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Min. of Housing Makes Inspection Tour Government Is Assisting with Building Materials and Constructing Homes



The Hon. Shane Gibson, Minister of Housing and National Insurance, visited several communities to assess damage from Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne. He is shown here with Mr. Ejnar Cornish, Manager of BAIC on Abaco, on the left and Mr. Jack Thompson on the right at the site of a home which will be replaced. Mr. Thompson was brought back from Canada to head up government's relief efforts on Abaco.

By Richard E. Fawkes

The Minister of Housing and National Insurance, the Hon. Shane Gibson, visited sites in Murphy Town on October 28 where government will be constructing two new houses for needy residents. This was part of a whirlwind inspection tour he made of the area with his ministry's Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Leila Greene; coordinator of relief efforts in the Office of the Prime Minister, Mr. Luther Smith; and Mr. Jack Thompson, coordinator of the relief programme on Abaco. Mrs. Ida Swain and Mrs. Doris Calma, two elderly women who live within two blocks of each other in Murphy Town, should have keys to their new homes by Christmas, thanks to the government's hurricane reconstruction programme. The foundation trenches have already been dug.

Mrs. Swain was visited by Mr. Gibson when he toured Central Abaco the day after Hurricane Jeanne with Prime Minister Christie. The subsequent damage assessment condemned her house and recommended that a new one be built at public expense under the relief programme. Mrs. Swain, who is staying with relatives in the area until her house is completed, was not at the construction site during the minister's visit.

Please see **Gibson**

Page

Min. Gray Outlines Programs for Farmers and Fishermen



The Hon. V. Alfred Gray, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Local Government, told farmers and fishermen about the programs that government has put in place to help them recover from hurricane damage. With him were, left, Mr. Simeon Pinder, Acting Director of Agriculture, and, right, Mr. Greg Bethel, Senior Economist.

The Hon. V. Alfred Gray, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Local Government, held a meeting with farmers and fishermen on October 25 to present to them the assistance that government will give them in view of their losses from Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne. In an impassioned talk, he conveyed sympathy, yet encouraged them to be self reliant in putting their lives together. He outlined in detail the help that the government is able to give them. The assistance will be

given but farmers and fishermen will have to prove their losses.

The total cost of damage from the two storms in all sectors of the economy is totaling about \$340 million. Obviously, the government cannot repay the farmers and fishermen all the value they lost. But government will give benefits which can allow them to get back into business. Two

Please see **Gray**

Page 2

Resident Is Distressed at Demolition of Her Residence



Ms. Ida Swain, age 83, watched in sadness as her residence was demolished to allow construction of a new home provided by the government. Her home was declared unsafe and was damaged beyond repair. The home had been built for her by Hubert and Ruth Albury of Marsh Harbour whom she worked for. See page 11 for story. Photo by Cay Mills

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Agricultural Damage Was Extensive

Gray From Page 1

and a half years ago about 250 farmers were registered. Today there are about 1700 to 2000 farmers.

The first program to be implemented will be a cash grant to farmers which will give them jump start to get back into farming. The farmers will be divided into three groups depending on the size of their operation and will be in relation to their size. At the time of the meeting it was not decided how much the grant would be.

Another benefit that the government is providing is credit at the government's fish and farm store in Nassau. Normally farmers and fishermen have to provide collateral and are charged interest on any credit that they are given. But now the government will allow each farmer to have up to \$1000 credit for buying seed, fertilizer, equipment, pumps and other items that the store stocks. This credit will be given without collateral and will be interest free. This is not a gift; government expects the farmers to pay back this amount within a reasonable time.

Government continues to allow farmers to bring in vehicles duty free for agricultural use, thus saving the farmers paying a 56 percent duty rate. The same applies to fishermen. Fishing boats can be brought in duty free, saving the fishermen anywhere from six to 20 percent, depending on the size of the boat.

Government is assisting farmers with clearing land. Government will pay the costs of clearing half the land a farmer is cultivating. The only stipulation is that the farmer has to pay his half up front. This was required as some were taking advantage of the government and renege on pay-

ing their share of the costs.

Fishermen will also benefit from government assistance which will cover losses in boats and equipment. However, government will not be repaying fishermen for loss of traps or condos as there is no way for government to determine exactly how many habitats the fishermen had.

Farmers and fishermen also qualify for government guaranteed loans for up to \$75,000 if they had damage. These loans do not require collateral nor land papers and can be paid for over 10 years. The interest rate is one percent over prime.

Mr. Gray advised them not to all grow the same crop but find niche crops which would sell well. Farmers need to grow consistently good crops. The market requires consistently good quality year round.

He brought up the topic of crop insurance which is under consideration by government. The farmers at the meeting would like to see a crop insurance plan developed.

Mr. Gray explained that Bahamians have a problem in that they do not want to work. Farming is hard work and Bahamians need to realize that all work is honourable. Government will stand by farmers but they have to work for themselves.

Mr. Jack Thompson, who is heading up the government relief programs on Abaco, reported on a meeting he held with loan officers from all the banks on Abaco. All banks will work with those who suffered damage. Anyone applying for a government guaranteed loan must prove their loss and have the cost of materials, goods and labour available. The form to be filled out has been simplified.

Agriculture and Fisheries Assessment

Mr. Simeon Pinder, Acting Director of Agriculture, and Mr. Greg Bethel, Senior Economist, accompanied Mr. Gray. Mr. Pinder gave an overview of the situation as a result of the two hurricanes. It is estimated that \$45 million was lost in the agricultural sector which includes poultry, livestock, vegetables and fruit.

The entire fruit crop for this year was destroyed. This includes citrus and bananas. In many cases the trees were also destroyed. For trees left standing the crop will come back next year. But where trees have to be replaced, it will take seven years to get back to full production. Bananas will come back but it will be many months as the plants will not grow well during the cold months. Last year the Bahamas produced 1.5 million pounds of onions. This crop has had a setback of a couple of months but will come back.

Some farming areas of The Bahamas is coastal lands which were flooded with sea water. This put a lot of salt into the soil which will have to be leached out with rain. These areas will be quite a while before they can become productive again.

All vegetable crops producing at this

time were wiped out. This included watermelon, pineapple and hot pepper. The pineapple crop in particular was hard hit. Pineapple production throughout the Bahamas has increased from 25 acres six years ago to over 150 acres. But in many areas the entire plants are destroyed, leaving farmers with no new slips to begin new plants.

The poultry industry was also hit very hard. Abaco Big Bird had extensive damage to their buildings as well as loss of birds. The egg industry on Grand Bahama was likewise badly hit.

Mr. Bethel discussed the situation with the fishing industry. Damages are estimated to be about \$909,000 which is much less than the damage sustained by Hurricane Floyd which was estimated to be about \$10 million. The greatest impact to the fishing industry was on Grand Bahama which sustained about 62 percent of the damage and Abaco sustaining 25 percent of the damage. Losses included damage to boats, equipment and processing plants. He felt that the industry did not suffer so badly because of lessons learned from Floyd in protecting and securing boats and equipment.



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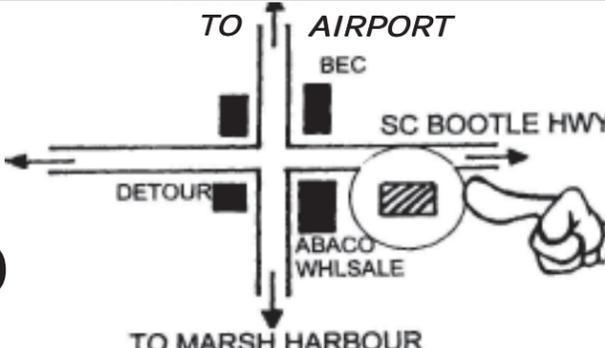
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Thompson Explains Relief to Hope Town

By Stephanie Humblestone

"It is always good to be home," announced former island administrator for North Abaco Jack Thompson at a town meeting in Elbow Cay.

Back on Abaco from his post as Deputy High Commissioner to Canada to assist in the post hurricane recovery program, Mr. Thomson is currently heading the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) efforts on Abaco with an office in Dove Plaza Marsh Harbour.

Over the past few weeks he has been traveling the length and breadth of Great Abaco Island and the offshore cays with Mr. Gary Smith, Superintendent of Customs for Abaco.

On October 29 the two-man team addressed a small gathering of residents assembled in the St. James's Methodist Church in the heart of Hope Town.

"We are trying to make life as simple as possible for you and to minimize confusion," explained Mr. Smith as he outlined specific items which will qualify for exemption of duty up until November 30th of this year.

Going through a whole list ranging from

electrical materials to children's luncheon items, he finally announced that it might be easier to simply say what remain dutiable. These include sodas, alcohol and confectionary items.

He directed private claim exemptions to the NEMA office where forms are available and business related claim exemption forms to Ms. Jeritzan Outten at the Ministry of Tourism in Marsh Harbour.

One of the questions in many minds was who is eligible. "This is non-discriminatory; it is for Bahamians and non-Bahamians alike who received damage to property and possessions," said Mr. Smith.

Deputy Chief Councillor for Hope Town, Mr. Jeff Key, introduced Mr. Thompson by the title he was known best during his stay in Abaco. "Yes, I am 'Jumping Jack' and I am here to tell you that I am jumping to your rescue."

Abaco is now becoming accustomed to having their beloved Mr. Thompson back in the saddle. In the confusing days following Hurricane Floyd in 1999, he was recalled from his head position at the Passport Office in Nassau to Cooper's Town in North Abaco to assist in the recovery op-

eration. "My business is where there is a need," vowed Mr. Thompson as he described the orders of relief, first - exemption of duty, second - government guarantee loans and third - government assistance.

Referencing the Emergency Relief Guarantee Fund Act of 1999, Mr. Thompson briefly outlined the terms of loans, private being up to \$50,000 with a repayment at six percent prime rate over 20 years and business with a repayment of 6 percent plus one percent over 10 years. "All banks are doing this," Mr. Thompson assured.

On the subject of government assistance over 200 vouchers had been issued to less fortunate persons and government had spent \$1.5 million on building supplies thus far.

"We are setting up a hotline from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. at 367-0440 for clarification and further information," continued Mr. Thompson.

Between 40 to 45 houses will be constructed on Abaco. Presently the foundations for two houses are being poured in Murphy Town and five on Moore's Island.

The community listened intently to both speakers and then posed questions. Of paramount importance to many was timing.

Concerns were voiced as to whether State-side ordered materials and insurance funds for purchasing power would arrive before the exemption closure deadline.

"Apply to the NEMA office for an extension if you need it, and we will deal with each case individually," replied Mr. Thompson.

Another question was when government assessors would visit the island as they have been conspicuous by their absence. The community, particularly the business sector, was assured that they were on their way.

Mr. Thompson was delighted to leave some of the checking of damage claims to local government officials, respectfully acknowledging that often they are better able to assess local damage.

Before leaving, Mr. Thompson asked for a list of those persons whose circumstances placed them in the category of "needy" or "less fortunate."

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Haitian Problems Are Discussed

A meeting was held on October 20 at the request of the Prime Minister's office to explore the Mud, Pigeon Peas and Sand Banks situation and seek answers. This was an initial meeting of a series to be scheduled delving into various aspects of these immigrant communities. Co-chairing the meeting was Administrator Rolle and ASP Wayne Miller, who is temporarily the Officer in Charge of the Abaco Police.

Most of the 15 persons attending were heads of government agencies including Social Services, Water and Sewerage, Environmental Health, Chief Councillor for the Central Abaco District, the Government Clinic and several persons from the private sector. All government agencies and corporations had been invited but many were not represented.

Answers were not the object of this meeting. The intent was to begin a process that would lead to positive results. A suggestion was made that each government agency which has dealt with these immigrant communities prepare a status report based on their experiences there. This would give information or statistics on the problem from different perspectives.

A follow-up meeting will be held November 3 with status reports being submitted.

There was some reluctance by those present to get involved in another study as this exercise has been held several times in the past, particularly after Hurricane Floyd and after the fire that consumed 70 houses in the Pigeon Peas area. Nothing of consequence came of the earlier concerns.

Those attending were asked to be patient and give this present effort their support as there seems to be an interest at higher levels to resolve some of the issues these com-

munities present.

Both Mr. Rolle and Mr Miller are relatively new to Abaco, but they expressed an enthusiasm toward helping to resolve as many elements as possible, including local effort and through the existing civil service and political structure.

Although many government agencies were not represented, Mr. Rolle assured those present that future meetings would have a much larger and diverse attendance.

Topics that were hinted at but not discussed further included:

- health and sanitation issues
- burden to education and health
- unlicensed shops
- criminal and new immigrant sanctuary
- water, electricity, phone and cable service
- ongoing construction of new houses



This is an aerial view of Pigeon Peas, the predominately Haitian community in the center of Marsh Harbour. The houses are built so closely together in this densely populated area that in some cases a person cannot pass between the houses. The community poses many problems which can affect all of Central Abaco including fire, disease and crime. Pigeon Peas is on higher ground than the adjoining Mud community which was badly flooded during Hurricane Jeanne.



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The Editor Says . . . The Island Rebounds



Hurricanes come and hurricanes go but the Abaco economy marches to an energetic beat. Fortunately, the height of the hurricane season coincides with the natural slump in our tourism-based economy. Although we are upset with the destruction the storms may bring, they do not severely impact our visitor arrivals.

Several aspects of the Abaco economy were affected severely but they are not as visible as the businesses in the tourism sector. These are agriculture and fishing.

Nearly all of the Abaco crops grown commercially were destroyed. Some of the winter vegetables can be replanted with a corresponding delay in their harvest. More men and money do not make crops grow faster.

The citrus farms have lost this year's crop and have even lost entire trees. The recovery of the citrus groves will be a slow process. Our banana crop may respond in 9 or 10 months if they are tended to carefully.

The crawfishermen were fortunate that very few boats were damaged. However, recent reports suggest that nearly all of their traps and condos were destroyed or lost. These number in the thousands collectively and will have to either be constructed from scratch or purchased, then taken to the shallow banks and set again.

[Traps are actual traps and are registered with the Fisheries Department. Condos are shelters that do not trap crawfish but merely offer shelter. These are not licensed, and there is no information on the quantity. They are located on the east and west coasts of Abaco. The condos are checked regularly during the season to see what legal-size crawfish might be taking advantage of the shelter.]

We are not aware of recovery projections for the agriculture or fishing sectors. Both of these are heavy contributors to our economy but the average person is not aware of their importance to employment, banking or commerce in general. In a good season, the fishermen are heavy purchasers of building materials and household goods. They are big customers of the grocery stores as they stock up for their fishing trips.

Damages and recovery efforts in the tourism sector are more visible and get more

attention. There may be a few rough spots still visible but for the most part Abaco is up and functioning.

A few places were originally scheduled to remain open during September, but many facilities routinely close for renovations and vacations. Some of the damaged facilities have had to delay their opening by a few weeks to accommodate reconstruction efforts. Even those that are opening on a limited basis are probably close to meeting their expected fall revenues as fall business is normally light.

Unfortunately, a few places had severe damage and may have problems opening in time for the Christmas holidays. Christmas week usually finds all resort rooms and rental houses fully occupied so a facility closed or only partly open at that time may have reduced revenues.

Several marinas in Marsh Harbour lost

all their docks. Although it is a heavy financial burden to replace these docks, there are very few visiting boats here until late winter or early spring so revenues during the fall and early winter are minimal. Even at Christmas it is rare for a marina to be well occupied, and the damaged marinas will be offering limited dockage very soon. A few boaters may not be able to stay at their favorite marina, but they should find dockage somewhere nearby.

It is early to say for sure but most of the damaged marinas are expecting to have their full complement of docks by February or March.

Abaco's strength in the tourism sector lies in its diversity in accommodations and restaurants, in both ownership and location. There is no anchor resort on which the economy hinges. There are hundreds of accommodations scattered throughout the area with an equal number of owner/op-

erators independently working to restore their facility, get their employees back to work and begin assisting the local economy.

Another benefit of our diversity is the natural up-grading process that competition brings. Weak and marginal businesses either improve their standards or get left behind. The friendly competition causes everyone to offer something a bit better.

A single huge resort may look good on a brochure, but as Abaco's experience has shown, a multitude of small resorts has proved to be a good business model. The customer gets a larger and more diverse selection to choose from and failures or disruptions of several properties do not severely impact the overall economy.

Our reservations for the winter and spring are looking very good. Despite the two storms, Abaco's tourism sector is looking forward to a good year in 2005.

Letters to the Editor

Two Very Different Shopkeepers

Dear Editor,

My name is Noreen Murray and I reside in Cooper's Town. I would just like to make public knowledge that it was devastating enough to have had two hurricanes hit Abaco. After hurricane Jeanne things had gotten worse and losses were double for everyone. In spite of this, the owner of a local business saw it as an opportunity to restore him of his losses. I sent for an item at the said store. Because the person was mentally challenged, he was taken advantaged of. The price had gone up almost double. Because my funds were limited, I sent it back and asked for a refund which was denied me. I left refusing to accept the item. The store owner ended up with both the funds and the item. I think that I was literally robbed and I'm warning the entire public to be aware and alert that the same thing does not happen to them. This type of service needs to be discontinued.

On the other hand I would like to promote and command on such excellent service at the Price Right store in Marsh Harbour. A few days before the hurricane I visited the store which was very crowded. Due to this, service was frustrating to shoppers as well as cashiers. But to my surprise Mr. Chad Sawyer, manager of the store, was observing from a distance and dealt fairly with each complaint making sure that he did what it took to satisfy his customers. He personally assisted my friend and me as we were pushed for time and had to rush to another store. He stood in line, paid for my groceries and waited until I returned. Thank you Mr. Sawyer.

Yours sincerely,
Noreen Murray

Thanks, Abaconian

Dear Editor,

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, it was difficult to find the time to get off the roof and write for a newspaper. But this is what the owners and staff of *The Abaconian* do every two weeks.

As a former publisher, I truly appreciate the effort needed to meet deadlines in a "perfect" world, not to mention dealing with flooding and lack of electricity, telephone and internet service and printing supplies.

Yes, *The Abaconian* post Jeanne issue was a couple of days late and granted their spelling and lithographic skills are

not perfect. But they do understand deadlines and strive to report accurately and honestly while keeping their opinions to the editorial page. My wet hat goes off to the dedicated staff of a truly wonderful small town paper with a big heart.

I was three weeks without electricity and still don't have a telephone or internet, but I do have *The Abaconian* to keep me informed and to share with my loved ones worldwide - and it's free! Who says there are no good deals on Abaco except Barcardi, Anejo Rum and crawfish.

Keep up the good work for another 11 years.

North Star
Guana Cay



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South Abaco News

Cherokee Sound

By Lee Pinder

Parrots Return After The Storm

A small flock of the Abaco parrots have returned to Cherokee after the storm. Needless to say, all the birds seemed to disappear for awhile; however, slowly but surely they are coming back which we're glad to see.

Some Phones Still Down

Some persons are still without phone service in Cherokee Sound. Some of the elderly or housebound living alone who really need a phone as well as some persons who depend on what little tourist trade there is in our small settlement are still without phone service. We have not been able to keep in contact with expected customers and fishermen who come and stay in our guest houses, and they have, therefore, gone someplace else. So, some people are still feeling the pinch from the storm in more ways than one.

Seaboards Still

Covered with Sand

Besides losing our famous Long Dock, the storms left behind piles of sand along the front road. Ricky Sawyer, who maintains the park areas around the community, has already carried away numerous loads of floatum and debris that washed up on our shores. We want to thank him for his extra efforts. But the removal of this excess sand is quite another problem altogether. Local Government will have to find some help from somewhere to either remove it or spread it around so that it is not such a traffic hazard. This is definitely not a job for a single person but will require some type of machinery.

Concerns After The Storm

The Ministry of Education's Social Services Department sent two trained officials to Cherokee Primary School to talk with the children. They were interested in finding out if the children had

any lingering impressions after the storm and how they were coping with them. I'm sure their purpose was to answer questions and calm their fears. We commend these individuals for the important work that they do and thank them for their continued concern.

Youth Group Resumes

Kids' Corner Has Resumed Kids' Korner has resumed meeting on Tuesday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. at Epworth Chapel. Rev. Carla Culmer, Margaret Schutemaker and Vonda Bethel will again be in charge of the Bible studies and crafts that the younger children will be doing each week.

Last year the young people set up and hosted a Haunted House in Cherokee which proved to be very successful on Halloween night. This year I fear Frances and Jeanne has held everyone back, but I feel certain that they have some other fun projects already in the works.

Another Doll Show

Don't forget our upcoming Doll Show on November 13 at 11 a.m. There will be an entrance fee of \$3 per adult and \$1 for children. This show promises to be a real crowd pleaser featuring nativity scenes and creches on loan from persons all over Abaco. All proceeds from the exhibition will go to the Cherokee Primary School to replenish spent monies. The children will be entertained with games and competitions organized by the schoolteacher. There will be stalls with arts, crafts and food as well. Come and join us for a day of fun.

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Jack Thompson Addresses the Chamber



Mr. Jack Thompson, brought back from Canada to head the government's relief efforts and recovery programs, was the guest speaker at a Chamber of Commerce meeting on October 21. He outlined the various programs which the government has in place to assist individuals and businesses. He is shown above being presented with a certificate of Appreciation from Mr. Art Sands, Vice President of the Chamber.

The Royal Bahamas Police Reserves Abaco Division will be holding a Domino Tournament and Souse Out on November 6 at the Marsh Harbour Police Station from 11 a.m to 6 p.m. Support our Police Force by attending.



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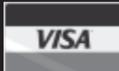
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Needy People Are Being Accommodated

Gibson

From Page 1

The 76-year-old Mrs. Calma, who is living in a dilapidated house behind where her house is being rebuilt, met Mr. Gibson on her porch and gave him a tour of the three-room dwelling she shares with her daughter Sheilamae Calma. She told Mr. Gibson to please hurry with the rebuilding, as the house she's living in leaks when it rains.

Mrs. Calma told the minister, in the presence of Abaco relief coordinator Mr. Jack Thompson, who nodded confirmation of her story, "They wanted to build a one-bedroom for me one, but I told them it had to be two bedrooms for my daughter, too. She didn't have nowhere to go neither." So the foundation is for a two-bedroom house.

Mr. Gibson said he was following up on the government's promise after the hurricanes to provide support for recovery. In addition to the two houses in Murphy Town, ten others are being constructed in North Abaco. Mr. John Schaeffer, chief structural engineer with the Ministry of Works on Abaco, said the homes the minister was referring to were being built in Crown Haven, Fox Town, Mount Hope, Wood Cay,

Cooper's Town and Fire Road.

Mr. Gibson said vouchers for building materials for over 200 families throughout Abaco were issued. He was pleased those vouchers were redeemable at local hardware stores because his government was committed to supporting the local entrepreneurs, thereby helping to boost the lame economy. The minister reported a similar approach in Eleuthera, where he had visited before coming to Abaco.

Mr. Daren Albury, CEO of Abaco Hardware, a major building supplies provider in Abaco, said his store had processed over 150 of those vouchers in the last week. Mr. Albury said many of them ranged in value anywhere from \$1,400 to \$4,000 and more, mostly for roofing felt, shingles, and sheet rock. He said most of the orders were from the North Abaco area.

Mr. Albury has had a shortage of trucks for delivery and had to hire independent truckers. He has also had to hire a few shop assistants to help with the price conversions under the duty-free regime and to provide service to the public in general. He has a challenge keeping up with supplies, he said. Abaco Hardware was expecting five trailers of supplies by boat on Tuesday. "I just



Mrs. Doris Calma, for whom the government is building a new home, is talking with Min. Gibson at her temporary residence behind her future home in Murphy Town.

want the public to be patient with us on the shipment of supplies," Mr. Albury said. "I know people want to get on with their repairs and rebuilding, but we have to work with a lot of shortages."

While Mr. Gibson was on Abaco, he inspected the office that has been set up for Mr. Jack Thompson, who heads the National Emergency Management Agency on Abaco. The office, which is upstairs in Dove Plaza in Marsh Harbour, has been kept extremely busy with requests for relief assistance from all over Abaco. The new NEMA telephone number is 367-0440.

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Ida Swain Reminisces on Days Gone By

By Jennifer Hudson

I first met Ida Swain the day a bulldozer was tearing her home of 39 years to the ground. She was a very sad lady as she sat on the porch of her niece's home just a few yards away watching, with tears streaming down her face, as her home was trucked away right in front of her eyes.

Ida is one of the elderly people of Murphy Town whose home was so badly damaged during the two recent hurricanes that it was decided by a team from the government along with social services that the structure needed to be demolished. The Prime Minister, along with Bradley Roberts, Neville Wisdom and Allyson Maynard-Gibson, visited Abaco right after the hurricanes and conducted a walkabout to assess the damage. They then, in conjunction with the Department of Social Services, decided where help was needed most. Senior citizens were given priority and Ida Swain was one selected as needing immediate assistance. The government will cover the entire cost of building back and furnishing a two bedroom house on the same piece of land for her. It is expected to take six weeks to complete.

Miss Ida asked if, rather than lose her entire house with all its memories and familiarity, she could have the roof and windows fixed and various repairs done

inside but was told that the entire house needed to come down as the damage was beyond repair. She did not want the trauma of watching her house come down so she went into Marsh Harbour for the day but Chief Councillor, Cay Mills, found her and brought her back to have her photograph taken in front of her house. Many neighbours came to comfort her that day.

Though Miss Ida knows that she will have a brand new comfortable house for which she is grateful, that still does not erase the hurt of losing her home. Her house was built for her by "Mr. Carol Albury's Ma and Pa," for whom Miss Ida worked many years. Up until the time of her death in a tragic automobile accident on Abaco three years ago, Ida's daughter lived with her in that house and when Ida saw her daughter's bed room being demolished, she was overcome with grief. Another great sadness was the fact that she was not allowed to save any furniture from her house, and she was upset at the destruction of her bedroom suite which was handmade for her and given to her by a friend. Miss Ida was able to get all her treasured photos out so she will still have those to decorate the walls of her new home.

Now 83 years of age, Miss Ida is a very loving and loveable lady. She was born in Bluff Point and moved to Nassau at the age

of 12 years where she married Mr. Josh Williams at the age of 15. She bore eight children but, sadly, only two sons are still living; one in Nassau and one in Freeport.

Miss Ida fears that with the medical problems of her heart, kidneys, high blood pressure and bad legs she may not live to see the completion of her new house.

Her first hurricane experience was in 1932 in the small settlement of Bluff Point in North Abaco where she was born. After the hurricane passed through, her family's house was the only one left standing in that settlement. A sea plane was sighted in the air above the settlement looking to assess the situation so Miss Ida's brother tied a white shirt to a stick and frantically waved it in the air so that the pilot could see that there were survivors amidst the destruction. The sea plane then brought in clothes, blankets and food for the residents.

Despite the severe destruction, Miss Ida said that there were no deaths but several injuries. The roof came off Emmeline Butler's house and fell on top of her. People searched for Emmeline all day and Miss Ida eventually heard a whimper coming from underneath the roof. Although Emmeline had spent all night trapped un-

derneath it, once the roof was pried off her, she was found, surprisingly, to have not been too seriously hurt. A doctor came by sea plane from Nassau along with the Governor's wife. He tended the injuries of the residents which consisted of a broken toe and some serious lacerations, then carried the patients by plane to the hospital in Nassau.

Government officials surveyed the damage and later decided to move the people from that settlement and relocate them in the area which became Murphy Town. Miss Ida's father was given one of the small block houses built by the government on five acres of land and this is where she lived until moving into the house built for her by Mr and Mrs. Albury.

Miss Ida remembers Bluff Point with great affection. "It was a sweet little place," she says, "where people were very loving and always shared whatever they had to eat with each other."

We wish you better health, Miss Ida, in order that you may not only live to see your new house but spend many years of enjoyment in it.

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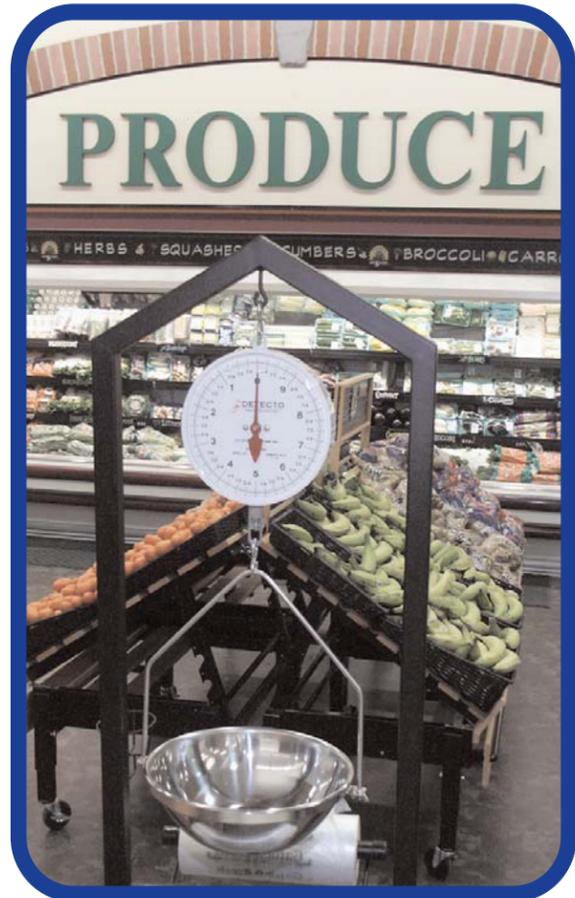


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Guana Cay Wants Discussion on Major Development

By Richard E. Fawkes

Ironically, at a meeting in Great Guana Cay on October 26 to discuss hurricane relief assistance, some residents expressed disappointment in an October 4 announcement by Prime Minister Christie in Marsh Harbour that he was inclined to approve a major resort development project for that community. Mr. Christie touted the development as a "substantial infusion of capital into the economy of Abaco" that he thought could help the nation's third largest source of revenue rebound from the crippling effects of Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne. Mr. Christie was speaking to representatives of the Abaco business community about his government's strategy for the island's recovery in the wake of the back to back hurricanes.

The Prime Minister said at that time the proposal met his "level of standards for acceptance," but was subject to the affirmation of the Members of Parliament for North and South Abaco.

The meeting at the Great Guana Cay All Age School was called to allow residents to discuss their hurricane relief needs with Mr. Jack Thompson, Abaco coordinator of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), who was accompanied by newly appointed Central Abaco Administrator Revis Rolle, Assistant Administrator Neil Campbell, Superintendent of Customs Gary Smith, and Ms. Elaine Martinborough, Mr. Thompson's executive assistant. Twenty-five persons showed up.

The development in dispute is the Passerine Project, a 500-acre, \$500 million development in the north-west section of

the narrow cay called Baker's Bay, which is what locals call the proposed resort. Passerine is slated to include upscale housing with an 18-hole golf course and a marina for residents. The project will envelop a substantial wetlands area, which has raised issues of environmental sensitivity. The project has been under consideration by the government for some time, and there have been some meetings with the local community to iron out any conflicting interests.

Some residents seem to be concerned by the sheer size of the development in proportion to Great Guana Cay, which has several successful smaller resorts. For their part, the developers have sought to assure residents of their plans to work with the environment and to help improve general conditions in the community. For example, they propose a waste disposal system for sewerage and garbage that would not impact the ecosystem negatively. Great Guana Cay at present has no reliable garbage disposal site.

The last community meeting on the proposed project was in August. Present at that meeting were the principal partners and Mr. Baltron Bethel, executive director of the Hotel Corporation of The Bahamas, who also serves as a consultant on forms of tourism developments in the Ministry of Investments and Financial Services. Residents at Tuesday night's meeting said they were promised a follow-up meeting with Minister of Investments and Financial Services Allyson Maynard-Gibson to iron out more issues, but she was a "no-show."

"She did not show and did not even send an apology," said Mr. Glenn Laing,

elected local government Guana Cay councillor of the Hope Town District, who chaired the meeting. "That is a national disgrace."

Ms. Delores Frazier, chef at the Orchid Beach Resort, said she was directed to cater for the meeting. "We prepared a whole buffet," she said, "and they did not show."

Those who spoke seemed to tie together Mrs. Gibson's alleged no-show with the Prime Minister's statement, which they regard as an approval.

Neither Prime Minister Christie nor

Minister Gibson could be reached for comment on Wednesday afternoon, as Mr. Christie was in a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office, and Mrs. Gibson was out of the country. Mr. Bethel was also out of office.

Mr. Luther Smith, an assistant to the Prime Minister who coordinates disaster relief and was with Mr. Christie in Marsh Harbour on October 4, said Mr. Christie only said he was inclined to approve the

Please see **Guana Meeting** Page 15



Mr. Jack Thompson, heading the government's efforts of relief and reconstruction, held a meeting to discuss relief efforts on Guana Cay along with Administrators Revis Rolle and Neil Campbell. Residents were much more concerned with other topics including the rebuilding of their public dock and the proposed resort development on the north end of their island. Shown above are resident Milo Pinder, Senior Administrator Rolle, Mr. Thompson, resident Edmond Pinder and Mr. Glen Laing, Guana Cay's elected representative to the Hope Town District Council.

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Dr. Geoffery Sweeting, M.B.,B.S.

Dr. Gregory Lowe, B.Sc. (HONS), D.O.,M.B.C.O.

Project Disturbs Residents

Guana Meeting *From Page 14*

project but that "no ink had yet been put to paper, and consultations were still going on." Mr. Smith insisted that the government would continue to take into consideration the views of the people of Great Guana Cay. He had no first-hand knowledge of Mrs. Gibson's planned meeting with the residents of the cay, but he would be inclined to think her alleged no-show would be due more to a mix-up in communication, rather than simply a no-show.

Attempts to contact South Abaco MP Robert Sweeting, who is away on vacation, North Abaco MP Hubert Ingraham, and Mr. Frederick Gottlieb, attorney for Passerine, were unsuccessful.

Councillor Laing was concerned Great Guana Cay was being "left out" by the government and its agencies. He said Tuesday's meeting, the first visit by officials to the cay since the hurricanes, came about because he went to the mainland and requested it of Mr. Thompson. For his part, Mr. Thompson said he and his team have been systematically visit-

ing all communities throughout the Abaco chain.

Administrator Rolle, who was assigned to Abaco just before Hurricane Frances but did not arrive until just before Jeanne due to illness, pledged that he or Assistant Administrator Campbell would hold office on Great Guana Cay at least once every two weeks. Mr. Campbell will try to increase that to once per week.

The residents asked Mr. Thompson to expedite the rebuilding of their public dock, which has many planks loose and nails sticking out. Councillor Laing reported that the district had contracted with and allocated money for a Marsh Harbour dock building company to construct a new dock in August, but that the contractor abandoned them for the many dock building jobs brought about by Hurricane Jeanne. He wanted them to honour their contract to Great Guana Cay.

Mr. Thompson was informed that while no one was homeless, many persons needed assistance with repairs. As to the tourism infrastructure, only Guana Seaside Village, of which Mr. Laing is manager, remains closed and will not reopen until December.

Two Americans Are Deported



Two Americans, Anthony Soldano and Gary Hubert Carlisle, entered the country by private aircraft at Treasure Cay and were found with carpenters' tools in their bags although they claimed they were on a fishing trip to Scotland Cay. Immigration asked them to either leave their tools and pick them up on the way out or to leave the country. They chose to leave and keep their luggage intact. However, the plane was seen headed to Scotland Cay. An Immigration Officer then went to Scotland Cay where the aircraft was found and the two men were located but found not working. They were fined \$300 each in the Magistrate's Court in Marsh Harbour and deported. The pilot of the aircraft was fined by Customs for making a false declaration.



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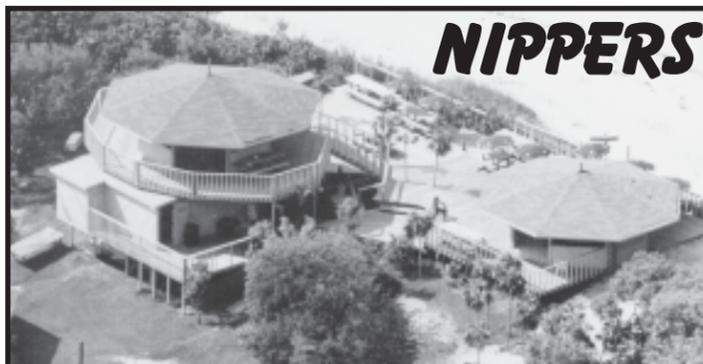
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Cays Are Preparing for a Good Season

By Mirella Santillo

Communities and resorts throughout Aaco are busy with repairs, renovations and upgrades in preparations for the upcoming season. Most will be operational by the time the season gets underway. In the last issue several laarger resorts were reported on. This issue looks at several resorts on the cays and the status of the towns.

Green Turtle Cay

Green Turtle Club

After nearly a year of negotiations, the Green Turtle Club finally changed ownership on September 20, 2004, between two hurricanes, four days before Hurricane Jeanne's hit on Abaco. In spite of the delay in closing the deal and the bad weather, the new proprietors, Ann Showell Mariner and her brother, Adam Showell, are still very enthusiastic about their last purchase.

Hotel business is not new to them as they own Castle in the Sand in Ocean City, Maryland.

At least 50 percent of guests rooms and cottages suffered heavy wind and water damage as did some of the staff accommodations. A crew of carpenters and the necessary material was brought in immediately to Green Turtle Cay to help meet the mid-November tentative deadline for re-opening.

The damages sustained in the hurricanes and the need for renovations were the excuse Ann and Adam needed for the creation of their dream place. While keeping its island atmosphere, the club will be updated and infused with new concepts.

As we near the end of October, most of the roofs have been replaced and rooms are being remodeled and redecorated as needed. Even on a Sunday, while his wife Amanda

and I are chatting about the club's face lift, food and beverage manager, Michael Roe, is getting their cottage ready for new carpeting. It has been a seven day work week since the hurricanes, says he.

In the midst of repairs and renovations, executive chef, Anthony Notarfrancesco, whose specialty is seafood, will inherit a brand new kitchen. Notarfrancesco came to the Club from California in the spring of 2004.

Few of the old trees conferring the grounds a park atmosphere were damaged, and one can still admire the huge banyan trees adorned with stag horn fern and creepers. Still, there are plans for quite a lot of landscaping when the buildings renovations are terminated.

The marina was not affected by the storms, the phone is working after only a few days of interruption, the office is open to take reservations and the staff is ready to resume work, looking forward to a new season.

The Bluff House

On the way to meet Sales Manager Molly McIntosh at her office on the bluff, I walked through rooms piled with damaged furniture, torn carpeting and fallen ceilings.

The hurricanes were rough on this resort overlooking White Sound in Green Turtle Cay. The roof of the club house, partly damaged during Frances, came off with Jeanne. The villas did not suffer much in the first hurricane, but quite a few roofs came off during Jeanne, creating intensive water damage. Repairs have started but are delayed for lack of material, since cargo boats are only coming every other week. Therefore, the scheduled November opening for the rooms and villas is being postponed to December.

poned to December.

The club house is looking at a Christmas re-opening with new furniture, new decor, new a la carte menu and offering a more upscale atmosphere.

The Resort's Jolly Rogers Restaurant did not incur as much damage and will be ready by the end of October with some changes. While keeping the casual look, there will be a different menu. Executive chef, Scott Huntley from Canada, is bringing new format, concepts and recipes to both restaurants.

Molly McIntosh is very positive about the new look of the resort. Everything will be redecorated; there will be new furniture, new bedspreads and linen, new landscaping, both pools will be redone and . . . the beach is now bigger! She thinks the resort will be better than ever. She says the Bluff House is rushing to re-open so the staff of 40 can resume work.

At sea level the docks did not suffer any damages, and the gas pump is functioning. The office is taking reservations and they already have quite a few bookings for December.

On and all, in spite of the destruction

suffered by the two largest guest accommodations providers on Green Turtle Cay, there is an upbeat atmosphere about them. There is excitement about new looks, new menus, new people in one case, and both are already looking forward to a successful winter season.

Hope Town

Ready for the Season

With its numerous quaint cottages and inns, Hope Town supplies many of the rental accommodations on Abaco. Hurricane damages could be quite financially handicapping for its residents who thrive on tourist business, from boutiques to restaurants, private rooms to hotels, grocery shops to golf carts rental - all await the tourists and pride themselves on being ready for them. In spite of two devastating hurricanes, the island could not be more ready.

The sound of hammering and sawing still greets you as you step off the ferry dock and there are nearly as many people on the roofs as there are on the streets. Yes, a few houses were destroyed and a roof collapsed,

Please see **Cays**

Page 17

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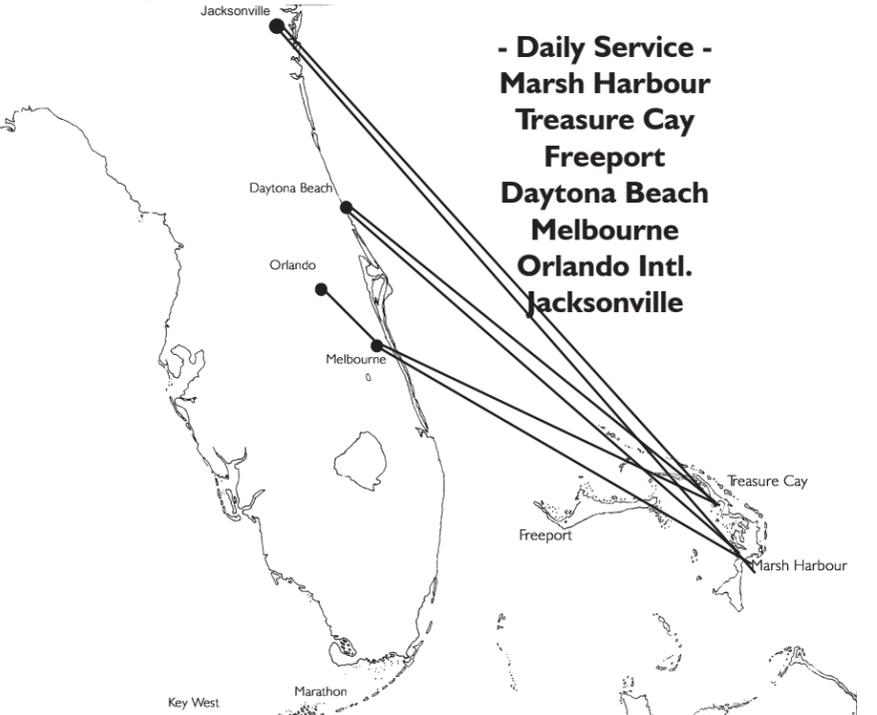
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Reconstruction Is Underway

Cays *From Page 16*

but the residents are grateful that the damage was less than Hurricane Floyd. Their well built houses have endured once more the fury of Mother Nature. On Well Lane a pink cottage and gazebo were nearly completely destroyed; a little further down on Kemp Lane two houses belonging to former long time winter resident, Lloyd Noble were completely flattened by Jeanne. A winter resident made an early visit to assess damages to his water front property, displaced boat, broken stairs and yard in a jumble.

All the steps leading to the beach were pulled half way up and have yet to be repaired. The only telephone booth in town is sitting sideways on the pavement, but most of the telephone service on the island has been restored.

Whether going for a day's excursion or a longer visit, you will find food and accommodations.

Capt 'n Jack's pink and white trimmed deck greets you from the ferry dock. This eatery suffered minor damage and postponed its scheduled opening of October 1 to October 11.

Hope Town Harbour Lodge has taken care of water and sand damage, the pool has been emptied of sand, cleaned and refilled. Some of the cottages which were flooded and sand blasted have been repaired and repainted and are ready for occupancy. The pool bar is open. The only sad note - the tall palm trees are now leafless

Sand seem to be everywhere along the streets of the settlement and has caused nearly as much damage as water. The Art Gallery (formerly the Museum) suffered sand damage and minimum water damage. It lost a little outbuilding on the ocean side in Frances, but owner Tammy Cash praises the sturdy construction of the forefathers. The cottage built in 1884 is the second oldest building in town and is still standing strong after many hurricanes.

Harbour's Edge was not as lucky. It is the only business on the harbour to have lost all of its docks and decks. Boaters were used to mooring their boat there while enjoying lunch or dinner on the harbour. Mr. Clay Wilhoyte, the owner, has not lost his enthusiasm though and heavy repairs are going on. The appliances and coolers, rendered inoperable by two feet of seawater, will be replaced. The roof has already been redone and the outside eating deck area is

under construction. He hopes to be in business again by the end of November if things go according to plan.

St. James Methodist Church's bell announces high noon as usual while its roof is being fixed.

For Sundried T's and Iggy Biggy boutiques, it is also business as usual. A little water damage was quickly taken care off.

South in White Sound the Abaco Inn is going full sail into cleaning and repairing. Two of the 22 cottages lost their roofs. They have been already replaced. The pool is now emptied of sand and was refilled and is ready. 'The three pool gazebos, completely destroyed, will be subsequently rebuilt.

Food and beverage manager, Wilma Kemp, plans to re-open the bar on October 22nd and the restaurant, which lost most of its equipment due to water damage, about ten days later. The final touch is being given to the ten cottages booked for October 21.

Be careful on the way there. Part of the road overlooking the beach has been eroded away by the surge.

Mountains of sand line the road between Abaco Inn and Sea Spray. Sea Spray is one of the few places still waiting for telephone and internet reconnections. Except for flooding in the office and some of the rooms, they doing well and were back in business three days after each hurricane. The villas have been repainted and are ready for immediate occupancy even though the scheduled season opening is not until November. Rooms are available for locals who are temporarily homeless while doing repairs to the homes. The docks were lifted up by the surge, so the marina is still closed

Like Hurricane Floyd, Frances and Jeanne will leave traces of their visits, some

Bank Donates to Hurricane Relief



Scotiabank (Bahamas) Ltd donated funds to assist with hurricane disaster relief. Checks were presented to Mr. Revis Rolle, Senior Administrator for Central Abaco. A Senior Management team was on Abaco for the presentation. Shown above are, left to right, Mr. Uriah Cartwright, Manager of Scotiabank Wulff Road and East Street Branch, Mr. Jack Thompson, Mr. Rolle, Mrs. Cleola Cooper, Manager of Scotiabank Abaco Branch, Mr. Neil Campbell, Assistant Administrator for Central Abaco, Mr. Ronald Blackman, Senior Manager of Credit Risk, Ms. Doreen Marche, Manager of Scotiabank Main Branch in Nassau, and Mr. Cay Mills, Chief Councilor for the Central Abaco District. Mr. Thompson is the Bahamas' Deputy High Commissioner to Canada who was brought back to head the government's relief programs on Abaco and Mr. Campbell is assisting him.



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Wild Horses of Abaco Are Thriving

(Not so Wild Anymore, but Alive and Kicking!)

By Mirella Santillo

Whether intentionally introduced by man or escaped from a Spanish shipwreck around 500 years ago, the wild horses have made it on Abaco to this day.

In any case, as proven by DNA tests, they are related to the Spanish Barbary breed. They have kept the purest line since they have not been exposed to any other equines since then. They are now designated as the Abaco Barb with the Horse of America registry.

When landing on Abaco, they found a great habitat with enough food and

water to survive, a clement weather and not many adversaries until the island became more populated. As sad as it is to mention, man has always been the biggest environmental destructor and has greatly contributed to the reduction of their number. Nearly extinct in the 1960s, down to three, there are now twelve horses remaining from the herd of 200.

In November 2003, an Act of Parliament granted 3800 acres of Crown Land to the organization Wild Horses of Abaco to be used as a preservation center for the horses. WHOA a non-profit organi-

zation, has its sister company in Florida, Arkwild Inc., whose director is Milanne Rehor. Locally known as Mimi, she has dedicated her life to the preservation of the horses for the 13 years she has lived on Abaco.

The center was officially dedicated a year ago in November by the Prime Minister, the Hon. Perry Christie.

Roads were bulldozed, and an electric fence put in place around a compound of approximately 600 acres so far. Seven horses were moved in, a stallion, Sirius, and six mares. Five horses, four stallions and one mare, are still in their prior location, the Bahama Star Farm but will be moved as soon as a suitable enclosure is ready for them. The five stallions have to be separated to avoid fights leading to serious injuries. One stallion died as a consequence of such injuries. Mimi hopes to eventually pair them, as reproduction is a major factor in their survival.

On a beautiful October morning, Mimi took two of us on a tour of the horse farm. As we pass the blue hole west of Treasure Cay, we come to the electrified gate of the preserve. We were facing a forest road lined on each side by tall pine trees and underbrush. After we passed the gate, we drove along on the main trail looking for the horses and soon came upon a group of five, Sirius, the stallion and four

mares. The pinto mare with blue eyes, Belletix, is still a little thin due to teeth problems. The others are roan, a brownish color with a silver sheen and some white markings. On the way to the horses, Mimi pointed out several water holes. Water is always available throughout the year; six water holes are permanent and at least six more appear during the rainy season.

As we drove along, she showed us some of the plants that make up the horses' diet in the wild: thatch palm, jumbay, a certain type of blue grass and occasionally burnt poisonwood.

This source of food was seriously reduced in the last 14 months by two fires, the first in December 2003, the second in February 2004, then the drought of April to July and finally two hurricanes.

It became necessary to give the horses a manufactured feed every day, three pounds of Nutreno at the present time, a reduction by half of what they were getting in the summer. With the resuming vegetation growth, the supplementary feeding will cease. The feed is ordered from Nassau and given to them every morning at a feeding station at the end of the trail.

These set backs have reduced the funds that were reserved for the rest of the fencing and the cutting by bull-



These are two of the remaining 12 wild horses in the Norman's Castle area near Treasure Cay. Seven of the horses are in a fenced-in compound and the others will be moved when a suitable enclosure is ready. They have had to have supplemental feed because of two forest fires last winter, a drought this past spring and two hurricanes. However, as the forest plants regenerate, they will be able to forage naturally.

Please see **Horses**

Page 19

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Horses still need care

Horses *From Page 18*

dozer of a firebreak of about two miles along the side of the preserve. A staff of three takes care of the center on a daily basis.

The horses have become accustomed to human presence and machinery, and they greeted us as we came out of the car.

Apart from the pinto that is putting her weight back quickly, they all looked healthy. All of them have been given names of navigation stars. Mimi is surprised that two of the mares are missing, but we finally find them by the feeding station a mile down the road. It is important that the horses move around. If they get too fat, they will not reproduce.

Except for the reduction of their natural food supply, the horses were safe and protected in the midst of the forest during the hurricanes.

We ended our visit with a walk around the preserve and a climb to a promontory overlooking the grounds. Morning glories, wild potatoes and an array of other wild flowers line our path. Numerous butterflies and birds hover around. This place emanates peace, serenity and

a special closeness to Nature.

Mimi usually takes visitors (mainly tourists) thrice a week or whenever requested, if she is available. The tour costs \$50 per person, the receipts being used for the upkeep of the farm and the horses. WHOA is awaiting a grant from the Ministry of Tourism that will enable her to buy a vehicle, print brochures and turn the visits into a proper tourist destination. She hopes the donations will continue to help her develop the preservation center to its full potential. She envisions rest areas, gazebos, bird watching and botanical tours with the proper enlightening material for the local youth to learn more about their island, maybe eventually build a nature spa. She would like the whole project to be powered by solar panels and wind energy to keep it environmentally safe.

Breyer Animal Creations designs and markets authentic models of horses and other animals. They can be used as toys or kept as collector's items. To help raise funds for WHOA, Breyer has created a model of one of the Abaco horses, the stallion Capella. Capella's replica will go on sale in December, and part of the sales will be donated to WHOA. So watch for him in the shops around town and own your own wild Abaco horse!

BEC Explains Statements

By Mirella Santillo

You all have jumped in your seats at the look of your recent electricity bill. Do not over react. The rates have not changed. Although the fuel rate per unit fluctuates

every month and might have been higher in the last two months, the September bill was an estimate of consumption. Since there was no power, the meters could not be read and bills will be adjusted for October.

Fire in Mud Destroys House



The Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department responded to a house fire in the Mud area of Marsh Harbour. They were able to contain the fire before it spread to neighbouring houses. The firemen are frequently called to extinguish fires in the Mud or Pigeon Peas. These fires present additional dangers not present at most fires. Frequently, there are drop cords running from one house to another. At any junction that happens to be in a puddle of water, the firemen could receive electric shocks. There are frequently open cesspits which are not visible at night when many of these fires occur. Firemen have been known to fall into these. Some residents keep their LP gas tanks in the houses. In several fires these tanks have exploded, creating another serious danger. All of these hazards have been experienced by the volunteers. All of these circumstances are in addition to the dangers presented by the fires themselves.

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Social Services Plays Pivotal Role in Hurricane Recovery

By Richard Fawkes

The Department of Social Welfare has been playing a pivotal role in the hurricane relief and recovery efforts on Abaco because of the overall scope of its work on the island. It was to Ms. Fernander's agency that the government turned for distributing immediate relief and for making an assessment of long-term recovery needs.

Explaining that she and her staff visited 1,015 homes in Abaco in the wake of Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, Ms. Fernander said her agency is uniquely qualified to do that job because she and her staff come into regular contact with the various communities more than other agencies.

"We are even very likely to have information on various persons we saw who had hurricane damage, before the hurricanes. They may be on our food programmes. They may have required housing repairs in the past. We can go so far as to say that in some cases we could have predicted whose house would be lost in the hurricane, knowing the condition it was in prior to the hurricane," she said.

With respect to housing damages, Ms. Fernander explained that her agency passes its observations on to the Ministry of Works, which makes a further assessment as to whether the structure needs rebuilding or repairs and what quantity or quality of materials would be needed.

As to the programmes the Department of Social Services offers on Abaco, Ms. Fernander said the most well known of five divisions or sub-sectors is Community Support Services, which the general public refers to as the "welfare section," a term she

and her colleagues do not care for. "We think of it more as being community support," she said. This division, she says, has a number of programmes, including the food assistance programme, as it is commonly known. "We refer to it as 'food slip'."

A misconception of the "food slip" programme, she said is that it is only for the elderly because the majority of people benefitting from it are seniors. "But it is for anyone, based upon need," she said.

The department also operates a house repair programme for home owners only in need of such assistance; a rent assistance programme; a medical assistance programme; and a national school lunch programme which was activated after she came to Abaco.

Explaining that there are still many misconceptions in the public mind about the social services programmes that are available, Ms. Fernander said, "We're happy to tell anybody about the programmes we have. The more everybody knows about them, the less chance there is for misunderstandings. And, moreover, persons who are genuinely in need will be able to go for assistance if they know what's available to them. There are still people who miss out on assistance they can receive through a lack of basic knowledge."

As to challenges for the future, Ms. Fernander said there are two areas that are close to her heart. One is for a home for elderly people who can no longer take care of themselves and have to be sent to Nassau away from their communities; another is a place for children who have to be protected,

who are also sent to Nassau or Freeport away from their communities, permanently.

Charlammae Fernander Is Honoured

By Richard E. Fawkes

Charlammae Fernander could not savour one of the greatest accolades of her career because she was too busy performing one of her most challenging duties as Chief Welfare Officer for the Abaco District of the Department of Social Services. In the midst of coordinating needs assessment and

delivery of emergency assistance to those deprived of shelter, food, water, or clothing by Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, Ms. Fernander was told that not only had she been chosen as Employee of the Year in the Ministry of Social Services and Community Development, but had been nominated for Public Officer of the Year, 2004/2005, in the entire Bahamian civil service. At a banquet on October 9 in Nassau, pre-

Please see **Social Services** Page 21

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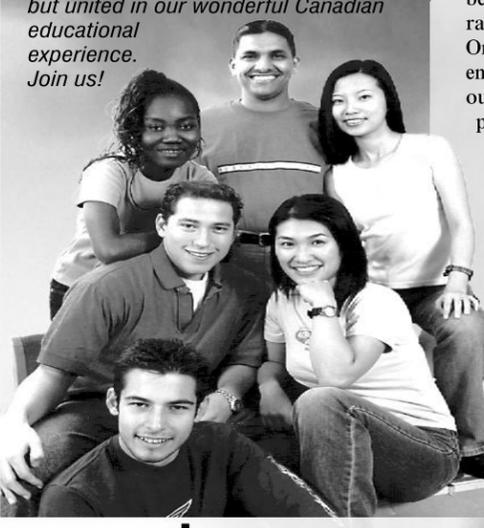
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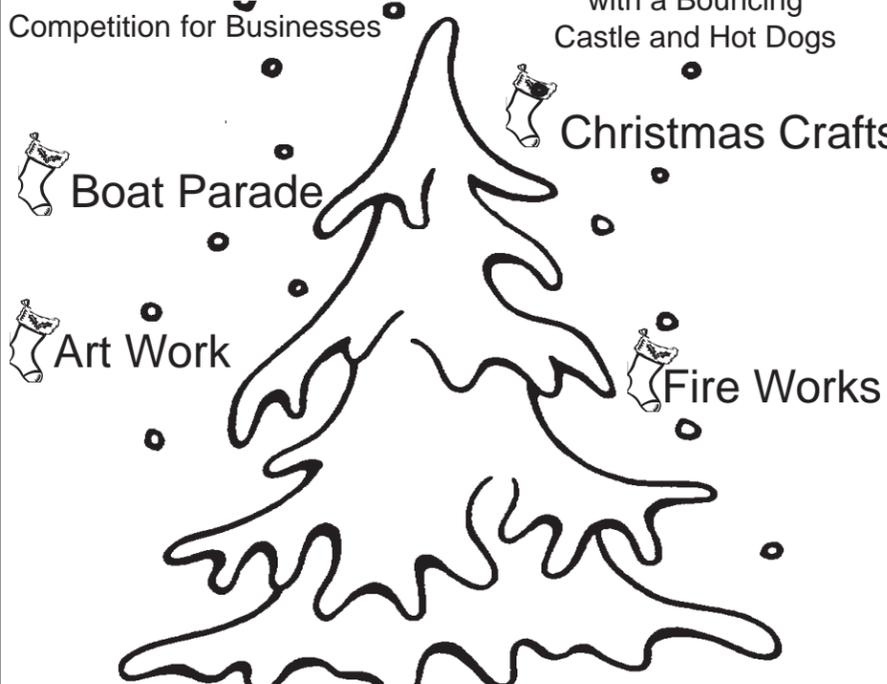
Christmas Crafts



Art Work



Fire Works



Social Services

From Page 20

sided over by Minister of the Public Service, the Hon. Fred Mitchell, she was selected second runner-up for Public Officer of the Year.



"When I heard about it," she said, "there was kind of a delayed reaction because the information came between Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, and got kind of overshadowed by the fact that we became involved in house-to-house assessment throughout Abaco. The minister was visiting Abaco periodically. There were teams of social workers coming in to aid us, so you could appreciate that we had other things on our minds at that time. I think what brought it home to me was when I actually went into Nassau where they were paying a lot of attention to it."

Ms. Fernander, who has been in the social welfare service for 23 years, is the first public officer from a Family Island to have come so close to receiving the coveted award.

"This whole thing has been a surprise for me," she explained, "because I knew that I had been chosen as Employee of the Quarter, but I didn't dream it would go this far because traditionally public servants serving in the Family Islands do tend to get overlooked. And so I believe it is a special privilege to be selected."

Ms. Fernander, a graduate in psychology from Barry University, had originally considered a career in that field but was drawn to social work by the example of her mother, Mrs. Sylvia Fernander, the first Bahamian social worker who retired as an assistant director in the department. She therefore began her career immediately upon graduation from college.

Ms. Fernander, who was posted on Abaco in 1997 as the island's first chief welfare officer, credited her staff of 14 in Cooper's Town and Marsh Harbour for her recognition. "I'd like to make mention of the fact that I couldn't possibly have won such an award without my staff because they give it their all. Their output is very good; their knowledge of their work is very good; their dedication to the service, of the wider service as well as of this particular community, is excellent. And it is only with their assistance and their support, their coopera-

tion, that we could come to the notice of the ministry."

When asked why she thought she was nominated, given her Family Island status, Ms. Fernander said, "I had asked my immediate supervisor and my director and, indeed, my minister, 'What was it, Ma'am, out of curiosity, that caused us to come to your attention on this occasion; it hasn't happened before?' And one of the main things that seemed to impress them was that when they ask for certain things, we turn over big stones and rocks and whatnot to get it for them. That we are always in place when they look for us to be in place or try to locate us. And even when they get the occasional or rare complaint, we are always in a position to respond or defend whatever position we take. Finally, the fact that

we keep apparently very good records here, so that at a moment's notice, we can provide whatever information is requested."

The ceremony for the Ministry of Social Services and Community Development's award ceremony will be held at the end of October; it was postponed until the department's relief efforts had progressed satisfactorily.

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Mr. Scott Lewis of the Eagles Wings Disaster Relief Foundation organized donations of building supplies for Abaco from West Palm Beach. He sent a 40-foot container of building supplies, some of which was designated for repairing the roof of St. Francis de Sales School which suffered quite a bit of roof damage. On October 20 he presented the materials to Mr. Jack Thompson for distribution. Workers were shingling the roof above Mr. Lewis as he made the presentation. Some of the felt and shingles being used were supplied by his organization, which had also brought in temporary plastic tarpaulins soon after the storms to prevent leaking of the badly damaged roof. The presentation at the school was presided over by Mr. Jack Thompson, head of the Bahamas government's recovery program on Abaco, who thanked Mr. Lewis for his organization's donations on behalf of the administration. Abaco businessman Jack Albury, who worked with Mr. Lewis to bring in relief supplies after Hurricane Floyd in 1999, helped to facilitate the shipment and was also present. Mr. Lewis has had a life-long relationship with the people of Abaco, especially in Little Abaco, where he spent much of his childhood because his father used to visit those communities regularly. Eagles' Wings is a faith-based, ecumenical organization operating out of the West Palm Beach area. Shown above are Mr. Thompson, Mr. Albury, Mr. Gary Smith, Chief Customs Officer for Abaco, and Mr. Lewis.

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Coco Bay Cottages 4 cott 365-5464

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New Plymouth Inn 9 rm 365-4161

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Sea Shore Villas 365-5028

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Crystal Villas 6 villas 321-783-4576

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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 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 hse 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

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D's Guest House 6 rms 367-3980

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Lofty Fig Villas 6 eff 367-2681

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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

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http://www.abacoinfo.com

http://www.abacos.com

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http://www.oii.net

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Ambulance - Marsh Harbour - Trauma One		367-2911
Police - Marsh Harbour		367-2560
Fire - Marsh Harbour		367-2000
Fire - Dundas Town	367-2935 or 4935	
Fire - Hope Town		VHF Ch 16
Fire - Green Turtle Cay		365-4133
Fire - Man-O-War		365-6911
BASRA Bah Air Sea Rescue Assoc - all areas	Marine VHF 16	
Hope Town 366-0500,	Marsh Harbour 367-3752	
Guana 365-5178,	Treasure Cay 365-8749	

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	
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• 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: Effective July 2004	
Treasure Cay Resort	\$18 + \$5
Madeira Park	\$12 + \$4
Green Turtle Cay ferry dock	\$6 + \$4
Moxy	\$16 + \$5
Bahamas Star farm	\$20 + \$5
Sand Banks	\$22 + \$5
Joe's Creek	\$40 + \$6
Black Wood	\$16 + \$5
Fire Road & Cooper's Town	\$35 + \$5
Cedar Harbour	\$50 + \$5
Wood Cay	\$55 + \$5
Mount Hope	\$60 + \$5
Fox Town	\$65 + \$5
Crown Haven	\$70 + \$5
Marsh Harbour Airport	\$70 + \$10
T Cay Hotel to Marsh Harbour	\$60 + \$10
T Cay Hotel to G Turtle Ferry or Blue Hole	\$14 + \$6
T Cay Hotel to Marles	\$20 + \$5
T C Hotel to Joe's Creek	\$30 + \$6
T C Hotel to Moxey	\$14 + \$5
T Cay Hotel to Banyan Bch Club	\$6 + \$3
Green Turtle Ferry to Marsh H Airport	\$70 + \$10

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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
Fla Coastal Airlines - Vero B & Ft Lauderdale	367-0179
Island Express - Ft Lauderdale	357-6684
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Cherokee Air Charters	367-2089

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Abaco Island Tours • Marsh Harbour	367-2936
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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	
7:45 am	10:30 1:30 pm 3:30 5:45 (min \$40)
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Fare • OneWay / Round Trip Adult \$10 / \$15 Children \$5 / \$8	
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Green Turtle Ferry • Phone 365-4166, 4128, 4151 • VHF Ch 16	
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8 am	9 11 12:15 1:30 3 4:30
Treasure Cay Airport to Green Turtle Cay	
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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	
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Bluff House	45 F 365-4200
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Black Sound Marina	15 365-4531
Other Shore Club	12 F 365-4195
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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 from U.S. can clear Customs at Walker's Cay, Spanish Cay, Green Turtle Cay, Treasure Cay or Marsh Harbour	

Dive Shops - Marsh Harbour	
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Abaco Dive Adventures	367-2963
Hope Town	
Froggies	366-0431
Treasure Cay	
Treasure Divers	365-8465
Treasure Cay Adventures	365-8111
Green Turtle Cay	
Brendal's Dive Center	365-4411
Guana Cay Dive Guana	365-5178
Man-O-War Dive Shop	365-6013

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Sea Horse Boat Rentals	367-2513
Sea Star Car Rentals	367-4887
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Green Turtle Cay	
Bay Street Rentals	477-5300 365-4070
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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
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T & A Cart Rentals	375-8055
Guana Cay	
Donna Sands Cart Rentals	365-5195
Dive Guana Boats & bikes	365-5178
Man-O-War	
Conch Pearl Boat Rentals	365-6059
Island Treasures Cart Rentals	365-6072
Ria-mar Golf Cart Rentals	365-6241
Water Ways Boat Rent	357-6540 & 365-6143
Hope Town	
Bike Shop Bicycle Rentals	366-0292
Cat's Paw Boat Rentals	366-0380
Hope Town Cart Rentals	366-0064
Island Cart Rentals	366-0448
Island Marine Boat Rentals	366-0282
Sea Horse Boat Rentals	366-0023
Sea Spray Resort Boat Rentals	366-0065
T & N Cart Rentals	366-0069
Treasure Cay	
Alison Car Rent	365-8193
Cas's Carts	365-8771
Claridge's Cart Rentals	365-8248
Cornish Car Rentals	365-8623
JIC Boat Rentals	365-8465
Rich's Boat Rentals	365-8582
Triple J Car Rentals	365-8761
Abaco Adventures - Kayaks	365-8749



Everyone reads The Abaconian

Please bring errors, omissions or corrections to our attention

Rev 1 Sep 04

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	\$\$ Closed
Hummingbird	\$\$ 367-2922
Jamie's Place	\$ 367-2880
Jib Room	Closed...Aug 25 - Nov 1
Kentucky Fried Chicken (lunch-5pm)	367-2615
Mangoes	Closed... Sept 6 - Nov 6
Pop's Place	\$ + 367-3796
Sapodilly's	Closed
Sea Shells	\$ 367-4460
Snack Shack	\$ + 367-4005
Snappas	\$ 367-2278
Subway	367-2798
Wallys	Closed ...Sept 4 - Nov 1
Dundas Town	
Ambassador Inn	\$ 367-2022
Mackerals	367-5932
Hope Town	
Abaco Inn	Closed Sept 7 - Oct 14
Cap'n Jacks	Closed
Club Soliel	366-0253
Harbour's Edge	Closed to Oct 25
H T Harbour Lodge	\$\$\$ 366-0095
Munchies	\$ + 366-0423
Rudy's Place	\$\$\$ ‡ 366-0062
Sea Spray	\$\$\$ ‡ 366-0065
Man-O-War	
Pavilion	Closed
Hibiscus	365-6380
Guana Cay	
Blue Water Grill	\$\$\$ 365-5230
Guana Seaside	\$\$\$ 365-5106
Nippers	\$\$\$ 365-5143
Orchid Bay	Closed until Oct
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	Closed Sept
Laura's Kitchen	Closed Oct - mid-Nov
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

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The Abaconian

SECTION B



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 21, NOVEMBER 1st, 2004

Archbishop Makes First Abaco Visit

By Portia Jonsson

On October 21st the administration, staff, students and the PTA of St. Francis de Sales School welcomed Archbishop Patrick Pinder, the first Bahamian Catholic Arch-

bishop, to their school and our island. This was his first official visit as Archbishop to Abaco and accompanying him was the Director of the Catholic Board of Education in the Bahamas, Mrs. Claudette Rolle.

A special welcoming ceremony was held at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church where the students saluted the Archbishop in song. Welcome remarks were made in Yoruba, Tagalog, Creole and English.

art teacher at the school. Ms. Jeritzan Outten, Director of Abaco's Tourist Office, presented the Archbishop with a quilt made by local artist, Mrs. Kim Roberts, on behalf of her ministry.

Archbishop Patrick Pinder was born in Nassau and graduated from St. Augustine College in Nassau in 1971. He was installed as Archbishop in May of this year. His motto *Of One Heart and Mind* is taken from Acts 4:32.

Following the ceremony, a luncheon in the Archbishop's honour was held at the school.

In his brief remarks to the school children, he encouraged them to blossom, excel and make this country the best that it can be. He reminded them of the importance of being prepared for their goals in life.

Earlier that morning, Archbishop Pinder dedicated the workshop building at Every Child Counts Learning Center. Construction of the building, which serves as a classroom and workshop for the older students, began earlier this year. Local businessmen, parents, teachers, friends and volunteers all worked together on this project. Help also came from a group of 33 volunteers from

The Archbishop was presented with many gifts by the school including a self-portrait drawn by the talented Mr. Ireneo Ajero Jr.,

Please see **Bishop** Page 2



Archbishop Patrick Pinder, the first Bahamian Catholic Archbishop, made his first official visit to Abaco on October 21. He is shown here visiting the Every Child Counts school in Marsh Harbour which caters to children who are not able to attend normal classrooms. Shown above is Mrs. Lyn Major, director of the ECC school, the Archbishop, and Ms. Claudette Rolle, Director of the Catholic Board of Education.

Christmas Festival Is Planned for December 11

A Christmas Festival is planned for December 11 to be held at Memorial Plaza. This will bring together several traditional Christmas events held in Central Abaco.

Abaco children that day.

The festival will feature specialty dishes of our leading restaurants as well as local entertainment. The day will culminate with the annual Boat Parade followed by a spectacular fire works display.

The Christmas Bazaar, previously announced for December 20, will not be held then but will be combined with the Christmas Festival. Toys for Tots will hold its annual motorcycle event collecting toys for

This will be an outstanding event to designed to lighten spirits, putting everyone in the mood for Christmas.

Surfers Compete On Elbow Cay



A surfing competition was held on October 24 at Indicus beach at White Sound on Elbow Cay which had great waves. Fifteen competitors included only one woman, Christine McCully. Two surfers, Chris Rutledge and David Farrington, came from Green Turtle Cay and Bradley Albury came from Marsh Harbour. Ron Engle ended up with his board in two pieces. Also

competing were Scott Patterson, Joe Thompson and Eric Maynard. The winners will go on to the Pan Am competition which will be held next year in either Peru or Mexico. Pictured above is Tim Albury.

By Christine McCully

On October 24th at about noon the Bahamas Amateur Surfing Association hosted its first contest of the winter series for this year. It was a perfect

expression session for everyone after going through two of the worst storms ever to hit the Bahamas Island

Please see **Surfing** Page 8

Relief Supplies Benefits School



Mr. Scott Lewis flew into Marsh Harbour on October 20 with gifts for the students of St. Francis de Sales School. The gifts were from the Alamanda Elementary School in West Palm Beach. Shown above are Mr. Jack Thompson, overseeing relief efforts on Abaco, Mr. Lewis and Mrs. Josephine Kumar, Principal of the school.

By Portia Jonsson

On October 20th the students and staff of St. Francis de Sales School received gifts of kindness from Mr. Scott Lewis of the Eagle's Wings Foundation and the

Allamanda Elementary School in West Palm Beach, Florida.

The Eagle's Wings Foundation is a non-

Please see **School** Page 6

Halloween Means Great Costumes



Children throughout Abaco celebrated Halloween on October 30 this year. Groups went trick or treating house to house decked out in fancy costumes. This is a group in Marsh Harbour.

Hope Town's Infrastructure Requires Assistance

By Stephanie Humblestone

Limited funds are not stopping, just slowing down the clean-up and restoration process on Elbow Cay according to Deputy Chief Councillor for the island, Jeff Key.

"Both locals and second home owners are doing their best to meet the challenges in an expeditious manner. However, our resources are limited and some of them are far beyond our means and efforts," reported Mr. Key, who has been working hard since Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne to restore some semblance of normalcy to the storm-scarred cay.

Mr. Key's main concern is that the whole length of the island's dune line was severely compromised by two major hurricanes whamming its shores within 22 days.

"The dune that once protected our island from tidal surges is now in a dangerous situation," he said.

This is particularly so in White Sound where the road on top of the dune leading to the southern end of the island has a steep drop-off for several hundred feet along the edge of the pavement. Especially dangerous are points on the road which appear intact on the surface but have erosion underneath.

"All who travel this road are putting their lives in grave danger," added Mr. Key, who has reported this to the Hope Town Restoration Committee and, in turn, to Central Government. He now awaits the necessary funds to execute repairs.

After Hurricane Floyd in 1999 a similar situation existed. The road was repaired and dunes restored, thanks to local and second home owner resources and

endeavour. Heavy duty machinery was brought in at great expense. At that time re-routing the road from the ocean side to bay side came under discussion.

"Once again this option needs to be seriously considered, and we would like to see a follow through," said Mr. Key.

The road going south from the Abaco Inn to the Sea Spray Resort also suffered erosion and is subject to flooding. In late October, after a passing "rage," it was impassable, and people had to resort to water transportation.

While such larger issues are under discussion, the community continues with the general clean-up. Thanks to Danny

Trembly, who holds the government contract for the maintenance of roads, parks and cemeteries, and his efficient work force, much of the debris and downed trees have been removed. Impassable roads have been cleared three times over and new fencing erected around parks and cemeteries.

"However, we still have much more to do," continued Mr. Key. This includes reparations to the Hope Town School, the teacher's residence, the public library which lost half of its books, the Elbow Cay lighthouse buildings, and the White Sound public dock.

"In addition to this we have non-gov-

ernment issues such as sunken boats and the ongoing problem of littering," said Mr. Key, who is tireless in his efforts to "make this island pretty again."

On the subject of littering Mr. Key reminded guilty parties that there is a government fine of \$500-\$1,000 for littering.

As truck loads of garbage head south from the settlement to the dump, local concerns heighten about the recommencement of burning refuse. Albeit an interim measure, it brings to mind an issue which was literally a longtime "burning" one on the island. "The four

Please see **Hope Town** Page 8

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Cancer Caring Centre Opens in Nassau

By Jennifer Hudson

On October 24th Hugh Cottis and his wife Sylvia represented the Abaco Cancer Society at the dedication and blessing of the new Cancer Caring Centre in Nassau. Mr. Cottis is President of the Abaco Cancer Society and Mrs. Cottis is Treasurer. The Abaco Cancer Society has to date donated \$39,000 to this great project and one of the rooms in the new centre is to be designated The Abaco Room and will be reserved for anyone from Abaco needing to remain for a time in Nassau for cancer treatment.

The total project has an estimated cost of \$2 million and will be completed in two phases. The dedication and blessing of ten patient rooms, a common room and nurses' station which constitutes phase one took place on October 24th. The building is equipped with an elevator and ramps

which make it wheelchair accessible. Each of the patient rooms comprises twin beds, en-suite bathroom, closet and balcony which overlooks a landscaped garden. Each bed is covered with a colourful handmade quilt.

Master of ceremonies for the dedication was Mr. Terrance Fountain, Vice President of the Cancer Society of the Bahamas, and the building was blessed by Rev. Angela Palacios. During the ceremony the handmade quilts for the beds were presented by members of the Stepping Stone Quilters Guild of Nassau.

This dedication was an exciting event for the Cancer Society as this important project has been under construction for some time. At last the results of all the years of fund raising and hard work have come to fruition. Work on Phase Two has now begun and, when

completed, will provide an enlarged kitchen where patients can prepare their own meals if desired, doctors offices and recreation area.

The Cancer Caring Centre will provide a home away from home for patients undergoing treatment. Families can be together. If the patient is alone, he will have a full time staff on call who can assist in several ways. The

centre is handy to other facilities as it is close to Doctor's Hospital and the Princess Margaret Hospital and a new radiation treatment will be located just down the road. Residents will be encouraged to participate in simple activities such as gardening, preparation of meals and household chores which will allow them to maintain self esteem and a sense of usefulness.

Majors Air Service Flight Schedule



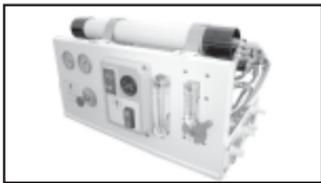
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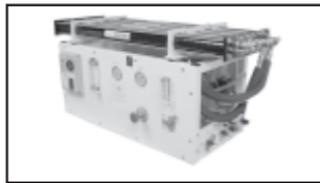
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Obituaries of Family and Friends

Jeremiah "Uncle Miah" Russell, 93, of Cooper's Town passed away on October 16. His funeral was held on October 24 at the Church of God Cathedral in Cooper's Town. Pastor Archilus Cooper officiated assisted by Bishop William Johnson. Interment was in the Southside Public Cemetery in Cooper's Town.

He is survived by his son Orthnell Russell; adopted daughter Ulamae Pinder; grandsons Bradley, Orthnell Jr., Eddie, Quincy, Mark and Marvin Russell and Renaldo Dawkins; granddaughters DeIrosa, Evangelist Michell and Shoune Russell; sisters Hester Kemp and Nathalee Bodie; great grandson Abraham McPhee; great granddaughter Jenah Wilson; daughter-in-law Mildred Russell; nephews Bruce, Altin and Nelson McIntosh, Lee Mader, Leland Laing, Velbern Bootle, Everett, Albert and Jackie Bootle; nieces Celretta Cooper, Mildred Russell, Hetline Smith, Dorcas Mitchell, Beryl Bridgewater, Meryl Laing, Blossom Munnings, Ruthmae and Mernel Poitier, Edna Ferguson, Emma, Shammine Hart, Donna Hudson, Melvern Cornish, Ruthmae McIntosh, Mae McIntosh, Miriam Murray, Leah Humes and Naomi Hepburn and many other relatives and friends.

Loletia Sawyer, 87, of Dundas Town passed away quietly in her sleep on October 9. Her funeral was held on October 23 at the St. Andrews Methodist Church in Dundas Town. Mrs. Kenris Carey officiated assisted by Dr. Reginald Eldon and Rev. Carla Culmer. Interment was in the Dundas Town Public Cemetery.

She is survived by children Kathleen McIntosh, Viola Newbold, Olevia Nesbitt, Floreen Armbrister, Elvinet Isaacs, Edward Sawyer and Ruth McQueen; adopted daughters Flora Lowe, Marina Moss, Viola Johnson and Ruth Smith; son-in-law Delgarno Newbold; daughter-in-law Linda Sawyer; grandchildren Garth, Sharon, Bruce Jr., Marsha, Dominique and Latoya McIntosh, Trevor, Deborah, Lisa, Temra, Elvis, Lynden, Jackie, Faron, Bernadette, Derek, Dwight and Sherrell Newbold, Ricardo, Carl, Janean, Chris, Deon, Val, Max and Adrian Nesbitt, Lolita, Raoul, Randy, Daphne, Carla, Julie, Demetree and Peaches Armbrister, Sean and Troy Isaacs, Herman, Cindy, Preola, Cleve, Steven, Miriam, Christian, Hoshea, Jeremy and Lindalee Sawyer, Kelsey, Kayla, Kenny, Kim and Kevin McQueen and Brad Curry; great grandchildren; great, great granddaughters; grandson-in-law Bishop Irvin Hart, Pastor Lynwood Knowles, Stafford Armbrister, Stephen Norris, Keith Basden, Rufus Ferguson, David Ritchie, Drexel Major, Gordon Ritchie, Robert Mompette, Jonathan Knowles, Sam Favella, Brent Bass, William Smith and Brent Brooks; granddaughters-in-law Willamae and Elva McIntosh, Meoshi, Melissa and Sandy Newbold, Jessica, Lorraine, Tina, Paulette and Judith Nesbitt, Deborah Isaacs, Karen and Alma Armbrister; sister-in-law Peggy Adderley; nephews, Sonny Cornish, Rev. Jerry Cornish, Wilson Russell, Wayne Cornish, Leslie, William, Henry and Wellington Adderley and Arnold Hepburn; nieces Evelyn Henfield, Lorelda Woodside, Nadeen Feaster, Lucille Storr, Dandelina Hepburn, Lorraine Smith and Shavon Adderley and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral for **John "Uncle John" Nesbitt**, 83, of Cooper's Town was held on October 9 at the Church of God Cathedral in Cooper's Town. Bishop Henry

Wright, assisted by Bishop Archilus Cooper and Rev. Clayton McIntosh officiated. Interment was in the Cooper's Town Public Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife Evangelist Carmen Nesbitt; sons Elisha and Jacob Nesbitt; stepsons Otis Palmer and Terry Frank; stepdaughters Aretha Huyler and Nelly Frank; grandsons Rickie, Carl, Chris, Don, Val, Max and Adrian Nesbitt; granddaughters Geraleen Nesbitt and Rev. Janean Hart; great-grandchildren; great-great-grandchildren; stepgrandsons; step-granddaughters; many nieces and nephews; granddaughters-in-law Olevia and Carmie Wright; son-in-law Livingstone Huyler; granddaughters-in-law Jessica, Tina, Paulette, Lorraine and Judith Nesbitt; grandson-in-law Bishop Ervin Hart; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral for **Martha Nakita "Auntie Martha" Mills**, 87 of Mt. Hope was held on October 30 at the New Hope Baptist Church. Rev. Dr. Allen J. Mills officiated assisted by Rev. John McIntosh. Interment was in the Public Cemetery of Fox Town.

She is survived by her son John Mills; daughters Margaretta Munnings, Catcherin Davis and Alene Johnson; grandchildren D'Andra Mills, Dwight Munnings, Derell and Steven Thompson, Deandra and Lloyd Russell, Vijay, Waylan, Devon, Deon and Salvano Johnson, Paul Murray, Jestina Reckley, Mary, Junior and Leroy Davis; great grandchildren Stevonia and Steven Thompson, Lloynard, Lloyisha, Lloynette and Jarmain Russell; father-in-law Valentine Farquharson; mother-in-law Yvonne Farquharson; daughter-in-law Marva Mills; sons-in-law Harry Johnson and Henry

Davis; sisters-in-law Annis Pinder and Elwilda Darville; god children Millie McIntosh and Gladis Saunders; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral for **Ismae Merilyn Louise Ferguson**, 76, formerly of Dundas Town, was held in Nassau and interment was in Nassau.

She is survived by her son Robert Young, daughters Patricia Sands and Mary Knowles; adopted children Garrett Neely, Blossom Neely, Precious Bailey, Sandra Young and Beryl Elliot; grandchildren Durant and Keva Smith, Rudolf and Kristen Sands, Philemon and Marvanette Young, Yarri and Robin Young, Ericka and Enock Lubin, Travis and Oralene Clarke, Jeremy Ambrister, Carlo, Marco, Tara and Alicia Ferguson and Jeremy James Ferguson; great grandchildren DeAshan and Leanno Smith, Naydalle Rolle, Chaltea, Felicia and Robin Young and Antonious Sands; nieces; nephews; and many other relatives and friends.

Will Jasper Malone II passed away on October 2 at the age of 64. Interment was in the Hope Town Public Cemetery. He was a customs officer for many years serving

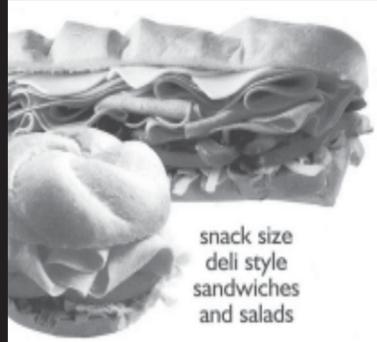
on several different islands. He began his career with Customs in 1957 when he was 16 years old when was posted at Pine Ridge, Grand Bahama, and later served in Freeport.

He was Officer in Charge in Fresh Creek, Andros, and Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, before being assigned as Officer in Charge on Arawak Cay. He was in that position when Gary Smith and Sheila McDonald were posted there.

He is survived by sons Cecil William and Randal Jasper; granddaughter Caralee; brother Michael; and sisters Patricia Pinder and Yvonne Key.



Will Malone as a young man in Pine Ridge



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The Abaco Gardener: A Visit with a Avid Gardener

By Mirella Santillo

Today I am meeting Andre Albury, an Abaconian, to discuss gardening and planting.

Waiting for Andre in front of his house, I admire the water hyacinths and gold fish living in a pond amidst some pond weeds.

Andre arrives and scoops a handful of limpidly clear water explaining that the weeds acts as a filter. The pump is only used now and again to oxygenate the water.

When the morning dew sits on the grass, sometimes towards the end of the summer or beginning of fall, it is time to plant the fall crop, says he, picking up wet grass blades.

Andre is a dedicated amateur gardener who has left no space un-planted in his garden. From cooking herbs such as rosemary and chives to decorative flowers such as starflowers, native fruit trees like coco plums, pineapples, even exotic trees such as a peach tree and a grape vine, to vegetables, he has them all.

Along the garden paths, seedlings and cuttings are growing in pots. More water hyacinths are blooming in a wheelbarrow. Water lilies floating in a tub are waiting for the proper place to be displayed. In the shed packets of seeds await to be planted: tomatoes, broccoli, cabbages, cucumbers, beans, zucchini squash and yellow squash.

Put the seeds in starting pots in a light soil mixture, cover them with little soil and keep them moist until they start growing. When the seedlings reach four to five inches, transfer them in large pots or directly into the ground. Water them regularly and fertilize with organic fertilizer, if

possible, once a month.

Andre does not use much fertilizer. He likes to avoid the use of chemicals and prefer starting with a rich soil. Tomatoes and some bean vines will require training material. Wire cones, a piece of lattice or a fence can be utilized. Once planted, these vegetables will be ready to harvest any time from 90 days for broccoli, 75 days for tomatoes and around 60 days for the others.

As we pass a mulberry tree, Andre explains that this is a favorite of birds, specially migrating birds. He said, "I created a garden for the birds to amend for my hunting days!"

A little further we stopped in front of a large leafed vine adorned with fruits in the shape of large bananas, but with the skin of pineapples, the monistera deliciosa (delicious monster). Delicious it is, sharing the flavor of those two fruits.

I will not leave before my hands are full of pots and cuttings! Anything Andre plants will grow, so he likes to share the abundance of his garden. As a goodbye note, we discuss a few tips for organic culture.

Bug contraceptive: mix baking soda, dishwashing liquid and cooking oil with water and spray the affected plants. It will render the common garden pests such as

aphids, mealy bugs and white flies sterile.

Bug repellent: Steep a twig or two of rosemary in a bottle of water in the sun for a few hours. The brew can then be sprayed safely on vegetables. A rosemary bush will also help repel mosquitoes.

Cutworm control: Let ferment for a few days the skins of neem berries and the leaves of the neem tree, (available locally) and put the concoction at the bottom of the planting hole.

Of course, if you are so lucky as to have many ladybugs or praying mantis in your garden, do not use bug control, as you would be depriving useful insects of their meal!

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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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School News

School From Page 1

profit, faith based disaster relief group born out of Hurricane Floyd in 1999. One hundred percent of the group's proceeds go to help others in need. After Hurricane Floyd Mr. Lewis of West Palm Beach headed a disaster relief center here on the island for ten days. But this hurricane season, Florida, too, was hard hit, and Mr. Lewis was unable to just pick up and leave his home like that again.

Accompanying Mr. Lewis to make his generous donation to the school was Mr. Leonard Grant, a physical education teacher at the Academy of the Palm Beaches. Mr. Grant, a native of Grand Bahama, said his school has adopted the West End All Age School and sent relief supplies and gifts to them to help him rebuild.

When the students and staff of the Allamanda Elementary School read an article in the Palm Beach Post about Mr. Lewis and his group's unselfish act to deliver "a message of hope" and relief to the people in Grand Bahama and Abaco, they collected funds and donated many toys and stuffed animals for him to give to the school children.

Accepting the donations and gifts was Mrs. Kumar, the school's principal. She thanked Mr. Lewis saying that the hurricanes may have dampened their spirits, but Mr. Lewis has given them a reason to "jump and shout." She wants the donors in Florida to know that her school is extremely grateful and their hearts have been warmed.

"Palm Beach County loves you," Mr. Lewis said, "and they want you know that they care."

St. Francis de Sales School Presents Cheque

By Jennifer Hudson

During the St. Francis de Sales High School assembly on October 24th the Principal, Mrs. Josephine Kumar, presented a cheque for \$700 to Mr. Hugh Cottis, President of the Abaco Cancer Society.

This generous amount had been raised by students in all grades through their National Denim Day effort on October 8th. On that day all students were allowed to wear jeans to school on payment of a \$2 fee. Teachers were asked for a donation of \$5 and several gave more. All funds raised went to the Cancer Society to assist cancer patients on Abaco and help towards sponsoring the free annual cancer screening clinics here.

The National Denim Day is held each year throughout the Bahamas on a Friday in October to raise Cancer awareness and collect funds for that cause since October is Cancer Awareness month.

The morning assembly, entitled *Be Pre-*

pared, was led by Mr. Kevin Sterling's seventh grade students and was on the very fitting subject of prostrate cancer.

After presenting the cheque to Mr. Cottis, the Principal spoke to the students on how cancer has touched many families on Abaco. Even though the children themselves may not know anyone who has been affected by this disease, they must look beyond themselves. Mrs. Kumar then admonished the students; "Your education will be in vain if you do not learn to look at the needs of others not only here but throughout the world."

Agape Christian School Student Receives Response Letter

By Tabitha Stortenbecker

In May my 4th grade students sent 20 sealed bottles with Gospel tracts and notes out to sea from Treasure Cay and Crossing Rocks. The students had been talking about ocean currents in science and being a witness for Jesus Christ during Bible class. I told the students we might but might not

receive an answer back.

The beginning of this month, Hailey Lee, now in 5th grade, received a response from a lady who found her bottle on Long Beach, North Carolina. The lady thanked Hailey for sharing her faith and included a map showing the possible route of the bottle. Even though responses from the other 19 have not been received, it does not mean others have not been found!

Special Visit

By Isobel Sherman

Fifteen guidance counselors from the Special Services Section of the Ministry of Education came to Abaco on October 22 to make an assessment of how staff and students of the government schools were doing after living through two hurricanes.

Please see **School** Page 7

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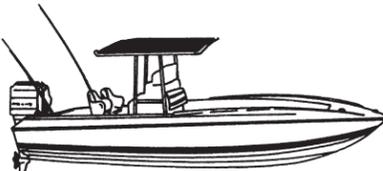




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More School News

School From Page 6

Once on Abaco counselors divided up so some went to North Abaco, some to South Abaco and four counselors visited Abaco Central High School and Central Abaco Primary.

At Abaco Central High School the students assembled in the quadrangle. In introducing the purpose of their visit, Mrs. Pansy Brown said that the counselors were there to help students with grief and recovery. They wanted to see if they could help students grieve over any losses they had

from the hurricanes, then help them to recover from those losses. Assisting in this effort was Ms. Smith, Mr. Williams and Mrs. Stubbs, all from Nassau schools.

While three of the counselors passed out sheets for the students to fill out, Mrs. Brown held a meeting with the teachers to discuss where the teachers thought the students were in relation to hurricane recovery. She pointed out that this was only the first visit and that they intended to return. She asked about how much of the student population was affected by the hurricanes and the consensus among the teachers was at least 75 percent and maybe as high as 90

percent of the student had been affected by either Hurricane Frances or Hurricane Jeanne or both.

Calendar Change

By Isobel Sherman

Government schools on Abaco will have classes a few days longer before they break for Christmas vacation. Schools will not closed for Christmas until December 21 and end of term exams will be held in early January rather than before Christmas. This calendar change applies to all government

Please see **School** Page 10



Mr. Hugh Cottis, President of the Abaco Branch of the Bahamas Cancer Society, accepted a check from Mrs. Josephine Kumar, Principal of St. Francis de Sales School in Marsh Harbour. The money, \$700, was from donations that students and teachers made on National Denim Day to go toward helping cancer patients with their expenses and for the expense of cancer screening done each year by the local Cancer Society.



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Tips from the Bahamas General Insurance Association

Making a claim for a Hurricane Loss

Following the recent visit from Hurricane Frances many people will find themselves having to deal with an insurance company's claims department in coming days. Here are some tips to make it less confusing.

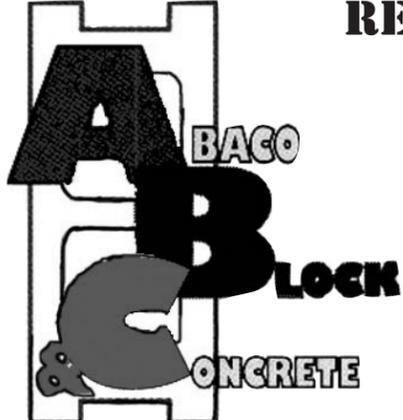
- Contact your agent as quickly as possible. If you are unable to contact your agent and know which company they placed your insurance with, then contact the company. Herewith are the phone numbers for insurance agents, brokers and companies who are members of the Bahamas General Insurance Association: -

➤ A. Scott Fitzgerald Insurance Brokers & Agents Ltd.	364-3873
➤ Bahamas First General Insurance Co. Ltd.	326-5439
➤ Colina General Insurance Agency Ltd.	393-5433
➤ Commonwealth General Insurance Co. Ltd.	322-8210
➤ General Brokers & Agents Ltd.	322-1871
➤ Insurance Company of the Bahamas Ltd.	394-3111
➤ Insurance Management (Bahamas) Ltd.	394-5555
➤ J. S. Johnson & Co. Ltd.	322-2341
➤ K. A. P. Insurance Agents & Brokers Ltd.	322-4159
➤ Moseley Burnside Insurance Agency Ltd.	394-8305
➤ Nassau Underwriters Cole Albury Insurance Agency Ltd.	328-5992
➤ Orry J. Sands & Co. Ltd.	393-4300
➤ RoyalStar Assurance Ltd.	328-7888
➤ Security & General Insurance Co. Ltd.	326-7100
➤ Star General Insurance Agents & Brokers Ltd.	393-3528
➤ Summit Insurance Co. Ltd.	394-2351
➤ Sunshine Insurance (Agents & Brokers) Ltd.	394-0011
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- If the insurers have not inspected the damage before you start work, take photos or make videos so that they can see what it was like.
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 - a description of the item
 - date of purchase
 - cost at time of purchase
 - present replacement cost
 (If you have cancelled cheques or receipts for these items, collect them to show the adjuster)
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- Remember that there is a Hurricane Deductible of 2% of the sum insured.

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Hope Town

From Page 2

dumpsters are really not enough and we need an extra day of barging," remarked Mr. Key.

However, what is really not "enough" are funds to complete hurricanes-related damage and other projects them.

"We have accessed some funds from a reserve account of the Elbow Cay Management Board, but these were intended for specifics so will have to be replaced," explained Mr. Key.

Once more the small cay is reaching out to Central Government for assistance. "We are still looking and waiting!" said Mr. Key wryly.

Surfing

From Page 1

chain. Competitors came as far as Green Turtle Cay to make the drop on the famous surfbreak known as "Indicas." This steep and hollow wave is nicknamed by local surfers as The Bahamian Pipeline and only breaks a handful of times a year.

Holding a competition at this spot was a spontaneous decision that no one could ever have predicted would happen. Well, it did, and the show made history as the first contest ever at Indicas! It, by the way, is located just to the north of Abaco Inn on Elbow Cay. The surfers described the wave as heavy and unforgiving with many stories of wipeouts where the bottom

was grazed or made contact with bodies. One board was snapped in half like a toothpick, displaying the strength of the water hitting the shallow reef. The Hope Town Fire and Rescue were on stand by although it was in vain, thank goodness.

The results were as follows:
 First Tim Albury
 Second Christian Wilhoyte
 Third Chris Chapman and Chris Ballard
 Fourth Andrew Wilhoyte and Corey Engle
 Fifth Pat McCully
 Sixth Phil on *Nonchalance*

Thank you for all the volunteers that made the event happen. See you at the next event coming soon. Check us out on www.basurfinga.freesevers.com

Civic Organizations

- Kiwanis Club of Great Abaco**
 Tuesday, 7 p.m., weekly at Mackerel's Restaurant, Dundas Town, 367-5932
- Pilot Club of Abaco**
 Third Tuesday, 7 p.m., Central Abaco Primary, Dundas Town, 367-3457
- Pilot Club of South Abaco**
 Last Thursday, monthly, J.A. Pinder School, Sandy Point, 366-4001
- Rotary Club of Abaco**
 Mondays, 6 p.m., weekly at Anglers Restuarant, Abaco Beach Resort

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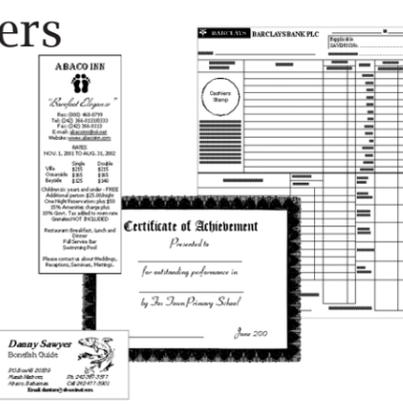


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Batelco Continues Work on Elbow Cay

By Stephanie Humblestone

In the weeks following Hurricane Jeanne much of Abaco was without telecommunication services. Batelco's outside plant technicians were hard pressed to get to all corners of Great Abaco Island and her offshore cays.

The 12-man crew was divided into two. The first contingent was responsible for repairing the cables which were visible from the road. Happily, this restored service to some while others remained incommunicado with damage literally closer to home.

"We concentrated first on restoring service to the government sector and the Marsh Harbour business community, and then we focused on the cays," said Kirkwood Ferguson, who is going, in his words, "door to door" in the centre of Hope Town.

Co-worker Eugene Dawkins, who has been with Batelco for 18 years, estimated that approximately 75-80 percent of Hope Town was "up and running" with almost complete service to the southern end of Elbow Cay. "Audrick Williams and Trevor Taylor were here about a week ago, and they re-attached cables. Now we are dealing with individuals. We are making our-

selves visible to the community, and we expect to be approached," he commented.

"Sometimes we see that a line is up but inside the house there may be another problem," said Mr. Ferguson, who is in his 23rd year of employment with Batelco.

In addition to this the two technicians touched base with the Batelco office located in the settlement which had a list of people reporting to be still without service.

"We have been trying to come to the cays one to two days a week. When asked if the public in general had been understanding about the fact that some had to wait in turn, Mr. Ferguson said that as soon as they grasp the process "they appreciate our efforts."

Both men stated, without complaining, that they were working a 12-14 hour day. "We have to make our customers happy," added Mr. Ferguson. He went on to say that it has been especially difficult for some people because the cellular phones have been very erratic.

In addition to dynamics of distance and accessibility Batelco's technicians have had to arrange for bucket trucks to be barged to the cays. At least two of such trucks went underwater in Jeanne. "However, we have a great new Chevy truck, and it is a better one than before," smiled Mr. Dawkins.

Business License Minimum Is Now \$100

The annual business license tax has been zero for those businesses with annual gross turn-over under \$50,000. New businesses paid an initial fee of \$10 on application with their Shop License.

The schedule was changed sometime this past summer and \$100 is now the minimum annual tax for businesses with annual revenues below \$50,000 and the fee on application for a new business license.

Hill Makes a Great Slide



Many young people and some not so young enjoy a grassy slope in Marsh Harbour where a piece of cardboard or for the more sophisticated a body board makes a great slide. A popular pastime, it shows that simple activities can be great fun.

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Parrots Have Traveled to MOW



A flock of Bahamian parrots has been on Man-O-War Cay for a couple of weeks finding fruit and other food. Their normal food supplies have been damaged by the two hurricanes so they are having to travel farther from their normal nesting area for food. This photo was taken by Mary Ann Albury.

Angels Among Us

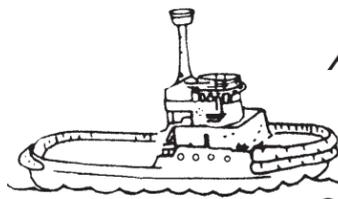
By Jennifer Hudson

In a recent edition of The Abaconian a letter was printed from a visitor who was wishing to publicly thank a lady whose name he did not even know but who had generously come to the aid of his daughter when she was taken ill.

I would now like to tell the story of another "angel." I do know this lady's name but I know that she would want no public recognition for what she did, she is that kind of person. After Hurricane Francis she went to St. Francis de Sales Church to see if any of the persons who had taken shelter there needed assistance. She found that, by then, all had left except for two elderly ladies, one of whom was looking very forlorn. When my friend asked if they were alright, the older lady said that she was not and

said that it was "her sugar." Her companion proffered the information that the old lady suffered from diabetes and did not have any medication. Immediately, my friend drove to the clinic to tell the nurse of the situation. Although the nurse knew who the old lady was as she was a regular patient, she would not be allowed to give any medication without seeing her. The Good Samaritan then went back to the church to fetch the lady and carried her to the clinic; after she was given a prescription, she then took the old lady to the pharmacy and herself paid for the prescription to be filled. "God bless you," said the very thankful old lady.

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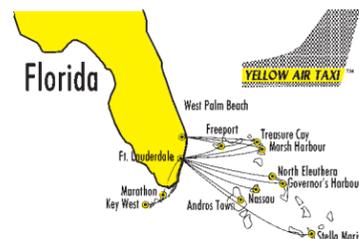
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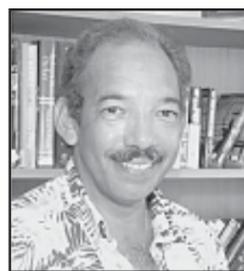
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An aerial view of the estate which the wide sandy beach. The house is complete with golf carts, bicycles and an outdoor bar-be-que grill.

This is the front porch where you observe beautiful sunrises, or for the late riser, an outdoor breakfast overlooking the Atlantic and the beach just steps below.



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The living room is 20-foot by 32-foot with original oil paintings on the cypress hand laid walls. The marble floors take you back to the early colonial century while the cool rattan and dark mahogany furnishings, a functional fireplace, library and studio give you the coziness of a New England home.

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Bishop *From Page 1*

St. Helen's Parish, Holy Cross and John Carroll High School in Florida.

Archbishop Pinder read from the Missal of Blessing and sprinkled Holy Water on the walls of the building.

On behalf of everyone in Catholic education, Mrs. Rolle said she was proud to be a part of the dedication and the Archbishop's official visit to the island. She added that Mrs. Major has done a remarkable job and thanked all for their continued support.

Mrs. Major gave her heartfelt thanks and said her staff feels it a privilege to teach their students but, without the help and support of everyone present, they would not have this privilege.

Every Child Counts Learning Center provides full time schooling to students who cannot succeed in a mainstream classroom because of physical, neurological or cognitive disabilities.

School *From Page 7*

schools on Abaco.

Abaco Central High

By Isobel Sherman

Annual Careers' Day

Abaco Central High School will be holding its annual careers days on November 10 and 11. Mrs Nadene Beneby, Senior Mistress and Guidance Counselor, is the coordinator assisted by Mrs Raquel Cox and Miss Phippa Farrington. Students in grades 9 and 12 will be participating in the two-day affair.

Large Enrolment

Abaco Central High remains the largest high school on the island with an enrollment of approximately 520 students. and only 27 teachers. The school is awaiting two science teachers and a math teacher

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Dr. Ida Mae Hanna - Dietician, Healthy Lifestyle
November 8, 2004

Dr. Bernard Rolle - General Medicine/ Diabetes Specialist
November 10, 2004

Dr. KJA Rodgers - Ophthalmologist
Dr. Micheal Caplia - Optometrist
November 11-12, 2004

Ms. Sandra Watson - Ultrasound Technician
November 13, 2004

Dr. Rosetta Ingraham, Dermatologist
November 15, 2004

Dr. Daniel Johnson - Foot Doctor
November 19, 2004

Dr. Hubert Minnis - Ob Gyn / Ultrasound
November 20, 2004

Dr. May Hestmo - Hand and Orthopedic Surgeon
November 20, 2004

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Memories of Days Gone By . . .

By Jennifer Hudson

Albert George Albury is a familiar person to many. Though some may not know him by name, most have noticed him sitting each day outside his house by Sapodilly's watching the world go by and reminiscing on the "good old days." Mr. Albury was born on January 10th, 1914, the first child of Falmon Albury and Lela Bethel, in a house which stood in the area behind where Triple J Marine stands today. During his 90 years he has accumulated a wealth of experiences and memories and has lived through several major hurricanes. Just recently in Hurricane Jeanne he was fortunate to receive no damage to his house though the large boat which was flung into the road in front of Sapodilly's Restaurant came very close to landing in his yard.

Mr. Albert's most vivid hurricane memories are of the destructive 1926 hurricane when a tidal wave hit Marsh Harbour which then only extended from where Mangoes is today down as far as Charlie Boo's corner (near Goombay Park). After the hurricane only 11 houses were left standing where they had originally been built. Fortunately, Mr. Albert and his family went to take shelter in the schoolhouse for the duration of the hurricane because, when the tidal wave hit, it carried their two storey house from its location by Triple J Marine all the way up the street and deposited it where the Hummingbird Restaurant now stands. Amazingly, the house was still in one piece. Luke Weatherford must have had quite a hair raising experience as he was in his house when the tidal wave took it and carried it like a boat up to the area of Hummingbird and deposited it right



next to Mr. Albert's newly located house. Rupert Robert's two storey house was washed into the pine yards behind the area where Batelco now stands.

Mr. Albert remembers well the three people who sadly lost their lives in that hurricane. One was August VanRyn's baby which he was carrying to a safer house for shelter when the sea swept her right out of his arms. The baby was nowhere to be found until the following day when sadly she was spotted hanging by her clothes from a grapefruit tree.

The second was "an old coloured lady named Aunt Lydie," who was swept away. After searching for four days she was eventually discovered by someone down by Charlie Boo's Corner who noticed her toes sticking up out of a pile of trash.

The third person to lose her life was Dellah Cash. She, along with Wesley and Lizzie Pinder, were riding out the storm in her two storey house. All three were upstairs when the roof blew off. Sadly, Dellah did not survive and was later found under the roof where it landed on the ground but Wesley and Lizzie happily did survive and came paddling in from the pine woods on a raft they had made from pine trees.

Mr. Albert looks back fondly on his school days and his excellent teacher, Mr. John Goodwin Roberts from Harbour Island. After he left, Mr. Herbert Roberts

from Green Turtle Cay took up the post. Even as a small boy Mr. Albert had a job. Mrs. Myrtie Weatherford had a beautiful flower garden, and she would employ young Albert to keep it weeded for her. At the school leaving age of 14 Albert took up sponging, crawfishing and farming. He ran a farm for eight and a half years for Mr. J.D. Crockett from Boston, who was the first foreign farm owner. He then ran Lucien Stratton's lumber yard for a further eight years. After that he moved into Nassau for a while and then on to Hatchet Bay, Eleuthera, where he farmed for three years for Austin. T. Levy, the man who "started Eleuthera."

In his young days Mr. Albert's family built a house on Guana Cay where they would stay while they farmed the land there as did many other Marsh Harbour families. "The sandy soil on Guana Cay," says Mr. Albert, "was better than that in Marsh Harbour for growing water melons and sweet potatoes." They would sell nine pounds of water melon for six cents and 24 pounds of sweet potatoes for 24

cents. They grew corn and ground their own grits, turning the corn mills with two handles to make the grits as fine as desired. They boiled syrup from the sugar cane and put it into five gallon tins which they sold to the spongers to take to sea on their long trips.

They would go out to Black Point to gather conch which were extremely plentiful. At low tide they were able to pick up hundreds which they would throw into heaps. Then at high tide a dinghy boat would row out to pick them up and load them into a big boat which would then take in 1000 conch at one time. Today conch sells for \$150 apiece but in those days it sold for one cent! Six large fish would be sold for six cents.

Mr. Albert remembers how much more work intensive housekeeping was in those days. The women had to work hard at their tub and wash boards on washing day scrubbing the families' clothes clean with turbot fish skins. Then to iron the clothes

Please see **Albert Albury** Page 13

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ABACO MAIN LAND:

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

110' x 200' on Sea of Abaco. New nearly finished home 2 bedroom and 2 bathroom. Near Fire Road B\$177,000

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Lot 9 Green Turtle Estates \$45,000 plus 7% to close

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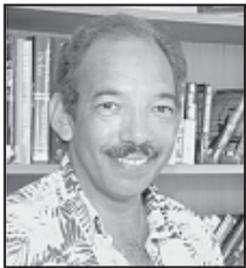
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... Albert Albury Reminisces

Albert Albury *From Page 12*

they would use their heavy iron which would be heated on the coal burning stove in the kitchen which was usually located separate from the house. The pinewood floors would be scrubbed with turbot skins and screen wire. Sun-light soap was a useful product used for both laundry and floors.

Several people had radios with which to wile away the evening hours and a privileged few were just beginning to enjoy the luxury of a television. Capt. Sherwin Archer was one of the first to own a television and Mr. Albert and his wife would go there on Saturday evening along with several others who would all stretch out on the floor to enjoy the show.

The transportation of the day for most people was a bicycle, and Mr. Albert remembers possessing one from the time he was a small boy. When the tyres wore out, they would be replaced with rope. After finding the right size rope, the bicycle owner would stretch

it as tightly as possible around the rim, then soak it so that when it dried it would shrink to a tight fit. "In those days," said Mr. Albert, "Everyone obeyed the law and paid two shillings and sixpence (equivalent to 60 cents today) for a bicycle licence each year. They were required to have a bell and a light on their bicycle."

"Today," he laments, "there is no law and order any more as he watches dozens of cyclists going past his house each day without licences, lights or bells."

In his young days Mr. Albert remembers Marsh Harbour as having just two policemen, one of whom was Willie Archer. He says that 99.9 percent of the residents were lovely honest people but tells an amusing story of one who was a little less than perfect. It was the custom in those days when the fresh fish had been cleaned to salt them, then cover them with a brown paper bag and hang them up to cure in the sun. One lady who was less than honest would go around helping herself to this fish off people's porches. One day after she

had gathered a bag or two of fish, she hid it under the straw hat she was wearing. The lady of the house who was unaware of what had taken place came to chat with the culprit and, while talking, the heat of the day caused the salt to mix with the fish juices and the brine began streaming down the culprit's face while she stood flicking it away like perspiration with her hand saying, "Well, I do declare, it's one hot day today."

Mr. Albert was a young man when the first truck arrived in Marsh Harbour. Before the advent of the truck he remembers a horse and dray which

belonged to George Albury being used to haul freight. Roads then were only 12 feet wide and the flow of traffic was sparse and slow. However, nowadays Mr. Albert sadly states, "I get so tired of seeing all the traffic constantly roaring past my house at 60 and 70 miles per hour with no regard for law and order."

Mr. Albert looks back very fondly on "the good old days."

"People were generous and kind, always ready to help each other without even being asked, very different from today when people want money for everything they do," he sadly laments.

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Local Government



Central Abaco Council 5 Oct 2004

The Council met on October 5 after a three-month lapse from the last meeting on June 29. The primary business was to review the \$639,440 budget allocated to Council for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. This amount does not include approximately \$360,000 allocated to Dundas Town, Murphy Town and Marsh Harbour townships for their routine maintenance.

Council members reviewed the amounts requested last spring to the various line items or cost centers without comment. Experience with the realities of two hurricanes may require some shifting of priorities.

Maintenance of the dump is a major contract item normally running over \$60,000 per year. Council is now three months into the new fiscal year but a contract for dump maintenance was not on the agenda and not discussed.

The dump becomes congested quickly with all the excess hurricane and construction debris being taken there. Some clean-up costs will be sent to NEMA since the local budget allocation does not provide for this massive operation.

Councillor Carl Archer did ask that the Hope Town District contribute to the dump maintenance since garbage from Guana Cay, Man-O-War Cay and Elbow Cay make up a substantial part of the dump workload.

Slight mention was made of the need to provide garbage collection of some sort for the Mud and Pigeon Peas settlements. Door-to-door collection would not be feasible, but it was suggested that bulk containers could be positioned at several entrance points. No action was taken as there were no funds for this.

Questions arose to the large outstanding amount due Abaco Hardware as requisitioned by Chief Councillor Cay Mills. Councillor Yvonne Key asked for an audit of this large amount. Mr. Mills explained that in the absence of a functioning Council, he was obliged to make decisions related to the protection and safety of Dundas Town and Murphy Town residents as a result of the two storms. Since the budget does not provide for this type of expense, it was suggested that the bills be sent to NEMA for settlement.

Chief Councillor Mills objected to being given instructions from Gary Sawyer, who has no authority within the local government framework and the Administrator was asked to look into this.

A request was noted from the airport manager for funding for maintenance to the terminal building. The budget provides for \$1,500 per month for airport maintenance, and it was felt this should cover routine maintenance there.

Routine maintenance at Abaco Central High School was felt to be neglected and Councillors wondered if they were getting their money's worth from the maintenance man there.

Mrs. Key asked for Mr. Rolle's assistance in getting the documents from Crown Lands related to the water front property in Marsh Harbour where the donated pavilion is to be located. She has all other documents in order ready to accept the gift and has been waiting 18 months to resolve the land issue.

Marsh H Town Committee 12 Oct 2004

The last town committee meeting was more than four 4 months ago on May 4.

Chairman Yvonne Key asked to see the letter from Council by Chief Councillor Cay Mills retracting a statement made on Local Government stationery that the Council objected to conditions at Abaco Beach Re-

sort. It was only Mr. Mills personal opinion and not a Council decision.

The issue of golf carts in Marsh Harbour was brought up again with suggestions for new measures to control them. It was generally felt that the carts were not appropriate on the Marsh Harbour roads.

Administrator Rolle suggested to Committee members that they look into forming partnerships with various businesses to improve the looks of Marsh Harbour. He noted the lack of plants, flowers and trees in much of the business section.

Quotations will be requested to cut and remove the fallen trees at Crossing Beach

and NEMA will be asked to assist with this cost.

Additional steps will be taken to eliminate loitering and drinking outside a prominent liquor store in Marsh Harbour in late afternoon and early evening. Further, the conditions of operation for the business will be reviewed when the license is renewed at the end of this year.

Combined Boards 20 Oct

Administrator Rolle convened a combined meeting of all the statutory boards to express government's desire to facilitate and expedite recovery of the business commu-

nity. Mr. Rolle explained that it is the multitude of small businesses that make up the backbone of the economy. They may be small and inconspicuous but collectively they are very important.

A complaint was heard from a member of the licensing board that license applications are frequently deferred due to inaction by either the Police, Works or Environmental Health as each of these agencies must give prior approval.

It was brought out that applicants must have a premises for their business which is

Please see **Local Govt.** Page 16

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"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

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Marsh Harbour-# 5220-Large Parcel of property 100' X 270' with two concrete warehouses, would be ideal for certain commercial adventure. Property fenced in. Call today for more details.



Dundas Town-#5222-Property situated in prime location running 135' on the waterfront. Fixer upper situated on property. Views of the harbour and Sea of Abaco. \$125,000



Marsh Harbour-#5150 Harbour front property on Pelican Shores. Lovely parcel runs 172' on the harbour and consists of more than an acre of property. Features a 3 bed/3.5 bath house with covered carport. This prime piece of property is unique and rare. Could have a commercial venture possibility. Room for expansion Lots of potential. -\$1,750,000



Marsh Harbour -New Price- #5205- 4 bedroom 2bath house on Don Mackay Blvd. Prime area for a commercial venture. 26,513 sq. ft of property. Great central location.- \$206,000 **PRICED TO SELL**



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Marsh Harbour - #5105 Duplex available for sale. Each side - 2beds/1bath with open floor plan Furnished and well-kept.-\$260,000



Guana Cay -"SUMMERWIND"-#5038- 2bed/2bath home with central A/C, close walk to beach. Great rental potential through nearby resort, with right to use resorts amenities. Perfect for that vacation get-away.-\$260,000



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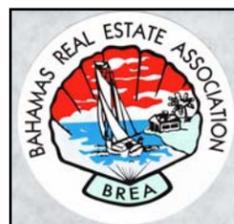


Sweetings Village-# 5225- Brand new 2bed/2bath concrete residence. Elevated and comprises of approx 1000 sq ft. Also includes hobby room and outside decking, and has water views. \$230,000.



Marsh Harbour-#5219- Vacant property comprises of approx 1.25 acres. Could serve as residential or commercial property. Call today for more details.

- Man-O-War**- vacant interior lot in town, close to amenities-\$17,500-**UNDER CONTRACT**
- Man-O-War** - vacant interior lots, close to Atlantic Beach, and close to restaurants, grocery stores, etc. \$120,000
- Casuarina Point**- Vacant lot available in growing area. Close walk to beach. **SOLD**
- Long Beach**- Beautiful area featuring gorgeous white beach. All lots approx. 1/4 acre, and have beach access. Financing available. Call today.
- Sand Banks** - vacant property on main highway to Treasure Cay. Large parcels, and sea views.
- Bahama Coral Island**- vacant property in Bahama Coral Island, financing available, Call for details.
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- Boat Harbour Guana Cay**- vacant water front property accessible by boat only, not much available in this area-**UNDER CONTRACT**
- Cabbage Point**- 5 acres parcels on the SC Bootle highway, financing available -Call today for details
- Marsh Harbour**- Vacant property on Key Club Road approx 0.7 acres, features elevations. \$92,000



Marsh Harbour-#5106. Great opportunity. Established commercial complex. Currently features several retail stores and two rental apartments. All currently rented. Ideally situated on the main tourist strip. **FANTASTIC INVESTMENT**. Call today for more details on this fine offering.

More Local Government



Local Govt.

From Page 14

then inspected for various elements by the relevant agencies. When those agencies do not act in a timely manner, the applicant is obliged to continue paying rent for space they are hoping to move into with a business venture but which is not productive during this period of vacancy.

Another board member asked for more meetings like this with all boards present to get a better feel for conditions. An example

was given where Road Traffic may be having a problem with visibility at an intersection then finds that town Planning approved a sign for that location.

Mr. Rolle asked board members to work with him and the business community to improve the appearance of Marsh Harbour. He noted that the town is rather stark with pavement being the main landscaping element.

Central Abaco Town Planning 25 Oct 04

Since the last meeting on July 29, twenty-nine applications with a declared value of \$2,743,784 have accumulated for approval.

Most were of a residential nature and 16 were approved. Three were deferred for further information.

Murphy Town Committee 27 Oct 04

A list of street names and corresponding signs was reviewed and approved. Another attempt will be made to get the signs from the Works Department in Nassau.

Committee Chairman Cubel Davis complained to Administrator Rolle that Dundas Town was getting much more attention and relief supplies through the efforts of Chief Councillor Cay Mills than Murphy Town. He felt that the Chief Councillor was using

his position for the benefit of his Dundas Town constituents to the detriment of Murphy Town.

Mr. Rolle suggested the town committee try to stage a community event each month to bring people into the town. Church choirs and local talent were suggested as items to feature. As an incentive to stage a regular event, Mr. Rolle suggested that Committee members allocate one month's stipend as seed money which he and Administrator Campbell would provide matching funds.

He also suggested they try to work with the business community to improve the town's appearance.



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School Year Is Finally Underway

By Mirella Santillo

At the dawn of a new school year, which as we all know started with delays for nearly all the schools, let's evaluate our student population, their teachers and the academic staff helping to mold the mind of our next generation.

Most of the schools in the Marsh Harbour area are private with only a primary school and a high school sponsored by the government, whereas on the cays and the rest of Abaco, all the schools are public.

Marsh Harbour offers a variety of schools for all ages till grade 12; from a pre-school/nursery to public and private high schools.

Teaching Children to Achieve is a little more than a day care center; children wear a uniform and are taught basic learning to prepare them for K3. This is a private school located in Dundas Town.

Another pre-K school is the **Latter Rain Christian School**, also located in Dundas Town.

The third school offering a pre-kindergarten class is St. Francis de Sales located on Don MacKay Boulevard in Marsh Harbour. It has a student body of 348, teaching staff of 25 teachers and seven academic staff members. The Principal is Mrs. J. Giraud-Kumar. The Vice-Principal, Ms. Ismenette Riche, the secretary, Mrs. Dona Albury, the office Manager, Mrs. A. Johnson and three general helpers complete

the staff roster.

The scheduled re-opening of September 6 was postponed to September 15 and again suspended for two days after hurricane Jeanne. The total school-days lost in September was nine. The regular school year will be extended by one week in June to make up for lost time.

Yearly school fees are: \$1257 pre-k to grade 6 and \$1623 high school grades

Central Abaco Primary School located on Forest Drive in Dundas Town and has 670 students ranging from grade K through grade 6. They are taught by 32 teachers including two senior citizen volunteers for grade 6, Ms. Campbell and Mr. Leroy Thompson; Ms. Beatrice Moxey, the Vice Principal acts as a substitute teacher. There are 26 general teachers, one art teacher and one physical education teacher. They are expecting a Spanish teacher. The teachers are mostly Bahamians, except for two Jamaicans and four Guianese.

Mrs. Eunice Mills, the Principal, says that the children missed two weeks of school in September. They did not return until October 11 because the school was being used as a shelter during the hurricanes. Therefore their Christmas vacation will not start until December 21.

She explained that the FA.O tele-food program sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture has been delayed. This program

involves all the children. They will start an orchard and a vegetable garden that they will care for during the school-year. Fruit trees come from Pinewood Nursery, vegetables will start from seeds.

In spite of extensive roof damage, **Agape Christian School**, off Don MacKay Boulevard in Marsh Harbour had everything fixed in three weeks. Three teams of workers helped by three teams of teachers took care of repairing and cleaning the classrooms and the office. The school missed the September 6 scheduled opening and re-opened September 20 and lost two more days to Jeanne.

For the 2004-2005 school year, there are 237 students from K3 to grade 12. Twenty teachers take care of them, four Americans and 16 Bahamians. There are an additional four staff members, Mrs. Cecile Albury,

Principal, Mrs. Charmaine Saunders, Secretary, Mrs. E. Bethel, office manager, and Mrs. Allison Burrows, general assistant.

The mid-semester break will be cut by three days, the Christmas vacation by one day and the remainder of the days lost in September will be regained during the second semester, most probably at Easter. The Christmas programs will be held as usual, December 2 for Kindergarten and December 9 for grades 1 to 3.

School fees are: \$ 2,000 Kindergarten, \$ 2,250 grades 2-5, \$ 2,500 grades 6-9 and \$ 2,750 grades 10-12

Private high school, **Forest High Academy** on Don MacKay Boulevard in Marsh Harbour feels very fortunate to have gone through the two storms without any dam-

Please see **School** Page 19

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Murphy Town Incomplete duplex one unit completed comprising 2 bed, 1 bath 6,900 sq. ft. Lot #60	Bahama Coral Island Vacant land 10,890 sq. ft. Section #3 Block A Lot #1	Murphy Town Duplex 2 bed, 1 bath and 1 bed efficiency 8900 sq. ft. Lot #68	Dundas Town Vacant Land 10,810 sq. ft. Lot #21
	Murphy Town Duplex 2 - 2 bed, 1 bath 11,232 sq. ft. Lot #78	Murphy Town Commercial building 6,500 sq. ft. Lot #70	Murphy Town Vacant Land 11,277 sq. ft. Lot #78B

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Random Notes

By Mirella Santillo

Total Eclipse of the Moon

Around midnight on October 28 there was a total eclipse of the moon. The moon was full and its edges a dark red around the black circle! Surely the Ancients would have seen a sign in such a happening!

Hope Town

The annual Hope Town Art and Craft show hosted by the Hope Town Harbour Lodge will be held this year on November 26. Mark your calendars!

Great Cistern

Information on the progress of the Murphy Town - Great Cistern Road, rumored to be paved on September 1, 2004, is unavailable at present time. The Ministry of Works and Bahamas Hot Mix are not sure of when the works will start.

After the two hurricanes, that road which was bad before, is now worse than the trail to Hole-in-the-Wall!

Most of the Great Cistern area is now inhabited mostly by Bahamians and permanent residents who go to town everyday to work or take the children to school. Imagine the damages to their cars!

However, on October 24 mysterious piles of fill were deposited along the road, but

no one so far has claimed responsibility for it! Perhaps one of the resident has taken upon himself to take care temporarily of the problem!

Marsh Harbour Phone Service

Most of the Marsh Harbour area has regained the use of their telephone service quickly. However, miscellaneous areas in greater Marsh Harbour and some of Murphy Town, Great Cistern and Casuarina Point are still not reconnected. Several attempts to find out more about the problems and the length of time the service will be discontinued have remained unanswered by Batelco.

Pinewoods Nursery

By Jennifer Hudson

Pinewoods Nursery received its share of damage meted out by the two hurricanes as plants were blown over and the area flooded. All their annuals were lost but the other plants are expected to recover within six months. In order to cater to the needs of their customers who will be replanting their gardens to replace the plants which they lost, Randy and Emily Key are trying to restock as quickly as possible and have placed a large order with their suppliers.

Many palms have been ordered including Alexander and Christmas Palms. Also on order are large quantities of hibiscus, bougainvillea and oleander.

Priest Visits

By Isobel Sherman

On October 24 worshippers at St. Frances de Sales Church were surprised when they came for mass to see Father Stan Kolassa as the celebrant. Father Stan had been priest at St. Frances for over 11 years before leaving two years ago for an assignment in Massachusetts.

While only here for the weekend Father Stan had celebrated mass at St. Andrews in Treasure Cay and on Sunday celebrated

mass at St. Francis de Sales, the service in Hope Town, a Creole mass at St. Frances on Sunday afternoon and mass at the Bahama Star Farm in treasure Cay later on Sunday afternoon. All parishioners were happy to see Father Stan once again.

Self Drive Cars Unavailable

By Jennifer Hudson

Visitors to the island hoping to rent a car are being greatly disappointed to find that there are no self drive cars available on the island. I spoke to a couple this past week who were here for a few days and immediately upon arrival they were told that they

Please see **Potpourri**

Page 19



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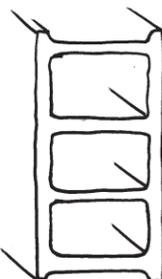
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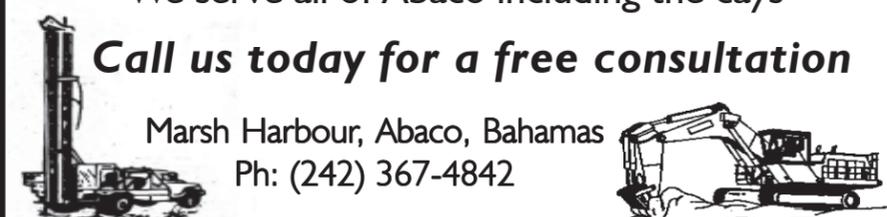
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Port Department

Public Notice

**TO ALL
COMMERCIAL BOAT OPERATORS**

Re: STCW MARITINE TRAINING

Please be advised that due to the consecutive occurrences of Hurricane Frances and Jeanne, the Port Department has decided to extend the deadline for S.T.C.W. certification until March 31, 2005.

Additionally, S.T.C.W. training is rescheduled to commence January 3, 2005.

Any additional information will be publicized as it becomes available.

Captain Cyril A. Roker
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Potpourri

From Page 18

would be unable to rent a vehicle. All the cars are currently being used by the insurance adjusters who are working here since the hurricanes and also the many residents whose vehicles have been under water as a result of the hurricane flood waters and are therefore no longer serviceable.

This situation will not be eased until the adjusters have completed their work and car owners have received their insurance settlements so that they are able to purchase new vehicles.

School

From Page 17

age. The scheduled first day of school, September 4, was postponed to the 8th of that month; a fifth day was lost during Jeanne.

There was no power for only two days, and telephone service was restored immediately.

Forest High is the host of 146 student, grade 7-12, and 10 teachers, Bahamians, Canadians, and Americans.

Mr. Paul Vernall is the Principal, Ms.

Tanya McDonald, the Secretary.

School fees are: \$ 3,135 grades 7-9 \$ 3,575 grades 9-12

Abaco Central High School: No information pertinent to the number of students and teachers is available at present time, or to this school year curriculum.

Besides the regular schools, two special learning establishments help children who need a slower pace to develop their learning faculties.

The Cyber Learning Center, on Don Mackay Blvd takes care of ten students,

grade 3- 8.

The principal is Mrs Sharon Green; she teaches along with Mr. Keith Green. The children are taught the normal curriculum for those grades, but at a slower pace. They learn computer skills and world geography at a more detailed level. The center reopened September 13; the school year will be extended till the end of June, overlapping the summer program that usually starts the second week of June. Physical

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