Local Govt. Election Will Be June 27
Nomination Day Is June 2

Island Roots Heritage Festival Attracted Hundreds

Green Turtle Cay presented its second annual Island Roots Heritage Festival on May 20-22 at the Settlement Point Park in New Plymouth. Featured entertainment and a variety of activities along with booths offering arts, crafts, food and drinks kept everyone involved and entertained. The Green Turtle Cay school girls demonstrated their skill at plaiting the Maypole. Story on page 4.

CSME Is Explained by the Hon. Fred Mitchell

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Fred Mitchell, addressed the Chamber of Commerce on the Caribbean Single Market Economy which is a treaty that The Bahamas is considering signing. Mr. Mitchell on the right is talking with Ms. Jeritzan Outten, Abaco’s Tourism Director, Mr. Patrick Bethel, and Mr. Art Sands, the Chamber’s Vice President.

Mr. Mitchell began by saying how pleased he was to have been invited to Abaco to address the need to further the public education on the CSME.

He stated that over the last week the

Please see CSME Page 2

E-commerce Can Assist Our Tourism

By Jennifer Hudson

An e-commerce meeting, sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism for its Marketing and Airlift Task Committee, was held on May 5th at Mangoes Restaurant. Present were hoteliers, airline officials, Ministry of Tourism staff and media.

Ms. Jeritzan Outten, Director of Tourism for Abaco, introduced guest speaker, Mr. James Turner, Director of E-Commerce with the Bahamas’ Ministry of Tourism. This was his first visit to Abaco but he said that it certainly won’t be his last.

Mr. Turner’s task was to familiarize people with the vast opportunities available to them through e-commerce. He has been instrumental in organizing the extremely successful Bahamas Interactive

Please see E-commerce Page 26
Government Must Make a CSME Decision

The Hon. Fred Mitchell, center, discussed the CSME Treaty with Chamber members and the business community on May 18. He was accompanied by His Excellency Leonard Archer, High Commissioner/Ambassador to the Caribbean, on the right. They chat with Mr. Robert Sweeting, MP for South Abaco.

CSME

subject had been much abused, “with far too much information being spun about a subject that is not as complicated or diffi-
cult as it sounds.”

Mr. Mitchell referred to the first principles which went back to 1983 when The Baha-
mas government, headed by the late Sir Lynden O. Pindling, signed the Treaty of Chaguaramas, named after a town in Trinidad and Tobago.

That treaty contained two distinct segments 1.) The Caribbean Community, thus CARICOM, 2) the Caribbean Common Market. The Bahamas decided at that time that it was not in the best interest of our coun-
try to join the Common Market because our economy and those of the region were too divergent, and we had no manufacturing base to speak of.

In 2001 the Treaty of Chaguaramas was revised and the two parts that existed previ-
ously were put into one document. If The Bahamas wants to continue in the Treaty ar-
rangements, it must sign the new Revised Treaty. However, Mr. Mitchell stressed that The Bahamas never joined the economic side.

“What is happening now is that The Baha-
mas proposes to sign the Revised Treaty but still reserves itself on most of the economic issues, thus leaving us in the same position that we were in under the 1983 Treaty.”

“We do not want to fool the people so we have been blunt with the truth,” continued Mr. Mitchell. “We have said that the Re-
vised Treaty contains the agreement to move towards a single market and single economy. However, because of the peculiar nature of The Bahamas, we have decided that we will not pursue those provisions. In order to do that, The Bahamas will have to enter what is known as reservations to the Treaty. That means that when we join, we will exempt ourselves from certain of its provisions.

The provisions that we propose to exempt ourselves from are those that deal with the free movement of people, the monetary union, the Car-
ibbean Court of Justice on its appellate side and the Common External Tariff (CET). The Right of Establishment which allows non-Bahamians to own businesses in the country, is another issue that has been identified as an area of contention.

However, the Treaty provides for the Right of Establishment princi-
 tally in areas that earn foreign exchange such as hotels, export manufacturing and even eth-
nic and specialty restaurants, all of which are already open to foreign investors under the current National Investment Policy. So, in essence, no retail or wholesale operation in The Bahamas will be threatened by our join-
ing the CSME.”

While Mr. Mitchell said that that was re-
ally the end of the story, he spoke further to address certain issues which had arisen amongst the general public. “Some of the proposals have suddenly been transformed into a conspiracy to subvert the sovereignty of The Bahamas,” he said. However, in this regard he quoted from a letter by Edward Carrington, the Secretary of CARICOM, who, in responding to some misinformation in the press in The Bahamas, said, “CARICOM has already agreed to accept the reservations on monetary union and the free movement of people.” He reaffirmed that the decision to sign onto the CARICOM Revised Treaty has no implications for the sovereignty of The Bahamas.

The fact that The Bahamas has the sovereign right at all times to withdraw from the Treaty.

Another question was, “Which flag will fly over The Bahamas, the CSME flag or The Bahamas flag?” Mr. Mitchell stated, “There is no CSME flag and the Bahamian flag will continue to fly over The Bahamas.”

Another question which had been brought up was that of people from neighbouring islands governing The Bahamas and Mr. Mitchell assured that they would have no legal say over The Bahamas.

“Both political parties agree with the approach that we have decided with regard to this,” said Mr. Mitchell, who stated that he would be reporting to the Cabinet about the widespread concern that this matter has engendered.

“One hopes that we are able to gently persuade the people of The Bahamas that this is the right decision, to buy into a bet-
ter future. Nothing will be forced down anyone’s throat and please be assured that no harm will ever be allowed to come to Abaco or any part of The Bahamas by any decision in which I am a part as long as I am a part of the government.”

Mr. Mitchell closed his presentation by asking, “Was your life changed fundamen-
tally when The Bahamas signed the Treaty in 1983? ” He then assured the group, “Your lives will not be changed fundamen-
tally by signing the revised Treaty.”

Abaco’s Concerns

Several concerns were expressed by those attending the meeting. Mr Mitchell an-
wered all questions quite thoroughly that were raised.

One concerned the Common External Tariff. The Bahamas receives most of its revenue through customs duties on imported goods. There has been quite a bit of discus-

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- 6 beds totaling 1.1 acres
- Fabulous view down on the Sea of Abaco, the lighthouse and the Town
- Dock access
- Excellent for further development

HOPE TOWN/ELBOW CAY

"SILVER PLENE"
- Internet Ref: #2389
- Spectacular ocean views
- Island Style elevated home
- 2 bedrooms 2 baths
- Cozy Victorian wood interior
- 2 finished floors
- Wrap around deck with views of Hope Town lighthouse and the sea
- Ground level outdoor shower

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- Internet Ref: #2388
- 2 bed 2 bath island home
- Two story with open plan, open living space and balcony
- View of the Sea of Abaco from upper deb
- 1,000 square foot open flow interior
- Open living room with ocean views
- Elevated wood deck on the rear
- Great for BBQ
- Land value $61,000

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"TOP OF THE WORLD"
- Internet Ref: #2384
- Fully furnished Lyndal-style 2 bed 2 bath cottage
- Open concept with covered porch
- Large lot with ocean views
- 2nd floor framed out for Master suite or 3rd living area
- Ground floor storage

HOPE TOWN/ELBOW CAY

"DEWELLS"
- Internet Ref: #2387
- New 3-D Colonias plus 50,000-Gallon water storage
- 1 bed 1 bath upstairs

HOPE TOWN/ELBOW CAY

"LADY BUG LANDING"
- Internet Ref: #1970
- Overlooking Tahiti Beach
- 3 beds 3 bath 1920 sq. ft. two storey island home
- 2nd floor loft with fabulous views of Sea of Abaco
- Wrap around deck
- Central AC
- Spacious 2,113 sq. ft. 1st floor

HOPE TOWN/ELBOW CAY

"Y - SEA TO SEA"
- Internet Ref: #1975
- 105 ft. x 105 ft. lot in White Sound area of Elbow Cay, near ocean.
- Hillside interior lots with shared dock starting at $85,000. #1836.
- 3 3/4 acres - $715,000. Internet Ref. #1884

HOPE TOWN/ELBOW CAY

"SWEET HAVEN"
- Internet Ref: #2825
- White Sound 1,800 sq. ft. built as a duplex - easy to convert back to single family home
- Excellent rental potential
- New Bermuda roof
- Open view
- Wrap around deck
- Large yard, no zoning
- Good elevation

HOPE TOWN/ELBOW CAY

"JUPPER'S PLACE"
- Internet Ref: #1964
- Doris Cove Subdivision
- 60 ft. x 100 ft. lot
- Central AC
- Wrap around porch
- 20 ft. x 30 ft. dock
- Near Tahiti Beach

HOPE TOWN/ELBOW CAY

"DEWELLS"
- Internet Ref: #2387
- New 3-D Colonias plus 50,000-Gallon water storage
- 1 bed 1 bath upstairs

HOPE TOWN/ELBOW CAY

"TIBBIE BAY"
- Internet Ref: #2381
- Doris Cove Subdivision
- 50 ft. x 100 ft. lot
- Central AC
- Wrap around porch
- 20 ft. x 30 ft. dock
- Near Tahiti Beach

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- Internet Ref: #2384
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Late Friday afternoon, May 20, the officials climbed on the podium to proceed with the official opening of the Second Annual Island Roots Heritage Festival in Green Turtle Cay.

Set against one of the most beautiful sunsets, various speakers took turns praising Green Turtle Cay for its speedy recovery after the hurricanes and for the efforts of the committee in organizing the festival. Mr. Don Cornish with the Ministry of Tourism in Florida was the Master of Ceremony for the evening and presented each of the speakers. Ms. Jeritzan Outten, Director of Tourism for Abaco, welcomed the crowd saying, “Enjoy this magnificent evening. You are in the real Bahamas here tonight.” She thanked the Minister of Tourism for his support and the funds he granted towards the event which was a joint effort between the community of Green Turtle Cay and the Ministry of Tourism. She encouraged people to “eat, drink, try the delicacies, enjoy the music, tour of the William H. Albury, participate in the games and watch out for the Bunce Man!”

Mrs. Dee Von Quirolo with Reef Relief was representing the Mayor of Key West, Mr. Jimmy Wickley, who could not be present that evening. She brought his apologies and said, “I feel personally blessed to be able to work in protecting the coral reefs here as I do in Key West.”

The Hon Obie Wilchcombe, Minister of Tourism, said, “I am happy to be here to participate in the official opening. In spite of the hurricanes, tourism had rebounded. Expect great things in 2005,” he promised. “Let’s celebrate what we are about. Without culture, we are lost. Our roots are strong beginnings. People from other parts of the world have helped cement our roots and mad us what we are today.” He praised Mr. Peter Anderson, Secretary General of the Conch Republic who blew the conch at the beginning of the ceremony and offered to have him in the Saxon’s Junkanoo Parade. He also praised the Royal Police Force Band for its performance and urged people to enjoy the next two days.

The Hon. Neville Wisdom, Minister of Youth and Culture, confessed that “it was good to be home” and told stories of his youth while spending summers with his family in Marsh Harbour. After asking the audience to join in giving the Prime Minister wishes for a complete recovery, he delivered a message from the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie of “kind and warm regards.”

The Post Master General, Mr. Godfrey Clarke, announced the issue of a special postage stamp edition which came out on May 17 to commemorate the bond between Key West and Green Turtle Cay. The stamps were designed by Mr. Alton Lowe and represent portraits of John Bartlum and William Curry and their houses which were moved from Green Turtle Cay to Key West in 1847. The Curry house was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Amsterdam in the 1970s and remodeled to subsequently become a bed and breakfast. It stands in the same block as Sloppy Joe’s, one of the favorite hangouts of Ernest Hemingway.

Mrs. Karen McIntosh, in charge of the committee responsible for organizing the festivities, proclaimed that she was “happy and proud to be here.” She thanked everyone who participated. The Royal Bahamas Police Band played, entertaining the crowd well into the evening.

The Green Turtle Marching Band, formed just six months ago, entertained the crowds at the Island Roots Heritage Festival held on Green Turtle Cay on May 20-22. They were under the direction of Mrs. Marilyn Saunders and Mr. Floyd Johnson.

Well known artist Alton Lowe autographed stamped envelopes commemorating the Second Annual Island Roots Heritage Festival held in Green Turtle Cay. The stamps were made from artwork of Mr. Lowe’s showing two Green Turtle men who emigrated to Key West. The other two pictures in the set show the Green Turtle Cay houses which those men took with them when they moved to Key West.
Roots Festival SHOWCASES HERITAGE

By Mirella Santillo

Founded in the late 1700s, New Plymouth on Green Turtle Cay is proud of its Loyalist heritage and its African roots. The two cultures have happily coexisted for many decades, sharing customs and entertainment. It is the home of the Bunce Man, the Green Turtle Cay Junkanoo Group, the Island Roots Heritage Festival reborn in 2004, and the Green Turtle Cay Marching Band formed six months ago and composed of all ages of the community. Festivities are always well planned so it does not come as a surprise that many visitors from all over Abaco and abroad flock to New Plymouth on those occasions. And it was no different on the weekend of May 20-22 during which New Plymouth celebrated its ties to Key West, its Sister City in Florida. At the turn of the last century many residents of Green Turtle Cay moved to Key West, establishing a permanent bond between the two towns.

The festivities started on Friday, May 20, and continued through Sunday, May 22, with music, games, talks, booths offering crafts, art, specialty items, food and drink. There was poetry reading by Hol-
Crafts, Games and Demonstrations Were Highlighted

From Page 5

low Back and Garnell Stuart who sang her compositions to the rhythm of a rap beat and several other musical groups. The Royal Police Force Band paraded through town demonstrating their skills both at making great music and displaying complex marching maneuvers. Seventy-five officers in full attire, led by band leader Sup. Sylvester George and Drum Major Taborie Dean, marched through New Plymouth and performed on the festival grounds in front of captivated audiences gathered to watch them several times during the week end.

A Junkanoo parade enlivened the afternoon. The well known Green Turtle Cay group led by Mr. Floyd Johnson. "rushes" every New Year’s Day and on several occasions throughout the year. They brought a colorful note to the festivities.

Other activities included Green Turtle Cay girls performing a May Pole dance, Tiny Turtles Pre-school children play-acting and singing, the choir from Amy Roberts Primary school singing and play-acting the Turtle and The Snail. Entertainment included talks on the Lucayan Indians, archeology and other topics. A crowd gathered to hear the debut of the Green Turtle Cay Marching Band. Led by Mrs. Marilyn Saunders and Mr. Floyd Johnson, they entertained everyone present. Their performance was very commendable since the group was formed only six months ago.

The Festival grounds were encircled by stalls offering a variety of tropical drinks, delicious Bahamian food, toys and games.

The Roots Festival was a great time for people to get together and renew friendships along with all the entertainment provided. The casual atmosphere encouraged people to roam and enjoy the wide variety of displays, art work, demonstrations, games and items offered for sale at the numerous booths.

Mr. Joe Albury demonstrates the way tools were sharpened in the old days when there were no power tools. The grinding wheel was powered by a foot-operated pedal and the water/lubricant was "automatically" provided by a small hole in the can. The girls are fascinated by the process.

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In just a few days, on June 2, candidates for the fourth term of local government will submit their nomination forms. By entering their names for nomination, they have declared their intention to serve their town at the local level. Any registered voter may file for nomination for election to a town committee. A brief campaign will be conducted by those seeking election. It then becomes a popularity contest of sorts. Voters will have to look at the candidates and their accomplishments either within local government or as a concerned resident in the town and consider what they intend to do in the future for the town.

This is an interesting exercise in itself. Some community leaders in the past who nominated but chose not to campaign lost to lesser known persons who made the effort and canvassed door-to-door. The lesson to be learned is that if you choose to run, you must connect with the voters and ask for their support on election day.

Local government elections will be held on June 27. If the same number of persons nominate who are allowed on a town committee, then they are elected by default. The Minister will appoint persons to serve if not enough people nominate.

Most people in the townships are anxious to know who is nominating as this decision of these boards which affect the towns rests in the hands of those serving on the committees, boards and councils. It is interesting that councillors and town committee members are given a small stipend for their efforts but members of the statutory boards serve a strictly voluntary basis with no stipend.

Central Abaco is one huge economic engine and the cays are an integral part of the area. Abaco Central High School, the garbage disposal site, the airport, tourism in general and the government clinic are all Central Abaco District Council responsibilities. Besides serving the greater Marsh Harbour area, these facilities also serve the cays.

Central Abaco and the Hope Town District Councils are perhaps the two busiest councils in the Family Islands with large and growing economies and a workload to match. In fact, several suggestions have been made that the Hope Town District should be realigned with the Central Abaco District, making provision for the cays to have autonomy in town planning, licensing, and port matters.

The town planning boards, which decide if a warehouse can be built in a residential area, a gas station can be built, a residence can be converted into a business, a restaurant or shop can be built on the waterfront, a liquor store can be licensed near a church or school or in a residential area or a residence can convert a room into a beauty shop or a take-out food service, have no funds to spend but are the decision-making bodies that determine the future of the towns. Although the statutory boards neither have budgets nor do the board members receive a stipend, they play a larger role than the councils. It is the decisions of these boards which affect the present and future make-up of the towns they serve. It is town planning or licensing that decides if:

- a warehouse can be built in a residential area
- a gas station can be built
- a residence can be converted into a business
- a restaurant or shop can be built on the waterfront
- a liquor store can be licensed near a church or school or in a residential area
- a variance can be granted for less than required setbacks
- the required parking spaces can be waived

In theory the boards may only be making recommendations to council but in practice, the decisions of the boards are accepted.

All local port authority recommendations concerning docks must be forwarded to Nassau for approval. If the process can take months or even years.

How does all this tie into the nomination process on June 2? Hopefully, dedicated good people will step forward to be involved in the local government process. Serving does lead to frustrations but the process must go on. Good maintenance and thoughtful decisions affecting the towns rests in the hands of those serving on the committees, boards and councils.

Let’s hope that good people step forward throughout Abaco.
To the Editor,

We would like to thank all the people in Sandy Point who helped us in our emergency situation on April 16 for Mr. Ferris Pierson. The treatment at our home and at the clinic was excellent.

Our thanks to Nurses Estelle Finder and Shirley Saunders and Dr. Consulta. Our thanks to Commissioner Rodney Rowe and the police being instrumental in the air ambulance landing at night.

Mr. Pierson was hospitalized at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida, for life threatening pneumonia. We finally made it back to Michigan on May 26 and Ferris is doing well.

Our thanks to all,

Ferris and Donna Pierson

Dear Mr. Ralph,

I will be grateful for your favorable consideration in placing a following note in your newspaper:

I want to congratulate The Abaconian and also Friends of the Environment on their fifth annual Reef Ball. This is coming from a good friend in Nassau, Mr. Cyril E. Morley.

Cyril E. Morley

Thanks for helping the horses

Dear Editor,

The Wild Horses of Abaco Preservation Society would like to thank BahamasHot Mix and Sunshine Trucking for providing drivers and heavy equipment who helped WHOA move a container to the site of the wild horse preserve and then juggled three containers into final positions. On May 20 Bahamas Hot Mix hauled the heavy duty forklift of Sunshine Trucking to preserve site near Treasure Cay to do the job.

Moving cargo containers is a tough job even with plenty of maneuvering room. Moving a containers into position with WHOA’s old tractor was a challenge. Getting three containers down a narrow logging road and putting them in position was a major production.

The resulting compound will provide a guard house, equipment storage and a clinic for the horses.

To find out more about Abaco’s Wild Horses go to on www.arl.org or visit Buck a Book from 4 - 6 p.m. in the Abaco Shopping Centre.

Thank you from W.H.O.A.

An Open Letter to Friends of the Environment

Re: The cat “control” program undertaken to “save” the parrots

“Studies indicate that cats are not the primary culprit in dwindling bird populations,” says Becky Robinson, co-founder of Alley Cat Allies. “The World Watch Institute and other environmental research groups verify that the decline of bird and other wildlife populations is directly linked to the loss of natural habitat. Urban sprawl, tropical deforestation, the construction of shopping malls, roads and golf courses and increases in pesticide use and pollution are to blame.

Cats are rodent specialists, with birds comprising only a small portion of their diet.

The trap-neuter-release method has been successfully employed for decades in countries such as England, South Africa and Denmark. If it is said that there is no money for the program, you are doing the problem worse by killing, you are not solving the problem. You would do better to do nothing than throw money away on trap-and-kill.

“Animal welfare advocates consider trap-and-kill methods inhumane and objectionable on several fronts. The chief objection is that it is ineffective. It has been proven that as soon as a cat is removed, a new one will move in, assuming a steady food source is available.

Trapping, vaccine, alter and release programs are the most effective method for stabilizing and reducing feral cat (and dog) populations. Conversely, animal control programs that involve removing and exterminating are ineffective, costly, (since they never solve the problem) frequently inhumane and publicly unpopular.

These quotes are from ‘Save our Strays’ by Bob Christiansen, CLC Publishing. This excellent handbook, available for free on line, and at reasonable cost with bulk discounts via regular mail.

www.saveourstrays.com

Somebody really has to pay attention to this information. Some people are wasting money and will sooner or later read the attention of some international humane organization with resultant publicity that won’t do our tourist trade any good. These are proven, reliable, humane methods to deal with the problem. Ignore them at great risk to Abaco’s toured image as slice of paradise.

A Concerned Cat Lover

Wants to Save Feral Cats

Dear Sir:

As a founder of Friends of Abaco Animals and a member of several local humane societies, I am writing to express my strong concerns about a project currently being undertaken by a group called Parrots International and to suggest an alternative means of addressing the issue. Based on research done by Caroline Stahlke, Parrots International submitted a proposal to the Bahamian government for a predator control project in Abaco National Park on Great Abaco. In the application they cited a number of reasons for the increased threat to the parrot population including a forest fire in July of 2004, predation by cats and the two hurricanes that blasted Abaco last fall causing large scale destruction of parrot habitat and food sources.

The group asked permission to trap and remove the feral cats within the breeding area of the parrots, citing high exposure to extinction pressures and stating that predator control was imperative. The application was approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Bahamas National Trust and Friends of the Environment. The application does not mention the major factor that has had the most impact on parrots - human encroachment. Logging, development and hunting have all been responsible for decreasing the parrot population to its current state. As I see it, there are several problems with the project:

• The cats are being trapped in an inhumane and irresponsible manner.
• According to several witnesses the cats are being trapped with leg traps - they are so named because animals have been known to chew off their own legs to get out of them. Several dogs from Cherokee were caught in the traps and had to be freed by their owners. There was no sign of anyone in the area to remove any animal from these traps, and it is difficult to tell how long they could have been trapped there. In addition, wild dogs in the area have been seen limping, which is likely a result of being caught in many of the traps.

• It was reported that a dentist associated with Parrots International purchased chemicals and killed cats in the area.

• Finally, the Abaco parrots have been counted many times at this point they could probably count themselves. I have to
Representatives of the Baker’s Bay Golf and Ocean Club met with the Hope Town District Council on May 19 hoping to be granted two permits for their project. They requested permission to build a temporary service dock to replace one that was destroyed by storms and permission to erect temporary marketing facilities. Mr. Ed Divita and a lawyer for the project are discussing them with Chief Councillor Walter Sweeting.

Save Guana Cay Reef representatives examine the plans presented by Baker’s Bay Golf and Ocean Club at the recent Hope Town District Council meeting. They are Mr. Anthony Roberts, Mr. Jaime Bethel and Mr. Troy Albury.
More News of the Cays

Cays From Page 10

share for road repair, to construct a handi- cap access ramp to their clinic, and to cre- ate a new staging area for their town dump. They are developing a park with a swim area, grill facilities and cabanas on land near the dump. Guana Cay is using its share of the money for road repairs. Hope Town will use its funds to repaint the post office, clinic, library and public toilets, re-title the library floor, buy No Parking and Speed Limit signage, make town road repairs and fix the Jarrett Park fence.

Frustrated Local Government Prepares for Fourth Session

By Lindsey Delaplaine

It has been announced that nominations for District Councillors are due by June 2nd. Application forms can be picked up in the Administrator’s office. The application cost is $50 and must have five signatures to support the nomination. The election will be held on June 27th. Currently the Administrator’s office is working to register new voters.

This last session of local government has been marked by frustration on the part of many of the current Council members as there is never enough money to do all that is required to keep their towns and islands operating, maintained and make the neces- sary repairs after hurricanes. Instead of re- ceiving any additional money in 2005, the Council received a five percent cut and has been told it is unlikely they will receive any additional funding next year, although they have requested an additional $100,000 for their operational budget, for a total budget of $412,000. The Council has repeatedly made capital requests of approximately $1 million to make a number of necessary re- pairs and improvements. In response, this year they received $45,000.

Currently, all elements of local govern- ment are permitted to impose taxes or fees and are not allowed to have a bank account. Chief Councillor Walter Sweeting made the comment at the Hope Town annual meeting that local government will not truly exist until the localities have some say over the tax monies that are raised in their area. Currently, all tax revenues are sent to through the Administrator’s office and de- posited in the Treasury in Nassau. It is cen- tral government that decides how the mon- ries raised are disbursement throughout the is- lands.

The Hope Town District Council is made up of three representatives from Hope Town, three from Man-O-War and one from Guana Cay. At this time none of the three Hope Town representatives is consid- ering running for reelection.

The Man-O-War representatives are still deciding whether or not they are going to throw their hats in the ring one more time. One major factor in their decision is the extra amount of time they spend traveling to Hope Town for meetings and working on issues that do not pertain to their island. Mr. Sweeting has written a letter to the Minister of Local Government, the Hon. V. Alfred Gray, proposing three alterna- tives to this problem, including splitting the Hope Town District into three separate dis- tricts so each island can address its own special concerns and issues so the entire group does not have to be bogged down by a problem in one area. Another alternative would be to return to the original form of local government when each town had a committe and the head of that committee went to Marsh Harbour to form the Coun- cil as a representative of their locality. Guana Cay’s representative, Glenn Laing, has said he will run for re-election. “I’m in the fight now. I’m involved and I don’t want to leave the people of Guana Cay before this fight is over.”

Hope Town Holds Annual Town Meeting

By Lindsey Delaplaine

The Hope Town District Council held its annual town meeting on May 10. Nearly 40 residents turned up at St. James Meth- odist Church to receive an update on the Council’s activities and ask questions.

Chief Councillor Walter Sweeting of Man-O-War opened the meeting and intro- duced the other Council members: Deputy Chief Councillor Jeffrey Key, Mrs. Diane Bethel, Mr. Hazel McDonald and Mr. Ronnie Thompson, Jr. The Councillor from Guana Cay, Mr. Glen Laing, and Council- lor Roy Russell from Man-O-War were absent. Mr. Sweeting’s opening remarks
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The new name of the company Bahamians have trusted for life and health insurance for generations.

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ONE GOAL.

Our goal is to focus our efforts and resources on satisfying the needs and enriching the futures of all Bahamians by continuing to build on the leading products and outstanding service that you have come to expect from us.

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ColinaImperial
Insurance Ltd.
Residents of Hope Town attended a Town Meeting to hear from the Council and to bring the questions and complaints to the attention of the Council members. There was quite a bit of discussion on the limited budget and criticism that the district was not receiving enough of the tax money that the area generates and sends to Nassau.

Concerned this year’s financial situation. The budget was originally set at $326,000 to operate local government on the three islands in the district. That budget was cut in the middle of the year by five percent to $310,000. After fixed operating costs such as garbage, upkeep and maintenance of public buildings and staff costs, the Council was left with approximately $15,000 in discretionary funds. As there was no additional money received after the 2004 hurricanes, that money had to be used to assist clean-up efforts. Mr. Sweeting acknowledged they couldn’t have done everything without help and praised the volunteer work that had been done to repair the islands and thanked every-one who had involved. The Council requested an increased budget of $412,000 for next year but has been informed that it is unlikely they will receive any additional funds. The Council did receive $45,000 this year for capital expenses (after making a request of $1 million dollars). This money will be split between the three islands.

The Senior Administrator, Mr. Revis Rolle, made welcoming remarks. In light of the financial situation, he explained that Abaco is doing better than many other parts of The Bahamas, and for that reason it will be some time before this district receives a significant increase in money. As other areas catch up, it will become more possible for the tax dollars raised on Abaco to stay on Abaco. He echoed Mr. Sweeting in commending the voluntary spirit of the area. The meeting was opened to questions. Mr. Ray Katay asked how the budget was generated and if it was based on the taxes collected in the area. Mr. Sweeting answered that it was not based on tax revenue. Mrs. Suzanne Bethel asked if the Council had been able to find out how much tax revenue was generated by Abaco. When local government was created, they had been promised up to 50 percent of local tax monies. Mr. Sweeting replied that he had not been able to get that information, but not for lack of trying, but said that we are not receiving anywhere close to 50 percent. He commented that we will not really have local government until the budgets were based on the revenue raised by the area and that money stayed in our area. Mrs. Carrie Cash mentioned the new six percent tax on house rentals and increased assessments of their value, which she wouldn’t mind, but it would be nice if the money collected and spent on advertisements for The Bahamas included Abaco. Also disgraceful are the huge concessions given to developers in the area while locals struggle. Administrator Rolle admitted that the tax system in The Bahamas is flawed and needs to be addressed. He explained that local government officials are often put in awkward situations as they are not the ones who make the budgetary decisions. He urged residents to get in touch with members of the central government and bring them to Abaco to answer some of these questions. Mr. Tito Baldwin asked about the possibility of permanent housing and a car for the local police officer as well as an additional officer. He also asked if anything could be done about the freight situation at the public dock which creates congestion and danger to others using the dock. Councillor Thompson explained that he had worked with others to design a new freight area below the school. The application for funds is currently at the Ministry of Public Works for consideration. Mr. Thompson explained that he had secured a golf cart for the police officer. Administrator Rolle said he would work more News of the Cays

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Why Saving Great Guana Cay

Time For a National Development Debate and Plan?

The Great Guana Cay Debate underscores the urgent need for our nation to engage in a debate about what is our vision for the future of The Bahamas.

It is urgent because we all recognise that sustained development is necessary to provide employment opportunities for the current labour force and for the thousands of young Bahamians entering the job market every year.

It is urgent because The Bahamas needs constant local and foreign investment to maintain economic growth and opportunities.

And it is urgent, because for everyday that we do not have a plan, or vision for our future, one more little piece of our culture, our heritage, our environment and our marine and land resources is irreplaceably lost and disappears into the hands of foreign and Bahamian developers, whose only legitimate business goal is to get in, make money and leave to go on to the next project.

A turning point?

Great Guana Cay is a turning point in the affairs of our nation. It is a crucial time, calling for politically mature national debate and cultural introspection.

Does The Bahamas want development at any and all cost? Are we ready to accept; are we willing and even encouraging the complete wipe out of what is left of the Old Bahamas in the Family Islands?

The question really is; at what price is our nation for sale?

Do we really want everywhere in The Bahamas to become an Atlantis? So that when tourists come to The Bahamas, they can buy postcards of what it used to be like in the Family Islands.

Those of us, who remember Nassau up to the 1960s, can reminisce fondly about what a quaint little place it was. Hence, the passion felt in New Providence to save Clifton Cay?

To save for New Providence, just one little remnant of some clean and pristine land and marine environment, some vestige of our past, our culture and history.

This is our Wake up call Bahamas!

Great Guana Cay is a wake up call for the entire Bahamas. The fight to Save Great Guana Cay is in truth a fight to Save The Bahamas!

It is time for our politicians to become serious about The Bahamas. It is time for Bahamians to become serious as well. It is not every piece of land, every little island, every cay that a foreign or Bahamian developer decides he can make a quick buck turning over that should be available for exploitation.

Great Guana Cay is a remnant of the “Old Bahamas” in the Family Islands. It is where Bahamians and foreign visitors go to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. It is every tourist’s dream “Get Away”. In The Abaco’s they call it “God’s Country”.

There is full employment on the Cay. It is small, manageable, its marine and land environments are pristine.

Why would the government want to destroy it? What does the Bahamas gain? What part of our heritage is preserved? What part of our culture is celebrated?

The Passerine Heads of Agreement for Great Guana Cay $500 Million!

$500 Million is and sounds like a lot of money. It is a vast sum. But, in truth, who is going to make the $500 Million? Certainly not Bahamians; certainly not the economy of Great Guana Cay; certainly not the Abacos; and certainly not Bahamian Real Estate Agents.

1. The Discovery Developers from California will tightly control and sell each and every piece of their exclusive development. The Heads of Agreement makes no provision for the Developers to use Bahamian Real Estate Agents and Brokers.

Woke up Bahamas Real Estate Agents Association! Woke up Bahamas!

2. American brokers, American lawyers, American building supply companies, American construction workers, and American construction project management companies will make hundreds of millions of dollars. While Bahamians get to sell their handicrafts, pick up towels at the pool and be maids and servants in the exclusive 75 room hotel.

Does The Bahamas get anything else? Do we deserve better Bahamas?

No Taxes!

The Heads of Agreement gives Real Property Tax exemptions and “All concessions available” under the Hotels Encouragement Act.

It exempts the developers from Stamp duties & Customs duties.

Our Treasury gets NO taxes from a $500 Million dollar development.

Free Sand

The Developers even get to extract and dredge whatever sand they need, and get this - “Without Charge” !!!!!!!!

Quick Approvals

The Heads of Agreement also says that the Government will expedite the approval and permitting …of sale of lots…to non-Bahamians under The International Persons Landholding Act.

And last, but not least, the Government says it will “facilitate on an accelerated basis all necessary approvals, permits, agreements, licences and concessions” required by the Developers.

Guaranteed Approvals

Not only that, but even if a customs officer or any other Government agency has the temerity to try to do its job in so far as the Developer may need, for instance, some approval or permit under lawfully enacted legislation (i.e. where the official is just doing its job), the Government agrees that it will “take appropriate action to expedite the issuance of such delayed permissions or approvals”.

Even If Illegal

Even more astounding, if a court declares any part of the Heads of Agreement “void, avoidable, illegal, or otherwise unenforceable” the Government will amend the Heads of Agreement to still achieve the “intention of the parties”. Thus, our Government has promised to the developer, that even if the Heads of Agreement is unlawful, it will still find a way to go through with the agreement and provide the Developer with all the concessions it agreed to give to!!

Do Bahamians Get The Same Treatment?

Do Bahamians get these sorts of comprehensive concessions and this kind red carpet and carte blanche treatment from their own Government?
So let us be smart Bahamas!

$500 Million Dollars! Where could that best be spent in the Bahamas? Not on a small Cay, lost out in the middle of know where; where there is minimal economic impact. Where we get nothing in taxes. Where we destroy the environment.

Why not for example, look at Grand Bahama: Freeport in particular. Where there are miles and miles of beautiful beaches available for development. With hundreds of miles of already paved roads? Where sanitation, water, telephone, cable, internet and electricity facilities, and infrastructure are already in place in a master plan designed for 300,000 people and where there are only 75,000?

Where there are lawyers, architects, engineers, construction workers, accountants, entertainers, restaurants, bars, bankers, real estate agents, brokers, and all other professional services hungry for business and eager to help a development of this magnitude happen. Where there are churches for our foreign guests to worship with us. Where all government infrastructure and personnel are available! Where there are thousands of acres of land, ready willing and able to be developed. Where there is no need to give away Crown land? Where land is privately owned; and where the owners can make a profit selling the land? Moreover, where Government can get stamp duty on the sales?

And MOST IMPORTANTLY!!! Where there are thousands of unemployed Bahamians in the construction, hospitality, and tourism field available for work. Where local building supply businesses would be able to provide Hundreds of millions of dollars of building materials. Where the economy needs a steady stream of investment to survive and prosper. In short, where there would be the greatest economic benefit to the Bahamas, and the least environmental and social disruption.

In truth, we should begin to look at what kind of Bahamas we want in the future and plan a little better.

We have a rare, unique, and scarce resource, and it is time we manage it for our own enjoyment and future generations of Bahamians, lest nothing be left of our precious Bahamaland, ourselves, or the soul and spirit of our cultural and heritage.

This is why what is happening in Great Guana Cay matters so much for the entire Bahamas today, and why Saving Great Guana Cay means Saving The Bahamas!

So, a message to the leaders of this Nation from the People of this Nation; please stop The Great Guana Cay Give Away!

Please Save The Bahamass!

Please sign the petition to help the 170 residents of Guana Cay participate in their island development.

Fax completed petition to 1-242-365-5163 or log on to www.saveguanacayreef.com

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Email: __________________________

Please send your $5 donations for the cause to Save Guana Cay Reef Assn. Ltd.
P.O. Box F41227, Freeport, Bahamas.
to address the situation with the Police Officer. In his words, “I am ashamed that any government official should be reduced to begging or be dependent on others so they can do their job.” However, he did say it was unlikely that additional staff would be sent to Hope Town as there are other areas that have a higher level of crime, and those areas are receiving the additional resources of the police force. When asked by Mr. Thomas Bethel if Hope Town had to wait until crime increased to receive an additional officer, Rolle did not have an answer. Mr. Bethel suggested creating a way for crimes that are currently under reported – for fear of damaging tourism – to be made known to the police so that they could make an informed decision.

Mr. Clay Wilhoyte asked several questions. He questioned a report about large amounts of funds recently raised in Nassau after last September’s storms and asked if Abaco would see any of that money. Mr. Rolle reported that the money was being used to pay off government debts incurred during hurricane relief efforts. Mr. Wilhoyte asked if any additional bins could be put into service to help ease the overflow at the town dump.

Mr. Sweeting replied that the budget is already stretched thin. They are contacting the Hon. Ron Pinder, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, in the hope of getting additional funds to help enforce these laws. Finally, all rental properties are going to be assessed a $250 fee for garbage collection.

Mrs. Karen Lowe asked about the process for reporting buildings or structures which are being erected without permits. Mr. Sweeting said she should contact the Council and either they would help, or they could direct her to the proper official. Mr. Thompson said that any structure blocking public access could be demolished.

Mrs. Candace Key voiced her displeasure about the removal of the large fig tree behind the Mermaid’s Purse. She’s concerned about the pace of development and its impact on the town. “We have something in Hope Town that no one else has, and it’s going very fast.” She asked that Council get more input from the community before making such controversial decisions.

**Man-O-War Students Attend Island Roots Heritage Festival**

By Larry Elkins

On May 20 a group of students, teachers and parents made the trip to Green Turtle to attend the Island Roots Heritage Festival. The party left Man-O-War at 8 a.m. and traveled by ferries and jetty arriving just before 10. As we approached the dock in Green Turtle, we passed the William H. Albury, the last schooner to be built on Man-O-War.

Upon disembarking, we were met by the owner of the William H., Mr. Joe Maggio, who invited us to tour the ship later in the day. Walking to the festival site, we observed the beautiful schooner to be built on Man-O-War. The boat was on display during the Island Roots Festival on Green Turtle Cay.
Conch Republic of Key West, the students passed the booth of Joe Albury, serving a ‘sea cat’ near a lobster trap and drinks and other goods for sale. It didn’t take very long for many of the boys to make it to the ‘Hoop-La’ booth where they proceeded to win many prizes. A few of the girls were brave enough to try their hand at the game, too. Other students participated in craft making, meeting the artist Alton Lowe and trying their hand at the use of a block and tackle. The morning passed with the students finally taking time for lunch. There were various offerings including conch salad, fish, chicken, or ribs with all the fixings and the ever popular sweets.

After the lunch break, the Green Turtle Cay Volunteer Fire Department sponsored sack races in which some of our students did quite well. The crowning touch was Man-O-War’s Grades 1 to 4 in a tug-of-war against Green Turtle Cay’s Grades 1 to 4. It was a hard fought battle, but we came out victorious. The afternoon included more games, and a demonstration of the plaiting of the Maypole was the finishing touch to our visit. We left Green Turtle Cay, returning to Man-O-War after 6 p.m.

More News of the Cays

Man-O-War school students in grades 1-4 participated in a tug-of-war game with the students of Green Turtle Cay. Man-O-War won the competition.

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- Articles of Association and Offering Memorandums
- Shareholders registration, issuance and redemption of shares

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Broker Participation Invited
The Abaco Christian Council met with the teachers of Abaco Central High School after a fire which destroyed the Administration building. The pastors were wanting to help the teachers find solutions to their problems. Shown are Bishop Campbell, Mr. Euthal Greene, Principal of Abaco Central High School, Pastor Stephen Knowles, President of the Abaco Christian Council.

Mr. Greene told all that they can be sure there is a resolution to the problems that exist at Abaco Central High School, which has in excess of 500 students. He said anytime there is a large number of persons together there will be room for conflicts, which are presently in the school. Abaco Central, he said, has faced physical challenges to start with which flowed over to emotional challenges. They will have completed the entire school year and not yet the restoration.

Mr. Greene rejoined the school system in 2004 and has spent 32 years as a teacher. He admits that throughout his career, he has never met with this level of aggression in students. Something is wrong, and he feels that parents need to be more supportive of the institution. He explained that the school is as strong as its weakest link. Parents have a responsibility and the problem at Abaco Central, in his view, did not start with the fire. Mr. Greene said a blow was thrown at everyone and not only the staff, faculty and students of Abaco Central. He commended the effort there that in an effort to identifying the problem and go on planning to improve the situation. He concluded by saying he believed everyone there that night has the concern of the community and school at heart.

For all those kids serious about their education, the school, Bishop Campbell said, cannot provide any transcripts for them. He encouraged the teachers that this too will pass and to build the team so that Abaco Central can win the championship. Bishop Campbell also feels that parents are not doing their jobs as parents. It takes the parents to help the teachers enforce the rules. He told all that the Bible says if you spare the rod, you spoil the child. If we fail to pass the baton and it is dropped, then the parents are to blame.

Bishop Campbell said parents will buy cell phones, Air Jordan shoes and other luxuries for their kids but would not spend $25 for a textbook. Teachers need our support; and if parents took the time to walk around the school, he contends it would make the teachers’ job a lot easier. We are today what our thoughts were yesterday. We are tomorrow what are thoughts are today. If we do not change our way of thinking, Bishop Campbell asked, then where would we be?

The floor was then opened for any questions and suggestions. Chief Councillor Cay Mills was among the first to voice his concern. As a community leader he puts the responsibility of rearing children back in the hands of the parents. He will not rest until someone says Abaco Central is leading the way in education in The Bahamas.

Civic Organizations
Kiwanis Club of Great Abaco
- Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Central Abaco Primary, Dundas Town, 367-3457
Pilot Club of Abaco
- Third Tuesday, 7 p.m., Central Abaco, 367-5932
- Pilot Club of South Abaco
- Last Thursday. monthly, J.A. Pinder School, Sandy Point, 366-4001
Rotary Club of Abaco
- Tuesdays, 6 p.m., weekly at Anglers Restauran

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A COMPLETE LINE OF GROCERIES
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Jack Thompson Has New Appointment

It has been announced that Mr. Jack Thompson has been appointed the new controller of the Road Traffic Department. He will be taking over the department from Mr. Brensil Rolle, who will take up a position at the Ministry of Works.

Mr. Thompson has most recently headed the NEMA team on Abaco overseeing the relief and restoration program after the hurricanes of last September. After leaving Abaco he headed the Passport Office.

Mr. Thompson has already announced that while he is with Road Traffic that he will take a zero tolerance approach to traffic safety. “We are going to take a zero tolerance approach with respect to those persons who play Russian roulette on our streets. Whether that calls for the suspension or revoking of licences, we might have to do that. We have to do what we have to do,” he said.

A joint workshop made up of representatives from government, the insurance industry and corporate organizations has made recommendations which will be implemented. Road Traffic is hoping that these changes will bring about greater safety on the country’s roads. The department is also considering changes to the Road Traffic Act which would relate to training and certification of public service drivers.

All of Abaco wishes our favorite “Jumping Jack” great success in his new endeavor.

Bahamian Will Oversee Baker’s Bay Preserve

Dr. Livingston Marshall, Jr. has been appointed to the position of Senior Vice President of Community and Environmental Affairs in the Discovery Land Company for its Baker’s Bay development on the north end of Guana Cay. Dr. Marshall will be responsible for ensuring the project’s environmental compliance, chairing the project’s foundation which will govern the 66-acre preserve and guiding projects related to community and public affairs.

Mr. Adelson, a partner in the Discovery land Company, said, “Being able to attract someone of his calibre, a Bahamian who has extensive experience with Environmental Impact Assessments and understanding the government’s process speaks volumes.”

Dr. Marshall’s appointment adds to the number of Bahamians that the company has hired over the past few months as it prepares to begin construction of its $500 million Baker’s Bay Development, pending the necessary government approvals.

Prior to accepting this position, Dr. Marshall was a Consultant and Science Advisor in the Office of the Prime Minister where he provided scientific advice on a range of marine and environmental science, education and policy initiatives.

In accepting this position, Dr. Marshall said that while studying the Baker’s Bay business model, he found that “preserving and enhancing the environment is key to the company’s success and that is something that I feel very strongly about and of which I am glad to be a part.”

Prior to holding these positions, Dr Marshall held faculty positions at Morgan State University, Clark Atlanta University and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

His many years of professional research experience in marine and estuarine systems have focused on applied fisheries, habitat restoration, ecosystem monitoring, conservation and environmental policy.

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A Diverse Heritage Is Featured at Festival

By Mirella Santillo

Like many islands of the Caribbean, The Bahamas is a melting pot of cultures that evolved over the centuries to represent what we are now. After the take-over by the Spaniards, the French and the English fought over the islands, and the English finally settled in, making The Bahamas part of The British Commonwealth. In the 18th century the Loyalists running from the War of Independence in the United States, established several settlements on Abaco.

As we all know, when the Spaniards discovered our islands, they were inhabited by the Lucayan and Arawak Indians. These gentle people were soon exterminated by the diseases brought by the Europeans and the enslaving imposed upon them. But perhaps their blood still runs in some of people today. So at this time of reminiscing upon Abaco’s heritage during the Island Roots Festival on Green Turtle Cay, they were included into the search for the island’s roots. As we know, many Indian camp sites were found throughout The Bahamas including Abaco as they moved North to escape the Spanish invasion. Human remains were found in Hope Town and camp sites have been located on Green Turtle Cay and on the main island of Abaco.

A New Plymouth resident, the well known artist, Mr Alton Lowe, developed an interest in local archeology at an early age. The first artifact he came in contact with was a gourd decorated with two birds found in a cave by his father. Mr Lowe explained how the discovery was made. “My father, an avid gardener, used to collect guano from caves as fertilizer and found the object among the dirt brought back from the cave.” When Mr. Lowe opened the Albert Lowe Museum on Green Turtle Cay, his father gave him the gourd. It is not until later when he joined forces with David Bethel, Bob Carr and Sandra Riley to continue the search for more archeological sites on Green Turtle Cay that the gourd was actually authenticated as an Indian artifact.

Mostly on the cays. When the slave trade was abolished, the Africans on board of the slave boats were released on our shores. People of French descent came from Haiti after the black revolution as did later inhabitants of other Caribbean nations.

For the children, even face painting. The sun which was absent on Friday but was out on Saturday, so the straw hat stand was popular. African wear, plants, jewelry, crafted wood objects, cloth mermaids and paintings were displayed. The place was alive with vendors and consumers and a festive mood prevailed with people renewing ties and socializing with each other. Several tents provided sitting accommodation in the shade.

Both days the crowds kept coming with not only the town residents crowding the fair grounds, but visitors from Key West, other visitors to Abaco and many Abaco people. The Green Turtle Cay Ferry added several more trips to its regular schedule and was running until 11 p.m.

After dark the Police Pop Band invited people to dance to the rhythms of rock, oldies and calypso music. One highlight came when New Plymouth residents Martha Cash and Scott Lowe climbed on the stage to do The Twist. Said Matthew Lowe, another resident, “I had a great time, I can’t wait until next year.”

The Royal Bahamas Police Force Marching Band was a very popular feature of the Roots Festival in Green Turtle Cay. They marched through town and put on a show at the Settlement Point Park several times. Their marching maneuvers always fascinate the crowds. To the left is the Drum Major.
Lucayan Were the First Here

By Mirella Santillo

The native Indian heritage played an important part in this year’s Island Roots Heritage Festival held in New Plymouth on May 20th - 22nd, nearly as important a part as the Loyalist heritage and the African heritage.

A prominent archeologist was present to remind the people about these first inhabitants of the islands who were the gentle Lucayan Indians. Literature and artifacts found on Abaco were displayed by Mr Alton Lowe and Sandra Riley, who explained that a way to identify Lucayan pottery is to look for pieces of conch shell in the shards. Our native clay is brittle and to make it stronger, the Lucayans mixed it with ground conch shell, giving it a rough look and a paler color.

Mr. Bob Carr, an archeologist from Florida, gave a lecture on his work in Florida and in The Bahamas where he has spent many years looking for Indian camp sites. Besides hundreds of sites discovered in Florida, he was the one who discovered the Miami Circle, a sacred site. This discovery was very significant because it fulfilled Seminole Indian lore which held that a circle would be significant because it fulfilled Seminole Indian lore which held that a circle would be

Many Cultures Blend in Green Turtle Cay

A Film Will Feature Lucayans

By Mirella Santillo

A film presentation was offered in conjunction with the Island Roots Heritage Festival in Captain Roland Roberts’ house. This historic house built in 1840 was restored to become an Environmental Center operated by Reef Relief. However, the film was not about the reef, but about the Lucayan Indians.

The short preview offered a glimpse of a movie which is presently being filmed in Florida and on Green Turtle Cay called Paradise Now. It is adapted from the play of the same name written by Sandra Riley and from the book Lucayans that she and Alton Lowe wrote together. Ms. Riley said that it was “a special presentation to special guests, exploring the roots, going back to the native people. With the help of a few Key West people, with the archeological support of Mr. Bob Carr and of Mr. David Bethel of Marsh Harbour, we are taking a look at the Lucayans as part of who we are.”

Mr. Bethel, who has recovered many Indian artifacts on Abaco, said, “I hope that my mission will give these beautiful people a real face.” Paradise Now, which is to be released in the summer of 2006, takes place at the time of the arrival of the Spaniards in The Bahamas and brings out the similarity between catholic masses and the Indian ritual, among whom the cross meant connectedness to the universe.

The movie will be produced by Travis Neff, Nathan Rausch and Sandra Riley. All three were present during the movie presentation and will stay on Green Turtle Cay to film some nature scenes.

Curry House In Key West Was Transported from Green Turtle Cay

By Mirella Santillo

Mrs. Edith Amsterdam visited Green Turtle Cay from Key West for the Island Roots Heritage Festival for the second year in a row. “I enjoyed the celebrations so much last year that I had to come back,” she said.

She went on telling how she purchased the Curry House in Key West with her husband over 30 years ago in the hope of restoring it as her home. Located in the same block as Sloppy Joe’s Restaurant, the Loyalist, she and Alton Lowe wrote together. Mr. Riley said that it was “a special presentation to special guests, exploring the roots, going back to the native people. With the help of a few additional 15 rooms and make the house a private residence. They decided to build an additional 15 rooms and make the house into a mansion which could be a bed and breakfast.

Mrs. Amsterdam does not have any direct connection with The Bahamas except her love for it and her status as a frequent visitor to several of our islands.
South Abaco News

Cherokee Sound
By Lee Pinder
School News
On May 7th Club Cherokee members gathered to do a beach clean-up by the Long Dock and the Bridge Creek. It was a very disappointing turnout with more adults showing up than students. They removed lots of plastic bags, which are very harmful to sea life, abandoned and tangled fish lines plus general garbage that people bring to the Long Dock for picnics or snacks and leave behind for someone else to pick up. The club members informed me they would be doing another clean-up real soon to remove old pilings knocked down by last year’s hurricanes.

The students held their annual talent show on May 3th. The theme was Inventors Down Through the Ages and the students picked everyone from Benjamin Franklin to Henry Ford to the man who invented Kellogg’s cereal, chocolate, windshield wipers, cat eye reflectors, marshmallows and band-aids. They prefomred all types of talent including poems, jokes and a magic act as well as culinary skills (making a salad and a sandwich) to a beauty make-over. It was a pretty impressive show for elementary age students. A King and Queen were chosen and crowned by last year’s winners Terezence Albury and Dominque Chea. The new winners were Donovan Hepburn, who sang a song and portrayed George Washington Carver who invented many things including peanut butter. Hayley Sands gave a poem she wrote herself and her inventor was Earl Dickson who developed the Band-Aid.

Ms. Michelle Lowe, Principal, tells me that the children are concerned about the loss of land crabs locally. Every year around this time these little crustaceans have always been quite prevalent in our area, but not this year. They are used in preparing crab n’rice, a favourite local dish. What has happened to them? Last month it was the dead baby fish and tiny shrimp that washed up on our shores and now the crabs have disappeared. Someone or someone is disturbing the fragile ecology of Cherokee Sound and our surrounding area. We have to find out what it is and how to stop it before it affects our natural underground water supply that we all depend on. The students are preparing a letter to the Department of Environmental Health Services requesting an investigation.

Town Meeting
Discusses Finances
On May 5 the chairperson called a Town Meeting and reported on the budget and how the funds had been spent. She announced that out of the nearly $41,000 given to Cherokee, Casuarina, High Banks and Bahama Palm Shores for our 2004/2005, $19,000 or the lion’s share of money went to salaries. She said that $4,800.50 was still remaining in the account and out of that $3,000 was allocated to dig a septic tank for the public bathrooms in Cherokee. She further said that $1,000 had been given towards the repairs for the Long Dock and $4,000 has gone towards landscaping as well as $3,000 for clean-up after the hurricanes last season. She said that $11,000 had gone towards a Fire Station/Community Center for Casuarina Point and $1,900 went to bulldozer work for the various dumps.

The Board members were asked about when our dump would be moved and the Administrator said that the Environmental Ministry had it on its agenda of things to look into. They were further asked about the much needed water supply for Cherokee and were told it had been taken out of the contract that brought water to Casuarina three years ago because of lack of funds, but agreed it was still high on the priority list. The Chairman suggested that the Winding Bay people might be convinced to bring their water lines just that one mile further along the road to Cherokee with some gentle persuasion by the right people.

Kathynne Sawyer announced that shingles and felt to finish the post office/ library roof were being kept at her home, and all that needed to be done was to find some volunteers to do the work.

Before the meeting came to an end the problem of dogs was once again brought up. People are being charged and taken to court when their dogs are allowed to roam the streets without leashes and attack pedestrians. The Administrator confirmed that there were laws in place to handle these persons and they should be carried to court and made an example of for the benefit of others who may feel it is okay to break the law.

The meeting came to an end at 8:45 p.m.

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Emergency Medical Services Is Discussed

By Jennifer Hudson

A meeting was held on May 3rd at Mangoes Restaurant to review problems related to emergency medical services on Abaco. Mr. Revis Rolle, Island Administrator, called the meeting and had a team from Nassau attend. The group was headed by Dr. Baldwin Carey, Director of Public Health and Chairman of the Medical Council. Dr. Carey wanted to get feedback from the group. Mr. Robert Sweeting, M.P. for South Abaco, Mr. Roderick Bowe, Administrator for South Abaco, doctors and nurses from throughout Abaco, dentists, EMT’s and members of the Police Force and Red Cross were in attendance.

The meeting was convened because of numerous complaints received by the office of the Island Administrator from Abacanians, other residents and visitors regarding the current lack of emergency medical services on Abaco. Mr. Revis Rolle stated, “Various representatives of the main engines of the economy were of the strong opinion that if the availability of these services did not improve, then the tourism product which is the enclave of the economy would be undermined. The result of this would have a serious negative impact on the tourist product which would result in a drastic decline in economic activities which could cause devastating short, medium and long term results.” He praised the excellent service which has been provided by Mr. Daniel Wiltfang and the Trauma One team over the past nine years but felt that the recent tremendous growth in Abaco has now placed the need beyond that of a volunteer service.

Dr. Baldwin Carey stated that the Ministry of Health is concerned about the question of emergency medical services on Abaco and other large islands. “We should have seen the need earlier but it is sometimes difficult to meet all the needs. There is a definite need to respond and Abaco will now take the lead in how government will respond. An ambulance service for Abaco has now become our number one priority over Exuma. We cannot rely on a totally voluntary service any longer and must have some trained, paid personnel to have a good ambulance service. There will be some cross training so that the EMT’s will be able to assist in other areas while waiting for ambulance calls. We need to know how many first responders will help here on Abaco.” At present the Marsh Harbour area has about ten trained responders. Mr. Michael Pintard will train and certify others. Dr. Carey gave the encouraging news that the decision to build a mini hospital in Marsh Harbour is definite. This will be a joint effort by his office and the National Insurance Board and plans have already been completed and money allotted. The facility, which is expected to be completed within two years, will contain a mini operating theatre, laboratory and X-ray and will offer 24/7 care.

Dr. Carey stated that two Emergency Medical Technicians have been here on Abaco in response to the crisis situation but they have to return to Grand Bahama, “so we must be ready to replace them and establish something for Abaco on an ongoing basis. Arrangements must be worked out as to what to do, how to pay and how to manage the service. Only five islands of the Bahamas have ambulances and until now have relied on voluntary services; now, there will be some cross training so that the EMT’s will be able to assist in other areas while waiting for ambulance calls. We need to know how many first responders will help here on Abaco.” At present the Marsh Harbour area has about ten trained responders. Mr. Michael Pintard will train and certify others. Dr. Carey gave the encouraging news that the decision to build a mini hospital in Marsh Harbour is definite. This will be a joint effort by his office and the National Insurance Board and plans have already been completed and money allotted. The facility, which is expected to be completed within two years, will contain a mini operating theatre, laboratory and X-ray and will offer 24/7 care.

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but not before Mr. Saromone Kennedy from the International Red Cross gave a short talk on hurricane preparedness and gave out some Red Cross buckets to store preparedness items along with informative pamphlets and a package of tarpaulins for emergency use by the community.

Cherokee Sound Hosts Youth Service

The South Abaco District held a special service to commemorate National Youth Month on May 15. It was held at Ewiptow Methodist Church in Cherokee Sound.

Rev. Carla Calmer, the Methodist minister for the Abaco District, received a standing ovation for her words of encouragement to the youth of our nation while at the same time admonishing parents that education and manners start at home.

The program was moderated by Frank Hephurn of Crossing Rocks and included other uplifting remarks from Administrator for South Abaco, Mr. Roderick Bowe and Chief Councillor, Jason Roberts as well as several other local preachers and dignitaries. Also included in the program were the youth who all did an outstanding job. There were poems, singing, scripture readings and liturgical dancing. Musical accompaniment was very ably done.

Providing for the day's festivities by Deacon Jason Roberts of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Sandy Point. The large church was filled to capacity and windows rattled and the rafters shook with the loud and enthusiastic closing, with the best rendition I personally have ever experienced of our National Anthem. Refreshments were provided afterwards at the N.W. Sands Community Center.

Emergency

however, we have to change.”

In responding, the EMT’s said that their big problem on Abaco has been that of communication between patients, nurses, ambulance and clinic and they felt that meetings should be held more often to discuss concerns and what needs to be done. The problem of getting to government doctor were discussed. It was noted that the care given by the doctors at the government clinic is to be praised but that the problem lies in the system of reaching them because of the protocols which are in place.

Presently there is only one air ambulance to service all the islands. The Coast Guard will come if needed but is very busy. The Ministry is looking at other agencies for airlift.

Dr. Carey said, “I would like to understand the position of the private physicians regarding emergency care as there had been some unrest within the community regarding their recent comments in this regard.”

Mr. Revis Rolle in summing up what has been said about the need for additional communication, stated that they are overworked.

Mr. Saronne Kennedy from the International Red Cross gave a short talk on the need for an X-ray machine to be used as a portable unit to be used as a temporary measure but stated that there will be a full unit in a hospital here within two years.

Mr. Revis Rolle in summing up what will be done locally listed the following tasks:
• Get a list of first responders; get re-certification.
• Procure additional communication equipment to have alternatives for efficiency and effectiveness.
• Catalogue telephone numbers of emergency personnel and establish protocols and emergency numbers for hotels and marinas.

“We will evolve a system comparable to our neighbours in the North so that they need not worry about coming here because we can provide the services.”

In concluding, Dr. Carey stated that this represents the beginning of ongoing dialogue with persons from the capital and that 30 days hence they would revisit some of the suggestions to see if progress has been made. “The Minister is very concerned about the situation; that is why we are here. We will work with the Marsh Harbour staff to ensure that the response mechanism is the best it can be and a decision will be made within one week. The Government’s policy position on island emergency care will come out of this.”

Accompanying Dr. Carey were Ms. Charline Bain, Coordinator of Progressive Training with the Department of Public Health, and Ms. Bernadette Godet, Acting Administrator for Public Health.

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Bahamas Will Have Several Exemptions

CSME

From Page 2

sion about changing this. Mr. Mitchell explained that the country needs to change to another type of taxation because Customs duties will not be sufficient to meet the needs of the country in a few years. The government is looking at several alternative taxation systems. The most likely would be a VAT or Value Added Tax. This would be applied to all areas of our economy, services as well as goods. In other countries this has been quite successful and has raised more money than expected. It means that the consumer pays the tax, not just businesses.

In explaining about the Caribbean Court of Justice, the Bahamas has already agreed to support the court financially although we do not use the appellate services it offers. The Bahamas has already contributed to the initial financial costs. The Bahamas is still taking appeals to the Privy Council in Britain. There is a possibility that Britain may abolish this court. The Bahamas will use the Caribbean Court of Justice for disputes arising from the Treaty.

The Bahamas is already supporting many of the institutions that CARICOM has organized including the University of the West Indies, a joint tourism board, medical accreditation. Mr. Mitchell brought out the fact that the Bahamas will be liberalizing foreign exchange soon making it less difficult to get foreign money for investment. He indicated that soon Bahamians would be allowed to have US dollar accounts.

He assured the group that the government has to protect the way of life that Bahamians have and the government will not agree to anything that would jeopardize this. Other countries can bring pressure for change on The Bahamas but the government will make changes only if it is in the best interest of Bahamians.

The Bahamas has observer status with the World Trade Organization at this time and is seeking full membership. The process is almost complete. That will bring additional pressure on the government to change its system of producing revenue to accommodate the WTO regulations.

The government is preparing a White Paper which is almost complete which will state the government’s position on CARICOM.

Mr. Leonard Archer, High Commissioner to the Caribbean, who accompanied Mr. Mitchell, was of the opinion that the meeting with Chamber members was a very good one and that whilst some people did not seem to see the need to sign and expressed concerns, most were addressed.

Also accompanying Mr. Mitchell was Mr. Philip Miller, Under Secretary with Responsibility for Trade and Economic Matters.

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Letters  From Page 9

believe that people constantly standing over the parrs, especially during breeding seas- son and removing them and their eggs from the nests to take blood samples can- not be good for the parrs. At some point researchers need to be pointed to studies that have already been done and we must, as Bahamians, say enough is enough. Instead of inhumanely trapping and killing cats -which will not be an effective so- lution - there is an alternative approach. The cats in this area should be humanely trapped, neutered and spayed and then returned to the area. This will limit the area’s popula- tion without requiring constant trips to trap and kill a never ending supply of new cats. Studies show that a stabilized cat popula- tion will be less likely to hunt - there won’t be any young to care for. The stabilized colony will also prevent new cats from moving into the area. Stabilized feral cat colonies have been successfully created in Canada, the Virgin Islands, South Africa, the United States and Denmark.

In answer to the ques- tion, “How can busi- nesses factor in?” Any persons wishing to present their services through bahamas.com should contact Michelle Mikulah at the Ministry of Tourism’s office in Abaco with their infor- mation as she will in charge of the Abaco page.

Once a visitor selects Abaco, all informa- tion that the Ministry of Tourism has been told about any business will be clear for the consumer to see, whether it be about what to do, where to stay, diving, eco-tourism, golf, wonderful beaches, resorts or activi- ties. “All you need to do is tell us the appro- priate elements to add. We can present in- terviews or videos or photos of your facil- ity,” informed Mr. Turner. “Hotels can tag onto the destination and visitors can see views inside the hotel. They can then click ‘Book now’.”

It has been found that the average person spends seven minutes on bahamas.com. A shopping cart is available to enable the com- parison of prices and a summary can be ob- tained of all the items clicked on. Six mil- lion dollars has passed hands in bookings since November 2004 through the web site. Significant traffic reaches bahamas.com from other search en- gines and bahamas.com works with Expedia, Travelocity and others. Persons can now type in www.abaco.-bahamas.com and go straight to the Abaco page.

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According to local sources, Parsons International will be returning to Great Abaco in May to trap and kill more cats. I urge you to help us stop this from happen- ing - contact your Member of Parliament, the Ministry of Agriculture, Bahamas Trust and Friends of the Environment and urge them to pull their support from this project. Please work with us to create a safe envi- ronment for both populations. Friends of Abaco Animals will be willing to work with any number of partners to raise money to pay for this new approach.

I believe that we Bahamians can work to protect our environment with this project, and act soon to prevent more cats from dying in a painful and inhumane manner.

Yours etc.,
Jane Thompson
Friends of Abaco Animals

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Sea Level Cottages
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Man-O-War
Island Home Rentals 8 hse + 365-6048
Schouer’s Landing 5 cotts 365-6072

Marsh Harbour area

Abaco Beach Resort  82 rms 365-2158
Abaco Real Estate
6 hse + 365-2719
Abaco Towns 32 effic 365-2227
Alesia’s
3 rms 367-4490
Ambassador Inn  6 rms 365-2022
Bustick Bight Resort  8 rms 367-3980
Conch Inn
9 rms 367-4000
D’s Guest House 6 rms 367-3980
Great Abaco Club  12 hse + 365-4151
Island Breezes Motel  8 rms 367-3776
Lotty Fig Villas
6 eff 367-2681
Pelican Beach Villas
6 cott 367-3600
Sunset Point Resort
8 rms 367-5333

Moore’s Island
Moore’s B+B Endless Camp
366-6334

Mud Bay Point
Oehisa’s Resort
366-4139
Pete & Gay’s Resort
14 nr 366-4119
Rickinson’s Beaching
10 nr 367-4477
Spanish Cay

Treasurer Care
Bahama Beach Club
365-8500
Bimini 21 nr 367-8111
Island Dreams 45 hse + 365-8507
Treasurer Care Cay 95 rms 365-8801
Walker’s Cay
Walker’s Cay Resort
352-1352

Wood Cay
Tangelio Hotel
90 hse + 365-2225

General for Abaco

Listings for the entire Island
Abaco Vacations
 800-633-9197

Web Sites
with general Abaco information
http://www.abacoinfo.com
http://www.abacoinfo.com
http://www.go-abacos.com
http://www.oii.net
http://www.bahamas.com

Tunnel to Paradise
Mr. James Turner, Director of E-Commerce with the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, explained how the internet is changing the way the tourism market does business. “We had information on the effect it has had so far on tourism in The Bahamas and the future benefits the industry can derive from E-commerce,” said Mr. Turner. An interactive map is being created specifically about the Bahama,” said Mr. Turner. An interactive map is being created specifically about the Out Islands of The Bahamas. Viewers will be able to click onto all islands except Nassau and Grand Bahama.

The Visitors will be able to click onto all islands except Nassau and Grand Bahama.
Find your new home with Bahamas Realty. Bahamas Realty reaches the world via its simple and easy-to-use website www.bahamasrealty.bs

We have offices in Nassau, Abaco, Grand Bahama, Exuma, Long Island, Harbour Island & Eleuthera.

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**LYNYARD CAY**

- #9297: 77 acres bordering the Sea of Abaco with the Atlantic Ocean to the east, includes high elevations, a pond, native copiace, numerous coconut palm trees, pristine white sand beaches. Serious inquiries only, please.

**BAHAMA PALM SHORES**

- #928: Secluded 4 bedroom, 2 bath home in the lovely community of Bahama Palm Shores. Located directly across the lane from Eight Mile Bay and its gorgeous beach. Rooftop deck enjoys some of the best views in the area. Room to expand and put your personal touch to this promising home. $422,000

**COOPER’S TOWN**

- #9484: Bright, cherry, newly-built family home, 3 bed 2 bath. Cooper’s Town has all infrastructure, including Government medical facility, schools and grocery stores $154,900

**MURPHY TOWN**

- #9482: Murphy Town. Very nice duplex plus efficiency. Recent renovations, fresh paint, traditional Colonial style. Quite part of town, near highway. Don’t miss out on this! Nicely priced at $289,000

**GREENLAND BAY**

- #7735: Lovely wooded home site, cleared and ready for building. A fresh water well is in place to service the property. Nice elevation for views of the South Side of Abaco. Power and telephone line run close to this property. $20,000

**BAHAMA CORAL ISLAND**

**UNDER CONTRACT**

- #9456: Newly built, modern triplex plus efficiency apartment. Solid concrete construction, tile floors. Spacious back yard. Convenient to Government Primary school. Quiet cul-de-sac location. This won’t last long. $298,000

**COVE ESTATES**

- #928: 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath family home in Cove Estates. Custom built, tongue & groove interiors, tile, master bath spa with hot tub, double vanities, deluxe master suite. Many built-ins, gorgeous gourmet kitchen. Offered “as is”. Roof needs to be re-shingled. Owner motivated! Price is firm. $154,900

**BAHAMA CORAL ISLAND**

**UNDER CONTRACT**

- #9482: Lovely homesite in secluded Bahama Coral Island; just 10 minutes north of Marsh Harbour. Elevated and just across from natural wildlife area and 5 minutes to the secluded beach area. Great views if “built up”? Bay now for the future! $21,000
The senior class of the Hope Town School makes a trip to one of the Family Islands each spring. This year they visited Andros where they met Scraplron Colebrook of Red Bays, a master at doing strawork. They were fascinated by his craftsmanship which is of such high quality that some of his work is in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. The students had a very memorable trip which they will remember for many years.

Weather Vane Repair Is Risky

Story and Photo by Dave Gale

“The wind is blowing from the nor’east but the wind vane atop the lighthouse is pointing so’west!” So went the call from folks at Hope Town. Not nearly as important and exciting as the bygone days call of “Wrack Ashore!” but nevertheless the wind vane hadn’t been stuck in one position for any Hope Towner’s lifetime.

A member of the Hope Town Sailing Club who was also a member of the “Harbour Rhatts”

The Abacoianian
SECTION B
VOLUME 13, NUMBER 11, JUNE 1st, 2005

Away We Go to Andros!
Hope Town’s Senior Students Write About Their Experiences

By Candace Key
The Hope Town School senior class end-of-the-year trips are planned years ahead and talked about that long afterwards. It is our aim to visit all of the Bahamian islands. The trips last longer and longer each year as we find more and more to see. The trip last year to Inagua drew a lot of interest from readers and several people took the trip and found they enjoyed it as much as we had. This year we visited Andros, Fresh Creek, North Andros, to be exact.

These trips allow students to experience first hand what they normally only read about in books. Bahamian islands are definitely for experiencing and exploring. We are never disappointed. If anyone would like information on places, people, hotels or sites, please feel free to contact me. Past and present principal colleagues were a great help to us. It is always great to see Administrator Cephas Cooper and Principal Emily Miller, both of whom opened many doors for us.

Come now—let’s go to Andros through the eyes and voice of the students. Oh! By the way, next year we plan to travel to Exuma.

Sandy Point Plans Regatta

Homecoming is a great time to rekindle relationships and visit with family and friends. Sandy Point’s Regatta and Homecoming is planned for the Labor Day weekend commencing June 3rd. This year the Sandy Point Regatta Committee is working with the Ministry of Tourism to ensure that this year’s celebration will be extremely successful.

Under the theme Salute to a Sailing Legend, Captain Ivan Stuart, the Regatta Committee will present a wide presentation of food and drinks along with a competitive and exciting schedule of sporting and enter-

Sandy Point Plans Regatta

Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour Marina once again hosted the 26th annual Bertram Hatteras Shootout, a very prestigious billfish tournament. And again this year it was Hatteras that took top honours. However, the biggest fish this year did not translate into the top finish. The big one was caught by the Bertram Grander with this 718-pound blue marlin. Only two marlin were boated while 72 were released. Forty-three boats participated.

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Remember to Attend
The Native Plant Expo
Friends Office in Marsh Harbour
10 a.m. on June 11, 2005

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Clean Up Has Begun at Baker’s Bay

By Neil Sealey

Efforts are underway to clean up hazardous waste, abandoned equipment and derelict buildings at the former cruise ship terminal on the northern tip of Great Guana Cay. The remediation programme is expected to cost over $1 million and take weeks to complete, according to Doug Shipman, project manager for the low-density, environmentally sensitive residential resort that is planned for the Baker’s Bay property.

The cleanup contract was awarded to American Bridge, the company that recently completed construction of the Marsh Harbour freight dock. The company is working with numerous Bahamian subcontractors.

The shore facility was leased from the previous owner of Baker’s Bay, Ludwig Meister, by Premier Cruise Lines and developed under contract with Disney. It catered to thousands of passengers a week and the natural flora and fauna of the island. By Keith Bradley of the Institute for Renewable Energy and applied science, the project has been overseen by the Miami Environmental Management Team contracted to work with the University of Miami Environmental Management Team that is overseeing the Baker’s Bay development.

Mr. Bradley spent the last several weeks conducting a detailed inventory of native flora on the island, identifying a number of rare plants. Large trees mapped on the cay included wild-saffron, locust berry, mas-tic, ironwood, blolly, seven-year apple and yellowwood. The plant data will be analysed to determine habitat areas that should be protected.

During the initial construction phase, the developers will use tent-like structures for temporary housing. Construction workers will be ferried from Marsh Harbour directly to the construction site. Workers will not be passing through the Guana Cay settlement. Septic tanks will be initially installed and replaced with composting toilets within six months. Additionally, a constructed wetland for treating wastewater will be de-

The Premier Cruise Line that operated a small cruise ship coming to Abaco in the early 1990s left a lot of debris at Baker’s Bay when they pulled out. The developers of Baker’s Bay will be spending about $1 million to clean up the site. This is the ruins of the ship used to ship in supplies and then was abandoned.

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Coastal Awareness Month Was a Success

By Jennifer Hudson

“Preserving our natural resources. If not now, when? If not us, who?” was a slogan many people became familiar with recently since the month of April was observed island-wide as Coastal Awareness Month, according to Mrs. Berenadette Harding of the Ministry of Tourism and Mrs. Anita Knowles of the Friends of the Environment who spearheaded the event on Abaco, it was very successful. The idea of the month-long observation was initiated by Nassau to educate people about the importance of the coastal environment as the entire Bahamas is considered coastal. All islands of The Bahamas were invited to participate in this first national community awareness effort.

Mr. Earlton McPhee, General Manager of Sustainable Tourism Development and Chairman of the Planning Committee for Coastal Awareness Month, sent a letter suggesting areas to cover and suggestions for planned activities.

Ms. Harding and Ms. Knowles took the message to schools, civic and church groups throughout Abaco where they spoke on important issues and showed the film "Hanging in the Balance" which covered the topic of fishing and over-fishing. Churches took part by showing the message presented during Sunday sermons and schools held competitions to sensitize the children to the importance of coastal areas. Several schools took part in beach clean ups. There was a Ministry of Tourism chat show on Radio Abaco and logo T-shirts were on sale throughout the month.

The month began with the Reef Ball at the Abaco Beach Hotel on April 2nd and culminated with a very successful Earth Day for which school children had researched various environmental projects and presented their findings in a series of interesting booths on the grounds of New Visions Ministries. Certificates and prizes donated by the Ministry of Tourism were presented during a ceremony at the conclusion of Earth Day. Each school was presented with a CD of "Hanging in the Balance".

The main topics for consideration during Coastal Awareness Month were:

- Pollution: Marine pollution is caused by anything we throw into or allow to seep into the sea which can result in harm to the marine environment, marine life or both. Help by not throwing or allowing waste, garbage and other items into our seas which will pollute our waters.
- Habitat Destruction: This is a major issue affecting our coastal zone in The Bahamas; avoid filling in wetlands and cutting mangroves for development; maintain natural barriers and sand dunes; observe recommended setbacks for developments; do not anchor on coral reefs; never use chemicals such as bleach while fishing.
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- Climate Change: As Bahamians we can play our part to reduce the impacts on our coastal zone by reducing the amount of greenhouse gases that we emit into the atmosphere.
- Overfishing: Obey fishing regulations regarding the size limits and closed seasons.
- Invasive species: Invasive plants out compete local vegetation and contribute to coastal erosion. Plant native species in your yard and community.

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The organizers of Coastal Awareness Month felt, “We have played an important role in bringing a level of public awareness to the threats our coastal resources are challenged with on a daily basis” and would like to do it again next year.

A national school competition will begin in June and it is hoped for full participation from public and private schools. The Ministry and Friends would like to thank the business community for their support.
Education Minister Meets with Teachers

By Portia Jonsson

On May 13th the Minister of Education and Attorney General, the Hon. Alfred Sears, met with all teachers at a luncheon held at the Anglican Parish Hall. In his brief remarks to the teachers Mr. Smith said when Mr. Sears was last here to launch the book club, he was unable to meet with them for a luncheon but made a promise to return in two weeks. The Minister delivered on his promise.

Mr. Crestwell Sturrup, Permanent Secretary, informed all that security is as important in our schools today as teachers and principals. The ministry is open to the concerns of many. He advised that Mr. Sears came into the ministry to effect change and this kind of leadership is necessary because of the environment we live in today. He added that Min. Sears brought a vision to the ministry and two months from now the Ministry of Education will hold a national convention where they will engage with them for a luncheon but made a promise to return in two weeks. The Minister delivered on his promise.

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After hearing the song My Anchor Holds, Mr. Sears spoke on this topic: The Anchor Holds in Spite of the Storm. Min. Sears said these past three years have been a very challenging time. When he assumed this position, it became apparent to him that given our resources and our small size, we can do better in the delivery and contents in terms of the quality of administration of education.

As he traveled the country, everywhere he went teachers complained of the thousands of dollars owed to them by the ministry for work already done. There is also a problem with principals, senior personnel and administrators. He told of teachers who said the ministry is not caring and not concerned with the hardships they face because of the unanswered letters.

Many students expressed the desire to be doctors and scientists, but he had to confront the reality that in those islands science is not taught in the schools. This has caused him to conclude that with the resources in The Bahamas and our small size, we can do better. He asked himself some fundamental questions, “Why are we educating our students?” and “What is the outcome?”

He decided to pursue a number of objectives. The extended learning program was designed in the department. Students who did not meet the required level of language are required to attend summer school. He was pleased to say that last year the results were better but making a remedial class is not enough. Emphasis must be placed on early education. Over the next year his ministry will establish a preschool on every island beginning at age 4 and later on age 3.

The public preschool program in the Ministry of Education started in 1989. The Ministry of Education has an obligation to provide a place for every child. He said this year’s budget has allowed the ministry to engage additional teachers’ aides. Human resource is the quality of our education and the ministry will make provision for teachers to go back to school and get their bachelors degree.

In September of this year a leadership program will be established in the ministry. Mr. Sears wants everyone to have a common background. As minister he is not here to look pretty or be a rubber stamp. In order for teachers to have the confidence in the system they need to have an appraisal system that is fair.

Accompanying the Minister were Mr. Cecil Thompson, Deputy Director of the Ministry of Education; Mrs. Eulavese Newbold, Director of Communications; Mr. Joshua Smith, National Coordinator for Physical Infrastructure for the Ministry of Education; Mr. Garth Johnson, Director of School Security; Mr. Farrington, Chief Security Officer; and Mr. Rudolph Smith, District Superintendent.
This lot is located in beautiful Leisure Lee, just 15 minutes north of Marsh Harbour. It is situated on an unobstructed canal waterway, great for boating enthusiasts & nature lovers. It is approx. 9000 sq. ft. & is the perfect place to perch your dream home. This lot is in a great neighborhood that is fast growing, so don't miss your opportunity to own your own little piece of paradise.

Located just 15 minutes north of Marsh Harbour is this beautiful lot. With 100 feet of Sea-of-Abaco frontage & 125 feet on the main road you will be well secluded from the outside world. The entire property is 2.5 acres & can be sub-divided at a later date into no more than 5 1/2 acre lots. This is the last one available in this area, so call our office today for more details.

This offering consists of three consecutive lots on Banyan Tree Drive in beautiful Bahama Palm Shores. Priced to sell at a mere $89,000 you can build your home on one lot and keep two for future use or resale. Only a short walk from the beach, this property is an excellent buy. Call our office or make an appointment today.

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.

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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. 1,200 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.

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 a new septic, cistern, IPE decking, & new hurricane windows. The entire house has been re-roofed. Must be seen to truly appreciate all of its wonderful features.

Located just 20 minutes from Marsh Harbour in beautiful Bahama Palm Shores is this great parcel of land. Just across the street is the beautiful eight mile beach. This property is approx. 22,000 sq. ft. & is the perfect spot for your island dream house. The community of Bahama Palm Shores offers second home owners & full-time residents a personal atmosphere.

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Chamber Heard About Baker’s Bay Project

By Portia Jonsson

On May 5th the developers of the Baker’s Bay Golf and Ocean Club met with members of the Abaco Chamber of Commerce and the public to present their project and inform them of the business opportunities that will be afforded to the community. Mr. Ed Divita, a partner in the development, communicated all aspects of the project and its time frames. He gave the Chamber members insight into the background of his company, Discovery Land Company of San Francisco which has similar projects in Hawaii and Montana. Baker’s Bay he said is the most exciting project ever done.

There are three components of land included – private, Crown and leased Treasure land. Of the 105 acres of Crown Land within the property, 66 acres will be used as a permanent preserve and 25 acres will be part of the seabed of the marina. Fifteen acres of the leased Treasury land will be incorporated into the development for residential use. Of the 43 acres of Treasury land owned by the government, portions will be leased for infrastructure purposes including water and sewer treatment plants.

The design for the reverse osmosis water treatment plant is expandable. The sewer treatment plant will provide hook up for boats treat waste. The marina will meet the Blue Flag criteria which is very stringent and an ongoing process. Mr. Divita remarked that he did not know of any other marina in The Bahamas with Blue Flag certification.

An electrical sub-station, solid waste disposal and recycling facilities were also discussed. These facilities will be able to accommodate the loads from Great Cay residents in addition to Baker’s Bay. The green waste will be mulched to help reduce the bulk of solid waste and paper will be separated with the benefit of reusing.

The current goal is to take the balance of solid waste to the landfill which will be incorporated into the development for residential use. Mr. Divita is proud of the goal to work on recycling and hopes to bring recycling in Abaco to maturity.

Construction of phase one will begin June 2005 and is scheduled for completion June 2008. It will include a community centre and park with an existing beach, freight dock, marina and a marina village for residential uses, a bar, grill and concessions. The service pier will be open to the public, and the community centre near the service pier will have an area for the police, a meeting room and rooms for a clinic, customs office and other ancillary uses. It will also house a fire track provided by Baker’s Bay.

Phase Two will commence June 2008 and finish in June 2010 and includes the golf course. Mr. Divita advised that he needs to get information on the geology of the soil course. Mr. Divita advised that he needs to get information on the geology of the soil course. Mr. Divita also said that he is looking for business on Abaco and hopes there is an entrepreneur spirit here. He is proud to be a guest of our community.

Mr. Divita finished their presentation by saying he hoped the information was helpful to the business people in Abaco and advised that they are setting up an office in town. The floor was then open for questions, remarks and concerns.

Baker’s Bay Golf and Ocean Club gets underway. Mr. John Head, one of the principals on the left, and Mr. Carter Cooper Redd take with Chamber Directors Brenda Mitchell and Cindy Hayworth.

www.erabahamas.com

**Chamber Heard About Baker’s Bay Project**

By Portia Jonsson

On May 5th the developers of the Baker’s Bay Golf and Ocean Club met with members of the Abaco Chamber of Commerce and the public to present their project and inform them of the business opportunities that will be afforded to the community. Mr. Ed Divita, a partner in the development, communicated all aspects of the project and its time frames. He gave the Chamber members insight into the background of his company, Discovery Land Company of San Francisco which has similar projects in Hawaii and Montana. Baker’s Bay he said is the most exciting project ever done.

There are three components of land included – private, Crown and leased Treasure land. Of the 105 acres of Crown Land within the property, 66 acres will be used as a permanent preserve and 25 acres will be part of the seabed of the marina. Fifteen acres of the leased Treasury land will be incorporated into the development for residential use. Of the 43 acres of Treasury land owned by the government, portions will be leased for infrastructure purposes including water and sewer treatment plants.

The design for the reverse osmosis water treatment plant is expandable. The sewer treatment plant will provide hook up for boats treat waste. The marina will meet the Blue Flag criteria which is very stringent and an ongoing process. Mr. Divita remarked that he did not know of any other marina in The Bahamas with Blue Flag certification.

An electrical sub-station, solid waste disposal and recycling facilities were also discussed. These facilities will be able to accommodate the loads from Great Cay residents in addition to Baker’s Bay. The green waste will be mulched to help reduce the bulk of solid waste and paper will be separated with the benefit of reusing.

The current goal is to take the balance of solid waste to the landfill which will be incorporated into the development for residential use. Mr. Divita is proud of the goal to work on recycling and hopes to bring recycling in Abaco to maturity.

Construction of phase one will begin June 2005 and is scheduled for completion June 2008. It will include a community centre and park with an existing beach, freight dock, marina and a marina village for residential uses, a bar, grill and concessions. The service pier will be open to the public, and the community centre near the service pier will have an area for the police, a meeting room and rooms for a clinic, customs office and other ancillary uses. It will also house a fire track provided by Baker’s Bay.

Phase Two will commence June 2008 and finish in June 2010 and includes the golf course. Mr. Divita advised that he needs to get information on the geology of the soil course. Mr. Divita also said that he is looking for business on Abaco and hopes there is an entrepreneur spirit here. He is proud to be a guest of our community.

Mr. Divita finished their presentation by saying he hoped the information was helpful to the business people in Abaco and advised that they are setting up an office in town. The floor was then open for questions, remarks and concerns.

Baker’s Bay Golf and Ocean Club gets underway. Mr. John Head, one of the principals on the left, and Mr. Carter Cooper Redd take with Chamber Directors Brenda Mitchell and Cindy Hayworth.
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Church Service Culminates Youth Month

By Jennifer Hudson

The month of May was celebrated as National Youth Month and involved a variety of activities throughout the whole of Abaco. On May 22nd the Ministry of Sports and Culture presented A Celebration of Youth Church Service at St. Andrew’s Methodist Church in Dundas Town, hosted by Rev. Carla Culmer.

The church was packed with young people, their families and friends worshipping and participating in this very lively service. Kayshara Adderley, Abaco Central High School, rendered the National Anthem; Mesha Smith, Long Bay School, gave a welcome address; Sinclair King, Wesley College, read the Scripture; Adia Rolle, St. Francis de Sales School, introduced Senior Administrator for Central Abaco, Mr. Revis Rolle; and the members of the St. Andrews Young Men’s Choir, St. Andrews Dance Team and Change International Youth Choir performed items.

Mr. Rolle, who understands young people well as he began his career as a school teacher, gave high praise to the three young men who sang a selection just prior to his remarks and commended them for using their time wisely in singing instead of getting into mischief. His words to the youth of Abaco were, “Continue to do all the positive things you do, take your time and take advantage of study while you are young and your brain is alert and get to know God in your youth.” Mr. Rolle encouraged the adults to support the positive things young people do and direct the youth in the way they are to go.

Before embarking upon his sermon, guest speaker, Pastor Samuel Cornish of Change Ministries International, recognized the achievements of the many honour roll students present by asking them to stand. He stressed the point that all young people are not bad; we hear so much about fighting these days but those young people are in the minority. “If you want things to be possible, you must have God, for with God nothing shall be impossible,” he told them. “Place God first, give him priority over everything else.” Pastor Cornish told the congregation that he “does not cut corners” and he gave the youth five keys to living a good life in very straight, down-to-earth terms.

After a vote of thanks by Mr. Ishmael Morley, Youth Coordinator, the service was closed in prayer by Mr. Emery Curry, Youth Pastor, Friendship Tabernacle.

Each area of Abaco celebrated Youth Month with a church service. North Abaco held its service in Cooper’s Town, Central Abaco at St. Andrew’s Methodist Church in Dundas Town and South Abaco at Epworth Methodist Church in Cherokee Sound. Young people took a very active part in all these services. These youth are at the service in Dundas Town.

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Abaco Central High School
New Administration Building Nears Completion
By Mirella Santillo

On April 27th the administrative building of Abaco Central High School was destroyed by a fire believed to have been started by arson. Barely one month later a temporary structure was erected ready to accommodate the principal and the teachers who had refused to work a full day because of the lack of facilities.

On May 19th Mr. Bill Swain, the contractor who was on site overseeing the last phase of the construction, said, “They’ll move in some time next week.” Mr. Swain confirmed that construction started on April 30th, and he is proud of the fact that his team of workers will have erected and finished a building in less than a month.

The temporary building comprises a secretary/reception area on one side, the principal’s office on the other side, a large teacher’s lounge at the back and two restrooms. The building is air conditioned and is carpeted. The Principal, Mr. Euthal Green, confirmed that the teachers would stop their half day schedule as of the 23rd of May. The telephone which had been operating only partially since the hurricanes has finally been repaired and service is fully restored.

Supplies and equipment to replace destroyed in the fire were expected to arrive from Nassau in time for the opening of the new building. Data saved on floppy disks was lost, but most of the data on the hard drives was recovered. The principal did not “think anything vital had been lost.”

During the conversation, Mr. Green mentioned, “Things have quieted down.”

The high school had to deal with serious problems related to gangs this year. In spite of the situation being under control, full time security officers have been hired by the government to patrol the grounds daily accompanied by a local police officer. Mr. Green said that the Chief of Security with the Ministry of Education, Mr. Garth Johnson, has promised that he would have a full time security staff with “state of the arts” equipment to ensure proper surveillance. People have been recommended for the job and are being evaluated. The plan is to have officers on the school grounds at all times.

The burned building will be demolished and replaced by a two-story administration facility. Mr. Green is “hoping and confident that the construction will be well on the way by the beginning of next school year.” With all the construction going on, the principal is hoping for a technical vocation building that has been promised to the high school by both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Education.

Prior to the fire, plans had been made for the BGCSE national examinations to take place at Long Bay School. The end of the year examinations will take place as usual at Abaco Central High.

Mr. Green would like to remind parents that school registration for September is going on as usual and should be conducted as early as the beginning of June.

Not all teachers have decided to leave the school campus at 12 noon. Mrs. Elva Davis, Language Arts teacher, has elected “to stay until regular hours and do her grading in the quiet of her classroom.”

S.C. Bootle High School
Teachers Are Recovering
By Mirella Santillo

Two teachers from S.C. Bootle High School, physical education teacher, Mr. Jose Torres, and computer teacher, Mr. Hardeen, were injured in a car accident while traveling between Cooper’s Town and Marsh Harbour. The teachers usually come to Marsh Harbour every week for banking. “Mr. Hardeen was driving when one of the front wheel of the vehicle blew off, and he lost control of the car which flipped over,” explained Mr. Oscar Hernandez, a friend of Mr. Torres.

According to Mr. Rolle, Principal of S.C. Bootle High School, “Mr. Torres suffered fractured vertebrae and was flown to Cuba the following day. Mr. Hardeen was flown to Nassau and released after being treated for cuts and bruises. “Mr. Torres, who has to be hospitalized for three weeks, is in stable condition.”

Mr. Hernandez received an email from Mr. Torres in Cuba stating that he was doing better every day and was hoping to be back on Abaco by June.

Every Child Counts
Students Display Their Talents
By Jennifer Hudson

The talents of the students of the Every Child Counts School were showcased on May 10th when they produced a delightful interpretation of Shakespeare’s play Hamlet for family and friends. Every child in the school participated in some way, whether in the acting, scene painting, costumes or sound. Even little three-year-old Emily sang an action song assisted by her supportive teacher, Ms. Melanie.

Teaching the senior class, Mr. Mars, said the school could get back to normal school hours. The administration building was completely burned, leaving the school staff with no offices or rest rooms. The building is now completed.
had been preparing his students during the previous weeks by reading the story to them in modern day English. He was then joined by Mrs. Claudia Parrone, a teacher from Winston Salem, North Carolina, who helped produce the performance in two weeks. Mrs. Parrone works with the Sawtooth Centre for Visual Arts that kindly granted her the time off to come to work with the students of the Every Child Counts School. She thoroughly enjoyed her time here working with these special children. “Each day was something new,” she said. “A child would take a different role or come up with a new idea.”

The students did an excellent job of acting out the play and though a few were a little stage shy, which is to be expected, some were extremely confident and fifteen-year-old Alonzo Williams was very self confident in his role as Hamlet as was MJ the narrator. “Alonzo had great insight,” said Mrs. Parrone, “and Michael captured the whole essence of the play in the poems which he wrote and read.”

The play was enhanced by very attractive scenery painted by the students and a sound track of Enya as background music which was ably controlled by a student. A BBC power failure on the morning of the play did not in the least mar the performance, thanks to the kindness of Solomon’s SuperCentre which provided the school with a “feed” of electricity to run the spotlights and sound system.

Mrs. Lynn Major, principal of the school, was very proud of her students. “They did great,” she said afterwards. “These students do not usually do well without structure but through this venture we found out things we did not know about them before.”

In other ECC news, the students played their first basketball game against Forest Heights Academy in mid-April. Although FHA emerged the victor, it was by a very close margin. The team was coached by Mr. Vernon Register, a retired basketball coach from the United States who resides on a boat on Abaco and was assisted by Mr. Alva Knowles, father of a student.

A rematch with Forest Heights Academy is planned and also a match with Agape Christian and St. Francis de Sales Schools.
School Trip Proved to Be Fun, Educational

Andros From Page 1

Our First Stop - Adventure Learning Center
By Louivenson Etienne

After landing in Nassau my class and I visited a place called Adventure Learning Center. It is a place for students where you study the wetlands, planets, plants, and there is also a petting zoo.

We walked away from the main center onto a narrow dock where the three types of mangroves were on the sides of us in the wetlands. The water seemed shallow but it is sinking sand which went down pretty deep. We studied the depth of the water and wind speed with special instruments.

Then we went on a bird watch and tried to spot birds with our binoculars. Afterwards, we went to ride horses. Our horse and wind speed with special instruments.

We also went to a playground that had a giant slide. When we finished there, we were close to the water slides when we swung bridges where you can look down on paths leading by waterfalls and over swinging bridges where you can look down and see all sorts of fishes and sea life. We were close to the water slides when we looked out at the ocean to see people on jet skis and parasailing.

We all went to the towel booth and got towels and wristbands. My friend Aly and I grabbed a double-seater ring and ran up the stairs to the Serpent Slide. It is a slide where you go in a dark tunnel in the ring and go pretty fast until you shoot through a glass shark tank. The slides are located in a monument that resembles a Mayan temple. Then we went on the Leap of Faith. It is a water slide where you go up five sets of stairs until you reach a slide that goes vertically down! You plunge into three feet of water after rocketing down the slide so fast it takes your breath away. I would recommend this resort to absolutely everyone.

Ferry Trip to Andros
By Roddie Joseph

The fast ferry we took to Andros was very luxurious. It was also very cool! Our ferry, the Søi Wind was 160 feet long. It had a snack bar, a sitting area and a TV room with four TV’s. It also had an upstairs open-air sitting area and a room below for several cars and trucks. I walked around for a while. Oh! I had to show everyone where the bathroom was.

When we left Nassau, we played Gameboys, listened to music on our CD players and watched movies in the TV room. We ate lunch aboard the ferry. It took about three hours from Nassau to Fresh Creek, Andros. It was a very smooth ride.

It was interesting to know that our ferry was brought to The Bahamas all the way from Australia!

Fresh Creek and Red Bays, Andros
By Aly Boyce

Fresh Creek was a very interesting settlement. It is not as modern as Abaco. Most people were not poor, they just lived a different life-style. When we got off the ferry, we saw the Chicharne Hotel where we were going to stay. After we walked away from the main center onto a narrow dock where the three types of mangroves were on the sides of us in the wetlands. The water seemed shallow but it is sinking sand which went down pretty deep. We studied the depth of the water and wind speed with special instruments.

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School Trip Included a Visit to Government House

Andros From Page 10

that we went with our tour guide, Rev. Hamilton, to Red Bays when the people living there are descendants of Seminole Indians. It took about 45 minutes to get there.

When we got there it was like going back 200 years. People lived in old wooden homes, and some had palm frond huts that they used to live in during hurricanes and big storms. Everybody knew how to weave baskets. The first person we went to see was Scraplron Colebrook. His straw work is in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC. The next person we saw was Ms. Marshall. She has won the Cacique award twice a year in Fresh Creek, Andros. People gather through! The Arts and Crafts Festival is one of the big events of the year for them.

When Dame Ivy came into parlour, we curtseyed and bowed and individually introduced ourselves. Even our chaperone moms and Principal Candace Key had to curtsey. We sat in a beautiful room overlooking Nassau harbor and were served tea, sandwiches and cake by her butler. She told us about her life and career. She allowed us to ask any questions, and we sure had a lot! After My Lady answered all our questions, she excused herself and went up a swirling staircase brought from England by the Duke of Windsor when he lived in the same house.

Officer Russell toured us around the historic house, and we saw the throne that "My Lady," Curtseying has been a part of our heritage ever since England was the ruler of The Bahamas.

Government House

By Shannon Thompson

When our class stopped in our capital, Nassau, we had a very special invitation to visit Government House. We were very honored that the Governor General, Dame Ivy Dumont, had time to meet us.

Before we could be introduced, we had to learn to curtsey and bow. The police and protocol officers practiced with us so we would know the proper way to greet her as "My Lady." The Aruban Islands have a part of our heritage ever since England was the ruler of The Bahamas.

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The tour of the AUTEC Base was very thrilling, especially when a Navy helicopter landed and the pilots allowed the students to wear their gear and sit in the pilots' seats. These helicopters can shoot as well as drop missiles, and they are equipped with multi-million dollars worth of equipment. All photos of school trip are by Candace Key except as noted.

Our Tour of AUTEC

By Bronson Roberts

AUTEC stands for Atlantic Underwater Testing and Evaluation Center and was opened in Fresh Creek for submarine testing. It's held on the AUTEC property twice a year, and it's one of the big events of the year for them.

When our class stopped in our capital, Nassau, we had a very special invitation to visit Government House. We were very honored that the Governor General, Dame Ivy Dumont, had time to meet us.

Before we could be introduced, we had to learn to curtsey and bow. The police and protocol officers practiced with us so we would know the proper way to greet her as "My Lady." Curtseying has been a part of our heritage ever since England was the ruler of The Bahamas.

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Arts and crafts are important, interesting, and a moneymaking venture for the residents of Andros. People weave straw together so tightly that water can't get in and out, cleaning the dead sponges. The krals are made by pushing sticks in a circle in the soft sand in shallow water. The tides wash in and out, cleaning the dead sponges where they get some of the dead particles off the sponges. It was a long and very enjoyable day.

Arts and Crafts Festival

By Nicole Maltarp

Arts and crafts are important, interesting, and a moneymaking venture for the residents of Andros. People weave straw together so tightly that water can't get through! The Arts and Crafts Festival is one of the big events of the year for them. It's held on the AUTEC property twice a year in Fresh Creek, Andros. People gather from all over Andros to sell their straw work and crafts at the event. The people there are interesting and so talented! The straw baskets are so tight they could float a small straw boat they had made in water. Woodcarvers, quilters, potters, jewelers and spongers were featured. All sorts of people displayed wonderful crafts objects for buying... and, boy, did we buy!

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Cabbage Point
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‘Regattas’, Marsh Harbour
Deluxe upgrades, bright and cherry, fully furnished and equipped. Two bed/two bath. W/D, A/C, dishwasher, granite counters and Italian tile floor. Private beach, swimming pool, tennis courts, extremely convenient to all amenities, vacation rental program on site. $265,000

‘Beach Point House’, Eastern Shores
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Scotland Cay
Unusual opportunity to buy into exclusive Coconut Creek. 17,750 square foot property with 80’ of hard-shore plus protected boat slip in the private marina. Secluded residential island with airstrip, ferry service and beautiful beaches. $422,000

‘Paradise’, Guana Cay
Cute cottage in small resort community. Sea of Abaco to Atlantic Ocean views with beach access on both. Good rental record with adjacent resort providing dockage, pool restaurant. Two bed/one and 1 & a half bath, A/C, cypress V-Joint, metal roof. Easy golf cart ride to settlement. $399,000

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‘Turtle Rocks’Rare chance to develop a 19,536 square foot concrete building on the main thoroughfare on Abaco. Unlike many adjoining properties, this holding has clear title deeds. $399,000

‘Calamity’s Cottage’, Great Abaco Club
Beautifully remodeled home with privacy and security, four bed four bath including courtyard suite. Protected dockage up to 60’, tiled floors, A/C, Bahama room, sundec, built-in. Excellent on-site management plus private beach, tennis courts & health club. $950,000

‘Far Horizons’, Great Abaco Club
Expertly built home in small, quiet residential of coral community. Three bed/ three baths including a large efficiency. Deepwater dockage up to 60’, cypress V-Joint, terracotta tiles, garage, A/C, Bermuda roof, fabulous views and garden. $1.1 M
The Pirates of Nassau Museum

By Nicole McAltsp

The Pirates of Nassau Museum was very educational and historical. The displays were stories about the history of piracy in The Bahamas. The features looked like they were really on a gigantic ship. The exhibits showed us the famous women pirates, Anne Bonnie and Mary Read. It also told us how Pirates got marooned, what they did in battle and what they used to fight with. The shop and restaurant were interesting too. We learned the truth and the fantasy of being a pirate and what they did for punishment such as walking the plank, being hung and being dipped in tar and covered with feathers. The lives of the Caribbean pirate was most definitely not an easy or romantic one. I certainly recommend this as an exciting and an interesting museum for all ages. This was the last part of a wonderful five-day trip. We drove to the airport and boarded Bahamasair, tired but happy. This was a very educational and historical trip. We enjoyed looking at all the gifts the Queen of England sits on when she visits. We enjoyed looking at all the gifts other countries gave us when we became a monarchy. We enjoyed looking at all the gifts we gave countries around the world. We enjoyed looking at all the gifts of the world. We enjoyed looking at all the gifts that the British Empire gave to us. We enjoyed looking at all the gifts that the British Empire gave to us. We enjoyed looking at all the gifts that the British Empire gave to us. We enjoyed looking at all the gifts that the British Empire gave to us. We enjoyed looking at all the gifts that the British Empire gave to us.

Students of the primary level of the Hope Town All-Age School, accompanied by teachers and parents, paid a courtesy call on Her Excellency Dame Ivy Dumont, Governor-General, and the Governor-General; Peggy Thompson, parent; Candice Key, principal; the Governor-General; Peggy Thompson, parent; and Dorothy Bethel, the tour guide. It was the first time she had ever been in the Government House. Photo by BIS.
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FLAMINGO VILLAS
Fabulous villas located at the mouth of Hope Town Harbour. Each 2 bed / 2 bath, incredible West Indian decor, open decking and shared pool. Excellent rental $865,000 each

BLEST NEST
High on ocean dune at North End. 3 bed / 3 bath (detached guest cottage) panoramic views, excellent rental history $1,725,000

LOTS 53 NORTH END
Pristine ocean front property at the secluded north end $495,000

SOLD

MAGNUSON HOUSE - quiet North End Elbow Cay, 3 bed/3 bath (detached master efficiency) overlooking white sandy beach, large wrap deck, sold fully furnished, great art work, boat, golf cart included $1,525,000

ATLANTIC HORIZONS - Dorros Cove ocean front home. 3 bed/3 bath, pool, dock slip at Tahiti Beach, furnished, great rental history $1,500,000 SOLD

CASA LUISA - located one lot away from long sandy beach just south of Turtle Hill. Custom 3 bed/2 bath home, good rental history, turnkey $630,000

SEA TO SEA ESTATE PROPERTY PARCEL 4 - last available lot on this lush estate property. On the Sea of Abaco, North End Elbow Cay, access to incredible beach, and perfect spot for a deep water dock $785,000 PARCELS 1, 2, 3, AND 5 SOLD

BREAKERS - White Sound, great ocean front lot located on surfers dream, Garbonzo Beach. Great building site for single family home, or 2 villas, convenient location, walk to marina and restaurant $995,000

SWEPT AWAY - perfect family home located one lot from the ocean in White Sound steps to restaurant and marina. 2 bedroom/2 bath, large open kitchen with pass through dining bar. Fenced back yard, room to add pool or cottage $793,000

AUNT PATS BAY - Rare opportunity, 5.18 acres located on the Sea of Abaco in White Sound. High elevation, white sand beach, deep water dockage. UNDER CONTRACT

DORROS COVE - 1/2 acre lots with Atlantic views, seconds away from Tahiti Beach. Some with dock slip starting at $152,000 to $230,000

OCEAN HOUSE - Just at the edge of historic Hope Town located on beautiful beach, 2 bed / 2 bath, large lot with room to expand, $1,300,000 SOLD
**Obituaries of Family and Friends**

The funeral for Dominique Michel, 49, of Hope Town was held on May 14 at St. James Methodist Church. Mr. Vernon Malone officiated and interment was in the Hope Town Public Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife Françoise Michel; his father Erillas Michel; his mother Adelia Michel; daughters Cattia, Mascula, Nicolette, Manoucheka and Dulie Michel; brothers Fleeli, Eric, Yven Jean, Octave, Enocent and Ostence Michel; grandparents Rcelzias and Laurence Michel; friends Attendieu Blanc, Cécile Blanc, Jeanitila, Fontanette, Masceline, Wesley, Mary, Yanique, Lisette, Johnny, Chenet, Lafontaine, Marie, Mericie, Ideny, Mazaire, Ms. Charles and Mrs. Charles, Persler, Mark Deexiu, Ferlanda Pinder, Edward and Michel.

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**Sandy Point Will Host Work Boat Regatta on Labour Day Holiday**

The line-up of traditional Bahamian games will include a conch cracking contest, an assortment of supervised beach and water activities, volleyball and dominoes tournaments. The climax for the event will showcase the Sandy Point Marching Band, the Rake n’ Scrape Band, Ophie and the Boys on Friday evening and the Spring City Rockers’ Junkanoo Group and fireworks on Saturday.

---

**Schedule for the Sandy Point Regatta and Homecoming**

Friday, June 3, 2005

- 12 noon - Start of the Regatta Races
- 1 p.m. - Children’s Supervised Activities (beach & water games)
- 3 p.m. - Conch Cracking Contests (Novice, Men & Woman)
- 4 p.m. - Regatta Race
- 4:30 p.m. - Adult 3 Team Beach Volleyball Tournament, Dominoes Tournament

Opening Ceremony

- 9 a.m. - Regatta Race
- 11 a.m. - Children’s Supervised Activities (beach & water games)
- 12 p.m. - Conch Cracking Contests (Novice, Men & Woman)
- 1 p.m. - Rake n’ Scrape Band – Ophie & the Boys
- 3 p.m. - Regatta Race
- 3:30 p.m. - Conch Cracking Contests (Novice, Men & Women)
- 4:30 p.m. - Open Adult 3 Team Volleyball, Dominoes Tournament

Closing Ceremony

- 8 p.m. - Speaker – Hon. Neville Wisdom, Minister of Youth, Sport & Culture

**Awards Ceremony**

9:30 p.m. - Junkanoo and Fireworks
Family of Missing Man Offers $100,000 Reward

By Portia Jonsson

For over six weeks the family and friends of 39-year old Andrew Sidney Sands have been sick with grief, worrying about his whereabouts. Andrew was last seen in Treasure Cay on April 18th wearing short jeans, a t-shirt and tennis shoes. He is 5’6” tall and weighs 170 pounds.

According to Mr. Sidney Sands, Andrew’s father, he and his wife returned home from Florida on April 20th. When they arrived, Andrew was not there and at the time they did not worry too much because they thought he would come home in time to start work the following morning. The next morning when Andrew did not show up his parents started asking persons in Treasure Cay if anyone had seen him and if so, when was the last time they saw him. They learned that no one had seen him since the afternoon of April 18th.

Mr. and Mrs. Sands became increasingly worried by this time especially after they could not find his small boat in Treasure Cay. They went out in their boat searching for their son looking in all the creeks and rocks along the beaches and shores. Despite all their efforts they did not find him. Mr. Sands then went to the police in Treasure Cay and told them about Andrew being missing.

On April 24th Mr. and Mrs. Sands were informed that Andrew’s boat was found off Whale Cay on the morning of April 20th. Seats which provide flotation had been cut out of the boat, probably in hope of sinking it. Everything else was gone.

Persons have been searching by land, sea and air for something that would give Mr. and Mrs. Sands a clue as to what might have happened to Andrew. To date, there has been no luck at finding anything out.

Mr. and Mrs. Sands are 99 percent sure their son has met with foul play because about one month prior to his disappearance his life was threatened by someone when he was in Freeport, Grand Bahama. Mr. Sands said Andrew was so upset about the threat he called his mother and told her about it. When Andrew returned home, he reminded them about the threat and was afraid to go out. Mr. Sands said the person who threatened Andrew was seen in Treasure Cay just days before his son went missing.

Mr. Sands said Andrew is extremely close to his mother and would not go one day without some sort of contact with his family. Mr. Sands said it is not knowing what happened to his son that is costing his family pain, anguish, grief and sleepless nights. A $100,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the whereabouts of Andrew. Flyers of Andrew’s disappearance have been posted throughout the island, and Mr. Sands said they are inundated with calls leading nowhere. He appeals to the public for their support and any information leading to the recovery of Andrew Sands.

If anyone knows any information about Andrew leading to his whereabouts, please call Sidney or Ella Sands at 365-8028. Only serious calls please.

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Weather Vane Is Operational

Jerry had to build a scaffold/platform at the very top in order to lift off the 100-pound plus wind vane. He was at the very top on two separate days with calls to the UK in between. Since Jerry and I had been up there before and the wind vane was the handiest thing we could find on which to clip our safety harnesses, I decided this time to be the one to take photos from the ground. Anyway, Jerry un-jammed the thing, re-greased it, and it once again points to the direction from whence the wind blows as it has done since 1864.

While working in the tower Jerry also replaced the safety netting around the outside gallery, where the visitors go, with a sturdier type netting than was available to us before.

The damage caused by the hurricanes of 2004 to the roofs and gutters of the keeper’s dwellings, has not yet been dealt with by government due, I am told, to a lack of funds.

Thanks to the fast and generous donation of the Hope Town Sailing Club, however, the wind vane was not still for long. Donations to and memberships in the Bahamas Lighthouse Preservation Society are gratefully accepted and are US tax deductible for $250 or more. Please contact Dave Gale at 242-366-0285 for further information.

Student Earned Degree and Pilot’s Licence

Neil Hingle of Hope Town displays national pride with a Bahamian flag attached to his cap as he proudly receives his Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Science with minor in meteorology from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. While attending Embry Riddle Neil, the youngest graduate of the 2005 class, earned his commercial pilot’s license and is now qualified to fly single engine, multi engine and sea planes with instrument rating.

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If we don’t have the right house for you, we will find it. If you don’t have the right house to sell, we will find it. If we don’t have the right price, we will find it. If the market isn’t right, we will find it. If you don’t have the right agent, we will find it. If you don’t have the right experience, we will find it. If the search for your perfect property is not going well, we will find it. If you don’t have the right attitude, we will find it. If you don’t have the right mindset, we will find it. If you don’t have the right finances, we will find it. If you don’t have the right location, we will find it. If you don’t have the right time, we will find it. If you don’t have the right representation, we will find it. If you don’t have the right advertising, we will find it. If you don’t have the right approach, we will find it. If you don’t have the right strategy, we will find it. If you don’t have the right plans, we will find it. If you don’t have the right way, we will find it. If you don’t have the right action, we will find it.
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Treasure Cay Beach Villa-Usk #5302

Here's your chance to be the proud owner of a vacation villa. Features 2 bedrooms, and 2 baths. This villa has recently been renovated and outfitted with all new modern day appliances and new furniture. Enjoy access to the splendid powder white beach, and lovely landscaped grounds as well as the pool area and sun deck. Imagine having 850 sq. ft of pure vacation fun that can be yours! Don't delay and let this one pass you by—US$1,550,000.

Please visit our new office location on Queen Elizabeth Drive, Next to the Fire Station.
It was proposed that when forecasting hurricanes with graphics meteorologists stay away from using a straight line as to their future path as residents may see the line nowhere near them and determine that it is not headed their way. However, hurricanes can be 500 to 500 miles across so the use of the cone gives a more accurate picture.

Most meteorologists are opposed to the National Hurricane Centre’s five day forecast; historically, only three days have been given. However, the National Hurricane Centre feels that last year they got it right; that was their best year as far as precision forecasting. When they looked at the dynamics of Jeanne, they predicted that it would burn back five days before it happened.

Mr. Mills brought to their attention about five years ago the consideration of also forecasting rainfall and tornadoes, and that has now become very much a part of the process.

The Abaco office of the Ministry of Tourism honoured Mr. Jeff Key for exemplary service. Mr. Key, a former member of the Abaco Yacht Club, was impressed with his going beyond the normal level of service that they wrote Tourism and explained that they were very impressed with him. On a trip to Treasure Cay, he gave them much information about the area and he even loaned them money that they needed. Tourism staff is shown presenting him with a certificate of appreciation. Ms. Jerican Outten, Abaco’s Tourism Director, is hold the certificate.
A resident of the Mud was awakened at 2 a.m. on May 13 by rumbling sounds coming from her daughter’s bedroom. On investigating the noise, the 14-year-old girl explained she was getting ready to take a bath. Further checking disclosed a young man she knew. This happened mid-afternoon on May 13 while at a Marsh Harbour business.

Two Dundas Town women were arrested and released on bail for fighting during mid-afternoon at the Abaco Shopping Center in Marsh Harbour on May 14.

A resident of Pigeon Peas was arrested late Sunday afternoon on May 15 when observed carrying plywood near the Learning Resource Center and could not explain where he got it.

A visitor died while snorkeling near Castaway Cay mid-afternoon on May 15. A history of heart problems suggested he may have suffered from a heart attack and an autopsy will be performed.

St. Andrew’s Methodist Church in Dundas Town was broken into during the night of May 15 and a $300 keyboard was stolen.

A Cedar Harbour woman reported having stones thrown at her house and being annoyed by obscene language by a woman she knew about sundown on May 16.

A Dundas Town man was hit in the head with a large stone by his girlfriend while visiting at her house in the Mud. A resident of Sand Banks was beaten about the body and on the head with a piece of pipe by four black men about 3 a.m. on May 17.

A woman had her cell phone stolen from her purse by her husband while in Dundas Town about 9 p.m. on May 16. While driving in Fox Town the next afternoon, her husband cut in front of her causing her to run off the road, then attempted to hit her with a bottle. A 15-year-old girl from Murphy Town was surrendered to the police on May 18 by her mother as being an uncontrollable child. Her mother alleged she is rude, disobedient and stays away from home for extended periods, and normal forms of discipline are ineffective.

A woman living in Sand Banks was hit in the back by a rock thrown by a man she knew. This happened in mid-afternoon on May 18.

Police responded to an alarm about mid-night on May 18 at Solomon’s SuperCenter in Marsh Harbour. On finding a door ajar, more officers were called along with a police dog. Accompanied by the store manager, a thorough search was conducted which disclosed that someone had left through a rear door. A white Hyundai car was found in the parking lot with a key in the ignition, leading officers to subsequently arrest a Murphy Town man.

A resident of Murphy Town was punched several times and threatened to be killed by her boyfriend at her residence on May 17.

A visitor died while snorkeling near Castaway Cay mid-afternoon on May 15. A history of heart problems suggested he may have suffered from a heart attack and an autopsy will be performed.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MINISTRY OF HOUSING

The following person who applied for lots in the Central Pines Subdivision and were assigned a lot are required to contact Mr. Richard Gibbs at the Department of Housing Office, B&L Plaza, Marsh Harbour before the 31st of May 2005 URGENTLY:

- Anthony Bostwick/Sylvia Alfred
- Marcia Cash
- Marion Cash
- Troy Cornish
- Rodney B. Davis
- Rodney "Shortie" Davis
- Gerlene Dorceus
- Delrose Hepburn
- Eulona and Della Kelly
- Samantha and Trevor Miller
- Cynthia McKinney
- Omar McKenzie
- Wenzel and Mary McBride
- Frederick Pinder
- Selryn L. Rolle
- Elizabeth Roberts
- Ginger and Sylvia Swain
- Dudley Stuart
- Demetrius Taylor
- Gerda Vilmar
- Sidney and Angela Wells
- Dorothy McIntosh and Margaret Williams
- Michelle Pickstock/Erlande Pettit

By Jennifer Hudson

A country music concert and buffet introducing Roy Pinder with Big Red and the Gang from Spanish Wells took place in the pavilion of the Abaco Beach Hotel on May 7th. This was the first introduction of the group to Abaco, and they drew a huge crowd of 300 people.

According to Yvonne Key, organizer of the event, “The group was well received, and it was a fantastic evening. In fact, there was such a good response to this country group that another concert is being planned for November, and it is most probable that we will have them do two concerts every year.”

Due to the excellent response to this first concert, 400 tickets will be printed for the next concert/buffet and will go on sale on November 1st.

By Mirella Santillo

Youth In Action basketball players are doing extra practice in preparation of the competition taking place in Freeport. The coaches Mr. and Mrs. Lynden Davis, Mr. Murray, and Ishmael Morley, Youth Coordinator for Abaco, will accompany about 45 children to compete against Eleuthera, Nassau, Sandy Point, North Abaco and Freeport. The players added extra practice on their schedule in preparation for the games.

The Youth in Action athletes have been very successful in their previous competitions, and the coaches are confident about their achievements in these play outs.

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**New Executive Team Is Announced by Colina**

The Board of Directors of Colina Holdings Bahamas Ltd., the parent company of Colina Insurance Company Limited, approved a reorganization plan today, which involves the appointment of a new executive team. The shareholders also approved the appointment of three new directors: Macgregor Robertson, Zhiavago Laing and Ednol Farquharson. ColinaImperial’s executive team will be led by Guy Richard who has been appointed President. It was also approved to change the name of the insurance company to ColinaImperial Insurance Ltd. This change recognizes the importance of Colina’s acquisition of Imperial Life in January of this year as it consolidates its position as the leading insurance company in The Bahamas.
Little Abaco News

By Mirella Santillo

Mrs. Vernette Parker, wife of Rev. Burnett Parker of the Revival Time Pentecostal Church of God, mentioned that the women of the Pente- costal Church celebrated their eighth annual fellowship convention by a week of services from April 25th to May 1st. The celebration was marked by a Gospel Concert that was held on April 30th with the participation of the famous Christ Side Dancers. A guest speaker from Eight Mile Rock, Grand Bahama, Evangelist Rita Smart, closed out the meetings on May 1st. Sister Parker would like to say "a special hello to all who came to the service during that special week."

Rev. Henry Wright of Revival Time Pentecostal Church of God in Cooper’s Town was married to Ms. Magnola Rolle on April 23rd.

On May 10th tuberculosis testing was performed at the clinic for the Fox Town Primary School’s children who had supposedly been exposed to the bacillus. The testing was done as a precautionary measure to ensure that all the children were all right.

Ms. Navida Mills, grade 2 teacher at Fox Town Primary, said that with the joint effort of the school and the possible solutions involved. The school and the possible solutions involved.

On May 10th tuberculosis testing was performed at the clinic for the Fox Town Primary School’s children who had supposedly been exposed to the bacillus. The testing was done as a precautionary measure to ensure that all the children were all right.

Rev. John Mc Intosh, Pastor for Mount Hope Baptist Church who is also a moderator for the district, took the post of the pastor’s con- clave that took place on May 10th to explain the topics of that meeting. The pastors of the nine Zion Baptist Churches were discussing the means to address the gangs problem in the church and the possible solutions involved. He added that every morning during the convention lectures were given focusing on how to connect the church to the community and establish the role of the church against crime. He said that more interaction is needed between communities and churches. He hopes that “more involvement will help resolve the crime problem that seems to be on the rise among the younger population.”

During the week a daily evening service with a different theme each night was held. Fellowship night was on Wednesday, Thurs- day was Youth night and Friday was women’s night. On Friday Bishop Sam Green arrived from Nassau to officiate the closing service of the convention on May 14th.

The Petition of ROY CARLISLE NEWBOLD Sr. of Stede Bonnett Road in the Town of Marsh Harbour in the Island of Great Abaco one of the Islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in respect of:-

1. The Registry of the Supreme Court, Ansbacher Building, East Street, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any person having dower or right of dower or an adverse claim or a claim not recognized in the Petition of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas shall have his title to the said land investigated and the nature and extent thereof determined and declared in a Certificate of Title to be granted by the Court in accordance with the said Act. A Plan of the said land may be inspected during normal business hours at the following places:-

1. The Registry of the Supreme Court, Amsbacher Building, East Street, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any person having dower or right of dower or an adverse claim or a claim not recognized in the Petition shall on or before the 31st day of July, A.D. 2005 file in the Supreme Court and serve on the Petitioner or the undersigned a Statement of his claim in the prescribed form verified by an Affidavit and other prescribed papers to be filed therewith. Failure of any person so to file and serve a Statement of his claim within the prescribed time will operate as a bar to such claim.

DATED the 26th day of April, A.D. 2005

MAILLIS AND MAILLIS
Chambers
Fort Nassau House
Marlborough Street
Nassau, Bahamas.
Attorneys for the Petitioner
Three students of Sensei Churton Toote recently earned black belts in Karate which they have been studying for six years. With Mr. Toote are Krista Kelly, age 16 from Forest Heights, Agatha Ferguson age 15 from Abaco Central High School, and Alben Albary, age 15, from St. Francis de Sales School.

Andros

From Page 13

the sand. We had a great day together and I hope we can do it again. We were also excited to be able to attend the Earth Day program in Marsh Harbour. We acted as special chaptermen to the younger students. We set up our school’s owl and parrot projects and helped with the ancient turtle shell and crocodile display. It was so exciting to have been able to see the display after we had seen the 2,800 year old, blue hole treasures the week before at the meeting with the scientists. Earth Day was very educational, and we learned a lot about the Abaco pine forest which was the eco-system theme for this year’s program.

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  - North Creek Dev. Property in Settlement 1+1/4 bed/1+1 bath frontage

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phone lines for $53,500. Best deal on Elbow Cay!
- Lot on Big Hill adjacent to Centerline Road, one of only a few left - going fast! $125,000

Lubbers Quarters:

- 1/2 Acre House Lot on East Side! Deep wa-
ter and utilities available. $298,000
- Hillside acre with private dock slip and utili-
ties again.

Hope Town:

- Stunning views from attractive 3 bed/2 bath cottage with100’ of water front just
outside the harbour. Central AC & 30 + rental weeks/year. (561) 202-8163

Lubbers Quarters:

- 1/2 Acre House Lot on East Side! Deep wa-
ter and utilities available. $298,000
- Hillside acre with private dock slip and utili-
ties again.

Hope Town: The Right Choice

I, Glenn C. Laing, representing Great Guana Cay, am once again nominating for Councillor in the Hope Town District Council. During my first and second terms, I have lived up to the commitment I made to the residents of Guana Cay. I am seeking a third term to complete the unfinished tasks.

I am thankful and grateful to be a part of this great community and for the support and encouragement given to me. I am asking for your con-
tinued support as always in this great venture.

The William H. Albury at Island Roots Festival
The Concerned that an accident could happen if a wheel gets caught in a pothole so for 2000 feet on the western end where planes land much of the time. Pilots are located in the center of the area where planes touch down. The entire surface of the many potholes. One sink hole is 10-15 feet across and about six inches deep. It is The Marsh Harbour International Airport has a very dangerous problem because of well.

Clean Up

MH Airport Has Serious Potholes

The Marsh Harbour International Airport has a very dangerous problem because of many potholes. One sink hole is 10-15 feet across and about six inches deep. It is located in the center of the area where planes touch down. The entire surface of the runway is wearing away with the coating of tar becoming very thin. This is particularly so for 2000 feet on the western end where planes land much of the time. Pilots are concerned that an accident could happen if a wheel gets caught in a pothole.
The Abaco Insurance Fun Fishing Tournament takes place on the island of Abaco, offering an enjoyable event for all ages. The tournament is a popular activity among local fishermen, who participate to compete for various prizes and enjoy the day on the water. The results of the tournament are announced, highlighting the winners of each category, such as the largest tuna, wahoo, and dolphin. Special prizes are awarded to the junior anglers to encourage participation. The Abaco Insurance Fun Fishing Tournament is a tradition that has been enjoyed by the community for over ten years. It brings together fishermen and their families for a day of fishing and fun, with special events such as the Awards Dinner where awards are presented. The tournament is an excellent opportunity for those interested in fishing to experience the thrill of catching fish in the Abaco waters. The Abaco Insurance Fun Fishing Tournament is a beloved event that contributes to the culture and tradition of the Abaco Island community.
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The freshest produce, specially-cut meat, groceries, supplies, housewares, electronics, lawn and garden & more. All at great prices with daily Smart Buys for even bigger savings. You CAN have it all. All in one place: Solomon’s SuperCenter.