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The Abaconian

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VOLUME 12, NUMBER 9, MAY 1st, 2004

Immigrants Are Picked Up

Immigration and Defense Force Pick up Haitians in Several Locations

By Jennifer Hudson

At approximately 4.30 p.m. on April 29th four Haitians were pulled from the water by Immigration and Defense Force personnel after they were apprehended trying to swim away to avoid being taken into custody after Immigration Officers boarded the Guana Cay ferry. Private citizens assisted by loaning boats to the officers to chase the fleeing men. Twenty-five more persons were taken into custody when officers apprehended them on the Guana Cay ferry as they were returning from work on the Cay.

Earlier in the day approximately 45 illegal immigrants were rounded up in a raid on Bahama Star Farms. All of the men, women and children taken into custody had been living in the vicinity of the farm and were taken by bus into Marsh Harbour. At the Port Administration building they were processed and detained until arrangements could be made to send them to the detention centre in Nassau.

Approximately 20 persons, mainly women and children, were sent into Nassau on two Bahamasair flights on Thursday while the remainder of the men were detained in the cells at the Police station awaiting deportation.

Several more illegal immigrants were apprehended in Hope Town the following day and again brought to Marsh Harbour. Dozens of people from the Haitian commu-

Please see **Immigrants** Page 22

Fishing Tournaments Are in Full Swing



Abaco is well known for its fishing tournaments which draw anglers from all over. Already this spring there have been five tournaments, attracting families as well as serious fishermen with many more scheduled. The overall effect of these tournaments on Abaco's economy is great as well as attracting many fine people to our area. The photo above was taken by David Ritchie aboard the Hatterascal during the Bahamas White Marlin Open Tournament hosted by Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour.

Serious Fishing Season Begins

By Isobel Sherman

Once again fishing tournaments take the marine spotlight on Abaco. Starting off the season was the new Man-O-War Marina Invitational which was held on May 2-5 with 13 boats. The Abaco Anglers Fishing Tournament was next on the schedule held on

April 15-22. This was followed by the Sea Spray Resort Family Fishing Tournament on April 20-24. Another new tournament on the calendar this year was the Bahamas White Marlin Open held on April 21-24 at

Please see **Fishing** Page 2

Track Team Wins Six Medals



Several members of S.C. Bootle High School's track team recently competed in the National Track and Field Championship in Nassau and brought back six medals, the best showing they have ever had in this competition. Shown above are, left to right, Mr. J Torres, Amanda Parker, Alexander Rolle, Casteo McDonald, Prisca McIntosh, Principal Leslie Rolle and Coach Lyndon Scott.

By Lyndon Scott

After dominating the Inter-Island Track and Field Athletic Championships in

Marsh Harbour a few weeks ago, the S.C.

Please see **School** Page 14

Immigrants Are Sent to Nassau



Haitian nationals were picked up on Bahama Star Farm, from the Guana Cay ferry and in Hope Town, were then processed in Marsh Harbour before being sent to Nassau for repatriation. Some are shown here being transferred to Bahamasair for the trip to the detention center in Nassau. Others were escorted to Nassau on the Bahamas Fast Ferry from Sandy Point.

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Tournaments Attract a Variety of Anglers

Fishing From Page 1

Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour. It was a catch and release tournament.

The Annual Bahamas Billfish Championship began on April 25 with the South Abaco Championship. The Bahamas Billfish Championship has five legs, the next to be held in Treasure Cay followed by one in Spanish Cay. The last and final leg will be the Boat Harbour Championship back at Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour.

Sea Spray Hosts Its Second Tournament

The second annual Sea Spray Resort Family Fishing Tournament was held from April 20 to 24. The week was filled with entertainment and fun. Ten boats competed.

The first day of fishing was a great success. There was a total of four billfish caught and released. There was also a 95-pound yellow fin tuna brought in to the weigh station. The boat *Mary-T* held on to a commanding lead until the last day.

With 10 minutes remaining in the tournament *Tuna Trappe*, captained by John Lancaster, hooked another blue marlin, which give them 300 points and the win. The crew on the *Tuna Trappe* included Joe Strickland, Bruce Davis and Bill Henderson. The crew was gracious enough to donate their vacation prize to the Hope Town Fire Rescue. The prize will be auctioned off at a later date. Second prize went to the boat *Angler*.

Every evening was capped with great fun and dancing. It was a great show of sportsmanship by all who participated. On closing night, April 24, the awards banquet was held and the second annual Sea Spray Resort Family Fishing Tournament ended a great success.

Fishing Tournament Provides Family Fun

By Karen Lowe

In spite of windy weather and rough seas, the Abaco Anglers Fishing Tournament enjoyed its 34th successful year fishing these pristine Abaco waters April 15th - 23rd, 2004. The tournament continues to encourage junior anglers to participate in this fun family tournament.

Those receiving awards are as follows:
Junior/Junior Class (12 and under)

Boys: 1st Place: Eli Lowe 2nd Place: Will Danforth 3rd Place: Tom Magee
Girls: Shannon Thompson Maggie Danforth Carin Magee

Stony Lowe and Dylan Thompson also received trophies for their entries.

Junior Division: (13 to 16 years)

Boys: 1st Place: Syd Roberts Jr. 2nd Place: Sydney Knowles
Girls: Ashley Knowles Jade Thompson

Men's Division:

Ross Thompson III received awards for his entries in the 4, 8, 12, 20 and 130 lb. test line as well as in the shark class and the blue marlin class. Brett Osborne was awarded for his entries in the 16 and 30 lb. test line. The 50 lb. test category went to Craig Knowles. Tom Magee won the 80 lb. test as well as the hand line class entry. Bob Magee received a trophy for the wire line class and Syd Roberts Sr. for his fly rod entry. Jeffrey Thompson was awarded for landing and releasing a sailfish.

Women's Division:

Debbie Tenney won a trophy in the 8 lb. test line category. Taylor Roker was awarded for her 16 lb. test entry and for landing and releasing a sailfish. Lori Thompson received awards for her entries in the 20, 30, 50 and 80 lb. test line division. Peggy Magee won the 130 lb. test line category. Kara Roberts placed for her entries in the wire line class as well as the hand line class. Karen Huff-Lowe received a trophy for the shark class.

Special Awards:

The Kelly Vernis Memorial Trophy for the largest fish weighed in by a lady angler was awarded to Peggy Magee for landing a 51 pound wahoo. The Men's Line/Ratio trophy went to Ross Thompson III for a 12 pound dolphin on a 4 lb. test line. The overall Best Boat Trophy was received by the captain of R3, Ross Thompson III.

All the anglers and guests appreciated the delicious food and socializing at the awards banquet held at the Hope Town Harbour

Lodge. The trophies were all sculptures of renown Little Harbour artist, Pete Johnston, which are always greatly appreciated. A special thanks to our local MP, Mr. Robert Sweeting, and to Mr. Don Cornish of the Abaco Tourism office for attending the banquet and assisting with the award presentations. We look forward to celebrating our 35th year of the Abaco Anglers Tournament in 2005. All are welcome and we hope to entice even more Junior Anglers to participate. Don't miss this special tournament next year.

Bahamas White Marlin Open Tournament

By Isobel Sherman

The first Bahamas White Marlin Open Tournament was held on April 22-24 at Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour with Al Behrendt as tournament director. The hosts of this tournament were Hatteras

Yachts and Marine Max. The Tournament was strictly a catch and release tournament for the billfish with the director verifying documentation with digital camera photos when the boat came back to the marina. Points were awarded in this manner: 200 points for the catch and release of a white marlin, 100 points for the catch and release of a blue marlin and 50 points for a catch and release of a sailfish. Twenty boats participated in the tournament.

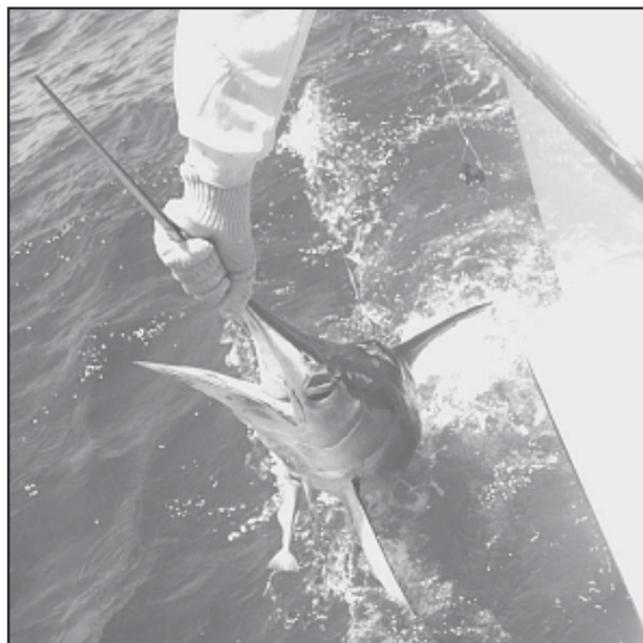
On day one of fishing, April 22, 12 white marlin, one blue marlin and five sailfish were caught and released. On April 23 saw seven white marlin, three blue marlin and five sailfish caught and released. The last day, April 24, was a slow day with only nine white marlin caught and released.

Winner of the three-day tournament was *Hatterascal* with 1150 points, second went

Please see **Fishing** Page 22



Sea Spray held its second annual Sea Spray Resort Family Fishing Tournament with 10 boats participating. The billfish were all released but the crew of the *Island Retriever* proudly shows off their 95-pound yellow fin tuna that they brought to the weigh station.



The *Hatterascal* caught this billfish, photographed it, then released it in the first Bahamas White Marlin Open Tournament held at Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour.

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South Abaco News

Cherokee Sound

By Lee Pinder

Town Is Enjoying Our New Community Center

The dedication of the W.W. Sands Community Center received lots of media coverage. Besides the big front page coverage in this publication on the 15th of April, it also showed up on page 8 of the Saturday Nassau Tribune on the 17th and we have heard that ZNS showed highlights of the event on the following Monday evening. The video taken of the play *The Pirates of Abaco* was quickly released and shown in the community center for the benefit of those who could not get in to see the original performance.

The people of Cherokee are still riding the wave of excitement and pride, after so many years, months and weeks of finally pulling it all together. For so many years none of us thought that it could or would be saved. But perseverance prevailed. There were words of praise for a job well done and well deserved by all who attended and were able to see the end result. Now comes the time to reap the fruits of our labour and make use of the building. Already a bridal shower and a wedding reception have been booked as well as our third local Shell Show and Exhibition to be held on May 31.

If you did not have an opportunity to be at the official dedication on April 17, why not come out on the holiday, look over the restoration and see our Shell Show at the same time. If you would like to display some of your own shells, handiwork or art, contact, Lee Pinder at 366-2053 for particulars. Hope to see you there.

School News

Combined Get-Well/Going Away Party
On April 28 the students and parents gave a Going Away Party for Ms. Diane Sutherland, who is off to Canada for medical attention and necessary convalescence. All our best wishes will, of course, go with Diane, and we trust she will hurry back. We will surely miss her.

Basketball Backboards Are in Place

The youth have announced the installation of new basketball backboards at Cherokee Settlement, just in time for inspection by Mr. Eric Pittman, through whose generosity the new equipment was made available. Mr. Pittman generously assists Cherokee from a fund set up in memory of his son who was killed in the 9/11 terrorism attack.

Mr. John Watson, freshly arrived from Yorkshire Dells in the U.K, was instrumental in completing the final critical stages. Project consultants included Mr. John McGonagle, also visiting in Cherokee.

Sandy Point St. Martin's Easter Monday Picnic

By Jennifer Hudson

Unfortunately, the weather gods did not smile on South Abaco on Easter Monday. The day turned out to be grey and rainy for the St. Martin's Anglican Church Easter Monday Picnic at Oeisha's beach cabana at Sandy Point. This annual festival hosted by the local Anglican church has become a mainstay in the social activities of the island. It is looked forward to by locals and visitors alike who wish to enjoy family fun

activities, games, food, drinks and music.

This past Easter Monday the crowd was smaller than usual due to the weather but the hardy group who braved the light rain certainly seemed to be enjoying themselves. While the beach volleyball remained deserted, the hoopla stall, on the other hand, drew lots of customers. Father Earle Hepburn and his young assistant were kept busy handing out prizes to the successful patrons. A church bus load of parishioners from St. John's Anglican Church in Marsh Harbour drove to Sandy Point to join in their sister church's festivities.

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- The forests are still very dry. Be very careful burning trash. Don't let fires get out of control.

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GRAND PRIZE



News of the Cays

Green Turtle Cay How the Island Roots Heritage Festival Got Its Start

By Stephanie Humblestone

When artist Alton Lowe suggested that his home town of Green Turtle Cay become a sister city with Key West and this be celebrated with the Island Roots Festival, he rekindled family ties and friendships which have flourished and blossomed to this day.

Casting his mind back to when the idea first occurred to him, Alton smiled and seemed to relive the enthusiasm he felt that morning over breakfast when he shared his dream with friend Betty Bruce after the opening of the Albert Lowe Museum.

Three weeks later Ms. Bruce introduced him to the Mayor of Key West, Florida, Charles "Sonny" McCoy, and Ida Baron. These two key people were instrumental in making Key West and New Plymouth, Green Turtle Cay, sister cities.

A year from first conceiving the idea of the festival the festivities opened in Key West thanks to Mr. Lowe's vision and the hard work of Ms. Baron who organised the Key West part of the celebrations. Together on the balcony of the Guild Hall on Duval Street she and Alton Lowe welcomed the Bahamas Police Band.

It was a poignant moment for many that day, people like Carolyn Cash, Michelle Roberts, and Marie Sawyer, whose ancestors, lured by tales of plentiful wrecking, had moved from New Plymouth a century earlier to settle in Key West. They became known as "Conchs," a name which lives on today.

To signify the sistership there was an exchange of flags. Mayor Charles McCoy presented Alton Lowe with the flag of Key West on the porch of the city's oldest house, *The Wrecker's Home*, built by a Bahamian. To reciprocate, Ms Michelle Roberts of Green Turtle Cay presented the New Plymouth flag to Mayor McCoy. It was subsequently flown atop a flagpole at City Hall.

The next day Air Sunshine flew the celebrants to Green Turtle Cay where there were performances by the Bahamas Police Band, Kayla Lockhart Edwards and her

Bahamas folklore dance troupe, and goatskin drummer Chippy Chipman.

The highlight of the celebrations, and something dear to Alton Lowe's heart, was the plaiting of the Maypole as the artist remembers this intrinsically British tradition as a child growing up on Green Turtle Cay. To symbolize the unity of the two countries, the colors of the costumes and ribbons represented those of the two nations' flags.

And thus was borne the first of three subsequent festivals.

Plans for This Year's Island Roots Festival

By Jennifer Hudson

A fun-filled and very informative weekend is scheduled for May 7th and 8th at Green Turtle Cay when this community joins with its sister city of Key West, Florida, in a celebration of their history at the Island Roots Heritage Festival. New Plymouth will be buzzing with activity all weekend as hundreds are expected to arrive from Key West and all parts of Abaco to join in the celebrations.

Festivities begin as early as 7 a.m. on May 7 with the serving of breakfast and at 10 a.m. all the festival booths will open and will remain open until 5 p.m. on Friday and 10 p.m. on Saturday. In addition to the food and beverage booths, other stalls will include arts and crafts, straw work, hair braiding, domino games, continuous entertainment featuring local bands and vocalists and Junkanoo hat pasting for the Saturday Junkanoo parade.

Many cultural activities are planned for people to learn more about this important heritage. These will include the Amy Roberts All Age Schoolchildren presenting information on Bahamas history and Independence. The Bahamas Village Business Association of Key West will inform us on how we are all connected. Alton Lowe will talk about Green Turtle Cay's unique Bunce tradition and quizzing on old time Bahamian vocabulary while his sister, Iris, will help trace your genealogy. Also featured will be Joe Albury demonstrating how to scull an Abaco dinghy and how he crafts his wooden boat models, Richard "Ol Blue"

Jones will educate on how to identify bush and prepare and use the medicine (with samples of teas and poultices), Junkanoo history by Floyd Johnson and a book promotion by Norma Jean West from Key West featuring Bahamians of Key West.

The "most fun" booth will be hosted by the Green Turtle Cay Volunteer Fire Department who will give demonstrations of old time games all day long. Here you can learn how to throw a top, play jacks, make kites, shoot marbles, build a coconut bark boat for the race on Saturday evening and many more fun activities. Plaiting the Maypole, tours of the newly refurbished kitchen, old time storytelling by master story teller, Kayla Edwards, and walking tours will be included in the wealth of educational activities in which to participate.

The official opening of the Festival will take place at the bandstand from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on May 7th. Among the dignitaries in attendance will be the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham, Member of Parliament for North Abaco, and the Hon. Obie Wilchcombe, Minister of Tourism. It is hoped that the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie, will be able to attend. At 3 p.m. the Royal Bahamas Police Force Band will march from the Administrator's office to the bandstand to herald the official opening.

On Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. the 61-member Key West Chorale, including many Green Turtle Cay descendants, will perform in concert at the Alton Lowe Garden Theatre. Tickets priced at \$15 for adults and \$5 for children may be purchased from the Ministry of Tourism in Marsh Harbour and various locations in Green Turtle Cay. Ferry service will be provided to the Garden The-

atre from the Treasure Cay dock with return immediately following the performance for a special round trip fare of \$10 per person. Call 365-4166 or 365-4128 for the ferry schedule.

The people of Green Turtle Cay invite you to come and celebrate with them "Things Bahamian."

Hope Town Lecture Series Is Complete

By Dottie Shrier

The fourth and last of the season of a newly formed lecture series was held on April 7. Dave Gale of Parrot Cay was the speaker. He was introduced to a large audience which, for one time only, included men. The series, entitled *Cay Topics*, was originally designed for ladies who like to listen, learn and lunch, lunch being optional at the Hope Town Harbour Lodge.

Dave Gale is a well known author, business entrepreneur, ardent preservationist and founder of the first Out Island division of Bahamas Air Sea Rescue Association. He is also the founder and president of the Bahamas Lighthouse Preservation Society.

Dave and his wife Phoebe came to Abaco as a part of a small group that started Newhope, the first tourist accommodation in this area. The New Plymouth Inn on Green Turtle Cay preceded them by a week or so, he tells us. Stung by the hotel business, Dave started Island Marine in 1961 and became the first outboard motor dealer in the Out Islands. He then started the first dive shop and the first rental boat company. In 1962 he formed BASRA Hope Town. He took out dive trips from his dive shop

Please see **Cays**

Page 7



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More News of the Cays

Cays

From Page 6

for 22 years and introduced many divers to the undersea wonders of Abaco.

He chose to try writing and sold the first story he ever wrote to *Skin Diver* magazine. He won an honorable mention award in the inspirational category in the Writer's Digest 1999 writing competition. His first book *Ready About* is now available in many local shops. It is as good a read as will find anywhere about true adventure.

Cay Topics will continue during the 2005 season. The committee has plans well underway for the second series.

Museum's New Building Is Nearing Completion

Work is progressing well on the Balcony House, the two story building forming part of the Wyannie Malone Historical Museum complex, which presides over the small settlement of Hope Town as a constant and looming reminder of the settlement's rich history. Centrally located near the main public dock, the government offices, library and medical clinic, the museum attracts scores of visitors.

Volunteers are currently working against the clock to have the upstairs fully air conditioned before the onset of the summer humidity. "We are installing the electricity right now," said curator Tony Bennett, who, along with his wife, Elaine, secretary and volunteer coordinator, has expended a lot of energy into helping preserve Hope Town's past.

"The big job was insulating the second level. We had to bring in power from the small connecting building which links the Balcony House with the smaller museum

built after Hurricane Floyd 1999," continued Mr. Bennett.

Among the volunteers who have been unflagging in their efforts are boaters Bob White, Mike Powers, Pim Epler and George Holloway. "And there are winter residents who have helped, people like Larry Beachy and Dick Pyles," added Mr. Bennett.

The new building provides much needed storage space, workshop, office space and adequate room to display the many exhibits. "We are always looking for more material," said Mr. Bennett, who is presently researching some square blocks of rubber washed up on the rocks on the North End Beach of Elbow Cay. They are thought to have come from a torpedoed ship en route from South America to England in the 1940's. Mr. Bennett and his family are anxious to find the name of the ship so they can erect a plaque telling the story of these curious findings.

It appears that this is not the first time that rubber blocks have been washed up. At one time they used to be sold for \$10 a piece on the island. This is purported to have been the case but no one in Hope Town has any direct recollection of it.

Plans are underway to inventory and record all of the museum's artifacts. High on the wish list, too, are funds for a website and to digitize and computerize photographs and work regarding genealogical records.

Mr. Bennett wished to express gratitude to the many volunteers who form part of the rotating "work" system which allows the museum to remain open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. six days a week.

Man-O-War Cay Racing Boats

This being the end of April, our thoughts are drawn to years back and to the annual pilgrimage to Georgetown, Exuma, to compete in the Family Island Regatta, held the last weekend in April. In those years, Man-O-War had three racing sloops: the *Rough Waters*, the *Man-O-War*, and, finally, the *Abaco Rage*. With the launching of the *Abaco Rage*, the days of Man-O-War Cay's reputation as builder of the finest wooden boats in the Bahamas began to wane. Though many of the craftsmen who built those boats continued to work in the industry, no other "large" boats have gone down the ways since the completion of *Abaco Rage*.

With pleasure we note the efforts of several individuals who are heading an effort to rebuild the *Man-O-War*, which was damaged in Hurricane Floyd. The *Man-O-War* is currently undergoing restoration at Man-O-War Marina.

All good things take time and regarding boats, money, and so a fund raising effort is underway to finance this reconstruction. It is to be hoped that we might recapture the days of seeing two Abaco A-Class racing sloops on the Sea of Abaco, preserving this important piece of Abaco tradition. Any donations are greatly appreciated, and visitors are welcomed. Please direct any inquiries to Mr. Chris Albury at Man-O-War Marina at 365-6008.

An article on Man-O-War boatbuilders is forthcoming. A T-shirt highlighting the *Man-O-War* has been produced to launch this effort and is available for sale at the Dive Shop for \$24. We urge everyone to buy and wear these shirts to show our pride in our history as the finest boat building island in the Bahamas.

School News

Students at the Man-O-War All Age School were taken on an excursion to points south on April 30 and had an opportunity to visit

Please see **Cays**

Page 20



The *Man-O-War*, one of three racing work boats built by Edwin Albury and others in Man-O-War during the 1970's, is being restored to its original condition. The people of Man-O-War are wanting to see it racing once again, after being extensively damaged by Hurricane Floyd.

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The Editor Says . . . Growth by Design



The recent first phase of a tourism study for Abaco was considered successful by the twenty or so persons who were able to attend the entire two-day session.

Our tourism success is catching government's attention and comments are being made that the Abaco model should be replicated on other islands.

Government wants to establish an "anchor" resort on each of the Family Islands. The Four Seasons resort which recently opened on Exuma is an example. Abaco has done well without the benefit of an branded or "anchor" resort.

Treasure Cay and Abaco Beach Resort are our largest resorts but they do not fit the accepted definition of a branded or "anchor" property. Perhaps the new Abaco Club at Winding Bay will satisfy government that we finally have an anchor resort.

Part of Abaco's success is that we do not have an anchor resort and the attendant support required of a large inclusive property. Neither is Abaco dependent on the whims of a resort owner or a threatening union.

One of the goals to emerge from the retreat was for the various elements of our tourism industry to get together more often for mutual benefit, cooperation and networking. The Prime Minister and other government leaders acknowledge that there needs to be much closer consultation between the Abaco tourism industry and government agencies.

The Abaco tourism industry? - this is a heavy word to apply to Abaco's main source of success. It brings visions of smokestacks and assembly line workers.

However, in the broad context tourism is the un-managed and unregulated industry which drives Abaco. Like each worker on a factory assembly line, each of our people does his part to make Abaco the success it is today. When viewed in total as an industry, even a slight improvement by each worker gives a better product at the end of the day.

The tourism retreat brought out several issues related to our growth. Even though Abaco is prospering without an overall plan or single management team, there is room for improvement by cooperation between the various elements and the need for a general plan for continuing our growth in an acceptable manner.

Four nation-wide broad tourism goals given by Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, Tourism's Director General, were to

- provide employment
- generate foreign exchange revenue
- have Bahamians reap the financial benefits
- link tourism closer to local goods and businesses, particularly agricultural products.

The Abaco tourism industry has met most of his goals. Our tourism has shared and spread the benefits to a broad range of Bahamians - banks and insurance companies, hardware and grocery stores, boat and cart rental companies, property management firms, gardeners and maids and many others. All, whether an employee or small business owner, have benefitted greatly from the Abaco model. Agriculture has the farthest to go in terms of linking to tourism and capturing some of the food revenue now going to Florida suppliers.

Government's aim for the country is to retain a larger amount of each tourism dollar. Presently, 80 cents of each tourist dollar leaves the country for imported food and other goods or services.

We are unaware of any statistics but Abaco's tourism must rate fairly high in its ability to provide local jobs, generate for-

eign exchange and provide business opportunities. There are a few local farmers supplying hotels and stores but local consumption is far less than a good farmer's ability to generate produce. Note that one Abaco citrus farm exports 1,000 tons of grapefruit each week during the season.

In general terms, those attending the retreat felt Abaco was moving in the right direction and should focus on "niche markets." Without realizing it, we have been catering to niche markets for the past 30 years. Our communities have catered to low-impact second homeowners while utilizing these houses when owners are absent for increased visitors. The caretakers of these properties and the staff of our small hotels are able to give personal attention to guests. Our escalating property values are assisting in drawing those in upper income brackets as homeowners.

The foreign investment in second homes provided the accommodations while the homeowners sent rental guests. The small resorts brought people through other promotional methods. A variety of services sprang up to accommodate the influx of visitors.

Local Bahamians have capitalized on the visitors' requirements and formed busi-

nesses around this steady influx of people, whether in hotels or rental houses. Retreat attendees realized more attention can be focused on attracting quality second homeowners.

The Abaco Sound is a natural asset which is under utilized and not promoted to our advantage. This protected waterway with its quaint settlements has no competition either in South Florida or elsewhere in The Bahamas. It is a relatively untapped resource for marine expansion - boaters love it.

It was stressed that we need to begin a planning phase for the industry to ensure that our growth is compatible with the lifestyle we now enjoy and want our children and future visitors to enjoy.

We are probably ready for a self governing industry board to promote and guide our tourism effort. Prime Minister Christie recently asked that the Abaco Chamber of Commerce to form a consultative committee to meet with him periodically. He and his government colleagues have been impressed with Abaco. He feels that government can benefit from Abaco's business and problem-solving expertise along with its ability to capitalize on its thriving tourism industry.

Generally Speaking . . . Backward Thinking

By S. Timothy Roberts

It is important in this age of technology to embrace and guide rather than to defend against new products and services.

Recently the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) issued a warning to the public that "persons who provide illegal Voice over Internet Protocol services (VoIP) or aid and abet unlicensed operators in the provision of such services will face prosecution and the possibility of heavy fines." This notice has caused quite a stir.

VoIP is a technology that utilizes the internet to provide ultra low-cost telephone services to practically anywhere. It may be computer-to-computer, phone-to-computer, computer-to-phone or phone-to-phone. The technology basically bypasses the regular telecom providers and has been a cause for much controversy between the FCC and providers of both technologies in recent years.

Mr. E. George Moss, Executive Director, PUC, has said, "According to the PUC there has been a proliferation of advertisements offering reduced international telephone rates and the PUC has also received increasing inquiries relating to VoIP. However... only The Bahamas Telecommunications Company and Systems Resource Group have been licensed under the Telecommunications Act by the PUC to provide public Voice Telephony services which includes VoIP."

He continued, "Any person who, without a License from the PUC, establishes, operates or provides public VoIP services

or aids and abets the unlicensed provision of these services shall be guilty of a criminal offence and may be fined up to three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) in accordance with Section 35 of the Telecommunications Act." He also said violators could expect to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

As the rest of the world pushes forward and embraces new technologies to help diversify their economic growth in existing and in new industries, The Bahamas continues to resist change and stunt possible growth in an industry.

According to the Act anyone using VoIP technologies such as Vonage, Packet8, Net2Phone, whether privately or publicly without license, is breaking the law and ought to be fined. This is all fine and good, law breakers should always be prosecuted. However, the law itself ought to be reviewed with consultations from both the private and public sectors.

The U.S. has been going through regulatory processes recently and they realize that they should not try to derail this new technology but guide it in a way that is beneficial to all concerned.

W. David Gardner of TechWeb News writes, "The U. S. telephone industries are in a stage of upheaval and much of the chaos

can be traced to the recent boom in VoIP, which accounts for about 10 percent of the country's phone calls. In addition to the changes wrought by VoIP, wireless telephone technologies are encroaching on land line telephony rapidly and contributing to the uncertainty that is facing the entire market."

The internet, it can be agreed, is a vast force driving technology and communications throughout the world. It is forging new markets and reshaping entire economies and has the Cable TV and Television Networks rethinking their strategies as more and more people spend more time on the internet and less time in front of the television.

The internet is the future technology that The Bahamas needs to learn to exploit in our own ways. Over-regulating any internet service will only serve to stifle possible growth in our own economy. We need to be proactive in regulating such technologies in a very careful way in order that we may harness the power of the internet to our own advantage as many other countries are already doing.

We need not fear these new technologies such as VoIP, we merely must understand them and then use them to strengthen our industries and create new opportunities for Bahamians.

ALL ABOUT TOWN

By Isobel Sherman

Can We Save the RND Cinema?

As most everyone knows, RND Cinemas sold two of their movie complexes in Nassau. One other complex in Nassau and the one here in Marsh Harbour are targeted to close.

Since the closing of the Marsh Harbour complex was announced, many young people have stated, "If it closes, there will be nothing for us to do or no place for us to go." I have heard that over and over and the young people are correct. I enjoy going to the movies myself so one night I asked at RND if there was any way the theater could remain open even if it meant not be open every night. The manager, William,

told me that persons from the cays had already given him letters requesting that RND Abaco remain open and he faxed them into Mr. Jerome Fitzgerald of RND. Persons do travel on weekends from the north, south and the cays to see movies.

If you are interested in trying to keep RND Cinema open, please address a letter to Mr. Jerome Fitzgerald, RND Nassau, and drop it off at RND in Marsh Harbour. William will gladly fax the letters to Mr. Fitzgerald. The young people are correct that the movies are one of the very few places that they can go to enjoy themselves in a safe and healthy environment. It would be nice if the decision to close were reversed even if the theater only opens part of the week.

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Letters to the Editor

MP Responds to Criticism

Dear Editor,

I believe this is the first time in my almost 12 years of representing the great people of South Abaco that I have responded to criticism about the FNM Government. I do so now only at the urging of several of my constituents. I refer to a letter written by Samuel David Albury of Man-O-War Cay. I, like Samuel, married a wonderful lady from Hope Town, and July 5th will give us 37 years in a wonderful and faithful relationship. The years have flown by and it doesn't seem as if it has been that long.

The letter writer apparently suffers from a complete lack of memory or total dishonesty. I hear so much these days about what the PLP met when they were elected in 2002. Let me list just a few of the things that the FNM met in 1992, and despite a major hurricane just days after we came to power, we were able to correct in Elbow Cay. Both of the town docks were falling into the sea, they were replaced at a cost of almost \$200,000.00. Roads that were built under the UBP had not been touched for 25 years, except for the filling of pot holes by the residents. I well remember one of my constituents writing to me stating that his business was floundering in the pot holes. In 1993 we completely re-paved from the Post Office to the end of Center Line Road. A year or two later we paved, for the first time, the road from the end of Center Line Road to Sea Spray Resort, including the original road referred to as the Percy Gates Road. All town roads were either reconstructed or repaired.

The lighthouse was completely restored, a joint venture by the Bahamas government and the Bahamas Historical Lighthouse Society. Many thanks to that Society and especially the family of the late Ken Mayes for the contribution of top quality paint for many years. We met a clinic that had been closed in excess of 20 years. We totally rebuilt the clinic and provided a full-time nurse. Just ask the elderly of Hope Town what this has meant to them, no more trips on the ferry to have their blood pressure checked, etc.

I wonder if this letter writer is the same Samuel David Albury that marched with many others against the PLP in 1977 with a broom over his shoulders in Man-O-War Cay in protest of a government that had completely ignored the people of Man-O-War Cay and indeed the whole of South Abaco. I remember the Hon. Darryl Rolle speaking at the rally and Sam interrupting him to say that talk did not put bread on the table. Mr. Rolle's response was that in his case it did put bread on the table since he was a lawyer.

Sam, I would suggest that next time you put your brain in gear before putting your mouth into action.

Robert P. Sweeting, M.P. South Abaco P.S. I expect to comment more extensively on this letter in our June budget debate.

Thank You, Mr. Mike Malone

Dear Editor:

The description of someone as a Good Samaritan is popular, but in this case the reference is accurate for the following reason. On April 3 a raging inferno threatened many buildings along Don MacKay Boulevard in Marsh Harbour. One of those buildings was St. Francis de Sales School. The volunteers from the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department were stretched to their limit because of other fires that were raging simultaneously in Sweeting's Track, Bahama Palm Shore and other areas.

Five staff members of St. Francis de Sales School along with Father Ramon and Mrs. Arlene Moss (a parent) had to spring into action. At one point the inferno threatened the two buses which were parked in front of the school. It was obvious that the buses had to be moved to safety.

After many persons gingerly cruised by in a "sight-seeing mode," Mr. Mike Malone, a former parent, stopped and rendered the necessary assistance to pull both buses out of harm's way. Mr. Malone proved by his patience, diligence and selflessness that he is indeed a modern day Good Samaritan.

During this period of negativity on Abaco, it is refreshing to highlight someone who has made a positive contribution.

The faculty and staff of St. Francis de Sales would like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Malone for his invaluable assistance on that day.

His unselfish act helped to avert a very dangerous situation.

St. Francis Staff

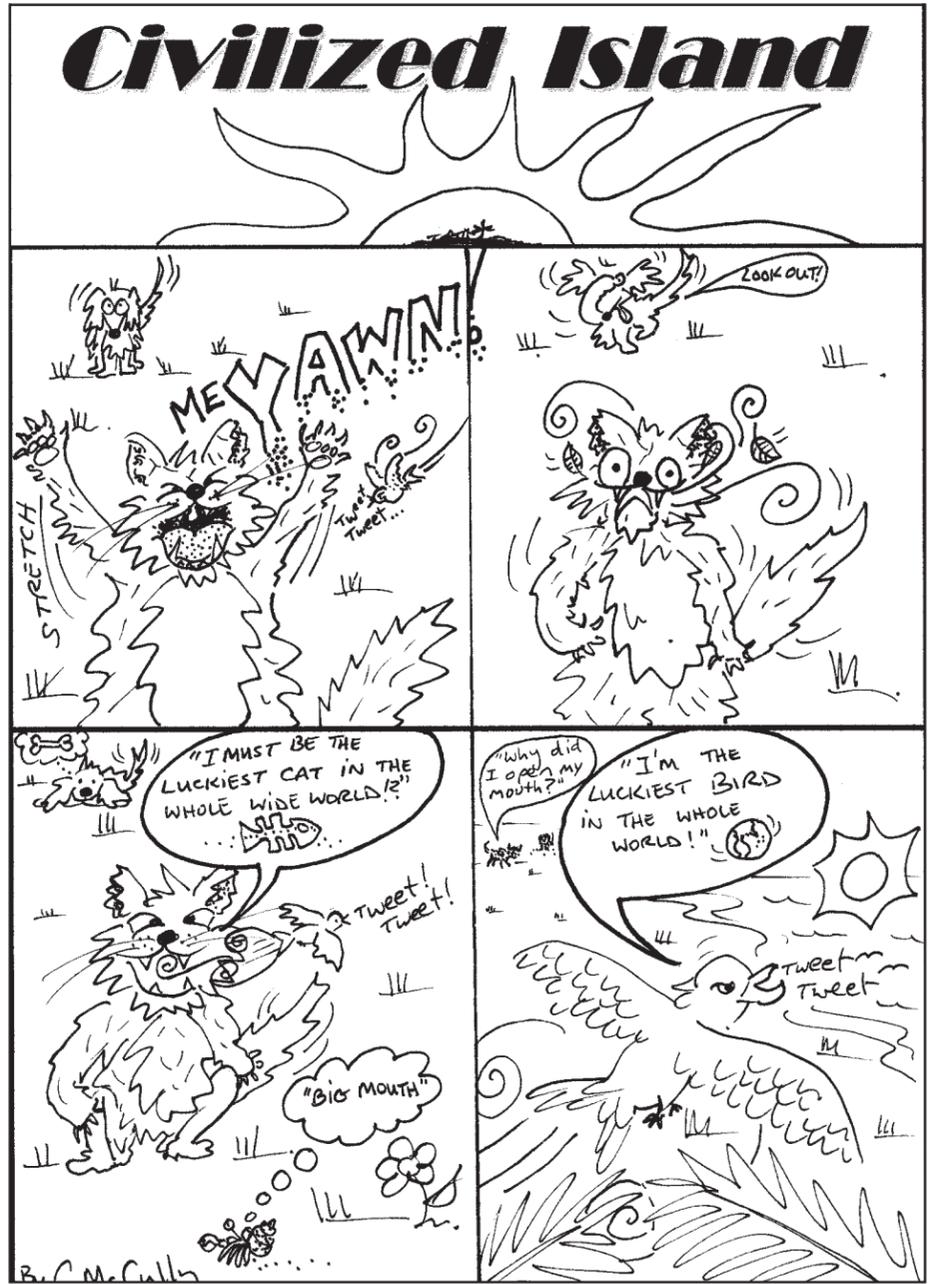
Praise for Fire Fighters

Dear Editor,

On April 4 *I Think I Can, I Think I Can* was heard loud and clear on the highway between Casuarina Point and Bahama Palm Shores. A long expected conspiracy of fire and wind united in its determination and turned their attention with a vengeance towards Bahama Palm Shores. Eruptions of flames galore, taunting "catch me if you can." Holy week you say, the devil had surfaced here to remind us of his no longer silent presence, lest we forget.

Into the fray came a formidable opponent to the devil's work, a little red fire tanker most certainly from a very distant era with a long list of battles under her hood. Unknowing of the seven day battle ahead but undaunted like the inspirational little engine of *I Think I Can I Think I Can*, the tanker did more than drench the fire and its offspring embers with thousands of gallons of water. It brought inspiration and hope. Scores of Bahama Palm Shores' residents and enumerable volunteers from far and wide, inspired by the resolve of the little red tanker, joined in the battle.

The challenge was awesome: hundreds of acres of wild life homes were engulfed, house roofs were thirsting for water, burning power poles were smarting for relief, smoke congested lungs and irritated eyes were relieved and protected, workers craved for nourishment, miles of fire breaks were beckoning to be constructed. Frightened animals were wanting for protection, backup electrical generators were found and put safely in place, temporary housing arranged, night watches scheduled, spotters assigned, communications shared, replacement water sources found and prepared, backhoes, bulldozers, transport equipment and other fire fighting equipment secured. Initiative did abound, leadership emerged,



all of this amidst significant anxiety, but community spirit excelled and met the challenges along with the help of many volunteers. All of this was happening in many neighboring communities. We thought we had won the battle on April 9. But Easter Monday beach picnickers left hot coals in the bush. Fortunately, an astute passerby spotted the smoke and a new battle began again.

No amount of words can begin to describe the effort and contributions of so many, especially of those who only knew that their fellow citizens in Bahama Palm Shores were in trouble and came without question.

May the little red fire tanker from Casuarina Point / Bahama Palm Shores Volunteer Fire Department live on to fight and inspire others to rise to a similar challenge. Meanwhile, we hear prayers for the arrival of a much younger partner tanker but equally inspirational. A rest is deserved.

We will be forever grateful and mindful of the unselfish contributions, the sacrifices and the pain of so many Bahamians, un-

conditionally caring people.

Will A. Bruce and Eleanor M. Bruce Fire Threatens Horses

By Milanne (Mimi) Rehor

On April 9 Milanne (Mimi) Rehor was working in the Abaco Wild Horse Preserve when she heard a strange crackling upwind. A billow of smoke was coming straight at the northwest corner of the preserve, one of the parts that didn't get burned in the last fire. There was no lightning and a quick survey of the area later showed no glass bottles in the area of the road. The fire appeared to start in a field just northwest of the preserve. Brisk winds had the fire roaring and spreading rapidly in no time. Fortunately, several visitors to the preserve had just left the area to go home.

There was one maintenance person on the preserve, and he and Rehor fought for four hours with a back pack sprayer (four gallons) and a rake. They turned the fire and kept it from coming across the gate,

Please see **Letters** Page 21

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Central Abaco News

Two Ticket Counters Add to the Airport's Congestion

By Portia Jonsson

The placement of two more ticket counters at the already congested Marsh Harbour airport terminal building has Chief Councillor Cay Mills very distraught. He said this is very upsetting to him and the agents who work there because of the existing congestion at the airport terminal.

Councillor Mills gave a tour of the area to the Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Obie Wilchcombe, and the Minister of Transport and Aviation, the Hon. Glenys Hanna-Martin, during their visit to Abaco on April 10th. Mr. Mills showed them first-hand

where the counters are set up blocking access to the concession area and felt that it is very disrespectful to the persons operating the concession stand. Mr. Mills also pointed out the air-conditioner problem which was supposed to have been fixed six months ago just before the busy season was upon us.

The two ministers were then escorted to the septic tank area, which Mr. Mills reports erupts two or three times a week. Mr. Mills said that this is totally unacceptable for the people who pass through our airport to continue to endure such a hardship for so long. When asked, "Why is this happening?" Mr. Mills informed the ministers that it was because of the lack of partner-

ship between the management at the airport, the Administrator's office and his office. Councillor Mills told me that four meetings have been held on this subject, and the monies put in place to fix it but six months later nothing has been done to date.

The ministers have assured Mr. Mills that they will deal with this forthwith. Mr. Mills concluded that he is hoping that help is on the way for the much congested Marsh Harbour International Airport.

Spring City Community Makes Contributions

By Portia Jonsson

On the evening of April 22nd residents of Spring City said thank you to the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department with the presentation of a \$1000 cheque for the unselfish giving of all their help, time and effort.

A bush fire threatened the Spring City community for over a week during March 6th. Volunteer firemen and women from Marsh Harbour, Casuarina Point and

Bahama Palm Shores came to the aid of the people. It was the third fire in 12 hours for the fire department.

The fire spread quickly through the small community jumping from one street to the other. The volunteers worked feverishly and spent many hours protecting the homes and properties of the residents.

On the same evening a contribution was also made to the Evans Family who lost their home in Spring City to fire during the early morning hour of March 8th. The family of five was only able to save family photographs and their passports which had been safely packed away a few days before when the bush fire threatened the Spring City community.

A Family Fun Day and Cook Out was held at the park on April 3rd to raise funds to assist the Evans family. Chicken, fish and rib dinners were on sale along with the best conch fritters in town. The bouncing castle and hoop-la were most popular with

Please see **Central**

Page 11



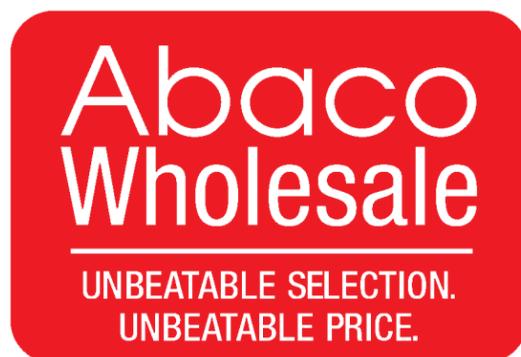
The congestion at the Marsh Harbour International Airport has gotten so bad that passengers can barely fight the crowds to get checked in. It is particularly bad on weekends. Recently, two additional airlines have added to the congestion by installing counters. Even outdoor areas are becoming overcrowded.



Spring City raised funds to help one of its own families. Andrew Evans, his wife and three children lost their home and almost everything else when their house burned during a recent forest fire. Town Committee member Roger Delancy is shown giving a check to Mrs. Evans.

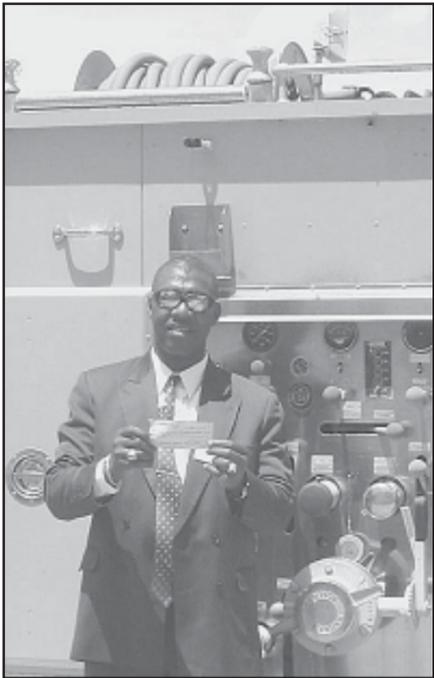
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More Central Abaco News



Chief Councillor Cay Mills is shown beside the Dundas Town fire truck with a check for \$5000 which a visitor donated for repairing the truck.

Central *From Page 10*

the kids. According to Mr. Roger Delancey, Town Committee member, the event was very successful. Mrs. Linda Evans accepted the cheque on behalf of her family and expressed her heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

Dundas Town Fire Truck Needs Repairs

By Portia Jonsson

According to Chief Councillor Cay Mills it was very interesting for him to listen to the radio a few weeks ago during the station's fund raiser for the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department, which he feels is deserving of every cent for the work they are doing. Councillor Mills said the person that conducted the promotion was a past elected Chairman of Dundas Town and is presently a sitting member of the Dundas Town Committee. He went on to say that this individual raised over \$30,000 for the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department while cognizant that the Dundas Town fire truck is in need of repair and did not even

mention the help needed in his own township.

Chief Councillor Mills feels that it is the responsibility of any Town Committee member to see to the betterment of the township that elected him or her and the surrounding area.

Mr. Mills said although he does not have the voice of the people of Abaco and the ability to collect over \$30,000 in one hour, he is very much thankful to Mr. Paul Wujack for coming to the need of the good people of Dundas Town. Mr. Wujack presented Mr. Mills with a cheque for \$5,000 from the WJ Private Foundation I. Mr. Wujack is a repeat visitor to Abaco and has a sailboat here. Mr. Mills added that Mr. Wujack is interested in donating these funds not for any gain towards him in any way, but interested only in helping the people through his foundation.

Cancer Society Thrift Store

By Jennifer Hudson

Thrift stores (or charity shops as they are sometimes called) are extremely popular in the United States and Great Britain. Not only are people able to shop there for wonderful bargains but the money made goes to help finance very worthy charities.

For some years the Cancer Society of the Bahamas has run a very successful thrift store in Nassau and now the Cancer Society of Abaco hopes to open a similar store here in Marsh Harbour. All proceeds from the store will be used to assist cancer sufferers on the island of Abaco and donations will be made to the Cancer Caring Centre in Nassau for the Abaco Suite. This will

Please see **Central** *Page 21*

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- ★ **Bahama Palm Shores** - Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath - 1,300 sq.ft. home. with 1 bedroom, 1 bath detached cottage/apartment on almost 1/2 acre lot. One Block from beach, two minute walk. #AB76 - **\$225,000.**
- ★ **Bahama Palm Shores** - Elegant 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath - 2,000 sq.ft. home. with 1 bedroom, 1 bath detached cottage/apartment on double lot over 2/3 acre Near beach - Auxillary Generator. #AB87 - **\$430,000.**
- ★ **Marsh Harbour** - "Sunset Point" - 8 Unit Bonefishing resort, with fifty seat Lazy Parrot Restaurant and Bar. Central Air-conditioning. Fresh water swimming pool. Excellent investment opportunity. AB100 - **NEW PRICE \$800,000.**
- ★ **Marsh Harbour** - Cove Estates - "Laura's Hideaway" -Duplex - 2 -2 bedroom, 1 bath apartments, plus efficiency, 3 separate living units - great location, excellent rental income, furnished. #AB44 - **NEW PRICE \$175,000.**
- ★ **Marsh Harbour** - "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 spotlight - 3,600 sq.ft. Store or warehouse. # AB - AB99 - **\$1,400,000.**
- ★ **Marsh Harbour** - "Blueberry Hill" - Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 970 sq.ft. residence with 2 rental cottages. 2 bedroom, 1 bath and 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Centrally located but good privacy. Fully Furnished. Swimming Pool. Great Income Producer. # AB115 **\$347,000.**
- ★ **Marsh Harbour** - Great Abaco Club - "Spinnaker Point" - 3 bedrooms - 3 baths - 1,320 sq.ft. Home, Private 50' Lay-along Boat Dock, Tastefully furnished and fully equipped. Excellent Rental Record. # AB93 - **NEW PRICE \$550,000.**



"Pelican Point"

Marsh Harbour - Pelican Shores - 3 bedroom, 3 bath home - 1 bedroom, 1 bath garage apartment - 1 1/2 Acres -private dock with boat-lift - Fabulous Views. - The privacy of a private island with in town convenience. Furnished. # A B 6 7 - **\$2,950,000**



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Estate Agent
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Commercial

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



"Villa Douglas"

Marsh Harbour - 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.**



"Endless Summer"

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



"Point of View"

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

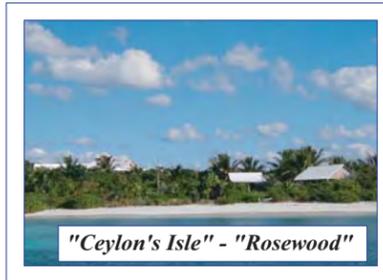
☆ VACANT LAND ☆

- ☆ **Marsh Harbour** - Great Abaco Club - Canal Front Building Sites
- ☆ #40 - 9,778 sq.ft. - AB5155 - Extra Large Corner Parcel - **NEW LISTING - \$299,000.**
- ☆ #41 - 7,070 sq.ft. - AB5156 - Good Elevation - Sea View - **NEW LISTING - \$360,000.**
- ☆ #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 - - Stairs to Beach - # AB5150 - **UNDER CONTRACT**
- ☆ **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 - "Madiera 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.**
- ☆ **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.**



"Down South"

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



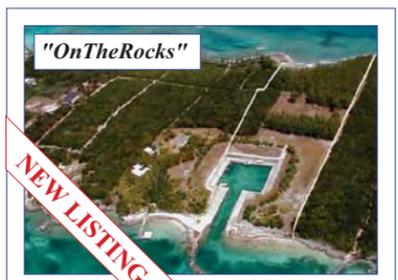
"Ceylon's Isle" - "Rosewood"

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



"Final Approach"

Treasure Cay - Brigantine Bay - 6 bedroom, 4 1/2 bath - 5,500 sq.ft. Canal-front home on two levels - 100' Dock with 6' depth, Four car garage. Great family home or Corporate retreat. fully and tastefully Furnished. #AB120 - **\$2,290,000.**



"On The Rocks"

Great Guana Cay - 5.9 Beautiful sea-to-sea acres- South end of Great Guana Cay 395' of Ocean frontage. 160' of Sea of Abaco frontage. 245' of semi-private boat basin frontage. Good elevations for fabuolus ocean and sea views #AB5176 - **\$2,950,000**



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School News

School

From Page 1

Bootle athletes went to Nassau where they performed exceptionally well. The school was able to pick up six medals, the best showing ever in the history of the school. The Golden Boy of the group was Alexander Rolle, who came first in the Decathlon. Silver medals came from Casteo McDonald in the Long Jump and Chris Nesbitt in the 5000 meters. Bronze medals came from Casteo McDonald and Amanda Parker in the Triple Jump and Prisca McIntosh in the Discus Throw.

Apart from the medalists, most of the other athletes qualified for the semi-finals and finals in their events. Coach Lyndon Scott and physical education teacher, Mr. Jose Torres, the staff and students of S. C. Bootle High would like to thank all the athletes for their full participation and wish them well in their future endeavors. We thank all of the sponsors who supported us financially including: Treasure Cay Resort, Spanky's Liquor Store, the National Insurance Board, Treasure Cay Mini-Market, Banyon Beach Resort, Mr. Gilbert of Bahama Star Farm, Ms. Olanthea Russell and Mr. Estin Sawyer, the Music Man.

Agriculture Is Expanding

By Lyndon Scott

Agriculture Science at the S.C. Bootle High School has expanded by leaps and bounds. According to Mr. Hamlin Newbold, the Agriculture Supervisor in the Ministry of Education, the Agriculture Programme at the school is the fastest developing programme in the entire Bahamas. Thanks to the agricultural Science teacher, Mr. Lyndon Scott, who is persevering despite several constraints such as a reduction of periods allotted to him, lack of water, etc. The plot is now fully fenced and more programmes are added to make the subject more excited.

Following the success story with production of chickens, Mr. Scott and the students of Agriculture Science have added pig production to the fray. In the pens which were constructed by the Agriculture students of a last graduating class are four fattened sow pigs, each weighing about 200 pounds. When sold each of these pigs can generate at least \$250. The pigs and their feed were supplied by the Ministry of Education.

Presently, there is a green house under construction and this is expected to be completed by the end of the term. With its completion the production of ornamental crops (flowers) will be added to the already

flourishing vegetable production.

With the help of the Ministry of Education goat and sheep production is expected to be added to the programme for the next school year.



This is one of the pigs being raised by the Agricultural Science students of S.C. Bootle High School.

The area has already been identified and the materials are expected to be shipped in very soon.

Mr. Lyndon Scott would like to openly thank the principal and staff and more particularly the students of Agricultural Science for their cooperation and hard work for making the programme a tremendous success.

Please see **School**

Page 15



S.C. Bootle High School sponsored a display of this year's projects in carpentry and joinery and graphical communications. The display included well constructed, attractive furniture and accessories. The students were proud of their accomplishments.



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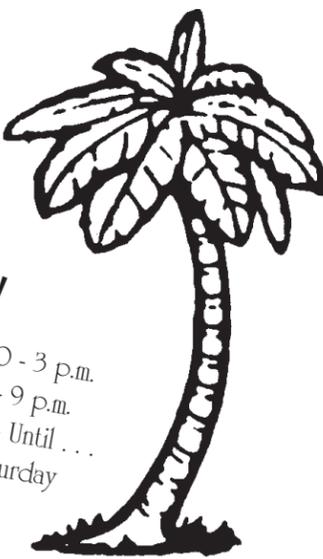
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More School News

School

From Page 14

Central Abaco Primary School Gets Ready to Celebrate Literacy Week

By Portia Jonsson

Literacy is about more than reading and writing – it is about how we communicate in society. It is about social practices and relationships, about knowledge, language

and culture. Literacy – the use of written communication – finds its place in our lives alongside other ways of communicating. Indeed, literacy itself takes many forms: on paper, on the computer screen, on TV, on posters and signs. Those who use literacy take it for granted, but those who cannot use it are excluded from much communication in today's world. Efforts must be made to ensure that we are on the right track towards literacy for all and thus education for all.

This is the reason why the Central Abaco Primary School has declared May 3rd-7th as Literacy Week. A very busy week with many different literacy activities is planned to promote and create a social awareness in the school and neighbouring communities through education.

Together, we can make a difference in our communities so that everyone has access to literacy in ways that are relevant and meaningful.

Sports at St. Francis

By Isobel Sherman

St. Frances de Sales School held its annual Inter House sports Day on April 2 at the school.

Competitions between the houses of the Warriors, Dragons and Marlins were held for all students from pre K through Grade 12.

At the end of the meet it was a tie for first place between the Warriors and the Marlin. The teachers' race decided which house would take first place which was the Warriors in green. Second place went to the Marlins and third place went to the Dragons. Members of the Warriors House were treated to a cake and will have possession of the Floating Trophy until the next Inter House Sports Meet in 2005.

Workshop for Facilitators

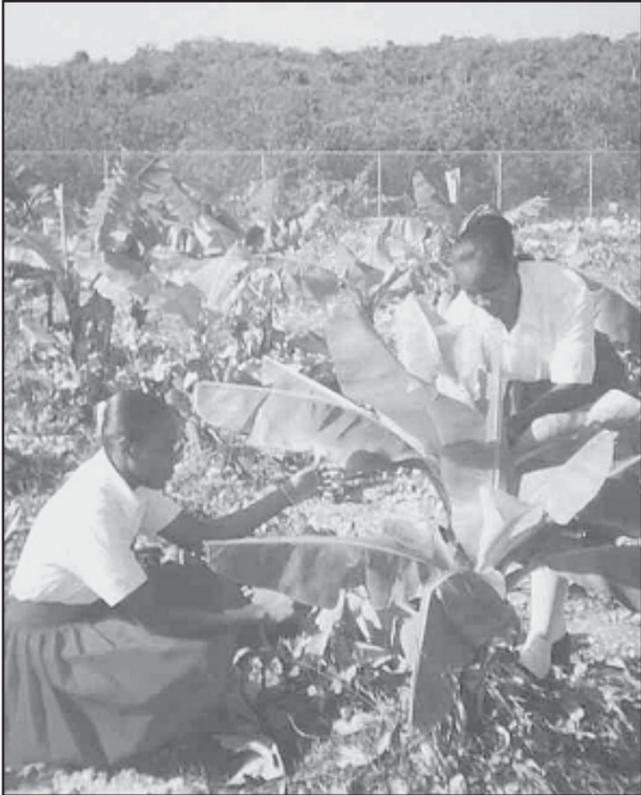
By Isobel Sherman.

Mrs. Joyce Pinder, Family Life Coordinator for Grand Bahamas, conducted a one-day workshop on April 2 to train facilitators for the Parental Training Course. The workshop was held at the Resource Center in Marsh Harbour and was organized by Mrs. Sandy Edwards, Family Life and Reproductive Health Coordinator on Abaco.

The Parental Training Program was introduced on Grand Bahamas last year, and Mrs. Pinder has trained several facilitators

Please see **School**

Page 16



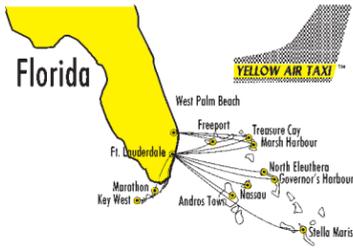
The Agricultural Science students of S.C. Bootle High School have raised chickens and are now raising pigs and growing vegetables.

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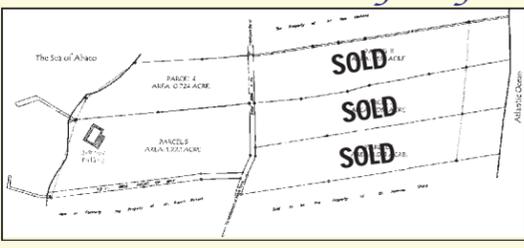
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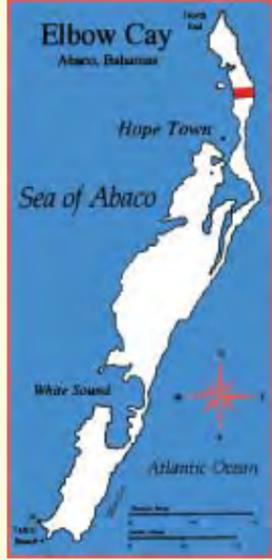
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More School News

School From Page 15

who are conducting the workshops on Grand Bahamas. Parents of grade one students and grade seven students will be invited to participate in these workshops. There are six one-hour sessions in the Parental Training Workshop program and parents who attend four out of the six sessions will receive a certificate of participation. The sessions deal with such topics as the types of parenting, identifying children's personalities and how to communicate effectively with your child. Mrs. Pinder has pioneered this training program and now Mrs. Edwards would like it to begin on Abaco.

To quote the late Rose Kennedy, "I looked on child rearing not as a work of love and duty but as a profession that was fully as interesting and challenging in any honourable profession in the world and one that demanded the best that I could bring it."

Parents of grade one and grade seven students will be receiving letters informing them of the dates of these workshops.

Baseball League Begins Practice

The Abaco Schools Athletic Association got its Baseball League for 13- to 14-year-olds started yesterday at the St. Francis de Sales playing field.

The Might Marlins of Abaco Central High School took on St. Francis de Sales. The final score was Abaco Central High Marlins 6 and St Francis de Sales 3. The winning pitcher for the Marlins was Henry Williams with 5 strike outs. Tyler Russell was tagged with the loss but had 8 strike outs.

Abaco Central High School Track Team Brought Medals Home

Recently an eight member squad from the Abaco Central High Mighty Marlins Track and Field Team, coached by Elva Davis, traveled to New Providence to compete in the Bahamas Amateur Athletic Association's National High School Championships.

The team performed extremely well says coach Davis with exceptional performances from the following:

Traz Nixon, who earned a Silver Medal in the Under 15 Boys 100 Meters and placed a close 4th in the Under 15 Boys 200 meters.

Nadiege D'Mercy earned a Bronze Medal in the Under 15 Girls 800 Meters and placed 4th in the Long Jump.

Kareem Parker made the finals in the Under 20 Boys 200 Meters and the semi-finals of the Under 20 boys 100 Meters.

Javon Cambridge placed 5th in the Under 20 Boys High Jump.

The other team members include Brandy Wallace, Rosna Jonnasaint, Kevin Altidor and Collin Swain who also turned in outstanding performances.

Central Abaco Primary Heritage Month Is Celebrated

By Anastacia Seymour

Central Abaco Primary School celebrated the month of March as Bahamian Heritage Month under the theme *Dis We Culture Through Music and Dance*. To climax the month a special assembly was held where students danced the Heel and Toe as well as the Conch Style. They also sang songs such as Naughty Johnny by Eddie Minnis and Uncle Lou by Esau Mckenzie. Poems such as Dancing Poinciana by Telcine Turner were recited.

The highlight of the closing assembly was a guest performance by Abaco's own Eugene "Geno D" Davis and the Impact Band. Geno D encouraged the students to put God first and to always believe in themselves. He urged them to remember *Winners Never Quit and Quitters Never Win*. Presentations were made to persons of the Abaco community who made contributions to help this month to be a success.

This celebration is held every year at the school to educate the students about our rich Bahamian heritage and culture and to encourage them to be proud of our heritage.



St. Francis de Sales School honored those who did well in an intra-school sporting competition. They are, left to right, Abidemi Simon, Cordell Johnson, Zinnia Miller, Oswald Parker, Shaquille Telci, Freceal Cornish, Joy Mackey and Celeste Kelly.

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S.C. Bootle Choir Performed Concert

By Portia Jonsson

With help of some members of a very experienced and talented gospel choir, Total Experience, students at S.C. Boodle Secondary School have formed their own gospel group.

Pastor Patrinell Wright, Founder and Director of the Total Experience Gospel Choir in Seattle, Washington, was invited to Cooper's Town by Ms. Rebecca Valrejean, art teacher, to work with the kids at the school in order to create a gospel choir. Pastor Wright and Ms. Valrejean met about six years ago when Ms. Valrejean was producing a CD and invited Total Experience Gospel Choir to assist in her CD release. Accompanying Pastor Wright were four members of the Total Experience Gospel Choir.

On March 27th students of the newly formed gospel group gave their first per-

formance at Revival Time Pentecostal Church in Cooper's Town. Although the school choir boasts a total of 65 members, only nine students turned out for the concert. Despite the small number, the students did a wonderful job and the evening was most enjoyable.

After arriving in Cooper's Town, Pastor Wright worked with the students every day. She taught them not to use their full voices when singing, instead soften their "attack" on their music. She noted that there were some very gifted singers in the group and plans to have about eight or 10 of them travel to Seattle, Washington, this summer for the experience.

This was Pastor Wright's third trip to the island but her team members' first. She hopes to have her choir, Total Experience, tour Abaco next year.

Seat Belt Law Enforcement Will Begin

The Road Traffic Division of the Royal Bahamas Police Force has announced that its officers will begin enforcing the seat belt law on May 20. "The fine as stipulated by the law is \$300 for the driver, \$100 for passengers and \$500 for each child found riding in a vehicle without a seat belt or not in the rear seat of the vehicle," according to ASP Charles Walkine. "The fines fall on the driver who is responsible for the restraint of his or her passengers meaning he or she is held accountable for paying the fine," he said.

The seat belt law was enacted by Parliament in 2002. "We here at the Police Traf-

fic Division and Road Traffic Departments have been trying to sensitize the motoring public to the use of their seatbelts in preparation for this date," said ASP Walkine. He states that all vehicles shall be fitted with seat belts. Exemptions include tractors, motorcycles, omnibuses except front passengers and driver, trucks, except front passengers and driver, vehicles designed for physically disabled or medically handicapped or disabled, cars manufactured before 1986 and trucks manufactured before 1972. Children under the age of 12 years must be seated in the rear seat.

Obituaries of Family and Friends

The funeral for **Jermaine Jackson Thompson**, 30, was held in Nassau on April 24. His body was found in the Blue Hole near Busic Bight on Good Friday. He is survived by his mother Elizabeth Julia Smith Cox; grandmother Cecila Penn Smith; brother Devonne Smith; sisters Shannette Thompson McKinney, Anastacia and Jennis Thompson and Sharon Cunningham; brothers-in-law, sister-in-law; and many other relatives and friends.

Ralph Bishop Moore, 63, passed away after a long illness on April 12 at his home in Treasure Cay. Mr. Moore, formerly of Carbonear, Newfoundland, Canada, is survived by his wife Colette; sons Paul (Laurie Ann) and Sean (Tammy); grandsons Avi and Elijah; and many other relatives and friends. His ashes will be scattered in the Sea of Abaco at his request. A celebration of his life will be held in Treasure Cay at a future date. In lieu of flowers, Ralph requested a science fund for the children of Abaco be established.

Donations can be sent to Ralph Moore Science Fund, c/o P.O. Box 22215, Treasure Cay, Abaco.

The funeral for **Timothy McBride**, 27, formerly of Moore's Island was held on April 17 in Nassau. Interment was in the Public Cemetery of Moore's Island.

He is survived by brothers Wellington, Jeffery and Willard Johnson, Salathiel and Ronnie McBride; sisters Judy and Betty Johnson, Ida Birch, Kadie and Sherlene McBride; grandmother Earlene Knowles; nephews Wesley Sr., Ahmad, Akeem, Ancil, Clement and Andy Johnson, Isaiah McBride, Joseph Birch, Chanquin Russell; grand nephew Wesley Jr.; nieces Darlene, Deandra, Brittany, Gwendia, Breanna Shanny, Asia and Ahdasa Johnson, Salasha and Gwendolyn McBride, Amanda Birch, Chilliann Martin, Deaudra and Decarda Russell; grand niece Coronique Daminanos; aunts Verletta and Iva Davis, Annie Roberts, Edna Knowles and Althea McBride; uncles Solomon McBride, Charles and Christopher Knowles; sisters-in-law Sheryl and Donnamae Johnson, Meldina and Journey McBride; brothers-in-law Joseph Birch and Andy Johnson; and many other relatives and friends.



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Conference Will Encourage Bahamians to Invest

An impressive line-up of top notch presenters will travel to the fast-growing island of Abaco to address delegates at the first annual Abaco Investment Conference scheduled for May 5 at the Abaco Beach Resort.

As plans are well in place for another successful ground-breaking conference, president of The Counsellors Ltd., Joan Albury, said that the timing is perfect. The conference will serve primarily to educate Bahamians on the importance of saving, investing, and to apprise them of opportunities that are available for individual investing and expanding their businesses, which can include catering to the export market.

Mrs. Albury stated, "It is important to educate Bahamians about savings because savings are needed to be able to invest. More than that, knowing what avenues are available for investing and how to best invest your money for better returns are some of the key factors delegates will take away from the conference."

The conference is packed with a slate of "heavy-hitters" in the investments and financial services industry including Minister of Financial Services and Investments, the Hon Allyson Maynard-Gibson. She will open the conference with an overall per-

spective on investment activities and progress in the financial services sector economy.

Chairman of BISX, Ian Fair, will address the topic *Capital Markets*. Kenwood Kerr, Investments Manager at S.G. Hambros, will speak of broad *Investment Opportunities in The Bahamas*, while President of the Abaco Chamber of Commerce, Michael Albury, will speak of investment opportunities on the island of Abaco, one of the fastest growing island economies within the country.

The Counsellors Ltd remains the first company to ever hold such a business conference on a Family Island. In September 2003 Abaco Business Outlook had a record attendance and the positive feedback from delegates who attended that seminar served as the impetus for this scheduled Investment Conference.

In today's business world where business transactions occur at the click of a button, General Manager of Cable Bahamas Limited, Erik Russell, will speak on *Business Connectivity and Continuity*.

Realizing investments without linkages can lead to development challenges, Angela Cleare, tourism expert and Senior Director-Family Islands in the Ministry of

Tourism, will expand on *Maximizing Linkages with Tourism*. But it does not stop there. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Simeon Pinder, will speak on maximizing linkages from an agricultural perspective.

Vice President, Finance at British American Insurance and host of *You and Your Money* show, I. Chester Cooper, will address the topic of *Savings, Planning, Investing for your Retirement*. Chairman of the Bahamas Development Bank, Neville Adderley, will speak on *Access to Capital* to promote further investments. Extolling the virtues of *Cooperatives as an Investment Vehicle*, will be Manager of Teachers Real Estate Holdings, Johnley Ferguson.

At the end of the conference, delegates

will have a better knowledge of foreign, domestic and personal investing and will have the opportunity to speak to some of the movers and shakers who can assist them with getting their investments off the ground or help them boost what already exists.

Registration for the conference is ongoing and is \$60 per person, inclusive of lunch. Interested persons can register by calling Antoinette Dean on Abaco at the Chamber of Commerce office at 367-5822 or send a fax to 367-5823. Or they can call Andrea M. Myers at The Counsellors Ltd. at 322-1000; fax 325-2482, e-mail amyers@thecounsellorsltd.com or register on-line at the conference website at www.tclevnts.com.

Another Small Plane Has Mishap

By Jennifer Hudson

On April 27th at 10.30 a.m. a privately owned twin engine Aztec plane, registration number N556Y, made a crash landing at Treasure Cay International Airport. The small plane was en route from Marsh Harbour to Treasure Cay where it was scheduled to pick up passengers for Fort Lauderdale. On arrival at Treasure Cay the

landing gear failed to come down resulting in a belly landing. Fortunately, the pilot David W. Freeman of Florida was the only person on board at the time and was able to walk away from the plane with no serious injuries.

The Civil Aviation Authority and the Police arrived at the scene shortly afterwards to carry out investigations.

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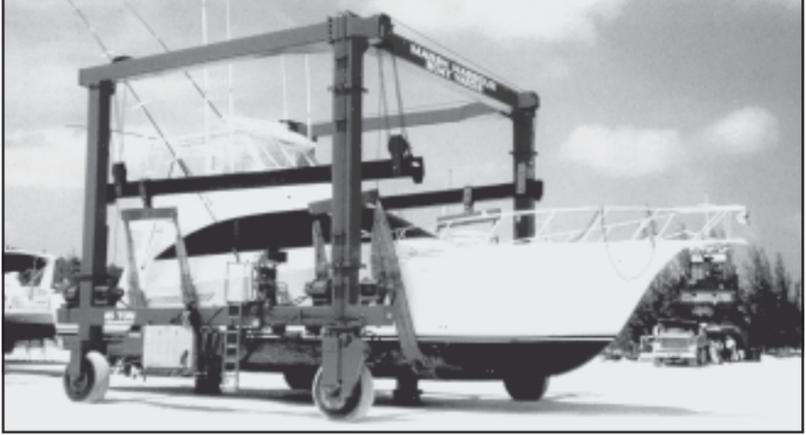
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Pathfinders Announces 13 Recipients for 2004

Because of the overwhelming success of its recent fund raising auction and the wonderful generosity of a number of individuals and businesses, Abaco Pathfinders' Scholarship Foundation is able to award 13 partial scholarships this year instead of its usual ten. This is fortunate because the number of applicants was almost double those of previous years. Pathfinders is continuing to help support 21 of the 30 students it has funded in the last three years. Nine of those 30 have either completed their undergraduate education or have secured for themselves full scholarships from their colleges. A reception for this year's new recipients and their families and current Pathfinder students will be held May 30 at the Below Decks Restaurant at Abaco Beach Resort.

The selection of this year's students was very difficult because of the large number of outstanding applicants. After the application review process and the personal interviews, Pathfinders' scholarship committee made the following selections.

Vilene Baptiste is the first recipient of a scholarship provided through Pathfinders from Food for the Poor, Inc. of Deerfield, Florida. This scholarship was facilitated by Mr. David Price, who is that foundation's Secretary/Treasurer and Chief Counselor. The scholarship is in the honor of the Most Reverend Catholic Archbishop of the Dio-

cese of the Bahamas. Miss Baptiste will graduate this year from St. Francis de Sales School where she has been an honor's student. She plans to attend college in the United States and pursue an education in medicine.

Mario Sawyer, a 2003 graduate of Abaco Central High School, is now attending ATI Career Training Center in Fort Lauderdale where he is studying architectural drafting. Mr. Sawyer is the son of Mrs. Erma Sawyer of Dundas Town.

David McHale Davis, the son of Atlee and Michelle Davis of Murphy Town, is now attending St. John's University in Minnesota where he is majoring in environmental science. He is a 2001 graduate of Abaco Central High School.

Shane Cash, who will graduate this year from Forest Heights Academy, will be attending Ramapo University in New Jersey. There he plans to obtain a degree in secondary education and hopes to become a history teacher and coach here on Abaco. He is the son of Don and Carrie Cash of Hope Town.

Chervain Dean graduated from Abaco Central High School and then attended College of the Bahamas where she was awarded an Associate arts degree in psychology. She plans to pursue her studies in psychology at one of the two schools where she has been accepted, Louisiana State University

or the University of Tampa. Miss Dean is the daughter of Christopher and Christine Dean of Marsh Harbour.

Devaughan Edgecombe, the son of Mrs. Sarah Dawkins of Murphy Town, has been attending Palm Beach Atlantic University where he is majoring in business. He is a 2002 graduate of Abaco Central High School.

Tia Knowles will be a 2004 graduate of Forest Heights Academy. She is considering several colleges in the United States where she plans to major in theater and psychology. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Knowles of Marsh Harbour.

Sabrina Laing of Black Wood is currently attending the College of the Bahamas where she is taking classes to prepare her for entering the nursing program there. Miss Woods is a 1999 graduate of S.C. Bootle High School and is the daughter of Esther Laing.

Samantha Major has been awarded a four-year scholarship to Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia, through a partnership between the university, Mrs. Rhonda Hull of Marsh Harbour and Abaco Pathfinders. This unique scholarship was facilitated by Dr. and Mrs. Jack Helm, residents of Winchester and second home owners on Elbow Cay. Miss Major, who is the daughter of Ms. Wanda MacKey of Hope Town, first graduated from Forest Heights

Academy in 2003 and then attended high school in Ohio as an exchange student, taking college preparation courses. She will be majoring in biology at Shenandoah, then plans to enter a pre-medicine program.

Dawson Malone will be entering a pre-law program at the College of the Bahamas this year. He will graduate from Agape Christian School this June and is the son of William C.G. Malone, Sr. and Charlotte Malone of Casuarina Point.

Joshua Malone, the son of George and Debbie Malone of Man-O-War, is a graduate of Forest Heights Academy. He plans to attend either Palm Beach Atlantic University or Toccoa Falls College in Georgia and study computer information systems and business administration.

Miquell Miller of Green Turtle Cay will graduate from Forest Heights Academy this year. Miss Miller has been accepted at Ramapo University in New Jersey and plans to eventually go into medicine. Miss Miller is the daughter of Patricia McIntosh.

Sarah Swain is a 1994 graduate of Abaco Central High School. For the last several years she has been an assistant head cashier at Price Right, Ltd. She has completed a certificate programme in daycare education and plans to attend the College of the Bahamas and earn a degree in primary education. She is the daughter of Stevenson Jay and Margaret Swain of Dundas Town.

Prices May Rise

By Isobel Sherman

Television stations in Miami have been reporting a rise in milk prices this past week. They say this is due to the decrease in the number of cows which is being blamed on Mad Cow Disease.

According to Chad Sawyer of Price Right his suppliers have informed him of a rise in milk prices. In addition, beef prices have

risen also as a result of Mad Cow Disease.

Mr. Sawyer also stated that his suppliers of paper products have said prices will rise in June for all paper products.

Some economists in the United States are predicting inflation which means higher prices for goods and services, higher interest rates.



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More News of the Cays

Cays

From Page 7

Abaco's new juice plant near Spring City as well as the old schoolhouse at Cherokee, which has recently been refurbished as a community centre. The students had lunch at the Sand Bar Restaurant and then attended an Earth Day event sponsored by Friends of the Environment. Friends of the Environment was organized in 1988 by a group of Hope Town residents and has a growing number of supporters who are concerned about Abaco's greatest resource, the sea around us.

Other Community News

We are happy to report that Mrs. Elva Gates is recuperating at Princess Margaret Hospital in Nassau, having suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. She and her family are grateful for the community's support and prayers.

The Man-O-War Pirates hosted a pre-season "fun" game against the Green Turtles. They wish to thank all their friends who have made donations of time and money to the re-landscaping of the ballfield. While the project is by no means complete, sod is being purchased and installed as time, water and funds allow.

The New Life Bible Church will host its 10th Annual Missions Conference from June 2 to June 6 featuring special guest speakers. All are welcome to attend.

Guana, The Can Do Cay

By the Guana Observer

Guana Cay has a long history of self-sufficiency and a can-do attitude. This is made evident by the volunteerism in getting infrastructure projects completed despite the lack of government funding.

Two major projects in which this writer took part were the re-paving of several hundred yards of the 10-foot-wide concrete roads in March and April of 1995 and the construction of the community decking around the fig tree in 1997.

The road work occupied more than 30 members of the community for several weekends. Heavy equipment was donated by Charles Sands and more than 1000 hours of labor completed the work.

The fig tree decking materials were secured by Mike Malone, then Chief Councillor of Central Abaco, and the labor was supplied over several weekends by the community.

A smaller project, that of a sea wall in front of Milo's store after Hurricane Floyd, was completed using discarded poles and lumber, the detritus of the hurricane. Heavy equipment was again donated by Charles Sands.

Another effort was that of constructing a

sea wall and parking lot between the government dock and the property of Guana Beach Resort. This was a project of the Guana Cay Community Association.

Other self-funded items include the funding of Guana Fire and Rescue, a new fire truck and, most recently, a raffle to secure funding for a new fire house to house the truck and associated equipment.

There have also been innumerable fund raising dinners, raffles and community events for the benefit of the Guana Cay School and many people and projects.

Government Funding

What does Guana Cay get back from the government to pay for capital improvements, repairs to existing infrastructure, fire protection, solid waste management, postal service, medical services, street lights, police protection?

Fishing

From Page 2

to *Black Gold* with 1050 points and third place went to *Anejo* with 600 points. These three boats held their respective positions from the first day of the tournament.

Organizers were pleased with this first tournament and the fist catch and release tournament held at Abaco Beach Resort.

*Remember
Your Mother on
Mother's Day*

More Letters to the Editor

Letters

From Page 9

kept it away from the paddock area.

Rehor said "We were at the farm border where the fence trail had been an effective block when the wind gusted to about 20k out of the west and turned the thing right back on us. The worker and I were separated by a wall of fire, but we were able to shout over the noise, enough to know that each of us was still safe. We are totally burned out in areas that escaped the last fire in December."

While fighting the fire, Rehor was so furious that it took awhile before she realized that her jeans were ablaze. Fortunately, there was still water left in the sprayer at the time. Her jeans had scorch marks and there was a golf ball sized blister on her ankle bone.

Nearly a third more fence was burned, and now there is not enough fence or other needed materials to enclose the area that was being set aside for the five horses who are still outside the preserve in unhealthy habitat.

That night Pattie Toler, who is the anchor for the local cruisers' VHF radio net,

recruited seven volunteers. They left the next morning under cloudy skies. Fortunately, a light rain had fallen during the night and the worst of the fire was out. The volunteers, slogging through still smoking ruins of trees reminiscent of a scene from *The Lord of the Rings*, repaired the fence by 3 p.m.

Rehor said, "These few words don't convey the amount of walking and hauling the volunteers did. The women stood guard on the horses for hours. Since the two men who usually work on the preserve were exhausted from being up all night with the horses. (one man had been on site for 24 hours), we would have had days of work ahead of us without this timely help. And at the end of it all the women found that sections of burned rope made great skip ropes. We had a wonderful display of techniques right up to double Dutch and some skipping verses in French! A really rotten situation was wrapped up with smiles."

On behalf of the Wild Horses of Abaco, thanks to Pattie Toler for her net work, Kathryn Bamford and John Webb, Arne and Beverly Myrseth, Barbara and Jerry Allen, and Terry Campbell.



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Central

From Page 11

provide accommodation for Abaco cancer patients to reside while undergoing treatment in Nassau.

The society has been granted the use of two rooms in the southern section of the Marsh Harbour Community Library building which was formerly the medical office of Dr. Ejnar Gottlieb and occasionally used by a veterinarian. A team

of volunteers has been busy cleaning out and preparing the rooms. Other volunteers are constructing all the necessary shelving so that as soon as a business licence has been granted the store will be ready to open.

The Cancer Society has previously held Rummage Sales twice per year in the spring and fall outside the Central Abaco Dental Clinic and book sales at Long's Landing and Java. However, these will be discontinued as the items including

clothes, books, household items and furniture will be sold from the thrift store instead. Hours will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday.

New Boutique Opens

By Isobel Sherman

Wrackers, a new boutique located at the entrance to Abaco Beach Resort in Marsh Harbour, had a soft opening on April 16, 2004. Owned by Abaco Beach Resort, Wrackers features a large selection of resort clothing. Arranged in a relaxed setting, one can find fine soft pastel cotton in blouses, skirts, dresses, blouses and jackets made by Spirit for the ladies and outfits for the children.

There is a selection of men's and women clothing made from Androsia fabric. Hand-made ladies sweaters knitted by Lillian (Lily Cash of Casuarina Point) can also be purchased. Colourful canvas totes in all sizes with a unique selection of handbags made by Brahma Handprints are displayed. All kinds of colorful hats made from canvas and straw can be purchased as well as sou-

venir t-shirts.

According to General Manager of Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbor, John Neophytou, Wrackers is here to serve both tourists and residents alike.

Wrackers will be opening an art gallery in the next few weeks which will feature art by not only local artists but artists from all over the Bahamas.

Reprieve

By Isobel Sherman

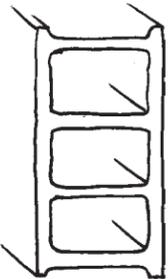
According to William Newbold, Manager of RND Cinema in Marsh Harbour, the theater will remain open until June. Previously, it had been slated to close in May. However, many persons expressed the hope that the theater would remain open even if only a few days a week.

On April 23 RND Cinema on Abaco joined the rest of the world in the premier showing of Man on Fire with Denzel Washington. Mr. Newbold stated that on May 5 and May 25 there will be two more premier showings of two movies at RND.



The residents of Spring City presented a check for \$1000 to the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department in appreciation of the efforts the department made to save their town from recent forest fires. The fire department worked for days to save the community from fire which swept through Central Abaco forests. Shown above is Town Committee member Roger Delancy, left, presenting the check to Fireman Danny Sawyer.

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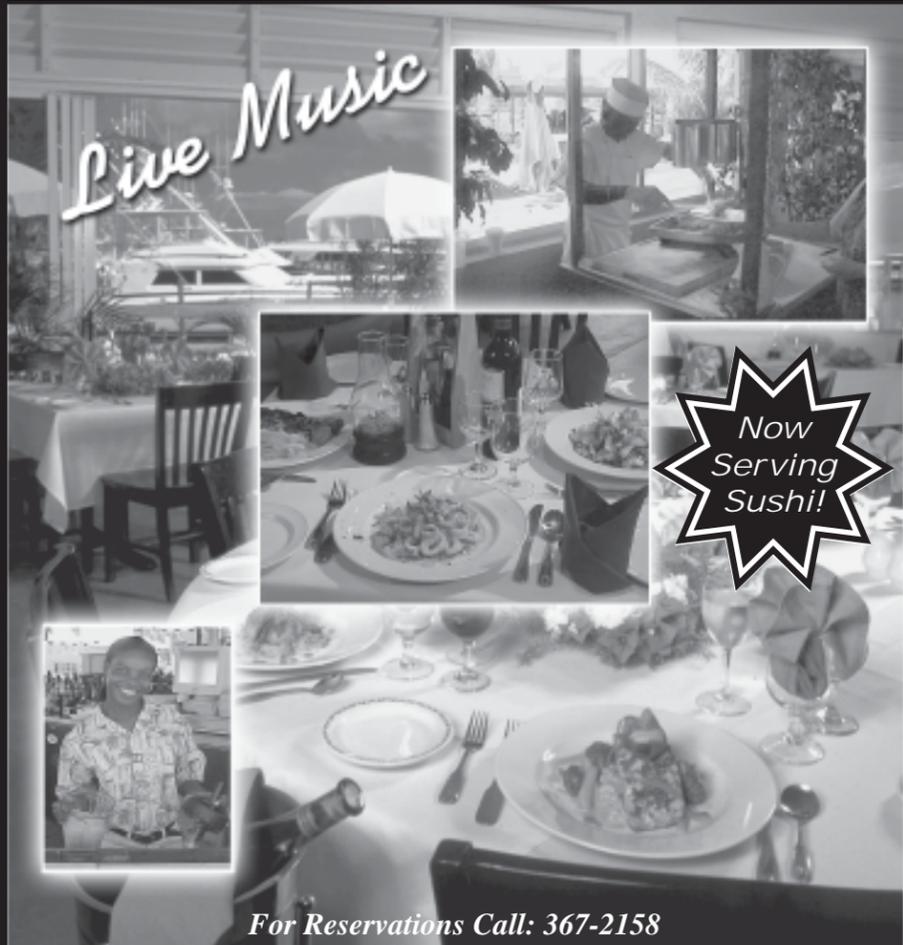
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Viewpoint

Better Attitudes Needed

By Jennifer Hudson

Whilst waiting in the checkout line in the largest grocery store in Abaco a few days ago, I witnessed a rather unpleasant scene which could have an adverse effect on our very precious commodity, tourism.

Packing boys have their place; it is pleasant to have one's groceries packed and carried to the car, especially when one has a large amount. And the packers are delighted to receive their tip which is, of course, the reason they are there. I admire these young lads (and one sees the occasional young lady there) who are raising the money to perhaps help out their families or to save the money to purchase the latest fashions or something they particularly want.

However, I feel that there should be more supervision of these young people by the store managers. Last week in this particular store on the two occasions while I was in there, the packing boys were more of a rowdy rabble rather than a group of people waiting to give a service for which, in fact, they would receive payment.

On one particular day I was very disappointed to see how a visitor to our island was treated by these young people, and it threw a very bad light on this store. As this lady was checking out, there was

a young girl there that day who was trying to pack the bags for her, but the boys wanted the job so they were trying to push her out of the way. When the visitor spoke to them, they were noisy and rude and would not even allow the lady to get a trolley for the girl to take the bags out. The lady was, rightfully, very annoyed and must have left with a very poor opinion of the store and its packers.

I feel that when stores hire these packers, they should give them a short course on how to behave towards store patrons and insist on some sort of dress code for them. I have been in stores in Nassau recently where the packers were all dressed in navy pants and white shirts and were lined up at the end of the store in an orderly manner waiting their turn (rather like the system the taxi drivers use at the airport). This gave an extremely good impression. If the young people here were given a dress code of perhaps dark pants and a white shirt or a T-shirt with the store's name on it plus encouraged to have pleasant attitudes towards the customers, it would go a long way to making people's grocery shopping more pleasant and leave a far better impression with our visitors to the island.

Celebrating Mother's Day

By Portia Jonsson

Mothers Day is a very special day. I want to take this opportunity to honour our Mothers and our Grandmothers, without whom we would not be the adults that we have become without their love, nur-

turing, friendship and guidance. Moms are caregivers, cheerleaders, counselors, nutritionists, and so much more. Be sure to do something special for your Mom this Mother's Day.

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VHF ch. 16



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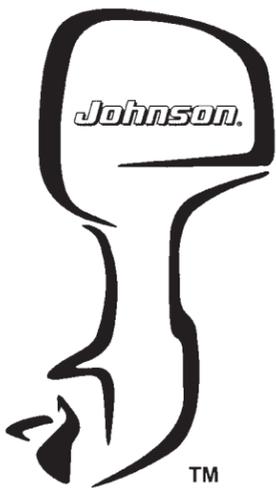
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SEA HORSE MARINE • Hope Town • 242-366-0023

ROBERTS MARINE • Green Turtle Cay • 242-365-4249

Hotels and House Rental Agents

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Casuarina Point

Different of Abaco 8 rm 20 cott 366-2150

Cherokee

Lee Pinder 3 hse + 366-2053

Grand Cay

Rosie's Place 352-5458

Green Turtle Cay

Bank Apartments 3 apts 365-4105

Bluff House 8 rm 20 cott 365-4200

Chris Plummer 3 hse 365-4648

Coco Bay Cottages 4 cott 365-5464

Green Turtle Club 34 rm 365-4271

Island Properties 34 hse + 365-4047

New Plymouth Inn 9 rm 365-4161

Ocean Blue Properties 30 + 365-4636

Roberts Cottages 3 cott 365-4105

Guana Cay

Dolphin Bch Resort 4 rm 10 cott.365-5137

Coco Paradise 8 cott 365-5197

Donna Sands 12 hse + 365-5195

Guana Seaside 8 rm 7 cott 365-5106

Harbour View Haven 365-5028

Ria-Mar Rentals 5 + 365-6241

Sea Shore Villas 365-5028

Hope Town

Abaco Inn 22 rm 366-0133

Club Soleil 6 rm 1 cott 366-0003

Crystal Villas 7 villas 366-0522

Elbow Cay Prop 53 hse + 366-0035

Hope T Harb Lodge 25 rm 366 0095

Hope T Hideaways 63 hse + 366-0224

Hope T Villas 3 hse + 366-0030

Lighthouse Rentals 4 cott 366-0154

Sea Grass 10 hse + 366-0290

Sea Gull Cottages 3 hse + 366--0266

Sea Spray Resort 5 villas 366-0065

Tanny Key 43 hse + 366-0053

Turtle Hill 4 villas 366-0557

Lubbers Quarters

Sea Level Cottages 4 hue 366-3121

Man-O-War

Island Home Rentals 8 hse+ 365-6048

Ria-mar Rentals 9 + 365-6241

Schooner's Landing 5 condos 365-6072

Marsh Harbour area

Abaco Beach Resort 82 rms 367-2158

Abaco Real Estate 6 hse + 367-2719

Abaco Towns 32 effc 367-2227

Alesia's 3 rms 367-4460

Ambassador Inn 6 rms 367-2022

Bustick Bight Resort 8 rms 367-3980

Conch Inn 9 rms 367-4000

D's Guest House 6 rms 367-3980

Great Abaco Club 12 hse + 367-4151

Island Breezes Motel 8 rms 367-3776

Lofty Fig Villas 6 eff 367-2681

Pelican Beach Villas 6 cott 367-3600

Sunset Point Resort 8 rm 367-5333

Moore's Island

Moore's Is Bonefish Camp 8 rm 366-6334

Sandy Point

Oeisha's Resort 366-4139

Pete & Gay's Resort 14 rm 366-4119

Rickmon's Bonefishing 10 rm 366-4477

Spanish Cay

Spanish Cay Resort 18 rm 6 hse 365-0083

Treasure Cay

Bahama Beach Club 365-8500

Banyan Beach Resort 21 rm 365-8111

Island Dreams 45 hse + 365-8507

Treasure Cay Resort 95 rms 365-8801

Walker's Cay

Walker's Cay Resort 353-1252

Wood Cay

Tangelo Hotel 19 rm 3 villas 365-2222

General for Abaco

Listings for the entire island

Abaco Vacations + 800-633-9197

Bahamas Vacations + 800-462-2426

Abaco Bound + 242-367-5576

Web Sites

with general Abaco information

www.abacoinet.com

www.abacoinfo.com

www.abacos.com

www.go-abacos.com

www.oii.net

www.bahamas.com - Min. of Tourism



Visitors' Guide



Restaurants • Services • Transportation

Abaco Chamber of Commerce

367-5822 • Fax 367-5823

abacochamber@abacoinet.com

Area code 242 unless listed

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

Medical Services	
Abaco Family Medicine Marsh Harbour	367-2295
Auskell Advanced Medical Clinic	367-0020
Marsh Harbour Medical Centre	367-0049
Government Clinic Marsh Harbour	367-2510
Corbett Clinic Treasure Cay	365-8288
Government Clinic Cooper's Town	365-0300
Government Clinic Green Turtle Cay	365-4028
Government Clinic Hope Town	366-0108
Government Clinic Sandy Point	366-4010
Government Clinic Fox Town	

Taxi Cab Fares for one or two passengers	
Plus extra for each passenger above two	
• Between Marsh Harbour Airport and:	
Ferry Dock or Murphy Town to Ammons Dr	\$12 + \$3
Bristol Cellers thru A. Beach Hotel or Gov't dock thru Dundas Town	\$10 + \$3
Dove Plaza, Stop Light or Sawyer's Market	\$10 + \$2
Gov't Clinic thru Western Auto	\$6 + \$2
Gov. freight dock through Dundas Town	\$10 + \$3
Murphy Town to Shell Sta	\$14 + \$4
Pelican Shores to Frankie Russel house	\$14 + \$4
Eastern Shores to Peas & Rice house	\$14 + \$4
Beyond Russell house or Peas & Rice house	\$16 + \$5
Great Cistern	\$20 + \$5
Spring City	\$15 + \$5
Snake Cay	\$35 + \$10
Treasure Cay	\$60 + \$10
Casuarina Point	\$60 + \$10
Treasure Cay Airport or Bah Palm Shores	\$70 + \$10
Little Harbour or Cherokee	\$80 + \$10
Crossing Rocks	\$100 + \$10
Sandy Point	\$135 + \$10
• Between Marsh Harbour Ferry and:	
Ab Beach Hotel thru Wally's & Eastern Shore	\$2 each
Jib Room	\$3 each
Golden Harvest	\$5 + \$3
Stop Light, Dove Plaza, Gov't dock	\$6 + \$3
Government Freight Dock	\$7 + \$3
Gov.Clinic, W. Auto or Nat. Insurance	\$9 + \$3
Mother Merle restaurant	\$10 + \$3
Waiting time \$20 per hour, \$10 per half hour	
Children under three - free • Uncaged pets - as people	
Luggage \$.50 each over four, Surf boards \$3.00 ea.	
• Between Treasure Cay Airport and:	
Treasure Cay, Bahamas Star, or Moxy	\$14 + \$6
Bronks or Highway Liquors	\$10 + \$5
Sand Banks	\$20 + \$5
Joe's Creek	\$35 + \$5
Black Wood	\$14 + \$5
Fire Road	\$25 + \$5
Cooper's Town	\$30 + \$5
Cedar Harbour	\$45 + \$5
Wood Cay	\$50 + \$5
Mount Hope	\$55 + \$5
Fox Town	\$60 + \$5
Marsh Harbour or Crown Haven	\$65 + \$5
Marsh Harbour Round Trip	\$85 + \$5
TC Hotel to Marsh Harbour	\$55 + \$5
TC Hotel to Joe's Creek	\$25 + \$5
TC Hotel to Sand Bank	\$16 + \$5
TC Hotel to Moxey	\$10 + \$5
TC Hotel to Bronks	\$7 + \$5
From TC Hotel to All Areas N. of T.C. Airport Add \$10	
Waiting Time \$12 Per Hour	

Air Lines Serving Abaco	
Air Florida - Ft. Lauderdale	367-5599
Air Sunshine - Ft. Lauderdale	367-2800
American Eagle - Miami	367-2231
Bahamasair - Nassau & W. Palm Beach	367-2095
Bimini Island Air - Ft. Lauderdale	954-938-8991
Calypso Air - Ft. Laud & W. Palm Bch	954-3594191
Continental Connection - Miami	
Ft. Laud and W. Palm Beach	367-3415
Island Express - Ft. Lauderdale	357-6684
Major's Air Service - Freeport	367-4826
Southern Air - Nassau	367-2498
Twin Air - Fort Lauderdale	365-8677
USAir - Ft. Laud and W. Palm Bch	367-2231
Vintage Props & Jets - New Smyrna B.	367-4852
Yellow Air Taxi - Ft. Lauderdale	954-359-0292
Local charter companies serving Bahamas & S. Florida	
Abaco Air	367-2266
Cherokee Air Charters	367-2089

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



Ferry Schedule Departure times shown • Daily unless noted

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

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

Abaco Adventures • Ph 365-8749 VHF Ch 16	
Treasure Cay to Guana Cay Sunday Lv 12 & returns 4:45 p.m. \$25 RT	
T Cay to Man-O-War/ Hope Town - Wed 9:30 am, return 4:30 pm \$35 RT	
T Cay to Guana Cay Sunset Cruise - Fr \$25 , call for time	

Pinder's Ferry Service Between Abaco & Grand Bahama -	
Crown Haven Abaco to McLean's Town -Daily 7:00 am & 2:30 pm	
McLean's Town to Crown Haven - Daily 8:30 am & 4:30 pm	
Fare \$40 one way • \$80 round trip • Children half fare	
For information call Grand Bahama 353-3093 or Abaco 365-2356	
Bus serves Freeport and McLean's Town • Rental automobiles at both terminals.	

Bahamas Ferries Between Nassau & Sandy Point under 4 Hr.	
Friday & Sunday Lv Nassau 3:30 pm Lv Sandy Point 8 pm	
Adult fare \$90 RT, \$50 OW • Call for rates on cars, trucks and cargo	
Call Sandy Point 366-4119 • Marsh Harbour 367-5250 • Nassau 323-2166	

Please bring errors, omissions or corrections to our attention • Rev 5Mar2004

Abaco Marinas	
	Slips Fuel Phone
Walker's Cay	
Walker's Cay Marina	75 F 353-1252
Green Turtle Cay	
Bluff House	45 F 365-4200
Green Turtle Club	32 F 365-4271
Black Sound Marina	15 365-4531
Other Shore Club	12 F 365-4195
Abaco Yacht Service	10 F 365-4033
Treasure Cay	
Treasure Cay Marina	150 F 365-8250
Man-O-War	
Man-O-War Marina	26 F 365-6008
Marsh Harbour	
Boat Harbour Marina	183 F 367-2736
Conch Inn	75 F 367-4000
Harbour View Marina	36 F 367-2182
Marsh Harbour Marina	52 F 367 2700
Mangoes	29 F 367-2366
Port of Call	24 F 367-2287
Abaco Yacht Haven	7 367-3079
Hope Town	
Hope Town Marina	16 366-0003
Hope Town Hideaways	366-0224
Lighthouse Marina	6 F 366-0154
Sea Spray	50 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

Rental Services	
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

Bonefish Guides	
Sandy Point	
Patrick Roberts	366-4286
Nicholas Roberts	
Derrick Gailor	
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



Everyone reads The Abaconian.

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SECTION B



B SECTION MAY 1st, 2004

Meetings Discuss National Youth Service Officials Want Input from Abaco

Hope Town Dinghy Race Series Concludes



The Hope Town Sailing Club hosts a series of seven dinghy races each winter featuring the native-built Abaco sailing dinghies. The concluding race last month was on a picture perfect day and saw the older sailors winning over the younger sailors. Winer Malone in Hope Town is one of the last person actively creating these beautifully crafted sought-after dinghies. Photo by Cindy Merrill

By Sue Holloway

A series of races for traditional Abaco dinghies was sponsored by the Hope Town Sailing Club in March and April. A record 11 of the beautiful hand-made 10-foot to 14-foot boats turned out for the total of seven races. Many were older craft that had been restored while

the newest dinghy made by Winer Malone of Hope Town also took part. The skipper ranged in age from 14 years to "somewhat over 70." In most cases wisdom and experience prevailed although the younger crowd will be a force to reckon with in future years!

Results of the races:

First Regatta: 1st - Pim Epler; 2nd - Mike Jackson; 3rd - Wink Merrill

Baverstock Trophy: 1st - Pim Epler; 2nd (tie) - Doug Behrendt and Wink Merrill

Abaco Joy Trophy: 1st - Pim Epler;

Please see **Dinghy Race** Page 9

Three members of the National Youth Service Commission traveled to Abaco the week of April 26 and held town meetings in Cooper's Town, Marsh Harbour and Sandy Point. The purpose of the meetings was to get feedback from concerned youth leaders, educators, parents and other interested parties about a proposed Youth Service Program. Various schemes for a national youth program have been considered since first proposed by Sir Lynden Pindling in 1989.

Members of the commission visiting Abaco were Pastor Mattie Nottage, Chairman; Pastor Dave Burrows, Deputy Chairman; and Gregory Butler, Assistant Director of Youth in the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

These three persons are part of a national advisory committee studying the issue. They have been mandated to visit all the Bahamian islands to get feedback on various aspects of a national youth program. Owing to financial constraints, it is quite likely that any effort will utilize existing programs to a large degree. This would include the Governor General Awards Scheme, Scouts, service clubs and other organizations. One of their jobs is to inventory existing youth programs.

For youth inclined to follow the path of least resistance or presenting discipline problems, an unused naval base on Eleuthera might be used for a boot camp where military discipline would be instilled. Academics and job training would also be

Please see **Youth Service** Page 2

Earth Day Is Celebrated in Marsh Harbour



Earth Day, celebrated world-wide for many years, is observed annually on Abaco but usually held in Hope Town. This year Friends of the Environment held its observance in Marsh Harbour to enable more school children to attend

By Portia Jonsson

Whilst the rest of the world celebrated Earth Day on April 22, Friends of the Environment together with the Abaco Science Association saw fit to celebrate Earth Day 2004 on April 30. Organizers of this event were Monica Bianchi, Recycling Chairman

with Friends of the Environment, Nancy Burnett, Education Officer with Friends of the Environment, and James Richards, Chairman of the Abaco Science Association

Please see **Earth Day** Page 10

Championship Games Close Basketball Season



Abaco Youth in Action played their championship games in Dundas Town on April 30. The program is organized and run by a group of dedicated volunteers who work with the young people every Saturday morning. Trophies for these games were provided by William Davis and Vita Malt. See story on page 4.

**Do Not Miss
Island Roots Festival
Green Turtle Cay
May 7, 8, 9
History, Culture, Games, Fun, Food**

Committee Is Studying a Youth Service Program

Youth Service *From Page 1*

given. Camp sessions are envisioned to be either 18 or 24 weeks in length.

Many jobs in our tourist-based economy require social skills that many of today's youth lack. The committee feels that a youth achievement program will have a beneficial impact on the pride, self esteem and work ethic of our youth. Targeted youth for focused attention might include teen mothers, gang members, teens with difficulty managing anger and perhaps those with disabilities.

While compiling the report to present to government, the committee will investigate similar youth programs in the Caribbean, Europe and Africa.

The tone of the Marsh Harbour presentation was typical. Before Pastor Nottage could even begin the presentation in Marsh Harbour, Chief Councillor Cay Mills posed some questions to Mr. Butler. In essence, Mr. Mills wanted to know if the Ministry of Youth was sincere in establishing a Youth Service Program and why there wasn't an

office for the Ministry of Youth on Abaco with a youth officer. Mr. Butler stated that the Ministry would be rectifying the situation but no date was given.

Pastor Mattie Nottage listed the members of the Youth Commission. It was noted that there is no member of the commission from Grand Bahamas or from Abaco, the second and third largest islands in population in the country.

Pastor Nottage gave an overview of the concepts the commission has looked into including the response from several town meetings that have been held in Nassau and in the Family Islands. She stated that with 25 percent of the population under the age of 25, it is imperative that something be done for the youth of the nation.

She stated that 57 percent of all households in the Bahamas are single parent households, 55 percent of all births in the country are to unwed mothers and of the 5000 births each year 13 percent are to teen mothers ages 10-19. The youngest grandmother in the Bahamas achieved that distinction at the age of 19.

Pastor Nottage said they looked at a re-

port from the Fox Hill Prison and found that 97 percent of the inmates are male and of those 76 percent committed their first crime before the age of 25. Additionally, the prison population experiences a 70 percent recidivism rate. Forty-four percent of the inmates were raised by a single parent. She pointed out that the report stated that if there were educational, technical and vocational skills training, the recidivism rate would be reduced by 57percent.

In other findings the commission noted the following which greatly impact young people: The Bahamas has

- a large migrant population
- a substantial exposure to foreign media and culture
- a high rate of all types of abuse
- a high rates of AIDS
- improper nutrition

- lack of recreational facilities
- gang affiliation
- lack of respect for the environment
- a lack of social responsibility and skills which contribute to high unemployment.

Pastor Nottage concluded her presentation by stating, "Gangs are the fastest growing youth group in the Bahamas and that is going to take a total effort on everyone's part to change the direction of our youth."

Pastor Dave Burrows presented the commission's draft so far. He emphasized that it is a working document and is not written in stone. Basically, the commission has a three-prong approach. The first one relates to National Pride and Excellence. A second component deals with *Transferable*

Please see Youth Service Page 11



Three members of the Bahamas Youth Service Achievement Program held meetings on Abaco to feel out how people feel about youth service. They held meetings in Cooper's Town, Sandy Point and Marsh Harbour. Shown above, left to right, are Pastor Dave Burrows, Deputy Chairman; Mr. Gregory Butler, Assistant Director of Youth in the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, Pastor Mattie Nottage, Chairman; Mr. Freddie McIntosh, Chairman for North Abaco; and Mr. Gary Knowles, Senior Administrator for North Abaco.



The discussions about a National Youth Service program are highlighting the problems the country faces with some youth who have anti-social and improper attitudes toward education, work and their country. At the meeting in Marsh Harbour three members of the Consultative Committee spoke to interested persons. They are, left to right, Pastor Burrows and Mr. Butler of the Committee, Mr. Alexander Williams, Senior Administrator for Central Abaco, and Pastor Nottage, Chairman of the Committee.

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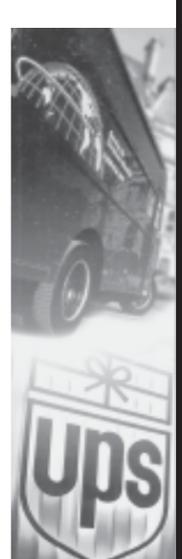
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Drama Club Presented *Love Letters Lost*

By Jennifer Hudson

Senior students of the Drama Club of Forest Heights Academy and their mentor, Mrs. Leslie Kennedy, deserve a large pat on the back after their excellent performances last weekend. On April 30th and May 1st they presented *Love Letters Lost* a delightfully lighthearted romantic comedy set in a small village bookstore and showcasing two love stories in one, liberally interspersed with well loved songs from popular shows. Mrs. Kennedy, English teacher at the school and Drama Club coach, adapted this play for the students from a 20-minute play she likes very much and has always wanted to adapt and expand into a musical play to have her students perform.

The play was performed in the Forest Heights outdoor auditorium which made a most pleasant "Garden Theatre." At one point the birds in the trees around were so inspired by the beautiful singing that they chimed in with a delightful chorus.

The students performed with great confidence, having already excelled in their school's performance of *Annie* last year and they appeared very much "at home" on stage. Many of these young people have been gifted with very melodious singing voices and Destiny Cornish's renditions of the songs *Another Suitcase, Another Hall, Memory* and *Love Changes Everything*, all



Justine Sands, Tonya Patterson and Brittany Symonette are shown during their presentation of the song *There's No Business Like Show Business*.

from Andrew Lloyd Webber shows, were very moving whilst Tia Knowles gave a heart felt rendition of *I'll Do Anything* by Lionel Bart. In Act Two Tonya Patterson, Brittany Symonette and Justine Sands presented a spirited song and dance routine complete with twirling umbrellas to the music of *There's No Business Like Show Business* by Irving Berlin and Claire Basden and Roxanne McIntosh were a delightful duo in Harry Wood's *Side by Side*.

Shane Cash was a real "hit" with the audience with his delightfully rendered monologue of *Never Let a Woman in Your Life from My Fair Lady*.

The very professional background music for the cast vocals and scene changes was pre-recorded by talented winter resident Claire Kanter with senior student Cleveland Dawkins performing one of the pieces.

High praise is due to all the actors and their directors, Ms. Leslie Kennedy and Ms. Alana

Carroll, those who assisted with set design, choreography, music, sound and all who helped in any way to make this a most enjoyable evening.

On the Saturday evening the auditorium became a Dinner Theatre where the audience was able to enjoy a lasagna dinner prepared by the Parent Teachers Association before watching the performance of *Love Letters Lost*.

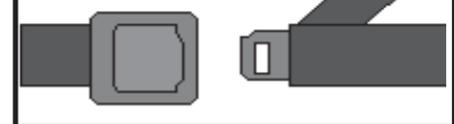


Roxanne McIntosh and Claire Basden enjoyed performing their version of the song *Side by Side*.



The cast of the play *Love Letters Lost* posed after their performance at the Forest Heights Academy outdoor theater on April 30. They did a repeat performance on May 1 which was combined with a dinner. The students are, left to right, Rebecca Risberg, Justine Sands, Brittany Symonette, Tonya Patterson, Claire Basden, Destiny Cornish, Ovens Altidor, Shane Cash, Roxanne McIntosh and Tia Knowles. Not shown was Bradley Albury.

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Simeon Pinder
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Ministry Of Agriculture, Fisheries & Local Government
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Sports News

Championship Games Are Held

Abaco Youth In Action sponsored a Championship Basketball Night to conclude its basketball season. It was a very exciting Friday night with championship games played in each age division. All of the games were well contested and close. The fans and children got an extra treat when they watched their parents, male and female, compete in a full court dribbling contest.

The results of the Championship games follow.

Game 1 / Pee Wee League
Heat 2 Clippers 10



More than 80 youth turned out for the opening day of baseball practice of the Abaco Youth in Action. They are taught practice drills in several age groups. Girls and boys enjoy the competitive games.

Jodie Martin and Clementino Burrows lead all scorers for the Clippers. Clementino Burrows of the Clippers was named the MVP.

Game 2 / Girls League
Hawks 1 Pistons 6

Jasmine Ferguson and Zinnia Miller lead the scoring for the Pistons. Zinnia Miller of the Pistons was named the MVP.

Game 3 / Mini League
Hornets 13 Suns 10

Chaz Darville and Cordero Carey combined for 11 points in the win for the Hornets. Cordero Carey of the hornets was named the MVP.

Game 4 / Junior League This game went into over time.

Kings 15 Lakers 17

The Lakers had a balance scoring attack by Lyndon Davis Jr., George Martin Jr., Winton Adderley, Stanley McIntosh and Kingsley Cajuste. Lyndon Davis Jr. of the Lakers was named the MVP. Nikili Williams of the Kings lead all scores with 9 points.

Parents Full Court Dribbling Contest 15 competitors each
Female Winner: Sophia Miller
Male Winners: (Tie) George Martin and Carleton Miller

Youth In Action Sportsmanship Awards
Pee Wee League - Glen Fernander
Girls League - Jasmine Ferguson
Mini League - Quinton Bastian Jr.
Junior League - Elliott Stuart

The trophies for the night were provided by William Tony Davis and Vita Malt. A large trophy was presented to William Davis for Rosie and Sons which has been the sponsor for Abaco Youth in Action. Refreshments were sold to aid in sending a team to play in Freeport in June.

Youth In Action Baseball

During the next few months Youth in Action will concentrate on baseball. Clinic and drills officially got started on May 1st at the Murphy Town Park with a tremendous turn out. Eddie Claude from Little League Baseball in The Bahamas from Freeport, Grand Bahama, was on hand and assisted.



Girls enjoy the baseball practice, too. They learn cooperation and discipline along with the fun.

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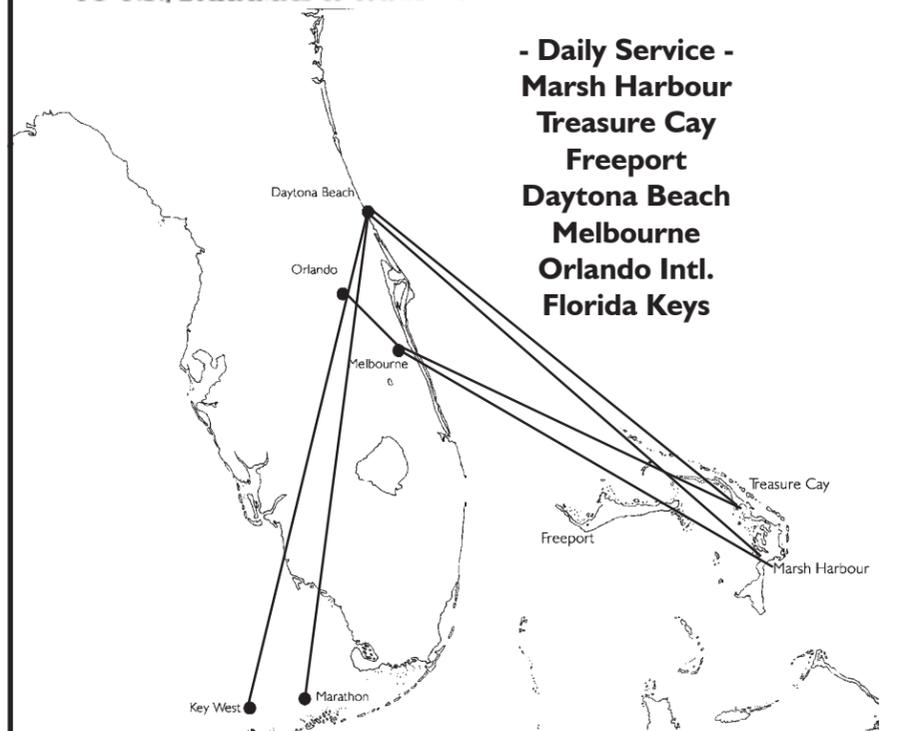
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Turk's Island Team Won Basketball Tournament



Mr. Tanker Williams and the Predators Basketball Team from Providenciales Island, Turks and Caicos, traveled to Nassau and Abaco to compete in local basketball tournaments over the Easter holiday weekend, April 8th-10th. The visiting team won the tournament game against the Abaco team. Pictured is Mr. Williams, owner and coach, accepting the tournament trophy from Mr. Cay Mills. In July of last year the Kemp's Quickwell Rebels Basketball Team from Abaco traveled to Turks and Caicos to compete in the Southern Caribbean Championship.

Scholarship Is Still Available

By Isobel Sherman

Mrs. Judy Yanover recently spent time on Abaco visiting school officials. The Yanovers are the sponsors of the Prime Time Scholarship which is a full scholarship to Louisiana State University offered to one student from Abaco and one student from Eleuthera each year. Presently, there are six students from Abaco on these scholarships attending Louisiana State University. Mrs. Yanover was accompanied by Mrs. Judy Wood, who administers this scholarship.

The basic requirements to qualify for this scholarship are five BGCSE Passes with a C or better in academic subjects, an SAT score and proof of need. The scholarship begins in January in the spring semester each year.

Deadline for scholarship applications is May 30 for consideration for the spring 2005 semester. Applications forms are available from local high schools and from the District Superintendent's office. The important thing to remember is the C or better passes in five BGCSE academic subjects. Acceptable academic subjects are English, Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Geography, History, Spanish, French, Accounts and Combined Science.

Mrs. Yanover stated that she is quite pleased with the performance of the Abaco students already in the program. Her only concern is that applicants do not seem to follow through with the required documents or paperwork.

The Passion of the Christ

By Jennifer Hudson

It is now Good Friday and having just returned from church I feel that this a very fitting time to write this article. Having experienced the movie *The Passion of the Christ*, I believe that for all the thousands of people who also have seen it, Easter time will be even more vivid and moving this year.

The Passion of the Christ is a film about the last twelve hours of Jesus of Nazareth's life. The film opens in the Garden of Olives where Jesus has gone to pray after the Last Supper. It then traces His journey through His betrayal, arrest, the accusations of blasphemy, condemnation of death, flogging, carrying of the cross through the streets of Jerusalem and finally His crucifixion.

This film generated much controversy even before it was released and people all over the world have flocked to see it. Here in Marsh Harbour it has drawn record numbers to the RND cinema.

I spoke to the Manager, Mr. William Newbold, after the movie had been running for two weeks to get some idea of how it had been received here, and he said that there had been a huge turnout of Abaconians viewing the movie. Very few patrons have been attending the cinema for its normal run of movies but within two weeks of *The Passion* 1747 individual persons had attended with approximately the same number of people attending in church groups. Within a two week period over one quarter of the population of Abaco had viewed *The Passion*, and it was to be held over for a further period.

Mr. Newbold stated that people had come from the length and breadth of the island from Crown Haven to Sandy Point and the

cays and for some performances he even had to turn some people away. "Some people," he said, "came three or four times and people were profoundly moved by it. Many people were moved to tears and one lady had to be calmed down by staff before she was able to leave the cinema."

Since it was an R rated movie, children under the age of 17 could not be admitted unless accompanied by a parent or adult guardian. According to Mr. Newbold, many parents took their children, some as young as two years old. Several school groups went also. I wonder just how much the violence in the movie affected some of the younger children. I, myself, found it hard to take.

Indeed, one of the criticisms by one film critic stated, "The graphic detail of Jesus' torture made the movie hard to sit through." Another critic labeled it "extremely violent, intense and graphic." However, other more favourable comments were "There was good acting and the visuals were artfully done," and "You walk in one person and come out another." It was certainly a movie "to be experienced rather than watched."

Mr. Newbold's final comment to me was, "I hope the showing of this movie will cause positive changes in the lives of the people of Abaco."

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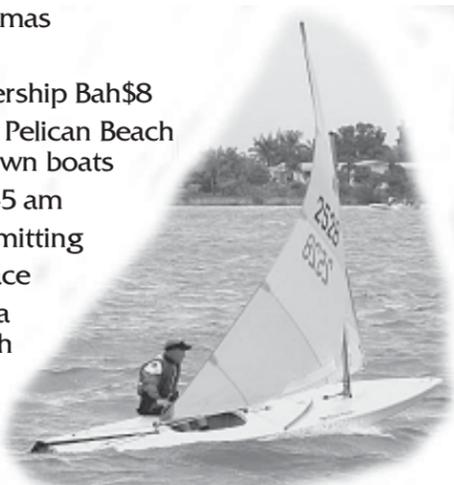
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People in the News

Ms. Bertha McPhee Is Transferred

By Portia Jonsson

Back in August 1999, almost five years ago, Ms. Bethamae McPhee was sent to Abaco to set up and head the office of the Department of Environmental Health. At that time the department faced numerous challenges implementing guidelines and regulations because of the manner in which environmental issues were dealt with and carried out for many years on Abaco. During the past five years improvements and changes have been made but work still needs to be done by the community.



Bertha McPhee

On April 21st Ms. McPhee spent her last day in the Abaco office. She said it was a bittersweet day for her. "My experience here has been an exceptional training ground for me," she said. "It has brought out gifts in me, matured me a lot, not just professionally but personally and spiritually." Ms. McPhee feels comfortable leaving the Abaco office because all of the programs that are in Nassau have been set up and are in place here. She has seen a tremendous change in Abaco in the sanitary conditions, the residents are more compliant to the regulations set by Environmental Health, and they are eager to learn more. She believes we are getting there.

Ms. McPhee acknowledged the difficulty she had first coming here with only two officers and having the responsibility for the entire island. She said it was a daunting task. She commended her staff for their hard work and "putting their weight" behind any new program implemented without complaint. The Abaco office of the Department of Environmental Health now boasts two health inspectors, two vector control officers and one clerical worker.

Ms. Berthamae McPhee has been stationed on Grand Bahama where she will be responsible for operations in the Department of Environmental Health.

The Department of Environmental Health is responsible for monitoring of consumer products, building control, restaurant inspections, food inspection, food vendors approval, septic tank, yard maintenance, Haitian boat inspection and mosquito spraying.

Photographer Wins Award

By Jennifer Hudson

Tuppy Weatherford of Man-O-War Cay is well known to the majority of Abaconians for her beautiful scenic and wildlife photography. She has exhibited her work at many art and craft shows on Abaco and for several years has been entering her work in the International Library of Photographers competition for amateur photographers. Recently one of her photographs was selected as an award winning entry and Tuppy was invited to the ILP Conference and Symposium in Washington, D.C., on April 2,3 and 4 to receive her award.



Tuppy Weatherford

Many of her photographs entered in the ILP competitions have been published in "coffee table" books in the U.S.

Tuppy was thrilled to have been selected to receive an award and enjoyed her visit to Washington tremendously. Whilst there she attended talks by well known professional sports and rock star photographers

as well as photographers from the National Geographic magazine. Photographers from 20 countries in addition to the United States were present at the conference. Each prize winner, in addition to his official award, was presented with a digital camera with which to go out and photograph the sights of Washington to be entered in an "open" competition.

Tuppy became interested in photography as a teenager when she received her first Brownie, a black and white camera. She was not able to take it up seriously until she purchased a really good camera about eight years ago. Her favourite subjects to photograph are outdoor scenes and babies. She attributes her success to "being in the right place at the right time."

The photograph which won her the award was titled *Memories* and was taken on the beach at Man-O-War Cay. It is a delightful composition showing her niece, Priscilla, with her cousin, Amber, playing in the sand with pet dogs Chelsea and Sheba. Tuppy called this *Memories* because Amber died tragically in a fire two years later at the age of five. This photograph along with more of Tuppy's work can be viewed on the website www.picture.com.

Minister Selected for Office

By Nadeen Beneby

Rev. Dr. Carl Claudius Campbell, the son of Mrs. Gleaka Campbell and the late Peter Campbell of Marsh Harbour, will serve as President of the Wesleyan Theological Society, a society of Wesleyan holiness scholars based in the United States. Rev. Campbell was elected as second vice-president of the society at their last meeting held in New York. As President of the society in 2007, he will give both the welcome address and the Presidential address.

Rev. Campbell, who grew up in the Methodist community of Marsh Harbour, is the first black Methodist outside the United States to be elected President of the society. He stated that he was shocked and humbled by the election.

Abaco Poets and Writers Society Is Formed

By Jennifer Hudson

A very successful inaugural meeting of the Abaco Poets and Writers Society was held at Java Coffee House on the morning of April 3rd. The idea of gathering poets and writers together to listen to and appreciate each other's work was the brainchild

Please see **People**

Page 7

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More People in the News

People

From Page 6

of a very gifted young lady named Garnell Stewart. She is seeking to provide a platform for people to come together and develop their talents under the maxim "Speak



Garnell Stewart

and you shall be heard." Garnell invites anyone who loves reading and listening to poetry to attend the meetings. One does not have to be a writer but must come with ideas to offer. Nine people attended the first meeting including boaters, students, writers and three artists who are attempting writing as a different form of expression. Stone McEwen read the words of his new song *Utopia* which tells of traveling the world but realising that there is no place like The Bahamas.

Garnell delighted listeners with some of her own self-expressive poetry which she actually never thought of making public until recently encouraged to do so. She began her writing as entries in her personal journal while only in fourth grade. A very quiet child who sadly lost her mother at an early age and her father quite recently, Garnell expressed her innermost feelings on paper. She has continued to write and her poems are now copyrighted. She hopes to have them published in the near future.

The group got off to such an enthusiastic start that members requested it meet each week. Next week it will convene at the Conch Inn but soon Garnell hopes to have her own Cultural Centre open downstairs in the "fire truck" building. This will be a media centre where not only poets and writers will meet but also musicians, as Garnell is herself an accomplished pianist. She has

inherited her talents from her late parents. Her late father was drummer for the band Funk Connection and her late mother, Patti Limperes, is well remembered in the teaching world for her motivational teaching. She was music teacher at the Abaco Central High School for over 10 years.

Although born on Abaco, Garnell received her education in the United States where, during the last three years of high school, she studied television production. She decided upon graduation to return to Abaco to trace her roots and discover the heritage her late parents gave her.

It was decided at the meeting that the entire cultural group should be called Expressions. Various groupings will spin off from this such as Poetry Expressions, Writing Expressions and Music Expressions.

Garnell is a young lady with a great vision for the arts on Abaco and with her talents and enthusiasm it is going to be something for all who are lovers of the arts to look forward to. She is willing to teach piano to interested students and may be contacted at home at 367-5691 or 375-9162.

Development Bank Officer Completes Course

The College of The Bahamas' Centre for Entrepreneurship held a closing ceremony for 11 persons who participated in a financial modeling and project appraisal course on April 28. The week-and-a-half-long course was sponsored by the Bahamas Development Bank for its officers directly involved in the preparation of business proposals on Grand Bahama, Abaco and New Providence. Mr. Loran Coleby, Manager of the Abaco office of the Bahamas Development Bank, completed the course.



Loran Coleby



The Second Annual Quilt Raffle was held on April 30. April Parotti made a quilt in memory of her late father, Robert Van Stratton, who died from prostate cancer in March 2000. The funds from the raffle benefit the Cancer Society, Abaco Branch. One hundred tickets were sold at \$25 per ticket. Then a drawing was held on April 30. The winner of this year's raffle was Kelly Dam of Marsh Harbour. This is the second year that she made a quilt and donated it. Last year's quilt was won by Katie Sands. Mrs. Parotti, on the right, along with her daughter, Avery, are shown presenting the check to Mrs. Kathy Whiting of the Cancer Society, Abaco Branch.

The Second Annual Quilt Raffle was held on April 30. April Parotti made a quilt in memory of her late father, Robert Van Stratton, who died from prostate cancer in March 2000. The funds from the raffle benefit the Cancer Society, Abaco Branch. One hundred tickets were sold at \$25 per ticket. Then a drawing was held on April 30. The winner of this year's raffle was Kelly Dam of Marsh Harbour. This is the second year that she made a quilt and donated

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Tourism Retreat Studied Abaco's Future

An Abaco Tourism Strategic Planning Retreat was held at Abaco Beach Resort on April 21 and 22. The retreat was planned to gain an insight into how Abaco people want tourism to grow and to make long range plans to develop those goals. The retreat was organized by the recently named Director of Tourism for Abaco, Ms. Jeritzan Outten.

The retreat is one step in a series of planning sessions which included a wide variety of industry partners. The retreat included personnel involved with resorts, rental homes, marinas, restaurants as well as customs officials, boaters, airport personnel, second home owners, education officials, taxi drivers, media and interested individuals.

Minister of Tourism Addresses Retreat

The main speaker for the retreat was the Hon. Obie Wilchcombe, Minister of Tourism, who felt that this session marked the first phase of the responsibility of tourism, that tourism is a business. He acknowledged that the focus has been on Nassau and Grand Bahama but that is changing. The Ministry of Tourism is serious that each island be featured individually.

Mr. Wilchcombe felt that we have not planned strategically. We like to enjoy small successes but do not like the work. This country is successful because we have a willing private sector, Bahamian and non-Bahamian, and we have creative people. But we need to determine how to get the next phase.

He stressed that Abaco needs a first class airport; the present one is not fitting for a tourist destination. Abaco needs an airport in quickest time possible. Abaco is the third city and third most popular Bahamian destination.

The Ministry of Tourism feels that it plays an important role on Abaco and because of that has named a Director of Tourism to show the importance of Abaco. Abaco has much to offer such as fishing and a second home market and is different from the other islands. There is a renewed interest in Abaco by visitors.

Mr. Wilchcombe felt that the people are not sufficiently trained. He cited the Four Seasons resort which recently opened on Exuma needing to bring in domestic help. He would like to see Tourism working more closely with other ministries such as education to bring about a better approach to development. If we are to take the country forward, we need to plan better. Abaco's future will require technical training and we need to know what subject matter employees need to learn. We need to plan infrastructure for the projects that are proposed.

Tourism has spent very little money on the Family Islands. Mr. Wilchcombe wanted the group to determine priorities and money requirements. He felt that Abaco will need its own tourism board to fulfill the needs of this island and make it grow logically. He felt that it is important to deal

with problems now so we can improve for the future. Then we need to demand support from government.

Tourism's Goals Were Named

The Director General of Tourism, Mr. Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, also spoke at the Retreat. He stressed that each of the Family Islands needs to be considered individually. Several of them are bigger than many of the island countries in the lower Caribbean. We need to focus on each island and we need to focus our promotion efforts on where our visitors come from.

Tourism is thought of as a glamorous industry but is actually a means to a better economy. Tourism should do four things for our economy.

1. Tourism should provide employment.
 2. Tourism should provide foreign exchange earnings which is vitally important for Abaco.
 3. The earnings from tourism should be distributed broadly so that everyone can benefit.
 4. There needs to be Bahamianization of the industry with linkages between tourism and other goods.
- Tourism will have a new thrust on the economic development of Abaco but we always need to remember our main goal.

Please see **Tourism**

Page 9



The Abaco Tourism Strategic Planning Retreat included much informal discussions. Shown above are, left to right, Ms. Jeritzan Outten, Director of Tourism for Abaco, Mr. John Neophytou, Manager of Abaco Beach Resort, Mr. Mannie Alexiou, owner of Abaco Beach Resort, and Mr. Roosevelt Finlayson, Facilitator of the Retreat.

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Retreat Was One Step Toward a Master Plan

Tourism *From Page 8* The Work Sessions of the Retreat

The Facilitator for the Retreat was Mr. Roosevelt Finlayson of Management Development Resources, who lead the group for the remainder of the retreat. He gave an overview of the purpose of the retreat and emphasized that this was an opportunity for the group to think deeply into the business of tourism. He wanted the group to look at how to make a new future for Abaco. Strong planning sessions are needed to decide what do we want for Abaco. We need to focus on the future.

He focused first on the past on Abaco. He wanted us to think of the past as the past gives energy to move forward. It helps us build a positive foundation to move to the future. He mentioned that Hurricane Floyd had improved our product. It was a group effort at rebuilding after a disaster. It caused our cost of living to escalate.

SWOT Is Explained

The next segment of the workshop involved SWOT. This acronym stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. The Strengths and Weaknesses are internal factors while the Opportunities and Threats are external factors. Mr. Finlayson had teams list what they felt were the most obvious in each category.

Mr. Finlayson assisted the group in developing a 10-year concept of the future of Abaco. If we want to develop, we have to plan for changes to allow it to happen.

There was discussion on vision, purpose and mission. Then the teams developed what they envisioned. The response was a vision of small resorts, intimate garden settings, a model destination with harmony between visitor and supplier. They saw synergy between visitors and Abaconians. Deliberate expansion, continued development as we have now, maintaining a community's iden-

tity and current character. They saw a thriving community that is supported by non-transient visitors who have bonded and blended with residents to create and preserve a community.

Ms. Outten concluded the retreat by commenting that Abaco has accomplished so much on its own. We now want to improve and we have the power to accomplish this.

Dinghy Race *From Page 1*

2nd (tie) - Doug Behrendt and Wink Merrill

Also taking part were Jonathan Smallwood, Bill Pritchard, Tina Harrison, Bob Knaus, Todd Lee, Tania Harrison, Kent LeBoutillier and Sam Hummel.

It is hoped that the success of this year's series will encourage others with Abaco dinghies to prepare their boats and join the fun next year. Hope Town Sailing Club races are open to all and there is no entry fee.



Much of the work done by those attending the retreat was in small groups. Shown above are Mr. Neophytou and Mrs. Peggy Thompson presenting to the large group the conclusions of their small group.

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Earth Day Encourages Preservation

Earth Day

From Page 1

tion. A full day of activities, games, contests and fun took place at the Yamaha Park in Marsh Harbour.

In an effort to educate children on recycling, teachers and students were invited to participate in a competition featuring songs, posters, displays and aluminum can collections. Ms. Bianchi felt that they were not reaching as many kids as they would have liked but because of this event, they doubled the amount of cans collected.

Ten schools took part in the day's activities and as many as 200 students attended Earth Day. The children are learning to accept responsibility, to promote the growth of trees, flowers and food crops as well as to be on the alert for causes of pollution.

Display and science experiment tables were set up for each school to showcase its project. Forest Heights Academy focused on the recycling of plastics, Every Child Counts demonstrated solar cooking and Central Abaco Primary displayed numerous items made from recycled materials. Some of them included toys made from newspapers and houses made from used cardboard, toothpicks, egg car-

toons and used flowers. It was quite an impressive exhibit.

Winners in the staged competitions received environmental books, globes, computer games and Friends of the Environment

t-shirts. Proceeds from Earth Day 2004 will benefit the Friends fund for education and outreach programs throughout Abaco.

The organizers hope to influence the young people to make choices in their daily con-

duct that will foster harmony, lessen pollution, diminish waste and assist nature. They encouraged them to walk more, ride less, buy less, grow some of our own foods, recycle, and plant a tree.

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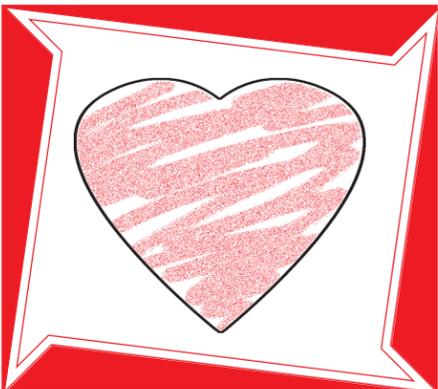
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Youth Service

From Page 2

Skills while a third element is a *Restorative Program* for those youth who are at risk.

The ages the commission is looking to begin with is sometime before 6th grade. The commission feels that much of the implementation can be accomplished through existing youth organizations and the educational system. Neither will there be sufficient funding for a full scale separate program. The final scheme would be mandatory for all youth.

Incentives might be given for participation. For instance, serving in the program might be a prerequisite to getting a government job. Some elements might have a work component and those par-

ticipating might get a stipend. There are other incentives being considered.

After the presentation the members accepted questions from the audience. Many members of the audience pointed out the real need to educate the parents as well as the youth. It was pointed out that knowledge about The Bahamas is essential as many youth do not know about their country, its history and heritage.

At the end of the meeting there was continued talk among the audience that the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahamas should have representation on this commission. It should not be made up just of persons from New Providence.



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By Stephanie Humblestone

Abaco's internet communication systems have grown in leaps and bounds over the past few years with four major Internet Service Providers (ISPs) tailor-made to serve the community's needs, each having broad coverage areas with rapidly expanding networks.

They are: DSL (Batelco), Cable (Cable Bahamas) and Wireless Broadband (Out Island Internet and Abacom Wireless Services).

DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) is offered by the Bahamas phone corporation Batelco. Accessed through an existing phone service, it allows customers to connect to the internet on an existing phone line without tying up their regular phone services. As with all the above named providers, it is a broadband, high speed connection. As yet it is available in select areas of Abaco but other areas are steadily coming on line. Batelco boasts of a 24-hour hotline for technical support, and friendly staff is available for information regarding residential and commercial packages weekdays during working hours at their Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay offices. Orientation programmes are offered to those unfamiliar with the internet.

Cable internet is offered by Cable Bahamas. It is similar to DSL in terms of speed but it is a "shared network," meaning speeds may vary according to the number of users simultaneously on line. The service is supplied to the customer through an existing cable television subscriber line. Cable Bahamas, as well as Batelco, offer fiber-optic connections for commercial grade internet subscribers and secure private networks such as financial institutions and large

companies requiring additional bandwidth to conduct business over the internet. It is also an "Upstream Service Provider" which means broadband width can be purchased from them by other internet providers. On Abaco both Out Island Internet and Abacom Wireless Services use this facility.

Mr. Eric Russell, President of Freeport-based Cable Bahamas likened it to "a gas station providing the fuel." Cable Bahamas has its own fiber loop independent of Batelco connecting New Providence, Eleuthera, Abaco and Grand Bahama. Each island has a 24 hour hotline for clients. Cable offers packages for home and businesses at varying speeds, as does DSL, in Marsh Harbour, Dundas Town, Murphy Town, Cherokee, Man-O-War, Hope Town and Spring City. Coverage is expanding, and upgrading of bandwidths should be in effect by the summer.

For clients "on the go" and located in areas where neither phone connection nor Cable is available or possible, the new and exciting "wireless internet" is in existence. Descending upon Abaco like a massive communication "cloud," it has fast become popular among yachtsmen as they can roam Abaco Sound without having to be connected to a telephone line. No strings attached. The two companies at the forefront of this service are Out Island Internet and Abacom Wireless Service. Both companies have overlapping coverage on the mainland and the cays. The wireless signal is similar to the marine VHF transmissions although on a very different frequency and is very much "line of sight." Reception is very good.

However, it is decreased or cut out completely when blocked by boat hulls, electrical emissions, trees or hills. For marine use is a clear, inexpensive and convenient route to the internet. Equipment necessary to connect ranges from a small credit card-sized radio receiver to a cigarette pack-sized transceiver. In the open air access ranges between a quarter of a mile to four miles. The farther the distance, the slower the connection can be. Where interference is a factor, equipment needs to be upgraded and this is often costly. Initial set-up may be expensive to some but this pales next to that the benefits of speedy internet access and the alternative of trenching in remote areas

where no other internet service is possible or available.

Currently OII, owned and operated by Chris Claridge and Tara Hingle, and AWS Ltd, owned and operated by Malcolm Spicer and Sinclair Frederick, have wireless internet from Green Turtle Cay in the north to Bahama Palm Shores in the south. Both companies are quickly expanding and plan to serve Abaco in its entirety.

These companies are striving to improve and facilitate internet services by making them more available, faster and less costly. Everyone is benefitting from these efforts.

Abaco is on a technological wave, riding fast and high into the future.

Rotary Donates to Two Worthy Causes

The Rotary Club of Abaco held a fund raising golf tournament in January. Scouts assisted with the tournament. In response Mrs. Jacquelyn Estavez, President of the Rotary Club of Abaco, presented a check for \$1000 to Sandra Evans, Abaco Scout Commissioner, and Bill Thorndycraft, Scout Leader. The funds will be used to help defray the expenses of the Scout Troop in Crown Haven, who will be attending a Boy Scouts of America Summer Camp in Florida this summer. Presently, there are three Scout Troops on Abaco, two in Marsh Harbour and one in Crown Haven. The Scouts have volunteered their services to

the community and have done fund raising projects.

More recently the Rotary Club presented a check for \$5000 to the Every Child Counts program in Marsh Harbour. That program has several aspects. It is a school which accepts children that are unable to attend normal classes. The program also works with teachers from most schools on Abaco to recognize children with problems, trains them how to test them to analyze their problems, then suggests ways the teachers can handle those problems. The program brings experts from the States for the training program.

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

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

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



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Church News

Church Minister Returns and Hosts a Retreat

By Jennifer Hudson

The congregation of the Kirk of the Pines Presbyterian Church in Marsh Harbour is very pleased to welcome Rev. David Stapleton back to Abaco. He was minister of the church from late 1997 to October 2003 when he left to spend some time with his family back in England. He has returned to Abaco to once again assist with the church for the next four months. The Every Child Counts school is also delighted to have him assisting with their programme once again.

Rev. Stapleton and the Kirk of the Pines hosted Elders from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Nassau and the Lucayan Presbyterian Church in Freeport at a Church Retreat on April 16 and 17. Among other things, plans for a church building and the way forward were discussed. During the Sunday service three church elders were installed. Hugh Cottis and Bill Thorndyraft were ordained as new elders and Bill Schweizer, who was previously an elder in his church in the U.S., was inducted as an elder of the Presbyterian Church in the Bahamas.

Presently, the Kirk of the Pines meets each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. in the music room of Forest Heights Academy and offers an invitation to anyone who is looking for a church home.

Farewell to Father Ramon

By Jennifer Hudson

The Roman Catholic community of St. Francis de Sales Church in Marsh Harbour and the Catholic community of Hope Town bade a fond farewell to their Associate Pas-

tor, Rev. Fr. Father Ramon Saavedra, during Easter week. He led all the Easter week services at the church and celebrated his last Mass on Easter Sunday before going

over to Hope Town to celebrate his last Mass for the Catholic community there.

Father Ramon, who was greatly loved in the community, left Abaco on April 15th.

He has taken up residence in New York City where he will continue his religious studies as well as assisting at St. Theresa's Catholic Church and two veteran's hospitals.



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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, **SOLD** 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

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

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

VACANT LOTS AVAILABLE

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

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"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 **SOLD** rd., 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

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Dr. Charles Johnson - Ears, Nose, Throat
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Police Crime Report

A passport and clothing were lost when someone stole a Murphy Town resident's bag on April 4 while at the Marsh Harbour airport liquor store.

A Guana Cay man was arrested on April 6 for stealing.

A pouch was stolen from a Murphy Town resident's car on April 6 containing \$200 cash, a passport and credit cards.

A Madeira Park, Treasure Cay, resident was arrested for causing harm on April 6.

A Grand Cay man was arrested on April 8 when found by police to have a bag of marijuana in the waist of his pants.

An \$1800 stereo system and two head sets were stolen from a residence in the Pigeon Peas section of Marsh Harbour sometime between April 8 and 13.

Beacon's Book Store in Marsh Harbour was broken into over the weekend of April 10 and \$5 was stolen.

Electronic World Store in Marsh Harbour was broken into over the weekend beginning April 8 with apparently nothing stolen.

A body was discovered in a sink hole near Busic Bight north of Marsh Harbour in the afternoon of April 9. The body was wrapped in plastic, duct tape and a large chain. Ian Knowles of Murphy Town was

taken into custody on April 12 and subsequently charged with causing death.

An 18-foot Boston Whaler stolen from Crown Haven was recovered on Grand Bahama on April 15 and a Freeport resident was arrested.

A ten-year-old child was attacked by a pit bull and bitten on the shoulder while playing at the Latterain Church preschool in Dundas Town on April 16.

A 15-year-old boy was injured in the face below his eye while playing with a bullet which exploded. He found the bullet while at the Marsh Harbour dump late in the morning of April 16. He was treated locally and sent to Nassau for further treatment.

A Grand Cay resident was arrested for hitting another man in the head with a beer bottle at 2 a.m. on April 18. He faces further charges for resisting arrest and assaulting police officers.

A resident of Great Cistern was arrested on April 18 after his pickup truck was found in a ditch, and he appeared to be under the influence of alcohol.

A Fox Town resident was arrested on April 18 for stealing.

Two jet skis were stolen from Freeport on April 17. A Grand Cay man and an accomplice were believed to be involved.

A taxi caught fire while in the Cooper's

Town yard of the owner on April 18.

A Treasure Cay man was arrested on April 21 at the side of Annie's Take-away on the S.C. Bootle Highway. The kitchen door was discovered to be jimmied and he

was found with \$49.65 on his possession.

A Fire Road resident was struck in the head with a pool stick while at a bar in Cooper's Town on April 20.

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On Green Turtle Cay:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• **Lot 11** UNDER CONTRACT \$70,800

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

• **Lot 8 Inner** SOLD and

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

• **Lot 10 Coco** SOLD

• **Osprey Nest** UNDER CONTRACT US \$625,000 plus 7.5% to close

• **New! Two story** three bedroom, two bath furnished waterfront home on Black Sound with dock. Gourmet kitchen. Two furnished waterfront ground floor one bedroom apartments with excellent rental history. A/C in all bedrooms. Commanding view of Black Sound and Gilliam Bay. A few steps to Gilliam Bay beach. \$1.32 million gross

• **Hill top lot** 200' x 312' with mature trees offering stunning views (from a proposed 2 story house) of the Sea of Abaco, Bluff Harbour and Munjack Cay. A short walk to Coco Bay and the ocean beaches. Underground utilities available. B\$360,000

• **New! Three-year-old two story** furnished home. 2 bedrooms 2 1/2 baths upper apartment with office, A/C, satellite, W/D, surrounding covered porch with stunning views of Atlantic Ocean. Ground floor: garage with golf cart, 1 bedroom 1 bath furnished apartment, A/C and deck. 1/4 acre. \$585,000 plus 7% to close. Located just 200 steps from the beach.

• **The B** UNDER CONTRACT US \$1.85 million plus 7.5% to close

• **New! Prime waterfront** commercial location in the town of New Plymouth on Green Turtle Cay. Take-away restaurant plus two bedroom and two bath furnished two story building. Near public dock. \$390,000 plus 2% to close

• **Under construction:** three 40' x 32' cottages each with water maker; central A/C, 9 ft high ceilings, ceiling fans, 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths, covered front porch and rear deck, landscaped, and sheltered parking for golf carts. Located within five minutes of two spectacular beaches; public dock and major resort. A perfect retirement home! \$360,000 plus 7% to close

• **Groundbreaking underway** for the construction of four 40' x 32' 2 bed 2 full bath charming cottages within 5 min. walk of Coco Bay and the ocean beaches. Includes central A/C, RO system, 7,000 gal rain water tank, septic tank, 18" x 18" tile floors, island ceiling fans, hardiplank siding, insulated exterior walls, covered porch and deck, white picket fence and landscaping. A perfect retirement home! B360,000

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

• **NEW! Two story commercial waterfront furnished building** at Long Dock in New Plymouth on Green Turtle Cay. Apartment and take-out restaurant. \$357,500 plus 2% to close

• **NEW! 1/3 acre inland lot** located near two beaches and public dock. Residential area. Resort within walking distance. \$65,000 plus 2% to close

1/3 acre UNDER CONTRACT \$70,800

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

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

Little Ambrigris Cay:
• **10 acres.** Dock material on site. Beautiful beach. High hill. 695,000 gross plus 14% closing costs

Abaco Main Land:
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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



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)



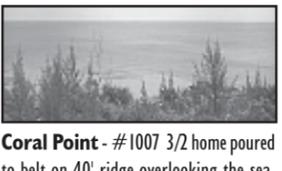
Guana Cay #1019 - Two adjacent cottages each with 2/1.5 on two floors. Close to beach and harbour. Ideal rental homes. \$200,000 each or \$347,000 for both.



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



Little Harbour #1086 **NEW LISTING** - Endless ocean views from this modern two story home offering 2/2 with office, large game room with bar, open and covered patios, back up generator, beach and dock access. Great price at \$564,000



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.

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- **The B** UNDER CONTRACT US \$1.85 million plus 7.5% to close
- **New! Prime waterfront** commercial location in the town of New Plymouth on Green Turtle Cay. Take-away restaurant plus two bedroom and two bath furnished two story building. Near public dock. \$390,000 plus 2% to close
- **Under construction:** three 40' x 32' cottages each with water maker; central A/C, 9 ft high ceilings, ceiling fans, 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths, covered front porch and rear deck, landscaped, and sheltered parking for golf carts. Located within five minutes of two spectacular beaches; public dock and major resort. A perfect retirement home! \$360,000 plus 7% to close
- **Groundbreaking underway** for the construction of four 40' x 32' 2 bed 2 full bath charming cottages within 5 min. walk of Coco Bay and the ocean beaches. Includes central A/C, RO system, 7,000 gal rain water tank, septic tank, 18" x 18" tile floors, island ceiling fans, hardiplank siding, insulated exterior walls, covered porch and deck, white picket fence and landscaping. A perfect retirement home! B360,000
- **A perfect spot on White Sound** with private dock, boat house, one bedroom furnished cottage, and two bedroom two bath furnished main house with enclosed porch. Stunning views of the sunset. Accessible only by sea. Property goes from sea to sea on the Sea of Abaco and White Sound. Telephone. Needs work. Includes two Whalers with engines and a Sunfish. \$660,000 plus 7% to close
- **NEW! Two story commercial waterfront furnished building** at Long Dock in New Plymouth on Green Turtle Cay. Apartment and take-out restaurant. \$357,500 plus 2% to close
- **NEW! 1/3 acre inland lot** located near two beaches and public dock. Residential area. Resort within walking distance. \$65,000 plus 2% to close
- 1/3 acre UNDER CONTRACT \$70,800
- **Four unit income producing** 2 bed 1 bath apartment complex. Fully furnished. Water views. Dock. Laundry. Two years old \$700,000 plus closing

Munjack Cay:

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

Little Ambrigris Cay:

- **10 acres.** Dock material on site. Beautiful beach. High hill. 695,000 gross plus 14% closing costs

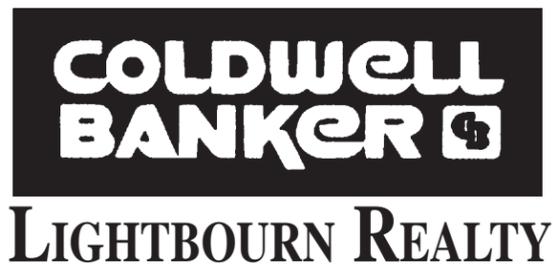
Abaco Main Land:

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

Green Turtle Cay Office



Chris Farrington - BRI
Office (242) 365-4695
Fax (242) 365-4697



Hope Town Representative



Ainsley Harrison
Hope Town, Abaco
Phone 242 366-0338
Email: ainsley@mlrealty.net

Email: chris.f@batelnet.bs
P.O. Box AB 22758
Green Turtle Cay, Abaco

Waterfront with Dock - #0333 Two bedroom two bath house with large open entertaining areas with great views. Boat house and dock has power & water. Motivated seller! Under Contract

Treasure Cay - #1322 Three bedroom two bath home near beaches and golf course. Fully furnished with all amenities. \$265,000 Reduced

Historic Club & Inn - #5077 Located in the heart of a storybook Colonial village, this 150-year-old landmark has been meticulously maintained in its original décor. Consisting of 10 guest rooms, 40-seat restaurant, lounge, pool and patio. A rare find that will allow you to enjoy a lifestyle reminiscent of the old days. This once in a lifetime opportunity is offered at \$1,780,000 Hurry!

High on a Bluff - waterfront 1/3 acre elevated lot affords spectacular vistas of the Sea of Abaco and breathtaking sunsets. Located near resorts and marinas, this is a must see. Sold!

Two Lots overlooking the sea. These gorgeous elevated 1/3 acre lots have a spectacular view of the Sea of Abaco with magnificent sunsets. Owner will sell as a pair. Call for price. New Listing!

Beachfront - 1/2 acre lot located virtually on the Atlantic beach. Sold!

Ocean View Lots - two 1/3 acre lots overlooking the Atlantic. Elevated with great views 200' ft. from the beach. Sold!

Nice Neighbourhood - ready for building! Cleared lot with fruit trees, near to beaches, park and a public dock. \$45,000

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

Waterfront with Pool - Three bedroom 2 1/2 bath located in beautiful Treasure Cay, overlooking the Sea of Abaco. This new house is sure to be a pleaser. Offered at \$546,000 Reduced

Beach/Canal lot package - Enjoy the best of two worlds, a beautiful sandy beach and a safe canal front lot for your boat. Located in Leisure Lee, these adjoining lots are a rare find for the person who loves living on the beach and boating. Call for price

Coco Bay Waterfront with Dock - Beautiful lot overlooking Coco Bay, has a deep water dredged channel and dock. Property is landscaped and ready to build. Offered at \$482,000 Sold!



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



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

Marsh Harbour Office



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Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas



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



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



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, barbecue pit and much more. Property includes guest cottage with 2b/2b and ocean views as well. Only steps away to a white



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



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



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



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



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

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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Better Statistics Will Benefit Tourism

A presentation was made by the Caribbean Advanced Technical Center concerning E commerce and E business for offshore clients. Ms. Kayla Ward, General Manager, gave a talk on Information Technology. IT is developing software to attract business to The Bahamas instead of having to go to the Far Eastern countries.

On of the areas which the Caribbean Advanced Technical Center is involved with is developing new immigration cards which are providing a great amount of information about our visitors. The present card was introduced in September 2003 to track trends and factors with changes being made to it to make it more tourist friendly. The cards are providing detailed information which will be helpful to the tourism industry. It evaluates the characteristics of the tourists and provides national security material. Tourism is working with Immigration so both departments can use the information.

At this time processing of the cards is completed in about four days, shortened from the previous time of four years. Abaco data lags by about six to eight weeks. The news cards utilize more check boxes, requiring less effort to fill out.

However, only about 65 percent fill out the cards and of these only 18 percent fill them out completely. Eighty-five percent of visitors are Americans. The return of cards from Abaco visi-

tors is particularly low. Boaters have to mail the cards back to Nassau along with their cruising permits which boaters frequently overlook.

The information gained from the cards is factual as to where they live, where they stayed, how long they stayed. It recognizes frequent visitors. It does not record any customer satisfaction. That information is gotten from exit surveys. The exit surveys get information on what visitors expect, how they rated their vacation and what they say about their experience. It also records their complaints.

Complaints that visitors have registered about Abaco include too many dogs, the communities are not clean, too much garbage around, need for cleaner streets, recycling should be implemented, need for more night time activities, more night clubs, need to make the area more attractive to young people as the area is presently geared more to older people.

The information from the immigration cards will be made available to industry people. Tourism is committed to getting this information to the industry. It did not have the ability to produce this data before.

Mr. Gary Young, Director of Research and Statistics, gave a talk giving statistics about tourism in the Bahamas and specifically for Abaco. He accompanied this with a slide presentation of graphs showing a variety of information.

Physical Therapist Visits Abaco

By Jennifer Hudson

Mr. Christopher Monize, Physical Therapist, recently made his first visit to the Auskell Medical Clinic and plans to return on a regular basis. Mr. Monize holds a Bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology and a Diploma in Physical Therapy from the University of the West Indies. He has worked at the Princess Margaret Hos-



pital in Nassau for four years and was a volunteer Physical Therapist for both the men's and boys' Bahamas National Soccer Teams from 1999 to

2002.

On Abaco he will be seeing patients referred to him by physicians and will firstly do an evaluation and then work out a treatment programme for each patient. Treatments will include the use of modalities such as ultra-sound, ice, heat, electrical stimulation, exercises and a home programme. Patient education will be included if changes need to be made in the home or work environment. He will make suggestions on how to make an environment's functional outcome better serve them.

Mr. Monize treats sports injuries and is always available to cover sporting events such as track meets and football matches. To request his services he can be contacted through the Auskell Medical Clinic.

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Unusual Visitor Winters in Leisure Lee



Charlie

By Jennifer Hudson

Pets are an important part of most households and people hold very strong bonds with their pets, many of whom are treated just as family members. Some people, however, keep some very strange pets such as snakes, rats,

iguanas, hedgehogs, peacocks and tigers to name but a few. There are even "virtual" pets for people unable to own a regular pet.

Joan Moss, a resident of Leisure Lee, is foster parent to an unusual pet - a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*). I cannot say "owner" as Joan does not keep this pet in captivity; it is free to come and go as it pleases, but has remained a great pet to her for six years now. Charlie, as she calls him, is a tall greyish bird with white face, yellow bill and black on his shoulders, face and belly. When in flight he has a broad wingspan, slow wing beat and folded neck. One of the delights of seeing him in flight is the beautiful blue colour on the underside of his wings. He is a most majestic bird. Although Joan has never been able to get close enough to measure him due to his lethal looking spear-like bill which is used for spearing fish and frogs, he would, ac-

ording to the species, be between 39 and 52 inches in height.

Joan first saw Charlie one day in 1997 standing on her neighbour's dock, and it was "love at first sight" she says "as he is such a beautiful bird." She immediately went home, took a fish out of her freezer, waved it in front of Charlie and enticed him to follow her home. He has been coming to Joan's home twice a day ever since, that is when he is in The Bahamas. He comes early in November and leaves in March or April for the cooler climes of Canada or the Northern United States. He is one of those lucky winter visitors who is able to enjoy the best of both worlds.

It is quite amazing how, every year after his long flight, Charlie arrives right back on Joan's doorstep. He knows where life is good as she treats him so well. Every day at 7 a.m. and again between 4 and 5 p.m.

Charlie is given a meal of either raw fish, beef, pork or lamb in his own dish right outside her door. He is almost always on time for his meal. If Joan is late in the morning in putting his food out, he sits on the roof opposite her bedroom window letting her know he is waiting until she gets up and gives him his breakfast. On the rare occasion that he is late, as soon as he hears his name called, he is there. He stays for about an hour after his meal, then goes back down to the water to clean his bill and pass the time watching for fish and frogs.

Charlie has already left Abaco to visit his home in the north for the next six months leaving Joan to miss his daily visits but looking forward very much to his return in November.

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For Sale: "Mary's Hideaway" - three bedrooms, two and a half baths, dining room, kitchen, porch overlooking beautiful Man-O-War harbour. For more information contact Hazel Albury. Price: \$495,000

For Sale: House located on Dickie's Cay on Man-O-War's well protected main harbour across from Albury's Harbour Store and Edwin's Boat Yard No. 1. House fully furnished - three bedrooms, three baths, dining area, kitchen, sitting area with access to balcony, air conditioning and much, much more. Dock is lighted with running water, boat ramp, 10,000 pound boat lift with covered top. Ten by ten shed at the end of the dock. Much more could be said about this brand new house and dock facility. So please call Hazel Albury.

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

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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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Lubbers Quarters beautiful home across from Tilloo Cut with 2 kings / 2baths / queen loft, gorgeous view, convenient location, private boat slip, central A/C, turn key, rental history. By owner 242-366-0266
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Man-O-War two beautiful wooded lots, one with guest house and orchard. Roads in place; electric, phone, TV lines are underground. Also 16' fiberglass sloop. H. Thompson 365-6060

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

Marsh Harbour, hillside lot near the castle. Panoramic sea views, quiet residential area, great opportunity. \$60,000 net. Call Victor at 367-2749 or Deb at 603-292-5421.

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Dundas Town

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Dundas Town

1/2 acre, 2 storey
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Lot #60

Murphy Town

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

Murphy Town

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

Bahama Coral Island

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Local Government at Work



Central Abaco Dist. Council March 31

The Council approved Shawn Simms to be on Licensing replacing Paul Swain.

The nomination of Wayne Archer for the Licensing Board caused one Council member to strongly object. A Marsh Harbour member, Mrs. Yvonne Key, objected to his being on the Licensing Board based on his performance as chairman of that Board several years ago. After a heated discussion, it was agreed that he could be on the Board but not as chairman.

The Chairman discussed a special project that he was working on. He feels that the Ocean View Park needs a sea wall to protect the basketball court from erosion due to wave action.

The Chairman felt that the Crossing Beach restroom needs to be under the control of the Council rather than the Marsh Harbour Town Committee. He would like to see the restroom opened very early in the morning for the benefit of taxi drivers who arrive early for the ferries. However, Mrs. Key objected strenuously saying that it was a Marsh Harbour park and would remain under Marsh Harbour control. She would be willing to give a restroom key to a Marsh Harbour taxi driver so he can open it at 7 a.m. The discussion was so heated that several members walked out of the room, causing the meeting to be adjourned without formalities.

Marsh Harbour Committee 6 April 2004

Quotes will be requested for constructing additional sidewalks in the business section of Marsh Harbour. There may be enough money for 2200 feet of sidewalk to begin at Insurance Management and extend into town.

Speed reducing bumps are still wanted and John Schaeffer, Abaco Engineer, has been requested to bring information on this to the Committee. Several locations are under consideration; approaching the curve at Mangoes Restaurant, the curve near

Leonard Thompson's house on the way to the ferry dock and at the top of the hill to Pelican Shores.

Mrs. Key told of improvements to the vendor huts at Goombay Park. Additional rustic stalls were build between the present buildings, allowing additional vendors to participate. Bahama Hot Mix has been approached on paving the center area and Tourism would like a boardwalk between the pavement and stalls. Further improvements will depend on available funds.

A request was noted from the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department which asked if its stipend could be raised from the present \$96 per week.

Steps will be taken to close an unlicensed garage in Spring City. Cars are accumulating around the property.

The vacant lot separating the Pigeon Pea area from the softball park in Marsh Harbour is scheduled to be cleaned. It was unclear if this will include the removal of garbage now hid by overgrowth along the Pigeon Pea boundary.

Steps are being taken to secure the Pavilion being donated by a long time homeowner in the area. This would be erected on the vacant waterfront site east of the Conch Inn used years ago for a packing plant.

It was reported that Snake Cay has been sold for a development.

Town Planning April 26, 2004

Twelve applications were before the Board with a combined value of \$2,126,130. All were approved with some requiring further approval from Environmental Health. Eight were of a residential nature, a warehouse was submitted by Bahama Palm Grove, AID requested an addition to their building, Cherokee Air applied for an office, customer lounge and reception area at the airport, and the Pilot Club applied to build a guard shelter at the entrance to Abaco Central High School.

Central Abaco Council 29 April 2004

Discussion opened on Dundas Town's recommendation to appoint Wade Archer

as a member of Licensing. Marsh Harbour members felt this was inappropriate as he left the Board several years ago during a period of irregularities. Administrator Williams reminded Council members that Dundas Town could recommend whom they wished and the Council would then vote. This is expected to come up at the next meeting.

Mrs. Key asked the Chief Councillor to stop writing letters suggesting the letters were sanctioned by Council. She showed several letters recently written on Council letterhead to Marsh Harbour property owners reflecting the personal views of the Chief Councillor but not the Council. One letter concerned a fence in the Crossing Beach area.

A heated discussion then ensued between Councillor Yvonne Key and Chief Councillor Cay Mills over access to the restroom at Crossing Beach. The Chief Councillor, who is a taxi driver, asked that control of the Crossing Beach be assigned to Council. He feels that the taxi drivers need the restroom opened at 6 a.m. for people coming from Hope Town and Man-O-War to catch the early 7 a.m. Bahamasair flight.

Another issue was the Chief Councillor's refusal to sign the contract check for the Marsh Harbour road cleaning crew. Apparently the Chief Councillor found an area of roadways in Marsh Harbour which did not meet his approval, and he withheld payment.

The discussion became quite heated and Mrs. Key left the meeting amid remarks suggesting racial overtones.

Administrator Williams said the proper procedure would be to bring the matter to Council's attention rather than attempt to rectify a perceived problem by taking punitive action.

Mr. Mills asked Council's permission to buy and install burglar bars on the computer rooms at the high school and the primary school. Each summer these rooms are vandalized and equipment stolen.

Administrator Williams said this did not

fall within Council's mandate but would be for the Ministry of Education to install as this would be construed as a capital expense. Councillor Carl Archer reminded Mr. Mills that in any event it would be a collective decision of the Council and not a decision for the Chief Councillor to make.

The Crossing Beach restrooms were discussed again with the Deputy Chief Councillor making a motion (which failed) to either be given a key or to cut the lock off and install a lock provided by Council. It was left that the Administrator will discuss the issue with the Marsh Harbour Town Committee.

Mr. Mills was authorized to make a trip to Exuma on May 4 - 7 to get information on the marine preserve there and bring information relative to establishing a marine preserve on Abaco. He was given a budget of \$1100 for transportation, hotel and other expenses relative to the trip.

Administrator Williams asked the Chief Councillor to plan to go to Trinidad in November to attend the World Mayor's Council. The Bahamas would like to be represented at this meeting with Chief Councillors being our version of a mayor.



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Pilots Promote Educational Program on Brain Safety

By Jennifer Hudson

The month of March was designated as Brain Minder's Month by Pilot International whose focus is on Brain Related Disorders. The local chapter in Marsh Harbour was responsible for educating the public on this topic. Club members and Anchors conducted special Brain Minder's presentations at several schools. These presentations consisted of puppet characters, colouring books and participant certificates.

The Pilot Club of Central Abaco along with the Anchor Club of Abaco Central High presented a brain-minder buddy workshop to students at the pre K - Grade 1 levels at Guana Cay School on March 23. Allita Bain and Letisha Woods were the Anchor Club members along with Pilot President Zally Chu who put on the work-

shop. The children were told how to take care of their brains and how to prevent brain injuries.

This is an on-going project and this year the programme was extended to include the cays as well as the mainland. The programme was well received wherever presentations were made and approximately nine presentations have been completed for over 200 students.

Members intend to continue this project with the assistance of the community.

Pilot Club and Anchor Club members are visiting schools to promote brain safety. Allita Bain and Letisha Woods are shown here with students of the Guana Cay School.



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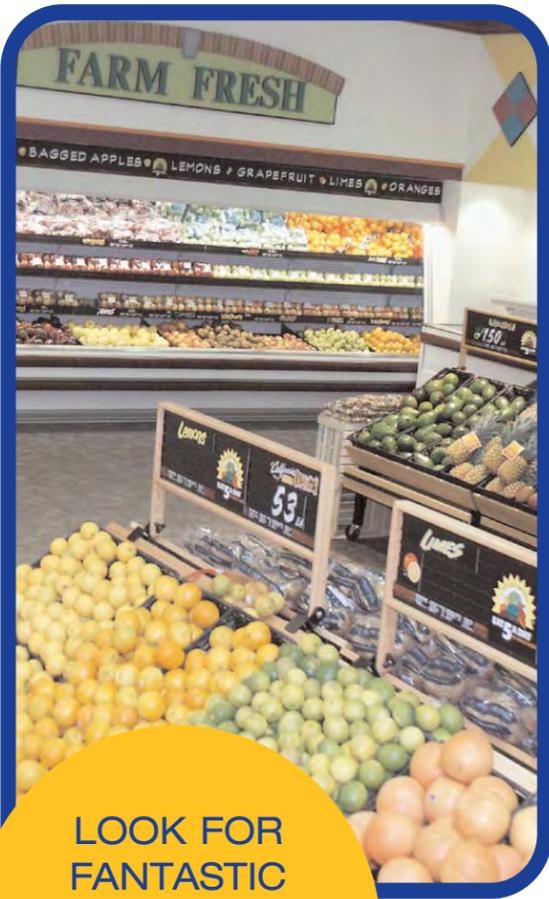


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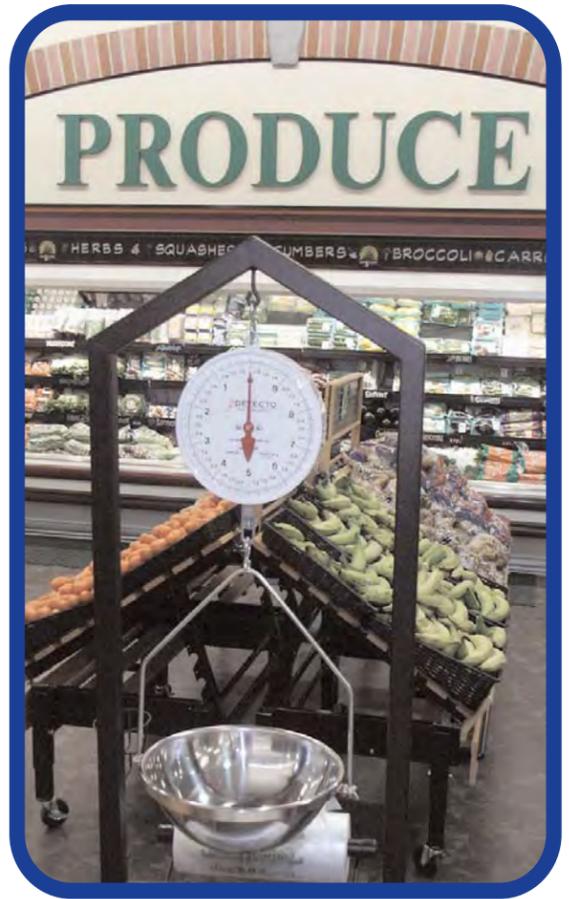
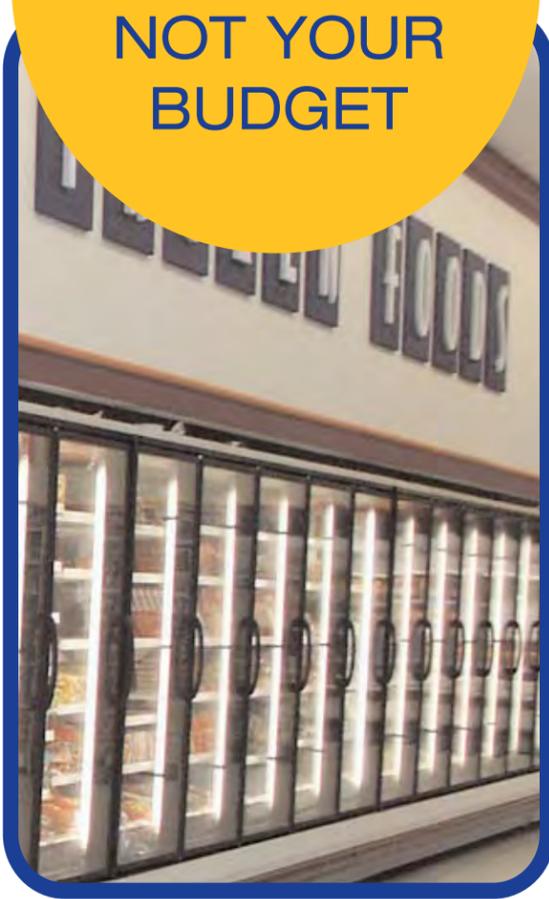
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