers of Hope Town. They have a very distinctive style and look to them. They are hand built to last a lifetime if cared for. Winer shapes each piece of wood by hand to assure a perfect fit. They used tar or pitch in the old days, and this process needed to be repeated from time to time to prevent leaks. Winer now uses a new material that needs very little maintenance to keep leaks from occurring.

If you have read *The Fledgling*, an autobiographical book written by Chester Thompson, the black dinghy belonging to uncle was a Abaco dinghy just like the ones Winer builds

today. They were used with a sail or sculled and were the main source of transportation. I looked at Winer's wrinkled, callused hands. They were what you would expect for a craftsman who has built these boats for the last 47 years. He only builds four per year, performing the task in his yard. Mr. Malone is now aged 74.

I asked him if anyone else on the island knows how to build his boats. He said no. When I asked him if he would be willing to train someone else, his reply was that some have approached him about it, but the work is so meticulous it will take a very special person. It would be a shame for Abaco to lose this craft when Winer dies.

The Heritage Day program included a talk by Capt. Leonard Thompson who was born in Hope Town and will be 87 year old in June. Mr. Thompson reminded the people of the glory days when several large sailing vessels were built here or at Man-

O-War. Mr. Jenkins Roberts was the master boat builder under whose eye was built *The Abaco Bahamas*, *The P.J.*, or *The Alma R.* The wood for these vessels was cut from the trees on Abaco and hauled to Mouth of Harbour Point or Man-O-War where the *Priscilla* was built.

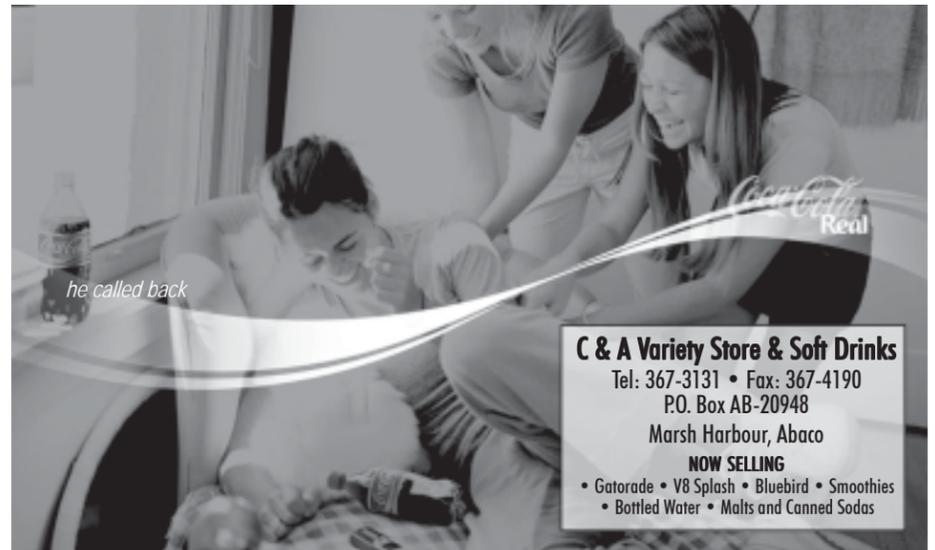
These three-masted ships were about 155 feet long, and 35 feet wide, and the masts were crafted from 80-foot trees. It would take a crew of 12 or more men a year to build them. As the boats were built on shore, getting them into the water was a full day's job. Homemade jacks and block and tackle to pull it would not have been enough by themselves. Aloe leaves were put on the timber skids between the boat and the shore. As the boat was pulled over them, they were crushed releasing the slick juices from

Please see **Sailing**

Page 22



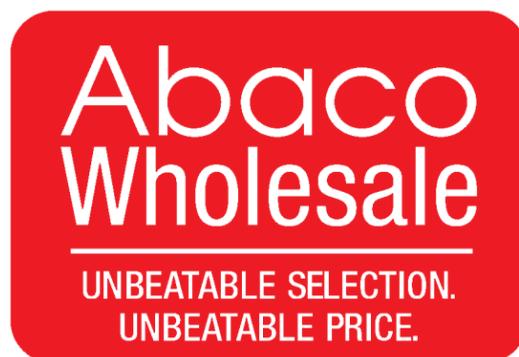
Mr. Vertrum Lowe was one of the speakers at the Hope Town Heritage Day celebration. He is shown with one of his ship models which are replicas of sailing ships once constructed on Abaco. He sold two of his models during the day.



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Hope Town Dump Is a Major Problem

By Stephanie Humblestone

"I am a Bahamian and I am ashamed," Elbow Cay resident Tito Baldwin told Mr. Ron Pinder, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister Health and Environment at an open meeting held at St. James Methodist Church in Hope Town on March 17. "What do tourists feel," continued Mr. Baldwin, "when they see our children almost falling out of golf carts on a road which looks like it has been hit by a Napalm bomb and then holding their noses as they pass the dump? Please help us."

The impassioned plea was one of many coming one day after firefighters had once

again fought a serious fire at the island's dump which is situated less than a mile south of the settlement. When its overflowing waste is being burned, billowing clouds of smoke overtake the small cay. The smoke is said to stretch as far as Tilloo and the Parrot Cays

Before attending the meeting, held expressly to remedy the problem of solid waste disposal on the cay, Mr. Pinder and a team of technical advisors from Nassau toured the dump site. With him on his mission "to find a solution" were the Director for Environmental Health Services, Ms. Melonie McKenzie; her Deputy Director, Mr.

Vincent Sweeting; Project and Technical Advisor, Mr. Anthony Burrows; and Assistant Manager Solid Waste Division, Mr. Ruel Forbes.

Accompanying them locally were Director of Tourism, Ms. Jeritzan Outten, and her assistant director, Don Cornish, members of the Police Force and local government representatives.

"It is disgusting," agreed Mr. Pinder. Without minimising the island's plight, he recognised that overall in The Bahamas the disposal of solid waste is a problem. Relating it to the boom in development, he stated, "We are producing more solid waste than we really have the ability to dispose of," This is causing ensuing "degradation of the environment" and potential serious health problems.

"We are one of the few countries in the world which does not pay for the collection and disposal of solid waste. It is costing government a substantial amount of money at the present time, and we do not have the funds to sustain this kind of environmental protection," he continued.

In view of this the government of The Bahamas may be obliged at some point to introduce an environment levy of \$5 to \$10 for every household and yacht to offset major expenses ahead like barging, the setting up of transfer stations and landfills.

In addition, he said, the government is committed to establishing proper sewerage disposal sites for boaters as emptying sewerage into the harbour is out of control.

Bringing the issue closer to home, he reminded residents that under the former administration the collection and disposal of solid waste was put in the hands of local government with an existing contract still in place.

However, he acknowledged that within

the last five years Elbow Cay has been under siege by two hurricanes and in their wake there is an accumulation of repair and construction-related garbage.

"We are prepared to remedy the situation, but it will be costly," said Mr. Pinder, outlining a short term "solution" of barging bulk waste such as heavy appliances to New Providence and newly generated waste to Marsh Harbour.

This would provide an opportunity for the dump to be cleaned, bringing the problem temporarily under control until a proper landfill is built on the mainland. A site is still being sought on Great Abaco Island. Meanwhile, he stressed, there is to be no burning at the dump.

A temporary transfer station was earmarked in White Sound, but this was questioned later when a resident stated that it was private land. The site of the former Elbow Cay Club was also mentioned as a temporary solution, pending the owner's permission

The "short term" proposal was acceptable to the community in theory, but the overriding concern was when? "We cannot wait any longer We have waited too long. The health of our community is at risk with smoke contamination," said Rhonda Claridge, Director of the Committee for a Clean Island founded in 2002 by Hope Town residents to better handle waste management on the island.

Along with Fire Chief Clay Wilhoyte, also holder of the contract for waste disposal on the island, she priced costs for barging and trucking garbage off the island. They estimated \$186,000 for start-up costs and a subsequent \$159,000 per annum for maintenance.



The Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Health, the Hon. Ron Pinder, toured the dump on Elbow Cay to see what can be done to remedy the situation. The dump has to be burned daily to contain the garbage on a small piece of land that is privately owned. The group shown here accompanied Mr. Pinder. They are, left to right, Ms. Bertha McPhee with the Department of Environmental Health on Abaco, Mr. Ross Thompson, Mr. Alexander Williams, Senior Administrator for Central Abaco, Mr. Jeff Key and Mrs. Diane Bethel. Mr. Thompson, Mr. Key and Mrs. Bethel are Hope Town District Councillors. Mr. Pinder is in the background.

Please see **HT Dump**

Page 5

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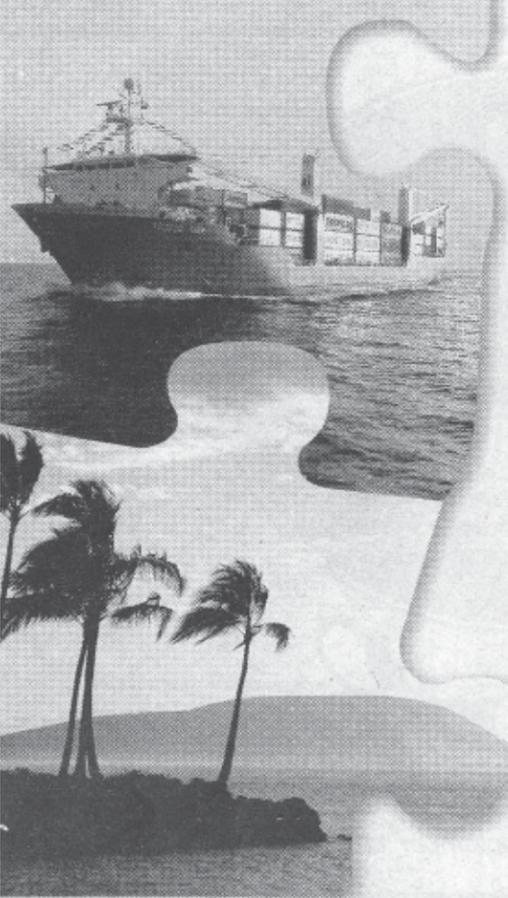
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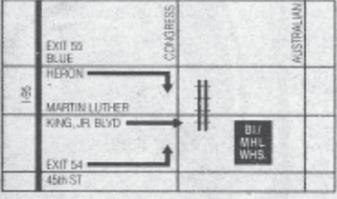
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Whale Fest Hosts First Wildlife Film Series

The Bahamas Marine Mammal Survey is proud to announce the Second Annual Great Abaco Whale Fest on April 1st - 4th. This multi-day festival is the primary fund raising event for BMMS with all proceeds directly supporting research and conservation of marine mammals in Abaco.

This year the Whale Fest is hosting Abaco's first-ever wildlife outdoor film series projected on a giant inflatable screen. BMMS is teaming with the Filmmakers for Conservation to host two evenings of award-winning National Geographic and Discovery films on whales and dolphins. A professional crew from Open Air Cinemas in Utah will be traveling to Abaco to set-up the huge (22 foot x 30 foot) inflatable screen and project the films.

The Hope Town community ball park

will be the site of the film premiere on April 2 from 7-11 p.m. Moviegoers are asked to bring a chair and enjoy corn dogs, popcorn and other yummy food sold by the Hope Town All-Age School PTA. BMMS will sell beer and wine. Please contact Froggie's (366-0431 in Hope Town or 365-6494 in Man-O-War) for information about transportation from Man-O-War.

Marsh Harbour will have its own showing on the giant outdoor screen on April 3 from 7 - 11 p.m. in Yahama Park, next to Bristol Cellars. Families can again enjoy food, drink and movies of marine mammals in the park. All attendees are asked to bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

Another highlight of the Whale Fest will be the Sandy Point 5K and 2.5K whale walk/run and BMMS Open House held on April

3. This family day of fun and education starts with race registration at 8 a.m. and an Open House at the BMMS Research Centre in the afternoon. Children and adults will enjoy the race course as it takes them through downtown Sandy Point and along the shoreline for a beautiful view of the water. After the awards ceremony, the Open House will feature BMMS' extensive marine mammal museum and videos, have hands-on educational games and demonstrations and provide opportunities to talk with researchers working in the field. Families can enjoy delicious Bahamian food, beer, sodas, games, music and swimming throughout the afternoon with food proceeds benefitting the Sandy Point PTA. Round trip transportation will be available, leaving Marsh Harbour at 7 a.m. across from Texaco and returning at 4 p.m. Participants may register on race day and receive a free T-shirt for raising \$25 or more in sponsorship. Sponsor sheets are available at Java's and Bellevue.

The Whale Fest finale is on April 4 with a wild dolphin adventure in the Sea of Abaco from 12:30 - 5 p.m. BMMS is teaming with Boat Harbour Marina for Sunday

brunch for those on the tour - show your wild dolphin ticket and 10 percent of your meal cost will be donated to BMMS. The tour will leave Hope Town at 12:30 p.m. and Boat Harbour Marina at 1 p.m. This educational tour will be narrated by marine mammal scientists who know "who's who" in Abaco's dolphin world. Conch salad, snacks, beer and sodas will be sold. Tickets are being sold at Java's and Froggie's and space is limited.

The Bahamas Marine Mammal Survey is a team of scientists, students and volunteers who have been conducting research and educational programs on dolphins and whales in the waters surrounding Abaco since 1991. BMMS also coordinates stranding response and offers internships for Bahamian students, lectures and field trips for schools and runs the Sandy Point Environmental Camp launched in 2003. BMMS' goals are to increase scientific knowledge and through public education, contribute to the conservation of marine mammals in The Bahamas. Please join us at the Whale Fest and support this important effort. For more information, contact BMMS at 242-366-4155 or email: bmms@oii.net.

Dump

From Page 4

When Mr. Pinder spoke of reviewing the costs when he returned to Nassau and "end of the fiscal year" considerations, there were many raised eyebrows.

"Don't tell us you are going to go away and think about it. That's not good enough. We have contractors sitting at the back of the room and they are ready," said Mr. Baldwin.

Mr. Wilhoyte highlighted the problem by giving specific concerns. "At most construction sites on this island pressure treated lumber is used for the majority of framing and decking. One tablespoon of ash from treated wood contains a lethal dose of arsenic" he said. "Already we have had one death from a man breathing fumes at a fire." Emphasising the magnitude of the problem Mr. Wilhoyte said, "Hope Town is only six miles long. The entire island, our drinking water, our soil, the food we eat, the air we breathe and even our reefs and marine life are being contaminated daily."

He added that nylon, rubber and wool produce hydrogen cyanide which causes muscle spasms, increased heart rate and respiratory problems. In addition, he feared for the firefighters who are "exposing

themselves to the very hazards they are trying to protect the community from."

Many firefighters stated that they would not respond to any more fires at the dump. "We fought the fire for over six hours. A propane cylinder exploded and a gas tank from a station wagon blew up in our faces," said Assistant Fire Chief Bonnie Hall.

The meeting ended with Mr. Pinder assuring the community that they would see some action within a few days and that he would return to Nassau and not "just deliberate." He promised, "I will be proactive in this matter."

Heritage

From Page 2

younger generation also learning the art and they made a valiant effort to keep up with the experts, despite a minor collision in the harbour!

The day ended with a silent auction and then, as the weary visitors, participants and organizers wended their way home, there was a general consensus that it had been a most wonderful and successful day, and everyone is very much looking forward to next year's Heritage Day.

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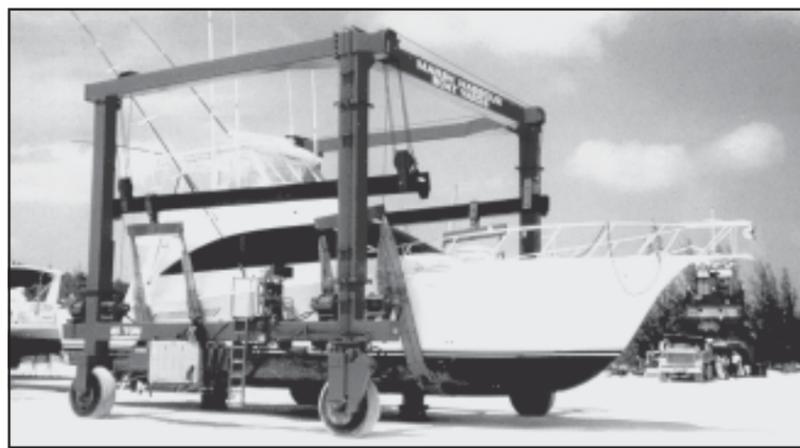
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Sports News

Youth In Action

The Youth In Action Basketball Program is now continuing with their program of teaching skills and drills. The kids and coaches are all having a wonderful time at the Dundas Town Park. Their regular season games are well under way. The first week's results are as follows:

Pee Wee League Ages 5 to 9
Heat 2, Clippers 0 - Shakeem Henschell scored 2 points for the Heat in the win.

Mini Girls League Ages 6 to 11
Hawks 2, Pistons 0 - Liyah Davis scored 2 points for the Hawks in the win.

Mini Boys League Ages 9 to 12
Suns 12, Celtics 8 - Arlington Wells scored 6 points for the Suns in the win. Julian Stuart had 4 points for the Celtics

Hornets 4, Suns 5 - Arlington Wells scored 3 points for the Suns in the win. Lukie Innocent Jr. had 2 points for the Hornets

Junior League Ages 13 to 15
Sixers 10, Kings 15 - Livingston Cornish scored 8 points for the Kings in the win. Kevin Altidor had 3 points. Cheynea Turnquest, the only girl playing in the boys Junior League, had 2 points.

Lakers 23, Sixers 18 - Stanley McIntosh 8 points / Winton Adderley 9 points for the Lakers in the win. Adrian Mitchell had 9 points / Henry Williams 7 points and Cheynea Turnquest 2 for the Sixers.

For the second year, we will be selecting two All-Star teams to travel to Freeport, Grand Bahama, in June to compete in the Hoytes Basketball Tournament.

The results of games held in mid March are as follows:

Game 1 Mini League
Celtics 2, Hornets 6 - Sheldon Martin, Lukie Innocent Jr. and Corderro Carey scored 2 points each for the Hornets.

Game 2 Pee Wee League
Heat 0, Clippers 4 - Jodie Martin and Clementino Burrows scored 2 points each for the Clippers

Game 3 Junior League
Lakers 8, Kings 10 - Lyndon Davis Jr., Japhus Blanc and George Martin scored 2 points each for the Lakers. Nekeli Williams lead all scorers with 8 points for the Kings. Elliott Stuart scored 2 points

Game 4 Girls
Pistons 3, Hawks 0 - Jasmine Ferguson scored 3 points for the Pistons

Game 5 Mini
Hornets 10, Suns 2 - Corderro Carey scored 4 points for the Hornets and Sheldon Martin, Chaz Darville, Tyquan Clarke each scored 2 points.

Game 6 Junior
Sixers 6, Lakers 16 - The Lakers had a balance scoring attack lead by 7 points from Winton Adderley, 3 points from Lyndon Davis Jr. 3 points and 2 points from Donald Simms, George Matrin and Japhus Blanc.

The scores for the March 20 competition are as follows:

Game 1 Juniors
Sixers 14, Kings 23 - Robin LeFrance had 10 points and Nikeli Williams had 5 points for the Kings. Adrian Mitchell scored 7 points for the Sixers

Game 2
Kings 6, Lakers 9 - Robin LeFrance scored 6 points for the Kings. Winton Adderley scored 4 points and Lyndon Davis, Jr., scored 3 points for the Lakers.

Game 3 Girls
Hawks 0, Pistons 10 - Balance scoring attack by the Pistons Jasmine Ferguson had 4 points / Serena Green and Zinnia Miller had 2 points each.

Game 4 Mini League
Celtics 7, Suns 15 - Arlington Wells scored 6 points and Elroy Knowles scored 6 points for the Suns.

Game 5
Celtics 4, Hornets 7 - Corderro Carey scored 4 points for the Hornets.

Game 6 Pee Wee
Heat 0, Clippers 10 - Jody Martin scored all 6 points for the Clippers.

Parents and Guardians Day

The Abaco Youth in Action will be having a fund raising event on April 3rd at the Ocean View Park in Dundas Town from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. This day is dubbed *Parents and Guardians Day* to give parents and guardians a chance to see their child play basketball. There will be a Three Point and Free Throw contest for the parents and guardians.

Parents are asked to ensure that their children are picked up promptly at 8 p.m. after the fund raiser.

The event is to raise fund for supplies and equipment for the program.

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be on sale. All are asked to come out and support this volunteer program.

Bodybuilding

The National Wheelchair and Sunshine Bodybuilding Fitness and Figure Classic was held on March 20 in West Palm Beach. The competition was held in weight classes for wheelchair athletes and Open and Masters classes for both men and women.

Veteran bodybuilder Arthur Elden, com-

peting in his first show of this year, placed third in the Masters Division over 60. The competition calendar year runs from March through November and Arthur hopes to compete in three or four more shows in Florida.

Surfing Competition

Surfing has been great this winter season. On March 21 a great contest was held at Hope Town Beach in two to four-foot surf at a break called Four Rocks. The results of the Bahamas Amateur Surfing Association's contest were as follows:

Juniors Division

- 1st Christian Wilhoite (Hope Town)
- 2nd Kyle Jordan (Juno Beach, Florida)
- 3rd Jacob Albury (Hope Town)
- 4th Kevin Jordan (Juno Beach, Florida)
- 5th Andrew Nottage (Hope Town)
- 6th Hannah Copeland (Duck, North Carolina)

Men's Open Division

- 1st Jeff Gale (Parrot Cay)
- 2nd Tim Albury (Hope Town)
- 3rd Rick Jordan (Juno Beach, Florida)

Check out our website for upcoming events: www.basurfinga.freesevers.com

Please see picture of the winners of the Junior Division on the next page.

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Surfing Is Popular Sport on Abaco

By Jennifer Hudson

Abaco, as we all know, is a very popular tourist destination known for its pristine beaches and crystal seas, balmy temperatures, friendly people and laid back atmosphere. What is a surprise to many people is that it is now becoming a popular destination for surfers.

Surfing or surf riding is "the sport of riding in towards shore on the crest of a wave." This exhilarating sport is now enjoyed in many countries throughout the world including The Bahamas.

Since surfing is a very young sport in The Bahamas many people are under the impression that this is a fairly new sport in general and may be surprised to learn that the first references to surfing came from the

journal of Captain King written in 1779 during one of his voyages with Captain Cook. His entry reads "Stormy weather or any extraordinary swell at sea and 20 to 30 natives with long narrow boards rounded at the end, plunging under the waves set out for shore. This is the first description of "he'e nalu," the Hawaiian word for surfing, ever recorded by Western man. The ancient Hawaiians left more accurate evidence carved in lava rock.

The Chiefs used surfing and other Hawaiian sports as competition to maintain their strength, agility and command over their people. Class distinction was evident in the type and size of surf board one owned.

Missionaries to Hawaii in 1820 believed the sport to be hedonistic and preached

against it so by 1890 the sport was almost extinct. However, by 1905 the missionary influence had declined, freeing up an avenue for the reintroduction of surfing. The famous Beach Boys of Waikiki are credited with the rebirth of surfing in Hawaii. In 1907 the sport was introduced in California and from thence spread worldwide.

"Surfing is gaining in popularity because of the exercise benefits and exhilaration the sport produces," according to one Florida surfing instructor. He also states, "Surfing is without doubt a full body workout, one

Please see **Surfing** Page 22



The Bahamas Amateur Surfing Association held a contest on March 21 on Elbow Cay. Shown here are the winners of the Junior Division. They are, left to right, Kevin Jorden, Kyle Jorden, Christian Wilhoyte, Hannah Copeland, Jacob Albury and Andrew Nottage.



Surfing on Abaco has become very popular both with local residents and visitors. Surf magazines claim that the waves are as good on Abaco as anywhere along the Atlantic coast.

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Clinic Offers Specialists in Many Fields

Auskell *From Page 1*

Collie to wonder, "Why not bring the specialists here?" "Now," she said, "a year later, 20 specialists are visiting us!" Abaconians are able to see a range of medical specialists - from heart, skin, bone and foot doctors to obstetrician-gynecologists, a pediatrician, allergist, audiologist and plastic surgeon -

right here in Marsh Harbour. Dr. Daniel Johnson, who co-founded Auskell with Mrs. Collie, as part of his mission to establish quality medical care throughout the Bahamas, welcomed everyone wholeheartedly and joyously. He said that he and Angie have risen to the challenge and he wants Abaconians to share in the experience.

Bringing remarks was the former Prime

Minister and Member of Parliament for North Abaco, the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham. Mr. Ingraham said that this facility that has been put in place is representative of what is happening on Abaco. Abaco has the fastest growing economy in the country. He congratulated Dr. Johnson and Mrs. Collie on their vision and thanked the doctors for providing Abaco with up-to-date medical practices. He went on to say that they are helping to provide the services expected of a city, seeing that Abaco is becoming the Bahamas' third city.

Mrs. Angie Collie gave a tearful and emotional address. It is because of her love for the people of Abaco that she is doing this. She has traveled to many countries and met many people but never once experienced the warmth like the people of Abaco. It was her dream and desire to bring specialists to Abaco. Mrs. Collie added that it was not about what Auskell can take but rather what they can give.

Cutting the ribbons to the medical clinic and officially opening the premises were Mrs. Vyrona Archer, Angie's mother, and Mr. Oscar Johnson, Sr., Dr. Johnson's fa-

ther. Also attending were doctors, many family, friends, well-wishers and local residents. Refreshments were served while guests listened to the sounds of Mr. Estin Sawyer.

The clinic hosted a two-day open house on March 19th and the morning of March 20th. Persons toured the facility, which boasts five examination rooms, radiology and sonogram rooms, a laboratory and a pharmacy as well as a reception area and staff room. Free blood, glucose and cholesterol tests were carried out as well as a blood drive to benefit the Rand Memorial Hospital in Freeport, Grand Bahama. The clinic also offered a sampling of its Anodyne Therapy, which is designed to stimulate blood circulation in the foot. This treatment is especially beneficial to diabetics. Auskell owns one of the only two sets of this therapy equipment in The Bahamas. Pharmaceutical representatives were present and provided information and literature on the medicines they sell. The clinic's first mammogram machine will soon arrive and full x-ray services will also be available shortly.

Marsh Harbour Library Holds Book Sale



The Marsh Harbour Community Library has held two sales of duplicate paperback books. This raises funds as well as giving space for additional books. The library has received the first of four quarterly shipments from Jim Milney. Two cartons of books in practically new condition were shipped from Ohio. The library is most appreciative of this donation.

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Yard Sale Raises Funds



The youth group of New Vision Ministries held a Yard Sale to raise money to fund a trip to summer camp in Tennessee. The sale on March 27 was very popular and offered a wide variety of merchandise. They plan other fund raising activities during the spring.

By Jennifer Hudson

Members of the New Vision Ministries Youth Group Cross Venture were out in full force to organize their yard sale in the AID parking lot on March 27th. Despite some rain early in the morning, the weather cleared in time for them to set out their bargains and have a most successful day. The event was very popular and a good crowd turned out to see what treasures they could find amongst the huge selection of toys, books, clothes and household goods.

The yard sale is one of the events that the youth group has organized to raise funds for 25 of their members to attend the Doe River Gorge Youth Camp in Tennessee from July 16th to 25th. Other fund raisers will include a car wash and a steak-out at the church on April 3rd and a "work day" in May when people will be able to pay one of the club members to do chores for them. Two weeks ago

the group participated in a very successful ten-mile walk-a-thon.

The youth group, which is run by Youth Pastor Brooks Russell, meets every Friday from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for young people in the grades 7 to 12 age group. Normally approximately 50 young people are in attendance. In addition to the Friday night meetings and fund raisers there are other fun activities such as beach parties and a "Survivor" competition which was held at Camp Abaco. Recently an all night "lock in" was held at the church which was greatly enjoyed by the 77 young people who participated.

Pastor Russell wishes to extend a welcome to all young people from all churches to join the Cross Venture Youth Group. Just go along to a meeting or check out their website www.nvministries.com.

Pool Champions Receive Trophies



The final awards ceremony for the Valley National Eightball Association Winter Abaco Pool League was held on March 22 at Mackerel's Restaurant in Dundas Town. Four teams, each with 10 persons, participated in the Winter League. Two teams were from Marsh Harbour, one from Black Wood and one from Mount Hope. They met twice a week for two months to practice. Each team competed about half the time in its home town. The Mount Hope BJ Hustlers won handily over the second place team, the Black Wood DNR Rattlers. The Rattlers barely won over the third place team by two and a half points. Top shooter was Harry Saunders of Mount Hope. This was the inaugural competition which included awards. The Association will begin their summer league on April 12 and expects to have eight teams competing. The teams are from all parts of Abaco. The Association is under the leadership of President Sid Dawes. Shown above are, left to right, Mr. Dawes, Mr. Edwin Sands, who supplies the equipment, Mr. Harry Saunders, Captain of the BJ Hustlers, and Mr. Jonathan Curry, sponsor of the winning team.



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"Interpreting The Input" Part I

This is an introduction to a series of topics that are of great value to you. As you read them, there are several things that will become important or that you will say "Hum" to or you will want to read and investigate more on. But, just to get you started, look at some of the obvious that are likely: "So you become who you were made to be"

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Hundreds Attend Annual Reef Ball

By Stephanie Humblestone

The Fourth Annual Reef Ball on March 20th, hosted by Friends of the Environment, drew close to 300 people from a cross section of the Abaco community. Held, as in previous years, in the big tent at the Abaco Beach Resort, the event was an opportunity to party while supporting one of Abaco's most worthy causes - environmental conservation.

Mrs. Erin Pagliaro, President of Friends of the Environment, welcomed guests with the announcement that an office is to open in Marsh Harbour and for the first time ever there is to be a salaried staff member. This newly created position will be held by Anita Knowles, present secretary of Friends.

"We hope that this will expand your access to the projects that Friends of the Environment works on and we hope that it will encourage you to get more closely involved in the conservation efforts taking place on your beautiful island," she said. She continued with what she referred to as "housekeeping," outlining in particular a recycling project for Abaco beginning with designated bins for aluminum cans at the

back of the tent. "Be careful not to put any chicken bones into those bins," she warned.

Encouraging membership and reminding members to renew existing ones, Mrs. Pagliaro suggested they see someone at a nearby table. She expressed gratitude to Manager John Neophytou and staff for providing a fine array of food including something new this year - sushi. She thanked him for the offer of reimbursing unused red raffle-style drink tickets at the end evening and donating the proceeds to Friends of the Environment. "We will use these extra funds for conservation," she said.

Before presenting this year's environmental awards, committee members of Friends lined up on the dance floor below the stage where Modern Vintage, a golden oldies band from Nassau, was gearing up for the night.

Mr. Michael Albury, Vice President of Friends, presented four environmental awards. The first award was to Paul Pinder, a renowned bone fishing guide who is the an Abaconian committed to the Abaco wildlife and a certified birding guide. Patti Toler received an award for educating people daily

on the Cruisers Net."She shows us what a difference one person can make," said Mr. Albury. Lambert and Theresa Albury at Froggies Out Island Adventures were awarded for educating people on marine life, establishing moorings at Fowl Cay and Sandy Cay and assisting over the years with transportation to and from the Reef Ball. Finally, "last but not least," said Mr. Albury, "an award goes to Mr. Nick Maillis for harvesting and processing the Neem plant.

With that the band started up and the celebrations began. The evening wound down with an unfortunate incident which had a happy outcome (see story following.)

Heroics at the Annual Reef Ball

By Stephanie Humblestone

The fourth annual Reef Ball, hosted by Friends of the Environment and held at the Abaco Beach Resort in Marsh Harbour, ended in heroics when Drs. Frank Boyce and Marc Binard from Abaco Family Medicine came to the aid of a choking man, following a request from the band Modern Vintage for a doctor among the 300 guests.

As the Nassau group played golden oldies and partiers jostled for space on the crowded dance floor, Mr. Percy Albury, owner of K & S Service Station in Marsh Harbour, began grasping his neck and opening his mouth wide as he struggled to dis-

lodge a piece of meat from his airways.

Drs. Boyce and Binard flipped promptly from social to medical mode. The Heimlich maneuver proving ineffective, the two men brought Mr. Albury to the ground and aggressively administered abdominal thrusts and CPR. When the distressed man appeared limp and unresponsive, Dr. Boyce urged, "Come on Percy! Come on!"

The two doctors worked for at least 20 minutes in unison. "It was an impressive display of teamwork," remarked one of the guests. Finally, Dr. Boyce swept his fingers deep through Mr. Albury's throat and removed the obstacle.

Relatives, huddled in nearby groups, hugged each other and cheers erupted from the crowd as the distressed man began to show positive signs of life.

The band started up again with some subdued songs gradually followed by more upbeat ones, everyone aware that the outcome could have been very different.

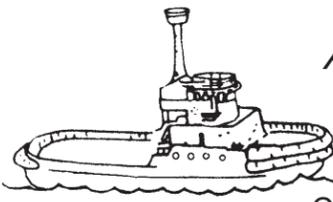
"It was a sobering experience. I am so pleased both doctors were here. They were heroes," remarked resort manager Mr. John Nephytou.

For Marsh Harbour resident Percy Albury, known locally as Mr. Percy, it was an unforgettable evening and a close call. "My father was pretty bruised up the following day but he's doing well. He is really grateful to the doctors," said son Shannon.



Friends of the Environment held its much anticipated Reef Ball on March 20 at Abaco Beach Resort. Awards are given in several categories for outstanding contributions to preserving the environment. Two of those awarded, Lambert and Teresa Albury of Froggies Out Island Adventures, were lauded for their efforts to educate people on marine life. Shown above are, left to right, John Harold Bethell, Director of Friends, Mr. Albury, Lory Kenyon, Treasurer of Friends, Mrs. Albury, and Michael Albury, President of Friends.

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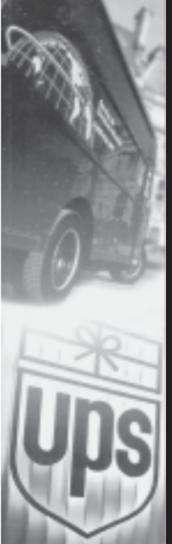
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Central Abaco News

Dominos Tournament Benefits Police Welfare

On March 13 the Abaco Division of the Royal Bahamas Police Force held its first annual Domino Tournament. The event was staged on the grounds of the Police Station in Marsh Harbour. Fourteen teams entered the fun-filled competition although there were times when the games got hot. A total of 30 games were played. In the end three teams ended in a tie with 20 points each which forced a showdown. After the smoke had cleared, the team of Pinder and Elvies were declared the overall winners. This team also captured the half-time prize with 14 points. The winners were as follows:

1st place Howard Pinder and Charles Elvies

2nd place Elroy Knowles and Petty

3rd place Lester Bootle and Tyrone Albury

Trophies were awarded to the first three winners. A consolation prize of two packs of Dominos was awarded to the fourth place

team which consisted of Supt. Russell and Insp Barr.

Supt Russell remarked that it was, indeed, a pleasure for the division to host the event which displays that the police force is not only about arresting people but fostering a closer relationship with the community. He said laughingly that while it gave him a displeasure in presenting the awards, he warned the winners that he will be back for the next tournament. The event was strongly supported and both participants and spectators enjoyed themselves.

The funds raised will go into the Police Welfare Fund for Abaco Police.

Pathfinders Holds Annual Fund Raising Event

The major annual fund raising for Pathfinders Scholarship Foundation was an auction held on March 12 at Abaco Beach Resort. Pathfinders provides scholarships for 10 students each year, continuing the scholarships for these students until they have completed their course of study. This spring

Pathfinders will name an additional 10 students, bringing the total they are supporting to 40 students.

Each year the organization raises the money by a different effort. This year it was a silent auction and a live auction. This was preceded by cocktails and hor d'oeuvres.

The items auctioned were varied and included vacation resort accommodations,

airline travel, ads in various publications, paintings, carved wood tables, an air tour of Abaco combined with a dive trip, boat rentals, French tutoring, charter trips, jewelry and many other items. The auction was very successful and the students can be assured that they will receive their funding.

Please see **Central**

Page 22



Players and spectators alike enjoyed the recent dominos tournament sponsored by the Royal Bahamas Police Force on Abaco and held at the Marsh Harbour Police Station. The police hope to make this an annual event. Shown above is second place winner, Corp. Elroy Knowles, on the left and competitor Shannon Albury on the right.



Pathfinders Scholarship Foundation offers Abaco students financial assistance for furthering their education abroad. Their fund raising this year was an auction held on March 12 which attracted a large crowd. Pathfinders has made arrangement with Shenendoah University to offer a special scholarship to a deserving student. The President of the university, Dr. James Davis, attended the auction. Providing additional funding for that student will be Marsh Harbour lawyer, Mrs. Rhonda Hull, who has already raised funds for the foundation by participating in a marathon in Florida. Shown above are, left to right, Mrs. Kathy Weldon, Administrator of Pathfinders, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Hull, and Mrs. Davis.

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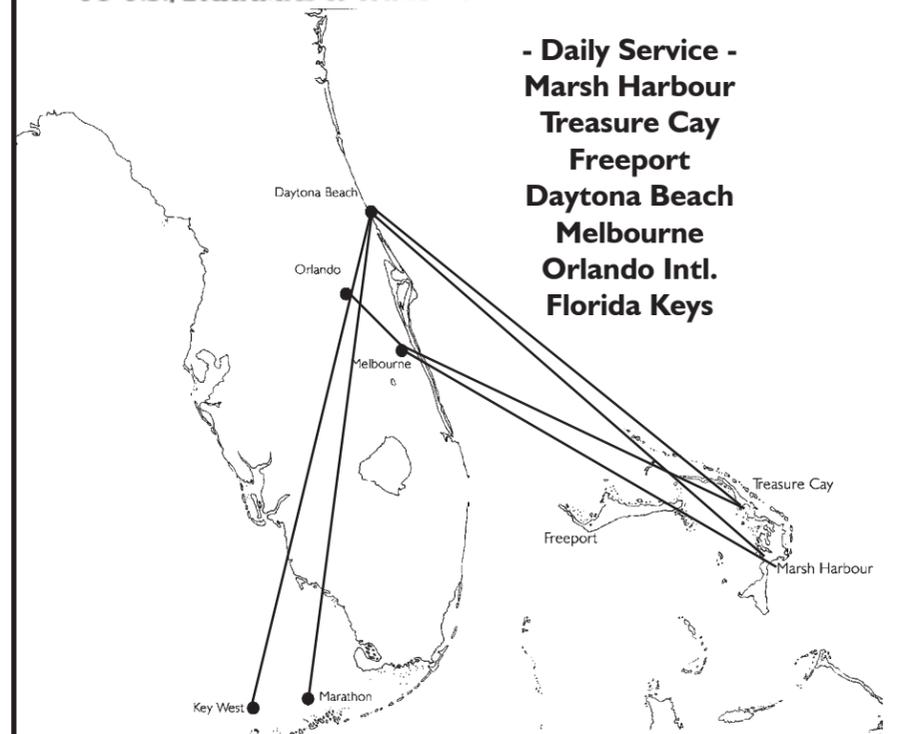
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News of the Cays

Hope Town

Fire and Rescue Fair

By Stephanie Humblestone

Once again the annual Fire and Rescue Fair on March 13th drew crowds from the small island and throughout Abaco. It was a tropical occasion in all senses with festivities enjoyed under sunny skies with "Squiggle," Souse Chicken and Johnny cake in great demand.

Children delighted in the NASCRAB and toy fire engine races and the adults enjoyed the long-awaited silent and live auctions.

The highlight of the event was a grease fire demonstration in Hope Town harbour which was a lesson in what not to do. Throwing water on the flames, which is the instinctive reaction, aggravates the fire as is seen in the photo. The only effective

method of bringing the fire under control is using a fire extinguisher.

Fire extinguishers and smoke detectors were on sale at the fair.

All members of the small fire department worked hard to make it a successful day but special recognition this year goes to Justin Noice, medical team leader who was instrumental in its smooth running. Funds raised were close to \$17,000. This will go towards the rebuilding of the Fire Station which was damaged by Hurricane Floyd in 1999.

Fishing Tournament Is Planned

The Abaco Anglers 34th Annual Fishing Tournament will be held on April 15-22. This anticipated event provides a week of fishing for the entire family. The awards banquet will be held April 23. Many cat-



One of the demonstrations that the Hope Town Fire and Rescue performed was showing that water cannot extinguish a grease fire. That type of fire requires a fire extinguisher.



Hope Town Fire and Rescue showed off its two fire trucks and equipment at its annual fund raising held on March 13. The firemen had interesting demonstrations and entertained their many supporters with games and races.

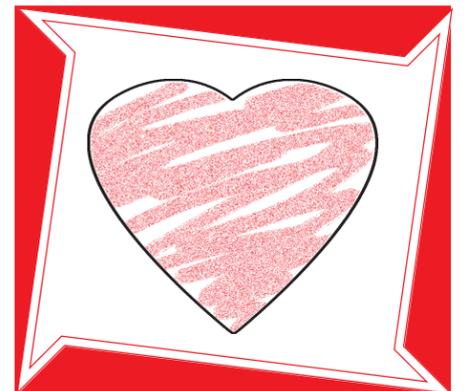
egories and age groups make this a special event. For more details contact Linda Knowles at 366-0154.

Man-O-War

On any given quiet evening in Man-O-War, the musical harmonies played by Spurgeon Sawyer might have been heard echoing around the settlement. One of his favorite songs was *Amazing Grace* which he would be heard leading amongst admirers and other musicians, either through the open doors of the Man-O-War Church of God or beneath the old fig tree on the school

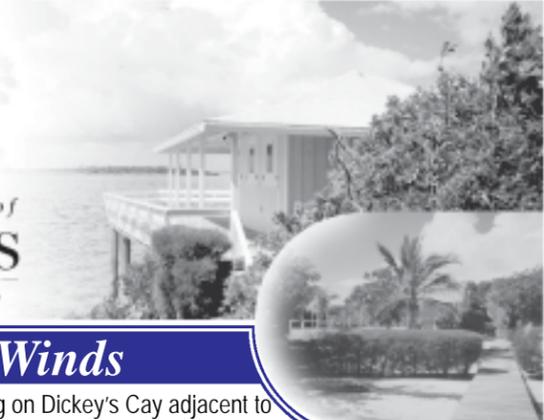
Please see **Cays**

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Trade Winds

Man-O-War. Superb offering on Dickey's Cay adjacent to lovely Man-O-War Cay. Sea-to-sea property, 36,217 square feet of land, 2 bedroom, 2 bath main house, bunkhouse with bath sleeps two, cottage on the Sea of Abaco houses room for more guests and includes a kitchenette. All buildings are constructed using traditional ship building techniques - all mahogany paneling, hardwood floors - construction built to last decades. Deepwater dock on the protected main harbour. Prime opportunity, plenty of room to expand, realistically priced. Fully furnished and ready to go!

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Bahama Palm Shores. Priced to sell! Nice 10,000 s. f. home site in Section 2. Walk to gorgeous 8 Mile Beach! #6872. \$15,000

Guana Cay. 2/2 cottage, just steps to the beach. Vaulted ceilings, tile, screened porch, elevated deck, A/C dockage. Excellent rental record. #7900. \$391,050

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

Lubbers Quarters. High elevation! Views! 3-storey home under construction, materials on site. Just a short stroll to Cracker P's. Dock for residents. #8628. \$694,000

Lubber Quarters. **REDUCED!** 1.98 acres on north end, west side, 168' frontage. Nearly complete 1,000 s. f. cottage. Gorgeous beach & views. #8213. \$230,000

Marsh Harbour. **REDUCED!** 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. #8551. \$215,000

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

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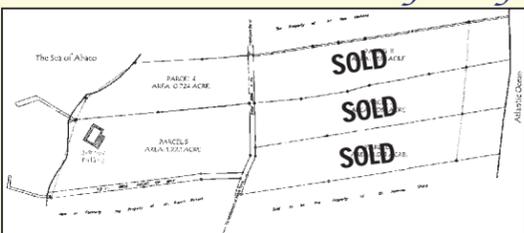
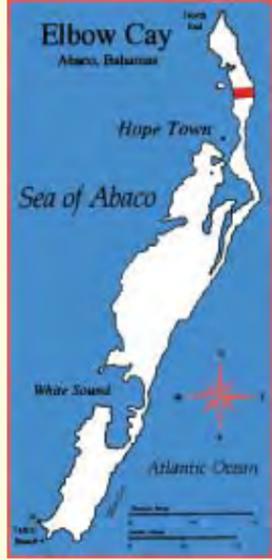
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★ HOMES ★



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Managing Broker

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"Pelican Point"

Marsh Harbour - Pelican Shores - 3 bedroom, 3 bath home - 1 bedroom, 1 bath garage apartment - 1 1/2 Acres -private dock with boat-lift - Fabulous Views. - The privacy of a private island with in town convenience. Furnished. # A B 6 7 - \$ 2 , 9 5 0 , 0 0 0



"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.

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

- ★ **Great Guana Cay - "Plum Loco" - 3 bedroom, 2 bath - 1,228 sq.ft. home - on almost 1/2 acre with 100' of beautiful beachfront. Tastefully Furnished and fully equipped - #AB97- \$752,000.**
- ★ **Great Guana Cay - "North Star" - 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 - \$995,000**
- ★ **Great Guana Cay - "Aquarium" - Boat Harbour Area - 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,100 sq.ft. Home. Great Elevation, Superb views - Fully Equipped. #AB98 - \$345,000.**
- ★ **Green Turtle Cay - Family Residence - 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath -2,265 sq.ft. living space on two floors on 1 1/2 secluded acres. # AB35 - \$945,000.**
- ★ **Green Turtle Cay - "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 - "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 - "Dannie's Den" - 2 bedroom, 2 bath new home + 80' Waterfront - Almost 1 1/2 wooded acres. - Private Dock - # AB73 - \$355,000.**



"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.



"Down South"

Man-O-War Cay - Settlement - 1 bedroom, 1 bath - 780 sq.ft. Cottage - upper level dormitory - Convenient to beach, grocery and marina. Perfect for the yachtsman who wishes a compact base ashore Furnished. #AB117 - UNDER CONTRACT



John Cash, BRI
Estate Agent

Joined H.G. Christie,
in 2000.

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Margot Lee
Estate Agent

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Man-O-War Cay

Tel: (242) 365-6156
Fax: (242) 365-6229
e.mail: margot@abacoinet.com

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 - Auxillary Generator. # AB87 - \$430,000.**
- ★ **Marsh Harbour - "Sunset Point" - 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.**
- ★ **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.**
- ★ **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.**



Kathleen Albury, BRI
Estate Agent
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"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 cays views. Fully Furnished - # AB112- \$2,100,000.



"Endless Summer"

Marsh Harbour - Eastern Shores - 4 bedroom, 3 bath - 2,700 sq.ft. Home. Private Dock with boat lift on the Sea of Abaco. Some of the most Fabulous Panoramic Views in Abaco. Across the road from Beach. fully Furnished. #AB118 - \$1,500,000.

★ VACANT LAND ★

- ★ **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 - "Marnie's Creek" - 1/2 acre hillside building sites, a private dock slip for each parcel Fabulous Sea of Abaco views - # AB5114 - from: \$230,000.**
- ★ **Green Turtle Cay - Coco Bay Area - "Madera Hill" - 1.497 Acres - 312' x 209' - Waterfront access super views. # AB5143 - \$395,000.**
- ★ **Green Turtle Cay - "Coco Sound" - 28 prime residential building sites - between Coco Bay and White Sound from 1/4 - 1/2 acre # AB5090 - from: \$59,000.**
- ★ **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 waterfrontage 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.**



"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 Furnished - Ready for Occupancy - #AB86 - NEW PRICE \$585,000



"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

Club News

Rotary Supports Polio Eradication

By Jennifer Hudson

A photograph of Mr. Haziel L. Albury of Man-O-War Cay will soon be seen adorning five gallon bottles placed in various business locations by the Rotary Club of Abaco.

Rotary International is working towards eradicating polio worldwide by the year 2005. The Rotary Club of Abaco is committed to assisting in this ambitious project and was looking for a way to make the public more aware of what the collection bottles are about and the importance of donations.

When approached, Mr. Albury was delighted to help and was eager to do so in any way he could. Mr. Haziel is a revered retired school teacher and author of the book *Man-O-War, My Island Home*. He was asked to assist because he himself was a victim of the dreadful disease, polio.

Mr. Haziel first took sick at the age of two years. In the year 1927 it was difficult to get to a doctor. His parents heard that

in those days. Mr. Haziel's mother was told to keep the child's body warm, bathe him in salt water or take him in the sea when the weather was suitable, bandage the knees and ankles and give him Virol for nourishment. Virol was a nourishing spread which was placed on bread as there were very few (if any) vitamins on the island in those days.

Throughout the next 11 years young Haziel experienced pains at various times in all the joints of his body. Although there were times when, maybe for a month or so, he could attend school, much of the time he could not even walk. Miraculously, at the age of 14 years the disease left him and he has been able to lead a normal life ever since with no paralysis.

Not all polio victims are as fortunate in their recovery as Mr. Haziel. Many victims in impoverished countries who do not get proper care and nourishment become paralyzed for life, unable to earn a living or even care for themselves.

Another polio survivor is world famous concert violinist Itzhak Perlman, whom I had the privilege of hearing in concert just a few weeks ago in the U.S. He contracted the illness as a boy of four years in his home country of Israel. The disease left both his legs totally paralyzed. Fortunately, the disease did not affect his arms and through sheer dedication he has become the world's top violinists today. He has overcome great odds to achieve this. He sometimes uses a wheelchair and sometimes pulls himself on stage using crutches and his violin is handed to him. On occasion he has even fallen on stage while courageously trying to drag his useless legs into position. His is a tremendous triumph of the will to overcome the effects of this devastating disease.

The Rotary Club is asking that you assist them in their efforts by generously donating to this worthy cause whenever you see one of these special five gallon bottles.

Dr. Kendrick would be visiting Guana Cay. So his father sculled the seven miles to get his son to a doctor. On seeing the child's painful condition, Dr. Kendrick diagnosed the illness as Infantile Paralysis, as the disease of polio was called



Mr. Haziel Albury

New Club Officers Are Named

By Pat Bowlds

At the beginning of March Commodore Donald Van Beck officially handed over the leadership of the Royal Marsh Harbour Yacht Club (RMHYC) to John Mitchell. John and his wife, Pam, are well known in Marsh Harbour and have homes in Pelican Shores and Ontario, Canada. Three new Rear Commodores were added to the bridge

including Pat Bowlds, publicity, Milt Sales, membership, and Missy Trottier, secretary. Other officers are Vice Commodore Dave Bluto, Vice Commodore, Tonia Van Mill, and Rear Commodores Don Bottaro, Tom O'Brien, Brian O'Donnell, and Pat Stoddard. George Fraiser is the Treasurer. In an interview with the new Commodore, Mitchell said, "We are very enthusiastic about the future of the Royal Marsh

Please see **Club**

Page 15



Royal Marsh Harbour Yacht Club has recently made donations to several volunteer service organizations. These were presented on March 16 to BASRA, Guana Fire and Rescue and Trauma One. Shown above are, left to right, Dave Bluto, Vice Commodore; Dave Gale with BASRA, Troy Albury with Guana Fire and Rescue, Dan Wiltfang with Trauma One and John Mitchell, Commodore of the RMHYC



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34th Annual Abaco Anglers Fishing Tournament

April 15 -22, 2003

Entry Fees	Adults \$85 Juniors \$40
Dates/Times	Thursday, April 15, 2004 thru Thursday, April 22, 2004 - 7 am to 6 pm
Weigh Stations	Lighthouse Marina, Hope Town Pete's Pub, Little Harbour ** Other locations may be added
Banquet	To Be Announced Friday, April 23, 2003 Cocktails at 6 pm (cash bar) Dinner at 7 pm Awards Presentation Following Raffle: Donations from area merchants Music by DJ Frankie Trophies by Pete Johnston

Fun For The Entire Family!

Club *From Page 14*

Harbour Yacht Club and its place on Abaco. The new team plans to expand services for the membership and for the community at large."

"We will continue our support for boating safety projects such as dinghy dock construction and maintenance and installation of new markers for the entrance to the Marsh Harbour cruisers' channel. Working alongside the Marsh Harbour Port Authority, the club will have the new marker buoys installed very soon. The goal is to prevent the numerous accidental "groundings" and to eliminate some of the confusion between the commercial and recreational channels."

"Additional boating education programs are also on the docket," Mitchell reports. "We hope to tap the talents of our membership and local experts in an effort to provide courses and seminars focused on the various aspects of maritime life."

"We are, as always, available to any boaters in need of information, equipment and services and look forward to becoming an integral part of this most caring community."

As in the past, the Club will continue to provide support for BASRA." At the March meeting of the Club, David Gale, representing BASRA, was presented a check for \$1000.

"While our members have always given their services to Abaco schools, libraries and museums, additional community focus is planned," according to Mitchell. "We are also pleased to have the opportunity to make financial donations to various volunteer organizations such as Trauma One." At the March meeting, Dan Wiltfang accepted a \$1000 donation for Trauma One, the Abaco ambulance service.

"We also feel it's very important to keep our members updated on government regulations such as those of Customs and Immigration, Fisheries, local government and law enforcement. We will continue to work closely with the local Department of Tourism to promote visitation to the area and positive experiences in Abaco."

Lecture Focused on Bottlenose Dolphins

Friends of the Environment presented an evening lecture on *Bottlenose Dolphins of Abaco: Kin and Communities* on March 15. The lecturer, Dr. John Durban, discussed the results of research that he has conducted on bottlenose dolphins of Abaco. This was

done in collaboration with Dr. Kim Parsons (incidentally his wife) and Diane Claridge of the Bahamas Marine Mammal Survey. His lecture included slides of dolphins and graphics illustrating his findings.

Dr. Durban's research began in 1995 and



Dr. John Durban gave a talk about his research on dolphins in Abaco Sound and off Sandy Point which has been ongoing for nine years. He was able to compare their differing characteristics and habits. Friends of the Environment arranged the lecture which was the first to be held in its new conference room upstairs over Doug's Place. Dr. Durban is pictured above with Diane Claridge of Bahamas Marine Mammal Survey.

compared the behavior and social interactions of the bottlenose dolphins of Abaco Sound in Central Abaco with those of the dolphins off Sandy Point. He also compared these with the dolphins off Hole-in-the-Wall and those on Matanilla Shoals north of Grand Bahama.

Bottle nose dolphins are found around the world in tropical and temperate waters, in both shallow and deep waters. They display a variety of body shapes and forms and their behavior and feeding habits vary greatly depending on location.

The study of dolphins on the Little Bahama Bank is interesting in that these dolphin have been isolated by deep water for decades. Their environmental factors affect them in many ways. Those in the protected waters of Abaco Sound react to their surroundings differently from those near deep water by Sandy Point and Hole-in-the-wall..

His wife, Dr. Parsons, has developed a way of determining DNA from skin samples and from their droppings so they were able to identify family relations, even exactly how they were related to each other. Dolphins are identified by their distinctive fins and BMMS has many photographs identifying each animal.

The factors of their habitat determine many of their traits including the size of the group they travel in. Dolphins in Abaco Sound are frequently found in groups of around three whereas those found off Sandy Point are in groups of about eight. The scientists feel that this is because of the exposure of the dolphins near deep water to many more dangers including sharks. There are also larger schools of fish in the exposed locations for them to feed on. They also

Please see **Dolphins** Page 23

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a professional Licensed Real Estate Appraiser who has performed work for most local financial institutions, many attorneys and private individuals.

She also serves as Estate Agent with H.G. Christie, Ltd. with six years of extensive and varied experience in real estate, both in the U.S. and the Bahamas, four of these years in Abaco. She maintains licenses in both countries. She has completed many continuing education courses, having received her Bahamas Real Estate Institute designation, and can be considered one of the best trained realtors in Abaco.

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

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Only 6 Lots remaining in a 15 Lot Subdivision in Guana Cay for sale exclusively by Abaco Real Estate Agency. The property is located approximately 1 mile south of Guana Cay's main settlement and is accessible by golf cart or by boat. Amenities include: community dock, graded roads, all lots surveyed, subdivision runs from sea to sea. All lots have fabulous views of the Sea of Abaco or the Atlantic Ocean. Average lot sizes ar 21,000 sq. ft. Offered from: **\$120,000**

See additional listings below or on our website.

Royal Harbour - Marsh Harbour Lot #26 consisting of 14,583 sq. ft. Offered at: \$117,000
Escape Hatch - Newly furnished and fully equipped 2 bed/2 bath condo unit at Regattas of Abaco in the heart of Marsh Harbour. Features island motif decor, brand new GE appliances, central A/C, porch overlooking garden, and harbour views. Offered at: \$252,000
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 seperately 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
Marnie's Landing - Elbow Cay 15 Lots ½ Acre ± with private boat slips from: \$280,000
Marsh Harbour - New exclusive listing near Crossing Beach/Ferry Dock 2 Acres ± Residential with 196' waterfront. Offered at: \$599,000
Sugar Loaf Cay - 2.6 Acres ± waterfront on Sugar Loaf Cay Lot #7A. Great investment. Offered at: \$260,000
White Sound - Elbow Cay - Interior Lot 100' X 378' Great Atlantic views, Offered at: \$168,000 **UNDER CONTRACT**

Scotland Cay Waterfront

New Exclusive Listing - Scotland cay ¾ Acre ± waterfront. Only parcel on S. W. Side with fabulous white powder beach, great elevations and breathtaking views. This property won't last. Offered at: **\$695,000**

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Hotel Licensing Workshop Explains Licensing Procedures

Mrs. Mellanie Farrington was the main speaker at a Hotel Licensing Workshop held at the Anglican Parish Hall on March 1. Members of the various hotel licensing boards and other local government members attended to hear the presentation and get questions answered.

Mrs Farrington opened with several interesting facts. Hope Town has the largest number of hotels registered and Abaco has fewer problems than some other islands. According to Mrs. Farrington, Abaco has 44 hotels with 854 rooms.

A hotel is defined as one or more buildings with four or more bedrooms or ten or more beds for reward under common management and enjoying common ancillary services.

The annual hotel license fee is \$3 per room although this fee is waived in the Out Islands if the facility has less than 25 rooms. This license expires December 31 in Nassau and expires March 31 in the Out Islands.

Hotels collect a six percent room tax

which is charged to their guests. This tax must be submitted to government by the 15th of the following month. There may be fees imposed by the hotel for utility surcharges or promotional assessments by a hotel promotion board. Hotels delinquent in remitting their hotel tax can be audited by the Minister of Tourism and an assessment made.

Hotels can be sold but new owners must apply for a transfer of the license. Houses rented under the management of a hotel are also subject to the six per cent hotel room tax.

Hotels are inspected annually, usually by a four department team representing Tourism, Environmental Health, Ministry of Works and Police/Fire Department.



Mrs. M. Farrington

If a team member is absent, the license cannot be granted until that member has made their inspection and all deficiencies are corrected.

Hotels can be owned by non-Bahamians but they must secure Foreign Investment Board approval before the license is issued.

Mrs. Farrington is the Director of Hotel Licensing within the Ministry of Tourism. She stated that the situation of rental houses is under study with a view to taxing this segment of the industry in an equitable manner. A common complaint of the hotels is that the rental houses are able to offer cheaper prices since they do not pay a hotel tax.

The inspectors send a list of deficiencies to the local hotel licensing boards and to the hotel facility. The items on the list must be complied with before a hotel license can be issued.

New Airline Launches Service

Yellow Air Taxi took off on its inaugural flight from West Palm Beach to The Bahamas on February 17, 2004. The Yellow Air Taxi concept was the brainchild of veteran airline pilot Christopher Behnam, a frequent visitor to The Bahamas who recognized the need for improved airline service to the islands.

The company is backed by more than just an innovative business philosophy and a hard-to-miss fleet of bright yellow planes. The management team has over 50 years of collective aviation experience with major, commuter and charter airlines.

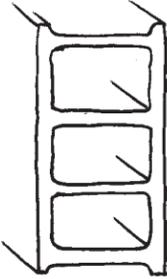
The airline currently flies out of Fort Lauderdale Jet Center and Signature Flight Support at the West Palm Beach airport. Tickets can be purchased online through Yellow Air Taxi's online booking and real time inventory control system.

Yellow Air Taxi is currently offering flights to Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay. Private charters are available daily to all major Bahamas destinations. For more information on Yellow Air Taxi, call (954) 359-0292 or visit www.flyyellowairtaxi.com.



A seminar on hotel licensing was held on March 1 for government personnel from the entire island of Abaco. Mrs. Melanie Farrington, Director of Hotel Licensing within the Ministry of Tourism was the main presenter. Shown above are, left to right, Mr. Alexander Williams, Senior Administrator for Central Abaco, Ms. Monique Hepburn with the hotel licensing board in Nassau, Mr. Samuel Miller, Administrator-in-training, Mr. Gary Knowles, Administrator for North Abaco, Mrs. Farrington, and Mr. Roderick Bowe, Administrator for South Abaco.

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Tilloo Cay #1021 - Two adjacent parcels with good draft just offshore and excellent elevations. Call for details.



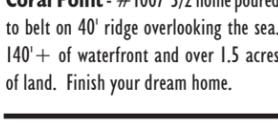
REDUCED #1003 Best priced home on Elbow Cay - 2/2.5 home on 17,000 sq. ft. lot. Offers sea views, central A/C, cypress tongue and groove walls and plans for a main house of 4,000 sq. ft. with 3/3.5 on two levels with wrap around patios. A MUST SEE \$399,500



Coral Point - #1007 3/2 home poured to belt on 40' ridge overlooking the sea. 140'+ of waterfront and over 1.5 acres of land. Finish your dream home.



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



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Bahama Palm Shores - 1065 Interior vacant lot on hill with electricity and short walk to beach. \$15,000. Other lots available

Marsh Harbour 1028 - Two harbour front lots, Elevated and deep water. \$225,000 & 325,000

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Cays

From Page 12

grounds. Spurgeon had a kind word and a smile for everyone he met, and so it was an especially sad day on March 22 when the



Mr. Spurgeon Sawyer

news of his passing came. He turned 56 this past January. Left behind are his mother, Ms. Mabel Sawyer, wife Molly Sawyer, son Thurman Sawyer, Esq., daughter-in-law Jeren Sawyer, son in law Grant Sands and daughter Mailin Sands. One of his many loves was baseball, and Spurgeon was an avid New York Yankees fan.

And so it follows, on a happier note, the Man-O-War Ballfield Association will hold a fund raising cookout at the ballfield on April 3 from 12 Noon until the early evening hours. Proceeds will go towards the completion of the landscaping work currently underway. Anyone wishing to assist in the effort is requested to contact Mr. Haziel McDonald at 365 6016.

The students and teachers of Man-O-War All Age School hosted an assembly for Bahamian History month on March 24th during which different eras of Bahamian history were highlighted. The students and staff would like to convey our greatest appreciation to Ms. Marie Cherry and Ms. Marianna Heyward who have given generously of their time teaching writing skills and shell crafts.

Man-O-War Marina is hosting its First



Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hall are pleased to announce the engagement of Ms. Bernadette Hall to Mr. Jeffrey Charles Harding, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nigel Harding of New Providence. Their marriage will take place on May 1st, 2004, at St. James Methodist Church in Hope Town.

Annual Invitational Fishing Tournament to be held April 2-5. The tournament will award prizes for the largest pelagic fish in the following categories: tuna, dolphin, wahoo and kingfish. Good luck to all.

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

VILLAS

Brigantine Villas
Ocean front, private, 2 bed / 2 bath \$280,000

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

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Ocean front luxury units with lagoon pool / waterfall
2 bed / 2 bath octagonal houses
Front row Unit #1 \$425,000
Garden/ocean Unit #4 \$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. A real "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! \$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
"Sea Star" built as a retiree's dream house, this comfortable spacious home has 2 bed / 2 bath with cozy living/dining/kitchen. Also enclosed porch, carport, utility room. Lush garden w/ picket fence. Package shows lots of TLC. \$370,000

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

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New Signs Are Promoting Our Island

The sign "Keep Abaco Clean, Green and Pristine," erected mid-February this year at the airport round-about, is in keeping with the Department of Environmental Health's ongoing campaign to promote cleanliness of the environment in The Bahamas. Similar signs will be posted throughout Abaco: two in North Abaco, one in South Abaco and one in Hope Town. The sign was presented to Administrator Alexander Williams by Ms. Berthamae McPhee on behalf of the Department of Environmental Health.



In the spring of 1999 the Committee of the Sand Bank Yacht Club, requested Doreen Barth to produce a sign to place at the entrance of the Treasure Cay marina. The sign was completed and put in place. Then came Hurricane Floyd on September 14, 1999, and the sign disappeared. In spite of an intensive search, it was never found. This past spring, Barbara Farnham, Fleet Captain of the club, asked Doreen to repeat the project and paint a replacement sign. After a month of creative endeavour, the project was accomplished. A more appropriate location was found at the entrance to the marina and it is now near the gas dock where it can be viewed by all boats entering and leaving the marina.



Pre-Clearance May Be Available

By Isobel Sherman

The United States Government is considering Palm Beach International Airport as one of the sites for its 90-day testing of a program where travelers can pay a fee and register in advance for government background checks or advanced screening. These travelers who have registered and

have passed the government checks would then be able to avoid lengthy security checks at the airport. The traveler would avoid being randomly selected at airports for additional screening. The program is slated to begin in June 2004. The amount of the proposed fee has not been decided.

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

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

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

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

• **A jewel of a home** with pool set high on a bluff overlooking Sea of Abaco. One acre of property stunningly landscaped with wooden walkways and decks. Six buildings set out in "pod" arrangement. 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 bath. Wicker and rattan furniture throughout including pieces by Tommy Bahama. \$1.98 million

• **Ocean Beach:** 1/2 acre lot on high ridge with gorgeous ocean view. Many fruit trees. Five minute walk to beach. Reef close enough to swim to. \$72,000 gross

• **1/2 acre lots** within 5 minute walk of public dock, water front and Green Turtle Club. \$60,000-\$70,000 each

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

• **Stunning new home** Interior still under construction. All materials on site to complete. 2 bed 2 bath. A/C throughout. Views of ocean, Guana Cay and Sea of Abaco. \$575,000 ONO

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

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

• **Secluded two-acre parcel** with house stretching from Bluff Harbour to the Sea of Abaco. Over 1000 feet of water front. Stunning views. Two bedrooms / 2 baths. New protected dock on Bluff Harbour. Gazebo on Sea of Abaco. 30,000 gallon cistern. Stand-by generator. Many mature trees. Garage. \$3,000,000

• **Lot 10 Coco** **SOLD**

• **Osprey Nest** 180' on Gillam Bay Beach. 3/4 Acre. Two rental units with a total of 3 Bedroom and 3 Baths; 2 full kitchens; 2 liv/dining room areas plus decks. Large Wash-house with garage and workshop. CA n sleep up to 7 people. Within 1 mile of town. Excellent rental history. US \$895,000 plus 7.5% to close

• **The Beachouse Parcel** 1.5 acres with 110' on Gillam Bay Beach. Fully furnished rental property with excellent rental history. Parcel consists of Beach house (3 bedroom, 2 bath); Studio apartment (sleeps up to 4 people); Bungalow I (sleeps up to 4 people); Bungalow II (sleeps up to 3); and a spacious garage/workshop with electricity and concrete floor. Many mature trees with lush landscaping abound.

US \$1.85 million plus 7.5% to close

• **Hill top lot** 200' x 312' with mature trees offering stunning views (from a proposed 2 story house) of the Sea of Abaco, Bluff Harbour and Munjack Cay. A short walk to Coco Bay and the ocean beaches. Underground utilities available.

B\$360,000

• **Groundbreaking underway** for the construction of four 40' x 32' 2 bed 2 full bath charming cottages within 5 min. walk of Coco Bay and the ocean beaches. Includes central A/C, RO system, 7,000 gal rain water tank, septic tank, 18" x 18" tile floors, island ceiling fans, hardiplank siding, insulated exterior walls, covered porch and deck, white picket fence and landscaping. A perfect retirement home!

B360,000

• **A perfect spot on White Sound** with private dock, boat house, one bedroom furnished cottage, and two bedroom two bath furnished main house with enclosed porch. Stunning views of the sunset. Accessible only by sea. Property goes from sea to sea on the Sea of Abaco and White Sound. Telephone. Needs work. Includes two Whalers with engines and a Sunfish. \$660,000 plus 7% to close

• **NEW!** Two story commercial **water front furnished building** at Long Dock in New Plymouth on Green Turtle Cay. Apartment and take-out restaurant.

\$357,500 plus 2% to close

• **NEW!** 1/3 acre inland lot located near two beaches and public dock. Residential area. Resort within walking distance.

\$65,000 plus 2% to close

1/3 acre **UNDER CONTRACT** hd beach. \$70,800

• **Four unit income producing** 2 bed 1 bath apartment complex. Fully furnished. Water views. Dock. Laundry. Two years old \$700,000 plus closing

Munjack Cay:

• **One-quarter acre on beach**, 125' frontage. \$183,000

Little Ambrigris Cay:

• **10 acres.** Dock material on site. Beautiful beach. High hill.

695,000 gross plus 14% closing costs

Abaco Main Land:

• **100' on the Sea of Abaco** x 200' Near Fire Road. B\$59,000

• **110' of Sea of Abaco** x 200' with new nearly finished block 2 bedroom 2 bath house. Near Fire Road. B\$177,000

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



Man-O-War - # 0331 This elegant 3 bedroom, 3 bath island beauty comprises of 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 more. Property includes guest cottage with 2b/2b and ocean views as well. Only steps away to a white sandy beach. \$1,610,000



Man-O-War - "Sunsplash" #5082 4 bed, 3 bath island home beauty on 1.189 acres. 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 Oean. Direct beachfrontage. A rare and unique offering. \$1,970,000



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



Marsh Harbour - #5078 Pelican Shores This lovely 2 bed/2 1/2 bath is in one of the most desired locations. This home features open living area, ceramic tile throughout, laundry room and a private dock. This home has gorgeous views of the Sea of Abaco. **Fantastic Listing! \$940,000**



Guana Cay - Guana Ridge House # 0271 4 bed/2 bath home with a 2 bed/ 1 bath apartment situated on a magnificent bluff presenting sea views of the Sea of Abaco. This home has a fantastic rental history. Also features a private dock. Don't delay. Call today! \$699,000



Marsh Harbour - # 5105 Great Investment. This duplex features 2 beds and 2 baths in each unit. Both features open living kitchen and dining area. Furnished and well kept. \$260,000



Marsh Harbour - # 5106 Great opportunity investment. 5 octagonal wooden building comprises of 2,985 sq ft. These buildings are now currently being used for commercial ventures. There are two upstairs units that are 1 bed/1 bath apartments. This property is located in the main tourist strip. **Fantastic investment. \$640,000**



White Sound, Elbow Cay - # 5017 This ocean front offers 3 bed and 2 bath. Other features include central A/C, a spacious screened-in porch, private pool and more. Downstairs offers a 500 sq. ft. utility/garage area that can be converted to an apartment. There is a detached generator house with a 12KW generator and sound insulated. Call today! \$955,000



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



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Orchid Bay - Guana Cay Gorgeous bay front lots available in lovely new development. Development features pool, tennis courts, marina and restaurant on property. Call for prices.

Orchid Bay - Guana Cay Charming waterfront cottages with 2b/2b, features private dock and amenities of Orchid Bay. Features beautiful view of the Sea of Abaco. \$732,250



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

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Chris Farrington - BRI
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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



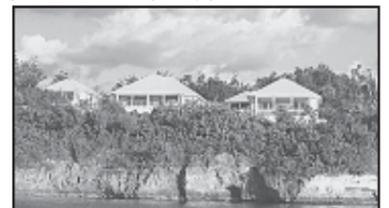
Green Turtle Cay - High on a bluff, 1/3 acre waterfront lot boasts spectacular views of the Sea of Abaco and breathtaking sunsets. Near resorts and marinas. \$338,000

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 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

Leisure Lee - Two adjacent lots, one on the sea of Abaco, one on a canal. Call for details.

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Controversial Guana Cay Development Is Studied

By Stephanie Humblestone

The Great Guana Cay Foundation, established expressly to learn more about the impact of tourism on the islands of The Bahamas, is currently conducting a Rapid Ecological Assessment of the proposed Passerine Residential Development on Guana Cay.

Headed by marine biologist, Dr. Kathleen Sullivan Sealey, its mission is to document "the ecology of the island before, during and after construction."

The controversial project, which involves transforming 640 acres of land north of the Guana Seaside Village resort into an upscale residential complex complete with a 200-slip marina, 350 home sites and 18-hole golf course, elicited unanimous disapproval at a recent town meeting on the island.

Dr. Sealey is focusing on all aspects of the development especially the wetlands in Joe's Creek which is part of the 148 acres of Crown land, an area of paramount concern to the residents of Guana Cay. She has drawn up a work plan which comprises five phases: Pre-construction and Assessment, Construction Monitoring and Assessment, Post Construction Assessment, Environmental Outreach and Reaction Program Planning and Long-Term Monitoring and Research Program Planning.

"We are trying to document the state of the property as it is now, and we will then consider recommendations to the developers to see how we can preserve the most bio-diversity and ecological function of the site," said Dr. Sealey, who has carried out extensive work in coastal ecology throughout the Florida Cays and the Caribbean.

Now in Phase One, Dr. Sealey and a small team of assistants with varied backgrounds in environmental research are studying upland vegetation, mangrove plots and faunal assessment, coring and ground

water assessment, coastal fish and living marine resources and coral reefs and their adjacent hard bottom habitats.

Their field work involves covering the island on foot to identify mature trees such as Caribbean Pine, Lignum Vitae, Mahogany and Red Cedar, critical patches to be preserved, rare and endangered plants such as orchids and bromeliads and feral animals.

"We will suggest areas for harvest or recovery of native plants for use in landscaping," explained Dr. Sealey, whose overriding purpose is to educate the developers about the site.

A resident of Nassau, Dr. Sealey responded to an invitation by the developers to visit Guana Cay which she did at her own expense. Unimpressed by previous "poor quality" reports, she drew up a preliminary one advising that special focus be placed on "critical processes available to protect the ecology of the site."

"It hit me that consultants coming from outside The Bahamas often know nothing about island ecology," she said, stressing that if development is to take place, it should be "managed properly."

She compared development in The Bahamas with what has happened over the years in the Florida Cays where \$14 million was expended in efforts to clean up in the aftermath of mistakes made.

"We need to learn from them and not do the same thing," she said referring to "on site disposal units" and "the cheapest easiest cesspits" and other unthinking practices which she views as a "slow death for an island."

Unlike on other parts of Guana Cay, UNESCO regulated coastal setbacks will be observed. Coast types such as high/low energy beach, dunes and rocky shores will determine these distances.

Aside from feeling that the small island of Guana Cay does not have the infrastructure to "handle" all the ramifications of such a major development on their island, the community feels that its precious wetlands are about to be destroyed with deep dredging for the proposed marina.

Dr. Sealey explained that the marina will be situated outside of the wetlands but anywhere that it does touch will be a buffered zone. The wetlands will be protected as far as possible with boardwalks around them in places.

"The wetlands are perhaps my biggest concern in The Bahamas. Everyone wants to fill in these 'ephemeral ponds' and dredge them for marinas," she said.

Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world. They are nurseries for species inherent to The Bahamas, and they are where the ocean's food chain originates.

Some mangrove areas will be lost in the marina development and the overall system impacted. But to counter this, permanent mangrove plots will be established at the marina margin along with a mangrove creek reserve area.

Leaving no stone unturned, Dr. Sealey and her team are showing the developers that they will have to invest as much or more in preserving as developing.

Some of what they have to correct or address is in the wake of their predecessors. Part of the land in the development

includes long abandoned Treasure Island, Premier Cruise Line's whimsical project which is now in a state of ruin. It is here that Dr. Sealey and her researches observed trees with Lobate Lac Scale, a particularly devastating and potentially lethal pest of trees and shrubs. It produces a soot mold which covers the branches of trees and the insects themselves. Relatively new to Florida, the long term effects of this infestation are not known but small trees infected by it have died.

This insect was more than likely on some of the exotic plants brought in by Premier. Dr. Sealey pointed out that the developers would have to eliminate the problem and thus would be preventing it from becoming widespread throughout the island.

The ideal is no development, but Dr. Sealey conceded that progress is inevitable and that there is "good and bad" development. Her Foundation work plan is to ensure that there is minimal invasion of the environment and where it does occur, there will be replanting and in some cases relocation of plants.

"Guana Cay is the largest contiguous coppice left on an offshore cay between Walkers Cay and Elbow Cay," she said, emphasizing that when clearing land, it would be done only two hectares at a time.

Contrary to public opinion, the development it is not a "done deal." It does not yet have the Prime Minister's stamp of approval. However, if and when it does, Dr. Sealey will continue with her efforts by preserving and mitigating wherever necessary to ensure that the environment is protected.

"We will visit and monitor the development and later on we are planning to have an office on site," she concluded.

The wetlands will be protected as far as possible

Congratulations, Marsha Sands

for having been named a President's Scholar at Palm Beach Atlantic University and for having a perfect 4.0 GPA for the fall semester 2003. Marsha is in her second year at Palm Beach Atlantic University located in West Palm Beach. She is the daughter of Darwin and Joanne Sands of Man-O-War.

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Road Repairing Equipment Arrives on Elbow Cay



March 12 was a great day for Elbow Cay. The contract for repairing the roads was signed by the Hon. Bradley Roberts, Minister of Works, and road repairing equipment was off loaded. Shown above is the barge bringing the equipment with Mr. Trevor Cleare of Cleare's Heavy Equipment standing on it. In the foreground are, left to right, Mr. Gary Sawyer, Abaco businessman, Mr. Samuel Miller, Administrator-in-training, Mr. Colin Marshall, Acting Director Public Works and Utilities, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Robert Sweeting, MP for South Abaco, Mr. Calvin Balfour, Under Secretary Ministry Public Works and Utilities, and Mr. John Schaeffer, Area Engineer on Abaco.

Math Competition Winners Show Their Trophies



The Ministry of Education Abaco District held its Annual Mathematics Competition for Grades 5 and 6 on March 19th at the Learning Resource Centre. Both private and government schools took part in this competition. Emerging victorious were Central Abaco Primary - 1st Place, Agape Christian School - 2nd Place and St. Francis de Sales - 3rd Place. All competitors including substitute students received certificates of participation. The trophies were sponsored by Commonwealth Bank and presented to the winning teams by Bank Manager, Mr. Lynden Davis. The winning school will travel to Nassau in May to represent Abaco in the National Mathematics Competition.

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Surfing

From Page 7

does not just paddle and ride the waves. The balance and agility required force your body to work almost every muscle."

Although surfing in The Bahamas is still a young sport the area is rapidly growing in popularity as an excellent surfing location and there is a host of information on the Internet pertaining to surfing in The Bahamas. One of the locations recommended is Abaco which results in many visitors per year coming here for the surf. The barrier reefs and outer islands produce first class waves which attract world class surfers such as Corey Lopez and Andy Irons.

The winter months are the best time for surfing on Abaco as the best surf is produced late October through early April. After that the wave heights drop off unless there is a hurricane swell. The good waves are produced when a hurricane is passing offshore, NOT when a hurricane passes through the area.

Treasure Cay has been described as an excellent surfing spot as it catches nearly every swell coming through the Atlantic, north, south and east, producing hundreds of 'breaks' (as the waves are called in the surfing world) throughout the island. A visiting surfer has said, "These waves will consistently blow your mind." Visitors also enjoy surfing on Abaco for the solitude. In many surfing locations throughout the world the areas are crowded but here the visitors enjoy the empty beaches. Another lure for the surfers is the balmy temperature here of 70 degrees which makes a pleasant change from the 30 degree temperatures they have to endure up north. As yet there are no surf shops here so surfers must be sure to come fully equipped.

I recently spoke with three members of the Searcy family who were on Abaco on a surfing vacation from Florida. They had discovered much about surfing on Abaco from surfing journals, surf shops and the Internet. They found conditions here to be ideal - not too windy with a calm surface but a strong swell coming in from far away in the North Atlantic. "The waves came right out of the deep water onto the shallow bottom," they said which was preferable to Florida where the waves are "damp-

ened." They enjoyed some consistently good two-foot waves and said there is the potential for some very large waves here. The best waves they found to be at White Sound on Elbow Cay and at Zippers which is a reef to the north of Nippers on Guana Cay. Every morning they would listen in to the Cruisers Net for surf ratings which they found to be very helpful.

According to Christine McCully of the Bahamas Amateur Surfing Association, the best surfing sites are on Elbow Cay at Garbanzos, Abaco Inn Pools, Hamburgers on the opposite side of the Abaco Inn and off Hope Town at Four Rocks Break. The good "breaks" on Guana Cay are Dickies, west of Dolphin Beach, and Willowahs. There are other numerous "breaks" throughout Abaco including the South Man-O-War Channel, North Bar Channel and at Walkers Cay.

The Bahamas Surfing Association, which is part of the International Surfing Association, holds three major annual events and also tries to compete once a month, drawing competitors mainly from Green Turtle Cay, Guana Cay, Elbow Cay and Nassau. Their goal is to introduce the sport of surfing to more people and they offer free clinics in spring and summer. Anyone wishing to become a surfer must first be a very strong swimmer and a swimming test is mandatory. The youngest member of the Association is six years of age. Interested persons may visit their website: basurfinga@freeservers.com.

Sailing Ships

From Page 3

within. This did the trick and finally the ship was in the water. All on shore would shout, "There she goes." Another of the sailing ships, *The Alma R*, was converted to diesel in the 1920s to make her fast for rum-running into America during prohibition. She was later captured and confiscated by the United States authorities. The 1920s brought a series of hurricanes to Hope Town starting in 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, and another in 1932. The population dwindled from 2000 to about 90 mostly old women.

The next speaker was Mr. Dawson Roberts, who spoke about his father, the aforementioned Jenkins Roberts, who was a master shipbuilder. Jenkins Roberts gained some knowledge on ship building from his

father but purchased a series of shipbuilding and designing books from New York to aid him in planning and laying out the large ships he would later build. By the time he was 35, Mr. Roberts had built three of these ships. When diesel power took over for the sailing ships, Mr. Roberts moved his family into Nassau in 1924 where he became foreman of the Symonette Shipyards. He retired from there in 1946. He passed away in 1974 at the age of 88.

The last speaker was Vertrum Lowe of Green Turtle Cay. Mr. Lowe is a master builder of miniature sailing ships. His work is very accurate and highly prized. He has models all over the world. The next event was the children along with a few adults wrapping a May pole in March. They performed the feat successfully two times to the sound of an old English jig. Food and drink was served and all had a good time. This was followed by a small boat parade showing all the flags that have flown over The Bahamas ranging from Christopher Columbus' flag to the flag of today. This day culminated with a sculling race of Abaco dinghies. The winner was not determined as the public address system gave out.

One thing for sure. If you missed this years celebration, you surely want to make sure you attend next year.

Central

From Page 11

The students are studying a variety of subjects including teaching, medicine, accounting, nursing, computer science, business and technical studies. Four students have graduated and are working. One is an apprentice chef at a Ritz Carlton Hotel and the others are a nurse, a teacher and a dental hygienist.

Calypso Airline has been named the official airline of the Foundation. The airline is offering all the scholarship students two free round-trip tickets to Florida.

Cook Out Held for Cancer Patient

Jennifer Hudson

Family and friends of cancer sufferer, Keith Wilson, gathered at the Anglican Parish Hall on March 20th to organize a cook out in aid of his medical fund. Keith's mother, Mrs. Evelyn Wilson, said that her son, who is now aged 39, has been suffering from cancer for two years. During that time he has received several courses of treatment and undergone two surgeries. He is presently in the hospital in Fort Lauderdale and his medical expenses are enormous.

Anyone wishing to donate towards helping to defray these costs may call Keith's sister, Ms. Erica Wilson at 3673977.

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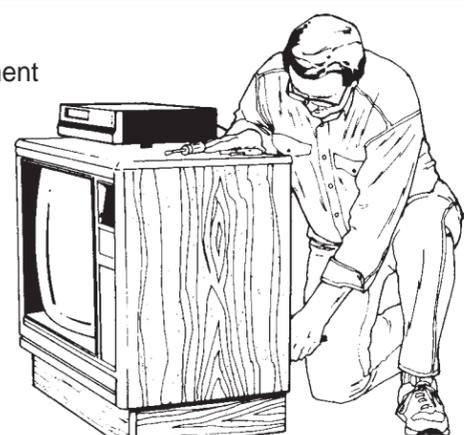
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Dolphins

From Page 15

found that the dolphins travel much long distances than previously thought. This could be for mating purposes.

The dolphins in the entire Abaco area

are in good shape. They are healthy, are generally unaffected by pollution, have plenty of food and have a diverse gene pool. Their survival rate is about the highest in the world.

It is important to continue studies like

this as the dolphins are indicators of the general well being of our environment.

Dr. Durban earned his undergraduate and doctorate degrees while studying Abaco dolphins. He is now studying killer whales off Alaska.

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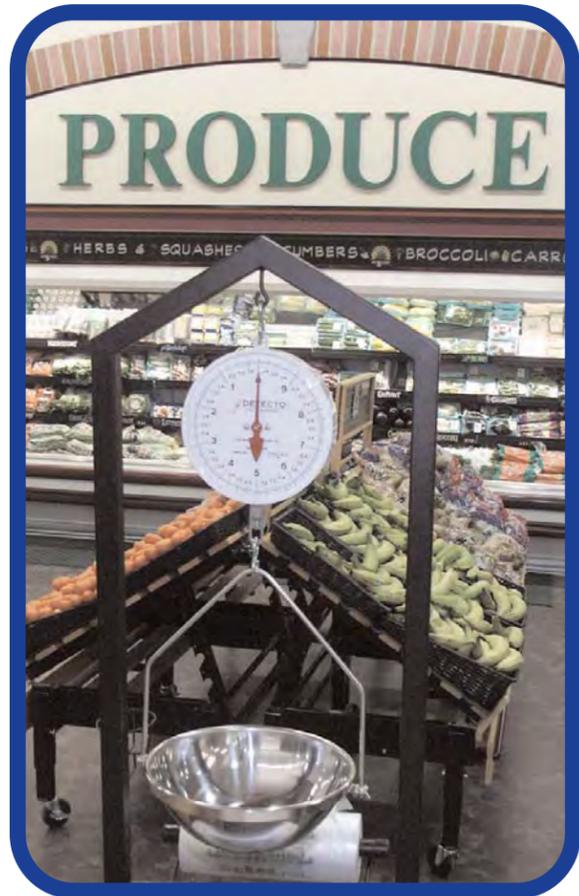
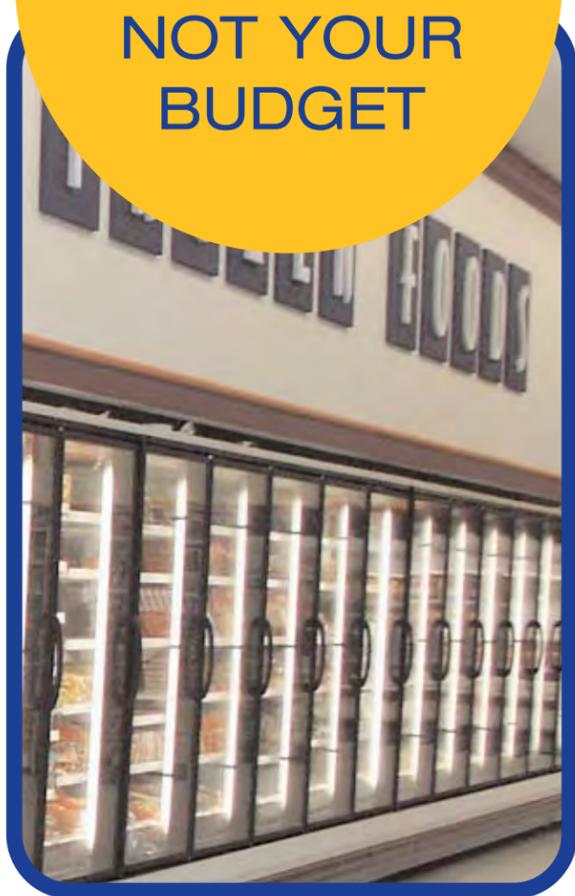
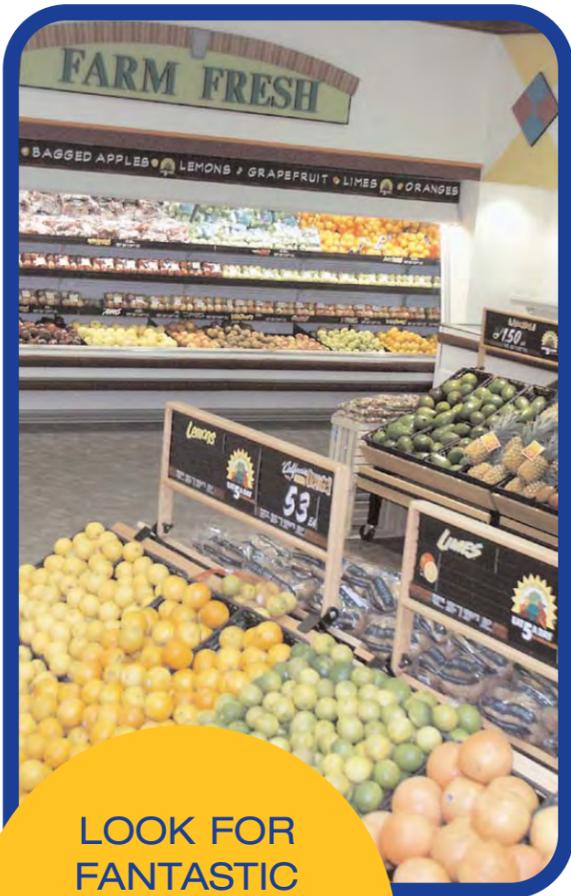
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