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VOLUME 13, NUMBER 11, JUNE 1st, 2005

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.

The election for local government officials will be held on June 27. The polls will be open on that day from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The nominating process will take place on June 2.

This election will be the fourth since the Local Government Act went into effect in June 1996, creating elected committees in each community. The Act set up a system which gives the local communities more control over their towns.

Candidates will declare their intentions to run for local government on June 2. Anyone interested in serving his community must submit a completed form which is available in the administrators' offices. The nominee must be sponsored by five people who live in the same polling district as the candidate and are on the voter register. There is also a \$50 deposit for registering. If that person receives the votes of at least 1/6 of the registered voters, the deposit is refunded.

There has been talk of making changes to the Act and of reorganizing the make up of the councils but no definite announcements have been made.

Voter registration was open for several weeks for new voters to register or for voters to register their change of constituency because of moving. The registration closed on May 25.

The elected town committee members will serve a three-year term. The town committees are made up of three, five or seven members, depending on the number of registered voters in that town.

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.

By Jennifer Hudson

The Hon. Fred Mitchell, Minister of Foreign Affairs, spoke at the Abaco Chamber of Commerce meeting at the Abaco Beach Hotel on May 18th to bring members up to date about the CARICOM Single Market and Economy or CSME.

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



Ms. Winsome Ferguson with the Abaco Tourism office presented Mr. James Turner with a memento of Abaco. Mr. Turner was on Abaco to discuss the benefits of E-commerce to improve tourism business.

Please see **E-commerce** Page 26

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Government Must Make a CSME Decision

CSME From Page 1

subject had been much abused, "with far too much information being spun about a subject that is not as complicated or difficult as it sounds."

Mr. Mitchell referred to the first principles which went back to 1983 when The Bahamas 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 country 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.

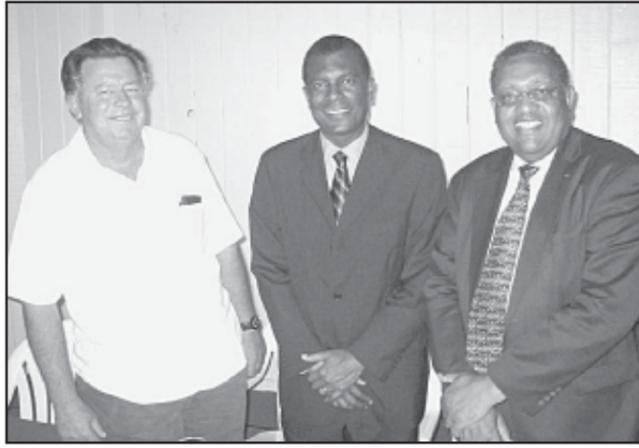
In 2001 the Treaty of Chaguaramas was revised and the two parts that existed previously were put into one document. If The Bahamas wants to continue in the Treaty arrangements, it must sign the new Revised Treaty. However, Mr. Mitchell stressed that The Bahamas never joined the economic side. "What is happening now is that The Bahamas 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 Revised 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 Caribbean 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 principally in areas that earn foreign exchange such as

hotels, export manufacturing and even ethnic 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 joining the CSME."

While Mr. Mitchell said that that was really 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. Mr. Mitchell reiterated the



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.

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 better 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 fundamentally when The Bahamas signed the Treaty in 1983?" He then assured the group, "Your lives will not be changed fundamentally by signing the revised Treaty."

Abaco's Concerns Are Answered

Several concerns were expressed by those attending the meeting. Mr Mitchell answered 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-

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 political say over The Bahamas.

"Both political parties agree with the

Please see **CSME** Page 25



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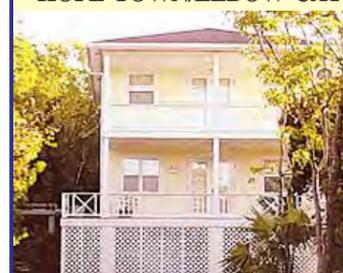
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Roots Festival Opens With Much Fanfare

By Mirella Santillo

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 Min-

istry 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. DeeVon 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 made 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.



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.



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.

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.

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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-

Please see **Festival** Page 6



The Sundowner Bar proved to be a very popular booth at the Roots Festival. The second day of the Festival was a sunny hot day and the drinks they provided were very welcome.



Junkanoo was an important part of the Roots Festival with the Green Turtle Junkanoo Group rushing each day of the festival. Mr. Floyd Johnson is the organizer of the group.

Discovery Land Co.

announces the appointment of
Livingston Marshall Jr. Ph.D

as
**Senior Vice President
of Community and
Environmental Affairs
Baker's Bay Development.**



Dr. Livingston Marshall

Dr. Marshall will be responsible for ensuring the project's environmental compliance; chairing the project's Foundation which governs the 66-acre preserve, and guiding projects related to community and public affairs. Partner of Discovery Land Company, Steve Adelson 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."

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."

Most recently, Dr Marshall was a Consultant and Science Advisor in the Office of the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, where he provided scientific advice on a range of marine and environmental science, education and policy initiatives. Dr Marshall also briefly served as Executive Director of the Marine and Environmental Studies Institute (MESI) of The Bahamas.

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 academic accomplishments include a Bachelor's degree in Marine Science from Hampton University and a Ph.D. in Marine Science from the College of William and Mary, School of Marine Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science. 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.

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 dollar Baker's Bay Development, pending the necessary government approvals.



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Crafts, Games and Demonstrations Were Highlighted

Festival

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 Supt. 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 every one 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

Please see **Festival** Page 20



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.



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.



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The Editor Says . . . Local Govt. Needs Good People



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 seems to be 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 can suggest what the make-up of the next town committee will be. For the North, Central and South Abaco District Councils, speculation will also arise as to the composition of the councils as it is the town committees which choose from their members those who will represent them at council.

Once the councils are formed, the new council members then appoint the statutory boards for their district. These boards are town planning, licensing, port and hotel licensing.

Road traffic is also appointed but this is a single composite board representing the entire island with members from the three districts.

Moore's Island and Grand Cay elect council members directly. This singular

group conducts all the affairs of a council, a town committee and the statutory boards. The Hope Town District Council functions similarly but has the complications of administering three industrious and booming islands - Guana Cay, Man-O-War and Elbow Cay.

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.

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.

Just as the country is an archipelagic nation with logistical problems to overcome, Abaco is an archipelagic island state with similar problems although on a much smaller scale. During the original term of local government the Central Abaco District included Hope Town, Man-O-War and Guana Cay. The three cays were formed into a district of their own for the second term. That solved some problems but generated others.

It is interesting that councillors and town committee members are given a small stipend for their efforts but members of the statutory boards serve on a strictly voluntary basis with no stipend. Our observations are valid only for Central Abaco but the board members put in as many or often more hours than council members while performing their duties.

Councils receive a budget and pay for various services in their districts. They issue contracts for road cleaning, residential garbage collection and pay salaries for janitorial staff and other employees. Council allocates funds to the towns within the district for their up-keep expenses. The councils and the town committees oversee the maintenance to the district or the town.

Town committees can "... issue guidelines to be followed in the upkeep, restoration, design or alteration of any building . . . normally visible from a street . . .". This is interesting language as they cannot make laws. However, a guideline to be followed sounds like a law by another name. Initially, there was some effort to keep this in mind when reviewing building applications. The practice fell out of favor when town committees attempted to enforce this provision but

town planning boards objected on the basis that they were the guardians of town planning. In reality, town planning does not do any planning but only reviews building applications for construction compliance and appropriateness at the requested location. The local tourism department has undertaken several committees to look into long range planning, but there is no known attempt in this direction by local government.

The councils and town committees are not allowed to levy taxes or collect money. Therefore, residents in some towns have formed improvement associations which have either imposed voluntary assessments or engage in fund raising events for town projects beyond the scope of local government. An example of voluntary fund raising is Sandy Point with their privately financed hurricane shelter.

The committees and councils have budgets but almost no funds for discretionary use. Most of the money is spent on town maintenance, keeping the roads clean, collecting garbage, maintaining government buildings and paying janitorial staff and other local government employees.

On the other hand, the boards 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 residence can convert a room into a beauty shop or a take-out food service
- 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
- if a variance can be granted for less than required setbacks
- if 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. This process can take months or even years.

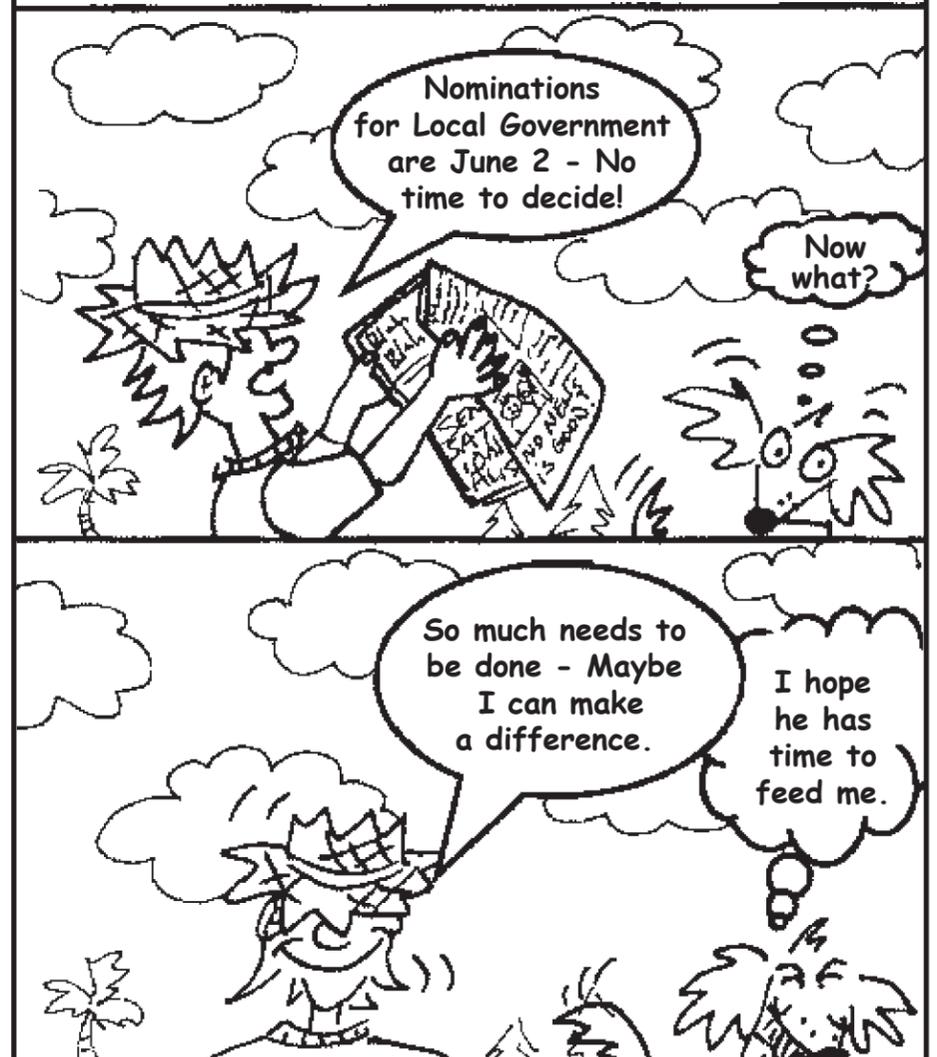
How does all this tie into the nomination process on June 2? Hopefully, dedicated good people will step forward to be involved in the local government process. Serving does lead to frustrations but the process must go on. Good maintenance and thoughtful decisions affecting the towns rests in the hands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

Let's hope that good people step forward throughout Abaco.

**Remember to Nominate for
Local Government on June 2**

Civilized Island

By: C. McCully



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Letters to the Editor

Appreciates Emergency Health Care

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 Pinder and Shirley Saunders and Dr. Consulta. Our thanks to Commissioner Roderick Bowe 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

Congratulations

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.

Continue to keep up the good work on Abaco and again congratulation is in order to *The Abaconian* and to Friends of the Environment.

Yours truly,
Cyril E. Morley

Thanks for Helping the Horses

Dear Editor,

The Wild Horses of Abaco Preservation Society would like to thank Bahamas Hot 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.arkwild.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 under way 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 this, you are making 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."

"Trap, vaccinate, alter and release programs are the most effective method for stabilizing and reducing feral cat (and dog) populations. Conversely, animal control programs to remove and exterminate 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. Current activities are wasting money and will sooner or later draw the attention of some international humane organization with resultant publicity that

won't do our tourist trade any good. There are proven, reliable, humane methods to deal with the problem. Ignore them at great risk to Abaco's touted 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 Stahala, 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 one of the traps.

- It was reported that a dentist associated with Parrots International purchased ethanol, a legally controlled substance in the United States, used for euthanasia, which raises concerns about the professionalism and experience of the person responsible for handling the cats and the manner in which they are put to death.

- It has been shown by a number of studies that removing cats from an area does not provide a solution to the problem. Biologist Robert Tabor has studied the attempted eradication of feral cats for more than two decades. Tabor's studies show that when feral cats are removed from an environment, it creates what he terms a "vacuum effect." This vacuum will be quickly filled by more cats moving in to take advantage of whatever food source is available. These new and unsterilized cats will quickly breed to the capacity of the site.

- The Bahamas National Trust tried a similar program several years ago, only they hired hunters to kill the cats. The "vacuum effect" was illustrated by the current population of cats that Parrots International is trying to eradicate. Not to mention the number of wounded cats that were left to die a miserable death.

- In addition to being an ineffective program I also feel that government sanctioned cat killing as a solution sets a poor example for the community. What kind of message does it send to people who are facing problems with other "inconvenient" animals?

- Cats are not the only cause for the decline of the parrots, they are just one factor. The parrots are being successfully bred in the United States and this program could easily be implemented in the Bahamas. This stock could be used to supplement the wild population.

- Finally, the Abaco parrots have been counted so many times at this point they could probably count themselves. I have to

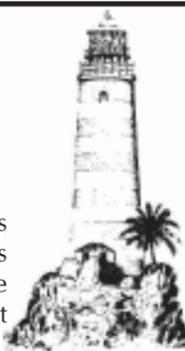
Please see **Letters**

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News of the Cays

Hope Town District Council Council Defers Baker's Bay Applications

By Lindsey Delaplaine

The Hope Town District Council met on May 19. The meeting was opened with the announcement that all nominations for Local Government elections are made on June 2nd. The election has been scheduled for June 27th.

Representatives from the Baker's Bay development met with Council to answer questions regarding two permits under consideration: one for a temporary dock that will be located next to the old Premier Cruise Line dock and another for tempo-

rary marketing facilities. The marketing facilities will consist of eight platform tents. They had applied for a permit to repair the old dock but were informed that permits are not required to make repairs as long as the dock footprint remains the same. The developers were anxious to have some action taken on their applications so they could move forward in the process.

Representatives from the Save Guana Cay Reef Association then met with Council to present their opinions on the permits under consideration. Troy Albury gave the Council folders full of signed petitions and letters from residents of Guana Cay expressing their displeasure about the development. Attorney Frederick Smith stated that it is not the development in general they are opposed to; they are upset about the scale

of the marina, the proposed dredging, the golf course and the use of Crown Land. "You're elected by the people to be our representatives," Hope Town resident Jamie Bethel said to the Council, "so you need to represent our opinion."

Mr. Smith asked if they could see the plans submitted by the Baker's Bay group as they had not been provided with any copies. The Council agreed although they did not allow the plans to leave the room. The Save Guana Cay Reef's objections included concerns about the sanitation facilities of the temporary tents and the environmental impact of the proposed temporary dock.

After each group had been given a chance to explain their interest, they were dismissed; and Council discussed the issues

and voted to defer the matter for another month until more information could be gathered. For the dock there were some questions that needed to be addressed with the Port Authority about the process for the permit. For the marketing facilities the Council requested a recommendation from the BEST Commission as well as an Environmental Impact Assessment and an Environmental Management Plan from the developers.

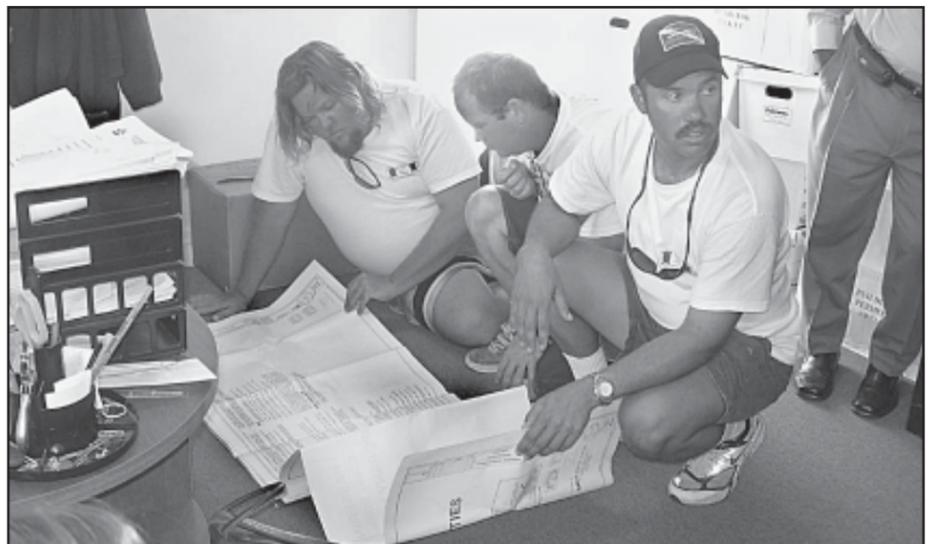
The Council went on to discuss the capital projects that are underway thanks to a \$45,000 capital grant from Nassau, (although the capital request was for \$1 million). Man-O-War has been using their

Please see **Cays**

Page 11



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.

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More News of the Cays

Cays From Page 10

share for road repair, to construct a handicap access ramp to their clinic, and to create 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-tile 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 necessary repairs after hurricanes. Instead of receiving 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 repairs and improvements. In response, this year they received \$45,000.

Currently, all elements of local government 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 deposited in the Treasury in Nassau. It is central government that decides how the monies raised are disbursed throughout the islands.

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 considering 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 alternatives to this problem, including splitting the Hope Town District into three separate districts 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 committee and the head of that committee went to Marsh Harbour to form the Council 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 Methodist 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 introduced the other Council members: Deputy Chief Councillor Jeffrey Key, Mrs. Diane Bethel, Mr. Haziel McDonald and Mr. Roscoe Thompson, Jr. The Councillor from Guana Cay, Mr. Glen Laing, and Councillor Roy Russell from Man-O-War were absent. Mr. Sweeting's opening remarks

Please see **Cays**

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More News of the Cays

Cays *From Page 11*

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 everyone 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 ar-

eas 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 dis-

graceful 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

Please see Cays Page 16



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.

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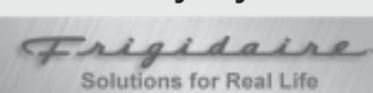
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Why Saving Great Guana Cay

M E

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 "Gods 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.

*Wake up Bahamas Real Estate Agents Association!
Wake 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 astoundingly, 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 it!!!

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?

A N S

Saving The Bahamas

Buy Local?

Despite the requirement in the Heads of Agreement to "buy local" the building supply stores in Marsh Harbour simply cannot supply \$500 million dollars worth of building materials. 99% of the building materials will all be purchased abroad. The Heads of Agreement even gives the Developer, a company from California, uniquely, the right to be its own "Project Manager". American Bridge is already there.

Foreign Project Management

So none of the big Bahamian construction companies from Nassau or Freeport will even get to bid for the construction of the development, and despite the promise of hiring Bahamians, the Heads of Agreement says that "The Government agrees to facilitate on an expedited basis the grant of work permits....on a short term or on a longer term".

Crown Land Given Away for FREE

The Heads of Agreement gives away 148 acres of Crown and Treasury land on a beautiful beach. No provision is made for the payment of even a single dollar. Again, The Bahamas, the Bahamian people, the taxpayer, the voter, gets no money for it. Would the Government have given Crown land to residents of Guana Cay to develop bed and breakfasts?

Exclusion of Bahamians

The Heads of Agreement permits construction of an 18-acre golf course. However, no residents will be allowed to use it. The Government is approving a high-end residential resort and first class private members Club with security. It will also have a big gate for security. Security from what? The local Bahamians.

So, Bahamians have become foreigners in their own homeland.

Sewage Treatment Facility

Even the required \$850,000 sewage facility is only to be made available to the development and not to the rest of the Cay!

Housing for Bahamian Employees

The Government gives 148 acres of Crown Land on the beach away to these foreigners but puts housing for Bahamian workers next to the Sewage Facility with no beach access for the Bahamians; not even a beach view!

**So.....what does the local economy get from this development?
Nothing!**

Vision for the future?

Now, a vision for the future of the Bahamas might suggest an alternative approach. One where we decide where the investment takes place; not the developer! Remember, The Bahamas belongs to Bahamians.

The approach respects our marine and land environment, preserves the variety and diversity of our Family Island culture and saves our heritage whilst still encouraging and facilitating foreign development and creating far greater economic impact where it is most desperately needed

Looking at the Guana Cay issue, our government should have said No. One third of Great Guana Cay is not for sale free to foreigners as a private destination to the exclusion of Bahamians and to the destruction of our culture and environment.

Planning

After all, that is why the Immovable Property (Acquisition by Foreign Persons) Act was passed by the PLP government in 1984, and its replacement, The International Land Persons Holding Act in 1992, by the FNM.

It was to give the Government a lawful mechanism to direct when, where and how development and growth would occur in these unique islands, in recognition of our very limited land resources. It was to stop helter skelter investment everywhere. It was to stop exploitation and speculation. It was to stop, for instance, putting in a WalMart over the Hill thereby destroying dozens of small Bahamian businesses. It was to preserve the Bahamas for the most part for Bahamians.

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 Bahamas!

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

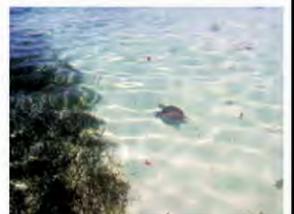


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More News of the Cays

Cays

From Page 13

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 that he will be able to assist in correcting the situation. He was the one who originally came to Hope Town after the situation at the dump was publicized. While he has followed up on some of the promises he made at the time,

more money and attention needs to be paid to the situation to get it running smoothly.

Councillor Key read four ordinances that have been posted this year. All vehicles that transport solid waste are required to have a cover to keep the trash from blowing out. Failure to do so can be punished with a \$5,000 fine. All construction sites are required to make provisions for temporary toilets. All music and noise must cease on or before midnight, and any excessive noise can be stopped at any time. All alcoholic beverages must be consumed on the premises on which they are purchased. He urged everyone 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 jitney 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 ob-

Please see **Cays**

Page 17



The Man-O-War school students toured the William H. Albury, a schooner built in Man-O-War. The boat was on display during the Island Roots Festival on Green Turtle Cay.

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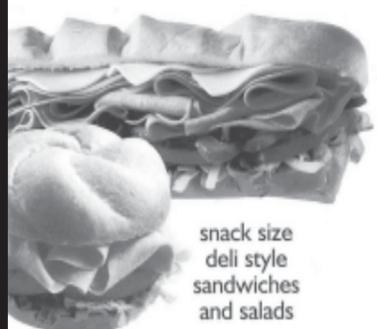
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More News of the Cays

Cays

From Page 16

served a 'sea cat' near a lobster trap and spent a few minutes watching it move through the algae. Proceeding to the grounds, we passed the booth of Joe Albury, the artist and craftsman from Man-O-War. Passing the entrance under the flag of the Conch Republic of Key West, the students

quickly spotted the booths offering treats, 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.



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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Christian Council Met with High School Teachers

By Portia Jonsson

On May 2nd the Abaco Christian Council came together at the Dundas Town Church of God to find a solution to the problems facing our community today.

Addressing the small crowd were Mr. Greene, Principal of Abaco Central High School; Bishop Campbell, Pastor of Dundas Town Church of God; and 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 night 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 concerns. As a community leader he puts the blame solely on the church and parents. He would like to see a sporting atmosphere for kids on Abaco and views sports as another avenue of learning. He asked when was the last time parents turned off the television

for study time or looked at their child's schoolbooks? Mr. Mills also spoke out against the young men in Dundas Town selling drugs, stealing and ruining the community. He appealed to the proper authorities to do better to clean up the situation.

Before the meeting concluded, Pastor Knowles told those present of the need to put 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.



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.

Civic Organizations

- Kiwanis Club of Great Abaco**
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- Pilot Club of Abaco**
Third Tuesday, 7 p.m., Central Abaco Primary, Dundas Town, 367-3457
- Pilot Club of South Abaco**
Last Thursday, monthly, J.A. Pinder School, Sandy Point, 366-4001
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- 1 large red or yellow bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 2 tsp. minced peeled fresh ginger
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. (or more) soy sauce

Bring 1-1/2 cups water and salt to boil in medium saucepan over high heat. Mix in rice. Reduce heat to low, cover and cook until rice is tender and water is absorbed, about 18 minutes. Meanwhile, heat 1-tablespoon oil in medium nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add eggs. Cook without stirring until eggs are set and bottom is brown, lifting edge of eggs occasionally to let uncooked portion run underneath, about 3 minutes. Turn out egg pancake. Cut in half, then cut crosswise into thin strips (chiffonade). Heat 1 1/2 tablespoons oil in same skillet over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms; sauté 4 minutes. Add pepper and ginger; sauté 3 minutes. Add rice, egg strips, greens onions and 1-tablespoon soy sauce; toss. Season with salt and pepper. Serve, passing more soy sauce, if desired. (Serves 2. Receepe can be doubled)

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People in the News

Jack Thompson Has New Appointment

It has been announced that Mr. Jack Thompson has been appointed the new controller of the Road Traffic Department.



Mr. Jack Thompson

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. He was called back to Abaco from his position as Deputy High Commissioner to Canada. Previously he had been Administrator for North Abaco for several years during the implementation of local government in the late 1990s. 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



Dr. Livingston Marshall

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,

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.

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.

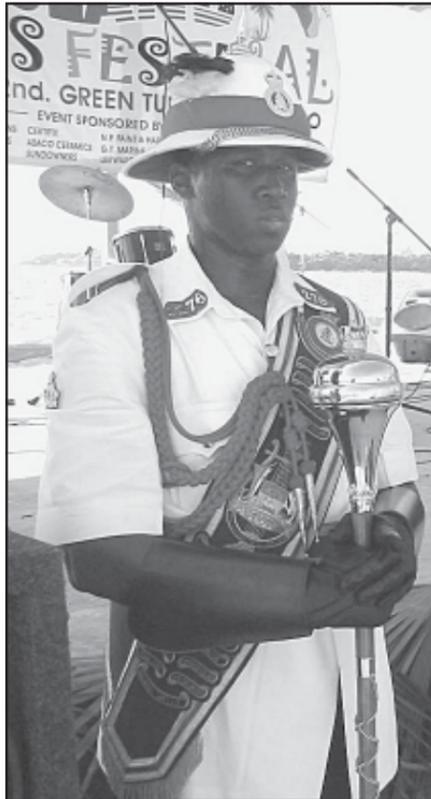
Festival

From Page 6

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.



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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.

Lucayans 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 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



Florida Archeologist Bob Carr

found in the southern United States. This signifies the beginning of more recognition of Native Americans. In The Bahamas he, together with Alton Lowe and Sandra Riley, has studied several camps sites on Eleuthera, San Salvador, Green Turtle Cay and north of Marsh Harbour.

Here on Abaco, Mr. David Bethel, an amateur Abaconian archeologist, and Mr. Carr have identified many Indian sites. Be-

Please see **Festival**

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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 their home. Located in the same block as Sloppy Joe's Restaurant, the Loyalist house had originally been built on Green Turtle Cay by William Curry. He later disassembled the house and shipped it

to Key West where it was reconstructed as his home. Over the years it had been neglected and was in dire need of repairs.

Mr. and Mrs. Amsterdam proceeded to restore it, but as the house was regaining its looks of grandeur, the real estate taxes made it impossible for them to keep it as 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.

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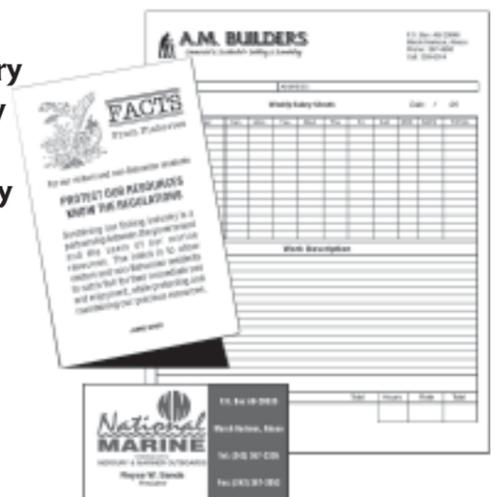
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South Abaco News

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 performed 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 Terrence Albury and Dominique 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. Something 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 their 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.

Kathyanne 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.

Please see **South**

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Many young people from all the communities of South Abaco took part in the special service held at Epworth Methodist Church in Cherokee Sound to commemorate National Youth Month. The service included many special features by the youth. This group was from Cherokee Sound.

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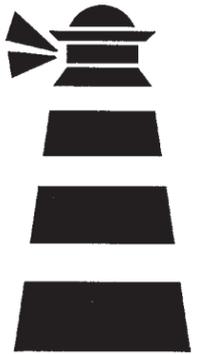


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Emergency Medical Services Is Discussed

By Jennifer Hudson

A meeting was held on May 3rd at Mangoes Restaurant to review problems relative to medical emergency 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 Abaconians, 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 and has taken priority over Exuma. We cannot rely on a totally voluntary service any longer and must have some trained, paid EMT's 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. Micahael Pintard will re-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,

Please see **Emergency** Page 24



Dr. Baldwin Carey, Director of Public Health, met with medical staff, government officials and other interested persons in Marsh Harbour on May 3 to discuss emergency medical services on Abaco. It is a critical problem which officials are trying to resolve. Dr. Carey, right, is talking with Dr. Frank Boyce and Dr. Marc Binard, both of Abaco Family Medicine.

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South

From Page 22

but not before Mr. Saronne 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 Epworth Methodist Church in Cherokee Sound.

Rev. Carla Culmer, 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 Hepburn 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 provided 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 W.W. Sands Community Center.

Emergency

From Page 23

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 doctors was 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." Dr. Boyce responded by informing that when he first began practising on Abaco 20 years ago there were three doctors here, now there are still only three private doctors in Marsh Harbour and they are overwhelmed. "We have made the decision to take care of our own patients to whom we will be available; but we are too overwhelmed to take others. We now also face concerns regarding malpractice." Dr. Boyce commended the Government Clinic but stated that they are overworked.

Dr. Biney asked if the number of personnel at the clinic could be increased in order to have staff there around the clock. Dr. Carey's reply was that the Ministry is looking into the needs; they know that the clinic is not fully equipped but there

are budgetary constraints.

Nurses from the Cooper's Town and Fox Town areas felt that their areas are left out.

Jeritzan Outten emphasized that the need is more critical here than on the other islands because Abaco is the third largest island. Tourists need to know how to get emergency medical service; response time is a problem. Tourists e-mail the Ministry of Tourism to find out if the clinic system has improved before they will make their vacation plans. Dr. Carey agreed that Public Health must be responsible for response time.

Regarding Mr. Robert Sweeting's concern as to lack of X-ray facilities at the clinic, Dr. Carey stated that the problem with an X-ray machine is maintenance, though he recognizes that an X-ray machine would cut down the need for air ambulance. He is looking at 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 recertification.
- 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. Charlene 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 alternate 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 or-

ganized 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/Ambassador 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.

Festival *From Page 21*

sides Lucayan camps, they explored the first Loyalist settlement on Abaco, the town of Carleton, located near present day Treasure Cay which was settled in 1783. Mr. Lowe is hoping to make the basement of the Albert Lowe Museum into an archeological section where the artifacts can be displayed.

Editor's Note: The location of Carleton was discovered by Steve Dodge after he researched documents in England and Nassau. He conferred with Harvey and Ann Albury whose family owns where the discovery was made. Mr. Albury led him to a location where artifacts were found that were later verified by Mr. Carr as being from that time period.



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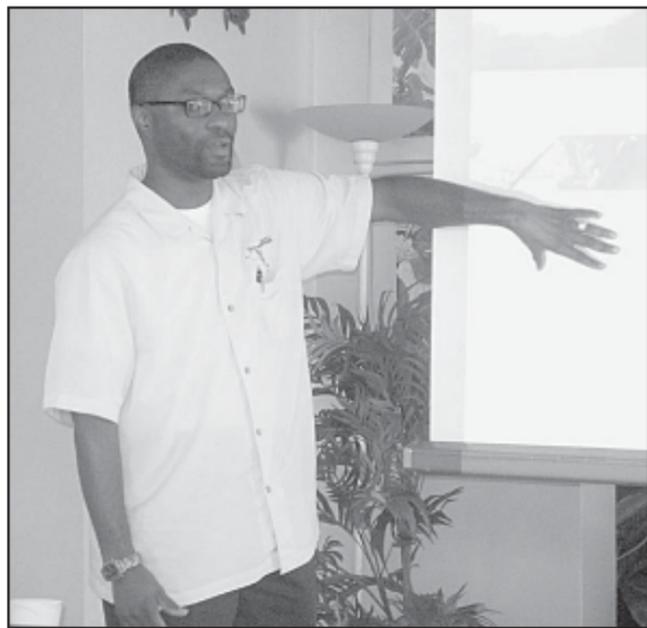
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E-commerce

From Page 1

Guide which benefits all types of tourism-related businesses. He described what has happened with bahamas.com as "awesome" and it costs absolutely nothing. The website has received 2.4 million visitors within the last 60-day period and offers significant opportunities to extract business through the site.

"There is a need to do something about informing visitors that the Bahamas is not just Nassau, Paradise Island and Grand 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.



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. He 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,

Once a visitor selects Abaco, all information 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 activities. "All you need to do is tell us the appropriate elements to add. We can present interviews or videos or photos of your facility," 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 comparison of prices and a summary can be obtained of all the items clicked on. Six million dollars has passed hands in bookings since November 2004 through the web site.

Significant traffic reaches bahamas.com from other search engines 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.

In answer to the question, "How can businesses 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 information as she will be in charge of the Abaco page.

Letters

From Page 9

believe that people constantly standing over the parrots, especially during breeding season and removing them and their chicks from the nests to take blood samples cannot be good for the parrots. At some point researchers need to be pointed to studies that have already been conducted and we must, as Bahamians, say enough is enough.

Instead of inhumanely trapping and killing cats -which will not be an effective solution - 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 population without requiring constant trips to trap and kill a never ending supply of new cats. Studies show that a stabilized cat population 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.

Also, decreasing a cat population will cause an increase in the population of rats, snakes and crabs, which all prey on par-

rots. According to local sources, Parrots International will be returning to Great Abaco in May to trap and kill more cats. I urge you to help us stop this from happening - 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 environment 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 without outside interest such as foreign self-serving organizations and graduate students who are receiving thousands of dollars in research grants that do not add to our economy but impact our environment. I would be happy to provide any supplemental material to support the facts presented in this letter. Thank you for your consideration. We must 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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Casuarina Point		Marsh Harbour area	
Different of Abaco	8 rm 20 cott 366-2150	Abaco Beach Resort	82 rms 367-2158
Cherokee		Abaco Real Estate	6 hse + 367-2719
Lee Pinder	3 hse + 366-2053	Abaco Towns	32 effc 367-2227
Grand Cay		Alesia's	3 rms 367-4460
Rosie's Place	352-5458	Ambassador Inn	6 rms 367-2022
Green Turtle Cay		Bustick Bight Resort	8 rms 367-3980
Bank Apartments	3 apts 365-4105	Conch Inn	9 rms 367-4000
Bluff House	8 rm 20 cott 365-4200	D's Guest House	6 rms 367-3980
Chris Plummer	3 hse 365-4648	Great Abaco Club	12 hse + 367-4151
Coco Bay Cottages	4 cott 365-5464	Island Breezes Motel	8 rms 367-3776
Green Turtle Club	34 rm 365-4271	Lofty Fig Villas	6 eff 367-2681
Island Properties	34 hse + 365-4047	Pelican Beach Villas	6 cott 367-3600
New Plymouth Inn	9 rm 365-4161	Sunset Point Resort	8 rm 367-5333
Ocean Blue Properties	30 + 365-4636	Moore's Island	
Roberts Cottages	3 cott 365-4105	Moore's Is Bonefish Camp	8 rm 366-6334
Guana Cay		Sandy Point	
Dolphin Bch Resort	4 rm 10 cott.365-5137	Oeisha's Resort	366-4139
Coco Paradise	8 cott 365-5197	Pete & Gay's Resort	14 rm 366-4119
Donna Sands	12 hse + 365-5195	Rickmon's Bonefishing	10 rm 366-4477
Guana Beach Resort	6 units 365-5133	Spanish Cay	
Guana Seaside	8 rm 7 cott 365-5106	Spanish Cay Resort	18 rm 6 hse 365-0083
Harbour View Haven	365-5028	Treasure Cay	
Sea Shore Villas	365-5028	Bahama Beach Club	365-8500
Hope Town		Banyan Beach Resort	21 rm 365-8111
Abaco Inn	22 rm 366-0133	Island Dreams	45 hse + 365-8507
Club Soleil	6 rm 1 cott 366-0003	Treasure Cay Resort	95 rms 365-8801
Crystal Villas	6 villas 321-783-4576	Walker's Cay	
Elbow Cay Prop	53 hse + 366-0035	Walker's Cay Resort	353-1252
Hope T Harb Lodge	25 rm 366 0095	Wood Cay	
Hope T Hideaways	63 hse + 366-0224	Tangelo Hotel	19 rm 3 villas 365-2222
Hope T Villas	3 hse + 366-0030	General for Abaco	
Lighthouse Rentals	4 cott 366-0154	Listings for the entire island	
Sea Gull Cottages	3 hse + 366--0266	Abaco Vacations	+ 800-633-9197
Sea Spray Resort	5 villas 366-0065	Bahamas Vacations	+ 800-462-2426
Tanny Key	43 hse + 366-0053	Abaco Bound	+ 242-367-5576
Turtle Hill	4 villas 366-0557	Web Sites	
Lubbers Quarters		with general Abaco information	
Sea Level Cottages	4 hse 366-3121	http://www.abacoinet.com	
Man-O-War		http://www.abacoinfo.com	
Island Home Rentals	8 hse+ 365-6048	http://www.abacos.com	
Schooner's Landing	5 condos 365-6072	http://www.go-abacos.com	
		http://www.oii.net	
		http://www.bahamas.com	

Emergency Services

Police - Marsh Harbour 367-2560
 The following services are provided by volunteers
 Fire - Marsh Harbour 367-2000
 Fire - Dundas Town 367-2935 or 4935
 Fire - Hope Town VHF Ch 16
 Fire - Green Turtle Cay 365-4133
 Fire - Man-O-War 365-6911
 BASRA Bah Air Sea Rescue Assoc - all areas Marine VHF 16
 Hope Town 366-0500 Marsh Harbour 367-3752
 Guana Cay 365-5178 Treasure Cay 365-8749



Visitors' Guide

Restaurants • Services • Transportation



Compliments of The Abaconian
 www.abaconian.com

Abaco area code 242 unless listed otherwise

Abaco Chamber of Commerce

367-5822 • Fax 367-5823 • www.abacochamber.org



Ferry Schedule Departure times shown • Daily unless noted

Albury's Ferry Service • Ph 367-3147 or 367-0290 • VHF Ch. 16
Marsh Harbour > Hope Town 20 minute trip from Crossing Beach
 7:15 9 am 10:30 12:15 pm 2 4 5:45 9+ 10:45+
 Return 8 am 9:45 11:30 1:30 pm 3 4 5 6:15 9:45+ 11:30+
Marsh Harbour > Man-O-War 20 minute trip from Crossing Beach
 10:30 am 12:15 pm 2:30* (M-Sat) 4 5:45
 Return 8 am 11:30 1:30 pm 3:15* (M-Sat) 4:30
Marsh H. > Guana Cay (& Scotland Cay with advance notice) 40 min. from Conch Inn
 6:45am† 10:30 1:30 pm 3:30 5:45
 Return 8 am 11:30 2:30 pm 4:45 6:30
*Same day fare • Adult oneway \$15 / Round Trip \$20 • Kids 6-11 half fare Free under 6
 † From Union Jack Dock * Except holidays † Hope Town late trips Fri & Sat only*

Green Turtle Ferry

Green Turtle Cay to Treasure Cay Airport
 8 am 9 11 12:15 1:30 3 4:30
Treasure Cay Airport to Green Turtle Cay
 8:30 am 10:30 11:30 1:30 2:30 3:30 4:30 5
One way adult \$7 (Children \$3) • Round trip \$12 Extra to some destinations

Abaco Adventures • Ph 365-8749 VHF Ch 16
Treasure Cay to Guana Cay Sunday Lv 12 & returns 4:45 p.m. \$25 RT
T Cay to Man-O-War/ Hope Town - Wed 9:30 am, return 4:30 pm \$35 RT
T Cay to Guana Cay Sunset Cruise - Fr \$25 , call for time
Pinder's Ferry Service Between Abaco & Grand Bahama -
Crown Haven, Abaco to McLean's Town, Grand Bah. -Daily 7:00 am & 2:30 pm
McLean's Town to Crown Haven - Daily 8:30 am & 4:30 pm
 Fare \$40 one way • Children half fare • Call Abaco 365-2356 for information
 Bus between Freeport and McLean's Town • Rental automobiles at both terminals.

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

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

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

Points of Interest

Albert Lowe Museum Green Turtle Cay
 Capt Roland Roberts House, reef exhibits GTC
 Memorial Sculpture Garden Green Turtle Cay
 Wyannie Malone Historical Museum Hope Town
 Elbow Cay Light Station Hope Town

Abaco Marinas - Slips Fuel Phone Walker's Cay

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

Treasure Cay
 Treasure Cay Marina150 F 365-8250

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

Marsh Harbour
 Boat Harbour Marina 183 F 367-2736
 Conch Inn 75 F 367-4000
 Harbour View Marina 36 F 367-2182
 Marsh Harbour Marina52 F 367 2700
 Mangoes Rebuilding F 367-2366

Hope Town
 Hope Town Marina 16 366-0003
 Hope Town Hideaways 366-0224
 Lighthouse Marina 6 F 366-0154
 Sea Spray 50 F 366-0065

Spanish Cay
 Spanish Cay Marina . 75 F 365-0083

Guana Cay
 Orchid Bay 32 F 365-5175
 Boats can clear Customs at Spanish Cay, Green Turtle Cay, Treasure Cay or Marsh Harbour

Dive Shops

Dive Abaco, Marsh Harbour 367-2787
 Abaco Dive Adventures, Marsh H. 367-2963
 Froggies, Hope Town 366-0431
 Treasure Divers, Treasure Cay 365-8465
 Treasure C. Adventures. 365-8111
 Brendal's Dive, Green T. Cay 365-4411
 Dive Guana 365-5178
Man-O-War Dive Shop 365-6013

Bikes & Scooters • Boats • Cars & Carts Rentals * Marsh Harbour

A & P Car Rentals 367-2655
 Bargain Car Rentals 367-0500
 Blue Wave Boat Rentals 367-3910
 Concept Boat Rentals 367-5570
 Laysue Boat Rentals 367-4414
 Pier One Boat Rentals 367-3587
 Power Cat Boat Rentals 367-4620
 Rainbow Boat Rentals 367-4602
 Rental Wheels Scooters, Bikes, Cars 367-4643
 Rich's Boat Rentals 367-2742
 Sea Horse Boat Rentals 367-2513
 Sea Star Car Rentals 367-4887
 Wilmac Car Rentals 367-4970 or 367-4313

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

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

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

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

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

Bonefish Guides

Sandy Point	Man-O-War
Patrick Roberts 366-4286	David Albury 365-6059
Nicholas Roberts	Cherokee
Derrick Gaitor	Theodore Sawyer 366-2111
Ferdinand Burrows 366-4133	Will Sawyer 366-2177
Vernal Burrows	Marty Sawyer 366-2115
Kendall White	Noel Lowe 366-2107
Anthony Bain 366-4107	Junior Albury 366-3058
Floyd Burrows 366-4175	Randy Sawyer 366-2284
Links Adderly 366-4335	Hope Town
Valentino Lightbourne	Maitland Lowe 366-0133
Ricky Burrows 366-4233	North Abaco
Marsh Harbour	O'Donald McIntosh .. 477-5037
Jody Albury 375-8068	Pope McKenzie 477-5894
Terrance Davis 367-4464	Orthnell Russell 365-0125
Buddy Pinder 366-2163	Alexander Rolle 365-0120
Justin Sands 367-3526	Edward Rolle 365-0024
Danny Sawyer 367-3577	Green Turtle Cay
Jay Sawyer 367-3941	Ronnie Sawyer 365-4070
	Jeff Survance 365-4040
	Ricky Sawyer 365-4261



Everyone reads The Abaconian

Please bring errors, omissions or corrections to our attention

Rev 4 Mar 05

Restaurant Guide

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

† Provides ride from town

+ Picnic tables & restroom only

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

Dundas Town
 Ambassador Inn \$ 367-2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

Medical Services

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

Taxi Cab Fares for one or two passengers

Plus extra for each passengers above two
Between Marsh Harbour Airport and:
 Ferry Dock or Murphy Town to Ammons Dr \$12 + \$3
 Bristol Cellers thru A. Beach Hotel or Gov't dock thru Dundas Town \$10 + \$3
 Dove Plaza, Stop Light or Sawyer's Market \$10 + \$2
 Gov't Clinic thru Western Auto \$ 6 + \$2
 Gov. freight dock through Dundas Town \$10 + \$3
 Murphy Town to Shell Sta \$14 + \$4
 Pelican Shores to Frankie Russel house \$14 + \$4
 Eastern Shores to Peas & Rice house \$14 + \$4
 Beyond Russell house or Peas & Rice house \$16 + \$5
 Great Cistern \$20 + \$5
 Spring City \$15 + \$5
 Snake Cay \$35 + \$10
 Treasure Cay \$60 + \$ 10
 Casuarina Point \$60 + \$10
 Treasure Cay Airport or Bah Palm Shores \$70 + \$ 10
 Little Harbour or Cherokee \$80 + \$10
 Crossing Rocks \$100 + \$10
 Sandy Point \$135 + \$10
Between Marsh Harbour Ferry and:
 Ab Beach Hotel thru Wally's & Eastern Shore \$ 2 each
 Jib Room \$ 3 each
 Solomon's Super Center \$5 + \$3
 Stop Light, Dove Plaza, Gov't dock \$ 6 + \$3
 Government Freight Dock \$ 7 + \$3
 Gov.Clinic, W. Auto or Nat. Insurance \$ 9 + \$3
 Mother Merle restaurant \$10 + \$3
 Waiting time \$20 per hour, \$10 per half hour
 Children under three - free • Uncaged pets - as people
 Luggage \$.50 each over four, Surf boards \$3.00 ea.

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

Airlines Serving Abaco

Abaco Air - Nassau, N Eleuthera, Moores Is 367-2266
 Air Florida - Ft. Lauderdale 367-5599
 Air Sunshine - Ft. Lauderdale 367-2800
 American Eagle - Miami 367-2231
 Bahamasair - Nassau & W. Palm Beach 367-2095
 Bimini Island Air - Ft Lauderdale 954-938-8991
 Calypso Air- Ft Laud & W Palm Bch 954-3594191
 Continental Connection - Miami
 Ft. Laud and W Palm Beach 367-3415
 Fla Coastal Airlines - Vero B & Ft Lauderdale 367-0179
 Island Express - Ft Lauderdale 367-0169-
 Major's Air Service - Freeport 367-4826
 Southern Air - Nassau 367-2498
 Twin Air - Fort Lauderdale 365-8677
 USAir - Ft. Laud and W. Palm Bch 367-2231
 Vintage Props & Jets - New Smyrna B. 367-4852
 Yellow Air Taxi - Ft Lauderdale 954-359-0292
 Local air charters serving Bahamas & S.Florida
 Abaco Air 367-2266
 Cherokee Air Charters 367-2089

Tours & Excursions

Kayak • Abaco Outback • Marsh Harbour . 367-5358
 Birding • Abaco Outback • Marsh Harbour .. 367-5358
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The Abaconian

SECTION B



VOLUME 13, NUMBER 11, JUNE 1st, 2005

Away We Go to Andros!

Hope Town's Senior Students Write About Their Experiences



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 strawwork. 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.

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.

Please see **Andros**

Page 10

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 suc-

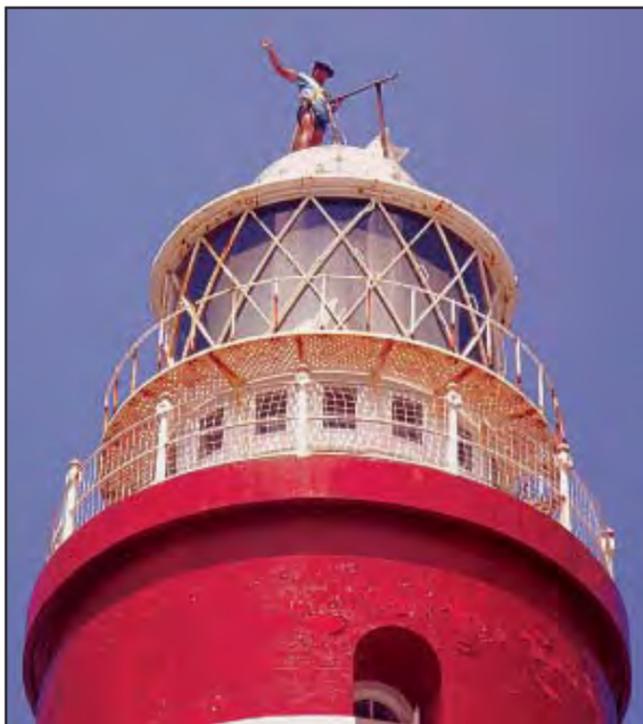
cessful.

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-

Please see **Regatta**

Page 16

Weather Vane Repair Is Risky



The Elbow Cay Light Station has been in operation since 1863. It requires care and maintenance. But seldom does the weather vane refuse to follow the wind. The risky repair required skill and daring. That's Jerry Whiteleather who undertook the dangerous job.

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" —

Please see

Lighthouse

Page 18

Shoot Out Brings Anglers



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.

Remember to Attend

The Native Plant Expo

Friends Office in Marsh Harbour

10 a.m. on June 11, 2005

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 shore facility 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 between 1989 and 1993, after which it was simply abandoned.

"To give cruise ships access to what Disney liked to call *Treasure Island*, massive dredging was undertaken to create a 45-foot deep, three-mile channel into the bay with a 3000-foot turning basin," Mr Shipman said.

"The dock that was built for water taxis will be used temporarily by the Baker's Bay development to bring in supplies and then will be removed. The beach dunes will be restored and native vegetation will replace the invasive casuarinas which contribute to coastal erosion.

In addition to removing trash and debris from inshore waters, the developers are also transplanting corals to artificial patch reefs to replace those that were smothered by the cruise ship dredging. The artificial reefs will eventually be used as an environmental education snorkeling trail.

The abandoned facility was described by some as a "pirate-ship paradise built of plastic and spare parts." It included dolphin pens, a 500-seat amphitheatre, canteens, walkways, restrooms, shops, jetties and other infrastructure.

Spread over dozens of acres, "the Treasure Island complex includes buried dump sites, abandoned fuel tanks, electrical transformers and other hazardous materials that require removal and mitigation," according to the Baker's Bay environmental impact assessment.

"This previous development introduced invasive plants and insects that now threaten the natural flora and fauna of the island. Immediate landscape management and coastal stewardship actions are needed to prevent further degradation."

The EIA's mitigation plan for the Treasure Island complex calls for cleanup of

contaminants, dune restoration, reinstatement of native vegetation, wetland restoration and proper management of wildlife habitats.

Australian pine (casuarinas) and Hawaiian Beach Napuka (*Scaevola sericea*) are

prevalent in the altered areas. Both of these species are on the BEST Commission's list of invasive alien plants to eradicate from coastal landscaping.

Beach dunes will be restored with native species. The non-native insect pests present

on the island are likely to have been imported with exotic plants. So the developers will be replanting from a locally cultivated nursery.

The native plant programme is supervised by Keith Bradley of the Institute for Regional Conservation in Miami. He has been 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, mastic, 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 amphitheatre that was left.

Please see **Clean Up** Page 26

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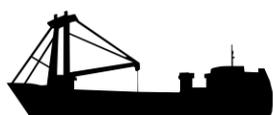
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Coastal Awareness Month Was a Success

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 and, according to Mrs. Bernadette 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. Earlston 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 having the message preached during Sunday sermons and schools held competitions to sensitize the children to the issues. 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.

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.

Habitat Destruction: This is a major issue affecting our coastal zone in The Bahamas; avoid filling in wetlands and cutting mangroves for development; maintain natu-

ral barriers and sand dunes; observe recommended setbacks for developments; do not anchor on coral reefs; never use chemicals such as bleach while fishing.

The organizers of Coastal Awareness Month feel, "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.

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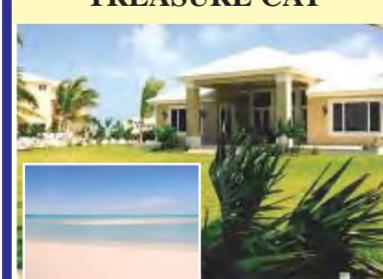
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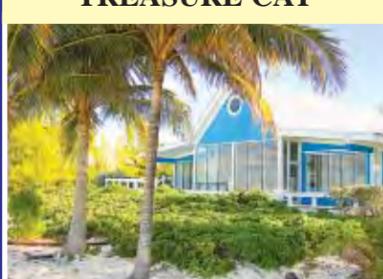
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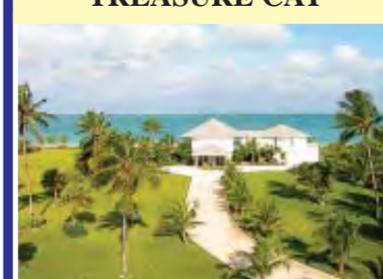
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Education Minister Meets with Teachers

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 Sturup, Permanent Secretary, informed all that security is as important in our schools today as teachers and principals. The minister 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 new vision to the ministry and two months from now the Ministry of Education will hold a national convention where they will engage in critical examination of the education system and look for ways to improve it.

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 chal-

lenging 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



The Hon. Alfred Sears

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.

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.

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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 Treasury 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 Guana Cay residents in addition to Baker's Bay. The green waste will be mulched to help reduce the bulk of solid waste. Glass and papers 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 constructed south of Marsh Harbour. 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 truck 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 for the golf course. The reuse water from the sewer treatment plant will go to the golf course. The coastal buffer is another aspect of the golf course. The natural vegetation acts as the coastal buffer and provides a physical barrier and protection. It is their intention to take out the casuarinas and put

in native plants.

Planning and Organization Manager, Mr. Doug Shipman, said there are many opportunities for general contractors and other companies to get involve in this project. He advised that they are not ready to go to bid now but are generating bids.

Mr. Carter Redd, Operations and General Manager, said they are in receipt of over 300 applications from a recently held job fair and have already employed seven Bahamians. They have also engaged 30 vendors in developing Baker's Landing for entertaining guests. Within two to three months they will be doing considerable hiring. They will begin training for the developer's office, food and beverage vendors, ferry service and fishing guides. Baker's Bay will employ 160 persons. Mr. Redd said there is tremendous opportunity for business on Abaco and hopes there is entrepreneurial 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.



Many business opportunities will be available as Baker's Bay Golf and Ocean Club gets underway. Mr. John Head, one of the principals on the left, and Mr. Carter Cooper Redd talke with Chamber Directors Brenda Mitchell and Cindy Hayworth.

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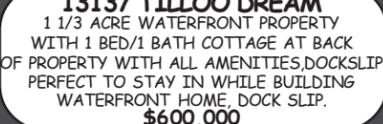
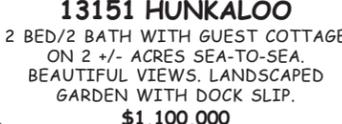
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Church Service Culminates Youth Month

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. Andrews' 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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School News

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, two 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.

Teacher of the senior class, Mr. Mars,

Please see **School**

Page 9



This temporary building will serve as administration building so Abaco Central High School can 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.



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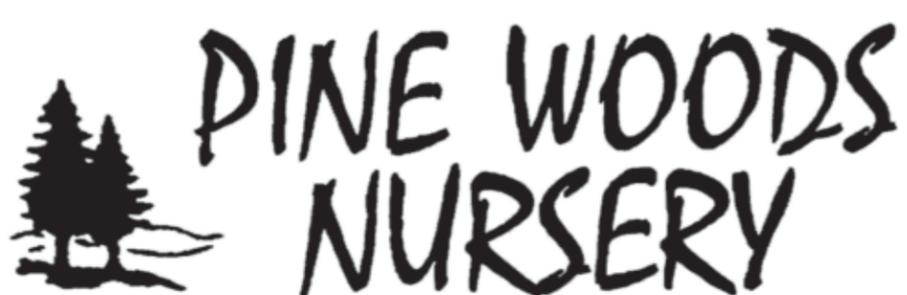
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More School News

School From Page 8

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 BEC 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.

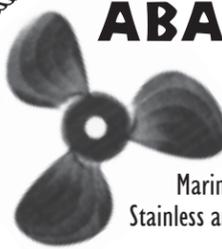
A rematch with Forest Heights Academy is planned and also a match with Agape Christian and St. Francis de Sales Schools.



Students of Every Child Counts put on their interpretation of Hamlet by Shakespeare. Every child in the school took part with the production which they performed for family and friends.

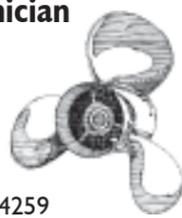
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An Appeal to Marsh Harbour Residents

Marsh Harbour Public Cemetery

Dear Friends,

As you may or may not be aware, our local cemetery has been shrinking steadily over the past few years. The opportunity has now presented itself to us to enlarge the size of the Marsh Harbour Cemetery with the option to purchase the property of the late Mr. Maurice Albury.

Since our cemetery is only allotted a small stipend by local government for cleaning purposes, our cemetery relies heavily on donations from private citizens like you. Unfortunately, some never think of the cemetery until a loved one passes.

Our proposal to you is this. If we can obtain a donation of \$1,000 or more from 300 families or individuals, the cemetery would be able to purchase this additional property along with the necessary capital to clean and prepare this property.

If you are interested in helping in this endeavour, please contact Mrs. Yvonne Key or Mr. Perry Sawyer, or make a direct deposit to account # 1245304 at First Caribbean International Bank.

We thank you for your help regarding this matter, and hopefully we can maintain and expand our cemetery for future generations.

On behalf of the Marsh Harbour Cemetery,
Regards,
Perry Sawyer



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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 was named Eclipse.

We also went to a playground that had a giant slide. When we finished there, we walked to the petting zoo. It had really

friendly animals. I held a Bahama Boa. Then we ate a delicious lunch.

We left to check into our hotel and got ready to swim at Atlantis.

Atlantis Water Park

By Laura Albury

Every child wishes they could go to Atlantis and my class got to go twice! Wow! To get to the water park, we all walked through a beautiful aquarium. It had huge fishes, humongous manta rays, sawfish, moray eels and sharks of all kinds. There were beautiful eagle rays that swam right up to the glass.

We walked in an underwater tunnel that seemed as if we were actually underwater. Barracudas swam over our heads and sharks were on either side of us, colorful tropical fishes were everywhere.

When we exited the aquarium, we walked 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 *Sea 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 Chickcharney Hotel where we were going to stay. After

Please see **Andros**

Page 11



Andros is famous for its crabs so it is only fitting that there are many large stone sculptures of crabs at intersections in Fresh Creek. Hope Town students, dressed in clothing made of Androsia, pose with one of the crabs.



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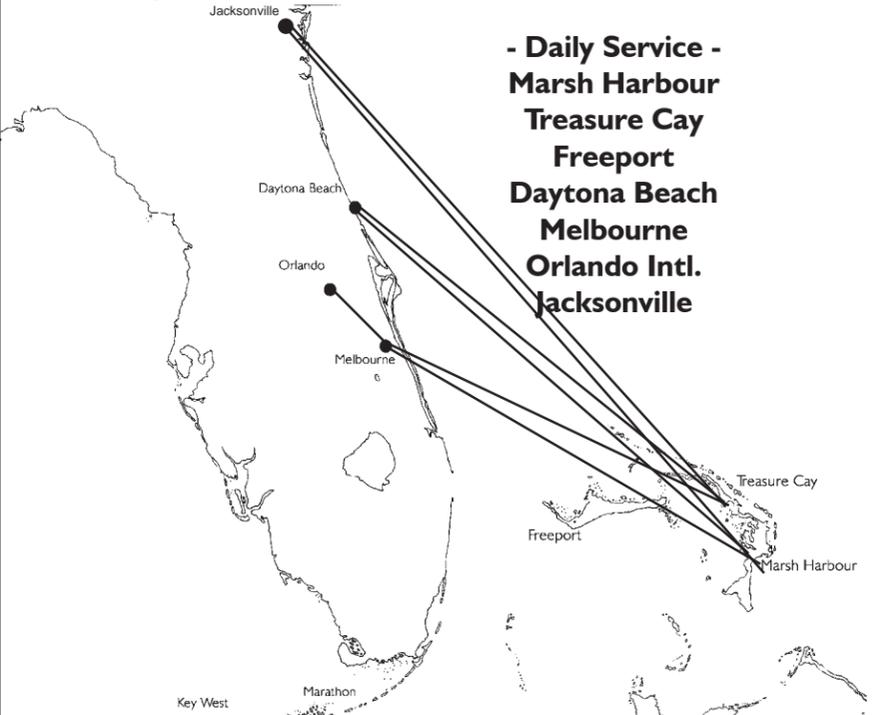
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School Trip Included a Visit to Government House

Andros *From Page 10*

that we went with our tour guide, Rev. Hamilton, to Red Bays where 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

and many other awards for her amazing straw work. We also stopped by a site where people were sponging. There were a few sharks swimming around near the dock and eating the dead particles. We saw the kralls where they soak the sponges. The kralls 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.

Our Tour of AUTEC

By Bronson Roberts

AUTEC stands for Alantic Underwater Testing and Evaluation Center and was opened in Fresh Creek for submarine test-

ing. There are many Navy officers and staff there, and they also employ many Bahamians at this top secret testing base. They are located on Andros because the very deep Tongue of the Ocean area is so close to shore they can easily drop testing cables to depths they need. Local kids from Hope Town Primary got a tour of this testing facility. We felt lucky that Administrator Cephas Cooper had been able to arrange the tour for us.

First we went to the office and met Sgt. Waters and Commander Lovell. We watched a 12-minute movie about AUTEC. After that we checked out the Sikorski helicopter that had just landed. We met the pilots who let us sit in the cockpit, try on their gear and ask questions. It was great fun!

We then visited the fire and rescue station. They are both very well equipped for any type of emergency. We really enjoyed all the friendly officers and staff at the base. Afterwards we ate at their fantastic cafeteria and enjoyed great desserts. Then we returned to our Chickcharney Hotel to write our days activities in our journals as we do every night while on a field trip.

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 fronds 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!

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 curtsy 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.

When Dame Ivy came into parlour, we curtsied and bowed and individually introduced ourselves. Even our chaperone moms and Principal Candace Key had to curtsy. We sat in a beautiful room overlooking Nassau harbour 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

Please see **Andros** Page 13



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.



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'Hideaways', Great Cistern Cay

Wonderful stylish home with 149' frontage on the Sea of Abaco. Three bed/two bath, all utilities in popular artists' colony area of Abaco near town and airport. Quality construction. French doors, tiled floors, W/D 40' dock, plus access to private fishing cay.

\$575,000



Cabbage Point

Breathtaking natural beauty. Pristine conservation land suitable for sensitive, low impact homebuilding. 100' of shoreline. Protect and preserve our environment.

\$118,000



'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

Spacious open plan, extensive decking, excellent dockage potential. Highly desirable location with 80' of beautiful Sea of Abaco frontage. Three bed/two bath plus loft office. Superior pole construction, Bermuda roof, beach access.

\$862,000



Guana Cay

Available with property purchase, 30' leased boat slip in a spectacular deepwater harbour on a very popular destination cay. Oversize properties include garden and oceanfront homesites. Easy golf cart ride to settlement.

\$130,000 - \$299,000



'Calamity's Cottage', Great Abaco Club

Beautifully remodeled home with privacy and security, four bed/ four baths including courtyard suite. Protected dockage up to 60', tiled floors, A/C, Bahama room, sundeck, built-ins. Excellent on-site management plus private beach, tennis courts & health club.

\$950,000



'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.

\$339,000



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



'Far Horizons', Great Abaco Club

Expertly built home in small, prestigious gated community. Three bed/ three baths including courtyard suite. Deepwater dockage up to 60', cypress V-Joint, terracotta tiles, garage, A/C, Bermuda roof, fabulous views and garden.

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Turtle Rocks

Pretty 16,00 square foot property only steps from the gorgeous beachfront. Easy drive to Marsh Harbour or Treasure Cay. Unspoiled residential area with protective covenants. Elevate your home for views and breeze.

\$58,800



Marsh Harbour Commercial Property

Singular commercial offering in the heart of the business district. 16,500 square foot corner property with 80' of frontage on the main road. Includes two occupied historic buildings and is in a quality area near the harbourfront.

\$287,500



Turtle Rocks

Two exquisite, adjacent, one acre level homesites with quiet Sea of Abaco frontage. Protective covenants, underground power, quality neighbours. Dockage available in nearby community.

\$208,500



'The Ranch', Marsh Harbour

Rare chance to develop a 19,536 square foot corner property with a finished 1,500 square foot concrete building on the main thoroughfare on Abaco. Unlike many adjoining properties, this holding has clear title deeds.

\$399,000

Beachfront | Dockage | Private Islands | Condominiums | Corporate Rentals

Andros *From Page 11*

the Queen of England sits on when she visits. We enjoyed looking at all the gifts other countries gave us when we became independent in 1973. Our favorite was a piece of the moon from the U.S. Government.

We explored more Bahamian history later that day when we visited the Pirate's of Nassau Museum.

Pirates of Nassau Museum

By Nicole Maltarp

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 so real, especially the actual-size model of a pirate 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 gift 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 to get dipped in tar and then covered with feathers. The lives of the Caribbean pirate was most definitely not an easy one nor a romantic one. I certainly recommend this as an exiting 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.

Our Snorkeling Trip and Picnic

By Rosena Joseph, Madeliene Joseph and Mauria Etienne

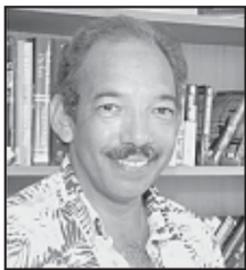
Although three of us were not able to go on the field trip to Andros, we had an exciting day with our volunteer, Mrs. Kathy Meyers.

My two best friends and I went to Tahiti Beach to swim and snorkel. Mrs. Kathy took us there. We snorkeled for about 30 minutes. We saw some beautiful sand dollars in the sand. After we went to swim deeper in the water, we swam back to shore to eat some snacks that Mrs. Kathy had packed that morning. We also buried Madeliene in

Please see Andros Page 25



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, at Government House on April 25. The visit was part of their Social Studies curriculum which includes knowledge of how the government works. Adults from left are Cha Boyce, 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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Coco Bay- Deep water lot with a dredged channel. Spectacular views of the bay, ideal for a future dock. \$498,000

Beachfront - Beautiful 1.5 acre plot located on a sandy beach. 100 ft. of frontage. Elevations for magnificent views. \$550,000

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

Black Sound - 2 acre deep water harbour side lot near settlement ideal for boaters. \$910,000

Waterfront with Pool & Dock- Three bedroom 2 1/2 bath located in beautiful White Sound, overlooking the Harbour. This new house is sure to be a pleaser. Offered at \$1,100, 000

Acreage- 4 acre plot located 3 miles South of Treasure Cay over 250' of water frontage and 900' deep. \$298,000 excluding 1/2 stamp duty and purchaser's legal fees.

Big Bluff- Two lots with panoramic views of White Sound and near to resorts and beaches. \$180,000

Beach/Canal lot package- Enjoy the best of two worlds, a beautiful sandy beach and a safe canal front lot for your boat. Located in Leisure Lee, these adjoining lots are a rare find for the person who loves living on the beach and boating. \$600,000

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

White Sound- One acre lots on White Sound with good elevations and magnificent views of the Harbour. Last two remaining lots on White Sound. \$545,000

Coco Bay- Good investment property located near Coco Bay. The property consists of 1.5 acres of elevated land with natural foliage. \$325,000

Beachfront -Two bedroom, two bath house situated right on the beach. Excellent rental history and ready to enjoy. \$850,000 plus 7% closing costs.

Building Lots-1/4 acre and 1/2 acre lots located near resort and beaches. Prices start at \$59,000

Sea-to-Sea with a Dock- 3.6 acre plot with over 135' of beautiful beachfront extending to a protected bay with your own private dock. \$1,320,000

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ON GREEN TURTLE CAY:

New! 90' beach front on gorgeous Bight O Bay on the Atlantic Ocean. .4 acre \$500,000 plus 7% to close. ONO

New! Furnished one bedroom one bath cottage located high on a ridge overlooking Ocean Beach where the reef is close enough to swim to. Spacious screened live-in porch. Outstanding views of the ocean. 30' x 30' garage and small shed on 18,800 sq. ft. of land. \$580,000 (All closing costs included.)

New! Two inland lots 8,500 sq. ft. and 9,000 sq. ft. respectively. Located near Green Turtle Club and a public dock. A short walk to Coco Bay and ocean beaches. B\$46,000 (All closing costs included.)

New! Family estate consisting of a two story furnished house on 1.67 acres with 120' dock on Black Sound with 5' draft at low tide; 2 vehicles; 3.9 acres on Gillam Bay beach with over 300' of beach front and Gillam Bay House with four bedrooms; four baths and pool on 3/4 acre with 140' of water front. Gillam Bay House has repairable hurricane damage. Details available to serious inquirers. \$5.34 million (All closing costs in.)

New! 90 feet of white sandy beach front on Coco Bay with elevations throughout of approximately thirty feet. 360 feet in depth running towards the Atlantic Ocean. Residential, 3/4 acre, located at north end of island near Coco Bay Cottages. Great for viewing the sunset and watching small boats sail by towards South Abaco. US 595,000 plus 7% to close

New! 1854 sq. ft. lot with wood building located in the heart of New Plymouth. Just a short walk to Sea of Abaco & public dock. \$72,000 plus 6% to close

A jewel of a home with pool set high on a bluff overlooking the Sea of Abaco. One acre. Stunningly landscaped with wooden decks and walkways. Six buildings set in "pod" arrangement. 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths. Wicker and rattan furniture. A/C throughout. Satellite TV. 1.98 million plus 7% to close

Motivated Seller! Brand new two bedroom two full bath home located within five minutes walk of Coco Bay Beach and Ocean Beach. Central A/C. 40 x 32. Tile floors; porch and deck. Fully landscaped with white picket fence. 9 ft. high ceilings throughout. Centrally located near public dock; beaches and a major resort. Perfect for first time buyers or retirees! B325,000 gross

New! Spacious two bedroom two bath furnished home on the beach at beautiful Gillam Bay. Excellent rental history. Within one mile from historic New Plymouth and two miles from two major resorts. A/C in bedrooms. Full kitchen with separate dining room. Laundry room. 135' on beach. 19,735 sq. ft. of property. \$775,000 gross

New! Prime water front commercial / residential location in the town of New Plymouth on Green Turtle Cay. Site of take-away restaurant plus two bedrooms and two baths; kitchenette and great room. Private deck. Furnished two story building. Near public dock. Views of water from both floors. \$350,000 plus 2% to close

A perfect site on White Sound. 2 bedroom 2 bath main house with deck and porch. Boathouse and 2 Whalers. Guest cottage with one bedroom and one bath. Waterfront on the Sea of Abaco. Only accessible by boat. \$660,000 ONO

Two bedroom one bath basically furnished home with large deck and view of Coco Bay. Just steps away from beautiful Coco Bay Beach. 18,000 gallon rain water tank. Basement. Garage. Good elevation. 1/3 acre. B \$398,000 firm

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

Four unit income producing building with views of Coco Bay and dock. \$700,000 plus 7% to close.

Two inland lots 1/3 acre each located within walking distance of Coco Bay Beach and Ocean Beach. Good elevation. B\$90,000 each firm

New! 112' x 200' ocean front lot on north end of island. Outstanding ocean views. Reef is close enough to swim to. \$495,000 plus 7% to close

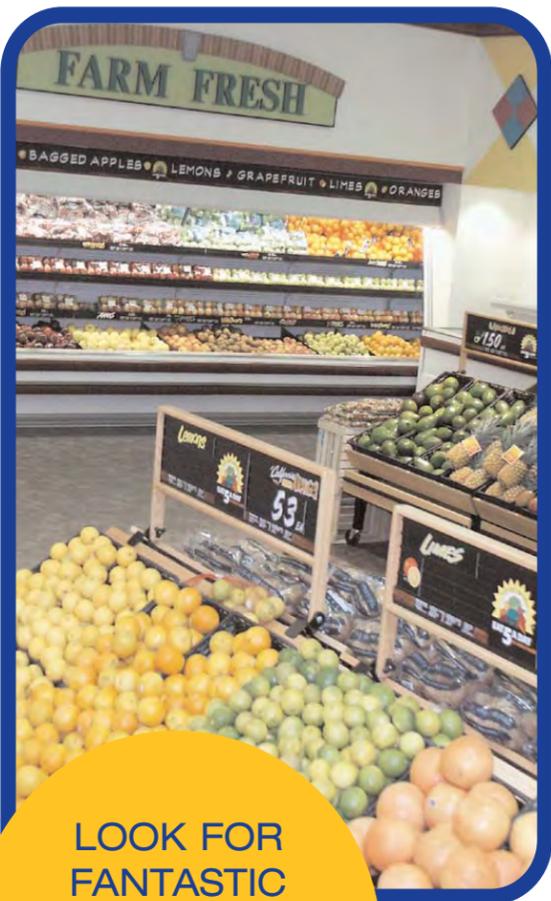
MUNJACK CAY:
1/4 acre on Atlantic Ocean. 125' frontage. \$183,000 gross

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Seabreeze Cottage
Lot 9 Coco Bay Tract

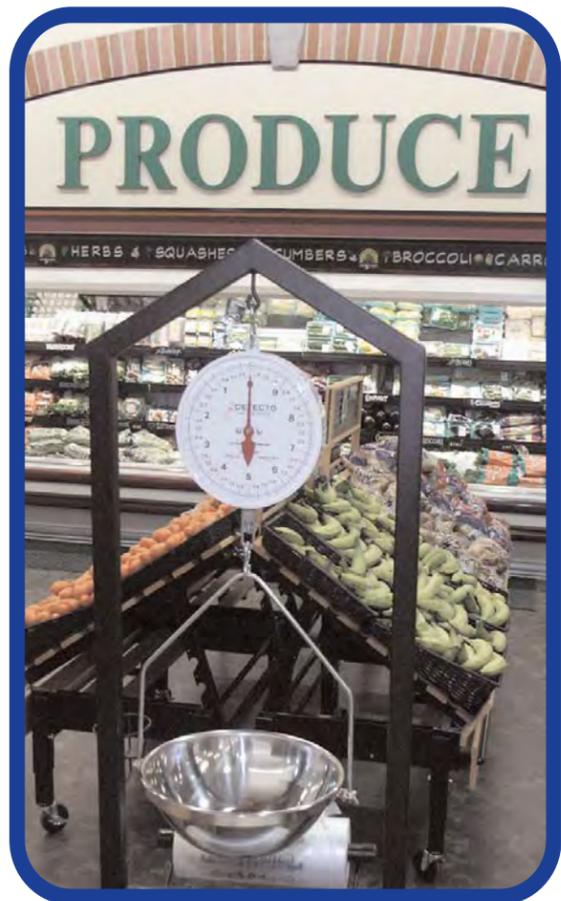
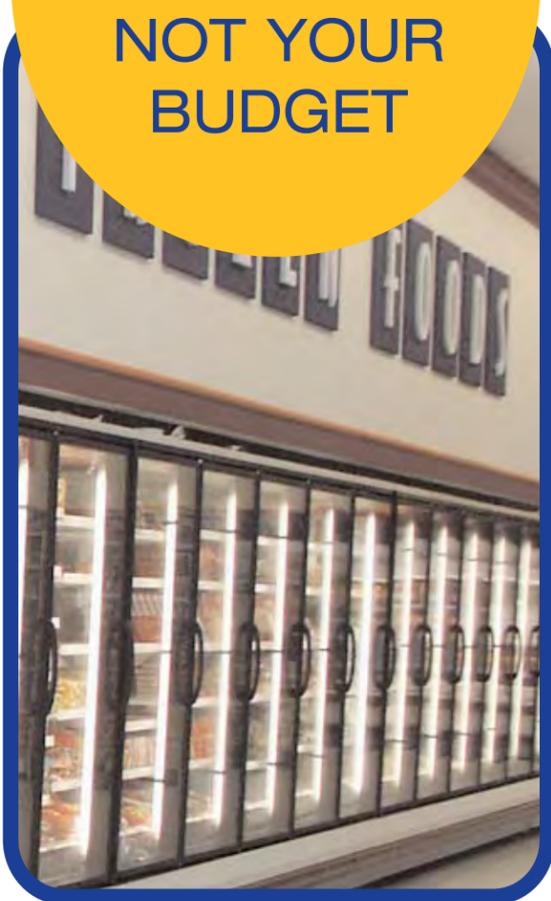
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HIGH HOPES
 Atlantic Ocean, North End Elbow Cay 3 bed 3 bath, large ocean side deck, excellent rental history **\$1,450,000**



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**

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**

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**

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**

JOES CAY - 3 acre private cay located in White Sound. Great elevations and surrounded by deep water perfect for dock **\$1,762,000 UNDER CONTRACT**



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

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**

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**

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**

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**

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 **\$595,000**

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**

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Chris Thompson

Greg Roberts

Sandy Point Will Host Work Boat Regatta on Labour Day Holiday

Regatta *From Page 1*

tainment events. It is designed to create a weekend of active participation that all in attendance can enjoy. A number of Bahamian sloops throughout The Bahamas has already signed up for the homing coming regatta which will display the C Class category of the Bahamian sloop racing.

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.

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 Erilas Michel; his mother Adelcia Michel; daughters Catia, Macula, Nicolette, Manoucheka and Dulie Michel; brothers Fleell, Eric, Yven

Jean, Octave, Enocent and Ostence Michel; grandparents Rezilas and Laonce Michel; friends Attendieu Blanc, Cecile Blanc, Jeantilia, Fontane, Masceline, Wesley, Mary, Yanique, Elise, Johnny, Chenet, Lafontaine, Marie, Mercie, Ifody, Mazaire, Ms. Charles and Mrs. Charles, Persler, Mark Decius, Ferlanda Pinder, Edward and Michel.

Schedule for the Sandy Point Regatta and Homecoming

Friday, June 3, 2005

Music provided all day by DJ Crank

- 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

- 6 p.m. Sandy Point Community Marching Band
- 7 p.m. Speaker - Jason Roberts (Chief Council - The South)
- 8 p.m. Rake n' Scrape Band - Ophie & the Boys

Saturday, June 4, 2005

- 9 a.m. Regatta Race
- 11 a.m. Children's Supervised Activities (beach & water games)
- 12 p.m. Regatta Race
- 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



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Cherokee 1157 - Abaco built home in the...
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Marsh Harbour Home 1180 - 2/2 home in Marsh Harbour. Entertainment room can be converted to third bedroom. Spacious and open, large fenced in yard.



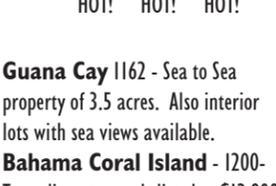
Bahama Palm 1160 - Section one home site w/ foundation started for 2/1 home. Finish to your liking.



Bahama Palm Shores Seven lots exclusively listed starting at \$12,750. Bahama Palm is HOT! HOT! HOT!



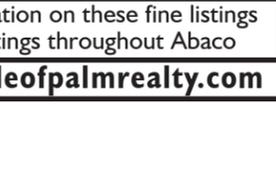
Guana Cay 1162 - Sea to Sea property of 3.5 acres. Also interior lots with sea views available.



Bahama Coral Island - 1200 - Two adjacent parcels listed at \$12,900 each.



Great Abaco Club - 1189 NEW LISTING - 3 bedroom home on three floors. Pool, 100' dock, unbeatable views, lovely landscaping. A must see. Call



Tilloo Cay 1021 - Only one lot left. 100' of waterfront and great elevations and deep water draft. \$199,900

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Aeolian - Stunning view of the mouth of Hope Town harbour and the Sea of Abaco. 100 feet of water front property, three bedroom, two bath rooms. Fully furnished and a great rental history. Asking \$1,400,000

Lubber's Quarters - Lots starting at \$48,000
 Lots with private dock slip starting at \$89,000

Elbow Cay - Adjacent to Aunt Pat's Bay Subdivision This 1.034 acre lot with sea views is located on Elbow Cay. \$606,000
 Half acre also available for \$364,000

Spencerville Lot 4 - 1/4 acre, elevated, residential lot. One of the few lots still available under \$100,000 on Elbow Cay. \$85,000

"Southern Breeze" - Lubbers Quarters 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, Offers sea views, a beautiful patio, custom cabinetry, central air, a modern kitchen, and a 9,500 gallon cistern. Great rental history. Private dock slip available for purchase. \$448,000

"Moon Shadow" - Lubbers Quarters 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom, this charming 1,600 sq. ft. 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom home sits on 4 acres. It enjoys spectacular views of the ocean and cays and 150 foot of dockage space including "T". \$1,200,000

"Tamarind Hill"
 2b/2b w/one bedroom apartment plus 1 large unfinished studio/apartment. Located in very private Lucayos subdivision. Great view of Sea of Abaco. Plans approved for private dock slip. Fully furnished home and landscaped property w/ large shade trees and mature fruit trees. large deck, car port and storage area. \$1,200,000

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 after-

noon 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 anything. 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

Lighthouse

From Page 1

one of the live-boards on a mooring, advised me, as the president and founder of the Bahamas Lighthouse Preservation Society, of the problem. I, in turn, told our BLPS Engineer, Jerry Whiteleather, who immediately called our contact in England who has had experience with such unusual happenings. As a mater of fact, he is familiar with this particular and famous lighthouse, having worked on it with the Imperial Lighthouse Service Bahamas which was in charge of our nine major coastal lights before Bahamian Independence. This retired lighthouse engineer in London told Jerry that it might just be the most difficult and dirty job that an old lighthouse can offer. He estimated that it might cost \$1000 to repair – a long way from your handy squirt of WD-40, as suggested by someone. The Hope Town Sailing Club immediately offered to underwrite that cost and told Jerry to get on with it.

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.



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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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Dundas Town-#5276 Incoming producing property, unfinished duplex on elevated lot. Can be finished to ones own taste. Situated on lot 100x128-\$92,000. Call for more details.



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



Marsh Harbour-#5106. Great Opportunity. Established commercial complex. features several retail stores and two rental apartments. All currently rented. Ideally situated on main tourist strip. GREAT INVESTMENT.



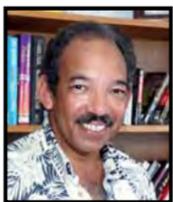
Dundas Town-#5222-Property situated in prime location running 135' on the waterfront. Fixer upper situated on property. Views of the harbour and Sea of Abaco. \$125,000



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- Bahama Coral Island- vacant property in Bahama Coral Island, financing available, Call for details.
- Treasure Cay- Canal Lots in desirable location, sea views, great buy-UNDER CONTRACT
- Cabbage Point- 5 acre parcels on the SC Bootle highway, financing available -Call today for details
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Green Turtle Cay- #0272 Unique "Pod Style" luxury estate situated high on a bluff overlooking the Sea of Abaco. This three bedroom three and 1/2 bathroom consists of 3,289 square ft. and over 2,000 sq. ft. of decking. Built with attention to detail, this can be described as "Island living at it's best". Offered at \$1,980,000.



Green Turtle Cay- #5077 Historic 10 room Inn located in "Story Book" pretty New Plymouth. Consisting of 10 guest rooms , 40 seat restaurant and bar, patio and swimming pool. Painstakingly restored to it's original Colonial condition. Offered at \$1,780,000.



Green Turtle Cay- #5282 Luxury Waterfront Estate with over 100' of frontage. Swimming pool, dock and guest cottage. Property is 1.7 acres of elevated land with panoramic views. Offered at \$3,500,000



Green Turtle Cay- #5191 Luxurious home located on a 2.5 mile sandy beach. Consisting of five bedrooms, four bathrooms with wrap around verandas. Careful craftsmanship and attention to detail describes this villa. Offered at \$2,300,000

Weather Conference Focuses on Hurricanes

By Jennifer Hudson

Top meteorologists at the National Hurricane Centre forecast another busy season and urge people not to let down their defences as hurricane season 2005 approaches.

Each year for the past several years Mr. Silbert Mills has been attending an annual weather conference under the auspices of The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism. This year's conference was held at the Atlantis Hotel, Paradise Island, from April 13 to 17. Ms. Winsome Ferguson from Abaco's Ministry of Tourism was also in attendance along with 200 meteorologists from Nassau and around the world.

These conferences were begun eight or nine years ago in order to sensitize meteorologists to the geographical situation of the Bahamas. According to Mr. Mills, what was happening was that when a hurricane was traveling towards The Bahamas, meteorologists would say that The Bahamas was under hurricane threat, not realizing that if the storm were headed for Inagua, Abaco may have nothing but sunshine. This was seriously impacting visitor arrivals as it caused many people to needlessly cancel their reservations. These conferences draw the top weather people in North America and this year persons from the National Hurricane Centre formed a focal point as the main thrust of the conference was hurricanes.

Dr. Max Mayfield gave a presentation on the previous hurricane season. Dr. William Gray, an authority on forecasting hurricanes, spoke along with Mr. May about the 2004 season and said that while Abaco and some other Bahamian islands were hit by two storms, they were more intrigued by Florida being hit by four in 30 days.

They issued a word of caution that the people of The Bahamas should not sit back but should be conscientious in their preparations. While Bahamians were under the impression that Hurricanes Francis and Jeanne were category three storms, the authorities stated that they were minimal category two with gusts at the upper end. "If a hurricane like Charlie came through Abaco, you would not recognize the place," they said. "Charlie had a small eye which was very powerful while Frances and Jeanne had larger eyes. Hurricane Floyd was a top category two or low category three possibly with gusts and tornadoes." It was their opinion that there have been no serious hurricanes to hit Abaco in recent years. They stated that they have been very much on the pulse of storms while they were over Abaco, flying through, getting measurements and data and taking photographs of the shoreline.

They were very impressed by the ability of Bahamians to reduce loss of lives. "The Bahamas stands out; people seem to listen and respond to emergency management. Preparations must remain a priority, stay away from streets and listen to weather reports," they advised.

Mr. Mills stated that Dr. Gray, in his prediction of the number of storms, remains resolute in that there will be an increased number of storms because of the cycle the earth is going through and not because of ozone depletion, though his view is not shared by meteorologists around the world. "Every 30 years or so there is a lull," says Dr. Gray. "The ocean temperature is the determining factor with storms; the sea surface temperature determines whether it will be a good or bad storm season. Since the sea is quite warm, there is a greater average for predictions this year."

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 400 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 she would turn 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.

Taxi Driver Is Honoured



The Abaco office of the Ministry of Tourism honoured Mr. Jeff Key for exemplary service given to persons he had in his taxi. One visiting group was so 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. Jerizan Outten, Abaco's Tourism Director, is hold the certificate.

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Police Crime Report

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 hiding under the bed.

A resident of the Mud in Marsh Harbour was beaten about the body while in an argument on May 13 about 6 p.m. near a neighbor's house.

A Green Turtle Cay resident had a window of his car damaged by a woman he 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 Murphy Town woman was punched several times and threatened to be killed by her boyfriend at her residence on May 17.

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.

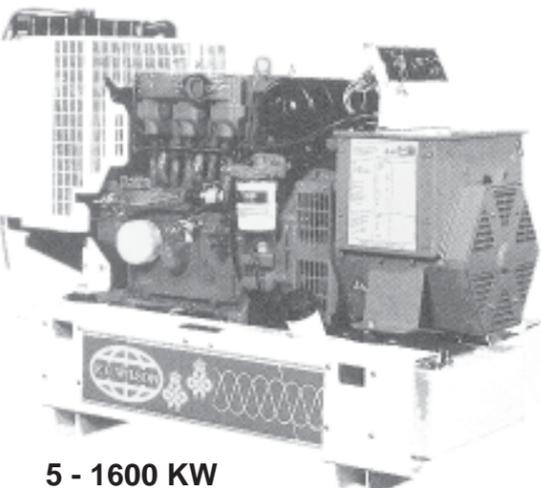
Police responded to an alarm about mid-night on May 18 at Solomon's SuperCenter in Marsh Harbour. On finding a door ajar, more officers were called along with a police dog. Accompanied by the store manager, a thorough search was conducted which disclosed that someone had left through a rear door. A white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

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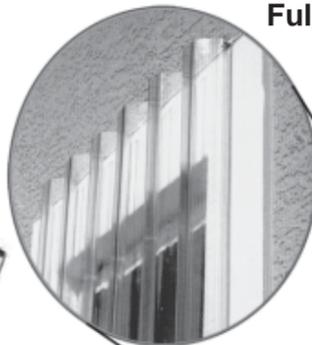
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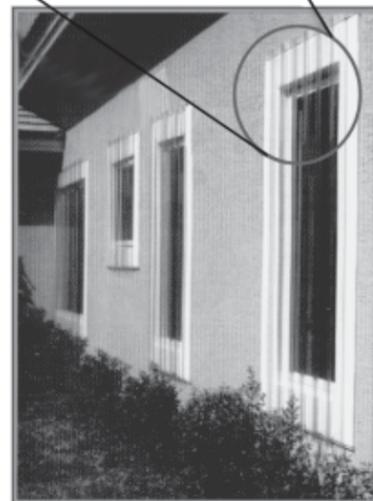


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Government Dock
Marsh Harbour, Abaco

Nassau Contact
Ph./Fax: (242) 393-4371
Western End Potter's Cay Dock
Nassau, New Providence

Palm Beach Contact
Ph: (561) 840-9393
M/V Legacy
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801 Avenue East
Riviera Beach, FL 33404

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- Arriving Marsh Harbour Early Wednesday Morning
- Extended Services to Green Turtle Cay

* For more information on the Palm Beach service Call Trinity Customs Brokerage (242) 367-4297



Concert by the Magnificent Seven Proved Popular



The Magnificent Seven, a country singing group from Spanish Well, performed a concert on May 7 to an appreciative crowd at Abaco Beach Resort. They will be back. They are, left to right front row Kevin Underwood and Roy Pinder, middle row Doris Ross, Ranata Sands, Elise Pinder, Carol Sands, and in the back Sue Lynn Pinder.

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.

Basketball Players Will Compete in Freeport

By Mirella Santillo

Youth In Action basketball players are doing extra practice in preparation of the competition taking place in Freeport. The Youth in Action program is for youth of Central Abaco to teach them the principles of soccer, basketball and softball while they are learning discipline and good sportsmanship. The program is run entirely by volunteers.

The first phase of the Youth in Action Program for 2005 started with soccer which ended in March.

The second phase, basketball, is nearing its end with play-offs taking place in Freeport.

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.

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

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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 Rich-

ard 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.

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Aldersgate Methodist Church

Marsh Harbour, Abaco



Sunday Services: 11:00 a.m.
Radio Ministry: Radio Abaco 93.5 FM
Monday through Friday at 7:55 a.m.

Minister

The Reverend Charles A. Carey
Congregational Board Chairman
Brother Percival J. Archer

Phone: 242-367-2009/2566 • Fax: 367-5419
charlescary@wesleycollegebahamas.org

Dundas Town Church of God

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and Send



Sunday		Weekdays (Prayer Meeting)	
Prayer Meeting	6:00 a.m.	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	5:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:45 a.m.	Monday Night	7:00 p.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.	Wednesday Night E.T.H.	7:00 p.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.	Friday Youth Night	7:00 p.m.
		Tuesday, Thursday	Family Night

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or 367-4719 (church) or contact Bro. Val Nesbitt at 367-5565

Bishop Anthony Campbell

242-367-4718 or cell phone 242-457-5565 • Dtcog@coralwave.com

*"Speaking where the Bible speaks;
Silent where the Bible is silent."*

Schedule of Services
Sunday
Bible Class 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.
Radio Abaco 93.5 FM 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday
Devotion/Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Church of Christ

P.O. Box AB 20543 Marsh Harbour, Abaco
242-367-3496/366-2103 quashie@coralwave.com
Minister Jason G. Quashie

Catholic Churches

Saturday Mass - Treasure Cay

3:00 p.m. Bahamas Farm Chapel (Creole)
5:00 p.m. Saints Mary and Andrew Church

Sunday Mass - Marsh Harbour & Hope Town

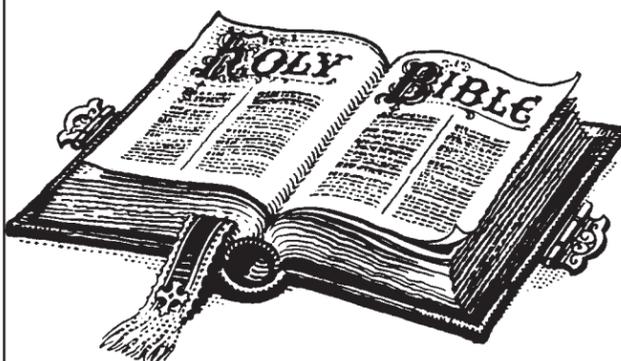
9:00 a.m. St. Francis de Sales Church
12:45 p.m. Jarrett Park (Hope Town)
5:00 p.m. St. Francis de Sales Church (Creole)

Weddings and Funerals (by arrangement)
Confession (before Mass or by appointment)
Baptism (every Sunday before Mass or within Mass)

Rev. Father Rogelio (Roger) P. Madraza
Parish Priest

242-367-2714 romad16@yahoo.com

Church Page



Announcements

New Vision Ministries is celebrating The Family between Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Call 367-2677 with the special events
at your church.

Friendship Tabernacle Church

Pastor Silbert Mills

Sunday Church Services
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Youth Meeting on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

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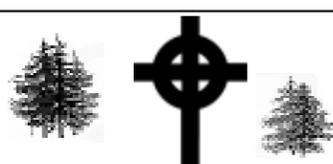
St. John-the-Baptist & St. Martin Anglican Churches



Schedule of Services

Sunday	Holy Eucharist	Evening Prayer
	Marsh Hbr. Sandy Pt.	
1st (ACW)	8:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	7:30 p.m. (Both)
2nd (CYM)	11:00 a.m. 7:30 a.m.	7:30 p.m. (Both)
3rd (AYA)	8:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	7:30 p.m. (Both)
4th (ACM)	11:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m. (M.H.)
5th	11:00 a.m. 7:30 a.m.	7:30 p.m. (S.P.)

Rector: Reverend Father Earl Hepburn
242-367-2518 (phone/fax) • rectorysjb@yahoo.com



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(Non Demoninational)



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Jesus Christ"

Sunday Worship	11:00 a.m.
Sunday Kids' Korner	9:30 a.m.
Tuesday Interactive Bible Study	7:30 p.m.
Thursday Prayer Time	12:10 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Friday Youth Night (high school & up)	7:30 p.m.

Pastors/Leaders

Derek Benjamin • Ted Pearce • David Lowe
Youth Pastor: Brooks Russell

For Directions call 242-367-3324
derekbenjamin@coralwave.com
www.nvministries.com

Grace Baptist Church

Sunday Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Divine Worship
7:30 p.m. Evening Worship

Every second and fourth Sunday

8:00 a.m. Morning Glory
(no evening service)

Tuesday Evening

Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday Evening

Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Friday Evening

Youth Night 7:30 p.m.



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Sunday
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Ph: 367-5411

E-mail: strongtower@coralwave.com

Little Abaco News

By Mirella Santillo

Mrs. Vernetta Parker, wife of Rev. Burnell Parker of the Revival Time Pentecost Church of God, mentioned that women of the Pentecostal 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 Stuart, 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 Pentecost 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. Navidia Mills, grade 2 teacher at Fox Town Primary, said that with the joint effort of the PTA members, she is organizing the Fox Town Primary School Beauty Pageant which will be held on May 21st at the New Hope Baptist Church. Four Little Misses, grade 1 to 3, and four Misses, grade 4 to 6, will be judged on their opening dance, their introduction, their sport wear, their questions and answers, their evening wear and their talent. The event is open

to whoever wishes to attend.

The Zion Baptist Churches of Abaco held their 43rd convention in Mount Hope. The first event of the convention was a 5 p.m. service on May 8th during which 16 mothers from various participating churches were honored. The actual opening night was on May 9th. During that day Constable Dames from Marsh Harbour gave a lecture on community policing.

Rev. John Mc Intosh, Pastor for Mount Hope Church who is also a moderator for the district, took time off the pastor's conclave 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 school 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 communities and establishing 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, Thursday 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.

Nomination Day for Local Government Is Thursday, June 2

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS
IN THE SUPREME COURT
Common Law and Equity Division

2005 / CLE / QUI /00300

IN THE MATTER of ALL THAT piece parcel or tract of land comprising Eleven and Fifty-four hundredths (11.54) acres more or less originally granted to John Cash by Crown Grant B-219 which said John Cash Grant is situate on the Southern edges of the Township of Marsh Harbour on the island of Great Abaco one of the islands of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and runs from the Sea on the East Westwards between the Northern edge of the Nathan Key Grant (Grant K-145) on the South and a Road Reservation to the North and bounded Westwardly by a Road Reservation sometimes called "Pole Line Road" or "Nathan Key Drive"

AND

IN THE MATTER of The Quieting Titles Act, 1959

AND

IN THE MATTER of the Petition of Roy Carlisle Newbold, Sr.

NOTICE

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

ALL THAT piece parcel or part of a tract of land comprising Eleven and Fifty-four hundredths (11.54) acres originally granted to John Cash (Grant B-219) which said John Cash Grant is situate on the Southern edges of the Township of Marsh Harbour and runs from the Sea on the East Westwards between the Northern edge of the Nathan Key Grant (Grant K-145) and a Road Reservation to the North and bounded Westwardly by a Road Reservation sometimes called "Pole Line Road" or "Nathan Key Drive" and generally having the position shape boundaries marks and dimensions as shown for Grant B-219 on Bahamas Registered Plan 436 ABACO and which said hereditaments is bounded ON THE WEST by the said Road Reservation sometimes called "Pole Line Road" or "Nathan Key Drive" and running thereon Four hundred and Thirty-three and Five hundredths (433.05') feet more or less, ON THE SOUTH by the aforementioned Nathan Key Grant (Grant K-145) and running thereon One thousand Seven hundred and Forty-four and Three hundredths (1744.03) feet more or less ON THE NORTH by the aforementioned Road Reservation to the North and running thereon One Thousand Seven hundred and Fourteen and sixty-one hundredths (1714.61) feet more or less AND ON THE EAST by the High Water Mark of the Sea and running thereon by straight transect One hundred and Fifty and Eighty-three hundredths (150.83) feet but following the configurations of the coast running thereon One hundred and Seventy and Ninety-two hundredths (170.92) feet more or less and which said piece parcel or part of a tract of land has the position shape boundaries and dimensions as are shown on plan filed in the above Action and thereon coloured Pink.

Roy Carlisle Newbold Sr. claims to be the owner in fee simple in possession of the said land

free from encumbrances and has made application to the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas under section 3 of the Quieting Titles Act, 1959 to 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, Ansbacher Building, East Street, Nassau, Bahamas.
2. The Office of the Administrator, Local Government, Central Abaco District, Dove Plaza, Don MacKay Boulevard, Marsh Harbour, Abaco.
3. The Chambers of the Petitioner's attorneys, Messrs. Maillis and Maillis, Chambers, Fort Nassau House, Marlborough 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 31 st 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 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

Department of Statistics

ANNUAL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT SURVEY

from April... until the end of September

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AND OUR NATION'S PROGRESS

The survey requires that businesses and institutions provide the following information:

- Number of employees
- Wages and salaries
- Annual hours worked
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- Depreciation and acquisitions

The data generated from the survey will be used to measure each sector's contribution to the Gross National Product of The Bahamas.

So, if you are involved in the production of goods and services, you can help contribute to our national statistics as well as learn more about your sector's performance by completing the Annual Business Establishment Survey questionnaire accurately and in a timely fashion.

All survey questionnaires should be returned to the Department of Statistics.

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

Clarence Bain Building
P. O. BOX N-3904
TELEPHONE: 326-4602/4
FAX: 325-5149



Three Earn Karate Black Belts



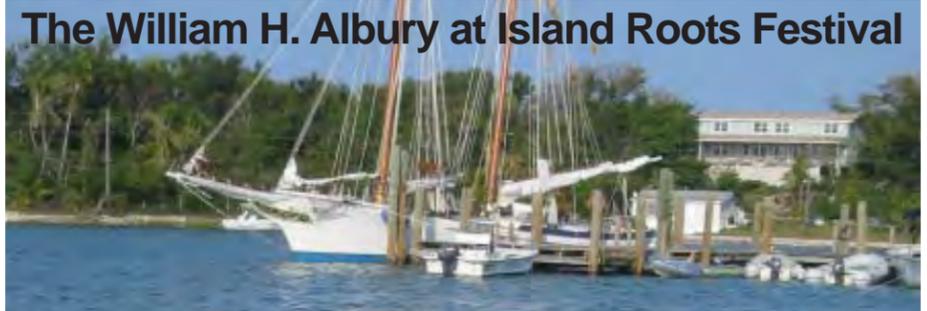
Three students of Sensei Churton Tooté recently earned black belts in Karate which they have been studying for six years. With Mr. Tooté are Krista Kelly, age 16 from Forest Heights; Agatha Ferguson age 15 from Abaco Central High School; and Albert Albury, age 15, from St. Francis de Sales School.

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 chaperones 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.



The William H. Albury at Island Roots Festival

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.



Glenn Laing

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 continued support as always in this great venture.

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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

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Clean Up

From Page 26

veloped. Solid waste will be composted and recycled when possible.

The Baker's Bay EIA was supervised by Dr Kathleen Sullivan Sealey, a professor of marine biology at the University of Miami. Dr. Sullivan Sealey is on the BEST Commission's list of approved EIA experts, and the developers contracted with the university to conduct the assessment.

The university will also be involved in monitoring the project to ensure that the highest environmental standards and management practices are applied

at all times.

"Baker's Bay is a unique project in the transparency of its site management and environmental reporting," Dr Sullivan Sealey said. "The developers believe that good environmental stewardship will add value to the community as well as protect property from storm damage and erosion."

The main aims of the monitoring programme are to maintain the natural vegetation on Guana Cay, to preserve onshore and near shore water quality at pre-construction levels, to enhance wildlife habitat and to promote coastal stability.

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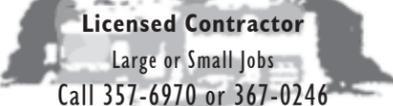
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Abaco Insurance Fun Fishing Tournament

By Jennifer Hudson

The Abaco Insurance Fun Fishing Tournament has been an enjoyable family event for the past ten years but at this year's Awards Dinner it was announced that this year's tournament would be the last as the committee members feel that they can no longer cope with the task of organizing the event.

The emphasis in this three day tournament is FUN and the tournament began ten years ago as a way for locals to have just that. Though there was no separate women's division this year the ladies were still very much involved as were the children who fished on Saturday.

Prizes were awarded daily for the largest tuna, wahoo and dolphin and also for the most catches and releases of billfish (sailfish and marlin). The main awards were presented at the Awards dinner on May 8th hosted by the Jib Room.

Approximately 80 people took part this year and 16 boats went out from 4th to 7th May.

The results were:

- Top boat: Harvester.
- 2nd boat: Kathi II.
- 3rd boat: My Dream.



Three couples have organized the Abaco Insurance Fun Fishing Tournament for 10 years. They all enjoy sport fishing themselves and they have created a great event for local fishermen. However, regretfully, they have announced that this is the last year for this tradition.

- Largest wahoo- 60 pounds: Matthew Bethel.
- Largest dolphin- 45 pounds: Sheri Roberts.
- Largest Tuna- 23 pounds: Timmy Higgs.
- Most billfish: Kathi II.

Special prizes were awarded to the junior anglers to encourage junior fishing. There is a tradition that whenever a per-

son catches his first billfish he gets "dunked" so Wesley Lowe was caught and thrown unceremoniously into the Jib Room pool.

Timmy Higgs had filmed an interesting underwater video of the struggles between the fish and the fishermen which was shown on Sunday afternoon and all of the people involved in the tournament enjoyed watching their struggles and successes.

The hard working committee of Chad and Ginny Sawyer, Daron and Sheri Roberts and Tom and Linda Leffler would like to thank all the official sponsors of the

tournament.

Several of the people involved are hoping to form a fishing club for Abaco in which they will try to involve more juniors to get them interested in fishing and also in the important issue of conservation.

Water Delivery on the Cays



The Hope Town gate is locked after letting a tank truck full of water go through. This is a common sight during periods of little rainfall such as the past winter.

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Items for Sale, Commercial Service, Cars & Boats

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If you feel like joining our innovative and successful company, please forward your resume to mark@damianos.com or fax to (242) 362-4730.

Bluff House on Green Turtle Cay seeks a handy man with experience in carpentry, electronics and plumbing. No certifications required. Full or part time. Call David Phillips at 365-4247. Positions are also available for front office staff. For more information please call Tracey at 365-4247

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16' Edgewater CC 1998 70 HP Yamaha, unsinkable, new boat covers, excellent condition. DUTY PAID \$12.500 Ph 367-2452



17' Proline CC, 1996, 2004 Yamaha 90 HP, nice run about boat for the Sea of Abaco, includes trailer. DUTY PAID \$10,900 OBO Call 305-451-5751 or 305-942-3597

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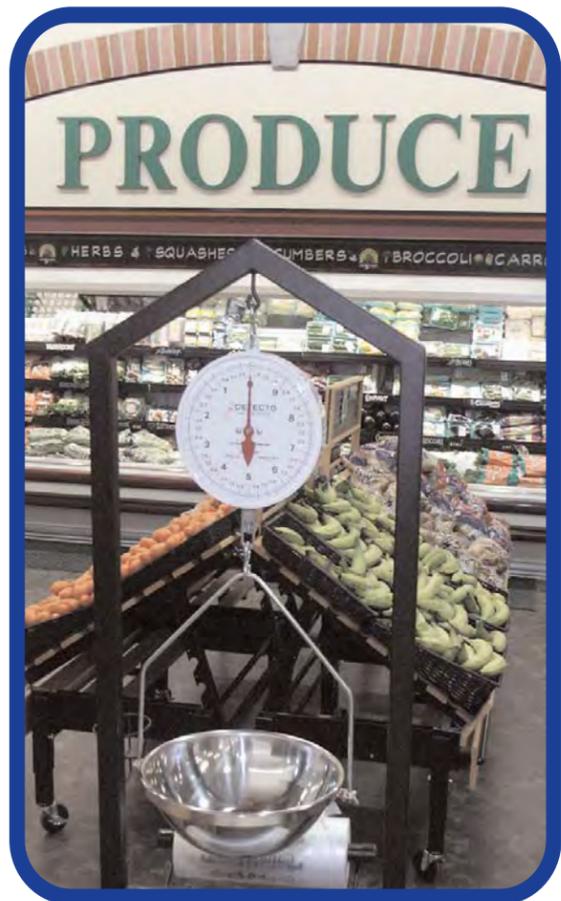
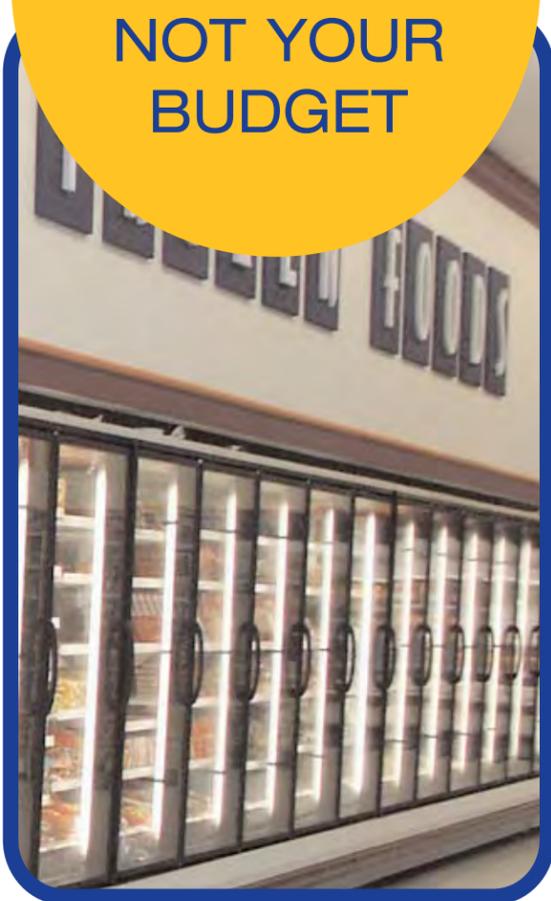
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