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VOLUME 12, NUMBER 8, APRIL 15th, 2004

Cherokee's Old School Is Dedicated Cherokee Celebrates Years of Renovating the Old School



The Old School in Cherokee has been lovingly restored to become a functional asset to the community. In a weekend of celebration, fun, food, socializing and ceremony, the W. W. Sands Community Centre was opened on April 10 and 11. Hundreds enjoyed the special days which included a Dedication Ceremony, the production of a play of bygone days and a special church service. Present for the Dedication Ceremony was the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie, Prime Minister; the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham, former Prime Minister; and other dignitaries. The building was set up to accommodate about 120 persons but many more waited outside. The Community Center was named after Mr. William Walter Sands, the head teacher who served from 1920 to 1951.

Cherokee once again provided a week end of ceremony, reunion and fun as the community came together to celebrate the restoration of the Old School. Hundreds of people attended the event which marks the culmination of several years of work in raising the necessary funds and doing the extensive work to make a community center for everyone to enjoy.

Present at the Dedication Ceremony was the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie, who congratulated them on the great job that they had done. This generation as well as future generations will benefit from their efforts. He was pleased to see a community which maintained its commitment and high standards to family and community. Mr. Christie spoke of the changes that would take place with the new Abaco Club development under construction. He reminded them that they had experienced struggle and hardship but their lives would become easier with more opportunities in the future.

Also in attendance was the former Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham, who reminisced about his first trip to Cherokee by boat. He reminded the community that now they had electricity, cable, and a paved road. He thought the next benefit should be water. He felt that the Winding Bay development would give employment

Please see **Old School** Page 4

Prime Minister Toured Winding Bay



The Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie, along with other officials, toured The Abaco Club at Winding Bay on April 10. He is shown here at the site of a temporary office. He was pleased with the project and stated that he felt that a resort that included a mix of a club house, cottages and second homes seemed to suit the Family Islands particularly well. Shown above are, left to right, the Hon. Obie Wilchcombe, Minister of Tourism; the Hon. Glenys Hannah-Martin, Minister of Transportation and Aviation; Mr. Christie; and Mr. Mark Scott, General Manager for the project.

The Rt. Hon. Perry Christie, Prime Minister, addressed the group at The Abaco Club at Winding Bay after being given a tour of the development now under construction. He combined a tour of

Please see **Prime Minister** Page 2

Fires Ravaged Abaco Forests



Severe fires were burning simultaneously in Central Abaco, North Abaco and Bahama Palm Shores, threatening homes and businesses. Volunteer firemen fought successfully for days to protect property. Only a foundation and a shed were lost to fire. The fire shown here is cable burning at the CoralWave office and headquarters in Marsh Harbour with Aldersgate Methodist Church in the background. All businesses along Don MacKay Boulevard leading to the Marsh Harbour airport were threatened. Fires were burning on both sides of the road and on the edge of Cove Estates and through Sweeting's Tract.

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Prime Minister Tours Resort and Juice Plant

Prime Minister *From Page 1*

The Abaco Club with the opening of the Old School in Cherokee on April 10. He was impressed with the work already done and spoke highly of the overall plan of the development. He strongly felt that a mix of a club house, resort rooms, cottages and second homes available for the resort to use for additional rooms was an ideal mix, well suited to the Family Islands.

The Abaco Club is already so successful that the developer, Mr. Peter de Savary, has decided to begin the second phase of his project within the next few weeks instead of waiting until next year. By the official opening in December, Mr. de Savary expects to have eight to 13 cottages completed with many more under construction. The value of the home sites have gone from \$1 million to between \$2 and \$3 million. It will be one of the most attractive golf resorts in the world. The resort will bring to Abaco additional investment opportunities.

Mr. Perry stressed that The Abaco Club will want natural products from Abaco such as agricultural and marine products. He wants to encourage more processing of our products. There will be a market for souvenirs and crafts.

He has been amazed at the interest that visitors have in the second home real estate market. He has many applications for second homes.

Mr. Christie commented on how understanding Mr. de Savary is of Bahamians and he assured the group that whatever rights Bahamians enjoyed traditionally, these rights and privileges will remain. All will be welcome.

Prime Minister Tours Bahamas Select

The Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie, toured the recently opened Bahamas Select, a juice plant at Spring City. He was impressed with the facility which is producing freshly squeezed orange juice and will be expanding their offerings with grapefruit juice, lemonade and eventually cranberry products. Some of these will be from concentrate.

Mr. Christie was on Abaco for the opening of the Old School on April 10 when he toured Bahamas Select. He was pleased to see agricultural products being processed for sustained long term benefits. There needs to be linkages between tourism, our main industry, and agriculture. Tourists are wanting to experience Bahamian culture and products.

With the increase in tourism, more Bahamians need to be involved with bringing more products for the tourists in hotels and cruise boats. Processing agricultural products adds value to the product. He is wanting the Bahamas Development Bank to assist Bahamians in developing these linkages. The economy of the Bahamas will not wait. If Bahamians are not prepared to do it now, others will be licensed to do it, he said.

The Bahamian people need to take advantage of the opportunities that are available. We need to use old time ways to preserve such things as tamarinds, ground hot peppers, canned tomatoes. New technology can be introduced to develop quality products. He was pleased to know that the juice

Please see Prime Minister Page 5



The Rt. Hon. Perry Christie toured the Bahamas Select juice plant on April 10. He was very impressed with the processing plant and suggested that they could expand into a canning facility for tomato products. He wants to see more Bahamians involved in processing to give increased value to Bahamian products. He is shown second from left talking with Michael Albury on the left and Gary Sawyer, third from left, both owners of Bahamas Select. The lady on the right is the Hon. Glenys Hannah-Martin, Minister of Transport and Aviation, who was in the Prime Minister's party.

Response by Former Senator Edison Key

It is with regret that I have to make yet another public statement in response to the Prime Minister's comments as stated in his press release of March 8, 2004.

The Prime Minister has gone to great lengths to discredit the contents of my seven-page letter to him and by so doing has insulted not only my integrity, but the intelligence of the Bahamian people by his preposterous so called "facts."

If, as the Prime Minister vehemently asserts in the closing paragraph of his press release, that he and his government shall continue to be guided by integrity, even-handedness and fairness to all which, let me add, have been the watchwords of my public service, together with

service above self, then I invite him to lay on the table of the honourable House of Assembly, the twelve page document, including the "telling" cover sheet that I placed in his hands not two months after he took office.

Finally, should it become necessary, I will have no hesitation in presenting this document in its entirety to the Bahamian people so that they can make their own determination of the facts which, let me hasten to assure, has nothing to do with a \$15 million dollar contract as indicated in the Prime Minister's press release.

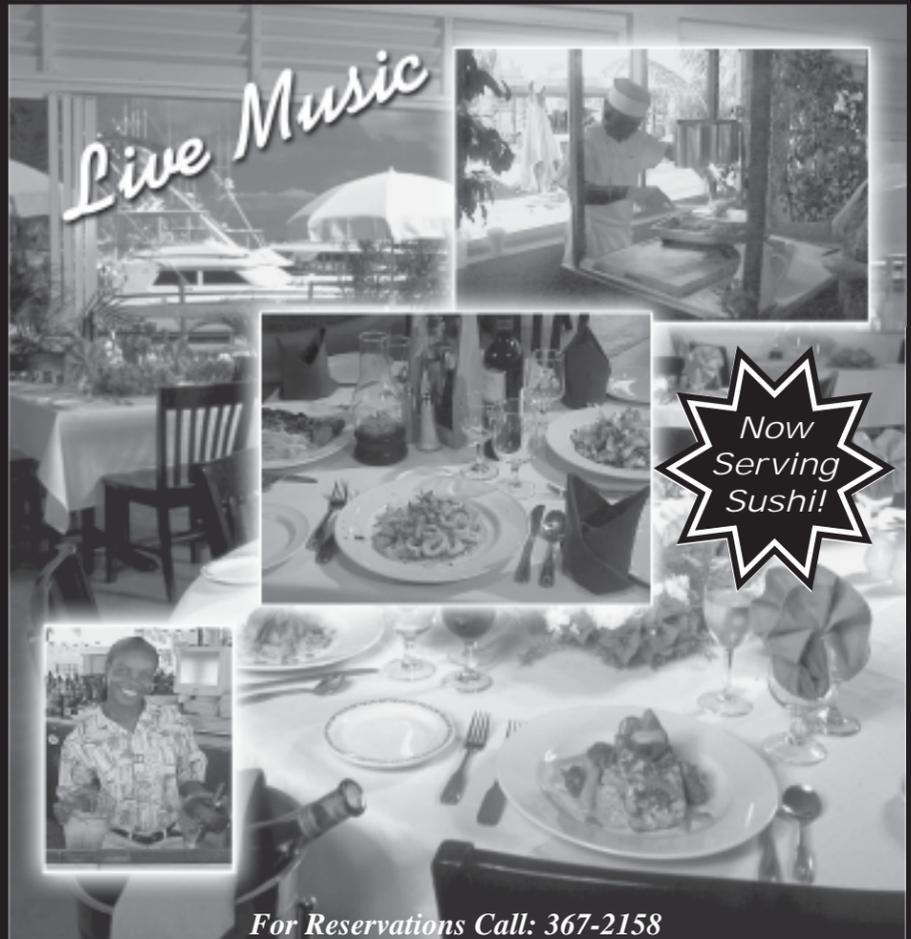
I maintain that I know I did the right thing.

Edison Key

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- Two bedrooms 2 baths
- 900 sq. ft. living space
- Swimming Pool
- Pristine white sandy beach
- 18 hole 72 par Golf Course
- 150 slip full service Marina
- Restaurants & shops nearby

\$212,000

Donna Darville: 242-367-5046

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"ARIEL VIEW"

- Internet Ref. #1813
- 3 bed 2 bath home
- 2,048 sq. living space
- Cathedral ceilings & covered verandahs
- Central A/C
- Ocean views/dock access
- Landscaped
- Fully furnished

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Kerry Sullivan: 242-366-0040

MAN O' WAR CAY



BEACHFRONT PROPERTY

- Internet Ref. #2091
- Two beachfront buildings with 5 bed 4 baths total
- Central A/C & Furnished
- 15,750 sq. ft. property
- Pool, Sauna & Jacuzzi
- Generator House
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\$1,600,000

Leslie Pinder: 242-367-5046

CASUARINA POINT

NEW LISTING



15 MILES SOUTH OF MARSH HARBOUR

- Internet Ref. #2122
- 1,687 sq. ft. island home
- 3 bedroom 2 bathrooms
- Carport
- Seaviews
- Opposite sandy beach
- Needs TLC to transform it into an ideal beach house

\$145,000

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VILLAGE PROPERTY

- Internet Ref. #1969
- Excellent elevation
- Walk to all amenities
- Bank Building - 780 sq' concrete structure with lease - **\$289,000**
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South Abaco News

Old School

From Page 1

benefits and opportunities. He was impressed with the quality of work on the Old School and hopes that it will be an example for other communities. There are many abandoned government buildings that are unsightly that could be converted into community centers or be turned into restaurants or other businesses by private enterprise. This is an excellent example of a self help project which received only \$15,000 from government.

Mr. Michael Bethel, chairman of the Old School Restoration Committee, gave a short history of the town which dates back to the 1780s. He also summarized the expenses of the restoration which totaled \$98,457. A total of \$89,826 has been raised through community fund raising activities and with the help of the Antiquities, Monuments and Museums that donated \$15,000.

Cherokee's Big Day

By Lee Pinder

Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie, made his first visit to Cherokee to be on hand at the ceremony to dedicate the W.W. Sands Community Center on April 10th. Nearly a thousand people were present including our Member of Parliament, Robert Sweeting, our previous Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham. Additionally, many other local and national dignitaries and many descendants of Mr. Sands, including his only surviving son, Pastor Bateman Sands, of Cherokee's Assemblies of God Church. Many of them took part in the ceremonies.

In addition to the actual dedication in the afternoon, the community and its extended

family including many alumni of the "Old School" took part in a play entitled *Pirates of Abaco*, which was presented twice during the evening. Many others still did not get an opportunity to see it. We are told that everyone played their parts well, but a certain Southern Belle who was very convincing was the talk of the evening. Upon exiting the building, only favourable comments were heard and the audiences' donations showed their appreciation.

To finish off the weekend, an Easter Sunday church service was conducted by Sidney Pinder, a native son and lay preacher from Ebenezer Methodist Church in Nassau, who spoke of *New Beginnings* to a very full church. All in all, the entire weekend was a definite success raising over \$19,000 which will help to pay off the final bills on the extensive restoration work and open a new maintenance account for the building's ongoing upkeep.

With a few minor glitches during the day, everything proceeded smoothly. We could not have done this by ourselves and our appreciation goes to the Director of the National Museum of The Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation, who first encouraged us to save the old building. Our appreciation goes to the entire Restoration Committee, re-builders and volunteer workers as well as the many helpers and friends for their countless hours of unending work put into bringing this community project to such a spectacular finish. Of course, there is not enough room here to name names or single out any one person, but it certainly must make every "Beagle" and anyone born in Cherokee feel a deep sense of pride to see this new community center and not an empty lot where

the Old School once stood which for many years was only the remnants of the rubble walls.

Congratulations

Two new babies have been born to Cherokee families. Darron and Chantell Albury had a son born in Freeport on March 31 and they named him Dakoata Darron. Although both parents come from Cherokee stock they now reside in Sweetings Village at the edge of Marsh Harbour, because Darron is a crawfisherman on the vessel *LD*. Chantell has a ten-year-old daughter, Jessy, who attends St. Francis School in Marsh Harbour. Both mother and baby are

doing well.

Lisa Johnson delivered her first daughter, Catherine Marie, on April 2nd in Nassau. She and her husband Troy live in Nassau but visit Cherokee every chance they get and have many family members and friends here. They have two sons, T.J. and Clint. Best wishes to Lisa and her new baby.

School News

March being Bahamian History Month, Grades 1 and 2 welcomed Peggy Albury on March 25, who shared an album of old Bahamian post cards and other old

Please see **South**

Page 5



Mr. Bateman Sands, behind the girls, is the only living child of Mr. W.W. Sands, who was head teacher of the Cherokee Sound School from 1920 to 1951. He along with four granddaughters of Mr. Sands unveiled a plaque in Cherokee's Old School commemorating Mr. Sands. Many of his students returned to Cherokee for the weekend of April 10 and 11 to celebrate the opening of the restored school now serving as a community center. Shown above are, left to right, Candace Russell, Justine Sands, Olivia Sands, Mr. Bateman Sands and Raine Sands.

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More South Abaco News

South *From Page 4*

items such as old letters, a flat iron and old buttons. The older children each brought in an old item and told a personal story about how it came to be in their family, what it was used for and how it was used. There was an old sponging hook, old dishes and someone's great grandmother's reading glasses. It was a learning experience for the students and everyone enjoyed participating.

On March 25th Ms. Sandy Walker came from the Ministry of Education to talk with the children about AIDS, sex and child molestation. At first the children were a bit shy, but after a while they opened up and took part in a question and answer session.

Two local police officers from Marsh Harbour visited our school on March 26th and talked to the children about drugs and the effect they make in a young persons life. They brought a very friendly Springer Spaniel with them named Bob, which demonstrated how he could find drugs. The children really enjoyed the visit the police officers and their friendly sidekick and now all want to get a Springer Spaniel of their own.

The Dinner Sale to benefit the school was postponed till April 3. We understand because of the postponement some people came late and were unable to get a complete dinner. For this we sincerely apologize.

The Whale Walk which was held in Sandy Point on April 3rd was a big success. Chandi Lowe from Cherokee Primary School came in second in number of sponsors and was able to raise \$304

for this very worthy charity. Ms. Lowe and Vonda Bethel also participated in the walk.

The annual Easter Egg competition took place on April 7th with some very interesting and artistic entries. In the lower grades Tyler Sawyer came in first, Chyanne Turnquest came in second and Juliet Weathrford took third place. Dre Hepburn received an special Honorable Mention for his very ingenious rendition of a scurvy pirate. In the higher grades Tyler Albury took first place with his candle within an egg entry. Chandie Lowe's egg took in a whole beach scene with palm trees in a seaside setting as second place winner. Third place was taken by Dominique Chea with a beautiful jeweled and sparkly egg that anyone would love to have. In addition, another special Honorable Mention was given to Lance Bethel, as his entry was inadvertently overlooked by being left off the judging table. Joanne Bradley, who set up the eggs for judging, was very upset when she found that his entry was left out. Lance is very artistic and has ended up as a finalist in the competition before. Everyone felt badly for him since they knew he had spent a lot of time in preparing his egg for entry, but the mistake could not be corrected after the judging was completed.

**Ads in
The Abaconian
Bring Results**

Prime Minister *From Page 2*

plant has a laboratory for testing to get consistent quality.

The Prime Minister will be introducing legislation to set up a Standards Bureau which will properly staffed to maintain quality control of Bahamian products.

He urged Abaco to move forward to be the third city in The Bahamas. Abaco can demonstrate to the rest of the country on Bahamians being involved. He wants to see more Bahamians owning businesses. That will keep money in the country. At present only 18 to 20 cents of every tourist dollar remains here; the rest is spent overseas. We are a consuming society. But we need to keep more money at home and this can

be accomplished by Bahamians becoming involved. Abaco has done well in fish and fish processing. The industriousness of Abaconians causes things to happen. But much more can be done, according to Mr. Christie.

Mr. Christie mentioned the substantial proposed development for the north end of Guana Cay and commented that there needs to be a compromise between development and the wishes of the communities. He stated that there needs to be open spaces left. In the past cities have developed without an overall plan. However, he is having planning consultants study some of the major islands. He wants to guarantee that open land is left so that the people can feel the beauty of the islands.

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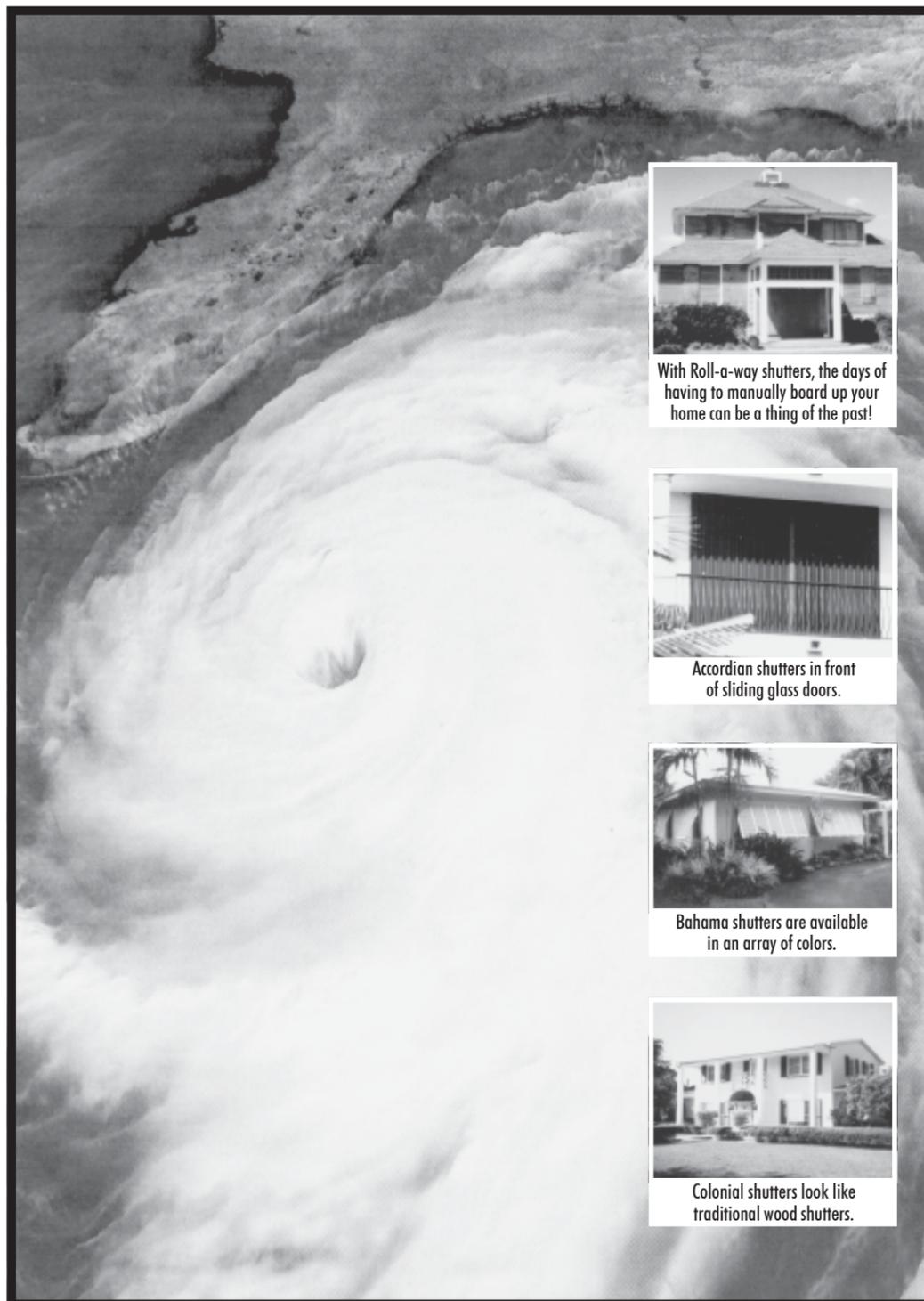
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News of the Cays

Man-O-War Cay Tournament Draws Fishermen

Revised *Bimini Twist*, skippered by Captain Gene Crockett, chose the eastern channel of Man-O-War to head out to sea for their winning fish in the dolphin class of the First Annual Man-O-War Invitational Fishing Tournament hosted by Chris and Tommy Albury and Man-O-War Marina. It was floating room only at their docks for the first of what will surely become a popular event here.

While the fish hardly broke any tackle, weighing in at 17 pounds, the skipper and crew tagged and released two blue marlins on the final day of fishing. Overall honours went to *Tomato Crate* and Captain Elmer Mott for boating a flopping 78-pound wahoo and the winning king mackerel. *Tomato Crate* also reportedly took home the Calcutta, with *Dire Straits* winning the tuna division. The final day of fishing came to an appropriate close as the *William H. Albury*, a schooner built here in 1965, came in at sunset, her entrance trumpeted by a number of conch horns.

Other Events

The busiest time of the year is upon the

settlement of Man-O-War as boaters, second home owners and visitors are here for spring break and Easter holidays.

On the evening of April 2 members of the New Life Church choir, the Gospel Chapel, Man-O-War All Age School and the Church of God choir as well as musicians and melody makers from Cherokee and Guana Cay, several guest speakers and many friends put on a warm tribute to the life of Mr. Spurgeon Sawyer. Afterwards, refreshments were served to those attending.

A walk by Mr. Emerson's shop revealed four of his recently finished varnished mahogany rockers lined up neatly in front of his workshop. Mr. Emerson, at 84, still works alongside the many other craftsman of the community, building fine furniture and half-models. His son, Andy, carries on the tradition with models of his own creative design.

A busy time of year with many happy meetings, gatherings and familiar faces here is as welcoming to newcomers as to old friends.

A Sunrise Service at the graveyard was held Easter morning and on Easter Monday an Easter egg hunt was held for the children at the Old Chapel.

Community Loses Well Loved Resident

Mrs. Una Lorraine Albury passed away on the morning of April 8 after a long illness. She was the eldest of nine children of Mr. Emerson and Mrs. Florrie Albury. She was raised in a loving, Christian home and taught the Biblical truths that formed her character and which she would eventually go on to teach her own daughter and others as well.

Una was the wife of Mr. Tony Albury and together they had one child, Mrs Deanna Stecker. She leaves behind her parents, sisters Dolly, Jennie, Lily and Karen, brothers Ben, Andy and Bernard, brothers-in-law Willard, Keith and Neville, sisters-in-law Barbara, Jill and Donna Marie, many nieces and nephews and a settlement full of friends. Her quiet, Christian gracefulness will last forever as an example to admire and follow.

Green Turtle Cay

By Annabelle Cross

After a very windy March, it seems that it is finally Spring. With very little rainfall over the past weeks it is extremely dry and dusty. Many cisterns are low and people are doing all they can to conserve water. Hopefully, we will have some April showers.

Easter Parade Raises Funds

The Island Roots Heritage Festival Committee held an Easter Parade and Fund Raiser on April 3rd. The activities were scheduled for Settlement Point, but the windy weather caused a change of venue to Quincentennial Park. Bicycles, scooters and golf carts decorated in spring or island themes paraded from the area of the ferry

Please see **Cays**

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Guana Cay held two raffles this spring to raise money for constructing a building to house their fire truck. Shown here is Mrs. Gretchan Strong presenting a check for \$11,011 to Mr. Troy Albury, Chief Fire Officer, and Ms. Laura Sands, Chief Medical Officer. Mr. Toby Strong was the organizer of both raffles but unfortunately had to go back to the States due to medical problems before the donation could be made.



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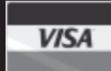
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More News of the Cays

Cays

From Page 6

dock through town to Quincentennial Park. After the parade the children were entertained with games. Ham dinners, hamburgers and desserts were on sale. At the end of the day prizes were awarded for the best decorated golf carts, scooters and bikes. The proceeds from this event will be used for the Island Roots Heritage Festival on May 7th - 9th.

The Island Roots Heritage Festival is expected to attract hundreds of visitors and Abaco descendants. It will revive ties with Sister City Key West where many Bahamians relocated. The three-day festival will feature performances by the Royal Bahamas Police Force Band, a Junkanoo parade,

the Key West Chorale, plaiting the Maypole, art and crafts displays, great Bahamian food and lots of socializing.

Other Events

Our population grew by two. Stephanie and Quinton Charlton welcomed their second son, Stephan. Jason and Stacey Lowe welcomed their third daughter, Zoe Anna. Congratulations to the proud parents and siblings and welcome Stephan and Zoe.

Our community has its first ladies softball team (at least as far as I can remember). The McIntosh Gems are doing a lot of practicing and hoping to win a lot of games this season. This is the first time that many have played, so they must be commended for their effort. The men's team (Island Wholesale Turtles) is also trying to

make a strong comeback after a few years of not being a part of the league. Good luck to both teams.

A fund raiser was held on March 27th for Peter Sawyer. Mr. Sawyer had open heart surgery earlier in the year. He is doing well, and it is good to see him walking around town. It is times like these that remind us how nice it is to live in a small community where people work together to help each other in a time of need.

Community Says Farewell

Hundreds of friends and relatives packed the New Plymouth Gospel Chapel on March 28th to say farewell to Colyn "Josey Wales"

Russell. Colyn died after a courageous battle with brain cancer. He was 51. In a sad but lovely service childhood friends, college roommates and relatives spoke of the impact Colyn made on their lives. Bahamian softball official Churchill Knowles spoke of the contribution Colyn had made to softball in The Bahamas. Colyn was a well respected pitcher and represented The Bahamas in international competitions. He was nicknamed "Josey Wales" by team mates because they saw a resemblance to the Clint

Please see **Cay**

Page 19



The Island Roots Heritage Committee of Green Turtle Cay held an Easter Parade with decorated golf carts, scooters and bicycles to raise funds for their festival which will take place on May 7-9. The best decorated vehicles were awarded prizes.



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The Editor Says . . . The Volunteer Spirit of Our Firemen



A great part of the Abaco success story is due to its people and their commitment to their town or cause. There are many volunteer efforts which should be commended. One of the outstanding examples of this is the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire and Rescue team.

This year's prolonged drought combined with carelessly managed trash fires has caused bush fires which have scarred the outlying areas of Marsh Harbour and other communities. The burned areas look like a war zone. Commercial buildings, churches, schools and residences were threatened. Many of the fires were started when trash being burned was either left unattended or the fire got out of control.

Hunters are frequently blamed for distant woods fires on the assumption that they are trying to drive hogs out of the woods. Whether true or not, they cannot be blamed for the recent rash of fires around residential and commercial areas.

Neither can we accept the offhand reason that the sun shining through discarded bottles is the culprit. We challenge high school science students or adults to start a fire with a beverage or common household bottle, either intact or broken. It may be theoretically possible, but it is very difficult to start a fire this way even under ideal conditions.

The Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department recently deployed four fire engines and approximately 25 volunteer firemen in Central Abaco. Of this number about ten are core personnel ready to respond. Another 15 or so are reserve firemen who are available as circumstances warrant.

In the background are several dispatchers who respond to the fire calls, activate the response team and follow the action on the phone or radio.

The Marsh Harbour fire fighting equipment is old but serviceable. Used fire engines are bought as this gets the most value for the dollar. New fire engines cost upward of \$300,000 or \$400,000. The volunteers are frequently able to locate used fire trucks in the \$10,000 to \$30,000 range. Constant maintenance is required to brakes, hydraulic systems, pumps and other parts of the older fire engines. All of this maintenance takes time and money. By buying

used equipment, the department have been able to acquire four engines. Even when an engine is being serviced and unavailable, there are three others ready to move.

During the recent spate of brush fires, all four engines were pressed into service, each with a separate crew. Some of these crews worked around the clock when the fires were threatening buildings.

Effectively, there are no forest-fire control measures on Abaco. Fire suppression in the forest requires large tractors able to make fire breaks and experienced crews setting and managing backfires. Abaco has land clearing tractors but their operation is expensive, and budgets do not provide for this service.

The firemen are generally limited to accessible areas, behind buildings and on paved and tract roads. It is frequently a waiting process. As the fires approach through the woods, the firemen wait for it to get to the margin of the brush where the firemen either set a controlled backfire or use water to suppress the flames.

This may mean standing by through the night as a change in wind direction or change in forest debris may cause the fire to advance quickly or change directions. Water cannot be wasted as an empty tank means leaving the scene for a refill which

may be several miles away. Occasionally equipment such as a bulldozer is donated to clear brush and debris from around buildings.

The department volunteers are a dedicated unpaid group. All funds raised go for maintenance, new firefighting and safety equipment or other operational expenses. The volunteers are not insured, do not get paid and are risking their health and safety for the community.

The firemen have been in the spotlight with the recent fire activity but they are quietly on stand by throughout the year. Those who are self-employed must leave their businesses when called. Others have understanding employers and are able to leave their job to serve their community. A few are more constrained by job or family requirements but are available when conditions require.

Working through the night and dragging hoses by the light of advancing flames is physically hard work. Understandably, firemen going to work the next day may be underachievers.

Other areas have similar volunteer fire-

men offering their services to their communities on the cays and far off towns. Their area of coverage is usually much less extensive and their equipment may be tailored to suit the needs of their towns.

Fourteen fire engines of various descriptions are operated by Abaco's volunteers and are positioned throughout Abaco and its cays. We are aware of nine volunteer groups which have privately acquired and maintain fire engines or equipment in Casuarina Point, Cooper's Town, Dundas Town, Green Turtle Cay, Guana Cay, Hope Town (two engines), Man-O-War (one engine and cart mounted pump), Marsh Harbour (four engines) and Scotland Cay. Additionally, there are the two government owned fire engines at Marsh harbour and Treasure Cay airports.

Abaco leads the country with these volunteer fire services They provide a service which would cost government thousands and thousands of dollars each year if they provided the service.

All of these firemen deserve to be recognized for their dedicated community service.

Telethon Raised Money for Fire Department

By Jennifer Hudson

In an hour long telethon on Radio Abaco between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. on April 5th the sum of \$41,080 was pledged for the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department. As soon as the phone lines were opened individuals and businesses began calling in with their pledges and were still continuing to do so even after the broadcast ended at 10 o'clock. Mr. Silbert Mills of Radio Abaco was hoping to raise the sum of \$10,000 but the generosity of the people of Abaco far exceeded his expectations.

One hundred sixty individuals and businesses called in pledges and to date \$18,000 of this pledged amount has already been collected. By the end of the actual day of the telethon the sum of \$10,000 was already in hand. This was immediately turned over to a representative from the Fire Department who registered a look of total disbelief and then extreme joy at the amount of money being handed over to him for the department. The department is badly in need of funds to replace equipment worn out by the recent drain on its resources by all the recent fires.

The staff of Radio Abaco were delighted by the overwhelming public support for this most needy cause.

ALL ABOUT TOWN

The System Works

By Isobel Sherman

There is strength in groups and in numbers. Every Thursday evening at the Anglican Parish Hall in Marsh Harbour Weight Watchers holds its meeting. The group is growing in numbers every week with a band of persons who are losing weight or are maintaining their weight goal.

Weight Watchers teaches persons how to make wise choices and teaches portion control. When a person joins, his or her height and weight is recorded. From that points that person can eat in a day are calculated.

The success of the program is probably the main reason why so many are joining Weight Watchers.

The program encourages healthy eating but at the same time does not prevent you from eating any food. These are incentives to spur you on. In addition, there is the support of members of the group who encourage each other.

Does Weight Watchers work? Yes, it does. Just pass by and see all the cars parked outside the Parish Hall on Thursday evenings. A group in Man-O-War meets on Thursday mornings.



The Abaconian

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Letters to the Editor

Details of the Wild Mamee

Dear Mr. Ralph,

I refer to the very interesting comments on *Clusia rosa* in the 1st March 2004 edition of *The Abaconian*. I have not heard accounts of leaves from this species being used for letter writing purposes but some years ago was told by the manager of a resort on Eleuthera that guests would often write their names and the date on leaves of a *Clusia rosa* tree at the front entrance to the property. More often than not, these leaves would still be on the tree bearing the names of the guests when they returned the following season.

In The Bahamas *Clusia rosa* is known as the wild mamee or the pitch apple. According to Drs. Correll and Correll in their book, *Flora of the Bahama Archipelago*, there are 145 members of this species found in warmer regions of America, Madagascar and New Caledonia. According to Correll and Correll, *Clusia rosa* is found on Inagua, Ragged Island, Andros, Abaco, Eleuthera, New Providence and Grand Bahama. The fact that it is not found on all islands does not mean that it is not "native" to the country. There are many other species that fit this category.

Perhaps Mark Catesby gave the earliest account of the presence of the species in The Bahamas in his landmark work *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands*. Mark Catesby, a British naturalist, visited the Bahama Islands for nine months in 1725 and traveled to Abaco, Andros, Eleuthera and New Providence. Catesby's work is a massive two-volume set containing drawings of plants and animals found in the areas he visited. Included with the drawings are fascinating accounts of the uses to which the local inhabitants put these resources. *Clusia rosa* is depicted in Volume 2 Plate 99. The following is the account of how Bahamians used the species: "The whole plant is exceeding beautiful, and particularly the fruit, in all its parts, is a most exquisite piece of natural mechanism...The rosin [resin] of this tree is used for the cure of sores in horses, and also instead of tallow for boats and other vessels."

The flowers of the species are especially beautiful, coloured pink and white. If one looks at the centre, one will notice a thick, sticky substance. I was told that this substance dries to be very hard and was used, within living memory, for patching boats, a practice noted by Catesby almost three hundred years ago.

I cannot claim to have seen mature specimens of the species in the wild. However, there are several mature trees to be easily observed on New Providence. The first is in the Royal Victoria Gardens and two are in the parking lot at Bahamian Lumber Company. These specimens are obviously grown as ornamentals and are indeed "exceeding beautiful."

My wife and I enjoy receiving and reading *The Abaconian*. Thank you for the many interesting articles.

Sincerely,
David Cates

Proud to Be a Bahamian

Dear Editor,

I am in process of reading two recent books on the life of Sir Lynden O. Pindling. Whether black or white, any patriotic Bahamian will recognize his vision for statehood.

Unfortunately, in recent years his vision and battle to make the Bahamas a proud, independent, economically stable, world class nation have been undermined by the selling out to the OCED and the FTAA (WTO), through the threats and intimidation of the phantom blacklist.

To add to that, it seems that Abaco as

been ostracized, as witnessed by the stunning facts of not only Mr. Edison Key's letter, but by such other realities as the deplorable state of the government schools, the airport in Marsh Harbour, the collapsing government dock in Guana Cay and the siphoning off of the huge income from import duties and property taxes on Abaco, not to mention the pillage of our tourist income with the advent of the 645 percent increase in marina fees and the new cruising fees, or the lack of protection from the poaching of our waters.

We should all stand up and salute the courage of men such as L.O. Pindling and Edison Key for their lifelong battle to bring our country to statehood and wrest it from the wealthy few in Nassau who would have otherwise left us still floundering as the colony of an otherwise defunct empire. Mr. Key, even if our political views may differ, I salute you.

A proud patriotic Bahamian An Request to Curtail Development

Dear Sir,

The Baker's Bay project for the north end of Guana Cay has apparently had its first hearing in Parliament and has a way to go. However, if the people of Abaco wish to voice their dissent (or approval), now is the time. The concern is the huge magnitude of this development, the hundreds of gallons of pesticides and insecticides poured into the ground (thus the reef) every day to manage the golf course, and the fact that the last Crown land for Bahamians in Guana Cay is being "thrown into the deal."

If you object to this development, now is the time to speak. Grab a piece of paper, write "I protest the Baker's Bay development," stuff it into an envelope and address it to the Prime Minister at P.O. Box CB 10980, Nassau, or forever hold your peace! Do it now!

A Concerned Environmentalist Proposal for Our Garbage Problem

Dear Editor

The editorial in *The Abaconian* of March 15 touched on an important issue for The Bahamas in general and Abaco in particular. While the editorial mentioned the cost of managing waste, I believe that more could be done to help solve this problem. Most of our economic system is based on the products and services we consume and use. What is missing in this equation is the cost of the disposal of the materials that are used in the production and consumption systems - and here lies the rub. As Hardin stated in his now famous essay *The Tragedy of the Commons*, a resource that is owned by everybody will eventually be reduced to the point where it becomes valueless—in fact, not a resource at all.

What society needs to understand is that

waste products are part of the production process; therefore, the proper disposal of waste ought to be incorporated in the price of the products we buy and consume. Unconsciously, we already pay for the waste we generate in the deteriorating quality of the environment. The spate of letters to local newspapers in recent months admonishing residents and visitors alike to clean up and recycle where and whenever possible bears witness to the growing concern related to waste and the manner in which it is being dealt with on Abaco.

I believe society bears these costs in three different ways. A do nothing approach will eventually result in a deteriorated environment that may lead to increased health problems for the population. If such trends are allowed to continue, visitors may be less likely to come—a problem that has affected local tourism economies in the Far East, parts of Europe and elsewhere.

Another more drastic approach is for government to levy a general tax for the collection and disposal of the waste products. This is for the most part an efficient way of getting rid of a significant portion of the waste stream that originates from homes and businesses within the community. It does not address waste generated outside of residences, places of businesses and service organizations. The charge for municipal pick-up sometimes represents a regressive tax by levying a uniform charge for all residents regardless of the type and the quantity of waste collected.

The third way in which waste disposal can be paid for is by providing incentives for its proper disposal. While this method may not take care of all waste disposal, it will significantly reduce that portion of the waste stream that is indiscriminately discharged along roads, parking lots, beaches, and wherever people congregate. The way to implement this system is to levy a charge at the time of purchase. You buy a can of soft drink and instead of paying \$1, you pay \$1.05. The extra five cents will be reimbursed once the can is returned to the vendor, or more appropriately the waste collection center, sometimes referred to as the transfer station.

For people not interested in recouping the can/bottle disposal fee, the incentive is still present since anybody can pick up discarded cans and bottles and be reimbursed for the original deposit. One problem concerns the cost of implementing such a system. One way would be to subtract a small proportion of the "disposal fee"—say one cent. This one cent per can/bottle would support the collection and subsequent handling of the recycled materials. This is a win-win situation. First and foremost, the community benefits from a reduced waste load and a cleaner overall environment. The second benefit is the knowledge that waste does have value. The aluminum can when recycled will become an integral part of

another useful commodity. The third benefit is the economic incentive to collect discarded cans and bottles that can be recycled. Small cottage industries have been established in many countries where individuals choose to collect these materials and are reimbursed at collection depots.

The system does work. The community in which I have my permanent home (when not cruising on Abaco) has very significantly reduced its overall waste load. Prior to the introduction of this system, I used to take two 32-gallon containers of waste to the town dump every week. Today, this has been reduced to one 32-gallon container once every three to four weeks. The rest of the waste is recycled.

One question often raised in small island nations concerns the problem of getting the collected waste to places where it can be turned into new products. Most of the consumer products used on Abaco and other cays arrive in containers, most of which go back empty. Other countries with similar problems have made arrangements with shipping companies that are often willing to accept somewhat lower freight rates for transporting low value products as return freight.

These strategies are no pipe dreams but have been implemented in a number of places with mounting waste and no place to dispose of it. As usual it takes determination, hard work and a willingness to engage the policy makers in adopting new solutions to old and growing problems.

Niels West

An Appeal Not to Set Fires

Dear Sir:

A few lines should suffice in order to convey a very serious admonition to the public at large. Thanking you in advance.

Just this morning (Tuesday, April 13) it was discovered in Bahama Palm Shores that somebody, enjoying the beach over the holiday weekend, had left embers of wood in an area that is covered by dry casuarina pine needles. I don't have to tell your reading audience what disaster was potentially averted by this discovery early this morning. In fact, had it not been for the little rain that we had last night, we very likely would have had a real problem on our hands once again.

I say once again, because we here in Bahama Palm Shores have just finished a week of fighting fires that did threaten a couple of houses besides having to breathe the smoke from these fires, which is especially hazardous to people like my wife who is a "severe asthmatic."

Therefore, I wish to implore the people at large to be extremely careful when using fires for holiday celebrations on the beaches of Bahama Palm Shores. And if you cannot or will not exercise extreme care doing such,

Please see **Letters** Page 24

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Oct 01

Forest Fires Threatened Several Communities

By Stephanie Humblestone

During the past few weeks forest fires raged throughout Abaco from Cooper's Town in the north to Bahama Palm Shores in the south. Roads were impassable in places and traffic drew over to the side of the roads as fire trucks and emergency vehicles raced to assist.

After weeks of fighting serious fires in settlements south of Marsh Harbour, the centre of town came under threat when flames lapped the border of Government Subdivision, known locally as Government Sub.

"This has been going on for weeks but it is getting worse," said firefighter Gary Guerrier of the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department, one of the first to arrive at Government Sub where a bush fire was creeping up on a newly constructed house. "The hardest hit area so far has been Spring City. Right now there are fires in Casuarina Point and Bahama Palm Shores."

Firemen managed to save the house and others in the area from further encroachment. Meanwhile surrounding property owners took precautionary measures by dousing their homes with water and hosing down roofs. With strong winds out of the west the fire quickly spread closer to Marsh Harbour.

Of special concern were Abaco Petroleum and Abaco Gas which are situated between Marsh Harbour and the airport roundabout.

At one point visibility south of the clinic was totally clouded by a blanket of thick

smoke. In the early afternoon a vehicle was parked horizontally across the highway, blocking all traffic coming to and from the airport roundabout with the exception of fire trucks due to a power line down on the road that was arcing.

While firemen wrestled to bring the Marsh Harbour fires under control, residents of Spring City were having a fund raiser for the Evans family who lost their home and all their possessions when their house burned to the ground several weeks ago.

The fire in Government Sub came just one day after Sweeting's Track was engulfed in flames after sparks were purported to have come from a small fire behind the neighbouring St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church.

"The foundations for a house I am building were totally destroyed," said a property owner in Sweeting's Track.

Speculations about the origin of fires vary. Some attribute them to the recent drought. In Marsh Harbour there was talk of strong westerly winds carrying sparks from the dump two miles from the centre of town. Others believe the elements played no part. With hunters eliminated from suspicion because of the widespread nature of the fires, one resident concluded, "They are obviously maliciously lit."

The Marsh Harbour airport was closed from early morning of April 6 until noon with Bahamasair's first flight and several US

carriers being diverted to Treasure Cay when forest fires destroyed a nearby BEC line. Power was temporarily severed but restored within four hours. Fire broke out at the perimeter of the airport parking lot at 4:30 p.m. on the previous afternoon. Firefighters fought throughout the night and until 3:30 a.m. the following morning to stave the flames from cars in the parking area.

"This would have been a different outcome without the diligent efforts of the firefighters. They stemmed the flow of the fire by backfires, controlled fire patterns and sheer hard work," stated Airport Manager Bobby Jones, who alerted the Royal Bahamas Police Force in Marsh Harbour, Mr. Cyril Saunders, Director of Civil Aviation in Nassau and Island Administrator Mr. Alexander Williams.

Mr. Jones reported that there was decreased visibility which made landings and take offs unsafe. This coupled with the communications systems impeded by lack of power forced him to close the airport.

With the airport out of danger, fires spread northeast and continued to burn near well

field pumps in the area. The Cable Bahamas office on Don MacKay Boulevard was reported to have damage from the fires. Its fiber optic cables were down for a while thus causing problems for local internet servers. This was soon remedied and servers were up and running.

Abaco's Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department has been working around the clock with some antiquated equipment, such as trucks over 20 years old, protected buildings threatened by the fires. The area close to the airport, especially along Don MacKay Boulevard has been hard hit with schools and businesses endangered.

"I have never seen anything like it," said Island Administrator Alexander Williams on ZNS Radio, praising the firemen who have had no respite since April 2 when serious fires threatened homes in Sweeting's Village.

Many in the Marsh Harbour community reported to have suffered from mild smoke inhalation, headaches, and muscular aches and pains as well as sleeplessness from smoke-filled homes.



Firemen of the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department battle the intense fire which threatened property at the Marsh Harbour Airport. They were successful in protecting all properties with the exception of one shed in severe fires which threatened several areas of Marsh Harbour.



Fires threatened Government Subdivision shown here through the smoke. Firemen worked long hours for several weeks while the fires were raging.

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Central Abaco News

Wrackers Is Coming Again to Abaco

By Jennifer Hudson

Wrackers will soon be seen again in Abaco. Not the wrackers of days gone by, however, but a modern 21st century version. Wrackers can now be found at the entrance to the Abaco Beach Hotel as it is the name of the resort's new store which will be opening to the public on April 15. This was formerly the home of Solomon's Mines but the building has been bought back by the resort. Wrackers' hours will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week during the season.

"What does Wrackers' mean?" you may well ask. That's what people years ago called wreckers - seamen who salvaged cargo from sinking or sunken ships which ran aground on the reefs around Hope Town from the early 1600s until 1863. The wrackers made their money on the cargo which they salvaged and then shipped to Nassau for sale, but a lot of it did stay in Abaco. The business was so profitable that

Hope Town's population grew to about 3,000 in its heyday, compared to about 500 today. While wrackers faded into history when lighthouses were built in Hope Town and Hole-in-the-Wall, their name will still live on at the Abaco Beach Resort's new store as the owners felt it would be a very fitting Abaconian name. This new 6,000 square feet store will house both an art gallery and gift store. Featured lines will be Androsia, Bahama Hand Prints, Girls From Brazil swim wear and the Key Lime Pie line of slightly more dressy hand-beaded rayon items of clothing. Also in stock will be jewellery, hats, bags, sandals, souvenirs and other casual clothing lines. The store aims to cater to men, women and children, both visitors and locals.

The art gallery will feature several artists who utilize various mediums so there will be art works to suit a variety of tastes. For sale will be bronze sculptures by Pete Johnston, wood carvings and metal sculptures by Don Wood and hanging art by the following: water colours by Bridgette Boyer and Jeep Byers, water colours on silk by

Marjolein Scott, acrylics by Colette Bootle, Chan Pratt and Sean McNamara, and oil paintings by Bob Zwickel. The gallery hopes to also stock furniture by Blaine Sweeting.

On display for interest and to tie in with the theme of wrackers will be collections of old bottles, coins and other artifacts.

The grand opening of Wrackers will take place on May 1st when there will be an all day Open House to which the public is invited. Prior to that on April 23rd the store will host a cocktail party for participants in two of the fishing tournaments which the Abaco Beach Hotel will be hosting.

Several Win at Dog Show

By Isobel Sherman

The Bahamas Kennel Club held its annual dog show on March 20 and 21. Traveling to Nassau to compete with their dogs were Candace Key of Hope Town, Terrence and Kim Roberts, Maureen Koepp and her son, Austin Koepp, of Marsh Harbour. In the Bahamian terrier category Champion Sandon N' Oak Hill Blueberry Muffin, a female Bedlington Terrier belonging to Mrs. Key, won the championship in the conformation category of best Bahamian Terrier. Condition of the dog, the build of the dog, movement of the dog and adherence to the breed judge the conformation category standard. According to Mrs. Key, Muffin has won in many shows in the United States.

Terrence Roberts and his Golden Retriever, Mya, placed third in obedience on both days. Kim Robert's Shetland Sheep

Dog, Sylvester, won the first leg of the Novice Obedience. There are three legs to this category so Sylvester and Kim have two more legs to go.

Austin Koepp, age 11, and his year-old Pomeranian, Foxy Meko, came first in the Veterans Dog Category on the first day and second in the Junior Handlers Category and on the second day he came first in the Junior Handlers Category ages 6-11. In all age groups of Junior Handler Austin placed second overall. For his efforts Austin won a backpack of school supplies as well as a trophy and a ribbon. His mother, Maureen, said it was a fantastic experience for Austin. Maureen's dog got ill in Nassau and did not place.

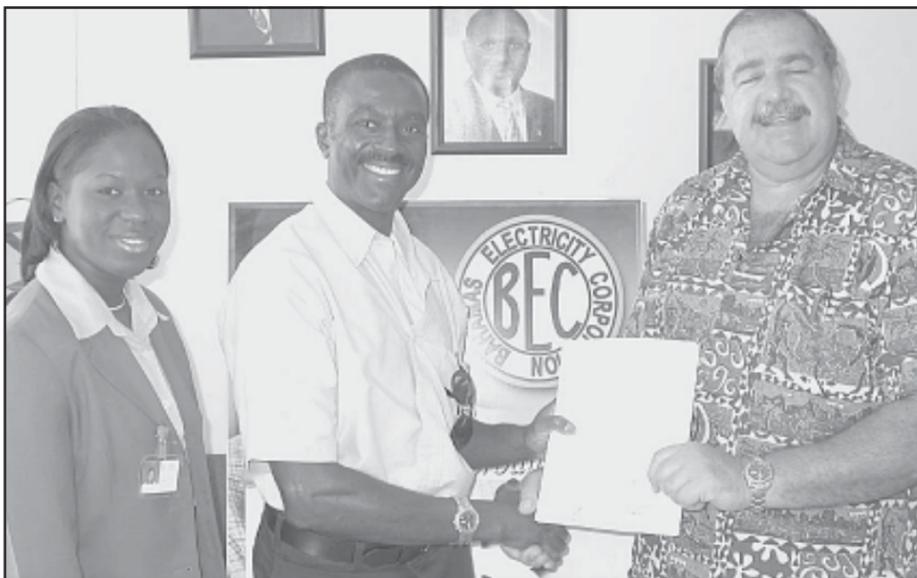
The show attracted dogs and owners from all over the United States and Canada.

Quilt Raffle Will Benefit Cancer Society

By Jennifer Hudson

Last year a lucky lady in Cherokee won a beautiful handmade quilt made by April Parotti in memory of her father, Van Stratton. Now people have another chance to win a similar quilt. April is once again making a quilt which will be raffled on April 30th, and all funds will be donated to the Abaco Cancer Society in memory of her father.

One hundred tickets are now on sale priced at \$25 each and may be obtained from the Van Stratton Insurance Agency, Bellevue Business Depot, The Shoe Place and Steve Chea at Standard Hardware.



Bahamas Electricity Corporation donated \$2000 to Trauma One. Mr. Benjamin Beneby, General Manager for Abaco, and Clerk Receptionist Anitra Cornish presented a check to Mr. Dan Wilfang of Trauma One ambulance service. Mr. Beneby was proud to have BEC assist those volunteers who give their services freely to the community. Mr. Wilfang thanked him saying that BEC's concerns and commitment will help motivate the emergency medical volunteers.

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School News

ECC Students Enjoy a Day at the Beach

The students, teachers and volunteer workers from the Every Child Counts School in Marsh Harbour were treated to a special fun day at the beach on April 1. The event, sponsored by The Abaco Club at Winding Bay, brought smiles and laughter to the faces of all the children. ECC was the first group to hold a beach party on the property since the project got started in June 2003.

The self-supported school is the first of its kind for Abaco. It was founded by Ms. Lyn Major, who with her husband adopted three-year-old twin boys only to discover that they had severe developmental delays. When it was time for them to begin their education, the Majors realized there was no school with a special needs program on

Abaco.

After lengthy research she made contact with Dr. S. Kossack of Florida International University and others, thus ECC was born. The school's mandate is to ease the burden of learning disabled students who struggle academically by providing direct assistance, education and training for the children.

Everyone was treated to a wonderful lunch prepared by Chef Nick Doyle from Mangoes Restaurant. There was face painting for all who wanted provided by Ms. Jan (Jammin Jan) Cartwright, fully regaled in her clown costume. There also was kayaking, a bouncing castle and Bahamian music all day long.

Mr. Gladstone "Stone" McEwan said it gave him great pleasure to coordinate the party for the school because one of his sons is a graduate of Every Child Counts and is now employed at Winding Bay, thanks to

Ms. Major and her hard working crew for assisting with preparing him for the job market.

St. Francis de Sales School Easter Parade Is a Delight

By Portia Jonsson

The Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes of St. Francis de Sales held its Third Annual Easter Bonnet Parade at the school on March 30th. This was a grand occasion. A contest was held for the most original bonnets and best-dressed boy and girl. The

boys were dressed in smart suits with bow ties and the girls wore pretty spring dresses. The children modeled their beautiful attire and bonnets for the two judges in hopes of capturing the top prize. Mr. Leroy Thompson was the event's Master of Ceremonies and Mrs. Barbara Johnson organized this special affair.

The winner in the Pre-Kindergarten class for the most original bonnet was Nakara

Please see **School**

Page 13



The students of Every Child Counts were treated to a day at the beach at The Abaco Club at Winding Bay and enjoyed a lunch provided by Mangoes Restaurant. They are shown at the Pavilion which will serve the development as a water activity center where snacks are available.



St. Francis de Sales School honors outstanding students each month. For the month of March they are, back row left to right, Tamika Bain (Grade 12), Scott Spraker (Grade 7), Elsie Bain (Grade 10), Dominica Evans (Grade 9), Lowell Edgecombe Jr. (Grade 11). Middle row, left to right, they are Kenneth Stuart (Grade 3), Jayde Ferguson (Grade 4), Serena Greene and Pamela Smith (Grade 5), Chelsea Albury and Dymonique Kemp (Grade 6). In the front row, left to right, Meghan Bootle (Grade 1), LaChelle Lightbourne (Pre-K), Abbey-Gay Raymore and Caitlin Doyle (Grade K) and Brianna Sawyer (Grade 2). Missing from photograph is Charlotte Swann (Grade 8).



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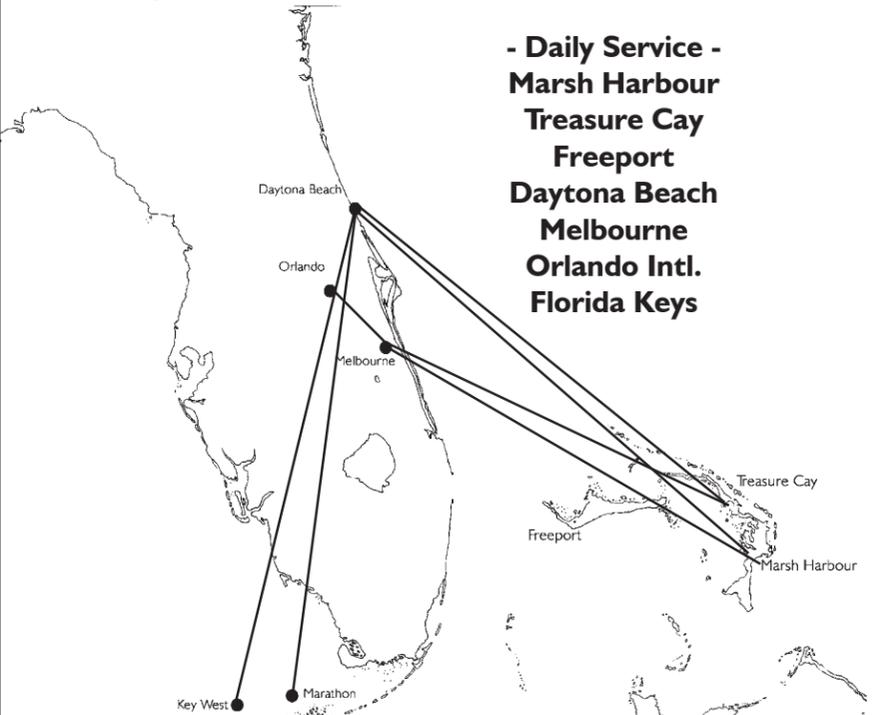
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More School News

School *From Page 12*

Adderley while Marbria Wilmore and Mabray Wilmore captured the best-dressed awards. The Kindergarten winner in the most original bonnet contest was Abbey-Gay Raymore and the best-dressed awards went to Jessica Knowles and Dante Stuart.

After the parade an Easter Egg Hunt was held on the grounds of St. Francis de Sales Church for the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes.

Field Trip to Freeport

By Eden McIntosh

On March 4th the students of grades 9 and 10 of St. Francis de Sales School went to Freeport on a field trip. Their first stop

was BORCO where they got an inside peek into the industrial operations. They visited Borco's main control room and the laboratory where crude oil that comes into the company is tested.

After they left BORCO, they went to a marina where they went by tugboat out to the jetties where boats are loaded and unloaded with oil instead of coming into the port. As they were at sea, each student got a chance to drive the tugboat. They also observed the operations of the container port.

The next place visited was Polymers where they saw how the tiny beads in the Styrofoam cups are made. The last place they went was to the caves where they en-

countered bats and insects. The speakers on each tour were very enlightening and most joyous to be around. The classes were very grateful to have had the opportunity to experience such an important yet unbelievable experience.

Local Students Chosen to Represent The Bahamas

By Portia Jonsson

Two of Abaco's very own students have been nominated to represent not only this island but the entire Bahamas at the 2004

Please see School Page 14



Viline Baptiste and Bradley Fox Jr. have been nominated to represent the Bahamas at the 2004 Global Young Leaders Conference. Viline is a high achiever and has maintained between a 3.9 and 4.0 average throughout her academic career. She aspires to become a lawyer and intends to make a contribution to the development of The Bahamas. Bradley Fox,

Jr., plans to study communications, culinary arts and international business at a college in the United States or at the College of The Bahamas. This astute 16-year-old leader and focused young Bahamian resides in Spring City, Abaco.



Pictured are students of St. Francis de Sales School who traveled to Freeport on March 4th for three days. Far right is Mr. Simon, Grade 12 Home Room teacher and history/geography teacher who accompanied this group on their field trip.



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More School News

School *From Page 13*

Global Young Leaders Conference in either Europe or the United States this summer. These Global Scholars are Bradley Fox, Jr. and Viline Baptiste, both 12th Grade students at St. Francis de Sales School.

The purpose of the Global Young Leaders Conference is to select a group of exceptional high school students worldwide for their scholastic merit and demonstrated leadership ability and to provide them with the opportunity to witness history in the making; to gain a more global perspective through interaction with students from around the world; to meet national and international leaders who are actively involved in the decision-making processes in both the government and private sector; and to immerse them in a challenging curriculum that will further develop their leadership skills.

Bradley and Viline have been given a choice of traveling to either Europe or the

United States. If Central and Eastern Europe is chosen, they will have the opportunity to visit Vienna, Budapest and Prague. During their 13-

day journey they will examine issues of importance to the world and to young men and women of their generation -- issues such as the expansion of the European Union and the evolving role of the United Nations and other international organizations. They will visit foreign embassies, meet with high-ranking diplomatic officials and retrace the footsteps of former rulers during visits to historic seats of power.

In the US their experience will first take them to the political power center of Washington, D.C., then to the economic power center of New York City. In Washington they will explore the Lincoln Memorial, the US Capitol building, the Smithsonian Museums and meet with a senior member of President Bush's administration. In New York Bradley and Viline will learn about the business of international finance, visit the New York Mercantile Exchange and see

awe-inspiring sites at the Ellis Island Museum.

Upon completion of the Conference, the students will be recognized for their participation in the Global Youth Leaders Conference with a Certificate of Merit, an award that distinguishes them as a high achiever.

Congratulations to Bradley and Viline on all that they have accomplished in the past and for all that they will accomplish as a Global Scholar this summer in either Europe or the US.

S.C. Bootle High School
Total Experience Comes to S.C. Bootle High

By Ima B. Nehr

On March 19 the founder of the Total Experience Gospel Choir, Rev. Patrinnell Wright, flew in Seattle, Washington, following an invitation from the art department of S.C. Bootle High School. The choir has worked with the talents of Ray Charles,

Please see School Page 15



St. Francis de Sales School held its intra-school sports competition and the winning team shows off its trophy.



Each month a birthday social at St. Francis de Sales School is held for teachers celebrating their birthdays. For the month of March the Birthday Club, in the spirit of the Lenten Season, donated their funds to the Bahamas Red Cross. Mrs. Barbara Johnson, President of the Abaco Branch of the Bahamas Red Cross, received the cheque for \$150 on behalf of the group. Pictured, left to right, are Mrs. Desiree Toote, Chairperson of the Social Committee, Ms. Ismenette Riche, Mrs. Barbara Johnson, Mrs. Fredericks and Mrs. Josephine Giraud-Kumar, Principal of the school.



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More School News

School *From Page 14*

Dionne Warwick, Michael Bolton and recently sang on a grammy-winning track for Dave Mathews. Indeed, after having toured over 30 countries in as many years, the people and places that appear on the track record of this very gifted group are too numerous to name.

The reason for the trip was to help form the first ever S.C. Bootle High Gospel Choir. "Pastor Pat's" work was cut out for her from the start since she was scheduled to perform back in Seattle on April 3rd. This gave her only one school week and a few precious hours the following week before the newly formed choir was to perform for the Cooper's Town community and the students of S.C. Bootle High. In fact,

after only a few hours of practice an auxiliary group of students, along with an entourage of talent that accompanied her from Seattle, performed the following Saturday at the Revival Time Baptist Church to the delight of all who attended.

Then on April 1 the first mass choir in the history of Cooper's Town revealed itself campus wide. The choir from Abaco Central High was in attendance and graced the event with a rousing rendition of the national anthem and a few songs from their own repertoire. The afternoon was a smashing success with nearly 80 student voices lifted in song and praise. The excitement turned to frenzy as the choir began to rock in rhythm and "cha-cha real slow." Many of the audience members leapt to their feet in appreciation as the energy was raised to

another level. Ms. Gloria Smith, also from Seattle, sang a beautiful solo accompanied by Mr. Kent Stevenson on the keyboard. D'She Juan, Pastor Wight's grandson, lead the dance number.

After the performance Principal Leslie Rolle expressed his sincere appreciation for everyone's effort and invited Pastor Wright to return next year. Pastor Wright responded by announcing that she would like to return next year with the entire 25-member Total Experience Gospel Choir. The audience responded with a cheer.

As Pastor Wright prepared to leave for the return flight home the next day, she expressed a wish to take a contingency of S.C. Bootle High students back to Seattle with her next year. Talks are now in progress concerning this exciting project.

Students Show Their Artistic Skills

By Rayallen Fredericks

At S.C. Bootle High School students have worked hard and now they are gradu-

ally proving that they are true artists. It is amazing to see how talented students use their gifts to touch the lives of others. Under the supervision of Rebecca Valrojean the art students at S.C. Bootle have been reaching into the real art world. The students have been experimenting with new art other than the normal drawing. They have used artistic mediums such as paint, graphite, pastel and ink to enhance the elegance of their magnificent art work.

At S.C. Bootle the artistic dolphins have experimented with candle making, computer graphics, mono-prints and in the matter of weeks they will be engaging in jewelry making. An art student at S.C. Bootle said, "Art is not all about drawing and painting; it has a huge variety of media." The candles made during the candle making period were stunning; they were scented and in different shapes, sizes and colors.

Please see School Page 37



Members of the S.C. Bootle High School recently formed mass choir pose for its photo. The choir was organized by Rev. Patrinell Wright from Seattle, Washington, who worked with them for a week. She will be returning next year when she will again work with the group.



The students and teachers of Man-O-War All Age School put on a Bahamian History Presentation on March 24th.

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Body Is Discovered, Man Is Arraigned



A body was discovered in a Blue Hole near Bustic Bight on April 9. The body was wrapped and bound with duck tape and chain and attached to one cement block. Personal effects including keys recovered from the body helped police identify the body as that of Jermain Thompson.

Man Is Arraigned for "Causing Death"

The body of Jermain Thompson was discovered mid-afternoon on Good Friday, April 9, when two hikers made the discovery in a hillside sinkhole east of Bustic's Bight. The decomposing body was identified in a matter of days and a suspect was brought into custody.

One week after the discovery, on April 16, Ian Jermain Knowles of Murphy Town was arraigned in Marsh Harbour's Magistrate's Court and charged by Magistrate Crawford McKee for "causing the death of Jermain Thompson." A plea was not required from the defendant and a preliminary inquiry will be held June 30 in Marsh Harbour. Due to the nature of the charge, bail was not allowed.

The body had been wrapped with plastic bags, extensively bound with duct tape and further wrapped with a heavy chain. A ce-

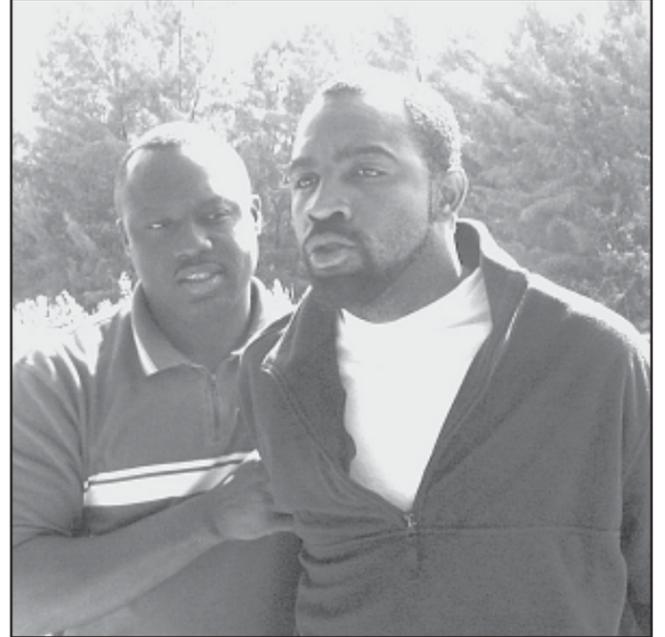
ment block was attached to the victim's feet. Decomposition created gas which eventually brought the body to the surface.

Due to the remoteness of the site and the difficulty in extracting the body, it was left in the sinkhole overnight and was recovered about 9:30 the next morning.

The body was immediately taken to Nassau for an autopsy to determine the cause of death. As of April 16, the autopsy report had not been received by the police in Marsh Harbour and the cause of death was not known. It was acknowledged that there were multiple knife wounds and extensive lacerations on the body. Family members felt that the lacerations were extensive dog bites. The defendant was known to keep or breed pit bulls.

Keys and other personal effects recovered on the body helped the police in mak-

Mr. Ian Jermain Knowles of Murphy Town was arraigned on April 16 before Magistrate Crawford McKee in Marsh Harbour with causing the death of Mr. Jermain Thompson. There will be a Preliminary Inquiry on June 30. Mr. Knowles is shown here being escorted to the Court by a police officer.



ing their identification. Assisting the local police were specialized teams from Freeport and Nassau. Superintendent of the Abaco Police, Clarence Russell, thanked the Abaco public who contributed significant manpower and information to the police.

When asked if other persons may have been involved, Supt. Russell stated, "Murder has no statute of limitations and new or developing information may implicate other persons."

This is Abaco's only murder this year.



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North Abaco News

Forest Fires Up North

By Rayallen Fredericks

Huge flames of fire devoured a massive amount of forest between Cedar Harbour and Cooper's Town and Cedar Harbour and Wood Cay. It is not likely for forest fires to be at this time of the year since it is now spring, but this fire was started with a trash fire.

According to Cedar Harbour residents a normal "yard fire" was left without supervision and grew out of control. The fire spread through the forest like a raging bull and burned the green elegant pine trees which are now a dusty brown as a result of this incident.

The fire was disturbing to residents of all the settlements of Little Abaco because

the smoke engulfed almost the entire five Little Abaco communities. It was unusual how the fire metaphorically skipped from one side of Cedar Harbour and caught on the other side. As a result both sides of Cedar Harbour had flames fires. These fires burned for nearly a week.

Tragedy Strikes Crown Haven

By Portia Jonsson

On March 20th the bodies of two brothers, Darren Sears and Derek Bodie, of Crown Haven were found aboard their 40-foot fishing vessel moored some 100 feet from the shoreline. The boat was filled with "toxic" fumes and it is believed that the pair succumbed after inhaling the fumes of chemicals.

The men were reportedly last seen the

day before when they left to work on their boat. When the brothers failed to return home, a concerned girlfriend, Ms. Meoshi Clay swam out to the vessel and made the gruesome discovery of the bodies. She immediately alerted the authorities.

The Police discovered a gasoline-fueled portable generator, which was still running

in the hold of the boat where one of the bodies was found. Foul play was not suspected on examination of the bodies. However, an autopsy was performed in order to establish the exact cause of death.

The bodies were flown to Nassau the following day aboard a charter flight.



The Sand Bar at Banyan Beach Club now has a new bar. The top is being painted by Shamsi Cartwright. She is shown here painting the bar top before it was installed. It now sports a humorous marine scene. The grand opening of the Sand Bar will be held later this month.

AA Meetings

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

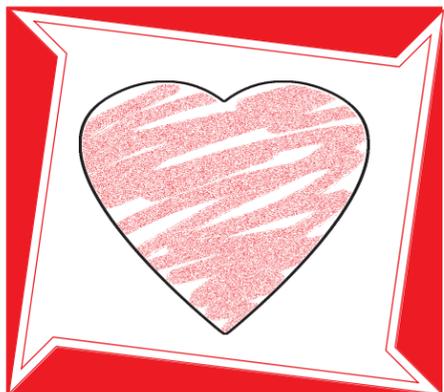
The AA group in Hope Town meets Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the library.

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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Easter Parade Includes Bonnets



The winners of the Easter Bonnet Parade at St. Francis de Sales School proudly show off their Easter finery and their certificates. This annual event is for the Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten classes.

By Portia Jonsson

The Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes of St. Francis de Sales held its Third Annual Easter Bonnet Parade at the school on March 30th. This was a grand occasion. A contest was held for the most original bonnets and best-dressed boy and girl. The boys were dressed in smart suits with bow ties and the girls wore pretty spring dresses. The children modeled their beautiful attire and bonnets for the two judges in hopes of capturing the top prize. Mr. Leroy Thompson was the event's Master of Ceremonies and Mrs. Barbara Johnson organized this special affair.

The winner in the Pre-Kindergarten class

for the most original bonnet was Nakara Adderley while Marbria Wilmore and Mabray Wilmore captured the best-dressed awards. The Kindergarten winner in the most original bonnet contest was Abbey-Gay Raymore and the best-dressed awards went to Jessica Knowles and Dante Stuart.

After the parade an Easter Egg Hunt was held on the grounds of St. Francis de Sales Church for the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes.

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More News of the News

Please see **Cays** Page 7

Eastwood character. Colyn is survived by his wife Elena, his parents Earl and Eileen Russell, his siblings and their families and many other relatives and friends.

School News

The students of Amy Roberts Primary had a very special visitor on April 5th - Bob, the police dog! Officers from the Abaco branch of the Police Force traveled to the school and gave a demonstration on how Bob can find drugs hidden in bags. The children were thrilled and all wanted to be a helper. They also asked a lot of questions. Thank you to the officers for taking the time to share with our children. I'm sure Bob and his handler are welcome any time.

Now that the weather is warming, there should be more activities around town. Don't forget to mark your calendars and make plans to be a part of the Island Roots Heritage Festival, May 7-9.

Island Roots Festival

The Island Roots Festival Committee in Green Turtle Cay, in conjunction with the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism Abaco, announces the 1st Annual Island Roots Festival on Green Turtle Cay, May 7-9, 2004.

This inaugural event is intended to stimulate interest in the "Sister City" revitalization between New Plymouth, Green Turtle Cay, and Key West, Florida. Another objective is to renew appreciation of our Bahamian heritage and culture. A grand celebration is being planned that will include performances by the Royal Bahamas Police Force Marching and Pop Bands, colourful Junkanoo parades, maintaining the Bunce tradition and an evening concert featuring the Key West Chorale.

In addition, there will be a festival site which will provide food and drinks, kids' games, art and crafts and historic booths and all day fun and native entertainment. As the entire community is considered historic, a map outlining sites of interest will be available for walking tours.

Scores of Key West natives have booked accommodations in preparation for the celebrations.

Old Kitchen Will Reopen

By Jennifer Hudson

The old kitchen in the rear of the Albert Lowe Museum on Green Turtle Cay, which is almost two hundred years old and believed to be the oldest building on the island, will be opening again to the public on May 7th. The old kitchen, which has been closed for the past five or six years, has recently received a few minor repairs and

will be opening in time for the Island Roots Festival to be held in Green Turtle Cay on May 7 and 8. This will be a very interesting piece of history to visit. The kitchen still boasts its original fireplace, brick oven and latrine at the back. Utensils from the kitchen such as old black cooking pots, an old time coffee grinder, wash boards, scales, kerosene lamps, irons and graters which the people made out of tin and punched with nails to grind the coconuts will be displayed along with various other kitchen wares which have been loaned by families on the cay. These will include a whole shelf of china dating from the period, face basins, jugs, baskets and some old time preserves.

In the olden days people usually kept a pig in their backyard so that they would not waste any food scraps. The trough that the pig ate out was found behind this very kitchen and estimated to be 90 to 100 years old and will also be on display. The kitchen will remain open to the public after the Festival with the same opening hours as the museum.

Key West Chorale

By Jennifer Hudson

Performing as part of the Island Roots Festival on May 7 in the Garden Theatre at the home of artist Alton Lowe, will be the Key West Chorale comprising 61 voices. They will be performing songs from many Broadway shows including *Cabaret*, *Camelot*, *Oliver*, *Les Miserables* and *The Fantastics*. Melodies from the 60s, the Beatles and the Beach Boys will be presented by dancers and soloists.

The Director of the Chorale is Emily

Lowe who is descended from John Lowe and Mary Anne Curry of Green Turtle Cay and Sarah Pinder from Cherokee Sound. President of the Chorale, Emily Parsons is another direct descendant of Green Turtle Cay. Three of the singers are direct descendants of William Curry from Green Turtle Cay, who became Florida's first millionaire.

Ed Swift, who will also be present at the Festival, is one of the originators of the first Island Roots Festival. Originally from

Green Turtle Cay, Ed is now a very successful entrepreneur in Key West.

Tickets for the concert are priced at \$15 for adults and \$5 for children and may be purchased at the Brass and Leather Shop in Marsh Harbour and the Lowe Museum in Green Turtle Cay.

May 8th will be a day of family fun as the Island Roots Festival continues. There will be games for the children, plenty of food, arts and crafts and music by the Royal Bahamas Police Force Band.



The old kitchen adjacent to the Albert Lowe Museum in Green Turtle Cay has been restored and will be open for viewing at the Island Roots Festival on May 7-9. The kitchen has been equipped with old utensils and kitchenware used in the old days. Randy Curry makes a final inspection of the display.

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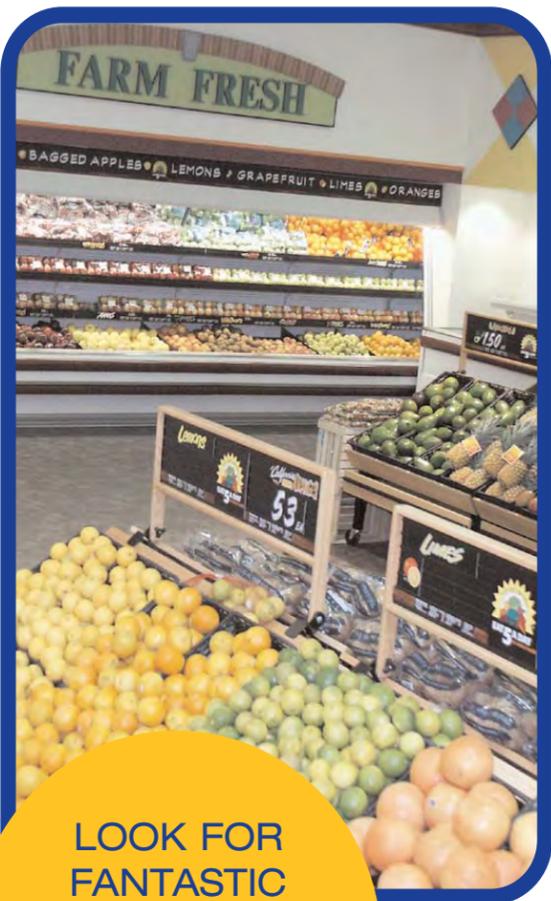
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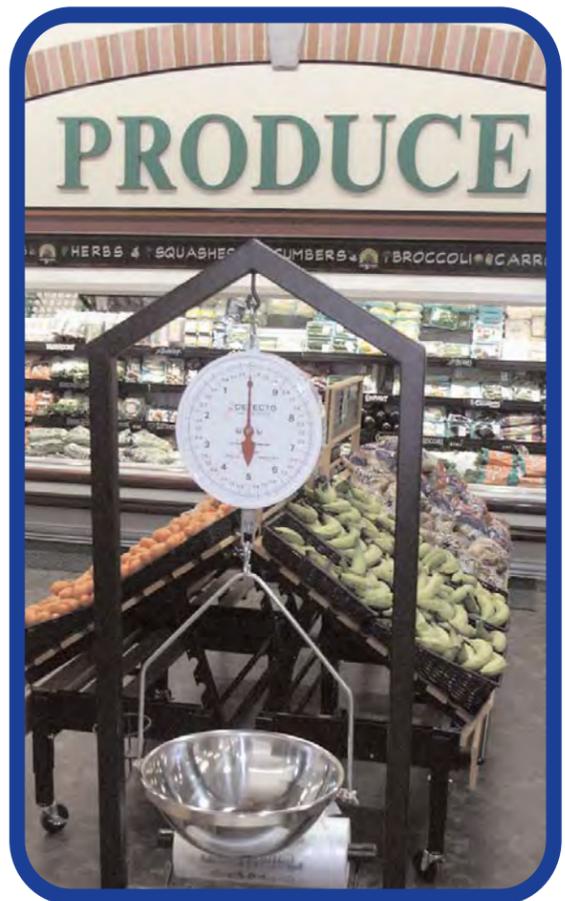
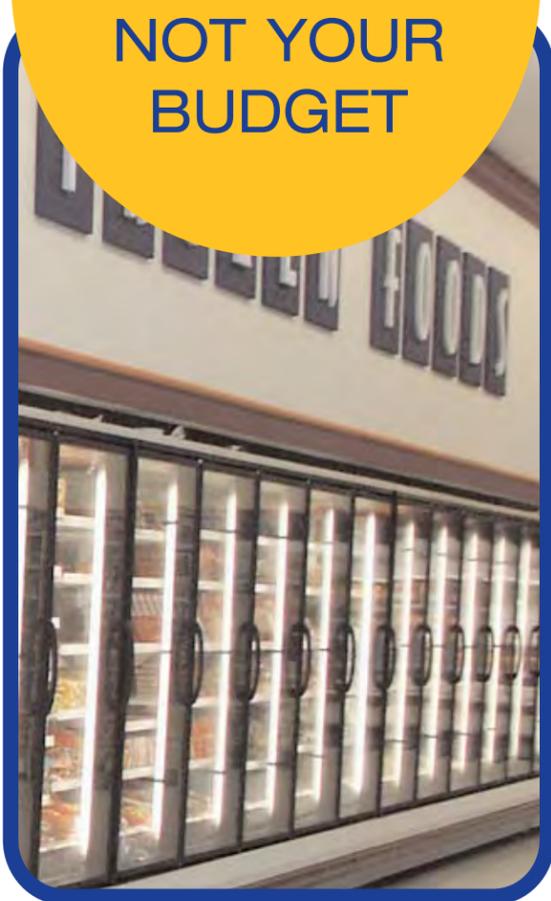
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- ★ **Marsh Harbour** - Cove Estates - "Laura's Hideaway" - Duplex - 2 -2 bedroom, 1 bath apartments, plus efficiency, 3 separate living units - great location, excellent rental income, furnished. # AB44 - **NEW PRICE** \$175,000.
- ★ **Marsh Harbour** - 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.



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- ★ **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.
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- ★ **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.
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- ★ **Treasure Cay "Oceana"** - Elegant Beach-front home 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, 1,690 sq.ft., 1 bedroom, 1 bath 400 sq.ft. guest house. Garage. Beautifully landscaped and furnished. #AB92 **UNDER CONTRACT**
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- ★ **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 - **NEW PRICE** \$355,000.



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Elbow Cay - Dorros Cove - 3 bedroom, 2
bath, 2,500 sq.ft residence with 2 bedroom, 1
bath - 1,100 sq.ft guest house. Southeastern
point of island. Swimming Pool - Private boat
slip. Superb ocean and cay views. Fully
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Marsh Harbour - Eastern Shores - 4
bedroom, 3 bath - 2,700 sq.ft. Home. Private
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- ★ #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 buildingsites - between Coco Bay and White Sound from 1/4 - 1/2 acre # AB5090 - from: \$59,000.
- ★ **Man-O-War Cay** - "L.U.A. Tract" - Over 1 Acre - Sea-to-Sea - Private Dock - AB5153 - \$645,000.
- ★ **Sand Banks Creek** - One Acre plus - Wooded lots with over 90' of water frontage on Bay - 3 miles south of Treasure Cay - Limited Number Available. # AB5069 - from: \$63,700.
- ★ **PRIVATE ISLAND** - "Carrington Cay" - 1.4 Acres - Near Leisure Lee - # AB5147 - \$375,000.



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Green Turtle Cay - 2,130 sq.ft. home on 1/4
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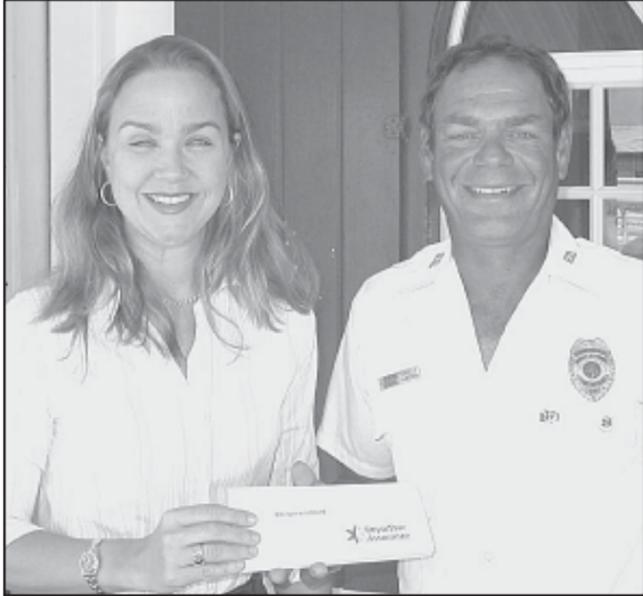
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Man-O-War Cay

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

Marsh Harbour Fire Department Receives Donation



Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department was extremely appreciative when they received the generous donation of \$5000 from RoyalStar Assurance after fighting numerous forest fires through the area over the past few weeks. Victoria Albury of Abaco Insurance Agency presented Mike Parotti with a cheque on behalf of RSA. RoyalStar Assurance (formerly Royal and Sun Alliance Insurance) has been represented on Abaco for 20 years by

Abaco Insurance Agency and paid out some \$40 million in claims after Hurricane Floyd. RSA's commitment to the Marsh Harbour community and all other parts of Abaco continues every day by offering coverage for home, motor, marine and commercial insurance. RSA salutes the members of the Marsh Harbour Fire Department and extends a special thank you to each one for continuing to protect our communities.

Bahamasair Plans Increased Flights

By Isobel Sherman

Bahamasair will soon begin daily flights between Marsh Harbour and West Palm Beach. This has come after many persons in Abaco have asked Bahamasair to increase their flight schedule to West Palm Beach. When Bahamasair re-instituted their West Palm Beach flights in November 2002, it quickly became apparent that this flight was one of the most lucrative runs for the carrier. In fact, Bahamasair flights from Nassau to Marsh Harbour are also very lucrative for the airline.

Added to the picture is their vastly improved on-time performance and reasonable air fare to West Palm making the flight much more appealing.

No Injuries After Crash Landing

By Portia Jonsson

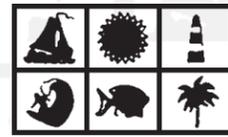
On March 20 persons at the Marsh Harbour International Airport were alarmed when an Island Express flight made a crash landing. The left landing gear collapsed during landing causing the aircraft to skid down the runway. The seven passengers aboard the flight and its pilot escaped injuries.

According to Mr. Bobby Jones, Airport Superintendent, the twin engine Cessna 402C was piloted by Capt. Bruno Cauty and was inbound from Ft. Lauderdale to Abaco. The aircraft was towed to the Abaco Flight Services' hanger for further inspection and investigation. Repairs to the plane were carried out by Abaco Flight Services.

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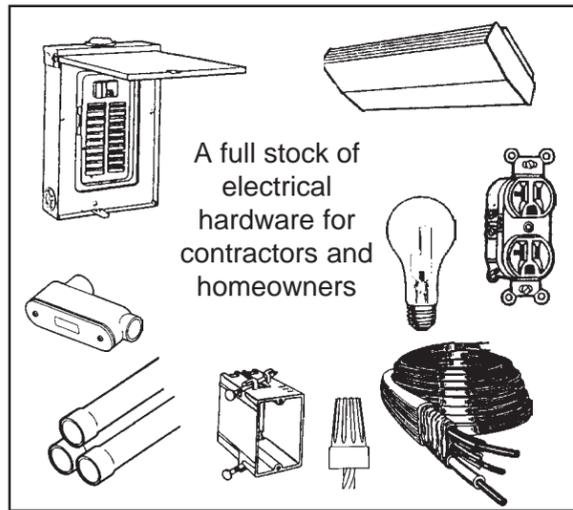
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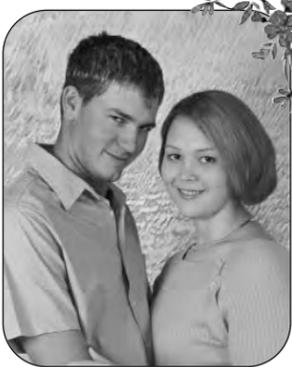
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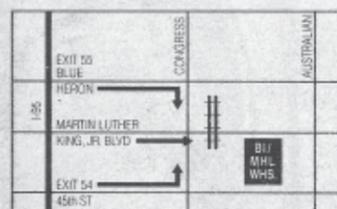
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WhaleFest Sponsors Walk-Run



This photo shows the start of the children's 2.5 K race held in Sandy Point on April 3. The Walk/Run had about 70 children participating

Whalefest is a fund raising event sponsored by the Bahamas Marine Mammal Survey based in Sandy Point. This is the second year that the event included a Walk/Run on April 3. The results of the run are shown below.

5K Race Results

Class	Place	Name
Under 10 years		
Girls	1	Dominique Chea
	2	Candice Woon
10 -12 years		
Girls	1	Chandi Lowe
13 -16 years		
Girls	1	Lyndera Parker
	1	Stevenette Anderson
	3	Samantha Rose
Boys	1	Chris Nesbitt
	2	Orayshawn Rolle
	3	Burnaro Parker
16 -18 years		
Girls	1	Kayleisha Edgecombe
Boys	1	Clifford Hanna
	2	Marcus Josue
	3	Gorden Dean

26-45 years

Women	Place	Name
	1	Rhonda Claridge
	2	Deb Marston
	3	Peggy Thompson

Over 45 years

Men	Place	Name
	1	Mac deShazier

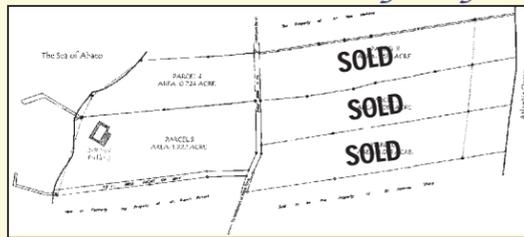
2.5K Race Results

Class	Place	Name
Under 10 years		
Girls	1	Rashan Burrows
	2	Ellinor Mitchel
	3	Kenesha Pinder
Boys	1	Terrance Burrows
	2	Jake Consulta
	3	Wil Claridge
Over 10 years		
Girls	1	Kaywaanya Pedican
	2	Tyronia Albury
	3	Anthea Cornish
Boys	1	Kew Burrows
	2	Audrick Lightbourne
	3	Delon Edgecombe

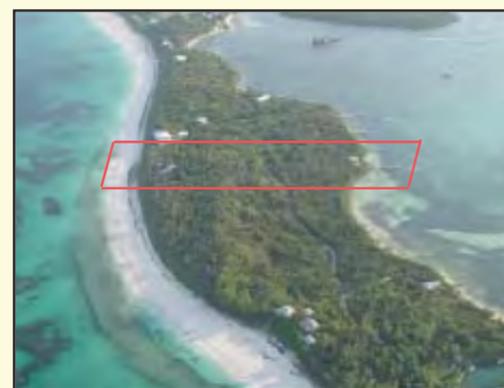
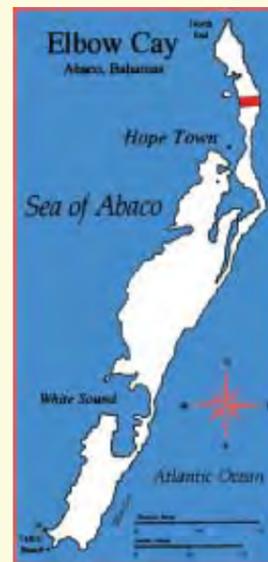
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More Letters to the Editor

Letters

From Page 9

then please do not light any fires for said purposes in Bahama Palm at all. As for any other communities in Abaco, I will leave it to their residents to speak to this problem.

We here in Bahama Palm Shores have never tried to bar anybody from using the beaches here, at least not that I am aware of. One would think that anybody knows how dangerous fire can be and would therefore be a little more considerate of the fact that there are people who live in Bahama Palm Shores - many Bahamians among them - who have worked hard to build their homes and would therefore be devastated to see these homes go up in a blaze. So please, PLEASE, have mercy upon us.

Sincerely

William (Billy) Roberts

(P.S. In our recent battle with the fires that threatened some of our homes in Bahama Palm Shore, there was a number of individuals, some who represent companies, that helped us. In your next issue, I wish to publically recognize these people.)

We Need a Secret Ballot

Dear Sirs,

Please allow me the space in your valuable paper to comment on Dr. Nottage's suggestions on The Bahamas electoral process after his trip to Antigua and Barbuda as an Election Observer. Anyone who has read our election act would know that the provisions have already been made to deal with gerrymandering. In the last election Mr. Nottage claimed after the new boundaries were formed, his Constituency ended up taking on the shape of a gun.

Well, Mr. Nottage, if you don't want to be shot down again by the gerrymandering politicians, then, you, sir, need to jump on the secret ballot wagon because it is one of the few deterrents against gerrymandering.

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to know that the absence of the true secret vote plays a great part in the changing of the boundaries every time we hold an election.

Our country on an average holds more election courts than any other democratic nation in our region. Why? Because we do not follow the provisions in the Act.

For example, if someone's vote is challenged, the Act calls for them to be given a different color ballot to cast their vote. This prevents the screening of all the ballots if they need to be scrutinized. But time after time we hear the story of the person(s) who has voted illegally but still there was no different color ballots to connect them to their vote. Do our presiding officers know the Act? Do the candidates know the Act? Do their agents know the Act?

Pilot Club Holds Movie Premier Party

By Isobel Sherman

On the evening of March 24 the Pilot Club of Abaco held its annual Movie Premier Party at RND Cinemas in Marsh Harbour. Prior to the showing of the movie wine and refreshments were served as guests mingled and socialized with one another.

The movie, *Mystic River*, had its premier showing that night on Abaco. The event was well attended. Proceeds are to aid the Pilot Club of Abaco to continue their programme of educating persons about preventing brain injuries and taking care of their brains.

It Pays to Advertise

Mr. Nottage, I would like you to think back to August 2001 when the FNM held its Leader Elect process. Mr. Tennyson Wells, Mr. Algernon Allen, Mr. Lester Turnquest and Mr. Tommy Turnquest all insisted on secret untraceable ballots. Why? Because they were quite aware of how traceable ballots can be manipulated, how they can be used to influence the voter, how they make it possible for one to sell his or her vote.

Yet with all of this voting hypocrisy going on under the watchful eyes of all the opposing political parties, no one including you, with the exception of the Bahamas Democratic Movement and myself, of course, voiced our distastefulness with that blatant display of what is good for the goose is not good for the gander.

Mr. Nottage, PLEASE ask our Prime Minister to send you to Jamaica, Canada, Trinidad or Guyana to oversee their election processes. They are all Commonwealth countries with a truly secret vote. They do not hold an election court after every election and their populations exceed ours by millions. Let's fix this undemocratic practice before our next election.

Thank you.

Gladstone "Stone" McEwan

Karate Students Earn Promotions



Budding Karate experts meet every week to improve their moves under the direction of Mr. Churton Tooté. On March 31 the class held a promotion ceremony, recognizing the achievement of the participants. The class meets in the Anglican Hall in Marsh Harbour.

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



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Dorros Cove - Elbow Cay Lots #39 & #40 Offered as one parcel. Approx. 220' X 220' fabulous unobstructed ocean views. Offered at: \$298,000. Will consider selling separately for \$160,000 Each 110' X 220'
Marnie's Landing - Elbow Cay 15 Lots 1/2 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
Bahama Palm Shores - 3 Lots 80' x 125' \$14,000 each
Casuarina Point - Residential lot 80' x 125' \$15,000
Marsh Harbour - 13,000 sq ft residential lot next to Chelseas Choice \$33,500 Gross
Guana Cay - Only 6 lots remaining in 15 lot sub-division, selling fast. Offered from \$120,000
Guana Cay - 5 Direct beach front lots starting from \$250,000

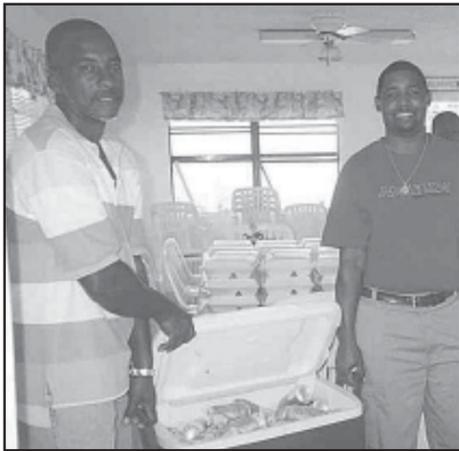
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The special kids at Every Child Counts receiving their gifts



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Vanrita Ferguson - New Rehoboth Ministries; Kenva Knowles - Every Child Counts

Love is a more excellent way - As we look around our community today, one does not have to look hard to see the depression, stress, pain, and brokenness that exists among our people. Some are strung-out on drugs and alcohol; some are destitute for food, shelter and clothes. Some are battered, depressed and suicidal because of broken relationships. On Abaco we are already beginning to see the over-riding effect of these social ills. No matter how much we try to clip branches of this tree of social ills by building up police and security forces, we must destroy the trees by getting or dealing with the roots of the problems.

In response to this deepening decay in our society, a group of concerned citizens decided to answer the call and rise to the challenge of confronting these social ills. The group came to be known as “Heal Our Land.” Heal Our Land was founded in June 2001 and immediately was thrust into the challenge of responding to the needs of others.

So far we have been able to assist with families in crisis, the rehabilitation of alcohol and drug addicts providing food, clothing, and sometimes even shelter to the needy, we have counselled numerous adults and children, some who confess to have been on the verge of committing suicide. This is why there is a great and urgent need for us to build such a facility. We have asked for assistance from other facilities in Nassau, but most of the time there was no space available. ABACO, we need our own facility. We need your help to make this a reality. Heal Our Land will consist of the following centers: Men, Women and Juvenile Centers. There will also be a nursery for infants so that children will not be separated from their mothers while being rehabilitated. We are networking with other centers in the Bahamas and abroad. We are all about saving the lives of others, and we will go the extra mile to do whatever it takes to restore people’s dignity and security.

Some of our accomplishments in the community are:

1. Housed the homeless, including street walkers
2. Helped in assisting with rent in emergency situations
3. Distributed food, clothing and medical supplies
4. Give gifts to needy and special children at Christmas time
5. Assisted with the children at Every Child Counts Learning Center
6. Provided lunches for unfortunate children
7. Meet and counsel addicts and hurting people

Through the efforts of Heal Our Land we are seeing lives changed and these persons are making positive contributions to their families and the community. The existence of the Heal Our Land Family Crisis Center has only been possible thus far due to the personal investment of time, resources and money from this small group of everyday people who sacrifice from their own families in order to help bring healing to hurting people.

Now we, the members of Heal Our Land Family Crisis Center, are “People helping people to help themselves” and are turning to you, the community of Abaco, to join us with your support.

We are a non-profit organization whose only means of funding thus far has been through a few concerned citizens who are committed to making a difference in our community. Presently, we are fully registered with the Bahamas Government and have already put forth plans to construct an office, counselling and primary social care facility in central Abaco in order to meet the present demands for addressing these social ills. We need your financial support and assistance. You can be assured that your giving goes directly to meeting the needs of others. Please help us to help others, and together we will build the community of Abaco. We invite all concerned citizens and businesses to partner with us and network with us in any way possible. For further information please feel free to call or write us at the address below.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed so far. Your donations have helped to restore happiness to those who have been hurting. We look forward to your continued support.

We also would like to thank all the people who have made it possible for this work to go on. Your labor is not in vain; press on; it isn’t easy; but it is worth it. Remember we have been chosen to give of our hands to serve and our hearts to love.

We are here to serve the entire Bahama Islands - not just the island of Abaco.

Donations may be made to:
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Heal Our Land Family Crisis Center

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Ivy Swain - Friendship Tabernacle



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Christmas Dinner Delivery

Boy Courier
Dwight Cornish



A Great Mother and Cook

Pastor Mildred Ferguson - Church of God of Prophecy



Christmas Gift Wrappers

Margel Smith, Sonia Dailey - Church of God of Prophecy

Heal Our Land, P. O. BOX AB-20656, Dundas Town, Abaco, Bahamas

Public Utilities Commission Explain Policies

By Stephanie Humblestone

Abaco's 200 taxi drivers were left in limbo regarding future commercial usage of the VHF radio after a visit on March 25 and 26 from the Public Utilities Commission, the Nassau-based body which regulates all communications and radio communications services.

"We did not come here to focus on the VHF radio. We came with an open mind, but it seems like the hottest issue in town," said Leonard Adderley, Senior Telecommunications Engineer who, along with Charles Kemp Telecommunications Engineer and Assistant Accountant Karen Bethel, was available to assist the public at the Administrator's Office in Marsh Harbour.

"It is really not appropriate to use VHF

radios for commercial use. They were designed for marine use only, and we do have frequencies we assign for land mobile areas," Mr. Kemp stated on Radio Abaco.

The announcement sent shock waves throughout Abaco and its offshore cays which depend heavily on the VHF radio for inter island communication, especially the emergency services.

However, it was the taxi drivers who expressed most concern as the VHF is their sole means of communication unlike their counterparts in New Providence who communicate through dispatch services.

"In Nassau the VHF is used only for ship to shore and shore to shore," said Mr. Adderley, recognising that Abaco,

with the Exumas and Eleuthera to a lesser extent, is peculiar because it is an archipelago with many remote and isolated areas.

However, he stated that there are two issues in question - necessity and legality. The former he said would be explored by the PUC as the Abaco islands do have a special configuration.

Regarding "legality" Mr. Kemp pointed out that the Public Utilities Commission is governed by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) which establishes the area of radio frequency. Every country has a frequency allocation number. The Bahamas is number 2. All other countries in number 2 are required to follow this chart.

"When land-based services operate in marine services, then problems occur. There are other services intended for land and one is the dispatch service which the VHF radio is being used as in Abaco," said Mr. Kemp.

Abaco's mainland was likened to a "mother ship" by one VHF operator with boaters depending in every way on the VHF from calling ahead for a mooring

as they enter Abaco harbours to arranging a pick-up by taxi from the food store after shopping.

At the Marsh Harbour airport taxi drivers were divided about what they wanted. Some felt that a dispatch service would create a "more level playing field." One taxi driver described it as a "jumble" on the VHF air waves as taxis race to respond to "Any taxi come in." from places like the ferry docks which have large numbers of departing tourists.

Others felt that it would be difficult to set up a dispatch office as taxi drivers are independent operators and there are no taxi businesses in existence.

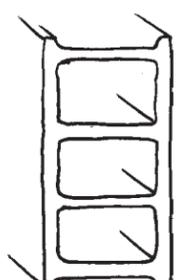
In the interim period taxi drivers are required to pay the VHF licencing fee of \$150 per annum. None minded this. One smilingly claimed, "We have had a free ride for a long time so we can't complain."

[Note: License fees for land use begin at \$250 per year with significantly higher fees for some approved uses. There is also a \$30 operator fee for each person licensed to use a VHF radio.]



Three representatives from the Public Utilities Commission visited Abaco the end of March to explain policies of their office which controls rates of utilities and licensing of radio equipment. The Commission is expecting to enforce their policies with fines for those not complying. Shown above are, left to right, Mr. Charles Kemp, Ms. Karen Bethel and Mr. Leonard Adderley, Senior Telecommunications Engineer.

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Great Job by the Fire Fighters of Abaco

By Jennifer Hudson

The end of February marked the beginning of six very exhausting weeks for the dedicated volunteer fire fighters of Abaco. Fires began at Leisure Lee in the north and eventually occurred as far south as Bahama Palm Shores. A huge "Thank you" is due to these brave, community minded men and women who, as Linda Leffler of the Jib Room so aptly put it, "Literally saved the island!"

These men and women did an absolutely tremendous job of managing to keep the fire from engulfing homes and businesses to which, at times, it came dangerously close. I don't think that, on the whole, people realize just what a sacrifice these fire fighters make to keep us and our properties safe. I certainly had my eyes opened when researching this story to discover the sacrifices they make and the very difficult conditions they have to work under owing to lack of adequate equipment and gear due to lack of funding.

The island of New Providence is home to Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas, and that small island has a well equipped government funded fire department. This very large island of Abaco, which is now the Bahamas third city and growing at a fast rate, receives only a cheque from Local Government for a little over \$400 per month. "This amount does not even cover more than the smallest fraction of operating costs," states Fire Chief, John Hall, and no donations of equipment or gear is ever received from Nassau.

Fire fighters spend their own money to purchase their safety equipment which includes heavy insulated coats and pants, helmets, boots, gloves and masks. In the United States it costs between \$600 to \$700 to fully equip a fire fighter. Those on Abaco who cannot afford to outfit themselves make do with what they can from the old gear which has been discarded as no longer useable by firefighters in the US which has been sent here.

This is often very inadequate and the crews are severely unprotected. "Due to this serious lack of protection it is only a matter of time before somebody gets badly hurt," states Fire Chief John Hall. During the recent fires, due to lack of masks, the fire fighters were having to use wet cloths to cover their faces. Also as a result of inadequate protective gear, some of the firefighters suffered badly from severe cases of poison wood after their forays into the bush.

The fire truck situation is totally inadequate for an island this size. Although the fire department has four trucks, frequently one will be undergoing repairs. They have two good fire engines consisting of a tank truck which carries 1250 gallons of water, another which carries 750 gallons and an old 1958 Mack engine. The fourth truck in use during the fires is a special use engine with water, foam

and powder but it is not particularly well suited for bush fires.

The number of fires fought on Abaco during the past weeks has taxed the fire department's resources greatly. As Steve Skulnick, a professional fire fighter from California and now a volunteer with the department here, says, "What the fire fighters did with what they had was truly amazing." He was so impressed with how the men and women handled the fires here with only five or six people fighting a fire using worn out equipment. In California there would have been 100 firemen at such a fire with the assistance of bulldozers and other heavy equipment plus an airplane.

Heavy equipment was brought to the scene here by private citizens to whom the fire department is extremely grateful. Without their help they would not have been able to contain the fires. Much of the fire fighting was done with back fires when time permitted, otherwise water was used. In areas such as Bahama Palm Shores where there is no access to fire hydrants, water was pumped from swimming pools and private wells.

The Casuarina Point/ Bahama Palm Shores Volunteer Fire Department under the leadership of Bob Cornea has one fire truck and has a reciprocal agreement with the Marsh Harbour Fire Department whereby they help each other. However, this truck is also in a poor state of repair and is rusting out. It was purchased by the people of Casuarina Point from Marsh Harbour when it was already second hand and had seen better days. Donations are now being sought to replace this truck with a newer one and to keep the present one in reserve as a back up vehicle.

Fire fighters and trucks from both Casuarina Point and Marsh Harbour assisted with the fires in Casuarina, Spring City and Bahama Palm Shores. "The fire in Bahama Palm Shores was an extremely dangerous fire and many homes were threatened," said Bro. Bob.

He would like to thank Big Cat, the men who brought a tractor all the way from Sandy Point, Curtis Sand's Limestone Equipment Co, Winding Bay for their large water tanker, Shannon Albury from K&S and most especially Mr. Harlin Johnson of Bahamas Hot Mix who made such an all out effort to save the community of Bahama Palm Shores, working continuously in the midst of the fire. He also is most grateful to Rex and Judy Albury of Casuarina Point for whom he has high praise for the selfless service they always give. They worked 14 to 20 hours a day throughout the entire five days of the fire until finally Rex almost collapsed overcome with smoke and exhaustion.

The gallant efforts by the fire department saved the insurance companies a lot of money as many homes and businesses were threat-

ened by the fires including Cable Bahamas, Forest Heights Academy, St. Francis de Sales Schools, Pinewoods Nursery, the Lazy Parrot, Bustin Bight Resort, Abaco Gas and numerous homes in Sweetings Tract, Government Sub, Spring City, Casuarina Point, Bahama Palm Shores and Leisure Lee.

A word of advice was given by some of the fire fighters as to how people can help prevent a fire from getting too close to their homes. Do not pile up trash such as fallen coconut limbs close to your land and keep any vacant lots next to your property bulldozed along the borderline to prevent a fire spreading to your land. Every three or four years there are major fires, the previous ones being after Hurricane Floyd when there was much debris lying around.

The trucks and equipment which are marginal continue to need maintenance. Several new tyres are needed at a cost of between \$300 to \$400 per tyre as well as batteries, hoses and safety equipment, not to mention maintenance and fuel.

The fire fighters are all volunteers, they have regular daytime jobs as bonefishermen, car dealers, pilots, heavy equipment operators and construction workers. Some of these men spent two weeks or more off work fight-

ing the fires to keep our properties safe. Sometimes employers are generous and give them the time off with pay, but not all do this and many firefighters have had to sacrifice their pay for the sake of the island's safety. Several of the volunteers are older people and willingly got out of their beds when awakened to attend a fire at two o'clock in the morning.

The fire department needs community support. Radio Abaco made an excellent start by raising money from its telethon and Tom and Linda Leffler of the Jib Room invited the fire fighters to an appreciation dinner on April 14th. One dollar from the sale of each drink that night was donated to the fire department. Alone, this will not be enough. Communities must support this group of dedicated committed men and women who protect us. This can be through fund raising events or donations.

Donations may be sent to the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box A.B. 20295, Marsh Harbour. The fire fighters wish to thank the communities for their support in assisting in so many ways and for providing food and beverages to keep them going.

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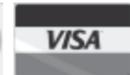
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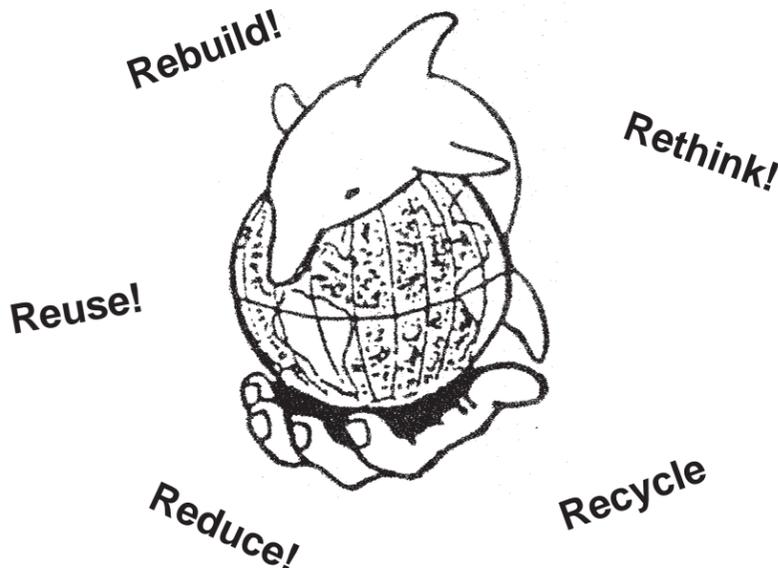
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Marine Movies Raise Funds for Research

By Stephanie Humblestone

Residents and visitors of Elbow Cay enjoyed a rare treat on April 2nd when the community ball park was transformed into an outdoor theatre complete with popcorn and corn dogs.

The occasion was day two of the Bahamas Marine Mammal Survey's Second Annual Whale Fest. Three films were chosen and projected onto a 22-foot by 30-foot inflatable screen to reflect local research and conservation efforts into dolphins and whales.

Introducing them was film maker and underwater photographer Larry Curtis, who is on the Board of Directors of an organization called Filmmakers for Conservation and also on the Board of Blue Voice, an Internet website which deals with conservation issues. Mr. Curtis was not only instrumental in making the evening technically possible but he also funded the event.

"Our initiative is to bring films back into the country of their origin. Very often they are shown everywhere but where they were shot. In terms of conservation the best thing is to give people an understanding of it in a documentary form," said Mr. Curtis, who worked alongside marine biologist Diane Claridge of the BMMS to make the event a reality.

"I met Diane at a marine conference, and she told me about the Whale Fest and her idea of showing a wildlife film. I just took it from there and here we are," continued Mr. Curtis, who expressed gratitude to Ms. Claridge for bringing him to this "spectacular" place. "Customs was amazing; the Board of Tourism was amazing; Diane was amazing," he enthused.

Not only was it a first for Abaco but also for Mr. Curtis, who described his job as "living a passion and a dream."

"We really want to give back to the people and educate them about their environment and familiarize them with ongoing research," he stated.

A cross section of the community and visitors tricked in to the ballfield as a crew from the Utah-based Open Air Cinema Company set the stage for the evening's entertainment. It was a cold night with a westerly wind blowing but it did not deter people from coming. Some wrapped themselves up in blankets while others snuggled. With no school for children the following day, they were allowed to stay up late. Older members of the audience likened the setting to a drive-in movie minus the car!

The first film, created for the National Geographic, was entitled *Twenty Years with the Dolphins*. It was donated by Hardy Jones and shown on Discovery Channel International. It concerned the spotted dolphins in the White Sand Ridge area of Grand Bahama where Mr. Jones and a team of researchers carried out extensive studies into dolphins. Mr. Curtis was responsible for some of the

cinematography. The audience was clearly moved as Mr. Hardy described the early days when the team was familiarizing itself with the dolphins.

"I'll never forget the excitement of those first encounters with the dolphins," Mr. Hardy explained. "They raced to see us, swirled around, sonaring wildly and then after a while they slowed down and examined us intently with their eyes. We felt an enormous sense of discovery and excitement."

The second film, which was made in 1996, was entitled *Champions of the Wild* and set locally but had never been shown in The Bahamas.

"The star is our very own Diane Claridge; and we have literally brought it back into this country. It is about your beautiful marine life and your hard working researchers," said Mr. Curtis in his introduction.

The last film about whales was described by Mr. Curtis as "an ultimate guide to whales;" it was donated by the Discovery Channel.

In between the films Ms. Claridge intro-

duced Pam Church, who is responsible for the BMMS's seven-week summer programme in Sandy Point for children from 9-12 years. Its mission is to educate them on their surroundings by such activities as going into the mangroves, kayaking and visiting the Abaco National Park.

Ms. Claridge spoke briefly on an issue close to her heart and which she described as recently "rearing its ugly head." Atlantis Hotel on Paradise Island has put pressure on the government of The Bahamas to lift its moratorium, placed in 1994, on the capture and importation of dolphins. "Please share with government about how we feel about animals in captivity versus the wild," she implored.

The programme including the showing of the three movies was repeated in Marsh Harbour on April 3 to a much smaller crowd.

Bahama Palm Shores Says

Thanks to

- Bro. Bob and his crew of volunteers from their long hours of strategic planning
- All friends, volunteers, bulldozer operators, engine drivers, water pumpers and everyone who held a hose or shoveled dirt during our week of fires
- Winding Bay and Bahama Hot Mix for their generous donation of equipment
- BEC for getting our three poles put back up and our power restored so that we could pump water
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Customs Celebrates 90 Years

By Jennifer Hudson

On March 21st, 1914, an Act was passed by the Bahamas government for the establishment of a separate Customs Department. Thus, this year marks its 90th anniversary. Prior to 1914 the Customs and Treasury Departments had been combined since an 1854 Act. In 1914 Customs became a separate department but is responsible to the Minister of Finance.

The Customs Department in Nassau celebrated recently with a church service, luncheon and gospel concert. Here on Abaco the occasion was marked by a celebratory luncheon on April 2 under the banner *Celebrating 90 Years of Excellent Service to the Country 1914-2004*.

Invited guests included guest speaker, Island Administrator Mr. Alexander Williams, retired Customs officers, business and government representatives.

In his speech of welcome Superintendent of Customs, Mr. Gary Smith, said that although the Customs Department on Abaco has actually only been in existence 47 years, he felt that it was very fitting for Abaco to join in the celebrations as it is a significant contributor to the nation's purse.

In a short history of Customs Mr. Smith stated that the practice goes back as far as Jesus' time as it tells us in the Bible that

"Joseph and Mary went to be taxed." In days of old people paid taxes according to what they produced and had to offer. Earliest references to a Collector of Customs in the Bahamas date back to 1696 and 1718. Also a Collector of Customs was appointed

by Woodes Rogers in 1729.

In his congratulatory speech Mr. Williams stated that the Customs Department on Abaco has seen phenomenal growth since its inception in 1957 and proudly occupies the large modern Port Authority

building which is a far cry from the small one room building by the Union Jack dock where it began.

Retired Customs Officer Mr. Freddie Albury, one of Abaco's first Custom's Officers, cut the celebration cake.

Bahamas Customs Department on Abaco

By Jennifer Hudson

Marsh Harbour was officially declared a Port of Entry in 1956. Prior to that Customs work was carried out by the Commissioner for the district who was stationed at Hope Town. The first Customs Officer to serve in Marsh Harbour was Mr. Peter Campbell. There was no office at this time so the officer conducted business from his home. Later, an office building measuring 12 feet by 13 feet was constructed on the dock located near the old Methodist Church. About this time a second Customs Officer, Mr. Harry Collins, was hired. Mr. Victor Russell also served as sub-agent.

By 1965 Customs had out-grown its very small office and was moved to a new location in the government complex of that time. Customs by this time had taken on a fourth officer, Mr. Freddie Albury.

Today, the Customs Department in

Marsh Harbour is housed in the new modern Port Authority building and employs 20 Customs officers who oversee Sandy Point and Castaway Cay in addition to Marsh Harbour.

Treasure Cay was nothing but swamp-land during the 1950's. A 5,000 foot airstrip was built on land just east of the present airport concurrent with the construction of the Treasure Cay Resort in 1960. After a building was erected on the old site, permission was given for this to be a port of entry and was named the Treasure Cay International Airport and made a Customs Port of Entry for aircraft. The first Customs officer at this station was Godfrey Culmer. A new 6,500 foot airstrip and a terminal building were built on Crown Land just west of the original site in 1983 to accommodate the increasing jet aircraft and passenger arrivals. Three customs officers

are now stationed at Treasure Cay.

Green Turtle Cay was established as a port of entry in the year 1959 and Mr. Leo Cash was appointed the first Customs officer. The number of officers at this port of entry has remained at one.

Sandy Point at the southern tip of Abaco was established as a port in August 1987. The first Custom Office was located in the government administration building. This building which housed the Commissioner's Office, Post Office, Police Station, Court House and jail was destroyed by fire on February 9, 1988. A new Customs office and warehouse was constructed on Queen's Highway but there is no longer a resident Customs officer in Sandy Point. An officer from Marsh Harbour visits Sandy Point four times a week or at special request.

One officer is also stationed at Walker's Cay and one at Spanish Cay.



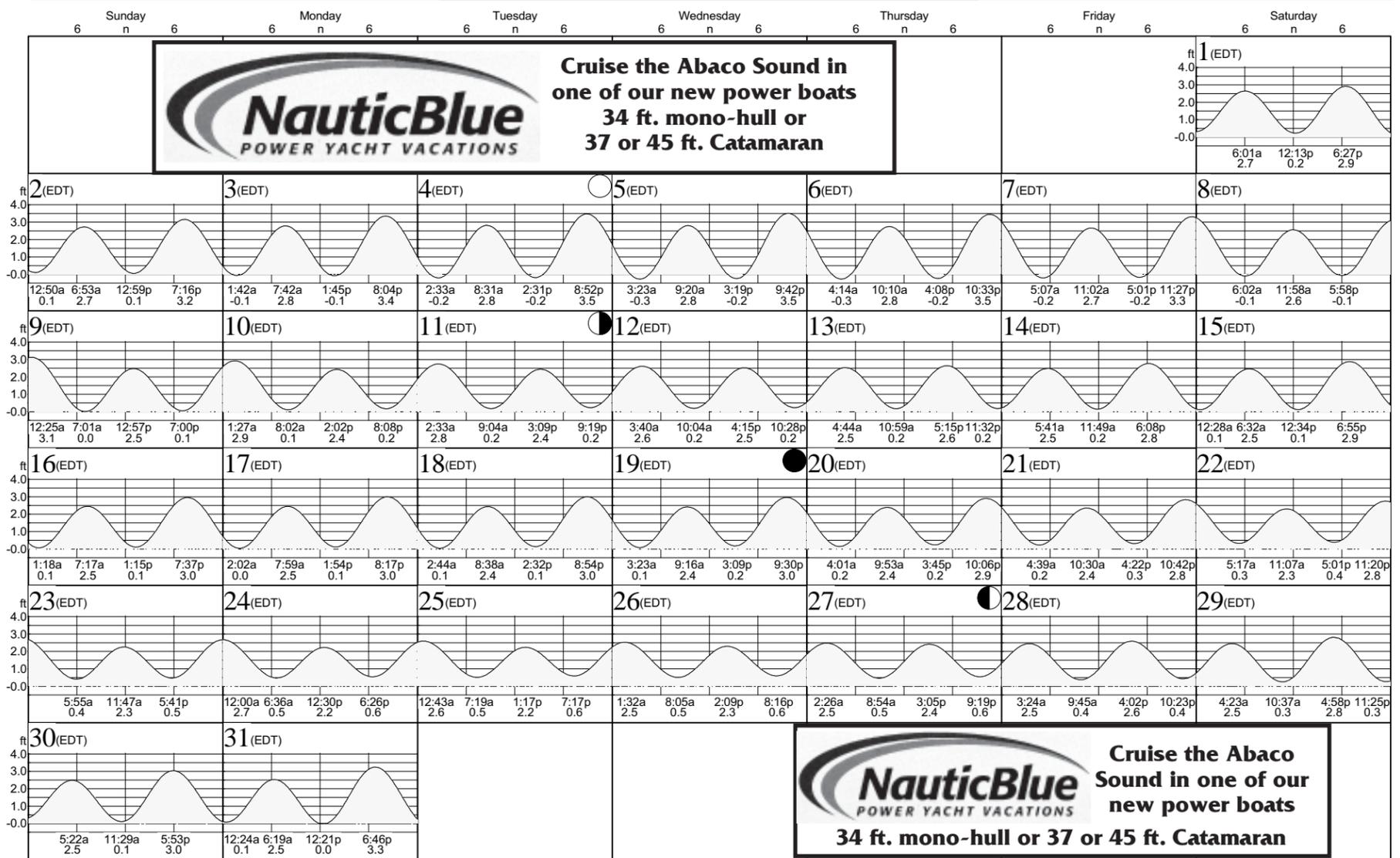
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Pastor Rex Major Plans Abaco Celebration

By Jennifer Hudson

Rex Major, Pastor Emeritus of Grace Gospel Chapel in Nassau, was in Marsh Harbour recently meeting with several church leaders to plan for the upcoming celebration of the 50th anniversary of his conversion to Christianity.

Mr. Major took up residence in Marsh Harbour at the age of seventeen years when

he became Head Master of the Marsh Harbour Public School in August of 1953. Although his tenure on Abaco lasted only three years, from 1953 to 1956, Mr. Major remembers his time in Marsh Harbour vividly as that is where the great historic events of his life took place, and it was the starting place for his Christian pilgrimage.

Capt. Leonard Thompson was responsible for bringing Mr. Major to Abaco. Capt. On arrival Mr. Major found the whole community of Marsh Harbour out on the dock to meet him. Mr. Major accepted the position and spent three very happy years working in the school where he won the respect of both students and parents. He was assisted in the school of approximately 65 students by two monitors, Miss Rosemary Moss, now Mrs. Williams, who is presently teaching in Nassau, and Mr. Marshall Albury, who still resides in Marsh Harbour, both of whom rose to become student teachers.

Although Mr. Major had a passion for teaching, he also had a passion for preaching. After awhile he sensed

God calling him away from teaching. He put it this way, "I was a professional teacher but a called preacher." So he gave up his dream of becoming the first Bahamian Director of Education.

At the time of Mr. Major's stay in Marsh Harbour there were three churches: Bible Truth Hall, the Methodist Church and Faith Mission. A Mennonite missionary from Pennsylvania, Mr. Lehman Longenecker, invited him to services at Faith Mission. There Mr. Major responded to the call of the Lord and gave his life to Christ. Just two weeks after his conversion experience, he preached his first sermon and soon became leader of the multi-denominational group. He also used to lead open air services under the fig tree in Murphy Town and his preaching has continued uninterrupted since then. It is his desire to return

to Marsh Harbour for a special Outreach Ministry to mark the 50th anniversary of his conversion.

Plans are under way for Gospel Proclamation meetings on May 24 - 30th at the Central Abaco Primary School. Other events planned throughout the month of May are include an all night prayer vigil, a workshop for those 12-25 years, an outreach prayer breakfast, an outreach for ladies luncheon and morning assemblies for all the schools in the area.

Many of the church ministers in the Marsh Harbour area are assisting Pastor Major in this Outreach Ministry. Rex Major's students still remember and speak of his impact on their lives. He hopes to plan a student reunion of fun, fellowship and faith during the month of November.



Pastor Rex Major accepted the post of Head Teacher at the Marsh Harbour All Age School when he was 17 years old. He is shown at right in the door of the school with his two student teachers, Ms. Rosemary Moss and Mr. Marshall Albury.

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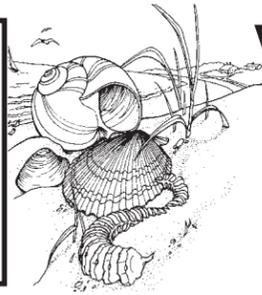
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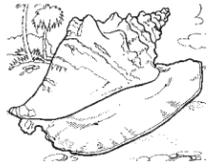
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Ambulance - Trauma One - Marsh Harbour	367-2911
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Spring City	\$15 + \$5
Snake Cay	\$35 + \$10
Treasure Cay	\$60 + \$10
Casuarina Point	\$60 + \$10
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• 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

Marsh Harbour	
Anglers	\$\$\$ 367-2158
Conch Crawl	\$ 367-4444
Gino's	\$ 367-2002
Golden Grouper	\$ 367-2301
Hibiscus Cafe	\$ 367-2782
Hummingbird	\$ 367-2922
Jamie's Place	\$ 367-2880
Jib Room	\$ 367-2700
Kentucky Fried Chicken (lunch-5pm)	367-2615
Mangoes	\$\$\$ 367-2366
Gino's	\$ 367-2002
Pop's Place	\$ + 367-3796
Sapodilly's	\$\$\$ 367-3498
Sea Shells	\$ 367-4460
Snack Shack	\$ + 367-4005
Snappas	\$ 367-2278
Subway	\$ 367-2798
Wallys	\$\$\$ 367-2074
Dundas Town	
Ambassador Inn	\$ 367-2022
Mackerals	367-5932
Hope Town	
Abaco Inn	\$\$\$ 366-0133
Cap'n Jacks	\$ 366-0247
Club Soliel	366-0253
Harbour's Edge	\$ 366-0087
H T Harbour Lodge	\$\$\$ 366-0095
Munchies	\$ + 366-0423
Rudy's Place	\$\$\$ ‡ 366-0062
Sea Spray	\$\$\$ ‡ 366-0065
Man-O-War	
Pavilion	\$ 365-6185
Hibiscus	365-6380
Guana Cay	
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
Traveller's Rest	365-8654
Green Turtle Cay	
Bluff House	\$\$\$ 365-4200
Jolly Roger Bistro	\$ 365-4200
Green Turtle Club	\$\$\$ 365-4271
Laura's Kitchen	\$ 365-4287
McIntosh's Restaurant	\$ 365-4625
New Plymouth Inn	\$\$\$ 365-4161
Plymouth Rock Cafe	365-4234
Rooster's Rest	\$ 365-4066
Sundowners	365-4060
Wrecking Tree Restaurant	
Harbour Café (ferry dock)	\$ + 365-8635
Sandy Point	
Big J's	\$ 366-4020
Nancy's	
Oeishas	366-4139
Pete & Gays	\$\$\$ 366-4119
Seaside Inn	\$\$\$ 366-4120
Rickmon Bonefish Lodge	366-4477

Obituaries of Family and Friends

The funeral for **Stanford Adderley**, 51, of Dundas Town was held at the Church of Christ in Marsh Harbour on April 3. Bro. Andrew Major officiated assisted by Br. Jason Quashie. Interment was in the Marsh Harbour Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife Eva Adderley; daughters Josefina Curry, Katrina Adderley and Shanita Wallace; grandchildren Lyndeisha Curry, Keranique Wallace and Lorenz Carter; brother Clifford Adderley; sisters Lilla Strachan, Bernice Brown and Estelle McIntosh; uncle James Curry; aunts Jenny Reckley, Rebecca Simms, Joyce Curry and Dorothy Adderley; son-in-law Lynden Curry; sisters-in-law Marina Adderley, Veronica Turasz and Lisa Romero; brothers-in-law Wilson McIntosh, Juan Ernesto Turasz, Sebastian and Horacio Romera; nephews Roderick, Alphonzo, Phillip and Herbert Strachan, Kermey Brown, Neil, Eltoro, Dwayne and Cedric Adderley, Shannon Dames, Nicholas and Eric Turasz, Joshka and Didier Romero; nieces Greta Culmer, Ruby Rolle, Courtney Chandler, Melody McWilliams, Malena Scott, Leitheria Dames, Serena Brown, Patrice Hyler, Nikita Rankin, Gelesia Adderley; grand nephews; grandnieces and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral for two men from Crown

Haven who died together in a tragic boating accident was a combined service held in Nassau on April 4. Interment was in Nassau.

Derek Bodie, 34, of Crown Haven is survived by his mother Winnifred Chase; son Derek Bodie; daughters Samone and Dereca Bodie; stepdaughter Deandre Bodie; grandmother Virginia Paul; brothers Desmond Demeritte, and Lenord Chase, Talbot Johnson and Robert Taylor; sisters April Johnson, Telbertha Johnson and Shekera Taylor; aunts Ellen and Manerva Bodie, Sylvia Paul, Rosemary Adderley, Caroline, Mary, Fredricka and Sylvia Paul; uncles William and Randall Paul, Rufus and Labon Bodie and Berrington Adderley and many other relatives and friends.

Deren "Nigger" Sears, 31 of Crown Haven is survived by his mother Winnifred Chase; father Daniel Sears; stepmother Crystal Sears; son Deren Sears Jr., daughters Derenique, Danae, Lark and Destiny; brothers Brian, Daniel Jr., Desmond, Demetrie and Lenord Chase, Talbot Johnson and Robert Taylor; sisters April and Tabertha Johnson, Shereka Taylor, Denneta, Danyelle and Christina Sears; grandmothers Virginia Paul and Maggie Sears; uncles Sidney, Michael, Larry, Tyrone, Dale and John Sears, Berrington

Adderley Sr., William and Randall Paul; aunts Jannette Sears; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral for **Simeon James Edgecombe**, 64, formerly of Cooper's Town was held in Freeport on April 10. Interment was also on Grand Bahama.

He is survived by his sons Simeon Jr. and Stephen Edgecombe, brothers and their wives Marcus, Cetus and Monica, George and Rose, Anthony and Delores Edgecombe; sisters Louise Crumbie and Kathleen Garvey; aunts Peggy Adderley, Joyce Smith, Lolitha Sawyer and Emmaline Butler; nephews Leonard, Matthew, Daniel, Samuel and Eric Edgecombe, Prescott Green, Patrick Taylor, Kevin Johnston, Philip and Mark Crumbie, Philip Cetus Jr., James and Jacob Edgecombe, Sharon and Michael Garvey and Dave Edgecombe; nieces Eva Adderley, Brenda Bain, Esther Newton, Mary Edgecombe, Evelyn Bur-

rows, Louise McCartney, Elizabeth Russell, Rebecca and Rose Edgecombe, Kelly Russell, Michelle Crumbie, Deborah, Sharlene and Aloah Garvey, Sandra Laing, Evelyn Nesbitt, Juliette Thomas, Joannie and Julie Edgecombe, Lucretia and Parcretia, Grant and Anthonice Edgecombe; and many other relatives and friends.



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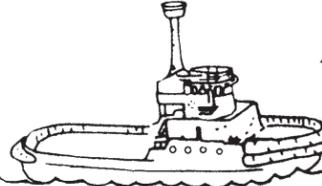
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COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2004
IN THE SUPREME COURT FPOCLE/gen/53
BETWEEN

ABACO BIG BIRD POULTRY
FARM (BAHAMAS) LIMITED

Plaintiff

vs.
ROOSEVELT PINDER
(also known as "Rudy Pinder")

Defendant

ORDER
Before the Honourable Mr. Justice Stephen Isaacs

UPON HEARING Mr. Charles W. Mackay Counsel for the Plaintiff.

AND UPON READING the Affidavits of Caroljean Lowe, Kandy Pinder, Lance Pinder, Josue Altidor, Moise Toussaint and Rubin Fravil.

AND UPON the said Plaintiff by their Counsel undertaking to abide by any order that the Court may make as to damages in case this Court shall hereafter be of the opinion. that the Defendant shall have sustained any by reason of this Order which the Plaintiff ought to pay;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:-

1. That the Defendant whether by himself or by his servants or agents or otherwise howsoever be restrained from entering upon or remaining on any portion of the Plaintiff premises where its poultry and agricultural products are stored and also the business offices of the Plaintiff until after the trial of this matter or until further order.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT

REGISTRAR

Andrew Evans & Family Thanks Everyone



We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone that supported us by purchasing dinner tickets in aid of the tragic loss of our house and all those who shared their concerns. Thanks for all your prayers and thoughts.

Special thanks to the community of Spring City which went over and beyond, some with their time and others with donations, Chad Sawyer and the Price Right family who did not hesitate for a second to help us get back on our feet. Marco a/c for their generous donation, last but not least the volunteer fire department that works so hard to protect us all.

THANK YOU AND MAY GOD RICHLIY BLESS YOU ALL!

Church News

Good-Bye

By Isobel Sherman

St. Frances de Sales Church in Marsh Harbour, St. Mary and Andrew Church in Treasure Cay and the churches in Man-O-War and Hope Town said farewell on Easter Sunday to Father Ramon Saavedra. He has been serving the Catholic Churches on Abaco for the past 16 months. He came to Abaco from his home in the Philippines. Father Ramon will be taking up duties as a Chaplain at a Veterans Hospital in New York.

Drive Safely Don't Be Abaco's First 2004 Traffic Fatality



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AUSKELL

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Marsh Harbour, Abaco
PH: 367-0020

Dr. Edwin Demeritte, *Neurologist / Neurophysiologist (Adults & Children)*
April 16, 2004

Dr. Elaine Lundy - *General Practitioner*
April 17, 2004

Ms. Sonya Artwell - *Ultra Sound Tech*
April 17, 2004

Dr. May Hestmo - *Hand and Orthopedic Surgeon*
April 17, 2004

Dr. Rosetta Ingraham, *Dermatologist*
April 19, 2004

Ms. Kim Scriven - *Audiology*
Hearing aids, hearing testing
April 21, 2004

Dr. Gregory Neil - *Plastic Surgeon*
April 24, 2004

Dr. Charles Johnson - *Ears, Nose, Throat*
April 29, 2004

Dr. Francis Biney - *Ear, Nose, Throat*
Every week Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Mr. Christopher R. Monize - *Physical Therapist*
Every week Friday

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Treasure Cay Properties - Offered by Treasure Cay Specialists

ROYAL PALM

Canal Front Condos with on-site Tennis and Pool
Phase I 3 bed **SOLD** ft. wide slip \$302,500
Phase II 2 bed / 2 bath, no slip \$260,000

ATLANTIS

Canal Front Condos with on-site Pool
Bldg 4 Upst **SOLD** bath, boat slip \$224,000
Bldg 4 Down **SOLD** t, 2 bed/ 2 bath w/boat slip \$242,000

MARINERS COVE

Townhouse Condos with on-site Tennis and Pool
Marina View 1 **SOLD** \$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

TREASURE HOUSES

Ocean front luxury units with lagoon pool / waterfall
2 bed / 2 bath octagonal houses
Front row Unit #1 \$425,000
Garden/ocean **SOLD** \$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
"Point of View" 3 bed/ 2 1/2 bath CBS split level open concept home with cathedral ceilings and skylights. Lower level including living/ dining/ kitchen/ den and master bedroom suite accesses large ocean-side deck with Beach Beach and more Beach. Upstairs bedrooms each with own entry and sun deck. \$1722,000

Treasure Cay has one of the world's best Beaches, Golf Course, Tennis, full service Marina, just naming a few amenities. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information - We not only sell here, we live here and love it. For further details and pictures visit our web page at <http://www.treasurecayrealestate.com> Mailing address: P.O. Box AB22183, Treasure Cay, Abaco, Bahamas • E-mail: tcrealestate@oii.net

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 ESTATES

"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

"Bahama Sunset" Canal front two storey CBS home with 141 ft. water frontage with dock. Upper level has living/dining/kitchen/ den with mater suite and large covered deck. Downstairs 1 bed/ 1 bath/ living also large garage/ workshop. Unique property with fantastic sunset view as well as sunrise ocean view. \$950,000

VACANT LOTS AVAILABLE

- Casuarina Beach/Ocean Blvd. 1 acre +/- \$813,000
- Windward Beach / Oceanfront beginning at \$150,000
- Canal Front beginning at \$99,000
- Golf Course / Interior beginning at \$25,000

Diabetes Specialist Visits Auskell Clinic

By Jennifer Hudson

Dr. Bernard Rolle, General Practitioner with a specialty in diabetes, will be visiting the Auskell Medical Clinic twice per month. Dr. Rolle is in private practice in Nassau but some Abaconians may remember him from his medical visits to Abaco ten years ago. He studied at the University of the West Indies and is a member of the Medical Association of the Bahamas and the Diabetic Association of the Bahamas.

Dr. Rolle is concerned about the very high prevalence of diabetes, obesity (which is a precursor of diabetes) and high blood pressure. "All three of these most often go together," he says. Although the prevalence of these problems has previously been with older people, he is now seeing many young people in their 20s weighing 200 to 300 pounds and with serious problems related to their obesity.

"People do not take high blood pressure or diabetes seriously enough," says Dr. Rolle. "This can lead to kidney failure and the very costly need for dialysis." His advice to anyone who is overweight is to diet and exercise. For those with a family history of diabetes, Dr. Rolle suggests that they should have their blood sugar regularly monitored as they are in the high risk category. Also, he recommends regular blood pressure checks, especially as people get older, and cholesterol checks once a year for all people.

Sybil's House Benefits from Donation



Employees of Royal Bank of Canada in Marsh Harbour raised money to buy supplies for Sybil's House in Dundas Town which included blankets, pillows and sanitary items. Sybil's House cares for elderly who can no longer care for themselves. Mr. James Williams, owner and manager of Sybil's House, gratefully accepted the supplies. Shown above are the bank employees who took the supplies. They are, left to right, Ms. Charmaine Bootle, Ms. Charlotte Swain, Mr. Willimas and Ms. Patty Bodie. Behind is Mr. Travis Spicer.

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Congratulations to Johan Dam



on his graduation from Warner Southern College in Lake Wales, Florida, on January 17, 2004. Johan graduated Magna Cum Laude (3.8+ GPA) with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in organizational Management and Finance.

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Scotland Cay - Two adjacent hill top lots close to the marina and airstrip with amazing ocean views. \$135,000 and \$175,000 Boat slips are currently available in the marina to homeowners.



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Treasure Cay #1076 - Golf course lot overlooking 18th Tee and fairway. Private area and close to beach. \$25,000 GREAT BUY (photo or this lot attached as Treasure Cay 008)



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.



Guana Cay #1073 MOTIVATED AND JUST REDUCED - 2/1 cottage in the settlement close to beach and harbour. Ideal location in this picturesque town. \$169,900



Guana Cay #1019 - Two adjacent cottages each with 2/1.5 on two floors. Close to beach and harbour. Ideal rental homes. \$200,000 each or \$347,000 for both.



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

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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 Ocean. Direct beachfrontage. A rare and unique offering. \$1,970,000



Casuarina Point - #5136 Vacant beach front lot in a growing community, features 80' + on the beach and runs 145' + deep. **UNDER CONTRACT.**



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



Treasure Cay - #1195 These lots are going fast. Only four of the best priced canal lots still available. Situated on Treasure Cay canal with views of the Sea of Abaco.



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 - #0233 Royal Harbour, 18,000 sq. ft. of vacant property on the harbour front. Features a private boat basin with a dock. **SOLD**



Yellowwood - Vacant lot approx 125' X 150', close to Cherokee Sound and Little Harbour \$23,500

Casuarina Point - vacant lot available in growing community, close to beach, reduced to fantastic price \$15,900

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

Man-O-War - Vacant interior lot, in town, close walk to restaurants, grocery stores and the beach. \$99,900

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

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

Hill Creek - 4.8 acres with 50' + elevations and 100' of waterfront. \$165,000

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

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

Sand Banks- Several vacant lots available approx. 1 acre, some waterfront, some interior with elevations. Motivated seller. Call today for prices.

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

Hope Town - Three story island home with 3bed/ 3 bath in North End. Features walk-in closet, open living and dining area, only three years old and well-kept. \$650,000



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Chris Farrington - BRI
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Email: chris.f@batelnet.bs
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Treasure Cay #1322- Three bedroom two bath home near beach 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 - #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

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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Sports News

Fund Raising Was a Success

The Abaco Youth in Action Fund Raiser on April 3 was a tremendous success and very well supported by the children in the program and their parents and guardians. All 11 teams got a chance to perform for their fans and families and gave us exciting games. The Pee Wee League, Girls League,

Mini League and Junior League players were all well behaved as usual.

There was a Free Throw and Three Point Shooting Contest for the parents and guardians and each had over ten competitors. The winners were

Free Throw Contest - Telesa Scott
Three Point Contest - Quinton Bastian, Sr.
They both won brand new basketballs.



The basketball court in Marsh Harbour beside the Department of Education's Resource Center came to life on April 2 with an inaugural basketball game on the renovated court. Mr. Cay Mills, Chief Councillor of the Central Abaco District, spearheaded and coordinated the renovations. Resident adults and teenagers of the adjoining Mud and Pigeon Pea communities donated hours of labour in the renovations. Others who assisted Mr. Mills included the management of BEC, Mr. Knowles and Mr. Beneby, who provided the lights and manpower to install them. A timekeeper's clock, basket hoops and other items were donated by Mr. Willard Simmons and Mr. W. D. Willert, both second homeowners in the area. Sean Murray assisted with the electrical work. Max and Jeffrey Victor organized the players who contributed their time to bring the court up to playing standards. The players call the court Jungle Arena.

Special thanks to all the parents and guardians, to Tony Davis and A&K Liquors, Silbert Mills and Abaco Pizza and Chief Councillor Cay Mills.



Abaco Youth in Action held a fund raising evening of basketball on April 8 inviting parents and friends to watch the young people compete. Abaco Youth in Action is organized by volunteers to teach youth organized sports: soccer, basketball and softball. The basketball season will end on April 30 with Championship games to be held in Dundas Town.

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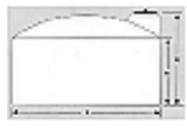


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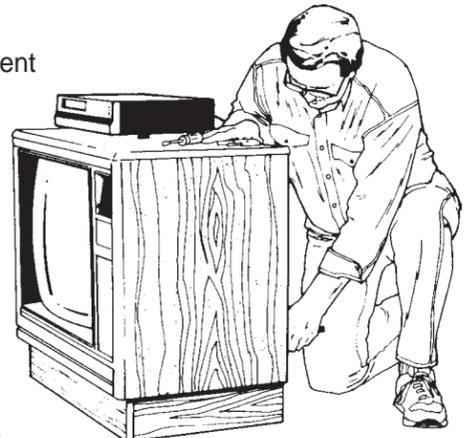
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Office space available for rent in Western Auto building. Call Johnny Pinder at 367-2442 for details.

School *From Page 15*

Students are presently experimenting with monograms and most results were way past average. This was unexpected for those students. It is said that very soon the jewelry making process will begin. The students are proud of their work and hope that they can touch lives with their art work. These young artists are encouraged to work harder under their theme *Draw Your Art's Desire*.

National Track and Field Championships

By Isobel Sherman

Eight members of the Abaco Central High School tack team traveled with their coach, Mrs. Elva Davis, to Nassau on March 24 for the National Track and Field Secondary Championships. This young energetic team has been training since Sep-

tember. Members of the team are Nadaige Dumercy, Rosena Jonnasaint, Brandy Charz Wallace, Kevin Altidor, Traz Nixon, Javaughn Cambridge, Colyn Swain and Kareem Parker.

Coach Davis was more than pleased with the results. In the under 20 boys Kareem Parker made it to the finals of the 200 metre. Coach Davis said that in the under 20 boys Colyn Swain did well in the 1500 metre considering he had only been training since December. Javaughn Cambridge came 5th in the finals of the under 20 boys high jump and Kevin Altidor in the under 15 boys made it to the semi finals of the 1500 metre race.

Traz Nixon won a silver medal in the boys under 15 100 metre and came 4th in the finals of the 200 metres. Nadaige Dumercy won a bronze medal in boys under 15 1500 metre and made it to the final eight in the long jump. Rosena Jonnasaint

made it to the under 15 finals in the 400 metre and the finals of the long jump. Brandy Charz Wallace made it to the semi finals of the 1500 metre.

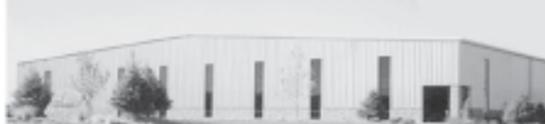
Coach Davis was extremely pleased with her team's performance. She stated that they will keep on training and as they get more and more exposure at different meets they will be bringing back medals.

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

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Murphy Town
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Scotland Cay home, Sea of Abaco waterfront Lg 3bed/3bath, modern CBS, just remodeled, great view, dock, 35' marina slip, landing rights, completely furnished \$910,000. By Owner: 561-746-3337 or 242-367-5432 signal33@bellsouth.net

Turtle Rocks 40 acres \$8000 per acre. 910-686-9612

Coconut Trees Are Being Destroyed



More than 40 years ago Owanta Gottlieb planted coconut trees on her property in Marsh Harbour. The trees are now tall, majestic trees bearing fruit and adding greatly to the landscape. The trees are Mayalasian Coconuts which are resistant to Lethal Yellow Disease which has killed thousands of palm trees worldwide. However, recently the trees are being destroyed, cut down with a machete or chainsaw. This wanton destruction is very upsetting to the family who wants to preserve the coconut grove. They are offering a \$500 reward to anyone leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible. Please call 367-3120 if you have information.

Bahamas White Marlin Tournament Is Set for April

Bahamas White Marlin Open Fishing Tournament will take place on April 21 through 24 at Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour Marina in Marsh Harbour. Hatteras Yachts will be the title sponsor for this inaugural all release tournament.

The White Marlin Open will be fished with 30-pound test line and utilize Release Affidavits and digital images to validate all releases. Each validated white marlin release will be worth 200 points. Validated blue marlin releases will receive 100 points and sailfish will count for 50 points. Trophies will be awarded to the top three teams based upon total points for released billfish.

A separate Fun Fish Division will recognize the largest dolphin, tuna and wahoo caught during the three days of fishing. Minimum weight for the Fun Fish species is 25 pounds.

According to tournament organizer, Al Behrendt, "Over the past four years, we have seen a substantial increase in the num-

ber of white marlin being caught and released during the month of April in the waters adjacent to Abaco's barrier islands. The white marlin activity has been such that several anglers and crewmembers fishing the Bahamas Billfish Championship series suggested having a white marlin tournament prior to the start of the 2004 BBC series. As a result, we now have the inaugural Bahamas White Marlin Open."

The tournament's organizers said that the reason for using Open in the tournament's name is to invite participation from the many boats visiting the Bahamas.

Hatteras Yachts is making certain that all anglers and crewmembers will enjoy an abundance of good food, libation and camaraderie during the four-day event.

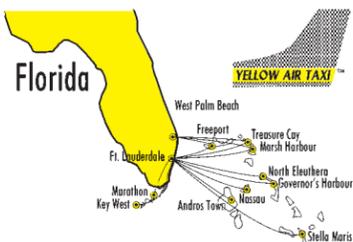
Abaco Beach Resort will have special package rates for the smaller boats that require slip and room accommodations during the tournament. The Bahamas White Marlin Open will be limited to a maximum of fifty teams.

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Postage Stamp Commemorates Methodism

The original Methodist Church building at Marsh Harbour will be featured on a postage stamp as part of the collection of stamps to commemorate the 300th birth anniversary of Rev. John Wesley, founder of the Wesleyan Revival and organizer and preacher of the Methodist Church.

Methodism was established on Abaco in the early 1800s. Methodist pioneers in The Bahamas, both Mr. Joseph Paul and Mr. Anthony Wallace and their families, have historical ties to the island of Abaco. Joseph Paul, who is credited with bringing Methodism to The Bahamas, came first to Abaco from New York in 1783. After the unsuccessful attempt to establish Carlton in North Abaco, Mr. Paul, a free black man and his family, went to Nassau. Mr. An-

thony Wallace, who worked with Joseph Paul and others in establishing the first Methodist Church in Nassau and then connecting The Bahamas with the British Methodist, apparently came to Abaco to live in the early 1830s. Mr. Wallace, also a free black man, became the owner of an estate and much acreage on Abaco.

Methodism has been active in Marsh Harbour for over 160 years. Family historians can trace their roots on Abaco through the baptismal records of the Methodist Church. The Archers and Alburys are among prominent Marsh Harbour families. In Marsh Harbour both blacks and whites worshiped and were baptized in the Methodist Church. Many outstanding Abaconians and persons from Marsh Harbour who are

world citizens have their roots and nurture in the Methodist Church. The former Methodist Church which was located at the port of entry served in a time of emergency as the local public school. The Methodist Church then, as most churches did, was the hub of most community activities. In addition to worship services there were funerals, weddings, dramatic productions, missionary services and auctions. At the upper level of the church Dr. Evans Cottman kept his medical office.

The postage stamp is made from a picture taken by Mr. Jack Lowe in the early 1950s.

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- Be extremely careful when burning trash and bush. Do NOT leave fire unattended.

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