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VOLUME 13, NUMBER 3, FEBRUARY 1st, 2005

Four Pastors Were Honoured for Long Service Freeport Held Service for Pastors Serving 30 Years

By Mirella Santillo

On January 2, 2005, the first Ecumenical Pastoral Appreciation Service took place in Freeport, Grand Bahama. Four pastors from Abaco were rewarded for at least 30 years of Gospel Ministry.

They were Rev. Dr. Allan Mills, Pastor David Ronald Cartwright, Rev. Copeland Morley and Bishop Roland Swain. After songs, prayers and introductions, the Pastors were rewarded by a banquet and entertainment.

Rev. Dr. Mills was born in Cedar Harbour, where he attended All Age School. During his youth, he was a frequent visitor of Cooper's Town, where he regularly attended Sunday School. There he met his wife, Movena Edgecombe. They married in 1948.

Rev. Mills ventured in the field of carpentry, at which he became very skilled and later on, added the profession of fisherman. Rev. Mills was brought up as a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church under the guidance of his father, the late Rev. Robert Mills. After his marriage Dr. Mills assumed the role of Sunday School teacher, and one year later he was appointed by his father to the position of Preaching Elder. Under his ministry, the one room wooden Ebenezer Bap-

Please see **Pastors**

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An appreciation service held in Freeport on January 2 honoured pastors serving 30 years or more. This included four pastors from Abaco. Shown left to right are Rev. Copeland Morley, Rev. Dr. Allan Mills, Rev. Roland Swain and Pastor David Cartwright. In front are Mrs. Morley and Mrs. Swain.

Teachers Stage a Sit-In

By Portia Jonsson

"Today, enough is enough," said James Richard, schoolteacher at S.C. Bootle High School and union shop steward. "We have been very patient waiting for repairs since November and today, enough is enough." On January 20th at 11 a.m. the students of S.C. Bootle High School were dismissed due to all 25 teachers at the school halting classes

to stage a "sit-in."

Mr. Richard advised that they have been trying to get the attention of the Ministry of Education for a long time and are prepared to sit-out until they see some repairs at the school. They need to see that the Ministry is taking an active role in their area.

Please see **Sit-In**

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PTA President Inspects School



Mr. Leonard Edgecombe, President of the PTA of Abaco Central High School, inspected the school with a group of parents to view the damages to the school that have not been repaired since the hurricanes of Septemeber. Broken windows, no electricity, no ceilings and a general aura of disrepair are demoralizing for the students and teachers. Lessons cannot be learned effectively in dark classrooms with a cold wind blowing through.

Red Cross Sends Relief Supplies



The International Red Cross sent several containers of relief supplies for victims of Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne. Shown are five gallon buckets for drinking water. Other supplies included tarpaulins, family sanitation kits, blankets, food items and water. The funding for the supplies came from the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid. The women distributing the supplies are Ms. Muriam Fredericks, volunteer; Ms. Sheila Thornton of the International Red Cross from the U.S.; Ms. Barbara Johnson, group leader of the Red Cross on Abaco; and Shannals Johnson, volunteer.

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NEMA Officials Give Status of Relief Efforts

By Mirella Santillo

On January 10 Mr. Jack Thompson, Director of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) on Abaco, held a press conference to announce the extension of some duty free programs until March 31, 2005, and to report on the progress of that organization regarding the distribution of goods and the completion of the houses allocated to the victims of the hurricanes. Mr. Thompson opened his address by thanking the members of the press for keeping the public informed of the actions of the recovery team.

Eight houses have been completed for South Abaco, six in North Abaco and the keys handed out to the owners. Twenty-five more are under construction (some nearing completion) and 20 additional houses are planned. The cost of each house is estimated to be between \$30,000 and \$60,000 depending on the size and any problems encountered during demolition or construction. Altogether over \$1 million is involved.

Mr. Thompson continued that 1,142 construction vouchers were given out on Abaco to help people with repairs. Those vouchers were for materials only. In some cases, such as for senior citizens, labor or technical assistance was also considered. As of December 10, 2004, NEMA stopped issuing vouchers.

Abaco presented a challenging situation for the Ministry of Works because the damage extended to so many different areas, and the delays in receiving supplies from Florida were long. According to Mr. John Schaeffer, Area Engineer for the Ministry of Works, "Three trailers of sheet rock were on hold for several weeks in West Palm Beach, and two of those were wet and unusable when they arrived here." Cement was hard to get causing completion delays, especially on Moore's Island, but he stated, "Under the circumstances, things have gone well so far."



NEMA officials held a meeting on January 10 to inform the public of the status of government relief efforts on Abaco. They were Ms. Charlemae Fernander of Social Services; Mr. Roderick Bowe, Administrator for South Abaco; Mr. Neil Campbell, Deputy Director for NEMA for Abaco; Mr. Jack Thompson, Director of NEMA for Abaco; Mr. Ricky Smith, Deputy Relief Coordinator for North Abaco; Mr. Donald Cash, Administrator for North Abaco, and Mr. John Schaeffer, area engineer.

The second reason for the press conference was to inform everyone of the extension of the duty free exemption for the general public, for hotels and tourist attractions and for farmers and fishermen until March 31, 2005. Further information on what is covered under the new Declarations of Exigencies 7, 8, and 9 respectively can be obtained from Mr. Thompson's office. He reminded the public that every new application received now must go to Nassau for approval, and all person wishing to apply must have a NEMA endorsed form. This decision was taken to eliminate abuse of the system. Special consideration will be given to the import of things that have already been purchased but are coming late.

The Declarations, dated December 30, 2004, and signed by the Hon. Perry G. Christie, Minister of Finance, stated, "Where any abuse or misuse of goods imported under this Declaration is observed, the goods may be seized and disposed of in accordance with Section 83 of the Customs Management Act." This paragraph was

emphasized by the Superintendent of Customs on Abaco, Mr. Gary Smith, who said, "The Customs Department was concerned with some level of fraud, especially with vehicle imports. So far, duty free approval has been granted for 75 vehicles. Condemned vehicles to be replaced with duty free ones must not be seen on the roads!"

The repair of roads and bridges on the coastal areas in North and Central Abaco was mentioned by Mr. Ricky Smith, Deputy Relief Coordinator for North Abaco, as needing attention.

Mrs. Charlemae Fernander, Chief Welfare Officer with the Department of Social Services, related the positive experiences she had while working in the community. She commended the support she received from various organizations such as the Defense Force, whose members helped with the assessment of damage and the distribution of supplies. She said that the hurricanes helped her to get in touch with the people of Abaco and better assess their needs. The

Please see **NEMA** Page 22



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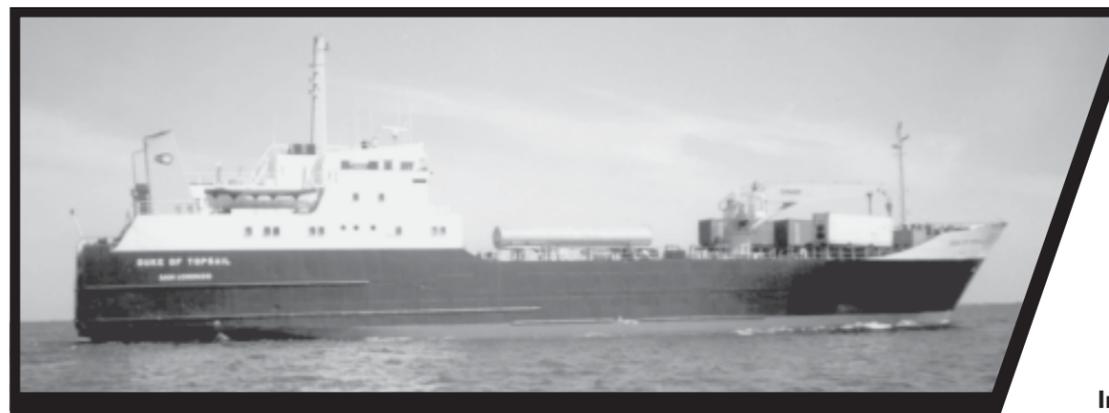
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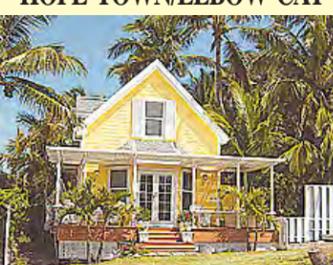
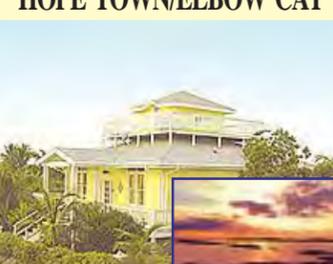
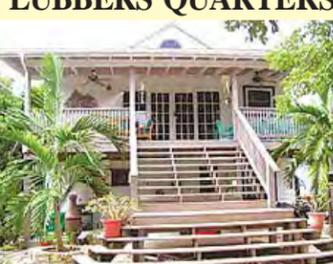
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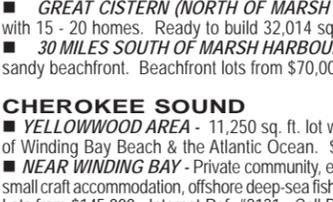
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<p>HOPE TOWN/ELBOW CAY</p> 	<p>"TILLOO CUT"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet Ref. #1671 Dorros Cove Subdivision 3 bed 2 bath 1700 sq. ft. traditional island home Fireplace and A/C Almost 1 acre landscaped Panoramic ocean view Private dock slip Fully furnished Excellent value <p>Reduced \$878,000 Kerry Sullivan: 242-366-0040</p>	<p>HOPE TOWN/ELBOW CAY</p> 	<p>"DEMWELLS"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet Ref. #1828 2 bed 2.5 bath island home Two storey with covered porch and balcony Cozy interior with V-joint cypress wood Open living/dining rooms Elevated wood deck at the rear - great for BBQ Lush native foliage <p>\$420,000 Jane Patterson: 242-366-0569</p>	<p>BAHAMA PALM SHORES</p> 	<p>SOUTH OF MARSH HARBOUR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet Ref. #2322 2 bed 2.5 bath main house Wrap around verandahs 1b/1b furnished rental cottage 20 kw Generator 100 ft. x 150 ft. property MINUTES WALK TO 8 MILE BEACH PRICE REDUCED MOTIVATED SELLER NEW PRICE \$355,000 <p>Donna Darville: 242-367-5046</p>
<p>HOPE TOWN/ELBOW CAY</p> 	<p>"TAHITI HAI"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet Ref. #1640 Dorros Cove Subdivision Newly renovated 4b/2b Central A/C Wrap around porch Sea to sea views Separate gardener's apt. 1/2 Acre & dock access Near Tahiti Beach <p>Price Reduced \$895,000 Kerry Sullivan: 242-366-0040</p>	<p>LUBBERS QUARTERS</p> 	<p>TURNKEY HOME & APT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet Ref. #2425 Charming 2 bed 2 bath fully furnished home Stainless steel kitchen appliances & central A/C Ground floor studio apt. with built-in sofas, beds, kitchen & bath Lush tropical flora 200' from sandy beach <p>\$385,000 Laurie Schreiner: 242-366-3143</p>	<p>TREASURE CAY</p> <p>NEW LIST-</p> 	<p>CHARMING FAMILY HOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet Ref. #2557 3 bed 2 bath residence 1,800 sq. ft. living space Sunken living room Two central a/c units Cable TV & laundry room Beautiful enclosed landscaped 80' x 140' lot, large fruit trees Adjacent vacant 80' x 140' lot - priced separately <p>\$265,000 Stan Sawyer: 242-365-8198</p>
<p>DICKIES CAY</p> 	<p>DICKIES CAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional island retreat on small isle across from Man O'War Cay. Three bedrooms with ensuite baths, boat ramp, 100-foot dock equipped with 10,000 lb. boatlift with covered roof and electricity. <p>Reduced \$1,100,000. Ref. #2288 Donna Darville: 242-367-5046</p>	<p>CHEROKEE</p> 	<p>CHEROKEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nestled in the hills, is this cozy 2 bed 1 bath cottage. Fully furnished, 10,000 gal. watertank. One acre of prime property. Deeded beach access, elevations in the area 100' plus. Motivated owners. \$375,000. Ref. #2246 <p>Donna Darville: 242-367-5046</p>	<p>NORTH ABACO</p> 	<p>NORTH ABACO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WATERFRONT - Large 110' x 200' lot with partially completed 40' x 36' home. Breathtaking ocean views overlooking Ambergris Cay and Bonefish Cay. Asking \$120,000. #2383 <p>Donna Darville: 242-367-5046</p>

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BUILDING SITES

<p>HOPE TOWN/ ELBOW CAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DORROS COVE - Lot #13 with dock slip and Atlantic views. Walk to Tahiti Beach. \$250,000. Internet Ref. #2344 NEW! LUCAYOS SUBDIVISION - 1/4 acre lot in quiet well wooded community with shared dock. Call for Kerry Sullivan for further details. \$119,000. Ref. #2588 	<p>MARSH HARBOUR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GREAT ABACO CLUB - Canal lot #8 with 50+ feet on the water and unobstructed view of the Sea of Abaco. Sea wall and deep water. Underground utilities, easement allows utility services to be brought to the boat slip. \$299,000. Internet Ref. #2102 Call Kerry Sullivan: 366-0040
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<p>TILLOO CAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TILLOO BEACH SUBDIVISION - Hillside interior lots with shared dock starting at \$85,000. One lot left with deep water for private dock - \$197,500. Int. Ref. #1836. TILLOO CAY - SEA TO SEA - 3 3/4 acres - \$715,000. Int. Ref. #1884 	<p>NORTH ABACO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WATERFRONT - Large 110' x 200' residential lot. \$41,000. Internet Ref. #2384

S.T.C.W. Maritime Training Begins

By Jennifer Hudson

In mid-December the Port Department issued a Public Notice to all commercial boat operators informing that the S.T.C.W. Maritime Training Course would begin on January 10th, 2005. The period between January 10th and February 5th will accommodate mariners in the Central District, Cherokee and the cays, the next period from February 7th to 11th will be for the Southern District, Moore's Island, Castaway Cay, Crossing Rocks and Sandy Point and finally from February 14th to 26th will be for the Northern District, Treasure Cay, Grand Cay and Walkers Cay.

The deadline for certification is March 31st, 2005, for anyone wishing to obtain a Class B license. Boat licences will not be renewed without certification of having passed this course. This I.M.O approved

course is mandatory only for commercial boat operators such as ferry operators, bone fishermen and offshore fishermen and not for private boat owners.

"Initially," pointed out Capt. Cyril Roker, Officer in Charge of the Port Department on Abaco, "The S.T.C.W. Training was only designed for seafarers involved in foreign trade but it worked very well so the Port Department decided to extend it to all commercial boat owners."

He went on to say that the course being offered now has been downscaled a little but encompasses all the vital safety measures such as first aid, CPR, fire fighting, crowd control management and survival techniques. "The primary objective," he says, "Is safety first, as an accident would affect the whole community and would be very damaging to the tourism industry."

This certification will be recognized

worldwide and only a few of the Caribbean countries can offer this programme. Every country is responsible for training its own people.

Originally persons requiring certification were expected to travel to Nassau or the United States. However, since this is a week-long course and participants would have the inconvenience and expense of accommodation, the Port Department is now bringing officers of the Royal Bahamas Defense Force to Abaco to conduct the course here. Capt. Roker stressed that this course is separate and apart from the functions of the Port Department.

Although the training is required by the Port Department, the department itself cannot offer the training; hence it is bringing in Defense Force personnel who are the only persons qualified to teach this course. In addition to classroom sessions, practical classes will include simulated fires and the overturning of life rafts with many people

to be rescued.

After March 31st any persons needing to take the course will have to do so in Nassau or in the U.S. as this will be the only time the course is offered on Abaco. "This will be A ONE TIME TRAINING and the course does not have to be completed annually as some people believed. However, it may be necessary after five years to do a further course depending on the international safety level," stressed Capt. Roker.

A large number of people are expected to take this course as there are presently 260 Boat Masters on file on Abaco who will need to become certified in order to renew their licenses. In addition, there will be other crew members wishing to take the course.

"Presently," said Capt. Roker, "Ferries

Please see **Training**

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The S.T.C.W. Maritime Training Course is being offered several times on Abaco to allow all those with a Master's license to qualify for future licenses. The week-long course is being offered several times in Central Abaco and will be offered in North and South Abaco as well. Mr. Anthony Rivers of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force is the instructor.

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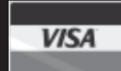
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ENTREES

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Abaco Outboard Engines

Union President Visits S.C. Bootle High School

Mr. Kingsley L. Black, President of the Bahamas Union of Teachers, visited S.C. Bootle High School in Cooper's Town on January 18th. He was there with union officers Ms. Adeltis Bain-Stubbs, Vice President, and Mr. Byron Small, Area Vice President for New Providence. They were joined by Ms. Chantell Cox, a teacher at the adjacent Cooper's Town Primary School who is a union trustee, and Senior Master Kevin Hepburn. They met behind closed doors with 22 of the 24 teachers who are members of the union. According to Mr. James Richard, a science teacher at S.C. Bootle, they discussed the lack of repair work to the roofs and structure of the school

since Hurricanes Francis and Jeanne nearly four months ago.

The greatest damage occurred to the science, home economics, woodworking, social studies and Spanish classrooms. The science and home economics classes are still without roofs. They are just bare rafters open to the sky and the elements. After a recent rainstorm, puddles of water gathered in pools on the tile floor and desks and walls were soaking wet. The woodworking classroom has a roof but no electricity. All woodworking tools were destroyed by the salt water storm surge during the hurricanes. Every piece of equipment rusted to a halt.

The home economics classroom has no



Kingsley Black

sinks, no stoves, no refrigerators, no desks, no roof and no electricity. The social studies and Spanish classrooms have partial roofs, but no windows and no doors.

The weather had turned cold

on the day that Mr. Black and his associates visited, cold and windy. Children were huddling in their winter coats and sweaters while the wind whistled through the open doors and windows, trying to concentrate on what their teachers were saying, trying to see in the darkened rooms. Teachers were seen moving from class to class between sessions carrying their books and lesson plans because so many rooms were unusable. What once was the library now doubles as a classroom, leaving students without study resources.

According to Mr. Richard, the tone the teachers conveyed to the union heads was that they have waited long enough. They

are ready to see repair work and construction completed at the school. The lack of classrooms is a key issue.

Mr. Black said that the delay in repairs to the school almost denies the students the ability to take their exams. Their BGCSE course work is due in April and the practical aspects of the exams in Science and Home Economics cannot be prepared for because of the lack of classrooms and equipment. He said, "Students are sitting in cold classrooms with no windows and no doors. Given the commitment of the students and the teachers, they merit a better response from the government."

Mr. Black continued that he had spoken to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education that morning and appraised him of the situation. The teachers were very concerned about the state of repairs and work to be done to bring the school back to its former state. "The teachers," he said, "feel neglected, let down. They expected that the Ministry of Education would have accelerated the state of work in order to reduce the fallout to the students. Work

Please see **Black**

Page 22



Mr. James Richard and Ms. Tina Roberts, both teachers at S.C. Bootle High School, lift a plastic sheet which covers the open windows. This classroom is just one of many that was destroyed by the hurricanes. The roof has yet to be repaired. Teachers and students are frustrated that the damage inflicted by the hurricanes of September is still not repaired.

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Damaged School Frustrates Staff and Students

Sit-In *From Page 1*

Four months after Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne passed through Abaco, the classrooms at S.C. Bootle are still in shambles. There is mold on the walls, missing windows and doors, holes in the roofs, no electricity and the raccoons and rats have sought refuge in the classrooms. The teachers have been holding classes outside under trees and in corridors. The science lab, mathematics and home economics classrooms still lie in ruins.

Ms. Farquharson, food and nutrition teacher, said the students will have to be bused to Treasure Cay to hold their classes along with all their equipment including mixers and blenders. She doesn't mind doing it, she says, if she knows an end is in sight. She is only concentrating on students sitting the BJC and BGCSE examinations and advise that the other students will have no food and nutrition class for the whole school year.

Mr. Kingsley Black, President of the Bahamas Teachers Union, visited the school on January 18, met with the teachers and supports them in the "sit-in." They have

spoken with Mr. Rudolph Smith, District Superintendent, Ministry of Education, who is aware of the situation.

Ms. Tina Roberts, assistant union shop steward, said it is very discouraging and depressing for teachers to have to come into these classrooms to teach. While the music room has been condemned, it is still being used as a classroom because it has a roof. Ms. Roberts said despite being cold inside and missing windows and doors, it is used for maths, English and science.

The students are as upset as the teachers and complain that the windy cold conditions over the past weeks have been horrible for them in the classrooms. They cannot go to the classrooms because of the rain coming in the open windows, doors and roofs. They also worry about not being prepared for the BJC's and BGCSE's.

Mr. Richard explains that the teachers are doing this not to hurt the 300 students at the school but so that education on Abaco is improved. They are tired of working in these conditions and would like to get back to the business of teaching. "We need to move forward not backward."

A PTA meeting was scheduled for late in January.



Students of S.C. Bootle High School board the bus to return home at 11 a.m. on January 20 after teachers staged a sit-in at the school. The staff is hoping to pressure the government to make repairs to the badly damaged school.

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The Editor Says . . . The Plight of our Schools



Dave Ralph

Four months have passed since two hurricanes hit us and the repairs to government buildings are still mired in the bureaucratic process. Although civil servants in government buildings are inconvenienced, they are not burdened to the same extent as our 900 high school students and several hundred primary school students. However, cold windy weather brought hardships the teachers and students were not able to tolerate.

The public schools were pressured to open as soon as possible after the hurricanes so the students could resume their studies. To this end, minimal repairs were made, debris was swept out and classes were held wherever space permitted. Getting the students back in class satisfied the immediate goals of the education system. Parents breathed a sigh of relief as their children went back to school even though school conditions were somewhat crude.

Roofs were missing on several build-

ings in Cooper's Town at S.C. Bootle High School and Cooper's Town Primary School. Abaco Central High School in Marsh Harbour kept its roof but had leaks due to missing shingles. The electricity was off in most buildings on all these campuses due to the physical damage and water intrusion.

Power was finally turned on to the last block of rooms at Abaco Central High School on January 14, approximately four months after the last storm.

Government schools use jalousie windows fitted with solid aluminum louvers. When closed these are supposed make the windows vandal- and storm-resistant. Closing the louvers in stormy and windy weather stops the natural light from coming into the rooms. This is not a big issue when the electricity is on. However, with the power off the rooms are very dark if the slats are closed and are poorly lit with the slats open.

Repairing the windows has been an ongoing exercise for local government since it came into being eight years ago. Several times repair contracts have been let to repair the Abaco Central High School windows for \$5,000 - \$7,000. Vandalism is the main cause of window troubles. However, the two hurricanes caused extensive window damage which has not yet been corrected.

Broken windows in the sub-tropics are not generally a big issue except for an occasional rain storm. However, recent cold fronts brought the discomfort level to a head as there was nowhere to dodge the cold winds blowing through the dark classrooms. At least one can pretend it is warm when the lights are on.

Roof and electrical repairs began last

fall but soon stopped when the contractors were not paid. Money had not been budgeted for these repairs and bills could not be paid. The contractors went home and looked after clients who paid them.

It should be noted here that the reasonably quick response to those persons who lost their homes or suffered extensive damage was facilitated with non-government funds donated specifically for humanitarian aid. Government and commercial buildings did not qualify for this assistance. Government does not hold funds in reserve waiting for a disaster. Budgets must be examined and money reallocated from other projects. Unfortunately, the machinery of government lumbers along a predetermined path and does not sift gears quickly to accommodate major repairs from disasters. Two hurricanes within a month strained the system.

The private sector is much more nimble and able to accommodate changing conditions. The business community repaired its physical damages quickly and resumed operations.

This was true for the private schools in the area which made repairs and returned to the work of educating their students in a pleasant environment. At the private schools, graffiti is not seen and there is green grass, flowers and attractive landscaping. Compare the appearance of our private schools to the two government high schools which give a stark impression. It is quite a contrast.

Recently, the teacher's union in Nassau was contacted and representatives came to see the deplorable situation in Cooper's Town for themselves. As a result, students there were dismissed as the teachers staged a sit-in to draw government's attention to school problems.

At this same time PTA in Marsh Harbour toured the Abaco Central High School with a group of parents to see the

conditions their children were coping with. As a result both Abaco schools were featured on page one of the Nassau newspapers. Repairs begun and abandoned months ago have just resumed.

Education is often mentioned by politicians as the solution to the challenges we face from global competition. Even the thought of joining the regional Caribbean Single Market Economy (CSME) as a full fledged member has our politicians nervous.

Joining the CMSE gives the prospect of hundreds of better educated, professional people from other Caribbean countries coming to The Bahamas and displacing or competing with Bahamians. Education is talked about as our main defense to compete either globally or even closer to home. But our educational system is not responsive. Scholastic achievement throughout the Bahamas is universally deplorable.

School buildings do not make an educated person. However, they are a necessary part of the education process. Pleasant surroundings and working conditions lead to better moral and better academic results.

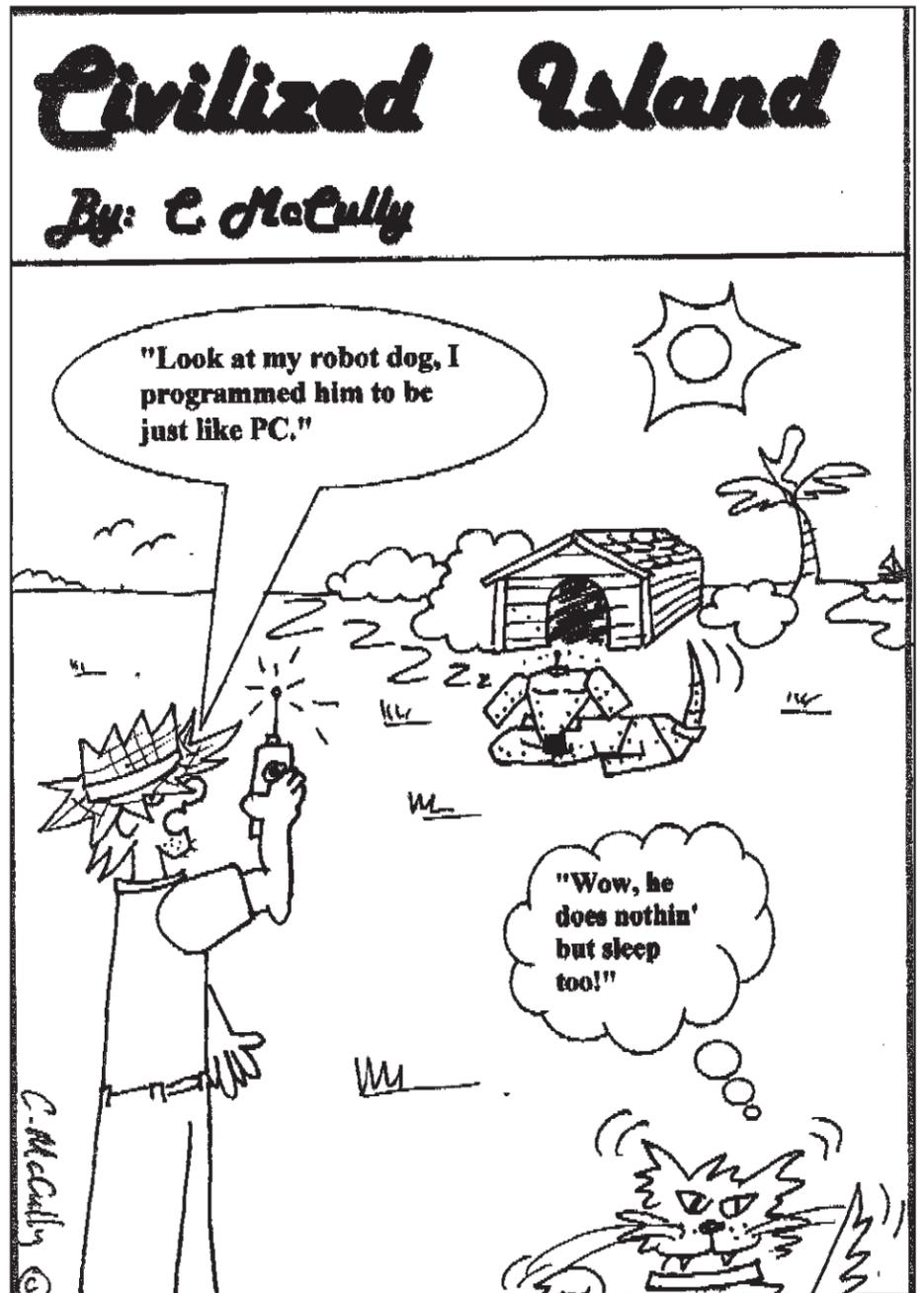
When we as a society do not value education enough to provide an adequate place for our students to learn, what is the real message we are conveying? If we can't have well constructed, comfortable buildings for our youth, the students are getting the subtle message that education is not an important element of their life.

Family Island schools have many shortcomings but roofs, electricity, windows and doors should not be an issue. It does not bode well for the system when parents, teachers and students must rebel before minimal standards are provided.

If roofs and windows are not important, what should we expect of the curriculum?



These roof rafters were put in place in October when work stopped on construction. Work has just resumed. This was a Food and Nutrition room so cabinets and counters will have to be built. Appliances will have to be purchased and installed. Students wanting to take their BGCSE examinations this spring will not be able to complete the practical which is part of their grade.



The Abaconian

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Letters to the Editor

Old Friends Return

Dear Editors,

My wife and I have recently returned to Hope Town for a few weeks and have been able to catch up with some of "Life in the Abacos" through past issues of *The Abaconian*. We especially appreciated the coverage of the St. James's Hope Town Christmas production, and it was kind of Dr. Larry Beachy to mention our involvement with it.

"Time flies when you're having fun" and I would just add that this began not six years ago as stated, but 11 years ago. After a year in Marsh Harbour we came to work in Hope Town in 1994 at the invitation of St. James' Methodist Church, especially with children and young people. Our years of experience teaching in England, London and Leicester and in Nassau enabled us to introduce new materials into worship fully involving the children and also to begin the Christmas productions. Help was given by many people, both by local families and visitors. About a year later our church children decided to give special help to the Bilney Lane Children's Home in Nassau, and the Christmas production became part of this.

Later, when the Bahamas government took responsibility for basic financing of the homes, the Bahamas Methodist Church began various "Joel Projects" and the St. James' Church response was to the Orphan's Annual Summer Camp through continued weekly collections and the Christmas production. I believe this year's show raised \$1900 - amazing!

Much hard work was needed but we found a great source of talent and enthusiasm among Hope Town's young people, and we felt privileged to share in developing and guiding this, along with other co-workers. The fact that it continues and grows four years after our return to England speaks for itself, and we congratulate the Hope Town community for their wonderful achievements. For us it is a joy to meet those youngsters with whom we worked in the early years, many now at work or at university preparing to serve The Bahamas in the future, a credit to their community.

Some things have turned full circle. A month ago in Leicester, England, our church put on *The Christmas Lamb*, performed a couple of years ago in Hope Town. Oh, that we had the same talent and skills available to us! As always we adopt and adapt. We rejoice in the people who have shared their lives with us. God bless them, every one. And bless you, too.

Glyn and Jacqui Haines

Hope Town and Leicester, England
mailto:haines@dowson.com

The Bethel Family Remembered

Dear Editor,

This photograph of Victor and Viola Bethel was taken in August, 1969 by the Hicks family (Clifford, Rachael, Doug and



Victor and Viola Bethel of Guana Cay showed outstanding hospitality to visitors back in the 1960s. Those visitors still remember their friendly attitude and helpful ways to this day.

Gary) who then lived in Elmhurst, Illinois. Your parents were our hosts for one of our favorite vacations spent snorkeling, fishing and exploring. Mr. and Mrs. Bethel took great care of us, renting us a small house and a boat (with a leaky gas tank!) supplying groceries from their tiny store, lobster tails and (most importantly!) an endless supply of Mrs. Bethel's wonderful homemade bread. Memories of the trip include the beautiful reefs, the incredible white sand beaches, visiting the lighthouse on Elbow Cay, hermit crab races on the kitchen table, peeping frogs on the window sill and hearing Mr. Bethel shout a ten-minute warning before turning the generator off each evening.

I recently had the good fortune to return to Guana Cay with my family for the first time in 35 years. It was a thrill to see that the reefs were still healthy and gorgeous and to have the opportunity to meet several members of your family as well as to pay my respects at Victor and Viola's gravesites. You are blessed to live in a very special place and it makes me happy to see the Guana Grocery is still in the capable hands of the Bethel family. Thank you very much for taking the time to reminisce with my family. We will definitely be back for another visit... And this time it won't take us 35 years!

Gary Hicks
Atlanta, Georgia

The Airport Is a Disgrace

Dear Editor

The Marsh Harbour International Airport is a national disgrace. It was too small when it was built 20 years ago primarily for BahamasAir. It is now the second busiest airport in the Bahamas with 16 scheduled airlines well as hundreds of private and charter flights.

I have been writing letters for years to the proper authorities and have participated in countless meetings and planning sessions — through two changes in government administrations! I now have lost my patience and seek the help of the media.

I think I speak for all Abaconians when I say I am ashamed and embarrassed of Marsh Harbour International Airport. We all are tired of the proposed plans and broken promises.

What message are we sending to our visitors, our bread and butter? Welcome, thank you for spending you money here! We can't even offer them a seat or a space for their bags as they wait for their flights. Passengers have to push and shove and trip over each other's bags to reach an undersized counter. They often have to wait for hours standing up in stifling, crowded conditions or outside in the sun or rain.

Sir Stafford Sands, the father of tourism for the Bahamas, often said that the first and lasting impression a visitor get after arriving in our country was from three sources: Immigration, Customs and taxis. The Marsh Harbour airport is ruining any chances of anyone else making a good impression no matter how hard they try.

Think about it — the hot, crowded airport terminal lounge is the last memory of their Abaco visit. To think how hard we all work, from taxi drivers to hotel front desk clerks to wait staff and bartenders, shop owners, fishing guides, etc. to ensure our tourists have a fabulous stay and come back and the Marsh Harbour International Airport is sabotaging all the good deeds and hard

work of the Bahamian people. I can't forget the dedicated airline employees and bag handlers that are working in sub-human conditions day in and day out. This is ridiculous and the situation has to change - immediately!

We have over 1,000 hotel rooms/rental cottages and another 1,000 marina slips just in Marsh Harbour, Hope Town, Man-O-War and Guana Cay. We are growing in leaps and bounds and the airport needs to be a part of this expansion.

The other big issue for me, a retired pilot, is the safety. Fortunately, we have the best flying conditions in the world. But there is too much uncontrolled air traffic vying for the same short, rut-pocked runway that also serves as the only taxi way. It is barbaric and only by the Grace of God have we not killed anyone or been shut down by the U.S. Department of Aviation as unsafe!

In my experienced opinion, it is just a matter of time before we have a serious accident, and I will take no pleasure in saying, "I told you so."

Mash Harbour International needs another passenger terminal, taxi way and a control tower. No more proposals! No more promises! DO IT NOW, before it's too late.

Sincerely,
Leonard M. Thompson
Retired Pilot, Hotelier, Politician
Still a Proud Bahamian

No Respect for Emergency Services

I am a member of the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire and Rescue, and it is with great concern that I am writing this letter.

Our community needs to have some respect or at least some courtesy for people when they are trying to respond to an emergency. I usually have to respond to fires in my personal vehicle and it can sometimes be one of the most frustrating things to do. No matter how many lights you have flashing or how long you blow your horn, do people try to get out of the way to let you pass? But this is not the most of it. Occasionally I have been in the fire truck and not my personal vehicle to respond to a fire and this is the good part, people don't even try to move for the fire truck.

On a more serious note, I would like to urge the people of Abaco to please be aware of those who are responding to emergency situations and show some consideration. Someday it might be you or your family that might be at risk. And this is not only

for the fire department but for all emergency services on the island. We are all just here to help as much as we can.

Thanks,
Jessica Cooke

We'll Invest Elsewhere

Dear Editor,

My family and I having been coming to Abaco for the last 10 years, specifically to Guana Cay. We dearly love Abaco and we spend a lot of money there. We were even planning to purchase a second home on Guana until we learned of the plans for the extensive development of the north end of the island, (Passerine Pass). Since we believed that these plans, if approved, would have a catastrophic effect on all aspects of the island we love so much, we put our plans on hold pending government review, hoping that they would not agree to this folly.

Now we hear that government has approved this development. Because of this it is with great regret we have decided that we no longer wish to own a home on Guana. We'll take our money and go elsewhere. We are very disappointed. This project is an irreversible loss for the people of Guana Cay specifically, but also for Abaco in general. The publicly owned land, including Joe's Creek and the surrounding estuary, that will be given to these foreign developers for the sole purpose of their making money is reprehensible and short sighted, and the Bahamian people should be outraged.

Sincerely,
Larry Martin

Time to Consider a Change

Dear Sir,

A white Prime Minister! Now that is a subject that simply will not escape my mind, no matter how I try not to think about it enough to drive me to have to write about it. Alas, I cannot block it any more, hence this letter. If you would be so kind please.

First off, allow me to make a broad statement. Anybody in this Bahamas who still thinks in the terms of yesteryear, that is to say that the PLP is the black man's party and the FNM is the white man's party, is robbing themselves of a bright and industrious future. Figure it out for yourself.

When the PLP - that is to say the "old PLP" - came to power in the late sixties, I

Please see **Letters**

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Pilot Club Donates to Thrift Shore



The Pilot Club of Abaco donated clothing to the Thrift Store sponsored by the Abaco Branch of the Cancer Society. Shown left to right are Mrs. Marjolein Scott of the Cancer Society, Ms. Donnaree Cornish, Mr. Craig Cornish and Mrs. Sharon Dorsett of the Pilot Club and Mr. Hugh Cottis, President of the Cancer Society.

Jennifer Hudson

On January 19th members of the executive committee of the Pilot Club of Abaco made a presentation of clothing to the Cancer Society of Abaco Thrift Shop. Representing the club were President, Craig Cornish; Treasurer, Sharon Dorsett; and Project Director, Donnaree Cornish.

The Cancer Society Thrift Store depends entirely upon a continuous supply of donations of clothing and housewares from the community to be able to raise the funds needed to assist cancer sufferers and carry out its other preventative programmes. The members of the Pilot Club wished to assist, so collected an amount of good quality clothing towards this end. which was gratefully received at the presentation by Hugh Cottis

and Marjolein Scott, President and Secretary of the Cancer Society.

The Pilot Club of Abaco was started seven years ago on April 22nd, 1998, and is a branch of Pilot International which was chartered in Macon, Georgia, in 1921. They are part of a global organization of approximately 500 Pilot Clubs comprised of professional individuals from all walks of life "working together to improve the quality of humanity." Their principles of "Friendship and Service" are displayed daily by Pilot members in communities throughout the world.

Although the Pilot Club's main focus is on fund-raising for brain related disorders and disabilities, they also reach out to help the local community in various other ways as is evidenced by their assistance to the Cancer Society.

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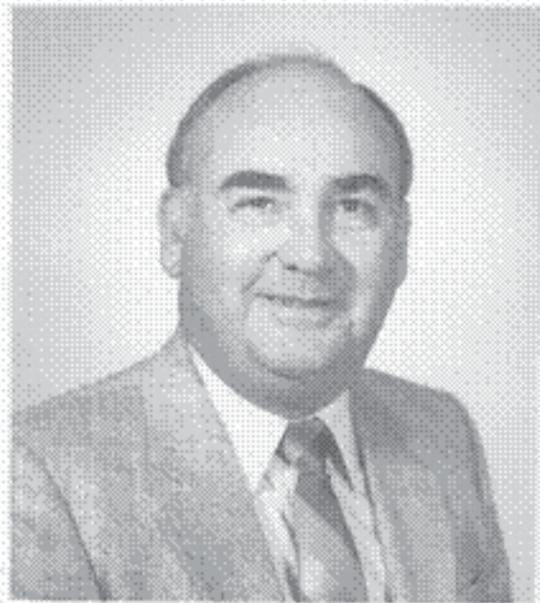
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Demand for Second Homes Continues

By Mirella Santillo

Enduring two hurricanes back to back in one month would usually make you re-think about the place you live in! After Hurricane Jeanne last September my eight years old grandson commented, "If another hurricane comes, I want to move to France. The food is good there and there are no hurricanes!" However, that thought was soon forgotten when the good weather returned.

According to reports from several real estate companies, Abaco is still a very popular place to have a second home despite the two hurricanes. Mrs. Maria Silvester, agent for Aisle of Palms Realty, was showing

properties one week after Jeanne. Mr. Brent Cartwright, the Chairman of the Bahamas Real Estate Association, Abaco Chapter, and owner of Aisle of Palms Realty said that 2004 was an amazing year. "The best since 2000," he said, "or perhaps even better. There are always affordable properties for Bahamian buyers, but by mid-year, the inventory of second homes on the market had become very low. Within a month after the hurricanes, as soon as communications were reestablished, buyers were back," he continued. "It did not seem that people had been deterred by the storms. There were a lot of inquiries during the Christmas and New Year's holidays." He

felt confident to say, "For most of Abaco's real estate companies, December was the best month of 2004." He added, "I expect 2005 to be an exceptional year."

Coldwell Banker Lightbourn Realty was closed for two weeks after Jeanne because of flooding. But, according to real estate agent, Mrs. Mailin Sands, "Business did not stop." She said, "Contrary to the company's expectations, people kept inquiring about properties and making appointments soon after communications were reestablished. The majority of these buyers are foreigners looking for second homes." Asked whether there was an increase in

property listings because of people moving after the hurricanes, she answered, "I am not aware of anyone selling their homes for that reason." She is also very optimistic for the coming year.

Mr. Derek Lee, broker for H.G. Christie Ltd Real Estate, stated, "Although the office was put out of business for six weeks because of a lack of communication and damage incurred during the hurricanes, business was back to normal by Christmas." He added, "There is a tremendous amount of business being generated by the second home owners' market." He also foresees 2005 as being a very successful year.

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Two Adults; 15 Juveniles Charged in High School Fight

By Richard E. Fawkes

Two adults and a juvenile were charged before Magistrate Crawford McKee on January 13 with carrying unlawful arms and trespassing; and 14 students, ranging in ages from 14 to 17, were charged before the juvenile panel with fighting.

The charges arose from a melee at Abaco Central High School on January 12 during which chairs, rocks and other missiles were thrown. Principal Euthal Greene summoned the police. Eleven police officers brought the fighting to a stop and arrested those Mr. Greene and his teaching staff had identified as being responsible. All those arrested and charged are male.

Brendan Evans, 23, of Dundas Town, pleaded not guilty to charges of being in possession of unlawful arms, a baseball bat, and trespassing. He was denied bail and ordered remanded until February 7 for trial. Another adult arrested at the fight was Leander Symonette, 18, also of Dundas Town, pleaded not guilty to possession of unlawful arms, a cleaver knife, a pen knife and trespassing. He, too, was denied bail and ordered remanded until trial on February 7.

A third person who is not a student at the school, a 17-year-old juvenile, was arrested and charged with carrying unlawful arms trespassing. He was granted bail in the amount of \$500 and ordered to appear for trial on February 7.

The 14 other juveniles, all students at the school, pleaded guilty to a charge of fighting on the advice of attorney Alex Maillis and their parents, in consultation with the prosecutor Sergeant Timothy Saunders. Mr. Maillis was representing one

of the youth, but took on the role of amicus curiae, or "friend of the court" in addressing the juvenile panel and Magistrate McKee on their behalf.

Mr. Maillis told the panel that, speaking in a sense of "general mitigation," some of the young men came from good homes and some from not so good homes. After discussions with them and explaining to them "strict liability" and that the law was not interested in who started what, but that if they were involved, they were responsible, he was convinced that they were thinking seriously about the consequences of their actions.

He, therefore, appealed to the panel for a "second chance" for all 14 of them. Under the law they could receive a penalty of a fine of \$150 and released on conditional probation with the understanding that if they were to come before the court again within the probation time frame, they would receive the "full weight of the law." He urged the panel to waive the requirement of a probation report.

Magistrate McKee, after consulting with the juvenile panel, ruled that although they entered a guilty plea, he was not entering a finding of guilt or a formal conviction. He said the panel did want to know about each juvenile's background. He ordered each student, therefore, to pay a cash bail of \$200 and to cooperate with social workers who will visit their homes to interview them. He ordered them to return to court on March 8 to hear the reports, after which time the juvenile panel would make its ruling.

Magistrate McKee warned the youth that should they be arrested for similar conduct before the hearing date, they would lose

their bail and be immediately remanded.

Mr. Green declined any formal statement to the press on the fight. The students arrested were subsequently suspended, three indefinitely.

ASP Wayne Miller, officer-in-charge of the Abaco district, said the arrests of the students were made to reinforce the police's zero-tolerance for violence policy, and to help the young men understand the seriousness and consequences of their behaviour. Mr. Miller offered Mr. Greene the services of his officers for regular consultation with the staff and talks with the students to help prevent future outbreaks of violent behaviour at the school.

Several young men milling about outside the court before the hearing said the incident sprang from an ongoing dispute between certain Bahamian youth and Haitian-Bahamian youth. They said a Haitian-Bahamian youth was stabbed by a Bahamian

youth, and that conflict had been brewing since then.

AA and Al Anon Meetings

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

The AlAnon group of Marsh Harbour meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Please call 357-6511 for information and location.

The AA group in Hope Town meets Mondays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the library.

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Two Fires Near Abaco Central Are "Suspicious"

By Richard E. Fawkes

Smoke and the smell of burning were still pervasive enough January 13 at Abaco Central High School to cause a number of students to request permission to go home. Two brush fires, one near the eastern fence and one between the school and the east campus, where wood-work classes are held, erupted yesterday

afternoon, requiring the attention of the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Services. "They were two separate incendiary fires," said Norwel Gordon, senior fire officer. "We could see no natural causes and strongly suspect someone or some persons started them."

Mr. Gordon said the first fire was started about 300 feet along the back road

leading from the school toward the east campus on the south side of the road. That became a forest fire burning in a south westerly direction, although it came right up to the back fence of the school where a lot of rubbish has accumulated over the years. All they could do was watch it, he said.

The second fire, Mr. Gordon said, which was started a few hours later on the south side of the same back road, after the fire personnel had left, was more serious. He said, "It was between the high school and some teachers' quarters to the east. The wind, which fortunately was not very high, could blow it either way toward the school or the teachers' houses.

We created a fire break near the houses on one side and near the school fence on the other." He said that the firemen back-burned from each side to drive the fire toward the middle and put it out.

Neither school officials nor police would speculate whether the fires might have been connected to the fight which broke out at the school on January 12, resulting in the arrest of three outsiders, including two adults and 14 students. ASP Miller, officer-in-charge of Abaco, instructed his officers to look into it.

Mr. Gordon said the volunteer fire

Please see **Fire**

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The Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire and Rescue was called out to battle two fires near Abaco Central High School on January 12 - 14. The fires started suspiciously soon after a fight at the school which the police had to break up. The firemen were involved with the fires for about 48 hours, with trucks working for many of those hours. At one point they called for the fire truck from Casuarina Point to come when the fire was near a gas station. Much of the time the fire was burning in the forest in areas which the fire trucks could not access but which allowed the fire to strengthen and spread.

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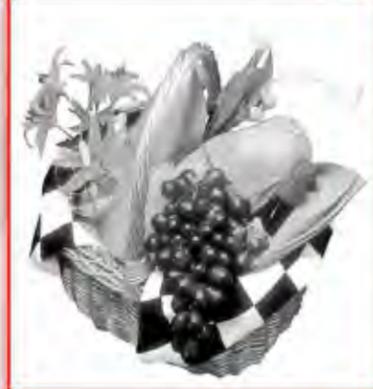
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Abaco Central High Parents Are Upset

On January 20th approximately four months after Hurricanes Francis and Jeanne trashed Abaco, Leonard Edgecombe, PTA President of the Abaco Central High School, guided a group of concerned parents on a tour of the school. They wanted to see first hand the damage to the classrooms, to re-

view what repairs had taken place and to learn what would be fixed in the near future.

They got an eyeful. On the second floor in room 14, where grade seven studies Spanish under the instruction of Mr. Audley Miller, the windows were gone.

There was no barrier to the ground one story below, not even a restraining bar. Mr. Miller said that it was "an accident waiting to happen as students can be fooling around and easily fall through."

Comments from parents making the inspection tour concluded, "This is deplorable!" "This is a disgrace!" and "They need to shut this down and fix this!"

The parents also visited the second floor biology laboratory of Michelle Bailey, the head of the science department. She lost a lot of equipment during the hurricanes including a computer and 16 microscopes, some of which were in standing water for a long time. There was no ceiling in the classroom, just open rafters through which could be seen a roof covered with mildew and mold. The formica covering desks and lab tables was lifting, the wood still damp.

The students worked hard to overcome their difficult surroundings by helping the woodworking department sand and refinish stools that had been damaged. Their morale was low because there were no lights.

According to Ms. Bailey, "The darkness depressed us the most. We couldn't see to draw or to take notes. I went outside to mark papers."

Even the Principal, Mr. Euthal Green Jr., an educator for 30 years said, "I've been in a depressed state since the hurricanes." He said that they are short staffed, lacking science and graphics communications teachers.

In addition, the students need replacement equipment for their home economic classrooms such as sewing machines and refrigerators to keep food cold. Mr. Green was worried about those students

who could not complete their work, who might not pass their exams because they lacked the equipment on which to practice.

There were many instances of windows blown out, piles of debris near the buildings (some hurricane related, some not), paint peeling off the walls and the occasional gang related graffiti.

Mr. Green said that the recently reported fight that broke out between rival gang members at the school was partly the result of tension from coping with the hurricane damage to the facility, the lack of electricity, wreckage of desks, books and notebooks in the classrooms and partly the result of external problems that happened a year or more ago and just came to a head at this time.

He is very concerned about the safety and security of children and staff at the school. He said, "People now can just drive on campus and you don't know who they are."

There are signs that the problems experienced by faculty and students may be improving. The electricity was partially restored last week and the PTA has been interested and vocal about needed changes. Principal Green said, "The steps they are taking are to improve the school. Their concern is that their children should be educated in a better environment than they are now."

Parents making the inspection included Ms. Augustine Williams, Ms. Eva Mae Sturup, Ms. Barbara Williams, Ms. Harriet Williams, Ms. Nickole Fox, Ms. Bernadette Murray and Ms. Mary Whyly.



This is one of the classrooms at Abaco Central High School which was damaged by the hurricanes in September. Reconstruction work was begun but the contractors did not complete the work because they were not getting paid. This classroom had just had the electricity restored the week before concerned parents inspected the school on January 20. Many rooms are without ceiling tiles and windows throughout the school are badly damaged, allowing wind and rain to further damage books, furniture and equipment. PTA president, Mr. Leonard Edgecombe, led a group of parents on the inspection tour.

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Student Leaders Speak Out

As quoted in the Tribune of January 22nd, the Director of Youth Against Violence, Mr. Carlos Reid, said that more than 10,000 young men are "actively involved in gangs" in The Bahamas. He said the country "is on course for a national crisis; meanwhile, we continue to play games."

Ten days ago on January 12 at Abaco Central High School there was a gang-related fight which involved "outsiders" and students. The police were called in, and the fight got ugly when weapons (including a baseball bat and a knife) were produced.

According to the Head Girl at Abaco Central High School, Allita Bain, "The fight got loud.

Everyone began running away because rocks, chairs and window louvers being thrown." By the time the fighting stopped some students were arrested, some suspended from classes and most of the rest of the student body was upset.

Collin Swain, Jr., the Head Boy, said that there are at least seven different gangs at the school whose members are primarily from distinct areas. Out of a student population of 500 it is unknown what percentage are members of gangs. The gangs are Shalin from Spring City, Mud Dogs from the Mud, Block 30 from Dundas Town, TRU (meaning Thugs R Us) origin unknown, DTG (Dundas Town Gangsters), HTG (Hope Town Gangsters) and MIA (Moore's Island Assassins). Each gang has carved out an area of the school campus that is "theirs" and they will often mark the boundaries of their territories with graffiti.

Although the principal, Mr. Euthal Green, tries to have such gang messages painted over as quickly as possible, they pop up with discouraging regularity. Although membership in the gangs is mostly boys, girls who are "associates" or "sympathizers" are part of the groups as well. Since the gangs are territorial, it follows that some gangs are made up of mostly Creole-speaking members while other gangs have mostly English-speaking members. Perhaps most ominous of all was the observation by both the Head Boy and Head Girl that the school-based gangs are affiliated with larger, adult gangs, located in their communities.

From the student perspective the proliferation of gangs at Abaco Central is the direct result of a lack of involvement by parents of students, by a weak after-school program and a lack of discipline. Collin said, "Those involved in the fight have parents who don't care about their school work and their grades. If we had an after school program where we could all come together to play more sports, to get to know one another better, there would be no fights. There are some excellent after school opportunities now," he said. "For instance, Ms. Davis, the physical education teacher, has a good sports-related program but only the motivated students attend."

Allita said, "If there were serious penalties toward fighting, not just suspension, if you sent fighting students to Boy's Industrial (now called Simpson Penn) to show them what could happen, that might

stop the violence. Now, when you are suspended, you come right back."

As far back as two and a half years ago both student leaders had been urging the administration to consider allowing the formation of a student council. "With a student council," said Allita, "We could transfer information from us to the government, to teachers, to the principal and to the parents." A student council would allow for peer groups to work through the problems experienced by students, thus possibly avoiding the buildup of tension that resulted in the gang fight a week prior.

Principal Green thinks that it is a good thing to have a student council. He will try to get one going next month after exams are completed. In his words, "Students have rights. If you want respect from students, you will need to respect them as well. The student council might be a place where students could get themselves together and train to a higher level of responsibility in the school. The quicker we can get a student council the better."



Allita Bain
Head Girl



Collin Swain, Jr.
Head Boy

Abaco Markets Ltd. Reports Loss

Abaco Markets Limited released its 2004 third quarter earnings which reflect losses from the September hurricanes. The company had to close a Solomon's store in Freeport because the building lost its roof. This contributed to third quarter earnings being \$15 million lower than planned. The company expects that 2005 sales will be impacted as well. The closed store was 50 percent of their selling space on Grand Bahama. The company's 2004 losses are expected to be \$15 million.

Dunkin' Donuts and the Turks & Caicos operations continue to post operating losses. The company will discontinue the Dunkin' Donuts operations which are unprofitable.

The company has received \$2.75 million in insurance claims and expects that the total payments will be about \$5 million.

The management is planning to develop a new Solomon's SuperCenter in Freeport.

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More Letters to the Editor

Letters

From Page 9

dare say that if I would have been of voting age and of the mind set that I have always been as an adult, I would have been one of the first ones in the polling station to mark my "X" next to the PLP candidate in my particular constituency! Yeah that's right, me, Billy Roberts, a conchy joe Bahamian, would have helped to put the PLP in office.

In my opinion, when the PLP came to office, it was a time that required change in our land. In other words, it was "time for a change." And by the same token, it was time for another change in 1992, and I was out bright and early in my polling station making sure that I would be one of those individuals who was responsible for bringing change to our land once again.

One of the greatest Bahamian politicians, if not THE greatest, was Sir Lynden Oscar Pindling. Needless to say, everybody knows that he was a black man. When he became Prime Minister of this country, it was a great historical moment for us, the greatest reason being that he was the first black Prime Minister of this country, and secondly majority rule became the rule. The UBP had failed to appeal to the hearts and minds of the black electorate, and they paid the price. Change came, and it was needed badly.

Well, as we know, history dictated that Sir Lynden's death grip on power finally came to an end, and none too soon, if I might add. He, unfortunately, in spite of all the good reasons that he came to power

on, had lost sight of the original dream. His place in history had expired. Yet, I maintain that his place in history is a necessary one, and I am not sorry that he played his part.

In the years since Sir Lynden, we now have the third black Prime Minister in our history. The second one, Hubert Ingraham, happened to represent the party that I chose to support, and the third, of course, is Perry Christie. All things considered, I don't think any level headed person can say that things have been any worse than they would have been under the leadership of a white Prime Minister.

Now, we have arrived at the place in our history where we are faced with a "white man," Brent Symonette, who is desirous of being the leader of his party and to hopefully be the Prime Minister of this country. I have to ask a dumb question: So what? Have we learned absolutely nothing? Are we really so short sighted that we are afraid of a white man being Prime Minister? Do we really believe that it is possible for a white Prime Minister to represent the needs of only the whities to the detriment of the black folks? Well, all I can say is that if you believe that, then you need to stay under the rock that you are presently living under, thereby ensuring that you will never have to deal with such a scary matter.

As far as I am concerned, the FNM is in grave need of new and effective leadership. My choice in the last election was Algernon Allen, but the powers that be obviously disagreed. Brent Symonette, by all accounts, is a very intelligent and open-minded per-

son, capable of handling a position of leadership. If he is desirous of that position, he should be given every opportunity to pursue it. I will warn the FNM of one thing right now. Please do not make the same mistake in selecting new leadership as you did the last time. A word to the wise is supposed to be sufficient I am told. We shall see.

If the next Prime Minister of my country is a white man, I will respect him the same way that I did Sir Lynden, Hubert Ingraham, and now Perry Christie. I will not expect any more than what is legal and expected, and that is, fair and decisive leadership for all Bahamians. The same goes if the next Prime Minister is a black man. Although I did not vote for the present administration, Perry Christie is still my Prime Minister. I respect him insofar as his office is concerned. I will not seek to undermine him or his authority, although I have one or two points of criticism against him. I also have a number of points of criticism for Hubert Ingraham in the way that he handled his job during the last year or so of his tenure as Prime Minister.

My point? It doesn't matter who the Prime Minister is. Either he, or she, is doing a good job, or they're not. Either he or she is deserving of my support or they are not. You see, if we can keep it all simple, it will be better for all parties concerned. I have always voted for the betterment of my country. I intend to continue to do so, whithersoever my conscience guides me. To label me an FNM is to be short sighted and uninformed. That is not to say that I didn't support the FNM, because I did. But I will not continue to do so regardless of what I perceive to be the consequences

thereof.

Finally, I would like to encourage the Christie Administration to continue to strive for excellence in their representation of the Bahamian people. Sadly, there are a few areas where they are falling down or at least fumbling. Leadership is not easy. It is, however, easy to criticise, and that is why I have remained silent for the most part when it comes to criticising the PLP. There is a code that all men and women must follow when they enjoy positions of power. When the lines of that code are crossed, it is absolutely imperative that the offending one be reprimanded. It MUST appear that everybody is equally answerable to the law and to the people. Otherwise what is the point?

God Bless The Bahamas. And may we truly strive to live together as a people and not as whites or blacks. It is so depressing to see the results of such thinking transpire across the globe. We are truly, truly blessed as a country and a people. For God's sakes, people, don't waste it!

Sincerely,
William (Billy) Roberts

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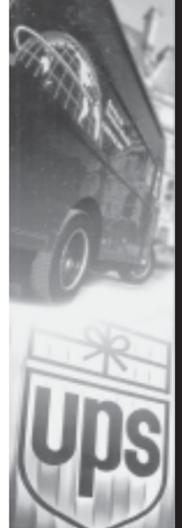
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Tsunami Fund Is Opened

The Bahamas Government has opened an account at the Royal Bank of Canada with a \$150,000 contribution to aid victims of the December 26 Asian Tsunami. The Hon. Vincent Peet, Min. of Labour and Immigration, commented, "This gift represents the good will of this nation to assist the people of those affected by the tidal

wave." Mr. Peet noted that The Bahamas received monetary support from many countries around the world after Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne which caused widespread destruction. He encouraged Bahamians to contribute to the National Tsunami Relief Fund Account. Anyone interested can contact the Royal Bank in Marsh Harbour.

Fire

From Page 15

fighters fought the blaze, which destroyed about five acres, until the evening hours and kept watch on it every 20 minutes, then every hour late into the night.

As for the forest fire, firemen were watching it to see how near the S.C. Bootle Highway it would travel before burning itself out. He was concerned about some telephone lines near the highway and informed the Bahamas Telecommunications Corporations (BTC) to monitor it.

Mr. Gordon also advised Euthal Green, the high school principal, to close the louvers on the eastern side of the building to prevent sparks entering the building. Mr. Greene told him up to the time the fire engine departed that he could not find anyone with a key to

that section of the building.

"I have always been concerned about sparks entering the high school and a fire breaking out around three o'clock in the morning," Mr. Gordon said. Mr. Gordon said that there is a brush fire near the high school's back fence area near the forest just about every year, and just about every year, "We ask the school officials to remove the tons of garbage disposed back there because that trash would prevent us from getting into position to fight a fire if it threatened the school. But nothing is ever done about it. Abaco Central High is one of the most vulnerable schools to fire because of all the trash thrown and dumped back there. And because of the threat of sparks entering the windows."

Humane Groups Receive Donations



The Sandra Evans Real Estate company donates part of every sale to humane organizations in Central Abaco. Mrs. Evans is presenting a check to Linda Giovini while Bill Thorndycraft is presenting a check to Chris Roberts. Ms. Giovini cares for and feeds many strays in Marsh Harbour while Mr. Roberts heads the Abaco Animals Requite Friends organization.

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VHF ch. 16

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Butternut Squash and Brie Cheese Soup

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or

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A layer of wildberry mousse and a layer of passionfruit mousse with a mirrored berry glaze and fresh whipped cream.

Dinner Reservations are required and Menu Selections must be made by 5:00pm Sunday 13th - Call 365-4247 or VHF ch. 16

Obituaries of Family and Friends

The funeral for James Herschel Roberts, 85, of Marsh Harbour was held in Nassau on January 5. Interment was in the Ebenezer Methodist Cemetery in Nassau.



He was predeceased by his wife, Agnes, and a daughter, Janice Collins. He is survived by his son Rudy Roberts, and daughters

Paulette Sands and Denise Calkins; grandchildren Gavin Collins, Andrew Collins, Becky Collins, Katie Collins, Tina Gibson, Wanda Knowles, Fredrica Hayling, Bruce Sands, Jay Sands, Teresa Sands, Carmen Karvonen and Cory Calkins; great grandchildren Harrison Collins, Robert Gibson, Paige Sands, Caroline Knowles, Cory Calkins and Cora Belle Calkins; sons-in-law David Collins and Peter Sands; daughter-in-law Daisy Roberts; sisters-in-law Florene Bethel and Mary Pinder; brother-in-law Easbourne Pinder and numerous nieces and nephews. He was also predeceased by his second wife Ella Felicia and her two sons, Basil and Leslie Pinder and survived by her children Annie Lowe, Sumner Pinder, Murray Pinder and Anthony Pinder. Mr. Herschel leaves behind a host of other friends and relatives.

Nigel Levi Mills, 36, of Cedar Harbour, died suddenly after a brief illness. He worked with his grandfather as a crawfisherman. He also worked as a carpenter.

Nigel is survived by his parents Rev. Dr. Allan and Movena Mills; biological mother Cynthia Brown; wife Florence; children

Devon, Nado and Nigel Jr.; sisters Tamara and Terria Brown, Paulette Nesbitt, Katherine Lynden and Stephanie Fernander; brothers Darrin Culmer, Elton and Steven Smith; and numerous other relatives and friends.

The funeral and interment of **Oscar "Tony" Livingston Knowles**, 54, of Sandy Point were held on January 22 in Nassau.

He is survived by his wife Ena Victoria Saunders Knowles; daughters Pandora Fernander and Norisa Knowles; sons Oscar, Julius and Laterio Knowles; stepchildren Lillian Rigby and Patrick Adderley; sisters Christine Lewis and Sandra Johnson; brothers Raymond Taylor, Rodney Gray and Granville Bastian; grandchildren Weniska, Wenesha, Wenchantay, Wentina, Janessa, Leon, Bradley and Patrick Jr.; aunts Juanita Austin and Janet Roker; uncle, William Knowles; sisters-in-law Sarah Taylor, Alice Bastian, Barbara, Laura, Shannon, Hilda and Sandra Saunders; brothers-in-law Derick Johnson, Kirk Lewis, Robert, Wendell, Vincent and Philip Saunders; sons-in-law Leon Fernander and Wendell Rigby; aunts-in-law Michelle, Sylvia and Loriane Knowles and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral for **Alphonso Haywood McIntosh**, 77, of Green Turtle Cay was held on January 22 at St. Peter's Anglican Church in Green Turtle Cay. Fr. Dwight Rolle, assisted by Deacon Fequel LaPlante and other ministers officiated Interment was in the Green Turtle Cay Public Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife Patricia Anne McIntosh; sons Rex, Trent Sr. and Maxwell McIntosh Sr.; stepson Regan Deal; daughters Eloise Cartwright, Hilda Johnson,

Nora McIntosh, Kim Lavine and Miranda Russell; stepdaughters Miquell Miller and Natasha Deal; grandchildren Ian, Ianthe and Ianna Cartwright, Vance and Jansen Johnson, Lamara and Laisha Davis, Vonya, Vaughn Jr., and Vaughndre Toote, Samantha, Maxwell Jr., and Sherrard Russell, Almund and Kahdijah McIntosh, Derek and Deshay Whyms, Tyece, Tatia, Tianna, Jaleek, Jaden, Shazarah, Chandra, Rodney, Rashad, Cearra, Raynad, Roxanna, Koscha and Trent McIntosh Jr. and Verena Deal; great-grandchild Kahijah Ferguson; mother-in-law Dorothy Deal; daughters-in-law Jackie, Joyelle and Lenear McIntosh; sons-in-law Michael Cartwright, Kevin Lavine, Ricardo Toote, Maxwell Russell; brothers-in-law Frank, Daniel and Ephraim Deal and George Reckley; sisters-in-law Winifred and Grace Deal; many nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends.

The funeral and interment of **Cyril McKenzie**, 85, formerly of Moore's Island were held on January 22nd in Nassau.

He is survived by his brothers Hensil Davis and Roland Davis; sister-in-law Minerva Davis; nieces Lillian Laing, Patsy Davis, Loretta Davis, Theresa Major, Bridgette Taylor, Antoinette Lewis, Henrietta Lamm, Angela Davis, Nedris Davis and Anoush Gould; nephews Virgil, Arron and Jermaine, Dwayne Fernander and Nathaniel Fowler; nieces-in-law

Roselda Davis and Carol Fernander; nephews-in-law Perry Gould, Andrew Lewis, Charles Taylor and Alvin Laing; grand nieces; grand nephews; great-grand nieces; great grand nephews; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral and interment of **Maxwell Deveaux**, 49, of Murphy Town were held on January 15th in Nassau. Interment was in Nassau also.

He is survived by his wife Adamae Deveaux; daughter Tajah; mother Susan Deveaux; mother-in-law Sylvia Swain; brothers John, Tyrone, Joseph and James Deveaux; sisters Anita, Raquel and Nikieta Deveaux and Charmain Poitier; brothers-in-law Anthony Poitier, Michael Burrows, Robert Dames and Dennis Mather; sisters-in-law Ludelle, Valderine and Ann Deveaux and Gloria Burrows; uncle George Thomas Arthur; aunts Gloria Delancy, Inez Rigby, Mary Wilchombe, Louis Butterfield, Rose Douglas and Roslyn Gibson; grandaunt Anita Gibson; nephews Torino, Tevon, Sean, Tyson, Jahleel, Anthony Jr, Tavaris, Jarvis, Vargo, Robin, Bryton, Keanu, Patrick, Angelo, Owen, Julien, Spenser, Brandon, Kirk Price; nieces LaShana Price, Charmaine, Tyreka, Valdez, LaNisha, LaVanda, Chemise, Shavonya, LaTonya, Phyllis, Brittney, Fantacia and Johnelle Deveaux, Charmaine Bomrdon, April Bur-

Please see **Obituaries** Page 21

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More Obituaries

Obituaries *From Page 20*

rows, Robin Moree, Elizabeth Dames; grandniece Timacie Deveaux; cousins; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral and interment for **Philosier Joseph** of Marsh Harbour were held on January 15 in Nassau.

She is survived by her children Lionel, Maurie, Anderson, Shela, Elsie, Kendly, Joseph and Roseline Charistal; brothers Boliva, Prophet and Cola Joseph, Moise Joseph, Inocent and Tony Lutrice and Thomas Lutrice; sisters Ludia Philistin, Rosemarie Joseph and Gloria Joseph; nephews; nieces; sisters-in-law; brothers-in-law; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral and interment of **Lottie Ann Pinder**, 93, formerly of Marsh Harbour were held on January 15 in Nassau.

She is survived by nieces Judith Thompson, Dr. Andrea Williams, Dr. Wiona Pratt, Laurel Herrington and Diane Dean; nephews Montgomery Pratt, Frank Claude, Vernon Campbell and Dr. Godfrey Pinder; grandnieces; grand nephews; nieces-in-law Stephanie and Lesia Thompson and Yolanda Darville; nephews-in-law Dr. Stunce Williams, Ivor Herrington, Joseph Sweeting and Hubert Dean; adopted nieces Helen Smith and Kalliope Vardaoulis; sisters-in-law Naomi Pinder and Curly Arabag; and many other relatives and friends.

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Business Briefs

Children's Clothing Store Opens

Portia Jonsson

On December 20th a store which caters only to the little people in our lives opened its doors just in time for Christmas. Declans, located in the B&L Plaza opposite the Royal Bank of Canada, specializes in children clothing sizes newborn to 12/14, children shoes, furniture, toys and accessories. Store hours are Monday to Wednesday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m. - 12 Noon, Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. If there is a Dora the Explorer, Barbie or Strawberry Shortcake lover in your house, stop by today and check Declans out.

New Business in Murphy Town

By Mirella Santillo

Sam's Boutiques, a clothing store for women and men, opened in Murphy Town at the beginning of November 2004. Mr. Paul and Mrs. Samantha Curry are the proud owners. Paul, who worked as a building inspector, and Samantha, who worked as a restaurant waitress, used their savings to open the business of their dreams, a clothing store. It was a challenge for them to set it up before the Christmas holidays, especially finding the proper wholesalers to buy the clothes from. The store is divid ss hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Mrs. Curry especially caters to the voluptuous woman. She said, "Sam's Boutiques are the only clothing store in Murphy Town." She is very optimistic for



Ms. Samantha Curry

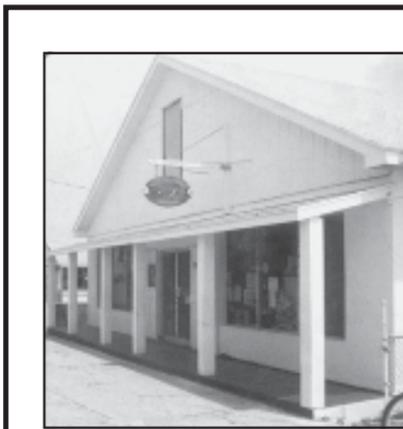
future business and said, "I had a great response at Christmas and I am looking forward to serving the Murphy Town community."

Gas Station Expands

By Mirella Santillo

Pastor Larry Williams, owner of the Shell Gas Station in Dundas Town, is in the process of erecting a building next to the gas station. The existing laundromat on the opposite side of the gas station will be relocated to the new building in a larger area, and there are plans for a tire outlet at the back. "I hope to open the doors in March if all goes according to plans," said Pastor Williams.

Being a contractor, he is doing most of the building work himself. It is his intention to complete the Faith Convention Center on Don MacKay Boulevard sometime this year. "I have great plans for that building. It will not only be a meeting place for out-of-town people and conventions, but a location where local performing groups can practice and perform."



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Pastors Are Honoured

Pastors From Page 1

tist Church grew to a fairly large sized concrete structure. Many members were added to the rolls. Rev. Mills ministered to congregations in New Providence, Grand Bahamas and Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Mills was appointed moderator of the Zion Baptist Church Convention, Abaco District, in May 1965 and served in that capacity until May 2003. Under his leadership, a permanent convention center was established at Zion Baptist Church in Fox Town.

Pastor David Ronald Cartwright was born in Nassau. He received his primary and high school education at Queens College in Nassau where he graduated in 1958. He was converted at the age of five and soon after that, accompanied his father to weekly open-air meetings in various communities on New Providence. In his teens he became involved in youth meetings at Central Gospel Chapel in Nassau.

In the summer of 1958 he accompanied Evangelist Frank Perry to North Eleuthera for evangelical meetings. In the next year, he teamed again with Evangelist Perry for meetings on Abaco. It was then that he decided on his vocation. During the next three years Pastor David spent time studying and preaching with older ministers on Eleuthera, Long Island, Abaco and Nassau.

Pastor Cartwright was then officially commended to the Ministry by his church. He married Mary Lowe in 1964 and in 1965 he moved with his family to Marsh Harbour to work with the Marsh Harbour Gospel Chapel and the other Brethren Churches on Abaco. Over the succeeding years, Pastor Cartwright preached in many of the Family Islands as well as Bermuda, the United States and the United Kingdom.

Rev. Copeland Morley was born in 1936 in Old Place in North Abaco. He received his early education in the Dundas Town All Age School. Upon completion of his schooling, he went to Nassau to work. Later he attended the Island Ministry Society Bible Church graduating in 1944. After his graduation he was commissioned for two years to Mayaguana, then became Pastor of the Faith Mission Church on Long Island for eleven years. Upon completion of this work, he returned home to Abaco to pastor the Friendship Mission Church in Cooper's Town.

After retiring from pastoring, he was commissioned by the Bahamas Evangelical Church Association as a missionary. Returning home to Dundas Town, he served as Senior Elder and Treasurer of the Friendship Tabernacle Church. He is presently serving there as Elder Emeritus and Evangelist.

Bishop Roland Swain was born in March, 1926 and spent his childhood between Murphy Town and Bluff Point. It was in Florida in 1947 while working in the agricultural sector in Belle Glade that he found his vocation to be a pastor. He married in 1948. That same year he joined the Zion Baptist Church and was invited to serve as Assistant Pastor. Six months later Dr. Paul Ford asked him to join the Island Missionary Society as Pastor of Friendship Tabernacle in Dundas Town.

After completing the Minister's Training Program, he served in Exuma as Pastor until 1957. Returning to Dundas Town in 1958 he served as Pastor at Friendship Tabernacle until 1985. During his leadership the church grew to 157 members. A church sanctuary and mission home were completed, a pre-school was planned and additional property was bought for the church.

NEMA From Page 2

knowledge she gathered during the aftermath of the storms will help her to raise the standard of living for a lot of residents.

It was mentioned that the relocation of Snake Cay residents is under review and would be addressed at a later meeting.

Also present at the meeting were Mr. Roger Bowe, Administrator for the South Abaco, Mr. Donald Cash, Administrator for North Abaco, and Mr. Neil S. Campbell, Deputy Relief Coordinator for South Abaco.

Training From Page 4

and other boats are obligated to have only one crew member on board though some are making sure that two are on board which is what the Port Department would like to see and hopes soon to make mandatory."

Finally, Capt. Roker stressed that the onus will be on the companies to make sure that their personnel are trained. "We have to trade globally, and tourism is our main business so all necessary safety measures must be adhered to."

Black From Page 6

needs to be expedited. The teachers feel this trauma is unnecessary. If something positive doesn't happen this week, it is possible they may take action. And if it does, the union backs them 2000 percent!"

"These teachers and students," Mr. Black said, "have been suffering since September. It is now the heart of winter. It is cold, there are no windows and doors. The longer the rooms are open to the elements the more damage will occur to the structures. This is not a humane site, it is terrible. Patience has run out. The storm is over, it is now time to see repairs and results. The teachers at S.C. Bootle are not prepared to spend another day in these conditions which they have endured since September."

The union will be pressing the Ministry of Education to take a long hard look at the situation in North Abaco and to commit energy and resources immediately to commence making necessary repairs.



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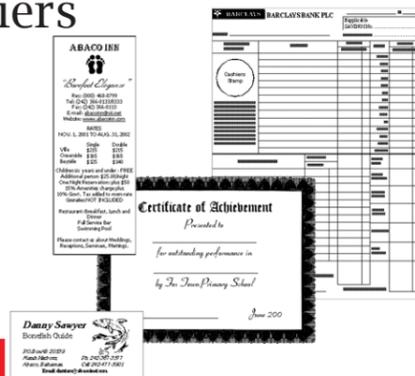
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Ferry Schedule

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 * 9 am 10:30 12:15 pm 2 3:30 4 5:45 9+ 10:45+
Return 8 am 9:45 11:30 1:30 pm 3 4 5* 6:15† 9:45+ 11:30+

Marsh Harbour to Man-O-War 20 minute trip from Crossing Beach
10:30 am 12:15 pm (M-Sat) 2:30* (M-Sat) 4 5:45
Return 8 am 11:30 (M-Sat) 1:30 pm 3:15* (M-Sat)

Marsh Harbour to Scotland Cay & Guana 40 min. from Conch Inn
‡ 6:45 am 10:30 1:30 pm 3:30 5:45 New full time route
Return 8 am 11:30 2:30 pm 4:45 6:30 New route

Same day fare • Adult oneway \$15 / Round Trip \$20 • Kids 6-11 half fare Free under 6
† Workman's special Mondays thru Fridays from Union Jack Dock
* Except Sunday and holidays + New route Fri & Sat only

Green Turtle Ferry

Phone 365-4166, 4128, 4151 • VHF Ch 16

Green Turtle Cay to Treasure Cay Airport
8 am 9 11 12:15 1:30 3 4:30

Treasure Cay Airport to Green Turtle Cay
8:30 am 10:30 11:30 1:30 2:30 3:30 4:30 5
One way adult \$7 (Children \$3) • Round trip \$12 Extra to some destinations

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

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

Bahamas Ferries Between Nassau & Sandy Point under 4 Hr.
Friday & Sunday Lv Nassau 3:30 pm • Lv Sandy Point 8 pm • Adults \$90 RT, \$50 OW
Cars, trucks and cargo • Call Sandy Point 366-4119 or Marsh Harbour 367-5250

Islander Express - Bus between Marsh Harbour & Sandy Point -For information call 366-4444 or 457-9958

Enovahs Bus Service - Hourly bus through Murphy Town, Dundas Town & Marsh Harbour to Ferry dock. Spring City early morning & late afternoon.

Abaco Marinas

Slips Fuel Phone

Walker's Cay
Walker's Cay - Closed ..

Green Turtle Cay
Bluff House 45 F 365-4200
Green Turtle Club 32 F 365-4271
Black Sound Marina . 15 365-4531
Other Shore Club 12 F 365-4195
Abaco Yacht Service 10 F 365-4033

Treasure Cay
Treasure Cay Marina150 F 365-8250

Man-O-War
Man-O-War Marina . 26 F 365-6008

Marsh Harbour
Boat Harbour Marina183 F 367-2736
Conch Inn 75 F 367-4000
Harbour View Marina 36 F 367-2182
Marsh Harbour Marina52 F 367 2700
Mangoes 29 F 367-2366
Port of Call Closed

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 can clear Customs at Spanish Cay, Green Turtle Cay, Treasure Cay or Marsh Harbour

Dive Shops - Marsh Harbour

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

Bikes & Scooters • Boats • Cars & Carts

Rentals * Marsh Harbour
A & P Car Rentals 367-2655
Blue Wave Boat Rentals 367-3910
Concept Boat Rentals 367-5570
Laysue Boat Rentals 367-4414
Pier One Boat Rentals 367-3587
Power Cat Boat Rentals 367-4620
Rainbow Boat Rentals 367-4602
Rental Wheels Scooters, Bikes, Cars 367-4643
Rich's Boat Rentals 367-2742
Sea Horse Boat Rentals 367-2513
Sea Star Car Rentals 367-4887
Wilmac Car Rentals 367-4970 or 367-4313

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Bay Street Rentals 477-5300 365-4070
C & D Cart Rental 365-4084
D & P Cart Rental 365-4655
Donnie's Boat Rentals 365-4119
New Plymouth Cart Rentals . 365-4188 or 4149
Reef Boat Rentals 365-4145
Sea Side Carts 477-5497
T & A Cart Rentals 375-8055

Guana Cay
Donna Sands Cart Rentals 365-5195
Dive Guana Boats & bikes 365-5178

Man-O-War
Conch Pearl Boat Rentals 365-6059
Island Treasures Cart Rentals 365-6072
Ria-mar Golf Cart Rentals 365-6241
Water Ways Boat Rent .. 357-6540 & 365-6143

Hope Town
Bike Shop Bicycle Rentals 366-0292
Cat's Paw Boat Rentals 366-0380
Hope Town Cart Rentals 366-0064
Island Cart Rentals 366-0448
Island Marine Boat Rentals 366-0282
Sea Horse Boat Rentals 366-0023
Sea Spray Resort Boat Rentals 366-0065
T & N Cart Rentals 366-0069

Treasure Cay
Alison Car Rent 365-8193
Cas's Carts 365-8771
Claridge's Cart Rentals 365-8248
Cornish Car Rentals 365-8623
JIC Boat Rentals 365-8465
Rich's Boat Rentals 365-8582
Triple J Car Rentals 365-8761
Abaco Adventures - Kayaks 365-8749



Everyone reads The Abaconian

Please bring errors, omissions or corrections to our attention

Rev 22 Jan 05

Restaurant Guide

Prices \$ Low, \$\$ Moderate, \$\$\$ Upper
(Based on dinner entree range)

‡ Provides ride from town
+ Picnic tables & restroom only

Marsh Harbour
Anglers \$\$\$ 367-2158
Conch Crawl \$\$ 367-4444
Gino's \$ 367-2002
Golden Grouper \$ 367-2301
Hibiscus Cafe \$\$ 367-2782
Hummingbird \$\$ 367-2922
Jamie's Place \$ 367-2880
Jib Room \$ 367-2700
Kentucky Fried Chicken (lunch-5pm) 367-2615
Mangoes \$\$\$ 367-2366
Pop's Place \$ + 367-3796
Sapodilly's \$\$\$ 367-3498
Sea Shells \$ 367-4460
Snack Shack \$ + 367-4005
Snappas \$ 367-2278
Subway 367-2798
Wallys \$\$\$ 367-2074

Dundas Town
Ambassador Inn \$ 367-2022

Hope Town
Abaco Inn \$\$\$ 366-0133
Cap'n Jacks \$ 366-0247
Club Soliel 366-0253
Harbour's Edge \$\$ 366-0087
H T Harbour Lodge \$\$\$ 366-0095
Munchies \$ + 366-0423
Rudy's Place \$\$\$ ‡ 366-0062
Sea Spray \$ ‡ 366-0065

Man-O-War
Pavilion \$ 365-6185
Hibiscus 365-6380

Guana Cay
Blue Water Grill \$\$\$ 365-5230
Guana Seaside \$\$\$ 365-5106
Nippers \$\$\$ 365-5143
Orchid Bay 265-5175

Treasure Cay
Florence's Cafe \$
Coconuts
Harbour Cafe \$ 365-8635
Hudson's Delight \$ 365-8648
Spinnaker Restaurant ... \$\$\$ 365-8469
Touch of Class \$\$\$ 365-8195
Traveller's Rest 365-8654

Green Turtle Cay
Bluff House \$\$\$ 365-4200
Jolly Roger Bistro \$\$ 365-4200
Green Turtle Club \$\$\$ 365-4271
Laura's Kitchen \$\$ 365-4287
McIntosh's Restaurant \$ 365-4625
New Plymouth Inn \$\$\$ 365-4161
Plymouth Rock Cafe 365-4234
Rooster's Rest \$ 365-4066
Sundowners 365-4060
Wrecking Tree Restaurant
Harbour Café (ferry dock) . \$ + 365-8635

Sandy Point
Big J's \$ 366-4020
Nancy's
Oeishas 366-4139
Pete & Gays \$\$\$ 366-4119
Seaside Inn \$\$\$ 366-4120
Rickmon Bonfish Lodge 366-4477

Emergency Services

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 Cay 365-5178, Treasure Cay 365-8749
All the above services except the police are provided by non-paid volunteers

Medical Services

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

Taxi Cab Fares

for one or two passengers
Plus extra for each passengers above two

• **Between Marsh Harbour Airport and:**
Ferry Dock or Murphy Town to Ammons Dr \$12 + \$3
Bristol Cellers thru A. Beach Hotel or Gov't dock thru Dundas Town \$10 + \$3
Dove Plaza, Stop Light or Sawyer's Market \$10 + \$2
Gov't Clinic thru Western Auto \$ 6 + \$2
Gov. freight dock through Dundas Town \$10 + \$3
Murphy Town to Shell Sta \$14 + \$4
Pelican Shores to Frankie Russel house \$14 + \$4
Eastern Shores to Peas & Rice house \$14 + \$4
Beyond Russell house or Peas & Rice house \$16 + \$5
Great Cistern \$20 + \$5
Spring City \$15 + \$5
Snake Cay \$35 + \$10
Treasure Cay \$60 + \$ 10
Casuarina Point \$60 + \$10
Treasure Cay Airport or Bah Palm Shores \$70 + \$ 10
Little Harbour or Cherokee \$80 + \$10
Crossing Rocks \$100 + \$10
Sandy Point \$135 + \$10

• **Between Marsh Harbour Ferry and:**
Ab Beach Hotel thru Wally's & Eastern Shore \$ 2 each
Jib Room \$ 3 each
Solomon's Super Center \$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

Airlines Serving Abaco

Abaco Air - Nassau, N Eleuthera, Moores Is 367-2266
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 367-0169-
Major's Air Service - Freeport 367-4826
Southern Air - Nassau 367-2498
Twin Air - Fort Lauderdale 365-8677
USAir - Ft. Laud and W. Palm Bch 367-2231
Vintage Props & Jets - New Smyrna B. 367-4852
Yellow Air Taxi - Ft Lauderdale 954-359-0292
Local air charters serving Bahamas & S.Florida
Abaco Air 367-2266
Cherokee Air Charters 367-2089

Tours & Excursions

Kayak • Abaco Outback • Marsh Harbour . 367-5358
Birding • Abaco Outback • Marsh Harbour . 367-5358
Abaco Island Tours • Marsh Harbour 367-2936
Excursion boat • Froggies • Hope Town 366-0024
Excursion boat • Froggies • Hope Town 366-0431

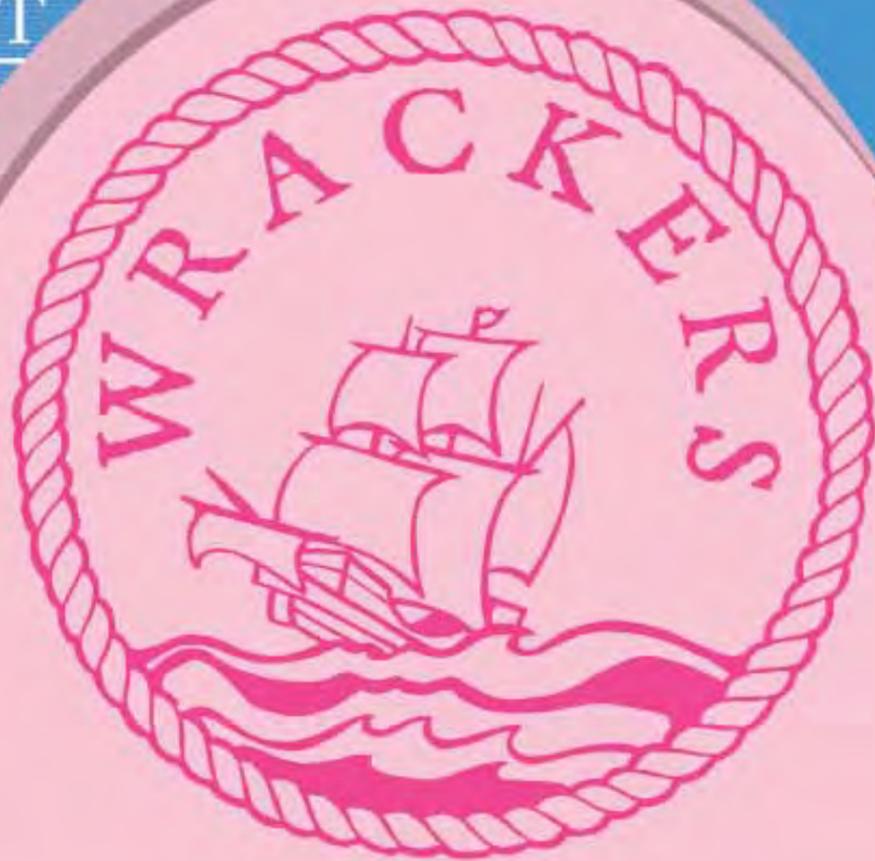
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The Abaconian

SECTION B



VOLUME 13, NUMBER 3, FEBRUARY 1st, 2005

Treasure Cay School Boasts New Library Storage Room Now Holds 2300 Donated Books



Treasure Cay Primary School officially opened its new library, naming it the Ann F. Smith Library after the woman, Mrs. Ann Smith, who was instrumental in creating it. She began with a storage room and converted it into a library with 2200 children's books through the efforts of many second home owners in Treasure Cay. They raised funds, did much manual labour in building shelves and painting and finally stocked the shelves with interesting books. Shown here at the opening are Mr. Jack Thompson, Director of NEMA for Abaco, Mrs. Myrtis Russell, Principal, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Rudolph Smith, Education Superintendent for Abaco and Mrs. Roberta Rownd, who assisted Mrs. Smith.

By Portia Jonsson

Eight years ago when Mrs. Myrtis Russell took over as principal of Treasure Cay Primary School, she had a dream to establish a library at the school. On January 12th her dream became a reality as the Ann F. Smith Library was officially opened.

Mrs. Ann Smith, a retired schoolteacher and Treasure Cay resident, phoned Mrs. Russell a year ago offering her help to the school. Mrs. Russell reached out to Mrs. Smith who shared her belief in the importance of a library in the school and thus, the Ann F. Smith Library was born.

Mrs. Smith with the assistance of Ms. Roberta Rownd worked tirelessly to convert the room used for storage into a library. They solicited the help of many friends both here and abroad. Paul and Paige Hammond, Treasure Cay winter residents, held a fund raiser for the school at their home in Connecticut. The proceeds from the fund raiser enabled the Hammonds to purchase 1200 multi-cultural books. The library houses

Please see **Library**

Page 6

Ban on Grouper Fishing Favored Despite Hardship

By Mirella Snatillo

The first Nassau Grouper fishing ban, initiated in December of 2003, lasted a week during the full moon. It was repeated once more in January of 2004 during the same period of the moon. The grouper start aggregating around November and gather in schools during full moons until February and March. It is usually the time they carry egg roe, but also the time they are being most intensely caught, thus preventing their reproduction. The second ban went into effect on December 16th 2004, covered three months and two full moon periods and is nearing its end. During this period the public was prohibited from taking, landing, processing selling or offering for sale fresh Nassau Groper. After February 17th, 2005, grouper, a favorite delicacy of Bahamians and tourists alike, will be found again in seafood shops and on local restaurant menus.

Grouper Ban

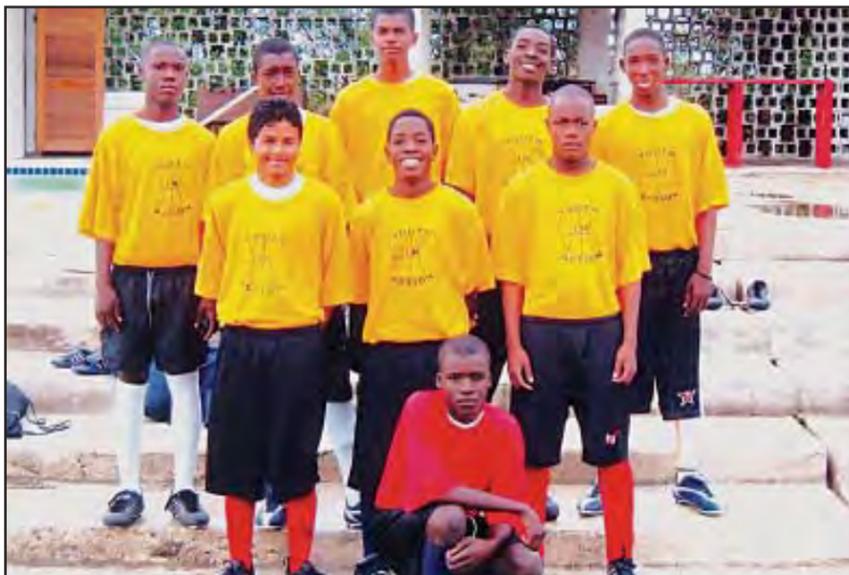
From Page 14

Wyannie Malone Museum Recreates Loyalist Home

Volunteer Curator, Tony Bennett, shows off a prized addition to the Museum – a bed frame carved out of Lignum Vitae or Ironwood. It is one of the heaviest items on display with each bedpost weighing 90 pounds. The bed was found in the attic of Toad Hall, which was once the Commissioner's residence, and donated to the museum.



Abaco Soccer Teams Win in Freeport



Lynden Davis assisted by other volunteers. They work with the youth every Saturday morning, coaching them in soccer, basketball and softball. The Saturday morning sessions include learning the basic principles of the games, then competing in games in their various age groups. See story on page 10



These two Youth in Action soccer teams competed in Freeport in December with outstanding results. They won the tournament easily. A larger group will be competing in Freeport the last week end in January, and it is expected that they will again come back winners.

News of the Cays

Hope Town District Council Meets

By Lindsey Delaplaine

The Hope Town District Council met on January, 17. An important agenda item was to start making plans for the annual town meetings which will be held on each of the cays in the Hope Town District. By law these meetings are held each year before Council budget discussions are conducted.

Council member Glenn Laing wants the first meeting to be held on Guana Cay. He wants to provide an opportunity for the Prime Minister, the Minister of Health, Minister of Housing and other government officials to meet with the residents. "There are a lot of angry people on Guana right now. I think their government should come and talk to the people and give them answers to their questions," said Mr. Laing. "They call me and complain, but being a

member of local government, I can't give them the explanations they deserve." Guana Cay residents have expressed their anger about government granting Crown Land to the Passerine development project without any local input.

The meetings will also be an opportunity to discuss the upcoming year and how Abaco's five percent cut in government funding and the lack of any financial support for hurricane relief will affect the region.

On the agenda were concerns about the Hope Town dump. Reportedly, there have been complaints about the condition of the dump to the Ministry of Environmental Health in Nassau. Also discussed was the recent damage caused to a large dumpster used for transporting garbage to Marsh Harbour. During a routine fire of excess building material, trash in the dumpster, which was located a good distance away,

inexplicably caught fire causing damaging to the walls of the dumpster. The Council is investigating the matter to decide the extent and cost of the damages. Mr. Evans Joseph, who is currently responsible for trash pick-up and maintenance of the dump, met with the Council to discuss these concerns. The meeting went well and everyone felt good about the outcome with Mr. Joseph promising to improve conditions at the dump.

As the Hope Town Harbour Lodge dock nears completion, the Council is making plans to ready Sunshine Park as an important stop for the Hope Town ferry. Letters will be sent requesting the removal of all derelict cars from the parking lot to make way for people who wish to park there while they travel to Marsh Harbour for the day. It is hoped that this will ease the persistent parking congestion at the government dock.

Council plans on using the remainder of Christmas funds, which were not disbursed for decorations during the holidays due to weather conditions, to re-tile the Hope Town Library. Aware that large chunks of tile have been missing from the floor for

years, the Council hopes to address the problem soon. Once the tile has been purchased they will be looking for volunteers to help lay the new tile.

Hope Town

Road Project Still Unfinished

By Lindsey Delaplaine

The process of re-paving the main road in Elbow Key has been a long and convoluted one. Well past the time when it was supposed to be completed, the road remains unfinished, much to everyone's dismay.

For a long time the government ignored complaints from residents about the condition of the road. Frustration at the situation resulted in the *No Tar, No Tax* bumper stickers that can still be found on golf carts and vehicles throughout Hope Town.

Finally responding, the government announced that it couldn't provide sufficient funds to asphalt the entire road; residents, businesses and second home owners would have to share in the cost in order to have the project completed to everyone's satisfaction.

Cays

From Page 4



Although it was supposed to be completed last August, the main road on Elbow Key still remains unfinished and the equipment sits idle in the center of the island. While residents doubt the road will ever be finished, government representatives say work will start soon. Residents raised half the funds for the paving to be done.

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on Arrival

STARTERS

Sweet Potato & Roast Duck Soup
or
Californian Crab Stick Roll
Japanese rice rolled with crab stick & avocado
served with wasabi and pickled ginger

MAJOR COURSE

Grilled Ginger & Honey Marinated Free-Range Chicken
served with a corn & grilled pepper relish, white rice & grilled zucchini
or
Grilled Abaco Grouper
served with a lemon butter sauce, creamed potatoes & grilled asparagus

DESSERTS

Tropical Knickerbocker Glory
Ice Cream with raspberry & mixed tropical fruits
or
Petit Pot Au Chocolat
a small pot of chocolate served with cream
& a gauffrette biscuit

Price per person \$45.00 (Not including service)

More News of the Cays

Please see **Cays**

Page 2

faction. Desperate to have the road repaired, many contributed to the effort. After Elbow Cay residents successfully raised almost \$290,000, about half of the cost of repaving, the project moved forward.

Work started last summer. Originally, the contractor, Mr. Clear, told the District Council that the work would be completed by August or earlier. This was not the case. With the road paved only to the first intersection and much of the road past that point torn up as part of the paving process, work ended just before Hurricane Frances and has yet to restart. Some residents have started to doubt whether or not the work will ever be finished.

Mr. Clear blamed equipment damage suffered during the hurricanes as the reason for the unfinished work. To repair his equipment new parts had to be ordered, causing further delays. Although it was reported that he received those parts and was set to start in November, no workers have been seen and the equipment continues to sit idle in the middle of the island.

According to Mr. John Schaefer, the Abaco engineer for the Ministry of Works in Marsh Harbour, the contract is still active. He recently spoke with Mr. Clear and was told all of the parts for the broken equipment are in and work would start the week of January 10th. He was not sure why that had not occurred. Mr. Schaefer is planning on calling the contractor to find out why he has not resumed paving. According to Mr. Schaefer, once the work recommences, it should take about a month and a half to complete the paving of the road.

Mr. Roscoe Thompson, a member of the District Council who has followed up with Mr. Clear, said that it was his understanding work would begin January 21st.

As for the damage caused by hurricanes to the White Sound portion of the road on the top of the dune, Mr. Schaefer said a consultant has been called in to assess the situation separately. The consultant will make a recommendation and this recommendation will likely result in a separate contract to address that section of the road in a manner more permanent than simply re-paving.

Although it was supposed to be completed last August, the main road on Elbow Key still remains unfinished and the equipment sits idle in the center of the island. While residents doubt the road will ever be finished, government representatives say work will start soon.

Historical Museum Has Vision for the Future

By Lindsey Delaplaine

Volunteer curator Tony Bennett has always had a passion for museums. Since 1991 he has directed this passion into building and improving the Wyannie Malone Historical Museum for Hope Town residents and visitors to enjoy. The long hours and hard work of Tony and countless other volunteers have translated into a central location for a new, larger museum and the creation of the Wyannie Malone period house. You'd think Tony would be worn out from his efforts, but he already has plans for the future.

A former Canadian Naval Officer and government telecommunications official, Tony and his wife Elaine always made a point of visiting museums wherever they traveled. "We've always loved old buildings," he says. Upon his retirement they moved to Hope Town and started work on restoring Green Shutters, an old Hope Town cottage they had purchased.

They also got involved with the Historical Museum. "I think Colonel 'Mac'

McAleer recruited us as soon as we stepped off the ferry," Tony remembered with a smile. Tony and Elaine started as docents but quickly became enchanted with the history of the island. "At the time we never thought we'd be as involved as we are now, full time, but it was a wonderful development and we're both happy about it." Elaine is currently running the docent volunteer program.

Originally, the Wyannie Malone Museum was located in Harrison Albury's house. When he reclaimed the house to use as a residence, the museum had to move to a house by the Hope Town Harbour Lodge, but the Board of the Museum dreamed of expanding the museum and moving it closer to town, where it would be more visible to residents and visitors.

In 1999, just before Hurricane Floyd, their dreams were pushed forward by other forces. The building housing the museum was sold and other arrangements had to be made to keep the museum alive. By 2000 they had purchased, built and moved in to the cottage next to the Hope Town clinic in the center of town. It was the realization of a long term vision of the Board, but Tony wasn't finished yet.

Plans were made for a larger building next to the first. Bids from contractors ranged from \$600,000 - \$800,000, a sum too large for the museum to even contemplate raising. But Tony would not be deterred. With an army of volunteers, the new addition was built in a year and a half for \$200,000, a fraction of the original estimated cost.

"We meant for the addition to be mod-

eled after the Balcony House in Nassau, the oldest Loyalist building in the Bahamas," Tony explained. "But due to various constraints and alterations it didn't turn out exactly as planned. The odd thing is we recently found some old pictures of the downtown in Hope Town and one of them showed a building almost exactly like this one. We asked Ms. Mariah, one of the oldest residents in Hope Town, to identify the building and tell us where it had been located. Turns out it was right where the new building is standing. Unbeknownst to us, we built a replica of the building that used to stand in this very spot."

Tony hopes that the entire new museum will be up and running by March 5th, Hope Town Heritage Day. The other building is being transformed into the "Wyannie Malone House" a historical recreation of a

Hope Town captain's house during the late 1800s / early 1900s. "To furnish the house we'll soon be on the hunt looking for any antique furniture or household items that people have hiding in their attics," Tony said.

Future plans include computerizing the genealogical records of the Museum, the creation of a Historical Library, the collection of more historical pictures of Hope Town pre-1950 and the production of a historical DVD that will be available to museum members.

There is still some finishing work to do in the museum before Heritage Day and Tony is always looking for volunteers interested in helping. For more information, stop by the museum, it seems like Tony is always there.





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#2174

**Turtle Rocks
Marsh Harbour**



\$195,000.00

Located just off the Abaco Highway approx. 2 miles south of Leisure Lee is this great parcel of land. This prime beachfront listing offers 2.37 acres, featuring 104 ft frontage on the beautiful beach & 125 ft on the road. This lot also offers 30 foot elevations w/ magnificent views of the Sea of Abaco & the neighbouring cays.

#2167

**Little Orchard
Marsh Harbour**



\$460,000.00

This cozy little 3 bed, 2 bath home is located on 1 acre of prime waterfront property. Spacious living & dining, beautifully renovated & modern kitchen which features custom cabinetry & Corian countertops. Beautiful views of the Sea of Abaco & the neighbouring cays. The yard is landscaped & well maintained & features fruit bearing trees & other native plants.

#2136

**'Peek-A-View'
Hope Town**



\$868,000.00

One of the finest homes on Elbow Cay & overlooking the beautiful crystal blue Atlantic Ocean. Centrally located on the island, 'Peek-a-View' is a great choice for a second or retiring home. The property is beautifully landscaped & the home is open & spacious. This 4 bed, 3 1/2 bath home has a large, open kitchen, Jacuzzi tub & his & her closets in the master suite.

#2147

**'Clifford Sawyer House'
Hope Town**



\$810,000.00

This magnificent property is comprised of three lots. A gorgeous 2 bed, 2 bath cottage w/ all new quality furniture, state-of-the-art kitchen appliances, computer, television & new laundry facilities. The house also has new septic, cistern, IPE decking, & new hurricane windows. The entire house has also been re-roofed. Must be seen to truly appreciate all of its wonderful features.

#2168

**Beautiful Wooded Lot
Marsh Harbour**



\$144,000.00

This lot is located near Fry's Mangrove on Elbow Cay. It is situated between the Sea of Abaco & a creek making it an ideal location for nature lovers & boating enthusiasts. The property is approx. 41,000 sq. ft. & is just a few minutes from Hope Town. This is a great investment opportunity for those that want their own little piece of paradise.

#2166

**'Bea's Nest'
Man-O-War Cay**



\$1,400,000.00

'Bea's Nest' offers 5 bed & 4 bath w/ numerous porches. Large open kitchen w/ adjacent family room w/ beautiful ocean views. Above the kitchen is a second storey loft that can be used as a home office. 2 beds are detached from the main house offering separate entries, perfect for visiting guests. Beautifully landscaped, includes a pool, cabana & spa tub.

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Bahama Palm Shores



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**GRAHAM
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School News

Library

From Page 1

over 2200 reading books for grades 1 to 6.

In her brief remarks during the ceremony Mrs. Smith said she was overwhelmed. She encouraged the students to take advantage of the library and read books and hopes this is the beginning of many more projects to come. Mrs. Smith spent 30 years teaching in Vermont and New York and has been visiting to the Bahamas for over 12 years.

Attending the ceremony were Mr. Jack Thompson, Coordinator of NEMA on Abaco, Mr. Donald Cash, Administrator for North Abaco, Mr. Rudolph Smith, Abaco Superintendent Ministry of Education, Rev. Stafford Symonette, Treasure Cay residents, family members and friends.

The administrative staff, teachers and patrons of the Treasure Cay Primary School advise that it is their wish to encourage and facilitate children's reading and instill in them a passion for books. They hope the students will see libraries as strong, vital institutions that are central to the well being of their school and community.

Reading is a fundamental skill that separates those students who succeed from those who fail. Reading separates students who have a world open to them of career and economic possibilities from those who have a never-ending cycle of entry-level jobs.

We must all work together to help instill in children a love of reading and a hunger for the printed word.

Reading is the key!

The Moore's Island All Age School Congratulations!

The Honour Roll students of Moore's Island All-Age School Christmas Term 2004 will be honored at a special ceremony on January 28th. They are as follows:

Grade 1 Sion Duncombe, Stephan Stuart, Megan Davis, Raneisha Knowles and Stevanna Thompson

Grade 3 Markwella Davis, Christon Hield and Tishanda Cooper

Grade 4 Briantino Fox, Marsha Davis, Vanessa McBride and Alicia Ronard

Grade 5 Shernique Stuart and Tristian Davis

Grade 6 Nevandria Rolle, Sasha Davis, Nichel Loncke and Keriann Stuart

Grade 8 Roddeno Davis

Congratulations to all these outstanding students.

Moore's Island Students Receive HIV/AIDS Talks

By Portia Jonsson

On December 6th Mrs. Sandy Edwards, Health and Family Life Coordinator with the Department of Education and coordinator of Abaco's AIDS Day activities, visited Moore's Island to educate to students of grades 7-9 on the dangers of HIV/AIDS and share the message of prevention. The students received HIV/AIDS training and the school's prefects were taught how to resolve conflicts.

Students viewed a graphic movie on sexually transmitted diseases and how they affect the body. In the Bahamas AIDS is the leading cause of death among all persons 15-44 years of age. Adolescents are the fastest growing population segment of HIV infected persons in the Bahamas.

Mrs. Edwards advised the students how to make positive choices about their sexual behaviour. They learned the facts

about AIDS and were encouraged to share the message of prevention.

This past November four Abaco students accompanied Mrs. Edwards to the Caribbean AIDS Awareness Festival in Nassau. They were Britney Archer and Elsie Bain of St. Francis de Sales School, Kenvia Roberts of S.C. Bootle High

School and Petra Gaitor of Abaco Central High. Each school was asked to select a student they feel is a role model and who would be a peer leader to spread the word about HIV/AIDS prevention to fellow students. The festival was attended by hundreds of students from throughout the Bahamas.



Mr. Jason Dorsey, a motivational speaker, spoke to several school groups while he was on Abaco on January 10 and 11. He is shown here at Abaco Central High School where he addressed students from that school, St. Francis de Sales and Long Bay.

During this year's World AIDS Day on Abaco a live radio show was broadcast. The guest speakers included Mr. Keith Kemp, a volunteer at the HIV/AIDS Centre in Nassau, Nurse Cooper of the Marsh Harbour clinic, Mrs. Edwards and students.

A HIV/AIDS march is planned for May 2005, and Mrs. Edwards is actively seeking sponsors to assist in this effort. We must all do our part to reach out and spread the message of prevention and win the fight against AIDS in the Bahamas.

One in every 50 Bahamians is HIV/AIDS in-

fectured. In the Bahamas there are 110 pregnancies of HIV infected women a year and 180 children under the age of 18 are HIV positive.

Man-O-War School Annual Flea Market Is Scheduled

The Man-O-War School will be holding its 19th annual Flea Market and Bazaar on February 19. This event raises much needed funds for the school for normal expenses such as upgrading their textbooks, copy machine cartridges and other supplies as well as school repairs. This year their goal is to raise money for a new addition to the building that would be dedicated to music, science, art and computers. Currently these activities are in classrooms. Storage of art and science supplies is a problem and the noise of some of the subjects is heard throughout the school.

This year's event promises to be interesting and fun for the family. There will be games including some with prizes, a raffle, an auction, crab races, white elephant tables with new and used items,

Please see **School**

Page 7

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More School News

School *From Page 6*

a book stall, art work by Abaco artists and a plant booth along with a great variety of food including native seafood dishes.

The school allows anyone to set up a table and sell. Anything can be sold except food or drinks which the school will be selling. All sales of food and drink benefit the school. A table costs \$10 plus 10 percent of the gross sales with all proceeds going to the school.

Albury's Ferry will have special ferries going to Man-O-War from the cays and Marsh Harbour. Call the ferry company to let them reserve a seat for you.

Abaco Central High School Motivational Speaker Inspires Students

By Jennifer Hudson

The Abaco School District presented its first motivational speaker for 2005 on January 10th and 11th. The two-day event was coordinated by Mrs. Martha Smith, a teacher at Abaco Central High School and wife of the District Superintendent, who was extremely excited at having the opportunity to bring this highly sought after young speaker to Abaco.

Mr. Jason Dorsey began his session with an introductory broadcast on Radio Abaco at 9 a.m. Although only 26 years old Mr. Dorsey has already achieved more in his young life time than most, having traveled the world over the past eight years, written three books, (including *Ending School Violence*), is currently on his fourth book and

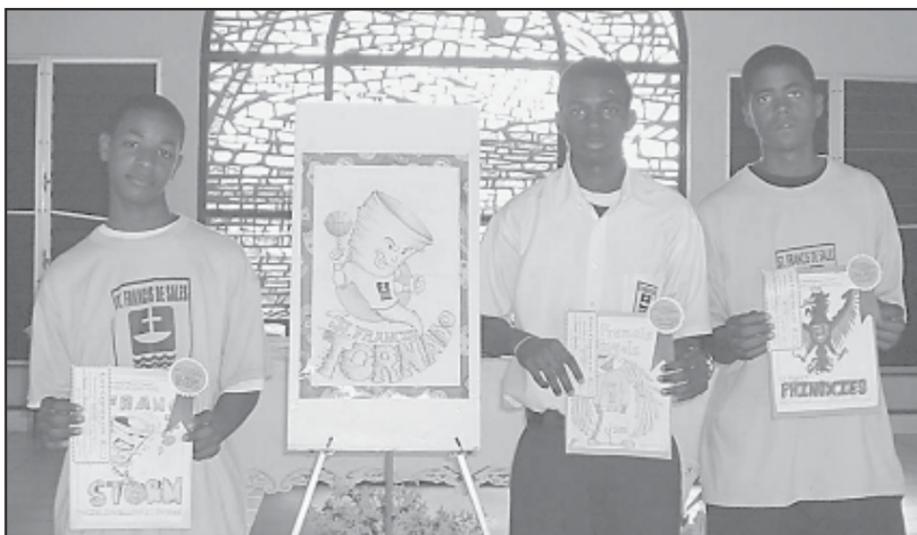
is the owner of three businesses under the banner Golden Ladder Productions. He speaks in prisons, schools, colleges and camps inspiring and helping over 100,000 young people annually to take responsibility for their actions and getting the message across that where they go with their life is up to them. "Young people have the same things going on in their lives worldwide," he says.

Mr. Dorsey's first talk was to students of Abaco Central High School, St. Francis de Sales and Long Bay Schools who were assembled in the quadrangle of the Abaco Central High School. Platform guests included Mr. Green, Principal of Abaco Central; Moderator, Mrs. Martha Smith; WPC Campbell; Father Hepburn; Mrs. Ruth Flowers from the Administrator's office; and Mr. Rudolph Smith, District Superintendent, who welcomed Mr. Dorsey.

Mr. Dorsey's young and vibrant personality and the fact that he had a difficult start in life enabled him to connect well with his audience. The experience gained from working with people in trouble has led him to see a consistency in the fact that if young people do not believe they have a future, they do not care about the consequences. So he strives to help young people to see that they can have a future.

The important points which he presented to the students were

- Just because you may be poor does not mean that you cannot succeed. It means that you must be more creative. Lack of money must never hold you back.
- Do not give in to people who pick on you. Others do not control your life, you do.
- It is not how smart you are, it is what



A Mascot Competition was held at St. Francis de Sales School earlier in this school year. The competition was open to students in grades 6 through 12. Students were asked to design a new mascot for the school because the former mascot The Saints was already the mascot of another school. Ten students participated in the competition. Pictured next to the new mascot design, St. Francis Tornados, are the winners. Left to right, First Place winner, Zeldon Simmons - \$50 Bellevue gift certificate, Second Place winner, Jerron Knowles - \$25 Bellevue gift certificate and Third Place winner, Dominique Evans - \$15 Bellevue gift certificate.

you do with it. Do not make excuses.

- If you want to be respected, you must respect other people.
- The little things you do for other people make all the difference.

An afternoon session was held at the Central Abaco Primary School for children in grades five and six who were joined by students from the schools in Cherokee, Crossing Rocks and Sandy Point. An invitation was issued to all schools to attend these extremely valuable talks but for various reasons not all schools were able to attend. The day ended with a meeting for

parents, guardians, teachers and other interested persons.

On day two Mr. Dorsey travelled to the S.C. Bootle High School where he spoke to students of that school along with students from the Amy Roberts School, Green Turtle Cay and concluded his busy schedule with a general meeting at the Full Gospel Assembly Church in Treasure Cay.

Mr. Dorsey's visit was sponsored by several schools, three churches, Mr. Revis Rolle, Island Administrator, North Abaco Local Government and several interested individuals.



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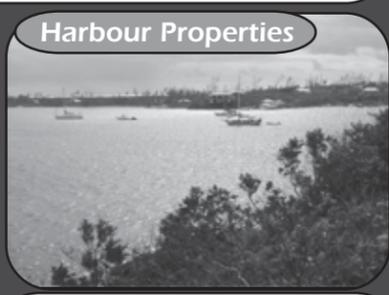


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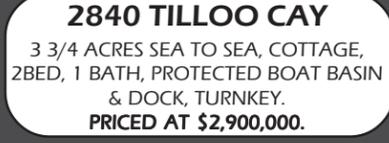
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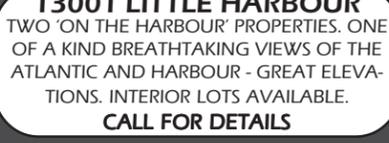


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South Abaco News

Cherokee Sound

By Lee Pinder

Welcome Back

We see James and Debbie Savage are here again in Cherokee, welcome back. I believe they have quite a few repairs to do on their home while they are here this time. Like many others in Cherokee their home suffered lots of water damage from the storms.

Baby Shower

Yzel Albury's Baby Shower was held in the community center on January 15th with

a host of family and friend's making there way to Cherokee from Man-O-War and Hope Town. These functions are always a good opportunity for old friends to meet and catch up with all the news from the cays while at the same time helping the mother-to-be get ready for a new little bundle of joy. The ladies were asked to make a list of boys names, so we assume they already know what's coming (it was a little different in my day.) The baby is due the first week in March. Good Luck and best wishes to Yzel and Richard.

Epworth Chapel Will Host Island-wide Fellowship

Cherokee's Methodist church will welcome other Abaco Methodists for an afternoon of fellowship on February 13th after their regular Sunday church service. A light luncheon will be served and friends and neighbours will have an opportunity to greet old friends again.

10th Annual Valentine's Tea

Rev. Carla Culmer will host her annual Tea Party and this year it will be held in the Jorgensen's garden on February 16. Last year's tea cup winner, Sherry Lowe, is shown holding her prize. Each lady is reminded to bring her own tea cup along to the party that afternoon. In addition, this year there will be a special prize for the lady wearing the "silliest hat." So, get to work, you crazy crafters and put together a real winner.



Congratulations! Kellie, the eldest daughter of Steve and Denise Sawyer of Cherokee Sound and Darrell, eldest son of Laurel and Roger Pinder, were engaged on Christmas Eve. No definite wedding plans have yet been set. Best wishes to the happy couple.



All dressed up and putting their best foot forward, all the little ones put on quite a show for the grown ups on awards night. They meet every Tuesday afternoon after school for an hour of Bible stories, crafts, games and refreshments and twice a year they receive awards for their accomplishments and good work. The photo above shows their teacher, Margaret Schutemaker, leading them in song. Other workers not shown are Rev. Carla Culmer and Vanda Bethel.

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Tsunami in Caribbean Area Is Not Likely

The horrendous earthquake and resulting tsunami in the Far East has had many persons wondering if the same thing could happen here. Experts are quick to point out that the chance of an underwater earthquake in the Atlantic is remote compared to the Pacific Ocean, which has huge faults running through California and the southern Alaska coast.

However, the volcano Cumbre Vieja in the Canary Islands, does pose a remote threat. If it erupted and split into two, the waves could grow to 330 feet high reaching the west coast of Africa, the eastern seaboard of the United States and the entire Caribbean region. Seismologist Stuart Sepkin says the Canary Islands tsunami is not very likely to occur in the future; but the possibility does exist. If Cumbre Vieja were to erupt, the Bahamas, Haiti, Dominican Republic and the Caribbean area would take a very severe hit. In the case of the Bahamas the only option for escape would be to leave the country as the Bahamas does not have any really high land masses where people could go for shelter.

The volcano is showing no signs of activity but Sepkin says it should be monitored because it contains a deep near vertical flaw line which could widen if there is volcanic activity. If there is activity, it could widen enough that an eruption would split the mountain in two which would cause a huge amount of rock to go into the ocean, creating a powerful tsunami.

There have been tsunamis in the Caribbean before. The Puerto Rico Trench is a potential source of tsunamis even though it has not produced any significant earthquakes since 1946. In that year a tsunami killed 1800 persons on the northeastern side of Hispanola. In 1918 a tsunami killed 91 persons in northwestern Puerto Rico. Mr. Sepkin stated that we need to continue to monitor Cumbre Vieja just in case it does erupt. However, most experts in the United States, the Bahamas and the countries of the Caribbean have more to fear from hurricanes than from a possible tsunami.



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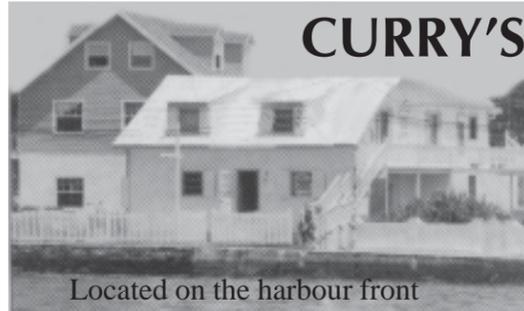
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Youth in Action Trains Youth in Sports



The youth are divided into three age categories and compete among themselves. This popular program is producing some quality athletic abilities. The volunteers who give their time, energy and funds are to be commended for a great job.

By Mirella Santillo

Youth in Action is a sports association organized by Mrs. Elva Davis, Mr. Lyndon Davis, Mr. Ishmael Morley and Mr. Jude Hart. Three sports are played at different times during the year: soccer, basketball and baseball. Youth in Action welcomes boys and girls of the Marsh Harbour area aged 4 to 16. There are now 130 children enrolled in the program. Since the beginning of October the group has met every Saturday morning at the high school from 9 a.m. to 12 noon to practice soccer. The season started with learning soccer skills and playing regular games at a Little League level.

The Youth In Action soccer teams' first out-of-town play was on December 17, 2004, when Mr. and Mrs. Davis accompanied 18 boys from Marsh Harbour to Freeport. It was the first time this group had played a soccer game against Freeport. On the first day they played at the Rugby Club against the Grand Bahama All Star team. Abaco won two to one. The two goals were scored by Robin Lafrance and Wilner Mitchell.

The next day the teams played a "Nine Aside" tournament on a short field - four games each, with Abaco again winning the tournament. That evening the two All Star Teams clashed again, with the same result. Abaco won three to one. The goals were made by Abaconians Wilner Mitchell, Robin Lafrance and Japhus Blanc. Trophies were given to each player from Abaco.

Wilner Mitchell received an additional honour, the MVP or Most Valuable Player



The Saturday morning training sessions attract 130 to 150 youth. They learn much more than the rules of the games. They learn discipline, obedience, team work and good sportsmanship.

Central High, Mr. Scott from S.C. Bootle, Mr. Hart, Mr. Morley and Mr. and Mrs. Davis, accompanied 70 children aged 10 to 16 to the play-off, including the Youth in Action's boys and girls, twelve and under, and other high schools girl teams. The results of the game were not known at publication time, but we are expecting outstand-

ing results from the dedicated teams from Abaco.

To celebrate the end of a successful soccer season, a cook out was held on January 22nd at Murphy Town park. The sports program will resume on February 12th with basketball after a two week break.

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



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People in the News

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John Cash is a broker with H.G. Christie, Ltd. and is based in Treasure Cay. John is a member of The Bahamas Real Estate Association (BREA) and also holds the BRI (Bahamas Realtor Institute) designation.

Teacher Writes Book on Bush Medicine

By Portia Jonsson

Bahamians have practiced bush medicine for many years and it is widely used today. Using plants for medicinal purposes is a tradition that African slaves brought with them when they came to The Bahamas. Bahamians use herbs and plants to cure everything from sunburns to insomnia. Bush medicine gained importance in the Family Islands where doctors were rarely available and has been handed down from generation to generation.

Mrs. Martha Smith grew up in Delectable Bay, Acklins, drinking bush tea and aloe every morning. Her parents did not see the need in spending money for medicine while there were plants readily available that were free and all natural.

As a young girl she was always fascinated in bush medicine, but it was not until she came across a book on the subject written by the late Leslie Higgs that it prompted her to delve further and learn more. While teaching in Acklins and San Salvador many years ago, she started a study on bush medicine. She made comparisons of the plants in Acklins and San Salvador. She took samples of each one and some she patched, steeped and boiled.

During her studies in Jamaica she carried out Caribbean study on bush medicine

in Bahamian Folk Tradition, a mandatory university course. Mrs. Smith received an A on her report. She then met with the Mrs. Higgs, who advised her to carry this on. About two years ago she approached the Nassau Guardian to publish her studies.

Mrs. Smith has been working on her book for five years which lists over 80 plants. The book contains the historical background on bush medicine in The Bahamas. We will learn the names of the plants such as Jackson bush also called horse bush, obeah or Jackson. Also listed in the book are the ailments and remedies. She says more people are now turning to bush medicine.

Other examples of plants that have medicinal value and provide beneficial treatment for a variety of ailments include periwinkle or sailor's cap used for diabetes, blue flower used for boils, lignum vitae good for energy, madeira bark good low blood, jumbey used for the cough, life leaf good for asthma and shepherd needle which cools the blood. She believes the aloe vera plant, used for burns, cuts and as a laxative, is the number one world healer. According to Mrs. Smith all



Mrs. Martha Smith is holding a blue flower plant in her left hand and cerasee in her right hand. These plants were found in the school grounds at Abaco Central High. Blue flower is good for boils and cerasee in used for colds.

of these have been tried and proven.

She hopes her book will be available to the public by March this year.

Mrs. Smith is married to Rudolph Smith, District Superintendent, Ministry of Education, and has been teaching for 37 years.

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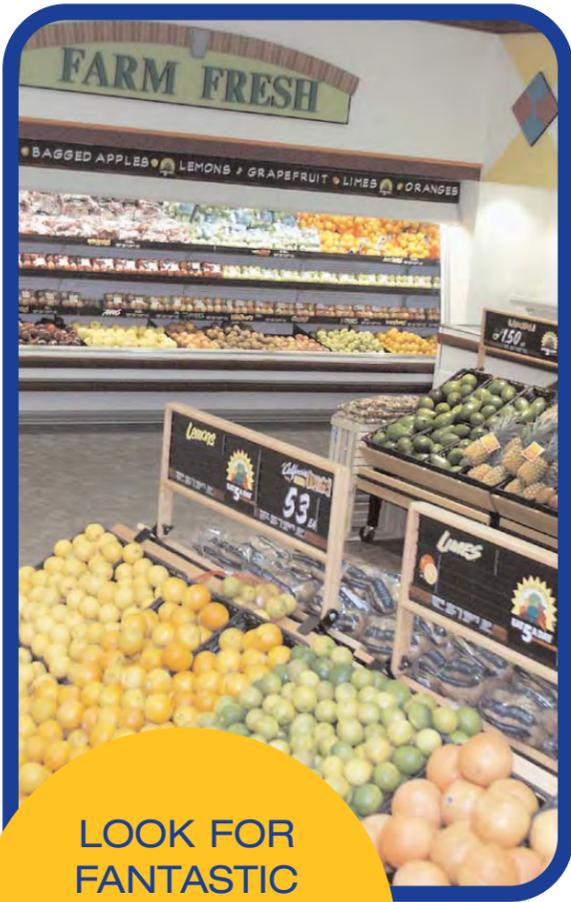
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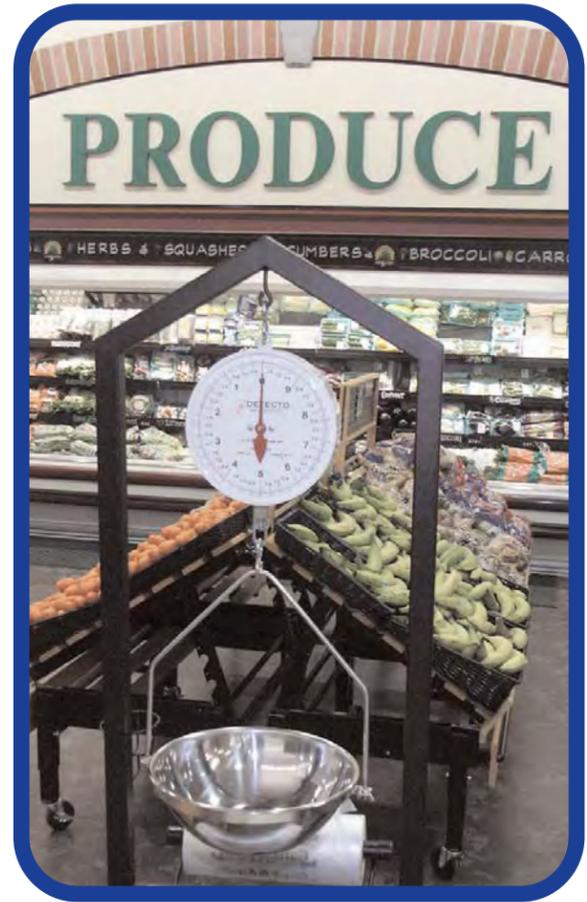
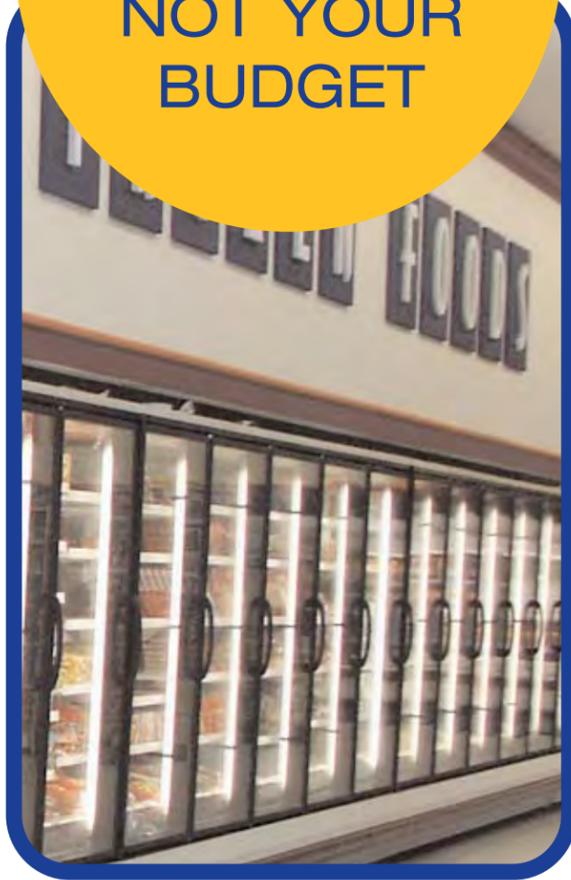
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High School Boys Enjoyed Caddying Experience

By Jennifer Hudson.

Several of Central Abaco High School's senior students between 15 and 18 years gained valuable work experience recently when they caddied for the golfers at Winding Bay's first golf tournament on December 19th and 20th.

Civian Newbold, Jude Vilma, Earle Moss, Jonas Pierre, Lemeck Edison, Colin Swain, Darren Bethel, Matthew Wedgewood, Michael Biemaime, John Chermant, Andre Singh and Christian Jones were selected by their teachers as having the right personalities and attitude for the job.

Their days began early that tournament weekend as the Winding Bay bus picked them up from the school at 7 a.m. sharp. It returned them to their homes about 6 p.m. a little leg weary but happy after what all the young men described as "a great experience."

On the Saturday prior to the tournament the students spent half a day at Winding Bay becoming familiar with the course and receiving tips on how to be a good caddy. They received instruction on the different types of clubs and how to carry the bags and received advice such as "watch the ball, make sure your shadow is never in the way of the golfer, never be in front of the golfer when he swings and be quiet during play." They were, of course, told to be polite and

encouraged to make conversation with the golfers when walking from hole to hole.

This 18-hole golf course covers a walking distance of over four miles and carrying golf bags weighing 30 pounds over that distance "made our shoulders a little sore," they said. However, though they felt slightly tired after the first day, the second day was easier. At the end of each day it was the job of some of the caddies to drive the golfers to the main gate in the golf carts while others parked the remaining carts.

The caddies looked very smart in their short khaki pants, Winding Bay shirts and wide brimmed hats provided by the club.

All of these young men say they are looking forward to when they are called upon again for the next tournament and eight of the students will eventually be chosen by the Abaco Club to work Saturdays and Sundays each week. Nine of the students say that as a result of their experience at Winding Bay they would like to work there full time after graduating from school. Five would like to caddy and others would like to work in other areas such as office manager and social host work with the guests.

The caddies were rewarded with a feeling of satisfaction and pride as the golfers were friendly and showed their appreciation of the job they had done.



These boys had a short course on the duties and responsibilities of caddies before they caddied for the first golf tournament held at The Abaco Club at Winding Bay. The experience was a very enjoyable learning experience, giving them ideas for their future.

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Fishermen Accept Grouper Ban as Necessary

Grouper Ban *From Page 1*

An area off the coast of Central Andros had even stricter regulations. An area there was designated as a "Protected Area" from November 21, 2004 until March 31, 2005. All fishing was prohibited in that area as a way of ensuring that fishing can be sustained for the future.

The ban on Nassau Grouper fishing was put in effect two years ago, following a one-week workshop held in Nassau by CARICOM (Caribbean Community) for the fisheries' officers of The Bahamas. Mr Wayne Cornish, Assistant Fishery Superintendent for Abaco, attended the seminar. He said, "I found it to be very informative."

It was meant to educate Bahamian fishermen about how other countries successfully manage their fishing industries. The ban was introduced throughout The Bahamas to help replenish the supply of Nassau Grouper, which is one of the few reef fish that is known locally not to carry ciguatera fish poisoning. Other fish of the 14-member grouper family can be caught, but are not in demand because of the risk of contamination by this organism which can lead to neurologic, gastrointestinal or cardiovascular symptoms in human beings.

Grouper mature as females carrying eggs and later change to become functional males. The most common ways to catch grouper are spear fishing, setting fish traps and hand-lining. The Northern Abaco seas have the most abundant fishing grounds.

To what extent are fishermen and seafood retailers affected by the ban? All of the fishermen interviewed were very much in favor of the ban, realizing that it is a long term goal that will benefit future

generations of both fish and Bahamians. Mr. Lunsworth Lightbourn, a fisherman from Sandy Point, came running to the phone to take my call, "I am busy preparing pots," he said, catching his breath. "You cannot imagine how exciting I am about the new fishing season." Mr. Lightbourn had been expecting my call and was eager to express his feelings. "I totally agree with the ban," and went on to say that he had already seen positive results as early as last year, finding good size grouper (11 to 12 pounds) in water as shallow as eight feet. "I feel so positively that I am increasing the number of pots from 16 to 50. I have also acquired an hydraulic trap puller, a total investment of \$5,000. I cannot wait for February 17th!"

Mr. James Green, a fishermen and fish reseller also from Sandy Point, said, "Fishing has been on hold lately anyway because of bad weather. So by the time fishing resumes the ban will be over." He mentioned attending a seminar in Nassau a year ago where many fishermen from different islands of The Bahamas were present. The seminar, held by the Department of Fisheries, was intended to inform fishermen of the ban and get their opinions on the subject. Mr. Green said, "I was 100 percent for it and most of the fishermen present that day shared his view." He thinks, "Grouper fishing will become better if the ban is respected." He says that hog snapper has been very much in demand lately as a substitute for grouper.

A local fishmonger, Mrs. Annette Long, deplores the effect of the ban on her business in Marsh Harbour, Long's Seafood. She said, "The majority of my

customers are tourists who demand Nassau Grouper and will not buy anything else. I have experienced business losses as a result, but I agree with the concept. In the long run it will be for the best." She thinks that most fishermen gave up fishing altogether during the ban period. Her husband, Mr. Kenneth Long, a fisherman, says that he does not go to sea so he is not tempted to catch a grouper if he sees one. "The weather has not permitted it anyway." Mr. Long, who specializes in stone crab fishing, says that there is other seafood available such as stone crab whose fishing season runs from October 16th to May 31st, crawfish which are available from August 1st to March 31st and hog snappers, mutton snappers, grunts, jacks and yellow tails for fish fry. He agrees with his wife that the ban is a necessary evil that will profit everybody on the long run.

The Department of Fisheries is intent on enforcing the ban and the three enforcement officers on Abaco, Mr. Carroll Laing, Mr. Leon Pinder and Mr. Wayne Cornish, use the Department of Fisheries' 26-foot craft to make their regular

patrol trips. Moreover, Mr. Cornish would like to get together with local fishermen, to share with them the material donated by the Caricom organization which consists of television and several tapes that he thinks "would be most educational for them." "Unfortunately, it seems that timing has been a problem."

Mr. Long would like to attend a group viewing, but he mentioned, "Most of the local fishermen are now away on lobster fishing trips, and when they return it will be grouper season." Mr. Cornish, who has personally and individually contacted the fishermen, "is dismayed by their lack of response." He wishes that they would contact the Department of Fisheries to set a mutually agreeable time and respond to its attempt to educate them towards a more profitable fishing industry.

The public is reminded that it is illegal to catch, sell or buy a grouper under three pounds Commercial fishing licenses are required for a craft over 20-feet long as well as a business license, while for a boat under 20 feet, only the business license is needed to fish and sell.

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SPOTLIGHT ON YOUNG PEOPLE — Nelly is a Responsible Young Boater

By Jennifer Hudson

Fifteen-year-old Nelly Risberg has learnt responsibility at a young age and conquers the waves each day to get herself and her younger sister to school at Forest Heights



Nelly Risberg

Academy in Marsh Harbour. Every day Nelly drives herself and her nine-year-old sister in a 13-foot boat for the fifteen minute journey from their home on the island of Lubbers Quarters over to Elbow Cay where she anchors the boat at White Sound dock next to the Abaco Inn. Her sister helps catch the dock while Nelly throws out the anchor. Someone meets them in a car and drives them to the dock in Hope Town where they get on the ferry to cross to Marsh Harbour. Nelly is quite used to this jour-

ney across the water as she has been doing it since she was five years of age. She was then a passenger as her older sister Rebecca would drive but now Nelly has taken over the helm.

At the age of 11 years she was taught how to drive and handle a boat by her father and older sister, Rebecca, who is a former student of Forest Heights Academy and is now at sea in the South Pacific as a student in the Class Afloat programme aboard the S/V Concordia, a three masted barkentine.

Nelly does not get nervous handling the boat as she is so used to it and if the weather is really rough her parents will drive the boat. What she does find disconcerting, however, is that when the weather is rough, they will get very wet from the spray and then are very uncomfortable going to school in wet clothes. She and her sister try to remember to take dry clothes to change into on those days.

Nelly is very self assured. "Quite often the boat has engine problems," she says.

National Youth Service Begins

By Mirella Santillo

On January 8 a group of 58 young men aged 12 to 19 years accompanied by 11 instructors, were sent to the Bahamas Agriculture Research Center (BARC) on North Andros as part of a pilot project for the new National Youth Service. This organization under the auspices of the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sports and the Youth Empowerment and Skills Training Institute (YEAST) is a project that the PLP government has proposed since the 1980s.

Deacon Jeff Lloyd, executive director of YEAST, said that approval was finally granted by the Ministry of Youth, the Cabinet of The Bahamas and the Inter-American Development Bank for the following three-part scheme. The first, aimed at students in grades 7 to 12, will emphasize national pride and offer the Governor General Youth's Award Program. The

second will concentrate on "at-risk" youths, and the third will target out-of-school young people in need of training to qualify for jobs.

It was decided that this first pilot program would be directed towards "at-risk" youngsters, concentrating on the restorative element. The juniors, aged 12 to 15 will spend three months in the North Andros facility participating in a character and leadership program before being sent back to their schools. The remainder of the group, seniors aged 16 to 19, will be there for six months. They will be taught discipline, national pride, team work and loyalty. They will also improve on their morals, their academics, and learn construction trades such as carpentry, plumbing, masonry and electrical installation. The success of this first program will determine the subsequent steps to be

"First, I will try to fix it. If I cannot, I use my cell phone to call for help and just sit and wait for a tow back home. Then my parents take us over to Marsh Harbour in a bigger boat."

At the end of the school day the journey

begins again in reverse when Nelly takes to the waters once more in her little boat to get herself and little sister safely home in time to do their homework.

Well done, Nelly, on being such a responsible young lady.

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Veteran Aviator Weighs in on MH Airport Debate

By Richard E. Fawkes

Bahamian war hero and a pioneer in aviation in the archipelago, especially in his native Abaco, Leonard M. Thompson, is alarmed at the failure of the last two successive governments to correct what he sees as a threefold danger of the Marsh Harbour International Airport: the large amount of unauthorized, uncontrolled air traffic clogging the landing zone; the lack of a taxiway to quickly clear the single runway after aircraft land; and the rundown condition of the pothole-pocked 5,000-foot runway which threatens front-tire blowouts on landing aircraft.

In an interview in his home in Marsh Harbour 88-year-old Mr. Thompson said, "As inconvenient as the small terminal building is, the safety issues are much more pressing."

In a letter to Prime Minister Perry Christie dated March 16, 2004, Mr. Thompson wrote, "The terminal expansion

will no doubt be the most visible and popular with the locals, but for safety's sake, I would prioritize the taxiway."

And in a letter addressed to Minister of Transport and Aviation Glanys Hanna Martin, dated March 14, 2004, Mr. Thompson wrote, "Without a tower to control traffic, a taxi runway is desperately needed. The current airstrip is full of potholes. The island of Abaco has progressed tremendously over the past few years, making our airport more disastrous as an 'accident waiting to happen.'"



Uncontrolled Aircraft and Failure to Check Pilots' Licences

Mr. Thompson said when he was an active pilot, airplanes coming from Florida used to begin descending from the West End, Grand Bahama area. Over a year ago he noticed pilots waiting until they were to the east of Elbow Cay to do so.

"When I asked one of them about this, he said there was plenty of traffic around the airport that should not be there, and he had to wait to see if it was all right to come down," Mr. Thompson said. "There is a lot less traffic back of Elbow Cay, but the aircraft uses up hundreds more gallons of fuel going around for the extra ten minutes. That's bound to come back to the airlines in cost."

Mr. Thompson said the delays are further exacerbated by the time it takes for aircraft to clear the runway once they land, as there is nowhere for them to go but straight from the airstrip to the apron in front of the terminal.

"Only yesterday," Mr. Thompson said, "I noticed the pilot holding the aircraft to the right hand side of the runway. The rest of it is so bumpy because of the potholes, he was afraid of damaging his nose wheel."

Mr. Thompson was also concerned over the lack of precautions to make sure pilots are properly qualified to fly. "When I used

to fly, I had to show my pilot's licence regularly," he said. "Now, from talking to the various pilots, no one checks any pilot's licence."

Prioritizing Safety on a Limited Budget

Mr. Thompson, who flew many years for Bahamas Airways, which was the major carrier throughout The Bahamas from 1936 to 1970, was concerned that while the government assesses, with the aid of a foreign company, building a new terminal, a control tower or even a new airport, the safety problems will worsen.

In his letter to the Prime Minister, Mr. Thompson, who represented Abaco in the House of Assembly in the 1950s and 1960s, said, "As you know, I was in politics for many years and one thing has not changed — there is never enough in the budget to do everything that you want to do. I hope you find some funds for this critical upgrade to the airport."

Mr. Thompson would suggest that either the government build a new 8,000 to 11,000-foot runway in a southeast to northwest direction for which there is enough land at the current site, and then convert the current east-west runway into a taxiway; or build a taxiway parallel to the current runway, which

Please see **Thompson** Page 18



The Marsh Harbour International Airport terminal is very crowded with both visitors and locals, especially on weekends when the building is solid with people and luggage. Prior to departure, the agents have to comply with U.S. safety regulations and security measures which take so long that people have to wait outside in the sun and rain waiting for their plane.

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Thompson

From Page 16

should be re-paved.

Mr. Thompson does not believe the government has the money to build and staff a control tower, a new terminal and runway upgrades at this time, and it certainly cannot afford to build a new airport. Abaco lost an opportunity to build a large, international airport in the 1980s when the Treasure Cay airport was upgraded. Mr. Thompson, a founder of Treasure Cay Limited, which had built the old air strip at Treasure Cay, said he had advised the government to build an island-wide airport instead of the current 7,000-foot runway for Treasure Cay.

"Sir Clement Maynard, then Minister of Aviation and Transport, asked my advice and I told him they should build a large, international airport to serve north and south between Treasure Cay and Marsh Harbour," he said. "But some north Abaco politics got in the way and the idea was scrapped. Now we're left with the current situation 20 years later."

Terminal Could Be Expanded

Mr. Thompson believes there is enough room on the current site to expand the terminal, which he believes is hurting tourism because of its in-

adequate accommodations. In a letter published in the Nassau Guardian, Mr. Thompson called the airport a "national disgrace." He wrote in that letter: "Passengers often have to shove and trip over each other's bags to reach the undersized counter. They often have to wait for hours in stifling, crowded conditions or outside in the sun or rain."

Referring to the airport as "the second busiest airport in The Bahamas with hundreds of scheduled airlines as well as hundreds of private and charter flights," he has lost patience with writing letters and participating in countless planning sessions through two changes in government administrations, and now seeks the help of the media.

"I think I speak for all Abaconians," Mr. Thompson continued, "when I say I am ashamed of the Marsh Harbour International Airport. We all are tired of the proposed plans and broken promises."

Mr. Thompson, who has published a memoir of his experiences from a Hope Town boyhood, (*I Wanted Wings*) to becoming a Royal Canadian Air Force pilot shot down and imprisoned in Nazi Germany, to his involvement in the early days of Bahamian commercial aviation and national politics, spends most of his time writing stories about his childhood and youth. He hopes to publish them in a book soon.

Bootlegging Pilots Pioneered Aviation in The Bahamas

By Richard E. Fawkes

According to retired pilot Leonard Thompson, whose Hope Town father ran bootleg booze to New York during the 1920s Prohibition, three "barnstorming" pilots who participated in the illegal trade in these islands ended up pioneering commercial aviation in The Bahamas and the Caribbean.

"A. B. Chalk, Charles Collar, and Art Williams used to fly in from the States, buy the liquor and put it on boats in Bimini and West End, Grand Bahama, for shipment across the Gulf Stream," said the 88-year-old Mr. Thompson in a digression of his discussion of the Marsh Harbour airport during an interview.

Prohibition was the banning of the sale of alcohol by 18th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution in 1920. It was repealed in 1933. During that time livelihoods and many fortunes were made by Bahamians

providing the illegal elixir to dry American throats, usually at great risk of arrest and even death.

According to Mr. Thompson, Chalk founded Chalk Airlines, which still operates a seaplane service between The Bahamas and Florida. Charles Collar helped to found Bahamas Airways, which was the main airline in The Bahamas from 1936 to 1970. Art Williams founded British Guiana (Guyana) Airways, which eventually became the present-day BWIA.

Of course, Mr. Thompson brought his flying skills home from the Second World War and contributed greatly to the advancement of commercial aviation in the country. Not only was he a Bahamas Airways pilot, but made many a daredevil rescue missions throughout the islands, including landing in the sea at night by fire light to take sick people to hospital in Nassau.

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SC Bootle

From Page 3

ics building's roof and its equipment were destroyed. "I'm planning to study culinary arts at COB," she said. "But I can't do my practicum because there is no equipment."

The students said that while they were sorry some students will miss a week of school



*PTA President
Clayton McIntosh*

every other week, it was the best solution under the circumstances.

Both students said they had kept hoping the parents, students, teachers

and administrators would get together and hold fund raisers to carry out the repairs themselves rather than waiting for the government.

"We don't care about the politics, if it's FNM or PLP or if the government is going to do something," said Alexander, "we just want to go on with our education."

A crew from Odell's Construction, owned

by Odell Cox of Cooper's Town, was at work mixing mortar and tackling the unfinished roofs on the math and science block. It was Mr. Cox's company that had begun the work following the hurricane, although the late Mr. Everette Archer's company held the contract.

Mr. Clayton McIntosh, PTA President, was not sure why the work had stopped last year, but Mr. Cox had assured him the work would be completed in about two months. Mr. McIntosh said Mr. Cox had gone to Nassau yesterday morning to consult with the Ministry of Works.

The PTA president said the parents were supportive of the teachers in their stand last week, because they had been doing a good job under very difficult circumstances. "I'm sorry it happened that way," he said, "but I think they had no choice."

Mr. McIntosh said in recognition of its appreciation of the work the teachers were doing under difficult circumstances, the PTA had treated them to Christmas dinner at the Touch of Class Restaurant in Treasure Cay.

As to the question of what kind of support children on their week away from classes would receive, Mr. McIntosh said the PTA encouraged teachers to provide those students with assignments.

"But it is also up to the parents to supervise and help them," he said. "The teachers can only do so much. Those parents must help their children to make sure they do the work the teachers assign them."

The school was visited yesterday by a delegation from the opposition, Free National

Movement (FNM), that included former Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and Robert Sweeting, Members of Parliament for North and South Abaco, respectively, and Alvin Smith, Parliamentary Leader of the Opposition.

Colina Insurance Bought Imperial Life Insurance

On January 19th Colina Insurance Company Ltd. and Desjardins Financial Security, the parent company of Imperial Life, completed the transaction to transfer ownership of Imperial Life to Colina. Imperial Life has been part of the Bahamian community for 106 years.

President of Colina Insurance Company, Mr. James Campbell, wants to begin the integration of the two companies and move closer to realizing Colina's corporate vision of establishing itself as the premier insurance company of The Bahamas and positioning itself to compete internationally.

Both Desjardins and Colina executives complimented the workforce on the profession-

alism and loyalty displayed throughout the protracted approval process.

Colina's principals and Desjardins first announced the proposed acquisition of Imperial Life in a statement issued in November 2003. In December 2004 the Bahamas government completed its analysis of the application to acquire Imperial Life and issued the official approval for the transaction on December 31st, 2004.

Colina Insurance Company Ltd. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Colina Holdings Bahamas Limited, which is in turn, owned by more than 2,600 Bahamian shareholders and the Colina Financial Group.

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	7 a.m.	7:45 a.m.	8 a.m.	8:45 a.m.

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Marsh Harbour

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North End: Stunning, furnished 3 bed 2 bath home with fireplace. 125' on Atlantic Ocean. 35' elevation. Commanding views of the ocean. Spacious screened-in porch. One acre. \$1.32 million plus 7% to close

Hilltop lot 200' by 300' offering views of the Sea of Abaco and Coco Bay. Large mature trees. B\$360,000

Motivated Seller! Brand new two bedroom two full bath home located within five minutes walk of Coco Bay Beach and Ocean Beach. Central A/C. 40 x 12. Tile floors; porch and deck. Fully landscaped with white picket fence. 9 ft. high ceilings throughout. Centrally located near public dock; beaches and a major resort. Perfect for first time buyers or retirees! B299,800 gross

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EXCLUSIVE

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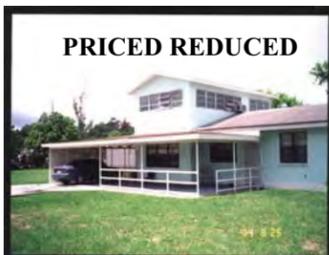


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Sandy Point -#5072- This 1 1/2 story home is located on a pretty powder white beach. This home consists of 3bed/2bath, utility garage and boat house. Great area for bone fishing, and deep sea fishing.



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- Bahama Coral Island**- vacant property in Bahama Coral Island, financing available, Call for details.
- Treasure Cay**- Canal Lots in desirable location, sea views, great buy-UNDER CONTRACT
- Boat Harbour Guana Cay**- vacant water front property accessible by boat only, not much available in this area- SOLD
- Cabbage Point**- 5 acres parcels on the SC Bootle highway, financing available -Call today for details
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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.

Business Is Booming on Abaco

By Mirella Santillo

Hotels, rental properties and restaurant owners and managers are confident that 2005 is going to be a great year!

The devastating impact of two hurricanes was felt for months afterwards. Buildings destroyed, docks torn apart and barren landscapes were not sights tourists liked to see. However, in spite of suffering the consequences of two storms last September, Abaco bounced right back and is ready for a better business year. Seven of the nine businesses reviewed reported an increase in or at least a comparable amount of business compared to last year.

Ms. Cindy Hayworth, owner of Vacation Planning Services located at the Great Abaco Club, said, "Homeowners are back at The Club." She thinks, "2004 was better than 2003 despite the fact that many last minute hopefuls were unable to come for the Christmas holidays because all the flights were booked.. There are strong bookings for spring and summer," she said. "Unexpectedly, for January there is a single one week booking starting January 7th and another for two weeks starting January 12th." She is very optimistic for the coming season.

Ms. Brenda Claridge, owner of Sapodilly's Restaurant also reported increased patronage for the month of December 2004. She thinks that damage to other restaurants in the area such as Snappas (which is completely shut down) and the Conch Craw (which has not completely resumed operations) is a factor in her business' increase, and she feels confident that 2005 will continue on the same trend.

It is lunch time and Wally's, another popular Marsh Harbour eatery, was nearly full on this January day. Ms. Maureen Smith, owner, stated, "Business has been up 10 percent over December of 2004 and is still going strong in January which is usually a slower period." She expects this kind of business to continue through the season.

Mangoes's executive chef Mr. Nick Doyle said, "Business in December has been as good as last year and last week was even better than the same week a year ago despite the fact that the rebuilding of the marina is not yet completed." He is not anticipating a slower season and he feels very comfortable that 2005 will be a better year.

A business still suffering from hurricane damage is the Conch Inn. Rooms had to be completely redone. Just in time, too, because customer service representative Ms. Vanessa McIntosh said, "There are already bookings for February and March."

Reports have been similar for businesses operating on the cays before the Christmas holidays. On Guana Cay Guana Sea Side Village's manager, Mr. Glenn Laing, stated that the resort did not reopen until December 24th, reducing the amount of business for that month. During the Christmas holidays, he reported that they were down about 15 per-

cent compared to last year. The resort was fully booked for October prior to the hurricane including a wedding that could not take place there any longer because of intensive damage. However, there are reservations now and Mr. Laing feels confident that the season will be good. He is looking forward to the imminent reopening of the resort's marina which will include a new dock.

Mr. Tom Hazel, manager of the Hope Town Harbour Lodge said, "Business trend is normal, business is good, and we are in good shape."

On Green Turtle Cay Mrs. Saunders, owner of Green Turtle Cay Rentals which

comprises five apartments and houses, happily noted that rental occupancy was up by 25 percent since the hurricanes, but only because other rental places were closed and dislodged people rented units on a monthly basis until they could return to their home or boat that had been damaged. Returning tourists were back for Christmas and there are bookings for the season, now that the telephone and internet services have been restored.

The Green Turtle Cay Club and Marina did not reopen until November 14th, 2004, and for that reason Christmas bookings were down about 20 percent mentioned Mrs. Linda McIntosh, the club's office manager.

"However," she said, "Bookings have started to pick up for January and February." The club's restaurant's patronage is down except for lunch which caters to local people. It is expected that reservations will improve shortly as well.

Returning tourists and second home owners are back on Abaco. The inclement weather in the Northern United States seemed to motivate people to visit warmer climates, as shown by the increase of business for a usually slower January. Frances and Jeanne caused considerable physical damage to property, but they did not reduce in the least the spirit of Abaconians and their faith in the future.

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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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"Point of View" 3 bed/ 2 1/2 bath CBS split level open concept home with cathedral ceilings and skylights. Lower level including living/ dining/ kitchen/ den and master bedroom suite accesses large ocean-side deck with Beach Beach and more Beach. Upstairs bedrooms each with own entry and sun deck. \$1722,000

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"Seaductress" / "Harbour's Edge" Modern CBS 3 bed/ 3 bath home including private entry suite, pool, 80 ft., full serviced dock, 2 car garage including two vehicles. Exceptional location and view. Many more features, must see to appreciate. \$1,200,000

WINDWARD BEACH ESTATES

"Sea Star" built as a retiree's dream house, this comfortable spacious home has 2 bed / 2 bath with cozy living/dining/kitchen. Also enclosed porch, carport, utility room. Lush garden w/ picket fence. Package shows lots of TLC. \$370,000

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

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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

Abaco's Cancer Society Celebrates 15 Years

By Jennifer Hudson

This year the Abaco Branch of the Bahamas Cancer Society reaches the milestone of 15 years of service to the people of Abaco. The Abaco Branch was formed in 1990 under the leadership of Kay Russell with Sandra Albury as Secretary and Wendy Sawyer as Treasurer. In 1993 a new slate of officers was elected including Dr. Vince McSweeney, Hugh Cottis, Marjolein Scott and Alice Nightingale.

In 1996 Hugh Cottis was elected President; Veronica Saunders, Vice-President; Marjolein Scott, Secretary; and Sylvia Cottis, Treasurer. This dedicated and hard working committee remains in office to this day assisted by a small group of willing members.

Over the years the Cancer Society's

Abaco Branch has assisted many Abaco cancer patients with airfares for their travel to Nassau or abroad to receive treatment. This service grew from six tickets given in 1993 to 40 in 2003.

The society is also involved in preventative programmes such as the free annual Pap smear and prostate clinics at Marsh Harbour, Cooper's Town, Sandy Point and Moore's Island for which it brings out a group of doctors from Nassau. It offers public lectures from time to time and radio talk shows on various types of cancer and its prevention and distribution of literature.

Fund raising events have been on-going such as an annual raffle, fashion shows, jumble and book sales and art auctions. In 2004 a Thrift Store was

opened in Marsh Harbour in the Marsh Harbour Community Library building which is open each Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and is manned by a dedicated group of volunteers. All proceeds go to the Cancer Society and this is now their major fund-raiser.

To date the Abaco Branch has contributed \$39,000 to the Cancer Caring Centre in Nassau which will provide a home away from home for patients undergoing treatment where their families can stay with them. One room is set aside solely for the use of patients from Abaco.

The Cancer Society of Abaco is grateful for the many generous donations to the Society both in memoriam of a loved one or in appreciation of its efforts to assist those stricken by cancer.

European Union Will Fund Immigrant Survey

At a packed meeting on January 24 Administrator Rolle announced that the European Union is funding an immigrant survey for the Mud and Pigeon Peas settlements. It is expected that this will include other Haitian settlements as well. The amount provided was not given but it was suggested it is sufficient for a comprehensive status report. Details are being worked out and further information will be announced on January 31.

Mr. Rolle also stated that the Southern Command of the U.S. Navy is going to provide and erect a secure warehouse on Abaco for storing disaster materials. Suitable government land is now being examined. A similar facility will be provided for Exuma.

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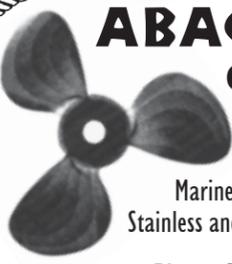
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<p>Murphy Town Incomplete duplex one unit completed comprising 2 bed, 1 bath 6,900 sq. ft. Lot #60</p>	<p>Bahama Coral Island Vacant land 10,890 sq. ft. Section #3 Block A Lot #1</p>	<p>Murphy Town Duplex 2 bed, 1 bath and 1 bed efficiency 8900 sq. ft. Lot #68</p>	<p>Dundas Town Vacant Land 10,810 sq. ft. Lot # 21</p>
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Church News

Methodist Women Enjoy Tea Party

Rev. Carla Culmer gave a special Tea Party to recognize some very special ladies. It was held on December 8th at St. Andrew's Methodist Church Hall in Dundas Town. There were a few games, some poems were read and there was lots of laughter and conversation and, of course, a variety of little tea cakes to go with their tea. It was a small group of only ten, but everyone appeared to have a good time.

An Ansley bone china tea cup was the door prize and was presented to the lucky winner, Mother Merle Williams. She was both thrilled and proud to accept her prize, saying, "I have never won anything before

and will treasure it always." She promised not to put it away in the cupboard but said she would use it whenever possible, which made Rev. Carla very happy.

The ladies will look forward to next year's tea party and Rev. Carla said she would see what could be arranged.



Mother Merle won cup

Visitor Convicted of Unlawful Possession of Firearm

By Jennifer Hudson

A visitor to Abaco, Mr. Robert Grenados, was fined \$10,000 on two counts of unlawful possession of firearms in Marsh Harbour on January 19th. He arrived in the Bahamas on January 18th aboard the yacht *El Loco* (meaning Crazy) and went to Tilloo Cay. The following day he came into Marsh Harbour to clear customs but left the gun on the cay and failed to declare it. As a result of investigations it was discovered that he had left the gun, a 9 m.m. Smith and Wesson hand gun on Tilloo Cay. He was taken before Magistrate Crawford McKee and was fined on two counts: possession of a firearm and possession of 29 rounds of ammunition. He was fined \$5,000 on each count or three months in prison.

Regulations Concerning the Possession of Firearms

Shot guns and rifles are allowed to be owned by members of the general public with an up-to-date Bahamian license.

High powered rifles are permitted on fishing boats to people who qualify and have the necessary license.

Handguns are only allowed to business persons who meet the standard requirements and who specifically qualify for such.

Handguns are permitted for boaters but **MUST BE DECLARED** and must be kept secured on board the boat. They **CANNOT** be removed from the boat and **CANNOT** be carried on land.

Dogs Aid Abaco Police

By Mirella Santillo

As far as police matters are concerned, Marsh Harbour cannot be described as a violent community. Asked how many murders took place last year on Abaco, "Only one murder took place on our island" answered Inspector Ferguson. It should be noted that it was a crime of passion, which is still an act of violence but not a threat to the community.

Then why would we need police dogs on our island? To answer that question and to understand the role of these dogs, a meeting was arranged with Detective Corporal Cleveland Dames. Officer Dames has been in Marsh Harbour for one and a half years during which time he has been in charge of the K-9 unit. He is assisted by Reserve Officer Martin Albury. They report directly to ASP Wayne Miller and keep in contact with Insp. Andrew Deveaux of Nassau, who is in charge of all the K-9 units in The Bahamas. The Abaco police force "Is preparing for the growth of the community by putting in place preventive measures against crime," Officer Dames said. One of those measures was setting up a K-9 unit. At present two dogs live in the police kennel, an Akita/German Shepherd attack dog and a Springer Spaniel drug dog.

The attack dog "is still in training, so it has not yet been involved in any actual cases," stated officer Dames. He explained, "There is a lot of alarm activation in town possibly indicating shops or house break-ins." Upon investigating these calls, it is planned that the dog will accompany the police officer for protection. An armed criminal could be present

and be deterred by the presence of a dog. He will also be used to escort a dangerous prisoner to court. A trained police dog becomes an officer's partner, able to apprehend a criminal running away from an injured policeman. The attack dog will become an all around working dog which will be taken on patrol of bank and business premises.

The Springer Spaniel, as a bird hunting dog, has a very developed sense of smell. Officer Dames explained, "Part of his training was to introduce him to drugs with a drug scented towel. After finding the drugs, he is given the towel back as a reward." There are two types of drug dogs. The policeman continued, "An aggressive dog will scratch repetitively upon finding the drugs, and a passive drug dog used for human apprehension will sit in front of the suspect."

Our Marsh Harbour dog is the aggressive type. Accompanying a team of officers on a routine road block at the end of 2004, the Springer Spaniel indicated a vehicle which the officers searched. Half a pound of marijuana was found in a bag in that car." The dog often takes part in road blocks and joins officers on search warrants of people suspected of possession. He accompanies officers giving lectures to local school children on the negative effect of illegal drugs and the consequences of using them.

Detective Dames said, "Properly trained police dogs can do the work load of many officers, thus saving human resources; they are an asset to any police force and are used not only for protection but as a deterrent."



Recently ran a competition for Travel Agents in the Bahamas, offering prizes to agents who sold the most BTI Voucher Rentals. It is with great pride that *Kathryn, Kimberly and Bettee* would like to Thank all our Valued Customers who helped us to beat out the competition securing the **Top 3 prizes, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Places.**

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Flood Victims Relief Fund - Giving Abaco's Best Effort

Donations for Tsunami Flood Victims Relief via Red Cross

Disaster has been redefined by the Tsunami disaster on Boxing Day, December 26, 2004. Thousands perished and survivors have lost entire families, friends, neighbours, jobs and businesses. The confirmed dead recently totaled 225,000 while the afflicted survivors number in

the millions.

In a joint effort the civic groups on Abaco are working with businesses and churches to raise \$100,000 as a meaningful contribution to the suffering victims of the Tsunami. They ask that church groups, clubs, youth groups and other groups combine efforts to realize this goal. Remember, whoever helps the least of his brothers renders service unto God the Father.

Consider various ways of raising funds or make a donation to the Red Cross of Abaco, specifying that the money is to go to Tsunami relief. All donations received will be acknowledged promptly with a written receipt. For further information contact Mrs. Zali Chu, Secretary, at 367-2824 or mail your donations to P.O. Box AB 20992, Marsh Harbour.

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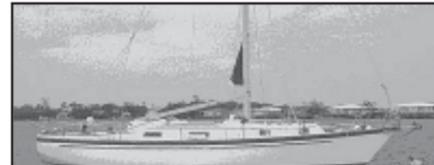
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Marsh Harbour - Pelican Shores - 3 bedroom, 3 bath home - 1 bedroom, 1 bath garage apartment - 1 1/2 Acres -private dock with boat-lift - Fabulous Views. - The privacy of a private island with in town convenience. Furnished. #AB67- **\$2,950,000**



"Casa Sirena"

Marsh Harbour - Great Abaco Club - 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 2,474 sq.ft. Canal Front Home - Over 900 sq.ft. of porches and Decks. Two Car Garage. Private dock for 55' boat and 10,000 # Boat-lift for 25' boat. Fully Furnished and Equipped. #AB121- **\$1,035,000**



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"Final Approach"

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



"B-Team"

Treasure Cay - Galleon Bay - 4 Bedroom, 3 bath, 4,000 sq.ft. canal-front home with 1,280 sq.ft. of open and covered decks situated over 3/4 acre. 48' lay-along private dock. Beautifully furnished with great Sea of Abaco views. #AB124 - **\$1,395,000.**

☆ **VACANT LAND** ☆

- ☆ **Great Guana Cay** - 5.9 Beautiful sea-to-sea acres- South end of Great Guana Cay 395' of Ocean frontage. 160' of Sea of Abaco frontage. 245' of semi-private boat basin frontage. Good elevations for fabulous ocean and sea views #AB5176 - **\$2,950,000.**
- ☆ **Green Turtle Cay** - Coco Bay Area - "Madera Hill" - 1.497 Acres - 312' x 209' - Waterfront access super views. # AB5143 - **UNDER CONTRACT**
- ☆ **Green Turtle Cay** - North End - Lot A. Pristine 135' of beach-front. 1.46 wooded acres. Good elevations. Minutes from clubs and town. #AB5182 - **NEW LISTING - \$550,000.**
- ☆ **Green Turtle Cay** - "Lot 60" 12,235 sq.ft., almost 1/3 acre. between Coco Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. mature native landscape. and trees. Convenient to Green Club and beach Last parcel remaining in the area. #AB 5183 - **NEW LISTING - \$73,000.**
- ☆ **Marsh Harbour** - Great Abaco Club - Canal Front Building Sites
#40 - 9,778 sq.ft. - AB5155 - Extra Large Corner Parcel - **\$299,000.**
#41 - 7,070 sq.ft. - AB5156 - Good Elevation - Sea View - **\$360,000.**
#45 - 6,968 sq.ft. - AB5066 - Good Elevation - Sea View - **SOLD**
- ☆ **Sand Banks Creek** - One Acre plus - Wooded lots with over 90' of water frontage on Bay - 3 miles south of Treasure Cay - Limited Number Available. #AB5069 - from: **\$63,700.**



"Point of View"

Elbow Cay - Dorros Cove - 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2,500 sq.ft residence with 2 bedroom, 1 bath - 1,100 sq.ft guest house. Southeastern point of island. Swimming Pool - Private boat slip. Superb ocean and cay views. Furnished - #AB112- **NEW PRICE \$1,750,000.**



"Surfside"

Great Guana Cay - Dolphin Beach Estates 5 Bedroom, 3 bath home - set on over 1/2 Acre with 100' of Beach-front. Open decks for fabulous ocean views, elevation for Sea of Abaco Views. Fully furnished and equipped. #AB123 **\$1,379,000**